مدرسة وستمينستر
THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

Year 8 – Parent Orientation
January 9th, 2025

Principal's Address

Carl Roberts
Executive Principal/CEO

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THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

29 YEARS

English National Curriculum

- Recognised and respected across the world
- Academically challenging but designed to also develop well rounded students
- Broad and balanced
- Two-year GCSE programme in Years 10 and 11 – General Certificate of Secondary Education at age 16
- Seven or Eight GCSEs including English, Math, Science, Humanities, Modern Foreign Language
- Specialise after IGCSE
- Advanced Levels at age 18 (no AS Levels) – Advanced Levels are designed to be challenging and are not suitable for all students
- Our students will go on to study all over the world and must be competitive in an international market
- We do not adapt our curriculum for one particular country, and we must stay true to the principles of the English National Curriculum

Choosing IGCSEs

- Important decision that can be life changing – take it seriously
- Keep options open now and specialise later – students change a lot between age 13 and age 16
- Do not base your choice on the teacher
- Do not base your choice on your friends
- Choose subjects you enjoy as well as ones that will be useful for your chosen career
- Choose subjects you are good at
- Think about Sixth Form subjects – A Levels, BTECS or different curriculum

Introducing the subjects

Ms. Grace Aluoka
Assistant Principal – Secondary School & Sixth Form

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Year 9 - Compulsory Subjects

- First Language English
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Islamic Education (A & B – MoE) / Life Skills
- Arabic (A/B - MoE) for all students.
- Social Studies - MoE
- Physical Education

Technology option
(Chosen in Year 9 and IGCSE Exam will be done in Year 11)

Choose one of the Technology subjects:

Computer Science
(or)
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

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Second language/other alternative subjects
(Chosen in Year 9 and IGCSE Exam will be done in Year 10)

1. Urdu
2. French
3. Art & Design
4. English Literature
5. Geography
6. Environmental management
7. Global Perspectives

***All subjects in red font are not in the list of approved subjects for MoE Equivalency - The British System.**

Subject option form

Compulsory Subjects	
1	English as First Language
2	Mathematics
3	Physics
4	Chemistry
5	Biology
6	Islamic Education /Life skills (non-IGCSE)
7	Arabic A/ B (Non-IGCSE)
8	Social Studies (Non-IGCSE)

Optional Subjects (Select ONE subject from each of the block below)	
Second language/other alternative subjects (Chosen in Year 9 and IGCSE Exam will be done in Year 10)	**Technology (Chosen in Year 9 and IGCSE Exam will be done in Year 11)**
Urdu	Computer Science
French	ICT
Art & Design	
English Literature	
Geography	
Environmental Management	
Global Perspective	

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Important Points to Remember

- Students select 2 subjects at the end of Year 8.
- Students must qualify an entry level test for Art and Design/English Literature to select the subject.
- Students taking French /Urdu in Year 8, if they wish to choose another language/alternative subject they can do so. However, students who have not taken French/ Urdu in Year 8, cannot choose these subjects in Year 9.
- **It is mandatory for all students to appear for the IGCSE Board examinations in both the chosen subjects. Second language/other alternative subjects at the end of Year 10 and Technology option at the end of Year 11.**
- Social studies, Ministry Arabic and Islamic Studies are subjects offered by the Ministry of Education (MOE).
- ***If any group has less than 20 students that option will not be considered.***
- ***Please note – No subject changes are permitted after a choice is made.***

For reference only: By the end of Year 11

Subjects' students choose at the end of Year 8

Mandatory subjects

Islamic Education (MoE) /Life skills
Arabic A/B (MoE)
Moral education Social Studies Physical Education
English
Mathematics

- Students will continue with their Second language/other alternative subjects chosen in Year 9 and will sit for IGCSE Board examination at the end of Year 10.

- Students will continue with their Technology option chosen in Year 9 but will sit for IGCSE Board examination at the end of Year 11.

Subjects' students choose at the end of Year 9

(Select ONE subject from each of the block below)		
Option 1	**Option 2**	**Option 3**
Physics	Biology	Business Studies/ BTEC Business Level 2
Business Studies/ BTEC Business Level 2	Economics	Chemistry
Combined Science – Double award		Accounting
		IGCSE Physical Education (Only students who take Biology/Combined Science)
		Psychology (Only students who take Biology/Combined Science)

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Equivalency

Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying **the British System** shall be equivalenced to the general secondary **certificate,** without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following general conditions:

The student shall **pass five (5) subjects** in the general level courses **(GCSE level or IGCSE)** in one of the success grades (A*, A, B, C, D,E), including the following subjects:

- ✓ **Mathematics.**
- ✓ **One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or a Double Science subject.**
- ✓ **English language or English Literature.**

In the relevant regulatory decisions, Islamic education and the Arabic language are not counted among the subjects.

