



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## CURRICULUM WE OFFER

This overview concentrates very much on the taught curriculum through the courses offered and the opportunities available at Cheam High School. Information on the wider curriculum (such as enrichment activities, pastoral support, support for SEN, More Able Gifted and Talented and other defined groups of students) can be found in the 'How We Work' booklet and on the school website.

At Cheam High School, we pride ourselves on the breadth and choice in our curriculum. We believe that, as our students move through the school, they need to be able to select courses that stimulate their interest, support their future

aspirations and give them strong foundations for their future education and career choices. This commitment to a wide range of courses, coupled with high quality teaching and learning within each course, supports student achievement and thus the best possible results.

We invest heavily in resources to support learning. These resources include well thought out materials and texts as well as a range of resources on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) or internet (eg GCSEpod, MyMaths); ICT equipment such as interactive whiteboards, iPads and laptops; subject specialist facilities; and specialist teaching staff and dedicated support staff.

## THE FUTURE FOR THE CURRICULUM AT CHEAM HIGH SCHOOL

We believe that the curriculum we offer gives outstanding opportunities to all our students. We will continue to develop the choices that our students have, and ensure that they receive the guidance that supports them to achieve well.

## KEY STAGE 3 : YEARS 7 AND 8



In Years 7 and 8, all students take the following courses:

- Art
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Literacy and Learning to Learn
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religious Studies

- Science
- Technology
- LIFE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Careers Education)

At the end of Year 8, students are supported in choosing those subjects that they wish to follow at Key Stage 4.

This means that, during Year 9, they will spend more time on their chosen subjects, and will no longer continue with all of those listed above.



# KEY STAGE 4 : YEARS 9, 10 AND 11



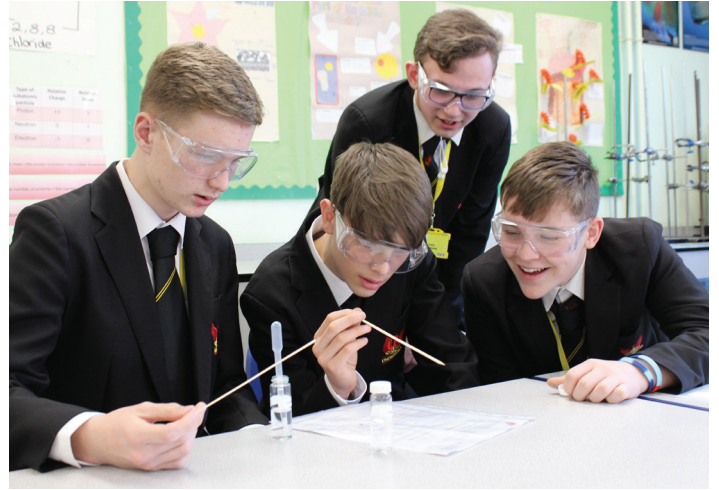
## Year 9

In Year 9, all students take:

- GCSE English Language and English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSEs in Combined Science (for the most able students Triple Science is provided)
- GCSE French, GCSE Geography or GCSE History
- LIFE - non examination (see overleaf)
- Religious Studies - non examination
- Physical Education - non examination

Students also choose three option subjects from the following list:

- Art (Graphic Design) - Applied Course
- Fine Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Construction
- Dance
- Drama
- Geography
- German
- Hair & Beauty - Applied Course
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Textiles



Each option course includes a foundation term, ensuring that students understand the range of skills and learning styles required for success on the course. There are also enrichment activities during the three years of the course.

## Years 10 and 11

During Years 10 and 11, students take:

- English Language and English Literature (two GCSEs)
- GCSE Mathematics
- Combined Science (two GCSEs) or Triple Science (three GCSEs)
- GCSE French, GCSE Geography or GCSE History
- LIFE - non examination
- Physical Education - non examination
- Many students will also take GCSE statistics.

In addition, students continue with their chosen option subjects. The majority of students will finish KS4 (Year 11) with nine GCSE equivalent qualifications.





# THE SIXTH FORM



Most students progress to the Sixth Form and the school is able to offer a very wide choice of courses based on student interest and need. Sixth Form students follow Advanced Level and/or Vocational Level 3 qualifications.

Students in the Tennis Scholarship Scheme also combine an intensive coaching programme with Sixth Form studies. In addition, the PEP group (a specialist group working with students with moderate learning difficulties) follow Entry Level programmes.

## A and AS Level Courses

- Accounting
- Art - Fine Art
- Art - Graphic Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies



- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- German
- Government & Politics
- History
- Home Economics
- Mathematics
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

## Vocational Level 3 Courses

- Applied Science
- Business Studies
- Creative Digital Media Production
- Health & Social Care
- ICT Computing
- ICT Information Technology
- Music Performance
- Music Technology
- Public Services
- Travel & Tourism

## GCSEs

- Mathematics
- English

# LIFE (Personal Social Health Education)



## What makes LIFE special?

LIFE (Learning Is For Ever) is a subject held in high regard by students and staff at Cheam High School. LIFE covers personal, social and health education as well as citizenship, work related learning and finance. All students have one hour of LIFE a week and are taught by a dedicated team of skilled staff. In Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 and 11) RS curriculum is taught as part of the LIFE provision.

## What will I gain from studying LIFE?

- Emotional intelligence
- Confidence and responsibility
- Knowing how to lead a healthier and safer lifestyle
- Good relationships
- Treating others with respect
- Team work and tolerance
- Acceptance
- Communicating and sharing ideas and thoughts

## What other opportunities are available in this subject?

In LIFE lessons students have opportunities to get involved in lots of group work and develop their discussion and reasoning skills through debates. Throughout the school year, LIFE lessons are visited by external speakers including 'Stop and Search', an organisation within the police that raises awareness amongst young people about the causes, consequences, penalties and impact of crime, and aims to build relationships with young people and the police.

## What topics will I study in Years 7 and 8?

### Year 7

Students are given the opportunity to further develop their skills in Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). The topic is designed to help students settle into secondary school life. Other topics studied include personal safety (including the safe use of the internet), as well as the environment, the community and healthy lifestyles.

### Year 8

Topics include a unit of work exploring families, as well as units of work on the media, crime and punishment. Lessons are also used to explore the options at 13+ process as well. Year 8 finishes by examining what it means to be an adult and learning about the changes that students will be experiencing over the next few years.

## What topics will I study in Years 9, 10 and 11?

Students study topics ranging from conflict, global citizenship, extremism, radicalisation, the changing world of work, careers, relationships with others, to parenting and pregnancy. Students also study some religious study modules in KS4 LIFE lessons, including medical ethics and poverty and wealth. Year 11 LIFE lessons are aimed at preparing students for adult life. These lessons are sometimes adapted to reflect current issues.

Students in all years will also have lessons devoted to sex education, drug education (including alcohol), anti-bullying, and safer internet use in line with statutory guidelines.

## What courses are available post 16?

LIFE is not offered to post 16 students as a timetabled lesson, although students will continue to use the skills they have learnt in their other subjects. The post 16 tutor programme continues to explore the relevant topics and further develops LIFE skills and knowledge.