



Oundle School

From: The Director of Studies

For Action by Saturday 21 June

**Oundle School
Director of Studies Office
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Third Form Curriculum

Dear Parents

Below is an outline of the academic curriculum for pupils in the Third Form at Oundle. You will see that we offer some flexibility within our curriculum. As part of our planning for next year we are asking prospective pupils to make their options so that we can tailor the timetable to fit their needs. We also ask for some information regarding the pupils' backgrounds in languages.

The Curriculum

Core curriculum

All Third Form pupils study a broad common curriculum consisting of Mathematics, English, Science, French, Latin, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Information and Communications Technology, Design Technology, and Art.

Curriculum Options

There is some flexibility in the curriculum in order to produce the best from pupils whose individual strengths may vary between Sciences, Languages and the Arts. This is achieved by the introduction of an element of choice. Pupils are asked to choose

- **one subject from German, Greek and Spanish,**
- **one subject from Electronics and Performance Arts (Drama, Music and Physical Education)**

The study of Languages is very much encouraged at Oundle. Pupils study one of **German, Spanish or Greek** in addition to French and Latin. There will be beginners' groups as well as continuers' groups.

We expect the vast majority of pupils to take our **Performance Arts** course. This course consists of **Drama, Music and Physical Education**. Pupils will experience an introductory course in each of these disciplines during the first three Quarters of the year. At the end of the Easter Quarter pupils will be asked to choose one of the three strands for a further, more specialised, course. There is the possibility for those with particular strengths in Science to take **Electronics** instead of Performance Arts.

Details of all of the option courses are given on the attached sheet. Please note that pupils will only be eligible to study the languages at GCSE that they have studied in the Third Form. Pupils will be able to opt for Drama, Electronics, Music and Physical Education GCSE whether or not they have studied the subject in the Third Form.

Background in Languages

At the same time as asking for your options, we would like to take the opportunity to collect information regarding your son or daughter's background in languages. There is a great deal of variation between language teaching at the schools feeding into Oundle and our aim is to group pupils together who have experienced a similar amount of teaching time.

Please complete and return the attached form. There is an exemplar on the back of this page to help you with filling out the form.

If you have any questions about the Third Form curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

M.A.R. Collier
May 2008

Third Form Curriculum

Option Subjects

Pupils opt for

- **one subject from German, Greek and Spanish,**
- **one subject from Electronics and Performance Arts (Drama, Music and Physical Education)**

Please note that pupils will only be eligible for GCSEs in German, Greek and Spanish if they have opted for the Third Form course. Pupils who do not opt for Drama, Electronics, Music or Physical Education at this stage can still choose the GCSE in the future.

Electronics

This course is intended to introduce pupils to modern electronics and the world of embedded processors. It is intended to be complementary to the GCSE work. It will broaden the appreciation of the place of Electronics in modern society for those who take it. Anyone who does not opt for the Third Form course will not be prevented from studying GCSE Electronics at Oundle. The course is built around a number of projects which will all be constructed by the pupils. Most of the time will be spent on practical work and programming. The projects will be useful and fun. All the project kits are designed and prepared at Oundle including the printed circuit boards.

German and Spanish

In both languages two different courses are offered: a beginners' course for those who have little or no prior knowledge of the language and a continuers' course for those who have at least one year's previous study. We consider that both languages are equally important; both are official languages of both the EU and the UN and whereas Spanish is spoken widely throughout South America, in Europe there are more native speakers of German than of any other language. We strongly advise those who have previously studied one of these languages to continue with it rather than starting again, as at GCSE all pupils are examined at the same standard irrespective of how long they have been studying the language. German is often unfairly neglected as a language; in fact our experience is that pupils of all abilities tackle the subject successfully and it provides a broader linguistic experience as it comes from a different family of languages from the Romance group.

In both languages the emphasis in the Third Form is very strongly on the practical skills of listening and speaking. From a very early stage the foreign language is used in the classroom and pupils learn to communicate on a range of everyday topics. All sets have at least one lesson per fortnight in one of the two language laboratories. In the beginners' courses areas covered include personal information, family and pets, numbers, time, dates and weather, house and home town, school and holidays. Reading and writing are gradually introduced and some basic grammatical concepts such as present tense of verbs, gender and adjectives are covered. The aim is to provide a firm base on which to build in the GCSE course in the Fourth and Fifth forms.

