



SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Royal Russell is an inclusive school which provides a high-quality academic education for our girls and boys. We seek to develop the best of our pupils, staff and families within a vibrant community; one which cares and shows mutual respect for all and celebrates the success of each individual as part of the whole.

All members of the School community are encouraged to give of their best and to share their talents with, and for, others. The School motto, *non sibi sed omnibus*, fosters the true meaning of identity and self and challenges us to acknowledge our responsibilities and duties to the communities to which we belong; locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Vision and Our Values

Our Vision

To provide an outstanding co-educational experience for children aged 3 – 18 as the family school of choice.

In addition to the promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, we have developed a set of values which underpin the way we support and enhance pupil learning.

Our values speak to who we are and who we strive to be; whether you are a pupil, teacher, staff member, alumni or volunteer. Our values help to guide us in our learning together and also as we navigate our way through life.

Our Values

Ambitious

We are passionate learners who pursue excellence in all that we do. Through our broad curriculum and co-curricular programme, we are ambitious for ourselves and recognise the rewards of effort, collaboration and commitment.

Open

The school's motto is 'Not for oneself but for all'. In our inclusive community, we believe in ourselves and celebrate the differences in each other recognising the value of honesty, integrity and respect for everyone.

Distinctive

We value originality, authenticity and contribution to our community as a whole. We nurture pupils' intellectual, social, cultural and moral development, so that they can confidently contribute to their world using their unique skill set.

Courageous

We emphasise that the right thing to do isn't always the easiest thing to do and promote spiritual and moral values through Christian principles. We encourage pupils to challenge themselves and each other to do good; becoming strong global citizens.

Our Curriculum Values

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1. Curriculum Policy summary:

This document sets out the aims, arrangements and procedures for the taught curriculum in the Senior School, Years 7-13.

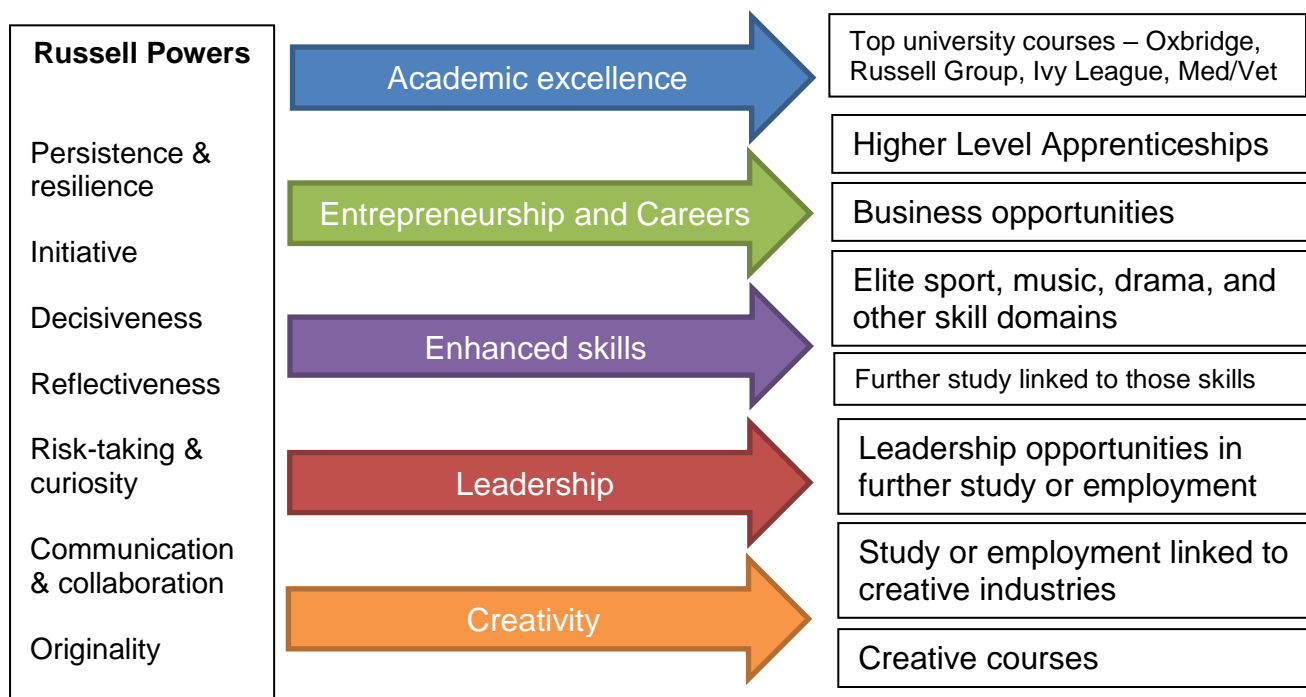
The Senior School is a selective, co-educational, socially & ethnically diverse Day & Boarding school. It has strong links with the Junior School, offering a curriculum which builds upon the education pupils receive there. Whilst taking a Whole School approach, the broad and balanced curriculum offered in the Senior School is designed to be accessible to all pupils who enter the Senior School, including our most common external entry points at Year 7, 9, 10 and 12.

