



DURHAM
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

**Welcome to your
Child's Future**

"For the visionaries, creators, innovators and trailblazers of Nairobi and beyond; those who ask not only why - but why not, why not here and why not now. For the leaders of tomorrow - defined not just by their beginnings, but by the boundless horizons they have the courage to pursue."





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STUDYING AT

DURHAM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE WIDER CONTEXT

Durham International School is Kenya's first and only British branded school. The British education system enjoys a deserved reputation as a world-class provider of education. At Durham we prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century whilst upholding the traditional values that define a Durham education. Our class sizes are small, and teacher to student ratios very high, allowing for individual attention throughout a very broad range of subjects. We provide a truly rounded education within a warm, inspirational, family-orientated community. This is woven into a culture that celebrates the individual as a whole person.

A Durham education provides a rounded learning experience by encouraging self-expression, creativity and individuality. Success in sport, the arts and in other areas, such as debating, may be more discrete than exam results, but it is one of the ways in which a student's independence, confidence and belief in themselves is built up. This concentration on developing the whole person is part of the reason why students who have experienced a British education are so prized by employers. Similarly, there is always an emphasis placed on developing leadership and social skills. Living and studying together in a multi-age, multi-cultural community enables students to successfully develop qualities such as kindness, respect and responsibility.

We welcome students from all over the world who are seeking a very distinctive, historic cultural foundation, rich in the arts, in science and technology, with an open, outward looking community, where everyone is valued for their characteristic contribution to the whole.

This prospectus reflects our philosophy as we seek to ensure that we are preparing our children for the challenges of this fast-changing world. It is an invitation to work together as we seek to reinforce and develop the best possible education; an education which is preparing students to be strong and resilient yet also flexible, kind, creative and thoroughly engaged.

A modern education with a focus on the individual is something we are passionate about delivering throughout Durham International School from Early Years, to Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School concluding with our Sixth Form. Students flourish when they enjoy their education, whilst discovering and developing individual talents and exploring new skills.

We hope you will take some time to read through the following pages and we would value your own thoughts as we seek to develop Durham International School to ensure we provide the very best environment for your child to think, commit, engage and share.

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom”

Aristotle



OUR SCHOOL

Durham International School is an outstanding school situated across two campuses in the leafy suburbs of Nairobi – Thigiri and Rosslyn. It is a sister school to Durham School UK which has been providing an education to students since 1414 and in Nairobi since 2021. Throughout our history, we have retained our reputation for excellence in education and we are proud of the standards, the values and the aspirations associated with this history. We are a school that is forward-looking and progressive; combining the very best of old and new, instilling 'Confidence for Life'.

Our Mission is to provide students with a rounded education; one which inspires and nurtures a love of lifelong learning, an aspiration for achievement, respect for others, and 'Confidence for Life'. Our core values of **Moral** integrity, **Ambition**, **Responsibility** and **Kindness** are the **MARK** of a Durham education and underpin all our teaching and learning.

We are aware that all our students will need the skills and attributes to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. With our support and guidance, students develop strong communication skills, the ability to lead and work with others, and above all, they develop self-confidence – feeling that, with hard work and determination, anything can be achieved.

The emphasis of a Durham education is very much on what our students can do well and ensuring that they emerge as happy, confident, globally-minded and well-rounded young people with strong academic results. In addition, they will take with them the lifelong friendships developed in our nurturing environment that values their emotional wellbeing as much as their personal development and academic performance.



The MARK of a Durham Education

MORAL INTEGRITY

Choosing what is right, even when it is difficult. Integrity is the foundation of trust, respect, and true character.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

AMBITION

The drive to dream big, to persevere, and achieve one's full potential. Ambition turns vision into reality.

*"Aim for the moon.
Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."*

RESPONSIBILITY

Taking ownership of our words, actions, and choices. Responsibility develops accountability, strengthens character, and builds confidence.

*"You are always responsible for how you act,
no matter how you feel."*

KINDNESS

The simple act of caring, sharing, and showing respect. Kindness has the power to inspire, to heal, and to change lives.

"If you can be anything, be kind."

*Together, these values guide us
- shaping who we are
and who we aspire to become.*



THINK

One of the most important things we can do is encourage young people to make thoughtful reflection a natural part of their lives.

Knowledge is essential, but facts alone don't mean much without independent thinking, curiosity, and the freedom to express ideas openly. Even when the details of what we learn fade over time, the ability to think clearly, use evidence, and solve problems with creativity and originality will always stay with us.

The first steps towards productive thought are intellectual curiosity and an openness to new ideas. Young minds are naturally inquisitive and creative. We recognise the courage required to challenge, question and at times fail as part of a successful learning experience. We are committed to providing an environment where a willingness to take risks and intellectual courage are woven into the Durham education. The ability to apply rationality to problem solving and to seek appropriate evidence for the way we think combine with the attributes above to provide a solid foundation for each student to fulfil their potential.

At Durham International School your child will be...

NURTURED to be curious, stretched and challenged in every aspect of school life.

ENCOURAGED to combine creativity and ambition with logic and reason in their thinking.

INSPIRED to try new things, to take risks and learn, without fear, from their mistakes.

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.”

Albert Einstein

COMMIT

Gone are the days of passive learning. Today, teachers are here to inspire, facilitate, and support – not just to hand out the ‘right answers.’ Learning is now about thinking for yourself, asking questions, and really understanding. At Durham, students are encouraged to take charge of their own growth, with teachers always there to support and respond to their individual needs.

In practice this means students asking questions, volunteering answers, reviewing notes, and reflecting upon progress. Planning and organisational ability play a vital part and require self-awareness, persistence and resilience; skills so important to our approach. Likewise, a good student commits to depth of understanding, always recognising that education is a never-ending process with layer upon layer of understanding waiting to be discovered and never satisfied with one dimensional answers. Success will be celebrated – but so too will effort, perseverance, and growth. Challenges and setbacks are not signs of failure – they are essential parts of meaningful learning. If we never falter, perhaps we are not reaching far enough. In fact, it’s often during the most difficult times that we grow the most.

At Durham International School your child will be...

NURTURED with the support of teachers to take responsibility for their development.

ENCOURAGED to ask questions, volunteer answers and reflect upon their progress .

INSPIRED to aim high and strive for a deeper level of understanding.



*“Satisfaction lies in the effort,
not in the attainment. Full
effort is full victory.”*

Mahatma Gandhi



“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the things you did.”

