



Secondary Curriculum & Pathways

25th September 2025



HeadStart
International School, Phuket



CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International School

Secondary School Team



Ben Wakeford
Secondary Principal



Dan Marsh
Head of Secondary



Tomoko Matsushita
Deputy Head of Secondary



Alex Warrington
KS3 Pastoral Coordinator

Primary

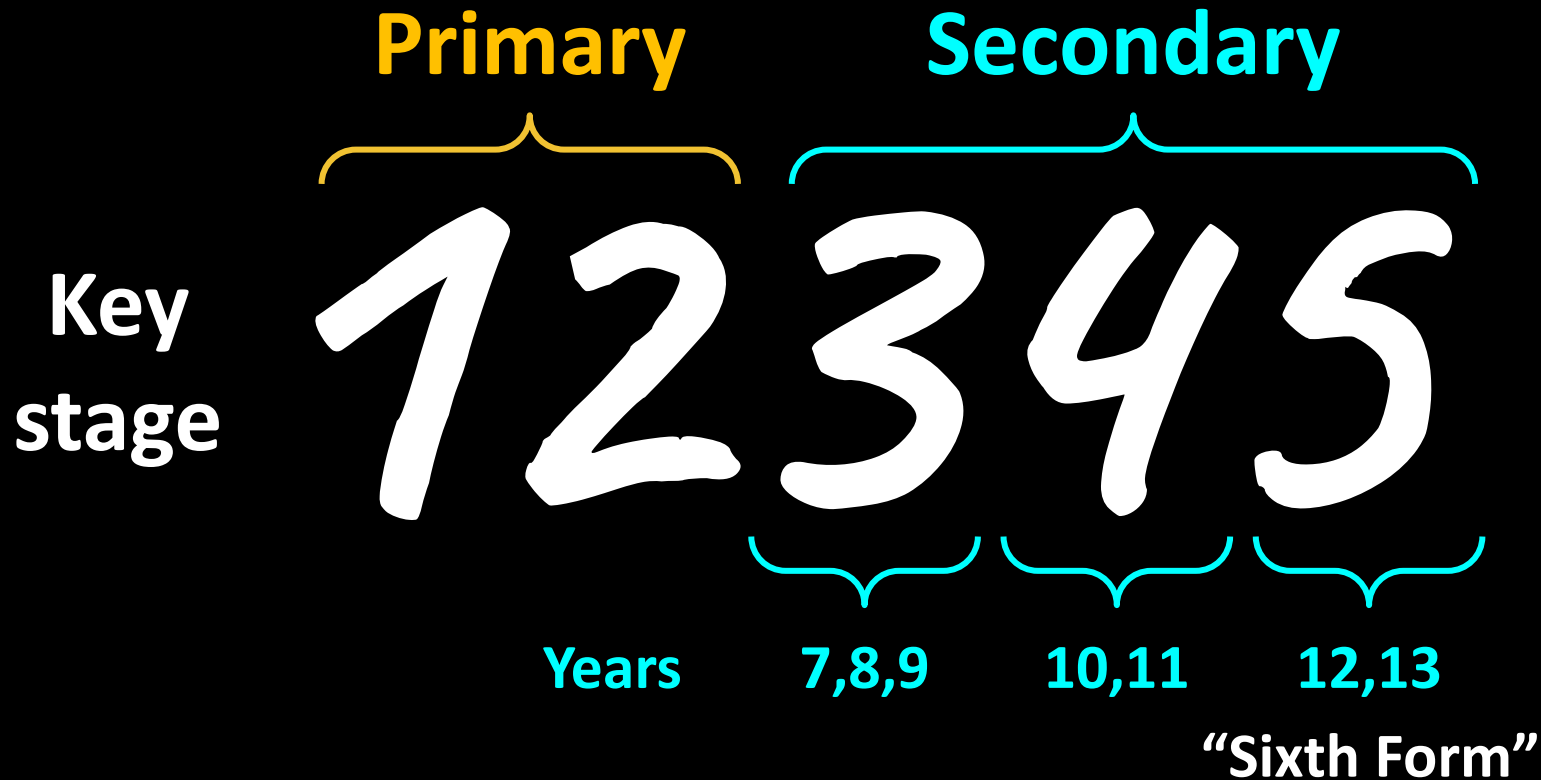
Secondary

Tertiary

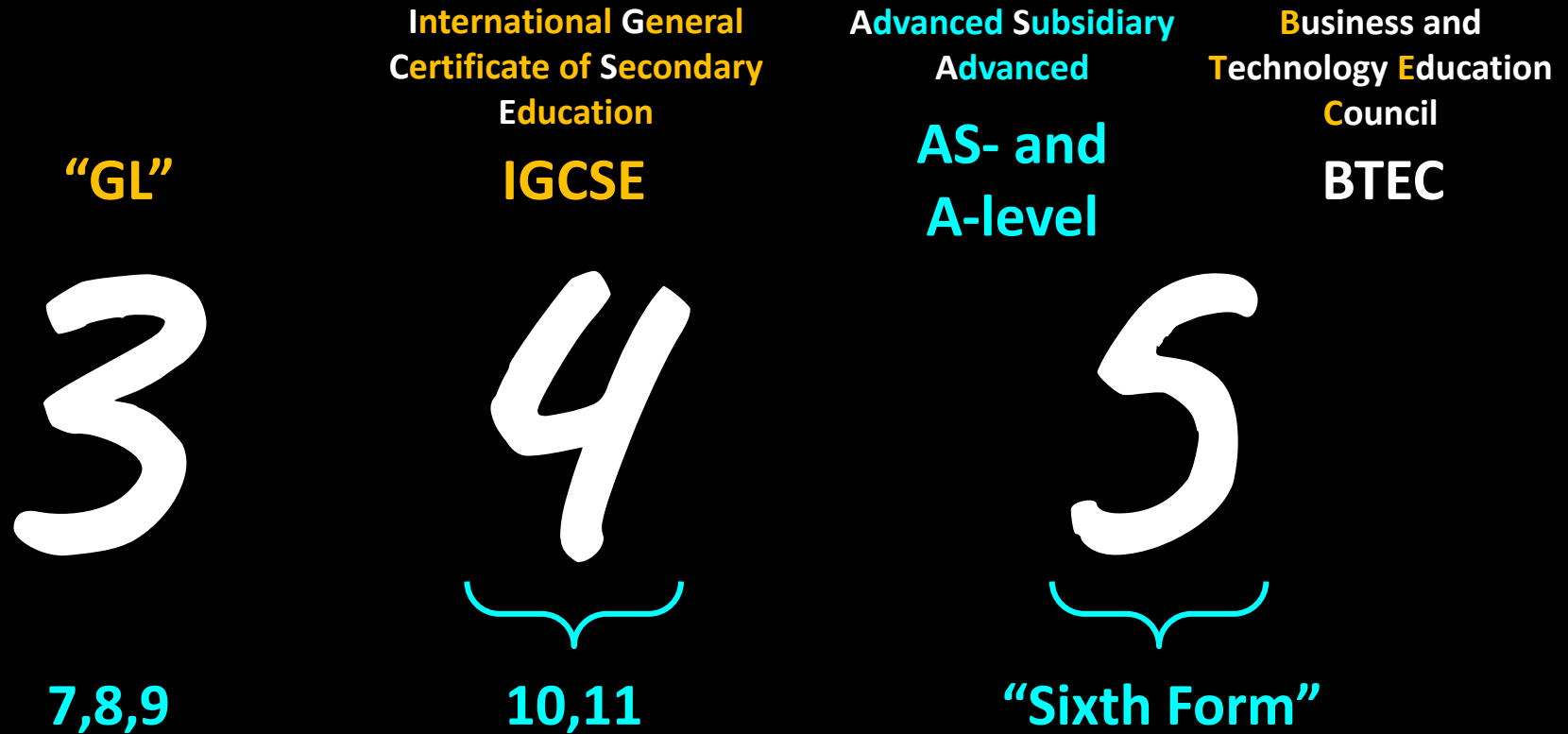


The “Secondary” journey

Secondary Curriculum



Curriculum



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Journey to adulthood

2 3 4 5

1 teacher
(+ specialists)



All specialist
teachers

1 class
(+ specialists)



