

## UPPER SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Ringwood Waldorf School will award a Diploma to mark graduation from the four-year course that is a complete Upper School education, and a Certificate of Accomplishment to those who successfully complete Classes 9 and 10.

Whilst the RWUS diploma has no status as a recognised University entrance qualification, it is hoped that such a system will aid our pupils when applying to higher education or seeking employment, as it is likely to act as a good indicator of ability, aptitude and motivation.

In order to graduate at RWUS, pupils must successfully complete at least 80 credits. Those credits are earned throughout classes 9 to 12. There are around 90 credits available in total over the course of the four years of study in the Upper School.

For each year of study in each subject, one credit is available. Progress and performance in each subject will be assessed twice-yearly, so credits will be awarded in 0.5 increments.

For each Main Lesson, one credit is available.

Some subjects and Main Lessons at level 3 (Class 12) will be worth 1.5 credits, according to the demands of each.

In order to gain the credit pupils must have at least 80% attendance of the lessons, engage effectively with the subject and submit the required work at an acceptable standard (generally grade D or above.)

45 credits will be compulsory credits that every pupil must gain. They include:

- 8 English - including at least 2 in each year
- 6 Mathematics - at least one in class 11 or 12
- 6 Science
- 2 Natural Science
- 2 Geography
- 2 History
- 5 Art
- 2 Second language
- 2 Physical Education
- 3 Eurythmy (credits/partial credits must be gained in each of 4 years.)

- 3 Choir (credits/partial credits must be gained in each of 4 years.)
- 1 Drama
- 1 Music
- 1 Computer Studies
- 2 Crafts (credits/partial credits must be gained in each of 4 years.)
- 1 Completion of 40 hours of Community Involvement Activities
- 1 Completion of an extended project

The remaining 35 credits are elective credits.

At least 16 credits must be gained in class 12.

In classes 9 and 10 pupils are expected to take part in all offered courses.

In classes 11 and 12, whilst some subjects may be elective, all pupils are expected to take part in all Main Lessons.

In addition to the required credits, all pupils are expected to take part in all aspects of education, such as school trips, plays and festivals, and to acquit themselves in a manner that is appropriate and in accordance with the school rules.

Academic achievement will be recognised on the diploma by the designation of 'Merit' or 'Distinction'. This will be determined not just by the credits earned throughout the Upper School, but by the grades achieved in each subject.

In some circumstances, it may be possible to adapt the diploma for individual pupils and to accredit certain areas of study, rather than the full range of academic subjects.

## **CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Pupils who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the RWUS Diploma (for example; at the end of Class 10) may be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment. This is conditional upon them having at least 40 credits, including:

- 4 English
- 4 Maths
- 4 Science
- 2 Art
- 1.5 Eurythmy
- 1.5 Physical Education
- 2 Crafts
- 10 hours of Community Involvement

and on them having met responsibilities in other areas of the curriculum including Class Trips, Plays, Community Involvement, Assemblies, Festivals, and special events where attendance is required.

In order to gain the credit pupils must attend the lessons, engage effectively with the subject and submit the required work at an acceptable standard (generally grade D or above.)

The Certificate of Accomplishment may be a useful means of recognising achievement for pupils who plan to take certain vocational programs or other kinds of further education, or who plan to find employment after leaving school.

## **GRADES**

RWUS issues grades for each Main Lesson Block, and in most subjects twice a year.

Twice a year RWUS will calculate a grade point average (GPA) for each pupil based on a four point system: A= 4.0, A- = 3.75, B+ = 3.25, B = 3.0, B- = 2.75, C+ = 2.25, C = 2.0, C- = 1.75, D+ = 1.25, D = 1.0, D- = 0.75, F = 0.

GPA's for each subject will be calculated, together with a cumulative GPA, which will be an average of all grades over the course of the Upper School years.

In order to receive an RWUS diploma, a pupil must have completed the curriculum requirements, maintaining a 1.75, or higher, GPA for each year of attendance. Pupils and parents will be notified in the case of any unfulfilled requirements.

If the pupil's GPA is >3 in classes 9, 10, 11 + 3.5 - 4.0 in Class 12, the diploma will be awarded with Distinction

If the pupil's GPA is >2.5 in classes 9, 10, 11 and is 3 - 3.49 in Class 12, the diploma will be awarded with Merit

The accompanying transcript will show the GPA's for each subject, and all credits earned.

## **CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING**

In some circumstances, it may be beneficial for a pupil to be evaluated for a subject or subjects on a credit/no credit basis. When a pupil receives a letter grade, it affects his or her academic grade point average. However, grading on a credit/no credit basis does not affect a pupil's academic grade point average, rather it simply demonstrates the coursework a pupil attempted and whether or not that pupil completed it to a degree of basic understanding. RWUS will offer credit/no credit

grading on a case-by-case basis, and take into account a pupil's ability and situation when making the decision.

A pupil may be graded on a credit/no credit basis in two cases. One case is if the pupil, family, Learning Support, and Upper School faculty collectively decide it is in the best interest of the pupil to have a Work Plan that indicates credit/no credit grading. In this case, the pupil will be graded on this basis according to the written Work Plan for the amount of time it is in effect. The second case is if a pupil, a parent/guardian, or a teacher applies for the pupil to be graded for a particular subject on a credit/no credit basis. In this case, the requesting person must apply in writing to the Upper School teachers. It is up to the teachers to determine if this is in the best interest of the pupil, and they reserve the right to deny the request.

## **LATE WORK AND INCOMPLETES**

Missing or late assignments can drop the final subject grade by a full grade or more and can mean the difference between passing and failing a course. Teachers are not obliged to accept late work.

An 'incomplete' in a subject or Main Lesson will only be given in exceptional circumstances, such as emergency situations or illness, when special arrangements are made with the teacher and approved by SMT. In order for a pupil to receive an incomplete in a subject or Main Lesson, he or she must fill in the appropriate form and submit it to the Upper School teachers within three days of the deadline. A parent/guardian may also apply on behalf of their pupil. It will then be agreed by the pupil, the family, the teacher, and the Upper School faculty that the pupil will complete specific work by an agreed date.

Incompletes are filed with a default grade. If a pupil fails to complete the work by the deadline agreed upon, the default grade will come into effect.

The information in this document is not exhaustive and may be subject to amendment.