



Our Guide to...

IB Diploma Programme

2017-18



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SHANGHAI, PUXI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

their characterisation in Part 2

- Remember to demonstrate all the PLEAICE skills and refer back to previous targets



About Our School

The British International School Puxi is a vibrant learning community offering an outstanding education to a truly international student body. With over 11 years of history offering the English National Curriculum & the IB Diploma Programme, our students achieve at the highest academic levels and access the most prestigious universities worldwide. Our modern campus is ideally situated within a very popular expatriate residential area and provides great facilities for great learning, in and beyond the curriculum. We develop students who understand and display internationalism, leadership and concern for others, through an innovative academic programme coupled with first rate extra-curricular and pastoral provision.

“ British International School of Shanghai is building a strong, well-rounded curriculum, and where other schools have pulled budgets and time away from PE, Art, Music and general learning, BISS strengthened these areas. ”

— BISS Parent



Our students are inspired to be innovative and ambitious in all endeavours.



Contact Us

Please get in touch with any of our staff if you have any questions about your chosen subjects.

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Contents

A Note to our Parents 6

PART ONE

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

An Introduction	8
A Global Education	10
The Diploma Programme	12
Diploma vs Courses	13
The IB 'Learner Profile'	14
Personal Responsibility	16
Choosing Subjects	18
English Competence	19
Creativity, Activity, Service	20
Extended Essay	22
Theory of Knowledge	23
Grading the IB Diploma	24
Keeping on Track	25
University & Beyond	26
Our People	28

PART TWO

CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

Group 1: Studies in Language & Literature	30
Group 2: Language Acquisition	36
Group 3: Individuals & Societies	42
Group 4: Experimental Sciences	48
Group 5: Mathematics	52
Group 6: The Arts & Elective Courses	56
The International Award	62

Welcome to Our School

A Note to our Parents

Dear Parents,

The final two years of school are incredibly important. They start students off on their path towards university and on into success in their chosen careers. Here at the British International School Shanghai Puxi, we are experts in delivering the IB Diploma Programme.

Our teachers are trained and experienced in delivering the course, and they are passionate about doing so. Our results have been excellent, and we believe strongly that it's the best start we can give our students as they move towards the next stage of their education.

I hope that this guide will help you to understand why we feel this way, and give you all the information you need to make some important choices. As you'll see, with six subjects, an extended essay, the Theory of Knowledge course and the 'creativity, activity, service' programme, the IB diploma is demanding, but it is also hugely rewarding. We're sure it's the best possible way you could spend the next two years of your education, and we look forward to sharing our enthusiasm for it with you.

The style in which we've written this guide is to address everything directly to the student. IB students have to learn to make their own choices and develop their own learning habits, and we think it's important that this starts here, at the very start of their IB experience. This is part of the transition to being an IB Diploma student, and part of their preparation for university life. Nonetheless, being an independent learner is about seeking out and listening to good advice, and we very much hope that you will read this guide with your son or daughter and offer him or her some of your wisdom and experience. We'll also be talking with students about the best possible curriculum choices for them, so that your son or daughter starts out on courses that he or she will greatly enjoy and be highly successful in. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns at any point in the process, please don't hesitate to contact us and we'll do what we can to listen and help.

Andrew Joy
Head of the IB Academy



An Introduction

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is widely regarded as the best pre-university course that is offered anywhere in the world. No other qualification is recognised by so many institutions in different countries and no other programme will prepare you better for college or university education and the world of work.



We've written this guide to make you aware of the different parts of the IB programme and the choices you have as you decide which courses you want to take.

We are able to offer you a wide selection of subject choices, which will allow you to find a programme to let you progress to the next stage of your education or career. Our diploma programme has the highest quality classroom teaching, top facilities and we'll give you every possible help in achieving your goals.

Our heads of faculties and departments each take responsibility for part of the curriculum, and they are responsible for setting up the structure and conditions to allow you to succeed. They can't just

make you successful, however, because your DP study is for you, not them. One of the most important things you'll learn about being a DP student is that you need to throw yourself into the subjects you've chosen. The IB Academy will be an opportunity to build a new way of working, with your teachers there to support you, rather than to instruct you; this is an exciting opportunity for you and one we hope you'll embrace enthusiastically and with real commitment.

“ One of the most important things you'll learn about being a DP student is that you need to throw yourself into the subjects you've chosen. ”



A Global Education

You'll have heard about the DP, but to make a commitment to it for the next stage of your education, you'll need to know more about it. You'll find information in this guide, but you can also talk to other students, particularly those who are already studying it in Years 12 and 13, as well as to your teachers.

The Head of IB, Mr Joy, is probably the best person to talk to about any aspect of the DP, but you might also wish to talk to any of the heads of faculties or subjects about courses and subject choices. In general, if you ask any of your teachers, they'll help you to find the right person to answer your particular question.

The IB diploma is a comprehensive, two-year course and a rigorous academic programme. It is designed as a pre-university programme for students aged 16 to 19 years old. It is unique in that it is based on no particular national education system, but is a deliberate balance between the breadth and the specialisation which is required by some countries' national systems. It is run by an international organisation that started life in Geneva, Switzerland, called the International Baccalaureate Organisation, or IBO for short. The IBO has now grown to be a huge success worldwide, with regional centres in Europe, the US and in Asia. It works with nearly 3000 schools and getting on for 1 million students worldwide, so you'll see that the qualification you'll get at the end of the course is a prestigious and internationally recognised one. Most importantly, it is respected by universities all around the world.

