

St. Lawrence College

Senior School Curriculum Policy



Our school is one community, united in our respect for each other, tolerant of differences and proud of our diversity, honest and positive about our learning and behaviour every day.

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Most recent review: 2021

EDUCATIONAL AIMS

St. Lawrence College is a British-system international school which broadly follows the National Curriculum of England and Wales whilst never failing to lose sight of its location and both the unique opportunities this offers as well as the occasional challenges that this brings. The school is firmly committed to the principle of providing a broad, well-balanced curriculum for all pupils which is both accessible to all and relevant to the modern world. The school believes in a holistic, inclusive approach to education through activities both in and out of the classroom. The emphasis at St. Lawrence College is on rewarding effort and giving every child the confidence to believe in its own achievement and progress at its own pace.

Our aims are threefold:

- To provide a happy, safe school environment in which effort is rewarded, individual needs are recognised and personal development facilitated through differentiation, one-to-one guidance and co-curricular activities.
- To provide our Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils with the means to attain internationally recognised qualifications through excellent teaching and guide our school-leavers through the university application processes of primarily the UK, Europe and the USA, providing them with the best possible, practical help and advice in order for them to maximise their potential and feel confident about taking the next step on leaving our school.
- To promote tolerance, understanding and above all an appreciation of cultural diversity. As an international school with a diverse range of nationalities in our pupil body, this is of the utmost importance and is achieved both through the curriculum and co-curricular activities

THE SCHOOL DAY AND SUBJECTS BY KEY STAGE

The school day begins at 8:40am and finishes at 3:15pm. After a ten-minute form period, pupils begin lessons at 8:50am. There are 8 periods in the day and each period is 40 minutes in duration. During the course of the school day there are two breaks: the first from 10:50am until 11:15am and the second from 1:15pm until 1:55pm.

In terms of subjects, we aim to ensure that our curriculum gives pupils experience in mathematical, scientific, linguistic, technological, human, physical and creative education with content that is tailored to meet the needs of pupils of differing ages, abilities and language levels.

KEY STAGE 3: YEARS 7 – 9

A wide range of subjects is available to Key Stage 3 pupils. Compulsory subjects are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Greek, Art, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). In addition, pupils choose a second foreign language from Chinese, French and Spanish. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups except for English, Mathematics and language classes where pupils are streamed. English language support, through the EAL department, is also offered to those pupils whose language skills are not yet strong

enough to follow the full curriculum. Similarly, St. Lawrence College provides Learning Support to those pupils who need it, assessed on an individual basis.

Allocated periods per week by subject:

Subject	Number of Periods
English	6
Mathematics	6
Science	4
History	4
Geography	4
Chinese/French/Spanish	4
Greek	3
Art	2
Information Technology	2
Music	2
Physical Education	2
PSHE	1

KEY STAGE 4: YEARS 10 – 11

In Years 10 and 11, pupils choose the subjects that they will prepare for Cambridge IGCSE examinations, taken at the end of Year 11. Pupils are given guidance from Year 9 and are encouraged to take a healthy balance of subjects which maximises their choices both in Key Stage 5 and beyond. English, Mathematics, Greek and Physical Education are compulsory subjects with the first three offered to IGCSE level. English Literature IGCSE is also available to pupils in the two top English groups taking First Language English.

Regarding options, pupils choose five more subjects in addition to the compulsory subjects. The following combinations are available:

OPTION 1: Physics **or** Geography

OPTION 2: Chemistry **or** Business Studies

OPTION 3: Biology **or** Art and Design **or** Information Technology

OPTION 4: Information Technology **or** Art and Design **or** Chinese **or** French **or** Spanish

OPTION 5: History **or** First Language Chinese **or** Physics

As with Key Stage 3, pupils are also able to take advantage of both Language and Learning Support if necessary.

Allocated periods per week by subject:

Subjects	Year 10	Year 11
English (Language and Literature where applicable)	8	7
Mathematics	6	6
History	4	4
Greek	4	4
Physics	4	4
Geography	4	4
Chemistry	4	4
Business Studies	4	4
Biology	4	5
Art and Design	4	4/5
Information Technology	4	4/5
Chinese (Foreign Language and First Language)	4	4
French	4	4
Spanish	4	4
Physical Education	2	2

In all subjects offered to IGCSE level, where there is more than one class, pupils are streamed according to ability. Moreover, some subjects have more than one option at examination level.

Those are:

English Language: First Language English, English as a Second Language (Extended), English as a Second Language (Core)

Mathematics: Extended or Core Level

Physics: Extended or Core Level

Chemistry: Extended or Core Level

Biology: Extended or Core Level

KEY STAGE 5: YEARS 12 – 13

Entrance requirements: Pupils are required to pass a minimum of 5 IGCSE examinations at grade C or above to be eligible to go on to the Key Stage 5 A-Level programme. Should a pupil fail to meet the requirements, he/she is given the option of re-taking Year 11 in order to a) pass subjects which he/she has previously failed and b) improve on existing grades or take examinations at a higher level (for example, Extended level instead of Core).

All pupils who have met the requirements are guided and advised on their A-Level options by the Headmaster, the Deputy Head (Academic), the Head of Key Stage 5 and Sixth Form tutors who are assigned to them for the two years of the Sixth Form.

