

## **CURRICULUM STATEMENT**

Policy Date: January 2011

Last updated: September 2022

Review due: September 2023

Portfolio Group responsible: Standards & Curriculum

Where it came from: Deputy Headteacher (James Twomey)



**St. Christopher's**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## The Curriculum at the Ilfracombe Academy

The curriculum statement which follows sets out the guiding principles and operational substance of the curriculum at The Ilfracombe Academy.

This curriculum statement is updated at the beginning of each academic year and approved by governors.

All changes to the curriculum which will be implemented throughout the course of this academic year are identified within the attached appendix (see appendix 1).

We define curriculum as all the learning experiences of students at The Ilfracombe Academy. These experiences include (but are not limited to):

- Tutorials and Assemblies
- Lessons
- Home learning / independent study
- Extra-curricular activities / educational visits

### **CURRICULUM REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Ilfracombe Academy has a well-established annual process of curriculum review, which facilitates dialogue between a range of stakeholders, including; leaders, teachers, support staff, students and parents. Regular review (informed by research, best practice and the national picture) ensures that our curriculum provision is adaptable and responsive to the needs of all students.

#### 1. INTEGRITY

Our values and vision statement underpin the ongoing process of curriculum review and development at The Ilfracombe Academy:

*Ilfracombe Academy vision statement:*

*‘Life in all its fullness’.*

*We serve and support our community providing a child-centred education that reflects Christian values. Respecting the dignity and potential of each individual person and sensitive to the needs of a diverse society we strive to enhance and strengthen our values of **Hope, Kindness, Courage, Integrity, Trust, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience**. These values are central to our school. We are committed to the highest standards of academic excellence; we are dedicated to providing the best possible education for all our students by developing the knowledge, understanding and skills essential for learning and leading a fulfilled life.*

The Ilfracombe Academy is a Church of England school, and as such is expected to follow the recommendations within the SIAMS framework (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

## 2. INTENT

All staff at the Ilfracombe Academy are encouraged to evaluate current provision to ensure that the following key principles are fostered across the range of curriculum experiences available to students:

- The sustained acquisition of knowledge and skill amongst students which promotes academic excellence.
- The provision of broad and balanced educational experiences.
- Spiritual, cultural and moral development.
- The enrichment of educational experience through extracurricular provision.
- The provision of outstanding guidance to students regarding education and careers.

We believe that every child has an entitlement to a curriculum offer which is developed, implemented and reviewed with these key principles in mind.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

The academy promotes the effective implementation of its curriculum offer by;

- Promoting the ongoing development of schemes of learning which promote the acquisition of knowledge and skills.
- Encouraging staff to continually develop excellent subject/curriculum knowledge and an awareness of metacognition within their subject areas.
- Promoting the use of assessment and feedback to identify gaps in student understanding and inform future teaching.
- Identifying and removing barriers to student progress in the classroom.
- Ensuring that a range of suitable extracurricular/enrichment activities are available to students and monitoring/promoting participation amongst all groups of students.
- Utilising TLR3 positions to support specific areas of our curriculum offer.

## 4. IMPACT

Promoting academic excellence is at the heart of curriculum review and planning at the Ilfracombe Academy, subsequently examination results will remain a key indicator of the impact of our curriculum offer. A range of additional evidence is utilised to monitor the impact of our curriculum offer on students at the academy:

- Student progress evidenced through quality assurance processes, including; lesson observations, book reviews and student voice activities.
- Analysis of the destinations of school leavers.
- Analysis of participation in extracurricular opportunities.

## CURRICULUM CONTENT

The following table outlines the subjects on offer at the Ilfracombe Academy and the number of teaching hours allocated per week

*s – setted subject (students are set by ability within these subjects)*

*r – rotation subject (delivered as part of the curriculum within a larger subject area)*

