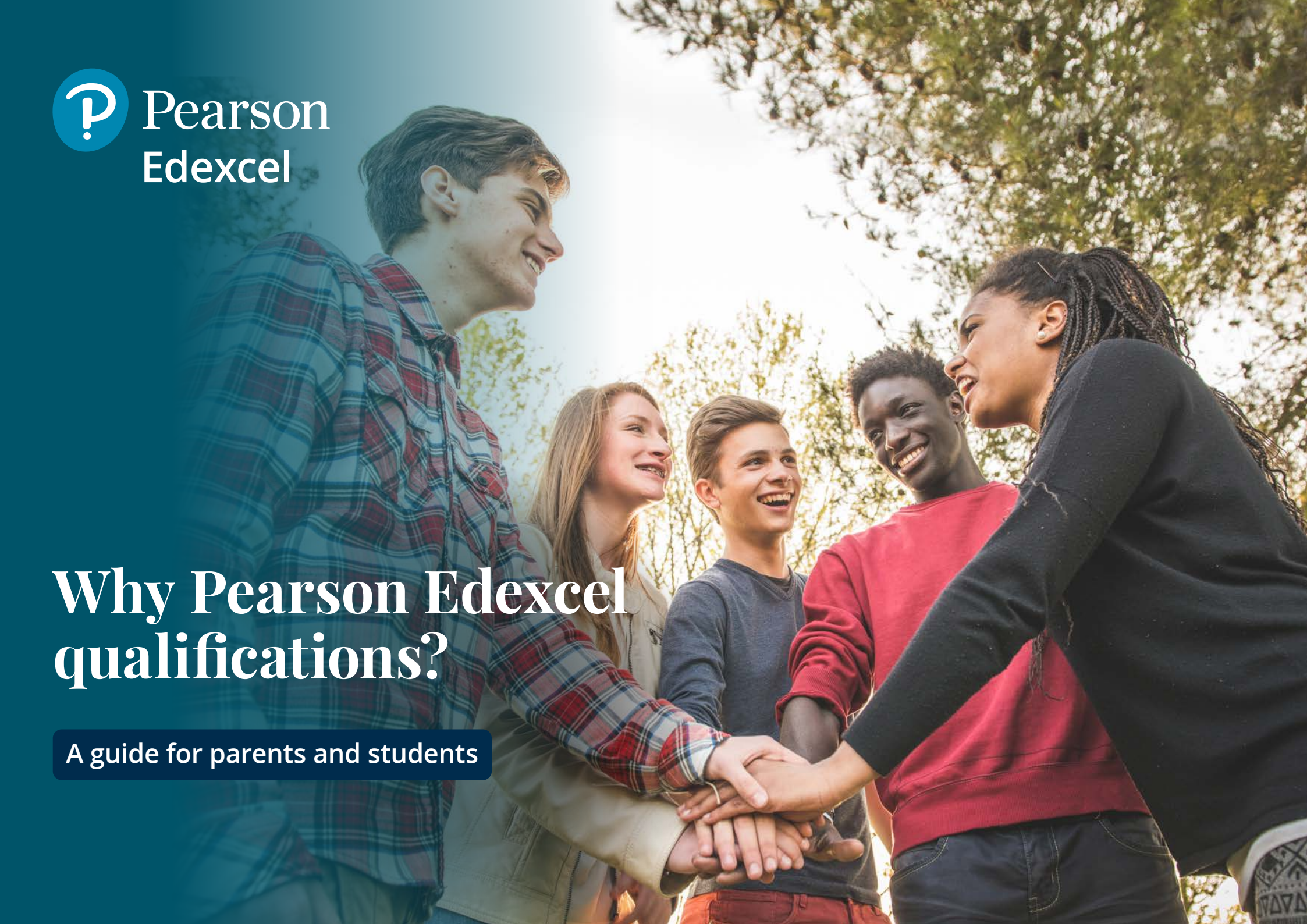
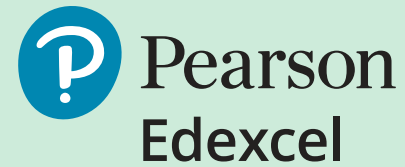


