



WYCOMBE ABBEY SCHOOL
HONG KONG
香港威雅學校



Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong IGCSE Options Booklet

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Programme Overview

Choosing your IGCSE subjects is an important step in a student's Senior School journey. It marks the beginning of a more personalised academic pathway, opening the door to new challenges, interests and opportunities.

The IGCSE Options programme at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong centres on a subject selection process that supports students in making informed and confident choices. This process encourages students to reflect on their interests, strengths and aspirations as they begin to shape a more personalised academic pathway within Senior School.

Through this programme, students select a balanced combination of core and optional subjects that provides a strong academic foundation while allowing for individual choice. These decisions prepare students for post-16 study, including A Levels, and play an important role in shaping future university options and longer-term career pathways.





The Purpose of this Booklet

This booklet is designed to provide students and parents with clear and comprehensive information about the IGCSE subjects available at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong. It outlines what each subject involves, including course content, assessment structures, learning experiences, progression pathways and potential career paths, helping families understand the opportunities on offer.

In addition, the booklet offers guidance to support informed decision-making, encouraging students to reflect on their interests, strengths and future aspirations. It also explains the overall IGCSE selection process, setting out the steps students and families will follow from initial exploration through to final subject choices.

We encourage students and parents to read this booklet carefully, as well as to speak with teachers and tutors and discuss ideas together at home.

The IGCSE Options Journey





Selection of Subjects

At Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong, the IGCSE curriculum is designed to provide both structure and choice, allowing students to develop core knowledge while tailoring their studies to their strengths and goals. The curriculum carefully balances compulsory core subjects, which develop essential knowledge and skills, with a broad range of option subjects that allow students to pursue their interests, strengths and future aspirations. Together, these choices support both academic excellence and individual growth, preparing students for success beyond IGCSE.

CORE SUBJECTS

All students study a set of core subjects that are essential for success in post-16 education and beyond. These subjects provide the academic literacy and numeracy needed for almost every future pathway:

MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH (First or Second Language)	CHINESE
BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS

These subjects ensure every student develops analytical thinking, scientific literacy, language proficiency and problem-solving skills. Together, they provide a strong foundation for A Levels, IB pathways and university level study. Additionally, English Literature and Further Maths are available to higher ability students.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Alongside core subjects, students choose three additional subjects from a diverse range of options that allow for specialisation, exploration and creativity. These subjects offer opportunities to discover personal interests, develop new skills and prepare for specific career paths:

Geography	History	Business Studies	Art & Design	Drama	Music (By invitation only)	EAL Support
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Option subjects support students in tailoring their programme to reflect their strengths — whether in the arts, humanities, social sciences, performance, business or creative fields. These choices provide valuable preparation for A Level and university applications, showcasing individuality and academic curiosity.

As well as IGCSE subjects, students can also choose to have English as an Additional Language lessons as one of their options to support their academic English.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

When selecting option subjects, students should consider:

- **Interests & Enjoyment** — you will succeed most in subjects you genuinely enjoy.
- **Strengths & Skills** — choose subjects you feel confident in or would like to develop further.
- **Future Pathways** — think ahead to A Levels, university programmes and career ideas.
- **Balance** — a mix of subjects can keep future options open and create a well-rounded profile.

Our teachers and tutors will guide you through these decisions, helping you build an IGCSE programme that is both challenging and inspiring, and aligned with your goals.



Course Overview

Core Content

The course covers key areas of mathematics, including Number (fractions, indices), Algebra (formulae, simultaneous equations, introductory calculus), Geometry (trigonometry, vectors, circle theorems), and Statistics and Probability (data distribution). A spiral curriculum is used, meaning these topics are revisited regularly and explored in increasing depth, helping students develop strong mastery of both pure and applied mathematical concepts.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop strong *mathematical habits of mind*, learning how to break down multi-step problems, choose efficient methods, and check the reasonableness of their results. Digital tools such as Desmos and GeoGebra are used to support learning, helping to bridge the gap between abstract algebraic equations and complex geometric visualisations.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students gain fluency in modelling real-world scenarios and constructing clear, formal logical arguments. Mathematics acts as a key gateway subject for high-tier technical careers, including Engineering (Aeronautical and Civil), Data Science and AI, Investment Banking, Architecture, and specialised roles within the field of Cybersecurity.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers: Paper 1 (50%) and Paper 2 (50%), assessing number, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Problem-solving workshops, graphing with technology, modelling tasks, geometric construction, mixed-topic retrieval practice and exam-technique drills.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics; strong support for Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Computer Science and quantitative social sciences.

