

Cambridge IGCSE® Enterprise case study

The Christian Brothers College, Zimbabwe

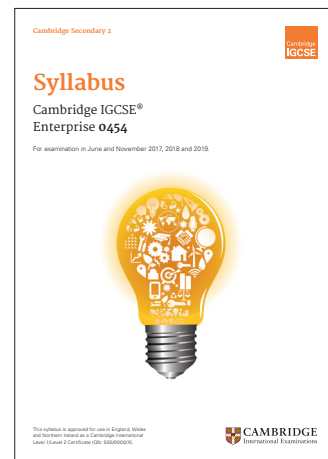
The Christian Brothers College is an independent school for boys in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Established in 1954, the school has a proud history of delivering quality education. Members of parliament, authors and sportsmen are among its list of former students.

The school currently has 600 boys enrolled. It offers a choice of 20 Cambridge IGCSE subjects and 14 Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects. It has been a Cambridge school since 2002, and is now a Cambridge Fellowship Centre.

Why does The Christian Brothers College teach Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise?

The Christian Brothers College chose to teach Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise as the subject offered an added dimension to academic learning. The school likes the way the syllabus was designed, and its focus on practical application, confidence building and student-centred learning. The school's holistic approach to education attracted it to Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise. It recognised that many of its students would welcome the chance to learn how to run a business, as many of the boys' parents were already business owners. The opportunity to teach the subject was an easy decision for the school to make.

The Christian Brothers College particularly welcomes the way Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise teaches students to think critically, to research, negotiate, communicate, analyse, apply knowledge and evaluate when assessing whether to, and how to, start a business. The school also likes the emphasis on meeting business owners and other stakeholders in the wider community, such as business managers, government officials, suppliers and tradespeople. The school likes the approach taken by the syllabus to the teaching of the subject; the way students



are introduced to risk analysis and understanding their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of their business ideas.

Nkosentsha Mpala, the school's Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise teacher said teaching the course had given him the opportunity to be innovative and creative in his teaching. 'Teaching the course has made it vital that I keep up with the business world, and this is something I really enjoy,' he said.

“The students thoroughly enjoy their studies on the Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise course. They are being prepared for the real world of employment and business and they will have practical skills that will help them survive in today's fast-paced and competitive world.”

Nkosentsha Mpala, Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise teacher, The Christian Brothers College, Zimbabwe



He said his students benefitted from meeting and visiting local entrepreneurs and business people. 'They feel empowered by what they are learning,' he said. 'They are getting real experience doing market research, writing business plans, and organising their own projects, either on their own or with friends on the course. Whatever path they take after school, these are valuable tools that will serve them well in the future.'

How does The Christian Brothers College teach Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise?

Students chose Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise from other Cambridge IGCSE options. The schools says that it tends to be favoured by students who have been exposed to business throughout their lives, either because their parents own or manage businesses, or because they have a strong interest in running a business when they leave school.

The course is delivered in six, 35-minute lessons, over a six-day cycle. This averages out to be approximately 12 hours of learning every month. The course is being delivered over two years. Twenty-three boys are currently studying Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise, taught by one teacher.

Some of the highlights are: regular visits to meet with local business people, owners and managers in Bulawayo; studying the history of business, and individuals who have made a difference, such as **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, the founder of modern Turkey; the Indian revolutionary **Mohandas Gandhi**; Zimbabwean Olympic swimmer and world record holder, **Kirsty Coventry**; and Zimbabwean playwright, actor and theatre director, **Cont Mhlanga**.

Some exciting highlights planned are: visits to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce in the capital of Zimbabwe, Harare; visits to more local businesses, including farmers, musicians, drama groups, banks, and home-based businesses; getting the students to run a real-life enterprise which they will trial at the school.

“I thoroughly enjoy the practical side of the course, taking my students out of the classroom to show them businesses in action. My students have shown themselves to be truly innovative in their ideas. It is good to see the boys actively researching business models, and enjoying their own self-directed learning.”

Nkosentsha Mpala, Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise teacher, The Christian Brothers College, Zimbabwe

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