The King's Academy: Years 10 – 11 Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), students begin to specialise in a smaller number of subjects than they have studied in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9). By this time, students know their strengths; know which subjects they enjoy; and, in some cases, have an idea of the career pathway that they intend to follow. Students therefore have more choice about the subjects that they are studying, alongside a core compulsory curriculum, and this document summarises the different pathways and qualifications available to students at The King's Academy.

The National Curriculum (compulsory)

It is compulsory for students to study certain subjects up to the age of 16: these subjects form the *National Curriculum*. At The King's Academy, students are entered for GCSE qualifications in most of the National Curriculum subjects:

- English language and English literature (2 GCSEs) [5 periods];
- Mathematics (GCSE) [5 periods];
- Science* (2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs) [6 periods];
- Religious Education (GCSE) [2 periods];
- Physical Education (not examined, but can be taken as an option) [2 periods];
- Careers education is delivered across the curriculum and through pastoral time.
- Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), integrated within curriculum and pastoral time.

** Students will either study combined science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs) or triple science (equivalent to 3 GCSEs). Students will be entered for their science course based on their aptitude for science demonstrated during Years 7, 8 and 9.*

Most students will therefore study six or seven GCSEs from this compulsory curriculum. This will account for around two-thirds of a student's timetable in Years 10 and 11.

Option Subjects [3 periods per subject]

In addition to the compulsory curriculum above, students will be able to choose subjects to study in Key Stage 4. These are commonly referred to as "option" subjects. At The King's Academy, we offer a range of option subjects:

'Academic' GCSEs

These subjects are fully assessed by examinations at the end of Year 11. These subjects do not have any coursework element.

- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- French
- German
- Geography
- History

'Practical' GCSEs

These subjects are assessed by a combination of examinations and ongoing assessment (coursework) in roughly equal proportions.

- Art & Design
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Fine Art
- Physical Education
- Textiles

Vocational Courses

These subjects are assessed mainly by ongoing assessment (coursework) but may also have an examination element (typically up to 25%).

- Child Development
- Creative iMedia (IT)
- Engineering Design
- Health & Fitness
- Hospitality & Catering
- Music Performance
- Music Technology

The vast majority of students will select three subjects from the above list, in line with their 'pathway' (see below). All vocational subjects are equivalent to one GCSE. This means that most students will study for nine GCSEs (or equivalents) during Years 10 and 11. Detailed information on each of these subjects (and the compulsory curriculum above) can be found on the Academy website. Students can also ask for more information from their subject teachers and/or the Head of Department for the relevant subject.

Pathways

As students move into Year 10, they will follow one of three pathways: blue, green or yellow. Within each pathway, students must choose from certain subject combinations, as below:

Blue	Green	Yellow
► *Compulsory subjects plus:* ► French or German ► Geography or history ► 1 choice from list of option subjects	► *Compulsory subjects plus:* ► Geography or history ► 2 choices from list of option subjects	► *Compulsory subjects plus:* ► 3 choices from list of option subjects

Please note that the above represent a minimum requirement for each pathway, and students may choose to study both French and German or geography and history:

- Students in the Blue route could study French and German, by selecting the second language as their option subject choice.
- Students in the Blue, Green and Yellow routes could study geography and history, by selecting the second language as one (or both) of their option subject choice.

Students will be allocated to routes based on their academic performance across a range of subjects in Years 7, 8 and 9.

How should students choose their options?

When selecting their option subjects, students should consider:

- Which subjects am I interested in?
- Which subjects have I done well in during Key Stage 3?
- Would I do better in a course that has more coursework than exams?
- Which subjects do I need for my future career plans?

The process for making options choices

Students will make their options choices during the summer term:

- Students and parents will receive an options form to complete at Parents' Evening.
- Students and parents should complete this form together by the published deadline.
- All course selections will be reviewed by Heads of Department and the Academy's SLT.
- Once all options choices have been confirmed and the timetable checked to ensure that students' choices can be accommodated, the Principal will confirm each student's options subjects in writing (early July).

Please note that all courses will run subject to demand and the Academy reserves the right to withdraw a course in any year if there is insufficient interest. Equally, some subjects have limited numbers and if over-subscribed, the Academy will use a range of measures to allocate places to students (attendance; responsibility for learning; career aspirations where known; behaviour; etc.)

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