

ROME INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Progression from Middle to High School

A guide for parents



RIS HIGH SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW

- Opened in September 2007.
- 4 years - from Grade 10 through to Grade 13.
- For the first 2 years of High School our students follow the GCSE programme (Grades 10 and 11).
- Then in the final two years students follow the IB Diploma Programme (Grades 12 and 13).
- RIS High School students will graduate at the end of Grade 13 with their internationally-recognised IB Diploma and GCSE qualifications, allowing them entrance into the best universities all over the world, including Italy.
- All RIS High School teachers are subject specialists. Teachers on the IB Diploma have been on IBO approved workshops and GCSE teachers are experienced in delivering the course and attend regular training and standardising meetings in Britain.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME

- GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education and is the didactic programme followed in the 10th and 11th years of school (ages 14 to 16) in the UK and many international schools, since 1986.
- Students gain a separate qualification in each of their assessed subjects, graded from A* to G. Grades A*, A, B and C are considered a good pass. Most RIS students will gain around 11 GCSEs.
- Each subject can be entered at Higher (Grades A* to D) or Foundation (Grades C to G) tier, depending on the student's expected achievement.
- GCSEs are assessed through a combination of written exams (for most subjects taken in May and June of Grade 11 and, in the case of Science, at various points throughout the course), written coursework (in subjects such as English and History) and practical / oral assessments.
- All GCSE exams papers and coursework are sent away to be externally examined / moderated, by our British exam board AQA.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

All RIS High School Grade 10 and 11 GCSE students will take the following subjects:

Languages:

English and English Literature (4 hours per week of teaching):

Two separate GCSEs are awarded, but the subjects are taught together, with some 'cross-over' coursework assignments that count for both subjects.

Italian (4 hours per week of teaching):

The class will be divided into Italian A for our mother-tongue students, who will also follow a pre-IB Diploma literature course designed to prepare them for the study of Italian A on the IB Diploma, and Italian B for our non-mother tongue learners.

French or Spanish or Chinese (2 hours per week of teaching):

Students select the third language, which they will follow to GCSE in the case of French or Spanish, or in the case of Chinese to either GCSE or an entry level certificate, depending on their level of fluency.

In addition to these subjects, it is also possible to enter students for additional GCSE qualifications in other languages which they may be studying privately or speak at home.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

Maths and the Sciences:

Maths (4 hours per week of teaching):

Students will be split according to whether they are working towards the Higher or Foundation tier at GCSE.

Information Communication Technology (2 hours per week of teaching):

All students will gain a GCSE in ICT, providing evidence of their computer skills.

We will be offering a choice of two Science programmes:

The first programme is aimed at students intending to focus on a scientific profile on the IB Diploma. They will study **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics** separately (each for 2 hours per week of teaching) gaining 3 GCSE qualifications.

The second programme option is more suited to those intending to focus on a linguistic or humanities profile on the IB Diploma and will offer 2 GCSE qualifications in **General Science**, taken in Grade 10, and **Additional Science**, taken in Grade 11 (4 hours per week of teaching). In addition to these 2 GCSEs in Science, students will study **Geography** (2 hours per week of teaching) and take a GCSE in this subject.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

Humanities and Arts:

History (2 hours per week of teaching):

All RIS Grade 10 and 11 students will take GCSE History, which has an international emphasis, focusing on medicine through time, the rise and fall of Nazi Germany and the Church.

Economics (2 hours per week of teaching):

From 2010 all students will take Economics to GCSE, studying a course which should give them a good basic grounding in the subject and a better understanding of personal and international economics.

Art (1 hour per week of teaching, plus an optional extra hour):

All students will study Art, but for those wishing to take the subject at GCSE we will offer an additional hour after school to complete the coursework requirements.

Performing Arts (1 hour per week of teaching):

This is a non-examined subject, combining Music and Drama and giving students an opportunity to work on their creative and performance skills and prepare for school productions.

Students will also have 1 hour per week of P.E (with after-school sports activities available additionally) and 1 hour per week of Form time.

