



The British Lyceum Option Booklet for IGCSE

2017



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

At the British Lyceum in Moscow our mission is to enable our students to achieve their full potential in their academic studies, their social development, and their artistic and sporting endeavours. We hope to instil within our pupils an appreciation and acceptance of cultural diversity and difference, through the promotion of democracy, equality and peace.

At the same time, we expect students to strive for academic excellence in all areas.

In an increasingly technologically advanced world, education itself is now about developing within young people the habits of mind and dispositions that produce dynamic citizens and foster life-long learning.

Shifts in technology and in cultural and economic boundaries, make the education of every child and young person more important than ever.

As our pupils move to the Upper Secondary Phase, they embark on a journey that for many marks the beginning of the road into the British Lyceum 6th form Sixth and then into top universities and colleges across the globe. The world of work is more international and transient in nature than at any time in the past. Indeed, the majority of our students will have many different jobs during their lifetime.

The Upper School Curriculum at the British Lyceum builds on students' previous experience and provides opportunities to develop new skills within the framework of recognised qualifications. The academic curriculum and the IGCSE qualifications that our students will gain at the end of the Upper Secondary Stage are central to the School's mission.

The options process should involve a triad of conversations between school, home and your child to enable us to support them with the correct information and guidance to maximise their academic potential.

Yours Sincerely

Damien Butters

Academic Director



To the Students

Dear Students,

Welcome to the IGCSE Options Process. This is the beginning of an important new phase in your education. It is the first time when you can actually make choices about the subjects you wish to study at IGCSE.

The decisions that you make now will have a big impact on your A Level choices later. You will be entering what in the UK is known as the 14 -19 stage of education. This comprises Upper secondary Stage, where you study IGCSEs and Post 16 years, where you study A Levels. This takes you all the way through to the beginning of your university studies.

You have now reached a very important time in your education. You have to think carefully and make decisions about what courses you wish to study. We would like to take this opportunity to give you some advice that you may find useful. In making your decisions it is important to bear in mind the following questions:

- What subjects do you like?
- What subjects are you not so keen on?
- What are you good at?
- What are you not so good at?
- At the moment what would you like a career in?

It is very important to talk to relatives, teachers and friends to discuss your views. Find out about different careers from talking to your teachers about choices you are considering and discuss them with your family. Friends are very important to you but be very careful not to opt for subjects just to be with them.

Some of you may already have clear career ambitions and some of you may be worried because you do not. As you talk to adults about their careers so far you will find out that most are now doing a job that they did not really consider when they were 14 years old. As you go through life, you will follow many different paths as different opportunities arise.

Bearing this in mind it is important to make decisions now that offer a broad and balanced curriculum that will not limit your future career path too much, but you do have to make decisions and that means talking to lots of people and then being strong and bold.

The transition to the Upper Secondary Stage is an exciting and memorable moment in your education. This is a time to shape your own education by selecting subjects that you enjoy or that will help you progress in your desired career path.

Expectations

As an Upper Secondary Stage student, you will become senior members of the school. So it is important that you now consider yourselves as mature students that need to model positive behaviour, exemplary appearance and outstanding attitude to learning.

Please think very carefully about all the information and advice which is given to you in the coming weeks and do not be afraid to ask about anything you need further help with. We want you to make the best possible choices so that you can go on to achieve your potential in both your studies and career.



IGCSE at the British Lyceum

The options choices at the British Lyceum have been designed to provide all students with a breadth of study that will ensure the widest and least restrictive subject combination with which to enter post-16 study. It is based on the Cambridge International Certificate of Education where students take a minimum of 7 subjects from option areas.

For this reason, there are five compulsory areas:

- English Language or English as a second Language
- Mathematics
- Choose two subjects from physics, chemistry or biology
- Information Computer Technology (ICT)
- Modern Foreign Languages - pupils are also required to study a minimum of ONE foreign language (Russian, French, Spanish or German).
- Pupils must have studied this language in Year 9. If students are Russian Passport holders then they MUST study Russian.

Students also need to select three further options and a 'reserve' subject. We will try our very best to provide students with their preferred options, but this may not be possible in all cases. Provision of IGCSE in the subject areas is subject to a sufficient number of students selecting each option. If there is limited interest in an option, then the subject may be withdrawn. Some subjects may have a 'cap' placed on the number of students accommodated in any one teaching group. Parents and students will be informed about the availability and confirmation of their option choices during the final term or at interview.

The British Lyceum currently offer the IGCSE in:

Compulsory Subjects	Option 1 Humanities and Social Science	Option 2 Professional and Creative
English Language or English as a second language	Economics	Accounting
Mathematics	Geography	Art & Design
Two science subjects from physics, chemistry and biology	History	Business Studies
Modern Foreign Language 1 st or foreign Language	English Literature	Music
ICT	Spanish Literature	

All students must do Physical Education . Students must choose 2 options with at least one from each option group.

Additional Mathematics and English Literature and Spanish literature are IGCSE options available to some students. These courses are offered to students selected by the school as a means of supplementing and enriching their learning. Students themselves are not allowed to choose to study this course.



University of Cambridge Internal Examinations (CIE) and the International General Certificate of Education (IGCSE)

At the British Lyceum, the majority of subjects follow the IGCSE offered by CIE. CIE is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. They are an awarding body for the IGCSE qualification, an internationally recognised equivalent to the GCSE and precursor to post-16 study.

“For learners, Cambridge IGCSE helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving. It is the perfect springboard to advanced study.”

Source:<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridgesecundary2/cambridgeigcse/curriculum/> (March, 2014)

Under normal circumstances, Cambridge IGCSE courses are delivered over two-years and are assessed at the end of this period through a mixture of written and oral tests, coursework and practical assessment. The exact assessment scheme varies between subjects.

In some subject areas, there is a choice between core and extended curriculum making IGCSE suitable for a wider range of abilities. This allows the school to decide upon the entry level that is in each student's best interests. The IGCSE is benchmarked using eight internationally recognised grades: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Grade A* is the highest level of achievement and grade G is the minimum awarded. Most post-16 institutions require students to have a minimum of five IGCSE grade Cs or above, though more realistically students require a B grade or higher in those subjects that they intend to study at post-16 level in order to do well.

Further Enquiries Should you have further questions regarding the options process, we would first ask that the student seeks advice from their teachers, at their school or the Academic Director at the British Lyceum

Yours sincerely

Damien Butters

Academic Director