



# NOVASTRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT LIMITS

## SUBJECTS OFFERED & SUBJECT CHOICES GUIDE

*Foundation Years · Primary · Secondary · A-Level*



**Academic Year 2026 – 2027**

*A guide for students, parents and guardians on subject pathways from Year 1 to A-Level*



# Welcome to Novastra

At Novastra International School, we believe every learner's journey is unique. From the first day in Year 1 through to the final A-Level examinations, our curriculum is designed to be broad in the early years and progressively more specialised as students discover their strengths, interests and ambitions.

This booklet sets out the subjects offered at every stage of a Novastra education: Lower Primary (Years 1–3), Upper Primary and Lower Secondary (Years 4–9), Upper Secondary / O-Level (Years 10–11), and Advanced Level (A-Level). It also explains which subjects are compulsory at each stage, and how many subjects a student is expected to choose.

**Please note:** *The subject choices outlined in this booklet reflect current Novastra International School policy for the 2026–2027 academic year. Subject offerings may vary from year to year and from campus to campus, depending on staffing, demand and resources.*

## How to Use This Booklet

- Find your child's current year group and locate the matching section.
- Note which subjects are marked COMPULSORY — these must be taken by every student at that stage.
- Check the minimum and maximum number of subjects allowed at that level.
- Discuss the options with your child's class teacher, subject teacher, or the Head Teacher before finalising choices.
- Career and further-study guidance is available from our academic counsellors at any stage.

## Our Curriculum at a Glance

|                             |                                 |                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Years 1 – 3 Lower Primary   | Years 4 – 6 Upper Primary (KS2) | Years 7 – 9 Lower Secondary (KS3) |
| Years 10 – 11 O-Level (KS4) | A-Level Years 12 – 13           | Careers & University Guidance     |

## Years 1 – 3 · Lower Primary

The early years at Novastra lay the foundation for lifelong learning. Between Year 1 and Year 3, every child follows a broad and balanced curriculum designed to build strong literacy, numeracy and social skills, while nurturing curiosity through the Arts and Sciences.

**At this stage, all subjects listed below are followed by every learner — there are no optional subjects.**

### Subjects Offered (8 Subjects, All Compulsory)

|                                  |                              |                                     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Mathematics</b><br>COMPULSORY | <b>English</b><br>COMPULSORY | <b>Reading</b><br>COMPULSORY        |
| <b>Science</b><br>COMPULSORY     | <b>Arts</b><br>COMPULSORY    | <b>Social Studies</b><br>COMPULSORY |
| <b>Music</b><br>COMPULSORY       | <b>French</b><br>COMPULSORY  | <b>Swahili</b><br>COMPULSORY        |

**Our approach:** Lower Primary lessons are delivered through play-based and activity-led learning, helping children build confidence in reading, counting and self-expression from an early age.

## Years 4 – 9 · Upper Primary & Lower Secondary

Years 4 to 6 (Upper Primary / Key Stage 2) and Years 7 to 9 (Lower Secondary / Key Stage 3) build on the foundation of the early years, introducing more subject specialism, independent study skills and the first steps toward computing, design and global awareness.

**Every student must take a minimum of eight subjects across this stage.**

### Core Compulsory Subjects — Compulsory

|                                                 |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mathematics</b><br><small>COMPULSORY</small> | <b>English and Literature</b><br><small>COMPULSORY</small> |
| <b>Science</b><br><small>COMPULSORY</small>     | <b>Humanity Studies</b><br><small>COMPULSORY</small>       |

### Languages

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| French | Swahili |
|--------|---------|

### Enrichment & Applied Subjects

|                     |                 |           |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Global Perspectives | Arts and Design | Computing |
| STEM                | Music           |           |

**Important:** *Mathematics, English, Science and Humanity Studies are compulsory throughout Years 4–9. Students select the remaining subjects needed to reach the minimum of eight, in consultation with their class teacher.*

## Years 10 – 11 · O-Level (KS4)

The decisions made before Year 10 about subjects for the O-Level / IGCSE-style examinations are very important. We advise every student to discuss their options with teachers, parents, mentors or career advisors before finalising their choices.

At Novastra, every student takes a minimum of six and a maximum of eight subjects to O-Level. Mathematics and English are compulsory, and every student must take at least one Science.

*Once an O-Level course has begun it is not easy to change subjects, so we strongly encourage students and families to get their choices right from the start.*

### Subject Selection Guide (Minimum 6, Maximum 8 subjects)

#### Core Subjects — Compulsory

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Mathematics</b><br>COMPULSORY | <b>English</b><br>COMPULSORY |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|

#### Sciences (Minimum one subject)

*Students planning to pursue engineering, medicine or healthcare should take a minimum of two sciences.*

|                |                  |                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Biology</b> | <b>Chemistry</b> | <b>Physics</b> |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|

#### Humanities (Recommended: one subject)

*History and Geography are offered as alternative subjects — students may choose only one of the two, not both.*

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Geography</b> | <b>History</b> |
|------------------|----------------|

#### Vocational / Applied Subjects

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Computer Science</b> | <b>Business Studies</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|

#### Foreign Languages (Choose one)

*Students choose either French or Swahili — the two languages are offered as alternatives and cannot be combined.*

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| <b>French</b> | <b>Swahili</b> |
|---------------|----------------|

## A-Level · Years 12 – 13

Advanced Level (A-Level) study at Novastra allows students to specialise in the subjects most relevant to their future degree course or career path. A-Level results are recognised by universities and employers worldwide.

Students select a minimum of three and a maximum of four A-Level subjects, chosen to complement one another and to align with the student's intended university course or career direction.

### A-Level Subjects Offered (Choose 3 – 4)

|                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Mathematics      | English Literature | Chemistry                |
| Biology          | Physics            | History                  |
| Literature       | Geography          | Environmental Management |
| Sociology        | Psychology         | Computer Science         |
| Business Studies | Economics          |                          |

### Popular Subject Combinations

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics — for Medicine, Engineering and Pure Sciences.
- Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics — for Finance, Accounting and Management degrees.
- History, Geography, Sociology — for Law, International Relations and Social Sciences.
- Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics — for Software Engineering and Data Science.
- English Literature, History, Psychology — for Journalism, Media and the Humanities.

**Careers guidance:** *Students are strongly encouraged to speak with our university and careers counsellors when choosing an A-Level combination, as some university courses require specific subjects.*

## General Information

### Assessment & Progression

Novastra follows an internationally benchmarked curriculum at every stage. Formal external examinations begin at O-Level (Years 10–11) and continue at A-Level (Years 12–13), preparing students for university entry across East Africa, the United Kingdom, and beyond.

### Changing Subjects

Subject changes are easiest between year groups and become more difficult once an examination course has started. Parents wishing to discuss a change should contact the Head of Section as early as possible.

### Support Available

- Subject teachers — for guidance on a specific subject.
- Form / Class teachers — for overall progress and wellbeing.
- Careers & University Counsellors — for A-Level and post-school planning.
- The Head Teacher's office — for any general enquiry about the curriculum.

*This booklet accompanies subject-selection conversations with class teachers, subject teachers, the Head Teacher and careers advisors. Please read it together with your child before submitting final subject choices.*



## NOVA STRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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### Get in Touch

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