

Our **SIXTH FORM**
PROSPECTUS
2026/27





Giovanni Curmi
higher secondary school



gchss.edu.mt



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MISSION STATEMENT



To provide further education through the comprehensive development of student abilities in a caring and learning environment.

To offer a second chance education leading to high academic achievement.

Message from the PR Team

This new edition of the GCHSS Prospectus for 2026/2027 reflects more than updated information – it showcases our school community. Over the past months, the Public Relations Team set out to refresh the prospectus with a clear goal in mind: to make it more engaging and student-centred than ever before.

What makes this edition special is the active involvement of our students from day one, throughout the process. From sharing ideas and experiences to contributing content and creative input, students have played a key role in shaping how our school is presented. Their perspectives and energy helped us create a prospectus that truly mirrors life at *Higher*.

We believe this collaborative approach has resulted in a document that feels more welcoming, honest, and relatable – much like our school. We hope prospective students and parents enjoy exploring it as much as we enjoyed creating it together.

Alan, Alexia, Ruth, Zach

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Disclaimer: All regulations, courses and programmes, and prerequisites mentioned in this prospectus are subject to change after going to print.

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Dear prospective student,

Welcome to the *Higher Secondary School Prospectus 2026/2027*.

Another busy academic year has concluded, during which you completed your compulsory education. As you read this, you might be reflecting on your next steps following the release of the SEC examination results.

How and where should you proceed in your academic journey from this point onward?

One thing is certain: in an increasingly diverse and demanding economy, the greatest chances of success lie in further education. Building a solid academic foundation remains essential, but it is not enough on its own. Developing interpersonal and social skills, building relationships, and gaining experiential learning in a caring environment are also crucial. This is what our Sixth Form aims to provide.

With over 40 years' experience, *Higher* has a strong reputation in providing students with a comprehensive post-secondary education curriculum that leads to university and fosters ambitions for the future, even beyond a successful career.



I invite you to explore this Prospectus and consider the various programmes we offer, starting with the Matriculation Certificate (MC) course designed to prepare students for undergraduate university studies through a combination of Advanced and Intermediate Level subjects.

You might prefer a different study route and choose to improve your qualifications through the Advanced, Intermediate, SEC/O Level (AIO) course, the AIO Foundation programme or the GEM16+ Programme.

Adult learners may choose to enrol through the Individual Study Programme for Adult Learners (IPAL) and the Medicine and Science Specialised Study Programme (MSSP). The MSSP is specifically designed for learners who wish to strengthen their knowledge in science subjects and achieve higher grades to qualify for specific courses at the University of Malta or any other tertiary educational institution.

Higher emphasises inclusion and diversity, and we expect our students to always demonstrate respect for one another and all members of the school community. We are dedicated to excelling and attaining high standards in both academic and non-academic aspects of the school curriculum.

This Prospectus should assist you as you consider your options at this important stage, now that for most of you, secondary school days have finally come to an end. Feel free to contact us directly or through the Guidance and Counselling Team for any further advice.

Sixth Form should be both rewarding and memorable. While Sixth Form involves hard work and dedication, you will also gain more independence than ever. Don't forget the friendships, both old and new, and the fun, opportunities, and experiences that come with them. Make the most of this time!

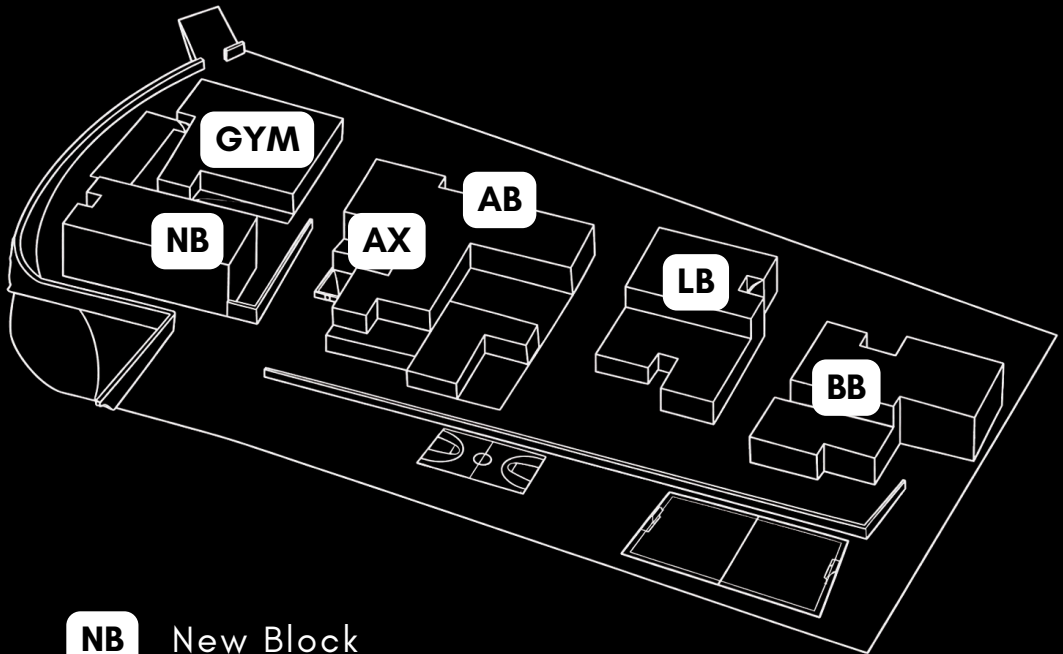
Looking forward to meeting you all in October.

Anna Spiteri Meilak

"We believe in a holistic education that is inclusive, student-centred, promotes diversity and strives for excellence."

Campus Map

Each room at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School is assigned a door number. The first two letters denote the block, the next number indicates the floor, and the other numbers refer to the room. For example, room **AX103** indicates Administration Annex (**AX**), Floor **1**, Room **3**.



- NB** New Block
- AX** Administration Annex
- AB** Administration Block
- LB** Lecture Block
- BB** Belvedere Block

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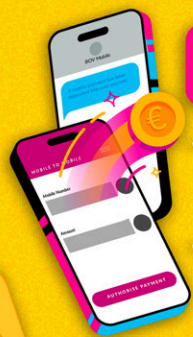
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BOV CLUB

Contact Details

School Website	gchss.edu.mt
School Telephone Number	2598 3900
School Email Address	gchss.naxxar.hs@ilearn.edu.mt
School Address	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School New Street in Main Street, Naxxar. NXRI971. Malta

Useful Telephone Numbers

servizz.gov	153
Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation	2598 0000
Examinations Department (MEYR)	2598 2950
MATSEC Office	2340 2814 2340 2815 2340 2816
Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC)	2598 1450
Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)	2598 1489
Students Advisory Services (University of Malta)	2340 3096
University of Malta	2340 2340
Identità	2590 4000

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Matriculation Certificate (MC) Course

Duration

Two scholastic years

Eligibility

Admission requirements for this course can be found on page 15.

Course Content

- Two subjects at Advanced Level
- Three subjects at Intermediate level
- Systems of Knowledge (SOK)
- Students, who have obtained two of the three core subjects (English Language, Maltese or Mathematics) at MQF Level 3, will be required to study the third one at Higher when choosing the MC Course.

Subject Choice

- Subjects are divided into groups: students are to choose one subject from each of Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3, and two additional subjects from any group.
- Systems of Knowledge (SOK) is compulsory for students taking this course.
- No subject may be taken at both advanced and intermediate level.
- Students may study up to 1 subject at MQF Level 3, if applicable.
- *Choice of subjects may be dependent on timetable constraints.*

GROUP 1	Arabic, English, French, German, Italian, Malti, Spanish
GROUP 2	Accounting, Classical Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Knowledge, Sociology
GROUP 3	Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Environmental Science, Physics, Pure Mathematics
GROUP 4	Art, Engineering Drawing & Graphical Communication, Graphical Communication, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education, Theatre and Performance Studies
	Systems of Knowledge



OWN YOUR JOURNEY



Joining the MC Course

Eligibility Criteria

- Students must have a minimum of **five passes** at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent), which must include at least **two passes** in either English Language, Maltese, or Mathematics.
- Passes must be in the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) at MQF Level 3 issued by MATSEC, or their equivalent.
- Passes in subjects not offered by MATSEC are accepted only if at MQF Level 3.
- The DOSE accredited GEM16+ Level 3, AVC MQF Level 3, and ICT C3 Level 3 certificates are each equivalent to one pass.

Probationary Students

Students who do not possess all the entry requirements for the MC course but will be sitting for the SEC Second Session in September 2026, may be eligible to apply as probationary students.

Probationary students must have achieved a minimum of **four** passes at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent), including at least **one pass** in English Language, Maltese, or Mathematics.

Probationary students may only apply during the first call for applications since the second call is only open for regular students.



Advanced, Intermediate, SEC/O Level (AIO) Course

Duration

Two scholastic years

Eligibility

Admission requirements for this course can be found on page 19.

Course Content

- Students are allowed to take a maximum of **four** subjects at any level, with a minimum of one subject at Advanced or Intermediate Level.
- Students cannot choose all four subjects at the same level.
- Students who do not possess the complete entry requirements for the AIO course can join the **AIO Foundation Programme** (refer to page 19).

Subject Choice

- Subjects may be chosen at any level, as explained in the Course Content above.
- No subject may be taken at both advanced and intermediate level.
- *Choice of subjects may be dependent on timetable constraints.*



BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Joining the AIO Course

Eligibility Criteria

- Students must have a minimum of **four passes** at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent).
- Passes must be in the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) at MQF Level 3 issued by MATSEC, or their equivalent.
- Passes in subjects not offered by MATSEC are accepted only if at MQF Level 3.
- The DOSE accredited GEM16+ Level 3, AVC MQF Level 3, and ICT C3 Level 3 certificates are each equivalent to one pass.

AIO Foundation Programme

Students who do not possess the complete entry requirements for the AIO course can join the AIO Foundation Programme.

Applicants with one, two or three passes at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) can study up to a maximum of one, two, or three subjects respectively at any level.