2. Curriculum Aims:

Building on the Junior School's Russell Powers, the Senior School curriculum is based around five key aims for pupil progression:

1. Academic excellence – the attainment of top academic grades which ultimately lead to elite university destinations
2. Entrepreneurship and Careers - providing opportunities for enterprise, financial awareness, and exposure to the business community to support this
3. Enhanced skills – across our curricular and co-curricular offer, supporting our pupils to hone the key skills which will enable them to succeed in their chosen field
4. Leadership – giving pupils the opportunity to develop leadership attributes within a supportive school environment
5. Creativity – enabling pupils to be inventive, to experiment, to adapt and to be original, whether in art, literature, or other disciplines

As a school, we value each of these aspirations, and we will support our pupils in progressing towards each one of them throughout their time at Royal Russell. Every aspect of our curriculum and our co-curricular programme in some way contributes to this. Our goal is that every pupil enjoys their own unique learning journey as they complete their curriculum through Years 7-13.



Each curriculum subject area contributes to each of our aims and also develop one or more aspects of pupils' reasoning and thinking:

Linguistic

This area is concerned with developing pupils' communication skills and increasing their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing in English as well as other languages.

Mathematical

This area helps pupils to make calculations, to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space and to develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly. Their knowledge and understanding of mathematics are developed in a variety of ways, including practical activity, exploration and discussion.

Scientific

This area is concerned with increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces and with developing the skills associated with science as a process of enquiry: for example, observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings.

Technological

These skills include the use of programming languages tools (Computer Science); developing, planning and communicating ideas; working with tools, equipment, materials and components to produce good quality products; and evaluating processes and products (Design Technology & Food Preparation and Nutrition).

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
1	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
2	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
3	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
4	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
5	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
6	English	English	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
7	English	Maths	English	English	English	Block A	Block A
8	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	English	Block A	Block A
9	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block A	Block A
10	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block A	Block A
11	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block A	Block A study
12	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block A	Block A study
13	Maths	Biology	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block B	Block B
14	Science	Biology	Maths	Maths	Maths	Block B	Block B
15	Science	Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Maths	Block B	Block B
16	Science	Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Maths	Block B	Block B
17	Science	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Block B	Block B
18	Science	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Block B	Block B
19	Science	French	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Block B	Block B
20	French	French	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Block B	Block B
21	French	French	French	Chemistry	Chemistry	Block B	Block B
22	French	French	French	Chemistry	Chemistry	Block B	Block B
23	French	Spanish	French	Physics	Chemistry	Block B	Block B study
24	Spanish	Spanish	French	Physics	Chemistry	Block B	Block B study
25	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Physics	Physics	Block C	Block C
26	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Physics	Physics	Block C	Block C
27	Spanish	History	Spanish	MFL	Physics	Block C	Block C
28	History	History	Spanish	MFL	Physics	Block C	Block C
29	History	Geography	History	MFL	MFL	Block C	Block C
30	History	Geography	History	MFL	MFL	Block C	Block C
31	Geography	Geography	History	MFL	MFL	Block C	Block C
32	Geography	TP	Geography	Option A	MFL	Block C	Block C
33	Geography	TP	Geography	Option A	MFL	Block C	Block C
34	TP	TP	TP	Option A	MFL	Block C	Block C
35	TP	Computing	TP	Option A	Option A	Block C	Block C study
36	Computing	Computing	TP	Option A	Option A	Block C	Block C study
37	Computing	Computing	Computing	Option A	Option A	Block D	Block D
38	DT	DT	Computing	Option B	Option A	Block D	Block D
39	DT	DT	Computing	Option B	Option A	Block D	Block D
40	DT/FPN	DT/FPN	DT/FPN	Option B	Option B	Block D	Block D
41	FPN	FPN	DT/FPN	Option B	Option B	Block D	Block D
42	FPN	FPN	DT/FPN	Option B	Option B	Block D	Block D
43	Drama	Drama	Drama	Option B	Option B	Block D	Block D
44	Drama/Music	Drama/ Music	Drama/ Music	Option C	Option B	Block D	Block D
45	Music	Music	Music	Option C	Option C	Block D	Block D
46	Art	Art	Art	Option C	Option C	Block D	Block D
47	Art	Art	Art	Option C	Option C	Block D	Block D study

48	Core PE	Core PE	Core PE	Option C	Option C	Block D	Block D study
49	Core PE	Core PE	Core PE	Option C	Option C	Speaker programme	Speaker programme
50	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games
51	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games
52	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games
53	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games	Games

Human and social

This area is concerned with people and their environment, and how human action, now and in the past, has influenced events and conditions. The subjects of History, Geography, Business, Economics, Theology and Philosophy make a strong contribution to this area.

Physical

This area aims to develop the pupils' physical control and co-ordination as well as their tactical skills and imaginative responses and to help them to evaluate and improve their performance. Pupils acquire knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of fitness and health.

