

# MZUZU INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



## IGCSE Options Booklet.

Cambridge International Examinations

International General Certificate of Education.

## INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to provide students and parents/guardians with information about the courses available in Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11. We hope that the information contained will assist in making sure that students can select courses with confidence, with all the information they need easily to hand.

This introductory section contains an outline of the MIA IGCSE programme and the structure of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. We also summarise the factors that we believe that you and your ward will want to consider in making choices. The introduction also details the options timetable and the support and guidance available within school to assist you and your ward in making these important decisions.

The booklet also provides details of our core curriculum subjects and the options that are available, explaining the subject content of each course and the methods of assessment relevant to the course.

### THE MIA IGCSE PROGRAMME

Students at Mzuzu International Academy in Key Stage 4 follow two-year International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) programmes of study. The IGCSE is designed for 14-16-year olds and provides a common assessment system suitable for students of a wide range of abilities. Students who obtain IGCSE qualifications are well prepared for further academic success, including progression to higher levels of study, and will be equipped with the skills needed for immediate employment.

IGCSE is recognised as evidence of ability by academic institutions and employers around the world. IGCSE provides a broad study programme across a wide range of subject areas. Within the curriculum there is a balanced mix of practical experience and theoretical knowledge. The IGCSE courses on offer allow teaching to be placed in a local context, making it relevant to our

IGCSE Grades Available at	
Extended	Core
A8	
A	
B	
C	C
D	D
E	E
F	F
G	G
U Unclassified	U Unclassified

particular region. It is also suitable for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process. For all the subjects examined at IGCSE, the level of attainment will be measured on a scale from A\* to G. However, many subjects offer a choice of core and extended papers; The table (left) shows which grades can be attained at Extended and Core Levels. Please note only the grade is indicated on the final certificate with no mention of Extended or Core.

## THE MIA KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

The Common Curriculum: All students in Years 10 & 11 follow a common compulsory curriculum. The KS4 core curriculum consists of the following subjects:

- First Language English or English as a Second Language
- Mathematics
- Information and Communications Technology
- A School based nonexamination course in Physical Education.

The common curriculum is designed to give all our students a broad base of knowledge and the opportunity to develop the essential skills necessary for further study and employment.

### Opportunity and Obligation

We have done our best this year to offer as wide a range of options choices as possible in seeking to accommodate the preferences of students. We must however reserve the right to withdraw a subject from the options offer in circumstances where very few students opt for this particular subject. We have a duty to ensure that our provision is cost effective, and that we are making best use of the resources we have to benefit the greatest number of students. Once a student has embarked upon a course, changes of subject are permitted in the first half term only in exceptional circumstances and where class sizes allow. Students will not be allowed to change courses after the first half term of study.

### The Options Pathways:

Students must choose ONE subject from each of the option groups. Please note the following:

- All students are required to choose at least TWO science subjects from the options below.
- All students must choose ICT from either Option Group 4 or 5 not both.
- In order to ensure students select a wide range of subjects, it is not possible to take Geography and Environmental Management or Business Studies and Economics.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
<b>Biology</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>ICT</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Physics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Physics</b>	<b>ICT</b>	<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>Geography</b>
		<b>Environmental Management</b>			<b>Economics</b>

# The Very Big FIVE!!!!



Five big questions when you're choosing your subjects

Answering these questions will help when you're making your decision. You can use them to put together a shortlist of subjects.

**How do you like to learn?**

Do you like English because you get to talk and listen? Working out how you like to learn can help you choose your subjects.

**Where could they take you?**

Do you know what you want to do when you leave school? Picking the right subjects could help you get there, or keep your options open if you haven't decided yet.

**What subjects do you enjoy?**

You're more likely to get better marks in subjects that you find interesting. Does time fly by in some subjects and go at a snail's pace in others?

**What subjects are you good at?**

What do you get your best marks in? There may be some you've never studied before but would do well in.

**What do others think you're good at?**

Talk to your parents, friends, family, and teachers. What do they think would suit you and why? Ask for their opinions, and see how they weigh up with your own thoughts.

**It's easy to choose subjects for the wrong reasons, too. Avoid picking subjects just because:**

1. You like the teacher - the teacher may change;
2. There isn't much homework - that will change;

3. Your friends are taking the subject - it might be right for them, but not for you;
4. Stereotypes- Think something is a boys or girls subject? There's no such thing!

#### Keeping your options open

You might be unsure what direction you want your career to take yet - that's fine. It just means you need to keep your options open when you're picking your subjects and keep them quite broad.

**You could choose some subjects which are known as 'facilitating subjects'. This means they're asked for more often than others for courses and jobs. These include things like Maths, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, History, Geography and Languages.**

### **A word of advice to Parents/Guardians from the Teaching Team at Mzuzu International Academy.**

We have reached the stage in your ward's educational life when a number of choices have to be made relating to subjects to be studied in Years 10 and 11. This two-year course of study will begin in September 2018 and end with the public examinations which will take place in May and June 2020. The selection of a programme of courses will be the result of much discussion between the pupil, parents/guardians and the school. In deciding upon the choice of subjects in Key Stage 4, two points should be uppermost in your mind:

- the choice of a broad-based, balanced range of subjects
- the levels of enjoyment and interest in the subjects

We would like to emphasise that it is essential to keep open as many avenues of study as possible in order to stay abreast of the rapidly changing demands of society. Contrary to popular belief, career aspirations are a relatively minor factor in the choice of subjects at IGCSE. Very few 13 and 14 years olds know what they want to do and any ambitions they may have may change next year, next month or even tomorrow!

