Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What does Study House offer?

We provide an individualized and flexible learning environment where we come alongside each student in preparing them for their life journey ahead of them. Our focus is always on a holistic approach in a loving and caring environment with non-traditional schooling. We pride ourselves in small classrooms and individual interactions educating both mind and heart.

Study House most certainly breaks the mould of traditional schools. This school challenges the norm and has evolved in many ways. Yes, our main focus is "Academic Excellence" and many successful examples to support that since 2007.

The end result is a well-balanced individual that can be proud of their academic achievements and able to make choices for their future.

1. What is your teaching philosophy?

Study House teachers the Cambridge international curriculum and adopts a blended style of learning combining the best of all worlds. We use electronic platforms like Google Classrooms as tools but we believe in the traditional approach of chalk and talk while students summaries work in their own written hand in their exercise books. We provide sufficient class time so that no homework or very little homework is given. Most of the work is done at the school.

In the classroom we do peer-based teaching together with the Montessori philosophy. Students learn to own their own success while being guided by the teacher. Through the world’s most popular curriculum program and our teaching methodology, our learners are uniquely positioned to gain access to leading universities and employers.

1. What is your ethos and beliefs?

The Study House mission is to lead with a Christian ethos which respects diversity and to champion others to grow: academically, emotionally, personally, professionally and spiritually with our belief in others’ inherent goodness, integrity and enormous potential. Part of our core values are courage, honesty, respect, responsibility and self-discipline.

1. Do you have a time table and a structured academic day?

There are seven periods every day of the week. In those 35 periods all the subjects are divided into class work and self-study time. There are typically 42 academic weeks in the yea divided into 4 terms. We follow the independent school calendar. <https://www.isasa.org/isasa-term-dates/>

For 2022: <https://oakhill.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ISASA-and-SAHISA-Central-Region-Calendar-2022.pdf>

1. What subjects do you offer?

The subjects for all grades up to grade 9 are compulsory and they are:

• English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Environmental Management, Economic and Management Science, Life Skills, Art and Botanicals.

• Optional extra subjects: French and Spanish. Subjects require a minimum of 4 students to be started.

Grade 10 and 11 called IGCSE levels and 12 AS/A levels are chosen subjects. We ask that IGCSE elect 6 Subjects and AS level select 5 subjects from the following list:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 | Extra |
| English  1st Language | Afrikaans  2nd Language | Biology | Biology | Business Studies | Design & Technology |
|  | French  2nd Language | Chemistry | Chemistry | Computer Science | History |
|  |  | Physical Science | Physical Science | Agricultural Science | Marine Science |
|  |  | Mathematics | Art & Design | Economics | Travel & Tourism |
|  |  |  | Geography | Accountancy | Psychology |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. What subjects must my child take to get a university entrance?

**Entrance to Degree Courses according to Universities South Africa (Higher Education South Africa) (NSC Matric with Exemption) has to pass a “Minimum” of either option:**

* 4 x AS Levels passes at grade D *plus* 1 x IGCSE at grade C
* 2 x A Level passes at grade E *plus* 3 x IGCSE at grade C
* 3 A Level passes at grade E *plus* 1 x IGCSE at grade C
* 5 AS Level passes at grade D

Students must ensure that your subject choices adhere to the Universities South Africa requirements for exemption on page 4 if you want to apply to study at a university. Check this link for more details: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/523166-university-recognition-south-africa.pdf>

For more information check the matriculation board requirements. <https://mb.usaf.ac.za/> where and online application can be done at: <https://mb.usaf.ac.za/online-assessment-and-application/>

Parents and students must remember that to ensure that you will be able to apply to university, choose your subjects from the correct groups as shown, meet the Faculty’s minimum requirements for your field of study as shown in the prospectus of the different universities and achieve the correct grades.

1. What if my child doesn’t want to go university and just wants a normal matric?

Some students want to follow a tradesman/ vocational or college path. For this we recommend a standard matric. We recommend that students complete a career guidance questionnaire to give an indication to direction and subject choices. Try this one for free <https://www.gostudy.net/>

Read this for alternatives: <https://www.postmatric.co.za/how-to-get-ahead-without-a-degree/>

The following is the requirements for entrance to Diploma and Certificate Courses according to South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) (NSC Grade 12 Equivalence)

* 2 x AS Level passes at grade D *plus* 3 x IGCSE at grade A to C
* 2 x AS Level passes at grade D *plus* 5 x IGCSE at grade A to E
* 1 x A Level pass at grade E *plus* 3 x IGCSE at grade A to C
* 1 x A Level pass at grade E *plus* 5 x IGCSE at grade A to E

1. When are the external Cambridge exams and what happens if the child fails a subject?

All external examinations to be written at the end of the AS/A Level course in the Oct/Nov sitting. All rewrites to be written in the May/June sitting.

