



BROMSGROVE  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
THAILAND



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# IGCSE OPTIONS

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# iGCSE Options

## INTRODUCTION

In Years 10 and 11, Bromsgrove students are able to personalise their learning pathway by choosing some of their subjects. These two years are vital and provide the foundation for success at iGCSE and also a pathway for further study in the Sixth Form and at university. We are proud of the breadth and depth of the curriculum on offer at Bromsgrove, and we believe that it provides all students with the opportunity to develop their passions in a range of disciplines and prepare them for their future.

During Years 7, 8 and 9, your child has followed a broad and balanced general curriculum where they have learnt skills and knowledge across all the subjects offered at iGCSE level.

In Year 10, students will follow a core curriculum of English, Maths and Science and then choose a further 4 subjects to study at iGCSE level from 'option blocks'. At Bromsgrove, we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum and, therefore, the option blocks include an Arts block and also a Languages block. Students will

study 8 or 9 iGCSEs over the course of Year 10 and Year 11, with final exams at the end of Year 11.

Students should choose their optional subjects carefully, as changing options subjects is not recommended and only allowed in the first two weeks of Year 10. Students should consider the following when choosing their options: their enjoyment of the subject; their aptitude and ability in the subject; the balance between the other subjects chosen; and their future study plans. Students should start to think about the A Levels they would like to study and ensure that the iGCSEs they pick are compatible with their plan.

Please note that lessons in all the subjects in one option block are taught simultaneously, and, therefore, only ONE subject may be taken in each block. We will set option blocks after an initial survey to gauge numbers. If a student is unable to study the subject of their choice, the Assistant Principal (Academic) will discuss alternatives with them. It may be possible to make changes to subject choices in the first two weeks of Year 10, but any changes will have to conform to the option blocks in place and take into account the size of the group.

Details of all the courses, including the compulsory subjects, are in this booklet to help students and parents make the correct decision. It can be a difficult

decision and tutors and academic staff are there to help support the process.

## ENGLISH (CIE/EDEXCEL)

English is compulsory for all Key Stage 4 students.

In Key Stage Four **English Language**, most students will follow the **Cambridge IGCSE English Language qualification (0500)**. Students will study traditional English skills, accessed through a number of international and multicultural texts. The units acknowledge the importance of literacy and communication in modern society, and place an emphasis on empathy, inference and summary skills, as well as writing for specific audiences and purposes and in a range of genres.

Some students will also be invited to study **English Literature** as an additional GCSE and will cover the **Edexcel International GCSE in English Literature (4ET0)**. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore their literary interests and encourages them to develop the ability to read, understand and respond critically to drama, poetry and prose. All students will study pre 20th Century Poetry, Contemporary Prose and Drama from a British Heritage. This unit is 100% examination based, and is tested as a terminal examination.

A small number of students may be better suited to studying **Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second**

**Language**, in order to develop their proficiency in spoken and written English. In this course, students will study a variety of topics designed to develop vocabulary, comprehension and creativity in using English both conversationally and academically. This is a terminal examination, taken at either the end of Year 10 or Year 11.

## MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)

Mathematics is compulsory for all Key Stage 4 students.

However, different abilities study different levels of Mathematics and qualify with different grades in Mathematics. All students will study for the **Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics**. It is assessed through two papers, focusing on mathematical skills, techniques and concepts and how to use them to solve problems. It is designed as a two-year course for teaching in international schools and colleges and UK independent schools.

There are two tiers of Edexcel iGCSE Mathematics: Core & Extended.

**Core:** This level of entry is aimed at students who struggle with certain aspects of Mathematics but are wishing to achieve a grade C. This course encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, concentrating on percentages, ratios, and simple trigonometry. The course aims to build students' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers and patterns, and places an emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Students also learn how to communicate with and reason using mathematical concepts.