Now that you've reached this stage of your education, you'll know enough about your own interests and requirements to make choices, and the DP has a wide range of courses for you to choose from. You can find information about individual courses in this guide. The programme also includes what we call the DP core: the creativity, activity, service programme (which we normally shorten to CAS), the extended essay (EE) and the theory of knowledge (TOK) course. Together, these will offer you experiences and skills you won't find in other programmes. The IB programme encourages 'international-mindedness'. You'll gain an understanding of global issues and a concern for others in our community and the broader world. The IBO believes you also need to develop an understanding of your own cultural and national identity. Thus, all students study two languages. Through the DP, students develop the skills to live and work in an international context, essential for life in the 21st century. It provides a balanced education for the 'whole' student and provides excellent preparation for both university and adult life.

Universities prefer DP students because the DP curriculum develops a balanced variety of skills. DP graduates, with the range of subjects they have studied, have a greater choice of

undergraduate programmes. The skills that DP students develop, especially through writing their extended essay, are hugely valuable at university. Employers are also increasingly looking for flexibility and adaptability, which is something all DP students are able to offer.

The Diploma Programme

As a diploma student, you'll study six subjects, and you'll complete the three core elements: CAS (creativity, activity and service), TOK (theory of knowledge) and the Extended Essay.



You can read more about these later in this guide. You'll also study one subject from each of the six subject areas, which means that you'll have a broad and balanced education, developing a wider range of skills and knowledge than if you followed a narrower course.

Of the six subjects you choose, you'll study three at higher level and three at standard level. Most subjects are available at both higher and standard level, although a few subjects are only offered by the IB at standard level. When you read the subject descriptions you'll see whether or not you can study them at higher level. You'll study your higher level subjects for five hours each week, whereas you'll spend four hours each week on your standard level subjects. A few students each year choose to study

four subjects at higher level. Getting the balance right between higher and standard level subjects is very important. This allows you to emphasise the subjects you are most interested in without missing out on important areas of a broad education.

Diploma v Courses

Simply put, there are two options when you study in the IB Academy at BISS. Most students study the full IB diploma, but for some, it may be more sensible to study only selected parts of it.

There is a special name for taking part of the diploma programme: it's called the courses programme. On the courses programme, you may take five subjects rather than six, and you may take more subjects at standard level. You may also choose whether or not to include

TOK, CAS and the extended essay as part of your programme.

If you are unsure about taking on the full diploma programme, the best thing is for you to talk with Mr Joy about it. We'll talk with you if we think that the diploma programme may be too much for you and if we think you'll do better if you can focus on a slightly reduced set of options, and we'll come to a decision with you about the best solution for you.

The IB 'Learner Profile'

You might find it interesting to see what the IB thinks a good student should try to be. This is called the IB learner profile, and we hope you'll recognise these characteristics in yourself. We've reproduced it here because it underpins the IB programme, and because we hope it will inspire you to think about what you are trying to achieve over the next two years.

Inquirers	<i>They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.</i>
Knowledgeable	<i>They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.</i>
Thinkers	<i>They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognise and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.</i>
Communicators	<i>They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.</i>
Principled	<i>They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.</i>
Open-minded	<i>They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.</i>
Caring	<i>They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.</i>
Risk-takers	<i>They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.</i>
Balanced	<i>They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.</i>
Reflective	<i>They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.</i>

From the IBO website: *"The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. The IB learner*

profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities."

Personal Responsibility

You'll be in a different situation at school as a DP student. We've already stressed that the course requires that you take responsibility for your own learning, so that the two years you spend on the IB programme prepare you effectively for independent life at university or college and beyond.



There are some important areas where we'll ask you to take on some personal responsibility, and three of the most important are academic honesty, our dress code, and what you do in your study periods.

Academic honesty is a subject that is very important for students at the moment, especially given the opportunities, ambiguities and temptations that research using the internet provides. You'll spend a lot of time researching work as part of the DP, and we'll teach you how to reference and acknowledge sources correctly. We'll make sure that you avoid the common pitfalls, so that you are prepared for the kind of research work you'll be asked to carry out at university or college.

We have a dress code rather than a school uniform, and we hope you'll

appreciate the freedom that this provides you. You'll be expected to dress appropriately for a working environment. This essentially means wearing a formal business suit. More specific details are given in the student handbook.

Some study periods will be built into your programme, and we won't tell you exactly how to use them. You'll find that the IB diploma programme is a demanding one, and you'll discover that you'll need to use some, if not all, of your study periods to make sure you keep properly on top of your work. We'll help by providing a good working environment, and we'll help by encouraging you to make good use of your time. You'll learn to manage your time effectively, and this will be a skill that helps you a great deal after you've left school.

We'll make sure that you have the opportunity to learn in the best possible manner we can provide. In return, we'll ask for your agreement that this comes with responsibilities: namely, the kind of behaviour and approach to learning that we expect. This isn't meant to put you under pressure: on the contrary, it is all about asking you to recognise that you have to be committed to your own learning and working with us.

Choosing Subjects

We'll ask you to make subject choices during the third term in Year 11. We'll ask you for one subject for each IB group.

Choosing Subjects

We'll also ask you to tell us which three subjects you'd like to study at higher level, and which three at standard level.

We'll ask you to make a provisional language choice in group two, for your second language. Group two is very complicated, with lots of different possible combinations of language and levels, so we'll need to look at your choice and make sure that it is right for you and that it works within the programme.

The IB also have quite strict rules about how much language experience you have had and what level you are allowed to study. We'll come back to you to talk about any concerns we have, to make sure that you'll be studying something appropriate at the correct level for you.

English Competence

Our IB courses are taught in English, except, of course, for languages, where most of the teaching is in the language being studied.

This means that you'll need to speak, understand, read and write English well enough so that it doesn't get in the way of the needs of the subject you are studying. This doesn't mean that your English has to be perfect – far from it – but you will need to feel comfortable working in English. If you aren't

sure about whether this will be true for you, then you'll need to talk with Mr Joy and he can offer you advice on the best way forward.

