

## IGCSE Options September 2015 at St John's International School



**ST. JOHN'S**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
UNITED KINGDOM

The philosophy underlying the St John's IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) course structure in Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) is that all students should maintain a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum. Subject choices at the end of Year 9 are therefore not the opportunity for wholesale change, but rather an opportunity to "fine tune" their options.

The options available from September 2015 are outlined below and a brief introduction the overall two-year course is given. Specific subject information will be available at the options meeting. When considering final option groups, the School does need to consider a minimum number of students electing each course. To enable effective planning of a broad curriculum for a relative small group of students, we do need feedback regarding optional subjects as outlined in the letter attached.

Please be reminded that examination fees are not included in the School fees and will be billed separately.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum at St John's consists of three parts:

- **COMMON SCHOOL CURRICULUM:**  
compulsory School subjects and activities, some of which are bound by statutory requirements
- **COMPULSORY IGCSE CURRICULUM:**  
compulsory, examinable IGCSE courses
- **OPTIONAL IGCSE CURRICULUM:**  
elected, examinable IGCSE courses.

### **IGCSE Options for Year 10 starting in September 2015, examined in May/June 2017**

#### ***Common School Curriculum***

All students at St John's International School are expected to participate in **Class Drama / Performance Arts, PE, Games, PSHE, Citizenship, Singing, Assemblies** and to become actively involved in the **School Activity Programme** (including **School Service**) which incorporates students in projects that involve our wider School, county, national and international communities, giving them new opportunities to grow and learn beyond classroom walls.

### **Compulsory IGCSE Curriculum:**

Language, Science and Mathematical examinations can be taken at ‘Core’ (Foundation) or ‘Extended’ (Higher) levels. There are differences in terms of the content of the curriculum between these levels. Grades available at Core Level range from C to G, and from A\* to Extended Level (followed by ‘U’ for work that does not achieve minimal levels of achievement). In other subjects, such as Literature or Geography, the full range of grades is available and there are no ‘Core’ and ‘Extended’ options.

*At total number of 11 qualifications can be timetabled. The number of Optional IGCSEs a student can elect will depend on the number of compulsory subjects being taken. We would like students to take examinations in a minimum of seven subjects –but they may elect up to eleven, depending on their ability and interest.*

□ **English (First or Second Language)** First Language includes **Literature**, a separate examination that may be taken by Second Language students who have achieved satisfactory IELTS results. Second Language English includes **BEC** (Business English) and **IELTS** examinations as needed.

□ **Additional Language** All students are expected to take an examination in English *and* another language. For the majority of students, this will be French or Spanish but other languages are available. These additional languages must be studied independently. The School can assist in finding private tutors who can provide lessons at St John’s for individuals or groups, as is the current practice for students studying Chinese First or Second Language (Mandarin) and Russian First Language.

Students who, for various reasons, are exempt from taking an additional language will take Conversational Spanish in Year 10. This course does not lead to examination.

□ **Mathematics** Able students who take this qualification early will then follow with IGCSE Additional Mathematics, or AS Level Mathematics.

□ **Science** All students at SJIS take Science –either Co-ordinated Science (which counts as two IGCSE subjects) or Combined Science (which is a single award). Both options cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

□ **Religious Studies OR Global Perspectives**

### **Optional IGCSE Curriculum:**

Additional subjects may be chosen from the list below. Please note that while every effort will be made to accommodate individual choice, restraints due to timetabling and a minimum number being required may limit some subject combinations.

<b>History</b>	<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>Information and Communication Technology (ICT)</b>	
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Art and Design</b>	<b>Drama (Trinity Guildhall)</b>
<b>Food and Nutrition</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>A further additional language</b>	<b>Bicton Day Release</b>

### **ICE – International Certificate of Education**

Cambridge ICE is the group award of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and requires the study of subjects drawn from the five different IGCSE subject groups. Students are *advised* to enter for this award which recognises the achievements of those who pass examinations in at least seven subjects. There is **no** additional cost associated with taking this award. The Cambridge portfolio of IGCSE qualifications provides a solid foundation for higher level courses such as GCE A and AS Levels and the International Baccalaureate Diploma, as well as excellent preparation for employment.

A range of IGCSE subjects is available and these are grouped into five curriculum areas, as follows:

Group I: **Languages**

Group II: **Humanities and Social Sciences**

Group III: **Sciences**

Group IV: **Mathematics**

Group V: **Creative, Technical and Vocational**

Candidates hoping to gain the Cambridge ICE group award must enter and sit for at least seven subjects selected from the five IGCSE curriculum areas. The subjects selected must include *two* (different) languages from Group I (i.e. only one of First Language English and English as a Second Language may count towards Cambridge ICE) and one subject from each of Groups II, III, IV and V. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the 5 subject groups.

## **Bicton College Partnership(Day release)**

Students who wish to complete a Level 1 course at Bicton College alongside their academic studies at St John's are advised to visit Bicton and find out more about particular courses that may be of interest to them. There is a lot of information on their website(<http://www.bicton.ac.uk/courses>) but a visit to the college is recommended. The College does only offer courses if a minimum number of students are registered and some courses do fill up very quickly. Applications to study courses at Bicton should be with the College by the end of Term 2a 2014.

