

Maths and English Policy

This Policy is for students on RSL courses who are aged 16-18 at the start of their course at English AMS centres.

Why do Students need to study Maths and English at the Academy of Music and Sound?

In 2014, the Government introduced the continued mandatory study of Maths and English for all students who did not achieve a grade C or above at GCSE. Matthew Hancock the Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise set out his vision for improving post-16 numeracy and literacy:

“40% of pupils do not get GCSE grades A to C in English and Maths by age 16. Worse still, 90% of those who don't reach this basic standard by 16, don't achieve it by age 19. From August 2014 students who have not achieved a good pass in English and/or maths GCSE by age 16 must continue to work towards achieving these qualifications or an approved interim qualification as a 'stepping stone' towards GCSE as a condition of student places being funded.”*

The Purpose of Maths and English Re-sits

Academy of Music and Sound believes it is important for any student who does not have GCSE Maths and/or English at Grade C to study on a course with the aim of improving their Maths and/or English skills and achieving a grade C in their re-sit exams. Studying Maths and/or English is a condition of funding the Music course and ensures all 16 to 19-year olds have the best chance of achieving this standard, and are given every opportunity and the necessary support to do so.

How important is it to attend and engage with your maths and English course and re-sits?

Learners at AMS, will be allocated to a class and notified of the day and time of this class. At AMS it is a mandatory requirement for all 16-18 year old learners to attend their maths and/or English classes along with their music lessons. This attendance will be monitored, and non-attendance will be robustly followed up. If students do not attend lessons they will be disciplined through the three stages of the AMS discipline system. Continued non-attendance to any classes including English and/or Maths will lead to your place at AMS being withdrawn. If students have not engaged with their Maths and/or English course or attended their exams they will not be offered a place on the second year of the course.

Studying Maths and English at the Academy of Music and Sound

AMS has a commitment to provide the opportunity for all learners who do not already hold grade C qualifications in English and/or Maths to be supported in working towards those aims.

Key Points:

- Attendance at English and Maths sessions is a condition for 16-18 learners who have not yet achieved a GCSE Grade C or above in English and Maths and will be an integral part of your main course
- Rigorous initial and diagnostic assessment ensures that learners are placed on the right level/course.
- Clear and measurable targets are in place for English and Maths development and progress is monitored well.
- Maths and English staff provide learners with high quality advice, guidance and support and work closely with vocational staff to ensure good links between both aspects of a learner's programme
- AMS ensures all learners have the opportunity to study and improve their English and Maths and achieve appropriate qualifications leading to A* - C GCSE Grades in those subjects
- As part of your main course (and dependent on prior achievements) your timetable will include slots for both Maths and English. **As an AMS requirement attendance is expected to be over 90% in all subjects**
- Additional support is designed to meet individual needs. It can be discussed during initial interview; on programme and throughout the year.

Where Will it Lead?

GCSE Maths and English (grade C) is an extremely important qualification. It is highly valued by employers, and a requirement of most universities for Higher Education courses.

Employers and Educators have identified these skills as vital for enabling:

- Young people and adults to have the practical skills to succeed in further learning, employment and life in modern society

The skills you will develop are learning tools that will enable you to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding to everyday life
- Engage competently and confidently
- Solve problems in both familiar and unfamiliar situations
- Develop personally and professionally as positive citizens who actively contribute to society of the student(s), his/her family and/or any staff members must be respected at all times.

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Agreed by: Mel Baxter, Steve Ryan.