



St Joseph Senior School Sliema

Subject Options Choice



Subject Options

The decision regarding choice of subjects is an important step that our students undertake in Senior II when they are asked to select the subjects of their choice from a number of options which our school offers.

Students are encouraged to make this decision thoughtfully and responsibly since their choice of subjects may affect their future career. Therefore, they should seek as much information as possible about all the options available. It is important that students are guided at this age to make a fruitful decision since this will ensure greater motivation and aptitude for learning. To this end, parents should discuss at length with their children the options available to them and should try not to impose their own choices upon them.

Of course, students should decide by taking into consideration not only their aptitude but also their ability in the subjects of their choices and also, subsequently, their career options. However, difficulty in any subjects should not be a deciding factor in excluding this subject from their selection of subjects. In order to help parents and students make an informed and sensible decision, the school is providing a list of websites that can be accessed easily during the decision-making process. Furthermore, parents and students are encouraged to also refer to information leaflets, published from time to time by the Department of Education, and other public and post-Secondary institutions, to help them in making their selection.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students success in their choices and to extend our availability to those students requiring further clarifications and guidance.

Ms Nathalie Camilleri
Ms Sarah Grech
Guidance Teachers



Important Websites

Post-Secondary Sixth Forms

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School

<https://gchss.edu.mt/>

G.F. Abela Junior College

www.jc.um.edu.mt

De La Salle College

www.delasallemalta.org

St. Aloysius College

www.saintalloysius.edu.mt

St Martin's Sixth Form

www.stmartins.edu

Institute of Tourism Studies

www.its.edu.mt

St.Edward's College

www.stedwards.edu.mt/

MCAST

www.mcast.edu.mt

University of Malta

www.um.edu.mt/

University of Malta (Student Advisory Services)

www.um.edu.mt/sas

Important Links

Jobsplus (previously known as ETC)

www.jobsplus.gov.mt

STC Computer Training Centre

www.stcmalta.com

Armed Forces of Malta (Entry Requirements)

www.afm.gov.mt/

Malta Police (Entry Requirements)

<http://www.police.gov.mt/en-us/vacancies.aspx>

MFSA (Careers website)

careersinfinance.mfsa.com.mt/pages/content.aspx?id=29

MTA (Careers in Tourism)

www.mta.com.mt/page.aspx?id=149

Other Important Websites for Assistance

www.education.gov.mt/

www.um.edu.mt/matsec/syllabus/seclevel2019

www.myscholarship.gov.mt

www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/33191/reg_sec_eng.pdf

ACCOUNTING

Accounting is the language of business. It is the system of recording, summarizing, and analyzing all that happens in a business. Effectively communicating this information is key to the success of every business. Those who rely on financial information include users within the business such as the owners, the company's managers and employees, and external users, such as banks, investors, governmental agencies, financial analysts, and trade unions. These users depend upon information supplied by accountants to answer questions such as:

- Is the company profitable?
- Is there enough cash to pay all salaries?
- How much debt does the company have?
- Should the company invest money to expand?

Accountants must present an organization's financial information in clear, concise reports that help make questions like these easy to answer. The most common accounting reports are called financial statements.

The course leading to SEC Ordinary Level shows students how to:

- Record financial information in a business' books (ledgers and journals);
- Prepare the main financial statements as required by law for every business entity;
- Prepare financial statements for different types of business organisations, distinguishing between sole traders, partnerships, and limited liability companies;
- Prepare financial statements for organisations which are not set up with the main aim of making a profit, such as clubs;
- Find missing figures when very limited information has been kept by a firm;
- Analyse financial information to find the progress or otherwise of a business, so that certain important decisions can be taken.

This course is mainly aimed at those seeking a career in financial services. This career is closely related to the excellent employment opportunities in accounting and finance. A local website which you might find very helpful is that of the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) which explains in detail what different careers exist within the financial sector:

<http://careersinfinance.mfsa.com.mt/pages/content.aspx?id=74>



ART

Art Option at SEC level is creative, satisfying and enjoyable, though it does require discipline and hard work in order to achieve results. The syllabus requires that students learn how to draw and paint from nature as well as from imagination.

