



## CURRICULUM POLICY

### 1. Scope and Introduction

- 1.1 This Curriculum Policy covers the Upper School, Years 7 to 13.
- 1.2 The Policy does not specify individual subject curricula or co-curricula.
- 1.3 The Policy reflects the College's ethos and values and its **academic aim**, to engender a love of learning so that all our students can achieve, or indeed exceed, academic expectations whilst developing our values of compassion, curiosity and courage. It addresses the regulatory requirements for the quality of education and is published on the school website.
- 1.4 We want our students to be inspired by and relish their learning experiences in school, showing curiosity and perseverance and developing the skills and knowledge required to be ever more confident and competent to "work things out for themselves." This will allow them to do the very best they can academically and help stimulate their minds through the rest of their lives. We particularly value scholarship and the great pleasure of learning for its own sake.
- 1.5 We are committed to providing the highest standards of education for all our students. We deliver a broad curriculum offering challenge and interest so that students can achieve their best in both academic results and wider skills they will need to succeed in life. We aim to foster a life-long love of learning and to provide them with a secure foundation from which to continue into Higher Education or into the careers of their choice.
- 1.6 College recognises the primacy of separate subject disciplines through which to deliver knowledge and to allow experience and by which students learn and form a deep understanding of the world around them. Our aim is for the students to develop relative expertise in their chosen disciplines of study (a strong blend of knowledge and skills), while also developing strength of character.
- 1.7 Students of compulsory school age receive full-time supervised education. This education provides students with experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative aspects. It promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepares students for life. Student progress is assessed and monitored regularly throughout the year.
- 1.8 Whilst considerable emphasis is placed upon examination success for all abilities, this should be achieved by a focus on students taking responsibility and developing as independent learners. Students should understand the importance of resilience in their learning, dealing with and learning from failure and showing determination to succeed at whatever level with emphasis on the importance of motivation and the quality of practice enabling improvement rather than relying on talent and ability. Discussing learning and praising determination and effort using appropriate language is a further part of encouraging grit and determination.



- 1.9 Teaching at Elizabeth College should therefore focus on the learning experience of students, enabling each student to be challenged and fulfilled in their studies. Teachers should demonstrate high levels of subject expertise, and by their enthusiasm seek to excite in students a sustained intellectual curiosity. Excellent teaching and the setting of consistently high standards are key elements in this. Lessons must be thoroughly prepared, well-judged in content and duration, have a purpose and structure made clear to students, and with a variety of techniques employed, making the classroom environment stimulating, challenging and supportive in appropriate ways to all students including those who have particular learning enrichment needs in one area or many (e.g. more able and talented, Special Educational Need or Disability).
- 1.10 Teachers must ensure that all students are equally involved in a lesson. They should differentiate learning to provide challenge to all students along with support for those who have difficulties. The setting of tasks and the pace at which work is done may be varied accordingly. They should encourage students to think and research for themselves. They will be aware of students receiving learning support so will respond to individual needs as appropriate and will discuss the progress of these students with the Head of Learning Enrichment.
- 1.11 Through these approaches, students should learn to embrace challenges and respond positively to constructive feedback. All students are expected to give of their best and are encouraged to develop their natural talents to the full. Colleagues monitor academic performance closely, informed by benchmarking using CEM data, and they must take remedial action promptly in the case of those students who are under-performing. Recognising that students' abilities grow through perseverance and determination, enrichment and challenge activities offered are available to all students in relevant age groups. Teachers identify the highest achievers and those with talent in their subject to enable them to differentiate in lessons without making this information available to the students themselves (see separate More Able and Talented Policy).
- 1.12 It is very important to encourage, motivate and reward students for good work wherever possible using appropriate praise for the drive which has seen a student achieve well. This can be recognised through verbal praise for the effort and process which has achieved positive results, and formal rewards such as commendations and merits may be awarded. In subscribing to the mindset approaches, teachers can motivate students to achieve the best that they can.
- 1.13 Homework is set regularly according to the homework timetables published. It is to be meaningful, varied and appropriate to differing abilities. Refer to the separate Teaching and Learning Policy for further information.
- 1.14 Learning is regularly assessed and feedback provided by a variety of methods in line with the Feedback Policy (within the Teaching and Learning Policy) and department/faculty handbooks. Poor work is not acceptable and should be repeated. Teachers in all departments have a responsibility for ensuring that spelling, punctuation, grammatical and numeracy errors are corrected.



