



Dove Green
PRIVATE SCHOOL

GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET

Learning Together
Growing Together



Welcome To

Dove Green Private School

Learning Together, Growing Together



Dear Parents,

Selecting subjects for study at (I)GCSE represents the first pivotal academic decision that students in British curriculum schools are actively involved in. This marks a significant shift from the previously prescribed curriculum, giving Year 9 students the opportunity to influence their future educational and career pathways. This new found autonomy motivates and empowers students, helping them take ownership of their learning and aspirations.

At Dove Green Private School (DGPS), we are privileged to guide students through this exciting stage. We recognise that these early choices lay the foundation for college, career readiness, and life beyond school. Our ethos ensures that each student is heard, valued, and supported alongside their family, placing them at the heart of the decision-making process. This approach is central as we prepare our students for public examinations, including (I)GCSEs, BTEC qualifications, and, later, post-16 subjects and pathways.

A key feature of DGPS teaching and learning is our commitment to student-centric pathways. Small class sizes allow teachers to tailor learning to the individual, ensuring all students can achieve their potential. Our Dove Green Pathways' structure is designed to support every learner—those who need additional guidance, those aiming to excel, and all students in between. This ensures that success is achievable for everyone, regardless of starting point, while maintaining stretch and challenge for higher-attaining students.

We complement personalised teaching with a comprehensive wellbeing and guidance programme, ensuring that each student's academic, social, and emotional needs are fully supported. Our careers guidance programme, linked to Unifrog, enables students to explore future study and employment pathways, understand the skills they are developing in each subject, and make informed decisions about post-16 choices. Real-life experiences, workshops, and inspirational speakers enrich this programme, helping students understand how their current learning connects to career opportunities locally in Dubai and globally.

Our curriculum is aligned with the Dubai 33 priorities, developing students who are not only academically excellent but also socially responsible, globally aware, and prepared to contribute meaningfully to their communities. While we expect students to meet rigorous academic requirements in Years 10 and 11, we emphasise a balanced education. DGPS provides opportunities for extracurricular activities, cultural engagement, sports, sustainability projects, and trips, encouraging students to develop holistically.

This brochure introduces our 2026/27 (I)GCSE and BTEC courses, offering guidance on subject content, assessments, and progression opportunities. While it cannot capture the full range of extracurricular activities, it highlights the extensive options available to support students' personal and academic growth.

We appreciate your interest in the DGPS level 2 programme and are confident that our new secondary campus, combined with tailored teaching, student pathways, and strong careers guidance, provides the ideal environment for students to flourish. We look forward to supporting your child as they embark on this exciting educational journey.

Christopher Seeley
Principal

SELECTING OPTIONS

GENERAL CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (GCSE)

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (IGCSE)

As an international school, staff have carefully analysed course content and exam requirements to ensure that the selected board and course are right for our students, our school and our international context. As a result, we are currently presenting students with a mixture of GCSE and IGCSE exams with the Pearson Edexcel exam board.

For many families that are new to the English curriculum, the grading system is one of the first things that is unfamiliar to parents and students. The diagram below gives a comparison of the two grading systems.

GCSEs at Grade A* - C or 9 - 4 are often used as a benchmark for comparisons and entry into Key Stage 5, with many expecting English and Mathematics to be included.

Each GCSE/IGCSE course is unique and has its own course requirements and examination procedures. Many require the submission of coursework in the form of independent work or as a controlled assessment. Students cannot be presented for the final examination if the coursework or controlled assessment has not been completed in the set time.

In some subjects, students are entered for a “tier”. The Foundation tier targets grades 5 to 1 and the Higher tier grades 9 – 4. The decision about the appropriate tier for assessment will take into consideration class work, assessment results and student ability. Students and parents will be made aware of the level of presentation when decisions are made. Examinations will take place at the end of year 11, typically from the beginning of May. However, we are required to follow the prescribed UK examination timetable, which may result in exams taking place later in the afternoon/evening and during religious celebrations. The results will be published in August.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
C	5 strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics, English, and Science are compulsory subjects for all students in Years 10 and 11, forming the core of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

Physical Activity plays a vital role in supporting students' physical health, wellbeing, and overall academic performance. All Year 10 and Year 11 students will have three hours of Physical Activity per week. This becomes increasingly important in Key Stage 4, where academic demands are significantly greater than in the lower years. Students will now complete the BTEC Level 2 in Sport Science as part of their PE lessons, gaining a recognised vocational qualification alongside their core studies.

