

The Curriculum at Denstone College

The curriculum at Denstone College is organised in four sections to meet the needs of pupils in the four schools:

1. The Prep (Reception-P6)
2. Lower School (pre-GCSE)
3. Middle School (GCSE and IGCSE)
4. Senior School (A level and preparation for Higher Education)

The Prep (Reception, P1-6)

In the Prep we strive for high academic standards throughout the curriculum. The Prep curriculum seeks to provide pupils with a broad, balanced and relevant education which provides continuity and progression and takes individual differences into account, in accordance with the overall aims of the college.

Reception- The seven areas of learning within the EYFS are:

Prime Areas	Specific Areas
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Literacy
Physical Development	Mathematics
Communication and Language	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

The subjects studied in P1-6, are set out in the table below:

Subject	P1-6
English	√
Maths	√
Science	√
Outdoor Learning	√
Spanish/ French	√
Geography/ Topic	√
History/ Topic	√
Religious Studies	√
Art/DT	√
Drama	P3-6
Music	√
Physical Education	√
PSHE	√
ICT	√

Lower School (First, Second and Third Forms)

All pupils in the Lower School study a broad and balanced curriculum with the aim of providing learning opportunities across a wide spectrum of academic subjects. The subjects studied are set out in the table below:

Subject	1st Form	2nd Form	3rd Form
English	√	√	√

Maths	√	√	√
Science	√		
Biology		√	√
Chemistry		√	√
Physics		√	√
French	√	√	√
Spanish	√	√	√
Geography	√	√	√
History	√	√	√
Religious Studies	√	√	√
Art	√	√	√
Design Technology	√	√	√
Drama	√	√	√
Music	√	√	√
Physical Education	√	√	√
PSHE	√	√	√
Computing	√	√	√

Middle School (Fourth and Fifth Forms)

The Middle School curriculum is composed of a mixture of compulsory and optional GCSE courses. Four subjects are compulsory at GCSE for most students and represent a possible total of seven GCSEs. They are:

- English (GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature)
- Mathematics (IGCSE)
- Science: Separate Science (three GCSEs) or Science / Combined Science (Two GCSEs)
- Modern Foreign Language: French or Spanish

Each member of the Middle School is also required to pick up to three optional subjects to study at GCSE. These, together with the compulsory subjects, form a typical programme of eight to ten GCSEs, although exceptions can be negotiated with the Deputy Head Academic according to the needs of the individual pupil.

Optional subjects currently available at GCSE are:

Art
 Business
 Design Technology
 Drama
 Spanish (in order to study two modern foreign languages)
 Geography
 History
 Computer Science
 Music
 Physical Education
 Religious Studies

Senior School (Lower and Upper Sixth Form)

The Denstone College Senior School curriculum is organised to meet the needs of students in the Sixth Form. The range and number of subjects on offer is kept under constant review. Subjects offered presently in the sixth form are listed below:

Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design Technology
Drama (Theatre Studies)
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
ICT (CTEC)
Mathematics
Music
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Religious Studies (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)
Spanish
Sport (BTEC – National Extended Certificate)
Sport (BTEC – National Diploma)

Many students also opt into the “Extended Project Qualification” (EPQ) activity, involving the planning, research and production of an independent piece of work based on one or more subject area. All Lower Sixth Form students participate in the Denstone College L.I.F.E. course, with timetabled sessions each week.

The College’s full Curriculum Policy, including further details of curriculum for the Prep, Lower, Middle and Senior Schools, is available on request.