

British School of Gran Canaria
Curriculum Enrichment
Policy Document



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF GRAN CANARIA

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT POLICY

1. Scope

Academic life at The British School of Gran Canaria extends beyond the mainstream curriculum and into the extra-curricular Enrichment Programme, across all age groups and sectors, as we seek to provide an extensive range of additional learning opportunities that extend outside of the formal, mandated curriculum.

2. Rationale

Our Enrichment programme offers a wide and diverse range of opportunities that facilitates learning outside the classroom. The programme seeks the development of skills required for the world beyond the school by placing learning in a range of contexts that develop diverse and encompassing skills and inspire lifelong learning.

Key skills inculcated and inspired by our Enrichment Programme include problem solving, creative thinking, initiative and self-direction, discovery, higher order thinking skills, profound personal interests, self-acceptance, and the courage to make a difference.

3. Enrichment with BSGC

Our Enrichment Activities are divided into:

- Academic** courses,
- Skills-based** courses,
- Creative** courses,
- Service**,
- Sports**.

Example Activities

Academic: Science Crest Award, Raspberry Pi, Young Engineers, 6th form, TED lectures.

Skills: touch typing, sewing, first aid, cooking, DIY, debating society, photography.

Creative: radio blog, orchestra, drama, print making, choir.

Service: eco club, fund raising.

Sports: fitness club, Ultimate Frisbee, football, volleyball.

Staff Expectations

Teaching staff are required to offer at least one enrichment option per term which can be an after-school activity, organisation of a residential trip or, in appropriate circumstances, during lunchtimes. To ensure a broad range of options at different times, the scheduling of after school activities over the week is at the discretion of the Senior Teacher (Enrichment) and Head of Primary. Staff members may not always be able to timetable an activity on their preferred choice of day.

Staff should carefully consider the needs of the students and their skills in order to identify challenging, interesting, useful and engaging opportunities. Once these opportunities are identified, the staff should clarify the aims and content, and present these for approval before the beginning of the academic year so that the school can ensure a valuable, engaging and encompassing Enrichment Programme. After the Enrichment Programme is approved, the content and detail information of each opportunity will be shared with students and parents via the school website.

Staff wishing to offer exam support to Years 11 to 13 in their own subjects may request to do this as an alternative to an enrichment activity in the third term. In this case, the teacher is required to offer two after-school support sessions per week in recognition of the fact that these would only continue until the exam.

All enrichment activities are subject to approval by the school's Senior Management Team. Activities where small numbers of students sign up may be cancelled and staff requested to offer an alternative.

4. Additional Enrichment Opportunities

In addition to the school's termly Enrichment Programme, other activities are scheduled and available for students during the school year in a concerted and planned drive to extend learning as far afield as possible.

Drama and Musical Productions

Twice per year, the Infant and Junior departments produce and perform a musical drama production for parents. These productions provide many enrichment opportunities for the younger children, such as increasing confidence, team work, invaluable spoken English practice and commitment.

Music Makes the Difference

For an additional cost, students can sign up for the school's musical instrument tuition service. Weekly tuition is offered for guitar, keyboard/piano, voice and drum kit in 30 minutes sessions on a rotational timetable. This service ensures that as many children as possible can benefit from the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument with a music specialist.

This style of teaching enables more children to develop their practical skills along with the opportunity to participate in music-making, helping each child reach their full musical potential.

Throughout this process the pupil will be given opportunities to take part in performances when friends and family are invited to enjoy and celebrate their success.

Student Council

The BSGC Student Council provides a forum for student voice in the school. The council provides our students with the opportunity to become formally involved in the affairs of the school. By working in partnership with staff and parents, the children can take an active and empowered role in the daily running of the school and its development. It also enables the school to respond more effectively to the concerns and needs of the student body, helping to maintain good relationships and a positive atmosphere.

Community Service

6th Form Service

All Year 12 and 13 students are required to undertake some form of voluntary service in addition to the timetabled community service which all 6th form students serve at the local hospital. Service develops key leadership skills and can be used to support the students' university applications.

Students are provided with a list of suggested activities by the Key Stage 5 coordinator and should sign up for their chosen options. Each student records details of their service in their student planner and this is monitored by their tutor.

Certificates are presented to the students during the end of the year assembly in recognition of the contributions that they have made to the school community.

Key Stage 4 Service

While service is not a requirement in Year 10 and 11, Key Stage 4 students are also encouraged to offer some form of service to their community. Details of this are recorded in student planners and monitored by tutors.

This information is instrumental when selecting candidates for the BSGC All Round Scholarship, which is awarded to one BSGC pupil at the end of Year 11.

Enrichment Week

During the final week of the academic year, the usual timetable is suspended to make way for a series of specially planned enrichment opportunities across the whole school, especially for students in Year 7 to 10.

Some of these activities take place on the school premises, while on other occasions, students have the chance to use specialist facilities available at off site locations.

The days aim to cover the categories of **Academic** activities, **Skills-based** activities, **Creative** activities, working within the **Community** and **Sports**.

In recent years the programme has included 'Learn a new skill day', 'BSCG big day out', charity fundraising events and the 'BSGC House Music Competition'.

Enrichment Trips

The school runs a number of annual residential trips which aim to provide opportunities for students to enrich their wider learning. These include:

- KS2 residential trips: opportunities to introduce younger children to the concept of being away from home.
- Sailing Camp: a 5-day intensive sailing course for Year 6 students.
- Cornwall trip: an introduction to the UK including cultural and educational visits for Year 6 students.
- London trip: a language and cultural experience offered to Year 8 students.
- Ski trip: an opportunity to take part in an alternative sport; open to all Secondary students.
- Morocco trip: a geography department trip encompassing a range of practical physical and human geographic experiences.
- Germany trip: a language a cultural experience open to Key Stage 4 and 5 students.
- COBIS Games: an opportunity to represent the school by competing in sporting events with other COBIS schools around the world. Open to Key Stage 3 students.
- International Debate Competitions: an opportunity to compete against a range of British and international schools from around the world but also, as a residential to experience, to interact with students from different countries and other cultures.