## **2. Safeguarding and Prevent Duty, and RSE policy**

- 2.1. In the delivery of the curriculum, teachers must act in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy and Prevent Duty Policy, informing the DSL or his deputy of any concern.
- 2.2. RSE is covered in the separate Relationship and Sex Education Policy

## **3. Monitoring**

- 3.1 Heads of Department or Faculty are responsible for maintaining and monitoring up to date schemes of work with the support of their colleagues. Lesson plans are created by teachers either individually or in co-operation with colleagues.
- 3.2 Monitoring is achieved through development planning, department/faculty discussion and lesson observation including work scrutiny along with twice termly meetings with the Senior Leadership line manager and annual department/faculty review meetings with the Principal and SLT line manager.

## **4. Policy Review**

- 4.1 This policy is reviewed and updated every year by the Vice-Principal (Academic) and reviewed every three years by the Education sub-committee of the Board of Directors in line with current best practice.

## **5. The Curriculum**

- 5.1. In the Senior School, in Key Stages Three and Four, students study a core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science, Religious Studies, a Modern Language, PSHE and Life Skills, and PE and Games. These develop skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy, skills which are further developed and deployed in the study of other subjects. IT skills are taught at KS3 and developed across the curriculum at all key stages further facilitated by BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). Independent learning skills are developed from Year 7 as detailed within the Teaching and Learning Policy to prepare students for their various 'futures' but also to ready them for the academic rigour of Sixth Form study. Research skills are developed early on through the Key Stage Three research project, extended pieces of investigative work set when the usual homework timetable for most subjects is suspended for a week (example annual cycle presented in the Teaching and Learning Policy). Additionally, collapsed curriculum days in KS3 enable cross-curricular approaches to be developed.
- 5.2. Students are taught thirty-five periods per week of 45-50 minutes duration between Years 7-11 while in the Sixth Form there is a blend of taught lessons (45 to 90 minutes) and independent study periods.
- 5.3. At GCSE and A level, the school seeks to satisfy individual student choices and so builds its option blocks around their initial decisions. A small number of students are allowed to study fewer



subjects according to their ability and needs and will usually attend for additional help in the Learning Enrichment Centre.

- 5.4. An Activities programme runs during periods 6 and 7 on Fridays. This widens students' interests and involvement and is linked to the new Elizabethan Award at KS3.

## 6. Years 7 and 8

- 6.1. All subjects are initially taught in mixed ability House groups (Country, North, South and Town) except for Creative Arts subjects (Art, Music, Drama and Design Technology) which are taught in smaller mixed ability groups made up of students from two Houses.
- 6.2. French will adjust their House groups according to students' learning needs during the early stages of the academic year in Year 7. Students are organised into two bands within each pair of houses, (Country/North, South/Town). The first band (CN1 and ST1) will contain those who are more confident in understanding and applying concepts, the other band (CN2 and ST2) those who perhaps need more time to refresh their understanding of the basic concepts in early secondary years. The Classics curriculum has been updated to include a wider study of ancient culture around the world as well as language.

In Year 8, Mathematics, English and Science group students according to their learning needs specific to the subject. These groupings work in two halves, splitting the year group by Houses or by alternative arrangement to suit the number of groups to be created. MFL set by ability, where numbers and groups allow. There is one mixed ability French only group, but dual language French groups are set by ability.

- 6.3. All students study Classics looking more closely at historical change in ancient society and also studying a module of Latin.
- 6.4. German and Spanish are offered as choices, but the Head of MFL makes recommendations to parents following taster courses in Year 7; students who do not wish to study a second language may opt for additional time in creative arts or learning enrichment.

