

## Overview of the curriculum

Our curriculum is broad and balanced but refined each year in the light of national and local developments. The curriculum operating for the 2017 to 2018 school year is outlined below.

### Year 7

All students in year 7 study:

Maths	6 or 9 hours per fortnight according to route
Science	6 hours per fortnight
English	6 or 9 hours per fortnight according to route
Geography	4 hours per fortnight
History	4 hours per fortnight
Creative Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Textiles</li><li>• Food Technology</li><li>• Resistant Materials</li></ul>	3 hours per fortnight
PE	4 hours per fortnight
Art & Creative Design (IT strand)	3 hours per fortnight
Drama	2 hours per fortnight
IT	3 hours per fortnight
Music	2 hours per fortnight
RE	2 hours per fortnight
French	0 or 3 hours per fortnight according to route
Spanish	0 or 3 hours per fortnight according to route

Teaching in Science, Creative Design, PE, Art, Drama, IT and Music is in mixed ability classes.

Teaching in Maths is set according to mathematical ability.

Teaching in other subjects

- 6 classes of roughly 30 students each study all the subjects above including 6 hours of English and 3 hours of each of French and Spanish per fortnight
- 2 classes of roughly 18 follow the same curriculum as above but with extra English lessons and one foreign language only and in smaller classes
- 2 classes of roughly 12 students each have 9 rather than 6 hours of each of English and Maths; these students do not study a language

## Year 8

The curriculum for year 8 for the 2017 to 2018 academic year is as below.

Maths	7 hours per fortnight
Science	6 hours per fortnight
English	7 or 12 hours per fortnight
Geography	3 hours per fortnight
History	3 hours per fortnight
Creative Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Textiles</li><li>• Food Technology</li><li>• Resistant Materials</li></ul>	3 hours per fortnight
PE	4 hours per fortnight
Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fine Art</li><li>• Design through use of ICT</li></ul>	3 hours per fortnight
Drama	2 hours per fortnight
IT	2 hours per fortnight
Music	2 hours per fortnight
RE	2 or 3 hours per fortnight
Languages; choice of French and Spanish, German and Spanish, French only, Spanish only	6 or 0 hours per fortnight according to route
Literacy	0 or 6 hours per fortnight according to route

There are 7 main stream groups who study English, History, Geography, RE, Creative Design, PE, Art, Drama, IT and Music is in mixed ability classes.

There are two smaller nurture groups who study the above in smaller classes with specialist teaching input.

The mainstream classes study 6 hours of languages per week but the two nurture groups have additional lessons in English (5) and RE (1) instead of languages.

Teaching in each of Maths, Science and Languages is separately set according to subject ability.

## Year 9

The current year 9 curriculum is as below.

Maths	7 hours per fortnight
Science	7 hours per fortnight
English	8 hours per fortnight
Geography	3 hours per fortnight
History	3 hours per fortnight
Creative Design	4 hours per fortnight
PE	4 hours per fortnight
Art	2 hours per fortnight
Drama	2 hours per fortnight
IT	2 hours per fortnight
Music	2 hours per fortnight
RE	2 hours per fortnight
Citizenship	2 hours per fortnight
Languages	6 or 0 hours per fortnight according to route
Literacy	0 or 6 hours per fortnight according to route

There are 7 mainstream groups who study English, History, Geography, RE, Creative Design, PE, Art, Drama, IT and Music in mixed ability classes.

There is one smaller nurture groups who study the above in smaller classes with specialist teaching input.

The mainstream classes study 6 hours of languages per week but the two nurture groups have additional English (5) and History (1) lessons instead of languages.

Teaching in each of Maths, Science and Languages is separately set according to subject ability.

## Key Stage 4

There is now a renewed emphasis on students achieving the English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) which requires students to achieve certain levels in English Language and English Literature GCSEs, Maths GCSE, at least 2 Science GCSEs, History or Geography GCSE and a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. This is an appropriate aspiration for many students at the Gryphon School.

We have looked hard at the data we have on each student and consulted their teachers and tutor to recommend a pathway for each student that will maximise their attainment. Therefore each student will receive a recommendation as to which of the pathways we think would best suit them. We are happy to meet parents who are unsure whether the recommended pathway is the appropriate one for their son/daughter. There will be some flexibility in changing pathways in exceptional circumstances though the bottom line is that the school will want students to be placed on a pathway that gives them the best chance of succeeding in a portfolio of qualifications.

Therefore our curriculum for Key Stage 4 for 2017 to 2019 is organised into 2 different pathways. The 3 Option pathway sees students do one less option than the 4 Option pathway and then use the time freed up to have extra English and Maths lessons.

