

CURRICULUM POLICY

Summary Document

<i>Date of Policy</i>	<i>June 2008</i>
<i>Updated</i>	<i>Jan 2012</i>
<i>Approved by Principal(s)</i>	<i>Yes</i>
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<i>Key Staff</i>	<i>DOS, Tutors, Curriculum Teams, MDMs etc</i>
<i>Lead Staff for Review</i>	<i>Canterbury Principal</i>

COURSE DELIVERY

Students' knowledge and understanding is developed through a blend of classroom tutorials, coursework (both assessed and non-assessed) and personal tutorials. Additional support is provided through self-access facilities such as the Personalised Learning Centre and the Internet.

Emphasis is placed on developing the students as confident, independent learners able to reflect on their learning, recognise, and react appropriately to, their own strengths and weaknesses.

Teaching is conducted in English and students are encouraged to use English whenever possible on School premises.

The aim of the academic staff is to select and implement methods that are most appropriate to each module and group, while preparing the students for the methodologies and techniques to which they will be exposed at University.

Course delivery involves a mix of classroom tutorials, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars and one to one tutorials, Group-work, Discussions and Self-Study.

In relation to all of its programmes, the College specifies a minimum level of English language ability (*IELTS 5 for A Level and 5.5 for IB and short A level courses, 4.5 for UFP etc. See Coursefinder booklet for other courses*), usually expressed in terms of an IELTS score, that it believes is necessary for students proposing to join a particular course.

STUDY PATHWAYS for UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

(Sample courses which may be offered)

Business, Economics, Finance and Management
Engineering and Sciences
Life Sciences
*Humanities and Social Sciences
*Media Arts

**not offered at Cats Cambridge*

PRE COURSE – in preparation for IB, Pre-U, A Level or University Foundation

Students generally study 5 core subjects, including mathematics and English on this one or two year, fast-track programme. The course may include taking key GCSE or other exams as appropriate. Students who are taking this course and are under UK statutory school leaving age, are exposed to a range of experiences over a one or two year programme. These experiences will cover linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative along with one hour a week of PSHEE. They will also have Technology and Enterprise Experiences during their course and will acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy. There will inevitably be a strong focus on ESL with a number of students bearing in mind the vital importance of equipping them with language skills in order to take maximum advantage of the range of courses available to them at the College. A number of these areas may be delivered within ESL teaching as well as in subject specific classes. Extension activities are available for all students which include a range of sporting, social activities and visits, many of which are listed in the student handbook with others announced over the course of the year. The course is a rolling programme and students can be admitted over the year while there are still places

A LEVEL PATHWAYS - may include

Business, Economics, Finance and Management
Engineering and Sciences
Life Sciences
Humanities and Social Sciences
Media Arts
Business Creative Arts
Medical Pathway

CHECK COURSEFINDER FOR LATEST DETAILS

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Students who are particularly gifted are identified through initial assessment on arrival at College, together with ALIS data and advice from Tutors and are put onto a Pre-U Global Perspectives Course from September 2010 at Cambridge or the ASDAN Challenge Programme at Canterbury. We are committed to the provision of additional activities to stretch our most able students and provide them with suitable extra challenges.

We can also offer fast track one year courses on occasion and 5 term A level courses at Cambridge are particularly suited for the needs of older students or students with the ability to progress at a more challenging pace. The UFP Programme at Canterbury can be started in either September or January, depending on the needs and aptitude of the student. For exceptionally gifted students there is an option of April start in UFP at Canterbury with a very challenging pace. The UFP can be taken over one or two years. The IB also provides a high level of challenge for Gifted and Talented students at Canterbury.

Pre-U courses at Cambridge will be offered from September 2010 in Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Physics. Students will follow a combination of Pre-U and A level courses as appropriate to their individual needs

PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WITH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Students with English as a second language all follow an ESL course at the College to support them in their studies. Students are expected to follow the relevant course until they obtain an IELTS score of 7.5 or equivalent in order to prepare them fully for the demand of A Level, Pre-U, FE, Pre-Masters, UFP, IB and undergraduate programmes. ESL staff also support in a number of subject classes across the college to assist students in their understanding of the complex demands of studying certain courses

THE ACADEMIC ENGLISH PROGRAMME (AEP)

This programme is designed to assist students who wish to progress to Foundation, A-level, Pre-U or IB studies but whose level of proficiency in English is insufficient.