Aesthetic and creative

This area is concerned with the processes of making, composing and inventing. There are aesthetic and creative aspects of all subjects, but some make a particularly strong contribution, including Art, Music, Drama, Photography, Media and the study of literature, because they call for personal, imaginative, and often practical, responses.

3. Curriculum outline

The week is divided into 55 periods, including Chapel and Assembly, so there are 53 teaching periods in total. In Years 7-13, these are divided as follows:

Curriculum plans and programmes of study for all taught subjects (as above) are created by all departments and sit with the Head of Department. These are stored centrally and are live documents reflecting the ever-changing dynamics of each successive year group, and the ongoing enhancements to curriculum provision in every area.

In Years 7 and 8 pupils are generally taught in mixed ability class sets of 24 (see setting and banding information) titled P, Q, R, S. In Year 9 an additional class is added 9T and all Year 9 are reassigned to a new teaching group. At GCSE, teaching groups are assigned due to option subject choices and department criteria for core subjects. Again, at A level class cohorts are determined by subject choice.

There are some additional details on this:

German:

Pupils who join the school in Year 9 can study German and French, rather than Spanish and French. Current pupils can opt into German in place of Spanish.

Japanese:

Pupils who join the school in Year 9 can study Japanese and French, rather than Spanish and French. Current pupils can opt into Japanese in place of Spanish.

EAL:

For pupils who have English as an Additional Language, they will receive EAL lessons instead of French in Year 7-9 (or in some situations in Years 7-9, instead of Spanish), and instead of either an MFL or one of the Option subjects in Year 10-11.

In Year 12, all pupils without a GCSE in English will study the IELTS course in one of their curriculum blocks. They will study this at least until examination in May of Year 12. Providing they achieve a suitable grade for their intended university destinations, they may then stop studying EAL formally. For those pupils who need to re-sit, we run an IELTS course in Year 13.

Single Languages:

In each of Year 8-9, a small group may run which comprises pupils studying only one language (French or Spanish), with 6 periods of that language supplemented by two additional periods of English/Literacy support.

Bilingual:

Pupils who are bilingual in either Spanish or French will have the opportunity to study Japanese in Year 7 and 8 for two of their bilingual language lessons. Another lesson will be taken by the language assistant in their bilingual language to support the development of their reading and writing in preparation for early entry GCSE.

Learning support:

Pupils who receive additional Learning Support tuition will replace one period in the week with Learning Support lessons; this may happen for the duration of the academic year or for a limited period according to the specific need of the pupil. Learning support lessons can take place during any of the main teaching periods, so this will vary year-to-year.

We ensure that any pupils with an EHC Plan receive an education that fulfils the requirements of plan.

4. RSE

This section has been written with reference to the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy dated January 2022.

Definition

Relationships Education is defined as teaching about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to respectful friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other pupils and with adults, including online.

The RSE curriculum covers the following themes by year group

Year 7	Friendships, respects and relationships
Year 8	Relationships and identity
Year 9	Sex, the law and consent
Year 10	Contraception, choices and STDs
Year 11	Exploring relationships and the impacts of pornography and the media
Year 12	Sexual health for young adults
Year 13	

5. Gifted & Talented, including the Scholars' programme

Royal Russell School has developed its own programme which seeks to afford opportunity for stretching, challenging and developing all of our pupils. As such, the extensive list of activities, societies and events are designed to be open to all of our pupils, with specific elements of this targeted at the academic scholars and most able pupils in each section of the school.

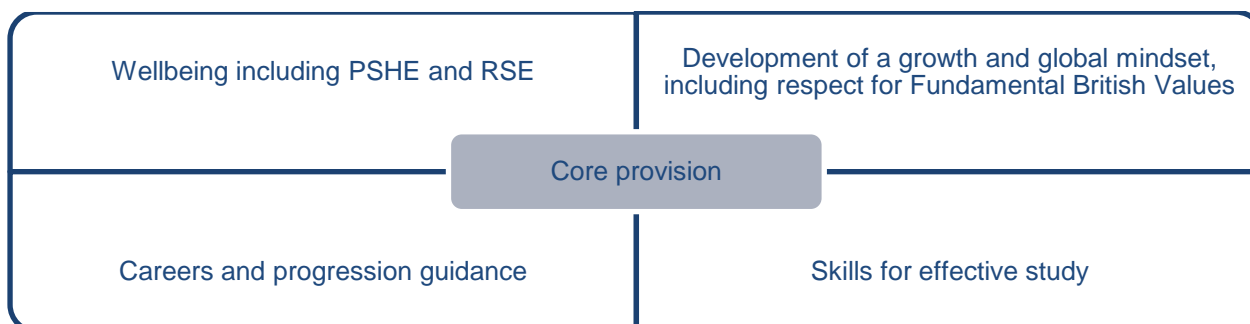
The Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator, compiles a list of those pupils who are recognised as being a particularly high achiever in one or more area of the curriculum. This list is made available to members of staff in order to set challenging work and targets for them.