**Extended:** This level of entry is aimed at students who enjoy higher level aspects of Mathematics and are aiming for a grade C, B, A or A\*. This course aims to challenge students who enjoy mathematics and find it relatively easy. The course is for those students who are currently obtaining grades of grade C or higher. They will acquire a good understanding of number, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics.

The most able students in Key Stage 4 have the added opportunity of studying for an extra Mathematics qualification: a GCSE in **Additional Mathematics**. This extra qualification is specifically intended for high ability candidates who have achieved, or are expected to achieve, grade A\* or A in the iGCSE examination. We hope students will enjoy the course and use it to develop more advanced techniques (logarithmic and exponential functions, binomial expansions, differentiation & integration), devise mathematical arguments, develop creativity and satisfaction in mathematical pursuits and, ultimately, build upon their existing appreciation of the beauty, power and usefulness of Pure Mathematics. We fully expect students confidently to use this extra qualification as a springboard towards A level Mathematics and A level Further Mathematics.

## SCIENCE (CIE)

Science is compulsory for all Key Stage 4 students, but there are two pathways available, both leading to Cambridge iGCSE qualifications. Both pathways allow study at A Level and beyond. Both courses are designed for teaching in international schools and colleges and UK independent schools.

Students who follow the **Coordinated Award (Double Science)** course will study a combination of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Topics that they will study will include: cell movement and body systems, the periodic table and chemical reactions and electricity and waves. They will be assessed at the end of the course through three exams all of which will contain some Chemistry, Biology and Physics questions. Overall they will achieve two iGCSE grades.

Students who choose to study the **Triple Science** course will study Chemistry, Biology and Physics separately. They will cover topics such as chemical reactions and testing unknown substances in Chemistry, the kidney and excretion in Biology and radiation in Physics. They will be assessed in each Science at the end of the course through three written exams and will be awarded three separate iGCSE grades; one for each Science.

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## ICT (CIE)

Technology has challenged our way of life in the 21st Century. By choosing ICT, students will learn how to use appropriate software to meet this challenge. Whether through complex data-handling tasks, using spreadsheet and databases software, analysing and evaluating different types of IT network system, understanding how the hardware and software interact in a computer system, designing stunning web pages or using appropriate search techniques to locate and select relevant information on the web, students will become increasingly adept in this technological age. The course is assessed by three exams taken at the end of Year 11 covering both theory and practical application.

## GEOGRAPHY (CIE)

Students will cover a wide range of topics and study case studies, at both a global and local level, that help explain and exemplify some of the biggest world issues, including: population growth and movement; flooding; pollution; natural hazards; the destruction of the environment; and the issues and solutions to resources shortages.

Successful Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including: an understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments, an understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale, the ability to use and understand geographical data and information and an understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments. The course is assessed by three written exams taken at the end of Year 11.

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## HISTORY (CIE)

The GCSE History course covers International Relations from 1919 up to 2000, focusing on modern events which have shaped our world, such as: the Treaty of Versailles; the Second World War; the Cold War; and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, students will undertake a depth study, which focuses on Hitler's Germany.

History is a highly respected qualification, as the course allows students to develop essential evaluation skills, such as source analysis and interpretation, and to improve their essay writing techniques. These transferable skills increase a student's ability to understand the modern world, and the content will enable them to appreciate and understand current world issues and their origins. The course is assessed by three written papers taken at the end of Year 11; each testing a different skill.

## ECONOMICS (CIE)

Learning about Economics will provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills you will need to succeed in a whole range of careers. People who have studied economics are good at problem solving because they learn to identify problems, to suggest alternative solutions, to determine what information is relevant, and to weigh up different costs and benefits in decision making. Knowledge of economics also helps us understand what determines the prices of different products, why people earn different amounts in different jobs and why these change over time, why some countries are poor and others are rich and how and why governments influence the behaviours of different groups of consumers and producers. But, above all, the study of economics makes us realise that we are all dependent upon one another and that decisions we make will affect others. The course is assessed by two papers taken at the end of Year 11: one written and one multiple choice.

