

# Curriculum

## Year 9 Options

The Year 9 curriculum at the College is designed to provide a broad academic experience. Pupils will have the opportunity to experience all the subjects that they might choose to study for GCSE so that when they make choices for Year 10 they are appropriately informed.

The Year 9 timetable runs over a two-week cycle, with 26 periods of 55 minutes each week. Additionally, on Wednesday afternoons there are extended lessons of 85 minutes for art, design and technology and drama. Pupils will also have prep work to complete in the evenings and some afternoon activity time may also be devoted to academic work.

In most core subjects, pupils are placed in sets by ability, using information from our own tests and from the common entrance or scholarship examinations. Teachers carefully monitor pupil performance in their subject areas, especially during the first few weeks of term, to ensure that pupils have been placed correctly. Pupils can move sets throughout the year. Art, design and technology, drama, ICT, life and learning skills, music, physical education and religious studies are not set by ability.

The following subjects make up the Year 9 curriculum. The number of periods for each subject (per two-week cycle) are shown in brackets.

- mathematics (6)
- English (5)
- first modern language:  
French, German or Spanish (5)
- biology (3)
- physics (3)
- chemistry (3)
- history (4)
- geography (4)
- ICT (2)
  
- art (1) (in addition to a dedicated session of one hour and 25 minutes per cycle)
  
- design and technology (a weekly session of one hour and 25 minutes per cycle)
  
- drama (a dedicated session of one hour and 25 minutes per cycle)
  
- music (2)
- religious studies (2)
- life and learning skills (2)
- physical education (2)

### **Making option choices**

All Year 9 pupils must choose one of the following classics options:

- Latin (4)
- classical civilisation (4)

To choose Latin as an option, pupils will normally have studied it before. Classical civilisation introduces pupils to ancient Greece and Rome but does not require prior knowledge of Greek or Latin.

All pupils then choose a first modern foreign language. This is usually the main foreign language which they studied in their previous school. Pupils can then choose a second modern language from French or Spanish or German (4) which may or may not have been studied before.

For those in the modern languages enrichment programme (for pupils capable of progressing faster in languages than our normal programme would permit), pupils study French, German and Spanish during Year 9 so that they are able to make better-informed languages choices at GCSE.

Supported Study (4) may be available. Please discuss this with Ms Eloise Cheary or Mr Jonny Gilbert, assistant head, (curriculum) before the end of term (Friday 29 June 2018).

All Year 9 Options forms must be completed and returned to Mr Jonny Gilbert (assistant head, curriculum) as soon as possible.

### **GCSE Options for Pupils Entering Year 10**

Year 10 pupils will follow a GCSE programme including core subjects and some optional subjects. Core subjects include English language, English literature, maths, sciences, one humanities subject and one language, All optional subjects should have already been selected. If you have any queries please contact Mr Jonny Gilbert, (assistant head, curriculum) before the end of term (Friday 29 June 2018).

### **Year 11 pupils**

Eastbourne College is pleased to offer a one-year GCSE course for suitable students (mainly those referred to us from our trusted agents in Germany/Austria). This course provides an attractive option for pupils who are aged 15+, either for one year only or effectively as a pre-A Level course if they decide to stay on for the sixth form.

Candidates will need to be academically able in order to adjust to the missed Year 10 curriculum here and to quickly find their feet in Year 11 classes alongside their British peers. To support their entry directly into Year 11, we will provide all one year programme pupils a scheme of work for the Year 10 academic curriculum which will give those pupils details of the topics covered in Year 10. The scheme of work will also include textbook ISBN numbers and the contact details of the relevant Heads of Department. We strongly encourage pupils joining us to do some preparation work in the summer term in readiness for September to enable them to get up to speed quickly and ready for the Year 11 programme.

For those who sit GCSEs in the summer term, at least five full GCSE passes (A\*-C) are required in Maths, 2 x Languages, Science and Humanities in order for them to enter directly into their first year of Abitur *auf probe*, and to technically obtain the German

secondary school leavers' certificate, the *Mittlere Reife*, without having to repeat the school year in Germany.

A one-year candidate would normally take 8-10 GCSE subjects during Year 11, as follows:

**Core curriculum:**

- Maths\*
- English (First Language exam only - not Literature)\*
- Science (Dual Award - counts as two GCSEs)\*
- History\*
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) lessons - if required

**2-3 further humanity/language subjects from:**

- Geography / Latin\* /Greek / Religious Studies
- French and/or Spanish (both as continuation subjects)\*

**Supported Study** in one or two subject option blocks (if relevant)

**German** (exam only)\* - no lessons required

**\*These subjects are eligible for GCSE examinations**

***Please notify Eastbourne College if your son/daughter has to take a single science GCSE exam.***

Other subjects (i.e. **Physical Education, Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Design & Technology** and **Textiles**) may be studied, but on the understanding that pupils are very unlikely to be entered for the GCSE exam given the difficulties involved with project work, etc, they will be taken for enrichment only. Pupils would need to be of a sufficiently high standard in these subjects at the outset, in order to join these courses half-way through in Year 11.

A review would take place after the mock GCSE exams in January to decide if pupils would benefit from a reduction in workload for the rest of the year and which GCSE exams they are eligible to sit.