

CURRICULUM POLICY

Kearsley Academy aims to provide a curriculum that boosts aspirations and prepares our students for a life in 21st Century Britain.

Our aims are that:

- All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- All students have choices in the qualifications they will study
- All students have access to qualifications that will allow them to be competitive in the job market in 21st Century Britain
- The curriculum is personalised to meet the needs of the students at every key stage and allows everyone to make progress, regardless of their starting point

Key stage 3 (Years 7 & 8):

Each individual in each year group will study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Sport (practical and theory), Drama, Music, Computing, Art, Catering and Design Technology. Most students will also study Spanish. Those students who do not study Spanish will have lessons that focus on pre-teaching and over-learning the key aspects of the rest of their curriculum to support their progress, mainly in the core areas.

Progress through the curriculum will be measured through mastery of skills that are designed to prepare students for their GCSEs.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11):

Each individual in each year group will study English Language and Literature, Maths, Science, History or Geography, Sport (not for a qualification) and then two option choices. (The options are likely to include Sport as a formal qualification). The options that are offered are personalised to maximise the strengths and preferences of each individual in each year group. Most students will also study Spanish. Those students who do not study Spanish will have lessons that focus on pre-teaching and over-learning the key aspects of the rest of their curriculum to support their progress mainly in the core areas.

Key stage 5:

Students who have 4 or more good GCSEs including English and Maths may choose three or four Level 3 vocational qualifications.

Students who have 4 or more good GCSEs not including English and / or Maths may choose two or three Level 3 vocational qualifications plus re-sit Maths and / or English.

Students who have fewer than 4 good GCSEs will complete a course of level 2 GCSE equivalent qualifications plus re-sit Maths and / or English.

SEND students are supported across their curriculum through a variety of support that is designed to meet their individual needs. All students with an EHCP are provided with the support to meet their outcomes and there is also in-lesson support and withdrawal groups for students. The withdrawal groups focus on pre-teaching and over-learning activities to support the core curriculum and deliver sessions on other topics such as emotional health and behaviour management.

Literacy across the curriculum is supported through a proof reading code that is followed in all subject areas. There are also consistent strategies for subjects to use to develop extended writing. Form activities also support literacy across the curriculum with a weekly activity to supplement the work in the classroom. Students who enter the Academy as “not secondary ready” receive support through the Catch Up premium and work in a group to accelerate their progress. There are pre-school reading activities for students who have a reading age below the required level.

Numeracy across the curriculum is supported through weekly form activities to supplement the work done in the Maths faculty. Students who enter the Academy as “not secondary ready” receive support through the Catch Up premium and work in a small group to accelerate their progress. There are maths activities in lesson 6 and at lunchtime to support those not making progress at the required level.

CEIAG is delivered through form activities, assemblies, visits and drop down sessions with guest speakers and external, impartial providers. All students also receive CEIAG sessions within the school context to inform their choices of options in Year 8 and as they are preparing for non-compulsory education in Year 11. All students have access to a careers software package where they can explore their careers choices following a skills and ambitions audit that will then guide them to careers that are more suited for them.

PHSE, SMSC, RE and sex education are delivered through a combination of lesson time, form periods, assemblies, drop down days and guest speakers. These are co-ordinated to be age appropriate and the sessions are tailored to the year groups as they progress through the school.

Each individual in each year group has access to daily form time activities, where they will learn about key areas to supplement their academic curriculum, including learning about fundamental British values. There will also be drop-down days on the last day of term where students take part in a range of activities that aim to improve their ability to learn, increase their ambition and foster a growth mind-set.