Students who have completed, or are in the process of completing, the International Baccalaureate diploma generally meet the English language requirements of universities worldwide. It is often unnecessary to show further certification of your English language level. Completion of the DP shows you have sufficient fluency in written and spoken English to cope with the demands of an undergraduate course from the start.



Bilingual Diploma

Our subject blocks are set up to try to give the maximum flexibility on language options. This means you can study both English and another language as first language courses. If you do this, or if you study a native language other than English and then complete the rest of your diploma courses in English, you will be awarded a bilingual diploma. This doesn't get you any extra points, but it is the IB's way of recognising an extraordinary language achievement.

“ Our IB courses are taught in English, except, of course, for languages, where most of the teaching is in the language being studied. ”



Creativity, Activity, Service

CAS is a core component of the programme and one of the things that sets the IB diploma apart from other courses at this level. The philosophy is to develop all areas of your potential, to educate you as a whole person and to encourage you to develop your own individual talents.

Creativity, Activity, Service

CAS recognises that there's a world outside your academic studies, and takes seriously the need for you to become involved in sports, theatre productions, artistic pursuits, community service work and other worthwhile activities. Through the CAS programme, you'll develop your awareness of, concern for, and ability to cooperate with others.

The CAS coordinator, Ms Coong, looks after the programme and the part you'll play in it. Over the two years of the IB programme, you'll devote time to CAS experiences each week, dividing your time equally between the three elements: creativity, activity and service.

You will record and reflect upon the experiences and insights gained from your CAS activities using the online Managebac system. Your form tutors act as CAS advisers who keep track of this and are on hand to make sure that you have completed all the requirements of the programme, and to offer help, support and suggestions of possible activities where these are needed. To give you a flavour of the kind of experiences that fit within the CAS programme, we've listed a few below.

Creative experiences may include music, art, drama or dance. If

your timetable doesn't include art, for example, you may find opportunities to develop your creative skills through art outside the curriculum.

Activity experiences aim to keep you fit and physically healthy. You might choose to take up a new sport or physical activity, or you might try coaching or organising a team. Some adventure or activity-based holidays might qualify here too.

Service experiences, as you've probably guessed from the name, are about giving something back to your local community. Your service might involve participating in environmental clean-up campaigns or helping disadvantaged members of the community such as the disabled or the elderly. We think you'll gain a great deal from giving your time to help others.

“ Through the CAS programme, you'll develop your awareness of, concern for, and ability to cooperate with others. ”



Extended Essay & Theory of Knowledge

One of the most interesting and challenging things you'll do is to undertake independent research into a topic of special interest and write an extended essay of approximately 4,000 words.

Extended Essay

This is excellent preparation for the kind of thesis you'll be required to write at university and will acquaint you with research and academic writing skills.

You can do the extended essay in any of your six subjects, or you can complete a World Studies essay in which you will use skills and content from more than one subject to write an essay on a matter of global importance. Depending on the subject, the final outcome may be a traditional essay, or it may be a structured research project in a form appropriate to your choice of topic.

To help you with this, you be given a supervisor. Your supervisor will be an experienced teacher who will help you to structure your essay and advise you how to carry out your research to get the data you need. You'll begin the process in the spring term of Year 12, and your final essay will be submitted during the autumn term of Year 13.

Theory of Knowledge

The TOK course will develop your critical thinking skills and enhance your powers of reasoning. These skills will allow you to carry out more effective research, be more demanding and rigorous in your studies and be more intellectually independent.

In short, TOK aims to help you become an active rather than a passive learner, starting you on the way to becoming a discerning adult thinker. In essence, the goals of the course are for you to gain an understanding of what it means to know something, for example as a scientist or an artist or an historian, and so to understand how different forms of knowledge relate to one another. You'll be encouraged to compare and contrast your attitudes and perceptions with other students from different cultural backgrounds. TOK does count towards your overall diploma score, and you'll be assessed through two tasks: an essay written on a topic chosen by the IBO, and a presentation made to your fellow students and teachers on a topic of your choice.

TOK is a course that examines the origins and validity of various forms of knowledge. We won't seek to challenge your beliefs: instead, we'll ask you to justify or validate your knowledge. By understanding why we believe certain things to be true, you'll begin to understand how we make judgements. It is hard to explain fully what TOK is all about in a few sentences, so perhaps the best thing we can say at this point is that students frequently cite TOK as the thing they enjoy most in the DP. We certainly intend to provide you with much to think about, and we hope you'll have fun doing so.

“ TOK does count towards your overall diploma score, and you'll be assessed through two tasks: an essay written on a topic chosen by the IBO, and a presentation made to your fellow students and teachers on a topic of your choice. ”



Grading the Diploma & Keeping on Track

At the end of the course, the IBO will give you a score for each of the subjects you've taken. The maximum score for each subject is 7 points, and this is the same whether you took the subject at standard or higher level.

Grading the Diploma

This gives a score out of 42 if you are taking the full 6 subjects on the diploma programme. If you are following the Courses programme, then your individual scores for each subject stand as qualifications in their own right.

If you are following the diploma programme, then both the extended essay and your TOK scores count towards your overall score as well. Your performance on the extended essay, the TOK presentation and the TOK exam are combined to give a score out of 3. This gets added to your subject points, to give a maximum score for the IB diploma of 45 points.

To pass the diploma you'll need to gain at least 24 points, and you'll have to satisfy a few other conditions as well, connected with not getting very low scores in individual subjects. In practice, if you score more than about 27 or 28 points you'll almost certainly have satisfied all the other conditions as well, and it is possible to pass the whole diploma with a score of 24, though our students in general score much more highly than this.