*o – optional subject (selected by students for their KS4 and KS5 studies)*

*v – vocational subject (Pearson BTEC or OCR Cambridge qualifications)*

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	12/13
Art	2	2	1	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)
Biology**				2 (s)	2 (s)	4 (o)
Business Studies						4 (o)(v)
Chemistry**				2 (s)	2 (s)	4 (o)
Design Technology	2	2	2	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)(v)
Drama	1	1	1	2 (o)(v)	2 (o)(v)	4 (o)(v)
Economics						4 (o)
English	3 (s)	3 (s)	3 (s)	5 (s)	5 (s)	4 (o)
French*			3 (s)	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)
Food Technology	(r – DT)	(r - DT)	(r - DT)	2 (o)	2 (o)	
Geography	2	1	2	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)
Health & Social Care				2 (o)(v)	2 (o)(v)	4 (o)(v)
History	1	2	2	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)
Information Technology		(r - DT)	(r - DT)	2 (o)(v)	2 (o)(v)	
Learn to Learn	1					
Life Skills					2 (o)	
Maths	3 (s)	3 (s)	3 (s)	4 (s)	4 (s)	4 (o)
Media Studies				2 (o)(v)	2 (o)(v)	4 (o)(v)
Music	1	1	1	2 (o)	2 (o)(v)	4 (o)
PCRE (inc Religious Education)	2	2	2	2 (s)	2 (s)	
PE (Physical Education)	2	2	2	2 core +2 (o)(v)	2 core +2 (o)(v)	4 (o)(v)
Philosophy & Ethics						4 (o)
Photography				2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)
Physics**				2 (s)	2 (s)	4 (o)
Psychology						4 (o)
Science**	3 (s)	3 (s)	3 (s)	6 (s)	6 (s)	4 (o)(v)
Sociology						4 (o)
Spanish*	2 (s)	3 (s)	3 (s)	2 (o)	2 (o)	4 (o)

\* The school is moving towards the delivery of a single modern foreign language (Spanish), French is being phased out of the curriculum – the last GCSE French cohort will complete their studies in 2025.

\*\* In years 10 and 11 students study either science (6hrs) or biology, chemistry & physics (2hrs each)

Note - In years 10 and 11 students select 3 options from the optional subjects on offer

Note – In years 10 and 11 a small number of students complete 'study support' as 1 of their 3 options

Note - In years 12 and 13 level 3 students select 3 options from the optional subjects on offer

## **OTHER FEATURES OF CURRICULUM PROVISION:**

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY:

There is explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills within maths and English lessons. In addition the Ilfracombe Academy encourages all staff to plan activities which support the development on literacy and numeracy.

Further to this;

- In Year 7 and 8 every student has access to the Accelerated Reader scheme.
- Whole school policies reinforce the importance of literacy skills.
- Students requiring additional support in these areas receive intervention.

*The academy has introduced leadership positions in literacy and numeracy;*

- *Senior Leader (T&L/Literacy): The post holder coordinates whole staff training and school wide initiatives to promote a cross-curricular focus on the development of literacy skills amongst students, including an emphasis on literacy for examinations.*
- *TLR3 numeracy: The post holder coordinates whole staff training and a school wide focus on the development of numeracy skills.*

### PCRE:

The PCRE programme extends over Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. It covers the statutory requirements associated with Citizenship, Health, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education in addition to Religious Education and aspects of careers guidance. As well as covering knowledge and understanding, the programme is designed to develop personal attributes, such as self-esteem, emotional intelligence, good citizenship and British Values.

*The academy has introduced a leadership position in SIAMS;*

- *Senior Leader (T&L SIAMS): The post holder will plan to act on the outcomes of the SIAMS inspection (Feb 2017) this will include; developing a whole-school approach to collective worship and reflection, training new staff on the COE vision for education and ongoing self-evaluation and strategic planning in this context.*

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Students in years 8 and 9 complete an Information Technology (IT) unit of study designed to develop an understanding of software which will support their progress throughout the academy and beyond. This unit is delivered as part of the design technology programme.

All subjects are encouraged to incorporate opportunities for students to develop IT skills into KS3 schemes of learning.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (and STEM)

There is a wide and growing range of activities both to support and enrich the learning experience of all our students. A balanced programme including academic, physical and creative elements runs throughout the school year. Major emphasis is placed upon widening horizons and raising aspirations through educational visits, both home and abroad.

An audit of students participating in extra-curricular activities is maintained throughout each academic year.

The real world applications of STEM are incorporated into schemes of learning and teaching episodes within Science, Maths and Design Technology.

## WORK RELATED LEARNING

The Ilfracombe Academy holds the *Quality in Careers* standard (through the Investor in Careers model), most recently re-accredited in **summer 2018**. This external assessment confirms that the academy offers the highest quality CEIAG (careers, education, information, advice and guidance) to students.