During SMC, Arabic MOE, and Islamic Studies lessons, students follow the Ministry-approved curriculum, as required by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA). All students holding an Arabic passport must study Arabic MOE, as this is compulsory. Students holding a non-Arabic passport are required to study Arabic until the end of Year 10; however, they are not required to continue this into Year 11. Students studying Arabic A will also complete the IGCSE qualification alongside the MOE curriculum.

All Muslim students are required to study Islamic Studies, which will now also lead to the IGCSE qualification. Non-Muslim students will use this time for Career Enrichment, supporting informed decision-making about their future education and pathways.



KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATIONS

At this stage, designing a focused curriculum can be challenging, but it is essential to prepare students for future studies and career paths. We believe that maintaining a broad and balanced education in Key Stage 4 ensures students keep a variety of options open. Many students may refine or change their career focus as they progress through education, and we aim to offer a wide range of courses to meet their interests and needs.

To ensure breadth, balance, and compliance with UAE curriculum requirements, all students study the following core subjects:

- English – students follow one of the pathways: Entry Level Certificate (ELC), English Second Language (ESL), International English Testing System (IELTS), or Literature/Language (depending on suitability).
- Mathematics – students follow either ELC or Core pathway.
- Science – students follow either ELC, Single Award, Double Award, or Triple Award pathways (depending on suitability).
- Arabic A & B – students study the MOE course with the option to take the iGCSE examination in Arabic.
- Islamic Studies – compulsory for Muslim students, now with the option to complete the iGCSE qualification.
- SMC (Social, Moral and Cultural Studies) – compulsory MOE subjects.
- Physical Education – all students have three hours per week, following a bespoke pathway and completing the BTEC Level 2 in Sport Science.

In addition to these core subjects, students choose three optional subjects based on their interests, allowing them to explore areas they enjoy and wish to study in greater depth. This ensures students have both a strong foundation and the opportunity to pursue their passions.



EXAMINATION FEES AND PAYMENT

All external exams and qualifications require an entry or registration fee. BTEC students, although not sitting traditional examinations, must still be registered for coursework assessments, with a fee paid to Pearson Edexcel. Registration ensures that each student is awarded their BTEC qualifications and certificates at the end of the two-year course, supporting progression to higher education and future careers.

Payment Requirements:

- All fees must be paid before the examination or assessment deadline.
- Each student will receive a bespoke examinations entry list, showing exactly which exams and qualifications they are being entered for and the required payments.
- The school resists additional charges, so students are encouraged to aim to succeed the first time, helping to avoid re-sits or extra fees.
- Payments are requested early in the academic year by the examinations officer at the start of the two-year course.

Students are encouraged to discuss course choices with subject teachers, heads of departments, form tutors, family, and friends, read course descriptions carefully, and consider content and assessment requirements before selecting their combination of subjects.

Useful Links for Further Information:

- Edexcel Examination Board: www.edexcel.org.uk
- UK University Applications: www.ucas.com
- Career Support: www.careers-gateway.co.uk
- Curriculum Support: [BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/education)

Please note that exam boards are reviewed annually as part of our quality assurance process and may be subject to change.

Edexcel | About Edexcel | Pearson qualifications

Edexcel qualifications are world-class academic and general qualifications from Pearson, including GCSEs, BTECS, A levels and International GCSEs, as well as NVQs and Functional Skills.

Please note that all subjects are offered subject to sufficient student uptake and may be subject to change.

Laptop Specification Requirements

Students in secondary school are required to have access to a personal laptop meeting the following minimum specifications: Intel Core i3 processor (10th Generation or newer), 8 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD storage (SSD is required — HDD is not acceptable), and a screen size of 14 inches or above. Windows 11 is the recommended operating system. Please note that iPads and other tablet devices are not recommended for secondary students, as they do not fully support the range of software and platforms used across the curriculum.

For better performance and future-proofing, we recommend an Intel Core i5 processor (11th Generation or newer), 16 GB RAM, and 512 GB SSD where possible.