Keeping on Track

We want to make sure that you achieve the very best point score that you can at IB. One of the ways we'll do that is by tracking your

performance against where you should be and where you could be at all stages of the course.

Behind the scenes, this is quite a complicated process, but basically what happens is this. At the start of the course, you will take cognitive ALIS tests. The results of these will be used to generate BISS Targets in each of your subjects which indicate what you are likely to be able to achieve as your final results.

About six times each year, we'll ask your teachers to give their best prediction as to what you'll get at the end of the course. We find that this sort of prediction is more accurate than just asking questions about how you are getting on. Teachers have worked with lots of students in your position, and they're pretty good at working out what you're going to get.

We'll compare these predictions to the target grades we have for you, and we'll investigate any concerns. Most importantly, we'll keep you, and your parents, informed all the way through this process. We'll give you the very best information we have about your progress, and we hope you'll learn to respect and act on your teachers' views: you'll certainly do better if you take what we say about you seriously. Our philosophy is based on giving you straightforward information so that you can decide that you're doing

fine in Mathematics, but need to spend more time on History, for example. This way, you can be confident about your progress, and we can be confident that you are achieving the best scores you are capable of.

University & Beyond

Universities in over 100 countries recognise the IB diploma and you can use it to gain entrance to the most competitive universities around the world where admissions staff recognise the academic rigour of the IB.

In the United Kingdom it is a highly regarded alternative to A levels, indeed there has been a great deal of controversy in the UK over the way in which universities seem to value the IB diploma more highly than A levels. In the United States, recognition of the IB Diploma is growing rapidly and many institutions will award first year credit for success on IB courses. You are still likely to need to sit SATs, but the work you do for the diploma, with its emphasis on continued mathematics and English will help with these, and as an SAT centre we can provide you with all the help you need. As you progress through Years 12 and 13, you'll be supported in the crucial university and college applications process. Our Higher Education Advisor, Mr Weston, working closely with the Head of IB and the Head of Secondary, will steer you through the complexities of the system to give you the best possible chance

of gaining the place you want. We have experience of both UK and US systems, along with many other countries, and we'll help you to do the research you need to choose the right places to apply to. We also host visits from many universities from around the world. You'll hear more about this process as you progress through Year 12, and information events for you and your parents will keep everybody fully informed.



Our People

We've mentioned a lot of people in this guide, because there are a lot of people involved in helping you to succeed. We've set out some of the key people below, so that you are always clear about who you can turn to when you need help, advice or reassurance.

THE HEAD OF THE IB ACADEMY, MR JOY

Mr Joy is in overall charge of running the IB programme, ensuring that it functions smoothly and meets your needs as a learner. It's his job to know everything there is to know about the DP, and about you as an individual. You can talk to him about any aspect of the DP and he will help you with your questions or concerns. He'll monitor your progress, help you to keep on track and he'll help you with your subject choices.

THE DP COORDINATOR, MR HOUSHAM

Mr Housham works closely with Mr Joy on the day to day operation of the DP. He liaises with the IBO over all aspects of curriculum and assessment, and also takes responsibility for the important process of tracking and developing student progress.

THE CAS COORDINATOR, MS COONG
Ms Coong runs the CAS programme, working with the CAS advisers to help you to find and choose experiences that will challenge and stretch you as an individual. She'll be the person to go to if you have any questions, concerns or ideas about any aspect of CAS.

THE HEADS OF THE DIFFERENT FACULTIES

You've discovered that the IB programme has six separate subject areas. If you have any questions, issues or concerns about how you're getting on, then you might find talking with the head of that faculty helpful. This will give you someone else to talk to about a subject, and perhaps you'll get another perspective on how you're doing. The head of faculty will also be able to investigate any concerns you have or find answers to questions. Often when you talk to Mr Joy, the first place he'll go is to the head of the relevant faculty.

YOUR SUBJECT TEACHERS

The relationship that you'll build with your subject teachers will be crucial to your success. The DP is an opportunity to change the way you regard your teachers, and to see your progress as a joint project, with you and your teachers both interested in the outcome and keen to see you do well. You'll always be able to ask your teachers questions about the subject and its content, about anything you didn't quite follow in class, or about a homework assignment you haven't been able to do. You'll also want to ask them about your progress, perhaps to explain your tracker grades or to suggest what you could do to improve.

YOUR FORM TUTOR

Your form tutor will be used to dealing with the kinds of issues that you'll face as an IB student. We choose our DP form tutors carefully, so they're teachers who are sympathetic to concerns and issues that students tend to face as they get to the top end of the school. As with your subject teachers, you'll benefit if you take the time to build a good working relationship with him or her. You'll be able to use your form tutor as a source of information, as a sounding board or source of advice, or just as someone to share concerns with.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORS

Over the two years of the course, you'll make important decisions about your future academic study. Mr Weston and Mrs Rickford are the people who'll help you through the maze of procedures necessary to apply, and who'll help you to work out the places that might be best suited to you. They are helped in this by Mr Joy, who has lots of experience in this area, and they draw on the expertise of all the staff where necessary. It's a common theme now, but the more you invest in making sure that you work with them, the better you'll find the results will be. They will chase you at key points in the two-year cycle, and you'll get information given to you at various times, but you'll also be shown resources and expected to use them yourself, coming back to Mr Weston and Mrs Rickford to talk about what you've found and the next steps.

YOUR EXTENDED ESSAY SUPERVISOR

You'll have an extended essay supervisor, drawn from the teaching staff here. He or she will advise you on your essay, giving you general research advice and also specific guidance for your subject. You don't have to listen blindly to what he or she says: it's your essay after

all. We hope you'll enjoy spending time discussing the project with your supervisor, and that you'll debate the best way forward, using your supervisor's experience and expertise together with your ideas.

