

**SUBJECT INFORMATION
FOR YEARS 12 & 13
2024/2025**

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EXECUTIVE HEAD'S LETTER

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Entry into Year 12 is based on academic record and potential, and requires an increased commitment. IGCSE/GCSE grades A*-B, grades 9 - 6, or equivalent, are normally required, but there are subjects that are not dependent on previous study at IGCSE/GCSE. Students should cultivate sound work habits and learn to study independently.

General Certificate of Education (GCE) and International A Level (IAL) AS/A Level courses form the core of the curriculum in Years 12 and 13. Students in Year 12 usually study four subjects. Each subject has an assigned number of 'direct contact' periods. 'Non-contact' periods are for private study and are considered as 'study periods'. When reading this Subject Information, you will notice that each subject is assigned a specific subject code, along with a corresponding link. This link will direct you to the comprehensive syllabus for each subject on either the Cambridge International or Pearson Edexcel website.

The Heritage Private School is a Cambridge International Fellowship Centre as well as an Examination Centre for Cambridge International Education (<http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>) and Pearson Edexcel International Examinations (<http://qualifications.pearson.com>).



In addition, we are proud that the School is a recipient of the prestigious British Council International School Award (ISA) 2023-2026 for its *outstanding development of the international dimension in the curriculum*. It is currently the only school in Cyprus to have been re-awarded the ISA.



Apart from their chosen subjects, students in Years 12 and 13 attend compulsory PE/Sports lessons and in addition, students in Year 12 follow a Careers and Life Skills programme. For those who do not choose a subject in block B1, Financial Education is compulsory. Years 12 and 13 students are expected to develop a range of interests, make good use of their time and show a responsible attitude. They are also expected to contribute to the life of the School by accepting additional responsibilities and taking a lead in School activities or as elected Prefects. Students are also encouraged to participate in super-curricular activities which aim to enrich subject knowledge beyond the curriculum.

The Executive Head, Secondary School Academic Heads, Pastoral Head of Key Stage 5, Form Tutors and Subject Teachers offer advice and support throughout the two years. They help students plan their time efficiently and develop a disciplined approach to their studies. The Academic Advisers offer careers guidance and full support in applying for Higher Education courses. A Careers Presentation on Student Internships is held annually to inform students about internship opportunities and to encourage them to apply for Student Work Placements. We also greatly encourage our students to participate in community service.

During Years 12 and 13, students make important decisions about their future. The Careers and Life Skills programme aims to widen and deepen the understanding of possibilities, so that every student can make positive and well-informed choices. External speakers are invited to present various topics to the students. In addition, particularly in Year 13, individual appointments are arranged on completing application forms, and where necessary, preparing for interviews. The progress of each application is monitored by the School's Academic Advisers. We fully support our students with researching universities all around the world, as well as providing them with the necessary documents and reference letters. Additionally, students are assisted when writing their motivation letters, personal statements, Common App essays, and CVs which are required to apply to the institutions of their choice.

GCE and IAL AS/A Level examinations require intense and in-depth study. We hope that students will enjoy their final years at school, will be fully involved in the life of the School, and will achieve excellent results so that they can approach adult life with confidence.

Ms Elena Smilas
Executive Head

GCE AND IAL AS/A LEVEL SUBJECTS

Each Cambridge A Level and Pearson Edexcel International A Level (IAL) subject is modular, and divided into two parts: AS and A2. For the subjects that are Pearson Edexcel International A Levels (IALs), the two parts are called IAS and IA2. The AS/IAS contains work covered in Year 12 and is typically examined at the end of Year 12. The second part of an A Level course is referred to as A2/IA2 and is typically examined at the end of Year 13. However, as these AS/IAS and AL/IAL subjects are modular, each examination module (or level, in the case of Cambridge) taken or re-taken at any stage of Year 12 or 13 will count as a specific proportion, towards the overall qualification awarded.

Pearson Edexcel linear AS and A Levels are standalone qualifications, meaning that students who opt for these subjects will first take the AS Level at the end of Year 12, and then will be fully assessed again at the end of Year 13, where the A Level examinations will cover the whole two years' work. The exceptions are Art & Design, Drama & Theatre, Hebrew, Russian and Physical Education, where only the full A Level is available. Politics is also a linear subject, however, it is available as an AS Level standalone qualification and at full A Level.

We advise students to choose four AS/IAS subjects for Year 12 and to proceed with three of these subjects as full A Levels in Year 13. Students may carefully select from the subject list below, depending on interests, strengths, university course requirements (if any) and availability. In Year 13, students must also choose one subject from the University Preparation Block below.