Examples available in the UAE across different price points:

Entry-level (~1,800–2,200 AED) — Minimum spec

Lenovo IdeaPad 3 — Core i3, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD

Mid-range (~2,800–3,500 AED) — Recommended spec

HP Pavilion 15 — Core i5, 16GB RAM, 512GB SSD

Premium (~3,800–4,800 AED) — Recommended spec

Dell Inspiron 15 — Core i5/i7, 16GB RAM, 512GB SSD



ICT / AI (Edexcel International GCSE)

If you are curious about how technology shapes the modern world, ICT/AI is a powerful and future-focused choice. At Dove Green School, students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE pathway, gaining a globally recognised qualification that is respected by colleges and universities worldwide.

You will explore topics such as data representation, hardware and software systems, networks, cybersecurity, databases, website development and the social and ethical impact of technology. Within the AI elements, you will investigate how intelligent systems are trained, how algorithms make decisions, the basics of machine learning, automation in industry and the ethical challenges surrounding artificial intelligence. Lessons are practical and hands-on, with opportunities to design solutions, code programs and analyse digital systems.

Assessment follows the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE specification and includes external examinations as well as problem-solving tasks that test your understanding and application of knowledge. You will develop computational thinking, logical reasoning, creativity and resilience.

ICT/AI opens doors to careers in software engineering, cybersecurity, robotics, app development, digital marketing, data science, game design and emerging AI industries. In a rapidly changing digital world, this subject keeps your options open and highly relevant.



Spanish (Edexcel International GCSE)

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages globally, making it an incredibly valuable GCSE choice. Students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE course, building strong communication skills for the future.

You will develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills across engaging topics such as identity and culture, daily life, school, holidays, future ambitions, global issues and the environment. Lessons are interactive and focus on building confidence in real-life communication. You will practise conversations, role plays and authentic reading materials to strengthen fluency and accuracy.

Assessment includes final examinations in all four language skills, ensuring you are confident in every area of communication. The qualification is internationally recognised and highly valued by universities and employers.

Spanish enhances career prospects in international business, aviation, tourism, hospitality, diplomacy, translation and education. Studying a language also improves memory, cultural awareness and problem-solving skills — qualities that stand out in any career path.



French (Edexcel International GCSE)

French develops communication skills in one of the world's most influential languages. Students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE course.

Topics include identity, culture, school life, travel, future plans, global issues and social themes. Students build fluency through conversation practice, listening tasks and authentic texts.

Assessment includes examinations in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

French enhances opportunities in international business, diplomacy, tourism, aviation, translation and global careers. It enhances communication skills and fosters cultural awareness in an increasingly interconnected world.



ASDAN (Personal & Employability Skills)

ASDAN offers a highly practical and engaging learning pathway for students who thrive through coursework and real-life application. The qualification focuses on developing personal, social and employability skills that are essential for success beyond school.

Students complete units in areas such as teamwork, leadership, enterprise, community involvement, financial capability, wellbeing, communication and workplace preparation. Learning is project-based and often involves collaborative activities, presentations and practical challenges. Students build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate achievement rather than sitting traditional exams.

Assessment is entirely coursework-based, making it an excellent pathway for students who prefer continuous assessment. The qualification supports progression into BTEC courses, further education or employment.

ASDAN helps students grow in confidence, independence and responsibility. It prepares learners for careers across all industries by strengthening transferable skills that employers consistently value.



Music (Edexcel International GCSE)

Music is a vibrant and expressive subject that allows students to perform, compose and analyse music from a range of genres and cultures. The course follows the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE structure.

Students develop instrumental or vocal performance skills, create original compositions and study listening and appraisal techniques. Areas of study may include classical music, pop, film scores, world music and contemporary styles. Lessons combine creativity with technical understanding.

Assessment includes performance coursework, composition submissions and a listening examination.

Music supports careers in performance, production, sound engineering, teaching, media, composing and the broader creative industries. It builds discipline, creativity and presentation skills.



Dance (BTEC Performing Arts – Dance Pathway)

Dance is energetic, creative and physically engaging. Students follow a vocational BTEC pathway through Pearson Edexcel, developing both performance and professional skills.

