



**St Dunstan's**  
— College —

## SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### LOWER SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 AND 9)

In the Lower School the curriculum ensures that students cover the key elements of the national curriculum, but are also provided with enhanced choice and opportunity beyond it. Students take a broad range of compulsory subjects (in alphabetical order): Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing Science, Design Technology, Drama, English, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physics, PE and Games, Religion Philosophy and Ethics, and Skills for Life (*P5RD07*), which includes British Values and PSHEE (*P5RD06*). In Years 7 and 8 they also study two Modern Languages from a choice of French, German or Spanish. In Year 9 they have the option to continue with their two languages, or to focus on one. The number of periods allocated to each subject varies slightly from Year to Year.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 AND 11)

Departments choose between GCSE or IGCSE, and between different exam boards, depending on what is in the best interests of students. Students follow a core of (in alphabetical order): English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one Modern Foreign Language, and Sciences, as well as Skills for Life (including PSHEE), Games and PE. Students also choose 3 options from Art, Classical Civilisation, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Latin, a second Modern Language, Music, and Religion Philosophy and Ethics. Computing Science will be an option available to choose from September 2018. All students begin Year 10 studying ten subjects and are normally expected to complete ten (or nine if they move from Triple to Double Award Science in Year 11).

### SIXTH FORM – (YEARS 12 AND 13)

Sixth Formers study A Levels as the core academic component of the St Dunstan's Diploma (see *P5RD08*). Students begin Year 12 studying four A Level subjects and are given the opportunity to choose whether or not to drop one of them following internal assessments at the end of their first term of Year 12. This option is exercised as part of the Diploma pathway and includes the option to study a Global Perspectives Pre-U Short Course alongside a student's A Level program. In a structured and well supported fashion, students across Year 12 and into Year 13 are encouraged and supported to shape their examination and qualification profile to best suit and support developing ambitions and skills. The Diploma is an exciting, challenging, empowering, flexible, and inclusive experience for all in the Sixth Form. It comprises three elements – an Examined Curriculum and Skills (ECAS), an Additional Curriculum and Skills (ACAS) and a Co-Curriculum and Skills (CCAS).

## **A LEVEL, PRE-U, AND AS LEVEL**

All A Level subjects are taught as Linear A Levels. St Dunstan's does not enter students for AS Level qualifications in Year 12. The only Year 12 public examination a student may take, if they choose to, is the Global Perspectives Pre-U Short Course.

Sixth Formers are expected to start Year 12 with 4 subjects. In accordance with the support offered via the Diploma program, some will move to 3 subjects. The majority will complete 3 A Levels in Year 13, but a significant minority continue with 4.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS**

Preparing sixth formers for the world of work and higher education is a responsibility the College takes very seriously. Skills relevant to, and knowledge and awareness of, the world of work are woven into the Skills for Life curriculum across Key Stage 3 and 4. Sixth Formers have access to impartial and independent information, advice and guidance about careers and HE choices through their attendance at HE Fairs, Open Days and Conferences. There is a dedicated HE/UCAS and advisor. Most sixth formers will choose to complete a UCAS application in Year 13. Further details of the UCAS support available, including that provided for former students wishing to apply post-A Level, can be obtained from the Head of Sixth Form, who has oversight of the UCAS process. Alternative Higher Education or career pathways are valued and supported equally too.

Applicants for overseas universities will be supported at St Dunstan's College. Costs incurred during the application (for testing, application, travel etc.) will be borne by the applicant. Bursary, scholarship or hardship funds may be available. As with UCAS, the Head of Sixth Form has oversight of international applications. Tutors have responsibility for collating references where required.

Careers and Work Experience guidance and support are offered via a Head of Careers, who can be contacted for more details.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & GAMES**

All students are normally expected to participate in both the PE & Games programs. Games is compulsory up to Year 11 and students in the Sixth Form opt either for Games or Community Service. There are timetabled PE lessons for Years 7 to 11 inclusive.

## **PSHEE**

Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education takes place within St Dunstan's College in a variety of contexts, both formal and informal. The formal curriculum offers specific PSHEE delivered through the tutorial system and the Skills for Life programme at KS3 and 4. The informal curriculum also provides a wide range of opportunities for PSHEE. This comprises assemblies, co-curricular and academic societies, charity and community engagement, lectures, school visits and Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Details of the St Dunstan's College PSHEE curriculum and provision can be found in *P5RD07*.