# Why Pearson Edexcel qualifications?

A guide for parents and students





## Learn why Pearson qualifications are studied by more students than any other awarding organisation

Pearson Edexcel iPrimary and iLowerSecondary for ages 5–14	4
iProgressed with Pearson iLowerSecondary – Denise’s story	5
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE for ages 14–16	6
iProgressed with Pearson Edexcel International GCSE – Erin’s story	7
Pearson International AS/A level for 16–18 year-olds	8
iProgressed with Pearson International AS/A level – Karl and Malenka’s stories	10–11
Keep informed and stay in touch	12

# Why your school has chosen Pearson Edexcel

Pearson is the world's learning company with more than 22,500 employees operating in 70 countries. They are the UK's largest awarding organisation with more than 3.4 million students studying their qualifications worldwide. They're a trusted and recognised qualifications partner to international schools and have been providing academic curriculum, assessment and curriculum resources for more than 150 years.

## Aligned to the latest British curriculum standards

Because Pearson Edexcel also offer Ofqual\* regulated qualifications in the UK and internationally, you can be confident that your qualification is up to date and aligns with the latest and most recognised British education standards.

All UK and international qualifications are developed in line with the latest curriculum changes to ensure they are fit for purpose and continue to be recognised by universities and employers.

Pearson offer the most choice of academic and skills-based qualifications that universities and employers demand.

## Progress to university and employment

Pearson provide content, assessment and digital services to learners, educational institutions, employers and governments, globally. Through their work with higher education stakeholders and employers worldwide, they ensure qualifications equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability and succeed in the changing world of work.

Pearson qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world – including all Russell Group universities in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge), Columbia University and Yale University.

\*The UK government Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation

3.4  
million  
students

150  
years

22,500  
employees

70  
countries



# iPrimary and iLowerSecondary for ages 5–14

The early school years will ignite a love of learning and lay the foundations for the future

The Pearson Edexcel iPrimary programme for 5 to 11 year-olds and iLowerSecondary programme for 11 to 14 year-olds, provides students with an international education based on the latest UK national curriculum for maths, English, science and computing.

A love of learning is fostered through the highest quality books and innovative digital learning environments. This will complement supportive home learning, where you play, listen, talk and read. This, we believe, contributes to achievement and employment and overall well-being.

We also know that confident and inspiring teachers are crucial in your child's learning, so we offer schools who use iProgress free face-to-face teacher professional development. This, together with all the support from the programme, ensures that teachers spend less time planning and navigating the curriculum and more time inspiring students.



# iProgressed with Pearson: *Denise's story*

Denise is 16 years old and studying International GCSEs at Potterhouse School in Kenya. She won a Pearson Edexcel Student Values Award in 2020.

## From iPLS success to International GCSEs

Denise joined Potterhouse School, an international British curriculum school, at age 11. She began her education journey at 3 years old, attending a German-speaking institute for the first eight years of her schooling. All of her subjects were taught in German so when she joined Potterhouse School in Year 6, she found the transition challenging – not only was she joining a new school, she also had to switch to conversing and studying in English.

“When I first heard about winning the Pearson Edexcel Student Values Award I was absolutely honoured and excited – I still am excited!”



# International GCSE for ages 14–16

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications with academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners aged 14 to 16.

## Studied in over 80 countries worldwide

International GCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, to UK GCSEs. This close alignment to the latest British curriculum provides you with the skills and knowledge needed to progress to A Levels, International A Levels, onto university and into employment.

