St. Stephen's International School



Options Booklet 2016-18

CONTENTS

Welcome

About Your Choices

Making Decisions

What Happens Next?

The Core Curriculum

English as a Second Language OR First Language English (usually with World Literature)

Maths

Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

Thai

Options Choices

Art

Economics

Geography

History

Computer Science

ICT

Mandarin

Music

Physical Education

Mandarin



YEAR 9 OPTIONS FOR IGCSE 2016-2018



Where East Meets West

Dear Parents

We have reached a point in the academic year where Year 9 students need to prepare for the next academic year when they move into Year 10 and begin their important two year course which leads to examinations in IGCSE (the International General Certificate of Secondary Education) for your son or daughter in May/June 2018.

IGCSE examinations are the world's most popular and widely recognised exam qualifications and are based on the GCSE examinations used at present in England. This two year course will also be an important foundation and preparation for Advanced Level examinations when students move into the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) in August 2018.

This information booklet will help students with their decisions and there will also be several staff, including myself, present during the Options Evening to answer any questions that may arise.

I wish all Year 9 students the very best at Key Stage 4.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Jeffreys Head of Secondary

ABOUT YOUR CHOICES

The time has arrived to start making some decisions about your next two years at St. Stephen's International School and the IGCSE courses that you wish to study. You are required to take certain subjects but this is your opportunity to choose to study others that interest you and will be useful in your future.

The information in this booklet will allow you to make informed decisions. Remember to follow the instructions carefully and take your time over the decisions you make. Most importantly, ask questions and remember this is your future you are deciding on.

This year there are 12 optional subjects in Year 10. There are some rules that must be followed when filling in the form; these will be explained in detail at the Options Evening.

Heads of Department have each written an outline of their subject to help you have a clearer view of what is involved in the two year course. These pages will also help to answer some of the questions you may have.

Your choices in Year 10 may affect your future career. So think carefully. If you already know what you would like to do when you leave school, ask about suitable subject choices.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Please complete the options form found in this booklet. The completed option forms should be returned to Mr Andrew by Friday 12th February.

Once the forms have been handed in the school works to produce timetable

option blocks which allow as many students as possible to be able to study their first choices. The large number of possible subject combinations means that some students may be offered their reserve choice. On rare occasions an individual's reserve choice may also not be possible. In all cases where students cannot take their first choices both they and their parents will be consulted about possible alternatives. Any such discussions will take place in Term 3.

Students may change their options after 21st February but only if:

- 1. Their parents and Key Stage Manager agree to the change.
- 2. The revised choices fit the option blocks.
- 3. There is space in the subject(s) a student wishes to move into.



TIMETABLE

3 th February 2016	Information Meeting
12th February 2016	Deadline for option forms
March-May 2016	Confirmation of choices
August 2016	Start IGCSE courses
June 2017	Year 10 exams
January 2018	Year 11 practice IGCSE exams
May to June 2018	IGCSE exams
August 2018	Exam results issued



MAKING DECISIONS

Things to remember when making your choices:

- It is your decision. Do not make decisions based on the subjects your friends take in the hope you will stay in the same classes.
- Speak to others for advice and listen carefully to what they have to say.
 Who should I speak to?
 - Older brothers/sisters
 - Parents
 - Subject teachers
 - o Form Tutors
 - Key Stage Managers
 - o Students in Year 10 and 11
- We do not select the groups on a first come first served basis. This means that you should not rush to give in the form the day after you receive it. Take some time to consider what you want to do.



IGCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IGCSE FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

What is this subject about?

Depending on their English levels, all year 10 students study either English as a Second Language or First Language English as a core subject. As students move into year 11, they either progress from studying English as a Second Language to studying First Language English or, if they have already taken the First Language route, they move on to the study of World Literature. The route each student takes is decided by their class teacher. At least one of these English language qualifications must be taken by all students.

Why should I choose this subject?

The aim of these courses is to develop English skills as a means of practical communication and the English as a Second Language course is aimed at students for whom English is not their first language. The First Language English course is a highly regarded English language qualification taken by students in the best English speaking schools around the world.

When and how am I assessed?

IGCSE English as a Second Language:

Paper 1: Reading and Writing (70% of total grade)

Paper 2: Listening (30% of total grade)

Examinations taken at the end of Year 10.

IGCSE First Language English:

Paper 1: Reading Passages: 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of total grade)

Coursework Writing Portfolio: Created over two years (50% of total grade)

All students taking the examination and working on their portfolio will do so over the full two years of IGCSE study. Some students may take the First Language English qualification in Year 11 after gaining a qualification in English as a Second Language at the end of Year 10.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

An English language qualification is an essential subject in an English speaking school and aids success in all subjects.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

IGCSE English as a Second Language is a foundation for further study of IGCSE First Language English for some students and possibly Sixth Form study of A Level English courses. English skills are transferable to any occupation but are essential for careers in journalism, the media, teaching and any profession where communication is essential.

