

The Curriculum Plan by Year Groups, with subjects, sets and number of periods

The document below omits the Games programme, which takes place on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. It also omits the programme of PSHE, co-curricular and service activities which form an important part of our wider curriculum.

The number of lessons for each subject is expressed in periods per fortnight, ppf. The School's timetable has 72 forty-minute ppf.

Novi (NC Year 9)

The curriculum in this year is designed to provide an adequate foundation for GCSEs or IGCSEs in the core subjects plus an introduction to all of the optional (I)GCSE subjects at Tonbridge level before choices are made for the second year. This inevitably means that some subjects have to manage with a small number of lessons per week but this is an inevitable concomitant of the aim to expose boys to all Tonbridge subjects before choices are made. The only choice that must be made prior to arrival in the Novi year concerns which two modern foreign languages will be studied. French is only offered as a continuation language, the others are also offered *ab initio*.

The Novi are banded into two tiers on entry. There are two A forms, IA1 and IA2, made up of scholarship candidates, regardless of whether a scholarship was actually achieved, plus the top Common Entrance candidates, to make up a total of 48 boys. IA1 has a slight arts bias and IA2 a slight science bias. The remaining boys are divided equally into four B forms, IB1 to IB4, with all forms having an approximately equal spread of ability via CE scores and in numbers of boys with previously identified learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia). Forms are never greater than 24.

The following subjects are setted by ability: Mathematics, Classics and Modern Languages, with boys being promoted or demoted after the end of Michaelmas Term exams. All other subjects are taught in form units, with English splitting pairs of B forms into three sets to make smaller classes partly due to the size of the classrooms in that department.

In Classics, Latin and Greek are taught alongside each other to the more able classicists, some of whom are continuing Greek from prep school; these sets are denoted LG. The remainder study Latin on its own in sets denoted La.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of sets</u>	<u>Number of periods per fortnight</u>
English	8	8
Mathematics	6	8
Physics	6	5
Chemistry	6	5
Biology	6	5
Modern Language 1 (K)	8 (5Fr, 1Ge, 1Sp, 1Mn)	6
Modern Language 2 (L)	8 (5Sp, 1Fr, 1Sp, 1Mn)	6
Classics	9 (3LG, 6La)	6
History	6	3
Geography	6	3
Divinity	6	3
Art	6 (double staffed)	3
DT	6 (double staffed)	3
Drama	6	2
Music	6	2
Information Systems (ICT)	6 (double staffed)	2
PE	6	2

Second Year (NC Year 10)

The academic curriculum consists of three groups of subjects:

1. The compulsory core of subjects examined at (I)GCSE: English & English Literature (taught together, with the bottom set taking solely English, the other sets are by ability), Mathematics (with the top two sets taking IGCSE at the end of the second year) and the Sciences, taught as physics, chemistry and biology. The 7 science sets are banded into 3 parallel top sets, designated P sets, destined for “triple award”; 2 parallel middle sets, designated Q, for whom the decision between “triple award” and “double award” is delayed until the end of the second year; and 2 parallel bottom sets, designated R, destined for “double award” IGCSE science.
2. A set of four options freely chosen with the sole proviso that all boys must take at least one Modern Language to (I)GCSE. Boys in the top two French sets take GCSE at the end of the second year whereupon further options, described in the Third Year section, are available. Boys taking the Latin and Greek option, take Latin GCSE at the end of the second year. No new starts in modern languages or Greek are possible in the second year.
3. Non-examined but compulsory courses in Divinity (a course which includes discussion of ethical and philosophical issues, “Mindfulness” and an introduction to Critical Thinking), PSHE (a period tacked on to the year group assembly on alternate Mondays), PE (a continuation of the double period per fortnight from the Novi, and ICT (a course leading eventually to a short form of the ECDL qualification, denoted IS on our timetable)

In the table that follows, examined subjects denoted with (I) use IGCSE and the remainder use the “domestic” GCSE

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of sets</u>	<u>Number of ppf</u>
English & Eng. Lit (I)	Compulsory core	8	8
Mathematics (I)	Compulsory core	7	8
Physics (I)	Compulsory core	7	6
Chemistry (I)	Compulsory core	7	6
Biology (I)	Compulsory core	7	6
Option A	Option	see option list below	8
Option B	Option	see option list below	8
Option C	Option	see option list below	8
Option D	Option	see option list below	8
Divinity	Non-examined	7	2
PSHE	Non-examined	7	1
PE	Non-examined	7	2
IS	Non-examined	7	<u>1</u>
			72

The options available include (the number of sets varies from year to year according to demand):

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number of sets</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number of sets</u>
French	IGCSE	6	History	IGCSE	6
Spanish	IGCSE	3	Geography	IGCSE	6
German	IGCSE	1	Religious Studies	GCSE	3
Mandarin	GCSE	1	Art	GCSE	2
Latin	GCSE	2	DT	GCSE	4
Latin & Greek	GCSE	2	Drama	GCSE	2
			Music	GCSE	2

Most, but not all, possible combinations of these options can be timetabled.

