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# Isca Academy

## Curriculum Statement

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## 1. Curriculum Vision

At Isca Academy our curriculum is carefully designed to inspire our scholars in the classroom. We ensure we provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is academically rigorous and is ambitious for every single child.

The curriculum at Isca sets out to prepare our scholars for a life beyond the Academy. The ambition within it ensures that scholars are put on the path to achieve in their future.

At its heart the curriculum is a representation of our central school mission: "Excellence through habit"

We **INSPIRE** our scholars

Celebrate their **SUCCESS**

Care about our **COMMUNITY**

And have **AMBITION** for every single child

The Key Principles that inform our curriculum design are:

- The Isca curriculum is balanced – All subjects are valued and we do not narrow our curriculum early.
- The Isca Curriculum is rigorous – Students engage in regular low-stake assessments, homework and purposeful feedback for progress.
- The Isca curriculum is coherent – We make connections within and between subjects.
- The Isca curriculum is vertically intergrated – Knowledge and skills are taught is cohesively, cumulatively and are carefully sequenced.
- The Isca curriculum is appropriate for scholars in the classroom – It is ambitious and challenging, yet supportive and personalised.

## 2. The Common Curriculum and the Ted Wragg Trust

We are proud to be a member of the Ted Wragg Trust. An ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools strengthening our communities through excellent education, transforming lives and making the world a better place.

We work with expert teachers in our Trust of schools to create a common curriculum across subjects that is designed to build knowledge and understanding to accelerate student achievement in their subject areas. By working in relentless collaboration with our Trust colleagues, we can ensure that scholars at Isca receive the very highest standards of education.

### 3. The Cycle System

The School year is divided into three cycles of twelve weeks. Each cycle comprises ten teaching weeks, during which students cover new topics in preparation for examinations and assessments at the end of Year 11.

The eleventh week is an assessment week when all students in Years 7-11 complete tests and other assessments in every subject to analyse their strengths and identify areas for further development.

In the twelfth week, known as the Super Teaching Week, teachers re-teach areas that have been identified as areas for development from the assessments.

Week	Cycle
1	<b>Pre-teaching week</b> Context lessons Knowledge Assessments (baseline testing)
2	Lessons as normal
3	<p><b>Core subjects:</b> Mid-cycle assessment window 2 meaningful assessments to be completed during this time</p> <p><b>All other subjects:</b> Mid-cycle assessment window 1 meaningful assessment to be completed during this time</p>
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	Lessons as normal
10	Lessons as normal
11	<b>Assessment Week</b>
12	<b>Super Teaching Week</b>

The first lesson of every cycle is a contextual lesson where the teacher outlines what will be covered within the cycle and how it will prepare students for the final assessment / examination in week twelve. A baseline assessment takes place during the first week, which establishes the prior knowledge of each student.

Each cycle comprises of ten teaching weeks during which students cover new topics, each one building on the knowledge of previous learning.

The eleventh week is an assessment week, when all students in years 7-11 complete tests and other assessments in every subject to analyse their strengths and weaknesses in current and previous cycles.

In the twelfth week known as 'super teach week', teachers provide high-quality feedback and re-teach areas that students have struggled with in their assessments.

## 4. Promoting Literacy

At Isca Academy, we have a whole school approach to literacy that promotes reading and literacy in all subject areas. Isca Academy is a reading school; every tutor reads the Isca Anthology with their tutees for 20 minutes, four times a week. Every Year 7 and Year 8 student follows the Sparx Reader programme – designed to promote reading progress in a personalised and enjoyable way.

We are working towards a common language of literacy where key grammatical concepts are taught across the curriculum in order to support students' knowledge of how to write accurately, creatively and academically. Our plans include:

- All teachers explicitly teaching literacy in all their schemes of learning, including specific vocabulary instruction.
- All pieces of extended writing are marked for spelling (sp), punctuation (p) paragraphs (/) and capital letters (c) with the same marking codes being used across all subjects.
- In all lessons, students are encouraged to answer verbal questions in full sentences to help develop their oracy and reasoning skills.

Intervention is offered to students who are below age-related expectations in reading through our Lexia programme. Every intervention is bespoke to suit our students' needs.

## 5. Mathematical Literacy (Numeracy)

At Isca Academy, we believe it is really important that students are fully numerate, able to use numbers and mathematical approaches across the curriculum as well as being confident solving real- life mathematical problems.

At Isca Academy our approach to whole school numeracy:

- Promotes the application of mathematics and develop problem solving skills in all subject areas
- Raises the profile of mathematics across the school
- Raises the aspirations of all our students
- Ensures there is a common language of numeracy where key concepts are taught across the whole curriculum
- Ensures there is a consistent approach to the teaching of particular numerical concepts across the curriculum including:
  - Plotting graphs
  - Solving equations
  - Rearranging formula
  - Calculating gradients
  - Isometric drawing
  - Volume of a prism
  - Illustrating data

At Isca, we are proud to use Sparx Maths as a cornerstone of our numeracy strategy. Sparx provides personalised work in class and at home to support each scholar in developing their mathematical knowledge and skills.