



**PEPONI**  
SCHOOL

IGCSE Options  
2024





Peponi's belief that imagination is a source to great learning and adventure is actively nourished in its encouragement of all its pupils.

The academic life of Peponi is guided by two key principles: to educate pupils to know as broadly, and to think as independently and incisively as possible. By such means we push to achieve the best possible examination results for each pupil.

GCSE's were first introduced in 1986 by combining the 'O' Level and GCSE exams together and making coursework a part of the

overall assessment. The International GCSE or rather IGCSE first came about in 1988 and has since been internationally recognised, available in over 120 countries around the world, with over 70 subjects on offer for study, including many languages. It has been permitted in state schools since 2010 as an alternative to the traditional GCSE examination.

Some new IGCSEs are graded 9–1, rather than A\*–G. Grade 9 is the highest grade, set above the current A\*. The new system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving pupils.

# Introduction

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The Peponi curriculum goals are to support all pupils to realise their full potential, academically, athletically, pastorally, and socially. It is expected that this will be achieved through the provision of a number of academic options that provide excellent instruction, assessment, tracking, and evaluation of all pupils.

Peponi School, has enjoyed success with International General Certificate Secondary Education (IGCSE) examinations. These courses are the international version of external examinations taken by virtually all pupils in the English education system at the end of the Upper Vth, usually when they are sixteen years old. For the majority of Peponi pupils the examination results are used by universities as a very important indicator of an applicant's abilities. Therefore, making the right decision at this stage will affect future options.

It is advisable that pupils maintain as broad an education as they can for as long as they can. IGCSE offers both the breadth and depth required to attain this.

This guide is designed to provide Peponi School Shell pupils and their parents with important information about choosing courses and subjects for Lower Vth and through to IGCSE examination in the Upper Vth.

Every Peponi pupil will take as his or her core IGCSE course examinations in the following

## Subjects:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science (for all pupils this is taught as separate subjects by specialist teachers, but leads to two certificates; however more able pupils may have the chance to complete examination in each of the three sciences, therefore gaining three certificates)

We highly recommend that every student takes a Modern Foreign Language from a choice of Spanish, French and Kiswahili. Please take time to read about each subject (including the compulsory ones) and support your child with deciding upon which subjects they would like to continue with up to IGCSE level. Pupils will be expected to pick four optional subjects; when added to the compulsory subjects, this gives a total of nine or ten IGCSEs.

## Useful links:

- <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.cie.org.uk/>



# Timetable

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Subject	Number of lessons in a fortnight
English	10
Mathematics	10
Biology	7
Chemistry	7
Physics	7
Subject 1	7
Subject 2	7
Subject 3	7
Subject 4	7
Games	8
PSHE	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>

The timetable is based on a 40-lesson week. The School runs a fortnight cycle, with the first week known as 'Week A' and the second as 'Week B'.

Pupils are expected to be engaged for all 80 lessons. There are no 'free' lessons. If a pupil requires extra support then they may be assessed, allowing them to spend time in the Crane (our Special Education Needs Department - SEND).

Pupils sit all IGCSE examinations at the end of the Upper Vth in the Trinity term; except for some Mathematics pupils, who may sit the examination early, in the Hilary term of the Upper Vth, and some native-language speakers who may sit their examinations at the end of the Lower Vth.



# Examinations

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Peponi School is an examination centre for both Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and Edexcel Examinations boards.

IGCSEs are examined through a mixture of written examinations and controlled assessments (coursework). The top grade for IGCSE is A\* and the lowest pass grade is officially G; however employers and universities do not regard any grade below C as a pass.

In some subjects, mainly in the Arts and Humanities, the examination covers the complete ability range and there is no choice of curriculum. For these subjects, the full range of grades is available (A\* to G).

In English and Mathematics, to take account of differing abilities, there is a choice between Core and Extended curriculum papers. This allows teachers to decide on the more appropriate level of papers for each individual pupil.