One thing that all these people have in common is that they want you to succeed. The more you talk to them, and involve them actively in your progress through the two years of the DP, the more they will be able to help you.



Studies in Language & Literature

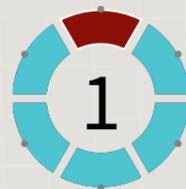
This is a language that you are at home with, and can naturally use from day to day. For some people, this is an easy choice: they have an obvious “first language”. For others, speaking a mixture of languages every day at home and school, the choice is not quite so clear.

If you aren't sure about the best language choice for you, then we'll help to talk it through with you, to make sure that you have understood all the issues and the options available.

We offer taught First Language courses in English, Chinese, Dutch and Korean. If these aren't right for you, however, you may be able to choose the IB self-study language option, and follow a course in any one of over 40 languages supported by the IB programme. This isn't suitable for everyone: in particular, it requires a lot of self-discipline. You'll need to talk with Mr Joy or Mr Housham about whether or not it's right for you. In some years we can offer more first language courses depending on student needs. Please talk to us about your first language requirements.

There are two different types of course you can study. Literature is focused on literary criticism and promotes the ability to form independent literary judgements. Language and Literature combines the study of literature with an understanding of the constructed nature of meanings generated by language.

Whatever choice you make, you'll discover language through literature. Literature will allow you to explore different interpretations and experiences of the world, as you experience the range of anxieties, joys and fears that human beings are exposed to in the daily business of living. You'll gain a healthy respect for the power of imagination and you'll learn to analyse complex ideas and express thoughts orally and on paper. Whether or not you continue to study language and literature after leaving school, the command and understanding that you gain through the IB first language course will open doors for you for the rest of your life.



English Literature

English Literature is about the study of culture, people and ideas through various genres of literature. You'll read and study great pieces of writing drawn from across the world, across different time periods and you'll develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening as a result.

In choosing to study English Literature, you are embarking on a journey that will open your mind to the richness of world literature. In reading a wide range of literature, you'll become aware of the philosophical, psychological and socio-historical circumstances that help to produce a classic work of fiction. You'll also learn to open your mind to different socially relevant schools of thought and ways of interpreting a text. In English Literature, we aim to arm our students with critical tools and give you a range of ways to demonstrate your knowledge in activities such as class discussions, essays and oral assessments.

As an English student, you'll be encouraged to explore the key concepts in the development of Literature and Language through literature over time. You'll read across the genres of prose and poetry and drama, as well as

analysing new mediums such as the graphic novel and how film adaptations of literature can alter meaning.

Our highly experienced and skilled English teachers have wide and varied tastes. You'll be presented with seminal texts in all genres and learn how they reflect and examine the context of the writers who produced them. As an example, the powerful graphic novel *Maus* by Art Speigleman explores the situation of the Jewish people in Poland during World War 2, using anthropomorphised animals to relay this tragedy in a compelling narrative. This unusual depiction brings new layers of symbolism and meaning to the story form and demonstrates how mature and sophisticated this genre can be. Other recently taught texts have included the dark post-modern gothic world of Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* which holds a lens up to the complexities of female desire and attempts to subvert and play with notions of gender identity and constraints. Of course, you may also study traditional texts such as Shakespeare and modern classics in poetry and prose.

This subject will prepare you for the rigours of employment or university as English is a subject

of communication with a strong emphasis on presentational techniques, analytical writing, critical thinking and high order writing skills.

“ You'll develop a greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills with an international perspective. ”



English Language & Literature



English Language and Literature is about the study of language, not only through literary texts but also through a miscellany of texts from print advertising to political speeches. You'll read and study great pieces of writing drawn from across the world, across different time periods and you'll develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening as a result.

In choosing to study English Language and Literature, you are embarking on a journey that will open your mind to the richness of world literature, alongside developing your craft as a writer. In reading English, you'll become aware of the philosophical, psychological and socio-historical circumstances that help to produce classic works of fiction as well as texts that have come to reflect and shape the ideologies of various cultures. In English, we aim to arm our students with critical tools to understand how language can be manipulated and utilised and how those who create our culture, from writers to bloggers to politicians, have done so. We'll also give you a range of ways to demonstrate your knowledge in activities such as class discussions or essays and oral assessments.

As an English student, you'll be encouraged to explore the key concepts in the development of Literature and Language over time. You'll develop an understanding of the power of the written and spoken word as well as the power of the visual by reading across the genres of Prose and Poetry and Drama and analysing new mediums such as social networking, advertising and various facets of mass media.

In Parts 1 and 2 of the course you'll explore Language in Cultural Context and Language and Mass Media which will allow you to reflect on your own identity as well as developing an understanding of how language has developed the culture of others. You'll explore core ideological beliefs of the East and the West and identify how these are utilised by individuals and popular culture in all forms of communication. Parts 3 and 4 of the course focus on literary texts from various time periods and parts of the world. In these units, you'll develop your critical understanding of how these literary texts also embody the ideologies and constructs of society and the individual, and how writers often use language to question these constructs to open readers' minds to different ways of thinking.

Whatever option you choose in English, you'll be undertaking a study that will challenge you to go beyond your current realms of understanding and knowledge. This subject will prepare you for the rigours of employment or university as English is a subject of communication with a strong emphasis on presentational techniques and high order writing skills.

Chinese Language & Literature



The language and literature course aims to develop the skill of textual analysis and the understanding that texts (literary and non-literary) can be seen as autonomous yet simultaneously related to culturally-determined reading practices.

