



ACADEMIC CURRICULUM POLICY

1. Aims

Epsom College in Malaysia is a co-educational, boarding and day school with strong curricular links to UK based qualifications. Our mission is to provide excellent all-round academic opportunities by teaching pupils to aim for excellence, yet by valuing both achievement and endeavour we ensure that all pupils have exceptional opportunities to learn and make progress.

The College constantly reviews curricular provision to ensure that we offer a modern and stimulating curriculum and an excellent preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life both within and beyond Asia.

2. Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

The aim of Key Stage 3 is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which builds upon prior learning where possible and gives pupils from a wide variety of educational backgrounds a sound basis for IGCSE study. All pupils have lessons in English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Music, Art, Drama and PE. All pupils in Year 7 will learn Mandarin and pupils in all year groups who are Malaysian citizens also receive Bahasa Melayu and (if from the Islamic faith) Islamic Studies. Pupils in Years 8 and 9 can currently opt to study French and/or Spanish.

The College provides additional English tuition instead of a foreign language for those pupils whose proficiency in English is not sufficient to be in the mainstream. Years 7 and 8 include an Intensive EAL stream where up to half of the timetable is English tuition (with withdrawal from History and Geography lessons). The attainment of these EAL students is monitored each half term and students are moved from the IEAL to the EAL and mainstream as appropriate to their progress.

Setting is generally mixed ability except for the EAL and Mathematics classes.

Pupils are tested on entry to the College to measure current attainment and those with Special Educational Needs are identified. Learning Support provision is tailored to the individual and may take the form of teacher adaptation in lessons or one to one tutorials which take place outside academic lesson times.

3. Key Stage 4 - GCSE/IGCSE (Years 10 and 11)

Most pupils study ten IGCSE subjects. Pupils have lessons in English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics as well as Mandarin and/or Bahasa Melayu (also Islamic Studies for Malaysian Citizens, who are of the Islamic faith). In addition to these core subjects students study four option subjects from a wide range choices. PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is provided through weekly tutor sessions in Houses. The provision of these subjects is reviewed annually based on student demand, quality of outcomes and progression routes to higher education courses.

Mathematics, Science and English are set according to student attainment. Option subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

Tuition in European Languages (French and Spanish) will be provided through the Co-Curricular programme. Where appropriate pupils will be supported to achieve accreditation for their achievement, DELF, IGCSE or equivalent.

4. The Sixth Form - A Levels (Years 12 and 13)

Students in the Sixth Form study three principal A-level subjects and a core curriculum is also available, including PSHE, EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), Higher Education support and guidance and IELTS tuition for EAL students. For exceptional students, a fourth A-level (often Further Mathematics) can be agreed.

The European Language Co-Curricular time will also be available for Sixth Form students with accreditation as appropriate.

The range of A Level subjects offered for study is reviewed annually based on student demand, quality of outcomes, and progression routes to higher education.

All students are screened on entry into the Sixth Form to monitor progress and those with Special Educational Needs are identified.

5. Careers

The College seeks to enable students to access competitive university courses. Careers guidance begins in Year 9 and continues through subsequent year groups. By the time of the Sixth Form entry, Years 12 and 13, it is thorough, up to date and bespoke to each individual depending on their intended pathway. Tutorial preparation is given to those wishing to apply to Oxford and Cambridge and for those sitting BMAT or LNAT papers. SATs tuition is arranged for those applying for American universities.