Mostly one class
Some other groups



Every class
different

Dependent,
Directed learning



Group work



Emerging
independence

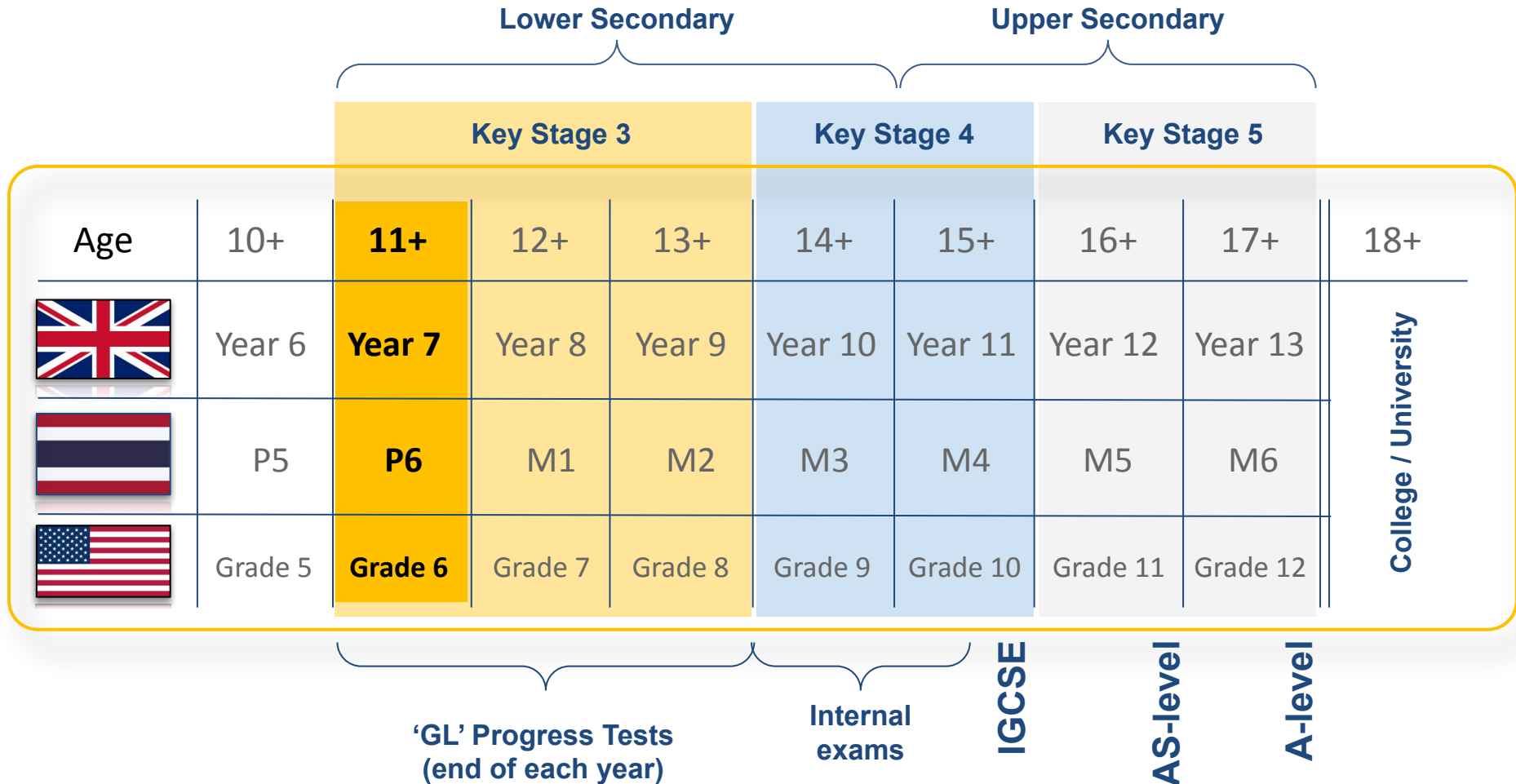


Mature independent
learners



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Educational journey in Secondary