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## TRAVEL AND TOURISM (CIE)

Travel and Tourism is designed to help meet the need for skilled and knowledgeable individuals in an industry which is rapidly growing. The expansion of travel and tourism businesses makes this course ideal for those interested in our expanding world, global business and the travel sector. The syllabus develops practical skills as well as providing a global and local perspective on travel and tourism. Learners gain an overview of the industry, and learn about popular destinations, the key aspects of customer care, working procedures, travel and tourism products and services, and they learn in depth about marketing and promotion. The content is taught alongside transferable skills which enhance independence, enquiry, analysis, interpretation and evaluation. The course is assessed by either two written papers taken at the end of Year 11, or a combination of exam and coursework.

## BUSINESS STUDIES (CIE)

The Business Studies course 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. The course is assessed by two written papers taken at the end of Year 11.

## PE (CIE)

iGCSE Physical Education combines practical sport with the theory underpinning various sports and fitness. It is a great opportunity for students to learn, use and be rewarded for both their practical ability and their theoretical knowledge of the subject. It 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 practical aspect of the course is worth 60% of the candidate's overall grade and allows students to undertake four practical activities and look at performance improvement. The theoretical element covers three main topic areas - factors affecting performance, health, safety and training, and reasons and opportunities for participation in physical activity.

## DRAMA (EDEXCEL)

Drama GCSE is an exciting course that enables students to develop their confidence, communication and performance skills. They will participate in 3 areas of study which will broaden their knowledge of devising as well as exploring popular play texts, brought to life in the form of a practical performance. Students will also be expected to evaluate live theatre performances. There will be a high level of practical study as well as being able to build upon literacy skills in Drama. There will be a one-off written exam to be taken at the end of the course.

## MUSIC (EDEXCEL)

In GCSE Music, students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. Throughout the course, students will develop their understanding, knowledge and skills in composition, performance and music appraisal. Composition and performance is internally assessed and there is one appraising exam at the end of the course.

## ART (CIE)

Art and Design iGCSE is a practical course that allows students to build on and explore, in more depth, a variety of 2D and 3D art materials and techniques. Through completing the iGCSE Art and Design course, students will gain important lifelong skills, including: the ability to communicate concepts and feelings; recording from direct observation and personal experience; and the confidence to experiment, be innovative, intuitive and imaginative, among others. They will also be expected to research different artists and art movements to help broaden and develop their own ideas and skills. The course is assessed by an exam and coursework. The projects will involve experiments, research and development of ideas through practical artwork, which eventually lead to the completion of a Final Piece.

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## MEDIA STUDIES (AQA)

By studying Media Studies, students will learn how to analyse and deconstruct a range of media texts from film, TV, music video and radio to planning, researching and creating their own media products using smart phones, Digital SLR Cameras and a suite of MacBooks using the latest Mac OS and Apple Media Software. As we live in a media-saturated world, this course allows students to make sense of all the media messages that they receive on a daily basis and what they are communicating on a conscious and subconscious level. From the video clips on phones to TV ads and blockbuster movies, from posters at the bus stop to the music you listen to; students will assess and analyse their impact. The course is assessed by one written exam taken at the end of Year 11 and three pieces of coursework.

## LANGUAGES

Students at Bromsgrove in Year 10 all study one language. The languages offered are: Thai, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. All four languages build the four key skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Students learn to apply the language in different contexts and to different audiences. They also learn about the culture of countries where the language is spoken and the traditions associated with these countries. All languages are assessed through terminal exams at the end of Year 11.

If a student is registered at Bromsgrove as a Thai National, then they must follow the Thai Language Curriculum until the end of Year 11. Students of other nationalities are able to choose between Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

## EAL

Students in who study EAL develop further their skills in general and academic English, with a view to progressing on to sitting a Cambridge ESOL exam (PET or FCE) at the end of each year. If successful, by the end of the course students will have the language skills necessary to study independently in an English-speaking country or on courses taught in English.