It is strongly advised that prospective students of this programme consult with the Guidance and Counselling Team prior to application. The team can be contacted on gchss.guidance@ilearn.edu.mt.



Individual Study Programme for Adult Learners (IPAL)

Duration

One scholastic year

Eligibility

The IPAL Course is open to all students who have either completed a two year Sixth Form course, or will be at least 18 years of age by 31st December 2026.

Course Content

- Students may choose **any** subject/s at any level.
- Most subjects may be studied at both first and second years.
- A programme consisting of Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics Practicals alone is available for IPAL students.

Subject Choice

- Subjects may be chosen at any level.
- No subject may be taken at both advanced and intermediate level.
- *Choice of subjects may be dependent on timetable constraints.*



FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS



BE
happy

BE HAPPY NOT BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS GOOD
BUT BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE THE GOOD SIDE OF EVERYTHING.

Medicine & Science Specialised Study Programme (MSSP)

Duration

One scholastic year

Eligibility

This programme is available for students who have already completed an Advanced Level course in Biology and/or Chemistry at any institution.

Course Content and Subject Choice

- This programme is specifically designed for students who want to improve their grades in Biology and/or Chemistry to pursue medical, healthcare and other science-oriented courses at University.
- This intensive programme offers students eight lessons in theory and two practical sessions each in Biology and Chemistry.
- Students of this programme are also allowed to study other subjects of their choice at Intermediate level as may be required, subject to timetable constraints.

Special Considerations

- Students following Biology at Advanced Level must have already completed the required coursework, which must be appropriately certified by the institution where they previously attended. During the Biology practical sessions, students can improve their Biology practical portfolio.
- Environmental Science (Intermediate Level) cannot be taken with Advanced Biology and/or Chemistry.
- Students are advised to check the entry requirements for the course of specialisation they intend to follow at tertiary level.



GEM16+ Programme

Duration

One scholastic year

Eligibility

Students applying for the GEM16+ programme must present their Secondary School Certificate and Profile (SSC&P), or equivalent.

Course Content and Subject Choice

- Students applying for this programme will study the following subjects:
 - English Language - 6 lessons
 - Maltese or Maltese as a Foreign Language (at SEC Level) - 6 lessons
 - International students not studying Maltese or Maltese as a Foreign Language at SEC Level, will have 4 lessons in Maltese as a Foreign Language, at Basic Level.
 - Mathematics - 5 lessons
 - Personal, Social and Career Development (PSCD) - 2 or 3 lessons
 - Physical Education - 3 lessons
 - Ethics - 6 lessons
 - **ONE** from:
 - Biology - 6 lessons
 - Physics - 6 lessons
 - ICT C3 - 6 lessons
 - King's Trust International Achieve (KTI Achieve) - 6 lessons

Certification

- Completion of the full GEM16+ programme leads to certification accredited at MQF Level 3 or Level 2 by the DQSE. An MQF Level 3 certification qualifies as one pass for the MC and AIO courses offered at GCHSS.



EMPOWERING YOU

National Youth Sports Programme (NYSP)

Eligibility

To qualify for this programme, students must be national-level athletes affiliated with a National Team, a National Sport Federation or Association (NSFA) officially recognised by the Malta Olympic Committee, or the National Sports School (NSS).

Course Content and Subject Choice

Academic requirements and subject availability are dependent upon the specific course of study chosen by the student. While *Higher* strives for maximum flexibility, subject choices remain dependent on the chosen stream and overall timetable constraints.



Application Details

- Application details are available online at gchss.edu.mt
- To submit an application, students must have the following:
 - eID
 - School leaving certificate
 - Exam results
 - Email address
 - Mobile number
- Applications are subject to a fee of €15. Students who are already enrolled at GCHSS and wish to continue their studies at the school are exempt from this fee.
- International students and Maltese students who have studied abroad are advised to refer to page 30 for further information.
- GCHSS offers guidance and counselling services to assist students in making the most suitable course and subject choices. Those who wish to make use of this service are kindly requested to contact the Guidance and Counselling Team to make an appointment.
- An acknowledgment will be sent upon submission of the online application. Should the acknowledgement not be received, applicants should contact the school as soon as possible.



First & Second Call for Applications

- The first call for applications usually opens in mid-July, soon after the publication of the SEC First Session MQF Level 3 results by MATSEC.
- The second call for applications usually opens following the publication of the SEC Second Session MQF Level 3 results by MATSEC.
- The first call for applications is open for both regular and probationary students, while the second call is only open for regular students. Therefore, it is highly recommended that all students apply during the first call.
- Students are advised to follow the school website and social media for updates and important announcements.

Important Notices

- By applying to join a course at GCHSS, students agree to abide by the official policies, regulations, and procedures of GCHSS, available at gchss.edu.mt.
- Students may register for only one course or programme offered by GCHSS at a time and may not be enrolled concurrently at another educational institution.
- Subject options are subject to availability and timetable constraints.
- Students are encouraged to consider their strengths and interests and to select subjects that best align with them. However, it is entirely the responsibility of applicants to ensure that their subject choices satisfy the entry requirements for any further studies they may wish to pursue, including the Matriculation Certificate requirements for admission to the University of Malta.
- Students who do not possess English Language, Maltese, and Mathematics at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) are reminded that these qualifications are required for admission to the University of Malta.
- It is recommended that students consult the relevant syllabi for the subjects they will be studying.
- Students who require support due to additional educational needs must submit their statementing report, together with details of any MATSEC examination access arrangements previously granted.
- Students with medical conditions or health-related issues are required to provide all relevant information to the school at the time of application.
- Once enrolled at GCHSS, the official communication platforms are iLearn and MySchool. Students are expected to check these regularly for updates and important information.

Certification

- A **Certificate for Completion of Studies** will be awarded upon successful completion of the course, complemented by regular attendance, and as regulated by the Head of School.
- A **Post-Secondary School Transcript** will also be awarded to all students who complete the course. The transcript will include the student's academic performance and attendance throughout their studies at GCHSS.

International Students

International students applying to join GCHSS must submit their applications directly to the school. Applicants are required to obtain a Recognition Statement from the *Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC)* to certify the level of qualifications they have obtained. GCHSS accepts qualifications at a minimum of MQF Level 3, or equivalent.

International students need to present the following documentation:

- A copy of their ID card, valid residence permit issued by Identità, or any other valid documentation* confirming that the student is permitted to reside in Malta and attend a state school
- Applicants under the age of 18 must also provide a copy of their parents'/guardians' valid residence permit
- A copy of the Recognition Statement of their academic qualifications

Third-country nationals (i.e. students from outside the European Union, the European Economic Area, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland) are required to pay the applicable fee at the Ministry for Education and present proof of payment covering the entire scholastic year when submitting their application.

Third-country nationals may be eligible for an exemption from these fees. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Ministry for Education.

** Examples of such documentation include a receipt for a residence permit, a letter from the International Protection Agency, or a letter from the Immigration Appeals Board.*

Maltese Students who Studied Abroad

Maltese students who have studied abroad and wish to continue their studies at GCHSS must first obtain a Recognition Statement from the *Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre*, certifying the level of qualifications they have obtained. GCHSS accepts qualifications equivalent to a minimum of MQF Level 3.

Applicants must submit their application directly to the school and provide a copy of their ID card and the Recognition Statement of their academic qualifications. Applicants under the age of 18 must also provide a copy of their parents'/guardians' ID card.

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Maltese as a Prerequisite for Entry to the University of Malta

As of **October 2027**, new guidelines will take effect for the Maltese language requirement for admission to undergraduate courses at the **University of Malta**. These guidelines outline how applicants can satisfy the Maltese language prerequisite, in relation to the Secondary Education Certificate in Maltese, and Maltese as a Foreign Language, *Il-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija* (MLB).

The University of Malta requires all applicants to hold a pass in Maltese at SEC level (MQF Level 3). However, exceptions apply based on citizenship and duration of schooling in Malta. The complete admissions regulations are available at <https://www.um.edu.mt/media/um/docs/about/governance/regulations/general/AdmissionsRegulations.pdf>.

International students who ...

- *have studied in Malta for 4 or more years of compulsory secondary education:* these applicants may present MLB as fulfilling the Maltese language requirement. However, if they also hold dual citizenship (including Maltese), they are required to present SEC Malti at MQF Level 3, not MLB.
- *have studied in Malta for less than 4 years:* these applicants may present MLB or any other SEC language at MQF Level 3, or at a comparable level.

Applicants with Maltese citizenship who ...

- *have studied in Malta for 4 or more years:* these applicants are expected to present a SEC qualification in Maltese (SEC Malti).
- *have lived and studied abroad for a significant period during the preceding four years, and have not received sufficient teaching in Maltese:* these applicants may satisfy the Maltese language requirement by presenting either SEC Malti, MLB, or another language at MQF Level 3.



Note for Admissions at GCHSS

Although MLB is mainly designed for non-native speakers of Maltese, it can also be offered by any applicant as any other subject required for general entry, provided that the applicant is not using it to substitute the required Maltese qualification, where an SEC qualification in Maltese is specifically required.



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Timetable

Students receive their timetable at the start of the scholastic year.

- Timetables vary according to the subjects being studied.
- Each lesson is 55 minutes long.
- Students may have up to seven lessons per day.
- The school day is from 08:15 to 15:05, with a break from 11:55 to 12:20.

Lessons are as follows for most subjects:

Advanced Level	5/6 lessons*
Intermediate Level	3 lessons*
MQF Level 3 (SEC)	3 lessons*
Medicine & Science Specialised Study Programme	8 lessons & 2 practical sessions for both Biology & Chemistry at Advanced Level

* *Some subjects are supplemented by tutorials, practicals, project meetings, orals, workshops, seminars and extra lessons.*

Booklist available
through this link



Diversity Policy

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful educational environment where diversity, equity, and equal opportunity are at the heart of the school's ethos. We value and celebrate the different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives that each individual brings to our school community, recognising the contribution they make to our collective learning and growth.

GCHSS welcomes students from all backgrounds, regardless of ability, race, age, religion or belief, gender, or sexual orientation. The school is committed to embedding the principles of diversity and equal opportunity across all aspects of school life, promoting open dialogue, mutual respect, and an appreciation of differences in order to foster a culture of inclusion, unity, and acceptance.