The selection of five subjects should be an exception, for exceptional candidates. There is little evidence that universities are more impressed by one extra subject, and a student should only do so if the student is confident that he/she can cope with the load without grades suffering.

AS/IAS Levels are designed to encourage a broader curriculum and allow students to study a wider range of subjects. You may therefore wish to choose one subject which contrasts with your other choices.

Subject list for Years 12 and 13:

Accounting	Economics	Mathematics
Art & Design: Fine Art	English Language	Further Mathematics
Art & Design: Textiles	French	Music
Biology	Geography	Physical Education
Business	German	Physics
Chemistry	Hebrew	Politics
Computer Science	History	Psychology
Drama & Theatre	Literature in English	Spanish

University Preparation Block:

AS Critical Skills in Contemporary Issues	ICDL
Extended Project Qualification	IELTS
A2 Greek or C1 Greek	A2 Russian
DELF French A2	AS Thinking Skills
Goethe-Zertifikat German A2	

IGCSE French, DELF French, IGCSE German, German Goethe Zertifikat, IELTS and A Level Russian are also available as Institute lessons (at an additional fee).

UNIVERSITY COURSES AND REQUIRED/PREFERRED A LEVELS

University applications

Most universities worldwide will accept candidates holding three AL/IAL, with the top universities sometimes also requiring an additional subject at A Level/IAL, or at AS/IAS Level. It is possible that some universities may make offers based on the Apolytirion, usually with additional AL/IAL qualifications. The academic rigour and international acceptance of A Level/IAL qualifications mean that it is in the interest of students to obtain their very best grades in these examinations, as they will remain an important and valuable element of students' CVs throughout their future careers. The USA and several other countries are also likely to require a Transcript of internal and external grades including internal examination results from Year 10 onwards, so students must ensure that their academic performance throughout these years reflects their best efforts. Students are additionally reminded that internal grades for non-examination subjects (e.g. PE and Careers/Life Skills) as well as for examination subjects, are recorded on Transcripts and the School Leaving Certificate (Apolytirion), which is issued after completion of Year 13.

UK universities

For UK universities, in addition to A Level/IAL qualifications there is generally also a requirement for IGCSE grade C or above in English Language (First/Second depending on the course) or level 6 or above in IELTS (depending on the course) and IGCSE grade C or above in Mathematics (although the top universities may require a B or A grade). For certain courses, particular A Level/IAL subjects are specified as a basic requirement, but this may differ among universities. For other courses, universities may prefer but not insist on certain subjects/combinations. You must look at admissions requirements on university websites, and for the UK, in the 'Course Search' facility of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) website (www.ucas.com) to ascertain the general and specific course requirements for the subject that you are interested in. An A Level/IAL subject in your own (non-English) language is recognised and accepted by higher education establishments but it should be your 4th or 5th A Level/IAL subject.

Instead of publishing expected grades, universities using the UCAS application portal may alternatively use the UCAS 'Tariff Points' system. The UCAS Tariff Points for university entrance is:

GRADE	FULL A LEVEL / IAL TARIFF POINTS	AS LEVEL / IAS ONLY TARIFF POINTS	(EPQ) EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION
A*	56	N/A	28
A	48	20	24
B	40	16	20
C	32	12	16
D	24	10	12
E	16	6	8

If a student achieves the full GCE A Level/IAL qualification, then the AS/IAS UCAS Tariff Points for that subject are not counted; AS/IAS Tariff Points only count if the student does not go on to take the full GCE A Level/IAL.

UCAS tariff points are also awarded for Grade 6 and above for:

- Practical Music Examinations
- Theory of Music Examinations
- Speech and Drama Examinations
- Graded RAD Ballet and Vocational Graded RAD Ballet

For more information on the UCAS Tariff Points system, see: www.ucas.com.

European universities

For details of courses taught in the English language across mainland Europe, including application procedures and entrance requirements, see the Eunicas website (<http://www.eunicas.com/>). Additionally, our students can access valuable resources on the Unifrog platform using the School's login details, which provides a convenient and centralised hub for further exploration of educational opportunities.

Universities in the USA

For higher education in the USA, visit the College Board website (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>). Many universities use the Common Application portal for online applications, but some university applications are made directly to the individual institution.

For potential study in the USA, in addition to our Academic Advisers' support, the 'Study USA' organisation in Nicosia can also help you to identify suitable subjects and the best universities for each. Visit their website at: <http://www.studyusa.com.cy/>.

