



# Policy

## Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum at Oakham is to meet the aspirational targets encapsulated by the Oakham Learner, and to provide as high a quality portfolio of qualifications and skills as possible, facilitating entry into courses of further education or other post-school pathways appropriate to the individual.

### 1. Academic curriculum

In the **Lower School** students study a full range of subjects, including Mathematics, English, Languages, Science, Humanities, Computer Science and Creative and Performing Arts. The individual subject curricula are set by departments and, whilst there are broad similarities between these and the requirements for Common Entrance, there is no formal alignment. However, the curricula must tie in with Middle School work. Independent learning and research skills are developed, as is the case in the Middle School, in accordance with the LHO and FOSIL frameworks. Students compile a portfolio of work and reflections. The combined curriculum is known as the 'Lower School Programme', from which students graduate at the end of Form 2.

The **Middle School** curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, and to widen students' knowledge, understanding and experiences. It develops their academic skills and allows them to explore their own specific interests and strengths, and provides a sound base from which students will be able to choose their courses in the Upper School and beyond.

In **Form 3**, students continue to study a full range of subjects. Alongside the core academic curriculum, students are provided with a FOSIL research skills course; additionally, the Form 3 Project provides opportunities to work outside the classroom, to tackle problems in teams, and to develop and improve communication and leadership skills.

In **Forms 4 and 5**, students are required to study Mathematics, English, Dual-Award Science, a Modern Foreign Language, plus a selection of optional subjects, making up ten GCSEs in total. Withdrawal from a language or a reduction in the number of optional subjects pursued may be considered based on the aptitude or total academic load of the individual student. Students follow either the GCSE or IGCSE courses in the appropriate subjects, or an equivalent qualification where that is preferable. The available subjects ensure that students maintain a broad range of skills and subjects, whilst allowing some specialisation, in a fashion that enables their successful progression to the Upper School. Independent learning and research skills are developed with reference to the LHO and FOSIL frameworks.

In the **Upper School**, students may choose between the IB Diploma programme or from a selection of standalone courses (including A-level, Pre-U and BTEC), and the range of subject choices exceeds that required by universities. The options available are reviewed annually to ensure that this remains the case. The provision of academic enhancement activities – such as Extended Projects or elective courses - will also be reviewed regularly. This includes provision for elite students aiming for Oxbridge or other very competitive institutions or courses.

Provision for students with EAL or Learning Support needs are detailed in the relevant policies.

Detailed curricula for all academic courses are the responsibility of the Head of Department.

## 1.1 Form 4/5 options

Students select one option from each of the following option blocks:

<b>Block A</b>	French, German, Spanish
<b>Block B</b>	Geography, History, Religion and Philosophy
<b>Block C</b>	Geography, History, French, Latin
<b>Block D</b>	Art (Painting), Art (Sculpture), Art (Textiles), Citizenship, Computer Science, Creative iMedia, DT (Electronic Products), DT (Graphic Products), DT (Resistant Materials), Drama, Greek and Latin ('Gratin'), Latin, Music, Physical Education
<b>Block E</b>	Art (Textiles), Citizenship, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, DT (Resistant Materials), Drama, German, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Religion and Philosophy, Spanish

## 1.2 IB Diploma options

In the IB Diploma, students study six subjects, three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level, selecting one from each group overleaf; in addition, they follow the Core programme of Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and the CAS programme. The following subjects are available, with Higher Level courses indicated in capitals:

