

Briefing Session on Optimising the Four Senior Secondary Core Subjects

Scenario on Curriculum Planning at School Level

**Curriculum Development Institute
February 2021**

1. School Background

- ▶ District: Kowloon City
- ▶ Student Gender: Co-ed
- ▶ Banding of intake: 2-3
- ▶ Medium of Instruction: CMI
- ▶ Class structure: 4-4-4-4-4-4
- ▶ 5-day week, 8 lessons/day, 40 mins/lesson
- ▶ Total number of teachers in the school: 58
- ▶ Some students are NCS

Junior Secondary

- ▶ 3 classes using CMI in all subjects
- ▶ 1 class using EMI in 4 subjects

Senior Secondary

- ▶ EMI is adopted depending on student needs
- ▶ No of elective subjects on offer : 11
- ▶ Majority of students taking 2X
- ▶ About 20-30 students taking ApL Courses
- ▶ About 10-15 students taking M1

2. Current Timetabling Arrangements

No. of lessons / week	S.4	S.5	S.6	%
English	7	7	7	17.5
Chinese	7	7	7	17.5
Mathematics	6	6	6	15
LS	5	6	6	14.2
X1	5	5	5	12.5
X2	5	5	5	12.5
OLE	5	4	4	10.8

3. Issues of Concern Identified

- ▶ Too much lesson time allocated to core subjects
- ▶ Students are limited to take 2X
- ▶ The lessons of ApL courses are arranged on Saturday
- ▶ The lessons of M1 are arranged after school on Monday and Wednesday
- ▶ Remedial session for various subjects are arranged after school or during lunch time

4. Adapted Timetable (through optimising the 4 core subjects)

	2020-21			
No. of lessons / week	S.4	S.5	S.6	%
English	7	7	7	17.5
Chinese	7	7	7	17.5
Mathematics*	6	6	6	15
LS	5	6	6	14.2
X1	5	5	5	12.5
X2	5	5	5	12.5
OLE	5	4	4	10.8



	2023-24			
No. of lessons / week	S.4	S.5	S.6	%
English	6	6	6	15
Chinese	6	6	6	15
Mathematics*	5	5	5	12.5
LS	3	3	3	7.5
X1	5	5	5	12.5
X2	5	5	5	12.5
X3	5	5	5	12.5
OLE	5	5	5	12.5

*Remarks: Release of Math lesson time in schools is NOT a must. In this school, the Math lesson time is suggested to be reduced simply because the current lesson time allocated to the Compulsory Part (CP) (15% of the total lesson time) is more than the suggested lesson time for CP (10%-12.5%) in the curriculum document.

2020-2021

Elective Subject	BAFS	BIO	CHEM	CHIS	DAT	ECON	GEOG	ICT	PHY	THS	VA
No. of Group	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Block 1	BIO	DAT	ECON	GEOG	PHY	TH					
Block 2	BAFS	CHEM	CHIS	ICT	VA						



2021-2022

Elective Subject	BAFS	BIO	CHEM	CHIS	DAT	ECON	GEOG	ICT	PHY	THS	VA
No. of Group	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Block 1		BIO	DAT	ECON	GEOG	ICT	THS				
Block 2		BAFS	CHEM	CHIS	PHY	VA					
Block 3 (To be arranged in the afternoon session)		BAFS	CHEM	THS	ApL	M1	CHI/ENG/ STEM/LAC/RAC				

Block 3

- ▶ To be arranged in the afternoon session
- ▶ To offer 3 electives (Chemistry, BAFS, THS) and M1
- ▶ To offer students' favorite ApL courses with more career-related contexts in school :
Food Services and Management, Sports, Medical Science and Health Care
- ▶ To organize STEM-related learning activities for students in STEM lessons by the collaboration between STEM co-ordinator and relevant KLA teachers

- ▶ To design and implement LAC learning programmes for students in LAC lessons by the collaboration among English teachers, Biology and Chemistry teachers
- ▶ To implement reading programmes for students in RAC lessons by the collaboration between Chinese teachers and Non-language KLA teachers
- ▶ To arrange Remedial/Enhancement classes of E, C, M and X

Split Classes in S4 - 6 Mathematics lessons

- ▶ The Mathematics lessons of two classes of each level of S4 - 6 are split into 3 groups according to the students' Mathematics ability for catering the learner diversity
- ▶ Students can apply to the Group learning Foundation Topics and part of Non-foundation Topics
- ▶ Students will be rearranged to the appropriate groups after half-yearly and final examinations

S4 - 6



Group 1

Students in this group :

- (a) learn Foundation Topics and part of Non-foundation Topics
- (b) may release some learning time in Mathematics to enhance the learning of other subjects

Group 2

Students in this group learn both

Foundation Topics
and
Non-foundation Topics

Group 3

Students in this group :

- (a) learn both Foundation Topics and Non-foundation Topics
- (b) are keen interest in Mathematics
- (c) may take M1

5. Rationale for the Adaptations

- ▶ Sufficient choices can be provided for students to take their favorite electives, e.g. offering Chemistry, BAFS, THS etc. in Block 3
- ▶ Some students are keen interest in science can take 3 science subjects - Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- ▶ After-school M1 lessons can be arranged in the normal timetable so that students can have a more in-depth and interactive learning approach
- ▶ Remedial/Enhancement classes of E, C, M and X can be arranged in the normal timetable to enable students to join OLE activities after school

- ▶ The split classes in S4 - S6 Mathematics lessons according to the students' Mathematics ability can cater the learner diversity
- ▶ ApL lessons can be arranged in the normal timetable and keeping lessons on Saturday (Mode 1)
- ▶ Students can take 2 ApL Courses, e.g. 1X + 2 ApL, 2X + 2 ApL
- ▶ Enhancing efforts to STEM Education for strengthening students' ability to integrate and apply knowledge and skills in Science, Technology and Mathematics

- ▶ Implementing Language Across Curriculum (LAC) for creating a language-rich environment for students and increasing students' motivation to learn English and subjects using EMI
- ▶ Promoting Reading Across Curriculum (RAC) for enhancing the reading atmosphere on campus
- ▶ Creating space for enhancing Value Education and Aesthetic Education in OLE lessons

6. Manpower planning

- ▶ Through optimising the core subjects, the school can re-allocate the teachers' teaching duties to release some teachers' capacity to take up
 - ▶ The teaching of electives (Chemistry, BAFS, THS) in Block 3
 - ▶ Remedial/ Enhancement classes
 - ▶ LAC, RAC and STEM lessons
- ▶ The readiness of teachers to teach other subjects
 - ▶ Some teachers majoring in LS need to attend the professional development programmes to upgrade their knowledge in teaching other subjects