



Ripon Grammar School

The Upper School Curriculum
2017-2019

Curriculum Statement - RGS

“Ripon Grammar School (RGS) provides an outstanding education for its students, striving always for excellence in every aspect of teaching, learning and wider curricular opportunities. By actively promoting a culture of challenge and ambition, in a supportive environment, every student is encouraged to aim high and achieve their very best.”

The curriculum at RGS:

- Develops according to the age of the students, allowing smooth progression and continuity through the stages of secondary education. It provides a **broad and balanced** learning programme at Key Stage 3 (1st – 3rd Form) whilst allowing increasing specialisation within a wide range of subject choice, including minority academic subjects, as students move on to GCSE and A-level;
- Is based on seven areas of learning and experience: the aesthetic, creative and practical; the human & social; the linguistic; the mathematical; the physical; the scientific & technological, including the use of ICT, and the spiritual, moral, ethical and personal;
- Provides opportunities for students to gain qualifications and achieve at the highest levels in public examinations and other awards.

The English Baccalaureate

“Introduce the English Baccalaureate to encourage schools to offer a broad set of academic subjects to age 16, whether or not students then go down an academic or vocational route.”

[Nicky Morgan, Education Secretary](#)

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate will be awarded to students gaining GCSE grades 9-5 in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (two GCSEs)
- A modern or ancient foreign language
- A humanity such as geography or history.

GCSE Changes 2017-2019

- All GCSEs – examination 2019
- Grading 1 – 9 [low to high]
- Grade 4 is equivalent to GCSE grade C but grade 5 will be deemed a “good pass”
- Most GCSEs will be untiered but where GCSEs are tiered, grades 4 and 5 available through both tiers

What does the GCSE 'good pass' mean?

- The Government's definition of 'good pass' will be set at grade 5.
- Grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of pupils gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This means that there will be fewer pupils achieving a 'good pass' than in previous years.
- Grade 4 will continue to be a level 2 achievement (equivalent to a low grade C now). We would not expect employers, colleges and universities to raise the bar to a grade 5 if, for example, a grade 4 would meet their requirements.
- Important to remember that the GCSE 'good pass' allows parents and students to hold schools and the Government to account – it is currently set at a GCSE grade C.

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above. ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G. 									
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U

CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE

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The Compulsory Curriculum (A)

Subjects	GCSE	Grouping	Periods per Week
English Language & English Literature	Two GCSEs	Tutor group	5/6
Language [French/ German/Spanish]	GCSE	Year Group + Set	4
Mathematics [Statistics] [Further Maths]	GCSE [GCSE] [L2 certificate]	Set [Alpha one only] [Alpha sets only]	5 [5] [5]
Games	-	Year Group	2
ICT	EDCL*	Form	1
PE	-	Form	1
Religious Education	-	Form	1
		Total	19

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The Compulsory Curriculum (B)

Science – 9 periods

In the fourth year:

- All students study the three separate sciences for 3 periods each [biology, chemistry and physics]

In the fifth year:

- Students will follow a science course which meets their needs: the three separate sciences or “combined science.”

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The Non-Compulsory Curriculum

Select **THREE** subjects from the following list:

Art and Design	Astronomy	Classical Civilisation
Design Technology*	French	Geography
German	History	Home Economics: Food and Nutrition*
Music	Religious Studies	Spanish
	Latin**	

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The Non-Compulsory Curriculum

Students will select three subjects from the list of options available:

Subjects	GCSE	Grouping	Periods per Week
Option #1	GCSE	Option Groups	4
Option #2	GCSE	Option Groups	4
Option #3	GCSE	Option Groups	4
Total =	3 GCSEs	Total =	12

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Summary

Everyone will study:

- English language and English literature
- A Modern Foreign Language [French, German, Spanish]
- Mathematics
- A science course [separate sciences in the fourth year, and separate sciences or combined science in the fifth year]
- Games, ICT, PE and religious education
- Three optional subjects chosen from the list

Some will study:

- Latin [offered at lunchtimes/after school]
- Further mathematics [Level 2 Certificate] – Alpha mathematics
- Statistics – Alpha 1 only

Key Dates

- PCE:
Tuesday 28th February
- Careers Evening:
Wednesday 8th March
- Form deadline:
Tuesday 14th March [9:00am]

Questions

- FAQs:
 - Priorities
 - New subjects
 - Changing my mind?
- Any further questions?
- Email: augerk@riponggrammar.co.uk