INTENSIVE ENGLISH courses are also available according to demand

STUDENTS NEEDING ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

Students are screened on their arrival at College and those needing further testing are given LADS or other relevant tests. Further testing then takes place with alterations to teaching strategies needed for particular students fed back to all staff concerned. Students are set regular targets each half term, and for students with

Additional Learning Targets, these are regularly reviewed. Full details are available in the ALS Policy document.

STUDENTS NOT MEETING TARGETS

Data is regularly analysed with students underachieving being identified with additional support sessions provided for them at key times of the year.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

This is laid out in the College IAG Policy. A range of activities and visits are put on over the year for students including a Careers Fair, Business Challenge involving local companies in a Business and Enterprise event as well as ongoing advice from daily meetings with a Personal Tutor. Careers education also forms part of the Personal Development Programme.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMSC

Students taking Pre courses will have either a discrete PSHEE lessons or will cover element of PSHEE in their English (ESL) courses. Coupled with this is a whole College Programme of PSHEE which covers sex education, smoking, healthy lifestyles, drugs, enterprise and work related learning and a range of other key areas. There is a Thought for the Week in the College Calendar to help students reflect on life and Personal Tutor sessions include a variety of sessions which staff lead on a range of social and cultural themes to encourage discussion, knowledge of citizenship and further reflection and to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult or university life.

THE PRE-MASTERS PROGRAMME AT CAMBRIDGE

The Pre-Master's Programme is designed to prepare non-EU international students who:

- are graduates, or holders of an equivalent qualification, of a recognised non-EU international university or
- are holders of a three-year higher diploma (with relevant work experience), of a recognised non-EU international university

for study on specified courses at postgraduate master's or equivalent level at UK universities.

THE IB PROGRAMME AT CANTERBURY

The International Baccalaureate (IB) programme is a comprehensive and rigorous education programme for the final two years of secondary school. The overall

objectives of the IB are to provide students with a broad and balanced education, to develop creative and compassionate life-time learners, and to promote international understanding.

In order to take the Diploma, students must take one subject from groups 1-6, and study three at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).

Group 1: Native language A1

Group 2: Second language

Group 3: Humanities or social science

Group 4: A natural science

Group 5: Mathematics

Group 6: The arts

In addition, students are required to complete a course in Theory of Knowledge **(TOK)**, to write an extended essay of 4000 words on a subject of their choice, and to complete a minimum of 150 hours of activities in the areas of Creativity, Action and Service **(CAS)**.

EXAMINATIONS

All Foundation examinations are set and marked by the College, and externally moderated.

REQUEST BY A STUDENT TO MOVE FROM ONE COURSE TO ANOTHER

Sometimes, for one reason or another, a parent/agent will request a transfer of their student from one course to another, which can be effected provided there are grounds for the request. It is possible with the constraints of the timetable and all those concerned are in agreement with the proposed change. Changes after the first two weeks of the commencement of the course are usually discouraged unless in exceptional circumstances

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE (CSA) STUDENTS

A person ceases to be of "compulsory school age" on the last Friday of June during the year that s/he becomes 16 provided that the child's birthday is before the beginning of the next school year.

CSA students may be studying on the Academic English Programme (AEP) or Pre Programmes.

PROGRESSION POLICIES

A student who does not attain an attendance level of 95% (at the discretion of the Principal) may not be guaranteed entry to the next public examination session, and may be removed from their course.

Students who do not pass their subjects at AS or a minimum of 22 IB points in their first year, may not be allowed onto the following year of their course.

ENTRANCE CRITERIA

SEE COURSEFINDER

Students who fail to meet the stated entrance criteria will be advised on a per sessional programme appropriate to their needs. Students are required to have a score of IELTS 5 to enrol on an A level programme, or 5.5 for the IB or fast track A level or 4.5 for UFP. Pre-A level and GCSE students are expected to have IELTS 4.5 or Low Intermediate for AEP (IELTS 3.5/4 or equivalent).

Date for full implementation: Sept 2010

Other Policies this Relates To: Assessment, Teaching and Learning

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of the policy: the evidence that will demonstrate the success of this policy include:

- Assessment and Examination results
- Feedback from students in surveys and evaluation forms or directly to members of staff
- Schemes of work
- Records of work done

Date for review: the college will review this policy annually and evaluate its effectiveness