Universities in Canada

For higher education in Canada, a good place to start researching universities and courses is the Universitystudy.ca website (<http://www.universitystudy.ca/>). Typically, university applications to Canada are made directly to the individual institution.

Other countries

In terms of applications to other countries, there are many more options for higher education worldwide and students should research courses in their country of choice to ascertain admission requirements and deadlines; the School gives assistance and guidance to students wherever they decide to apply.

Postponement of Higher Education

After graduation from Year 13, some students may have to postpone their higher education studies, typically those who are first required to complete their compulsory military service. As a result, these students may have not been able to take immediate advantage of the high level of support we offer in guiding our leavers through the university application process. The School would like to assure Heritage School graduates that they can still rely on our help and support after military service or postponement of higher education for any other reason. All current students and graduates are therefore warmly encouraged to seek our advice and assistance when they are ready to make their university decisions and applications.

EFFICIENT USE OF TIME

Being able to make effective use of Years 12 & 13 depends on setting the right priorities from the beginning. Clearly, the AS/IAS and A Level/IAL subjects are most important, and must take priority over other activities.

Students are expected to spend about 3 - 4 hours per day study time at home in addition to the timetabled lessons and study periods. A large proportion of a student's study time will be spent on work that has been set, but time should also be allocated to background reading, research and revision, to consolidate work previously covered.

Life in Years 12 & 13 will present new challenges and responsibilities. It is essential to acquire the work habits which will stand students in good stead for the future. Students will be increasingly responsible for the effective management of their work and will need to learn to plan their work and to show initiative. Specifically, students will need to think carefully and take action about how to:

- Plan their week and organise their time.
- Keep up with the reading and research tasks they are given.
- Develop their essay-writing skills.
- Make the most of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).
- Ensure they meet all coursework deadlines.
- Organise individual study sessions.
- Take effective notes.
- Keep up to date with all their assignments.
- Prepare for examinations.
- Research and plan for their higher education.

Whilst our main aim for Years 12 & 13 students is to enable them to fulfil their academic potential and gain entry to the university of their choice, extracurricular and super-curricular activities are also essential, as they develop other skills. Such activities include the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Clubs, Community Service, Projects, Competitions, Drama, Music and Sports. It is through fulfilling their academic potential, whilst at the same time participating in these activities, that students develop those vital qualities of self-motivation, self-awareness, self-discipline and self-confidence that will be the key to their success.

Students in Years 12 & 13 have more responsibilities, but they also enjoy some privileges. We treat our Years 12 & 13 students as young adults, so that their transition to university and the world at large will be as smooth as possible.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTARY WORK PLACEMENTS

Community Service and Voluntary Work Placement opportunities are open to Year 11 students in the summer following their IGCSE/GCSE examinations, and also to Years 12 & 13 students. These are activities that require a personalised approach and arrangement, as each student has different aptitudes and aspirations. All students are greatly encouraged to participate in Community Service or a Voluntary Work Placement. A Careers Presentation on Student Internships is held annually to assist students in identifying appropriate placements. Please remember that some Voluntary Work Placements are competitive and will require the student to attend an interview. In all cases, those accepting students for service or placements will have high expectations, and students should therefore approach these arrangements intending to do credit to themselves, their parents/guardians and the School.

SUMMARY OF POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING YOUR CHOICES

- University places are usually conditional on the grades obtained in three A Level/IAL subjects.
- The quality of your results at AS/IAS and AL/IAL is more important than the quantity.
- AS/IAS and AL/IAL performance is a major factor in university selection. For some subjects, and for the best universities, the top grades are required.
- Try to ensure that at least two of your AS/IAS and AL/IAL choices are related to your intended field of study in higher education and/or career.

- Consider your academic strengths and weaknesses, and choose courses which you will enjoy and in which you think you will do well.
- Think about your long-term aims, insofar as you have considered these at this stage in your life.
- You need to consider whether your choices will satisfy the requirements of the university course you wish to follow.
- If you have a university course in mind, you should talk to the relevant Subject Teacher(s) and to the Academic Advisers. They will be able to advise you on which AL/IAL subjects are recommended or will be desirable, to give you the best possible competitive edge in your university applications.
- You do not necessarily need to choose a university course directly relevant to your subsequent career. Many graduates enter careers for which no particular degree course is specified. Even in areas where a relevant course is available, it is not necessarily required.

