

Forms 1, 2 and 3

The Lower School Academic Programme and Subject Information Booklet

Published March 2015

The Form 1, 2 and 3 Academic Programme

Forms 1 and 2: the aims are to help students feel secure in their new surroundings, offer a broad curriculum and ensure that firm foundations are in place in key disciplines. The programme helps students adapt to having specialist teachers, moving between lessons, handle homework (prep) and develop effective study habits. All classes are mixed-ability, apart from beginners French in Forms 1 and 2 and accelerated Maths in Form 3. Each student is assigned a Tutor to oversee their progress.

Form 3: introduces choice in the Creative Arts and Languages based on the interests and abilities of the students. Art, Drama, Music and siSwati become optional whilst Spanish is introduced as a possible extra second language (for able beginners). French is taught in mixed ability groups. In Mathematics, the top third begin an accelerated programme to prepare them to take the International Mathematics IGCSE a year early in Form 4; this course only became available in 2008.

Assessment, Grades and Reporting

Halfway through each term, teachers in every subject give verbal feedback to the students, via Tutors, assessing progress as Satisfactory or a Concern. In addition at the end of each term, a Grade is awarded (A to E) with the possible attachment of an effort symbol: + for good effort or – for poor effort. Reports are sent home at the end of each term. Form 1 students have class-based end of year tests in most subjects. Form 2 and 3 students have end of year exams. Students are provided with an exam preparation booklet for each subject. After-school Help Sessions are offered in key subjects, especially in the run up to end of year exams. Please note that moving up to the IGCSE programme in Forms 4 and 5 is not automatic and depends on satisfactory progress being made.

Further Information

Definitive information and our Rule Book (the General Information Brochure or GIB) can be downloaded from www.waterford.sz

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English

In Forms 1 to 3, students study English language and English Literature in an integrated course. Students read texts in English from different parts of the world.

Extra lessons are provided for students who need additional help with reading and writing skills, specifically those for whom English is a second (or third!) language.

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- Short story analysis and academic writing
- oral presentations
- media
- writing to influence and persuade
- the study of a novel in detail
- studying and writing poetry

Assessment:

- end of unit assessment tasks.

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 5

Main topics:

- regional varieties of English
- advertising
- poetry writing
- story writing

- how media texts influence readers
- research and note-making skills
- newspapers
- writing about literature
- the study of a novel and a play in detail

Assessment:

- end of unit assessment tasks
- end of year tests on reading and writing skills

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 5

Main topics:

- short story writing
- poetry writing
- formal essays including persuasive essays
- listening and speaking skills
- basic summary skills
- literary devices
- writing genres
- purpose and audience in texts
- the study of a Shakespeare play
- the study of short stories

Assessment:

- end of unit assessment tasks
- end of year examinations: one reading and directed writing exam, one literature exam

SiSwati

In Forms 1 and 2 the focus is on conversation. In Form 3 there is increasing emphasis on formal grammar and literature in preparation for IGCSE.

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics: SiSwati sounds, Greetings, Common Phrases, Fruits and Vegetables (shopping), Directions, Numbers (counting), Days of the week - months of the year, Parts of the body, The extended family

Assessment:

- Oral conversation after every topic
- Vocabulary Tests
- Spelling tests
- Individual/Group Presentations

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics: The Weather. Food in SiSwati (at the restaurant), Modes of transportation, The Past Tense, The Future Tense, Adjectives (colours, shapes and sizes), Time in SiSwati

Assessment:

- Oral Conversations mainly in groups

- Individual short speech presentations

Form 3

SiSwati is an option in Form 3 that all good SiSwati speakers are encouraged to keep up. This course delving into literature and builds writing skills.

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- Grammar
- Literature (Modern):
 - γ Poetry
 - γ 1 Novel
 - γ 1 Drama
 - γ Short stories
- Literature (traditional)
- Essays and Comprehensions

Assessment:

- written test
- Oral presentations in class

Additional information:

Projects are given on various topics and assessed via written assignments or through oral presentations in class.

Spanish

Form 3

This is an accelerated optional course for good linguists, offered from Form 3 upwards.