An IGCSE English language qualification or equivalent High School certificate in English is essential for study of most if not all Higher Education and undergraduate courses worldwide.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak to the Head of English, Ms Erica, or your current English teacher.

IGCSE WORLD LITERATURE

What is this subject about?

World Literature is the study of prose, drama and poetry from different countries and cultures.

Aims:

- Enjoy the experience of reading world literature
- Understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different countries and cultures
- Communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively
- Appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects
- Experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- Explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern.

Why should I choose this subject?

While students develop their English as a Second Language and First Language English skills, their English class teachers will decide whether the progression to World Literature is appropriate. It is desirable for students to study World Literature as it complements their English language studies, develops skills of analysis and broadens students' appreciation of a range of social and cultural contexts and themes and ideas.

When and how am I assessed?

Portfolio (coursework): Two written assignments and one oral assignment (50% of total grade)

Paper 2 (unseen): Written examination (25% of total grade)

Paper 3 (set text): written examination (25% of total grade)

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Solid writing skills and a sound ability in analysing language and context provide the essential basis for the study of World Literature. You may find that the study of World Literature helps with your study of the Humanities subjects and the Arts. Similarly, ability in these subjects will complement your study of World Literature.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Successful students of World Literature have the transferable skills of analytical understanding, critical thinking and higher level perceptive thought. They have knowledge of the world and of human nature through literature. Many students continue their literature studies to A Level Literature or Language and Literature combined courses and onto English study at undergraduate level and beyond.

Students of literature studies often look for careers as professional writers, teachers and other academic and Artsrelated careers. Study of literature complements the Advanced Study and undergraduate study of the social sciences such as Psychology, Sociology and Law, as well as study of the Arts, Media and other Humanities.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak to the Head of English, Ms Erica, or your current English teacher.

IGCSE MATHEMATICS

What is this subject about?

An essential subject for all learners, IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The course aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts, and how to apply mathematics in everyday situations.

Why should I choose this subject?

Mathematics is a core subject in both Years 10 and 11 and therefore must be taken by all students.

When and how am I assessed?

There are two tier options for IGCSE mathematics: Core and Extended, both of which will be assessed by two exams at the end of Year 11.

Students sitting the Core qualification will take Paper 1 and Paper 3. Paper 1 is 35% of the grade and Paper 3 is the remaining 65%. Students sitting the Core qualification can achieve grades ranging from C- G.

Students sitting the Extended qualification will take Paper 2 and Paper 4; Paper 2 is 35% of the grade and Paper 4 is the remaining 65%. Students sitting the Extended qualification can achieve grades ranging from A* - E.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides a route into further study at AS and A Level as well as a route into many different careers.

Who so I speak to for more information>

Speak to Mr Neil, Ms Isi or Mr Gareth

SCIENCE

What is this subject about?

Science not only one subject but is made up of three areas: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It is recommended for you to choose two of these, but you can do all three if you wish. For some students only choosing one is possible but you will need to discuss this with Mr Kirk. Chemistry links well with either of the other two and they all teach you many different things about life, the universe and everything.

Many of the skills are valuable in future careers as you will learn to analyse, evaluate and modify experimental procedures and these skills are relevant even if you do not wish to be a scientist.

Why should I choose this subject?

You should choose two, if you are interested in understanding how things work, from plants to humans, cars to buildings, atoms to explosions, then chose the right combination for you.

When and how am I assessed?

Each of the subjects has three final exam papers: multiple choice, written answers, and alternative to practical. There will be a choice to do Extended (grades A*- G attainable) or Core (grades C-G attainable). This will be decided with you after your practice exams in Year 11.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Biology can involve quite a lot of English so a decent level of understanding of this would be helpful, it also links well with IGCSE PE. Physics obviously has a fairly large Maths requirement. Chemistry is a combination of the two and a fairly good understanding of both would be useful.

Where could these subjects take me in the future?

Science opens many doors to the future, all of the three sciences are useful in a variety of areas, not just because of the content but the skills you will acquire are invaluable. Careers from Astronomy to Engineering to Medicine to Zoology all need science in one form or another.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak to Mr Kirk, Ms Nicci or Mr Lawrence.

THAI

What is this subject about?

The First Language Thai syllabus develops students' ability to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively. Students will be encouraged to read widely, to use relevant vocabulary, to employ correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and to display a sense of style and audience.