You will explore choreography, rehearsal techniques, performance skills and the analysis of professional works. Styles may include contemporary, jazz, street, commercial and cultural dance forms. You will improve technique, strength, flexibility and stage presence while also learning about the performing arts industry.

Assessment is coursework-based and includes performances, choreography projects and written assignments analysing professional practice. There are no final written exams, making it ideal for students who excel in practical performance.

Dance can lead to careers in performance, choreography, teaching, fitness, event production and the wider creative industries. It builds discipline, teamwork and confidence that benefit all future pathways.

*Dance is subject to approval



Physical Education – BTEC Level 2

Physical Education is delivered as a BTEC Level 2 course, blending practical performance, sports science, and health education. Students participate in team and individual sports, fitness training, coaching, anatomy and physiology studies, and wellbeing activities.

Lessons integrate theory with practical application, and cross-curricular connections with Science (biomechanics, nutrition), Mathematics (fitness data analysis), and English (reporting and reflection) develop transferable skills. Assessment is coursework-based, including performance evaluation, reflective logs, training plans, and project work.

PE develops leadership, teamwork, organisation, problem-solving, time management, and personal discipline. Careers that benefit from PE include sports coaching, physiotherapy, sports science, health promotion, fitness training, event management, and leisure management. The subject also provides skills and knowledge that support success in academic study and wider professional life, while fostering long-term physical and personal wellbeing.



Design Technology (Edexcel International GCSE)

Design Technology combines creativity with innovation and engineering. Students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE, designing and manufacturing real products that solve practical problems.

Topics include product design, material properties (woods, metals, plastics and composites), sustainability, electronics, mechanical systems and computer-aided design (CAD). Students complete a substantial coursework project where they identify a problem, design a solution, manufacture a prototype and evaluate its success.

Assessment includes a written examination and a major coursework portfolio that demonstrates technical understanding and creativity.

Design Technology prepares students for careers in architecture, product design, engineering, interior design, automotive design and manufacturing. It encourages innovation, critical thinking and practical skill development.



BTEC Travel & Tourism

Travel & Tourism is ideal for students interested in global industries and customer experience. Delivered through Pearson Edexcel BTEC qualifications, this course is engaging and fully coursework-based.

Students explore the structure of the travel industry, holiday planning, global destinations, customer service, marketing and event management. Assignments are based on realistic industry scenarios, encouraging practical problem-solving and research skills.

Assessment is through coursework projects rather than final exams, supporting steady progress throughout the course.

This qualification prepares students for careers in aviation, cabin crew, hospitality, tourism management, hotel management, cruise operations and event planning. It develops communication and organisational skills essential in global industries.



History (Edexcel International GCSE)

History helps students understand the modern world by exploring key events and movements from the past. Students follow the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE specification.

Topics may include international conflict, civil rights movements, political change, revolutions and global relations. Students learn to analyse historical sources, debate interpretations and construct detailed essays supported by evidence.

Assessment is through written examinations that test knowledge, source analysis and evaluative skills.

History supports careers in law, politics, journalism, international relations, education and public service. It builds analytical thinking, structured



Business (Edexcel International GCSE)

Business Studies explores how organisations operate, compete and succeed in real markets. Students study the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualification.

Topics include entrepreneurship, marketing strategies, finance, operations, recruitment and business growth. Students analyse real-life case studies and interpret financial data.

Assessment is exam-based, focusing on data response questions and extended written answers.

Business prepares students for careers in entrepreneurship, management, marketing, finance, banking and economics. It develops decision-making and commercial awareness skills that are valuable in any industry.



Esports (BTEC Pathway)

Esports is a rapidly growing global industry. Delivered as a BTEC qualification through Pearson Edexcel, this course focuses on the competitive, business and production aspects of gaming.

Students explore game design principles, streaming, event management, branding, teamwork, industry structure and digital media production. The course blends technical knowledge with communication and organisational skills.

Assessment is coursework-based, including practical projects and industry-style assignments.

Esports can lead to careers in game development, event production, digital marketing, content creation, broadcasting and media management. It combines passion for gaming with professional career pathways.

*Esports is subject to approval



Art (Edexcel International GCSE)

Art encourages creativity, experimentation and personal expression. Students work within the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE framework.

Students explore drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media and digital techniques. They build a coursework portfolio showing development, experimentation and refinement of ideas, culminating in an externally set assignment.