At GCHSS, every student is encouraged and supported to reach their full potential in an environment where they feel respected, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Inclusion Policy

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School is committed to fostering an inclusive educational environment that supports the learning, participation, and well-being of all students.


Through its mission and values, GCHSS promotes the inclusion of all students by adopting a flexible approach to the admissions process for applicants with individual educational needs, while maintaining the school's basic entry requirements. Students requiring support are expected to provide a Statement of Support together with any other relevant documentation.

Applications from students with individual educational needs are processed in a timely manner to facilitate, as far as possible, the provision of the necessary support and accommodations.

Further information about the Inclusion Policy at GCHSS is available on the school website.

All GCHSS policies are
available through this link





LANGUAGES

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French	42
German	44
Italian	46
Il-Malti	48
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Spanish	52

Arabic

A qualification in Arabic is an asset for many careers. Studying Arabic also provides insight into the Arab world, including a deeper understanding of Arab culture and society. Being a professional who can communicate effectively in Arabic is a valuable asset in today's multicultural society, not only in Malta but also across Europe. A qualification in Arabic opens doors to numerous career opportunities in Malta and abroad, including translation, interpretation, teaching, lecturing, and linguistic research. Furthermore, the European Union offers excellent career opportunities for professionals qualified in Arabic.

Advanced Level

The study of Arabic at Advanced Level includes tasks in Modern Standard Arabic (Fusha), and not dialectal Arabic. You will improve your reading, writing and aural skills by doing more advanced Arabic grammar and several tasks in translation, essay writing, reading and vocalisation, as well as studying Arab literature and history, which reflect the respective tasks of the exam in Advanced Level Arabic.

Intermediate Level

Studying Arabic at Intermediate Level includes several tasks in Modern Standard Arabic (Fusha). Students also study a literary text and translate a short passage into English or Maltese.

Special Considerations

If students have sufficient proficiency in Arabic, they may choose to study Arabic at Advanced or Intermediate Level. A pass at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



English

The English language is broad and relevant to modern education and society. The course aims to develop confident communicators by enhancing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through diverse methods. Students explore language in depth, combining practical tasks such as essay writing with a systematic study of linguistics and literary discussion. Beyond the classroom, English is vital globally for business, politics, media, and digital communication. It is essential for higher education, and a qualification in the subject is valuable for most career paths. Through literature, students engage with ideas and emotions, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and understanding of human experience.

Advanced Level

Advanced Level English is a two-year programme with an increasing commitment as students progress. The course covers Language, Drama, Poetry, and Prose, including the study of two novels, as well as linguistics and the analysis of unseen prose and poetry. This broad structure develops advanced analytical, linguistic, and communication skills.

Intermediate Level

The course emphasises the development of writing skills, summary techniques, reading ability, and language awareness. Students explore critical analysis by studying seven short stories, thereby enabling structured and accessible engagement with literary texts.

SEC Level (Revision Course)

The Revision Course is a programme aimed at helping students pass or improve their SEC English grade, a University entry requirement. Past paper practice, individual support, and oral practice will be in focus.

Special Considerations

Having previously studied English Literature at SEC Level (MOF Level 3, or equivalent) is beneficial.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is required

1st Year: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

2nd Year: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 oral

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons

SEC Level

The subject must have been studied at MOF Level 3

Revision Course: 3 lessons



French

Studying French at Intermediate or Advanced Level offers academic, professional, and cultural benefits. It improves communication skills vital for Malta's international role. French is widely spoken and is an official language of the European Union, United Nations, UNESCO, NATO and other organisations. Proficiency in French opens up career opportunities in diplomacy, tourism, aviation, hospitality, translation, education and EU institutions, where multilingualism is highly valued. Learning French also fosters critical thinking and cultural awareness, mainly through literature. It helps students connect with French-speaking cultures, travel confidently, and access diverse media. Overall, French enhances both employability and global awareness.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, students will have the opportunity to consolidate and expand their knowledge of the French language and culture while being introduced to French literature. The programme includes training in essay writing, written comprehension, dictation exercises, and analysis of non-literary texts. Students will also explore various French cultural topics and study three designated literary works. In addition to enhancing grammatical skills, students will receive instruction in reading and spoken French.

Intermediate Level

At this level, students expand their understanding of the French language and culture. They will also explore French literature, engage in essay and summary writing, study cultural topics, and practise reading and speaking in French.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 oral

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Giovanni Cusi
higher secondary

German

German is a language of strong cultural, literary, and economic importance. It opens doors to higher education and international career opportunities, while deepening understanding of European culture. Studying German at post-secondary level helps students strengthen communication skills while exploring literature, history, traditions, and contemporary society in the German-speaking world.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course prepares students for MATSEC and also focuses on preparation for the *B1 Goethe* exam. Students will further develop all four language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), while engaging with a literary text and exploring cultural topics throughout the course.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level course focuses on the development of the four essential language skills. Students also explore German culture through various materials and activities, reinforcing language learning in meaningful contexts.

Special Considerations

- A pass at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is strongly recommended.
- GCHSS is the only post-secondary school in Malta that is officially affiliated with the *PASCH - Schools: Partners for the Future* programme. This global network offers students studying German various opportunities, including participation in international competitions, involvement in an annual project in Germany, and scholarships.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 oral

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Italian

Studying Italian at post-secondary level benefits students who plan to pursue further studies at university and opens up career opportunities in fields such as education, healthcare and medicine, tourism, and hospitality, the public service, translation and interpretation, or roles within international organisations and the European Commission. The course content focuses on the four essential skills: Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, students are introduced to a wide range of texts and audio clips promoting participation in discussions and debates, with a strong emphasis on grammatical precision. Instruction includes training in essay writing, comprehension exercises for both written and listening tasks, summative writing, and dictations. Additionally, the course features a literary component that involves analysing a novel and other literary works from various historical periods.

Intermediate Level

At this level, students are exposed to texts, images, and audio, and participate in discussions and debates. The course covers grammar, essay writing, written and listening comprehension, and analysis of a novel.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 oral

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Il-Malti

L-iskop ewlieni tal-korsijiet li d-Dipartiment tal-Malti joffri fil-livell postsekondarju huwa qabel xejn li jħarreġ lill-istudenti biex jilħqu l-livelli mixtieqa kif indikat fis-sillabu maħruġ mill-Università ta' Malta. Permezz ta' sistema kontinwa ta' assessjar, testijiet u eżami finali mifruxa fuq ħames *terms*, l-istudenti huma mistennija jkomplu jżviluppaw il-ħiliet immirati kemm f'dak li huwa fehim kif ukoll fl-espressjoni ta' ideat u kuncetti kurrenti. Dan ċertament jgħinhom mhux biss jippreparaw ruħhom għall-esiġenzi akkademiċi mitluba mid-dinja tax-xogħol, imma xejn anqas biex ikollhom livell ta' għarfien għoli tal-lingwa.

Livell Avvanzat

Il-kors fil-Livell Avvanzat, ikopri l-komponenti ewlenin indikati fis-sillabu: l-Oral, il-Lingwistika, il-Letteratura u l-Qari li, flimkien ma' taħriġ sistematiku fl-ortografija, jgħin lill-istudenti jtejbu u jikkonsolidaw dak li kisbu fil-livell sekondarju.

Livell Intermedju

Il-kors fil-Livell Intermedju huwa simili għal dak tal-avvanzat, li wkoll jinkorpora taħriġ sistematiku fl-ortografija. F'dan il-livell l-istudenti jkunu esposti għall-ewwel darba fl-istudju kritiku tar-rumanz u l-istudju tal-istorja tal-lingwa.

Livell Ordinarju (ĊES)

Fil-każ tal-Livell Ordinarju (ĊES), l-iskola qed toffri kors ta' revizjoni li jippresupponi li l-istudenti jkunu diġà familjari mal-materjal kopert fis-sekondarja.

Livell Avvanzat

Ċertifikazzjoni fis-suġġett f'Livell 3 (MQF) meħtieġ
L-Ewwel u t-Tieni Sena: 5 lezzjonijiet | 1 *tutorial*

Livell Intermedju

Ċertifikazzjoni fis-suġġett f'Livell 3 (MQF) mhux meħtieġ
L-Ewwel u t-Tieni Sena: 3 lezzjonijiet

Livell Ordinarju

Is-suġġett irid ikun ġie studjat f'Livell 3 (MQF)
Kors ta' Revizjoni: 3 lezzjonijiet



Maltese as a Foreign Language

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School offers Maltese as a Foreign Language as a separate subject, with the primary objective of enabling learners to communicate effectively in Maltese. The programme goes beyond developing linguistic proficiency, as it also aims to foster cultural understanding, critical thinking, and the ability to respond to practical situations that students may encounter in daily life in Malta.

Language Skills Development and Subject Content

Maltese as a Foreign Language is structured around or is organised around four components, each designed to develop specific language skills:

- **Speaking:** boosting students' confidence in spoken communication through conversations, presentations, role-playing, and dialogues.
- **Listening:** training learners to understand spoken Maltese in various contexts, including different accents, intonations, and vocabulary.
- **Reading:** improving reading comprehension by exposing students to diverse texts, such as stories, articles, and reports. The course also introduces foreigners to Maltese literature, familiarising them with Maltese authors from various periods.
- **Writing:** teaching students to express themselves clearly in written Maltese by focusing on grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary.

The course prepares students to obtain a certificate at MQF Level 2 or 3 in Maltese as a Foreign Language (*Il-Malti b'Ħala Lingwa Barranija*), awarded by the University of Malta. Maltese as a Foreign Language is an opportunity to reduce language barriers, encourage cultural exchanges, and, most importantly, create opportunities for international students to fully integrate into Maltese society.

SEC Level

The subject must have been studied by the student since Year 8
1 Year Course: 3 lessons



Spanish

With over 550 million speakers, Spanish is the fourth most spoken language worldwide. It is the official language in 21 countries and is recognised by several major international organisations. Despite its Latin origins, Spanish has been influenced by pre-Roman, Arabic, and indigenous American cultures, making it a rich language to learn. Studying Spanish offers opportunities in global communication, travel, career development, academics, and personal growth.

