



THE NEW SCHOOL ROME

GCSE & IGCSE

INFORMATION PACK

Overview

At the start of Year 10 (age 14-15), students at The New School begin courses leading to GCSE and iGCSE examinations, which are taken at the end of Year 11 (age 15-16). They are a natural continuation of courses in Years 7, 8 and 9 which are specifically designed as a foundation for GCSE and iGCSE courses. These exams prepare students for further academic work, including progression to A level (Advanced level in Year 12/13) study. GCSE and iGCSE qualifications are recognised by academic institutions and employers around the world.

Exam boards

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and iGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations are set by Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge Examining boards for which The New School is an official centre.

Study programmes

Students will usually take examinations in nine GCSE subjects. The core subjects of English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Italian and at least once science are compulsory.

Introduction



Students have a wide range of other subjects to choose from. Some subjects offer a choice of Core or Extended papers allowing students to access work at a level appropriate to their ability.

GCSE and iGCSE grading

At the end of the course, students receive a number grade for each subject with a range of 1-9 where 9 is the highest. A grade of 4 or above is considered a pass grade.

Progression

Five or more grades 6 -9 are normally required for entry into Year 12. Students wishing to continue studying a subject at A level should have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE/ iGCSE in that subject.

A Two-Year Academic Pathway

Students begin their GCSE and iGCSE courses at the start of Year 10 and complete them at the end of Year 11. Over these two years, expectations increase steadily as students develop the skills and confidence required for advanced study.

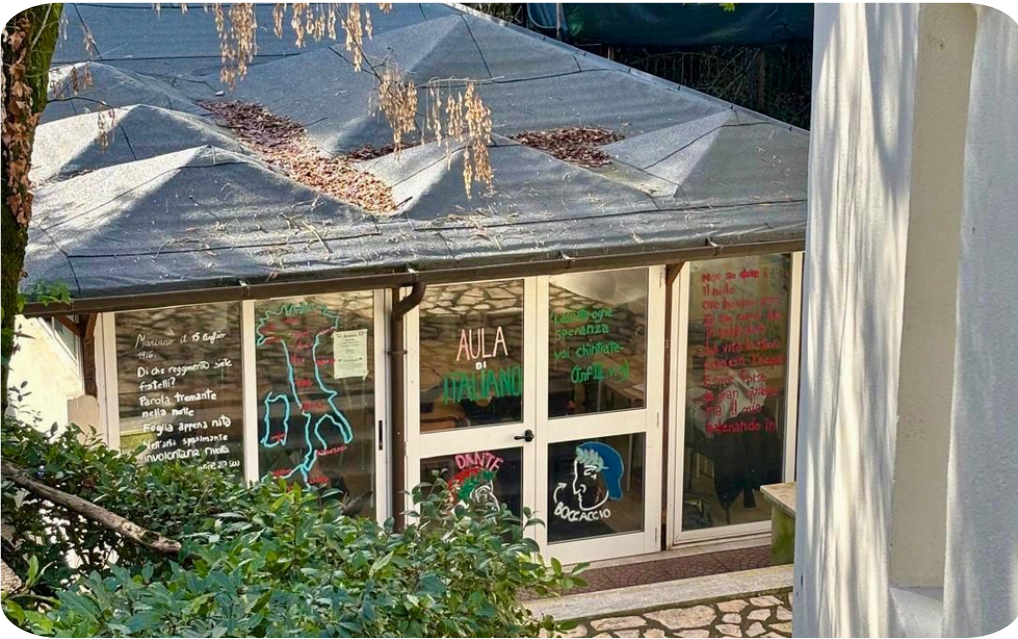
The programme is designed to:

- **Develop deep subject knowledge and academic discipline**
- **Strengthen independent learning and organisational skills**
- **Encourage analytical thinking and problem solving**
- **Prepare students for the demands of AS and A Level courses.**

Regular assessment, feedback and reflection help students understand their progress and identify areas for improvement, fostering a strong sense of responsibility for their own learning.



A Broad, Balanced and Flexible Curriculum



The GCSE and IGCSE **curriculum** at The New School Rome **is carefully structured to provide both academic breadth and individual choice.**

All students follow a core programme of subjects that ensure strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and scientific understanding. Alongside this, students select optional subjects that reflect their interests, strengths and future aspirations.

Some subjects offer Core and Extended pathways. This flexibility allows students to work at an appropriate level of challenge while maintaining high expectations and clear progression routes.

The overall aim is to keep future academic pathways open while allowing students to begin developing areas of specialism.

