



An introduction to the 'Middle School' years

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An introduction to the 'Middle School Years' at Mougins School

A reminder of UK education 'key stages' ('étapes clés') in the life of a student

Here at Mougins School we follow the British educational system, which divides a student's time in school into six 'key stages', which are often points at which children are assessed. We commonly refer to the stages by saying, for example 'KS3' - key stage 3. The different 'key stages' are given in the table below.

Key Stage (KS)	Ages	Duration	School years (Y)	Assessment
0	3–4 by August 31st	2 years (1 compulsory)	Nursery and reception	
1	5–6 by August 31st	2 years	1–2	KS1 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests), Phonics and Reading Check (taken in Year 1 but may be retaken, if failed, in Year 2)
2	7–10 by August 31st	4 years	3–6	SATs
3	11–13 by August 31st	3 years	7–9	
4	14–15 by August 31st	2 years	10–11	GCSEs/IGCSEs
5	16–17 by August 31st	2 years	12–13	A-Levels, AS-Levels, BTechs

The 'Middle School' years (KS3 and KS4)

The 'Middle School' at Mougins is an exciting time in a student's life, beginning with the important move from the end of Primary School at Form 6 to the start of Secondary School in Form 7, and lasts for five years until a pupil takes IGCSE examinations. It covers Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The biggest change, of course, is that students' learning transitions from a class teacher to individual subject specialist teachers, and students move round the school each lesson to different subjects.

Form 6 students are already taught by other teachers than their class teacher in Art, Computing, French, Music and Physical Education - now they will have a different teacher for every subject. There are two Form 7s. New students will be added to each class, balancing boys and girls as far is possible.

Students may not be with members of their Form for each lesson. The two Form 7s will be set for English, Maths & French (done already). They have P.E. all together.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) - the philosophy

The guiding educational principles of years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3) are to:

- guide students from one-teacher learning towards subject-specialist learning;
- introduce them to as wide a range of subjects, educational experience and teaching methodology as possible;
- encourage their intellectual and emotional growth and foster independence, organisation, self-reliance and resilience, and most of all intellectual engagement, curiosity and an excitement in learning;
- prepare them to make well-informed IGCSE subject choices.

The curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9

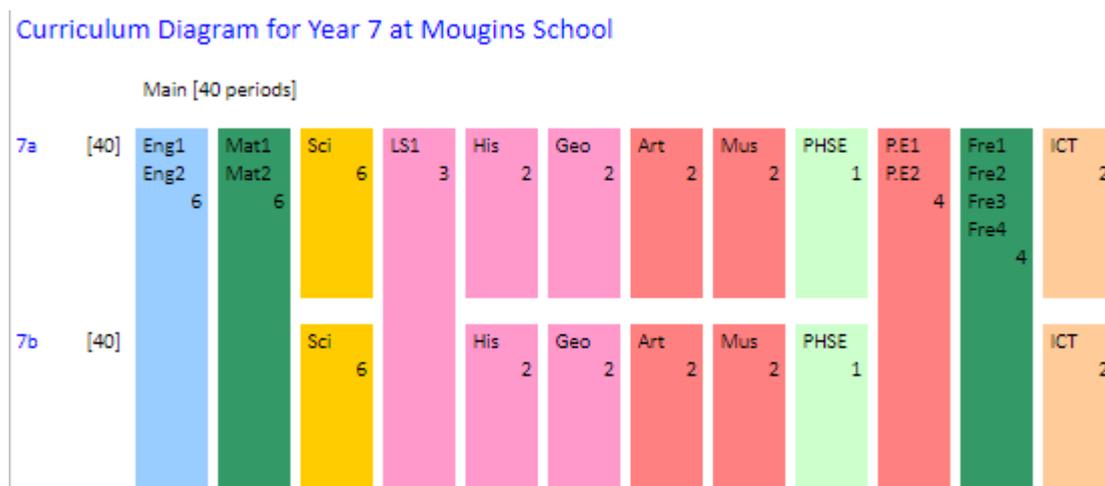
We offer courses in mathematics, English and French (where children are put into sets to best cater for their needs), the three sciences, history, geography, art, music, ICT (Information and Communication Technology), PHSE (Personal, Social and Health and Economic Education) and PE (Physical Education) in Year 7, adding the opportunity to study a second foreign language (Spanish) in Year 8 and drama in year 9.

A unique feature of the Mougins curriculum in Year 7 is our 'Local Studies' course, where children go out and visit sites of local cultural or natural interest.