St. Lawrence College follows the A-Level system using Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge examination boards. Pupils are able to choose three to five A-Levels from the following option groups:

OPTION 1: Mathematics **or** English Literature

OPTION 2: Physics **or** Geography **or** History

OPTION 3: Chemistry **or** Politics **or** French **or** Art and Design

OPTION 4: Biology **or** Economics **or** Further Mathematics

OPTION 5: Greek **or** Chinese

Allocated periods per week by subject:

Subject	Year 12	Year 13
English Literature	9	9
Mathematics	9	9
Physics	9	9
Geography	9	9
History	9	9
Economics	9	9
Chemistry	9	9
Politics	9	9
French	7-8	7-8
Art and Design	9	9
Biology	9	9
Economics	9	9
Further Mathematics	9	9
Greek (Foreign Language)	4	6
Chinese (Foreign Language)	4	6

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Pupils' educational needs are supported in a variety of ways both within lessons and beyond the classroom.

DIFFERENTIATION

In order to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress, subject departments employ a variety of teaching methods and material. Resources used to facilitate differentiation are outlined in the departmental schemes of work.

SEN PROVISION

The SEN department, led by the SENCO, is able to assess and support pupils by carrying out classroom observations and advising, when necessary, teachers, pupils and parents. Each SEN pupil, statemented and non-statemented, has an IEP which is periodically reviewed and revised by the SENCO in

consultation with senior teachers within the school. There are also timetabled learning support lessons for pupils who need them in which pupils work either one-to-one or in small groups

with the SENCO or SEN teachers on specific issues and learning techniques. For more information, please refer to the Senior School Special Educational Needs policy.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

The school's English as an Additional Language department is able to assess new pupils and offer language support when necessary. Pupils who do not possess the requisite knowledge of English to follow the syllabus are given intensive English lessons in small groups until they are deemed ready to join the mainstream classes. This usually happens gradually with a pupil joining groups of subjects in stages and is assessed on an individual basis. For more information please refer to the Senior School EAL policy.

EXTRA – CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Extra lessons in many subjects are offered at lunchtimes for pupils to attend if they want to do so or if it is arranged as part of an intervention. These extra lessons are offered by subject teachers but can also involve peer teaching.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health and sex education is taught as part of the Science curriculum to Years 7 and 8 and also features in timetabled PSHE lessons.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is taught as a timetabled subject for Key Stage 3 pupils and for all pupils during daily form time, in specific subjects as part of their curriculum and through scheduled events such as assemblies and discrete sessions. Each year group has a specifically designed curriculum to cater for individual needs.

HOMEWORK

Learning is consolidated by regular homework devised to meet the needs of each year group. While homework assignments may vary in terms of length and, therefore, in terms of the amount of time they require, as a general rule each year group is given the following amount of homework per day:

- Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9): 1-2 hours
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11): 2- 2 ½ hours
- Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13): 2-3 hours

Pupils in Years 7-9 are not given homework during holidays but are encouraged to read for pleasure, research more extensively different topics on the syllabus and/or revise the work they have done, to consolidate their knowledge. Similarly, in the week before internal exams, homework is limited to the revision of relevant topics or tasks, which specifically practise skills needed for the exams.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION

The school's academic curriculum is enriched by a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities which provide opportunity for stimulation, personal development and leadership.

CO – CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities are extremely important to the development of the individual and as such are taken very seriously at St. Lawrence College. A wide variety of clubs such as Debate, International Duke of Edinburgh Award, Chess, Environmental, performance opportunities and a large number of sports clubs and activities are available both during lunchtimes and after school which encourage cooperation, leadership and awareness of the world. Charity drives are also frequent with fundraising initiatives and visits to charitable institutions organised by the Services Society.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Our prefect system allows Year 13 pupils to take on extra responsibilities to aid staff with the running of the school and with special events. Moreover, the Student Council, made up of two pupils per year group elected by the pupil body, provides a direct, weekly, line of communication between pupils and senior teachers. The Student Council is also responsible for organising events such as concerts and charity drives.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES

Organised by departments, senior teachers and pupils, weekly assemblies, currently broadcast through the Microsoft Teams platform, aim to expand our pupils' horizons whether it be by focusing on current affairs, important people in history or issues such as internet safety.

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

Every year, a large number of excursions are organised which are designed to meet the specific needs of each year group. These excursions consolidate classroom learning, provide pupils with the opportunity to gather data, enrich pupils' social awareness and allow them to learn more about the country in which they live.

DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES OF WORK

All subject departments within the Senior School have fully comprehensive schemes of work which are continually updated to reflect changes in the curriculum or new teaching practices. Each scheme of work clearly outlines syllabus content and includes resources to enable teachers to make provision for SEN pupils whether they are high ability or have learning difficulties.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment at St. Lawrence College is both formative and summative. Formative assessment, oral and written, is a standard part of daily lessons and regular summative assessment in the form of class tests and homework allows teachers to assess pupil progress. Electronic Progress Marks (EPMs) largely based on summative assessments are issued by subject twice over the course of the school year and school reports sent to parents at the end of the first and third term. Year 7-10 pupils also take internal examinations once a year in June while public examination candidates take mock examinations between February and April.

For more information on assessment, please refer to the school's Assessment Policy.

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

All Year 12 and 13 pupils are assigned a tutor for the two years to guide them through the A-Level and university process. Most of our pupils apply to study at British universities and, therefore, our main focus is on helping them through the UCAS application. Our pupils are also increasingly applying to universities within the European Union. Sixth form tutors working in conjunction with the Deputy Head (Academic) offer advice in one-to-one and group meetings with A-Level pupils, liaise with subject teachers, write references and help organise and conduct mock interviews when necessary. Our specialist advisor on universities in the USA also helps to organise relevant paperwork necessary for successful applications. Pupils who decide to go onto other institutions around the world are advised and helped in any way necessary to facilitate their onward progress.