Mark Twain

ENGAGE

To live with integrity, students need to truly understand themselves – their passions, strengths, and their areas for development. It’s easy in life to get swept along, lose sight of what matters, or take the easier path. But learning how to shape our own lives and take ownership of our choices is a journey that starts with education.

We believe young people should be active participants in their own future, encouraged to discover their purpose and pursue it with confidence. With determination, a belief in hard work, and a clear sense of direction, every student can aim for excellence with positivity and self-belief.

Alongside academic learning, important life skills – like teamwork, leadership, and empathy – grow naturally through daily experiences: participating in meaningful discussion, taking on responsibilities, volunteering, playing sport or music, performing in plays, and so much more. These opportunities open doors to an exciting, limitless future.

At Durham International School your child will be...

NURTURED to recognise their passions, strengths and weaknesses.

ENCOURAGED to define their own lives with integrity.

INSPIRED to work hard to achieve excellence with confidence and positivity.

SHARE

At Durham International School, we believe individuality shines brightest when it's nurtured within a strong, supportive community. In our caring and inclusive environment, where every student feels safe and valued, each young person has the freedom and confidence to flourish.

Community is something we build together. At Durham, we encourage everyone to listen with generosity, share ideas thoughtfully, and work with respect and empathy. We believe in the power of collaboration, in developing strong communication skills, and in showing leadership through everyday actions and personal example.

Helping one another is central to who we are. When a classmate struggles academically, offering support not only helps them but deepens our own understanding. And when someone is facing personal challenges, offering kindness – especially to those from different backgrounds, cultures, or experiences – makes our community richer.

At Durham International School, learning to support, learn from, and live alongside others with understanding and joy is an invaluable skill – one that prepares our students for life in the modern world.

At Durham International School your child will be...

NURTURED to share thoughts constructively and effectively.

ENCOURAGED to listen to others with generosity and respect.

INSPIRED to learn from, teach, interact and live with others happily and successfully.



“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

African Proverb

OUR PREP SCHOOL

The happiness and wellbeing of students is of supreme importance and is at the heart of everything that we do and achieve. We are immensely proud of the part we play in nurturing young minds during their formative years. Values, standards and expectations remain high on the list of priorities, as do mutual care and respect.

The very nature of a prep school education ensures that your child feels safe and secure. A wealth of happy memories is created here, with lifetime friendships frequently being forged. Years 2 to 6 are based at the Rosslyn campus, giving them access to outstanding facilities including the heated 25-metre, 8-lane covered swimming pool, multi-purpose courts, science labs, art and drama studios, and music school. This ensures that children benefit not only from enhanced resources but also from the specialist expertise available on site, all within a safe, secure, and inspiring environment where happy memories and lifelong friendships are made.

Specialist Senior School staff will be available to enhance the excellent teaching of the Prep School class teachers as the students become more inquisitive with age. The accommodation boasts purposefully designed interior spaces as well as specific outdoor learning spaces.

The Thigiri campus, home to Early Years – Little Durham to Year 1 – provides an intimate learning space for our youngest students. The students are nurtured within bright and airy classrooms, with plenty of their own outdoor space. From the point of joining the Early Years, Pre-Prep and Prep and progressing through the School until they are ready to join the Senior School, students are supported and encouraged to build a love of learning and a curiosity for knowledge. Your child will be valued as an individual and encouraged; they will be stretched, not stressed, by their tasks, which are carefully designed and structured to help them meet their potential. A positive home-school partnership really does help to support and enhance what happens in the classroom and we work hard to ensure this remains a real strength of our provision.





LITTLE DURHAM, PLAYGROUP, FOUNDATION STAGE 1 AND FOUNDATION STAGE 2 (ages 1 to 5)

Our Early Years curriculum at Durham International School follows the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage framework, giving every child a clear, supportive pathway for learning and growth. It is designed to make sure children progress at their own pace, while meeting age-appropriate milestones in a fun and engaging way.

The framework has seven areas of learning and development, starting with three 'prime areas' – the building blocks for everything else.



Communication and Language

helping children develop listening, understanding, and speaking skills.



Physical Development

improving coordination, movement, and self-care, while encouraging healthy habits.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

building confidence, resilience, and strong, positive relationships.

Development in these three foundational areas is essential for children to effectively engage with and progress in the four 'specific areas' of development:



Literacy

fostering a love of stories, phonics, early reading, and writing.



Mathematics

exploring numbers, counting, shapes, and problem-solving.



Understanding the World

discovering people, places, technology, and nature.



Expressive Arts and Design

unleashing creativity through art, music, drama, and imaginative play.

Together, these areas ensure every child develops the skills, curiosity, and confidence they need for a love of lifelong learning.



YEARS 1 AND 2

(ages 5 to 7)

After completing the Early Years Foundation Stage, children move naturally into Key Stage 1 – a two-year phase covering Years 1 and 2. Here, lessons take on a slightly more structured approach, but the focus remains on curiosity, creativity, and enjoyment. This is a time to nurture individuality, spark imagination, and encourage children to think for themselves, all while keeping learning interesting and enjoyable.

Key Stage 1 builds the solid foundations every child needs. Teachers focus on developing strong skills in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, whilst also opening up new worlds through subjects like Science, History, and Geography. With this balance of structure and exploration, children gain confidence, build a love for learning, and take their first exciting steps into the wider curriculum.



YEARS 3 TO 6

(ages 7 to 11)

Key Stage 2 spans the next four years and marks an exciting stage in every child's journey, where learning becomes deeper, broader, and even more engaging. Our teachers provide a rich mix of knowledge, skills, and experiences, helping students make meaningful connections across subjects and the wider world.

During this stage, strong foundations are built in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science, and doors are opened to a broad range of disciplines, including History, Geography, Computer Science, Art, Design Technology, Music, and Physical Education. Students also continue to develop their skills in a Modern Foreign Language, expanding their understanding of different cultures and ways of communicating – particularly relevant in our international community.

Throughout these years, we encourage students to take greater responsibility for their learning. They begin to work with more independence – exploring ideas, applying knowledge, and making decisions with growing confidence. Our teachers are there to guide, support, and inspire them, nurturing self-esteem and encouraging them to believe in their own abilities.