The Core Curriculum is targeted at those not expected to achieve above a grade C. The Extended Curriculum, comprising the Core curriculum and the Supplement, is designed for the academically more able who are expected to achieve grades A\* to B (although grades of C and below may be awarded).

In the Sciences there are three examinable routes: pupils of extended ability take two examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and receive a certificate with three grades in Science; pupils with core ability take one examination in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and receive a certificate with two grades in Science; or pupils who do not necessarily want to pursue Science after IGCSE may opt to take a single IGCSE in Science.

In 2013, Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England) and the UK government announced a number of changes to GCSE and GCE A Level qualifications in England. This includes the introduction of a new (9–1) grading scale, with 9 as the top grade, from September 2015 onwards.

Pearson Edexcel has adopted this grading system, and from 2018 all IGCSEs taken under the Pearson Edexcel umbrella have been awarded using the 9–1 grading scale. Please note, that some CIE IGCSEs conducted out of the UK continue to be graded under the A\*–G grading.

Grade 9 represents a new level of attainment for the very top performers and is higher than an A\* grade. With 9 levels of performance in the new grading scale, rather than the 8 in the current grading scale, there is greater differentiation of the most able at the top end of the grading scale, helping high-achieving pupils to make informed decisions about their A level and university choices.

There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades (4, 5 and 6) aligned to the current C and B grades. This means that the 9–1 grading scale rewards top grade C pupils with a new grade 5, and top B grade students with a new grade 6, motivating pupils and supporting progression.

# Examinations

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Pupils at Peponi School are prepared for IGCSE examinations by a team of dedicated staff, who work hard to bring out the best in all of our pupils.

The IGCSE courses are currently taught by the following teachers.  
(These are the current teachers, changes may occur for the next academic year).

Subject	Teacher	Subject	Teacher
English	Ms. L. Ayatta, Mr. K. Cook, Ms. C. Nightingale, Mr. S. Tucker	French	Mr. Y. Henry, Ms. J. Olembo
Mathematics	Mr. D. Kimani, Mr. A. Mogere, Mr. J. Njoroge, Mr. J. Pallister, Mr. C. Kaunda, Mr. S. Odundo, Ms. M. Kinyua, Ms. R. Kuiru	Spanish	Mr. Y. Henry, Ms. I. Correa
		Swahili	Ms. J. Olembo
		Business Studies	Mr. S. Njoroge, Mr. P. Nduati, Mr. G. Kiyimba
Biology	Ms. L. Gillespie, Mr. R. Backhouse, Ms. P. Amondi	Geography	Ms. E. Litoro, Mr. J. Ogodo
Chemistry	Mr. C. Kamande, Mr. E. Wachara, Ms. P. Amondi, Mr. P. Chege	History	Mr. J. Ogodo, Mr. J. Njuguna
Physics	Mr. C. Kaunda, Mr. S. Odundo, Mr. P. Chege	Art and Design	Ms. B. Wakhu, Ms. M. Mukule
		Drama	Ms. C. Moon
		Music	Mr. J. Laight
		ICT	Mr. T. Njuguna, Mr. J. Kutner
		Physical Education	Mr. D. Massey, Ms. H. Sweatman
		Religious Studies	Mr. S. Strain, Ms. E. Mwangi

In addition to the academic on-campus programme our teachers supplement many of these courses with trips that encourage application of the theory covered in class.

The academic programme is constantly monitored to ensure that lessons stimulate enjoyment whilst fostering originality, analytical rigour and clarity of expression.

Learning support is provided by the Crane Department; headed by Fredrick Matu to ensure that all pupils fulfil their potential. This department works in conjunction with members of the Common Room across all curriculum areas to provide a coherent and coordinated approach.

# Core Subjects

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The core curriculum at Peponi will provide a pupil with five IGCSEs. English, Mathematics and the Sciences provide every pupil with a substantial, well balanced curriculum, central to a strong portfolio of A Levels.