## Uses the most recognised (9–1) grading system

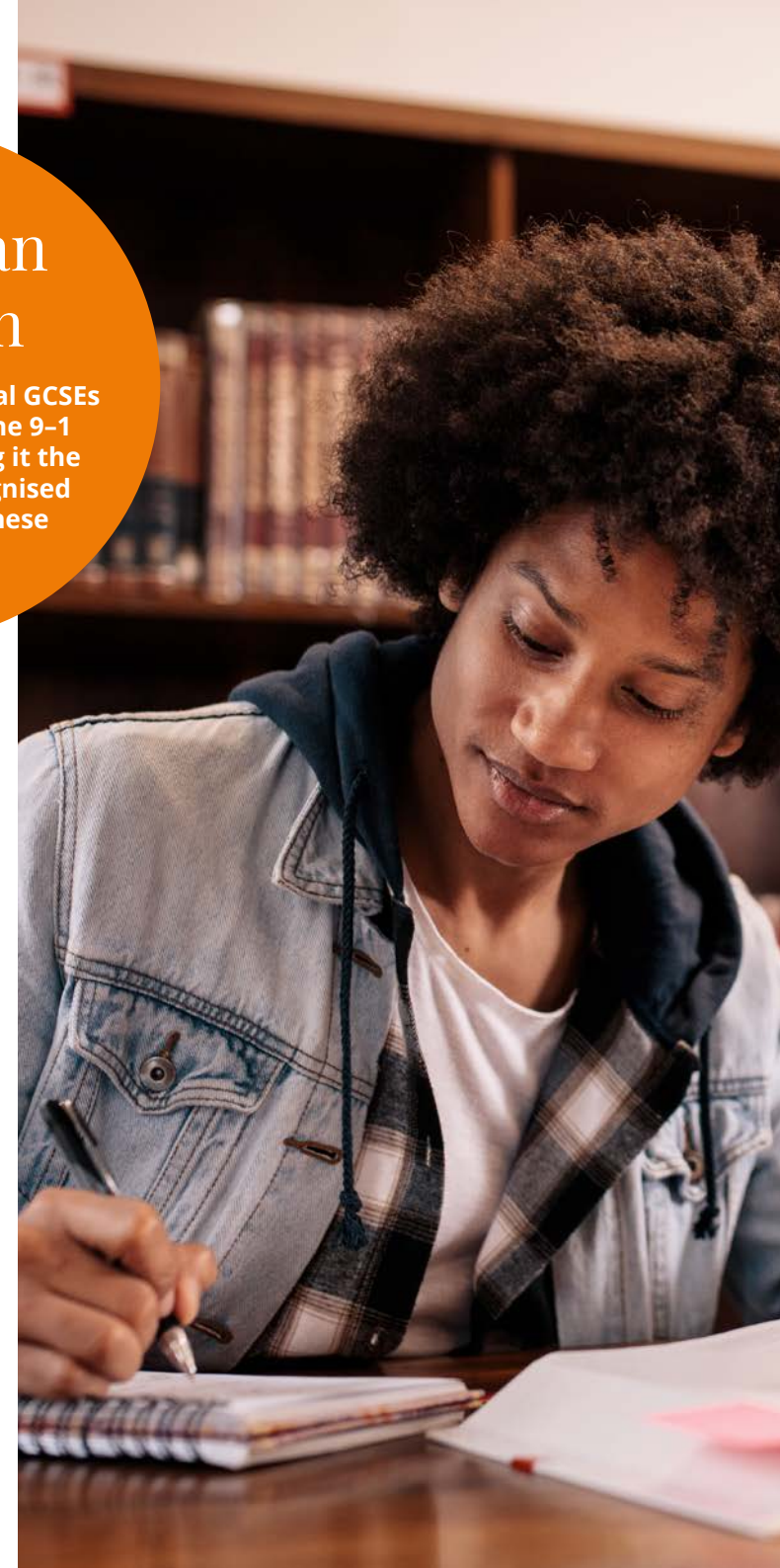
The numbered grading scale was introduced by the UK government to raise standards and recognise outstanding performance. It improves differentiation between learners with a nine (9–1), rather than an eight (A\*–G), point grading scale. This means that students are ideally placed to make progress to A levels, International A Levels (IAL) and to universities worldwide.

More than  
5 million

GCSEs and International GCSEs are awarded using the 9–1 grading scale, making it the most used and recognised grading scale for these qualifications.

