

General Information

KS4 Curriculum

At Millais School pupils learn through the taught curriculum (formal) and through a wide range of extra-curricular activities, tutor time and themed assemblies (informal curriculum). There is a strong emphasis on social, moral and spiritual development in all areas of school life.

Informal curriculum

Pupils learn about citizenship through participation in school and external clubs or organisations - for example, school councils, Outset work, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Young Enterprise. Participation in such groups helps students learn about key skills and also provides opportunities to use entrepreneurial skills; to develop, make and evaluate products or services and to identify opportunities to be active citizens.

Formal Curriculum

At Millais the formal curriculum operates over a two week timetable of 30 lessons (of 50 minutes) in each week.

Options

Towards the end of KS3 pupils are asked to choose their options for Key Stage 4. An outline of the curriculum the pupils currently choose from is given below.

Compulsory Subjects

GCSE

English (Lit & Lang)
Maths
Science (2 GCSE's)
One modern foreign language
Religious Education

Non-exam

Physical Education
Personal Social Health & Citizenship Education

Optional Subjects

Plus a choice of up to 4 full GCSE's from the following;

Second Foreign Language
(Spanish/German/Italian/Japanese/Chinese)
Design and Technology (Textiles/Catering/Graphics/Resistant Materials)
History
Geography
Leisure & Tourism
Philosophy & Ethics
Art
Drama
Music
Dance
Performing Arts
PE GCSE
Citizenship
Child Development
Information Technology
Business & Communication Systems
Triple Science
Statistics with Additional Maths

Non-GCSE courses

CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness)
Junior Sports leader Award
International Award
Study Plus
Food studies (City & Guilds)
Literacy Support
International Award

In KS4, most subjects are taught in groups which are set by ability.

The method of assessment for GCSE varies from subject to subject. In most subjects some element of coursework is assessed and the majority of subjects also have a written examination. Several subjects include practical and/or oral tests.

In certain subjects all pupils sit the same examination papers regardless of their ability and the questions are differentiated to enable all candidates to demonstrate their ability. In other subjects some sections of the examination are common to all students and others may vary according to the ability of the candidates.

At Millais School the pupils are placed in those teaching sets in each subject where the pace of the work and the interpretation of the syllabus will enable them to achieve the highest grade of which they are capable.

Final Grades

Final grades range from A* A B C D E F G and Ungraded

Special Educational Needs

The Special Educational Needs curriculum area offers individual advice and support both before option choices are made and throughout Years 10 and 11. Pupils who experience difficulties, either in selecting courses or with a particular subject, are given additional help and support from the Special Educational Needs curriculum area.

EXAMINING BOARDS

A.Q.A.	-	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
O.C.R.	-	Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
EDEXCEL	-	Education Excellence - London Examinations

Homework

Homework is a vital part of learning and enhances the KS4 study programme by encouraging good independent learning skills. Each homework is of approximately 45 minutes duration except Modern Languages which is 25 minutes.

Assessments, exams and reports

Parents are informed of their child's Personal Commitment to Learning (PCTL) in a report which shows both the progress made towards predicted levels, how committed the pupil is to their own learning and how they approach their studies. During the Key Stage, each pupil will receive a full report which comments on her progress in more detail. All reports show how a pupil can make improvements to their performance.

Pupil progress is monitored in detail by each subject teacher and progress is continually compared to predicted grades based on CVA data (Contextual Value Added). This means that our expectations of the pupils always remains very high and we set ourselves, our teaching staff and the pupils high but realistic targets.

There are consultation evenings where parents have the opportunity to discuss pupil progress with individual teachers.

Mock examinations for GCSE courses take place in November of Year 11 but some modular courses require pupils to take regular GCSE examinations throughout Years 10 & 11.

For further information about Key Stage 4 courses go to Curriculum Area links:

English

Mathematics

Science

Modern Foreign Languages

Design & Technology/ ICT

Humanities

Creative & Expressive Arts

Physical Education

Special Educational Needs