

Curriculum Statement

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith is committed to preparing students to succeed in tomorrow's world by providing a secure learning environment, a rigorous academic curriculum, high expectations and best practice in teaching, learning and technology enhanced by wide-ranging extra-curricular opportunities and outstanding pastoral care.

We have the following aims:

- To maintain a tradition for academic excellence and high aspiration.
- To ensure all students realise their full potential in all aspects of their development.
- To prepare students to be independent, resilient and life-long learners.
- To provide a caring and safe environment in which the individual's personality and abilities are valued and fostered.
- To provide an environment in which creativity, enterprise and initiative are encouraged.
- To promote sporting, artistic and social activities to develop students' interests and talents.
- To ensure that students leave this school fully prepared to embark upon higher education or employment confident in their skills and learning and fitted for useful, active citizenship.
- To develop local, regional, national and international partnerships and constantly look for opportunities to extend learning.

Curriculum organisation Overview

We are committed to providing a curriculum that responds to the needs of every student whilst ensuring access to a broad and balanced educational experience. For the majority of our students, this means learning with us from the ages 11 to 18. We view this as a continuous, coherent journey and see one of the most important functions of learning during any key stage as being to prepare students for the next one.

Year 7

On arrival to the school in Year 7 students are allocated to a Tutor group, which is constructed through consultation with primary schools which are mixed ability, within our selective context. The majority of lessons are taught in these groups, with the exceptions being the practical subjects of PE, Games and Technology. Students will cover the full range of core and foundation subjects outlined in the National Curriculum, including two languages (French and German).

Year 8

In Year 8 they are taught in their learning group from Year 7 in all subjects except PE, Games and Technology as above.

Year 9

In Year 9 banded groups are introduced for Maths, Science, and English. Students have the option to choose to continue with two languages, or specialise in either French or German. They can also choose up to two technology subjects to concentrate on developing further

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students are able to choose from a wide range of GCSE option subjects. All students study Maths, English Language, English Literature, RE, PE, Games and separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They then choose three option choices, one of which must be either a humanities or a language. Additionally, there are two citizenship days during year 10 and a further two during year 11. These will address careers education, emergency aid, enterprise, health educations, sex and relationship educations, drugs education and study skills. Students in Year 10 have the opportunity of a week of work experience.

At Key Stage 5, we offer a wide range of A-Level courses. Students indicate choices in their application to Sixth Form. All students in the 6th form attend on a full time basis and most study three A levels and an EPQ with some choosing four or more where appropriate. Entry to the 6th form requires five passes at Grade C or above in GCSE, but for most A-Level courses we require a minimum of a Grade B in the subject they wish to study.

A wide range of enrichment opportunities and trips are available to students across all key stages.

More detail can be found in the Appendices to this document.

Appendix 1: Key Stage 4 exam board list

Appendix 2: Key Stage 5 exam board list

Curriculum Review and Evaluation

All elements of the curriculum provision will be reviewed on an annual basis working on a timescale of 18 months before implementation. The curriculum offer is developed depending on cohort needs so may vary year on year as appropriate.

Appendix 1: Key Stage 4 exam board list

Exam Board	Subject
AQA	Art & Design
	Biology
	Chemistry
	Drama
	DT: Engineering
	French
	Further Maths (Level 2)
	Geography
	German
	History
	Physics
	Science
	Additional Science
	Edexcel
DT: Textiles	
English Language	
English Literature	
Maths	
Physical Education	
Music	
Religious Studies	
WJEC	DT: Food
OCR	GCSE ICT

Appendix 2: Key Stage 5 exam board list

Exam Board	Subject
AQA	Art (Fine Art)
	Art (Graphic)
	Biology
	Chemistry
	DT Textiles
	Drama
	English Literature
	Environmental Studies
	Extended Project
	French
	General Studies
	German
	Government & Politics
	History (Medieval/16 th)
	History (Modern/20 th)
	Philosophy
	Physics
	Edexcel
Economics & Business	
English Literature	
Maths	
Further Maths	
Religious Studies	

WJEC

English Language

Geography

Geology

OCR

Music

Physical Education