

IGCSE Information Session

Monday 2nd October 2023



Purpose

1. What are IGCSEs? (RJ)
2. How are IGCSEs different from IB? (JL)
3. Subject choices (SA)
4. Where do IGCSEs lead to? (OPS)
5. Format of Assessments (PW)
6. Conclusion (SA)

What are IGCSEs?

International **G**eneral **C**ertificate of **S**econdary **E**ducation

- World's most popular **international qualification** for 14 to 16 year olds.
- Recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide.
- International passport to progression and success.
- Developed over 35 years ago, it is tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide.
- Cambridge is the most popular provider of IGCSEs and therefore this is the curriculum we follow here at Nadeen.

What are IGCSEs?

Year Level at Nadeen School	Examination Level
10	IGCSE (8 subjects)
11	
12	AS Level (4 subjects)
13	A2 Level (3 subjects)

How do IGCSEs and IB compare?

IB	IGCSE
A pathway through to Universities around the world.	A pathway to Universities around the world. Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) offer examinations and qualifications in more than 160 countries and is the most popular examination board in the world.
No final examinations at the end of Year 11.	Final examinations at the end of Year 11- grades of which can be used for University applications.
During Year 12 and 13, students have to study 6 subjects: 3 standard and 3 higher level in the IBDP program.	IGCSEs lead to A Levels during Years 12 and 13- students study 4 subjects of their choosing in Year 12 and 3 subjects in Year 13.
Open educational framework with a range of textbooks created by educators around the world.	Cambridge have created many endorsed resources that are aligned with the curriculum to aid students, teachers and families throughout the course.

Subject Choices

- Students will study 8 subjects.
- These currently will take the format of:
 - 5 Compulsory Subjects:
 - 2 English (Language and Literature)
 - 1 Mathematics
 - 2 Sciences (choosing from Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Double Award Science)
 - 3 Optional Subjects. Examples of these options include:
 - Geography, History, French, Arabic (GCC national students only), PE*, Computer Science, Music, Art...

Subject Choices

- Year 9 students will be asked for their **preferences**, and we will host a **Subject Information session on November 7th** so that students and parents can find out more about the IGCSE subjects on offer.
- Year 9 students will then **choose their subjects prior to the end of Term 1**, as this will inform our staffing moving forward.
- There are over 70 subjects on offer with Cambridge- we can not offer them all.
- We will **give many options** for the students to consider when submitting their preferences.

- Once released, to aid students in their choices, these are some questions for students to consider:
 - What do I enjoy studying?
 - What do I enjoy thinking about?
 - How is my current progress going in that subject?
 - What would I like to do in the future?
 - Is my choice balanced?
 - Am I keeping my options open?

Remember:

You might not know what you want to go on to do for A-Levels or University yet, but ensuring a balance of subjects and choosing your most enjoyed subjects is key- you will be studying these for 2 years!

Where to IGCSEs lead?

IGCSE → A levels → **Universities** around the world

^Nadeen School minimum requirement to proceed to A levels:
5 IGCSE grades with an attainment score of A* - C

^Personalised pathways for students

Format of Assessments

- Mostly assessed by written examinations
- Possibility of coursework in some subjects (this are assignments that are worked on individually or in groups and submitted over time- Eg. Portfolio in Art)
- Typically each subject has more than one exam
- Externally set dates (May/June)