Advanced Level

Studying Spanish at Advanced Level will boost language proficiency by developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will study advanced grammar, and activities are aimed at expanding vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. The course includes the study of Spanish-speaking cultures and two unabridged literary works. Using written and audio texts by native speakers, it aims to help students communicate effectively, foster fluency, and support academic growth.

Intermediate Level

Studying Spanish at this level improves language proficiency skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will acquire further grammar skills, and expand their vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. The syllabus offers cultural studies and literary analysis, and aims to prepare students both for their academic journey and real-life communication.

Special Considerations

A pass at MOF Level 3 (or equivalent) is strongly recommended.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 oral

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



HUMANITIES

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Accounting

Accounting is the systematic recording, reporting, and analysis of financial data. It provides essential tools for the efficient management of daily financial activities, whether one is aiming to establish a business or supporting the success of an existing one. A background in accounting is essential for anyone seeking career opportunities in the rapidly expanding financial sector, both local and overseas.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, Accounting provides a comprehensive understanding of how businesses document, report, and analyse their financial activities. Students delve into financial and management accounting, learn to prepare and interpret financial statements, and apply accounting methods to practical scenarios. This course strengthens analytical and decision-making abilities, making it ideal for students who would like to pursue a career in business, finance, accounting, or auditing.

Intermediate Level

Intermediate Level Accounting introduces fundamental principles essential for maintaining financial organisation and ensuring business success. Students will acquire skills in recording transactions, preparing financial statements, and utilising basic management accounting tools. This course provides a solid foundation for advanced study or practical application in finance.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



rock music is pushing into our ears
music is a hard-hitting mix of heavy metal and punk
She's not called the Queen of P-

Classical Studies

Classical Studies presents an engaging examination of the civilisations of Ancient Greece and Rome, encompassing their history, language, mythology, literature, art and architecture. It analyses the influence of these cultures on subsequent societies, thereby emphasising how the modern world is heavily indebted to ancient Greece and Rome. Furthermore, it provides prospective university students with essential knowledge and skills that are invaluable for their future academic pursuits, particularly in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, arts, classics, history, languages, media, philosophy, public policy, theology, education, law, and even medicine.

Intermediate Level

The syllabus is organised into five modules. The History module delineates significant events and figures from the history of Ancient Greece and Rome, whereas the Language module presents fundamental grammatical structures and syntax of Ancient Greek and Latin. The Mythology module explains essential myths, highlighting their role in explaining human origins, the universe, morality, values, and ethnographic and cultural distinctions. This is complemented by the Literature module, where selected passages from ancient literary works have influenced main literary genres. The analysis of designated key works in the Art and Architecture module helps trace the evolution of Greek and Roman artistic heritage.

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Economics

Economics examines the decision-making processes of individuals, firms, and governments regarding the allocation of scarce resources. It offers a comprehensive framework for analysing markets, pricing mechanisms, and the impact of governmental policies on daily life. Economics is well suited to anyone with an interest in current affairs, finance, and public policy. The discipline promotes informed, analytic thinking about both local and global economic issues, helping students understand Malta's position within the European and global economies.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course examines both microeconomics and macroeconomics, focusing on market operations, national income, employment, price stability, and economic growth. Students study international trade, the European Union, and financial institutions, applying economic theory to contemporary issues. Emphasis is placed on analysis, evaluation, and the interpretation of economic data in preparation for university-level studies.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, students learn about demand and supply, opportunity cost, market structures, and the role of government. The course explores how economic policies affect society and business. Students improve their numeracy, reasoning, and problem-solving skills necessary for further studies.

Special Considerations

The subject complements Accounting, Business Studies, and Mathematics, and provides an excellent foundation for degree programmes in Economics, Commerce, European Studies, or related disciplines offered by the University of Malta.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Geography

Geography is the comprehensive study of places and the dynamic interactions between humans and their environment. It encompasses the investigation of social, cultural, economic, and physical dimensions. Consequently, the discipline adopts a holistic approach, examining local, regional, and global perspectives. Students develop analytical and problem-solving skills that will be valuable for future research and careers. A background in Geography is essential for those who aspire to pursue careers in environmental management, spatial and urban planning, transportation, agriculture, fisheries, meteorology, aviation, law enforcement, military service, and tourism.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course provides an in-depth exploration of both the physical and human environments, and how they interconnect. Students study key topics in physical geography including weather and climate, plate tectonics, coastal processes, hydrology, natural hazards, and environmental issues. They also delve into human geography topics, including population dynamics, migration, settlement patterns, urbanisation, economic activities, and the impacts of development. This course also enables students to apply their knowledge through fieldwork investigations.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, students study physical and human geography processes, such as Earth's structure, atmospheric behaviour, and the dynamics of human populations. They develop key skills in data collection and interpretation, laying a foundation for future studies in Geography.

Special Considerations

IPAL students, who intend to study Geography at Advanced Level in one year, must be in possession of the two short-term fieldwork reports and the individual fieldwork report.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



History

History studies change, enabling students to analyse events that shape societies, cultures, and civilisations. By examining evidence from documents and records, students learn to deconstruct narratives and better interpret historical situations. It also helps students evaluate landmark events, identify patterns in contemporary contexts, and consider different perspectives to address current and future issues. Careers include teaching, research, diplomacy, public service, and EU policy.

Advanced Level

At this level, the subject covers topics from Maltese, European and International, and Mediterranean History. In Maltese History, the focus is on Political Development, Church-State Relations, and Socioeconomic Development, starting with the French period until European Integration. European and International History spans from the French Revolution to the European Union Enlargements. Central themes in this section are the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Era, the 1830 and 1840 Revolutions, the Unifications of Italy and Germany, the Russian Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, and the Cold War. The Mediterranean dimension is addressed by analysing political developments that shifted the balance of power in the region from time to time, including the Eastern Question, the World Wars, Decolonisation, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Intermediate Level

At this level, the subject covers Maltese and European History from 1789 to 1921, when Malta gained its first self-governing constitution. Maltese History emphasises Fortress Politics and Economics, including Political, Constitutional, Socioeconomic, and Strategic development. European History focuses on Revolutions and Nationalism, highlighting how these transformations shaped modern nation states.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Marketing

Marketing is significantly influenced by social and technological transformations. It is rooted in market research and understanding consumer needs, market segmentation, analysis of purchasing behaviours, and implementation of marketing tools. These include product development, pricing strategies, distribution channels, and communication strategies to effectively meet customer demands. Marketing cultivates practical skills in analysis, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. This enhances employability in sectors such as digital marketing, communications, media, advertising, content creation, research, and web design. Executive and managerial positions often value candidates who possess a robust academic foundation in the subject.

Advanced Level

This course covers key marketing areas, including customer value, market environment and research, buyer behaviour, and product development and branding. Pricing, distribution, promotion, and global marketing are also covered. By analysing case studies, completing assignments, engaging in group activities and discussions, and gaining insights from presentations by marketing professionals, students will better understand how the theoretical background can be applied to real-world situations.

Intermediate Level

At this level, the subject offers a basic understanding of several key marketing areas through practical examples. These include creating and capturing customer value, understanding customer behaviour, analysing the marketing environment, segmenting markets, targeting customers, and developing strategies for product pricing, distribution, and promotion.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Philosophy

Philosophy is the rigorous investigation of fundamental questions concerning existence, knowledge, and ethics. It aims to understand the nature of reality and the role of humanity within it through critical analysis and reasoned argument. Philosophy promotes the exploration of diverse viewpoints to deepen human understanding of the universe and ourselves. By scrutinising the rationale behind our beliefs, philosophy offers a structured approach to address some of the most intricate enigmas in life.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, students engage with questions relating to Existence, Epistemology (the theory of knowledge), Ethics, Personhood, Logic, and Philosophy of Language. At this level, students are equipped with the skills for independent and reasoned thought, thereby going beyond the study of philosophers' teachings. Students are taught to contemplate the nature of truth, develop clear reasoning, spot weak arguments and confidently express their own ideas and opinions.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate level, the focus will be on Logic and Ethics. Students will study formal and informal logic, as well as ethical theories and practical issues such as life and death, and online privacy. The course aims to enable students to construct solid arguments and think critically and clearly about real-life situations that often require decision-making and wise choices.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, exploring how people think, feel, and act in different situations. It explores topics such as cognition, development, personality, and social interaction. Through research, psychology aims to understand the processes that influence behaviour and the application of how this knowledge can improve well-being and promote positive change. Studying psychology helps students develop analytical, research, and communication skills whilst providing insight into the critical interpretation of information. Psychology is valuable for careers in health, education, research, human resources, and other fields.

Intermediate Level

The course covers major psychological perspectives, including biological, cognitive, humanistic, and psychoanalytic approaches. It explains how each theoretical perspective interprets thought, emotion, and behaviour. Students learn how the brain, nervous system, and hormones shape behaviour. Cognitive processes such as memory and perception are also examined. Topics in social behaviour include conformity and obedience, communication, gender development, and stereotypes. Students also study personality differences, stress and coping strategies, and gain an overview of psychological disorders and mental health issues.

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



*New York
Jets*



Religious Knowledge

The subject examines how religion profoundly influences individuals' beliefs and behaviours, shapes societal norms and institutions, affects political systems and policies, and contributes to the development and diversity of cultures worldwide.

Advanced Level

Religious Knowledge covers four core areas: the Bible, the Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, and Christian Morality. These are taught through instruction and discussion. Students critically analyse key themes such as the existence of God, faith and reason, tradition, the historical context of the Gospels, the Old and New Testaments, and a detailed study of the Gospel according to Saint John. Topics include life, death, eternal life, and the nature and mission of the Church. Religious Knowledge also examines the importance of Liturgy and Sacraments, and discusses contemporary issues such as euthanasia, abortion, human dignity, family, sexuality, prayer, environmental sustainability, the role of the Church in contemporary society, and the Beatitudes.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, the subject is similarly structured into four components: The Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Christian Morality, and Christian Prayer. These components are examined in less depth than at Advanced Level, yet the course continues to emphasise discussion and active participation. The learning approach is student-centred, promoting engagement, reflection, and personal development.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of society and social behaviour. It encompasses the analysis of social relationships, institutions, culture, inequality, and social change. The subject fosters critical understanding of contemporary social phenomena and promotes responsible citizenship.