AS & A LEVEL SYLLABUSES WITH LINKS AND SUBJECT CODES

Art & Design: Fine Art or Textiles	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9FA0 or 9TE0	<u>Art & Design: Fine Art or Textiles</u>
Biology	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XBI11 and YBI11	<u>Biology</u>
Business Studies	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XBS11 and YBS11	<u>Business</u>
Chemistry	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XCH11 and YCH11	<u>Chemistry</u>
Computer Science	Cambridge International A Level, 9618	<u>Computer Science</u>
Drama and Theatre	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9DR0	<u>Drama and Theatre</u>
Critical Skills in Contemporary Issues (CSCI)	Cambridge International AS Level, 8021	<u>Critical Skills in Contemporary Issues (CSCI)</u>
Economics	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XEC11 and YEC11	<u>Economics</u>
English Language	Cambridge International A Level, 9093	<u>English Language</u>
English Literature	Cambridge International A Level, 9695	<u>English Literature</u>
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Pearson Edexcel, Level 3 Extended Project Qualification	<u>EPQ</u>
French	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XFR01 and YFR01	<u>French</u>
French (Delf) A2	DELF	<u>French Delf</u>
Further Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XFM01 and YFM01	<u>Further Mathematics</u>
Geography	Cambridge International A Level, 9696	<u>Geography</u>
German	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XGN01 and YGN01	<u>German</u>
German (Goethe Zertifikat) A2	Goethe-Zertifikat	<u>German Goethe</u>
Greek A Level	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XGK01 and YGK01	<u>Greek A Level</u>
Greek (Ellinomatheia) C1	Greek Language Certification	<u>Greek C1</u>
Modern Hebrew	AQA A Level, 7672	<u>Modern Hebrew</u>
History	Cambridge International A Level, 9489	<u>History</u>
ICDL	ICDL Europe	<u>ICDL</u>

IELTS	IELTS	<u>IELTS</u>
Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XMA01 and YMA01	<u>Mathematics</u>
Music	Cambridge International A Level, 9483	<u>Music</u>
Physical Education	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9PE0	<u>Physical Education</u>
Physics	Pearson Edexcel International A Level, XPH11 and YPH11	<u>Physics</u>
Politics	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9PL0	<u>Politics</u>
Psychology	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, YPS01	<u>Psychology</u>
Russian	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9RU0	<u>Russian</u>
Thinking Skills	Cambridge International AS Level, 9694	<u>Thinking Skills (AS only)</u>

ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AS INSTITUTE CLASSES (at an additional fee).

French DELF	DELF	<u>French</u>
French	Cambridge International GCSE 0520	<u>French</u>
German Goethe Zertifikat	Goethe-Zertifikat	<u>German</u>
GCSE Greek	Pearson Edexcel GCSE 1GK0	<u>Greek</u>
IELTS	IELTS	<u>IELTS</u>
GCE A Level Psychology	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, YPS01	<u>Psychology</u>
GCSE Russian	Pearson Edexcel GCSE 1RU0	<u>Russian</u>
GCE A Level Russian	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level, 9RU0	<u>Russian</u>

CONTACT DETAILS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS

If you have any further questions on the teaching or assessing of any of the subjects, then please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff as follows:

Subject	Contact	Email Address
Accounting	Ms Anastasia Anastasiou	anastasia.anastasiou@hps.ac.cy
Art & Design	Ms Sheila Wright	sheila.wright@hps.ac.cy
Biology	Ms Aurore Nahas	aurore.nahas@hps.ac.cy
Business	Ms Anna Christodoulou	anna.christodoulou@hps.ac.cy
Chemistry	Ms Rana Khabazze	rana.khabazze@hps.ac.cy
Computer Science	Ms Martha Paschali	martha.paschali@hps.ac.cy
CSCI	Ms Natalie Aoun	natalie.aoun@hps.ac.cy
Drama	Ms Alexandra Kouris	alexandra.kouris@hps.ac.cy
Economics	Mr Demetris Kouris	demetris.kouris@hps.ac.cy
English Language/Literature	Mr Simon Demetriou	simon.demetriou@hps.ac.cy
Extended Project Qualification	Mr Simon Demetriou	simon.demetriou@hps.ac.cy
French	Ms Anna Potey	anna.potey@hps.ac.cy
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ICDL	Ms Martha Paschali	martha.paschali@hps.ac.cy
IELTS	Mr Simon Demetriou	simon.demetriou@hps.ac.cy
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Politics	Mr Sergio Savva	sergios.savva@hps.ac.cy
Psychology	Mr Dina Themistocleous	dina.themistocleous@hps.ac.cy
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Russian	Ms Ada Panayiotou	ada.panayiotou@hps.ac.cy
Spanish	Ms Maria Aphami	maria.aphami@hps.ac.cy
Thinking Skills	Ms Maria Constantinou	maria.constantinou@hps.ac.cy