



2026-27 Curriculum

Ermysted's Grammar School

The Governing Body of Ermysted's Grammar School (the 'School') ratified this policy on **14 May 2026**.

Curriculum Intent

The school curriculum is fit for purpose and purposeful. It supports high academic achievement and the wider development of knowledgeable, articulate, and confident young people. It includes the following areas of experience: aesthetic and creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, spiritual, and technological.

The programme includes all the requirements of the National Curriculum and contains additional opportunities to engage pupils in the wider pursuit of scholarship. Through its design, the curriculum seeks to equip pupils with the intellectual, cultural, and emotional means for life beyond school.

The curriculum is engaging, relevant, broad and balanced, fostering the acquisition both of subject knowledge and of skills. Sequenced thoughtfully and progressing at a suitable pace, it provides the necessary individual support whilst ensuring appropriate levels of challenge. At GCSE and A Level, the School offers a wide range of subjects and seeks to accommodate individual preferences and all pupils have access to similar learning opportunities and experiences. Lessons are taught by skilled and knowledgeable practitioners and faculties are sufficiently resourced and supported to allow a rich learning experience to be provided to every pupil.

Progression to the next stage of education or employment is enabled by the curriculum, which also seeks to educate pupils beyond the requirements of the examination specifications. All pupils are provided with a wide range of linguistic and creative experiences, including a core offer of two languages on entry, to ensure that they maintain balance in their studies. Curriculum enrichment opportunities are meaningful and carefully planned to support and enhance the core offer.

Curriculum development features prominently in school planning and its implementation is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is having the desired impact.

Key Stage 3

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are placed into forms of mixed ability. All pupils follow the same extensive programme of study in art and design, biology, chemistry, computing, design technology, English, food and nutrition, French, geography, German, history, mathematics, music, physical education, physics, PSHCE, and religious studies; thereby, going far beyond the statutory National Curriculum.

To enable pupils to mix with others in the year group and make friendships outside of their form, all teaching groups are changed on entry to Year 8.

Details of the content of the KS3 courses can be found on the curriculum section of the school website.

Key Stage 4

Pupils commence their GCSE studies in Year 9 with all external examinations taken at the end of Year 11. Classes are set by ability in mathematics in Years 10 and 11 but are mixed ability everywhere else. Pupils change form groups at the start of Year 9.

All pupils follow a compulsory programme of GCSEs in biology, chemistry, English Language, English Literature, mathematics, and physics. All pupils select a further four optional GCSE subjects, which should include a language (French or German) and must include a humanities subject (geography or history).

The range of optional GCSE courses on offer varies each year. Typically, pupils select from a list that includes art and design, computer science, design and technology, French, geography, German, history, music, physical education, and religious studies.

If an insufficient number of pupils choose a subject for it to be viable, the School may decide to withdraw the course. If too many pupils apply for a course, the over-subscription criteria will be made clear to those affected. Please note that due to timetabling restrictions, not all subject combinations are possible.

In KS4 pupils follow compulsory non-examined enrichment courses. Programmes vary from year to year but currently include courses in:

- art, careers, computer science, food and nutrition, *ab initio* Italian, and music (in Year 9);
- art, British politics, economics, history, and *ab initio* Spanish (in Year 10);
- art, driving theory, music, literature in context, American politics (in Year 11); and
- other compulsory courses in PSHCE, core physical education, and religious education delivered in each of Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11.

Details of the content of the KS4 courses can be found on the curriculum section of the school website.

Key Stage 5

On entry, students select three subjects to follow at A-Level. For students with sufficiently high prior attainment at GCSE, a fourth subject can be added. External examinations are taken at the end of Year 13.

The range of A-level courses on offer varies each year, but typically students select from a list that includes art and design, biology, business studies, chemistry, computer science, design engineering, economics, English literature, English language, French, further mathematics, geography, German, politics, product design, history, mathematics, media studies, music, physical education, physics, psychology, and philosophy & ethics. Some of these courses are run in collaboration with Skipton Girls' High School and some may be co-taught alongside Year 13 students.

If an insufficient number of students choose a subject for it to be viable, the school may decide to withdraw the course. If too many students apply for a course, the over-subscription criteria will be made clear to those affected. Please note that due to timetabling restrictions, not all subject combinations are possible.

There is an even stronger emphasis at this stage on scholarship and on students developing independent study and research into areas of personal interest. A significant number of sixth form students pursue this through the Extended Project Qualification.

A-level work is supplemented by a lecture programme that offers distinguished visiting speakers the opportunity to present significant issues for question and discussion. There are also compulsory non-examined courses in PSHCE and RSE, and an enrichment programme that includes careers, apprenticeships, and preparation for higher education. Physical Education or participation in the volunteering programme is part of the core curriculum in the Sixth Form.

Details of the content of the KS5 courses can be found on the Sixth Form section of the school website.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The School offers appropriate support to pupils who are experiencing difficulties in certain aspects of the curriculum. The SEND Coordinator manages this programme (please see the **SEND Information Report** and **SEND Policy** for more details).

Appendix

Timetable structure and subject allocation

The school organises its main teaching into **50 one-hour periods** spread across a **two-week timetable**.



Ermysted's GS
2026-27

Curriculum structure

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50				
Year 7	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	En	Bi	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	Ph	Cp	Cp	Cp	Fr	Fr	Fr	Gm	Gm	Gm	Ar	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Hi	Gg	Gg	Gg	Dt	Dt	Mu	Mu	RS	RS	RS	PD	PE	PE	PE	PE	PE			
Year 8	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	En	Bi	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	Ph	Cp	Cp	Fr	Fr	Fr	Fr	Gm	Gm	Gm	Gm	Ar	Ar	Ar	Hi	Hi	Gg	Gg	Dt	Dt	Dt	Mu	Mu	Mu	RS	RS	PD	PE	PE	PE	PE	PE			
Year 9	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	Bi	Bi	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	Oth	Oth	RS	PD	PE	PE	PE	PE			
Year 10	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	Bi	Bi	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	Oth	Oth	RS	PD	PE	PE	PE	PE				
Year 11	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	En	Bi	Bi	Bi	Bi	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ch	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	Oth	Oth	RS	PD	PE	PE	PE	PE				
Year 12	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	PS	PS	PS	PS	LC	LC	PE	PE	PE	PE			
Year 13	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	PS	PS	PS	PS	LC	LC	PE	PE	PE	PE

Period count (hours per fortnight)

Ar	Bi	Ch	Cp	DT	En	Fr	Gg	Gm	Hi	PD	Ma	Mu	PE	Ph	RS	Oth	A	B	C	D	PS	LC	
3	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	3	3	1	5	2	5	3	3								50
2	3	3	2	3	6	4	2	4	2	1	5	3	5	3	2								50
	4	4			8					1	6		4	4	1	2	4	4	4	4			50
	4	4			8					1	6		4	4	1	2	4	4	4	4			50
	4	4			8					1	6		4	4	1	2	4	4	4	4			50
													4				10	10	10	10	4	2	50
												4					10	10	10	10	4	2	50