The syllabus will help students to understand and respond appropriately to what they see, hear and experience, and to enjoy the full variety of their first language.

When and how am I assessed?

In the IGCSE exam students sit two papers. The first paper is worth 60% and it calls for the ability to select, compare and summarise specific information from given passages and to respond to passages in a variety of forms.

In the second, which is worth 40%, students choose an essay title and are required to write about 500 words on a given title, calling for an imaginative, narrative or argumentative response in an appropriate style.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

A study of the First Language Thai will promote personal development and an understanding of self and others. In addition, it will complement their other studies by developing general skills such as the ability to analyse, synthesise, make inferences, order facts and present opinions.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak to Ms Kung or Ms Aoy.

*First language Thai is a compulsory subject for Thai native speakers only.

ART

What is this subject about?

Here at St. Stephen's students of Art and Design will be able to record the world around them with ease, as a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feeling. This subject is a very creative and fulfilling one for students who really enjoy and are skilled in creative activities.

Why should I choose this subject?

The subject of Art and Design has many benefits for the student. It complements literary, mathematical, scientific and factual subjects. It is especially concerned with the development of visual perception, problem solving and aesthetics. Written work is at an absolute minimum- and may consist solely of annotation on completed artwork sheets/ supporting studies for a final piece.

When and how am I assessed?

Over the two year course students are required to do a combination of two components. Each component is weighted 50%.

- Component 1: Observational/Interpretative Assignment. This is an 8 hour exam where you produce a final artwork. For this exam, several months of preparation time is given. The process work for the exam is also submitted.
- Component 4: Coursework Assignment. One final art work is submitted along with the process work. The emphasis is on Fine Art Painting and drawing. However other mediums such as Photography, Printing, Collage and mixed media work may also be submitted. Sculpture/3D work is not encouraged because of the practical difficulties in sending the work to England for assessment.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You would have to enjoy the process of exploring, developing and resolving ideas to make Art. You should demonstrate a high level of effort in every subject and be a good independent and motivated student. Drawing is a highly prized skill on this course by the Cambridge exam board, thus skill and a real interest in drawing is an important requirement for candidates choosing this course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

BUSINESS STUDIES

What is the subject about?

Business Studies IGCSE aims to develop your understanding of how the main types of business are organised, financed and operated. You will learn how to apply your knowledge to a wide range of scenarios and consider the impact business decisions have on different groups of people such as customers, competitors and employees.

Why should I choose this subject?

Business Studies IGCSE equips you with a range of transferable skills that directly relate to the world of work and can give you an advantage in future career paths.

In Year 10 you have the opportunity to set up and run your own enterprise business. This project develops many skills including your ability to work as part of a team, communicate effectively, manage money and think creatively.

Business Studies also keeps your options open, both for further study and for your chosen career.

When and how am I assessed?

There are two examinations at the end of the course each worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 focuses on knowledge of business concepts and Paper 2 is case study based and requires more developed answers.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Business Studies complements most subjects and as such candidates can be successful no matter where their strengths lie. A good level of English Language would be advantageous as Paper 2 requires some development of points.

Where could this subject take me?

This course gives an excellent foundation to AS/A Level Business Studies as well as equipping students with skills that can lead to a competitive advantage in a competitive careers market. Some options would include:

- Accountancy
- Communications
- Advertising
- Marketing

Who should I speak to for more information?

Speak to Ms Alison Morakot or Mr Tim

Economics

What is the subject about?

Most people think Economics is the study of money. This is partly true but it is more accurate to say that Economics is the study of **people** and their reactions to changes or incentives. Economics is concerned with the **production** (making) and **consumption** (use) of goods & services and the choices we make as a result of **scarcity**. Money is important because of the decisions it allows us to make but it is only a tool and not the focus of Economics as a subject.

Why should I choose this subject?

Studying economics gives you a way of thinking about the world. It helps you make sense of the decisions people are making all the time such as what job to do, or what item to purchase. It also considers government decisions such as taxation rates and interest rates on loans. This makes Economics relevant to everyone, not just those going on to further study as we are all affected by these decisions. You will be able to apply this 'way of thinking' to your daily life and eventually to your work. It is for this reason, Economics increases your employability.

When and how am I assessed?

There are two examinations at the end of the course. Paper 1 is a multiple choice paper and is worth 30% of your overall grade. Paper 2 contains structured questions about an economic situation and is worth 70% of the final grade.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Economic complements most subjects but has a strong relationship with elements of Geography and due to its logical nature, being good at Mathematics is also beneficial although not essential.

Where could this subject take me?

