

Curriculum Overview 2019/20

At Keswick School we aim to provide a broad, balanced and personalised curriculum which will engage, inspire and challenge all our students. Copies of our curriculum maps which provide an overview of the curriculum content for each subject in Years 7-11 can be found at <http://www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk/Academic-Life>

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

At Key Stage 3, students study a broad range of subjects which, not only prepares them for their examination courses to come but, also develops their skills as a learner and as a young person.

During Key stage 3 students study: English; mathematics; physics; chemistry; biology; French; German, history; geography; religion, philosophy and ethics; computing, design technology (including food and textiles), art, drama, music, personal development and PE/games.

This includes a Learn to Learn course in Year 7 where they focus on becoming more independent learners.

In Year 8 all students continue with the study of their first modern foreign language (French or German) and most go on to study the other. Those who do not, take an Enquiry Based Learning course in Years 8 & 9 and complete the AQA Foundation Level Project Qualification.

The extended school curriculum also gives KS3 students extra opportunities to extend their learning (see below)

Key Stage 4

Core curriculum

At Key Stage 4 the majority of students study a broad range of subjects leading to GCSE qualifications at the end of a two year course. There are also options for a group of students to study vocational courses.

All students study a compulsory core curriculum which includes English Language and Literature and mathematics. The majority of students also study the three separate sciences of physics, chemistry and biology. A small number of students study combined science instead. All students also choose from either history or geography. From September 2019, all students who show potential during KS3 to achieve at least a grade 4 in a MfL (approx 80%), will study either French a German leading to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

A core religious education/personal development and physical education programme is studied by all students, but not for examination.

The extended school curriculum also gives KS4 students extra opportunities to extend their learning (see below)

We offer a wide choice of options and students work with staff, including the Head of Careers and an Inspira careers advisor to identify courses which will support their career aspirations and offer them the best opportunities for success as individuals. Careers education and guidance forms part of the personal development programme for students from Years 8 – 11 and includes talks, videos and visiting speakers. Interviews with Heads of Year also take place, and individual appointments and parents' evenings provide support at each transition point. Additionally, Year 10 students undertake a week of work experience during the summer term.

Year 10 (from Sept 2019)

Depending on their pathway, students have a choice of one or more remaining subjects: geography, history, French, German, philosophy and ethics, computer science, design technology, business studies, music, art and design, and physical education. We are also running the following vocational courses: WJEC (Eduqas) Events Operations, AQA Tech Award in performing arts, and OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Certificate in Creative iMedia.

Year 11 (from Sept 2019)

Students generally study the equivalent of 3 option subjects but some study less depending on the needs of each individual. These optional subjects include: French, German, geography, history, philosophy and ethics, computer science, design technology, business studies, music, art and design, engineering, and physical education. We are also running the following vocational courses: WJEC (Eduqas) Events Operations, WJEC (Eduqas) Food and Hospitality, AQA Tech Award in performing arts, and OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Certificate in Creative iMedia.

Key Stage 5 (2019/20)

Keswick School Sixth Form offers an equally eclectic collection of courses to satisfy each students' needs, ranging from traditional subjects to new, exciting opportunities available for the first time in Key Stage 5.

Keswick School's Sixth Form offers courses that lead students on to the next stage of education post 16 to enable them to:

- study advanced level courses and go on to university or college in two years' time;
- to study advanced level courses and look for employment when they are 18+

Following advanced level courses, the great majority of them go on to higher education

Students meeting the entry requirements take 3 A levels, and we see the EPQ as a way of giving our students an extra edge in their applications. A small number of students may take 4 A levels or an extra subject to AS level, opting in to the AS examination at the end of Year 12. This will be allowed at the discretion of the Head of Sixth Form only.

A Level subjects

Art, craft and design	English language	Mathematics
Biology	English literature	Media studies
Business	French	Physical education
Chemistry	Further mathematics	Physics
Computer science	Geography	Psychology
Design & technology	German	Religion, philosophy and ethics
Design & technology: fashion and textiles	Government & politics	Sociology
	History	

Vocational Level 3 subjects

RSL music practitioners Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary Diploma (performance or music technology)
Performing arts Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate
Vocational business Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Enrichment Level 3 (equivalent to Advanced Subsidiary Level)

AQA Level 3 mathematical studies (core maths): one year course

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

We also offer AS Level German as part of the extended school curriculum (see below)

The Extended School Curriculum

We believe in providing additional opportunities for students to study courses they may be interested in but which are not run as part of the main curriculum. Parents pay a small fee for these courses to cover staff costs but they are provided free of charge for students eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Some courses have more than one group running in each academic year:

Cambridge Beginners & Intermediate Latin – KS3 & 4 students

GCSE Latin – KS3 & 4 students

Beginners Spanish (introduced in Sept 2019) – Year 7 & 8 students

GCSE Dance – Year 9 & KS4 students

GCSE Further Maths – Year 11 students

AS Level German – Year 12 students

We have also previously run extended school courses in GCSE Astronomy, AS Level Creative Writing and AS Level Computer Science.