

MPW Cambridge Curriculum Policy

Rationale and Aims

MPW is a fifth and sixth form college with an academic curriculum and our standards and achievements are high. At MPW we concentrate through the curriculum on developing students' individual abilities and confidence.

For more information see the section entitled 'About the College' on page 2 of the college prospectus and the section entitled 'The College Ethos' on page 1 of the Guidelines for Students document.

Curriculum Combinations

MPW offers a very flexible approach to subject choices and levels. Due to the nature of the college timetable, we do not have any restrictions on subject choices and can also offer cross curricular combinations where appropriate. The following options outline the main curriculum combinations that are available at MPW Cambridge:

- GCSE one-year courses.
- A-level two-year courses.
- A-level one-year courses.
- A-level short retake courses.

For more information on Curriculum Combinations see pages 6 and 8 of the college prospectus.

Timetabling and Tuition

We teach in small groups with an absolute maximum of eight students in each class. All the students in a given class are prepared for the same exam on the same board on the same date. The small size of the groups ensures that each student receives individual attention whilst at the same time gaining the benefits of learning in a group environment.

Students register at MPW on the understanding that they will be worked extremely hard. Tutors set a great deal of effective homework that reinforces subject content and subject specific skills development. The following is a guide:

- at least 4½ hours per week for each AS level group.
- at least 6 hours per week for each A2 or one-year (AS and A2) level group.
- at least 2 hours per week for each GCSE group.
- lots more for short retake students.

For further reference see the section entitled 'Tuition' on page 4 of the college prospectus and the section entitled 'Studying at MPW Cambridge' on pages 1-2 of the Guidelines for Students document.

Personal Tutoring System

MPW's personal tutoring system provides a close, friendly and constructive monitoring of students' progress. The Personal Tutors are readily accessible to parents and hold regular individual meetings with their students to discuss academic progress, degree applications and general welfare.

For further information refer to the sections entitled 'Supervision of Progress' and 'University Applications' on pages 4 and 10 of the prospectus respectively and the section entitled 'The Personal Tutor System' on page 1 of the Guidelines for Students document.

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Assessment, Reporting and Recording

MPW aims to use assessment both formatively and summatively within the curriculum with the express aim of evaluating students' progress and informing the future planning of both teaching and learning as a part of the process of continuous improvement.

Individual subject tutors use their ongoing formative assessment which includes marking, discussions and feedback to pupils, to affirm what students know and can do, thereby motivating and encouraging them. This information is also used to diagnose weaknesses and identify positive steps to remedy them, including setting targets.

For further information see the section entitled 'Examination Practice' on page 4 of the college prospectus and the section entitled 'Studying at MPW Cambridge' on pages 1-2 of the Guidelines for Students document.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Curriculum

Monitoring and evaluation are essential aspects of the college's aim to raise achievement. Within the curriculum, this involves focusing on teaching and learning, the performance of pupils, the effectiveness of teachers and hence the standard of achievement across the whole college. The tutor review and development programme allows for different degrees of scrutiny and analysis for different areas of the curriculum at different times. The process of monitoring and evaluating in the curriculum has much in common with the process of assessment for the students of the college. MPW believes that the process should be open and shared. The purpose of monitoring and evaluating should be clear to all involved. It should be seen as a supportive and developmental process aimed at improving standards throughout the college. Tutors should be aware of the criteria for judging success and this is contained on the standard proformas for lesson observation.