

## HOWELL'S SCHOOL: CURRICULUM POLICY

### A whole curriculum approach

We firmly believe that the aim of the school curriculum must be the development of effective thinking skills together with personal and social development. We see this duality as essential to raising the standards of attainment of all learners. We adhere, in broad terms, to the core requirements of the Curriculum for Wales; however, an education at Howell's extends well beyond prescribed content with the express intention of enthusing learners about the very processes of learning itself. The key is active learning. We feel that learners must acquire insights into their own learning processes and their effectiveness.

Learners are encouraged to develop skills of self-analysis and reflection, choosing learning methods that suit them best, whilst it is the role of their teachers to stretch, challenge and motivate all learners towards an appetite for lifelong learning. Our aim is to help learners acquire skills essential to tackling a competitive and rapidly changing world.

### Prep School

1. The 1988 Education Reform Act and subsequent Education Acts, have influenced the very broad and balanced curriculum provision we offer at Howell's Prep School. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of each child, giving them varied, meaningful experiences, delivered in a variety of ways.
2. The Early Years curriculum for our 3-5 year olds is broadly based on the Foundation Phase outcomes and the New Curriculum for Wales 2022. The approaches and ideas enrich the learning opportunities for the girls.

The curriculum for 5-11 year olds is broadly based upon the National Curriculum and covers 15 subjects – English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, computing, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education, French, Spanish, Personal, Social and Health Education and Religious Education. Throughout the Prep School, as far as possible, emphasis is placed on hands-on learning, exploration and real life experiences.

3. The aims of this policy are:-
  - to ensure the girls are offered a curriculum which is broad, balanced and designed to emphasise the relevance of the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes developed through their learning experiences;
  - to provide a curriculum which is coherent, challenging for all, dynamic, robust and promotes the cross-curricular skills including: literacy, numeracy and digital competence, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, personal effectiveness and planning and organising.
  - to offer a curriculum which helps to realise the potential of each girl's spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional and physical development;

- to offer guidance within which staff can develop teaching and learning, having due regard to the areas and experiences in which the girls will be involved;
  - to ensure the girls are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in a multicultural and technological society.
4. These aims will be achieved by helping girls:-
- to develop respect for themselves and others, thereby helping them to understand that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are very important qualities;
  - to develop girls' literacy skills, thus enabling them to read and write purposefully,
  - to help girls understand mathematical concepts and develop mathematical skills;
  - to understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations;
  - to appreciate human achievements and aspirations.
5. The Prep School Leadership Team will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.
6. The curriculum will be most effective if it allows girls, parents and teachers to be informed of the children's progress and further learning objectives.
7. Wellbeing, Undivided and Healthy School are an integrated part of our curriculum from Nursery to Year 6.

### **Senior School**

All learners in Years 7-11 study a core curriculum of English, Mathematics and Science which is enhanced by a variety of other subjects: creative activities in Art, Music and Drama; practical subjects such as Product Design and Digital Technology; physical activity in Games and PE; languages such as French, Spanish and Welsh with the addition of Latin; and humanities such as Geography, Religious Studies and History. In addition students have the opportunity in Year 9 to study Astronomy as a twilight option. Teaching methods throughout the Senior School encourage the learners to be stimulated and challenged, yet always supported, enabling each learner to reach their full potential.

All students follow a rich and varied PSHE programme including timetabled lessons to meet the recommended requirements including RSE.

### **Key Stage 3 - All learners' study:**

Art	Digital Technology
Product Design	Mathematics
Drama	Music
English	PE & Games
French	Religious Studies
Geography	Science
History	PSHE & Wellbeing

In Year 7 learners study French, Spanish and Welsh. In Year 8, learners study two Languages and take up Latin. In Year 9 learners choose to study two out of the four languages and may choose to study Astronomy as a twilight option.

#### **Key Stage 4 - All learners study:**

English Language	Usually one Humanity (History, Geography, RS)
English Literature	Usually a language (French, Spanish, Welsh)
Mathematics	Physical Education
Biology	PSHE
Chemistry	
Physics	

Science may be selected as a combined subject or single sciences chosen

They can then choose two subjects from the following list:

Art	Latin
Product Design	Music
Drama	PE
French	Religious Studies
Geography	Spanish
History	Welsh

We believe in quality not quantity and learners must have time to pursue their extracurricular activities and have time for themselves. The number of GCSEs is therefore carefully monitored and personalised timetables are agreed where helpful.

#### **Careers Information and Guidance**

Our Careers provision is designed to meet the needs of all individuals. It is differentiated and personalised to ensure progression through activities that are appropriate to the learners' stages of career learning, planning and development. This includes dedicated assemblies, events in and outside school, visiting speakers, one to one sessions, writing CVs and mock interviews.

Careers Education begins at an age-appropriate level in the Prep School, led by a teacher. In the Senior School the Careers Department is responsible for encouraging the development of each individual in terms of their future ambitions, economic wellbeing and financial capability. We hope to enable each learner to reach their own set of goals, which will enable them to leave school equipped to enter the higher education course and career of their choice. This process will promote decision-making and create informed individuals who are aware of the opportunities available to them and the skills required for future employment.

A teacher is in charge of the overview of planning careers events and a careers specialist supports senior students into the College phase. There is a rich provision of events and activities, supported by the GDST, that encourages learners to aspire to achieve their best.



## Key Stage 5

**Year 12** – students are advised to start with 4 AS subjects with careful Careers guidance provided following GCSE results, nearly all students are encouraged to continue with 4 subjects until at least half-term. Advice is provided for any student who appears to be finding a subject difficult and support provided where required.

Available subjects:

Art and Design	Latin
Biology	Mathematics
Business	Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Classical Civilisation	Photography (from September 2024)
Digital Technology	Physical Education
Drama and Theatre	Physics
Economics	Product Design
English Literature	Psychology
French	Religious Studies
Geography	Spanish
Government and Politics	Welsh
History	Welsh First language

## EPQ

Students are able to pursue an Extended Project Qualification in the College. This is research based on an area of their own choosing and requires significant independent work due to the nature of the course and assessment. All students have an EPQ Mentor to support them.

**Year 13** - The majority of learners continue with 3 A level subjects and many complete the EPQ. Students taking Further Mathematics as well as Mathematics often achieve 4 A levels.

Careers information and guidance as well as UCAS support is of a very high standard in the College with a qualified Careers Adviser meeting regularly with individuals and a detailed programme provided through Careers and Higher Education Guidance sessions. Students and families are regularly prompted about opportunities in general and specific career pathways and careers preparation along with dedicated days is high on the agenda.

## Key Contacts

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the curriculum provision, please contact either Head of Prep School, or Deputy Principal (Academic).

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