The performance of these pupils is tracked as they progress through the school.

(For detailed information relating to relevant procedures within the school, please refer to the High Achievers and Gifted and Talented Pupils Policy dated October 2021).

6. Core provision

The subject based curriculum is underpinned by a core provision which is common to all pupils:



The main contributors to the core provision are the curriculum subject areas. However, there are a number of other areas which contribute:

The Tutor Programme

Tutorial programmes for each year group are overseen and coordinated by the Assistant Head Team, with a view to both the general requirements (statutory RSE guidance, the PSHE framework and the statutory guidance on Careers), and the specific needs of each year group. Tutors, supported by Heads of Year, Housemasters and Housemistresses, deliver materials for this.

Chapel and Assembly

Weekly Chapel services and Assemblies, whole-school, House and year group-specific, also contribute to the provision of elements of the core programme.

Pupil Voice

Fundamental British Values are also reinforced through pupil voice opportunities – formal elected mechanisms such as the Pupil Council, Diversity and Inclusion group and the Charity, Food and Sustainability committees.

Committees play an integral role in fostering respect for democracy and tolerance for the views of others. Additional systems such as focus groups, pupil surveys, interviews and feedback routes also help to enhance this.

Challenge Days

In addition to the weekly tutor programme, at least once per year we hold a Challenge Day, containing activities to support the delivery of the statutory RSE guidance and PSHE framework and learning needs of each year group. These days are composed of longer-running sessions on themes such as relationships, sex education, wellbeing, careers and study skills. External providers are used as appropriate to deliver some elements of these days alongside tutors, Housemasters, Housemistresses and Heads of Year.

The Library

The School Library is housed on two floors and provides a calm, quiet atmosphere in which all of our pupils can work. It is the area where our Sixth Form pupils undertake silent independent work during Library study periods. It is also open at break, lunch and after school to pupils, and can be booked by teachers for class visits. There is a very wide range of fiction, non-fiction and reference books, updated regularly after consultation with staff and pupils. In addition, there is a selection of newspapers, magazines and periodicals, as well as a number of computers. The Library Firefly page is the route to access the range of digital resources which the school subscribes to for pupils. The Library also hosts a great number of exhibitions, displays, talks and competitions.

Additional provision

There are also opportunities for pupils to engage in other activities, either as a whole year group or part thereof:

Section	Provision	Normal timing
Lower School Y7-8	Year 7 induction Resilience workshops Study skills (Maximise)	Autumn term Spring term
Middle School Y9-10	Holocaust Memorial Day GCSE taster sessions Study skills (Elevate)	Spring term Spring term Spring term
Upper School Y11-13	Sixth Form taster sessions Study skills (InnerDrive) Sixth Form induction University Preparation Week Peer mentoring programme	Autumn term Spring term Autumn term Summer term Spring term

Sixth Form provision

Sixth Form pupils receive fortnightly Careers sessions, and Year 12 have the weekly Sixth Form Speaker Programme. Sixth Form pupils also have access to the regular Sixth Form lectures, given by elite university applicants.

One-off events

The Careers Fair and other careers events, awareness events around specific aspects of wellbeing and PSHE, sessions led by the Medical Centre team and other one-off Library talks all contribute to the core provision.

7. Setting and Banding

Whilst being a selective school, Royal Russell Senior School does have a wide range of academic ability. Each pupil is valued as an individual and for the contribution he or she brings to our community. Academic progress and achievement are both highly prized and sought after, although both are viewed in relation to the individual pupil. Every effort is made to bring the best out of each of our pupils.

The vast majority of teaching is done to classes of mixed ability. The only subjects which use setting are Mathematics, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

In Mathematics, from Year 7 pupils will be placed into ability-based sets, dependent on their performance during the course of study. This will be reviewed regularly by the Maths department. Some sets in Year 11 may be entered in January for the IGCSE Foundation tier, dependent on their performance during the course.

In English, from Year 10, pupils follow the iGCSE Language and Literature courses. Mixed ability groups are supported by one or two smaller lower ability sets, and a small number may focus on Language only in Year 11. A small set comprised of EAL pupils sits English Language IGCSE only as well as being prepared for the IGCSE English as a Second Language qualification.

Science operates some form of setting from Year 9, with pupils following an IGCSE foundation / preparation course. Pupils have exams in each of the three Sciences in the summer of Year 9, the results of which will determine the setting for Years 10 & 11. Pupils will then be eligible for either IGCSE in all three Sciences, the Dual Award (equivalent to 2 GCSEs), or in a select few cases, the Single Award in Science.

The Modern Foreign Language provision in French and Spanish is set by ability from Year 8.

8. The Curriculum Assistance Programme (CAP)

CAP is provided within the curriculum for Year 10 and 11 pupils upon parental request and / or teacher recommendation from specific subject areas when pupils have opted for a reduced curriculum either by withdrawing from a particular subject area, more often a Modern Foreign Language, or a GCSE option block. In exceptional cases where a reduced curriculum is required from Year 8 this need is met by providing additional literacy or learning support through either the English department or Learning Enrichment department.

