

## ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM AND TIMETABLE

---

### Support for Learning

After school entrance testing (which includes an NVR test) further screening tests are undertaken by all Year 7, new Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 students. MidYIS is taken by Year 7 and new joiners in Year 9, Yellis by Year 10 and Alis by Year 12. The Lucid screening test is also taken by those joining in other years or part-way through the year. Any pupils who require Support for Learning, either for EAL or for specific learning difficulties, are offered additional lessons as appropriate. EAL students are entitled to a limited amount of free tuition. All SfL lessons carry an additional cost. A list of pupils with specific learning needs is available to staff on Google Drive via the Support for Learning Register. Information regarding pupils who are allowed extra time or other access arrangements for examinations or assessments is contained in the separate Exams Access Arrangements spreadsheet. Extra time and/or other access arrangements are given in both external and internal examinations and in-class assessments or tests.

### The Timetable

Lessons are 55 minutes in length and a two-week timetable (based on weeks A and B) is used across all age groups. Compulsory activities/games take place in period 8 for Years 7 to 10. Orchestra, House Debating, Academic Lectures, and Societies take place during the extended lunch period on Fridays.

#### The daily structure of lessons is:

	Mon - Thurs		Fridays	
	Year 7 & 8	Year 9 - 13	Year 7 & 8	Year 9 - 13
Registration	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25
Assembly/Chapel	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35
Period 1	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Period 2	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Break	10.55	10.55	10.55	10.55
Period 3	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25
Period 4	lunch	12.25	lunch	12.25
Lunch		lunch		lunch
Period 5	1.30		2.00	2.00
Period 6	2.00	2.00	2.25	2.25
Period 7	3.00	3.00	3.25	3.25
Break	3.55	3.55	4.20	4.20
Period 8	4.20-5.45	4.20-5.45	4.40-5.45	4.40-5.45
Day ends	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00

The lesson allocation for each year group is therefore as follows:

**Year 7 – Year 10:** Across a fortnight pupils have 51 lessons, including 2 reading periods, 1 prep session and 2 PSHE lessons. There are also 3 tutor periods.

**Year 11:** Across a fortnight pupils have 50 lessons, including 1 reading period, 2 prep sessions, 2 PSHE lessons and 2 exam study support sessions. There are also 3 tutor periods.

**Year 12:** Across a fortnight students have 42 lessons, including 5 supervised study periods. In addition there are 3 tutor periods.

**Year 13:** Across a fortnight, students have 37 lessons. In addition there are 3 tutor periods.

The half-hour sessions either side of lunch (Periods 4 and 5) are used either as tutor periods, PSHE lessons, academic lessons for some Year 12 and 13 groups, or prep sessions. There are also supervised prep sessions during Period 8 on a Wednesday for some groups.

## **The Curriculum in Years 7 to 11**

The aim is to provide all pupils in Years 7 to 11 with a wide range of curriculum subjects at an appropriate level which will allow all pupils to improve their skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy as well as providing opportunities for independent learning. The curriculum also provides linguistic, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. (1) GCSE courses in Years 10 and 11 necessitate some narrowing of the curriculum but pupils are encouraged to study subjects across the curriculum range, sensibly tailored to their individual needs. In Years 7 to 11 all pupils study English, Mathematics, all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and PSHE (non-examined, through a specialist team of teachers). It is expected that all pupils will study a modern foreign language (MFL) in Years 7 to 9, although there are some for whom special provision is made. These may be pupils for whom English is an additional language or who require support for specific learning difficulties. In Years 7 to 9 physical education lessons are taught in Year groups. In Years 7 to 10 all participate in games or activities sessions on five afternoons a week. In Years 7 and 8 pupils get two PE lessons a week plus two afternoon games sessions plus three activity sessions, which may include sports-related sessions. In Years 9 and 10 there are fewer PE lessons but more games sessions. All pupils in Year 9, bar a few for whom special provision is made (for example specialist musicians or gymnasts), take part in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) on Tuesday afternoons and all in Year 10, again with known exceptions, take part in Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award training on Monday afternoons. All pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 take part in at least three games sessions a week; Years 12 and 13 take part in at least two.