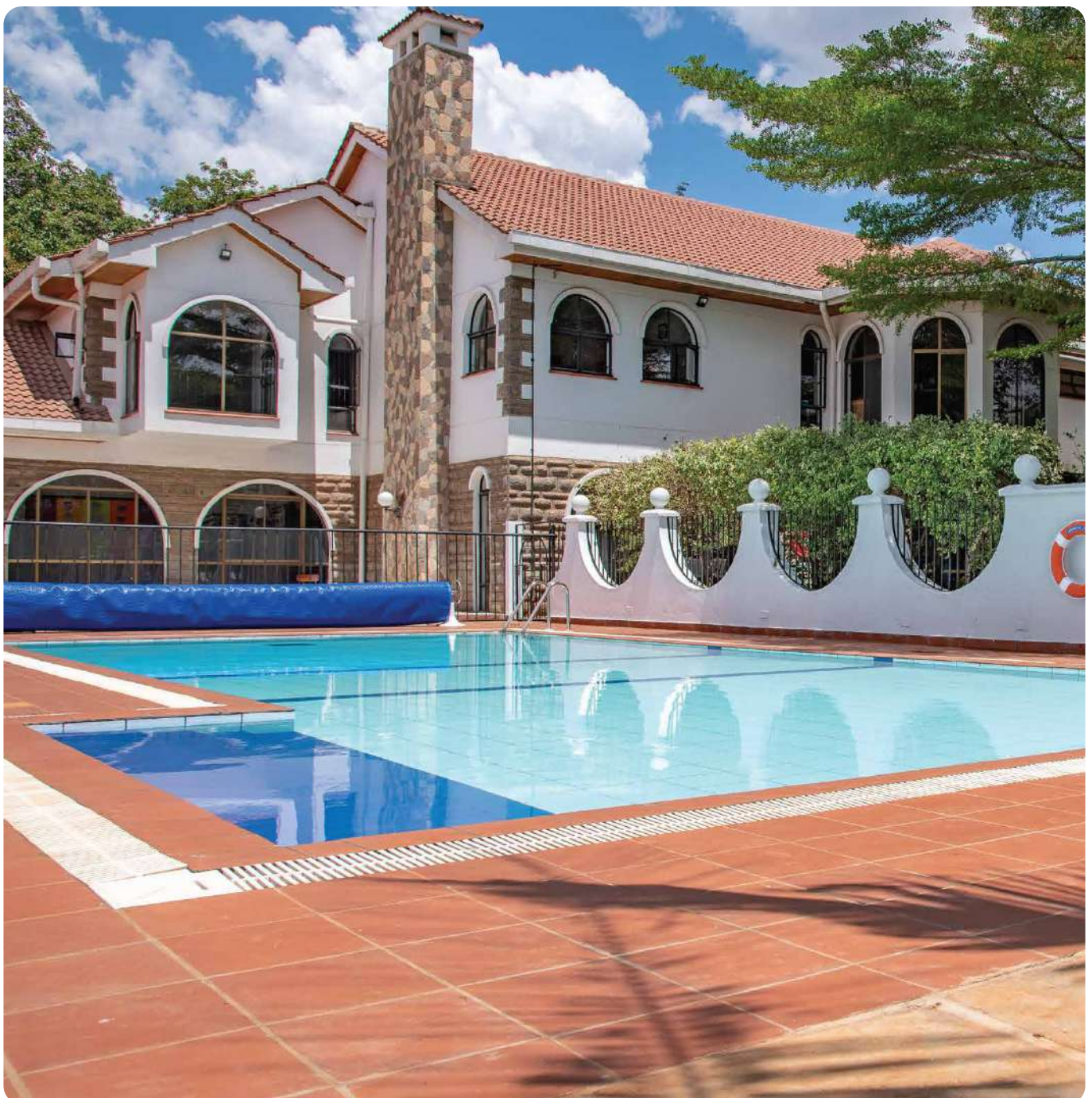
Key Stage 2 at Durham is not only about academic growth; it's a time for building resilience, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning – preparing every child for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

OUR THIGIRI CAMPUS

Our beautiful Thigiri campus, situated next to Karura Forest, is home to the youngest members of our School (from age 1 to age 6). The campus has a charming 'home-from-home' feel with bright, spacious classrooms offering a variety of learning spaces including dedicated activity areas and role play spaces. We have a purpose-built music room, a library, a computer room, a secure outdoor playground and bespoke areas for Little Durham and Playgroup children to play.

At the heart of our Thigiri campus are committed

teachers whose expertise is matched by their warmth, guiding children with both knowledge and kindness. Teaching and learning takes place indoors and outdoors with lessons regularly held outside on the terrace and in the tree house. Our teachers incorporate the natural environment into all areas of learning, especially Mathematics and Science, and visits to Karura Forest are a firm favourite. Students enjoy their lessons in our heated swimming pool, and participate in both PE and independent play on our large sports field.



OUR ROSSLYN CAMPUS

The Rosslyn campus is a world-class, purpose-built campus providing a dynamic educational environment designed to inspire excellence in both academics and personal development. It is home to students in Year 2 and above. It features dedicated learning spaces, cutting-edge educational technologies and a team of exceptional teachers and leaders.

Designed with sustainability and a respect for Kenya's natural beauty, the Rosslyn campus features

stone and wood finishes, coupled with contemporary aesthetics. Large, open spaces and classrooms that open to outdoor areas create a vibrant, indoor-outdoor learning experience that takes full advantage of Nairobi's mild climate. The extensive sports facilities at the Rosslyn campus include sports fields, a heated 25-metre, 8-lane covered swimming pool with tiered seating for spectators and multi-purpose courts.





OUR SENIOR SCHOOL

Our bespoke teaching and small class sizes combine to empower students to achieve excellent exam results and expect strong performances across the School. We provide students with the skills, confidence and capabilities to navigate their own paths through life, enabling them to gain a confident understanding of core, central concepts and understand their application in a real-world context. Classrooms are bright, welcoming environments in which students can expect to have their thoughts and opinions heard and in which they will certainly be pushed to meet and exceed their potential. Our approach emphasises a well-rounded education, integrating academic study, music, sports, artistic creativity, performing arts, and wider life-enhancing co-curricular activities. Above all else, we aim to engender excitement and enjoyment and to cultivate a love of learning for its own sake both in the classroom and well beyond it!

Outstanding exam grades will be a by-product of our dedication to nurturing inquisitive, critical and enthusiastic learners. We know that if you develop the right attitudes and skills, exam results will come naturally. Excellent grades at IGCSE and Sixth Form pave the way for successful applications to university, while the understanding, skills and thirst for knowledge that students develop provide the foundations for success in any walk of life.

Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to embark upon the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This independent learning project allows students to further develop valuable skills like research, critical thinking and time management whilst discovering the joys of taking responsibility for their own study.

TUTORING

Our Form Tutors at Durham International School are important in the lives of students. Meeting with them every day, Form Tutors play a crucial role in making our promise a living reality. Given that importance, we look very closely at ways in which we can support and enhance the work Form Tutors do for the students in their care. A vital administrative aspect of tutoring involves overseeing academic progress and yet the essential value of the role lies in expanding students' intellectual, personal, cultural and moral horizons as part of our community and in preparation for higher education and the adult world. Equally importantly, the Form Tutor is uniquely placed to provide significant pastoral support and a bridge between the School and parents or guardians. The Form Tutor is often the first port of call for advice, help, sympathy, or simply a chat about the last sports match, play or musical event. We task our Form Tutors with explaining and reinforcing the Durham ethos to ensure that every student understands our expectations in all aspects of their lives.

In the Sixth Form, tutors are at the heart of each student's journey. Tutors take the time to really know their tutees and offer expert advice on future pathways, whether that's university or careers. With this dedicated support, students not only thrive academically but also grow into resilient, independent, and well-rounded young adults, equipped to make their mark with confidence.

To think, to commit, to engage and to share, all fit within our overriding objective, which will always be grounded in the happiness and flourishing of individual students within the strength of community, guided by tutoring of the highest quality.



YEARS 7 TO 9 (ages 11 to 14)

Key Stage 3 comprises the first three years of Senior School, for students aged 11 to 14. This is a pivotal stage in each student's education – a time of transition, exploration, and discovery as they move from the primary years into the senior phase.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is renowned for its rigorous academic standards and holistic approach, ensuring students receive a well-rounded education across a wide spectrum of subjects. Core disciplines such as English, Mathematics, and Science remain central, while students delve deeper into Humanities (History – including Kenyan history, Geography, and Global Perspectives), Modern Foreign Languages – (including Kiswahili), Computer Science, and the Creative Arts (Art, Music, and Drama). Physical Education further enriches the experience, ensuring a balance of intellectual, creative, and physical development.

Durham International School does not follow the Common Entrance route; instead, we believe in providing a curriculum that looks outward, broadens perspectives, and builds the skills and curiosity needed for success in the global IGCSE programme. Our curriculum builds the habits and skills that will carry students through their Senior School years and beyond. They are encouraged to think critically, develop independence, and take greater ownership of their learning, while teachers guide them with support and challenge in equal measure.

At Durham, Key Stage 3 is a time for students to broaden their horizons, gain confidence in their abilities, and lay strong academic and personal foundations for the challenges of the IGCSE programme ahead.

YEARS 10 TO 11 (AGES 14 TO 16)

Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) marks an exciting and defining stage in a student's education as they embark on the globally recognised Cambridge IGCSE programme. During these two years, students begin to specialise, deepening their knowledge and understanding across a carefully selected range of subjects while developing the discipline, curiosity, and resilience that will prepare them for Sixth Form study and life beyond school.

The IGCSE curriculum at Durham International School combines academic challenge with breadth and balance. Core subjects – English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and the Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) – form the foundation, complemented by a choice of Humanities (Geography, History, and Global Perspectives), Languages (French, Spanish and Latin), Creative Arts (Drama, Art and Design, Design Technology, and Music) and Technology (Computer Science) options. This enables every student to pursue areas of genuine interest and strength while maintaining a broad and globally relevant education.

Learning at this stage is characterised by independence and inquiry. Students are encouraged to think critically, communicate confidently, and apply their knowledge to real-world contexts. Teachers guide them in developing effective study habits, research skills, and personal organisation – essential tools for success in examinations and future learning.

Beyond the classroom, students engage in a vibrant programme of co-curricular and leadership opportunities, community service, and enrichment activities that foster confidence, empathy, and global awareness.

At Durham, the IGCSE years are not just about achieving outstanding results; they are about nurturing young people who are intellectually curious, reflective, and ready to take the next step into the Sixth Form with purpose and ambition.

IGCSE SUBJECTS

All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). In addition, a choice of four optional subjects will be chosen from the list below. Students will be encouraged to follow at least one humanities subject (Geography, History or Global Perspectives) and at least one Modern Foreign Language.

Art and Design	Computer Science	Design Technology	Geography		
French	History	Music	Drama	Physical Education	Spanish

English Language and Literature

Our English Language and Literature IGCSE courses inspire students to explore the richness of words, ideas, and stories while developing essential skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking.



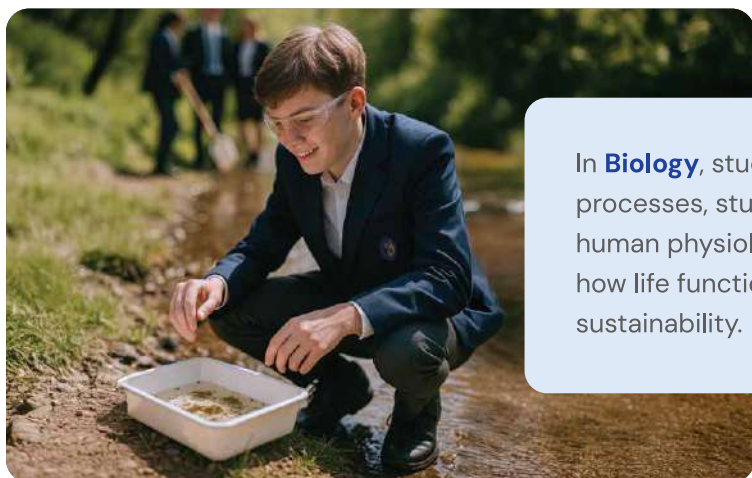
The **English Language** IGCSE builds the ability to write with accuracy, creativity, and purpose across formats such as essays, articles, and narratives. Students practise close reading, comprehension, and analysis, learning to evaluate meaning, tone, and audience effectively.

The **English Literature** IGCSE introduces students to a diverse range of texts – poetry, prose, and drama from different eras and cultures. They examine themes, characters, and techniques, discovering how writers shape meaning and influence readers.

