



# The Grammar Stream



**Midhurst Rother College**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

## What is the Grammar Stream?

In September 2024 we are introducing a Grammar Stream into Year 7. This will be

- a group of thirty-two academically gifted students.
- taught in a more challenging way, taking a more in-depth approach from Year 7 onwards.
- a programme of extracurricular opportunities that will put them on the path to the world's best universities.

## Why are we creating the Grammar Stream?

- Grammar Stream students are academically gifted, have excelled throughout primary school and thrive on exploring new knowledge and
- They need additional challenge to reach their potential.
- The program aims to help them excel at A-levels, university, and beyond, competing favourably with Grammar School and privately educated peers.
- All students may benefit by aspiring and working hard to achieve the grades to access the Grammar Stream.

Naturally, we have high aspirations for all students at Midhurst Rother College to achieve their very best. For our students in the Grammar Stream, our specific foci will be:

- To gain a set of GCSEs at grades 7-9, including a language and humanity subject.
- To achieve A levels at grades A\* and A.
- To raise their aspirations to the highest level in their chosen field.
- To participate a range of extracurricular opportunities that will help them to develop their own passions and become responsible citizens.

## How is this different to Grammar School?

There are a number of advantages having Grammar Stream within a comprehensive school presents, ultimately achieving the best of both worlds:

- Combines selectivity with flexibility – students are not pigeon holed into a form of education that may, after a couple of years, emerge to not be suitable for them.
- Adapts to students' evolving circumstances – as students abilities develop, students can join and leave.
- Allows transition if readiness changes.
- Inspires higher aspirations for all pupils – with the opportunity to join the Grammar Stream at the start of each academic year, many students are motivated to excel academically.
- Supports seamless switching between streams – friends and familiar surroundings need not be lost.



## What will be different about the Grammar Stream curriculum?

### Key Stage 3:

- Grammar Stream students study the same subject mix as their peers.
- Grammar Stream students will be expected to engage in wide and critical reading to broaden understanding.
- Over three years, additional opportunities to explore subjects which may include Classics, Economics, Latin, Philosophy, Politics, and Statistics. The exact subjects offered will vary from year to year, but this gives a flavour of the opportunities.
- Additional homework expectations compared to mainstream students.

### Key Stage 4:

- Grammar Stream students will follow the EBacc program with a language and humanity in their options with all other option subjects remaining open to them.
- Sciences are taken as three separate GCSEs ('triple science'), rather the Combined qualification.

## What other opportunities will Grammar Stream students have?

- Russell Group Universities (including Oxford and Cambridge) require students to demonstrate passions and interests beyond academics.
- Enrichment opportunities are available to help students develop these interests.
- Grammar Stream students will learn a musical instrument, supported by 1-1 and small group tuition. An instrument loan/bursary scheme is available for instrument

In addition, Grammar Stream students will take part in the following opportunities during their school career:

- University visits both in and out of London.
- Public speaking and debating training and competitions.
- Activities supported by Winchester College, some of which may be at the weekend.
- Participation in events which will include Slingshot Challenge, UK Math Challenge, National Cipher Challenge, Alan Turing Cryptography Competition.

It is a condition of accepting a place in the Grammar Stream that students will attend all activities (notwithstanding occasional exceptional circumstances).

## How will students be admitted to the Grammar Stream?

### Application process:

- Students complete cognitive ability tests called MidYis upon joining in September.
- The highest-scoring 50 students are invited to apply for the Grammar Stream.
- Applicants write a short essay on a given topic at home.

### Commitment and Acceptance:

- By applying, students commit to their place and expected enrichment activities.
- The top 32 students, based on rank, are accepted.

### Test Components:

- The test assesses verbal and non-verbal reasoning, as well as numerical tasks.
- No specific preparation is needed; tests are computer-based and automatically marked.

## How will students move into and out of the Grammar Stream?

- Grammar Stream students are assessed alongside the rest of the year group using the same assessments at the end of the academic year.
- A rank order is produced for the entire year group (not publicly disclosed).
- Based on their position in the rank order, students may:
  - o Retain their place in the Grammar Stream – we anticipate the majority to be in this position.
  - o Be offered a place in the Grammar Stream.
  - o Discuss leaving the Grammar Stream.

