



Date: August 2019  
Review Date: August 2020

Responsibility: Deputy Head (Academic)

# EPSOM

## COLLEGE

### **Academic Curriculum Policy**

#### **Aims**

Epsom College is a selective, co-educational, boarding and day school. Our mission is to provide excellent all-round academic opportunities and by teaching pupils to aim for excellence yet value both achievement and endeavour. We ensure that all pupils have exceptional opportunities to learn and make progress.

The College constantly reviews curricular provision to ensure that we offer a modern and stimulating curriculum and an excellent preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

#### **Lower School**

The aim of the Lower School is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which builds upon prior learning where possible and gives pupils from a wide variety of educational backgrounds a sound basis for GCSE study. All pupils have lessons in English, Mathematics, two MFL chosen from French, German, Spanish or Mandarin, Latin, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Religious Studies, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Music, Art, Drama, PE, Trivium and Wellbeing.

Setting is generally mixed ability with the exception of Mathematics and Languages.

The Head of Lower School ensures that the Third Form and Lower Fourth are years in which good social and study habits will be acquired. The Head of Lower School works with the Assistant Head: Pupil Welfare and tutors to promote the importance of intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development in the Lower School Curriculum.

Pupils are screened on entry to the College to measure progress and those with Special Educational Needs are identified. The Special Needs provision is tailored to the individual and may take the form of teacher adaptation in lessons or one to one tutorials which take place outside academic lesson times.

#### **Middle Fourth**

The aim of the first year of the Senior School (the Middle Fourth) is to continue the broad, balanced curriculum. All pupils have lessons in English, Mathematics, one MFL chosen from French, German, Spanish or Mandarin (for some pupils one MFL may be replaced by English as an Additional Language), History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Religious Studies, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Music, Art, Drama, PE and Personal Social Health Education (including Careers, Citizenship and Study Skills). Pupils also have the option of studying a second MFL, Latin or Classical Civilisation.

Setting continues to be generally mixed ability with the exception of Mathematics and Languages.

The Director of Transition & Integration ensures that the M4 year is one in which good social and study habits will be acquired. The Director of Transition & Integration works with the Assistant Head: Pupil Welfare to promote the importance of intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development in the M4 Curriculum.

Those pupils who are new to College are screened on entry and those with Special Educational Needs are

identified. Pupils with English as an Additional Language are taught in specialist groups during MFL lessons with a view to integrating as many pupils as possible into mainstream English by the beginning of the Upper Fourth. Additional specialist English tuition is provided as a private tutorial.

### **GCSE/IGCSE**

Most pupils study ten I/GCSE subjects. Pupils have lessons in English, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign or Classical Language (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish, Latin or Classical Civilisation), Physics, Chemistry, Biology and 'PSD for Life' consisting of modules in PSHE, PE and Religious Education. The core subjects of Mathematics, Science and MFL are set according to ability and in English, a small set is created for those pupils requiring greater support with literacy skills. Pupils select three subjects from History, Geography, French, Spanish, Latin, Religious Studies, Design & Technology, Computer Science, Art, Photography, Drama, Physical Education and Music. Option subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings.

### **The Sixth Form**

Students in the Sixth Form study three principle A-level subjects and most students study an additional subject from the core curriculum.

A-levels are offered in Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Photography, Physical Education, Physics, Politics & Government, Religious Studies and Spanish. The Pre-U is offered in Mandarin.

In addition to their three principle A-level options, most student opt to follow a course from the Core Curriculum. Depending on numbers opting, the core curriculum consists of Core Mathematics, AP English, Extended Project or Young Enterprise. For exceptional students, a fourth A-level (often Further Mathematics) can be taken in place of the core curriculum.

All students are screened on entry into the Sixth Form to monitor progress and those with Special Educational Needs are identified.

International students are taught the IELTS qualification in specialist groups in the Lower Sixth Form.

### **Careers**

The College seeks to maintain its tradition of enabling pupils to access competitive university courses – and particularly its traditional association with the medical profession. Careers guidance begins in the Middle Fourth and is thorough and well informed at Sixth Form level. Tutorial preparation is given to those wishing to apply to Oxford and Cambridge and for those sitting BMAT or LNAT papers. SATs tuition is arranged for those applying for American universities.