

# **Curriculum Statement**

Omagh Academy is a Co-educational Grammar School with an enrolment number of 660 and an admission number of 95 pupils per year into Yr 8, over a 4 stream intake.

Omagh Academy seeks to provide a secure, caring, learning environment where everyone is committed to an ethos of mutual respect and in which all individuals are encouraged to their maximum potential. Pupils are empowered to make informed and responsible choices and decisions which will help them prepare for life and work.

## **The School Curriculum:**

- The School curriculum consists of all those activities designed and encouraged within its organisational framework to promote the intellectual, personal, social and physical development of the pupils. It includes not only the formal programme of lessons but also a programme of extra-curricular activities.
- Teachers are involved in both the academic and pastoral dimension of the Curriculum:
  - The academic elements help develop pupils in terms of communication skills, numerical skills, ICT skills, Thinking Skills and Personal capabilities, including decision-making skills, problem solving and study skills.
  - The pastoral elements help develop pupils in terms of confidence, independence, sense of fair play, self-discipline, responsibility, integrity and an appreciation of the environment
- While the Northern Ireland Curriculum prescribes a significant part of Omagh Academy's Curriculum it does not provide the whole picture. The School Curriculum goes beyond statutory requirements in the following way:-
  - The School provides timetabled elements in addition to those which are compulsory
  - The School includes a European dimension within a range of subjects
  - The School incorporates a careers element within subjects and at all Key Stages
  - The School provides a programme of extra-curricular activities
  - The School continues to develop its own ethos

## **Elements of The School Curriculum.**

- **KS 3 – Years 8 – 10**

Pupils in Yr 8 are divided into 4 groups for teaching purposes. In line with the statutory guidelines on class sizes, some practical subjects are sub-divided into sets of 20 or smaller. Within the framework of The Revised Curriculum the School incorporates the various elements required, in addition to the Areas of Learning. These elements include :- Learning for Life and Work [including coverage of Citizenship and Employability], Drama, Cross-Curricular Skills, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities and Assessment for Learning.

In Yrs 9 and 10 this academic structure continues and pupils are given an opportunity to study a second foreign language ie. Spanish or German years.

There is no streaming or banding in Yrs 8 and 9, but partial streaming occurs in Yr 10 for Mathematics.

Available subjects are shown in the Appendix.

- **KS 4 – Years 11 and 12**

Pupils follow a two year programme of study leading to the award of GCSE grades. Pupils are streamed in both Mathematics and Modern Languages, and in addition there is a top set in Double Award Science.

Subjects timetabled are structured on a free choice, based on pupil preferences. Subject choices are explained during Careers classes and a parents' meeting is held in Yr 10 before choices are confirmed.

Each pupil is required to select a combination of subjects which conforms to the national curriculum requirement for a broad, balanced and coherent programme of study. However there is sufficient flexibility in the system to allow for a degree of specialization that takes account of each pupil's aptitudes and interests. In addition, pupils have been offered a twilight course in GCSE Performing Arts.

Available subjects are shown in the Appendix

- KS 5 – Years 13 and 14

Students follow a two year programme of study leading to the award of GCE grades. Most students take 4 subjects at AS level in Yr 13 and at A2 Level 3 subjects in Yr 14: more able students take 4 full A-Level courses. All follow courses in Careers, PE, General Studies and units of Personal Development. Opportunities are provided for Yr13 pupils to have 3 days work experience. Yr 13 pupils taking only 3 AS subjects are offered a Further Studies enrichment programme.

In line with The Entitlement Framework, The School is involved in collaborative arrangements with the South West College, Omagh High School, Loreto Grammar School and The Christian Brothers Grammar School in order to facilitate the delivery of an appropriate range of courses. The subjects taken off-site are : - Agriculture and Land Based Development, Engineering, Construction, Child Care and Development, Hospitality, Sports Studies, Further Mathematics, Media Games Development and Software Systems Development. This collaborative arrangement is facilitated through the Omagh Learning Community.

Subjects timetabled are structured on a free choice, based on pupil preferences. Subject choices are explained in Careers classes, during specially organized information presentations for off-site subjects by off-site providers and a parents' meeting is held in-house in Yr 12 before choices are confirmed.

Available subjects are shown in the Appendix.

### **Timetable Constraints:-**

It should be noted that every endeavour is made to offer each pupil an individual timetable designed to meet his/her abilities, career needs, special interests and personal aspirations, as far as is compatible with the resources of the school and regulations on class sizes.



**Subjects Offered at KS3 :-**

1. Art & Design
2. Drama
3. English
4. French
5. Games
6. Geography
7. German
8. History
9. Home Economics
10. ICT
11. Learning for Life & Work
12. Mandarin[Chinese]
13. Mathematics
14. Music
15. PE
16. Religious Education
17. Science [Biology, Chemistry and Physics are delivered separately in Yr10]
18. Spanish
19. Technology

### **Subjects Offered at KS 4 :-**

1. Agriculture
2. Art & Design
3. Biology
4. Business Studies
5. Chemistry
6. Computer Science
7. English
8. English Literature
9. French
10. Geography
11. History
12. Food & Nutrition
13. Digital Technology
14. Mathematics
15. Further Mathematics
16. Music
17. Performing Arts [T]
18. Physical Education
19. Physics
20. Religious Studies
21. Science Double Award
22. Spanish
23. Design & Technology

[T] = Twilight Course delivered in school

- A-Level Polish is offered Off-Site

Non-Exam = PE, Games, Careers, Learning for Life and Work and Religious Education

### **Subjects offered at KS 5 :-**

1. Agriculture/Land Based Development \*
2. Art & Design
3. Biology
4. Business Studies
5. Chemistry
6. Child Care & Development \*
7. Construction \*
8. Engineering \*
9. English Literature
10. French
11. Geography
12. Health & Social Care
13. History
14. Nutrition & Food Science
15. Hospitality \*
16. Digital Technology
17. Mathematics
18. Further Mathematics \*
19. Media Games Development\*
20. Music
21. Physics
22. Politics
23. Psychology
24. Religious Studies
25. Software Systems Development\*
26. Spanish
27. Sports Studies \*
28. Technology

\* = subjects delivered off-site

Non-Exam = PE, Games, Further Studies and General Studies