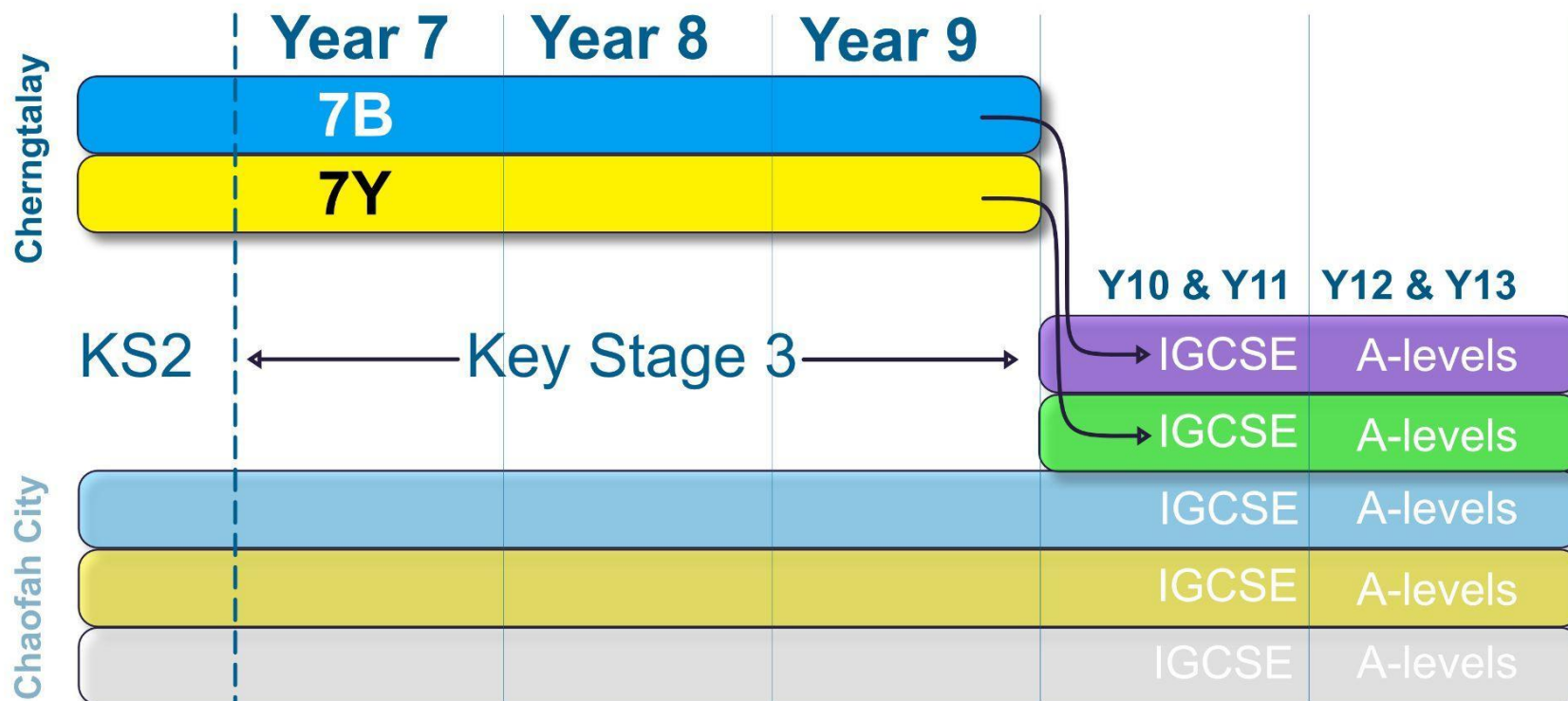


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Key Stage progression



Key Stages 4 & 5



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Ben Wakeford
Secondary Principal



