



THE BARCLAY SCHOOL

16-19 Study Programme Policy

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	Full governing body	By email circulation
Prepared by:	Andrew Noon	March 2016
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The Barclay School

16-19 Study Programme Policy

Purpose and aims of this policy

The Barclay School is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities tailored to the needs of our students, in line with guidance set out in '16 to 19 study programmes', DfE March 2015.

In order to achieve this goal:

- All 16 to 19 students at Barclay are given the opportunity to take a study programme which reflects their prior attainment, education and career goals.
- Study programmes should include substantial academic or applied qualifications; non-qualification activity including work experience (where appropriate); and the study of English and maths where students do not hold a GCSE graded A*-C in that subject by age 16.

Study programme principles

All 16 to 19 students should be given the opportunity to follow a study programme that:

- provides progression to a level higher than that of their prior attainment
- includes qualification(s) that are of sufficient size and rigour to stretch the student and that are clearly linked to suitable progression opportunities in training, employment or higher levels of education
- requires students who do not already have GCSE A*-C in maths and English to work towards them (or other approved stepping stone qualifications) that will help the student in question to progress towards achievement of these qualifications
- includes work experience where appropriate- this may relate to the student's study programme, develop employability skills and/or create potential employment options for those who cannot do substantial vocational qualifications
- includes other activities unrelated to qualifications which develop the character, skills, attitudes and confidence that support progression

These principles reflect the criteria set out in the Ofsted Common inspection framework 2015, which looks at the extent to which learner 'attain relevant qualifications so that they can and do progress to the next stage of their education into courses that lead to higher-level qualifications and into jobs that meet local and national needs.'

Study programme principles are applied in a range of ways to reflect students' prior attainment, abilities and ambitions. We are committed to ensuring that our curriculum offer enables students to take qualifications and activities that prepare them for their next steps and enable progression to the next level of education or employment.

Broad programme characteristics

Students taking A Levels

A levels count as substantial qualifications. A level students' study programmes include non-qualification activity such as tutorials, work to develop personal or study skills, and support in choosing options to ensure progression into employment and higher education (HE) preferences. They may also choose to pursue opportunities for work experience,

Students taking applied qualifications

Those students for whom applied or technical qualification (either instead of, or, as well as A levels) is the most appropriate route to their career goal are expected to study at least one substantial qualification. These are of sufficient size and relevance to provide a route into a trade, profession or other form of employment, or access to an HE course.

Students following 'mixed' programmes

A number of students choose to take applied courses alongside A levels.

Students following exceptional 'bespoke' programmes

In all but exceptional circumstances, Level 3 qualifications make up the majority of the study programme time and the qualifications are at a level above each student's prior achievement. In exceptional circumstances, and where the leadership of the sixth form believe it is in the long-term best interests of an individual, a programme may be agreed which includes repetition of a learning aim, alongside new learning.

GCSE maths and English

All students aged 16 to 18 do not hold a GCSE an A*-C or equivalent qualification in both maths and/or in English are required to study these subjects as part of their study programme in each academic year. This generally requires a timetable commitment of 4 hours per fortnight. In exceptional cases this provision is offered beyond the school day, to allow maximum access to other options and allowing us to build an appropriate study programme.

Work experience

We recognise that Work Experience is a major factor in developing employability skills alongside GCSE qualifications in English and maths. We will support any student in taking up a work placement as an integral part their study programme. This work should be based on a student's prior attainment, career and learning goals and future aspirations.

Other activities within a study programme

Students are encouraged to take part in meaningful non-qualification activity. This activity may include other planned and

organised enrichment activity to build character, tutorials, work to develop study skills, leadership, mentoring, team-work or self-management skills and activities.