

# *GCSE Options* at Rydal Penrhos



# GCSE overview

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- New
  - All GCSEs renewed in past two years
- Modular/Linear
  - England and English boards – all linear (no modules)
  - Wales and WJEC – modular available
  - Rydal – no modules in Year 10, unless terminal examination
- Two tiers in some
  - Foundation
  - Higher
- Coursework
  - ‘Controlled assessment’, supervised in class
- IGCSE
  - ‘International’ GCSE; linear and no coursework in most



# GCSE grades

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- Available Grades  $A^* - G$   
(Higher tier :  $A^* - D$  Foundation Tier :  $C - G$ )
- 'Pass' level  $C$
- Benchmark 5 GCSEs  $A^* - C$
- Sixth Form Subjects At least Grade B

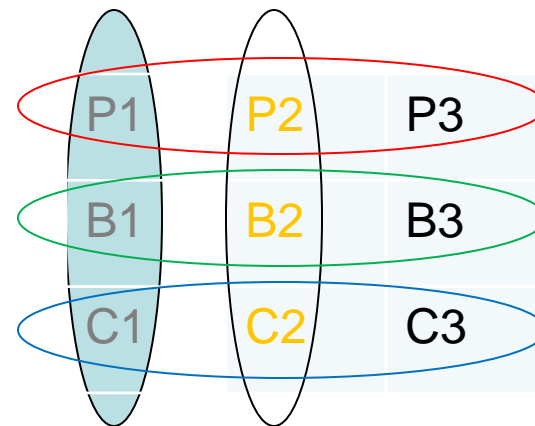
# Science at GCSE

- 9 modules in total:
  - Physics P1, P2, and P3;
  - Biology B1, B2, and B3;
  - Chemistry C1, C2, and C3.
- (Core) Science
  - = General understanding of scientific ideas
  - = P1 + B1 + C1
- Additional Science
  - = The majority science qualification
  - = P2 + B2 + C2
- Separate sciences
  - Each is a separate, standalone qualification.
  - Physics = P1 + P2 + P3
  - Biology = B1 + B2 + B3
  - Chemistry = C1 + C2 + C3

‘single award’ = core only

‘dual’ = core + additional

‘triple’ = Phys + Bio + Chem



# Learning Support

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- Exam Access Arrangements
  - Extra time
  - Readers
  - Scribes
  - Computers
  - Educational Psychologist's Report
- Option choices (recommendation Head of Learning Support)
  - Small group support, instead of MFL
  - 1:1 by arrangement

# Curriculum 2012

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- 55 minute lessons
- More focused programme
  - Fewer transitions in the day
  - More time allocated to teaching

IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AT THE HEART OF CHANGES

# Curriculum 2012

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English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Religious Studies

Science (Core)

Additional Science

Science (Triple)

Option x – French/German/LS/EFL\*

Option y – Humanity/Creative/Practical

Option z – Humanity/Creative/Practical

Latin / Welsh / Art / other

# Curriculum 2012 - headlines

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RPS core curriculum will deliver 8 GCSEs

RPS extended curriculum delivers up to 11 GCSEs

EBacc usually delivers minimum 6 GCSEs

Top universities want 7 A/A\* GCSEs

# Curriculum 2012 – option subjects

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- Art: Fine Art and/or Textiles
- Business Studies
- Design Technology (resistant materials)
- Drama
- English as a Foreign Language (EFL)
- French\*
- Geography
- German\*
- History
- Home Economics (food and nutrition)
- ICT
- Latin\*\*
- Learning Support (LS)
- Music
- PE
- Welsh\*\*

# Curriculum 2012

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X	Y	Z
English as a Foreign Language (EFL)	Art	Design Technology (DT)
French	Business Studies	History
German	Drama	Home Economics
Learning Support (LS)	Geography	Music
	ICT	Physical Education (PE)

# Making Options Choices

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- A balance of subjects is recommended
- Look at how the subjects are examined: exam or coursework?
- How do my choices fit within the 'blocks'?

[rydalpenrhos.com/academic/senior\\_school\\_curriculum](http://rydalpenrhos.com/academic/senior_school_curriculum)

# Timeline

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- February
  - Options presentation
  - Parents' Evening discussions
  - Pupil discussion with parents
- March
  - Individual interviews with Tutors and Senior Staff
  - Choices form completed signed and returned by **Wednesday 21 March**
- April onwards
  - Late submission choices or changes of heart will be limited by set size restrictions