## 7. Year 9

- 7.1. Students continue to study English, Mathematics, Science (taught separately: Physics, Chemistry and Biology), Religious Studies, at least one Modern Foreign Language (German, Spanish or French), PSHE and Life skills, PE and Games. Students then make six subject option choices from Art, Classics, Dance, Drama, DT, French as a second language, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Music. PSHE is delivered through timetabled lessons.
- 7.2. English, Mathematics and Science group the students by attainment and approach to learning. Some mixed attainment groups are included where the Head of Faculty deems it appropriate, but within a smaller band of prior attainment than in lower years.
- 7.3. Modern Languages: Students may choose to study French, German or Spanish as their core language, which may be set by ability, depending on numbers who opt for each. Some pupils will



also choose to study a second MFL, which will be French. These groups may also be set by ability, depending on numbers and option choices

7.4. All remaining subjects are taught in option groups.

## 8. Years 10 and 11

8.1. The core curriculum continues (English, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Science and a Modern Foreign Language as well as PSHE and Life Skills, PE and Games) and is usually taught in 5 groups except in languages where the number of groups is determined by student choices. This provides continuity and progression of learning alongside which further subjects (usually four options) are selected by the students. Students may opt to study Science as three separate subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology leading to three GCSEs) or as Combined Science (all three science subjects are studied but leading to two GCSEs). If separate sciences are chosen, then that counts as one of the option choices. A core component is the PSHE and Life Skills course which, in addition to specific collapsed curriculum days, addresses the skills required for GCSE study along with resilience and wellbeing. This course has been introduced with the intention of lessening the burdens of exam pressures and to develop strategies for dealing with those demands at this age.

8.2. In English, the usual arrangement is for three groups to study IGCSEs in English Language and English Literature and two groups will be entered for IGCSE English Language only.

8.3. Mathematics teaches in five sets, all of which start Year 10 aiming for the Higher Tier examination in IGCSE Mathematics in the summer of Year 11. The students with the best prior attainment are grouped into an Additional Maths set (MaAdd); they will study the IGCSE at a faster pace then study the FSMQ (Free Standing Mathematics Qualification) in Additional Mathematics which introduces A Level material and is examined at the same time as the IGCSE. At the end of Year 10, there may be a readjustment of groupings to allow a small group of students, for whom it is appropriate, to study for the Foundation Tier examination in the summer of Year 11.

8.4. Science has five groups. Groups 1 and 2 will be mixed ability groups determined by the option blocks (totalling 9 periods a week) entered for the three Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), whilst the remaining sets (totalling 6 periods a week) will be entered for Combined Science. Combined science groups are based on the probable tier of entry – two equal mixed ability Higher tier groups (Bi/Ch/PhHa and Bi/Ch/PhHb) and one Foundation tier group (Bi/Ch/PhF).

8.5. All other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups by option block. Modern Foreign Languages and Separate Sciences form part of this, so a student choosing Separate Science and a Modern Foreign Language will still have two other option choices. A student selecting Combined Science will have four option choices available. Within language classes, during the GCSE and IGCSE courses, a small number of students may be advised to prepare for the Foundation Tier examination. For another small group of students, foreign language study is not appropriate because of a diagnosed Special Educational Need or Disability so, with the school's approval, they select a different option subject or attend Learning Enrichment.



- 8.6. Subject choices for options are selected from Ancient History, Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Drama, Geography, Graphic Communication or 3D Studies, History, Latin, Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish), Music, PE. In March of Year 9, an options booklet is made available on the Parent Portal **along with videos made by the Heads of Department**. There is also a Parents' Evening to allow students and their parents to ask questions after watching the videos.
- 8.7. Religious Studies prepares students for the GCSE short course examination.