## COMPUTING SCIENCE & ICT

Computing Science and ICT are central aspects of the St Dunstan's Curriculum. They are taught both as specific knowledge and skill sets in dedicated Computing Science lessons across Key Stage 3, and also within subject specific areas of the curriculum. It is the College's belief that whilst the development of digital literacy might be possible via dedicated Computing lessons, digital fluency is only achieved when students use and develop their ICT knowledge and skills within the wider curriculum and broader aspects of their learning. Details of the College Computing Science and ICT curriculum can be found in *P5RD09*.

## THE ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE CO-CURRICULUM, EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND VISITS.

The St Dunstan's College Co-Curriculum is extensive, well resourced, and highly valued. It includes sports, creative arts, CCF, D of E, community and charity engagement, educational visits, clubs and societies, and much more besides. Regular participation in aspects of the co-curriculum is expected from all students as a vital part of their development into fully rounded individuals who can succeed both at school and beyond. In Key Stages 3 and 4 it is expected that all students will participate in at least three co-curricular activities per week during the timetabled co-curriculum Forder period at lunchtime. That level of engagement continues to be expected in the Sixth Form where the co-curriculum will be a key element of the St Dunstan's Diploma.

St Dunstan's values learning outside the classroom and encourages teachers and tutors to organize educational visits and trips. There is a strict protocol for arranging Educational Visits, whether day trips or residential courses.

Details of the extensive St Dunstan's College Co-Curriculum provision, and guidance relating to Trips and Visits can be found in Policy 7 and its related documents.

## INCLUSION AND ENRICHMENT

St Dunstan's College actively seeks to ensure that the full range of the curriculum is accessible for the full diversity of students attending the school. Inclusion and Enrichment are key to the fulfilment of potential for all. This applies to students with SEND, EAL, and to the Gifted, More Able and Talented (GMAT). The College has an Assistant Head (Inclusion and Enrichment) and dedicated Coordinators of SEND, EAL and GMAT. Details of St Dunstan's College support and provision in this area can be found in Policy 6 and its related documents.

## LECTURES AND SEMINARS

The St Dunstan's curriculum is supported and enhanced by a programme of lectures run throughout the year. One thread is an 'Opening Minds' series of regular lunchtime lectures delivered by external speakers or College staff. Due diligence is carried out on all speakers and a register of speakers is recorded. The lectures cover academic, university and careers topics and are a key part of preparing our students for life beyond school.

## MIXED ABILITY AND SETTING

St Dunstan's College is an academically selective school at admission and an academically ambitious school throughout. All students entering the College are of above national average ability academically and are expected to achieve their potential. Nonetheless, all classes in all school contexts must be recognised and supported as mixed ability within the school's range in order for individual potential to be met. The range at this College is narrower in total and higher in nature than most schools. It is the College's educational philosophy that in this context, high quality, differentiated teaching and learning, alongside strong student learning approaches can and does maximize outcomes for all, including the most able, both academically and personally.

The further setting of classes by ability happens only in Mathematics, and across all year groups, in order to target an even narrower range of ability, lesson by lesson, and setting is reviewed regularly on the basis of assessment outcomes by the Head of Department across as well as between different year groups.

In other subjects setting is not applied. Year 11 Scientists are streamed into either a Double or Triple Award Science pathways at the start of Year 11 based on a combination of choice and best interest as indicated by Year 10 examination results. The resultant streams are not setted, however. In non-core subjects at GCSE and in all subjects at A Level, class composition is shaped by student subject choices and timetable blocking. This enables access to the widest possible range of subject choice options for students as they transition from Year 9 into Year 10, and then Year 11 into Year 12.

The teaching of most classes by mixed ability in the Lower School based on form groups allows every student to be taught as part of a consistent, supportive, and diverse social and learning group, helping him or her to gain confidence as well as knowledge. It is also no barrier to the full achievement of academic potential, including at the highest level, in a selective, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. Teachers of all groups seek to ensure that all students are challenged to fulfil their own individual potential.

Movement of students between form groups or un-setted classes is not expected and may only happen with the approval of a Deputy Head.

## FURTHER CURRICULUM DETAILS

- Curriculum Content Maps for each year group are available via the website and are updated each year by Heads of Department.
- Heads of Department can also be contacted for further information about Schemes of Learning and Assessment.
- More details of the Skills for Life programme can be found in *P5RD07*.
- More details of the St Dunstan's Diploma can be found in *P5RD08*.