

Year 7 – Curriculum Information

- As a maintained school, St Crispin's follows a broad and balanced curriculum as laid out in the National Curriculum. In Year 7 students are assessed through school curriculum levels, which are sub divided.
- Throughout the year we will report to parents on three occasions, once per term. Reports contain the current attainment and end of year targets for each subject. Scores are also given for attitude to learning, to report on motivation and organisation, behaviour for learning and quality of classwork and homework.
- A student's timetable is organised across a fortnight, with 25 periods of one hour lessons each week. There are five lessons each day.
- The table below shows the subjects students will study and the number of periods available for each subject.

| Subject | Periods/Hours per fortnight |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| English | 6 |
| Maths# | 6 |
| Science | 6 |
| French or Spanish# | 6 |
| Computing | 2 |
| Design and Technology | 4 |
| Geography | 4 |
| History | 4 |
| Religious Studies | 2 |
| Art | 2 |
| Music | 2 |
| Drama | 2 |
| Physical Education | 4 |

- All lessons are taught in mixed ability groups through tutor groups, except for subjects marked with #. These subjects are set by ability during Year 7. English will set with two top groups and the remaining groups mixed ability.
- Identified students are offered the opportunity to have additional support with literacy and numeracy in TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More). These students are withdrawn from English, Maths, French, History, Geography and Religious Studies to be given support on a one to one basis or in small groups.
- During registration students hold conversations with their tutor regarding their attendance, wellbeing and behaviour. We have also included a PSHCE programme that will focus on several key areas such as worked related learning, health (mental, sexual, health, stress, anxiety, drugs and alcohol), life skills (finance, study skills, organisation skills) and culture and Britishness.
- All students study Religious Studies in Year 7, following the Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.
- In Modern Foreign Languages, students will study either French or Spanish as a language. Both languages will be taught to develop students understanding and confidence on "how to learn" a new language. Students will study either Spanish or French depending on which side of the year they are on. Students can take up an alternative language for GCSE. In Year 8 those students in the top sets of the year will also study German in addition to French or Spanish.
- A wide variety of enrichment and extra-curricular activities is on offer to all students. Across the year, many educational visits are organised, including three trips days. With lunchtime and after school activities, provide students with additional opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of the world around them.

Future Changes

- Although some way off for Year 7 students, it is important to make you aware of the planned changes to GCSE and Technical Awards. Year 7 will be taking their exams in Year 11 in 2020.
- If you have an older son or daughter you will be familiar with the current grading for GCSEs (A* to G) and the threshold that students need to gain (5 A* to C including English and Maths) to progress to Sixth Form or further education colleges.
- By 2019, all GCSEs will be reformed and will be significantly different from the previous courses. The new GCSEs will have:
 - a new grading of 9-1 - 9 being the highest grade, 1 being the lowest.
 - fewer tiered subjects - previously students could take a foundation or higher exam paper, in most subjects there will now only be one tier.
 - fewer controlled assessments to be completed in the classroom - most courses will be graded on exams only.
 - no opportunity for early entry - students will take exams at the end of Year 11 only – there will be no modules to take in Year 10.
 - a different exam structure - the exams will be longer and will test more content.
 - no opportunity for re-sitting exams before the end of Year 11.
- Since 2013, Technical Awards have also been revised. All BTEC and Cambridge National qualifications now have an element of external assessment.

- From 2016 the way of measuring a student or school's achievement will change. The percentage of students gaining 5 A* to C including English and Maths, will no longer be used and will instead be replaced by four new measures. These are the Ebacc, Attainment 8, Progress 8 and the percentage of students gaining a pass in English and Maths.
 - Ebacc – awarded to students who gain a pass in English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and a Humanities course.
 - Attainment 8 – measures attainment in three areas – English and Maths, three Ebacc subjects and three other courses.
 - Progress 8 – compares a student's Attainment 8 with what they were expected to achieve.
- Further details about these new measures can be found on the school website.
- With such a variety of change not all details are known at the moment, but as we become aware of new information we will, of course, inform you.