



ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

CURRICULUM POLICY

AGSB's main purpose is to create the best possible environment to enable our students to achieve their full potential academically and in all other areas of school life.

The curriculum plays a key role in this purpose and has three main aims:

1. To be academic, varied, engaging and appropriate for all students.
2. To develop independent students who possess a deep love of learning and a strong intellectual curiosity.
3. To develop responsible students with strong moral values who leave AGBS with a wide variety of skills and interests, both within and beyond the academic curriculum.

This policy is organised by considering the principles of the curriculum, its implementation and how its impact is assessed.

Principles of the Curriculum

In order to meet the main aims, the curriculum at AGBS is:

Aim 1: To be academic, varied, engaging and appropriate for all students.

- Differentiated to so that it is inclusive to all students; this includes adapting learning plans for those pupils with additional needs and ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils. This includes pupils with special educational needs or disabilities, pupils with English as an additional language and pupils who receive Pupil Premium funding.
- Designed to ensure breadth and challenge for all students.
- Emphasises the importance of English skills of the highest quality; written and spoken.
- Encourages an appreciation of the pleasure to be derived from **creativity in any sphere** whether that be artistic, musical, scientific, technological or on the Sports Field.
- Encourages the use of ICT and ensures students have an understanding of its value, its applications and its limits.

Aim 2: To develop independent students who possess a deep love of learning and a strong intellectual curiosity.

- Highlights the importance of resilience and growth mind-sets to encourage pupils to achieve their potential.
- Promotes skills in analytical and critical thought.
- Promotes independent study skills.
- Designed to prepare students adequately for higher level study and the world of work.

Aim 3: To develop responsible students with strong moral values who leave AGSB with a wide variety of skills and interests, both within and beyond the academic curriculum.

- Promotes, both within and outside the main curriculum, the value of social and moral understanding.
- Develops confidence in each pupil of their own personal worth.
- Encourages pupils to recognise their privileged position and a humility and sense of duty to others.

Extracurricular Opportunities:

AGSB believes that opportunities for learning outside the classroom are as important for pupils as the formal curriculum. There is a very broad range of extracurricular opportunities available for pupils at AGSB, including sport, music, clubs and societies.

- There are many overseas trips that take place annually; this includes trips to China, World Challenge, Ski Trip, Sports trips, Bushcraft for Year 7, Foreign Language trips and exchanges and curriculum trips.
- Three days of activities take place for pupils in Years 7-9 at the end of each academic year.
- Each year pupils work in forms to collect money for charity during the charity half term. They are expected to develop creative ways to generate funds for the school's charities.
- All pupils take part in Business Enterprise days in Years 10 and 12.

Implementation of the Curriculum:

- The school operates a two-week timetable, there are five periods in each day and each period lasts for one hour.
- There are 50 periods in each timetable cycle.
- Pupils have form time for 20 minutes each morning and five minutes each afternoon.
- Pupils attend two assemblies per week.
- Years 7 and 8 follow schemes of work designed by AGSB departments.
- In Year 9, some subjects begin GCSE courses. In February of Year 9 pupils choose options for GCSE courses.
- In Years 10-11 all pupils study for GCSE qualifications.
- In Years 11-12 all pupils study for A-Level qualifications.

Setting

- In Year 7 pupils are set in Maths.
- In Years 8-11 pupils are set in Maths, English, Languages, Religious Studies and Physical Education.
- In Years 12-13 pupils are not set.

Number of GCSEs

- Pupils are entered for between 9 and 12 qualifications.
- Pupils in the lower sets are entered for 9 GCSEs; Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, a Language, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Combined Science Trilogy (worth two GCSEs) and two or three optional subjects*.
 - *The number of options subjects chosen depends on the Sciences chosen. Pupils who chose separate Sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics will take two other options, pupils who study the Combined Science Trilogy will chose three other options.
- Pupils in higher sets are entered for up to 12 qualifications: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, a Language, Physical Education (entered in Year 10), Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Combined Science, two or three optional subjects. Pupils will also be given the option of being entered for AS Religious Studies.

A Level Curriculum

- All pupils enrol in an A-Level programme which lasts two years.
- Pupils have a choice from 23 subjects.
- Most pupils are entered for 3 A-Levels.
- More able pupils can choose to be entered for 4 A-Levels.
- Those pupils who choose to study Further Maths must choose two other subjects and will be entered for 4 A-Levels.
- Pupils can choose to complete an Extended Project Qualification which is worth half an A-Level.
- All pupils take part in an enrichment course that runs alongside their formal curriculum.

The detailed curriculum plan can be found in Appendix 1.

Curriculum Impact

- Operational and strategic decisions are proposed by the Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team and these are brought to the Governors Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee for ratification.
- Targets for the curriculum are set and reviewed as part of the school development plan.
- External examination results are analysed annually and the curriculum is adapted where appropriate.
- Pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 give feedback about the curriculum in their exit surveys.
- Parents complete a survey about the school, including the curriculum, every three years.

Written by: S Weil		September 2018
Reviewed By Governor Sub-committee		

