

Academic curriculum

Academic tuition is delivered by an experienced staff of well-qualified, graduate teachers. This aspect of the school's work is of central importance and students regularly achieve outstanding success in public examinations at GCSE and A-level. Form Tutors monitor the progress and welfare of each student, and pastoral care is provided through an extensive network of academic, residential and vocational staff. Internal academic assessment takes place throughout the year, and parents receive regular written reports. As well as the annual parent-teacher evenings for each year group, parents are welcome to contact the school at any time over academic matters.

A-level studies not only complement and enrich Elmhurst's vocational training but, in the event of a career cut short by injury or a change of aspiration, they constitute a reliable insurance policy. If a student decides to go to university after his/her final year of training, every support is given by the Principal and her staff.

Lower School curriculum

Key Stage 3

For the first three years (Years 7-9), all students study English, French, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, PSHE (discreetly), Religious Education, Information Technology, Art, Drama and Music.

Key Stage 4

Students continue to Key Stage 4 by taking a range of subjects leading to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). For these two years (Years 10 and 11), most students take five full GCSE courses in the core subjects, together with Drama. Two further subjects are selected from the list of options. The majority of students will graduate with the equivalent of eight and a half GCSE passes, ranging through a dozen subjects.

Core subjects (full GCSE): English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (double award), Drama

Optional subjects (two of the following): Art, Music, Geography, History, French

PSHE / RE: All students study a range of issues which include topics such as animal experimentation, abortion, war and peace, prejudice, environmental issues, the origins of life, arguments for and against belief in God. At the end of the course, there is the opportunity to be entered for Module 2 (Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues) of a GCSE Short Course in RE.

Sixth Form curriculum

A-level courses are modular in form, with students taking three modules of study at AS and a further three to attain the full A-level (A2). The school at present offers AS qualifications in Art, English Literature, French and Music. Students may also progress to A2 study in most of these subjects if satisfactorily passed at AS in the first year of the Sixth Form. As an alternative to one of these optional courses of academic study, students may select the course in Office & Administration Skills which has been designed to assist them with their text processing and ICT skills. In Year 6.2, as an alternative to the optional A2 subjects, there may be the opportunity to take the GCSE in Business & Communication Systems.

For students enrolling on 2009-11 courses, i.e. those students who will be joining Year 6.1 in September 2009, the combination of subjects will be available according to the following option blocks:

	Block A 2009-11	Block B 2009-11
6:1	AS English Literature OR French	AS: Music OR Art OR Business and Communications Systems
6:2	A2 English Literature OR French	A2: Music OR Art OR GCSE Business & Communication Systems

English as an additional language

For those students whose first language is not English, we are able to offer, where appropriate, English as an Additional Language (EAL) in support of their academic and artistic studies. Due to the specialist nature of EAL, courses attract an additional fee of £500 per pupil per term. SEN support is also available for pupils with dyslexia or similar needs.