Advanced Level

The course offers a thorough and critical exploration of key sociological theories and concepts, examining social structures, power relations, and institutions influence human behaviour and social outcomes. The course analyses culture, identity, and socialisation alongside patterns of social stratification, inequality, and exclusion. It critically engages with theories of crime and deviance, welfare, family life, race, ethnicity, migration, and the information society. It also evaluates the impact of globalisation on social, economic, and environmental processes. Emphasis is given to applying, comparing, and evaluating classical and contemporary sociological perspectives through coherent, evidence-based argumentation.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, the subject introduces important sociological concepts related to society's organisation and structure. It examines social institutions like family, education, religion, and the media, emphasising their roles in shaping social order. The process of socialisation is analysed to show how individuals learn norms, values, and behaviours. Sociology also explores social inequality, focusing on how social class, gender, ethnicity, and age can contribute to disparities in access to power, resources, and opportunities.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



SCIENCE

Applied Mathematics	78
Biology	80
Chemistry	82
Computing	84
Environmental Science	86
Physics	88
Pure Mathematics	90

Applied Mathematics

Applied Mathematics emphasises the use of mathematical models and methods to describe, analyse, and solve real-world problems. These include projectile motion, circular motion, and the behaviour of physical systems. Students develop the ability to translate word problems into mathematical form by constructing appropriate diagrams, selecting suitable models, and applying mathematical techniques to obtain meaningful and accurate solutions. Applied Mathematics is offered exclusively at Intermediate level. It complements both Physics and Pure Mathematics. The subject will be useful to students who would like to pursue further studies in engineering or science at MCAST and university.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, students explore the meaning and importance of velocity-time graphs, the use and application of equations of motion, objects in free fall, vectors and force diagrams, and Newton's Laws of Motion. The course also covers moments and centres of mass, Hooke's Law, projectile motion, circular motion, and the analysis of simple frameworks and structures. Independent study enhances mathematical understanding and problem-solving, while peer collaboration provides support. The use of online platforms reinforces learning, supports the completion of assignments and builds confidence.

Special Considerations

Although not a requirement, a sound knowledge of Physics at MQF level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset.

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Biology

Biology is the study of life. The subject explores the diversity of animals, plants, and microorganisms, enabling students to understand evolution and the complex interactions between organisms and their environment. Biology is essential for careers in medicine, healthcare, forensics, psychology, and sports science. It also provides students with the knowledge to form ethical views on global issues related to environmental sustainability.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course offers a detailed study of life at both the micro and macro scales. Students investigate biochemical reactions in the living cell, the development of tissues and organs, and the functioning of larger biological systems. Weekly practical sessions take place in laboratories or in the field, where students utilise the scientific method to gather, analyse, and interpret data through careful observation.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level course provides a broad overview of fundamental topics in Biology, including how cells form tissues and organs, the crucial cellular processes that sustain life as we know it, and a basic background in human anatomy. The foundations of evolution are also addressed.

Special Considerations

- Biology (at either Advanced or Intermediate Level) cannot be taken with Environmental Science.
- At Intermediate Level, previous knowledge in the subject at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset. At Advanced Level, it is assumed that the students have an MQF Level 3, or equivalent, in the subject. This is strongly recommended, even though formal certification is not required.
- A programme of Biology practical sessions is also available to IPAL students.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 practical lessons

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons

Advanced Revision Course (MSSP)

Students must have previously completed an A Level course in the subject at any institution

Revision Course: 8 lessons | 2 practical lessons



Chemistry

Chemistry is a fundamental science that explains matter and its behaviour. It helps to understand natural processes such as corrosion and respiration, industrial processes, and global issues such as energy use and pollution. By linking atoms and molecules to larger systems, chemistry supports fields like medicine, engineering, environmental science, materials development, and forensic science. It also promotes reasoning, problem-solving, and scientific literacy.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level syllabus covers physical, organic, and inorganic chemistry. Physical chemistry develops quantitative and theoretical skills through topics such as atomic structure, stoichiometry, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, redox reactions, and electrochemistry. Organic chemistry focuses on carbon-based compounds, their structures, reactions, mechanisms, synthesis and analysis, including a variety of functional groups and polymers. Inorganic chemistry explores the Periodic Table and specific metal and non-metal elements. Practical laboratory work is essential in fostering experimental, analytical, and evaluative skills.

Intermediate Level

Intermediate Level Chemistry bridges SEC Level and Advanced Level studies, covering atomic structure, chemical bonding, basic stoichiometry, equilibria, the basis of energetics and kinetics, and introductory organic chemistry. The course is less mathematically focused and more descriptive, helping students grasp core concepts.

Special Considerations

- Chemistry (at either Advanced or Intermediate Level) cannot be taken with Environmental Science.
- At Intermediate Level, previous knowledge in the subject at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset. At Advanced Level, it is assumed that the students have an MQF Level 3, or equivalent, in the subject. This is strongly recommended, even though formal certification is not required.
- A programme of Chemistry practical sessions is also available to IPAL students.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st Year: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 practical lessons

2nd Year: 8 lessons | 2 practical lessons

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons

Advanced Revision Course (MSSP)

Students must have previously completed an A Level course in the subject at any institution

Revision Course: 8 lessons | 2 practical lessons



Computing

Computing underpins modern innovation by exploring how computer systems operate, the creation of reliable software, and algorithms for data processing. It is essential for automation, AI, data science, cybersecurity, and software engineering, providing the theoretical knowledge and technical skills necessary for further study.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course offers a solid foundation in core concepts such as Digital Logic, Computer Architecture and Assembly Language, Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence, Operating Systems, Networking, and Language Translators. Students gain practical skills in Python programming and Systems Analysis and Design to develop well-engineered solutions. The Databases module develops data management skills for modern applications. Combining theory with practice, the course prepares students for further study and roles requiring analytical, systems, and software skills.

Intermediate Level

Computing at Intermediate Level covers key principles of computer systems and problem-solving. Core modules include Digital Logic, Computer Architecture and Assembly Language, Operating Systems, Networking, and Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence, providing a solid grounding in system functions. Practical skills focus on Python programming, Systems Analysis and Design, and Databases. These topics blend theory with practice, preparing students for advanced computing studies.

Special Considerations

Computing cannot be taken alongside Information Technology (IT) at any level.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 practical lessons

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Environmental Science

Environmental Science investigates the processes of planet Earth and how human activity affects the environment. In addition to gaining insights into our surroundings, this subject aims to improve environmental literacy and enhance critical thinking skills. Environmental Science provides a comprehensive foundation for understanding important local, regional, and global environmental issues, from land use on small islands to the broader effects of global climate change.

Intermediate Level

A background in Environmental Science is valuable for a wide range of university undergraduate courses. Topics covered include sustainable development, the nature and behaviour of the Earth's crust, atmosphere, water, population dynamics, human populations, and ecosystems. Key issues such as energy use, waste management, and agricultural practices are examined. Students gain insight into different forms of pollution affecting soil, air, and water, and how these impact living systems and human health.

Special Considerations

Environmental Science cannot be studied with Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics at Advanced or Intermediate Levels.

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Physics

Physics is the foundation of all sciences, exploring matter and energy, forces and fields, waves and particles, and space and time. It explains all phenomena, visible and invisible. Students learn fundamental laws, including the conservation of energy and momentum, applying them from subatomic particles to the cosmos. Physics fosters analytical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for careers in engineering, medicine, information technology, research, and renewable energy.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level syllabus covers mechanics, thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves, optics, and modern topics such as quantum theory and nuclear physics. Students develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills and gain practical experience through laboratory work. This course is well suited for those planning to pursue careers in science, engineering, or technology.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level syllabus introduces core principles of physics, including motion, energy, electricity, and wave behaviour. It provides a solid foundation for students who wish to pursue careers in science related fields or simply deepen their understanding of the physical world.

Special Considerations

- Physics (at either Advanced or Intermediate Level) cannot be taken with Environmental Science.
- At Intermediate Level, previous knowledge in the subject at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset. At Advanced Level, it is assumed that the students have an MQF Level 3, or equivalent, in the subject. This is strongly recommended, even though formal certification is not required.
- A programme of Physics practical sessions is also available to IPAL students.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 practical lessons

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Pure Mathematics

Pure Mathematics studies mathematical concepts, techniques, and logical structures to solve problems. It supports various fields such as science, information technology, economics, architecture, and engineering. Studying Pure Mathematics sharpens reasoning and problem-solving skills, fostering logical and analytical thinking useful in academics and everyday life. It builds on SEC Level mathematics and introduces new topics relying heavily on algebra and trigonometry.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, Pure Mathematics is comprehensive and rigorous. Topics covered include Algebra and Trigonometry, Surds, Binomial Expansion, Differentiation and Integration, Matrices, Transformations, Permutations and Combinations, and Probability. Other topics explored are Differential Equations and further applications of Calculus, Vectors, Complex Numbers, Numerical Methods, and mathematical proofs. Students also study three-dimensional coordinate systems and polar coordinates, leading to a broader understanding of advanced Graphs, Functions, and mathematical structures.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, students delve into Algebra and Trigonometry, while also being introduced to new subjects such as Surds, Binomial Expansion, Differentiation and Integration with some applications, Matrices, Transformations, Permutations and Combinations, and Probability. This level emphasises the reinforcement of fundamental techniques and aims to build confidence in mathematical proficiency and reasoning.

SEC Level (Revision Course)

The revision course helps students improve their grades in Mathematics at SEC level, covering all topics, past paper questions, individual support, assignments, and tests.