1. What ages are the various IGCSE and AS/A level ages of your students?

The following suggested age groups are recommended:

• Cambridge Upper Secondary 2 for 14 - 16 years: Cambridge IGCSE (Grade 9 -10)

• Cambridge Advanced for 16 -19 years: Cambridge International A and AS Level (Grade 11-13)

1. What curriculum do you follow?

The international Cambridge curriculum that can be found at this link: [Cambridge Assessment International Education Official Website (cambridgeinternational.org)](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/)

1. Are the external Cambridge exam charged separately and why?

Yes, there is an additional exam cost in the final years when the child is read to matriculate. This fee is paid early in the year and paid over to Cambridge.

As part of the international curriculum, the final Matric subjects (IGCSE, AS,A levels) are all assessed by Cambridge International under very strict exam centre conditions offered through Study House. These exams are forwarded to Cambridge and assessed by qualified assessors located all over the world. This is why the qualification is recognized all over the world as the best <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-search>.

1. How do we operate on a daily basis?

Teachers encourage students to work independently through a well thought out program. In each year we introduce a level of autonomous work. Children buy their own text books but modules are given out in some subjects. Google Classroom becomes the resource point for extra multimedia content.

1. What dress code do you offer?

Study House has a school branded t-shirt and hoodies available that can be worn. Alternative smart causal dress code applies. Students dress appropriately at all times: NO ripped jeans, short shorts; short skirts, low-cut or exposing tops, only Study House tops and logo to be worn at all time. Students must be properly groomed at all times. Students must comply with spot checks;

Males: Hair to be of natural colour, neat, out of the face, and no facial hair allowed and no false nails allowed, nails to be clean and short at all times, no earrings, nose rings to be worn and no studs on the body.

Females: Hair to be of natural colour, neat and out the face, no false nails, nails to be kept clean at all times. No studs on the body.

1. What are your school hours?

The school day starts at 07:45 and finishes at 14:00. There are extra curriculum days and intervention where teachers assist students up until 15:30.

1. Do you offer extra mural activities?

Soccer, chess, dance and drama are offered during school time. Horse riding, karate and Volley ball are during after school hours.

1. Are they included in the price?

We offer extra classes and the above extra mural at no extra cost. The only extra cost will be if they want to write progress grading.

1. Do you provide Progress marks?

Yes, twice a year is compulsory but we do give feedback every term. We use pace setters in the high school that are individualized. Term planners apply to every grade. If there are problems, we are able to address them early in the year to ensure that every individual gets the maximum results and benefit.

1. How do you communicate with parents?

WhatApp supplements our contact time with the tasks and daily information requirements like homework as a platform to communicate. We also have parent evenings. Facebook is our form of informal information sharing of photos and interesting events happening at the school.

1. Do the primary school kids get to use the botanical garden?

As environmental education school, we insists that every child becomes a member of the botanical gardens. There are other non-school day benefits and the children get to enjoy the gardens every day of the year. The cost is only R100 a year for students under 18 years of age. <https://botanicalgarden.org.za/>

1. Are you an environmental school?

With the green flag status, Study House is a non-traditional school with a focus on environmental management. Study House has a vision to empower individuals for their journey of lifelong learning through our unique perspectives, compassion and integrity; thereby harnessing enormous potential through connection to the environment and partnerships with the community.

1. Is Afrikaans compulsory?

Yes and French or Spanish are optional extras? This is the exception only at the IGCSE and AS levels.

1. How do you deal with discipline?

We have a code of conduct policy that can be found on our website. It is enforced by the principal and inspected by the circuit manager of the department of education of the Western Cape. There is a demerit system along with detention rules. If serious offences have occurred, the policy makes provision for suspension and expulsion. The school is governed by the principals and procedures. However, each case is unique and will be administered on a case by case basis. Our belief is to positively encourage rather than negatively breakdown. We do have a qualified life coach on call and integrate the outcome of remedial action in accordance of the guidelines of the policy documents.

1. What are your school rules?
2. What is your policy on cell phones?

Phone policy. It is our belief that we want to teach children how to become responsible with their phones and are trying to teach them to use their phones as tools. They take pictures of work, use it for google classroom and communication. This is policed by the teacher and students only use them when the teacher allows them. Therefore, using these devices for purposes other than those instructed by the teacher will result in detention, following which further transgressions will result in confiscation. In addition, any mobile device found lying in the school not locked away may be confiscated. The school’s Search and Seizure Policy applies to student’s mobile devices

The school accepts no responsibility for any loss of or damage to mobile devices, whether on campus or elsewhere. It is strongly advised that children store their mobile devices in a safe place when not in use.