CAP occurs in small groups, sometimes of mixed Year Groups, where the teacher provides or supports suitable differentiated activities / tasks to support learning in targeted subject areas.

Taught activities that occur cover:

- Pupil self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses by subject, by skills, etc.
- Know your current Mindset (and how to change it if you need to)
- Know your preferred learning style(s) (and how to develop others)

Other activities aim to:

Consolidate and increase subject specific knowledge and understanding
Develop appropriate generic and subject specific skills
Improve literacy and numeracy
Develop the use of technical language
Encourage the regular use of study skills
Develop the use of independent research skills
Encourage application
Support pupils in the completion of homework and coursework
Build confidence and self esteem

Time is increasingly provided for pupils to complete assignments in their main curriculum subjects with the CAP teacher present and available to offer any assistance required.

Pupils may join CAP at the beginning of Year 10 or may transfer to CAP part way through the GCSE courses. This decision will be supported by the SENCo and/or Deputy Head Learning.

9. GCSE

The choice of specification taught in Year 10 and 11, including between GCSE and the equal-value (International) IGCSE, is determined by the Head of Department in consultation with the Senior School Leadership Team.

Pupils and parents attend a GCSE Awareness Evening in early January of Year 9, designed to offer information and guidance with respect to the GCSE subjects on offer and the options process for choosing specific courses. The evening complements the publication of the Options Booklet both of which explain how the options choice process works and how to make appropriate choices for each individual. In early February a subject Parents' Evening occurs, with focus being placed upon the subjects being considered for GCSE level study.

The curriculum at KS4 is designed to offer a balanced choice of subjects for our pupils to study. The option subjects give the opportunity for each pupil to follow his/her particular interests and expertise with a view to a greater degree of specialisation in the Sixth Form. All Year 9 pupils submit options choices after the February half term.

The vast majority of our pupils take 9 GCSEs/IGCSEs:

The core subjects are: Maths; English Language; English Literature; Science IGCSE Dual Award.

All pupils then choose a Modern Foreign Language: French; Spanish; German or Japanese (if studied before); or EAL if required.

Pupils also take part in the Games programme, at Middle School level in Year 10, and Senior level in Year 11.

Pupils then have a free choice of three further subjects:

Art and Design	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Media Studies
Business	French	Music
Computing	Geography	Religious Studies
Design and Technology	German	Physical Education
Drama	History	Spanish

EAL pupils sit IGCSE English as a Second Language. This is accepted by all universities and is specifically designed for overseas pupils.

GCSE Course School Assessments:

Pupils in Year 10 have a week of internal exams in the summer term. Papers, typically, are in the style of the specific IGCSE/GCSE, but often are a reduced version in terms of content and / or time.

Pupils in Year 11 sit Trial Exams before the Christmas break. These seek to replicate the form and structure of the final IGCSE/GCSE and are undertaken in a formal exam hall setting. The results of these exams are conveyed to parents and each member of Year 11 has an interview with a member of the Senior School Leadership Team, or Upper School Team, to discuss his/her performance and determine strategies to address any situations. A Parents' Evening occurs in January of Year 11 to allow discussion of subject performance between pupil, parent and teacher.

10. Sixth Form

Course offerings and specification choices at Sixth Form are determined by the Head of Department in consultation with the Senior School Leadership Team.

Pupils embark upon an induction course during the first week of Year 12. This is specifically designed to allow the year group to bond and recognise the differences of studying in the Sixth Form. It has a strong emphasis placed upon the importance of academic success, whilst making Year 12 pupils aware of what is expected of them as senior members of the school. To this end, it creates a strong community feel which reinforces the ethos of the school.

In Year 12, pupils study 3 or 4 subjects. Pupils from overseas who do not have at least a grade 5 at GCSE or IGCSE English will study the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) course as part of their programme.

Twelve periods are designated to the study of each subject; in Year 13 ten are directed lesson time with the addition of two 'subject studies' periods which may be supervised by the relevant department. In addition, there are four periods of Games and the Speaker Programme. All Year 12 and 13 pupils follow a fortnightly rotation of Careers lessons with the Sixth Form team, when work will begin on the UCAS application process. Pupils' non-contact periods are spent completing silent study in the Library or independent work in Drapers' Café. The intention of this structure of the Sixth Form curriculum is to provide pupils with greater opportunity for reflection and independence, in preparation for further study and life in the workplace.

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Entrants into the Sixth Form need to obtain a minimum of 36 points from six GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including English and Maths. A home language GCSE should not count as one of the six GCSE grades. Alternative qualifications may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Pupils who wish to study four A levels must achieve at least five grade 8 or better, including in all the relevant subjects they wish to study.

Since 2018 GCSE grades have been awarded on a numerical scale, the table provides a comparison with the old letter scale.