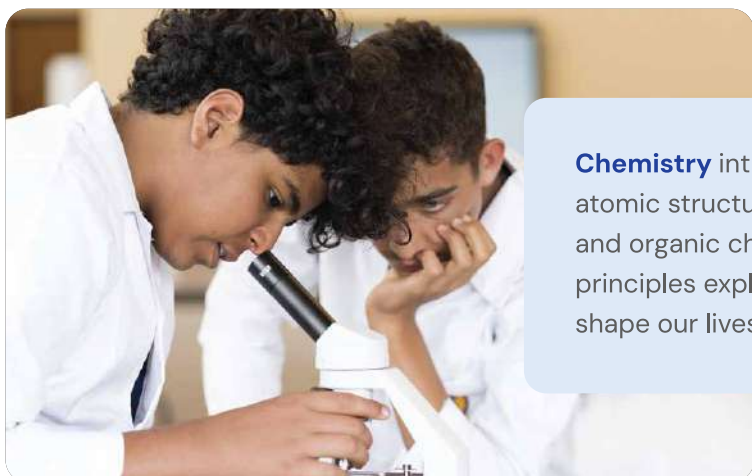
Assessment combines examinations and, where appropriate, coursework, rewarding both analytical and creative abilities. Students learn to express their interpretations with confidence, using evidence to support their ideas. By the end of the courses, students will have mastered clear, articulate communication and developed empathy, cultural awareness, and an appreciation of literature’s power to spark thought and inspire change. These IGCSEs not only provide a strong foundation for Sixth Form study but also equip students with invaluable skills for university, careers, and life beyond the classroom.

SCIENCE – Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

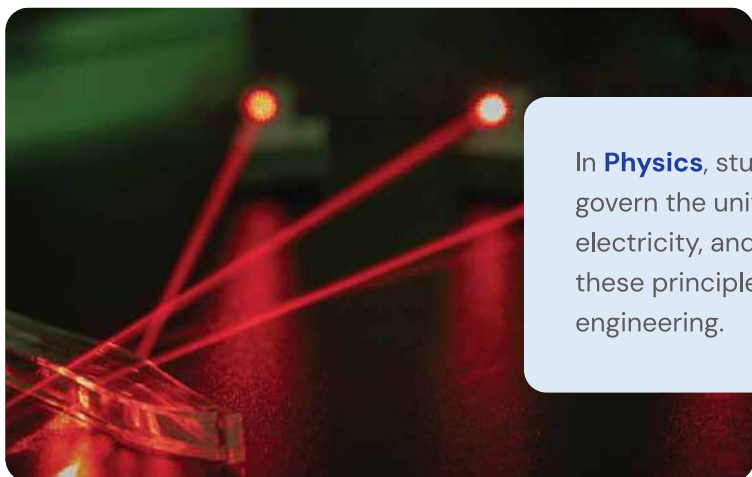
Our IGCSE science courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the natural world, nurturing curiosity, analytical thinking, and practical skills that prepare them for advanced study and future careers.



In **Biology**, students explore living organisms and life processes, studying topics such as cell biology, genetics, human physiology, and ecosystems. They gain insight into how life functions and the importance of conservation and sustainability.



Chemistry introduces the building blocks of matter, from atomic structure and bonding to reactions, acids and bases, and organic chemistry. Students learn how chemical principles explain materials, medicines, and innovations that shape our lives.

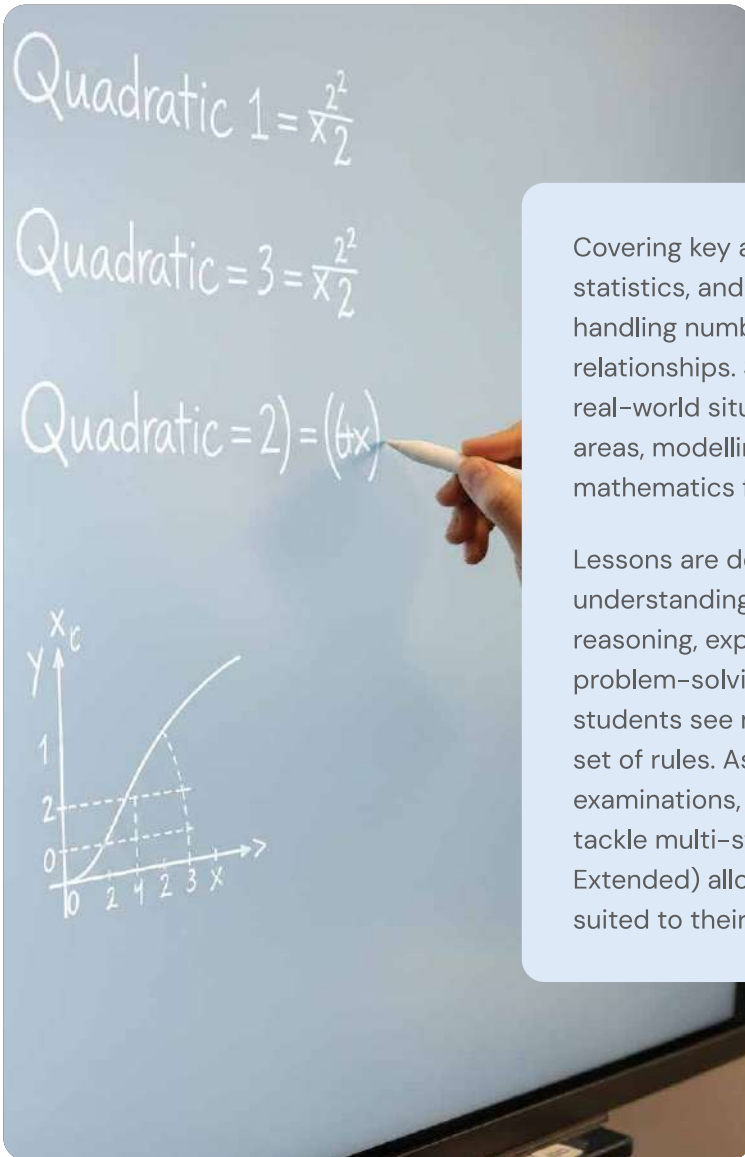


In **Physics**, students investigate the forces and laws that govern the universe, covering energy, motion, waves, electricity, and the structure of matter. They discover how these principles underpin modern technology and engineering.

Practical experiments and investigations run through all three sciences, developing precision, data analysis, and critical thinking. Assessment is by written examinations, rewarding both knowledge and the ability to apply concepts to new situations. Together, these courses provide a strong foundation for Sixth Form sciences and equip students with skills valued in medicine, engineering, research, and beyond.

Mathematics

The IGCSE Mathematics course provides students with a solid foundation in essential mathematical concepts and techniques while encouraging logical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are invaluable in every aspect of life.



