

## Curriculum 2019/20

Upon arrival at Mount St Marys, students in Y7 now routinely sit independent, nationally recognised CATs (Cognitive Assessment Tests). Their CATs Verbal Scores in combination with their Key Stage 2 Reading Scores, are used to assign each student to one of 7 teaching groups spread over 2 separate bands, 4 groups in one band with 3 groups in the other. Students in both Year 7 and 8 are taught in these groups for all subjects except PE and Maths. In maths they are taught in groups based upon their Key Stage 2 Maths Scores which could differ in structure slightly from the other subject teaching groups.

Year 7 and 8 students, based upon their Key Stage 2 Average Scores, are also assigned to one of 4 learning pathways: Foundation; Developing; Secure; Mastery.

We use the pathways to track and reflect individual student academic progress. Students new to the school during the course of the academic year, will be assessed in a similar manner and placed on the most appropriate pathway and in the most appropriate teaching group ensuring that every student receives high quality bespoke provision.

### Curricula for Years 7 & 8 2019/20

#### Minutes of delivery over 2 weeks

Core	7	8
<b>English</b>	450	450
<b>Maths</b>	350	400
<b>Science</b>	300	400
<b>Religious Education</b>	300	300
<b>Core PE</b>	250	250

Additional	7	8
<b>Computing</b>	150	150
<b>French</b>		200
<b>Spanish</b>	250	
<b>History</b>	250	200
<b>Geography</b>	250	200
<b>Performing Arts –Music &amp; Performance</b>	150	150
<b>Technology – 3D Design Technologies and Food technology</b>	200	200
<b>Art</b>	150	150

- Performing Arts comprises time spent on: Music and Performance.
- Technology comprises time spent on: elements of Graphic Design, Resistant Materials, Product Design and Food Technology.

The Y7 teaching groups, other than Maths and PE, are reviewed in March to ensure that each student is in the most appropriate group for their development going into Y8; we believe that by March all Y7 students have had time to settle at MSM, a small number of students may be moved across the 2 bands too. The Y8 teaching groups, other than Maths and PE, are reviewed late November/early December. Maths and PE groups could change at different times of the year. Maths groups are reviewed at different times during the course of the academic year.

### **Curricula for Years 9-11 2019/20**

All 3 year groups are taught in 2 bands with band restructuring taking place for the start of Y9 to provide a mixture of students we regard as optimal for all our students' development. There are 4 teaching groups in each band enabling a more focussed delivery to some students in smaller groups to facilitate a more rapid development. One band has the highest potential achievers in and one has those students requiring the most additional support; the remaining students are allocated to the two bands to create a roughly equivalent mix of academic potential. Each distinct subject, other than optional subjects, taught in each band, is able to individually structure their teaching groups with the specific demands of the individual subject in mind.

All the optional subjects begin Key Stage 4 in Y9 with the core subject areas beginning Key Stage 4 at differing points between the beginning of Year 9 and Year 10.

### **Minutes of delivery per fortnight**

Core	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>English</b>	600	600	600
<b>Maths</b>	500	500	500
<b>Science</b>	500	600	600
<b>Religious Education</b>	300	300	300
<b>Physical Education (non-exam)</b>	200	100	100
<b>History/Geography</b>	300	300	
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	250	300	300
<b>Growth Mindset</b>	100		

- Science is delivered as Combined Science Double Award GCSE to all students leading to 2 grades
- The vast majority of students study English Literature and English Language leading to 2 separate GCSEs

Growth Mindset is a supportive, non-examinable course designed to support the growth and development of all students' learning abilities.

### **Optional subjects**

With the increased academic demands placed upon the students now, we reduced the number of optional subjects that each student can choose so they have fewer subjects to focus on and help them to fulfil their academic potential. Currently, Year 9 and 10 study 2 optional subjects with either History or Geography compulsory taught discretely, and Year 11 study optional subjects in 3 blocks including History or Geography which is compulsory for the vast majority of students. All Year 9 through Year 11 students are taught the optional subjects in groups of students mixed across both bands.

Our students currently make their optional GCSE choices during the second term of Year 8.

	Y9	Y10	Y11
Maximum number of GCSE grades achievable	9	9	9

<b>Currently studied optional GCSEs minutes per fortnight</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Business Studies</b>	250	300	300
<b>History (in Y11 option blocks)</b>			300
<b>Geography (in Y11 option blocks)</b>			300
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>	250	300	300
<b>Physical Education</b>			300
<b>BTEC Sports Studies</b>	250	300	300
<b>BTEC Performing Arts</b>	250	300	300
<b>Spanish</b>	250		300
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	250	300	300
<b>French</b>	250	300	
<b>Computer Science</b>	250	300	300
<b>Creative iMedia</b>	250		300
<b>ICT (Cambridge National)</b>		300	300
<b>Citizenship</b>	250	300	
<b>3D Design</b>	250	300	
<b>Hospitality</b>	250	300	300

## **PSHCE**

PSHCE lessons are not set permanently within the normal time of the curriculum. All students receive a PSHCE programme delivered on an average of 1 period (50 minutes) per week but this may sometimes be a double period (100 minutes) over a fortnight.