



BELVEDERE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

IGCSE OPTIONS **2025-2027**



Preparing for Life





Mission & Vision Statement

To establish Al Ain's premier British International School built on academic excellence, committed to global relevance and contemporary UAE society.

To nurture confident, well-rounded, tolerant and forward-thinking individuals with ambitions to fulfill their potential in an innovative, open, creative and inclusive society. We will ensure that our students develop both the skills and the competencies aligned with the culture and strategic goals of the UAE.

To deliver successful educational achievements through committed and skilled teachers successfully delivering English National Curriculum, leading to our students meeting or exceeding individual expectations

To foster a caring environment and a family atmosphere leading to personal student happiness and good relationships between all members of the school community, including parents, as part of UAE society.

OUR VALUES



RESPECT

We learn at school by showing respect to everyone in the community.



EMPATHY

We develop empathy for those around us.



EXCELLENCE

We strive for excellence in everything we do.



CHALLENGE

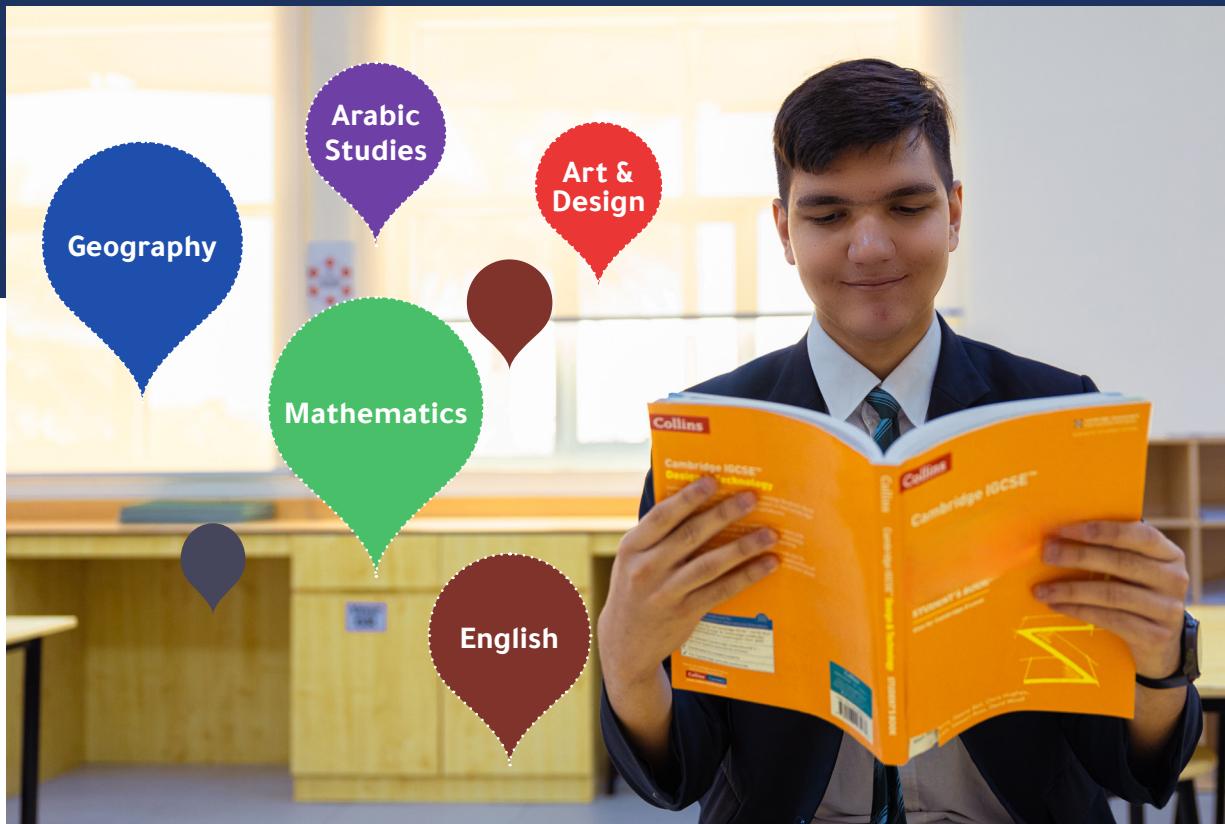
We embrace a challenge as it enriches our learning.



Welcome to Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at Belvedere International School offers breadth and balance, with courses leading to IGCSE certification from Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE).