- Students receive this CEIAG through timetabled PCRE lessons, tutorial periods and a planned programme of visits and collapsed timetable days.
- We work closely with regional and community based employers, businesses and enterprise groups to provide a range of employability and employer engagement programmes e.g. 'Your Hired!', 'Next Steps' and 'year 10 work experience week'. We draw on the expertise of Careers South West (CSW), Next Steps South West and other such organisations to support these events.

*The academy has introduced TLR3 leadership positions in Careers and Developing Learners, Developing Leaders.*

A comprehensive list of events relating to CEIAG planned for this academic year can be found within the attached appendix (see appendix 2).

## OPTIONS PROCESSES

The options processes are designed to help students make well-informed choices about the courses that they follow during KS4 and KS5. We aim to encourage students to pursue a broad and balanced curriculum. The guidance provided to students is annually reviewed with students receiving support and guidance through; tutorial programmes, options evenings, school prospectus materials and options interviews.

*Summary of KS4 options guidance:*

*To ensure breadth and balance students are currently required to include history, geography, French or Spanish as one of their 3 option subjects. Students are*

*encouraged to choose a practical/expressive/creative/vocational subject as another (the options process allows for flexibility for individual students).*

*Full details of the KS4 options process can be found within the year 9 options booklet.*

*Summary of KS5 options guidance:*

*Students meeting the entry requirements for level 3 courses select 3 option subjects from a list of ~20 subjects. Students are guided towards subjects with further education, training and employment in mind.*

*Full details of the KS5 options process can be found within the post-16 options booklet.*

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS / ABLE STUDENTS

In consultation with primary colleagues and parents, we identify students we feel may need additional support as well as students that are particularly able.

- The school has a dedicated team of learning support staff based in high quality, purpose built accommodation (The Learning Support Unit – LSU). ‘Support’ takes the form of classroom-based learning support assistants, targeted extraction from lessons and alternative curriculum provision. Further detail relating to the schools SEND provision can be found within the Ilfracombe Academy SEND policy. From September 2022 the school SENDCo role has been integrated into the newly created senior leader for Inclusion position.
- Able students are supported through high expectations and a focus on the inclusion of stretch and challenge opportunities within lessons. University visits and careers/enrichment events are also used to raise aspirations amongst students. From September 2021 the newly created position of ‘Senior Leader; Teaching and Learning: Literacy’ has a responsibility for leading on provision for more able students

The school is committed to offering an inclusive curriculum. This curriculum statement should be read in conjunction with the whole school equality policy (informed by the Equality Act 2010) and the whole school SEND statement and SEND policy (informed by the SEND and disability regulations 2014).

## MONITORING & REVIEW

The Governors will seek to provide a curriculum which enables the college to fulfil its key purposes. This Curriculum Statement will be reviewed annually by curriculum and Christian distinctiveness portfolio group. Ongoing monitoring will also take place through processes that include an analysis of public examination results, discussions with the Headteacher, consultations with staff, students and parents, and presentations by Middle Leaders to SLT and Governors.

### POLICY HISTORY

Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementati on Date	Review Date
Jan 2011	Pat Glover proof read and made amendments	L Nias	Jan 2011	
Sep 2011	Tony Tucker updated in light of changes in some curriculum content. Section on Literacy/Numeracy amended by P. Roberts	T Tucker	September 2011	July 2012
June 2011	Tony Tucker updated regarding changes for next academic year.	T Tucker	September 2012	July 2013
July 2013- Sept 2013	Full update and subsequent minor adjustments	T Tucker	November 2013	November 2014
Sept 2014	Full update- Summary of changes 2013-14 replaced with 2014-15 at beginning of document And subsequent minor adjustments	T Tucker	September 2014	September 2015
Sept 2015	Full update- Summary of changes 2014-15 replaced with 2015-16 at beginning of document And subsequent minor adjustments	T Tucker	September 2015	September 2016
October 2017	Full update- Summary of changes to curriculum 2017-18 at beginning of document and subsequent minor adjustments	J Twomey	October 2017	September 2018
September 2018	Full update- Summary of changes to curriculum 2018-19 at beginning of document and subsequent minor adjustments – option subjects, lesson allocation, careers, STEM etc TLR3 positions added	J Twomey	September 2018	September 2019
September 2019	Curriculum statement re-written to focus on the guiding principles of curriculum review and development at The Ilfracombe Academy. Information updated to reflect changes for 19-20	J Twomey	September 2019	September 2020
September 2020	Preface written to outline how the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic impacts on the curriculum. Information updated to reflect changes for 20-21	J Twomey	September 2020	September 2021
September 2021	Preface written to outline how the Covid-19 pandemic and restructured day/week impacts on the curriculum. Information updated to reflect changes for 20-21	J Twomey	September 2021	September 2022
September 2022	Information updated to reflect changes for 22-23.	J Twomey	September 2022	September 2023