Third Year (NC Year 11)

The academic curriculum continues in a similar fashion from the second year.

1. The compulsory core of subjects: English & English Literature continues (taught together, with the bottom set taking solely English, the other sets are by ability). Mathematics (the top three sets, having taken IGCSE a year early, now take 2 AS modules). The 8 (was 7 in the second year) science sets are now banded into 5 sets, designated P sets, destined for “triple award”; and 3 lower sets, designated R, destined for “double award” IGCSE science.
2. The four options continue to (I)GCSE. Boys in the top two French sets who took GCSE at the end of the second year now opt for one of the following (a) a French AS module, (b) Italian GCSE in a year, or (c) AS Critical Thinking; boys who opt for (b) or (c) have one French period per fortnight to keep French “ticking over” to allow them to take it in the Sixth Form if they so wish. Boys taking the Latin and Greek option, having taken Latin GCSE at the end of the second year, now concentrate on Greek.
3. The non-examined but compulsory courses in Divinity, PSHE, and PE in the second year are replaced in the third year by “Seminar” which is a programme of plenary lectures and smaller group discussions on a wide variety of topics designed to broaden horizons. The ICT course continues until each boy has completed his short form of the ECDL qualification, whereupon extension activities, including working in the media centre are available.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of sets</u>	<u>Number of ppf</u>
English & Eng. Lit (I)	Compulsory core	8	8
Mathematics (I)	Compulsory core	8	8
Physics (I)	Compulsory core	5	6
Chemistry (I)	Compulsory core	5	6
Biology (I)	Compulsory core	5	6
Double Award Science taught as Ph/Ch/Bi	Compulsory core	3	6 x 3
Option A	Option	Same as Second Year	8
Option B	Option	Same as Second Year	8
Option C	Option	Same as Second Year	8
Option D	Option	Same as Second Year	8
Seminar	Non-examined	14	3
IS	Non-examined	8	<u>3</u>
			72

Fourth Year (Lower Sixth) NC Year 12

All but a tiny number of boys commence AS courses in four subjects from the following list, each of which is allocated 15 ppf. In addition all boys have 3 ppf of Seminar which continues the programme commenced in the third year. This means that most boys have 9 ppf of non-contact time. Most subjects have two teachers.

Optional extension classes and Oxbridge preparation classes start in the Lent term.

Most, but not all, possible sensible combinations of these options can be timetabled. (I)GCSE is a pre-requisite for the study of all subjects except Religious Studies and Classical Civilisation.

The number of sets, which varies from year to year according to demand, is shown in brackets for 2009-10.

English	(4)	Maths (6 modules)	(7)
History	(4)	or Maths (9 modules)	(0)
Geography	(3)	Further Maths (a double option)	(3)
Religious Studies	(3)	Physics	(6)
Latin	(2)	Chemistry	(5)
Greek	(1)	Biology	(3)
Classical Civilisation	(1)	Art	(2)
French	(2)	Music	(1)
German	(1)	Theatre Studies	(1)
Spanish	(3)	DT	(2)
Mandarin	(1)	PE	(1)
Government & Politics	(4)		
Economics	(7)		
Business Studies	(2)		

Fifth Year (Upper Sixth) NC Year 13

A clear majority of boys continue with four subjects to A2 with the remainder either dropping to three or, if the timetable allows, taking up a new AS subject taking lessons alongside the Lower Sixth. A2 subjects are allocated 16 ppf but Seminar no longer features. Thus boys taking 4 A2s have 64 out of 72 ppf of contact time.

Oxbridge preparation classes continue, concentrating on the aptitude tests where relevant and then interview technique.

The number of sets for 2009-10 in each subject are shown in brackets.

English	(5)	Maths (6 modules)	(7)
History	(5)	or Maths (9 modules)	(1)
Geography	(4)	Further Maths (a double option)	(2)
Religious Studies	(3)	Physics	(5)
Latin	(2)	Chemistry	(4)
Greek	(1)	Biology	(2)
Classical Civilisation	(1)	Art	(2)
French	(3)	Music	(2)
German	(1)	Theatre Studies	(1)
Spanish	(3)	DT	(2)
Mandarin	(0)	Computing	(1)
Government & Politics	(4)		
Economics	(7)		
Business Studies	(1)		