All students study a core curriculum, which includes compulsory external examination courses as well as non-examination subjects, and are given a selection of optional examination courses in a variety of subjects to choose from.



These optional subjects are selected by students in close consultation with parents and teachers. Students are encouraged to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum, bearing in mind their pathway after the completion of their IGCSE examinations.

Our students also take part in cross-school activities, which give them the opportunities to challenge their skills beyond the curriculum.



An overview of Cambridge International Education (CIE)

At BIS, we work with Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE), the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications. CAIE examinations are sat by students at schools in over 160 countries around the world.

Five elements lie at the heart of a Cambridge education:

1. International Curriculum

CIE offers a wide range of subjects and gives schools flexibility in how to offer them. They support schools in developing a curriculum that suits their context, culture and ethos, and that we can tailor to our students' particular needs.

2. Teaching and Learning

CIE provides professional development for teachers, to help them improve their performance and practice throughout their careers, encouraging teaching practices that develop the ability of students to reflect on their learning.

3. Assessment

CIE design their assessments to be fair, valid, reliable and practicable. They assess what they know to be of value: deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding, and higher level thinking skills.

4. International Recognition

CIE qualifications are widely recognised by universities and employers. You can be confident that your qualifications will be understood and valued throughout their education and career, across the globe.

5. Global Community

Cambridge schools belong to a worldwide education community - professional learning communities which connect teachers around the world so that they can share views, information and resources, and learn from one another.



CAMBRIDGE
International Education



Discover your potential Choosing the right courses for you

Key Stage 4 is an important stage in your education. During these two years, you will be studying a range of subjects, some of which are optional and some of which are compulsory.

This booklet is designed to give you further information on what to expect from the next two years and to encourage you to start thinking about the optional subjects you may choose to study when you start Year 10.

Core Subjects (with examinations) - compulsory

- **English - 1st Language (0500) or 2nd Language (0511)**
- **Mathematics - 0580**
- **Physics - 0625**
- **Biology - 0610**
- **Chemistry - 0620**

Optional Subjects (with examinations)

Any 3 subjects

- **Business Studies**
- **Computer Science**
- **Art and Design**
- **Geography**

We do our best to ensure that the desires of the entire cohort are met, formulating a timetable that works for all students, making all subjects viable for the students who choose them.

Need advice?

If you are unsure of which subjects to choose, please speak to your subject teachers, form tutor, Key Stage Four Lead.

Whatever your final decision, you will need to consider: what subjects you enjoy, what you are good at, career implications and which university courses you wish to access.



Attendance

At BIS, our expectation is that attendance will not fall below 97% in order for you to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to you.

Requests for absence during term time should only be made if absolutely necessary and are not automatically authorised. Permission should be sought in writing from the Vice Principal or Principal by email.

Examinations

The majority of our examinations are sat in May/ June. We provide a carefully controlled environment in which the students can concentrate on their examination and show the examiners what they know.

A personalised exam timetable is created for each candidate and a “master schedule” is posted in school.

Exams start and end at different times. This is because when students sit CIE examinations, they must be under supervised conditions.

The differing lengths of the papers mean that the start and end times have to vary. More than one examination may take place at a time, either in one room or in separate rooms, as appropriate. We have no flexibility on exam dates and times; all students in the UAE sit the same exams at the same time. If an exam is missed for any reason, the paper cannot be sat at an alternative time and the student may not gain certification in that subject as a result.

We expect that you continue to observe the school uniform dress code during your examinations.

Timetable Changes

Most Year 11 students have exams over a period of four to five weeks. Students will be required to attend school as normal, there will be extra support classes available during the exam period.



Core Subjects

Subject and verb agreement

Economics (is, are) John's major subject.
Neither Jim nor his friends (arrive, arrives) early.
The bus (is, are) late.

Core Subjects

English 1st Language (0500)

Cambridge IGCSE™ First Language English is for learners whose first language is English. The course enables learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed
- develop more general analysis and communication skills such as inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used.

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English encourages reading and understanding of a wide range of texts and text types, developing learners' awareness of the ways in which English may be used to take account of audience, purpose and form. Learners develop their ability to speak and write effectively, demonstrating both fluency and control, as well as to read and respond meaningfully to both written and spoken forms of the language.