	A	B	C1	C2	D	E
Group 1 <b>Language A</b>		GERMAN LANG & LIT		ENGLISH LIT English Lit		
Group 2 <b>Language B or ai</b>	SPANISH B Spanish B Spanish <i>ai</i>	GERMAN B German B  Italian <i>ai</i>			FRENCH B French B	FRENCH B French B SPANISH B Spanish B Spanish <i>ai</i> Italian <i>ai</i> LATIN* Latin GREEK* Greek
Group 3 <b>Individuals and Societies</b>	HISTORY History  PHILOSOPHY Philosophy	HISTORY History  GEOGRAPHY Geography  Environmental Systems & Societies			GEOGRAPHY Geography  GLOBAL POLITICS Global Politics  ECONOMICS	ECONOMICS Economics  BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  Environmental Systems & Societies
Group 4 <b>The Sciences</b>	DESIGN TECHNOLOGY Design Technology  BIOLOGY  CHEMISTRY	Sports, Exercise & Health Science  Environmental Systems & Societies			PHYSICS Physics  BIOLOGY Biology	BIOLOGY  Chemistry  Environmental Systems & Societies
Group 5 <b>Mathematics</b>			MATHS Maths Maths Studies			
Group 6 <b>Arts</b>	THEATRE+ Theatre+	VISUAL ARTS Visual Arts				

### 1.3 A-level/Pre-U/BTEC Options

Students choosing separate subjects from the selection of A-level, Pre-U and BTEC courses select at most one from each block in the following:

A	B	C	D	E
Business	Biology	Biology	Biology	Art & Design (Pre-U)
Chemistry	Business	Chemistry	Chemistry	Business
Design & Technology	Critical & Contextual Studies	Classical Civilisation	Economics	Computer Science
Economics	Economics	English Literature	French	Economics
Geography	Maths & Further Maths	French	Latin	English Literature
German	History	Geography	Maths & Further Maths	Geography
Classical Greek	Mathematics	History	History	Music (Pre-U)
Italian	Physical Education	Mathematics	Mathematics	Philosophy
Physics	Politics	Physical Education	Philosophy	Physics
Politics	Spanish	Physics		Politics
Spanish				
Theatre Studies				
		BTEC Sport and Exercise Science	BTEC Business Management	BTEC Sport and Exercise Science

All courses are two-year programmes.



## **2 Wider curriculum**

Oakham aims to provide pupils with a curriculum that encourages their development through a broad range of activities and skills. The curriculum is therefore not divided between 'academic' and 'extra-curricular', but envisages one curriculum through which the range of school activities is delivered. The School refers to this as the Total Curriculum.

The Total Curriculum exists to provide the pupils with a variety of challenging and fulfilling experiences, to stimulate their interests and skills – perhaps some of which they did not previously know they had - to encourage them on occasions to put their energies to the service of others, and to develop aptitudes of teamwork and leadership.

Sport, Music, Drama and Activities all have priority time within the school day to prevent pupils from being forced down a particular path too early. As pupils go through the school and start to develop their specialism some may need to spend more time in a particular area, this is supported through various elite programmes, great care is always taken to ensure both the short and longer term views are taken to support the pupil in their aspirations.

## **3 PSHE and Tutorial programme**

The aim of our pastoral care is to provide a supportive, safe and challenging environment for every pupil. Houses are the focal point of pastoral support, and should be places in which pupils feel safe, confident and happy. Virtually all members of staff are responsible for a tutor group and it is through these meetings that the PSHE program is primarily delivered. Tutor groups are arranged by year group by house to help ensure appropriate topics are being covered at the right time for each pupil. There are a range of external specialist speakers to support the tutorial program and days off time table allow deeper exploration in topics such as esafety, adolescent mental health and developing resilience.

## **4 Future curriculum development**

The Lower School Programme will continue to be revised and its implementation developed over the course of the 2017/18 academic year, with a focus on its delivery of LHO and FOSIL, and its linkage with any the future Middle School curriculum.

The Middle School programme, in its totality, is being reviewed and revised over the course of the 2016-18 academic years, for first teaching in September 2018 or September 2019, depending on the outcome. In particular, focus will be given to the overall aims of the curriculum (as preparation for the Upper School, for life, for work, for cultural transmission, and for academic study beyond Oakham), the wellbeing of students, the number of GCSEs, and the delivery of LHO and FOSIL-related skills and habits.

With the completion of the transfer to two-year A-level courses, review of the overall curriculum for non-IB Diploma students will take place on an ongoing basis, with particular consideration of the delivery of EPQs or related research skills.

DAH

Revised September 2017

Review Date July 2018