

Curriculum Overview (2020-2021)

At Don Valley Academy we follow a 3 year Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) and then a 2 year Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11). Students have the opportunity to opt and specialise at the end of Y9 in the humanities and open basket subjects taking these to the end of Y11.

In Years 7, 8 & 9 students follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics and Science. They also study both History, Geography and an MFL of either French or Spanish or Cultural Studies (Y9) and then on rotation enjoy a wide range of creative and technical subjects. In addition they study Life which incorporates our citizenship curriculum and finally Computing and core PE. The allocated amount of time is shown in the table below.

Depending on need, we also offer a number of alternative support packages. For example, we have the 'Diamond' cohort where some students have a different distribution of time allocated to subjects to allow for Literacy and/or Numeracy support or are identified as needing extra support in transition as well as curriculum intervention. These programs include: Accelerated Reading, Reading Recovery and Reciprocal Reading as well as vocabulary building and cursive hand writing. Within Numeracy Hegarty Maths and xtramath.org are being used.

KS3 Curriculum		
Subject	Y7 and Y8 Hours	Y9 Hours
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	4
French/Spanish/Cultural Studies	2	2
Geography	2	2
History	2	2
Life	2	1
Art	1	1
Music/Drama	1	
Technology/Computing	2	
Music/Drama/Technology/Computing		3
Physical Education	2	2
Total number of hours per week	25	25

At the end of Year 9 students opt for 3 subjects that they will study in key stage 4 and certificate by the end of Year 11 (the list of all the current option choices is in the table below). Students all opt from either History or Geography and/or a language to enable our students to maximise their attainment scores in the second Attainment 8 'basket'. During Year 9 students will also discuss the possibility of studying triple science. We design our curriculum around each individual child and it is, therefore, a bespoke curriculum. We work with students and parents/carers to ensure their choices will best match their enjoyment and potential in each case.

We offer a wide range of both subjects and qualifications which will cater for all needs from creative and technical qualifications to more academic and health related courses. Students will follow a course that best suits their abilities and could include: GCSEs, BTEC and Cambridge National or Technical certificates.

In Year 10 we also give more curriculum time to English as students prepare for both Literature and Language exams and an additional hour for Science. The full list of qualifications and time allocation is in the table below. Unless specified, all qualifications are GCSE.

Y10 Curriculum	
Subject	Hours
English Language and Literature	5
Mathematics	4
Science	5
Core Physical Education (non-examinable)	1
Life	1
Option subjects	
French	3
Geography	3
History	3
Art and Design	3
Art and Design (Photography)	3
Engineering (WJEC Vocational)	3
Enterprise and Marketing (OCR National)	3
Health and Social Care (BTEC Technical)	3
Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Vocational)	3
Creative iMedia (OCR National)	3
Music (BTEC First)	3
Performing Arts (BTEC Technical)	3
Sport Science (OCR National)	3

At the end of Year 10 students may have completed the course in one or two option courses. This design allows the Academy to focus more time on the core subjects in Year 11 and offer more intervention to targeted students to improve their core attainment. The time allocation for Year 11 is outlined in the table on the next page.

Y11 Curriculum	
Subject	Hours
English Language and Literature	6
Mathematics	5
Science	5
Core Physical Education (non-examinable)	1
Option subjects	
Geography	3
History	3
Spanish	3
Art and Design	1
Art and Design (Photography)	1
Engineering (WJEC Vocational)	1
Enterprise and Marketing (OCR National)	1
Health and Social Care (BTEC Technical)	1/Completed
Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Vocational)	Drop down exam
Creative iMedia (OCR National)	1
Music (BTEC First)	1/Completed
Performing Arts (BTEC Technical)	1/Drop down
Sport Science (OCR National)	1
Option English	Intervention
Option Maths	Intervention

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