## **APPENDIX 1 – changes to curriculum for 2022-2023:**

- **KS3/KS4:** Timetabled lessons will be delivered to students within the newly introduced KS3 (KLC) and KS4 (Beacon) offsite provisions. The curriculum is designed to; be broad and balanced, allow for SEMH intervention, facilitate reintegration into the main school.
- **KS3:** The phasing out of French studies will be initiated from September 2022:
  - All new year 7 students will study Spanish (2hpw)
  - All year 8 students will study Spanish (2hpw) – note; these students all studies both Spanish and French in 2021-2022
  - Year 9 students that have studied French in both years 7 and 8 will be provided with the opportunity to continue their French studies to GCSE (final cohort)
- **KS4:** Music students in the incoming year 10 cohort will follow GCSE music, this represents a move away from BTEC music studies which the current year 11 cohort are completing (final cohort).
- **KS4:** There will not be a cohort of incoming year 10 students following the Life Skills qualification.  
(The school will review the continued offer of the life skills course in preparation for the KS4 options process in 2023)
- **KS5:** Discontinuation of A level economics – note; the subject has been removed from the year 12 curriculum, a package of remote support has been put in place for the students of economics in year 13 (final cohort)
- **KS5:** A level Spanish is not a feature of curriculum offer in year 12 (this relates to viability – student numbers). There is a year 13 class in A level Spanish.  
(A level Spanish will continue to be offered during the post-16 options process)
- **KS5:** Level 3 BTEC applied science is not a feature of curriculum offer in year 12 (this relates to viability – student numbers). There is a year 13 class in applied science.  
(The school will review the continued offer of an applied science course in preparation for the KS5 options process in 2023)

## APPENDIX 2 – CEIAG events:

# Careers and Work Related Learning Programme The Pupils Journey

The Ilfracombe Academy has maintained the Quality in Careers Standard for over 15 years. We are committed to providing high quality impartial careers advice and guidance to all pupils.

<b>Your Entitlement – By Year 11, what Careers Support will you receive?</b>		
<b>1</b>	Understanding a clear plan for Careers at The Ilfracombe Academy	Careers and WRL overview shared with pupils and parents – Ongoing feedback is appreciated.
<b>2</b>	Access to good quality information about future study options - Labour Market Information	Career Pilot and CSW Sessions in Year 9 LMI assembly for Year 10
<b>3</b>	Your Individual Needs Met	Thorough Options process in Year 9 A wide range of diverse Careers activities
<b>4</b>	Curriculum Learning linked with Careers	Year 9 'Options Week' lessons including the STEM subjects
<b>5</b>	Encounters with Employers – At least 5	Next Steps Day You're Hired Year 8 Enterprise Day
<b>6</b>	At least one experience of a workplace	Work Experience Week in Year 10 Opportunity for a placement in the sixth form
<b>7</b>	Visited at least one university	Opportunities for university visits in every year and an opportunity to visit PETROC for the vocational taster in Year 10
<b>8</b>	At least two careers interviews with a senior member of staff or CSW advisor.	Sixth form guidance interviews CSW guidance interviews for Year 11 Year 9 Options interview for selected pupils

Pupils at The Ilfracombe Academy experience a range of Careers and Work Related Learning activities. Key events in KS4 form a big part of that experience such as You're Hired and Next Steps day. These events have been running for over ten years and are a brilliant opportunity to engage with local employers and providers. During PCRE lessons in KS3, pupils take part in a series of taught lessons covering employability skills enabling pupils to reflect on their own destination plans. Tutorial time also provides pupils with knowledge on career pathways, apprenticeships and support with the Work Experience Programme.

Our Careers Programme follows the Career Development Institutes (CDI) framework. This has three key elements:

- Developing yourself through careers, employability and enterprise education.
- Learning about careers and the world of work.
- Developing your career management and employability skills.

This document outlines our core offer for Careers and the annual planned activities that take place. There are lots of additional opportunities that come up throughout the year.