CAREER PATHS

- Engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical, aerospace)
- Data science, analytics and AI/ML engineering
- Finance, actuarial science and investment banking
- Architecture and surveying
- Software development and cyber security
- Operations research and logistics

Further Mathematics



Course Overview

Core Content

Further Mathematics extends well beyond the standard IGCSE course and is designed for students who have a strong aptitude for Maths and enjoy tackling challenging abstract concepts. Core topics include Advanced Algebra (including polynomial division, inequalities and complex numbers), Coordinate Geometry in greater depth, Calculus (differentiation and integration), Matrices and Transformations, Trigonometric Identities, and Vectors in 2D and 3D. These topics lay the foundation for university-level mathematics.

Skills and Methodology

Students learn to think with high levels of mathematical rigour, mastering multi-step reasoning, formal proof techniques and elegant algebraic manipulation. The course places strong emphasis on problem-solving: students learn to break down unfamiliar problems, construct efficient solution pathways and communicate their reasoning clearly using correct mathematical notation. Digital tools such as Desmos, GeoGebra and CAS-enabled technologies are used to model functions and explore the behaviour of complex systems.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students develop exceptional quantitative fluency and the ability to handle abstract ideas with confidence. Further Mathematics is a powerful differentiator for competitive A Level programmes and university applications, especially for students aiming for STEM pathways. It ensures students enter Sixth Form with a deep conceptual understanding and strong problem-solving maturity.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written examinations covering:

- Pure Mathematics (advanced algebra, trigonometry, calculus and matrices)
- Further Applications (geometry, vectors, functions, analytical methods)

CAREER PATHS

- Engineering (Aerospace, Mechanical, Civil, Electrical)
- Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science
- Computer Science, AI and Software Engineering
- Physics and Astronomy
- Economics, Econometrics and Finance
- Actuarial Science and Quantitative Risk Analysis

English Language (First Language)



Course Overview

Core Content

This modular course focuses on *developing perceptive reading* and *versatile writing*. Students analyse a wide range of non-fiction texts, including speeches and memoirs, to understand tone, purpose and rhetorical devices. The writing component is divided into Transactional Writing (such as letters and reviews) and Imaginative Writing, which develops narrative and descriptive craft.

Skills and Methodology

Students learn the skill of *textual interrogation*, extracting implied meaning and evaluating how purpose and audience shape language choices. The course emphasises a rigorous drafting and redrafting process, designed to strengthen grammatical accuracy and develop a confident, distinctive and authoritative written “voice” across different contexts.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to synthesise complex viewpoints into clear, coherent and persuasive written responses. These skills are essential for careers that demand high-level communication and analytical thinking, including Law (Barrister or Solicitor), Journalism, Public Relations, Diplomacy, and strategic roles in digital Content Strategy.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two units:
Unit 1 assesses non-fiction reading and transactional writing;
Unit 2 assesses literary reading and imaginative writing.

CAREER PATHS

- Law (solicitor, barrister, paralegal)
- Journalism, publishing and editing
- Marketing, PR and communications
- Civil service and policy roles
- Teaching and academia
- Content strategy and UX writing

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Comparative reading, rhetorical analysis, argument writing, narrative/descriptive craft, drafting/editing cycles, speaking and listening presentations.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level English Language or English Literature; strong foundation for humanities and social sciences.

English as a Second Language (ESL)



Course Overview

Core Content

This course is designed to bridge the gap towards advanced proficiency in an English-medium learning environment. It is organised around contemporary themes such as Global Issues and Technology, with students studying authentic materials including news articles and podcasts. The course content is structured across four key areas: reading, writing (including summaries and essays), listening, and speaking (through role-plays and discussions).

