

Curriculum Overview 2024-25

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 <https://www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculummaps>

Please be aware that if there are any Covid 19 restrictions during this academic year, there may be the need for some curriculum adaptation. This may also affect the extended school curriculum offer.

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 (RPE)
- Computing
- Design Technology (including food and textiles)
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Personal Development
- PE/games.

Year 7

In Year 7, students study both French and German. The majority will continue with both languages when they enter Year 8. Later in Year 8 they will choose one to specialise in for Year 9 and for GCSE study in KS4. A very small number of students will continue with the study of only either French or German in Year 8 & 9 and take an Enquiry Based Learning course in Year 8.

Subject	No of lessons (hours per fortnight)	% Curriculum time	
English	6	12%	
Accelerated Reading	2	4%	
Mathematics	6	12%	
Physics	2	4%	12%
Chemistry	2	4%	
Biology	2	4%	
MfL (French and German)	6	12%	
History	2	4%	
Geography	2	4%	
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	2	4%	
Computing	2	4%	
Design Technology (food, textiles, resistant materials, graphic products, electronics)	4	8%	
Art	2	4%	
Music	2	4%	
Drama	2	4%	
Physical Education/games	4	8%	
Personal Development	2	4%	
	Total: 50		

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

Year 8

In Year 8 most students study both French and German and later in Year 8 will choose one to specialise in for Year 9 and for GCSE study in KS4. A small number of students will continue with the study of only either French or German in Year 8 and 9 and take an Enquiry Based Learning course in Year 8.

Subject	No of lessons (hours per fortnight)	% Curriculum time	
English	6	12%	
Mathematics	6	12%	
Physics	2	4%	12%
Chemistry	2	4%	
Biology	2	4%	
French (or EBL*)	4	8%	
German (or EBL*)	4	8%	
History	2	4%	
Geography	2	4%	
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	2	4%	
Computing	2	4%	
Design Technology (food, textiles, resistant materials, graphic products, electronics)	4	8%	
Art	2	4%	
Music	2	4%	
Drama	2	4%	
Physical Education/games	4	8%	
Personal Development	2	4%	
	Total: 50		

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

Year 9

In Year 8 students choose with French *or* German to continue to study in Year 9. This allows them to specialise in one modern foreign language in Year 9 for a more immersive experience in line with guidelines from The British Council. However, those students who

wish to continue with both languages can choose to study German in the school day and attend the extended curriculum (after school) class in French.

Subject	No of lessons (hours per fortnight)	% Curriculum time	
English	6	12%	
Mathematics	6	12%	
Physics	2	4%	12%
Chemistry	2	4%	
Biology	2	4%	
French OR German	6	12%	
History	3	6%	
Geography	3	6%	
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	2	4%	
Computing	2	4%	
Design Technology (food, textiles, resistant materials, graphic products, electronics)	4	8%	
Art	2	4%	
Music	2	4%	
Drama	2	4%	
Physical Education/games	4	8%	
Personal Development	2	4%	
	Total: 50		

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

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students study a broad range of subjects leading to Level 2 qualifications at the end of a two-year course. There are also options for students to study vocational courses.

All students follow a core curriculum comprised of:

- English Language (5 hours a fortnight)

- English Literature (5 hours a fortnight)
- Mathematics (7 hours a fortnight)
- Science, with one of the following routes determined by the science department:
 - 3 separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics (14 hours per fortnight). The majority of students follow this course OR
 - a 2 GCSE combined science course in which all three sciences are studied (9 hours per fortnight).
- Games: non-examined (2 hours a fortnight)
- Personal Development, non-examined, including: health, relationships/sexual education, careers, personal finance and religious studies (2 hours a fortnight)

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: materials, design technology: fashion and textiles, business studies, music, art and design, and physical education.

We also offer the following vocational courses: WJEC (Eduqas) Hospitality and Catering, WJEC (Eduqas) Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts, and OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Certificate in Creative iMedia.

Non-core subjects each receive 5 hours of lessons per fortnight.

Students also follow a pathway to ensure they are challenged but also able to cope with the demands of GCSE/vocational courses. From September 2019, the governor's policy has been that all students who show potential during KS3 to achieve at least a grade 4 in a MfL (approx 80%), must study either French or German leading to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).^{*} However all students have the opportunity to study the EBacc pathway (including a MFL) if they wish due to the way the option blocks are constructed.

^{}Due to Covid, this figure is slightly lower for Year 11 in Sept 2023*

EBacc Pathway (green pathway)

Students study: English Language and Literature, mathematics, separate sciences (3GCSEs), a modern foreign language (French or German), history or geography and one other subject.

Some students are on a modified green pathway where they study separate sciences and history or geography but do not take a MfL unless they choose to do so.

Partial EBacc Pathway (orange pathway)

Students study: English Language and Literature, mathematics, combined science (2 GCSEs), history or geography and three other subjects.

A small number of students are on a modified orange pathway where they study combined science, history or geography as well as a MfL.

Bespoke Group

In Year 10&11, we sometimes run a bespoke curriculum consisting of entry level humanities and ASDAN, GCSEs in maths, English Language and Literature and combined science alongside other GCSE

subjects and Level 1&2 vocational qualifications for a very small group of students. This is only offered according to student need.

*Despite these different pathways, both GCSE French and GCSE German are open to **all** students irrespective of ability and option blocks are constructed to allow these choices to be made if students wish to do so.*

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 7 – 11 and includes talks, videos and visiting speakers. 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.

Key Stage 5

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 advanced level courses: this will be allowed only at the discretion of the Head of Sixth Form, and they usually need to achieve grade 7 or higher at GCSE level in at least 3 of the 4 subjects to be studied.

SIXTH FORM COURSES

Advanced Level Courses

These subjects are two-year courses, being completed at the end of Year 13. Please also see the subject entry requirements grid.

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

Vocational Level 3 subjects

Digital media Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate
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

Of course, not all combinations of subjects can be made available. The decision as to whether a course will run is dependent on the number of students who opt for it. Option columns will be issued following a first survey of choices which will take place shortly after the information evening in January.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is a qualification equivalent to half a full A Level. During Year 12, students are required to study a one period a week course in EPQ preparation. Students then submit a proposal for a project of their own which might well be informed by their subjects or be a complementary study. Guided self-study leads to a project and a presentation in a format agreed by the student and the supervisor. This qualification will be completed during Year 12.

Universities have been very favourable in their responses to this qualification, with many Russell Group institutions making lower offers to students who have an EPQ, and others recognising the EPQ as contributing to UCAS tariff points when making offers of places.

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. The offer varies from year to year but has more recently included:

- Year 9 French (for dual linguists – see above)
- Cambridge Beginners Latin – KS3 & 4 students
- GCSE Latin – KS3 & 4 students
- Beginners Spanish - Year 7 students
- GCSE Further Maths – Year 11 students

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