## Develops a range of transferable skills

Transferable skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, have been integrated into the Pearson International curriculum, qualifications and textbooks. These skills will ensure that students are better equipped to access higher levels of academic study, and students will be able to demonstrate highly sought-after skills to their future employer.



# iProgressed with Pearson: *Erin's story*

Erin is 16 years old and studying International A levels at Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur. She completed her International GCSE qualifications at the school in 2019, receiving two Pearson Outstanding Learner Awards for the highest mark in the world for International GCSE History and the highest mark in Malaysia for International GCSE PE.

## Diversity and breadth of International GCSEs

Erin chose to study International GCSEs in French, history, PE and business studies alongside maths, English literature, English language, physics, biology, and chemistry.



“I was really excited to receive these awards because I worked very hard for them, especially history. It feels great to be rewarded for my efforts!”

# International AS/A level for 16–18 year-olds

“*Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels (offered by Cambridge International, Oxford AQA or Pearson Edexcel) and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels.*”

**The University of Cambridge**

Pearson Edexcel  
International A  
levels open the same  
doors as ‘Cambridge’  
A levels.

**The world’s universities  
recognise the qualification,  
not the awarding body.**

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A levels, also known as Advanced Subsidiary Level/Advanced Levels, are designed for international learners who want to progress to the best universities around the world.

They use the popular and flexible modular approach which mean exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, or throughout the programme of study, when students feel prepared and ready.

### **Bank robust evidence of your studies**

Once a student has sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that result is banked until they have completed all the units that make up the qualification.

Students then ‘cash-in’ the completed unit exam results to receive an overall qualification grade. This flexible approach differs from the ‘all or nothing’ linear approach of other International AS/A levels, where they sit one big exam at the end of their studies.

- This ‘building blocks’ approach means that students can ‘bank’ their unit exam results throughout their period of study. This provides robust evidence of their studies and performance, providing more options to obtain the grade they need to progress.
- Students benefit from more exam practice and familiarity. Unit exam results provide formal feedback earlier on in their studies, so students understand the standard required to reach the final level of achievement they are aiming for.
- This understanding motivates them to improve, and builds a sense of ownership through bite-size, short-term goals.
- International AS qualifications can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to an Advanced Level qualification.
- Exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.
- Pearson Edexcel GCE AS/A level has a linear approach so you can choose what’s best for your students.



### Modular or linear?

Whether you choose the modular or linear approach from Pearson Edexcel, you can be confident they are comparable, as confirmed by NARIC, the national agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on qualifications and skills worldwide. The same rigorous standards are applied to all Pearson Edexcel qualifications.

### Integrated transferable skills

Transferable skills are embedded in Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level qualifications and textbooks in the same way they are in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1).

Higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

To support the design of their qualifications, the Pearson Research Team selected and evaluated seven global 21st-century skills frameworks. Following on from this process, they identified the National Research Council's (NRC) framework as the most evidence-based and robust skills framework.

## Recognised and accepted by universities around the world

- All Russell Group universities in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge).
- UK universities accept Pearson Edexcel International AS/A levels as equivalent to GCE A levels on a grade for grade basis for admission.
- All Group of 8 universities (Go8) in Australia accept Pearson Edexcel IALs.
- Recognised by US universities including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech).
- Recognised by top Canadian universities including University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University.
- Recognised by universities across Asia including University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore.

*“It’s really the more fundamental skills like teamwork and communication that seem to matter the most, that employers demand the most.”*

**Guy Berger,**

*the Chief Economist at LinkedIn.*

*Source: The Future of Skills Report by Pearson, Nesta and Oxford Martin School, 2018*

**65%**

**of children aged 12 in 2015 will do jobs that don't exist yet!**

Source: UNESCO/  
World Bank

# iProgressed with Pearson: *Malenka's story*

Malenka is 16 years old and studying at Academia International School in Zurich. She started her education journey at a Montessori school and changed schools several times before eventually joining Academia aged 15. She is now enrolled in the school's private tutoring programme which allows her to study International A levels in maths, biology and history alongside International GCSEs in English, maths and economics.