## English Language

The compulsory core English course is designed to enhance and extend the skills that have been developed over previous years and to equip all pupils with the ability to use and respond to language and literature with flair and confidence in professional and personal contexts.

A 'C' grade in English Language is essential for all pupils hoping to embark on higher education courses. A high level of skill in communication will lead to careers in Journalism, Management, Marketing, Law, The Media, Politics and work with International Organisations.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0500
Assessment	Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition (Core and Extended)

## English Literature

The subject develops the pupil's ability to analyse and argue a point of view maturely and effectively, while fostering a deep love of literature, that will equip pupils with skills of critical analysis and personal expression that can be transferred to the most challenging areas of academic and professional endeavour.

The syllabus gives pupils the space and opportunity to explore a wide range of literary texts in depth, and to develop a greater knowledge of English Literature in historical, cultural and theoretical contexts.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0475
Assessment	Paper 1 Poetry and Prose Paper 3 Drama (Open Text) Paper 4 Unseen

## Drama (option subject)

This course helps pupils develop communication skills, creativity and imagination, while appreciating the practical and theoretical elements of theatre.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0411
Assessment	Paper 1 Written Examination Paper 2 Dramatic Presentation & Coursework

It is very important that pupils and parents think carefully about the choice of IGCSE subjects. The ability, previous track record and level of interest in a particular subject; enjoyment of a subject over a number of years, and continued success in examinations in that subject are both good pointers to the suitability of an option.

## Mathematics

As a compulsory subject, all pupils take Mathematics and most tertiary educational institutions require at least grade C (4) as an essential for entry. A pass at IGCSE or similar is also a requirement for all pupils wishing to go on to study any A Level at Peponi. Classes are differentiated by setting, to enable all pupils to flourish. The top group will be taught well beyond the confines and requirements of IGCSE, and work in more breadth and at an advanced level. The syllabus aims to enable pupils to develop their mathematical knowledge and skills. They will learn to apply Mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part that Mathematics plays in the world around them and will be encouraged to apply their mathematical skills in other areas of the curriculum.

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson Edexcel
<b>Syllabus</b>	4MA1
<b>Assessment</b>	Paper 1F or 3H
	Paper 2F or 4H

Pupils are advised by their teachers to take papers 1 and 2 for the core level (foundation tier); or papers 3 and 4 for the extended level (higher tier).

Set A is a set focusing on Further Maths and this set will sit for the IGCSE exam in the June of the Lower Vth, AS Maths in the Upper Vth with A Level Maths and Further Maths studied in the VIth Form.

## Science

Peponi offers three routes in terms of the Science curriculum. The IGCSE Edexcel Single Award in Science culminating in one IGCSE grade. Alternatively, the IGCSE Edexcel Double Award in Science which culminates in two IGCSE grades; or the Triple Award, IGCSE Edexcel Biology, IGCSE Edexcel Chemistry and IGCSE Edexcel Physics. For all routes each science is taught separately by specialist teachers and considerable emphasis is placed on practical work.

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson Edexcel
<b>Syllabus</b>	Science Single Award 4SS0
<b>Assessment</b>	Paper 1 (Biology) – 60 marks
	Paper 2 (Chemistry) – 60 marks
	Paper 3 (Physics) – 60 marks

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson Edexcel
<b>Syllabus</b>	Science Double Award 4SD0
<b>Assessment</b>	Paper 1B (Biology) – 110 marks
	Paper 1C (Chemistry) – 110 marks
	Paper 1P (Physics) – 110 marks

<b>Exam Board</b>	Pearson Edexcel
<b>Syllabus</b>	Triple Award 4B1, 4C1, 4P1
<b>Assessment</b>	Paper 1B and 2B (Biology) – 180 marks
	Paper 1C and 2C (Chemistry) – 180 marks
	Paper 1P and 2P (Physics) – 180 marks



# The Modern Foreign Languages

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The Modern Foreign Languages aim to develop a pupil's ability to communicate effectively in a language other than English. The syllabuses seek to instill a useful level of linguistic competence and provide a meaningful experience of the means of language acquisition.