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics: Grammar

- Family – self
- School
- Leisure activities
- Food and drink

- Professions/jobs/future plans

Assessment:

- Weekly tests
- Written homework assignments
- Listening and comprehension
- Oral class work

Additional Information:

This is an accelerated course for beginners, Those achieving suitable grades may continue into IGCSE in Form 4.

French

Form 1

French is a core subject throughout the school. Form 1 has beginners and intermediate groups.

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- Communication in spoken and written French on personal identification, family, home background, home area, food, school and leisure activities
- Likes and dislikes, numbers, dates, weather and the time
- Present tense

Assessment:

- At least two formal assessments per cycle in either listening, speaking, reading or writing format
- Homework assignments and participation in class are included in the assessment
- Project work on France or Francophone countries forms the basis of assessment in selected academic cycles

Form 2

In Form 2 we continue with beginners and intermediate groups.

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- Modal expressions of intent
- possibility and wishing
- visits to France
- holidays and sporting events
- transport and getting around
- Education and learning
- Daily routine

ordering in restaurants

- personal care and clothing
- Further food topics – eating out and

- Completion of all present tense and reflexive verbs
- Introduction to the Francophone world

the basis of assessment in selected academic cycles

Assessment:

- At least two formal assessments in either speaking, listening, reading or writing format.
- Homework assignments and participation in class are part of the assignment.
- Project work on France or Francophone countries forms the basis of assessment in selected academic cycles.

Form 3

Classes are not split according to ability any longer. Students who join the school in Form 3 but have no French are encouraged to take another language: either beginners' Spanish or possibly a self-taught option in the home language.

Number of

lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- Paris and its history
- French culture – artists and celebrities
- Past and future tenses
- Professions and leisure time

Assessment:

- At least two formal assessments in either speaking, listening, reading or writing format
- Homework assignments and participation in class are part of the assignment
- Project work on France or

Mathematics

Form 1:

Lessons per week: 5 (mixed ability)

Main topics:

- **Numeracy**: fractions; percentages, decimals and mental Maths
- Counting "above and below zero"
- Coordinates on grids
- Introductory Algebra – letters to represent numbers
- Function machines & Linear Mappings
- Triangles, quadrilaterals and special polygons
- Angle facts for triangles and parallel lines
- Scale drawing and map scales.
- Use of compasses, protractor and set square.
- Area and perimeter of rectangular and triangular shapes
- Three dimensional objects: nets
- Units and conversions between units
- Investigations and Word Problems
- Symmetry
- Transformations – especially reflections
- Sets
- Descriptive statistics

Assessment

- Prep set at least twice a week
- Frequent mental/numeracy tests
- Investigations link to cross-curricular themes
- Term tests
- Common End of Year test

Additional Information – Form 1

- Calculators are NOT used in Form 1 Maths

Form 2:

Lessons per week: 5 (mixed ability)

Main topics:

- Review and consolidation of Form 1 work
- **Numeracy** – mental Maths continues
- Negative number arithmetic
- Straight lines: Gradient and Equation
- Simple algebra and equation solving:
 - collecting like-terms
 - "the balance method"
- Algebraic fractions
- Square roots; irrational numbers
- Constructing parallel lines, perpendicular bisectors, angle bisectors
- Three dimensional objects: Volume
- Ratios
- Transformations: rotations & enlargements
- Investigations and Word Problems

Assessment

- Prep set at least twice a week
- Frequent mental/numeracy tests
- Common Mid year test
- Common End of year exam

Additional Information – Form 2

- Following the F2 end of year exams, the top third are put into an accelerated set for Form 3
- Calculators are NOT used in Form 2 Maths

Form 3:

Lessons per week: 6 (the top third form the **accelerated** class)

Main topics:

- Review and consolidation of Form 2 work
- **Numeracy** – mental Maths continues
- Simultaneous Linear Equations
- Pythagoras' Theorem
- Trigonometry: Sine, Cosine and Tan
- Circles: Pi (π), circumference and area
- Vectors representing translations
- Quantitative statistics
- Probability
- Investigations and Word Problems help students apply ideas and connect them to everyday life

Assessment

- Prep set at least twice a week
- Frequent mental/numeracy tests
- The correct use of calculators is taught alongside encouragement to continue to do mental Maths and mental checking of answers.
- The **accelerated** set in Form 3 start straight away on the International Mathematics IGCSE, a modern course that is geared towards the IB Diploma. It includes investigations and Mathematical modelling work, much of which is carried out with a graphical display calculator (CASIO fx9750GII) that can either be bought or borrowed from the school. External exams for the accelerated set are taken at the end of Form 4.