Lower Secondary



Nikki Uhure
Assistant Head
of Lower School



Kate Manning
Head of Lower School



Pornkamon Roongsiri
Deputy School Director

Upper Secondary



Timothy Davidson
Head of Upper School



Emily Graham
Assistant Head
of Upper School

Coordinators



Lee Sumsion
Year 9



Jamie Sadler
Year 10



Nosheen Khan
Year 11



Kelly Tuppen
Year 12



Gio Guarino
Year 13

University Counsellors

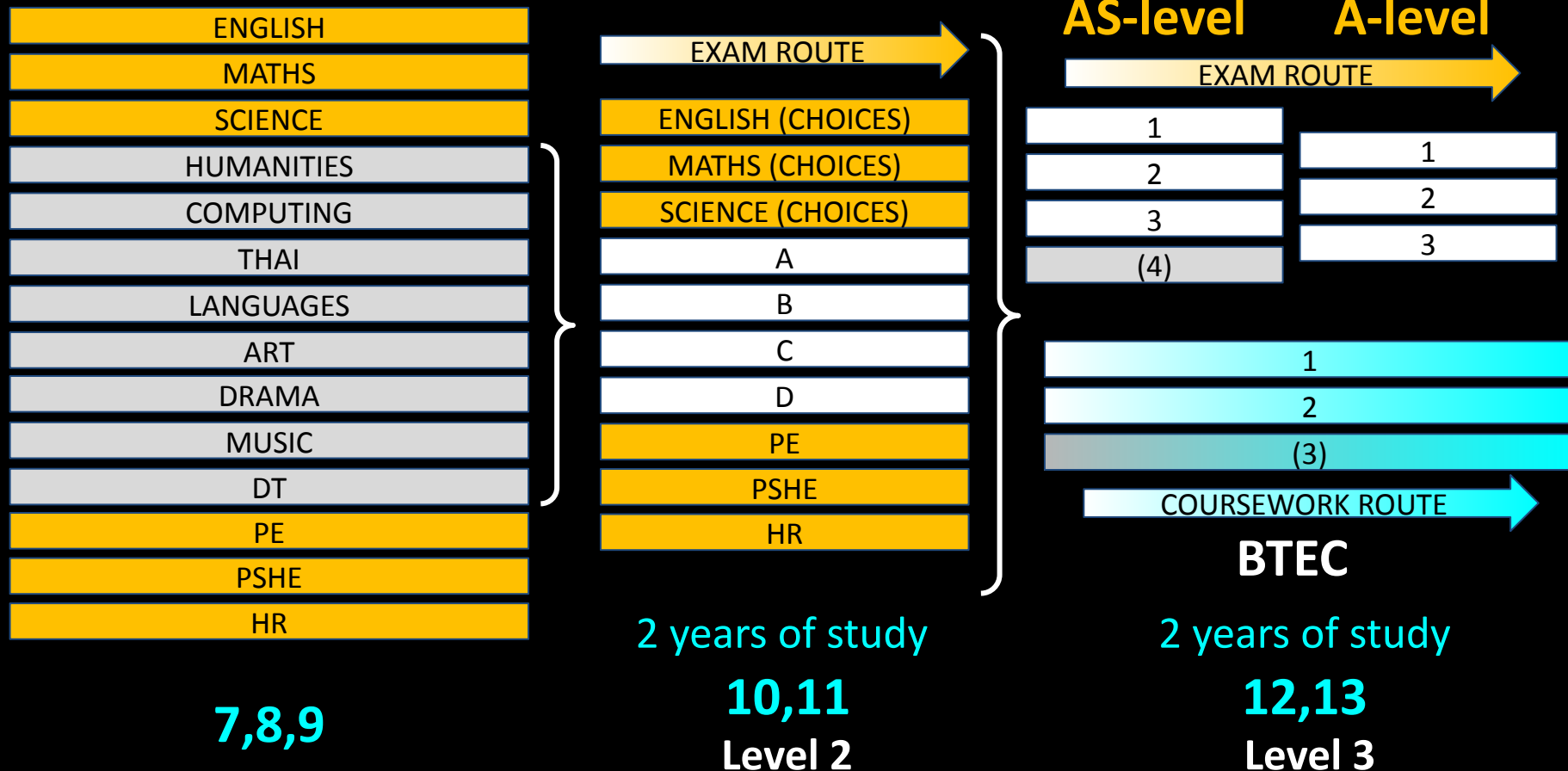


Simon Thomas



Neil Roscoe

Curriculum Journey



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HeadStart Educational Journey

Key Stage Three - Year 7, 8 & 9

- HeadStart Curriculum based on the English National Curriculum
- End of Year Assessments using GL Progress Tests in English, Maths and Science

Key Stage Four - Year 10 & 11

- IGCSE Cambridge/GCSE Edexcel International Exams at the end of Year 11

Key Stage Five (Sixth Form) - Year 12 & 13

- AS Level Cambridge International Exams at the end of Year 12
- A Level Cambridge International Exams at the end of Year 13
- Pearson BTEC Certificates, Sub-Diploma and Diplomas in Y12 and 13



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Qualification “Levels”