Syllabus code and examination boards

No	Subject Name	Syllabus code	Examination Board (Cambridge/Pearson/Oxford AQA)
1	Accounting	4AC1	Pearson/Edexcel
2	Art and Design	400	Cambridge
3	Biology	0610	Cambridge
4	Business Studies	450	Cambridge
5	Chemistry	620	Cambridge
6	Combined Science	9204	Oxford AQA
7	Computer Science	0478	Cambridge
8	Economics	4EC1	Pearson/Edexcel
9	English as a Second Language	510	Cambridge
10	English Literature	9275	Oxford AQA
11	Enterprise	454	Cambridge
12	Environmental Management	680	Cambridge
13	First Language English	500	Cambridge
14	French	1FR0	Pearson/Edexcel
15	Geography	9230	Oxford AQA
16	Global Perspective	457	Cambridge
17	ICT	0417	Cambridge
18	Mathematics	580	Cambridge
19	IGCSE Physical Education	413	Cambridge
20	Physics	625	Cambridge
21	Psychology	1PS0	Pearson/Edexcel
22	Urdu	1UR0	Pearson/Edexcel

Important Web links

- **CAIE** : https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/
- **PEARSON EDEXCEL** : https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html
- **OXFORD AQA** : https://oxfordaqaexams.org.uk/
- **GEMS PORTAL -** http://www.gems.ae/

Option Selection on GEMS Portal

GEMS EDUCATION
We see genius in every child

Looking to enrol your child at a GEMS School? Find a School

GEMS EDUCATION

Learn more about us

LearnOS

An all-in-one integrated platform empowering teachers to teach better, helps students to learn better and enables parents to engage better.

GEMS connect

Access and edit student information, pay fees, view attendance and assessment report, submit leave requests and do much more in one place.

GEMS Classroom

For Teachers, Students and Parents, Our end-to-end Learning Management System (LMS) connecting students, teachers and parents.

GEMS REWARDS

An exclusive rewards programme for our community of students, parents and staff designed to make quality education accessible.

alumni

A lifelong relationship with our students, starting with strong engagement through the student experience to university & professional career.

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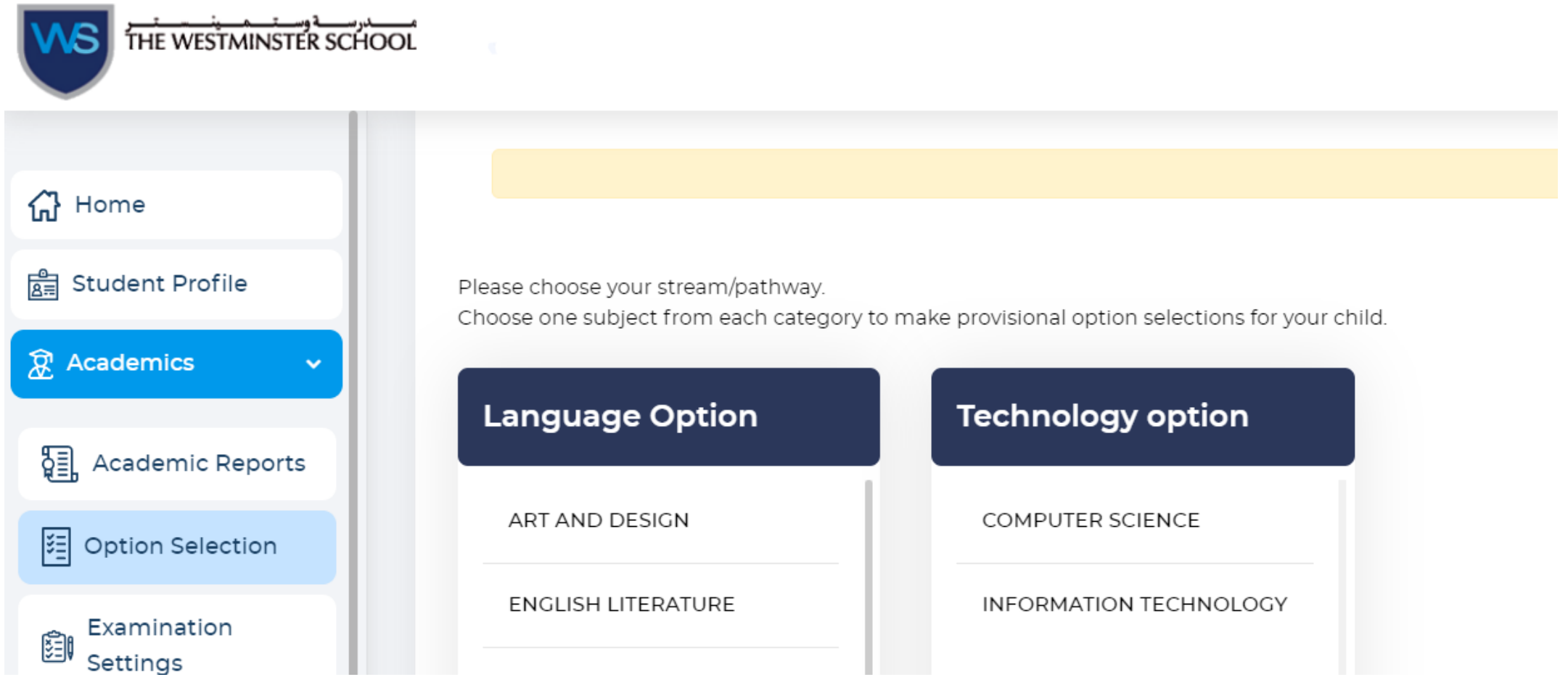
Option Selection on GEMS Portal