

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Curriculum Policy

November 2008

To be Reviewed: Annually
Person(s) Responsible: Judith Child

The curriculum at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School reflects our philosophy and aims. It is broad and balanced, recognises national guidelines and fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum and beyond.

We provide education that is suited to able students and there is great emphasis on academic excellence. Pupils need to secure the best achievable qualifications. However, we firmly believe that the value of our curriculum goes beyond purely what is examinable.

It is our intention to lay secure foundations for progression into Further and Higher Education and we consider preparation for Sixth Form Advanced Level study to be a key feature of our 11-16 education.

Our curriculum includes a wide variety of enrichment activities and we encourage students to take full advantage of these.

Lessons are taught by highly qualified and motivated staff all of whom are experts in their subject. All departments are well resourced and use the latest computer technology.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 students follow a broad and balanced course. Students entering the school in Year 7 follow English (including Drama), Maths, three separate Sciences, Technology (including Food Technology), Geography, Religious Studies, History, PE and Games, Art, Information Technology, three separate Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) and Citizenship.

Latin is introduced later in Key Stage 3.

Key Stage 4

At the end of Key Stage 3 students select their GCSE courses. The GCSE subjects are taken at the end of Year 11 and include a core of English, Maths, Science and a Modern Foreign Language. Students are also offered the following subjects:

Geography, History, Religious Studies, Classical Civilisation, Latin, Information Technology, Art, Music, Drama and Technology.

Students achieve 10 or more full GCSE qualifications in total. Advice is given to ensure that the mix of courses taken by each student is balanced, leaving open maximum options for the Sixth Form and future career choice.

In addition, students follow non-examination courses in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship, Physical Education and Religious Studies.

Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form students choose from 27 different A Level courses. Students study 4 subjects to AS Level in Year 12 and continue with 3 of these in Year 13. Generally, AS examinations will be taken in all subjects at the end of Year 12. A2 examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13. In addition, all students take AS General Studies in Year 12 continuing to A2 in Year 13. An increasing number of students also take Critical Thinking.

The majority of the Sixth Form proceed to degree courses in universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Sixth Form students are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own learning, a skill crucial for those moving on to Higher Education and the world of work.

The curriculum is completed by a programme of guidance and enrichment activities. Students are guided by their Form Tutors in a weekly timetabled session and on a one-to-one basis by their Senior Tutor. The core enrichment activities undertaken by all students are General Studies, work shadowing, the Management Conference and the Religious Education Conference. There are many more optional opportunities in Sport, Music, Drama, debating, foreign trips, Duke of Edinburgh Award, competitions and beginner courses in languages such as Mandarin Chinese and Russian.

Sixth Form students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities on offer.