

CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT

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

Updated January 2018

The post-16 curriculum.

A level

Our prospectus explains that we offer a wide range of A Level courses. 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 subjects in their L6th year. Students may start on 4 A levels, though the majority would be expected to drop one after Christmas, with only exceptional students continuing with 4. Students expecting to make an application to Oxbridge are encouraged to replace the 4th A level subject with the Extended Project Qualification. Students on the 1Yr A level courses can choose any realistic number of subjects appropriate to their university aspirations and ability.

Our curriculum is not just about the courses we teach. In line with our values, 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. The overall intention is 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, all students are strongly encouraged to take part in the sports and activities programme, which includes team and individual sports, trips and visits.

Students receive careful and knowledgeable advice about their choice of university. Virtually all students express university entry as their goal on entry to the college and this is a key element of our provision.

Students for whom English is an additional language will normally receive additional tuition and all students whose mother tongue is not English will be assessed by the EAL department on entry. Our aim is to deliver an individualised programme of support in English Language equal to or equivalent to the IELTS qualification at grade 6.0 in each of the four modules. Students for whom English is an additional language but who already hold appropriate qualifications will not be required to take an EAL course at CCSS.

The Level 3 International Foundation Diploma

The Level 3 International Foundation Diploma (IFD) is a one-year pre – university qualification which includes a significant amount of English teaching language teaching. Students joining the diploma must have a valid score of 4.5 in IELTS. Students will take 6 core units – Developing English Language Skills, Advanced English Language Skills, English for Academic Purposes, Study and Communication Skills, Culture Studies and Foundation Maths.

A further 2 units must be taken to complete the qualification in either Engineering or Business/Accounting.

1. Engineering Pathway – Further Mathematics and Physics
2. Business/Accounting Pathway – Introduction to Business and Introduction to Accounting and Economics.

The Curriculum for 2-year GCSE students – The Leonardo Programme

The College does not follow the requirements of the National Curriculum in England and Wales, though GCSE students under the age of 16 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. The programme is wide-ranging and allows for full development of the high ability profile of these students.

Students receive substantial homework to complete outside of the lesson, appropriate to their high ability.

The 2-year programme includes a very substantial extra-curricular and co-curricular programme. The philosophy of this programme is to cater for, and inspire the interest of, polymaths and includes activities as diverse as ballroom dance and lectures on the impact of big data.

The Curriculum for 1-year iGCSE students

We offer a range of IGCSE subjects from which students can choose, according to their past experience and qualifications, as well as their future aspirations. Our IGCSE students come to us from a wide variety of backgrounds, and so all have different curriculum needs but will be taught in a way that encourages 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 1-year IGCSE 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 that must include English Language, Mathematics and Combined Sciences if a student has not already gained a qualification in these areas (iGCSE or equivalent at grade C/5 or above).

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human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative development. For most, a programme of between 23 and 28 hours 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 1-year iGCSE students must take part in the weekly sports and activities afternoon 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 – January 2018