Special Considerations

A strong background in Mathematics, particularly in Algebra, is an asset when studying Pure Mathematics at Advanced or Intermediate level.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is required
1st & 2nd Year: 6 lessons | 1 tutorial

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is required
1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons

SEC Level

The subject must have been studied at MQF Level 3
Revision Course: 3 lessons



ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

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Art

Art develops students' practical, analytical, and creative skills by integrating studio practice with the historical study of Maltese and international art. Students engage in drawing from observation, painting, mixed media, printmaking, and basic digital processes such as photography and digital painting. They enhance technical skills, visual communication, and critical thinking through independent projects. The subject prepares students for further studies and careers in creative industries and cultural sectors in Malta and internationally.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course helps students build strong practical and critical skills in Art. Students create a comprehensive portfolio of practical work that showcases research, experimentation, development of ideas, and resolved outcomes. This portfolio is complemented by a Visual Journal, where learners record investigations, contextual research, and reflective evaluation. The course includes a Personal Study linking practical work to a chosen Maltese artist within broader artistic contexts. A core component of the MATSEC syllabus is History of Art, in which students explore selected movements, artists, and artworks, building skills to analyse and interpret them using appropriate terminology and critical thinking.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level course enhances students' practical and theoretical Art skills. Learners use Art elements and principles in observational drawing and thematic work. They compile a portfolio with a Visual Journal documenting research, experimentation, preparatory studies, and reflections. Students are expected to demonstrate technical skill, clear progression, and understanding of selected artists and artistic contexts. Assessment includes coursework, observation exams, a Personal Study project, and a History of Art component covering key artists and movements.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
Art (1st & 2nd Years): 4 practical lessons
History of Art (1st & 2nd Years): 2 lessons

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required
Art (1st & 2nd Years): 2 practical lessons
History of Art (1st & 2nd Years): 1 lesson



Engineering Drawing & Graphical Communication

The subject, offered at Intermediate Level only, is divided into three parts: core knowledge, engineering machine drawing, and graphical representation of data.

Advanced Level

This subject is offered at Advanced Level as Graphical Communication (Page 98).

Intermediate Level

Graphical Communication and Engineering Drawing at Intermediate Level involves mastering technical drawing skills, such as orthographic projection, solid geometry, and pictorial drawing. This involves using traditional tools to draw complex 3D objects and solve challenging spatial problems. These skills form the basis for fields such as architecture, engineering, and product design. The course builds on fundamental concepts by introducing detailed representation of solids, their sections, developments, and true lengths, progressing from simple shapes to more complex technical designs.

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Graphical Communication

Graphical Communication is the process of conveying information, ideas, and emotions visually through graphic elements such as images, symbols, text, and colour. From technical blueprints to advertising, the subject helps bridge language gaps and makes complex concepts understandable for diverse audiences. It is a universal language across fields such as engineering, design, and marketing. It aims to inform, persuade, and instruct through carefully designed visual materials.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, students of Graphical Communication develop mastery of visual language to address intricate design challenges. Their studies encompass areas such as solid geometry, auxiliary views, graphical statics, branding, digital media, advertising, and technical drawing (CAD). This approach bridges creative exploration with industry standards for communicating ideas, data, and technical specifications. It emphasises a deeper understanding of visual theory, audience response, and application in real-world contexts, utilising both traditional and digital tools.

Intermediate Level

This subject is offered at Intermediate Level as Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication (Page 96).

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 CAD lessons



Home Economics and Human Ecology

Home Economics and Human Ecology teaches skills for creating healthy and sustainable living environments within families and communities. It explores connections between people, their homes, and the environment, focusing on well-being, resource management, nutrition, and responsible consumption. The course equips students with life skills for healthy habits and informed choices, while enhancing their ability to analyse trends and societal impacts.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, the syllabus is divided into two main sections. The Family, Home, and Society component examines how families and lifestyles are evolving, addresses individual well-being across all ages, and covers issues related to housing, the environment, resource management, consumer education, and financial management. The Food, Nutrition, and Health component delves into nutrients and dietary guidelines, energy needs, the link between diet and health, meal planning, food commodities, and food production trends. The course also examines issues related to food spoilage and preservation. Students also complete coursework, which includes a food study task and an investigation.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level course covers essential concepts in nutrition, health, family studies, and consumer education, building on the subject content at SEC level. It expands on these topics in greater detail, appropriate for this level. The course is divided into three main sections: The Family in Society, Food Science and Nutrition, and Consumer Issues and Concerns. Although these sections are presented separately, their content highlights the interconnections that reflect the holistic nature of the subject.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial

2nd Years: 5 lessons | 2 tutorials

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Strong Together

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) is an essential field of study vital for modern business processes. It provides insights into the role and types of information systems within organisations, along with the strategies and technologies employed to support contemporary organisational processes. The relevance of IT lies in its role in developing a skilled workforce to enhance the digital economy. It aims to prepare students for careers in information management and for further studies in business-related and computer-related fields.

Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course is structured around four principal subject areas: Information Systems, ICT in Organisations, Software, and Programming Techniques and System Development. Moreover, students cultivate a comprehensive understanding of computer hardware, the various types of information systems, and organisational structures. The syllabus covers various software categories, including system, application, and online software, as well as data modelling and utilisation. Additionally, the course provides practical skills development through assignments and projects in data management, web design, and Python programming.

Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, the subject is divided into three main components: Information Systems, ICT in Organisations, and Software. Students explore computer hardware, the different types of Information Systems, and their roles in organisations. The syllabus includes a variety of technologies, organisational structures, and software types, including system, application, and online software, as well as data modelling. The course includes a practical Web Design component where students learn HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets).

Special Considerations

This course cannot be studied concurrently with Computing at any level.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 2 practical lessons

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Music

Music as an academic subject provides a comprehensive study of how music is created, performed, and understood. It combines theoretical knowledge, practice, and historical background to support the growth of versatile musicians. The study of Music is relevant for individuals seeking to pursue further academic study or careers in performance, composition, pedagogy, and other sectors within the music industry.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, students engage in the study of music theory, with particular emphasis on harmony and counterpoint. The subject also encompasses the history of music and a detailed analysis of selected works from six composers. The historical and analytical components primarily focus on the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, as well as developments in Western music during the 20th century. The History syllabus covers a broad range of genres, including vocal music such as opera, oratorio, choral music, and lieder, as well as instrumental and keyboard music, chamber music, and orchestral compositions.

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level course covers music theory, focusing on harmony and counterpoint, along with music history and analysis of three works by Baroque and late-Romantic composers. It emphasises the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods of Western music, offering an overview and helps students prepare a short performance or an original composition.

Special Considerations

Prior knowledge of the subject is strongly recommended for both Advanced and Intermediate Levels. This may include Music at SEC level or equivalent, or a Grade 5 theory qualification from a recognised external examination board (such as ABRSM, Trinity College London, or the Malta School of Music). Students who do not hold the required qualifications but can demonstrate equivalent experience will be required to undergo an audition.

Advanced Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 practical lesson

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Physical Education

Physical Education (PE) bridges the gap between basic knowledge of how the body responds to physical exercise and a deeper understanding of the human body. PE facilitates the development of motor skills, enhances motivation, and provides mental and emotional challenges through interactive activities, practical fitness assessments and assignments.

Intermediate Level

At this level, the subject emphasises the significance of cardiovascular and respiratory endurance, muscular strength, strategies for coping with success and failure, combating sedentary lifestyles, and promoting sportsmanship. Students acquire the ability to analyse methods and systems aimed at enhancing coaching practices across diverse sports disciplines and activities. The programme encourages engagement with both local and international sports associations. Physical Education provides an opportunity to gain comprehensive knowledge of various sports disciplines, including volleyball, basketball, football, rugby, handball, tennis, hockey, and badminton.

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Giovanni Curmi
high secondary school

Theatre and Performance Studies

Theatre and Performance as a subject investigates theatrical events as social and community phenomena, analysing how communities and groups express themselves through performance. By studying the structures, motives, and outcomes of these events, students will be encouraged to examine the performative aspects of social behaviour whilst developing a more critical perspective.

Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, the subject integrates theoretical knowledge with practical application through weekly lectures, workshops, and tutorials. Students are encouraged to analyse historical practitioners, theories, and three core play-texts, helping them understand the transition from text to stage. By evaluating live performances and participating in collective performer training, students acquire the skills necessary to develop compelling solo and ensemble productions. Furthermore, students are encouraged to document their individual and/or group performance progress in a logbook.

Intermediate Level

At this level, Theatre and Performance bridges the gap between creative expression and academic inquiry through weekly lectures, workshops, and hands-on activities. Students examine the history, practitioners, and theories of theatre while honing their ability to critically assess professional productions. By developing technical skills for group performances and documenting their progress in a logbook, students understand the fundamental principles of theatrical development and reflective practice.

Special Considerations

When choosing Theatre and Performance Studies, at either Advanced or Intermediate Level, prior knowledge in the subject at MQF Level 3 (or equivalent) is an asset.

Advanced Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Years: 5 lessons | 1 tutorial | 1 practical lesson

Intermediate Level

MQF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



Systems of Knowledge

Systems of Knowledge (SOK) offers students a structured opportunity to think critically, challenge assumptions, and engage thoughtfully with the values that shape the civic, cultural, and historical frameworks of society. As an interdisciplinary subject, Systems of Knowledge promotes a broad and integrated body of knowledge with the aim of encouraging learners to explore diverse academic fields, question dominant narratives, and develop an informed understanding of the world around us.

Intermediate Level

Systems of Knowledge is organised around four core modules: Democratic Values and Responsible and Active Citizenship; Culture, Art, and Aesthetic Values in Western Civilisation; The Environment and Sustainable Development; and Scientific Values and Technology. Together, these modules give students a solid foundation that promotes critical thinking, cultural awareness, and informed engagement with contemporary issues.

SOK Project

In addition to the academic component, SOK includes a compulsory project that connects classroom learning with real-world application. To support students in this process, two formal project meetings are held with an assigned tutor, one in First Year and another in Second Year. This helps ensure that students understand the project requirements and receive personalised guidance throughout their project.

Special Considerations

- Systems of Knowledge is a compulsory subject within the Matriculation Certificate course.
- IPAL students who study the full SOK syllabus including both First and Second Year must submit their project as private candidates.

