

CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT

This document supplements the information available in our prospectus and in the Parent and Student Guide - available to parents upon request.

The post-16 (A-Level) curriculum.

Our prospectus explains that we offer a wide range of A-Level courses (over 30 in total). These may be studied over one or two-years. In line with our aims and values, CCSS gives students a free choice of subjects in any combination and, although availability cannot be guaranteed (particularly for students who do not register before May of the year preceding entry), CCSS will do everything it reasonably can to ensure that students are able to take the subject combination they desire. Our staff are always pleased to advise on suitable subject combinations if prospective students have a particular career or university course in mind. Our courses guide details the subject specifications currently taught at CCSS and outlines the content of each programme.

Students normally choose three or four subjects in their L6th Year and may drop one subject in the U6th. Students on one-year programmes (covering both AS and A2 courses) can choose any realistic number of subjects as appropriate to their university aspirations and ability.

Our curriculum is not just about the courses we teach. In line with our values (please see the statement of values in the prospectus), CCSS delivers the curriculum in a wider sense, consisting of all those activities planned by the college to promote the intellectual, moral, social, spiritual and physical development of the students and to encourage the acquisition of speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. An overall intention of preparing for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life at university and beyond.

Extracurricular activities and those features which contribute to the College's ethos, such as the quality of relationships and commonly expressed values, are exemplified in the way in which the college sets about its tasks and the manner in which it is organised and managed. While extra-curricular activities are not compulsory for students in their upper sixth year or for those students following a one year A level programme, all students are strongly encouraged to take part in the sports and activities programme, which includes team and individual sports, trips and visits, and programmes such as the Excelsis Award. More detail can be found in the College prospectus.

In line with our values and our focus on success at university and beyond, all students in their Lower Sixth Year take part in an 'Inspire' programme. The 'Inspire' programme runs for both the autumn and spring terms and students have to pick an activity to take part in each term. The choices cover a range of topic areas, including business, science and sport. All students receive university and careers guidance from their Tutor and teachers as part of their weekly interactions. Upper Sixth and One year students all have the opportunity to take part in sport as they have a prescribed slot in their timetable to allow them to continue exercising. The sports change weekly depending on the activities the students want to participate in.

Students for whom English is a second language will normally receive additional tuition and all students whose mother tongue is not English will be assessed by the ESL team upon entry. Our aim is to deliver an individualised programme of support in English Language equal to or equivalent to the IELTS qualification at grade 7.0 in each of the four modules. Students for

whom English is a second language but who already hold appropriate qualifications will not be required to take an ESL course at CCSS.



The Curriculum for GCSE students

We offer a range of GCSE subjects from which students can choose, according to their past experience and qualifications, as well as their future aspirations. Our GCSE students come to us from a wide variety of backgrounds, and so all have different curriculum needs but will be taught in a way to encourage the acquisition of speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills at all levels.

Students should expect to receive homework to complete outside of the lesson. It is important that sufficient time is set aside to complete such tasks as they are essential for success in the examination. The intensive nature of the GCSE course needs to be borne in mind when choosing subjects.

Those who are 16 years or older may choose a number of subjects (usually a maximum of 7), although the Deputy Principal will ensure breadth and appropriate challenge in a programme.

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Those who are 16 years or older may choose a number of subjects (usually a maximum of 7), although the Deputy Principal will ensure breadth and appropriate challenge in a programme that must include English Language, Mathematics and one of the separate Sciences if a student has not already gained a qualification in these areas (GCSE or equivalent at grade C or above).

The College does not follow the requirements of the National Curriculum in England and Wales, though GCSE students under the age of 16 must embark on a broad and balanced curriculum that gives students experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative development. For most, a programme of between 23hrs (minimum) and 28 hours (maximum) per week is suitable. The programme recommended will depend upon the student's background, whether a student has specific

learning support needs and where aspects of the programme are better replaced by additional English Language support.

All GCSE students must take part in the weekly sports and activities afternoon and the GCSE “Form Period”, which covers careers education and PSHE. Additional sporting and activity opportunities are published throughout the week.

The Curriculum for Pre- Programme students

The Pre-Programme at CCSS is the perfect all round preparation for academic study, as well as being a great introduction to life at an independent sixth-form college in the UK.

Students are normally aged from 14-17. The course gives each student a personalised learning experience with a blend of expert English Language teaching and an introduction to academic subjects, sports activities and cultural excursions.

Students can attend for a full one-year course or we can offer short courses for two terms, for one term and for half a term. The Pre-Programme can lead to further full-time study at CCSS.

Revised by Deputy Principal – December 2015

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