## 9. The Sixth Form

- 9.1. Elizabeth College runs a joint sixth form with the local independent girls' school, The Ladies' College. This enables students to have a wide choice of up to four A Levels (if taking Further Mathematics), and the schools aim to run any course in which numbers are economically viable. All of the subjects offered at GCSE are available at A level, as well as Economics, Film Studies, Further Mathematics, Photography and Psychology. Advice is given to all students regarding their A Level choices and this advice includes at least two interviews between each Year 11 student and a senior member of staff. An options booklet is provided to help students and their parents to make informed choices, and a Sixth Form Open Evening allows them to meet with teachers from both schools to discuss courses before committing themselves to specific subjects.
- 9.2. Most students initially study three A levels or, for a small number, four if taking Further Mathematics. PSHE, Critical Thinking and the Extended Project Qualification form part of the enrichment programme along with the Elizabeth College Diploma which recognises and rewards achievement and commitment across the range of sixth form activity. The Sixth Form curriculum of examination subjects is supplemented by a wide variety of Games choices (for example, Football, Hockey, Netball, Cross Country, Athletics, Cricket, Tennis, Squash, Golf, Motor Sports, Badminton, Rugby, Sailing, Snooker and Fitness) and Service options (Combined Cadet Force, Community Service, Subject Leadership and Sports Leadership) in which all students participate.
- 9.3. Sixth Form students have provision for Private Study which includes use of the **dedicated supervised study space within the Sixth Form Centre**, along with others areas such as the Sixth Form Common Room and Library. Year 12 students initially nominate half of their private study periods to be supervised. This is reviewed as the year progresses, increasing or decreasing according to progress and organisation. In Year 13, most students do not have to be supervised and some may request home study. Many choose to use the **supervised study space in the Sixth Form Centre** anyway and unsupervised private study is constantly reviewed in the light of staff feedback.
- 9.4. **Sixth Form students have study support sessions on their timetable which are independent study session supervised by a teacher of one of their A Level subjects. The teacher is there to support the study, not to teach a further lesson.**



## **10. Learning Enrichment - Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, Special Educational Needs and More Able and Talented**

10.1. Students who have been assessed as having a Special Educational Need or Disability have their curriculum needs considered individually by the Head of Learning Enrichment in liaison with the Head of Year and the Vice Principals. This may include disapplication from the study of a subject (usually languages).

10.2. More able and talented students are provided with opportunities to extend their knowledge in extension work in the classroom or small group activities. Individual subject initiatives such as the Elite Athlete Performance Programme, Science Club and Maths Olympiad Challenge amongst many others provide enrichment opportunities for more able and talented students to thrive.

10.3. Refer to the separate Learning Enrichment and More Able and Talented policies for further information.

## **11. English as an Additional Language**

11.1. Students are assessed prior to entry into Elizabeth College to establish their English language capabilities and needs. Extra Enrichment may be provided through timetabled EAL lessons organised through the Head of Learning Enrichment. These lessons aim to develop the student's English language skills and communication and to build the student's confidence to succeed in an English speaking environment.

## **12. PSHE and Life Skills**

12.1. The Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme at Elizabeth College works to develop an understanding of responsibility, working with others, self-esteem, and an understanding of local and global issues. Visitors such as the Guernsey Police and the Sexual Health nurses complement the subject content. PSHE lessons are timetabled throughout the school and complemented by tutor time activities. From Year 9, there are also collapsed timetable days. Citizenship is infused throughout the curriculum and British values are discussed along with local politics (and the difference between UK politics). This formal programme is complemented by discussion in tutor time and assembly presentations. Relevant discussions also arise in other academic subjects such as RS, English, IT, Geography and History where moral, ethical and social issues are often covered.

12.2. Please refer to the separate PSHE and Life Skills policy and Scheme of Work for further information.

12.3. Please refer also to the separate RSE policy for further relevant details



## **13. Futures (Careers, Higher and Further Education)**

- 13.1. Age appropriate careers guidance is provided by the Head of Futures, whose responsibilities include developing schemes throughout the school, Leadership shadowing, work experience and careers and post-16 and Higher Education. The States of Guernsey also offers centralised careers advice. The Head of Department provides Enrichment and advice as well as organising additional events and visits from outside agencies, speakers and advisers. There is a rigorous process of advice about GCSE and A level choices which is led by the Vice-Principal (Academic) and further university advice and extensive Enrichment for applications through mentoring organised by the Head of Futures.
- 13.2. Please refer to the separate PSHE and Life Skills policy and Scheme of Work for further information on how Futures Education fits into the curriculum from Years 7 to 13.

## **14. Games**

- 14.1. Students participate in the Games and PE programme which involves the use of facilities at the main school site, the College Field and the Memorial Field as well as various other Island facilities.

## **15. Curriculum Monitoring and Review**

- 15.1. The curriculum is monitored and reviewed by the College Committee (and sub-committees as appropriate) linked to the School Development Plan and its strategic aims. Its implementation is monitored through annual faculty and department reviews, faculty and department schemes of work, appraisal, lesson observations, work scrutiny, and ongoing professional development.

## **16. Curriculum Model** see separate document