Covering key areas such as algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and probability, the course builds confidence in handling numbers and understanding mathematical relationships. Students learn to apply these concepts to real-world situations – from interpreting data to calculating areas, modelling patterns, and solving equations – ensuring mathematics feels relevant and practical.

Lessons are designed to develop both fluency and understanding, moving beyond rote learning to encourage reasoning, exploration, and curiosity. Regular problem-solving tasks and investigative activities help students see mathematics as a dynamic subject, not just a set of rules. Assessment focuses on two written examinations, testing both core knowledge and the ability to tackle multi-step problems. Differentiated tiers (Core and Extended) allow students to progress at the level best suited to their abilities, with pathways to higher-level study.

Computer Science

The IGCSE Computer Science course introduces students to the principles and practices that underpin the digital world. It develops problem-solving, logical thinking, and technical skills that are essential in today's technology-driven society.

Students study computer systems, networks, data representation, algorithms, and cybersecurity, gaining insight into how hardware and software work together. They also learn to code in a high-level

programming language, applying computational thinking to design, write, and debug programs that solve real problems.

The course combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on programming, encouraging students to think creatively and critically. They learn how to approach tasks methodically, analyse solutions, and understand the impact of computing on individuals and society. Assessment includes written papers and practical programming tasks.

HUMANITIES

Geography, History and Global Perspectives

The IGCSE courses in Geography, History, and Global Perspectives encourage students to understand the world they live in – its landscapes, its past, and the challenges of its future – while developing critical thinking, research, and communication skills.



In **Geography**, students explore the relationships between people, places, and environments. Topics include climate and ecosystems, population and migration, urbanisation, and natural hazards. They learn how human activity shapes the planet and consider solutions to pressing global issues like sustainability and resource management.



History helps students understand how past events influence the present. Covering key periods and themes which will include Kenyan history, students learn to evaluate sources, consider multiple perspectives, and build reasoned arguments about change, continuity, and causation.



Global Perspectives is an interdisciplinary course that challenges students to think critically about worldwide issues such as poverty, climate change, and technology. Through collaborative projects, independent research, and discussion, they develop skills in analysis, empathy, and problem-solving while recognising the value of diverse viewpoints.

Together, these subjects foster curiosity, cultural awareness, and a deeper understanding of our interconnected world. They provide an excellent foundation for Sixth Form study in the humanities and social sciences and equip students with transferable skills valuable for university, work, and life.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French and Spanish (IGCSE)

Our IGCSE courses in French and Spanish open the door to new cultures, perspectives, and opportunities, providing students with valuable language skills for life in an increasingly connected world.

Students learn to communicate confidently in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Lessons focus on practical, real-life situations – from everyday conversations to expressing opinions on global issues – helping students build vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and develop grammatical accuracy.

The courses also immerse students in the rich cultures of French and Spanish speaking countries. Through topics such as family life, travel, education, media, and the environment, students gain insight into traditions, history, and contemporary society,

fostering both cultural appreciation and empathy.

Assessment combines oral exams with listening, reading, and writing papers, rewarding both fluency and understanding. Students are encouraged to express themselves creatively and respond to authentic materials such as articles, interviews, and dialogues. By the end of the course, students will have developed strong communication skills, cultural awareness, and confidence in using another language.

These qualifications are highly regarded by universities and employers, offering a real advantage in fields such as business, travel, diplomacy, and international relations.





THE ARTS

Art and Design, Design Technology, Music and Drama

The IGCSE courses in Art and Design and Design Technology encourage creativity, problem-solving, and innovation, allowing students to develop practical skills alongside imaginative thinking.

Art and Design invites students to explore a wide range of artistic media – from drawing, painting, and printmaking to mixed media and digital work. They learn to express ideas visually, experiment with techniques, and study influential artists and movements for inspiration. The course develops observational skills, creativity, and the ability to communicate concepts through art.

Design Technology centres on designing and making functional products that respond to real-world needs. Students explore materials such as wood, metal, plastics, and textiles, learning about processes, sustainability, and innovation as they bring their ideas to life.

Both subjects emphasise hands-on learning, with assessment based largely on portfolios and projects. Together, they develop creativity, analytical thinking, and practical skills – preparing students for further study in the arts, design, or engineering, and inspiring confidence to innovate and problem-solve effectively.

Music nurtures students' abilities in performance, composition, and listening. They study a wide range of musical styles and traditions – from classical to contemporary and global music – while learning to perform with technical accuracy and expression. Composition tasks encourage originality and experimentation, while listening and analysis develop a deeper understanding of musical structure and context.

The core of the Music Department is a strong curriculum where students learn to sing, play keyboards, compose with music processing software, improvise and to listen analytically and evaluatively. Yet music is not an elite activity at Durham International School – the emphasis is on enjoyment and involvement for all.

We have school choirs, a school orchestra, individual harmony clubs for girls' and boys' voices, ensemble, teatime music concerts – supplemented by one-to-one and small group theory tuition classes.

Drama invites students to explore theatre as performers, directors, and creators. Through devising their own pieces and studying published plays, they learn to communicate ideas, emotions, and stories on stage. The course builds essential skills in collaboration, improvisation, and critical thinking, while deepening students' understanding of theatre traditions and techniques.

Durham International School prides itself on the inclusive nature and professional quality of its productions. Whether academic or extra-curricular, students are encouraged to explore a wide range of theatrical styles; from the spectacular whole school musical to performance evenings and participation in drama festivals. We encourage students to see the study of drama and theatre as a valuable tool, whose worth extends beyond the classroom walls.

Both Music and Drama are highly practical, with assessments based on performance, creative work, and written reflection. They encourage students to take risks, express themselves, and work effectively both independently and as part of a team.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The IGCSE Physical Education course develops students' understanding of health, fitness, and the science behind human movement, while encouraging an active, balanced lifestyle.

Students study both the theory and practice of physical education. The theoretical component covers topics such as anatomy and physiology, training principles, psychology in sport, and the importance of nutrition and health. This knowledge helps students understand how the body responds to exercise and how performance can be improved.

The practical component allows students to participate in a range of sports and activities, developing skills in performance, technique, and teamwork. Students are assessed on their ability to apply strategies, demonstrate skill, and evaluate their own and others' performance.

By combining classroom study with physical activity, the course builds confidence, resilience, and leadership, while laying a strong foundation for careers in sport, health, and fitness-related fields.



