

GCSE CURRICULUM

The GCSE years are of great significance to pupils' development. It is the time when they focus upon major public examinations for the first time and make choices about future study, which affect the rest of their lives.

At Rossall, we believe that it is in our pupils' best interests to provide a base of study, which offers sufficient breadth to enable considered decisions to be made about which routes to follow in the future, whilst allowing them to be intellectually challenged and empowered to achieve to their full potential.

The GCSE course at Rossall enables pupils to complete the GCSE years with nine GCSE awards (although some pupils may achieve the equivalent of significantly more).

CORE SUBJECTS

All GCSE students follow a **core curriculum** of at least five GCSEs:

English:

In most cases, English will lead to the award of two certificates, one for English Language and one for English Literature.

Mathematics:

This is a key qualification in all areas of study.

Science:

There are two Science routes:

1. **Two Science Option:** Most pupils will follow a route which leads to two GCSEs in Science, the first, called *Core Science*, taken at the end of Year 10 and the second, called *Additional Science*, taken at the end of Year 11.
2. **Three Science Option:** Pupils who may wish to take a Science subject in the Sixth Form (including any potential IB candidates) should take three separate International GCSEs (IGCSEs) in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Language:

Pupils study a modern foreign language (French, German or Spanish). However, Spanish is suitable for only the most able linguists and has a restricted entry. Pupils for whom English is not their first language are exempt from the study of a modern foreign language. An exemption is also made for those with a specific learning requirement, upon written parental request and subsequent approval by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

CHOSEN SUBJECTS

Pupils following the "Two Science" option select three additional subjects of their own choice at GCSE, from the list in the Subject Blocks on the following page.

Pupils taking "Three Sciences", choose two additional subjects from the list on the following page.

Please note that only one subject can be taken from each block, as subjects within the same block are taught at the same time.

It is not necessary to take a subject from each column.

SUBJECT BLOCKS 2008 - 2009				
French	Spanish	Music	Business	Geography
German	PE	Geography	RS	Art
Individual Learning Unit (I.L.U.)	History	History	DT	
Pupils must choose at least one modern foreign language (see previous notes)				

E.C.D.L.

In addition to the GCSE subjects, all pupils study the *European Computer Driving Licence* (E.C.D.L.). This is a much sought-after certificate, which is highly respected worldwide and is increasingly becoming required in industry. Pupils who complete eight modules will also receive the *E.C.D.L. Extra* award, which is a "Level 2" qualification, equivalent to a GCSE grade A* - C.

Optional BTEC Courses

Rossall School has the oldest Cadet Corps in the country. Pupils who are members of the Combined Cadet Force will be able to qualify for a *BTEC First Diploma in Public Services*, which is equivalent to four "good GCSEs" (i.e. A*-C grades). This qualification is earned through continuance in the C.C.F. through Year 11 and is designed to certificate the existing curriculum. It does not involve study beyond the C.C.F. course, as all work is undertaken in C.C.F. time.

Similarly, C.C.F. candidates can take a *BTEC First Diploma in Music*, which is also equivalent to four A*-C grade GCSEs.

Entry for the BTEC courses is made via the C.C.F..

We believe that our curriculum provides a superb educational opportunity for our pupils and we take great care in facilitating a positive impact to their education.

C. EGDELL,
Deputy Head (Curriculum).

GCSE EXPECTATIONS

Members of the GCSE cohort of Rossallians are expected and required:

- To fulfil all of their school commitments and give their best efforts in all subjects;
- To complete at least 45 minutes prep in each of three subjects per evening and hand these in on time;
- To use and maintain their Prep Diary;
- To prepare appropriately for internal and external examinations;
- To seek academic help from teachers when it is needed;
- To complete coursework tasks by the specified deadlines (see following section);
- To be a good example to younger pupils and a positive ambassador for the school.

Academic and disciplinary sanctions exist to support the above expectations.

COURSEWORK CONDITIONS

A calendar of submission dates for GCSE coursework will be published in due course.

Conditions:

- Strict deadlines will apply for the submission of GCSE coursework.
- Coursework which fails to meet a deadline:
 - **In these circumstances, coursework will not be accepted.**
 - Pupils who fail to submit coursework tasks, which in total are worth greater than 50% of a GCSE, will not be entered for that subject.

Special Circumstances:

- Health-related absence from school will allow an extension for a number of days equivalent to the absence, if accompanied by a medical certificate.
- "Compassionate circumstances" may be considered, at the discretion of the Deputy Head (Curriculum).
- Perceived workload pressures or absence due to holidays taken in school time will not be considered.

GCSE OPTION FORM

Please complete this form and return it in the envelope provided, by Friday 5th June 2008.

FULL NAME: _____

HOUSE: _____

UNIQUE ROSSALL No.: 1 2 = = =

If you expect to leave Rossall at the end of Year 9, tick this box:

French	Spanish	Music	Business	Geography
German	PE	Geography	RS	Art
Individual Learning Unit (I.L.U.)	History	History	DT	

SUBJECT CHOICES

- ✓ ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE
- ✓ ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE
- ✓ MATHEMATICS GCSE
- ✓ E.C.D.L.

Please Tick:

- TWO SCIENCE OPTION (2 GCSEs: Core Science and Additional Science)
- THREE SEPARATE SCIENCES (3 IGCSEs: Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

Other subjects:

1. Circle a Modern Foreign Language in the table above (unless one of the exemption criteria apply, as described earlier);
2. Circle **THREE** other subjects, if you have chosen the TWO SCIENCE option; Circle **TWO** other subjects, if you have chosen the THREE Science Option.

REMEMBER – you cannot circle more than one subject in any of the five columns in the table above. You do not need to circle a subject in each column.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS

*This agreement must be signed by the pupil and countersigned by the parent / guardian.
This is a pre-requisite to being entered for GCSE.*

To be completed by the pupil:

*I undertake to give my best efforts in the subjects which I have chosen.
I agree to the GCSE Expectations and Coursework Conditions.*

To be completed by the parent / guardian:

I approve of the GCSE choices herewith and agree to support the GCSE Expectations and Coursework Conditions.

PRINT NAME

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE

NOTES

1. Forms which are incorrectly completed will be returned;
2. Availability of courses may be subject to numbers;
3. If it is necessary to limit the number of places on particular courses; forms will be processed in the order in which they are received.