General:

- **Numeracy** has become an increasing issue. Students receive **Mental Maths Practice** booklets from time to time, especially for the holidays, to encourage them to develop and practice their mental arithmetic with daily exercises
- Free access **Help Sessions** are offered by the Maths department several times a week after school
- **ICT** is used to help students practice mental Maths and present data; mostly via spreadsheets and MYIMATHS
- Students are encouraged to take part in the **South African Maths Olympiad Junior Section**
- Students usually change teachers as they move up a year, although the two-year IGCSE is normally taught by the same teacher throughout.

Science

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

Biology: Structure and classification of living organisms, photosynthesis, and human reproduction.

Chemistry: Matter, changing state, combustion, and metals & non-metals, fossil fuels.

Physics: Energy, Electricity & magnetism and forces.

Assessment:

- Homework assignments
- End of topic tests
- Practical skills in laboratory

Additional information:

End of year activity week includes a trip to Malolotja Nature Reserve, an on campus 'Biotrail' and a classroom based science competition. A Junior Science Club meets occasionally to enjoy extracurricular science projects and investigations

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

Biology: Cells, tissues and organs, respiration, human diet and digestion, and food chains.

Chemistry: Acids and bases, molecules, elements

and compounds, fossil fuels, rocks and weathering.

Physics: Earth and space, energy resources and light and sound.

Assessment:

- Homework assignments
- End of topic tests
- Practical skills in laboratory

Additional information:

A Junior Science Club meets weekly to provide an opportunity for young scientists to develop projects for the Annual Science Fair and extracurricular investigations.

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 5

Main topics:

Physics, Chemistry and Biology topics are taught within the overall Science subject. This forms the basis for IGCSE Coordinated Science offered in Forms 4 and 5.

Assessment:

- Homework assignments
- End of topic tests
- Practical reports
- Practical skills

Geography

Form 1 – Social studies

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics:

Term 1 - Mapskills and global awareness

Term 2 - Volcanoes, earthquakes and hazards

Term 3 - Swaziland

Assessment:

- Mid cycle and end of module tests
- Projects involving I.T.

Additional information :

Students study both geography & history content collectively termed **Social Studies**.

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics:

- Term 1 – The geography of Africa
- Term 2 – Environmental Issues

- Term 3 – Rivers and Coasts

Assessment:

- Mid cycle and end of module tests
- End of year examination

- Major project work in Term 1 + Term 2
 - Term 1 – African nation investigation
 - Term 2 – Endangered species project

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics:

Term 1 – Mapskills, Weather + Climate

Term 2 – Development issues

Term 3 – Population, Migration

Assessment:

- Mid cycle and end of module tests (including past IGCSE questions)
- End of year examination

Additional information :

The lower school curriculum is designed to prepare students for their IGCSE course.

History

Form 1 – Social Studies

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics: Ancient Civilizations

- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- India
- China
- Greece
- Rome

State formation, Myths, Religion, Technology, Warfare, Contributions to Western Civilization.

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics:

- Fall of Roman empire
- Byzantium
- Christianity
- Islam + Islamic Civilization
- Medieval Europe
- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Age of Discovery
- Aztecs + Incas

- Medieval West African Kingdoms
- 19th century Swaziland

Assessment:

Worksheets, Projects, Tests – End of year Examination on Term 3 work.

Additional Information:

Visit to museum / King Sobhuza II Monument.

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 3

Main topics:

- Industrial revolution
- Agricultural Revolution
- French Revolution
- the rise and fall of Napoleon
- Civil War in America
- The Russian Revolution
- Russian Civil War
- China and Japan in the 19th Century, the causes and the course of the First World War

Assessment:

- Worksheets, Projects, Tests
- End of year examination on Term 3 work
- Oral presentations

Drama

Form 1 and 2

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics:

Drama aims to develop skills in:

- Communication
 - Working in groups
 - Engaging the imagination
 - Focus and Concentration
 - Empathy
 - Improvisation
-
- Responding creatively to a variety of different stimuli
 - the basic elements of Drama and Basic dramatic techniques
 - It also seeks to develop self-confidence

It does this through a variety of class games and exercises, through issue-based dramas in which students take on roles, classroom presentations, story telling, poetry, engaging other cross-curricular stimuli and written journal work.

