



### **St Julian's School Mission Statement**

*Our purpose is to create a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment within which all members of our community can achieve their full potential and develop a commitment to lifelong learning.*

#### **St Julian's School Values which relate to this Policy:**

*Commitment  
Responsibility*

### **St Julian's School Options Policy**

St Julian's school offers a wide variety of subjects in their IGCSE and IB curricula. This range of subjects is designed to challenge our students academically and fulfill the exam requirements. The range of subjects also provides the opportunity for all students to exercise academic options in line with their particular abilities and enthusiasms.

In relation to IGCSE subjects some are mandatory and designated as core subjects, whilst others are optional. The IB Diploma programme is divided into 5 mandatory groups and one optional group. The students choose their options from within these groups. Parents and students are advised of the structure of our IGCSE and IB curricula and the options available within both curricula at Options Evenings early in the Spring Term for Year 9 (IGCSE) and Year 11 (IB Diploma). Students are counseled by teachers and tutors about their choices.

At IGCSE level there is a free choice of programme with the exception of the different levels of Science. At IB Diploma level the choices available to students are conditioned by their own attainment at IGCSE (or equivalent examinations) and the level of academic difficulty of the subjects themselves.

The school has three detailed booklets, one for IGCSE entitled "Which Way Now", one for the incoming pre-IB students from the Portuguese Section, entitled: "Pre-IB Foundation Year" and one for IB entitled "Aim for the Best". These explain the IGCSE and IB curricula with their respective options programmes in detail. Both publications are available on line (St Julian's Parent Portal) and in hard copy.

The school tries hard to ensure that all students can study the programme of their choice which reflects their interests and abilities. This may not always be possible due to timetabling constraints.

Date revised: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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Chair - Board of Governors

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Head of School

## St Julian's School Options Policy: Appendix

### IGCSE

Students at St Julian's move from a comprehensive curriculum to a core and options based curriculum after Year 9.

It is school policy to offer 10 subjects at IGCSE for those students who are studying Triple Award Science. Those who study Double Award Science will sit 9 IGCSE subjects.

#### Core subjects consist of the following:

- English Language or English as a Second Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Portuguese or French
- Physical Education (non-examination)
- Critical Thinking (non-examination)
- Outdoor Education (non-examination)
- Personal, Social & Health Education (non-examination)

#### Optional subjects consist of the following:

- Business Studies
- Geography
- History
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Information & Communication Technology
- or Computing Science (not both)
- Music
- Physical Education IGCSE
- French
- German

Whilst the majority of our students are expected to take between 9 and 10 IGCSEs, students with a recognised Special Educational Need may, after consultation with the Learning Support Department and parents, be given the opportunity to take fewer GCSEs and benefit from additional learning support. It may also be possible to take additional IGCSE exams in particular subjects outside the formal school curriculum but this possibility requires prior discussion with the relevant Head of Department and the School Principal.

Students have initially an open choice in their options programme; however some of the option subjects may not be available if numbers are very low and depending upon the choices that Year 9 make as a group. Subjects will be placed in an option menu (i.e. timetabled together) which may prohibit certain subject combinations. The School will endeavour to offer a menu that will satisfy the large majority of subject combinations.

#### Pre-IB Foundation Year

The Pre-IB Foundation Year is a St Julian's creation which is designed to ensure that the students from the Portuguese Section of school can continue their education at St Julian's until they graduate, like their international colleagues, with their IB diploma. In order to provide suitable academic challenge students will sit IGSE exams in a number of subjects (specified below).



Entry requirement into the pre-IB Foundation year is a 3.75 average on the final 9<sup>o</sup> report.

The IB pre-IB Foundation programme of study is as follows:

- English ESL or English Literature IGCSE. The student exercises this option on the basis of his/her command of English.
- Portuguese (first language) IGCSE
- French (second language) IGCSE
- Mathematics IGCSE
- Double Science IGCSE (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
- History
- Geography
- Economics and Business Studies
- ICT

**Creative/Practical Options:**

Students will opt to study two of the following four subjects:

- Drama
- Visual Art

OR

- Music
- Design Technology

PE (non-examination)

Outdoor education (non-examination)

Critical Thinking (non-examination)

PSHE (non-examination)

The minimum entry requirement for students from pre-IB Foundation year to follow the IB Diploma course is 6 Grade C passes in their pre-IB Foundation programme of study.

**The IB**

The IB is a demanding academic programme.

As a consequence, the minimum entry requirement for students from the secondary school to follow the IB Diploma course at St Julian's is 6 Grade C passes at IGCSE or their equivalent.

It should be noted that entry to the majority of IB subjects is dependent on the grade achieved at IGCSE or equivalent. For further information on subject specific entry grades please follow this link to "Aim for the Best," our IB academic booklet: [Aim for the Best 2017-2019](#).

The IB diploma course consists of three areas of educational engagement which are designated as the core. They are obligatory:

- Theory of Knowledge
- The Extended Essay
- Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

The IB diploma programme is divided into six groups. The student is mandated to choose one subject from each group, three at Higher Level, and three at Standard Level. Group 6 (Arts) is



optional, thereby allowing the student to opt for an extra subject from another group. The Groups are as follows:

**Group 1 - Studies in Language and Literature**

- English
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Another language
- Literature and Performance (trans-disciplinary SL)

**Group 2 - Language Acquisition**

Language B

- English
- French
- Portuguese
- Spanish

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- German
- Spanish

**Group 3 - Individuals and Societies**

- Business Management
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- ITGS

**Group 4 - Experimental Sciences**

- Biology
- Computer Science
- Chemistry
- Environmental Systems and Societies
- Physics
- Design Technology
- Sports, Exercise and Health Science

**Group 5 - Mathematics**

- Mathematics
- Mathematical Studies

**Group 6 - The Arts (Electives)**

- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Art
- Film