



Maidstone Grammar School  
*for Girls*

*Non sibi sed omnibus*

Curriculum Policy  
Governing Body Policy

2021 - 2022

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*A forward-thinking community with a tradition of excellence*

## Defining the Curriculum

The curriculum is a framework for setting out the aims of a programme of education, including the knowledge and skills to be gained at each stage (intent); for translating that framework over time into a structure and narrative, within an institutional context (implementation) and for evaluating what knowledge and skills pupils have gained against expectations (impact/achievement).

### Curriculum Philosophy

Our curriculum is underpinned by a broad set of common values and purposes. These are:

- encouraging in students a deeper knowledge and understanding of key ideas and concepts through a **thinking** based approach to learning
- giving sufficient time to each Key Stage so that opportunities are made available for significant **enrichment** and **extension** to ensure that all students are intellectually challenged and develop as independent learners and thinkers
- providing flexibility in curriculum design and subject choice so that students are, wherever practicable, able to personalise their learning with regard to their ability and interests whilst retaining breadth in their studies
- ensuring that learning and teaching is of the highest quality and utilises technology to enhance this where possible
- developing Thinking Skills and a positive Mindset in all students to ensure they are able to meet the increasingly challenging nature of academic and career demands.

Enquiry, enrichment and extension form the basis of our ‘Curriculum and 6th Form Extra’ programmes, and underpin our core curriculum and extra-curricular programme.

### Curriculum Vision

At Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, our curriculum vision is to enable students to achieve academic excellence and develop awareness of wider social responsibilities, in preparation for life in the modern world, in a caring, forward thinking and supportive environment.

### Curriculum Aims

At Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, our curriculum is planned with reference to the outcomes we seek to deliver for our learners. In common with national aims, we want all of the students at MGGS to be:

- **Successful learners** who enjoy learning, make excellent progress and achieve their full potential
- **Confident and forward thinking individuals** who are able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and who are capable of leading others in the modern world
- **Responsible citizens** who make a positive contribution to society and use their talents and abilities for the benefit of others as well as themselves.

We also want our students to be **resilient, independent learners and thinkers** who can, through their own efforts and persistence, adapt their knowledge, understanding and skills to pose key questions, research wisely, articulate solutions and provide novel answers to problems. In addition, we want to encourage all of our students to develop the capacity for lifelong learning, to have a love of learning and to make sure that the learning needs of all students, including the most able and those who are disadvantaged, are fully met.

Our curriculum aims are achieved through our commitment to our **MEGA** programme of **M**indset, **E**nrichment, **G**oogle (G Suite for education) and **A**dvanced Thinking.

### **The Curriculum and Our Learners**

Our curriculum structure provides all learners with:

- **equality of access**
- **a broad and balanced curriculum** which builds upon prior learning by giving students significant experience of activities and methodologies that develop knowledge, personal learning, positive Mindset, meta-cognition, the modern world and associated key skills, understanding, values and attitudes
- **a coherent curriculum** which has consistent and complementary approaches to learning and teaching, allows learners to see how different parts of the curriculum underpin and complement each other, and how acquired skills and knowledge can be applied across a wide range of contexts and situations
- **a strategically planned and sequenced** curriculum where new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before, and towards defined end-points
- **a cohesive, progressive and ambitious** subject curriculum which is appropriate and challenging for all, builds on what has gone before and prepares pupils for what comes next. Learners have challenging but attainable targets and the opportunity to follow a course of study at an appropriate level using materials, resources and methodologies appropriate to learners' needs and levels of maturity.

### **Literacy and Numeracy across the Curriculum**

At Maidstone Grammar School for Girls we recognise the importance of literacy and numeracy education across the whole curriculum and not just within the subject areas of English and Mathematics respectively. We want all of our students to be highly literate and numerate individuals so that they can fully engage with their learning at school and be best prepared for the world of higher education and employment.

### **Curriculum Structure**

The school has a mostly conventional Key Stage model (Key Stage 3 ends at the end of term 5 in Year 9), including significant amounts of additional enrichment work beyond the programmes of study incorporated into Key Stage 3 schemes of work.

The curriculum is horizontally organised with a guided choice structure operative at GCSE and a free choice structure for A level options. In addition to the 'Curriculum and 6th Form Extra' programmes of enquiry, enrichment, extension, and extra-curricular provision, the curriculum has also been organised to accommodate the needs of very able students by:

- Providing designated enrichment lessons in Years 7,8, where 'Big Questions' are explored by students and in Year 9 our Curriculum Extra programme.
- Setting in Mathematics
- Providing Science courses leading to three qualifications in GCSE Science for the majority of students
- Providing the opportunity for some students to study GCSE Astronomy.
- Enabling students in the GCSE Mathematics extension set to also study aspects of higher level Mathematics
- Providing opportunities for some Sixth Form students to follow a four A level subject route
- Providing some Sixth Form students with opportunities to access Oxford University degree modules

- Providing Sixth Form students with opportunities to complete an Extended Project Qualification
- Decisions regarding access to the above opportunities will be made by the school on the basis of student attainment data, attitude to learning and the professional judgement of our staff.
- Decisions regarding choice of examination boards and specifications, plus level of entry for an examination, are curriculum decisions and will be determined by the Head of Department for that subject in consultation with their LT line manager.

Curriculum diagrams which summarise the number of classes and frequency of lessons for subjects at Key Stages 3 to 5 are available upon request.

For current curriculum outlines, please see curriculum booklets available for each Key Stage on the MGGS website: [MGGS Curriculum](#)

### History Log

| LAST REVISED   | REVISED BY | RATIFIED BY GOVERNORS | NEXT REVIEW DATE | TIME SCALE |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| December 2012  | P Harris   | 13 March 2013         | March 2014       | Biennially |
| September 2014 | P Harris   | 18 March 2015         | March 2016       | Biennially |
| February 2016  | P Horstrup |                       | March 2018       | Biennially |
| March 2018     | P Horstrup |                       |                  |            |
| September 2019 | Z Harris   | 11 November 2019      | September 2020   | Annually   |
| September 2020 | Z Harris   |                       | September 2021   | Annually   |
| September 2021 | Z Harris   | 6 October 2021        | September 2022   | Annually   |