



## **TOLWORTH GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM**

### **CURRICULUM POLICY**

We believe that it is important that our students experience a range of subjects that will prepare them fully for the challenges of the 21st century. This means that we are equally concerned in developing our students' skills such as leadership, communication, enquiry, resilience, team work, creativity, independence and collaboration, as we are in developing academic achievement. We have therefore created a curriculum that will challenge and excite our students as well as giving them the essential skills they need for the fast changing world.

All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum; which enables all students to develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts, technology, humanities and modern foreign language alongside the core subjects (English, maths and science) throughout Key Stage 3. Our aim is that students maintain such balance into Key Stage 4 before specialising in their chosen field of study at Key Stage 5.

As a girls' academy we challenge gender stereotypes as part of our ethos and within our curriculum. All students follow a tutorial programme that addresses personal, social, health and careers issues. In year 7 we have a bespoke learning skills session fortnightly that seeks to develop students' need to learn and progress successfully. All students are encouraged to attend our varied enrichment activities that are offered both at lunchtime and after school.

#### **1 Aims:**

- To provide all students with a broad and balanced entitlement to learning
- To promote academic excellence through our high standards in all learning and teaching
- To ensure that all students develop essential literacy, numeracy skills
- To prepare our students for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life by promoting a spiritual, moral, cultural, and social understanding of what it means to be a British citizen
- To ensure all students develop skills of leadership, communication, enquiry, resilience, team work, creativity, independence and collaboration that will prepare them for the world of work
- To promote healthy (physical and mental) and balanced lifestyles
- To inspire students to an enthusiasm for learning and a commitment to becoming life-long learners

## Equal Opportunities

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of gender, race, disability, religion or belief. Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the academy aims to make the curriculum accessible to all students as far as is reasonably practicable. The academy has an Accessibility Policy which is available to parents/carers on request.

## Subjects Offered

(showing the number of lessons per fortnight)

Key Stage 3	Year		
	7	8	9
Art & Textiles	2	2	2
Dance	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
English	7	7	7
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
IT	2	2	2
Maths	7	7	7
MFL	4	4	4
Music	2	2	2
Core PE	2	2	2
RS	3	3	3
Science	6	7	8
Study Skills	1		
Technology	4	4	3
Tutorial	4	4	4

Key Stage 4				Key Stage 5		
				Core	12	13
<b>Core Subjects</b>	Year			Tutorial	4	4
	10	11		<b>Optional</b>		
English	8	9		Art	9	8
A Humanities Subject (Geography or History)	5	4		Business Studies	9	8
Maths	7	9		CACHE	22	
PE	2	2		Classical Civilisation	9	8
RS	4	4		Creative Writing	9	8
Science	9	10		Dance	9	8
Tutorial	4	4		Drama	9	8
				English Literature	9	8
				English GCSE Re sit	4	4
<b>Optional Subjects</b>				Health & Social Care	9	8
Art	5	4		Geography	9	8
Business Studies	5	4		History	9	8
Child Development	5	4		IT	9	8
Dance	5	4		Maths	9	8
Drama	5	4		Maths GCSE Resit	4	4
Geography	5	4		Media Studies	9	8
History	5	4		MFL	9	8
IT	5	4		Music	9	8
MFL	5	4		PE	9	8
Music	5	4		Psychology	9	8
PE	5	4		RS	9	8
Technology	5	4		Science	9	8
Textiles	5	4		Sociology	9	8
				Technology	9	8
				Textiles	9	8

### Option System

The option system operated by the academy and any entry requirements for courses, and any entry requirements for entry to the sixth form are set out in the appropriate options booklets.

## **Alternative Curriculum**

In accordance with the law, the academy has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the National Curriculum programmes, or disapplying the National Curriculum for the duration of Key Stage 4, in order to:

- allow a student to participate in extended work-related learning
- allow a student with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area
- allow a student making significantly less progress than other students of her age to consolidate her learning and progress across the curriculum

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the student and parents/carers.

## **Religious Education**

Religious education is available to all students through the life and ethos of the academy, the pastoral care, the tutorial programme, our Collective Acts of Worship and the curriculum including religious studies and society at KS4. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from religious education.

## **Collective Worship**

The academy has a programme of collective worship involving some whole-academy assemblies, Lower and Upper Academy Assemblies and Year assemblies.

## **Sex Education**

The academy provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.

A full statement of the academy's Sex and Relationship Education policy is available to parents/carers.

In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all students, but parents/carers may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

## **Compulsory education**

All students are expected to take part in the academy's Physical Education programme. Students can only be excused from PE and Dance lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent/carer will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the academy.

## **Enrichment Activities**

The academy has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All students are expected to take part in the programme.

## **Homework**

The academy expects homework to be set in order to extend the learning experience of students. The Homework policy clearly indicates the amount and type of homework that a student may expect on a weekly basis. Each student is issued with a homework timetable at the start of the academic year.

## **Special Educational Needs**

The academy has a special educational needs policy for statemented and non-statemented students. The academy will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with the parents/carers.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored by the Curriculum group. The Headteacher will report to the governing body's Curriculum & Standards Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.

## **Concerns and Complaints**

Parents/carers who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the student's tutor.

If the issue is not resolved parents/carers should make an official complaint in writing to the Head.

**Reviewed by Curriculum & Standards Committee: November 2015**

**This policy will be reviewed annually**

**The next review is November 2016**