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FIDES et OPERA

BROMLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Curriculum Policy Senior School

Aims

Bromley High is a selective girls' day school. Our aim is to provide a rich and challenging academic curriculum which encourages girls to aim for excellence and incorporates opportunities to develop key GDST qualities – confidence, commitment, courage and caring and which reflects the ethos of Bromley High School. All girls, including those with an EHC plan, should have exceptional opportunities to learn and make good progress according to their ages, aptitudes and needs so that they increase their understanding and develop skills in the subjects taught.

The school constantly reviews its curricular provision to ensure that girls experience a modern and stimulating curriculum and receive an excellent, effective preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. Opportunities for cross-curricular, cross phase and enrichment activities are encouraged and the school hosts academic conferences and lectures to extend and enhance curricular provision.

As they transition through school, pupils are encouraged to become aware of their own individual strengths and developing enthusiasms within the curriculum; this culminates with a broad and strong Sixth Form curriculum which supports a wide variety of pathways for both university, degree apprenticeships and life beyond. The breadth of this curriculum means that students have the facility to opt for a range of careers expected to be the major determinant of a working life in the 21st Century.

The provision and teaching will not undermine fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs or discriminate against pupils contrary to the Equality Act 2010. The curriculum takes account of the ages, aptitudes and needs of the pupils including those with and EHC plan (or ILP).

This curriculum policy has regard to the protected characteristics of which pupils are made aware. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The Curriculum in Years 7-9

The aim of the curriculum in Years 7 to 9 is to offer a broad balanced curriculum which builds upon prior learning where possible and gives pupils from a wide variety of educational backgrounds a strong basis for GCSE study. All pupils have timetabled lessons in English, Mathematics, Spanish (or EAL or English Support), History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Religious Studies, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Music, Art, Drama, PE and Personal, Social, Health and Education (including Careers guidance, Citizenship and Study Skills.)

Girls also study French or German as a second language from Yr 7 to Yr9 . Latin is taught to all pupils in Yr7 and Yr8, and in Yr 9 approximately half of the girls continue with Latin and half study Classics. Teaching in Yr7 is generally to mixed ability (form) groups with the exception of Maths and Languages where they are set by ability.. In Yr9, pupils in English and Science subjects are put into ability sets.

The Head of Yr7 ensures that Y7s make a smooth transition so that their first year in senior school is one in which good intellectual and social habits are acquired. Girls are encouraged to participate to a broad range of co-curricular activities.

Pupils with a SEND profile and those with an EHC plan or ILP are monitored by the SENCo and their curriculum adapted to their needs (e.g. a Language may be replaced by English Support or EAL lessons.)

Details of the PSHE provision (which has timetabled lessons and is reported upon to parents may be found in the separate PHSE policy.

Pupils receive advice in Year 9 about how to make informed decisions about their choice of GCSEs in Year 10; this ensures that they are on appropriate pathways for their own individual direction at A level.

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Total number of 50-minute periods
English	7	6	6	19
Maths	6	7	7	20
Physical Education	5	4	4	13
French	4	4	4	12
German/Spanish	4	4	4	12
Biology	3	3	3	9
Chemistry	3	3	3	9
Physics	3	3	3	9
Geography	3	3	3	9
History	3	3	3	9
Religious Studies	3	3	3	9
Art	3	3	3	9
Design Technology	3	3	3	9
Music	2	3	3	8
Computer Science	2	3	2	8
Latin & Classical Civilisation	1	2	3	6
Drama	2	2	2	6
Minerva Thinking Project	1	0	0	1
PSHE	1	1	1	3
Total	60	60	60	

The Curriculum at GCSE/IGCSE (Yrs 10 and 11)

It is our intention that every student benefits as much as possible from the challenges and opportunities presented by all that is on offer during Key Stage 4. This is the time to lay down foundations for A level study and beyond by taking increasingly more responsibility for their own progress as well as developing greater independence in both their own work and study skills.

Currently, pupils study 10 subjects at GCSE level (a mixture of IGCSE and GCSEs). All pupils will study a **core group** of seven subjects at GCSE level: English, English Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology (after discussion, some pupils may reduce to Science and Additional Science in Y11) and a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish). Pupils in core subjects are put into sets according to ability.

Option subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings. Pupils select three subjects from History, Geography, German, Spanish, French, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Religious Studies, Design & Technology, Computer Science, Art, Drama, Physical Education and Music.

In addition, core PE and Personal Social and Health and Education (PSHE) incorporating careers education and guidance occur in timetabled lessons.

Additional GCSE subjects (extension opportunities)

The curriculum is designed to offer challenge so there are additional opportunities offered beyond the curriculum such as GCSE Dance, GCSE (Extra) Music for those who have already attained Grade 5 or more in Music Theory, Further Maths GCSE for girls in the higher Maths sets and Ancient Greek GCSE for those who have been following the twilight programme from Year 8. The FSMQ will be offered as a new extension opportunity for girls from Year 10 from Autumn Term 2022 onwards.

It is preferred that pupils take no more than one of these additional subjects, as we do not encourage the accumulation of GCSEs for their own sake, particularly, at the expense of participation in other co-curricular activities which would produce a more holistic curriculum for the pupil concerned.

The Sixth Form

The curriculum offered in the Sixth Form is a strength of the school: it is very broad in order to offer the students the opportunity to develop a personalised curriculum that plays to their own individual strengths; students are encouraged to recognise their own strengths through individual careers and options interviews in both Years 10 and 11 as well as academic reviews with their tutors.

The A level subjects offered are as follows: Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, English Literatures, Economics, French, German, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Latin, Maths, Further Maths, Music, Physics, Psychology, Photography, PE, Philosophy and Theology and Spanish.

Students in the Lower Sixth normally study 4 subjects from a broad range of options and many take the Extended Project (EPQ). The students have the option to drop their fourth A level subject from January of Year 12- in which case they are encouraged to take up an EPQ to strengthen their academic profile for university applications.

In order to further broaden their personal curriculum, the Sixth Form are also offered a series of non-examined elective courses, which form the Darwin Elective programme. These currently include: Anthropology, Architecture, Bad Science, Current Affairs, Cooking, Digital Photography, Touch Typing, BMAT preparation, GDST Lead (Young Enterprise), a chance to participate in community work in the swimming programme at Marjorie McClure school (a school for pupils with multiple needs) and volunteering at a local primary school (Bickley Primary). These courses vary every year as this is a constantly evolving programme.

The Sixth Form also have timetabled lessons in Core PE and PSHE provision included in part in Future Focus Days.

The school offers a thorough and well-informed careers provision enabling students to access competitive university courses including support for medical, dental, Oxbridge and European and American university applications as well as the increasingly popular, degree apprenticeships eg with the Metropolitan Police and finance companies.