



Learning in England ∞ A School Timetable

26 > What is a normal timetable, for a KS4 pupil, going to be like?

Pupils move around to their different subject rooms and teachers, taking their materials with them. They will usually spend twice as much time on Core Subjects, as Foundation Subjects.

In this model you can see how one school has distributed the subjects. Children will spend 25 hours a week, in lessons [50 hours, over two weeks, or a fortnight]. There is an expectation that children will do homework, which at this stage will be at least two hours each day, with each examined subject being able to set homework, each week.

Some schools have 30-minute blocks or 40-minute blocks. For the younger children doing Languages or Mathematics small blocks work more effectively, especially if they do not have to move far between lessons. Other schools may have long blocks for Technology or other applied subjects, for which an extended time is needed to set up and clear up. It may also be necessary to have long blocks because the school site is so large, and pupils need time to get to each subject room. Please see our information document on choosing GCSE Options, as well.

WEEK A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45 registration					
9.00-10.00 lesson 1	Option A	Option A	Option A	Option C	Option C
10.00-10.30 break					
10.30-11.30 lesson 2	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
11.30-12.30 lesson 3	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
12.30-1.30 lunch and clubs					
1.30-2.30 lesson 4	RS	Science	PE	Science	Option B
2.30-3.30 lesson 5	RS	Science	Option D	Science	Option B
3.30 after school clubs					

WEEK B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45 registration					
9.00-10.00 lesson 1	RS	Option B	Option B	Option C	Option D
10.00-10.30 break					
10.30-11.30 lesson 2	Science	Option C	Science	Option D	Science
11.30-12.30 lesson 3	Science	Option C	Science	Option D	Option D
12.30-1.30 lunch and clubs					
1.30-2.30 lesson 4	Option A	English	PE	English	Maths
2.30-3.30 lesson 5	Option A	English	Option B	English	Maths
3.30 after school clubs					

“Even with great software, it’s a sophisticated process, blending technical puzzle solving with an acute awareness of the human issues surrounding staff deployment and the implications on pupils’ experience school.”¹

Q

Is there a difference between a maintained school’s timetable and an independent school’s timetable?

A

The model here is based around a typical maintained school. Independent schools and Academies have greater flexibility about their use of time. Independent schools often have an earlier registration and a much later finish.

Boarding schools which have day pupils attending can have a programme of lessons and study, even until 21.00, albeit broken up with the extracurricular programme, Sport, Tea and Supper.

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing felicitygunn@hotmail.com

¹ <https://teacherhead.com/2015/05/23/the-art-of-timetabling-principles-and-priorities/>
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