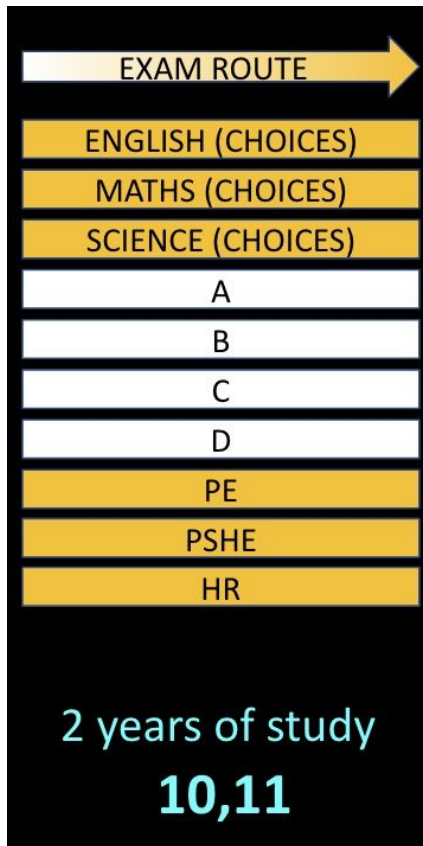
There are **nine levels of qualification** in the British system

	‘Entry’	
Secondary School	1	IGCSE - grades D - G (3-1)
	2	IGCSE - grades A* - C (9-4) also BTEC Level 2
	3	AS levels, A levels & BTEC Level 3
College	4	
	5	Foundation Degree
Undergraduate university	6	Honours Degree (for example BA, BSc) “Bachelor of...”
Postgraduate university	7	Master’s Degree (for example MA, MSc) PGCE
	8	Doctorate (for example PhD, DPhil)



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HeadStart Educational Journey



Key Stage Four - Year 10 & 11 - **more details**

- **Two year courses** following internationally recognised syllabi.
- Some courses have coursework, but most have exams at the end of two years.
- The examinations are **externally marked**.
- **GCSE & IGCSE** prepare students for A-levels and BTECs.



What are GCSEs/IGCSEs?

GCSE and IGCSE are the world's most popular internationally recognised **Level 2 qualifications** for 14 to 16 year olds.

They act as a **gateway to higher education** or professional studies anywhere in the world.

They can help you:

- get a **place at college or university** at home or abroad
- find better **career opportunities**
- **pass the language tests** for emigrating or studying in another country
- **develop skills** that help you lead a more exciting and successful life

“Cambridge” or “Pearson”



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International School

Required for A-level
study in a subject



A*–G grades	9–1 grades
A*	9
A	8 7
B	6
C	5 4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	



Pearson

(for Music & Art)

⇐ “Good Pass”



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Key Stage 4

Compulsory subjects

18 lessons in each week

- English (**four** lessons)
- Mathematics (**four** lessons)
- Science (**six** or **nine** lessons)
- Core Physical Education (**two** lessons) non-exam class
- PSHE (**one** lesson)
- Homeroom/assembly (**one** lesson)



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Key Stage 4

Compulsory subjects

English (**four** lessons a week)

ENGLISH (CHOICES)

- English as a Second Language
- English Language
- English Language and Literature (two IGCSEs); this is a very challenging option for the most able students.



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Key Stage 4

Compulsory subjects

Mathematics (**four** lessons)

MATHS (CHOICES)

- **Core Mathematics** - maximum IGCSE grade of a C
- **Extended Mathematics** - maximum grade of an A* but **much** harder. Only advisable for students who are definitely on course to obtain a B or above.

Compulsory subjects

Sciences(**six** or **nine** lessons)

SCIENCE (CHOICES)

- **Coordinated Science:**

One IGCSE course (worth two IGCSEs) with examinations that have questions from all three Sciences. This requires **six lessons**.

- **IGCSE Triple Sciences: Chemistry and Physics only:**

Two separate IGCSE that require three lessons a week each (to follow the individual Sciences students need to perform well in Y9 Science).