What does this mean? Drawing from nature means being able to draw from life using artistic techniques to render form and shape, textures and tones. Drawing from imagination means that students will be given a title or theme and they will learn how to come up with their own designs for a composition by developing personal responses to research carried out on the said theme.

Students will also learn how to work with various media, including pencils, watercolour paints, acrylic paints, pastels, charcoal and collage.

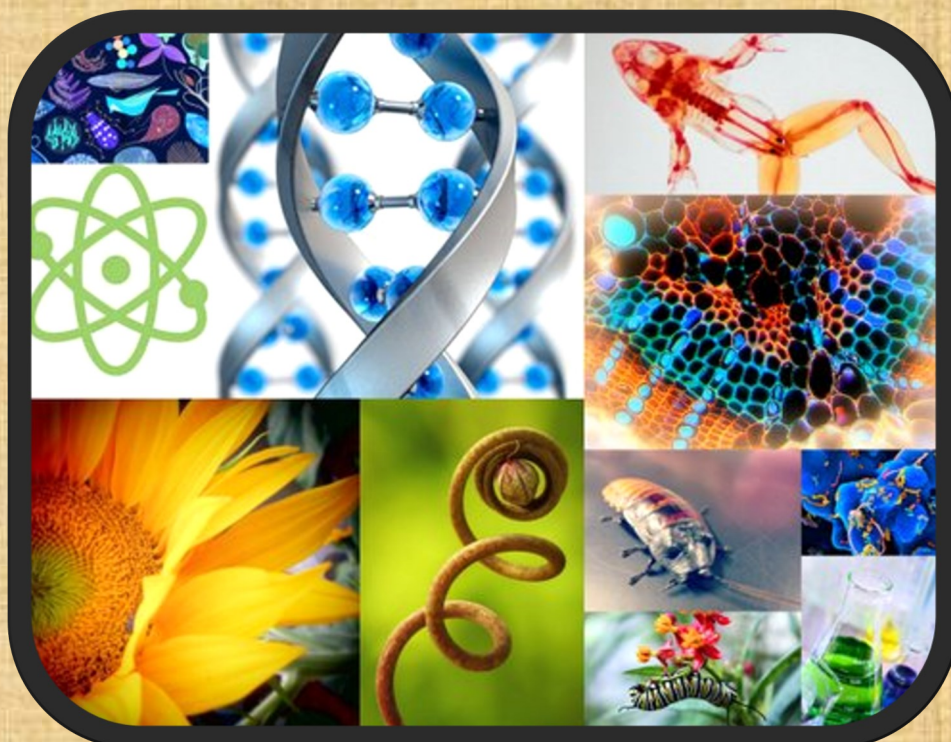


BIOLOGY

Biology is about living things, their structure and function and how they interact with each other. It is particularly interesting to us since we are living things too so studying Biology means studying about us too.

The Biology SEC Level course incorporates personal, social, political, economic, technological and environmental aspects of Biology. So studying Biology will also help with other subjects such as Maths and Home-Economics as well as the other Science subjects. Students taking Biology will obtain a worthwhile educational experience, whether or not they intend to study it beyond this level or pursue a career requiring knowledge of Biology.

There is also a practical aspect to the study of Biology. Students will take part in and write up reports for a series of practical sessions. The corrected write-ups are filed and kept by the students for moderation by the Matsec Board, after completion of the syllabus in Senior Five. All reports are important, including the very first ones done in Senior Three.