## French and Spanish

We encourage Peponi pupils who studied Spanish, French or Swahili in Shell to continue with at least one of these languages.

In the classrooms the lessons will revolve around all four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing which will involve the pupils in pair work activities, group project work and in consolidating individual grammatical accuracy.

Studying a modern foreign language is imperative for those pupils with an interest in international business, travel and tourism, journalism, law, teaching or the media.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	French 7156, Spanish 7160 (9-1)
Assessment	Paper 1 Listening
	Paper 2 Reading
	Paper 3 Speaking
	Paper 4 Writing

Native speakers of French or Spanish may have the option of taking the CIE First Language paper, tested at a higher level than the Foreign Language options described above.

## Kiswahili

Swahili is the only language for which we use Edexcel instead of CIE.

The syllabus is engaging and suitable for all pupils. It has been developed to meet specific local needs, with the main focus on reading, writing, and to a lesser extent translation skills in Paper 1. Paper 2 assesses listening skills.

The Swahili language will benefit those who plan to work within East and Central Africa where the language is widely used.

Pupils who decide to study Swahili at Key Stage 4 will have the opportunity to develop a very good understanding of the language but also the culture they are being exposed to in Kenya.

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus	Swahili 3162
Assessment	Paper 1

# The Humanities

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The Humanities offer pupils an opportunity to study how people process and document the human experience and culture. At Peponi, this includes the subjects: Business Studies, Geography, History and Religious Studies.

## Business Studies

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different types of businesses. Successful Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies learners will be able to:

- understand different forms of business organisations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance
- appreciate the role of people in business success.

They will also gain lifelong skills, including:

- The ability to calculate and interpret business data
- Communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons
- The ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgments.

For Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies, candidates take two compulsory components, Paper 1 and Paper 2. Both question papers will draw on topics taken from the whole of the syllabus content. All candidates are eligible for grades A\* to G.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0450
Assessment	Paper 1: Short answer and data response
	Paper 2: Case Study

## Geography

This course encourages the pupil's understanding of the interaction between the human and physical environments and the opportunities and constraints provided by these relationships.

The syllabus aims to encourage pupils to become eager to achieve a sense of place, develop an understanding of different cultures and understand the major environmental problems facing us all. The skills practised during the course centre around presentation of information, graphical interpretation and decision-making as well as the traditional approach to the development of knowledge and understanding.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0460
Assessment	Paper 1 Geographical Themes
	Paper 2 Geographical Skills
	Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework

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## History

History IGCSE fosters in pupils a desire to acquire knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past, and how it affects the world of today. Pupils learn the nature of cause and consequence, continuity and change, similarity and difference, as well as developing an interest in contemporary international issues.

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.

IGCSE Component 1, 2 hours written paper. Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core Content) and one question from Section B (Depth Study). All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c). 60 marks.

Component 2, is a 2 hours written paper. Candidates answer six questions on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content. 50 marks.

Component 4, 1 hour written paper – Alternative to Coursework. Candidates answer one question on a Depth Study. 40 marks.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus	0470
Assessment	Paper 1 Structured Essays
	Paper 2 Prescribed Topic
	Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework

## Religious Studies

The Religious Studies IGCSE course promotes each pupil's understanding of religious beliefs, values and traditions. This is achieved through the study of various philosophical and ethical issues along with a detailed, in-depth study, on the topic of Christianity.

The course challenges pupils to reflect on their own values while also developing an understanding of the influence religion has on individuals and communities. The course provides opportunities for students to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth and their influence on human life. The skills promoted in this course develop each pupil's critical thinking ability and enables all learners to construct well-argued, informed, balanced and structured written arguments.

This IGCSE is suitable for all students who excel in Humanities and who have a desire to further their studies in this field at A Level by taking subjects such as Religious Studies, History, Sociology or Psychology.