The syllabus is designed to allow flexibility to suit the differing needs and interests of learners. Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE First Language English encourages learners to be: confident, in communicating ideas, opinions and interpretations accurately and persuasively; responsible, in considering the ways in which the choices made by writers and speakers might influence and affect others; reflective, in identifying and understanding the ways in which they might adapt, develop and refine their spoken and written responses; innovative, in crafting and experimenting with their own style of written and spoken language; engaged, in exploring a wide variety of written and spoken texts; listening and reading critically, both independently and with others.



Core Subjects

English 2nd Language (0511)

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Course Outline

Learners will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences.

Learners will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. Learners will engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a degree of accuracy and clarity.



Core Subjects

Mathematics (0580)

Cambridge IGCSE International Mathematics provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge both for candidates studying mathematics at a higher level and those who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects.

Course Outline

The course is tiered to allow all candidates to achieve and progress in their mathematical studies. The subject content is organised by topic: number, algebra, shape and space, and probability and statistics. The content is not presented in a teaching order. This structure and the use of tiering allows flexibility for teachers to plan delivery appropriately for their students.

Cambridge IGCSE International Mathematics learners can progress to Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics or straight to Cambridge International AS & A Level Mathematics, or other qualifications at that level.

Core Subjects

Physics (0625)

Cambridge IGCSE Physics helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of physics, and a strong emphasis on practical skills. Learners also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level, further education or a career related to science.

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE Physics develops a set of transferable skills including handling data, practical problem-solving and applying the scientific method. Learners develop relevant attitudes, such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. They acquire the essential scientific skills required for progression to further studies or employment. Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE Physics encourages learners to be: confident, interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions responsible, working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment innovative, solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively engaged, keen to develop scientific skills, curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.



Core Subjects

Biology (0610)

Cambridge IGCSE Biology helps learners to understand the biological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Learners also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level, further education or a career related to science.

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE Biology develops a set of transferable skills including handling data, practical problem-solving and applying the scientific method. Learners develop relevant attitudes, such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. They acquire the essential scientific skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE Biology encourages learners to be: confident, interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions responsible, working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment innovative, solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively engaged, keen to develop scientific skills, being curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.



Core Subjects

Chemistry (0620)

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of chemistry, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Learners also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level, further education or a career related to science.

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry develops a set of transferable skills including handling data, practical problem-solving and applying the scientific method. Learners develop relevant attitudes, such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. They acquire the essential scientific skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry encourages learners to be: confident, interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions responsible, working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment innovative, solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively engaged, keen to develop scientific skills, curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.



Optional Subjects



Optional Subjects

Business Studies (0450)

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change

Course Outline

Learners find out how the major types of business organisations are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and independence.

Learners not only study business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

This prepares them for careers in business management, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, consulting, and corporate governance.

Optional Subjects

Computer Science (0478)

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem solving using computers.

Course Outline

Learners apply this understanding to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. They also develop a range of technical skills, and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing systems.

Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners appreciate current and emerging computer technologies, the benefits of their use and recognize their potential risks. It provides an ideal foundation for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level and is valuable for other areas of study and everyday life. Learners can pursue careers as software developers, computer programmers, IT consultants, systems analysts, cybersecurity analysts, and data scientists.



Optional Subjects

Art and Design (0400)

The Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability.

Course Outline

Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions.

An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

Learners can pursue careers as visual artists, graphic designers, illustrators, art directors, animators, museum curators, and art educators.

Optional Subjects

Geography (0460)

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, learners' will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale.

Course Outline

Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. Exploration of physical and human geography topics including landforms, population dynamics, environmental management, and globalization.

Learners can pursue careers in environmental management, urban planning, cartography, international development, geospatial analysis, climatology, and sustainable tourism.



IGCSE Subject Options Form 2025-2027

Student Name: _____

Current Year 9 Class: _____

New Student (please circle): Y / N

Gender (please circle): M / F

Arab / Non-Arab (please circle)

Muslim / Non-Muslim (please circle)

List the following currently offered IGCSE subjects in the order of preference using the table below:

• Computer Science	• Art & Design	• Business Studies
Compulsory Subject	English - 1st Language (0500) or 2nd Language (0511)	
Compulsory Subject	Mathematics - 0580	
Compulsory Subject	Physics - 0625	
Compulsory Subject	Biology - 0610	
Compulsory Subject	Chemistry - 0620	
Option 1		
Option 2		
Option 3		

Any additional comments:

Parent signature: _____

HoD signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____



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