## **First Form (Year 7)**

The number of forms for entry at 11+ depends on pupil numbers. First Form pupils are 'streamed' early in their first term at Wrekin based on their performance in their MidYIS test. The number of 'streams' for each year group will depend on the academic profile of the pupils it contains. Streaming simply allows pupils to move at the academic pace most appropriate to them (with support or challenge for all, as appropriate, within individual subjects), and pupils may move streams if they mature at a different rate to their peers over time. We consider streaming to allow pupils to be taught and to learn more effectively. Mathematics is the exception to the streaming process in that it is setted across the whole year group where at all possible. PSHE is taught by a specialist team of staff to pupils in their teaching groups. The PSHE Scheme of Work lays out the topics to be taught (and suitable resources) over the course of each term. External (or specialist internal) speakers (e.g. nurses) sometimes come to deliver specific content to

an entire year group in addition to those sessions taught in teaching groups. PE is taught by Year group so that for certain activities boys and girls can be taught separately. Otherwise subjects are taught by stream. In the current First Form there are three streams, with one group in each stream.

## Second Form (Year 8)

When the First Form moves into the Second Form, pupils are arranged into three or four forms, depending on numbers. Streaming is carried out based on school examination results in November and May of the First Form and teacher assessment of pupils' academic aptitude. New entrants into Second Form will be placed in an appropriate stream/class based on their prior academic attainment. Mathematics is, again, setted separately.

## Third Form (Year 9)

There are presently four classes in the Third Form, in four streams. All pupils (subject to the proviso mentioned above) study French and Spanish. PE is taught in two groups, again separately by gender.

**The curriculum structure for Years 7 to 9 is:**

YEAR	7	8	9
Number of 55 minute lessons per subject, per fortnight:			
Mathematics	7	7	6
English	7	7	6
French	5	5	4
Spanish	n/a	n/a	5
Computer Science	4	2	2
Biology	3	3	3
Physics	3	3	3
Chemistry	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
Reading	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Product Design	0	2	2
Music	2	2	2
PE	4	4	2
PSHE	2	2	2
Prep	1*	1*	2*
	51	51	52
Number of 30 minute periods:			
Tutor Period	6	6	6
Prep	2	2	2

\* = One of these periods takes place on a Wednesday afternoon fortnightly if not involved in games fixtures.

## Fourth and Fifth Forms (Years 10 & 11)

In these Years English, mathematics and the sciences are taken by all pupils and are set by ability (independently of each other). Pupils are required to select a total of four option subjects. Consultation

between the pupil, teaching staff and parents takes place before any decisions are made at the end of the Third Form (Year 9) and the final choices are confirmed with pupils and parents at the end of the Summer Term. Further consultation takes place between parents and the Deputy Head (Academic) during the summer holiday period if necessary. Classes for option subjects are determined by the combination of options taken. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 are taught PSHE by specialised teachers. If an overseas pupil's English will not allow him or her to follow an (I)GCSE course then lessons are provided that will enable them to proceed to an alternative qualification (such as English as a Second Language (I)GCSE, or one of the Cambridge Qualifications of an appropriate level). It is possible that a few pupils will have a bespoke (modified) timetable (e.g. with fewer option subjects) if they have particular learning needs or other circumstances (e.g. high level sporting commitments). Any timetable modifications are arranged by the Deputy Head (Academic).

The option blocks are devised each year after pupils have made their selections.

### **The curriculum structure for the Fourth and Fifth Forms (Year 10 and 11) is:**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Number of 55 minute lessons per subject:		
Mathematics	7	6
English	7	6
Reading	1	1
Biology	4	4
Physics	4	4
Chemistry	4	4
Option Block A	5	5
Option Block B	5	5
Option Block C	5	5
Option Block D	5	5
PSHE	1	1
Prep	2	2
	50	48
30 minute periods:		
Tutor Period	6	6
Prep	2	4

The one weekly 55-minute prep period which Year 10 and 11 get gives an opportunity for those who have Support for Learning to have a scheduled lesson in the timetable. Year 11 pupils also get two half-hour prep sessions per week between 12.25-12.55, which again can be used for scheduled Support for Learning lessons.

### **Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)**

Pupils in Year 12 will usually begin the year by choosing three A level subjects to study, having tried four different subjects during the Sixth Form induction programme we run for our Year 11 pupils. However, it is possible that some pupils, particularly those joining Wrekin in the Lower Sixth, may wish to at least begin the Sixth Form studying a fourth subject, with a view to dropping it after the first two weeks of term or, occasionally, to complete four A levels. Option blocks are again based on a provisional canvassing of our

current pupils and the subject preferences (if known) of new entrants to the school. In the Sixth Form, students usually receive 11 (x 55 minute) lessons per fortnight in their chosen subjects.