Skills and Methodology

Students develop *functional fluency* through an interactive, *learning by doing approach*. They practise key sub-skills such as skimming and scanning, summarising longer texts, and using a range of sentence structures accurately. Learning activities include debates and pronunciation workshops to build confidence, alongside developing the use of idiomatic expressions and formal academic vocabulary for professional contexts.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to participate effectively in academic discussions and produce well-organised writing for real-world purposes. These skills are essential for international careers where English is the primary working language, including International Business, Tourism, Global Hospitality, Aviation, Translation, and work within Global NGOs and charities.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1 Listening (25%);
Paper 2 Reading and Writing (50%);
Paper 3 Speaking (25%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Paired and group speaking tasks, summary writing, comprehension drills, vocabulary building, grammar workshops and pronunciation practice.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level English, IB Language B, and preparation for English-medium sixth form and university study.

CAREER PATHS

- International business and trade
- Tourism, hospitality and aviation
- Media and broadcasting
- Translation and interpretation (with further study)
- Customer success and global support roles
- NGO and charity sector roles



Course Overview

Core Content

The course explores the human experience through the study of a Shakespeare play, a modern prose text and a diverse anthology of poetry. Students examine how structure, form and context shape meaning, engaging in close reading of canonical texts alongside contemporary voices to explore universal themes such as conflict, identity and power.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop advanced *critical analysis* and *literary empathy* through Socratic seminars, detailed text annotation and the study of motifs and symbols. They learn to write thesis-led essays that weigh alternative interpretations, interrogating complex ideas and articulating sophisticated arguments about humanity and society across different historical periods.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students gain strong cultural literacy and a confident, analytical critical voice. English Literature provides excellent preparation for careers in Publishing, Media Research, Academic Research, Human Resources, and Arts Management, where the ability to analyse and interpret complex human narratives is essential.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Expected model: two written examination papers covering set prose, drama and poetry, plus unseen poetry.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Seminars, annotation and close reading, comparative essays, debate, contextual research and timed writing practice.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level English Literature; complementary to History, Politics, Languages and the creative arts.

CAREER PATHS

- Law and advocacy
- Publishing, editing and literary agencies
- Journalism and broadcasting
- Teaching, academia and educational publishing
- Creative writing and content strategy
- Public relations and cultural institutions

Core Subjects

Chinese



Course Overview

Core Content

The course is structured around five practical themes: *Home and Abroad*, *Education*, *Personal Relationships*, *The World Around Us*, and *Social Activities and Health*. Topics include festivals, modern technology and youth culture. Students progress from survival language to expressing more nuanced opinions, while mastering between 800 and 1,000 high-frequency characters alongside increasingly complex grammatical structures.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop integrative communication through the four pillars of language learning: listening (at native speaking speeds), speaking (sustained 10-minute conversations), reading (blogs and articles), and writing (including narrative forms). Teaching methods include active retrieval and dictation to support deep character immersion. Students also build *cross-cultural competence*, learning to adapt their language use between formal and informal contexts.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to communicate fluently in Mandarin across both professional and social settings. This provides a significant competitive advantage for careers in International Business, Global Finance, Diplomacy, Luxury Brand Management, and Supply Chain Logistics, particularly for organisations operating within the wider Greater China region.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three components:

Paper 1 Listening (25%);

Paper 2 Reading and Writing (50%);

Paper 3 Speaking (25%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Dialogues and role-plays, reading authentic materials, structured writing tasks, pronunciation and tones practice, cultural projects and presentations.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Chinese and language-rich university pathways; valuable alongside Business, Economics and International Relations.

CAREER PATHS

- International business and marketing
- Banking and finance with Asia focus
- Diplomacy and foreign service
- Logistics and supply chain across Greater China
- Translation and localisation (with further study)
- Tourism and cultural exchange programmes



Course Overview

Core Content

The course explores life at every level, from molecular foundations to global ecosystems. It covers Cell Biology, including DNA and enzymes; Human Physiology, such as gas exchange, circulation and homeostasis; and Genetics and Inheritance, including genetic engineering. The course concludes with Ecology, focusing on nutrient cycles, biodiversity, and the impact of human activity on the environment.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop skills in *empirical observation* and data interpretation through a strongly practical, laboratory-based approach. Learning activities include food tests, enzyme experiments, and the use of quadrats for sampling. Students learn to plan investigations, collect quantitative data, and use mathematical ratios to analyse biological trends accurately.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to apply biological models to unfamiliar scenarios and understand the evidence that underpins the life sciences. Biology provides a vital foundation for careers in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Genetics Research, Pharmacology, and the critically important field of Environmental Conservation.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers: Paper 1 Core (2 hours) and Paper 2 Extended (1 hour 15 minutes).
Practical skills are assessed within exam questions.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Hands-on practicals, data handling and graph work, case studies, modelling activities, fieldwork and exam-question practice.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Biology and related subjects such as Psychology and Geography; strong foundation for Medicine, Biomedical Sciences and Environmental Science.

