

Curriculum Statement 2015-16

Our school mission statement is:

To maximise the potential of every learner and provide them with the skills, qualities, qualifications and opportunities needed to succeed in an ever-changing world.

We have a desire to ensure that as well as maximising learners' academic outcomes, Tong students have the opportunity to develop the skills required to become successful lifelong learners and positive citizens. We understand that it is essential that our curriculum provides our students with the most effective framework possible within which they can learn and develop as individuals and also as a community.

Creating a desire to learn that goes beyond the school walls

In order to achieve our mission statement the curriculum needs to go beyond the classroom to also cover extensive extra-curricular and student leadership opportunities. We are increasingly focussed on independent learning via our Tong Responsible Learner initiative whereby all students strive to become independent and responsible learners both in school and at home.

Learning should be a positive, enjoyable experience which opens doors and creates opportunities. At Tong we believe education should also be about creating in all students a curiosity which makes them lifelong learners.

The curriculum has been designed to allow all students to have opportunities to achieve qualifications in a range of subjects, follow areas of particular interest and specialise in the subjects in which they excel.

In addition to academic study, our curriculum covers a broad range of topics such as careers advice and guidance, enterprise, keeping safe, British values and sex and relationships education and meets all national expectations.

Everyone is encouraged to reach their academic potential so that all students can compete for the best places in higher education, employment and further professional training.

Core Academic Curriculum

Years 7 and 8

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which meets statutory requirements.

There is an emphasis on developing skills. The key skills we focus on are:

- Literacy, numeracy, and ICT
- Enterprise and employability skills which will strengthen future economic success
- Interpersonal skills which establish confidence, independence and the ability to collaborate effectively
- Critical thinking skills.

We believe that reading skills are so integral to academic success that we dedicate two hours a week to reading intervention for those students who need it.

We have a two week period timetable in place across the school and operate a 50 period fortnight. Throughout the curriculum we seek to develop students' broader skills, such as independent learning and enterprise.

Subject	Number of periods Year 7	Number of Periods Year 8
English	7	7
Maths	6	6
Science	5	6
Humanities	4	4
Art	2	2
Technology	4	4
PE	4	4
IT	2	2
Citizenship	2	2
RE	2	2
Languages	4	4
Performing Arts	6	5
Reading	2	2
Total	50	50

We aim to ensure that all students who attend Tong High School achieve their potential irrespective of their starting point. To provide this we have a team of people in school with specialised skills in supporting a wide range of learners. Some of these work in the classroom alongside students providing them with individual support to ensure that they get the best out of the curriculum. We also have a team of people which works with students for whom the standard curriculum does not always provide them with the support they require. We also provide intervention support for students who join us below Level 4 at Key Stage 2.

Years 9 and 10

In Year 9, students begin key stage 4 and start to prepare for the GCSE and BTEC examinations sat in Year 11.

Students in Year 9 begin one of two pathways which will continue until the end of Year 11. This allows a foundation GCSE/BTEC year in the student's chosen subjects.

Pathway 1

Core Examinable subjects

English, English Literature, Mathematics, Core Science, Additional Science, Spanish and either History or Geography.

Students then choose 2 subjects from the following:-

- Art & Design

- Beauty Therapy – BTEC
- Business
- Construction – BTEC
- Dance
- Design Technology – Food Technology
- Design Technology – Graphic Products
- Design Technology – Resistant Materials
- Design Technology - Textiles
- Drama
- Health & Social Care – BTEC
- ICT
- ICT – CIDA
- Music
- Physical Education
- Sport – BTEC
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Science – Further Additional
- Sociology

Pathway 2

Core Examinable subjects

English, English Literature, Mathematics, Core Double Science, History or Geography.

Students also choose three subjects from the above list.

The current Year 11 (September 2015- July 2016)

For this year group only, students had a two year KS4 pathway, and in Year 10 began on one of two pathways which will continue until the end of Year 11.

Pathway 1

Core Examinable subjects

English, English Literature, Mathematics, Core Science, Additional Science, French or Spanish and either History or Geography.

Students then chose 1 subject from the following:-

- Art & Design
- Beauty Therapy – BTEC
- Business
- Construction – BTEC
- Dance
- Design Technology – Food Technology
- Design Technology – Graphic Products
- Design Technology – Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Health & Social Care – BTEC

- ICT
- ICT - CIDA
- Physical Education
- Sport – BTEC
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Science – Further Additional
- Sociology

Pathway 2

Core Examinable subjects

English, English Literature, Mathematics, Core Double Science, History or Geography.

Students then chose two subjects from the above list.-

A small number of students will follow a very personalised curriculum to meet their individual needs. This will always include English, Maths and Science in addition to a reduced number of other courses. This provision is designed to meet the needs of the individual student where there are significant barriers to accessing our broader curriculum.

Post 16 provision

Following high quality and impartial careers advice during Year 11, at key stage 5 we offer a range of Level 2 and Level 3 courses, designed to meet the needs of our students. Students are offered taster sessions as part of their “Next Steps” preparation during Year 11. We take full account of Year 11 results when final choices are made by students with clear entry requirements to each course.

Level 2

All students without GCSE English and/or Maths at a grade C or above are required to re-sit these examinations or an alternative English/Maths qualification dependent on their current Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Students then choose a further Level 1/Level 2 qualification in:

Construction (L1)

Business

Beauty Therapy

Sport

Child Development (CACHE)

Level 3

We offer an ever expanding range of subjects, which help students meet entry requirements for either continuing education or entering employment.

AS/A2

Art

Biology

Chemistry

English Literature

History

Law

Mathematics
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish
Technology Products

BTEC

Business	Single
Dance	Single
Health & Social Care	Single/Double/Triple
ICT	Single/Double
Music	Single
Performance	Single
Science	Single
Sport	Single/Double/Triple

All Year 12 students also have skills/enrichment time on their time table, which includes work experience, employability skills, UCAS application and skills