You'll study a series of texts, drawn from around the world, from previous centuries and from modern times, and through them you'll develop your understanding of Chinese language and culture.

Language and literature comprises four parts—two relate to the study of language and two to the study of literature.

In Parts 1 & 2, you'll read chosen topics about language in a cultural context as well as language and mass communication.

In Parts 3 & 4, you'll be able to treat the literature you study as part of a coherent whole, rather than a series of isolated stories, plays and poems. Themes run throughout the choice of works, and through them you'll see the power of literature to comment on the human condition.

Part 3 texts are all short novel selections, which cover modern

and ancient works, in Chinese and translated. You'll study the works of Bai Xian Yong and the translated version of Guy de Maupassant. HL students also need to study the selected works of Eileen Zhang, who is regarded as one of the best female writers of China's modern literature history.

Part 4 works are all Chinese books from different genres. *Wanders Every Five Miles* is a long narrative poem reflecting the struggles of youngsters against feudal marriage. *The Yellow Storm* is a long story written by famous author Lao She about several families' lives during the Sino-Japanese War. HL students also need to study *Du Fu Shi Xuan* which was edited during the Tang Dynasty.

This course will develop you as a language student and as an observer of humanity. We hope it will instil habits of reading great literature that will stay with you long after you've finished the DP.

Dutch Language & Literature



Het IB Dutch Language and Literature programma brengt je op een nieuwe manier in aanraking met de Nederlandse taal. Aan de hand van literaire werken van grote auteurs word je meegevoerd langs brede prozarivieren in oneindig geletterd laagland. De meest uiteenlopende bronnen reiken we je aan om een duik te nemen in de rijke historie van onze taal. En we spreken en bespreken een keur aan groepstalen, van jongerentaal tot specifieke vaktaal.

Is Nederlands je moedertaal en heb je nooit veel onderwijs gemist, dan is het verstandig om dit als één van je higher level vakken te kiezen. Als je ook IGCSE Dutch First Language gevolgd hebt, zal je weinig moeite hebben om de aansluiting met IB Nederlands te maken. Het grote verschil tussen de twee cursussen is de uitgebreide aandacht voor literatuur in het IB programma. Werd je de twee voorgaande jaren nog getraind teksten te verklaren, nu word je geacht uiteenlopende soorten tekst zelf te gebruiken voor het maken van analyses, presentaties en allerhande opdrachten. Daarnaast ligt de nadruk minder op de technische kant van je schrijfproducten, maar kijken we dieper naar de inhoud.

Je streeft met Nederlands in het IB pakket naar het behalen van een bilingual IB diploma (Engels/Nederlands), je mag je tweetalig noemen wanneer je het diploma behaalt. Met IB Dutch Language and Literature in je pakket hoef je geen toelatingsexamen Nederlands te doen op onderwijsinstellingen als hogeschool en universiteit.

We doorgronden een flink aantal teksten, waarvoor veel tijd vrijgemaakt wordt. Onder teksten verstaan we vanaf nu allerlei vormen van geschreven werk. Het gaat bij literaire werken niet alleen om romans, er bestaat een grote variëteit aan publicaties, van bijvoorbeeld journaals tot briefwisselingen. Ook poëzie blijft niet onbelicht, waarbij we je inzicht verschaffen in de interessante, filosofische wereld die schuil gaat achter een ogenschijnlijk eenvoudig gerijmde zin. Tijdens de verschillende cursussen raak je bekend met meer dan alleen de inhoud van het boek en informatie over de schrijver. De literaire-, kunst- en theaterstromingen van de middeleeuwen tot nu worden aangehaald, schrijftechnieken van schrijvers, verhaaltechnieken, stijlfiguren, beeldspraak, motieven en intertekstualiteit komen allemaal aan de orde. Je visie op wat literatuur en lectuur is zal door

al deze kennis eindelijk strakke contouren krijgen.

Bij al deze onderdelen staat er uiteraard steeds één ding centraal en dat is de Nederlandse taal. Daarom krijgt ook onze moedertaal nog steeds veel aandacht. Waar komt zij eigenlijk vandaan? Hoe is het uiteindelijk gekomen tot wat wij nu spreken en waar gaat het naartoe met onze taal? Is jongerentaal een verloedering of juist verrijking van het Nederlands? Welke groepstalen zijn er allemaal? Deze en tientallen andere vragen krijgen antwoord in de komende twee jaar. Net als bij de andere vakken ga je bij Nederlands veel zelf op onderzoek uit en moet je zelf een duidelijk beeld proberen te vormen uit heel veel verschillende bronnen. Op die manier raak je nog meer verbreed met je moedertaal en -cultuur en zul je je Nederlandse identiteit steviger verankeren.

Korean Language & Literature



Korean is an opportunity to study language through literature, drawing out the richness and the power of language through reading and reflecting on great examples of the writer's craft.

You'll study a series of texts, drawn from around the world, from previous centuries and from modern times, and through them you'll develop your understanding of Korean language and literary culture.

A strength of the course is the way it contextualises Korean culture through comparative studies of texts from different parts of the world. Works like Isabel Allende's *La Casa de los Espiritus*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, and the English classic *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte, contrast with native texts. Korean writings that you'll study include *Your Heaven* and Yi Mun Yol's modern novel *Our Twisted Hero*, as well as the poetry of Yoon Dong-Joo, written from occupied Korea in the first part of the twentieth century.

This course will develop you as a language student and as a human being, aware of the similarities of the human condition across

different continents, but also aware of the unique influences that develop a country, culture and language. We hope it will instil habits of reading great literature that will stay with long after you've finished the DP.

Language Acquisition

As a student in an international school, you already know the importance of language. Studying an additional language goes beyond basic communication.

