

Headteacher: Jeremy Stowe-Lindner BA, MBA, NPQH

# The Curriculum

In the first three years, all students study the National Curriculum Core and Foundation subjects which comprise:

English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Information Technology, Geography, History, Art, Music, Modern Languages, Physical Education and PSHCE.

In addition to the National Curriculum Core and Foundation subjects, students study Jewish Education, Dance and Drama. Every tutor group has a tutorial period in which students pursue a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education, which includes Citizenship.

During Years 8 and 9, discussion and guidance help students to select courses appropriate to their abilities, interests and possible career plans. The curriculum in Key Stage 4 includes a "common core" of subjects studied by every student. This consists of the following National Curriculum subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Jewish/Religious Education and Information Technology.

Most students study a Modern Foreign Language in Years 10 and 11 and some follow a vocational curriculum. In addition all students study other subjects based on their preferences. Subjects currently on offer are:

History, Geography, Sociology, a second Modern Foreign Language, Art, Business Studies, Dance, Drama, Music, Technology (Food, Graphics or Resistant Materials) and Physical Education.

All students continue with their tutorial programme of cross-curricular themes such as:

Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship, Environmental Education, Economic Awareness, Preparation for Adult Life and the World of Work, Media Education and Information Technology.

In Years 12-13 a very wide range of academic and vocational courses are available.

## Art and Design

A stimulating working environment is created in both in the classroom and around the school. Students' work, chosen from all year groups, is displayed as much as possible. Students are encouraged to enjoy their Art lessons and gain confidence and expertise within the artistic and creative fields to express their own ideas.

Pupils are taught to draw using a wide variety of media and practise painting, colourwork, soft sculpture, textiles and 3D work.

Students gain an understanding of the place of art in our society, to help them understand and appreciate both classic and contemporary works. Art clubs and visits contribute to the work of the department.

## Drama

Lessons focus on giving the pupils the knowledge, skills and practical experience necessary to explore issues by creating their own drama. They also develop their own speaking, listening, personal and social skills, including concentration, co-operation and creativity.

Planned learning includes Yiddish theatre, Invisible Theatre, Commedia Dell'Arte, Grimm Tales and character building through the eyes of Jewish playwrights.

We focus on giving students an understanding and experience of using explorative strategies, as well as the specific language and elements of drama.

## English

To speak clearly and confidently; to listen attentively; to read with understanding and discrimination; to write fluently and effectively – these are the central skills of both the National Curriculum and the JCoSS English experience.

Reading is key to the experience and books are read silently, in groups and in class. Skills are further developed by responding to a variety of media, to give our pupils the power to become fluent and confident members of a literate society.

Written work includes stories, essays, letters, newspapers, reviews, poetry, diaries, reports, and brochures. Work is drafted, corrected, self-corrected and developed. Skills are also encouraged in both legible writing and ICT. Our oral work is equally important. Pupils are expected to listen actively as well as to express themselves clearly, to join in discussion positively and to disagree appropriately. Group work in particular helps them learn how to share in, and profit by, the exchange of ideas.

## Humanities

As part of Humanities, Geography considers how people and places affect each other. It helps us understand our world and make it a better place in which to live. Year 7 students learn and develop map reading skills. They focus on the local area and how we interact with our environment as well as wider topics of national, historical and international interest. A wide variety of class activities, homework and fieldwork experiences help develop students as new citizens of a rapidly changing world.

In History, students begin by studying a past non-European civilisation and develop their appreciation of the development of the Jewish people, the British nation and the place of both in a global context. A combination of taught materials, interactive learning and project work make Humanities a very stimulating subject.

## Information Technology

ICT is taught through the curriculum at JCoSS and the national curriculum elements are delivered through Mathematics. A combination of whole-class ICT teaching, wireless technology and the use of ICT 'pods' around our building encourages the use of ICT both in and beyond the classroom. All rooms have networked computers and wireless capability.

