

Brampton College Curriculum Policy 2009/10

Aims

The College curriculum aims to provide a very high level of care, guidance and support for each student in order to enable them to achieve their individual academic aims. The key elements of the curriculum - a very flexible timetable and course structure, small classes, individual tutorials, testing, individual review meetings with personal tutors - are designed to respond to each student's personal educational interests and needs.

We do this in an atmosphere which is warm and informal, but also one in which students are expected to work hard and to develop an adult sense of honesty, independence, responsibility and consideration for others, in preparation for university and working life.

The curriculum also aims to encourage students to maintain a balance between academic work and an enriching extracurricular life, and to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of adulthood.

The curriculum provides:

- Full time supervised education for students of compulsory school age.
- The opportunity to experience learning in the following areas: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative.
- The opportunity to acquire skills in literacy, numeracy, listening and speaking.
- Subject matter appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of students.
- Lessons in written and spoken English where a student's first language is not English.
- Appropriate pastoral care and careers guidance, including a period of work experience and the opportunity for voluntary work.

All students are very carefully assessed by the Principal or Vice Principal and Heads of Department prior to enrolment to determine the most suitable programme for them, in regard to the student's academic aims and current level of attainment.

The College offers considerable flexibility in choosing courses according to individual circumstances and students are able to take a mixture of programmes if this is the most appropriate programme for them. This may even include a mixture of AS and GCSE courses.

The majority of students at Brampton College study AS or A2 subjects but there is also a small GCSE department.

AS and A2 level Courses

The courses offered at AS and A2 level include the following:

1. **A Two Year A level programme** – this is the standard A level programme and students normally study four AS subjects in their first year and take three of these on to A2 level in their second year. The time allocation is 4.75 hours per subject per week in the AS year which increases to 5.5 hours per subject per week in the A2 year.
2. **A One Year Upper Sixth A2 Course** – this course is for students who have completed their AS year (year 12) elsewhere and come to the College to continue their studies at A2 level. In general they join the existing A2 classes and additional help is provided if AS modules need to be retaken. The time allocation given is 5.5 hours per subject per week.
3. **A One Year A level Course** – this course is either for students wishing to re-take A level subjects over a year, or for those wishing to take up a new subject on an intensive one-year course. The time allocation is 6 hrs 40 minutes per subject per week.
4. **A One Term Intensive A level Re-sit Course** – this course is for students who wish to re-take an A level subject over a single term. As these courses are very demanding and highly intensive the entry grades required are usually higher than those for the one-year re-take course. The time allocation is 8 hours per subject per week.
5. **An Eighteen Month A level course (starting in January)** – this course is primarily aimed at students joining the College from overseas where the academic year finishes in January although it is open to any student for whom it would be deemed suitable. The time allocation varies with the nature of the subject being studied but is generally between 5.5 and 6 hours per subject per week.

In addition to the hours allocated to the regular classes, individual tutorials are provided in most subjects.

The subjects available to AS and A2 level are listed below. Curriculum Notes and Separate Schemes of Work are available for each subject listed.

Mathematics & Computing

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Information & Communication Technology
- Computing

Science

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

Arts

- English
- History
- Art
- Religious Studies
- French
- Spanish
- German
- Latin
- Classical Civilisation
- Music

Social Sciences

- Government & Politics
- Economics
- Geography
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Business Studies
- Law

In addition, the College provides classes in English as a foreign language to students whose first language is not English, and, for any student on request, help with essay writing in tutorials on English for Academic Purposes.

Extracurricular Activities at Brampton College

Extracurricular activities play an important role within the College and are seen as a way of improving the social, moral, physical and artistic development of students, particularly in view of their initial integration into the College, and of conveying the importance of the balance between work and other aspects of life. The policy is to offer a range of activities, which cater for different tastes, ages and sexes.

Most activities are purely recreational, but some also have an element of competition or display. Occasional football fixtures are arranged against other Colleges and schools, while the Proshare tournament is competitive within the College and in the London area. The students can gain a sense of pride in themselves for their own performance and achievement and in the College through the honour of representing the College. Students are also encouraged to support the College at competitive fixtures. Student achievement in extracurricular activity is celebrated through prizes awarded by the College and through articles and photographs on the College website, in the Newsletter, and in the annual Art Exhibition Evening in June, to which parents are invited.

Appropriate health and safety procedures are followed in the case of all activities taking place on or off the College premises.

Extracurricular activities available in 2009/10 include:

Football, Basketball, Art, the Proshare Tournament, Theatre Club, First Aid, the Student Council, and charity work. We have held very successful music recitals for the last 2 years. A number of talks are arranged each year on current events, medical issues, the environment, aspects of history and culture, and poetry readings. We run the UK Maths Challenge as an annual event. There are also many visits to places of interest such as art galleries and museums in addition to those that take place as part of the academic programme. In previous years we have run a science club, drama, chess, cricket and other activities.

GCSE Courses

The College has a small but thriving GCSE Department managed by two dedicated staff who jointly carry out the role of Head of GCSE.

A small group of students each year follow a programme consisting only of GCSE subjects. Students generally take up to seven subjects and the timetable allows for a flexible combination of choices thereby ensuring each student is treated as an individual. The course is fairly intensive and is covered in just one year with 4 hours allocated to each subject per week. The intake of students includes those transferring to the College for the final year of their GCSE studies, overseas students wishing to complete their GCSEs in one year and integrate into the English education system, as well as those students re-taking GCSEs.

In addition to the regular GCSE students short courses for November examinations in Mathematics and English Language are also available for re-take students. AS and A2 students may also wish to retake GCSEs in some subjects or add a new GCSE subject to their portfolio. There are also other short courses available, equivalent to 50% of a standard GCSE, in certain subjects such as Art and Religious Studies.

Subjects available at GCSE include the following:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- English Language
- English Literature
- History
- Religious Studies
- Modern Languages
- Art

Although as an independent College we are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum all GCSE students participate in a structured PSHE course. There are also regular outings to art galleries, museums and the theatre. Students also take part in a variety of sporting activities in a regular weekly session on their timetable.

A document outlining the GCSE curriculum in greater detail is available separately.