In the continuers' course, the emphasis is likewise firmly based upon practical skills. Initially the basic topics are reviewed to ensure that the knowledge is secure, then pupils are introduced to a wider range of vocabulary and structures, including the past tense. By the end of the year pupils should be well on the way towards GCSE.

Greek

This course is open to those who have never studied Greek before as well as those with some existing knowledge of the language. Pupils are put into one of two groups, one being for beginners and one for those who already have some Greek. Numbers taking Greek have steadily increased over recent years and we are keen to encourage this pleasing trend to continue.

For both sets, the course has two strands. Two lessons a week are devoted to the study of the language. Pupils going on to take Greek in the fourth form will already have met a lot of the GCSE grammar and vocabulary before the course even starts. The two sets come together for another lesson which is given over to a broader examination of the history, society, art, and literature of ancient Greece. We look at a wide range of primary and secondary material: texts in translation; productions of Greek tragedies on video; the school's collection of Greek pots; and so on. The idea is to expose pupils to as many facets as possible of this incredible civilisation.

Performance Arts

The Performance Arts course consists of three strands, Drama, Music and Physical Education. Each element is studied for one Quarter each. In the Trinity Quarter, pupils will be given a free choice to study any one of the three.

Drama

The course will introduce the key concepts of dramatic performance through practical exploration. The overall aim will be to develop creativity, stimulate the imagination and encourage performance and interest in theatre. There will be a strong emphasis on fun and creativity for much of the course, and much importance will be made of group work and team building exercises. Communication and social skills will have a strong focus in the early part of the course and this will lead to a focus on both improvisation and scripted performances. Pupils will be encouraged to evaluate and analyse both their own work and that of others in a creative non-critical manner.

Music

This course is designed to cover a diversity of skills, through the integration of performing, composing, listening and appraising including opportunities to become familiar with, and utilise music technology.

Physical Education

The Department's aim is to make the most of the individual's abilities and potential and to learn skills that can be used for a lifetime that will encourage an active lifestyle. Pupils will study a broad curriculum that ensures access to a wide range of sports that are not available through the school's games programme. To ensure aesthetic awareness and appreciation of quality of movement, we include, for example, dance and gymnastics. In addition to this all pupils will be taught health and fitness, swimming, racket sports and ball skills which will encourage the development of motor abilities such as co-ordination, agility and balance, which can be developed into sports specific skills. We provide opportunities for pupils to develop qualitative values that improve the quality of life; personal values, developing personal and social skills; preparation values that train a child for active leisure and physical values for the improvement of health and motor skills.

Return by Saturday 21 June

Name of Pupil _____ Present School _____

My son/daughter wishes to take the following subjects (Tick one box in each column):

Option 1	
German	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>

Option 2	
Electronics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Arts (Music, Drama and Physical Education)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide the following information concerning your son or daughter's background in languages.

Language	Length of time studied (years)	Hours or lessons per week <i>(please specify)</i>	Name of Coursebook
Latin			
Greek			
French			
German			
Spanish			
Other			

If English is not the language spoken at home, please answer the following:

Language spoken at home: _____

Number of years at English-speaking _____ school:
OR

Number of years learning English: _____

How many hours per week: _____

Please return to:

Mr M.A.R. Collier, Director of Studies, Oundle School, Oundle, Peterborough. PE8 4GH
Fax: 01832 277119

Oundle School

Name of Pupil Peter Parker

Present School Peckham Prep

My son/daughter wishes to take the following subjects (Tick one box in each column):

Option 1	
German	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>

Option 2	
Electronics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Arts (Music, Drama and Physical Education)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please provide the following information concerning your son or daughter's background in languages.

Language	Length of time studied (years)	Hours lessons week (please specify)	or per week	Name of Coursebook
Latin	2 years	2 lessons per week		So you really want to learn Latin Book 1
Greek				
French	3 years	4 lessons per week		French Prep Book 2
German	1 year	2 lessons per week		Zeitgeist
Spanish				
Other				

If English is not the language spoken at home, please answer the following:

Language spoken at home: _____

Number of years at English-speaking school: _____

OR
Number of years learning English: _____

How many hours per week: _____