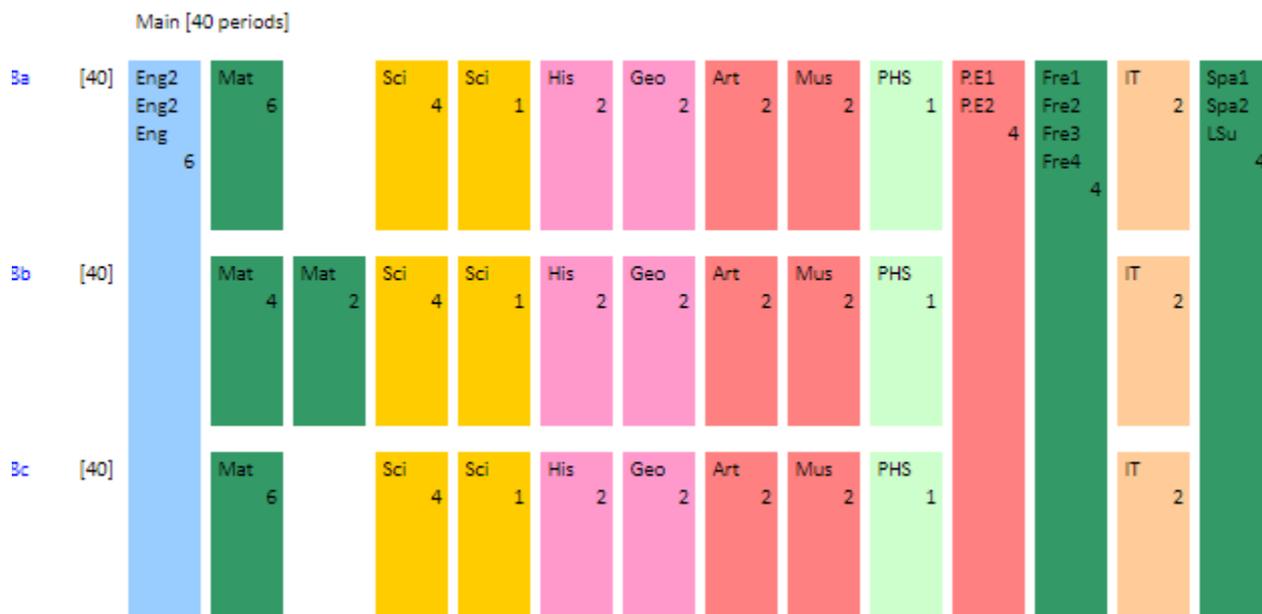
The PHSE Programme

We think it is important to support children as they go through the challenges of teenage years, and thus we offer PHSE lessons, which cover, among other things, self-awareness and resilience, relationships, mental health and wellbeing, health, balanced lifestyles, dangerous substances. See here for the [full programme from the PHSE Association](#).

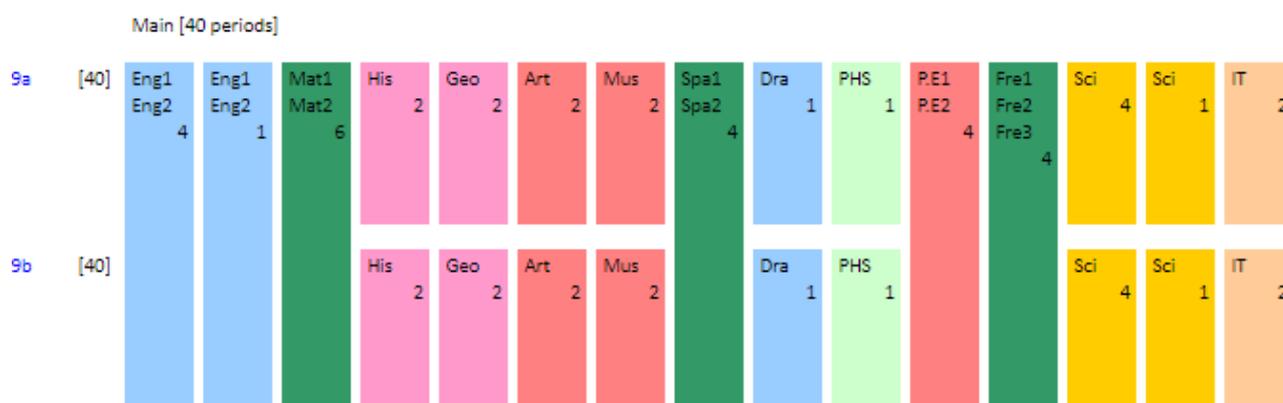
Throughout their time, children also have access to our Learning Support and EAL (English as an Additional Language) departments, for extra help and guidance.