An additional language opens doors to other cultures and builds bridges between societies. You'll learn more about people by studying their language and culture, and you'll broaden your mind in the process. Our global society is becoming smaller and smaller, and the language skills and cultural tolerance you learn as part of the IB programme will serve you well, whatever you end up doing and wherever you end up living.

These courses run at various different levels, so that you can study at the level that's right for you. We've explained this on the next page, but we will also talk with you as you make choices, to make sure you are starting at a place that's right for your language skill and background.



Language Levels

You'll study a language at one of two levels, depending on how much of it you have studied before. You'll get the same credit in the diploma you have studied regardless of the level, so, for example, beginner's French would count the same as advanced Mandarin.

The point of having the different levels is to make sure that you're learning at the right pace for you, so you'll be challenged, you'll enjoy the course, and you'll develop your language skills as much as possible.

Ab initio

Ab initio is a Latin phrase that means "from the beginning". You'll study a language at this level if you've had very little or no formal teaching in the language. You won't have an IGCSE or any other similar qualification in it. This is designed to allow you to take up a completely or nearly completely new language, and you might look forward to this opportunity at IB.

By the end of an ab initio course, you'll be able to communicate in a variety of everyday situations. You'll be able to understand and use the essential spoken and written forms of the language in a limited range

of situations. You'll also be aware of elements of the cultures that your language belongs to.

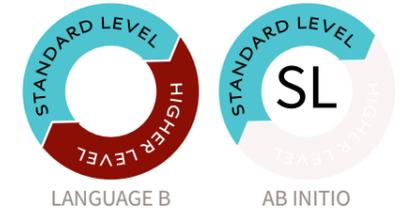
Language B

Language B will be the right level for you if you've studied the language before to IGCSE or the equivalent. Officially, it's for people who have been learning for between two and five years, although whether this is the right level for you will depend on how much you've studied over that time and how much you've learned.

By the end of a language B course, you'll be able to communicate effectively in a wide range of situations. You'll be able to express ideas with clarity and fluency, structure arguments in a clear, coherent and convincing way, and understand and analyse written and spoken material. You'll be aware of and sensitive to quite subtle elements of the cultures that your language belongs to.

Essentially, at ab initio you'll see an emphasis on practical utility; language B will range from practical and social needs to expressive and intellectual pursuits.

The IB expresses the distinction and the aims well: "...the ab initio



student should be able to give clear directions to someone looking for the beach, and understand the information in a tourist brochure. The language B student, on the other hand, should be able to describe in detail the beauty of the waves, and critically analyse the misleading use of language in the brochure."

Languages: European Languages



Foreign Languages will open international doors for you. With courses in French, German and Spanish, you can choose amongst all of the most popular Second Language choices in the world.

Knowledge of languages will allow you to be comfortable anywhere in the world. It will help develop your skills to communicate with others, in a wide range of situations and it will provide you with a better understanding of cultures and the way they impact on people's views of the world. A foreign language is highly valued by employers in many areas that range from business to media, journalism or international law. As a student of a European language, you will learn more about English too. Due to their close proximity and their shared history, they have all had a tremendous impact on each other.

French, alongside English, is an official working language of many international organisations, including the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, the International Red Cross and many more. It's the main working language at the European Court of Justice and in parts of the European Commission. Studying French will give you access to the heart of international law,

government, politics and business. France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any other country in the world.

German is the most widely spoken native language in Europe. Germany has one of the strongest economies in the world and is one of the main global export countries. With Germany being a leading country in engineering, German became second most commonly used scientific language in the world: 22 Nobel Prizes in Physics, 30 in Chemistry, and 25 in Medicine have gone to German speakers. Many big corporations such as Bayer, Allianz, BMW and Volkswagen groups exemplify the opportunities that knowledge of German can provide you with.

Spanish is the second most widely spoken native language in the world; it is used officially in four continents and in many global organisations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and the International Telecommunication Union among others. Latin America is home to some of the most important emerging economies and a key global exports market of natural resources. Studying Spanish will enable you to access innumerable global opportunities utilising the

faster growing European language in the world.

Languages: Mandarin



Mandarin Chinese is spoken by 873 million people, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world.

Through studying Chinese language and culture, you'll create a platform of knowledge and understanding with the Chinese people that will allow you access to one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

You'll be well placed to exploit the increasing demand for people who can speak Mandarin as a second language, particularly as China continues to build trade links and partnerships with all corners of the globe. Your study of Mandarin will help you on-line too: as China engages more and more with the internet, you'll be able to access the increasingly high proportion of the digital world that will be in Mandarin.

Learning Mandarin will develop you as an intellectual thinker. You'll discover, if you haven't already, that you'll need to use many different learning styles to master the language. You'll extend your ability to speak and listen, but you'll also improve your visual memory, pattern recognition and motor skills as you learn to read and write Chinese. You'll gain a

great deal from studying Mandarin, but we hope you'll also see it as a thing of beauty and an intellectual challenge in its own right.

“ You'll be well placed to exploit the increasing demand for people who can speak Mandarin as a second language, particularly as China continues to build trade links and partnerships with all corners of the globe. ”



Languages: English

As a DP student, you'll be working and socialising in English as part of your everyday life, and you'll be reinforcing and developing your ability to work fluently in English by studying it as your group 2 language option.

You'll already recognise the need for high quality English to ensure that you'll be able to study at university or college in one of the many English speaking countries around the world. International business is conducted in English, and your study on this course will give you access to the world stage as you look towards a later career. We talk about the "information age", but the reality is that most information is in English, including over 1 billion pages on the Web.

English is the main language of most international organisations, spoken as a native language in over 50 countries, and spoken by over 1 billion people worldwide. If your future plans involve science, your study of English will help, as it's the language used throughout the international science community.