Measuring Progress and Achievement

Assessment plays a central role in the GCSE and iGCSE programme. It is designed not only to measure knowledge, but also to assess understanding, application and skill development.

Depending on the subject, assessment may include:

- Written examinations
- Coursework or controlled assessments
- Practical, creative or oral components

Most final examinations take place at the end of Year 11, with coursework completed across the two year course where applicable.

Grades are awarded according to the qualification studied:

- GCSE: grades 1–9,
- iGCSE: grades 1–9.



Teaching & student support



Our role is to guide students as they become independent learners, ready to take ownership of their progress.

Students are supported throughout Years 10 and 11 by experienced subject specialists who understand both the academic demands of GCSE and IGCSE courses and the importance of wellbeing.

Support includes:

- Regular feedback.
- Clear assessment guidance.
- Structured revision programmes and ongoing academic mentoring.

The GCSE and iGCSE programme at The New School Rome follows **British educational standards within a supportive international environment.**

Qualifications are recognised worldwide, and additional language support is available where required.

Families are supported through clear communication and regular opportunities to discuss progress and next steps.



The New School Rome offers a carefully selected range of GCSE and iGCSE subjects, taught by specialist teachers and aligned with internationally recognised examination boards.

Languages & Communication:

- English Language,
- English Literature,
- French, Spanish and Italian.

STEM:

- Mathematics,
- Biology, Physics, Chemistry,
- Computer Science.

Humanities:

- History,
- Geography.

Creative Subjects:

- Art & Design.

This balanced subject offer enables students to **combine academic rigour with creativity and personal expression.**

English Literature

English Literature encourages students to engage thoughtfully with a range of poetry, prose and drama texts from different periods and cultural contexts. The Cambridge IGCSE syllabus encourages students to use literature as a vehicle to explore wider and universal issues in order to foster a better understanding of themselves and the world around them. Students will:

- Enjoy reading and understand a wide range of literary texts including prose, poetry and drama.
- Analyse how writers use literary effects to communicate a range of content, themes, and ideas from texts across time, place and culture.
- Make clear and perceptive arguments, supported with appropriate textual reference and quotation.
- Explore themes, characters, relationships, and contexts, making relevant and supported connections and interpretations.
- Respond sensitively to literature, considering authorial intention whilst also demonstrating informed individual engagement with texts.
- Communicate a clear, developed response in fluent Standard English, organising ideas effectively and using accurate expression.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Poetry & Prose (Open Text), 50%.
- Paper 2: Drama & Unseen (Open Text), 50%.

Future pathways

Studying English Literature is not just about books. It opens up a huge range of possibilities such as:

- **Critical Analysis:** Decode complex themes and evaluate authorial intent with a sophisticated, informed eye.
- **Precision Writing:** Master the art of drafting and refining work to produce fluent, accurately expressed Standard English.
- **Professional Oracy:** Gain the confidence to present ideas, engage in high-level discussion, and speak with authority in public settings.
- **Logical Argumentation:** Construct coherent, persuasive arguments supported by rigorous textual evidence and logic.
- **Global Perspective:** Interpret diverse cultural contexts and analyze media bias to navigate the modern world as a global citizen.

Potential Career Destinations

Amongst others English language is a strong qualification for Law & Politics (using critical logic to argue cases effectively); Journalism & Media (investigating stories and presenting clear, persuasive content); Business & Marketing (mastering brand communication and public relations); Education & Research (high-level academic study and literary analysis).

English Language develops the ability to communicate clearly, accurately, and effectively in both speech and writing.

We view this qualification as a vital educational stepping stone. It equips students with the foundational skills needed for further academic study and active participation in the wider world.

The course aims to enable students to:

- Use and appreciate the variety and power of language.
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write accurately and effectively, using Standard English appropriately, articulating experience and thoughts, organizing ideas for effect, and using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures accurately.
- Work with information and with ideas in language by developing skills of evaluation, analysis, use, and inference.
- Speak and Listen effectively, engaging in conversations, problem solving and presenting ideas, clearly with confidence in a variety of contexts and for specific purposes.

Assessment: Our school follows the Coursework Option. This means students will take one written examination, submit a portfolio of

written work, and complete a compulsory speaking and listening test at the end of their two years of study to support entry to higher education.

- Part 1: Written Examination 50%.
- Part 2: Coursework Portfolio 50%.
- Part 3: Speaking & Listening Endorsement.
- Part 4: Speaking and Listening Test.

