

WOLSEY HALL OXFORD

Moving from Lower Secondary to IGCSE courses

Welcome to Wolsey Hall's IGCSE Courses

As your child moves from Lower Secondary (Year 7 to Year 9 in the UK curriculum) to IGCSE you may be wondering what changes this brings. Our IGCSE courses are designed to be challenging and engaging as well as academically rigorous. Your child's choice of IGCSE subjects can have a major bearing on their future education and career options.

Choosing Subjects

In the UK, most children study eight or more IGCSE subjects over two academic years. They take a broad range of subjects, including English Language, Maths and one or more Science course(s) (individual, single or double options are available), and then they choose options from English Literature, one or more Humanities (Environmental Management, Geography, History) and often a Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish and German are the most popular). Other options such as Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Latin and Psychology are popular, too.

When choosing your child's IGCSE courses, we strongly recommend a minimum of 6-9 subjects. This would keep their options open for their future studies at A level and beyond.

If English isn't your child's first language then we advise them to take our online pre-test. This assesses whether they need to take IGCSE English as a Second Language or if they are ready for IGCSE English Language. If IGCSE English Language (first language) is taken then this opens all A Level courses to them and is essential for ongoing studies at university.



If your child is required to take English as a Second Language, you might consider enrolling them onto the IGCSE English Language (first language) course later on.



Choosing Subjects cont'd

Our IGCSE courses take approximately 150 hours of study, plus the time needed for preparation of each assignment (10-12 assignments per subject). For IGCSE English, Maths or Combined Science, allow up to 180 hours of study. This timeframe may be shorter or longer depending on your child's ability as a learner.

Subject Requirements

It is never too early to take a look at the [UCAS](#) website for degree choices in the UK as this can inform your decision about which IGCSEs to take.

For international university applicants: entry requirements can vary significantly between countries, so we strongly recommend consulting specific university websites to check what IGCSE are currently expected.

IGCSE student Stefania has shared her top tips for [choosing your IGCSE](#) subjects.



You are also encouraged to book an appointment with our International University Advice Service to get support planning an IGCSE and A Level programme that aligns with your potential university and career interests. The University Advisor can also offer guidance with planning the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that are essential to a successful application in some countries, particularly the USA.

To choose Modern Foreign Languages at IGCSE, it requires two years of study at Lower Secondary level (or equivalent).

IGCSE Additional Maths is a further qualification, which can only be enrolled on alongside IGCSE Maths (extended) once an 85% mark has been achieved in the first four assignments on the Maths course. If your child is planning to take A Level Maths, we advise against taking the IGCSE Maths exams early and then having a 'study gap' in this subject. Instead, they could take IGCSE Additional Maths to fill this gap, if required.

If your child wishes to take IGCSE English Literature, they need to also study the IGCSE English Language course.

However, if your child certainly wants to study a certain subject(s) at A level or beyond, please check whether they require a foundation at IGCSE level in any subject(s). Our Admissions Team are able to advise.

IGCSE Subjects Available

Biology	Business Studies	Chemistry
Computer Science	Combined Science (one IGCSE)	Co-ordinated Sciences (two IGCSEs)
Economics	English Language	English as a Second Language
English Literature	Environmental Management	French
Geography	German	History
Latin	Maths	Maths - Additional
Physics	Psychology	Spanish

Your child may wish to choose subjects of interest to them when they move to studying at IGCSE. Some IGCSEs do not require previous knowledge – e.g. Business Studies, Economics, Environmental Management, Latin and Psychology.

Wolsey Hall has designed each ‘year’ of its IGCSE courses to be taken over 9 months to which holiday periods should be added.

It is also possible to split IGCSE exams over two years and to take 4 or 5 in each year. For more information take a look at our IGCSE Exam Information. We offer mock exams, at extra cost, for students who would like to get some exam practice prior to the actual exams.





Study Support

Your child will continue to receive full support from Wolsey Hall while studying at IGCSE level. They will receive one-to-one Tutor support via Canvas and a welcome video call from their Tutors at the start of each course. They will also continue to receive regular support from their Student Progress Manager (SPM).

Parents may need to assist their children in creating a timetable based on their chosen subjects and the time they have available. Our [Study Time Calculator](#) and [Timetable Guide](#) will help you in the process, but do ask your SPM if you need any help here.

Note that a range of services is available to help students who encounter difficulty with their studies. These include learning support, mentoring and study skills. These services aim to reduce potential barriers to learning while fostering an environment where students develop their organisation and independent study skills.

Students can also book appointments with our University Advice or International University Advice Services to get guidance with planning an IGCSE/A Level programme that aligns with their potential university and career interests.

The IGCSE is the world's most popular exam qualification for 14 to 16 year olds, and the Cambridge IGCSE is recognised by universities and employers everywhere.





Student Community

We warmly encourage your child to participate in our Student Community which includes clubs with monthly themes and regular student competitions with prizes to be won. Access to these clubs can be found on the Student Community website.

Our Virtual Library is also free to borrow books from. There are hundreds of fiction and non-fiction titles to choose from.

There is also an active student forum on the Community website where your child can connect and make friends with other Wolsey Hall learners worldwide.

Connect with Wolsey Hall Parents

There is a private [Facebook group](#) for parents with children currently studying IGCSE and A level courses. This group provides the opportunity to connect with other families, ask advice and share information.



Wolsey Hall Clubs include:

Art & Design
Book Clubs
Chess
Cookery
Creative Writing
Digital Media
Health & Fitness



WOLSEY HALL OXFORD
THE HOMESCHOOLING COLLEGE