	Example 1		Example 2		Example 3	
	Grade	Points value	Grade	Points value	Grade	Points value
English	6	6	7	7	5	5
Maths	6	6	7	7	9	9
Subject	6	6	8	8	8	8
Subject	6	6	6	6	6	6
Subject	6	6	5	5	6	6
Subject	6	6	5	5	6	6
	Total points value	36	Total points value	38	Total points value	40
Old grade	New grade/points					
	9					
A*	8					
A	7					
B	6					
C	5					

Subject specific entry requirements:

Subject	Minimum GCSE entry requirements
Art & Design	6 in Art
Biology	7 in Biology or 77 in Double Science
Business Studies	6 in Business Studies, 6 in English Language
Business Studies BTEC	5 in English Language and 5 in Maths
Chemistry	7 in Chemistry or 77 in Double Science
Computer Science	6 in Computer Science or 7 in ICT
Design Technology	6 in Design Technology
Drama	6 in English Language, preferably also 6 in Drama
Economics	7 in Maths, 6 in English Language
English Literature	6 in English Language and 6 in English Literature
French	6 in French
Geography	6 in Geography
Politics	6 in English Language
History	6 in History
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics
Further Mathematics	8 in Mathematics
Media Studies	6 in English Language
Media Studies BTEC	5 in English Language
Music	6 in Music or Grade 5 in an instrument
Music Technology	5 in Music or relevant subject
Photography	6 in Art or similar
Physics	7 in Physics or 77 in Double Science
Psychology	6 in English Language and 6 in Biology/Double Award
Religious Studies	6 in English Language
Spanish	6 in Spanish
Sport BTEC	6 in Physical Education or equivalent

All subjects are offered at A level, unless shown above as a BTEC course. These are Diploma courses, which are offered as a 1 or 2 A level equivalent Diploma course and in exceptional cases offered as the Extended Diploma (3 A level equivalent).

Sixth Form Assessments:

In November of Year 12, pupils sit a formal internal exam (the Ten Week Test) to gauge how well they have adapted to study at A level in each of their A level courses. The Head of Year will make recommendations about the programme of study for individual pupils arising from the results of such exams. Resits for those who are judged by HODs as underperforming occur early in the Spring Term.

Year 12 complete a second set of school exams in the summer term. Following these pupils continue with their studies and move to the study of the second year of the course. A week of the summer term is devoted, off timetable, to UCAS preparation and life skills at university and the outside world.

Year 13 complete school assessments in October and Trial exams in late February/early March.

Year 13 entry requirements:

Pupils will need to secure a minimum of grade C/Pass in Year 12 exams, in order to continue the course into Year 13. Pupils who underperform in the Year 12 exams may also resit papers later in the summer term. In exceptional cases, an AS level or other qualification may be offered as an alternative to the full A level course.

11. Home Languages

Pupils who are fluent speakers of a language other than English (typically known as their 'home language') may be eligible for support in sitting GCSE and A level qualifications in these languages.

At GCSE:

The languages available for 2022-23 will be:

- Arabic
- Biblical Hebrew
- Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Italian
- Japanese
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Turkish
- Urdu

Timeline:

Year 10- September	Exams Officer will contact all pupils, asking for an expression of interest in sitting a home language exam
Year 10- December	A trial exam paper will be completed by all potential candidates
Year 10 - February	Exams Office will complete the entries for home language GCSEs and provide candidates with specifications and practice papers for exams in the summer of Year 10
Year 10 - Summer	Pupils will sit their home language GCSE

Some support may be available with access to specific texts or written works; this can be coordinated between the Exams Office and the Deputy Head Learning.

At A level:

The languages available for 2022-23 will be:

- Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Japanese

- French
- Spanish
- German
- Russian

*Polish may be available if suitable preparations can be made

Year 12 - September	Year 12 pupils may register their interest in taking their home language A level as a fourth subject. This is not supported at this time with curriculum teaching, unless authorised by the Deputy Head Learning, specifications and support materials can be provided by the MFL department.
Year 12 - January	In exceptional cases, pupils may begin the study of their Home Language A level in the Spring term of Year 12; this will be determined on a range of evidence from their performance in Year 12 Autumn term. This will be determined in discussion between the Upper School team, the pupil and their parents. This decision, is typically made due to poor academic performance (U grade) in formal Year 12 assessments and resits. At this stage, teaching would be 1-4hrs per week, supported by independent study.
Year 12 -May Year 13 -September	Following the results of the Year 12 exams, and the completion of IELTS exams in May, some pupils may begin studying their home language A level. At this stage, teaching would be 4-5hrs per week, supported by independent study. This would typically be the case if a D or below is scored in the Year 12 exams in one of their subjects, or if their prospects of successful university application would be enhanced by having an additional A level in their home language. This will be determined in discussion between the Upper School team, the pupils and their parents.
Year 13 – Sept to May	Pupils who began the study of their home language A level will continue their preparations for the A level exams. A full A level teaching allocation is provided.
Year 13 - Summer	Pupils will sit their home language A level.