## Broadening global perspectives with Pearson Edexcel

Malenka already holds an International A level in German and enjoys the independence that A level studies afford her, viewing it as good preparation for university and her eventual career.





# iProgressed with Pearson: *Karl's story*

Karl is 17 years old and studying International A levels at Academia International School in Zurich. Prior to joining the school, he lived for a year in the United States and loved learning in English so was keen to pursue an international school education on his return to Zurich.

Academia International School opened in 2019. Initially, Karl's class at started with just three students and although it has now grown to 15 students, it still retains the small school feeling that he enjoys.

Karl plans to study veterinary science at university so has chosen chemistry, biology and geography at International A level in order to progress to the university course of his choice.

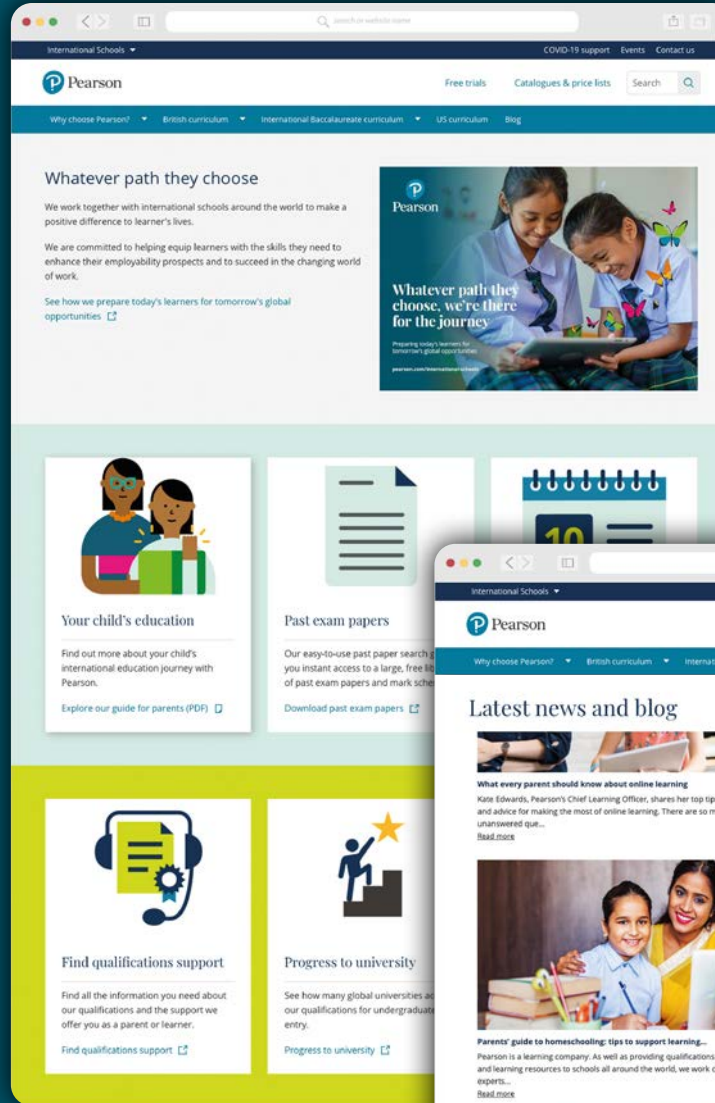
“With Pearson Edexcel, I am able to get the qualifications I need to progress.”



# Keep informed and stay in touch

Parents and guardians have a big influence on their children's choices about courses and careers, so it's important to be well informed.

Whether you're a parent supporting your child's learning journey or a student preparing for university or your next exam, we have a dedicated parents and students page on our website with a range of resources and support to help enable your success.



The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the Pearson International Schools website. The top screenshot displays the homepage with a navigation bar, a search bar, and a main section titled "Whatever path they choose" featuring an image of two students. Below this are four featured cards: "Your child's education", "Past exam papers", "Find qualifications support", and "Progress to university". The bottom screenshot shows the "Latest news and blog" section with several article teasers, including "What every parent should know about online learning" and "The future of education for international schools: Hybrid...".