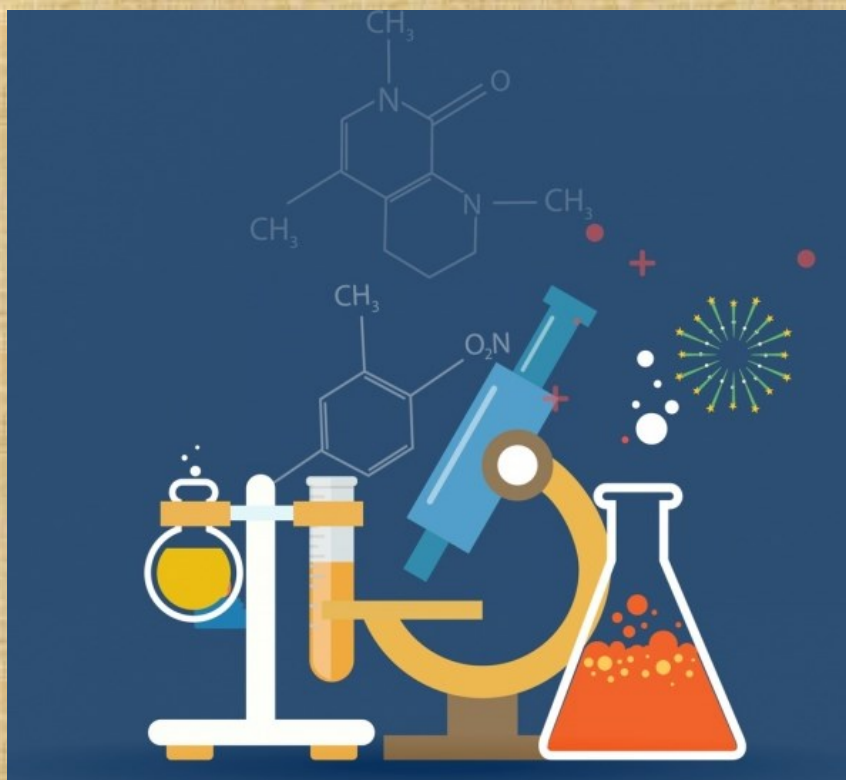
CHEMISTRY

This is the most abstract science subject we offer at SEC Level as it is about reactions taking place at a molecular and atomic level. It encourages the student to use her imagination to visualize the complexity of how substances react as they do.

The Chemistry SEC syllabus requires students to master a necessary body of information and basic knowledge about Chemistry. It also aims to present Chemistry and the work of chemists as having a profound impact on society and its cultural and physical environment.

Chemistry practicals and investigations help the students understand the theory that they are studying. As with the other science subjects, the corrected write-ups are filed and kept by the students for moderation by the Matsec Board, after completion of the syllabus in Senior Five.

A basic knowledge of Chemistry is very useful for students studying Biology and Environmental Science, especially at higher levels.



COMPUTER STUDIES

The Computing course gives a detailed understanding of how computer technology works and how it can be applied in our everyday life. The Computing SEC Level course will investigate computer programming, namely NXT Mindstorms, Robotics and Java.

Computing will enable students to:

- Expand their understanding of the current and emerging technologies and how they are used. Computing will help them understand how technology works and apply this knowledge in everyday life.
- Gain knowledge in technical skills and in the use of algorithms which will help them solve problems using programming.
- Become more independent and responsible users of ICT, which will help them in making informed decisions about its use. They will also be aware of the implications of different technologies.
- Obtain and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts.
- Develop computer programs to solve problems.
- Develop the skills to work collaboratively.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of and issues related to the use of computer technology in society.

In this way, the course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology related careers, such as website designers, programmers, system analysts, business analysts, technical staff and computing/ICT teacher.



ECONOMICS

Economics is the study of how people choose to use resources.

Resources include the time and talent people have available, the land, buildings, equipment, and other tools on hand, and the knowledge of how to combine them to create useful products and services.

Economics explains how people interact within markets to get what they want or accomplish certain goals. Since economics is a driving force of human interaction, studying it often reveals why people and governments behave in particular ways.

Knowledge of Economics is necessary for a career in business. It is also a great help for those who would like a legal and/or a political career.



HOME ECONOMICS

Home Economics is the study of:

- Food, Nutrition and Health
- Home and Family Living
- Choice and Management of Resources

Home Economics also includes Practical Sessions.

The following are some of the topics which will be covered in Home Economics:

- Healthy food, snacks and meals
- Basic rules of personal/food hygiene
- Safety and First Aid
- Lifestyle choices which prevent illness and disease
- Budgeting, saving and investing
- Consumer rights and responsibilities
- Wise shopping practices
- Designing safe, energy-efficient and comfortable homes
- Protection of the natural environment

Practical sessions will also include:

- Cooking skills (e.g. making pastry, cakes, sponges, bread)
- Preparation of meals for different people

Studying Home Economics at SEC Level will also help students who are interested in the following career areas:

- The tourism industry / catering (professional chefs, waiters, hotel managers, receptionists, customer services etc.)
- Marketers food appliances, household goods (retail outlets)
- Media producers/presenters in relation to programmes about health
- Child/elderly care (hospitals, nurses, babysitters, first aiders)
- Beauticians / hairdressers
- Jobs related to care of the environment
- Home Economics teachers



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an applied course allowing students to experience the effects and adaptations of exercise on the body. The SEC level course encompasses Physical Activities, Sociology of Sport, Biology and Physiology of the Athlete.