Our Virtual Learning Environment ensures that students can continue their learning on-line. All curricula and resources are available for download and JCoSS is constantly exploring new ways of connectivity and interactivity.

## Mathematics

In line with the National Strategy, JCoSS focuses on the four key principles of Expectations, Engagement, Progression and Transformation. High expectations and challenging targets are set for all students. We support them by promoting approaches to teaching and learning that engage and motivate pupils and demand their active participation. Progression from primary school is fundamental to ensure development and we use transformational teaching and learning, as well as the very latest technology.

Regular assessments and classes divided into sets ensure that students continually make the progress expected of them.

## Modern Languages

Students study Hebrew and French in Key Stage 3 and then choose which language(s) to continue at GCSE. Our departments teach Hebrew and French through the frameworks of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, with an emphasis on active learning.

The Hebrew/French departments and the Jewish Education Department are linked to ensure that Hebrew study supports the development of JCoSS students as knowledgeable British, Jewish and European citizens.

## Music

Our Music curriculum is focused on student participation. Singing plays a very important part in Key Stage 3 work, especially for those students who do not play an instrument. Instrumental creativity is encouraged through performance and composition, using both classroom and electronic instruments and competency in keyboard is developed in all students.

The department aims to develop sensitive responses and explore a range of experiences through music. The use of sound to express, as well as performing and composing, are key elements of our curriculum. All students are encouraged to participate in a wide

variety of extra-curricular activities through Vocal Ensembles, Percussion Groups, Orchestra, Band and Solo Singing experiences.

## Physical Education

All students have the opportunity to develop a variety of physical skills and each child – regardless of talent or ability – is an individual with something to offer. During Key Stage 3, pupils can develop game skills in Football, Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Badminton and Rounders. Individual skills are gained through Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Athletics, Fitness Training, Multi Skills and a Leadership unit.

Students compete in a variety of sports through our House System and we compete with other schools and networks to ensure sporting opportunities beyond the school.

Our outstanding facilities include a sports hall, multi-purpose rooms, dance studios and multi-gym, in addition to our playing fields and all-weather pitches.

## Science

The school is applying for Science College status and Science plays an integral role in school life. In Key Stage 3 students study life and living processes; materials and their properties; and physical processes. Scientific investigations are integrated into theory work and there is a strong emphasis on the use of ICT and interactive learning.

Pupils are regularly assessed in the four attainment targets specified in the National Curriculum. Staff also report to parents using the 8 level descriptors highlighted in the National Curriculum.

At Key Stage 4 there are opportunities to take a variety of Science GCSEs and AS Sciences before entering the Sixth Form.

## Technology

JCoSS teaches Food, Resistant Materials and Graphics technology. With exceptional resources, students experience all three

technologies in Key Stage 3 before making choices about further study at Key Stage 4.

Students follow a modular course with knowledge and skills taught alongside context-based design processes in: Graphic skills/processes; Practical Craft skills/processes; Materials and Textile skills/processes; Food and Nutrition skills/processes.

By emphasising knowledge and skill acquisition alongside, and as part of the design process, students develop within the National Curriculum as well as gaining a first-class foundation for future study.

## Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education

All pupils from Years 7-13 follow a programme of PSHCE, covering a wide range of topics designed to develop academic and practical skills as well as promote personal and social skills. Self-confidence and self-esteem as well as emotive issues such as bullying and racism are on the curriculum. Sex Education is delivered through Science from Year 7 and through PSHCE from year 9, in single-gender classes where appropriate.

## Learning Resource Centre

Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is an expanding facility which aims to have 20,000 books and a full ICT suite. The LRC offers pupils a quiet, comfortable environment in which to read, research and do homework. It is divided into two main areas: the fiction section has easy chairs and large floor cushions, the non-fiction section has a desk area where pupils can work.

JCoSS is enthusiastic about working with parents to ensure an extended LRC provision in our first year. Families are encouraged to donate the cost of a book on a family birthday.

The LRC will also be the base for the JCoSS Beit Midrash, the Jewish textual learning hub of the school.