There is also a growing demand for flexibility in career goals in today's rapidly evolving employment sectors. Please feel free to contact us via the school office if you have any queries; if we are unable to speak to you at the time, be assured we shall contact you as soon as possible thereafter. This is an important process, which will occupy the effort and attention of many members of staff between now, and September 2018. We would urge you to regard these decisions as binding ones which will require a considerable degree of commitment on the part of the students; it is two years of hard work, homework and regular attendance in lessons, which

will, we hope, lead to examination success and a constructive step into the next stage of the student's career.

## THE OPTIONS TIMETABLE

We are committed to providing all the assistance required to ensure that students choose the right courses. It is important that students take full advantage of the guidance on offer. The options and guidance timetable is outlined below:

Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Options Assembly Options Booklet Issued
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 9 Parents/Guardians Options Meeting 3:00-4:30 pm.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Options Forms returned to Examinations Officer
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March onwards	Student interviews with SLT to discuss option choices.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher Conferences
May/June	Organization of classes and timetables
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018	Courses begin.
May /June 2020	The Exams.
August 2020	The Results

It is therefore imperative that the option form is returned by the stated deadline to ensure that it is possible to accommodate student's option preferences. If you have any queries about this process, please contact the Principal or Head of Secondary.

### Looking beyond IGCSE

- Young people should not be too quick to see themselves as scientists, or arts or humanities specialists, as combinations of these subjects will be encouraged right up to A Level, and universities will be looking for applicants with breadth as well as depth in their choice of subjects.
- If a student has a particular university course in mind it is essential to check whether specific IGCSEs are required or would be an advantage. For a Psychology degree, for example, an A or B grade in Maths at IGCSE may be needed in addition to A-levels. Finding out in year 11 that it would have been a good idea to have studied History if you hope to

take Law at university is a little bit late. Some careers research now can prove invaluable even though university might seem a long way off.

- If students already have a particular career in mind they can find out what is required with some simple online research. It is increasingly important - in careers like medicine, for example - to have a substantial portfolio of work experience as well as academic qualifications. Keep in mind that by the end of Year 11 the student who dreamt of becoming a vet in Year 9 might have very different aspirations.

Finally - remember that these are your choices, not those of your parents, teachers and friends! Do listen to advice, but play to your own strengths and not those that others may attribute to you. In the end you are the only one who can make sure that the decisions you make at this point turn out to be the right ones.

## Cambridge IGCSE

**Biology (0610)** With an emphasis on human biology, the Cambridge IGCSE Biology syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. They also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at Cambridge International A Level, which are useful in everyday life.

As they progress, learners understand 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

**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. 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 (0620)** The Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry syllabus enables learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. They also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at Cambridge International A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life.

As they progress, learners understand 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.

**Economics (0455)** The Cambridge IGCSE Economics syllabus develops an understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles. Learners study the economics of different countries and how these interrelate. They also learn to work with simple economics data and to use the tools of economic analysis. Learners apply understanding of economics to current economic issues.

**English - First Language (0500)** Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed 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.

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 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 as a Second Language (Speaking endorsement) (0510)** Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, learners will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study. In Syllabus 0510, marks for the speaking component do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components.

**Environmental Management (0680)** The syllabus is designed to teach learners about sustainable development in a world where the security of resources and life-sustaining systems is endangered by human impact. It draws upon disciplines such as biology, Earth science, geography and economics. Learners gain an understanding of the Earth's natural systems and how people use natural resources; they then investigate the impact of human development on the environment and learn how the environment can be managed sustainably in the future, from a local as well as a global perspective.

**French - Foreign Language (0520)** This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of 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 and civilisation of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

**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. 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 (0470)** The Cambridge IGCSE 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 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.

**Information and Communication Technology (0417)** The Information Communication Technology syllabus encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, which will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum and prepare them for future employment. They will develop understanding of the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses and awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments.

The syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications to solve problems, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, web browsers and website design. Learners analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

Assessment of the practical tests is hardware and software independent. Any hardware platform, operating system, and applications packages can be used, providing that learners have the opportunity to demonstrate the full range of skills in the syllabus.

**Mathematics (0580)** 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.

**Physics (0625)** The Cambridge IGCSE Physics syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. They learn about the basic principles of Physics through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Learners also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at Cambridge International A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life.

As they progress, learners gain an understanding of 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.

IGCSE Options 2018-2020.

**YOUR NAME IN FULL, it should be as on your passport or official documents.**

**First Names**

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**Family Name:**

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- All students must choose ICT from either Option Group 4 or 5 not both.
- In order to ensure students select a wide range of subjects, it is not possible to take Geography and Environmental Management or Business Studies and Economics.

Indicate your subject choices by initialing the appropriate boxes.

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Option 4</b>	<b>Option 5</b>	<b>Option 6</b>
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		<b>Environmental Management</b>			<b>Economics</b>

Your signature:

Date:

(You must get your Parent/Guardian to countersign this form for you).

I/We do hereby agree to the option choices made by our ward as indicated above.

Signature:

Date:

**To be returned to Mr Chiumia by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**