## **Careers and Work Related Learning Programme**

### **Year 7**

- Careers Morning with Pall and Atlas Packaging.
- The Ilfracombe Edge Awards – Silver Award
- ‘This is Me’ sessions during PCRE lessons:
  - Reflection on skills.
  - Transferable skills.
  - Personal statement writing practice.
  - Outlining achievements.
- Exeter University Trip

### **Year 8**

- Year 8 Enterprise Day with Atlas Packaging
- ‘The Real Game’ – A series of lessons on employability skills:
  - Aspirations – Dream cloud.
  - Budgeting and payslips
  - Career research activity (LMI).
  - Looking at different career paths
- Careers South West workshop during PCRE lessons – Pathways and Destinations.
- The Ilfracombe Edge Awards – Gold Award
- Falmouth University Trip

### **Year 9**

- Career Pilot Workshops – An online platform to find out key information on Careers.
- Next Steps Day – Large Careers Fair with supporting tutorial lessons. This is at The Ilfracombe Holiday Park and over 40 employers/providers attend.
- ‘The Year 9 Options Week’ – Every subject links curriculum learning to Career pathways and opportunities.
- Options evening for pupils and parents.
- Options guidance interviews – Selected pupils meets with a senior member of staff.
- Bristol University Trip
- During tutorial – A range of 20 minute lessons:
  - Organisations
  - Skills for work

- Comparing jobs
- University V Apprenticeships
- Competitive Advantage
- Labour Market Information
- CSW Workshops on Labour Market information and direct access during the workshop.
- STEM Day with TDK – An opportunity for all pupils to take part in a practical challenge using STEM Kit from MTA learning. The day is delivered by TDK in the summer term.

## **Year 10**

- Apprenticeship Assembly from PETROC.
- Work Experience Week – Everybody in Year 10 goes on work experience.
- Assembly – Top Jobs and Opportunities, in demand UK jobs.
- PETROC Vocational Taster Day – All pupils are offered a place on the taster for vocational courses offered at PETROC.
- Plymouth University Trip – First come, first serve basis.
- All pupils write a CV during tutorial in preparation for the You're Hired Event.
- You're Hired Careers Event:
  - Pupils receive 5 workshops delivered by local business and employers covering a wide range of topics such as interview techniques and how to write a CV. Pupils wear formal business clothes for the day and it ends with a finale mock interview.
- Labour Market Information Assembly.
- Scheme of work during tutorial – Employability Skills
- Support or group workshops on organising Work Experience – Dependant on pupils needs.

## **Year 11**

- Sixth Form recruitment assembly.
- Sixth Form guidance interviews with a senior member of staff.
- Whole Year study skills day, for example MADE for education.
- Next Steps Day – Large Careers Fair with supporting tutorial lessons. This is at The Ilfracombe Holiday Park and over 40 employers/providers attend. A lot of universities also attend this event.
- Careers South West support – 121 or Group interviews based on need.

## **Sixth Form**

- Several University trips throughout the year, usually:

- Plymouth University
- Cardiff University
- Falmouth University
- Trips to the Apprenticeship Fair and UCAS Exhibition in Exeter.
- Young Enterprise Scheme in Year 12
- Personal Statement Writing Days in house.
- Activities during tutorial such as:
  - Use of Unifrog and Career Pilot online.
  - Passport to Employability
- CSW Guidance interviews for selected pupils.

## **Where can you find out more information?**

If you would like to know more about Careers and work related learning in school please get in touch with Steve Cronin, Head of Careers –

[scronin@ilfracombeacademy.org.uk](mailto:scronin@ilfracombeacademy.org.uk)

If you have a question specifically about work experience please get in touch with Julie Mugleston, Work Experience Co-ordinator –

[jmugleston@ilfracombeacademy.org.uk](mailto:jmugleston@ilfracombeacademy.org.uk)

**Below are some excellent resources online designed to help young people and their parents to keep options open and make the right choices:**

National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/home>

Career Pilot - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

Uni Frog - <https://www.unifrog.org/>

LMI - <http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>

Unistats - <https://unistats.ac.uk/>

Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form - <https://www.ilfracombeacademy.org.uk/sixth-form/>

UCAS - <https://www.ucas.com/>

Careers & Enterprise Company - <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

## **Apprenticeship Support**

Amazing Apprenticeships - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

Apprenticeship Champions - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/champions/>

The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools project (ASK) -

<https://resources.amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/>

Get My First Job - <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

GOV.UK Become an Apprentice - <https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

Not Going to Uni - <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

UCAS - <https://www.ucas.com/further-education/apprenticeships-and-traineeships/post-16-apprenticeships>