Pathway for pupils with English as a Second Language

Year 12 Autumn	Year 12 Spring	Year 12 Summer	Year 13 Autumn	Year 13 Spring	Year 13 Summer
A level subject 1	→	→	→	→	A level subject 1
A level subject 2	→	→	→	→	A level subject 2
A level subject 3	→	→ may continue with 3 rd A level	→	→	A level subject 3
	→ may begin Home Language A level instead	→ may begin Home Language A level instead	→	→	AND/OR Home language A level
IELTS	→	→ IELTS exam, may begin Home language A level	→ may begin Home Language A level as a 4 th subject	→	AND/OR IELTS

12. Support Classes, clinics and revision classes

Academic Support Classes, for all age groups, run throughout the course of the year. These occur before school, during the lunch break, after school and, for boarders, in the evening. A schedule is compiled at the beginning of the academic year and published widely.

Each year, an extensive schedule of clinics and revision classes is provided to support pupils with exam preparation at GCSE and A level. Additional revision classes occur in the Christmas and Easter break, into the Summer Term and throughout the duration of the external exam season as required.

13. Co-curricular programme

The Senior School offers a very wide and varied programme of co-curricular/enrichment events. These may be accessed through the House System, Clubs and Societies, School Teams, Trips and official organisations (such as CCF; D of E; MUN, by means of example but not limited to these). All of our pupils are actively encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities which offer both a balance to their academic studies and/or complement those studies.

Table of Co-curricular / Enrichment Activities by subject	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUN for Years 9 to 13 including conferences at RRS, local, Ireland, Netherlands, & Hitachi First High School, Japan • Mini MUN for pupils in Year 7-8 • Whole school charity events – • Various games clubs including Chess and Puzzle Club • House Activities competitions • Bi-annual expedition & project to support education globally

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School links with Japan and Uganda & associated fund raising activities • Combined Cadet Force and D of E Award, for Year 9 upwards • IT Rooms available every lunchtime & Mon – Thurs after school • Revision & coursework clubs – subject specific
English (generally for all years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre Society • Frequent Year/Class group Theatre Trips • School Newspaper • A Level Topic Specific Conferences • Poetry Competition • ‘New Views’ playwright sessions • Shakespeare for Schools festival • Rotary Club Public Speaking
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in external competitions, at all ages, including UK Maths Challenges & UK Team Maths Challenges • Opportunity for able pupils in Year 9 to attend Royal Institution Masterclasses • Bi-annual visit of Cambridge University Roadshow for years 7, 8 & 9 • Annual A level Mathematics conference for Year 12 • Annual House Maths Challenge competitions for Years 7 to 10 • Various in-class projects aimed at using & applying mathematics
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Problem-Solving Competition for Junior, Intermediate & Senior Levels • Sixth Form Physicists visit to CERN, Geneva • STEM club for all Years • NatSciSoc for pupils focusing on a Science route at university • Imperial College visit for A Level pupils • Participation on A Level Chemistry Olympiad • Established link with Oxford Chemistry Department: speakers & visits
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural competitions • Language trips in Years 8,9,10 & Sixth Form including Spanish & French visits to schools • French and Spanish exchange programme for pupils in Years 8 – 10 • Linguistics Olympiad (all years) • Small group lessons taken by “Assistants” • Japanese, Chinese, Russian language classes
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Club (incl. daily & weekend extra sessions for Year 11 & Sixth Form) • Various Art trips/ visits including Drawing & Photography (South Bank) for Year 11, Tate Gallery trip for Year 10 • Photography sessions • Drawing club
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various trips including Seaford/Lewes Field trip (Year 7), London Zoo (Year 8), GCSE Field Trip (Years 10 & 11) • Fieldwork Project (Years 12 & 13) • Geography “Fire & Ice” holidays (for Years 10 to 13) • Conferences for Year 12 & 13 pupils • A Level residential trip to North Wales & South Devon
TP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various trips including “Religion & Art” National Gallery visit • Big Questions Society • Discussion class on philosophy & ethics for Year 11 • Participation in philosophical discussion at Café Philo
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Recipease • Faster Pasta competition • Masterchef/Bake-off competitions
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip to WWI Battlefields in Year 9

