



ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY

2026-2027



SUBJECT CHANGE POLICY

This policy should be read alongside the school's academic integrity guidance, which sets out Students at Saint Mary's Catholic High School **make their initial GCSE option choices** at the end of Year 8 and then later, at the end of Year 9, **make a further Phase Two choice** for Year 10. In line with the updated subject option process, Year 9 students will follow a broad and balanced curriculum and study four GCSE option choices as outlined below.

SUITE ONE

Students in Year 9 will study the following subjects as **COMPULSORY GCSE SUBJECTS**

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Mathematics
4. History
5. Art
6. Geography
7. Religious Studies / Psychology
 - (Psychology is only for those students who do not take Islamic Studies or Values Education)
 - **ONE SCIENCE IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL STUDENTS**

SUITE TWO

1. ICT or Computer Science (ANY ONE)
2. Biology or Accounting (ANY ONE)
3. Chemistry or Economics (ANY ONE)
4. Physics or Business Studies (ANY ONE)

ONE SCIENCE IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL STUDENTS

STATUTORY MOE SUBJECTS for students of Year 9

SUITE THREE

1. Arabic B (compulsory for non-Arabs till Year 10)
2. Arabic A (compulsory for Arabs till Year 13)
3. MSC-Moral Social and Cultural Studies (compulsory for Non-Arabs till Year 10)
4. Islamic Studies A or B (Only for Muslim students and compulsory till Year 13)
5. Social Studies for Arabs (compulsory till Year 10)
6. Moral Education for Arabs (compulsory till Year 13)

PHASE TWO of the Subject-Option Choices in Year Ten/ KS4

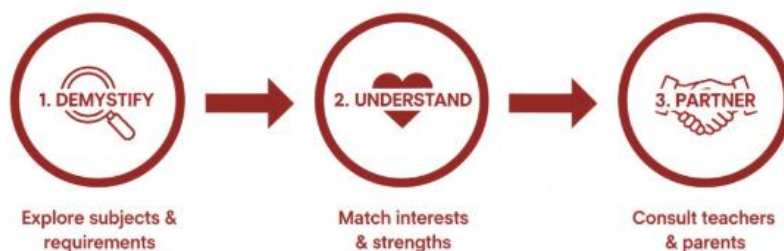
Students will continue with the following COMPULSORY Subjects in Year 10

- 1) Students will carry forward their 4 Subject choices from **SUITE 2**
- 2) Students will carry forward the statutory subjects from **SUITE 3**
- 3) Students will continue with the following compulsory GCSE subjects
 - a) English Language
 - b) Mathematics
 - c) Religious Studies or Psychology
- 4) Students will choose **ANY ONE OPTION FROM** (English Literature or Art or History or Psychology)

Students will therefore have a minimum of Eight GCSE Pearson Edexcel Subjects and the Statutory MOE subjects in Year 10.

Students are encouraged to make informed subject selections based on information from subject orientation sessions. Once students have made their subject selections, in conjunction with their parents and in consultation with subject counsellors and subject teachers, any subsequent change to these subjects must follow the arranged subject change process to ensure that all parties are kept informed.

Subject change process



Subject changes may only be approved once the school has received the written consent of parents and is also subject to the availability of seats. Parents are requested to send an email to Ms. Vichitra on vichitra.gabriella-smchs@smgeducation.org.

When parents opt for their children to change subjects it must be well noted that the responsibility regarding books, preparation for the entrance examination and covering the content lies with the students and parents.

The student must continue with the current subject until the change has been approved by email.

Year 9

Subject changes for **Suite 2 options** may be **considered until the 15th of September** without an entrance examination, subject to availability of seats. Subject changes for Suite 2 options may also be considered in **January** with an entrance examination, subject to availability of seats. Students must pass the entrance examination for the school to approve and process any change.

If a student wishes to change a subject for **Year 10**, this request must be made by the **10th of June** of the same academic year. Students will be required to prepare over the summer for an entrance examination in the new subject in **August**. The examination will cover the **full Year 9 content** for that subject and is subject to availability of seats.

Year 10

No subject change for **the Suite 2 options** will be permitted once the student begins Year 10 if the request for this change was not made at the end of Year 9 by the 10th of June. Students will fall short of the required curricular hours.

For the subject chosen in Year 10 under PHASE TWO of the Subject-Option Choices (English Literature or History or Psychology) subject changes are considered without an entrance examination up to the 15th of September, subject to availability of seats.

No switch to GCSE Art and Design is permissible if it was not previously selected at the end of Year 9.

Year 11

No subject change is permitted in Year 11.

Arabic B is not compulsory for Non-Arab students in Year 11 and they may drop Arabic B in Year 11 should they wish to do so. However, if a student intends to study in any educational institution in the U.A.E. after leaving St. Mary's, then entry requirements of that institution should be checked to see whether the student will require Arabic or not. It is also important that parents understand that a certificate indicating completion of Ministry Arabic is usually essential for consideration for certain government jobs in the UAE. Please be aware that the school will not be responsible for any governmental requirements for Arabic that might present themselves at any later stage to students who have chosen to drop Arabic in Year 11 at school. Therefore, if you choose to approve your child's choice to drop Arabic then you do so at your own discretion.

Year 12

Subjects are finalised at the time of the interview. No subject change is allowed later. Students may drop the fourth subject if adequate evidence is provided from potential universities where the student wishes to pursue his/her further studies.

Year 13

No subject changes are permitted. Students may drop the fourth subject if adequate evidence is provided from potential universities where the student wishes to pursue his/her further studies.

Consider the subject change carefully as you will not be able to revert to the same subject later.

Next review due: June 2027

