



Secondary Curriculum Statement 2021_22

Secondary

A key factor in the improving outcomes and quality of education in the three years prior to the pandemic was the secondary lesson structure which consisted of a two week timetable with three lessons of 100 minutes each. The impact of the move to bubbles and zones during the pandemic and the second lockdown period of January to March 2021 on the mental health of secondary pupils suggested it was time to reconsider the lesson structure.

This review considered the length of lessons and the 2 week timetable and whether this was still a feasible approach as the school returned to normal operation when pupils have missed in school learning and experienced a great deal of disruption to schooling. In addition to the lesson structure, the Key Stage 3 curriculum was also reviewed. Whilst the curriculum continuum was strong through Key Stage 3, as at that time a blended approach of a full KS3 offer and 2 GCSE option choices in Year 9 was in operation.

As a result of the robust review secondary now operates a one week timetable of 30 lessons of 50 minutes long each per week. A carefully planned, broad and balanced curriculum is on offer to all pupils providing the opportunity of a wide range of subjects in addition to the National Curriculum. Key Stage 3 now refers to pupils in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. Each year group is divided into two equal ability bands and pupils are either set according to their ability or taught in mixed ability groups depending on the subject. Digital literacy is an integral part of the curriculum encompassing ICT and computing and taught across all subjects as well as in specific digital literacy lessons.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Curriculum

National Curriculum Subjects

- Art
- Design Technology: Food Technology, Graphic Products, Product Design and Textiles Technology
- English: Language and Literature
- Humanities: History, Geography, Religious Studies and PSHCE
- Digital literacy incorporating ICT and computing
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Language-Spanish
- Performing Arts – incorporating Music and Drama
- Physical Education
- Science

Alongside one timetabled lesson per week the PSHCE/Citizenship curriculum is delivered within form, pastoral sessions and through outside speaker events as well as aspects being covered across curriculum areas as appropriate.

One English lesson is a specific communication lesson where pupils discuss key themes.

Year 7 Teaching Allocation

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	PSHE	PA	Art	PD	MFL	RE	DL	PE
Lessons Week	5	5	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2

Year 8 Teaching Allocation

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	PSHE	PA	Art	PD	MFL	RE	DL	PE
Lessons Week	5	5	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2

Year 9 Teaching Allocation

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Geography	History	PSHE	PA	Art	PD	MFL	RE	DL	PE
Lessons Week	5	5	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2

Year 9: Preparation for Future Destinations

In year 9 students study a traditional KS3 curriculum encompassing all subjects. Building on the success of curriculum development in PE, pupils are offered an “Exceed curriculum” that will provide additional certification or extra-curricular activity. This additional enrichment to the curriculum is planned to be delivered within lessons and/or after school alongside the standard curriculum offer. The aim of this is to provide pupils with opportunities to develop their character, skills and attributes to ensure that they are well rounded young people who can stand out from the crowd at future interviews for colleges/universities/jobs.

As part of the offer, pupils can access Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, a sports leaders qualification, the IDEA award, first aid certification and a range of other programmes/enrichment that will support them in building a successful future beyond school.

Year 10 and 11 Teaching allocation

During Year 9, pupils select options subjects to study through Key Stage 4 leading to the qualifications completed by the end of Year 11. A range of GCSE and vocational qualifications are offered to meet individual interest, future study plans, abilities and needs.

Appleton Academy does not offer a pathway programme but options are discussed with pupils and parents to ensure they are choosing curriculum options selected are appropriate to their academic needs as well as to provide a broad and balanced offer for each child. Pupil option choices are further supported a further supported by high quality careers advice. All students must choose from history or geography as one of their option choices.

Year 10 Teaching Allocation

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Hi/Gy	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	RE/PSHE	PE
Lessons	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	1	2

Year 11 Teaching Allocation

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Hi/Gy	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	RE/PSHE	PE
Lessons	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	1	2

As a result of the pandemic Appleton Academy has returned to a traditional end of KS4 exam entry curriculum so that pupils can capitalise on the maximum amount of learning time available in KS3.

Options Process

In each year of KS4, students must study the Core subjects and opt to study three option qualifications by the end of year 11 as outlined in the options booklet.

Core Subjects

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Education and PSHCE
- Science

Additional Subjects

Pupils choose four additional examination subjects.

Subjects currently offered are:

Basket 1	Exam Board	Basket 2	Exam Board	Basket 3	Exam Board
GCSE English Lang	AQA	GCSE Triple Science	AQA	BTEC Creative & Digital media	Pearson
GCSE English Lit	AQA	GCSE Combined Science	AQA	BTEC Performing Arts Dance	Pearson
GCSE Maths	Pearson	GCSE Spanish	AQA	GCSE Drama	Eduqas
		GCSE in own language	AQA	BTEC Sport/ BTEC Tech Sport	Pearson
		GCSE History	AQA	BTEC Health and Social Care	Pearson
		GCSE Geography	AQA	BTEC Child Development	Pearson
				GCSE Photography	Eduqas
				GCSE Product Design	AQA
				GCSE Art	Eduqas
				Imedia	OCR
				L2 Hospitality & catering	Eduqas
				BTEC L2 Music	Pearson