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to historic sites in the UK and overseas • Project work across Key Stage 3 including Black Death Project in Year 7, creating Motte & Bailey Castle models in Year 7, First World War trench diaries during Year 9
DT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & Technology club for Years 11 to 13 • Lunchtime & after school CAD/CAM computer sessions for all Years • Year 7 Design competition • KS3 DT club
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunchtime, before & after-school computer clubs for all Years • Opportunity in Years 12 & 13 to attend BETT Conference
Music (all years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir & Chamber choir (selection of singers) • Barber Shop • School Orchestra, with annual public performances e.g. Croydon Champions Gala Award • Brass group, Jazz Band, Swing Band • Termly concerts and shorter 'Rush Hour concerts' • Orchestra & Choir trips, both within UK & International • House Singing Competition • Musician of the Year Competition • Regular lunchtime & evening concerts, e.g. guitarist & drummers concert • Instrumental lessons, singing lessons, theory lessons & exams
Drama (all years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual School play including opportunities to perform, assist back-stage, or assist with lighting & sound • Lower School play • Regular theatre trips • Professional productions by outside companies • LAMDA Drama and Musical Theatre lessons offered after school • House Drama Competition
Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament visit for Years 12 & 13 • Visiting speakers • Assisting in running Mock elections • Assisting with running the MUN conference
Business & Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences for Year 12 & 13 pupils • Dragon's Den competition • Business Breakfasts
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting in producing the School newspaper • Producing the annual MUN footage & other video projects both internally and at other schools • Media Studies 'Roscars' Night • 1853 Productions • Producing & editing the audio-visual material for Royal Russell day
PE (all years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Tournaments incorporating a range of sports held throughout the year • A range of School Teams supported by qualified coaches - see fixtures list & practices • Opportunities to be selected for District & County trials • Annual School Ski trip • School Football, Hockey, Netball, Cricket tours
EAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Club for overseas pupils
Library based activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual activities including National Poetry Day & World Book Day • A weekly Puzzles & Games club • Visiting speakers • Chinese New Year cultural celebration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Public Speaking & Thinking Skills workshops
Learning Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch typing lessons available to all pupils

14. Entrance and transition

Year 7

The majority of our pupils join the Senior School in Year 7. The transition from Junior School, be it from Royal Russell Junior School or from outside, is made easier by an induction process which begins in the Summer Term of Year 6. The new Year 7 cohort have a timetabled day at the Senior School, experiencing a variety of lessons in 'new' subjects (Science; FT; DT; Drama etc). Parents join their children in the evening when they can meet and talk to House Staff.

Once at the school, very close care is given by the House Tutor (average ratio 11 pupils: 1 Tutor) within each of the nine Houses. The placement of pupils into each House is decided by reference to pupils' interest and references from previous schools. The Assistant Head Lower School works alongside each of the Houses offering support and guidance to the new pupils. Senior pupils take responsibility for each of the Year 7 form groups.

Years 9 and 10

A second, smaller entry occurs at Year 9. Choice of Houses is undertaken very carefully so as to attempt to create a balance of interest and expertise within the Year Group in each House. Teaching groups are readjusted so as to create a balance between boys and girls and new and established pupils. A still smaller number of pupils join in Year 10, frequently as boarding pupils. Close guidance is given, prior to arrival, on choice of GCSE / IGCSE subjects; aptitude and suitability is then assessed on arrival and subjects determined. A joint effort between the Academic team (Assistant Head Middle School and Heads of Department) and Pastoral team (tutors and HOMs) ensures smooth transitions.

Year 12

A significant number of pupils join the Senior School in Year 12, both day and boarding. The same care is taken when placing them in Houses. The same process for testing choice and allocation of subjects, as with Year 10 above, is undertaken.

An induction programme for all pupils in Year 12 occurs during the first week of term.

Selection

Year 7 and Year 9 Entry

The entrance process aims to put all candidates at ease whilst assessing what they are able to do at that particular point in their school career. The main point of assessment for Year 7 & 9 entry is in the January of the year before desired entry. The entrance process consists of an English, Maths and Cognitive Reasoning exams, interview and creative writing task.

Pupils from the Junior School are expected to transfer through to the Senior School. Their progress is assessed throughout the Junior School and parents are regularly informed as to their development.

Any Junior School pupil wishing to attain an academic scholarship award to the Senior School will sit the Entrance Exam at the same time as external candidates. Art, Drama,

Music and Sport scholarships are assessed during the autumn term, and provisional offers made at that point for Junior School and external candidates.

The entrance exams and interview are undertaken on the same day. Places are offered dependent upon performance in these two aspects. Academic scholarships may be offered to those pupils who attain a particularly high standard in this process. The school strives to set and maintain a consistent academic standard of entry.

15. iPads

To support delivery of the curriculum each pupil in Year 7-11 is provided with an iPad. These are used to support learning and teaching in and outside of lessons, support day-to-day organisation of curriculum and co-curricular activities and access the many digital platforms used in delivering the Royal Russell curriculum. A standard set of applications are available on the iPads and members of the academic teaching and support team are able to request for additional subject specific apps to be made available through the IT team. All teaching staff are provided with an iPad.

16. Reviewing the Curriculum

The Curriculum Policy is updated each year by the Deputy Head, Learning. Specific areas within the policy need to be read alongside more detailed information found within separate policies (as advised above). The Curriculum Policy shapes, and is shaped by, the School Development Plan. This, in turn, determines the outline of each Department's Development Plan.

Associated policies and documents mentioned in the policy:

- Assessment, recording and reporting
- Pastoral Care
- Safeguarding
- RSE
- EAL
- High Achievers
- Junior School Transfer document
- Exams
- Access Arrangements

Reviewed	Deputy Head, Learning	January 2022
Reviewed and Approved	EWC	February 2022
Reviewed and Approved	Board	March 2022
Next Review		January 2023