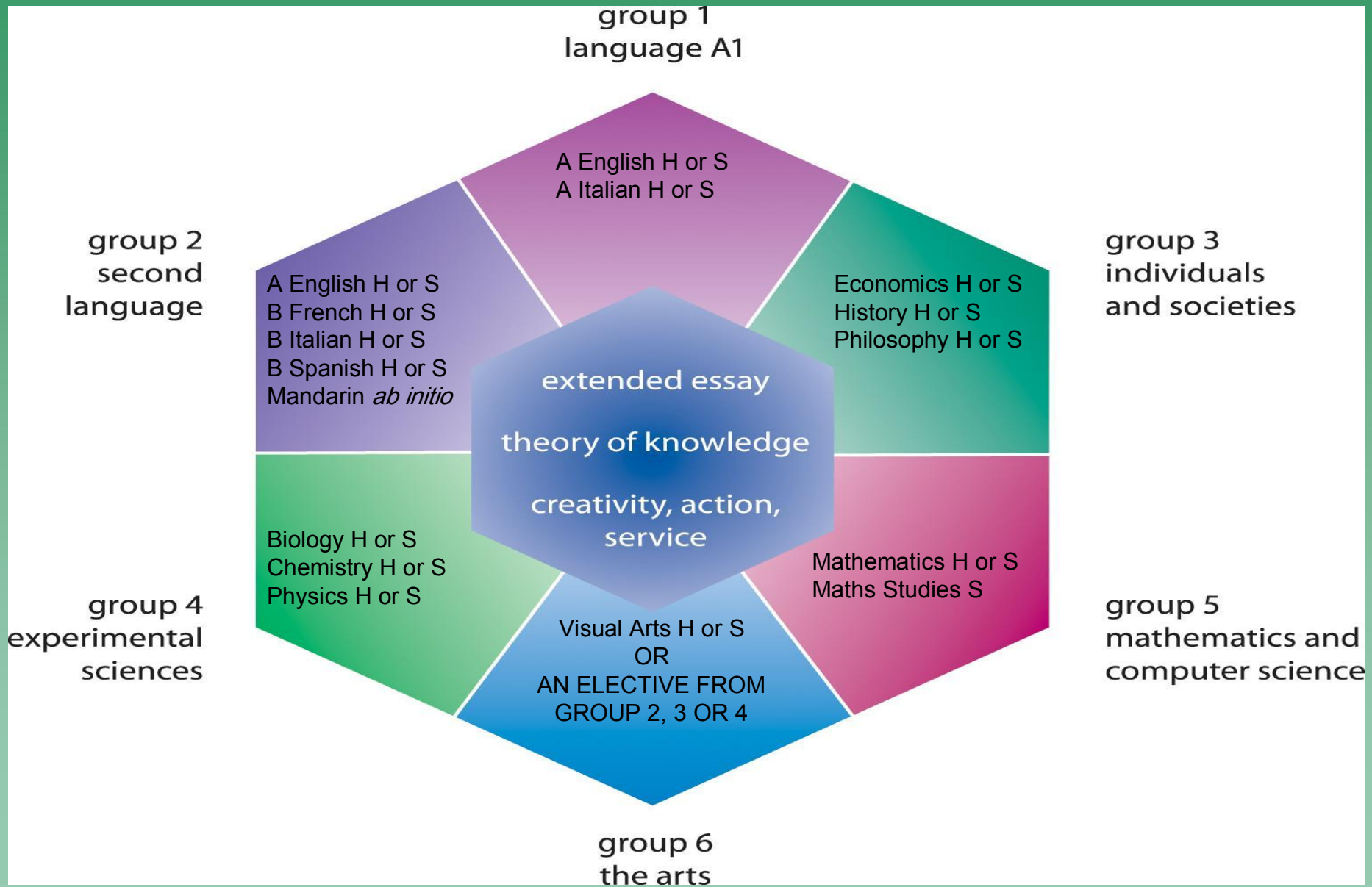


THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- The IB DP was established in Geneva in 1968 to provide an internationally-recognised pre-university education and is taught in over 2000 schools in 129 countries.
- It is highly regarded by universities around the world, including Italy, where equivalence to the *Maturità Scientifica* or *Maturità Linguistica* is granted, providing certain combinations of subjects are studied.
- It is intended to be academically challenging, whilst developing the whole student to become independent, enterprising and responsible.
- The IB DP has a hexagonal structure, with six subject groups around a central Core Component – Creativity, Action and Service, Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay.
- Three subjects studied at Higher Level (HL) – 4 hours 30 minutes per week.
- Three subjects studied at Standard Level (SL) – 3 hours per week.
- Students complete a variety of internally assessed written, oral and practical assignments over the two years and sit final written exams in May of the second year (Grade 13).
- The maximum points score is 45 (up to 7 points in each subject, plus up to 3 ‘bonus’ points for the Core Component). 24 points is the basic pass.



THE IB DIPLOMA AT RIS



IB DIPLOMA ITALIAN VALIDATION

Since 1986, the IB Diploma has been recognised in Italy under the following conditions:

- the school needs to be authorised by the IBO;
- equivalence to the *Maturità Scientifica* is granted to IB Diploma students with the following subjects (included in the RIS offer):

Group 1: Language A HL or SL

Group 2: Language A or B or *ab initio* SL

Group 3: History or Economics or Philosophy SL

Group 4: Physics HL

Group 5: Mathematics HL

Group 6: Chemistry or Biology or Visual Arts HL or SL

- equivalence to the *Maturità Linguistica* is granted to IB Diploma students with the following subjects (included in the RIS offer):

Group 1: Language A HL

Group 2: Language A or B HL

Group 3: History or Economics or Philosophy HL or SL

Group 4: Chemistry or Physics or Biology SL

Group 5: Mathematics SL or Mathematical Studies SL

Group 6: Third Language HL or SL or *ab initio* SL

For access to Italian universities, the Language A1 must be Italian.

THE RIS HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- All High School students continue to have a weekly Form-time with their Form Tutor, who is responsible for overseeing their overall progress.
- Throughout the High School students continue participating in sports and performing arts, through timetabled sessions and extra clubs.
- RIS High School students are encouraged to see themselves as role models for the younger students and are given more privileges and independence than in the Middle School.
- They have full access to the Library (supported by a qualified Librarian) and Self-study Centre before and after school and during breaks and study periods.
- They have dedicated indoor and outdoor common areas (with recreational facilities) where they can eat and socialise at break and lunchtime.
- RIS professional counsellors are available to support students should they require this service.



HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION

- With the increasing expansion and popularity of our High School we will no longer be able to guarantee automatic progression from the RIS Middle to High School.
- Instead RIS students will sit the RIS High School entrance test (in English and Maths) in Grade 9 and this will be used together with the school reports to decide whether the High School curriculum is appropriate for the student.
- RIS students who do not pass this entrance test will be given extra support by the school to enable them to reach the standard required for admission and allowed to retake the test.
- New students entering the High School from other international schools (or in some cases Italian schools) will also take the entrance test and be carefully interviewed and assessed to ensure that our high academic standards are maintained.



For further information on any aspect of our High School the Principal Mr Martin Waanders and Vice-Principal Mrs Fiona Marshall will be pleased to assist you.

For specific information about the GCSE and IB Diploma programmes please contact the GCSE and IB Diploma Co-ordinator Ms Jo Barker:
jobarker@romeinternationalschool.it