Example 1: Sciences

Paper 1/2: Multiple Choice, 45 min

Paper 3/4: Structured questions, 1h 15 min

Paper 6: Alternative to practical, 1h

Example 2: English Language

Paper 1: Reading passages (identification of language techniques), 90 min

Paper 2: Directed writing (imaginative or persuasive writing task), 90 min

Format of Assessments

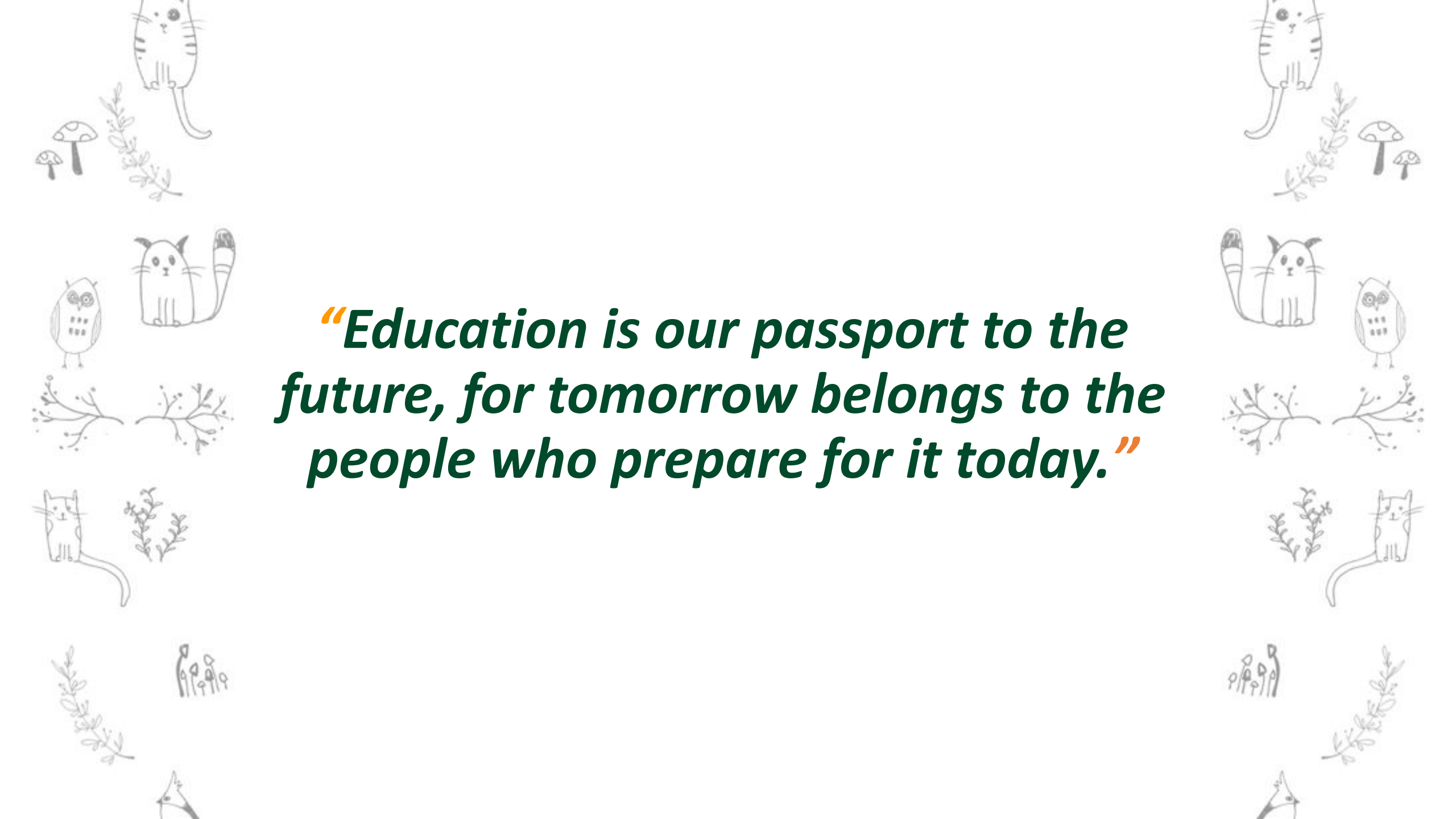
- Externally written and set, however students sit these in school (Nadeen is an approved examination centre)
- Externally delivered and marked.
 - Teachers do not see the assessment prior to students sitting this, however, there are many past papers that form a part of the preparation for students.
 - Mock examinations are created from past paper questions by teachers and sat in January during Year 11. This is a practise test that provides an initial snapshot of the progress of students at that point during the course, and enable teachers to put interventions in place personalised to students.
- Exam board- CAIE <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

Thank you

- FAQ sheet distributed- please take one. Any more specific questions not answered in this presentation are answered on this FAQ sheet.
- Subject related questions- teachers will be here after the presentation.

Subject	Teacher/s
English	Miss Olivia
French	Miss Nabella
Geography/History	Mr Rich
Physical Education	Miss Jade/Mr Matt
Science	Mr Phil
Mathematics	Miss Stephanie
Music	Mr Tom
Arabic	Miss Kawther
Ms Rachel	English as a Second Language

- Any other questions, please feel free to see me at the end.



“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”



Thank you for listening.