

## **LONDON BROOKES COLLEGE**

### **Curriculum Policy**

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

LBC aims to become the most reputable Independent Sixth Form College in London and believe we are on our way to achieving this aim.

We aim to inspire in our students a love for learning and an independence of thought that will serve them well when they take up their university places, our principal goal is to ensure our students achieve the highest possible results in the A level and GCSE examinations and for this reason we believe in traditional values (punctuality, attendance, work completion) and in rigorous preparation for examinations through focused teaching, intensive revision and past-paper practice.

#### **To achieve these aims:**

We make our curriculum as broad and varied as possible. Lessons are taught in small classes well equipped classrooms. Teaching is intense, with students receiving an above-average number of teaching periods per subject per week over the academic year. We provide expert advice on choosing and applying to university and we consider that this service to our students is as important as the quality of our teaching and learning provision. Monitoring students' progress is also essential and has many aspects at LBC; Principal, Vice-Principal, General Manager, Heads of Departments and Form Tutors. Each have a role to play in guiding our students to reach their academic and personal potential.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM**

##### **GCSE**

Students engage in a one-year selfcontained course, culminating with their GCSE exams. Several students join our programme directly into year 11 having done year 10 elsewhere.

- GCSE Subjects
  - Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Biology (Core)

- History, French, R.E & Philosophy (Optional)

We provide opportunities for students to develop:

- Linguistic skills
- Numeracy
- Understanding of science and technology
- Understanding of the social, historical and geographical context of their education
- Opportunity and appreciation for creative expression

In particular we emphasize:

- Critical thinking
- Grammar and style
- Numeracy
- Presentation of work and presentation skills
- Elementary research skills
- Revision skills
- Building confidence and forming good relationships
- Planning for university
- British values – democracy, moral responsibility, tolerance and respect for other cultures and traditions, respect for the rule of law
- In a broader sense, we encourage students to develop confidence in themselves and a respect for others. We emphasize tolerance and are keen to promote understanding of cultures. We expect students to understand and accept moral responsibility, contribute to the life of the school and community and have a grounding in understanding public institutions

### **Teaching and timetable**

GCSE students have lessons Mon – Fri from 9am to 3:30pm with a 15min break at 10:45am and a 30min lunch break at 1pm. Any optional subject lessons are after 3:30pm. The college supervises students during the entire school day although such students may leave the premises during lunchtime provided parents or guardians have given their consent.

## **A Level**

Subjects on offer:

- Pure Mathematics, Further Mathematics, English Literature, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Economics, Government & Politics, History

We currently have a policy of allowing these subjects to be taken in any combination and will commit to this even if it means providing individual tuition to a student who, for timetable reasons, is not able to fit into a particular subject group.

The focus of the A level curriculum is to ensure that students develop into independent learners who are able to think critically, develop responsibility for their own learning and proceed confidently to (in most cases) undergraduate study.

### **Teaching and learning at A level are overseen by the Vice-Principal and Heads of Department**

The curriculum at A level is oriented towards the requirements of the A level exams, and students are given clear guidance on the format of the exams as well as the assessment criteria on which their work is marked.

The A level curriculum also aims to provide students with in-depth subject knowledge that will sufficiently stretch and challenge students at this level while encouraging their intrinsic interest in their chosen courses.

To this end, the College also aims to take advantage of the wider opportunities available to engage with the curriculum outside of the classroom through excursions to relevant places of interest.

Teaching at A-level is intensive and students are expected to work very hard.

We encourage innovation and development of teaching practice with a focus always on exam success to give our students the best opportunity of taking up offers at university

As well as the traditional two-year A level, we also offer an intensive one-year A level programme.

### **Teaching and timetable**

The A level timetable consists of approx. 5 – 6 hours teaching per subject during the hours of 9am to 6pm. Science subjects have prescribed lessons in the science laboratory for practicals. Lunch time is between 1 – 1:30pm.

### **Additional elements of the curriculum**

Form Tutor sessions – All students are allocated a personal tutor with whom they meet at least once a month. The purpose of this period is to provide academic guidance and discuss any other issues the students may be facing.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME**

Enthusiasm for extra-curricular clubs, visits and societies comes from our students who request certain activities and our staff who are often happy to share their skills with the students. We also have an annual newsletter which the students contribute to.

### **UNIVERSITY ADVICE AND CAREERS GUIDANCE**

Almost all of our students plan to apply to university after they complete their A levels. Students doing GCSEs plan to continue to A level in order to apply to university. The process of choosing and applying to university is led by our vice-principal who arranges individual meetings with students to go through choices, options, personal statements and all other aspects of the UCAS process.

**Checked on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 by Cillian Logue**