



Gresham's School

Entry to the Year 11 Course

This document is designed to introduce you to joining Year 11 at Gresham's. We have over a decade of experience helping students to join Year 11 and their presence in the school is of great value.

We hope that those who join us in Year 11 will see this as the first part of a three-year commitment between Gresham's School and yourself. In Year 11, all students are fully integrated into school life and at the end of it, you will be in a great position to enter our Sixth Form, either to start our IB Diploma Programme or undertake a number of A level or BTEC subjects.

The Gresham's Year 11 Course has been running for a number of years and during this time we have refined the curriculum on offer and feel that we are able to provide a unique package, tailored to each individual student's abilities and requirements, which is significantly different to that provided by other schools.

The main point to make is that all students on this course are taught alongside our existing Year 11 students, with as many classes as possible made up of a mix of students. Although this places extra academic demands on you, it is by far the best way for you to become fully integrated into life at Gresham's School. You will quickly make friends with English pupils and, as a result, your English will rapidly improve. At the end of the first year you will take on a number of GCSEs – the standard English qualification taken by 16 year olds.

During the interview process you will be able to discuss your academic interests and requirements and the options on offer will be explained. Our GCSE prospectus gives details of the subjects that can be studied but what follows in this document explains what we can offer you on our Year 11 Course.

The success of our Year 11 joiners continues to be very inspiring – we do hope you will want to join us and continue that record of success.

What will I Study?

For the majority of students entering Year 11, the following subject combination is recommended:

English Language (possibly Literature, if previously studies enable it)

English as a Second Language (where applicable)

Maths

1 Humanity History, Geography, Religious Studies

1 or 2 Sciences from: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

1 Modern Foreign Language

1 or 2 option subjects

This combination will equip students with 7 or 8 GCSE qualifications at the end of Year 11, whilst maintaining a manageable workload.

Compulsory Subjects

English

As part of your application to Gresham's School you will have completed an English assessment. As a result of this assessment you will be placed in one of our IGCSE sets where you will be taught a mixture of English Language and Literature. In addition, you will be timetabled for extra English Language lessons and it is expected that by the end of the Year 11 Course you will be entered for (and expected to pass) the IGCSE First Language English exam. Note that this course is intended to be a two-year course for native English speakers. This means that attempting IGCSE English in one year is an ambitious undertaking (hence the extra lessons).

Non-native speakers will also be entered for the IGCSE English as a Second Language exam (E2L) which will help improve your overall usage of English. All non-native English speaking students entering the Year 11 Course are urged to spend as much time as possible improving their English (eg. by reading a weekly news magazine or website) prior to their arrival at Gresham's.

Key contacts:

Head of English – Mrs C Sharrock csharrock@greshams.com

English as a Second Language – Mrs S Ellis-Retter sretter@greshams.com

Maths

Like English, you will have undergone a Maths assessment as part of your application and the result of this will enable you to be placed in an appropriate Maths set. At the end of the Year 11 Course, you will be entered for (and expected to pass) the IGCSE Maths exam.

Key contact:

Head of Maths – Mr J Thomson jthomson@greshams.com

The Sciences

Students joining Year 11 may study Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSE as separate subjects. It is recommended that students entering our Year 11 Course opt for **one or two** separate sciences. Three Sciences may be studied, if required. Gresham's is very flexible on the number of sciences studied and there is plenty of expert advice available to help you make an informed decision about what to study.

Key contact:

Head of Science – Mr T Philpott tphilpott@greshams.com

The Humanities

At least one humanity subject should be studied – Geography, History or Religious Studies (though German students should see below for specific advice). Due to the nature of these subjects, the coursework requirements and the skills required to successfully answer GCSE papers, extra timetabled lessons are available each week to cover material normally encountered in Year 10. It would be difficult to take on more than one of these subjects in Year 11.

Key contacts:

Head of Geography – Mrs E Wilson ewilson@greshams.com

Head of History – Mr S Kinder skinder@greshams.com

Head of RS – Mr S Gates sgates@greshams.com

Option (Non – Compulsory) Subjects

A Modern Foreign Language

The following languages are available for non-native speakers:

French

German

Spanish

Japanese

Mandarin

A student opting for one of these languages should have a minimum of two years' prior study in it.

A note for German native speakers:

All German students will be entered for an IGCSE German exam. However, as this exam is not designed for native German speakers there will be no formal lessons provided. Prior to the exam, you will be given details of the format the exam follows and provided with sample papers so that you are fully prepared for it. Native German speakers tend to get outstanding grades!

All German students will have one lesson per week of German Literature. This lesson is timetabled with one of our native German-speaking teachers and provides continuity with your native literature to ensure that you are fully prepared for the German and World Literature you will study if you enter our IB Diploma Programme.

Useful contact:

Head of German – Miss Clare Hayes chayes@greshams.com

Other Option Subjects

The following subjects are also available:

3D Design	Graphics
Fine Art	Latin
Computer Science	Music
Drama	Physical Education (PE)

Please note that all subjects are available based on demand.

To help students joining in Year 11 to manage their workload, a number of essential Study Periods are available. During these Study Periods you will be expected to undertake additional (but teacher-directed) work in order to catch up on essential subject knowledge.

Gresham's prides itself on the flexibility of the curriculum. Most student choices can be accommodated and there is plenty of advice available to ensure that student choices are appropriate and compatible with subjects that may be studied in our Sixth Form (either the IB Diploma Programme or A levels).

Final subject choices are normally made by May of the year of entry, though flexibility is given where needed and if possible. Decisions regarding final exam entry can be delayed until just before the Easter holiday of Year 11, allowing for us to accurately assess student progress and the chances of success in the Summer GCSE exams.

Requirements for German pupils taking GCSEs

In order that GCSEs (or IGCSEs) taken at a British school are later recognised, German candidates need to pass (Grade C or above) at least **five GCSEs** in the following subjects:

- **Maths**
- **Two languages** (usually German and English, but could also be German plus Latin, French or Spanish): **Both German and English** have to be taken as **1st Language IGCSEs**
- **At least one single science** – Biology, Chemistry or Physics
- **At least one humanity** - either Geography or History. Please note that other humanities such as Religious Studies are not recognised and they should only be taken in addition to either Geography or History.
- Short course GCSEs are not accepted in Germany (and are not offered at Gresham's)

With five grade C passes in these subjects, German students will be granted the equivalent of the "Mittlere Reife", the secondary school leavers' certificate. These five Grade C or above GCSE passes are normally mandatory in order to get into German universities later on.