



Ripon Grammar School

The Upper School Curriculum
2020-2022

Curriculum Statement - RGS

Ripon Grammar School provides a traditional yet forward thinking curriculum designed to stretch and challenge a selective and high attaining cohort, preparing students for their next steps in higher education and the wider world of work, leadership and citizenship.

Curriculum Statement - RGS

The curriculum is designed to be as broad as possible for as long as possible, affording students the maximum choice we can, at appropriate stages of specialism. We recognise the centrality of good subject knowledge but also support the development of flexibility of thought and creativity by encouraging the application of such knowledge to new situations and contexts.

Curriculum Statement - RGS

Teaching and learning is designed to be ambitious in scope with appropriate levels of challenge and support. We also recognise that there are many learning opportunities outside of the classroom too that develop important skills such as teamwork, collaboration, resilience and mutual respect.

Curriculum Statement - RGS

Above all, we seek an education that is grounded in the school's values:

- Moral Integrity
- Kindness and Care for others
- Curiosity
- Aspiration
- Empathy
- Equality and Inclusivity
- Community Focus

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 (Y7 –Y9) 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

2020-2022

- All GCSEs – examination 2022
- Grading 9 – 1 [high to low]
- 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.

New GCSE Grading Structure

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NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Upper School Curriculum 2020-2022

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

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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.”

Upper School Curriculum 2020-2022

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

Upper School Curriculum 2020-2022

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:
Tuesday 11th February
- Careers Evening [Focus on STEM & Sport]:
Wednesday 4th March
- Form deadline:
Thursday 5th March [9:15am]

Questions

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