This course gives an excellent foundation to AS/A Level Economics which is very well regarded by International Universities. In the future it also equips students with skills that can lead to a competitive advantage in the careers market.

Who should I speak to for more information?

Speak to Ms Alison Morakot

GEOGRAPHY

What is this subject about?

The course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the world. Students will gain an understanding of places and communities in which they live and will work. The course looks at the processes that shape the earth, its natural environments and the current environmental and urban challenges faced today. Students will learn of the choices that exist in managing our world more sustainably for future generations. As part of the course, students will gain an insight into the interconnectedness of the world and the communities within it and how and why the world is changing locally, regionally and globally.

Why should I choose this subject?

If you enjoy learning about the world, understanding people and places then geography is for you. Geography combines elements of Science, Business, Economics, History and English. So, if you have an interest in and enjoy those subjects, IGCSE Geography will provide skills and knowledge that will compliment them.

When and how am I assessed?

In Year 10 students will complete a 2000 word piece of coursework based on an investigation in Bangkok or at Khao Yai. This is worth 27.5% of the overall final mark. Students sit two exams at the end of Year 11. These are worth 72.5% of the overall mark.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students should have an interest in Science, be comfortable with Maths and be good at English.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The skills and knowledge developed as part of IGCSE Geography naturally lead to AS and A2 Geography but also compliment a range of A Levels particularly English, Maths, Business, Economics and the Sciences. Geography also provides a range of career paths into industry, business, journalism, urban planning and design, environmental work and education.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak with Mr Alexander or Ms Sam.

HISTORY

What is this subject about?

The topics for IGCSE History are all focused on the 20th Century. The course contains a very wide range of social issues, political and military conflicts and world changing personalities. The course includes how Europe was changed by WWI, the causes of WWII, the course of the Cold War (1945-1989), the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USSR and Eastern Europe, and Germany between 1919 and 1945.

Why should I choose this subject?

The IGCSE History course builds on your interest in the past and will help you understand some of the reasons why the world is the way it is. It will also develop your ability to analyse and evaluate evidence, as well as building on existing skills, such as effective communication, and interpretation. Overall, a History qualification is a highly respected and valued qualification by universities, colleges and employers.

When and how am I assessed?

You will have three exams focusing on the above topics. There is no coursework. Paper 1 is worth 40 %, Paper 2 is worth 33% and Paper 4 is worth 27%. They will all be sat at the end of the two year course.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should be good at English, but your written English will improve a lot from studying for History IGSCE, as well as reading and speaking it.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

IGCSE History will lead you into AS and A Level History, as well many university degrees. With the analytical, writing, debate and detective skills that you will develop, it can help open up a huge range of career paths including law, politics, the public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

Who do I speak to for information?

Mr Jimmy or Ms Alison will be happy to talk to you about any questions you have regarding IGCSE History.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What is this subject about?

In this course you will develop an appreciation of the range and power of computer applications and solve problems using computing; your study will include fundamentals of computer hardware, systems analysis, algorithm design and programming concepts.

Why should I choose this subject?

You should choose Computer Science to help you foster an interest in, enjoyment of and confidence in the use of computers. The course will allow you to develop the ability to solve problems using computer programming. It will also help you develop an awareness of the place of computing in society and the issues the uses of computers raises in society and gain a firm understanding of the basic techniques and knowledge required to engineer hardware and software solutions to problems.

When and how am I assessed?

The course is divided into two papers. Paper 1 is theoretical. This written paper contains short answer and structured questions. It is worth 50% of the total marks and will be taken at the end of Year 11. Paper 2 is based on a Case Study released by the exam board around half-way through Year 11. This will be studied in class and programming tasks based upon it will help to further develop programming skills and algorithmic thinking. This paper is also worth 50% of the final grade.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who are good at Maths and Physics show the best potential in this subject.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Examples of jobs for computer experts are, Software Engineer, Programmer/Analyst, IT Manager, IT Project Manager, IT Consultant, Web Developer and System Engineer in Networking.

Who do I speak to for information?

Mr Kevin or Mr Ryan

ICT

What is this subject about?

In ICT you will learn about computer hardware, networks, effects of ICT in society and systems design. Students develop skills in a range of application software such as email, word processing, spreadsheets, databases and web development. You will also gain an awareness of the ways ICT can help in practical and work related scenarios.

Why should I choose this subject?

You should choose ICT as it helps to develop problem-solving skills that can be used in business situations and in other subjects. It can help you set up your own business and have the ability to understand and implement new and emerging technologies within a business environment.

When and how am I assessed?

