



# **BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY**

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

<b>Title</b>	Curriculum Policy
<b>Summary</b>	Guidance for all stakeholders regarding: The curricular ethos of the School The time-tabled curricula for all Forms
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure that all Staff are aware of the curriculum followed by each Form, and in particular the possible subject choice options for Forms 3 – M6.
<b>Operational Date</b>	September 2013
<b>Review date</b>	August 2014
<b>Version Number</b>	3
<b>Supersedes previous</b>	Yes
<b>Author</b>	Dr GJN Brown, Curriculum Vice Principal
<b>Reviewed and Approved by Board of Governors</b>	January 2014

## CURRICULUM POLICY

Belfast Royal Academy aims to enable all pupils to develop their academic potential and interests to the fullest extent. Within this academic ethos, the School aims to give access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is suited to the abilities and aptitudes of each pupil.

Through the opportunities offered to pupils within the classroom and beyond:

- Knowledge is valued and acquired for its own sake, as a means of understanding the world and to help pupils to know more about themselves and the society in which they live
- Skills and interests are developed in order that pupils might respond effectively to social, economic and political changes and to changing patterns of work and that they might gain personal satisfaction in the use of their leisure time
- Individual autonomy is fostered and individual aptitudes are developed in an environment in which there is equal opportunity in order that pupils might be capable of independent thought and that their self-respect may be enhanced
- Moral standards are encouraged so that pupils have a respect for themselves and others and become responsible members of their community

The work of the junior and middle Forms will be directed mainly towards the GCSE examinations of CCEA, AQA or OCR, with careful attention being given to the requirements of the universities and the professions. The work of the Sixth Form will be directed mainly towards the GCE Advanced Level examinations of CCEA, AQA, OCR or Edexcel.

Curricular provision will be co-ordinated by the Vice Principal (Curriculum) in consultation with the Quality Assurance Team. To ensure that the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum are met, and to promote sustainable development, the School's curricular provision will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Quality Assurance Team.

The Quality Assurance Team for 2013-14 comprises:

Dr G Brown (Chair), Ms T McBeth (Secretary), Ms W Graham, Mr M Wilson, Mr M Shields, Miss J Adams, Mrs G McQuiston, Mr P Dorman, Mrs J McGowan, Miss M McMullan, Miss L Patterson

## APPENDIX: CURRICULAR PROVISION 2013-2014

Throughout the School, Religious Studies will be on a non-denominational basis.

### CURRICULUM FOR FORMS 1 – 3

<u>FORM 1</u>	<u>FORM 2</u>	<u>FORM 3</u>
English	English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
French	French	French
Latin	Latin	
History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography
Biology	Biology	Biology
Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry
Physics	Physics	Physics
Technology	Technology	Technology
Art	Art	Art
Music	Music	Music
Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education
ICT	ICT	ICT
LLW	LLW	LLW
Home Economics	Home Economics	
	Drama	
PE and Swimming	PE and Swimming	PE and Swimming
Games	Games	Games
Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial
		<b>+ optional</b> Spanish German Home Economics Drama Technology Business Studies Latin

## CURRICULUM FOR FORMS 4 AND 5

The School offers 24 subjects at GCSE Level. Pupils take a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 11 GCSEs, depending on whether or not they take English Literature or Additional Mathematics. All pupils take English, Mathematics, Religious Education and French or Business and Communication Systems. Pupils then choose 5 other subjects from the subject choice blocks. Learning for Life and Work is not taken as a GCSE.

### CORE SUBJECTS

<p><b>ENGLISH</b> most pupils also take <b>ENGLISH LITERATURE</b></p> <p><b>FRENCH</b> Approximately 20 pupils take <b>BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS</b></p> <p><b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>MATHEMATICS</b> Approximately one third of the pupils also take <b>ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS</b></p> <p><b>LLW</b></p>
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### FORM 4 SUBJECT CHOICE OPTIONS 2013-14

<b>BLOCK A</b>	<b>BLOCK B</b>	<b>BLOCK C</b>	<b>BLOCK D</b>	<b>BLOCK S</b>
Biology	Art & Design	Biology	Art & Design	Biology
Chemistry	Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Chemistry
German	Drama	Geography	Chemistry	Physics
History	Geography	German	Economics	
Home Economics	History	IT	Geography	
Physical Education	IT	Physics	History	
Spanish	Latin	Spanish	Music	
	Music	Technology	Physics	
	Technology			

Pupils choose one subject from each block.

All pupils have Physical Education including Swimming, and Games.

**FORM 5 SUBJECT CHOICE OPTIONS 2013-14**

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D	BLOCK S
Biology	Art & Design	Art & Design	Art & Design	Biology
Chemistry	Business Studies	Biology	Business Studies	Chemistry
History	Drama	Business Studies	Chemistry	Physics
Home Economics	Geography	German	Economics	
Drama	Latin	Geography	Geography	
Physical Education	History	History	Music	
Spanish	Home Economics	Information Tech	Physics	
	Music	Physics	Technology	
	Spanish		ICT	
	Technology			

Pupils choose one subject from each block.

All pupils have Physical Education including Swimming, and Games.

## SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

The School offers 27 subjects at Advanced Level. Normally pupils select three or four subjects at AS level in the Lower Sixth Form and continue with three of these subjects to A2 level in the Middle Sixth Form. Pupils choose one subject from each block.

### LOWER SIXTH SUBJECT CHOICE OPTIONS 2013-14

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Art and Design	Biology	Art and Design	Business Studies
Biology	Business Studies	Business Studies	Economics
Business Studies	Chemistry	Chemistry	English
Classical Civilisation	Economics	Drama	English Literature
Double Mathematics	French	English	Geography
History	Geography	English Literature	History
ICT	History	French	ICT
Mathematics	Latin	History	Music
RE	Moving Image Arts*	Physics	PE
	RE		Physics
	Sociology		Politics
	Technology		RE
			Sociology
			Spanish

\*MIA is offered as part of the North Belfast Area Learning Community at St. Malachy's College

### MIDDLE SIXTH SUBJECT CHOICE OPTIONS 2013-14

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Art and Design	Biology	Biology	Art and Design
Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Double Mathematics
Chemistry	Chemistry	Economics	Drama
Classical Civilisation	French	English	English
Economics	History	English Literature	English Literature
Geography	ICT	French	Geography
German	Physics	ICT	History
History	PE	Music	Latin
Physics	RE	Physics	Mathematics
Politics	Spanish	Sociology	RE
Sociology	Home Economics		
Technology			