The coursework is not solely based on a student's ability to perform in a sport but also includes analysing skills, scouting report and interviewing a sportsman/woman. It is however recommended that students are competitively involved in a chosen National Curriculum sport in order to maximise coursework marks. The course also helps to develop valuable research and evaluation skills which will help prepare students for future university assignments.

Students who are interested in careers like physiotherapists, sport journalists, teachers, sports coaches, psychologists or physiologists will benefit from studying Physical Education at SEC Level.



PHYSICS

Physics is the most practical of all the science subjects taught at our school since it is about how and why things work as they do. The Physics SEC syllabus is designed to develop the candidates' understanding of the nature of scientific ideas and activity. The scientific method is presented in a way that stimulates curiosity and interest.

Studying Physics will help the student learn how to think scientifically and she will find this useful in solving problems in everyday life. She will also develop experimental and investigative abilities and positive attitudes towards Science and the environment.

Physics practicals and investigations are very important and these are held often. As with the other science subjects, the corrected write-ups are filed and kept by the students for moderation by the Matsec Board, after completion of the syllabus in Senior Five.



Information Technology Sec Vocational

The aim of the vocational programme in Information Technology is to provide learners with the underpinning knowledge related to Information Technology.

By the end of the programme, candidates are expected to have gained sufficient skills and should be able to apply knowledge and skills.

Upon completing this programme, learners should be able to:

1. Choose modern computer systems and networks for specific needs
2. Install and configure an operating system
3. Identify threats and devise security solutions
4. Create simple multimedia productions
5. Develop static web pages
6. Identify suitable components and justify a system installation/ replacement/ upgrade
7. Carry out, test and document a system installation/upgrade/ replacement following good working practices.

The subject consists of THREE Units spread over three years (Forms 3, 4, 5) – one unit each year. Each of the three units will be assessed by means of three assignments, one of which must be an assessment conducted within a controlled school environment.

A cumulative percentage mark, calculated on the basis of a sum total of all the 3 units, determines the final grade of candidates/ learners.

The course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology related careers, such as Support Technicians, Network Design, TV, Video Editing and Multimedia.

For more information, visit:

http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/271283/SEC39.pdf





Option Subject Choice for Senior III Students in 2020-2021

All students will take the following **CORE SUBJECTS**:

*[Subjects with an * lead to SEC Certification]*

Religion*	ICT C3
Maltese*	Personal, Social and Career Development
English Language*	Physical Education
English Literature*	
Mathematics*	
Social Studies*	

All students are to choose **4 OPTION SUBJECTS** which must include at least **one Science subject** and **one Foreign Language**. We would like to offer our students the opportunity to choose their preferred subject options, but a subject grouping can only be offered if there are enough applicants.

All the following OPTION SUBJECTS will lead to SEC Certification.

1. Compulsory Science:

Choose **ONE** of the following:

Physics Biology Chemistry

2. Compulsory Foreign Language:

Choose **ONE** of the following:

French Italian

3. Additional Option Subjects:

Choose any **TWO** of the following:

Accounts	Art	Biology	Chemistry	Computer Studies	Economics	SEC VOC—IT
French	Home Economics	Italian	Physical Education	Physics		

Student's Name: _____ Class: _____

First Choice

1. Science Subject: _____

2. Foreign Language: _____

3. Additional TWO Subjects: _____

Second Choice

1. Science Subject: _____

2. Foreign Language: _____

3. Additional TWO Subjects: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Father's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