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus	4RS1
Assessment	Paper 1 Beliefs and Values
	Paper 2 Religious Community

# The Vocational Courses

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The Vocational subjects at Peponi include courses in Art & Design, Drama, IT, Computer Science, Music, Photography and Physical Education. These subjects prepare pupils for specific skills and techniques leading to procedural knowledge.

## Fine Art or Photography

This course aims to increase personal expression and power of observation, while developing visual perception and aesthetic experience, through visible communication and expression.

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus Codes	1FAO & 1PYO
Assessment	Paper 1: Personal Investigation (Coursework)
	Paper 2: Externally Set Assignment

## Information & Communication Technology

The IGCSE ICT syllabus encourages pupils to develop lifelong ICT skills. Pupils develop and consolidate their knowledge, skills and understanding in ICT and are made aware of new and emerging technologies.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus Codes	0417
Assessment	Paper 1 Written Examination
	Paper 2 & 3, Practicals

## Computer Science

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem-solving using computers. They apply this understanding to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills, and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions.

## Music

Music at GCSE level is ideal for pupils who have already made a promising start in instrumental playing or singing. The syllabus aims to engage pupils actively in the process of music study, while developing the pupils' performing and composing skills. In addition, pupils are encouraged to reflect on and evaluate their own and others' music.

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Syllabus Codes	1MU0
Assessment	Component 1 Performing
	Component 2 Composing
	Component 3 Appraising

## Physical Education

The course aims to improve the pupil's ability to plan, perform, analyse and improve, and evaluate physical activities. Pupils will develop an understanding of many topics from Anatomy and Physiology, Skill, Psychology and Contemporary Issues in Sport. In addition, pupils are encouraged to expand their knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of relevant physical activities.

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus Codes	0413
Assessment	Paper 1 Written Examination
	Coursework, Practical Performance

Exam Board	CIE
Syllabus Codes	0478
Assessment	Paper 1 Computer Systems
	Paper 2 Algorithms and Programming

The options form is to be completed by all pupils entering Lower Vth in the 2024 - 2025 academic year.

It is very important that pupils and parents think carefully about the choice of IGCSE subjects. There are many factors which need to be taken into account. These include:

- Ability, previous track record and level of interest in a particular subject, enjoyment of a subject over a number of years, and continued success in examinations in that subject are all good pointers to the suitability of an option.
- Balance and breadth of options; employers and Universities like pupils to follow a broad programme that might involve additional languages, the humanities as well as something creative or practical.
- Pupils looking to present the best possible academic profile for universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Imperial College London, and other highly selective universities should not take more than one creative or practical subject. There are some subjects such as architecture or music where this latter piece of advice would not apply.
- Future education and career aspirations; some university courses will prefer pupils to have taken certain subjects at IGCSE level and, if pupils have an idea about what they might want to study at university, it is sensible to investigate this more fully.
- Pupils should be aware that some subjects (Art and Design, Drama, ICT, Music, and Physical Education) have practical work, coursework or controlled assessment pieces that account for over 40% of the available marks.

Please complete the option choices on <https://forms.office.com/r/d2zP8zKSmd>

Indicate the subjects you are interested in taking. We will try to accommodate all subject combinations but often this is impossible and so having a reserve subject is a very good idea.

If you have any queries please direct them to Deputy Head (Academic) - [dha@peponischool.org](mailto:dha@peponischool.org)

Subject	Choice (x)
English	X
English Literature	X
Mathematics	X
Biology	X
Chemistry	X
Physics	X
French	
Spanish	
Swahili	
Business Studies	
Geography	
History	
Religious Studies	
*Fine Art	
*Photography	
Drama	
Music	
*ICT	
*Computer Science	
Physical Education	

*\*Choose either Fine Art or Photography*

*\*Choose either ICT or Computer Science*





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*“Schools of Many Nations, a Family of One.”*

