

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 (including Ivrit, French, Spanish)
- Physical Education
- PSHCE

In addition to these National Curriculum subjects, students study Jewish Education and Drama. Every tutor group has a tutorial period in which students pursue a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education, which includes Citizenship. In Year 7 all students follow a 'Learn to Learn' course, making them aware of strategies to become better learners for life and make the most of their potential.

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, Humanities, a modern foreign language, Physical Education, Jewish/Religious Education and Information Technology.

Some students may 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 is available.

Art

A stimulating working environment is created 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.

Students are taught to draw using a wide variety of media, and practise painting, colour work, 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.

Design and Technology

We teach Food, Resistant Materials and Graphics within Design and Technology. Benefiting from 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: Graphics; Materials and Textiles; Food and Nutrition. Our emphasis on knowledge and skill acquisition, alongside and as part of

the design process, means that students develop within the National Curriculum framework as well as gaining a first-class foundation for future study.

Drama

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

Planned learning includes Commedia dell'Arte; Jewish playwright improvisation workshops; masks and physical theatre; and active Shakespeare.

We aim to give students understanding and experience of using explorative strategies, as well as the specific language and elements of drama.

English

Students are given opportunities to develop skills in all aspects of the English National Curriculum: speaking and listening, reading and writing.

In speaking and listening tasks, they are expected to listen actively and to share their ideas appropriately in a variety of situations including speaking to an audience, working in groups or in drama activities. Reading is fundamental to the English curriculum and books are read independently, shared in class or as a part of small group teaching. Skills are further developed by responding to a variety of media, giving our students the power to become fluent and confident members of a literate society. Students are taught to use the Learning Resource Centre (Library) as part of their English Lessons.

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.

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, home learning 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 history of the British nation and the place of both in a global context.

A combination of taught materials, interactive learning and project work make both Humanities subjects very stimulating.

Information & Communication Technology

ICT is taught across the curriculum in Key Stage 3 at JCoSS and the national curriculum elements are delivered and assessed through learning activities across a range of subjects. 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, interactive whiteboards and wireless capability.

Our Virtual Learning Environment (Frontier) ensures that students can continue their learning on-line. All schemes of learning, and many learning resources, are available online. JCoSS is constantly exploring new areas of connectivity and interactivity.

Mathematics

In line with the National Strategy for Maths, JCoSS focuses on the four key principles of Expectation, Engagement, Progression and Transformation. High expectations ensure that challenging targets are set for all students. We support them with approaches to teaching and learning that engage and motivate, requiring students' active

participation. Well-paced progression from primary school is fundamental to sustain development and we achieve it with 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. One of the two core languages may be exchanged in Year 9 for Spanish or a non-Language option. The faculty teaches all languages through the framework of Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking, with an emphasis on active learning.

The Modern Language Faculty 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. Creativity is encouraged through performance and composition, using both classroom and electronic instruments. Keyboard competence 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 to perform and compose, is a key element of our curriculum. All students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities including 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 we see each of them – regardless of talent or ability – as an individual with something to offer. During Key Stage 3, students can develop game skills in Football, Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Badminton and Rounders. Individual skills are developed through Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Athletics, Fitness Training, Multi-Skills and a Leadership unit. Students compete in a variety of sports and we compete

with other schools and in other 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

JCoSS has been awarded Science Specialist 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. 'How Science Works', including scientific investigations, is integrated into practical and theory work and there is a strong emphasis on the use of ICT and interactive learning.

Students are regularly assessed using the 'Assessing Pupil Progress' (APP) criteria; National Curriculum levels 3-8 descriptors.

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

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

All students 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 promoting 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, with boys and girls taught separately where appropriate.

Learning Resource Centre

Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is an expanding facility which aims to have 15,000 books and a full ICT suite. The LRC is open to students every lunchtime, and offers students a quiet, comfortable environment in which to read, research and do home learning.

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 students 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.