Assessment is largely portfolio-based with a final controlled project.

Art supports careers in graphic design, architecture, animation, fashion, illustration and fine art. It nurtures imagination, independence and creative confidence.



English – ELC, ESL, IELTS, Literature & Language (Edexcel International / Cambridge)

English at Dove Green School is a fundamental subject that equips students with essential communication, analytical, and critical thinking skills.

It forms the foundation for success across all academic disciplines and prepares students for a wide range of careers in the future. Students, from those in ELC and ESL programmes to those preparing for IELTS or IGCSE Literature & Language, are fully supported to develop fluency, confidence, and academic rigour.

Students explore reading, writing, speaking, listening, and comprehension in depth. Literary analysis covers themes, characterisation, language techniques, and narrative structure, while writing activities focus on persuasive, descriptive, creative, and argumentative forms. Speaking and listening lessons include presentations, debates, and collaborative discussions, helping students articulate complex ideas with clarity. Cross-curricular links with History, Geography, and Science enable students to apply analytical and comprehension skills across different subjects, reinforcing structured thinking and critical evaluation.

Assessment includes internal coursework, extended writing tasks, oral presentations, and formal examinations. Through these experiences, students develop transferable skills such as research, reasoning, structured writing, and oral communication. English supports careers in law, journalism, media, international business, education, translation, and communications. It also strengthens skills essential to other subjects, including Science, Business, and History, fostering the ability to analyse, interpret, and communicate ideas effectively in both academic and professional contexts.



Science – ELC, Single, Double, Triple (Edexcel / Cambridge)

Science at Dove Green School encourages curiosity, analytical thinking, and practical problem-solving. Students engage with Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, learning about human biology, ecosystems, genetics, chemical reactions, energy, electricity, forces, and physical systems.

Triple science learners extend into advanced experimental techniques, complex theories, and data analysis, providing preparation for further academic study and professional fields.

Lessons include experiments, research projects, and applied problem-solving tasks. Cross-curricular connections with Mathematics help students analyse data, interpret graphs, and calculate results, while links with Geography support understanding of ecosystems, climate change, and environmental systems. Science assessment includes practical investigations, coursework, and formal examinations. The subject develops transferable skills such as observation, logical reasoning, experimental design, analytical thinking, and teamwork. Careers that benefit from strong scientific knowledge include medicine, engineering, biotechnology, environmental science, research, pharmacy, forensic science, and emerging technology sectors. Science education equips students with critical skills for solving real-world problems while enhancing their ability to succeed in other academic areas that require analysis, logic, and structured thinking.



Arabic – ABTs & IGCSE (Ministry & Edexcel)

Arabic is offered through ABTs and Edexcel IGCSE courses, allowing native and non-native speakers to develop strong language skills while achieving academic excellence. Students improve reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension through engagement with literature, media texts, grammar, and creative writing.

Lessons develop analytical thinking and expression, and cross-curricular connections with English and Islamic Studies enhance literacy, structured writing, and argumentation. Assessment combines internal portfolios, oral examinations, and formal IGCSE exams.

Arabic develops skills in communication, critical thinking, analysis, and cultural awareness. Careers benefiting from Arabic proficiency include education, translation, journalism, diplomacy, government, international business, and media. Mastery of Arabic also supports success in other subjects by reinforcing comprehension, analysis, and evaluative skills, which are essential for both academic achievement and professional pathways.



Islamic Studies – IGCSE

Islamic Studies provides students with knowledge, ethical reasoning, and reflective skills. Students study Qur’anic studies, Hadith, Fiqh, and contemporary social and ethical issues. Lessons encourage enquiry, discussion, and critical evaluation of ideas.

Cross-curricular links with Arabic, History, and English strengthen analytical skills, structured writing, and reasoning. Assessment includes written examinations and coursework projects. Islamic Studies develops skills in research, ethical reasoning, communication, and reflection. Careers linked to the subject include education, law, social services, community leadership, and cultural advisory roles. It equips students with both subject-specific knowledge and transferable skills for future professional and academic success.





Dove Green

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Green Community,
Dubai Investments Park,
Post Box: 51159
Dubai, UAE.



+971 4 883 7474



info@dovegreenschool.com

