

CURRICULUM OFFER KEY STAGE 3 AND 4 2020-2024

Curriculum Intent

We intend to provide our students with a broad and balanced curriculum that works for all, allowing them to move seamlessly to the next stage of their education and equipping students with the essential skills needed for life. In 2017 we began a new curriculum in the secondary phase of our school which sought to provide this balance. This curriculum is now having an impact with more students achieving the EBacc qualification and achieving the highest grades across a range of subjects.

We also intend to ensure that our students become creative and thoughtful individuals that are able to adapt and grow in their workplace and college experiences. Through our life skills programme we address current affairs, cultural issues, and allow our students the space to share and engage with the pressures and challenges of modern life.

Our disadvantaged students have full access to this curriculum and are supported through our individual support programme. Our students with SEN have access to all subject areas offered. Those students who do not go on to take a GCSE in languages or humanities have a balanced support programme which not only enables them to extend their literacy skills but also delivers areas of language study, history, geography and current affairs.

Key features of our curriculum intent are:

- To restrict the number of subjects to nine GCSEs and two BTEC or vocational courses for the brightest students, and seven GCSEs along with two BTEC or vocational courses for less able students. This will result in improved performance across fewer subjects and reduce the stress on our students in Years 10 and 11.
- **Students will choose their language and arts option at the end of Year 8 allowing a greater depth of study in these areas. Some studies will be completed in Year 10 allowing time in Year 11 for mentoring, support, revision and life skills, as well as reducing the pressure of the final year in school.**
- The life skills and PSE delivery in Year 11 will increase the resilience of our learners and will continue the development of their independent learning skills. These lessons also allow us time to better support SEND and Pupil Premium students, giving them opportunities that a traditional curriculum would not allow for. This block also allows the more-able students to access the high-level aspects of their courses in more detail, pushing them to the top grades.

Our mentoring process has been devised in order to support students in gaining their aspirational targets with a real push on supporting under-achievers. This is tackled with self-reflection and regular target setting; having this time within the curriculum allows for more regular and consistent mentoring of the most crucial students. Other areas covered in these lessons are current affairs, cultural issues, careers and PSE

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These lessons also provide time to cover our extensive careers' programme, which prepares students for the world of work and college. All students are enrolled on the 'Start Careers' programme which enables them to work independently on their career pathway

- **Modern languages are important at St Martins School and going forward 70-75% of our students from the current Year 10 onwards will take either French or Spanish. Some weaker students will study Spanish on a new course, which teaches Spanish through a focus on speaking and Spanish culture. Modern languages' teaching time will increase to three hours in Years 8 and 9, and four hours in Year 10. Students will then sit their GCSE in MFL at the end of Year 10. This allows for more intensive language learning, which our MFL team state is vital for the successful teaching of languages.**

Language skills need to be re-enforced regularly and learning built on consistently. This approach will suit our middle and lower ability students, which are a high percentage of the makeup of our year groups. Students will be able to focus on their language course in Year 10, as it will be one of two GCSEs sat in that year. This will ensure that they prepare properly for the exam and achieve the best result they can. Completing the languages GCSE in Year 10 releases time in Year 11 for all students to have life skills, PSE, mentoring, extra revision and support. This will also help to combat stress of GCSEs.

Students who wish to continue with languages post-16 will be given the opportunity to work with our partner, Moreton Hall Independent School, to keep their language learning progressing.

- All students study an arts course at St Martins School. We passionately believe that creativity and adaptability are two keys characteristics that employers of the future will be looking for. Our arts' courses develop our students' confidence and resilience and enables them to shine in a variety of disciplines including art, dance, music, acting and creative media. Students will choose an arts option in Year 9 and will continue with this course through Years 10 and 11. This will allow all students to reach the highest standard in their chosen art subject and will release an extra hour to give to science in Year 9 in preparation for separate sciences and the new more demanding GCSE.

- **Next year, public services will be introduced in Year 10. This course includes units on the role and work of the public services, working skills required in the public sector, fitness, health and lifestyle for the public services. This course will give all of our Key Stage 4 students a real insight into how the country runs. It will include significant aspects of politics, British values and citizenship. The unit on health and lifestyle will cover most of the current PSE programme in this area.**
- From 2020 we will enter all students for separate sciences, thus ensuring the science curriculum will be easier to deliver. More time has been allocated to science in Year 10 to allow biology to be studied and examined in Year 10. Students will then go on to study chemistry and physics in Year 11. A small minority of students will only take one science subject in Year 11, giving them two GCSEs rather than three. This time will be used to deliver further life skills' units and support them through the rest of their exam subjects.