Assessment:

The following skills are assessed:

- Commitment, Engagement and Focus
- Following instructions
- Group skills
- Communication skills
- Imaginative engagement
- Reflection and evaluation

Assessment is done on an ongoing basis. Cycle grades are awarded at the end of each term. No exam is written.

Additional information :

Additional information :

Opportunities exist for students to perform in school plays and student productions.

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

Form 3 Drama is a continuation of many of the topics from form 1 and 2. There is also one

significant addition: Form 3 Drama involves a greater emphasis on performance skills. This implies , amongst other things: Reading; Analysis and Performance of a number of different play texts and greater emphasis on the various crafts of the theatre. There is also, for the first time, the demand of performing in public.

Assessment:

The following skills are assessed:

- Commitment, Engagement, Focus
- Following instructions
- Group Skills
- Performance skills
- Imaginative engagement
- Written and Verbal reflection and Evaluation

Assessment takes the form of:

- End of year exam
 - Practical work = 60%
 - Written work (inc exam) = 40%

Additional information :

Form 3 is the start of the IGCSE program (unlike most of other subjects) as the final IGCSE exam is written in June of the form 5 year.

Music

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 2 (double period)

Main topics:

The main activities through which we explore our topics are: Composing, Rehearsing, Group work, Listening and responding, and Performing.

We cover such topics as

- Music and Sound
- Why do composers compose
- Rhythm
- Texture
- Ostinato
- Keyboard skills

Assessment:

After each unit of work, students complete some self assessment. The teacher also assesses composition, performance and listening work.

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 2 (in a double lesson)

Main topics:

The main activities through which we explore our topics are: Composing, Rehearsing, Group work, Listening and responding and performing

In form two we cover topics such as:

- the pentatonic scale
- music and film
- chords and harmony
- keyboard skills
- structure and organisation
- music and conflict
- music around the world

Assessment:

After each unit of work, students complete some self assessment. The teacher also assesses composition, performance and listening work.

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 4

Main topics:

- The history of jazz music
- the history of Jamaican popular music
- music with a message
- musical notation and theory

The course is largely practical and involves lots of group work, composing, rehearsing, performing and listening. There is one dedicated theory lesson each week.

Assessment:

- Theory work is assessed weekly.
- At the end of each topic a major assignment is set and graded. This is most often a composition and performance assignment
- Theoretical and contextual knowledge is assessed in an end of year exam
- Self assessment is used throughout the year for students to reflect on their progress

Additional information : The department offers individual lessons on various instruments (according to availability of teachers) : piano, voice, guitar, bass guitar, flute. Music activities such as choir and ensemble work are also offered. The Music I.T. suite is available for students to use in their work after an I.T. course has been completed.

Visual Arts

Form 1

Number of lessons per week: 2

Main Topics:

- Line, Tone, Colour, Texture, Light and Dark leading to the integration of Shape, Form and Space. One point-perspective, and sculptural forms using recycled materials
- Art Appreciation: introduction of historical pieces related to the projects.

Additional information on projects: Each exercise has a follow-up component, applying the concepts introduced. Students are encouraged to evaluate their own work.

Assessment: All work is recorded in the Art Workbook. Students are assessed on their understanding and application of the concepts.

Form 2

Number of lessons per week: 2

Main Topics:

- Compositional techniques using colour, observation drawing, perspective (two-point), textile project, sculpture using recycled materials, clay, and wire
- Art Appreciation: introduction of historical pieces relevant to the projects

Assessment: Art Workbooks are maintained. Theme-based work, basic research techniques and a process-based approach are introduced. Students are assessed on their understanding and application of the concepts introduced.

Additional information on projects: Students are

Form 3

expected to evaluate their work.

