

General Lower School Booklet

FOR ENTRY 2017-18



PRIOR PARK
SCHOOL
GIBRALTAR



Welcome to the Prior Park School curriculum

This booklet is designed to give both prospective pupils and their parents a flavour of what we hope our curriculum will offer children in years 8-11.

Whilst it is inevitable that GCSE examinations at the end of this period should influence the shape of what is studied and in what proportions, we are very keen that this should also be a time when children still have opportunities to express themselves and develop their creativity in art, music and drama and also learn vital physical skills in PE.

The space in years 8 and 9, before work begins in earnest on meeting the needs of GCSE specifications, should not only allow us to expose children to the full range of subjects on offer at GCSE but also to study topics such as the History and Geography of Gibraltar and aspects of Spanish and Moorish culture that will not be examined formally in year 11.

Separate science subjects will be studied by the children for the first time in our bespoke and well-equipped Biology, Chemistry and Physics laboratories where the emphasis will be on learning through practical work. Our PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) programme will work alongside Religious Education and our Modern Christian Catholic ethos to help the children develop fully as individuals and as members of our local and global communities. We hope to equip them with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to grow up healthily, safely, productively and responsibly.

I hope that you find this booklet informative/useful and, on behalf of all of the staff, wish you a very successful and enjoyable time in the Lower School.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peter Watts BSc CPhys Headmaster
Prior Park School, Gibraltar

PRIOR PARK SCHOOL, GIBRALTAR



THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Year 8

All pupils follow the same broad curriculum which allows them to sample the full range of potential GCSE subjects, to pursue a full range of creative disciplines and have sufficient contact time in core subjects.

The subjects studied are English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science, Spanish, Geography, History, IT, Performing Arts (Drama & Music), Art, RE and Physical Education. Each period is forty minutes long. French and Italian will be introduced through clubs that take place in co-curricular time. PSHCE helps children to make well-informed choices and to be prepared for the challenges that will face them throughout adolescence and on in adulthood.

Year 9

Again, all pupils following the same curriculum.

The subjects studied are English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science, Spanish, Geography, History, IT, Performing Arts (Drama & Music), Art, RE and Physical Education. A slightly increased timetable allocation in humanities allows for better preparation for GCSE. Pupils will commence their study of the GCSE specifications in English, Mathematics and Science, the latter allowing the option of choosing either separate sciences or dual award science in Year 10.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Year 10

All pupils study a core curriculum to GCSE of English (Language & Literature), Mathematics, Sciences (Physics/Chemistry/Biology), and Spanish. In addition pupils select three further subjects from the options of Geography, History, RE (full or half course), Separate science, PE, Second MFL (French/Italian), Music and Art. Thus all pupils will achieve 9 or 10 GCSE's. The default is that all pupils study dual award science.

Supporting the academic curriculum will be PSHCE and PE, as well as RE for those who do not select the subject as a full GCSE qualification.



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Information given in this document is believed to be correct at the time of printing.

This, however, does not form part of any agreement between the School and current or prospective parents. Those requiring information on specific matters should seek written confirmation from the School.