Once Year 12 pupils have decided which of their subjects to drop (by the start of Week 3/first exeat at the latest), they are required to spend 5 of their 'gained' study periods working under teacher supervision. This applies to all pupils unless the Head of Sixth Form gives them permission to work in the Library (under the supervision of the School Librarian). This freedom will only be granted if a pupils' CGR scores demonstrate that they are making good progress in their studies.

**Currently the lesson allocation is as follows:**

YEAR	12	13
Number of 55 minute lessons:		
Option Block A	11	11
Option Block B	11	11
Option Block C	11	11
Option Block D	11	11
	44	44
30 minute periods:		
Tutor Period	6	6

N.B. Due to timetabling constraints, where necessary one of the eleven 55-minute lessons pupils are taught in an option block is delivered in two Period 4 lessons. Life Skills (PSHE) lessons take place during Tutor periods, following the schedule published by the Head of Sixth Form. These take the form of whole Year group talks (by appropriate members of staff or external speakers), tutor group discussions and activities and sessions timetabled on rotation led by the Head of Sixth Form.

### Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is an additional optional qualification available to all Sixth Formers, with taught elements starting in the second term of Year 12. Attendance at the initial introductory EPQ sessions is compulsory; after this point pupils volunteer to take up this qualification and teaching occurs in small groups during one free period every week. Pupils must continue to meet internal deadlines to stay on the course. In addition to the taught sessions throughout the Lent and Summer term of Year 12, much work is carried out independently by the pupils over the Summer holiday period. Pupils are required to submit a first draft of their completed report by the start of Year 13 and complete their presentation before the October half-term. The completed project is submitted before the Christmas break. In January candidates will be informed of the marks that will be sent to AQA for moderation and they receive their final moderated grade in August together with their A-level grades.

### Other Regular Events and Co-curricular Activities

Morning registration is taken in House before pupils attend Assembly/Chapel. Those who miss registration must report to the Headmaster's PA's Office on their arrival at school in order to sign-in.

Afternoon registration is taken at some time in the period from 12.30 - 2.00pm (2.25pm on Fridays) either during lunch or in House by one of the members of staff on duty in that House.

On Monday morning at 8.35am there is a weekly assembly for all pupils and staff in Chapel. Tuesday and Friday mornings start in Chapel with a short service taken by the Chaplain, visiting preachers or other staff

and pupils. On Wednesday morning, senior Houses have House Meetings. On Thursday mornings there is a congregational practice, attended by all pupils, the SMT and led by the Director of Music. Lancaster House has its own arrangements on Tuesday (House Meeting) and Wednesday (Lancaster Chapel).

There is usually a Chapel service twice per term on Sundays for boarding pupils, but the whole school are expected to attend some services, e.g. Remembrance Service.

The activities timetable is based on a two-week cycle which includes thrice-weekly Tutor periods, games and other activities. The structures for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are similar.

The activities offered each term change both within the term and from term to term. For example, before half term in October some activity time is given over to practising for the House Singing Competition, whereas after half-term in the Christmas Term the First Form, with Sixth Form directors, rehearse for their Drama Competition in November. Third Form do likewise in the first half of Lent term, performing their House plays for their Drama Competition in February. Musical activities also take place in lunch periods, e.g. Chapel Choir on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Orchestra on Fridays. CCF for non-Third Forms takes place on Friday afternoons.

### Teaching Loads

The nominal staff load is 40 x 55 minute taught lessons per fortnight plus Tutor periods plus some assistance with supervising prep sessions, and help with cover as required. Staff are expected to contribute to games and/or activities on at least 3 afternoons a week plus games and/or activities on Saturdays. A balance is sought so all are involved as equally as possible. In practice this balance is not always easy to achieve while also taking into account the individual staff member's other responsibilities, whether managerial, pastoral, or in activities such as the major school dramatic production, games or Duke of Edinburgh Award training walks and expeditions at weekends, which can be considerably more time-consuming. The figures on the staff teaching spreadsheet represent the numbers of taught lessons (30-minute sessions being counted as  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and do not include supervision of prep periods or involvement with games and other activities. We currently have Early Career Teachers in Mathematics, Business Studies and Physics who are completing their statutory induction through ISTIP, mentored by the relevant Heads of Department and supervised by the Deputy Head (Academic). They are consequently on a reduced timetable. In addition, PGCE students are often offered training at Wrekin and any such trainees are mentored by their Heads of Department or other relevant experienced teachers, with support and oversight from the Deputy Head (Academic).