

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we aim to deliver a high-quality curriculum with a range of pathways that provide a stimulating and demanding education for students of all abilities.

Key Principles

- Rigour, high standards, coherence
- A core of essential knowledge and skills in the key subject disciplines
- Freedom for teachers to use professionalism and expertise
- Memorable experiences which put learning in a wider context
- A wide range of opportunities for personalised stretch, challenge and support
- A range of rigorous assessment opportunities which support high quality of information advice and guidance for students and parents
- A rigorous programme for personal development and character education (including SRE and preparation for life in modern Britain)
- Varied option choices for all groups of students including the most able and SEND
- Varied progression routes for all students

Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (PSMSC)

PSMSC is taught to all year groups and covers a range of personal, social, health, careers/employability and British Values themes, as well as relationships and sex education (RSE). PSMSC is primarily taught during tutor periods and in Religious Education, but elements are covered across the curriculum, in assemblies and during theme days.

Withdrawal from RE or Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE or RSE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE and RSE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE or RSE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated. If students are withdrawn from RE or RSE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Students will usually remain on the school premises.

Foundation Stage (Years 7 and 8)

All students follow a common curriculum.

Subject	Time Allocation (hrs/week)
English (combined Language and Literature)	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
PE	2
Modern Foreign Languages: French or Spanish	2
Humanities: Geography	1.5
Humanities: History	1.5
Humanities: Religion and Philosophy	1
Art and Design	1
Computing	1
Drama	1
Music	1
Technology: Design and Food	1
TOTAL	24
PSMSC	40 mins

Purple Pathway: for students entering Y7 with a low (below 100) scaled scores in Reading and mathematics. Students use humanities and MFL lessons, with English and mathematics lessons, to create blocks of time in order to follow a bespoke curriculum focusing on literacy and numeracy. As part of the literacy element of the purple pathway Lexia resources are used. The aim of the purple pathway is to:

- (a) Ensure students make at least expected progress (wherever possible)
- (b) Cover a basic humanities awareness programme through topic based work.
- (c) Enable the students to access mainstream KS4 pathways in Year 9.

Key Stage Four (Years 9 -11)

The curriculum after Year 8 is designed to provide continuity, balance and breadth, but at the same time enable students to specialise in courses which meet their needs, aptitudes and career intentions. In Year 9 students will develop the necessary skills and techniques required for success in the examination courses, as well as pursuing studies in depth. It is the policy of the school to prepare and enter all students for a full range of examinations.

All students starting Year 9 take a core of compulsory examination subjects alongside Physical Education and Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (PSMSC) which is primarily taught during tutor periods and in Religious Education. They also take a GCSE in Religious Studies in Year 10. In addition students will take up to 4 option subjects.

Examples of current options are:

EBACC	Academic	Technical/Vocational
GCSE French GCSE Spanish GCSE History GCSE Geography	GCSE Music GCSE Drama GCSE Product Design GCSE Food, Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Computer Science GCSE Business Studies GCSE Economics GCSE Physical Education GCSE Art, Craft and Design GCSE Photography	BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care Cambridge National Level 2 Creative iMedia ASDAN CoPE Edexcel Entry Level Certificate English Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Mathematics

Other compulsory subjects are Physical Education and PSMSC which is incorporated into the tutor programme and core RE.

Subject	Time Allocation (hrs/week)		
	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
Combined Science and Timetabled Intervention OR	5	5	4.5
	0	0	1.5
Single Sciences	-	5	6
RS	2	2	0
PE	1	1	2
Option A	2	2	2
Option B	2	2	2
Option C	2	2	2
Option D	2	2	2
TOTAL	24	24	24
PSMSC	40 mins	40 mins	40 mins

We envisage around 70-75% of students will make option choices that enable them to matriculate for EBACC.

Our curriculum is organic: it will be reviewed annually to respond to the needs of different cohorts. In this way we can offer a stimulating range of options for all abilities and interests.