Please note that SJIS students wanting to complete a Level 1 course at Bicton will be limited in their IGCSE choices(to a maximum of 7) as they will miss one morning a week, each week of term, to attend classes at the College. These students will not be able to take History, Religious Studies or Global Perspectives; and they will take Combined Science as their science option for examination.

## **Progression beyond Year 11**

We trust you are aware of current legislation which states that children in this year group have to be in education or training until they are 17+ and will no longer be able to leave education at 16.

There are a number of 6<sup>th</sup> Form options for every student, including qualifications such as NVQ certificates, apprenticeships, AS and A Level, Pre-U, and the IB Diploma Programme. For more information on the Sixth Form programme at St John's, please see our website:

<http://www.stjohnsdevon.co.uk/Curriculum/SixthForm.aspx#>

For any 6<sup>th</sup>Form programme or even industry-based certification there are certain minimum requirements, and all students need to be aware that, no matter what their future path is, 5 passes (Grades A\*-C) at (IGCSE Level, including C grades for Maths and English are very important.

When making choices for Year 10 and Year 11, the next steps of their journey must be borne in mind. The content of each subject, the manner in which it is assessed, and weight and recognition of the qualification must be considered –alongside students' talents and interests. It would be foolhardy to make decisions based solely on friendship groups or the personality of a particular teacher.

## **IGCSE Options September 2015–examined in June 2017**

Choosing optional subjects is an important decision and there are always many things to consider. We trust that our programme of study offers diversity, academic rigour, inspiration and, in small class groups, opportunities to succeed.

By the start of Term Two each student's subject 'wish list' must be handed to Mrs Innes-Kruger. Students will all be interviewed to discuss their options before final Year 10 Options Lists are available by the end of Term Two. Parents are advised to discuss all options carefully with their children. Final lists will be sent home at the end of Term Two and must be returned, signed by parents and students at the start of Term Three.

We look forward to seeing you at the information evening on **9February 2014**. Please bring any questions to the meeting or contact your child's tutor, their subject teacher, Mrs Searle (Key Stage4 Coordinator) or Mrs Innes-Kruger with any queries, concerns etc. Staff contact details are in the Handbook which can be found on the School's website.

Additional information about IGCSEs, AS and A Level subjects on offer at St John's can be found at [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) and in the flyer attached.





NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians attending the Options meeting on 9 Feb 2014:

YES		NO	
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**Languages**

All students at SJIS are expected to study two languages – their home language and another. The majority of students currently in Year 9 will fall into one of the two categories below, but taking additional languages is also an option.

- English as a First Language + Foreign Language Spanish or French
- English as a Second Language + Russian or Mandarin as a First Language

Please indicate your language choices at the moment, by ticking the appropriate box. PLEASE ONLY TICK TWO BOXES IN TOTAL.

English: First Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Language Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>	First Language Russian	<input type="checkbox"/>
English: Second Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Language French	<input type="checkbox"/>	First Language Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Language Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Second Language Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	First Language Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>

All students **must** prepare for examinations in their home language.

All students for whom English is a home language, will take Literature alongside English as a First Language.

If you would like to consider taking a THIRD language option, please tick the relevant box to indicate your choice.

PLEASE ONLY TICK ONE BOX IN TOTAL, if you are interested in taking three languages.

Foreign Language Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Language French	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Language German	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign Language _____ (Add a language not listed.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ as a First Language (Add a language not listed.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduction to: _____ (Write in the language of your choice.) This language would not necessarily lead to examination, but is a conversational introduction to the language.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 10 and Year 11 students at SJIS take IGCSE Global Perspectives OR IGCSE Religious Studies as part of the Common Core of subjects (alongside Mathematics, Science and two languages).

Please indicate your core choice at this stage, by ticking the appropriate box. PLEASE ONLY TICK ONE BOX IN TOTAL.

Global Perspectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>

In addition, students may also select other subjects in this category.

Please indicate your general preference for these optional subjects by numbering them in RANK ORDER of preference. For example, the option you most prefer, would be given a rank of '2' and the option you least prefer would be scored '1'. You may score '0' if the subject is not one which you wish to study further.

Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Creative, Technical and Vocational Subjects

These subjects will make up the bulk of the option blocks that will be discussed at next term's OPTIONS EVENING.

To assist with general planning, please will you rank the following subjects on the scale below according to your general interest and ability. ONLY CIRCLE EACH NUMBER ONCE.

For example, '8' would indicate the subject you are most interested in; '1', the one which you are least interested in. *Please rank them all – even if there is a subject listed below that you might not necessarily consider taking in Years 10 and 11 at this stage.*

Art and Design	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Business Studies	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Computer Studies	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Drama	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Food and Nutrition	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Information and Communication Technology	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Music	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Physical Education	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Students at St John's may also wish to investigate 'Day Release' courses available at **Bicton College**. This would entail going to Bicton every Tuesday morning. More information can be found at <http://www.bicton.ac.uk/sites/default/files/u34/14-19.pdf>

INTERESTED?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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