

## SECTION 2.4 - ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The school has harmonized its curriculum with national requirements yet preserves the best features of its own very broad provision.

### NURSERY AND RECEPTION

We deliver a curriculum based on the framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS); this describes the seven areas of learning and development.

#### Prime areas include:

- \* Communication and Language
- \* Personal Social and Emotional Development
- \* Physical Development

#### Specific areas:

- \* Literacy
- \* Numeracy
- \* Understanding the World
- \* Expressive Arts and Design

In addition the framework describes;

#### Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- \* Playing and Exploring
- \* Active learning
- \* Creating and thinking critically

We nurture innovation and creativity through play and respond to each child's emerging needs and interests. Their interest and enthusiasm is captured and exploited immediately to maximize learning and progress.

We guide their development through warm and positive interactions. Children have the freedom to learn in an environment which supports, provides risks, engages, extends, challenges, encourages independence, values creativity and offers choice inside and out.

In addition, nursery children have the opportunity to experience specialist sessions in French, Music, Dance, Drama, PE and Forest Class. Reception children have these specialist sessions within their timetable.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Teachers use the Primary National Curriculum as a basis for planning and assessment.

Years 1- 6 study Mathematics, English, Science, Modern Foreign Language (French) and RE along with Topic. Topic is a combination of Geography and History with elements of PSME and Citizenship where appropriate. Mathematics, English, Art and ICT links are also incorporated where possible. The aim of Topic teaching is to inspire children's quest for knowledge and develop their learning, questioning and thinking skills. Children also have specialist teaching in ICT, Dance, Drama, Music, PE and Games and in Art in Year 6, and CDT in Year 5. Creative and Performing Arts form an essential part of the curriculum. Forest Class is taught as a subject in Years 1-3 and is available as an ECA in Years 4-6. Form teachers also teach RE and Personal, Social and Moral Education (PSME) discretely as well as fostering links with other subjects.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

**KS3**

Students in Years 7 - 8 follow common courses in English, Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Creative and Performing Arts, ICT, Religious Education and Physical Education.

Spanish, German and French are introduced in the first half term of Year 7 and then two of these languages are chosen for study during Years 7 - 9. Some students may be advised to take extra English instead of a second Modern Foreign Language. All students participate in up to six weeks of Outdoor Education (including a whole year group residential) which focuses on personal and social development through a range of adventurous activities.

In Year 9, the curriculum broadens to encompass an additional PSME session which includes modules on topics such as sex education, careers education, body image and drugs education.

**GCSE**

In Years 10 and 11 our GCSE curriculum consists of 9 or 10 GCSE subjects. Those students studying Triple Science will be studying 11 subjects with the possibility of studying Photography GCSE as an ECA. These students are carefully advised regarding the inevitable workload and revision pressures that studying this number of GCSEs brings.

GCSE core subjects at Frensham are; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language, the Sciences, Triple Award for the top set or Double Award for the majority. Students studying Double Award Science are still able to choose Science A Levels if they achieve good passes at GCSE.

A Creative or Performing subject (including GCSE PE) completes the subjects in the core provision. Creative and Performing subjects currently on offer are Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Product Design, Dance, Drama, Music and Physical Education.

This range of core subjects ensures both a broad education and that future university and other higher education paths remain as open as possible at this point. There is flexibility in the remaining three subjects, which may be chosen according to a student's interests and talents. Options could include an additional language or a creative subject for example.

We encourage students, where possible, to include at least one of the humanities: History, Geography or Business Studies in their option choices. We also offer Computing GCSE. Occasionally students finding the standard curriculum offer difficult may be advised to study 7 or 8 GCSEs.

**SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM**

Sixth Form options are reviewed annually. Provisional choices are made during the Spring Term prior to entry, after which the option groups are fixed for the following year. Current A Levels on offer are: English Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, History, Government and Politics, Geography, Business, Economics, French, German, Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, Computing, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Drama, Dance, Music, Music Technology, Fine Art, Product Design, Photography and Physical Education. English as an Additional Language is available as a charged extra.

Most students choose 3 subjects at A level. Very able students take 4 subjects. Advice on this decision is given once GCSE results are confirmed in August. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is available for interested students and is equivalent to an AS grade.

### **OTHER CURRICULUM ISSUES**

The Academic curriculum is taught between 8.30 am and 4.10 pm Monday to Friday (formal school for Years N to 3 ends at 3.20 pm and Years 4 - 6 ends at 3.30 pm). ECAs take place at lunchtime and before and after school. Sports matches take place after school and sometimes at the weekend.

On Saturday mornings there is a choice of activity for boarders and for day students who wish to participate. The cost of these is included in the school fees, except for one or two specialist activities for which an extra charge is payable or where transport costs or entrance fees are involved. These activities usually take place on either Saturday or Sunday, except for some Outdoor Education expeditions or Sports tours which will occupy a whole weekend.

The school is non-denominational and affords equal status to all religious beliefs and faiths. Students in Years N-2 have RE incorporated into their PSME sessions. Students in Years 3 - 8 have RE each week and those in Year 9 are taught RE as part of an additional PSME rotation in that year. The syllabus covers all the major faiths and it also teaches pupils how to make moral decisions.

All students have lessons in sex education during Science and PSME lessons. The school's Sex and Relationships Education Policy is published at Section 3.5.