Why This Pathway? Where can the study of IGCSE English Language take me?

Proficiency in English is a fundamental requirement for almost all career paths and further education. A strong grade in IGCSE English Language is often a prerequisite for university entry and employment.

Transferable Life Skills

Critical thinking, creativity and problem solving are essential skills in any area of life. Beyond the classroom, this course teaches you how to identify “fake news”; analyse bias in the media, and speak with authority in public settings, which are all key skills that are invaluable.

French, Spanish and Italian

Modern Foreign Language courses focus on developing practical communication skills in the target language.

Students build confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing, while gaining insight into the culture and traditions of countries where the language is spoken. Accuracy, fluency and spontaneous communication are gradually developed.

Assessment covers all four skill areas and takes place at the end of the course.

- Speaking/oral examination, 25%.
- Listening, 25%.
- Reading, 25%.
- Writing, 25%.

Achieve advanced fluency and cultural expertise. Mastery of a second language is a "gold-standard" qualification, highly regarded by top-tier universities for its intellectual rigor.

Future Pathways

Our language programs provide the ultimate foundation for global success in:

- Diplomacy & International Relations
- Global Business & Finance

- Tourism & Hospitality
- Translation & Media

Strategic Progression

Seamlessly transition to A Level and University studies with a competitive edge in the international job market.

Italian for native speakers

Fluent Italian speakers follow a course based on Italian literature, history and current affairs. They sit the GCSE Italian examination at the end of Year 11 however the focus is on a much richer understanding of the language and literature in line with the programme provided by the Italian Ministry of Education. The course is designed to allow native speakers to progress into Yr 12 and 13 and study for the Italian Culture and Language Exam (Maturità) administered by the Italian government that is recognised by Italian authorities and universities.

IGCSE Mathematics equips students with confidence in applying mathematical techniques, reasoning logically and solving increasingly complex problems. Accuracy, method and clear mathematical communication are strongly emphasised.

Key areas of study include:

- Number and algebra.
- Geometry and measures.
- Statistics and probability.
- Mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

Assessment

- Paper 1: 1 hr, 35%, short answer questions (core).
- Paper 2: 2 hr, 65%, structured questions (core).
- Paper 1: 1hr 30 mins, 35%, short answer questions (Extended).
- Paper 2: 2 hr 30 mins, 65%, structured questions (Extended).

Leads to & Future Pathways

It is a key qualification for entry into UK universities and allows you to develop your level of numeracy and your logical reasoning skills.

Mathematics is a core requirement for many A Level and university courses, including Sciences, Economics, Engineering, Business and Technology-related fields.

Our Biology curriculum is designed to transform curiosity into expertise, equipping students with the tools to master the living world.

- **Core Mastery:** Build a sophisticated understanding of biological principles and apply them to solve real-world, complex challenges.
- **Practical Excellence:** Master laboratory techniques through rigorous experimentation, data interpretation, and evidence-based evaluation.
- **Critical Logic:** Develop a scientific mindset, leveraging mathematical precision and analytical thinking to decode biological data.
- **Future Readiness:** Acquire the professional communication skills and academic foundation essential for top-tier university progression and beyond.

Topics

The nature and variety of living organisms, structure and functions in living organisms, reproduction and inheritance, ecology and the environment, use of biological resources.

Assessment is through written examinations, with practical skills assessed within the exam papers.

- Paper 1: 2 hr, 61,1%, 110 marks

Multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

- Paper 2: 1 hr 15 mins, 38,9%, 70 marks

Multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

Leads to

Enables successful progression to A Level and beyond, providing the foundation for future study of Biology and related careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science.



Our Physics course introduces the core principles of Physics through theory, practical investigation, and problem-solving, building a strong foundation for further study in science, engineering, and related fields.

Course aims

Develop a strong understanding of scientific theories and their real-world applications, with an emphasis on accurate experimentation, data analysis, and mathematical problem-solving. Students learn to communicate scientific ideas clearly, appreciate the global impact of science, and build a solid foundation for further academic and professional pathways.

Topics: motion, forces and energy; thermal physics; waves; electricity and magnetism; nuclear physics; space physics.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Multiple choice
- Paper 2: Theory
- Paper 3: Alternative to Practical.

Leads to

The iGCSE Physics course prepares students for A Level Physics and engineering-related pathways, developing strong analytical and mathematical skills. The problem-solving and data analysis abilities gained are valuable across science, engineering, technology, finance, and renewable energy sectors.

The Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry course builds a strong understanding of chemical principles, practical laboratory skills, and scientific thinking.

Students develop accurate experimental techniques, data analysis, and problem-solving abilities, while learning to communicate scientific ideas clearly using correct terminology.

Teaching is supported by well-equipped laboratories, experienced staff, and enrichment opportunities such as STEM activities that encourage collaboration and real-world application.

Assessment

Examination at the end of the two-year course (multiple choice, theory, and alternative to practical).

Topics

Core chemical principles, reactions, energetics, electrochemistry, the periodic table, environmental and organic chemistry.

Leads to

A Level Chemistry and progression into science, engineering, medicine, environmental science, and related fields.

The Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science course develops computational thinking, problem-solving, and programming skills.

Students learn to design, test, and evaluate computer-based solutions using algorithms and a high-level programming language, while exploring current and emerging technologies and their impact.

Assessment

Examination at the end of the two-year course.

Topics

Data representation, hardware and software, networks, algorithms, programming, databases, logic, and problem solving.

Leads to

Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science and progression into computing, engineering, mathematics, data science, and other technology-related fields, with skills transferable across many academic and professional pathways.

IGCSE History enables students to develop a deeper understanding of the modern world through the study of significant international events and themes.

Students analyse causes, consequences and significance, while learning to evaluate historical sources and differing interpretations. The course develops strong written communication and critical thinking skills.

Topics

20th Century History: international relations from 1919

- Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?
- To what extent was the League of Nations a Success?
- How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?
- How secure was the USSR's control of Eastern Europe between 1948 and 1989?

Depth study: Germany, 1918-45

- Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
- Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?
- How effectively did the Nazis control Germany?
- What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

Assessment is through written examinations at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1: 2 hr, choice of questions on the core content and the depth study
- Paper 2: 1 hr, 45 mins, sources of evidence questions on a topic from the core content

Paper 3: 1 hr, questions on the depth study (Germany).

Key skills developed:

- Source analysis and evaluation
- Structured argument and essay writing
- Understanding of historical perspectives

Future Pathways

A bridge to the world's most influential careers, History equips students with the analytical depth required for high-level progression.

- Academic Progression: A premier foundation for A-Level and Degree studies in Humanities, Law, Politics, and International Relations.
- Professional Versatility: Develops the critical research and investigation skills essential for Law, Journalism, Psychology, and Civil Service.

Strategic Insight

Gain a sophisticated understanding of the modern world, fostering the leadership and analytical thinking valued in Public Relations, Politics, and Education.

The Curriculum explore the intersection of physical environments and human societies. Our program develops critical, independent thinkers equipped to navigate global challenges and sustainable futures.

The Experience: From Rome to the Farfa

Theory is put into practice through mandatory, high-level fieldwork:

- Physical: Hydrological studies of the River Farfa.
- Human: Urban land-use and environmental quality analysis in the center of Rome.

The content and assessment approach for this qualification has been designed to meet students' needs in the following ways:

- Two-paper assessment – allows students to focus on physical and human geography. The qualification will test knowledge and understanding, as well as analytical, evaluation and fieldwork skills in both papers.
- Concepts and content – the content in both Papers is engaging and accessible for all students.

Paper 1: 40%, 1hr 10 mins, mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

- Physical geography: river environments, hazardous environments, river fieldwork.

Paper 2: 60%, 1hr 45 mins, mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

- Economic activity and energy, urban environments, urban fieldwork, fragile environments and energy.

Key Skills & Future Pathways

Geography is a high-utility discipline, bridging the gap between Social Sciences, Economics, and Politics.

- Expertise: Mastery in data analysis, geospatial techniques, and holistic problem-solving.
- Careers: High employment rates in Urban Planning, Environmental Conservation, International Business, Law, and Journalism.
- Progression: An elite foundation for A-Level and University study in diverse global fields.

GCSE Art & Design is a practical and creative course that encourages students to explore ideas, materials, and techniques through a personal artistic journey.

Emphasis is placed on experimentation, reflective thinking, and the development of an individual visual style, with equal value given to process and final outcomes.

Assessment

Coursework and a final externally set examination task over the two-year course.

Topics

Drawing from observation, idea development, mixed media and techniques, artist research, and selection of source materials.

Leads to

A Level and further study in Art, Design, Architecture, Fashion, Media, and other creative industries. The course also develops transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, collaboration, and visual literacy.



See our community in action.

Contact us here to register for an **Open Day** or to arrange a **personalized tour**.

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New School Rome