CAREER PATHS

- Medicine, dentistry and healthcare professions
- Biotechnology and pharmaceuticals
- Environmental science and conservation
- Agriscience and food technology
- Forensics and public health
- Science communication and policy



Course Overview

Core Content

This course provides a framework for understanding the composition of matter. Students study the particle model, atomic structure and chemical bonding, using the periodic table to analyse patterns in reactivity. Key topics include Acids and Bases, Redox reactions, Energetics, and Organic Chemistry (hydrocarbons), linking theoretical concepts to real-world applications such as fuels and materials.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop stoichiometric precision through rigorous laboratory techniques, including titration and chromatography. They also master chemical modelling—the ability to connect macroscopic observations, such as colour changes or gas production, with the microscopic movement of atoms and ions in order to explain the behaviour of chemical substances accurately.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students demonstrate mastery of the particle model and the ability to solve complex quantitative problems related to chemical yields. Chemistry is essential for pathways into Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy, Materials Science, Forensic Science, Toxicology, and Patent Law, where a deep understanding of scientific innovation is required.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers: Paper 1 Core (2 hours) and Paper 2 Extended (1 hour 15 minutes). Practical skills examined through written questions.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Structured practicals, quantitative problem sets, concept mapping, real-world case studies (fuels, materials, environment) and exam-style questions.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Chemistry; essential for Medicine, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science.

CAREER PATHS

- Medicine, pharmacy and pharmacology
- Chemical and materials engineering
- Energy, environmental and sustainability sectors
- Cosmetics and food chemistry
- Research, QA and laboratory science



Course Overview

Core Content

The course explores the fundamental laws that govern the universe. It covers Forces and Motion, including Newton's Laws; Energy Stores and Transfers, with a focus on efficiency; and Wave Behaviour, such as light and sound. Students also study Electricity and Magnetism, electrical circuits, Nuclear Physics (including radioactivity and fission), and Astrophysics, examining the life cycle of stars and the expansion of the universe.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop mathematical modelling skills by applying physical laws to solve problems. They practise rearranging complex equations and use technology such as light gates and oscilloscopes to manage uncertainty in measurements. Students also learn to visualise abstract concepts, including magnetic fields and gravitational potential, in order to predict physical behaviour accurately.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students demonstrate resilience in multi-step problem solving and the ability to calculate and predict the behaviour of physical systems. Physics provides a key pathway to careers in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Software Engineering, Renewable Energy Research, Aviation, and the high-stakes world of Quantitative Finance.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers: Paper 1 Core (2 hours) and Paper 2 Extended (1 hour 15 minutes).

Calculators permitted; practical understanding assessed in written papers.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Experimental investigations, modelling and simulation, multi-step problem-solving, data analysis and structured exam practice.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Physics; an excellent platform for Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics.

CAREER PATHS

- Engineering (mechanical, electrical, civil, aerospace)
- Computing, software and data engineering
- Renewable energy and sustainability
- Robotics and automation
- Aviation and space sector roles
- Finance and quantitative analysis



Course Overview

Core Content

The course explores how organisations create value in a competitive and changing world. Theme 1 focuses on entrepreneurship, start-ups, market research and the marketing mix. Theme 2 examines global businesses, growth strategies and human resources. Students analyse real-world case studies to understand how external factors, including ethics and economics, influence a company's performance and profitability.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop *commercial literacy* through financial numeracy, including break-even analysis and profit ratios, alongside risk assessment. The course uses case study analysis to evaluate strategic options, and students practise modelling financial scenarios to assess business viability and explore how organisations can scale effectively in competitive markets.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to assess risk and justify professional recommendations using data and evidence. Business Studies provides strong preparation for pathways into Entrepreneurship, Management Consulting, Accountancy and Auditing, Product Management, Venture Capital, and roles within Digital Strategy or Corporate Law, where commercial understanding is essential.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers:

Paper 1 Business Activities (50%) and
Paper 2 Business Decisions (50%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Case studies and simulations, financial calculations, market research interpretation, strategy debates and presentation skills.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Business, Economics or Accounting; a springboard to enterprise and management pathways.

