

Curriculum Overview 2021/22

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>

Please be aware that if there are continuing 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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Physics • Chemistry • Biology • French 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German • History • Geography • Religion, philosophy and ethics (RPE) • Computing • Design Technology (including food and textiles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Drama • Music • Personal Development • PE/games
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Year 7 (Sept 2021 entry)

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 to complete the AQA Foundation Level 1 Project Qualification.

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	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 8 (Sept 2020 entry)

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 to complete the AQA Foundation Level 1 Project Qualification.

Subject	No of lessons (hours per fortnight)	% Curriculum time
English	6	12%
Mathematics	6	12%
Physics	2	4%
Chemistry	2	4%
Biology	2	4%
French (or EBL*)	4	8%
German 9or 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 (Sept 2019 entry)

In Year 9 most students study both French and German. A small number continue with the study of only either French or German as they have from the start of Year 8. They also take an Enquiry Based Learning course to complete the AQA Foundation Level 1 Project Qualification.

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	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%	
	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 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, design technology: fashion and textiles (Year 10 only), business studies, music, art and design, and physical education.

We also offer the following vocational courses: WJEC (Eduqas) Events Operations, WJEC (Eduqas) Hospitality and Catering, AQA Tech 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, all students who show potential during KS3 to achieve at least a grade 4 in a MfL (approx 80%), study either French or German leading to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)*

**Due to Covid, this figure may be slightly lower for Year 10 in Sept 2021*

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.

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.

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. 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 (2020/21)

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.

A Level Subjects:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Craft & Design • Biology • Business • Chemistry • Computer Science • Design & Technology • Design & Technology: fashion & textiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language • English Literature • French • German • Further Mathematics • Geography • German • Government & Politics • History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Media Studies • Physical education • Physics • Psychology • Religion, Philosophy & Ethics • Sociology
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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 2 mathematical studies (core maths): one year course

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

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 recently included:

- Cambridge Beginners Latin – KS3 & 4 students
- GCSE Latin – KSS & 4 students
- Beginners Spanish - Year 7 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, GCSE Dance, AS Level Creative Writing and AS Level Computer Science.