Paper 1 is a two hour written exam primarily made up of short answer questions. This will be 40% of the final grade. Papers 2 and 3 consist of two practical exams each taking 2 hours 30 minutes. The students will be assessed on their ability to complete a number of tasks including spreadsheets, databases, web authoring, presentations and word processing. These two exams make up 60% of the final grade. All papers are taken at the end of Year 11.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

All students with an interest in ICT can perform well.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Students who study ICT can be employed in creative industries such as Multimedia Developer, Multimedia Designer, Web Designer, Interface Designer and Game Developers. Others may take on more technical roles such as Project Administrator, Web Developer, Web Programmer, ICT Technician and Network Administrators.

Who do I speak to for information?

Mr Kevin or Mr Ryan

MANDARIN

What is this subject about?

The course aims to develop students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the Mandarin language and enhance students' understanding of Chinese culture so that the students can master Chinese language skills. Students will gain lifelong skills from studying Mandarin language skills.

What should I choose this subject?

If you are interested in studying Chinese language and culture and you are good at Chinese, you will achieve a good grade in the Mandarin IGCSE exam.

When and how am I assessed?

There are 4 test papers in Mandarin IGCSE. As follows:

Paper 1: Listening, 35 minutes, 25% of final mark.

Paper 2: Reading and directed writing, 1 hour 15 minutes, 25% of final mark.

Paper 3: Speaking, 15 minutes, 25% of final mark.

Paper 4: Continuous writing, 1 hour 15 minutes, 25% of final mark.

The exam will be taken in Year 11.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should be good at Chinese.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides a route to further study at AS and A Level, and it is very helpful in your daily life for business in China.

Who do I speak to for further information?

Mr. Michael

MUSIC

What is this subject about?

The understanding of musical traditions, the part music plays in national and global culture and in personal identity. Students will gain an appreciation of music through listening, performing and composing. The course encourages extra-curricular musical activities. Students will improve their listening skills and have many opportunities to develop their creativity through performing and composing.

Why should I choose this subject?

If you enjoy listening to a wide variety of music and are interested in the background of various styles you will enjoy this course. A qualification in music is highly respected and valued by universities, colleges and employers. If you play a musical instrument you are already well on your way to a good grade!

When and how am I assessed?

Coursework (submitted in Term 2 of Year 11):

Performing: 30%

One solo performance and one ensemble performance.

These must be submitted as a CD recording. You will have many opportunities to produce your best performance; it does not have to be done in one session only.

Composing: 30%

Two contrasting compositions. These must be submitted as a score in Western notation along with a recording of each piece. You will use Sibelius software to produce your compositions.

Examination (at the end of Year 11):

Listening Paper: 40%

You will be required to apply your knowledge of Western music and World Music to music you may not have heard before. You will also answer more detailed questions on one prepared set work from Western music and one set style of World Music which we will have studied in advance.

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should be able to play a musical instrument and have knowledge of reading and writing music in treble clef. You should enjoy listening to a wide variety of music.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides a route to further study at AS and A Level as well as a route into various careers in the music industry. Music is also seen as a highly desirable subject by many top universities regardless of what course you wish to study because it shows you have a wide range of skills.

Who do I speak to for information?

Ms Kelly would be happy to answer any questions about IGCSE music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What is this subject about?

The syllabus will provide you with opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to 'foster' enjoyment in physical activity. The knowledge gained should enable students to develop understanding and skills so that you are able to be an active participant in sport in a variety of roles including performer, coach, referee and organizer for effective and safe performance. Students will gain essential lifelong skills from studying both practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education.

Why should I choose this subject?

If you enjoy PE and have an interest in sport you are more likely to succeed when studying this subject and achieve a good grade.

When and how am I assessed?

Students are assessed under the following units:

- **1.** Physical performance, including an ability to inter-relate planning, performing and evaluating whilst undertaking activity.
- 2. An ability to analyse and improve their own and others' performance.
- 3. Knowledge and understanding of:
 - · the factors affecting performance
 - · the health and safety aspects of physical activity
 - · the reasons for participating in physical activity

Paper 1 (40% of total marks) - Section A: Answer short questions on each of the 3 units.

Section B: Answer 3 structured questions, one from each of the 3 units.

Coursework (60% of total marks): Choose to undertake **four** practical activities (50% of total marks) and show the ability to analyse and improve practical performance in **one** of their four chosen practical activities (10% of total marks)

Which subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should be good at PE and strengths in Biology and English would be helpful.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides a route to further study at AS and A Level as well as a route into career opportunities in the sport and leisure industry.

Who do I speak to for information?

Speak to Mr Paul, Mr Steve or Ms Lucy.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS BOOKLET 2015-2017

