

The Lloyd Williamson Schools

IGCSE/GCSE Subjects

Aims:

We aim to provide the widest possible range of options for the students. All the core subjects are included plus more unusual options to make the most of their talents and interests.

Astronomy:

Cambridge IGCSE Astronomy is designed to enable students to understand the structures of the Earth, Moon and Sun; and how their interactions produce many of the astronomical cycles and phenomena of our natural world. They will understand the Earth's place within the Solar System and universe and the forces, which have shaped both our own, and other planetary systems and demonstrate a knowledge of how stars appear in the night sky. After completion of the course, they can progress to further and higher education courses in the fields of astronomy or physics.

Art and Design:

The Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. 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 (9-1) 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.

Biology:

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) 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.

Business Studies:

The Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisation 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 interdependence.

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 Cambridge International A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

Chemistry:

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) 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.

Food and Nutrition:

The Cambridge IGCSE Food and Nutrition syllabus introduces both the theoretical and practical aspects of buying and preparing food. Dealing with diet and health in everyday life, learners study the nutritional value of basic foods and develop the skills required to produce a balanced family meal. Consumer awareness is encouraged, as are high standards of personal and kitchen hygiene, especially when learners put their knowledge into practice in order to produce creative and enjoyable dishes.

English Language:

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.

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. Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

English Literature:

The syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Film Studies:

This unusual subject develops students' skills in all sorts of directions. Students study a variety of films and analyse their techniques, representations and cultural influences. They will learn to analyse texts, develop their ability to visualise stories, and learn the technical skills to turn ideas into films. Each candidate will complete two examinations. During the course, they will also get a chance to explore film making in person, writing, acting and directing. The course is a foundation for subsequent study by encouraging learners to explore, through formal study and their own productions, how films are constructed as well as the role the screenplay takes in the film production process.

French:

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Geography:

Through the Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development.

They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby

gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.

History:

The Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject. Both coursework and non-coursework options are available.

Latin:

The OCR GCSE Latin syllabus aims to develop learners' ability to understand Latin, leading to a recognition of Latin's influence on modern European languages. By comparing the structure of Latin with other languages, learners also develop an analytical approach to language learning. They study Latin prose and verse literature in its social and historical context, and are encouraged to develop a personal response to what they read. This will develop an awareness of a different time and culture, and an appreciation of Rome's legacy to the modern world.

Mathematics:

An essential subject for all learners, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods and skills, as well as a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships. The syllabus also 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.

Religious Studies:

GCSE Religious Studies is made up of two elements: The study of religion and themes. The study of religion involves an in-depth study of two religious traditions. We then go on to study themes which are made up of philosophical and moral concepts. Whilst studying these themes we consider beliefs within different religions worldwide and the UK. The GCSE develops learners' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject. It also provides opportunities for learners to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life and challenges learners to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

PE:

The syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. You will study anatomy and physiology as well as physical training. The PE IGCSE is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance.

The socio-cultural influences in sport are also important so those are included along with sports psychology and health, fitness and wellbeing. Learners develop an appreciation of the necessity for the sound principles and practices of training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

The PE GCSE is predominantly science based: you'd be wise to also study biology.

Physics:

Cambridge IGCSE Physics (9-1) 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, higher education or a career in science.

Sciences Co-ordinated:

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

Spanish:

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning Spanish as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Updated August 2023