CAREER PATHS

- Entrepreneurship and start-ups
- Marketing, brand management and digital strategy
- Finance, accounting and auditing
- Operations and supply chain management
- Human resources and organisational development
- Consulting and product management

Option Subjects

Geography



Course Overview

Core Content

The course examines the interaction between physical processes and human decision-making. Physical units explore plate tectonics, hazardous environments, rivers and coasts, while human units focus on migration, urban growth and globalisation. Students also study resource management, with particular emphasis on water, energy and food security in a rapidly changing world.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop spatial awareness through evidence-based decision-making. The methodology includes mandatory fieldwork, allowing students to collect primary data in real-world settings. Students use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and statistical modelling to analyse human-impact trends and test geographical theories related to environmental and social challenges.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students gain a systems-based understanding of the planet and the ability to propose sustainable strategies for complex global challenges. There is growing demand for these skills in careers such as Environmental Consulting, Urban Planning, Sustainability Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, and the technical field of Geospatial Analysis.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two terminal written examinations covering Physical Geography and Human Geography, with stimulus resources and extended responses.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Fieldwork investigations, GIS/map skills, data handling, case-study evaluation, decision-making activities and exam-prep workshops.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Geography, Environmental Science and Economics; strong complement to Politics and Business.

CAREER PATHS

- Environmental consulting and sustainability roles
- Urban and regional planning
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience planning
- International development and NGOs
- GIS and geospatial analysis
- Transport and infrastructure planning



Course Overview

Core Content

The course investigates global change through four key enquiries: the Cold War, Civil Rights in the USA, Russia from 1905–1924 (the fall of the Tsars), and Japan from 1853–1945 (modernisation). Students analyse how leadership, ideology and miscalculation have shaped the modern world, exploring the causes and consequences of major twentieth-century events.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop skills in historiography, learning how to critically evaluate primary sources. The course focuses on the NOP technique (Nature, Origin, Purpose) to assess bias and reliability. Students also learn to construct well-supported, thesis-led arguments that explain why events occurred, rather than simply describing what happened.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to analyse why societies change and challenge historical claims using factual evidence. History provides a strong foundation for careers in Law, International Relations, Intelligence Analysis, Public Policy, Journalism, and specialised roles in Museum Curation or archival research.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two written papers:

Paper 1 Depth Studies (50%) and

Paper 2 Historical Investigation plus Breadth Study (50%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Source analysis workshops, debate and seminar, timeline construction, guided reading, planning clinics and timed responses.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level History and related fields such as Politics and Sociology; valuable bridge to Law, PPE and International Relations.

CAREER PATHS

- Law, public policy and civil service
- Journalism, publishing and media research
- International relations and diplomacy
- Museums, archives and heritage
- Marketing, communications and public affairs
- Education and academic research



Course Overview

Core Content

This course offers a journey through visual literacy and personal expression. Students explore formal elements such as line, tone and form while experimenting with a wide range of media, including painting, printmaking, digital photography and collage. Contextual research into diverse artists is used to inform students' own artistic voice, culminating in a personal portfolio and final assignment.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop *iterative design* skills through a *trial and refinement* approach. They maintain a sketchbook to document media experimentation and record observations, learning how to develop ideas from initial concepts to resolved final outcomes through ongoing critique and technical exploration. This process supports the development of a professional approach to creative practice.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students produce a professional-standard portfolio and gain the technical craft needed to work across multiple visual disciplines. Art & Design provides a strong foundation for careers in Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, UX/UI (User Experience) Design, Fine Art, and senior creative roles in Film Production Design or creative direction.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Component 1 Personal Portfolio (60%) and Component 2 Externally Set Assignment with a 10-hour timed piece (40%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Studio demonstrations, iterative media trials, observational drawing, artist research, composition planning, critique and exhibition practice.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Art & Design or Photography; strong foundation for creative pathways and design disciplines.