- **IGCSE Triple Sciences: Chemistry, Physics and Biology.**

Three separate IGCSE that require three lessons a week each. A total of **nine lessons** (This path takes one of the option blocks)

Optional subjects

12 lessons in each week. Choose **FOUR** subjects

Computer Science

ICT (Information & Communication Technology)

Geography

History

Psychology (new)

Global Perspectives (new)

Economics

Business Studies (IGCSE or BTEC Level 2)

Travel & Tourism (Level 2 BTEC)

Physical Education (IGCSE)

Sport (BTEC Level 2)

Art & Design (GCSE)

Design Technology

Drama

Music (GCSE)

Languages (see next slide)

Biology (see previous)

IGCSE Language Options 2026-2028

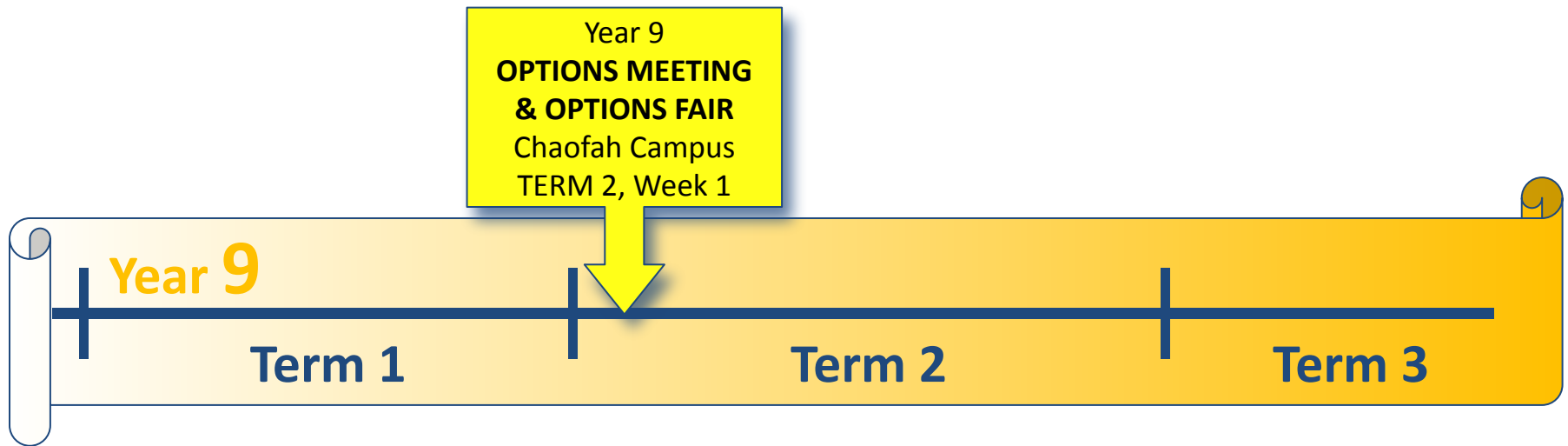


Other languages options are also available
as **IGCSE** exams only in First, Second and Foreign.
(These are not taught subjects)



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Making the Choice



- **Year 9 students & parents** begin the process of choosing their **IGCSE options** in the **1st week of Term 2** in Year 9.
- Follow-up discussions will happen later in the year.

Making the Choice

IGCSE			
2026 option blocks			Year 10 in 26-27
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Biology (resulting in 9 science lessons a week instead of the standard 6)	Biology (resulting in 9 science lessons a week instead of the standard 6)		
Computer Science			Computer Science
	ICT (Information and Communication technology)	ICT (Information and Communication technology)	
		Economics	Economics
Geography		Geography	
	History		History
Global	Global	Psychology	
Business Studies IGCSE	Business Studies IGCSE		
	Business Studies BTEC		
Travel & Tourism BTEC			Travel & Tourism BTEC
Music	DT (Design Technology)	Drama	DT (Design Technology)
	Art and Design		Art and Design
		IGCSE PE (Physical Education)	
		BTEC Sport	
			First language Thai
			First language Mandarin
			Foreign language Mandarin
			Foreign language French
Study Support	Study Support	Study Support	Study Support



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Provisional blocks for 2026

Balance

We encourage students to choose a balanced curriculum but the final decision is made in consultation with the student and the parents.

Think about:

- Fun and Enjoyment
- Academic rigour
- Coursework or exam based?
- Future studies?
- Current strengths and weaknesses

Homework

- Students receive **1 hour** of homework **per week** for **each examination subject** (approximately 8 hours)

Parental Support

You can help your child by:

- **Checking** their work set on **Google Classroom**; ask if they need support.
- **Get them to explain** what they have learnt - verbally explaining a concept helps our brain to process the information.
- **Encourage** them during assessments and exams; **smart working is better** than overworking.