CURRICULUM SPORT

We believe in the value of sport in a balanced life and we strive for all students to gain the maximum benefit from their sporting experience at Durham International School. We recognise the role that playing sport and taking part in physical activities plays in improving personal wellbeing and we structure our school timetable to allow all students to be active every day, whether it be a games lesson, PE lesson, team practice, swim or a strength and conditioning session.

Our ambition is to nurture a sporting culture where all have fun, strive industriously and excel at whatever level they aspire to; where individuals can pursue their own sporting interests alongside representing the School in mainstream competition, and where the most talented are challenged to attain the highest level.

We want our students to take from Durham the attitudes, knowledge and enthusiasms that will support a happy, productive adult life and this is as

true of sport as it is of other aspects of their education. For some, this will be the experience of being part of a team and representing the School in a sport that really matters to them. For others, it will be in reaching an elite level of competition, representing school, club, region and country before moving on to a career in sport.

We also have a responsibility to ensure that all students leave school with a positive experience of exercise and of one or more sports or activities which they will pursue into adulthood. The link between good physical and mental health is well established yet very few health-conscious graduates play rugby or netball in their spare time. Many more play padel, squash, badminton, tennis, cycle, run, dance, practise yoga or go to the gym. Facilities and a programme of sports that supports the physical education and mental fitness of students beyond the confines of team competitions will ensure that sport is part of an education that will enhance our students' lives long after they have left Durham.

SIXTH FORM (AGES 16 TO 18)

The Sixth Form at Durham International School is due to commence in September 2028. It will represent the pinnacle of a student's school journey – a time of independence, intellectual growth, and preparation for life beyond school.

A Level

The A Level curriculum will allow our students to specialise in subjects they are passionate about, whilst continuing to develop the critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that will serve them at university and in their future careers. With smaller class sizes and close support from specialist teachers, students will experience a learning environment that encourages debate, independent research, and academic excellence.

Life in the Sixth Form will extend far beyond the classroom with our planned Enrichment Programme. Students will take on leadership roles within the school community, mentor younger students, and participate in service projects and co-curricular activities that promote responsibility, resilience, and global awareness. Dedicated university and careers guidance will ensure that each student is supported in planning the next stage of their educational

journey, from personal statement writing to interview preparation and course selection.

Tutors will be at the heart of each student's journey. They will take the time to really know their tutees and offer expert advice on future pathways, whether that's university or careers. With this dedicated support, students not only thrive academically but also grow into resilient, independent, and well-rounded young adults, equipped to make their mark with confidence.

Students will also be able to opt for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is an independent research project taken alongside the A Levels. The EPQ allows students to explore a topic in depth whilst developing skills such as critical thinking, research and project management. Students will be supported by their tutor and the externally moderated qualification equates to half an A Level.

At Durham International School, the Sixth Form will be a time of opportunity and transformation – where students refine their ambitions, gain confidence in their voice, and develop the skills, integrity, and independence needed to thrive at university and as future leaders in a global world.



CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

At Durham International School we believe that co-curricular activities are central to the all-round development of our students and we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to enrich their lives both inside and outside school. We are immensely proud of our co-curricular programme that encourages our students to get out there, get stuck in, give it a go and above all – have fun!

The co-curricular programme will offer something for everyone, and for some people it is everything. It enriches the lives of our students by allowing them to discover their own boundaries, comfort zones and find their place in the world. Our opportunities will evolve over time, ensuring that what we offer continues to grow and adapt with our students.

Developing the much sought-after ‘soft skills’ of leadership, collaboration, communication, resilience and perseverance, we see the co-curricular life of Durham International School as not merely being about enjoyment and participation but as an important mechanism by which our students can be equipped to make an impact on the world at large.

It is about challenge, it is about determination, it is about the rich reward of hard work and the ability to bounce back when you fall down. It is, above all else, about ensuring that all our students are nurtured and encouraged during their time at Durham to develop interests, passions, skills and values that will stay with them long after they leave us and enter the world beyond.

Sporting Excellence and Participation

Our sports provision caters to both aspiring athletes and those seeking to enjoy the benefits of physical activity. From Football, Netball, Cricket, and Basketball to Swimming, Tennis, Running, Gymnastics, and Yoga, students have countless opportunities to compete, improve fitness, and develop leadership skills. Our coaching emphasises commitment, sportsmanship, and healthy competition, ensuring students grow in both ability and character.

Creative and Cultural Exploration

For those with an artistic flair, we offer Art, Drama Club, LAMDA (speech and drama training), Choir, Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, and String Group, alongside opportunities for creative writing through Ink & Impact. Language lovers can expand horizons in Latin Club and Spanish Club, while our EAMUN (East Africa Model United Nations) team develops skills in diplomacy, debate, and global awareness.

Discovery and Leadership

Our clubs and activities ignite curiosity and encourage students to take on challenges. Chess, Coding, STEM, Bug Hunting, and Scouts develop strategic thinking and problem-solving. The School Council gives students a voice in shaping school life, while the President’s Award fosters leadership, perseverance, and a commitment to community service.

With such breadth of choice, every Durham student can find a pursuit that inspires them – helping them grow into well-rounded, confident individuals ready to embrace the future.

WELLBEING, SUPPORT AND PASTORAL CARE

At Durham International School, we recognise that academic and pastoral needs are inseparable. We know that only happy students reach their full potential and perform well academically, so great care and support are given to ensure that all students have a positive experience and look forward to each day at school. With high levels of academic and pastoral monitoring, alongside small class sizes, every student's journey through the school is closely observed and, should any concerns arise, they are dealt with promptly and effectively.

We have a dedicated health centre run by a qualified nurse on each campus.

Healthy eating is also promoted as part of our holistic approach to wellbeing and we are proud to work with a dedicated catering team who deliver an

exceptional service. They provide for those with allergies and intolerances, cultural diets and hold regular food forums with the students.

The House system is also at the heart of Durham life and offers another sense of belonging to each student as well as an opportunity to showcase talents against other houses in House competitions.

This vertical system, with students represented from each year group, really helps to promote leaders and as students progress through the School, they are encouraged to become positive role models and leaders for the younger years. We have four Houses – Simba (Lion), Tembo (Elephant), Kifaru (Rhino) and Chui (Leopard).



