

5. Academic

Who should I contact with questions about my child's academic programme and progress?

First point of contact is your child's tutor.

How can I find out my child's timetable?

In your child's homework diary. Information about your child's timetable and teachers is also available via ENGAGE.

How can I support my child with their homework?

Your child's homework schedule will be in his/her homework diary. It is important to encourage your child to write the homework down accurately. There will be occasions on which homework is not set. Departments will provide a list of general activities which your child can usefully do if no specific homework is set.

How will the school report to me on my child's progress?

You will receive a grade sheet with teacher and tutor comments at the end of each term via ENGAGE. There may also be interim reports. Most subjects will set unit tests – please ask your child for the results of these tests. If a teacher or tutor has particular concerns about your child's progress, he/she will be in touch with you directly.

Each year group has one or two parents' evenings per year. This is your opportunity to see all of your child's teachers together. Please make every effort to attend. The schedule of parents' evenings can be found in the school calendar.

Are subjects set by ability, and can my child move between groups?

Some subjects are set or streamed by ability but not all. The decision to set, and the method of setting, is made in the professional judgement of the relevant Head of Department.

Yes, your child can move between groups. However, the decision to change groups will be made by the Head of Department based on evidence of your child's attainment.

What is the difference between EFL and First Language English, and can my child move from one stream to the other?

EFL (English as a Foreign Language) concentrates on developing the skills or comprehension and communication in English, including the acquisition of vocabulary and grammatical accuracy. English as a first language assumes a full command of English and develops deeper understanding of language and literature and the ability to write in a variety of styles and registers.

Yes, your child can move from one stream to the other, but this would have to be agreed with both the Head of EFL and the Head of English.

What is the difference between MFL (Modern Foreign Language) Spanish and First Language Spanish, and can my child move from one stream to the other?

As above for English. A move between streams needs to be agreed with both the Head of the Spanish Section and the Head of the MFL Department.

What is the Spanish Section?

The Spanish Section is compulsory for all pupils of Spanish nationality and recommended for non-native fluent speakers of Spanish. In the Spanish Section curriculum, pupils learn Spanish language and literature, history and geography in Spanish, and Valenciano, and in the Sixth Form a wider variety of subjects taught in Spanish. Successful study of these subjects, combined with passes at (I)GCSE or A Level, allows pupils to achieve the Secondary Spanish certificates: "Graduado en Educación Secundaria" and "Bachillerato".

Can my child join the Spanish Section if he/she is not a fluent speaker of Spanish?

The school offers a special programme called PIPSE to support pupils who wish to join the Spanish Section. For more details, please contact the Head of the Spanish Section, Sra J Triviño j.trivino@laudeladyelizabeth.com.

What are (I)GCSEs?

These are externally assessed public exams taken by pupils at the end of Year 11 after a two-year course of study. The exams are taken in school, but are externally set and assessed – exam fees are therefore payable for each subject. Pupils must take these exams in Maths, English, Spanish and at least one Science. The other 4-5 subjects are chosen by the pupils at the end of Year 9.

What is the entry requirement for my child to continue into the Sixth Form?

Generally, the school expects passes in the Spanish Section subjects (if relevant) and at least four to five (I)GCSE passes, Grade C (4) or above, or the equivalent from their country of origin. However, each pupil will be considered individually. Please contact the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs M Wickman (m.wickman@laudeladyelizabeth.com) for advice.

What are A Levels?

These are externally assessed public exams taken by pupils at the end of Year 12 and/or 13 after a two-year course of study. The exams are taken in school, but are externally set and assessed – exam fees are therefore payable for each subject. Pupils may choose the 4 -5 subjects they wish to study, within the constraints of the timetable.

Can my child change or drop subjects at (I)GCSE or A Level?

Changes of subject can generally only be made within the first month of the two-year course.

After that, a decision to drop a subject will only be considered after the mock exam in that subject, and can only be made with the agreement of the relevant Head of Department and Mr T Davidson, Head of Secondary.

Will the qualifications offered by the school allow my child to apply to university?

Yes, but different universities in different countries have different entry requirements. It is therefore vitally important that your child communicates his/her plans for university to the tutor as early as possible so that correct advice can be given.