CAREER PATHS

- Architecture and interior design
- Graphic design, illustration and animation
- UX/UI and product design
- Fashion, textiles and costume
- Photography and film art departments
- Curation, galleries and arts education



Course Overview

Core Content

The course balances creative performance with rigorous analysis. Students devise original theatre from a range of stimuli and perform extracts from published plays, with a strong focus on characterisation. For the written component, students study a set play from the perspectives of an actor, director and designer, evaluating how staging and performance choices create meaning for an audience.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop *ensemble discipline* and *public rhetoric* through devising labs and structured rehearsal workshops. They learn to give and receive constructive feedback, refining performances through work-in-progress showings. The course also introduces technical design skills, including lighting and sound, enabling students to create immersive theatrical environments.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students gain high levels of confidence in public performance alongside the ability to plan, realise and evaluate live productions. Drama supports future pathways in the Performing Arts (Acting and Directing), Broadcasting, Public Relations, Events Management, Media Production, and professions requiring advanced vocal skills, such as Speech Therapy or Law.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Component 1 Devising (40%);
Component 2 Performance from Text (20%);
Component 3 Theatre Makers in Practice written exam (40%).

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Devising labs, script work, voice and movement technique, design exploration, rehearsal processes and live theatre evaluation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Drama & Theatre; useful alongside English, Music and Art for creative portfolios.

CAREER PATHS

- Acting, directing and stage management
- Lighting, sound, set and costume design
- Film, television and media production
- Drama therapy and community arts
- Events management and live production
- Public speaking, presenting and communications roles

Music (By Invitation Only)



Course Overview

Core Content

The course is built around three core pillars: performing, composing and appraising. Students study a wide range of musical repertoire, including Western Classical, Jazz, Film and World Music. They learn to read musical scores and analyse how composers use melody and harmony, while also creating original music using both acoustic instruments and digital tools.

Skills and Methodology

Students develop *aural analysis* and *technical mastery* through regular practice and the use of DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) for music production. They learn the language of music—how to translate emotion into structured compositions—and refine their work through iterative feedback, recording sessions and performance review.

Outcomes and Purpose

By the end of the course, students are able to perform with stylistic awareness and produce coherent, original compositions. Music provides a strong foundation for careers in Music Production, Sound Engineering, Film and Game Scoring, Performance, Arts Management, and Music Therapy, where creative and technical musical skills are combined for professional impact.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Final assessment model to be confirmed once the specification is selected; typical models assess performing, composing and listening/appraising.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Ensemble and solo performance, composition workshops with DAWs, score reading, aural analysis, rehearsal techniques and recording sessions.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

A Level Music or Music Technology; valuable alongside Drama, Media and English for creative portfolios.

CAREER PATHS

- Performance and session work
- Composition and arranging
- Sound engineering and music production
- Film and game scoring
- Arts management and promotion
- Music education and therapy



Additional Academic Support Programme

Core Content

EAL Support offers targeted help for students needing English-medium assistance, developing reading, writing, speaking and listening alongside the academic language for subjects such as Science, Geography and History. Students use adapted texts, model paragraphs and writing frames, supported by vocabulary work, grammar practice and consistent functional and academic language.

Skills and Methodology

Students learn through a scaffolded approach using explicit vocabulary teaching, targeted reading strategies and structured writing that builds from simple sentences to extended responses. Speaking is built through dialogues and guided discussions, and listening through recordings, explanations and real-world audio. Progress is tracked through assessments, feedback and teacher coordination with personalised targets.

Outcomes and Purpose

Students finish the programme with stronger accuracy, more confident participation, and clear, coherent writing. EAL Support develops independent English-medium learners and prepares them for IGCSE, A Levels, and future study.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There is no external examination. Students complete regular reading and writing tasks, vocabulary and grammar checks, speaking assessments and presentations, listening practice, and termly progress evaluations using CEFR-aligned criteria.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students typically progress from EAL Support to either IGCSE English as a Second Language (ESL) or IGCSE English (First Language), depending on their level of progress.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Students take part in guided reading, structured writing frames, targeted vocabulary instruction, collaborative speaking tasks, listening workshops, academic study-skills sessions and personalised intervention.

CAREER PATHS

While EAL Support is not a standalone qualification, the language proficiency it develops is essential for:

- International business and commerce
- Aviation and hospitality
- Media, communication and customer-facing roles
- Global NGOs and charity sectors
- University study in English-speaking environments
- Any profession requiring strong English communication



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