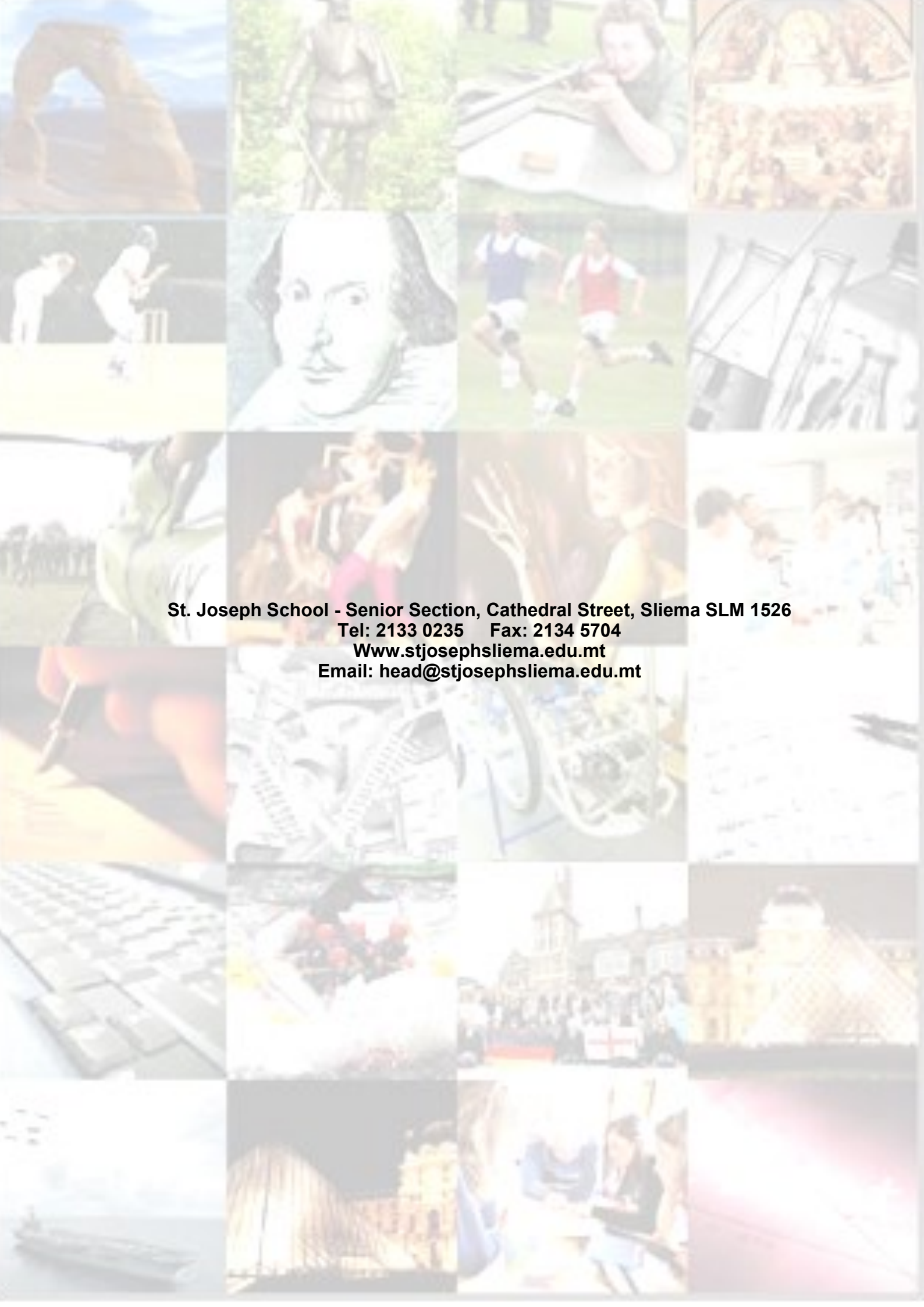
Please take note of the following school procedures:

All students will be notified about the course they will be taking next scholastic year by June 2020

Students are not allowed to change Option Course after June 2020.

Students are not allowed to drop any subject in Senior III or Senior IV unless on the specific recommendation of an Educational Psychologist.

Students who choose to take Physical Education as an Option Subject will require a medical certificate that shows they are fit to undertake swimming sessions at the National Pool, Tal-Qroqq and Athletics sessions at venues outside the school. Transport to these swimming and athletic sessions will be organised by the school but will have to be paid for by parents, together with rental fees, in October 2020. Every effort will be made to have swimming & athletic sessions organised during school hours, but some after-school sessions may need to be organised too. Students who are absent when training sessions are held will not be reimbursed.



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