

Meden School and Technology College

Curriculum Policy

The development of the curriculum at Meden is underpinned by the following basic principles :

- The curriculum must aim to provide for the needs of all learners.
- The curriculum must be primarily driven by pupil need.
- The curriculum must be affordable and sustainable.
- The curriculum must reflect statutory entitlement.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3 pupils will experience the full range of National Curriculum subjects. The extra emphasis on the core of English, Maths and Science will be reflected in the allocation of taught time in these areas in relation to non-core subjects. In 2005-2006, this allocation is equivalent to 12% curriculum time per core subject.

At the end of Key Stage 3, pupils will receive a Teacher Assessment level in all subject areas, alongside the core SATs outcomes.

Key Stage 4

The selection process for GCSE courses will be via the school's options process in the last year of KS3. The curriculum structure for KS4 will attempt to reflect pupils' academic interests and choices. The aim is that the vast majority of pupils will be able to follow their first choice options, but courses must be cost effective if they are to be offered.

An option subject is deemed to need 15 pupils for a group to be viable. Groups below this number will not run.

At Key Stage 4, Meden will work with partner schools and organisations in the Mansfield Consortium in order to ensure that pupils are offered a broad and relevant curriculum.

Some pupils will be disapplied from GCSE courses and provided with a curriculum that aims to provide basic skills development through courses like Asdan.

Key Stage 5

At Post-16, Meden is committed to its partnership with other schools in the Mansfield Consortium and the common timetable arrangements.

Students will be offered a broad and varied curriculum, with courses at both level 2 and 3. Advanced level students will be expected to start a course of four AS levels, continuing three courses through to A2. Students will be funded for a maximum of one resit module per subject at each of AS and A2. Other resits must be funded by the student.

Ideally, group sizes should be no less than 7, including students from other schools, and no more than 20. However, it is recognised that numbers may be higher than 20 at the beginning of AS and it may not always be possible to provide a second group because of staffing and timetabling. The viability of groups less than 7 will be discussed between the Head Teacher and the Assistant Head (Curriculum and Timetable), as and when the situation arises.

Any student starting a two-year course at Meden will be able to complete that course, whether at Meden or at a partner school, apart from in cases where a student's participation is terminated on grounds of attitude and behaviour.

All major curriculum development decisions will be ratified by the Governing Body.

Timetabling

The timetable will be constructed in response to the designated curriculum for a given year. Priority will be given to Post-16 courses, followed by GCSE and then KS3. Subject leaders will be expected to provide details of preferred staffing and rooming, which will be adhered to wherever possible, within the confines of the whole school picture.

All staff will be timetabled primarily to teach in their area of expertise, but some may be asked to engage in a second or third subject outside their specialism.

The ultimate responsibility for timetable decisions rests with the Head Teacher, guided by the Assistant Head (Curriculum and Timetable).