Intermediate Level

MOF Level 3 certification is not required

1st & 2nd Year: 3 lessons



STUDENT SERVICES

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Library

The GCHSS library is a welcoming and supportive space designed for reading, studying, and independent learning. A wide range of resources is available for use by the school community, catering to different interests and academic needs. Apart from the Reference and Melitensia sections, students and staff can access a broad selection of fiction and non-fiction books available for loan.

The library serves as a vibrant hub of learning, creativity, and collaboration, providing an environment where students can develop research skills, discover new interests, and enjoy reading in a comfortable setting. Throughout the year, various educational and cultural activities are organised, while regular themed book displays help promote literacy and the joy of reading.

The library is located at Level 0 in the New Block and is open every school day from 08:15 to 14:30.



Library Week

Library Week is held at the beginning of the second term. During this week, a theme is chosen, and various activities are organised around it. In addition to displaying books and screening their film adaptations, the library collaborates with different subject departments and guest speakers to conduct activities and discussions.

Contact Information



gchss.library@ilearn.edu.mt



[gchss_library](https://www.instagram.com/gchss_library)

Chaplaincy

GCHSS aims to provide a holistic education that embraces spiritual development. The GCHSS Chaplaincy offers spiritual support and companionship to all members of the school community, including students, teaching and administrative staff, and other personnel on campus.

Varied activities provide an opportunity for students to meet and connect with one another, deepening their understanding and practice of the Faith. The Chaplaincy firmly believes in inclusivity and togetherness; students from diverse religious backgrounds are welcome to join and participate in the ongoing activities in a spirit of respect and support for all members of the school community.



Holy Mass is celebrated in the Chapel located opposite the New Block. At the start of the scholastic year, at Christmas, and on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Eucharist is celebrated in the school hall. An on-site chaplain offers spiritual guidance and the sacrament of confession.

The Chaplaincy also provides a space for students to meet and socialise between lessons and during free time.

Contact Information



chaplaincyGCHSS



gchsschaplaincy

Guidance and Counselling

The Guidance and Counselling Team includes a warranted counsellor and guidance teachers, working together to support students academically and personally. The counsellor offers broader mental health and well-being support, including crisis intervention in a confidential environment, while guidance teachers focus on career guidance, relationship issues, and emotional support.

In a post-secondary school setting, guidance and counselling play a crucial role in supporting students through the challenges and transitions they face in life and in their academic journey.

Support is varied, and includes:

- **Academic Challenges:** Guidance teachers can help students cope with the difficult circumstances they may face in their studies.
- **Career Guidance:** Some students join post-secondary education with uncertainties about their career paths. Guidance teachers can help students explore their interests, skills, and values, enabling them to make informed decisions about their academic and professional pursuits.
- **Transition and Adjustment:** The transition from secondary school to sixth form can be challenging. Students may require assistance to adapt to a new environment, manage increased academic expectations, and cope with stress.
- **Personal and Emotional Support:** Guidance teachers are often the first point of call when students require help. They are trained to assist students directly and to refer them to the counsellor when more specialised help is needed.
- **Counselling:** Students seek help for issues, such as anxiety, depression, other mental health issues, eating disorders, relationship problems, dysfunctional family dynamics, low self-esteem, attachment and bereavement issues. The counsellor collaborates with other professionals to support students' well-being.
- **Crisis Intervention:** Students may face crises, including family emergencies, trauma, or sudden personal challenges. The team is trained to provide immediate intervention during such crises, supporting students in distress.

What is discussed in helping skills or counselling sessions remains strictly confidential, unless there is a perceived risk to the individual or to others.

Contact Information



gchss.guidance@ilearn.edu.mt



GuidanceGCHSS

Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) represents the interests of students and provides opportunities for active participation in the daily life of the school. It advocates for higher standards in school services while working to enhance the school's recognition at a national level. The SRC also encourages students to become responsible leaders within the community and to develop a strong commitment to active citizenship, thereby promoting a holistic approach to education.

The SRC promotes democratic participation within the school. The council is independent and not affiliated with any organisation, with all members elected as independent candidates. Elections are held at the beginning of each scholastic year, and all registered students are eligible both to contest the elections and to vote.

Throughout the year, the SRC organises a variety of activities, including fundraising events for charity, a Valentine's Day themed event, a crêpe day, and the school prom at the end of the scholastic year. Council members also take part in seminars organised by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh in preparation for participation in events hosted by the agency.

Student Voice Initiative Award

Run by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, the Student Voice Initiative Award takes place following the election of the Student Representative Council. The elected council members participate in this initiative, which is designed to encourage schools to involve students more actively and invest in their communities by supporting student councils in attaining Democracy Awards for their schools. The initiative aims to strengthen the role of student councils as advocates for their peers. It encourages student representatives to listen actively to students' needs, represent their interests, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement within the school community.



Gym & Sports Facilities

The Department of Physical Education offers students access to two gymnasia used for volleyball, basketball, badminton, handball, rounders, and dodgeball.

The school premises include a seven-a-side football pitch, an outdoor basketball court, a table tennis room, and a fitness room equipped with weights and gym equipment. These facilities are available for students to use during breaks or for free lessons. During break time, the department organises leagues for football, basketball, volleyball, and table tennis. It is also possible to utilise the facilities for dance practice.

Students interested in sports and fitness should contact the teachers in the Department of Physical Education.



Canteen & Water Stations

The school canteen provides students with a convenient place to buy food and drinks during breaks. It also serves as a social space where students can relax and interact with friends. In addition, water stations are located across the school, ensuring students have easy access to drinking water during the day.



Stationery

Located near the canteen, the school stationery supplies most of the essential items students and staff need. It also offers photocopying services and printing facilities, allowing students to print documents using flash drives or email.



Security Staff

Security staff are stationed near the school gate, where they check student identification cards and monitor entry and exit from the premises. Their presence helps prevent unauthorised access and maintain a safe and secure environment for students and staff.

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Enrichment Activities

GCHSS offers a comprehensive education that extends beyond the traditional academic subjects. A wide range of enrichment activities provides students opportunities to enhance their overall educational experience. Some of these activities, besides being recreational, are also accredited at MQF Level 3. This enables students to develop valuable skills and gain recognised qualifications beyond the classroom.

A list of enrichment activities for the upcoming scholastic year will be issued at the beginning of the year. The following are some of the enrichment opportunities recently offered by the school.

Photography

Accredited at MQF Level 3

The photography programme is divided into two stand-alone accredited modules.

- *Non-Formal Award in Photography*

In this module, students acquire key competencies in photography, including the ability to capture high-quality images using different focusing techniques, depth of field, shutter speeds, and lighting conditions. Students also develop skills in identifying the essential characteristics of quality photographs, maintaining an organised portfolio, selecting the most suitable lens for different types of shots, and planning, designing, and executing photographic exhibitions.

- *Non-Formal Award in Advanced Photography and Photo Editing*

This module explores specialised areas such as nature and portrait photography, studio techniques and equipment, and advanced photo editing. Learners who demonstrate enthusiasm and talent are encouraged to pursue further educational opportunities in photography and related fields at higher education institutions.

Award in Youth Leadership

Accredited at MQF Level 3

The Award in Youth Leadership programme is designed to support young people in developing their leadership potential. Delivered in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, the programme offers participants the opportunity to explore the meaning of leadership and different leadership styles, strengthen their communication skills, and understand the importance of strategic planning and active citizenship.

The programme is delivered through interactive sessions that include a range of practical activities and group discussions, creating an engaging learning experience. Through its structured curriculum, participants are equipped with valuable knowledge and skills that enhance their leadership abilities and encourage active participation within their communities and society at large.

JA Malta Foundation

Accredited at MQF Level 3

The JA Malta Foundation programme provides students with hands-on experience that bridges the gap between business theory and practice. Through this programme, students learn how to develop business ideas from concept to reality while gaining firsthand insight into how a company operates. Participants in the programme elect a board of directors from among their peers, raise share capital, and market and finance a product or service of their own choice.

Euroscola

The European Parliament Euroscola Programme brings together students aged 16 to 18 from all EU Member States to experience the role of a Member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During the programme, students participate in debates, vote on key issues, and gain firsthand insight into the work of the European Parliament.

Last year, twenty-four students were selected following a school-based selection process, which included both multiple choice and open-ended questions. Travel and accommodation arrangements for Strasbourg are organised by the school.



Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club offers students the opportunity to engage in collective inquiry through thought-provoking discussions and debates. Students participate in discussions on philosophical ideas, prepare presentations, and relate their learning to current events and contemporary issues.

The club promotes open-mindedness and critical thinking, encouraging students to challenge ideas, broaden their perspectives, and develop strong communication and analytical skills. Students are invited to join the Philosophy Club and become part of a community passionate about the shared pursuit of knowledge and understanding through meaningful dialogue.

Club Hispanohablante: The Spanish-Speaking Club

The Spanish-Speaking Club is open to students interested in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Meeting once a week, the club explores various aspects of the Spanish language and the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The Department of Spanish organises activities such as film and video clip viewings, language games, food tasting, arts and crafts workshops, music and dance appreciation, and encounters with native Spanish speakers living or working in Malta.

The club aims to create an immersive environment in which students and educators of all proficiency levels can engage with the Spanish language while sharing cultural knowledge and experiences. Club Hispanohablante sincerely appreciates the support of the Embassy of Spain in Malta for kindly providing resources for the club.

Deutschklub Spaß: The German Speaking Club

The Department of German has successfully organised the German Club for the past five years, offering students opportunities to engage in activities beyond the traditional classroom experience. As a proud member of the PASCH initiative, the club also plays an important role in preparing students for the annual project *Talk ohne Grenzen*. This project brings together students from across Europe to collaborate and present a talk show in Berlin.

Students at GCHSS are invited to join the German Club, where language learning is made both dynamic and enjoyable through meaningful cultural exchange, collaboration, and creative participation.

