



Ratcliffe College Curriculum 6th Form - 2015 Onwards

Linear A-levels

Recent government policies require all schools that follow an A-level programme change to linear qualifications. Linear A-levels differ from the current provision in that the AS examinations will not count towards the final A-level grade. The A-level will be awarded on the marks achieved in the final examinations at the end of the two year course. Almost all A-levels are changing to linear in 2015 and 2016. Students who commence the **Sixth Form** in September 2015 will find the following subjects are linear in all schools including Ratcliffe:

- English
- Physics
- Art and Design
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Business Studies
- History
- Business Economics
- Sociology or Psychology (it is likely we will introduce one of these subjects in 2015)

The new qualifications have a larger content which in many cases is also more demanding compared to the current specifications. The value of an AS relative to an A2 in terms of UCAS points is also to be reduced.

Ratcliffe College's Response to Linear A-Levels

Below is the academic outline for the next two years.

Year 12 Autumn Term 2015

- Almost all students select 4 subjects to study at A-level, a small number of students start on 3 subjects. There will be a mixture of Linear and Modular A-levels to select from (see A-level Options at Ratcliffe on page 3). No Linear A-levels will be taught as an AS.
- In addition, we have an Enrichment Programme and Games Afternoon for all. A select group of students will be invited to study an AS in Critical Thinking along with their A-level Programme
- By Christmas 2015, it is expected that the majority of students will have selected the three subjects on which they will be examined. All students will come under one of the following, those taking

- only Linear A-levels
- a mixture of Modular and Linear A-levels
- only Modular A-levels

Therefore, we will have a dual system of Modular and Linear A-levels.

- Reports and parents' evening timings reflect this so that by Christmas 2015, there will have been sufficient assessment and discussion so that students may make the best decision on their three subjects.

Easter Term 2016

- Reports and Mock examinations.

Summer Term 2016

- Study leave for all students during the AS examinations. The start date will be in line with previous years and will be published once the examination boards confirm their timetable.
- After examination leave (June 2016) there will be a return to academic studies.

Academic Year 2016-2017

- Year 13 students start their final academic year
- To assist the students at the end of Year 13, it is our expectation that no students re-sit AS modules in May 2017. This will allow us to teach for longer in the summer term of 2016.
- Year 12 students will select 4 A-levels, and the majority of students will give up one of these before Christmas and continue with three subjects. As almost all A-level examinations are linear, there will be no AS examinations in May 2017. The exceptions will be AS Media, Food Technology and Latin.



Ratcliffe College A-Level Options- 2015 Onwards

For Students who commence studying Year 12 in September 2015

2015 Linear A-levels

- English
- Physics
- Art and Design
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Business Studies
- History
- Economics B
- Sociology or Psychology (it is likely we will introduce one of these subjects in 2015)

2015 Modular A-levels

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Geography
- Drama
- Music
- Design Technology
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Media Studies
- Food Technology
- Latin
- Russian (course designed for those students for whom Russian is their first language)
- Cantonese (course designed for those students for whom Cantonese is their first language)
- Mandarin (course designed for those students for whom Mandarin is their first language)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Students select any three or four subjects from the above lists. They may select only Linear or Modular or a Mixture of Linear and Modular A-levels.

This policy document is dependent upon no further significant changes to the new linear specifications. The School reserves the right to amend the options available to students entering Year 12 next September. In the event of any significant change to Government legislation or examination board specifications, the School will inform parents.