



## CURRICULUM POLICY

### COURSE DELIVERY

Students' knowledge and understanding is developed through a blend of classroom lessons, coursework (assessed and non-assessed) and personal sessions. Emphasis is placed on developing the students as confident, independent learners able to reflect on their learning, recognise, and react appropriately to their own strengths and weaknesses. Teaching is conducted in English and students are encouraged to use English whenever possible on School premises. In relation to all of its programmes, the College specifies a minimum level of English language ability that it believes is necessary for students proposing to join a particular course (*IELTS 5.5 for IYOne, 5.0 for A Level, 5.5 for Fast Track A level courses, 4.5 for UFP and 4.0 for Pre: Programme Courses. See Course finder booklet for other courses*).

The aim of the academic staff is to select and implement methods that are most appropriate to each module and group, while preparing the students for the methodologies and techniques to which they will be exposed at University. Course delivery involves a mix of classroom learning, workshops, seminars and one to one sessions, group-work, discussions and self-study.

### ETHOS AND VALUES

Lessons will encourage respect for other people paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Equalities Act. Students should receive an effective preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British Society. Students will be taught in ways which do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

### PRE-PROGRAMME COURSE

Students study a range of subjects, including Mathematics and English, on this one year programme. The course may include internal and/or external exams as appropriate. All students taking this course, and are under UK statutory school leaving age, are exposed to a broad and balanced curriculum, including PE and PSHE. There will inevitably be a strong focus on ESL bearing in mind the vital importance of equipping students with language skills in order to take maximum advantage of the range of courses available to them at the College. The course is a rolling programme and students can be admitted over the year if they reach the appropriate academic level and while there are still places.

### FT I/GCSE COURSE

Students generally study 5 core subjects, including Mathematics and English on this one year Programme, sitting external examinations at the end of the year. Extra-curricular activities are available for all students which include a range of sporting, social activities and visits.

## **A-LEVEL COURSES**

A wide variety of subjects can be studied in Maths, sciences, economics, languages, humanities and arts as 3, 5 or 6 term courses. Students study 3 subjects.

## **UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME**

The University Foundation Programme, or UFP, is a one year programme designed for learners of other languages. It enables students to gain skills and knowledge to progress onto university. Students study 3 subjects in the same range of A level subjects in maths, sciences, economics, languages, humanities and arts. We offer 2 or 3 term courses.

## **PROVISION FOR STUDENTS WITH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Students with English as a second language all follow an EAP course at the College to support them in their studies. Students are expected to follow the relevant course until they obtain either an IELTS score of 7.5, an A in CAE or equivalent in order to prepare them fully for the demand of further studies. ESL staff also support in a number of subject classes across the College to assist students in their understanding of the complex demands of studying certain courses

## **THE ACADEMIC ENGLISH MODULE (AEM)**

This programme is designed to assist students who wish to progress to UFP or A-level studies but whose level of proficiency in English is insufficient.

## **STUDENTS NEEDING ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT**

Students are referred to the SEN Coordinator by their parents, themselves or teaching staff. If a student has been flagged as necessitating learning support, further testing takes place. Strategies for supporting particular students are fed-back to all staff concerned so they can accommodate their needs through teaching strategies. Students are set regular targets each half term. Full details are available in the ALS Policy document.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

CATS College London is committed to the provision of additional activities to stretch our most able students and provide them with suitable extra challenges.

At London Gifted and Talented students have a wide range of options, courses and stretch activities allowing a wide variety of approaches to challenge and engage gifted and talented students. These students could be engaged in one or more of:

- Maths Challenge
- Science Olympiads
- Fast Track courses

## **STUDENTS NOT MEETING TARGETS**

Data is regularly analysed with students underachieving being identified with additional support sessions provided for them at key times of the year.

## **CAREERS GUIDANCE**

A range of activities and visits are put on over the year by the Higher Education Officer and Academic Counsellor through the Enrichment Programme, HE presentations and discussions with the Personal Tutors.

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMSC**

Students taking Pre-Programme will have a discrete PSHE. Coupled with this is a whole College Programme of Enrichment led by tutors and designated staff which covers topics such as sex education, smoking, healthy lifestyles, drugs, work related learning and a range of other key areas.

## **REQUEST BY A STUDENT TO MOVE FROM ONE COURSE TO ANOTHER**

Sometimes, for one reason or another, a parent/agent will request a transfer of their student from one course to another. This can be put into action provided there are grounds for the request. It is possible with the constraints of the timetable and all those concerned are in agreement with the proposed change. Changes after the first two weeks of the commencement of the course are usually discouraged unless in exceptional circumstances.

## **COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE (CSA) STUDENTS**

A person ceases to be of "compulsory school age" on the last Friday of June during the year that s/he becomes 16 provided that the child's birthday is before the beginning of the next school year.

## **PROGRESSION POLICIES**

A student who does not attain an attendance level of 95% (at the discretion of the Principal) may not be guaranteed entry to the next public examination session, and may be removed from their course. Students who do not pass their subjects at AS in their first year, may not be allowed onto the following year of their course.

The evidence that will demonstrate the success of this policy include:

- Assessment and Examination results
- Feedback from students in surveys and evaluation forms or directly to members of staff
- Schemes of work
- Records of work done

*Date for review: the college will review this policy annually and evaluate its effectiveness. This policy takes account of any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.*

*Reviewed: October 2020*

*Next review: August 2021*