Be The Light

The GCHSS Chaplaincy welcomes students into a supportive environment that nurtures both their personal and spiritual growth. In addition to meeting the spiritual needs of the school community, it organises monthly extracurricular activities and meetings. It also provides a Youth Hub where students can relax between lessons in an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. Equipped with facilities such as air hockey, billiards, and table soccer, this Youth Hub also offers opportunities for recreation and social interaction.

The Chaplaincy plays an active role in organising school events and cultural outings, while promoting ways of living the teachings of Jesus and the Christian faith in a positive and youthful manner.

Through its activities, students are encouraged to strengthen their relationships with one another and with God, while gaining a deeper understanding of themselves, their abilities, and their personal vocation in life.

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Gardening & Horticulture

The horticulture field was established by the Biology Department, with the support of the ancillary staff, to provide Biology students with the resources required for their coursework. Over time, it has developed into a living laboratory where students and staff members, who share a passion for nature and agriculture can meet, learn about plant biology, and participate in the growing and harvesting of a variety of crops.

Through these activities, students not only develop practical skills in horticulture, gardening, and landscaping, but also strengthen important lifelong skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and a sense of ownership. Students interested in gardening and horticulture are to contact the Department of Biology for further information.



European Parliament Ambassador School Programme

The European Parliament Ambassador School Programme aims to raise students' awareness of European parliamentary democracy, the role of the European Parliament, and core European values. The programme encourages students from diverse backgrounds to actively engage in democratic processes at the EU level.

At the end of each scholastic year, the activities carried out by participating schools are evaluated. Upon successful completion of the programme, students receive official certificates during a ceremony organised by the European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta. This event is often attended by Members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders. Participating students may also be offered the opportunity to take part in Euroscola and other activities organised by the European Parliament.

Model European Parliament Programme

The Model European Parliament Programme provides a unique opportunity for young people aged 16 to 19 from post-secondary institutions across Malta and Gozo to participate in a simulation of the European Parliament.

During the sessions, organised by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, participants learn about parliamentary procedures and engage in stimulating debates that help them develop important skills in public speaking, critical thinking, collaboration, and teamwork.



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Soirée

The GCHSS annual soirée is one of the most anticipated events in our school calendar, celebrating the creativity, dedication, and artistic talent of our school community. Bringing together theatre, music, dance, drama, and visual arts, the soirée provides students with a unique opportunity to express themselves, develop confidence, and showcase their abilities before a live audience.

Auditions for acting, backstage, and other duties are typically held in the first term and are open to all GCHSS students, regardless of previous experience. The soirée itself is usually staged during the second term and is always a highlight for participants and audiences alike. Over the years, GCHSS has presented a number of productions, including *Rock the Rhapsody*, *Teen Beach*, *Little Women*, *Summer Lovin'*, and *Mamma Mia*.





Giovanni Curmi
higher secondary school

Prince Ali

BASED ON ALADDIN THE MUSICAL



Soirée 2027

The PlaKard Project

The PlaKard Project organises music sessions across a variety of genres and styles, offering students the opportunity to engage with music in an informal and inclusive environment. The project is built on the belief that everyone has the potential to be a musician, encouraging students to practise, experiment, and explore different rhythms and musical styles.

Regardless of prior musical experience, all interested students are given the opportunity to develop their confidence, creativity, and appreciation for music. Jamming sessions are held during breaks in various areas around the campus, creating a relaxed space where students can connect, collaborate, and share their musical talents.

Sports Events

Throughout the scholastic year, GCHSS promotes physical fitness, sportsmanship, and teamwork through a variety of sports activities and friendly tournaments. These activities provide students with opportunities to remain active, develop discipline, and build strong team spirit while enjoying healthy competition.

The sports programme includes football, basketball, handball, volleyball, and other activities take place both on and off campus and in collaboration with other sixth forms. Through participation in these events, students are encouraged to enhance their physical well-being, improve their communication and leadership skills, and foster positive relationships with their peers. These activities contribute to a balanced educational experience by promoting personal growth, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle.

Drama Troupe

The Drama Troupe provides a platform for exploring, developing, and organising theatre and performance activities within a safe and supportive environment. In line with the school's ethos of offering a holistic education, the Drama Troupe enriches the educational experience at *Higher* through both formal and non-formal learning opportunities.

The Drama Troupe organises and produces a variety of activities, including Drama Day and the soirée, which give students the opportunity to showcase their talents and engage in artistic expression. It also collaborates with other subject departments to deliver drama-based activities that enhance learning experiences and bring subject content to life in an engaging and interactive manner.

Students interested in joining the Drama Troupe are encouraged to contact the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies for further information.

Juvenes Translatores

Students interested in practising translation are invited to take part in the Juvenes Translatores Competition, organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Translation.

This annual online contest is open to 17-year-old students from all EU countries and gives participants the opportunity to translate between any pair of the 24 official EU languages. To support students in their preparation, training sessions on translation techniques are offered, helping them strengthen their linguistic and analytical skills ahead of the competition, which is usually held in November.

All participants receive a Certificate of Participation, while the best translation from each EU country is awarded a special prize.

Linguistics Olympiad



At the beginning of the scholastic year, academics from the University of Malta's Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology visit our school to deliver an information session about the Linguistics Olympiad in Malta. During this session, students are given linguistic games and puzzles similar to those featured in the Olympiad, and the solutions are discussed together. No prior knowledge of linguistics or languages is required, as even the most challenging problems rely mainly on logical thinking, patience, and a willingness to think outside the box.

In preparation for a local competition against students from other Sixth Forms, interested students are coached by staff from the University of Malta together with two of our teachers from the Department of English. The winning team then participates in the International Linguistics Olympiad, which is held abroad.

Well-being Days

Well-being Days focus on promoting student well-being and raising awareness about the importance of mental health. Events are held throughout the year and provide students with opportunities to reflect on their personal well-being, develop healthy coping strategies, and gain practical knowledge to support a balanced lifestyle.

Each event includes a variety of activities, workshops, and talks delivered by professionals and experts in their respective fields. A wide range of topics is explored, including drug misuse, eating disorders, mental health, nutrition, mindfulness, exercise, volunteering, and emotional regulation.

The organisation of these events is a collaborative effort between the counsellor, the guidance team, and the school administration.

Career Talks & Orientation Visits

The Guidance and Counselling Team at GCHSS is dedicated to preparing students for life beyond post-secondary education through a comprehensive programme of career guidance initiatives.

Throughout the year, in collaboration with various subject departments, the team coordinates several informative career talks featuring guest speakers from a wide range of sectors, including computing and information technology, law, engineering, accounting, environmental science and marketing.

Students are also provided with guidance on admission requirements for the University of Malta and other tertiary education institutions, enabling them to plan their academic journey more effectively and make informed choices about further studies.

In addition, the Guidance and Counselling Team organises a number of job orientation visits. Last year, students were given the opportunity to gain a practical exposure through a visit to a radio studio and a hands-on session in translation, terminology, and interpreting laboratories.



Erasmus+

GCHSS is an Erasmus+ accredited institution and has been awarded funds to enable students to travel abroad to various partner countries within the Erasmus+ network. These mobility opportunities form part of the school's commitment to broadening students' educational experiences and encouraging international collaboration.

Participation in such mobilities enhances students' personal and academic development by increasing intercultural awareness, adaptability, and independence. It also fosters a deeper understanding of different educational systems and cultural perspectives, while providing students with the opportunity to build meaningful connections and expand their network of peers across different countries.

ERASMUS+ MOBILITIES 2025/2026

Bremen, Germany



During the last scholastic year, seven students from Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, accompanied by two teachers, participated in an Erasmus+ mobility trip to Bremen, Germany. The experience offered valuable insight into German culture, education, and daily life. Students stayed with host families, enhancing language skills and intercultural understanding, while attending lessons at Hermann Böse Gymnasium. The programme included visits to Bremen Town Hall, Bremerhaven, the Emigration Museum, and Christmas markets. Students also observed a Model European Parliament simulation. Overall, the trip combined academic learning, cultural exchange, and personal development, strengthening international connections and creating lasting memories.



Rouen, France



Seven second-year students from Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, accompanied by two teachers, participated in an Erasmus+ mobility programme in Rouen, France. The visit gave students a deeper understanding of French culture, traditions, and everyday life. While staying with host families, they experienced daily school routines and built meaningful international friendships.

During the programme, students prepared and delivered presentations on Maltese traditions, historical sites, and cuisine. Interaction with French peers during lessons encouraged cultural exchange and collaboration. The programme also included cultural visits around Rouen and a day trip to Paris.



Walks & Hikes

Walks and hikes are usually organised during school holidays as part of the school's commitment to promoting physical and mental well-being. These activities encourage students and staff to engage in physical fitness, embrace outdoor activities, and enjoy opportunities for reflection, relaxation, and social interaction.

Christmas Activities

Our school community gathers to celebrate the festive season through a joyful and meaningful Christmas activity. This initiative encourages students to embrace important values like generosity, empathy, and consideration for others. Past events were highly successful, with the school proudly donating over €15,000 to support this esteemed cause over the last years.

Christmas events offer a range of enjoyable activities. Attendees can have fun taking photos at a lively photobooth, while students and staff can buy creative Christmas cards designed by our art students. Karaoke moments bring excitement, with students and teachers joining in eagerly to entertain everyone. Moreover, the PE teachers organise fun games that encourage everyone to get involved and foster a warm, festive atmosphere.

School Community Events

GCHSS organises a number of events to strengthen links among the school, its students, prospective students, and their families.

The **Open Day** offers prospective students and their families the chance to explore the school's facilities, meet staff, and learn about the courses and programmes on offer, helping them make informed decisions about their educational journey.

At the start of the scholastic year, **Freshers' Days** welcome new students through orientation sessions, engaging activities, and opportunities to connect with fellow students and staff, helping them settle into school life.

Parents' Day is an occasion where parents and guardians are invited to visit our school and engage with teachers and the school community. It is a valuable opportunity for meaningful interaction among parents, students, and staff.

Graduation Day is a special occasion during which students celebrate their academic achievements and mark the successful completion of their studies at GCHSS. Through a formal ceremony, students bid farewell to their years at the school and celebrate this important milestone as they prepare to embark on the next phase of their academic, professional, and personal journeys.

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