THE OLD DUNELMIAN (OD) SOCIETY

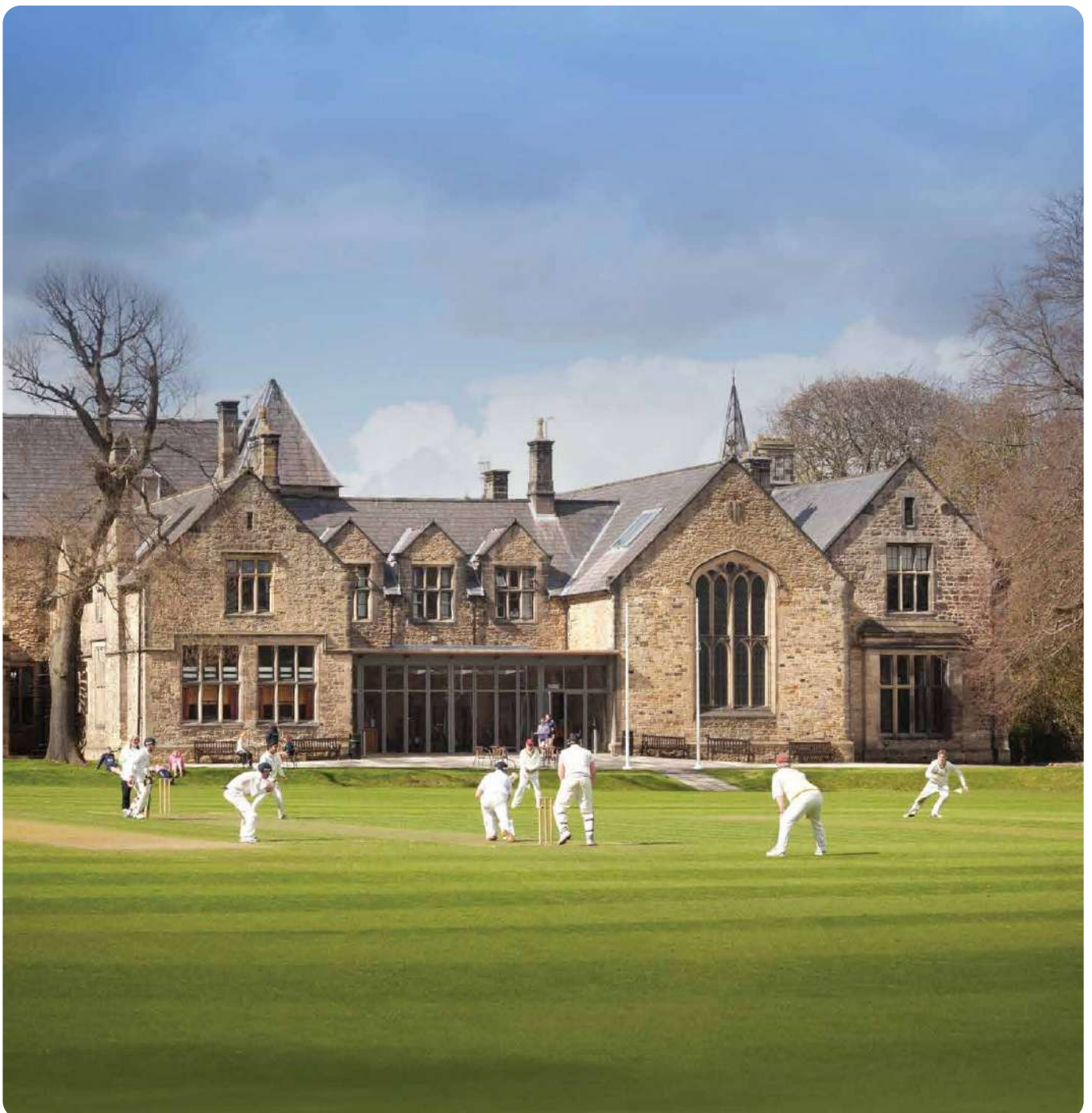
All students of Durham International School in Kenya become part of the wider Durham family for life. Upon leaving, they are eligible to join the Old Dunelmian (OD) Society, which brings together former students of both Durham International School in Kenya and Durham School in the UK.

The OD Society has over 5,000 members worldwide and exists to keep those lifelong friendships and connections made at Durham alive and thriving. Many ODs say that returning for a reunion or event – even after many years – feels like coming home, as

they reconnect with former teachers, friends, and the unique spirit of Durham.

The outstanding reputation that Durham enjoys across the globe is built on the success of its alumni. A Durham education, whether in Kenya or the UK, nurtures confident, well-rounded, and forward-thinking individuals – people who go on to make their mark as leaders, innovators, and changemakers in their chosen fields.

Once a Durham student, always a part of the Durham story!



WHY DURHAM?

1. A 600 Year Heritage

As an international branch of the prestigious Durham School in the UK, we bring over 600 years of academic tradition and values to families in Nairobi – blending British educational standards with an international outlook.

2. Personalised, Supportive Learning

Our small class sizes mean every student is known, supported, and challenged. We nurture curiosity, confidence, and a genuine love of learning – ensuring each student can thrive in their own way.

3. A Truly Holistic Education

Beyond academics, students explore sport, music, drama, outdoor learning, and leadership opportunities. We focus on developing well-rounded individuals, not just exam results.

4. Global Pathways and Opportunities

Following the British curriculum, including IGCSEs and Sixth Form, our students are equipped for leading universities and careers around the world – while staying connected to the powerful Durham alumni network.

5. A Warm, Inclusive Community

At Durham, kindness and respect are at the heart of everything we do. We celebrate diversity and create a safe, welcoming environment where every student feels they belong – and every family is part of the Durham story.

6. Prime Locations

Situated in Rosslyn and Thigiri, our campuses are conveniently accessible for families across Nairobi, whilst also offering a secure and serene environment that allows children to learn, grow, and flourish.

7. Exceptional Facilities

From science labs, art and drama studios to our heated 25-metre, 8-lane, covered swimming pool and multi-purpose sports courts, our world-class facilities inspire creativity, curiosity, and ambition in every child.

8. Academic Excellence

Our highly skilled teachers, drawn from around the globe, bring specialist expertise in delivering the British curriculum. They combine rigorous academic standards with a passion for inspiring young minds to aim high and achieve their best.


9. Competitive Fees

Our fee structure is designed to provide outstanding value, making Durham a smart choice for families seeking academic excellence, breadth of opportunity, and long-term investment in their child's future.


Make an Appointment

We fully understand how important the decision is when choosing your child's school. We are committed to ensuring that your child's educational experience is filled with happiness, discovery, and learning.

Make an appointment today and find out how we are shaping the future of education in Nairobi.

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Rosslyn Campus

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