

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY SMASH



SECONDARY CURRICULUM POLICY

POLICY REVIEWED

June 2026

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED

June 2027



Newton International Academy

أكاديمية نيوتن العالمية

"An international community of learners striving for excellence and
Celebrating success"

<http://newtonschoools.sch.qa>



Secondary Curriculum Policy

Reviewed June 2026

Next review June 2027

The Secondary School

At NIA Smash, from Year 7 – Year 12, we follow the English National Curriculum. As we are an international school following the English National Curriculum, we evaluate each subject and curriculum to ascertain its suitability for our student cohort. We evaluate all of our school plans regularly to ensure that we also offer the best curriculum for our student needs and develop our teaching strategies accordingly.

Through this curriculum approach, we equip our students with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives.

Key Stage 3:

Key Stage 3 is the collective name given to Years 7, 8 and 9. The Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on the experiences students have had in Primary School. Our aim is to maintain the strengths of the primary approach as we introduce teaching by subject specialists. In particular, we want our students to use their skills across the curriculum and not to confine them to the subject in which they happen to be learned. A combination of twelve subjects are taught as detailed.

School planning in line with the curriculum outlines what students should be taught, and the attainment target sets out the expected standards of students' performance. The aim of KS3 is to focus upon the practical development of the skills needed as to develop the students to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve; confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

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Subject	Number of lessons per week	Details
Mathematics	5	One lesson per day
English	5	One lesson per day
Science	4	Biology, Physics and Chemistry are taught throughout the year
Arabic	5	Easy Arabic/Hard Arabic
Islamic	2	Compulsory
ICT	2	Compulsory
Qatar History	1	Compulsory
History	2	Compulsory
Geography	2	Compulsory
French	2	Compulsory
P4C / Tutor time	2	Compulsory
Design Technology	1	Compulsory
Art	1	Compulsory
PE	1	Compulsory

Key Stage Four (Years 10–11)

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at NIA SMASH encompasses Years 10 and 11 and provides students with the opportunity to work towards internationally respected IGCSE (Edexcel or Cambridge) or BTEC qualifications. These certifications serve as important gateways to further education, both in Qatar and abroad.

Students begin selecting their subjects toward the end of Year 9, choosing courses that align with their interests and future aspirations. While some limitations exist, efforts are made to accommodate student preferences. All students take core subjects—English, Arabic, Mathematics, and two Sciences—as well as several optional subjects, with most completing nine IGCSEs. In addition, PE and Islamic Studies/Citizenship are studied as non-exam subjects.

Some subjects offer modular exams, and students may sit external exams at the end of Year 10 if appropriate. Final IGCSE and BTEC assessments are taken at the end of Year 11.

Students from Arabic-speaking countries are required to study First Language Arabic. The KS4 curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, laying a strong foundation for further study in Key Stage 5.

Weekly lessons include Islamic/Citizenship (twice), PE (once), and a tutor period to support personal and academic development.

English	5 lessons
Mathematics	5 lessons
Block A option	3 lessons
Block B option	3 lessons
Block C option	3 lessons
Block D option	3 lessons
Block E option	3 lessons
Block F option	3 lessons
Block G option	3 lessons
PE (compulsory)	1 lesson
Islamic Studies	2 lessons
Tutorial / P4C (compulsory)	1 lesson

Key Stage Five (Year 12)

The Key Stage 5 curriculum in Year 12 marks an important transition into advanced level study, as students prepare for their AS Level qualifications or equivalent pathways. Students are required to choose three optional subjects based on their academic interests and future aspirations. Most students will follow AS Level courses, while those who opt for BTEC ICT will work towards a BTEC Level 3 qualification in that subject.

In addition to their chosen subjects, all students must study Arabic. Those holding a passport from an Arabic-speaking country are required to pursue AS and A2 Level Arabic in line with national expectations.

The Year 12 curriculum encourages increasing independence and academic responsibility, allowing students to focus more deeply on subjects relevant to their future university or career plans. The programme also includes weekly lessons in Islamic/Citizenship Studies and Physical Education, as well as a dedicated tutor period to support academic progress and personal development.

KS5 students may complete independent study in any unallocated time slots.

Block A option	7 lessons
Block B option	7 lessons
Block C option	7 lessons
Block D option	7 lessons
PE (compulsory)	1 lesson
Islamic Studies	2 lessons
Tutorial / P4C (compulsory)	1 lesson