Our delivery mechanism for RE has changed. In Years 10 and 11 Religious Education is provided for all students through the PSHRE (personal, social, health, religious and economic) education programme and assemblies. As such religious education makes a significant contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This does not lead to a qualification.

However, in addition it is possible to take GCSE Religious Studies as one of the option subjects in Years 10 and 11 and so achieve a qualification.

### 4 Option Pathway

The 4 Option pathway will be taken by around 70% of students. All students follow a non-examined course in RE though PSHRE, tutorial periods and occasional extra-curricular events; an examined course is available as an option for those who want to do this.

This pathway requires students to take

- English Language and English Literature GCSEs
- Mathematics GCSE

Students will take one of the two science options below:

- Separate GCSEs in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to the award of 3 GCSEs
- Combined Science GCSE – a “double” GCSE – leading to the award of 2 GCSEs

Students then have to choose humanity GCSE:

- A GCSE in History or Geography

Students then choose 4 optional GCSEs. There are two key points to note here:

- We will be recommending that most students take a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language
- Religious Studies GCSE is available as an optional subject

Students taking this route will end up with 10 or 11 GCSEs.

### 3 Option Pathway

We are anticipating that the 3 Option pathway will be taken by around 30% of students. All students follow a non-examined course in RE though PSHRE, tutorial periods and occasional extra-curricular events; an examined course is available as an option for those who want to do this.

This pathway requires students to take

- English Language and English Literature GCSEs
- Mathematics GCSE

Students will take Combined Science GCSE – a “double” GCSE – leading to the award of 2 GCSEs

Students then have to choose humanity GCSE:

- A GCSE in History or Geography

Students then choose 3 optional GCSEs. Religious Studies GCSE is available as an optional subject

Students taking this route will end up with 9 GCSEs.

### Route recommendations

The school will recommend:

- Whether a student takes the 4 Option or 3 Option pathway
- Whether a student takes separate GCSEs in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics OR Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- Whether student takes a modern foreign language GCSE or not

Our recommendation will be based on data such as CATs scores, KS2 results, levels awarded in Year 9 and FFT estimates of the grades students might achieve at GCSE and consultation with subject teachers and tutors.

The purpose of our recommendations is to place students on pathways that give them the maximum chance of success in the courses taken. This underpins our desire for all students to achieve qualifications that will enable them to seamlessly progress to the next stage of their career.

We recognise that some students and their parents will have particular views on the way forward and therefore parents with queries are free to arrange a meeting to discuss the recommended pathway if required.

## Key Stage 5

There are entry criteria in terms of GCSE results which must be met for students to join the 6<sup>th</sup> form. Details are provided in the 6<sup>th</sup> form area of the website.

Students in Year 12 can choose up to 5 separate A-level courses and BTEC courses from the wide range that we offer; the precise offer each year is made available at application time. Most students choose to follow 3 A-level courses although exceptional students do choose 4. Some of the courses are provided by local private school who we work in partnership with in the 6<sup>th</sup> form Our curriculum for September 2018 will be similar to the below.

<b>A-levels</b>	<b>Vocational</b>	<b>Partner schools</b>
1 Art	1 BTEC Health and Social Care	1 German
2 Art 3D	2 BTEC Hospitality	2 Music Technology
3 Biology	3 BTEC Sport	3 Textiles Technology
4 Business Studies	4 BTEC Travel	
5 Chemistry	5 Mathematics Level 3	
6 Classics (Ancient History)	6 Information Technology Level 3	
7 Computing		
8 Economics		
9 English Language		
10 English Literature		
11 French		
12 Further Mathematics		
13 Geography		
14 History		
15 Law		
16 Mathematics		
17 Music		
18 Photography		
19 Physics		
20 Psychology		
21 Religious Education		
22 Spanish		
23 Sport Studies		
24 Theatre Studies		

Students additionally follow an enrichment course which covers Study Skills, CV writing, UCAS applications, MOOCs (Massive Open Online courses) and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is highly valued by universities.

Students also have access to an exceptionally wide extra-curricular offer embracing everything from running a radio station to competitive sport.

We do run re-sit GCSE courses in English and Maths for every one of the small number of students who enter the 6<sup>th</sup> form without GCSE English and Maths.

Our extra-curricular focus in Year 13 is on the UCAS process. We have a long and successful record of obtaining offers at Oxbridge, medical and dental schools, Russell group universities and almost all students achieve the grades need to meet their university offer. There is also support available for those seeking employment rather than to continue their studies.