Curriculum Diagram for Year 8 at Mougins School



Curriculum Diagram for Year 9 at Mougins School



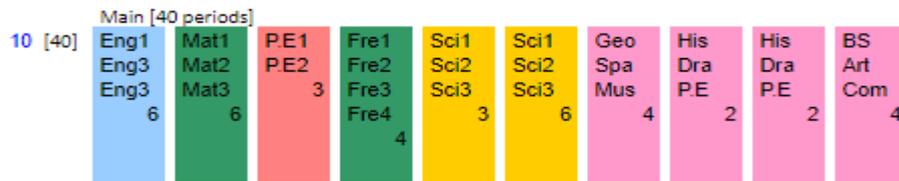
Key Stage 4 - the IGCSE years, 10 and 11

Students at Mougins take the Internationally recognised International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examinations at age sixteen. Mougins students normally take examinations in eight subjects.

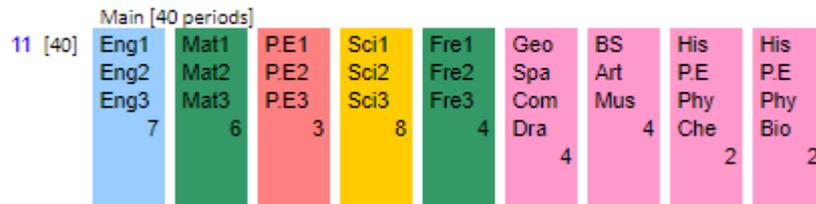
Teaching courses last for two years (10 and 11). Some subjects are compulsory (mathematics, English, 'Double Science' (a combination of the three sciences which equals two IGCSE grades), French and a range of three option subjects. These can vary according to demand but include, typically, geography, history, Business Studies, ICT, drama, art, music, Spanish, PE). Students also continue to have physical education lessons which are not examined, to ensure good exercise! There is an opportunity to do an IGCSE in English Literature for those who are able and would like to, which is finalised in Year 11.

There is a presentation to parents and students about IGCSE choices in the Spring Term of Year 9, and students make their three option choices in February. A flexible timetable means that we can accommodate many different combinations of options (though not always all!).

Curriculum Diagram for Year 10 at Mougins School



Curriculum Diagram for Year 11 at Mougins School



These important examinations are the first 'public' examinations which must be mentioned on all University applications.

Pastoral care

All students in the Secondary School are assigned to one of the two year-group 'Tutor Groups' and Tutor Form Rooms, usually in the Rosanna Building, where they will have a locker, for which they should purchase a combination lock.

Students are looked after by two Form Tutors for each Form, and meet every day in their Tutor group. Form Tutor Groups meet each morning for the first ten minutes for registration, announcements and other business. The Form Tutor is the first point of contact for students entering the Middle School and plays a particularly vital role in the first weeks of orientation and settling in. The tutor will continue to provide support, pastoral care and advice throughout the school year, and should always be the first point of contact between home and school.. At the end of Year 6, the class teachers meet with the new Year 7 Form Tutors to brief them on students' individual progress and needs, and draw attention to anything which is important that the new tutor knows, and this process is repeated every year throughout the Secondary School, to ensure that a good level of well-informed and sympathetic support is given to each child. Tutors are particularly experienced in the sorts of issues which arise at certain points in a student's career.

The school day

Students need to be in School before the bell rings at 08h45. When the 2nd bell rings at 08h55, they move to Lesson 1 which begins when the bell rings at 09h00.

The morning break is the same. There is no afternoon break.

Lunch time is from 13h05 to 14h05 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, followed by registration. The next period begins at 14h15.

End of School times are the same as for the Primary classes.

Equipment and Books

Exercise books for Form 7 should be bought from the office at 1€ each. Each year has its own colour.

Each student will be given an “agenda” where they write down their homework tasks. Tutors will check agendas on a regular basis. Homework will also be posted on the parent portal.

Parents are invoiced with their fees for a Book Deposit of 200€, which will be refunded when the student leaves the School, provided textbooks are returned in good condition.

Homework

A Homework Timetable will be drawn up at the beginning of term so that subjects are fairly distributed.

Some homework tasks are given to be handed in a week later - students will need to organise their time, and we help them to do that. Homework tasks are posted on Google Classroom.

Generally, students will have between 1 and 1.5hrs of homework per night.

Outside the classroom

In addition to its academic programme, we at Mougins School values the emotional and social needs and development of the child. The Middle School provides regular opportunities for students to engage in activities with a primary focus on collaboration across the age ranges and lead to a heightened knowledge of self and others. The activities include student-led assemblies, talks by outside speakers, special focus days arranged around a theme and day or residential trips. t to the student council to bring these activities to life.

Mougins School 2020