Number of lessons

per week: 4

Topics:

Drawing: observational studies, emphasizing, line, tone, colour, texture, light and dark. Study of the human head and self-portrait exercises

Composition skills: imaginative and interpretative

Design skills: book covers, posters, logos, textile motifs inspired by African art

Techniques: pencil, pencil crayons, watercolours, acrylic paints, pastels, charcoal, pen and ink, papier maché, collage, stencil printing, mono- printing, basic photography and ceramics

Perspective: one, two and three-point; colour

Art Appreciation: an introduction of historical pieces relevant to the projects. Surrealism is used in relation to imaginative compositional work; post-impressionism for colour perspective and

theory. African art and material culture examples are used in relation to design projects and poster design.

Approach: Students are given a wide variety of projects to stimulate and challenge them and to provide the thinking and technical skills needed for IGCSE (should they choose Art in Form 4).

Assessment: Student maintain their Art Workbook, including project briefs, research, information and ideas. A process-based approach is emphasized. Their

painting, with one week's preparation time.

Additional information on projects: Upon completion of their projects, students reflect on their work.

Information Technology

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics:

Basic word processing, methods of researching, presentation skills, desktop publishing skills, graphics/animation/sound, touch typing, theory terms

Assessment:

20% theory/written and 80% practical
Cycle grade based on at least 3 pieces of work.
No formal end of year examination

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics:

Basic/Intermediate word processing, methods of researching, HTML/web design, spreadsheet modeling, graphics/animation/sound, touch typing, theory terms

Assessment:

20% theory/written and 80% practical
Cycle grade based on at least 3 pieces of work
End of year examination conducted in classroom

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics:

Intermediate/advanced word processing, internet and e-mail, presentation skills, managing files, theory terms.

Assessment:

20% theory/written and 80% practical
Cycle grades based on at least 3 pieces of work
End of year examination conducted in classroom. Student will follow the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) syllabus with a view to doing at least one formal ICDL examination before the end of Form 3. See www.icdl.org.za for further information.

Additional information:

- I.T. Is a compulsory subject for all Form 1,2 and 3 students
- No weekly homework given, although students may be required to put in extra time to complete projects

Physical Education

Forms 1, 2 and 3

Number of lessons/week: 2

Main topics:

Skill Development. Team Organisation/Game Situations are practiced in: Swimming, Athletics, Volleyball, Basketball, Netball, Soccer, Hockey,

Rugby, Tennis and Badminton, Handball, Cross-country, Softball.

Assessment: grades are based on skill level, participation, approach and attitude.

Library Education

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 1

Main topics:

- Libraries and you
- Information sources

- Writers and Publishing
- Reading
- Book Reports/Reviews
- Reference Tools
- Periodicals
- Organization of Knowledge
- Print and Electronic Media Referencing
- Audio Books
- Current Affairs
- Projects

- Book Reports/Reviews
- Audio Books
- Creative Writing
- Great Minds
- Social Issues
- Reference Tools

Number of lessons/week: 1

topics:

- Reading

Form 2

- Periodicals
- Project

Form 3

Number of

lessons/week:

1Main topics:

- Reading, Information Literacy skills
- Communication and Study Skills
- Global Concerns

Additional Information:

Library skills are not formally assessed as the skillstaught are used (and assessed) across the curriculum.

Life Skills

Form 1

Number of lessons/week: 1

Main Topics: Group work, Team Building (Trust & Communication), UWC (Cultural Values and Tolerance), Global Awareness (Links with current media, songs, TV, newspapers, internet), Social Development & Puberty, Peer pressure & bullying, Smoking and Alcohol, Feelings

Assessment: Group Presentations, Role Plays, Debates, End of term report

Form 2

Number of lessons/week: 1

Main Topics: Team Building and Groupwork, Character development, Friendship, Sexuality, HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse, Problem Solving / Conflict resolution

Assessment: Group Presentations, Individual Projects, Journal Entries, Role Plays, End of term report

Form 3

Number of lessons/week: 1

Main Topics: Group work & team building, Trust & Communication, Sexuality, Gender Differences, Career Guidance, Drug Abuse, Relationships, Study skills, Nutrition, Evaluation of current media (Songs, TV, newspapers, internet)

Assessment: Group Presentations, Role Plays, Debates, End of term report

Additional Information:

Students may have the opportunity to attend a *Let's Talk* workshop addressing areas surrounding sexuality and gender awareness

Contact Details

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