ECAs and interventions

- Boosters for identified students working below expected age related expectations; EAL, English, Maths, Science and all IGCSE classes.
- Targeted interventions to help students progress, extra sessions including Saturday sessions, working with our Learning Support team, working with HR teachers to create study timetables and creating individual IL programs with students.

Other opportunities...

We offer a range of activities beyond the academic curriculum to support, extend and boost learning.

- Extracurricular **clubs** & activities
- Additional **support**; EAL, AEN, VAPP
- **CAPA** programme
- **Academies**; sports and dance
- Residential **trips** and visits
- **Competitions** and challenges
- Duke of Edinburgh's **International Award - Bronze**



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Key Stage 4

IGCSE - the **key** to the 6th form

Minimum entrance requirements for the Sixth form:

- **Five grade C** (or 4 if Art or Music) or above at IGCSE

Additional entrance requirements for A-level:

- **Grade B/6 or above** in the relevant subject

However we do look at each student individually and try to find a pathway for them.

IGCSE for University?

University requirements

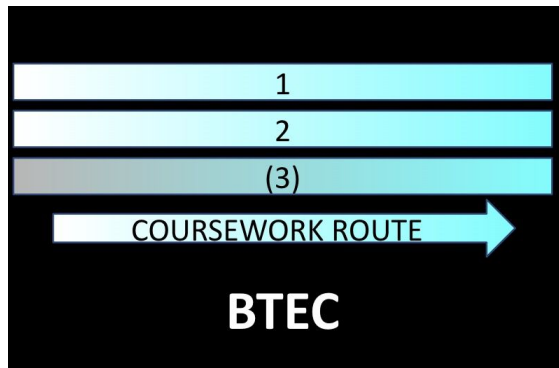
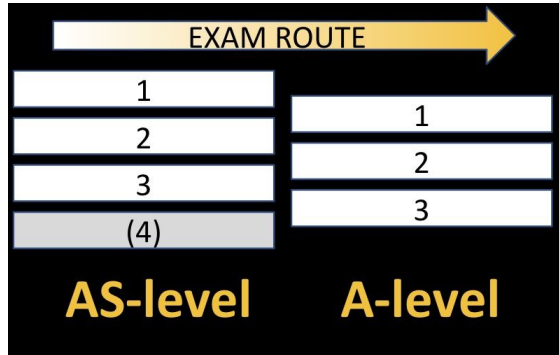
- For the majority of subjects **IGCSE results do not affect university entrance at all.**
- Many universities require **a minimum level of Maths & English** and a C grade at IGCSE can often be used to show this. Some universities also require **a minimum of 5 A* to C grades.**
- To help all students obtain this level at IGCSE we offer **IGCSE English and IGCSE Mathematics to students in year 12** who obtained less than a C in year 11.

'Entry'	
Secondary School	1 IGCSE - grades D - G (3-1)
	2 IGCSE - grades A*- C (9-4) also BTEC Level 2
	3 AS levels, A levels & BTEC Level 3



HeadStart Educational Journey

Key Stage Five - Year 12 & 13 - more details



- **Two year courses** following an internationally recognised syllabus.
- Some courses have coursework, but most have exams at the end of two years.
- The examinations are **externally marked**.
- **A levels & BTEC Level 3 Diplomas** prepare students for college or university study



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Key Stage 5

A level subjects - Level 3

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- History
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology



BTEC subjects - Level 3

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma

- Applied Science*
- Business*
- Music*
- Travel & Tourism
- Sport
- IT
- Engineering

* ...also available as
a BTEC Diploma

* ...also available as
a BTEC Foundation
Diploma



More opportunities...

Our **Sixth Form programme** offers tailored support for senior students, in addition to what we offer at Key Stage 4.

- Dedicated **University Guidance** team
- Socio-emotional **support & counselling**
- “**U-Prep**” programme
- **Application** and **reference** support
- The **EPQ** programme
- **Leadership** opportunities
- Duke of Edinburgh’s **International Award - Silver**



CONGRATULATION

to our students on outstanding

ACADEMIC RESULTS 2025

A*/A
GRADES

42%

AT IGCSE

A*/A
GRADES

47%

AT A/AS LEVEL

A*/C
GRADES

92%

AT A/AS LEVEL

100%

OF STUDENTS IN YEAR 13 AWARDED
MERIT OR ABOVE GRADES

ANY
QUESTIONS?

