



# Ripon Grammar School

The Upper School Curriculum  
2019-2021

# 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, \(Previous\) 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.

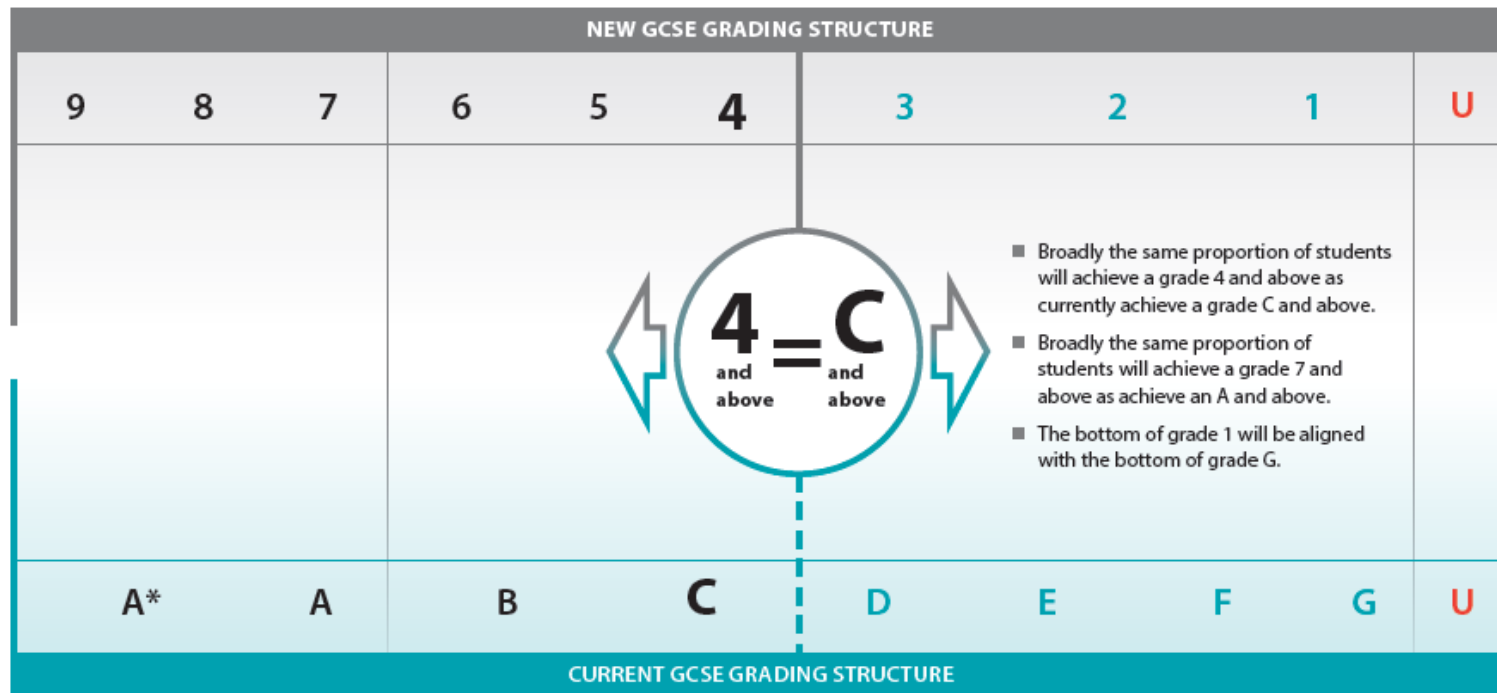
# GCSE Changes 2019-2021

- All GCSEs – examination 2021
- 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





# Upper School Curriculum 2019-2021

## 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 [Further Maths]	GCSE [L2 certificate]	Set [Alpha sets only]	5 [5]
Games	-	Year Group	2
ICT	EDCL*	Form	1
PE	-	Form	1
Religious Education	-	Form	1
		Total	19

# Upper School Curriculum 2019-2021

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.”

# Upper School Curriculum 2019-2021

## 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*	

# Upper School Curriculum 2019-2021

## 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

# Upper School Curriculum 2019-2021

## 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 groups

# Key Dates

- PCE:  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Careers Evening:  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Form deadline:  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March [9:15am]

# Questions

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