



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CURRICULUM POLICY

At Callington Community College we want each of our students to achieve their very best and to develop the skills, attributes, and knowledge to reach their dreams

We provide our students with the best possible education, guidance and support to help them through their college life. Not only is each student taught by a range of experienced and high quality subject specialists, they also have an individual tutor who meets them regularly to discuss and guide their progress.

The world is changing rapidly and young people need to develop a wide range of skills if they are to make the most of their future. Subject knowledge is still very important but the importance of skills cannot be underestimated. Schools need to change significantly to provide an education relevant to today.

We are, as always, moving forward to deliver the best possible education for our students. Our curriculum will continue to evolve as we develop, trial and evaluate strategies and approaches designed to create a challenging, appropriate and relevant curriculum.

The KS3 curriculum

Outline

KS3 operates over three years for the present Year 7, 8 and 9 (as at April 2004).

However, from September 2004 KS3 will operate in Years 7 and 8, not in Year 9 like many other colleges. The main reasons for this are:

- To create greater challenge in Years 7 and 8.
- To create more relevant and challenging courses in Years 9 and 10.
- To allow AS level students (Years 11 and 12) more time for study and for developing wider experiences (this would give them two years to study as opposed to the current one year).

Structure and organisation

All students in KS3 follow the National Curriculum. A broad and balanced curriculum is provided which is designed to deliver the basic skills and knowledge that provide a solid foundation for KS4 and 5. The aim in KS3 is to also provide relevant challenge and opportunities in order to stimulate the desire for learning.

All National Curriculum subjects are followed by all students in KS3: English, Mathematics, Science, PE, RE, Personal, Social and Health Education, History, Geography, ICT, Design and Technology, Modern Languages, Art, Music, Drama. In addition, short modules of a

number of other subjects are also delivered to all students: Learning Modules, Circus Skills, Dance, Healthy Living, Citizenship.

In Years 7 and 8 there are integrated course Focus Groups for students with literacy attainment at KS2 of under Level 4. In each of these groups the English, Geography, History and Modern Languages time has been integrated into one course with a real focus on literacy development.

Students with specific learning needs, often related to SEN, gifted and talented, or behaviour may well be involved in individual or small group activities at times.

At regular intervals throughout the K53 programme the curriculum is collapsed to allow for half-day or full day long learning activities which are designed to stimulate, challenge and inform. These activities include super learning days, masterclasses, industry days, leadership and citizenship related events.

From September 2004, the structure of the curriculum in Years 7 and 8 (Year 8 from September 2005) will be modular. This means that each subject is divided into six six-week modules in Year 7 and Year 8. Throughout each module a student's work will be formatively assessed by their subject teacher, with a final summative assessment mark being given at the end of a module. In Years 7 and 8, students will be awarded credits for their learning achievements and for their involvement in other activities, and development of skills. At the end of each year there will be an Achievement Evening to celebrate student progress.

Support

Parents can keep abreast of the work their children are doing by accessing the college web-site (parents without internet access can make use of the college library facilities on certain evenings of the week). On the web-site an outline of each subject module is available.

In order to help guide and support each individual student through the learning process every student has a personal tutor and has an individual student interview with their tutor at least every three weeks.

The KS4 Curriculum

Outline

The KS4 curriculum is taught, at present, in years 10 and 11. The National Curriculum is followed by all students, although the structure of the curriculum is designed to give students the maximum flexibility to follow an individually designed course pathway that satisfies their needs, supports their preferred learning styles and provides them with the skills and knowledge they, as an individual, need. As a result, there is a guided choice for up to five subjects, with the choice being made from as many as thirty-two different courses, some of which are GCSEs, some are vocational, and some are skills based leading to alternative qualifications.

As the Year 7 students that join the college in September 2004, move through the college the nature of the KS4 curriculum will change. KS4 will be taught mainly in Years 9 and 10, with some students continuing with some GCSEs into Year 11. The majority of students will begin AS levels in Year 11.

Structure and organisation

All students in KS4 follow English Language (GCSE), English Literature (GCSE), Mathematics (GCSE), Double Science (which incorporates Biology, Chemistry and Physics) (GCSE), Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), PE, Citizenship (half GCSE optional), and RE (half GCSE optional). In addition students make a guided choice from a wide range of other courses:

- GCSEs — Food, Catering, Resistant Materials, Electronics, Graphics, Textiles, Music, Art and Design, Drama, French, German, Dance, History, Geography, Media Studies, PE.
- Vocational GCSEs — Health and Social Care, Leisure and Tourism, French Leisure and Tourism, Information Technology.
- Other courses — Arts Leadership, Sports Leadership, Outdoor Leadership, Active Media, Environment Action, Cooking, Working with Materials, ASDAN Youth Award, Citizenship.
- Other programmes offered outside of college — Construction, and Motor Vehicle (at Duchy College).
- There is also a small group of Year 10 students who follow an accelerated Mathematics course - a GCSE in one year. In Year 11 they follow Maths AS level.

Students with special learning needs, often related to SEN, gifted and talented, or behaviour may be placed on very individualised programmes involving possible extended activities, work or college placements, a reduced curriculum, one to one work.

All Year 10 students follow a two day basic psychology/self-esteem building course ‘Go for it’ (an Investment in Excellence course from the Pacific Institute) at the start of Year 10.

All students take part in two weeks work experience during Key Stage 4.

Support and guidance

As in KS3, in order to help guide and support each individual student through the learning process every student has a personal tutor and has an individual student interview with their tutor at least every three weeks.

Sixth-Form Curriculum

Outline

The Sixth Form curriculum is followed by students in Years 12 and 13. The Sixth Form curriculum caters for a wide range of needs. AS levels are followed in Year 12 and A levels in Year 13, in the main. Academic and vocational courses make up the majority of the Sixth Form programme, although the education provided at this stage is also broadened by the provision of other courses and activities such as key skills, community service, sports leadership and young enterprise. The only GCSE retake course available in Year 12 are English and Mathematics.

As the Year 7 students starting at the college in September 2004, move through the college, it will be possible for them to take longer to study their AS levels — in Years 11 and 12. This will also allow them to add to the broad range of activities they follow.

Structure and organisation

Most students follow four AS level courses although there is a provision for students to follow other routes. The courses we offer are:

- AS/A level: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Media Studies, Art, Music, Music Technology, Economics, Psychology, RE, PE, Drama, Dance, Design Technology, Home Economics, French, German.
- Vocational AS/A level: Health and Social Care, Art and Design, Engineering, Business Studies, Travel and Tourism, Leisure and Recreation, Information Technology.
- Other Courses: Oracle information technology BTEC.
- GCSEs: Spanish, English (retake), Mathematics (retake).

All students also follow AS General Studies, which incorporates an element of RE, in Year 12.

A three-day basic psychology/self-esteem raising course 'Breakthrough' (an Investment in Excellence course from the Pacific Institute) is offered to all Year 12 students. Again, the vast majority follow this programme.

Support and guidance

All Sixth-Form students have an individual tutor to guide and support them through their studies.

Other provision

At times, dependent on need and demand some additional courses are available to students of all ages, for example GCSE Astronomy is studied by students from Years 9 to 13, and GCSE Dance is also available to Year 9 students.

The education of each of our students is a partnership between the student, their parents and the college. Parents are encouraged to contact the college with any concerns. The first point of call is the student's personal tutor — each tutor has only fifteen students they are responsible for, so there should be room for plenty of contact.