It's the most widely spoken language on the planet, and you'll have more access to more people and their life and work through

your study of IB second language English.



“ English is the main language of most international organisations, spoken as a native language in over 50 countries, and spoken by over 1 billion people worldwide. ”





Individuals & Society

These subjects are about human experience and behaviour. People live in lots of different physical, economic and social environments.

You'll learn about how people interact with each other and their environment, and about the history of social and cultural institutions. You'll find that studying individuals and societies in an international school with students from a range of different countries is a unique preparation for life in a global society.

In addition, each subject is designed to foster in you the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments relating to the nature and activities of individuals and societies.

There is also an opportunity to study a second subject from this group as an elective in group 6.



Business Management

Business Management looks at how businesses make the crucial decisions that lead to long term success or failure. You'll learn about a wide range of business organisations and about the cultures and economies they operate in.

The course will show you the day to day business operations of marketing, production, human resource management and finance, but will also introduce you to the strategic leadership roles of top business executives and industry leaders. You'll discover that management requires you to know the whole operation of a business, not just separate parts. You'll be given a set of tools - Business and Management theory - and you'll learn how to apply them to gain a better understanding of the real world.

An extended project (slightly different for higher and standard level) about a real organisation will be an important part of the course assessment. Worth 25% of the overall marks for Business and Management, it means that you'll practise producing the sort of management report that many people create as part of their working lives.

By studying Business Management you'll understand how businesses operate in a global market. You'll appreciate cultural diversity better after you have looked at international perspectives on business strategy, managing growth and developing new markets and new products. You'll learn about ethical concerns and social responsibility, and how to make sense of the forces and circumstances that both drive forward and hold back change in a multicultural world. By the end of the course, you'll be well on the way to making a strong contribution to local and world affairs.

You might have studied Business Studies or Economics before, but they aren't essential. Most important is a real interest in the world around you, and in the world of business in particular.

Economics



Economics is about a world where people tend to want more than they can have. It is about the way that individuals and societies, on this planet of infinite wants and scarce resources, make decisions about who gets what.

Many people think that Economics is a very theoretical subject. Though you'll have to study some theories, the key to success in the subject is the ability to apply concepts to real-world examples.

Economists use a scientific approach, and you'll discover how to identify problems, form and test hypotheses, and draw conclusions. As part of the course, you'll have to produce a portfolio of commentaries on media articles, linking the theory you've studied to real-world situations. The constant link between theory and reality is a thread weaving through the course.

As you study DP Economics, you'll look at how economic theory works in an international context. You'll study the lessons that Economics can teach us about cooperation and understanding between countries, and the problems that can arise when economics meets politics. You'll further see that it is not a standalone subject: you'll also

learn that Economics incorporates elements of history, geography, psychology, sociology and many other related fields of study. To thrive as an Economics student, you'll be comfortable with mathematics and the manipulation of data to prove or disprove a relationship. Perhaps more important, is the ability to construct arguments, engage others in discussion and weigh up the relative strengths of two opposing points of view. In Economics there are often no wrong answers, just different ways of looking at a problem.

In the coming decades, achieving a better quality of life for our global society will be a constant challenge. Studying Economics will give you the skills and background to understand and then to join in with the international debate.

“ As you study DP Economics, you'll look at how economic theory works in an international context. You'll study the lessons that Economics can teach us about cooperation and understanding between countries, and the problems that can arise when economics meets politics. ”



History



History is an exploratory subject that poses questions which can lead students to a variety of different answers. You will learn to understand the past by studying historical sources and by examining the work of other historians who've gone before you.

As an IBDP historian would will discover that the study of our past involves both selection and interpretation of evidence and the critical evaluation of it. As your understanding of the subject grows, you will come to appreciate the changing nature of historical knowledge and understanding: each generation reflects its own world and preoccupations. You'll learn, therefore, that a study of history both needs and develops your ability to understand and empathise with people living in other periods and contexts.

The DP History course is a broad and international one: you will study the major events since the start of the 20th century and their underlying causes, nature and consequences. Within your studies you will consider topics ranging from the Wall Street Crash and Great Depression to the origins and development of authoritarian and single party states. You will consider

the Impact of warfare on Europe and Asia as well as comparing and contrasting protest movements in the Americas and Africa and the part they played in bringing about the rights and freedoms most of us take for granted today. You will find that there is an emphasis on the people involved, as you attempt to answer questions about the impact of individuals on the changing world. You'll also have the opportunity to study a topic of your own choice in depth, researching and writing a major essay that analyses the historical evidence and interpretations of an aspect of history that interests you.

As an IB history student you will build on many of the skills introduced at IGCSE, although it is possible to study History at IB without having studied the subject before. You will need to be comfortable with language, as you'll be reading, writing and thinking extensively in English. Through reading, discussing, comparing and evaluating historical sources and historians, you'll come to understand the major conflicts, individuals and political movements that dominated and shaped the last century. You will, therefore, be equipped to understand our global society as it currently stands.

“ Through reading, discussing, analysing, comparing and evaluating historical sources and historians, you'll come to understand the major conflicts, individuals and political movements that dominated, shaped, enhanced and plagued the last century and that continue to influence us today. ”



Geography



Geography is the study of people and their relation to the natural environment. You'll develop a keen awareness of the world around you and how people from different cultures all relate to that world.

You'll examine societies through their industrial development, their impact on the environment and their effects on people. You'll spend time on the core topics at the heart of Geography: population, resources and sustainable development, but you'll also have the chance to explore some more specialist physical and human geography options. You'll start to see how we create problems for the future through farming, deforestation and chemical pollution and how these problems can be managed to live more sustainably.

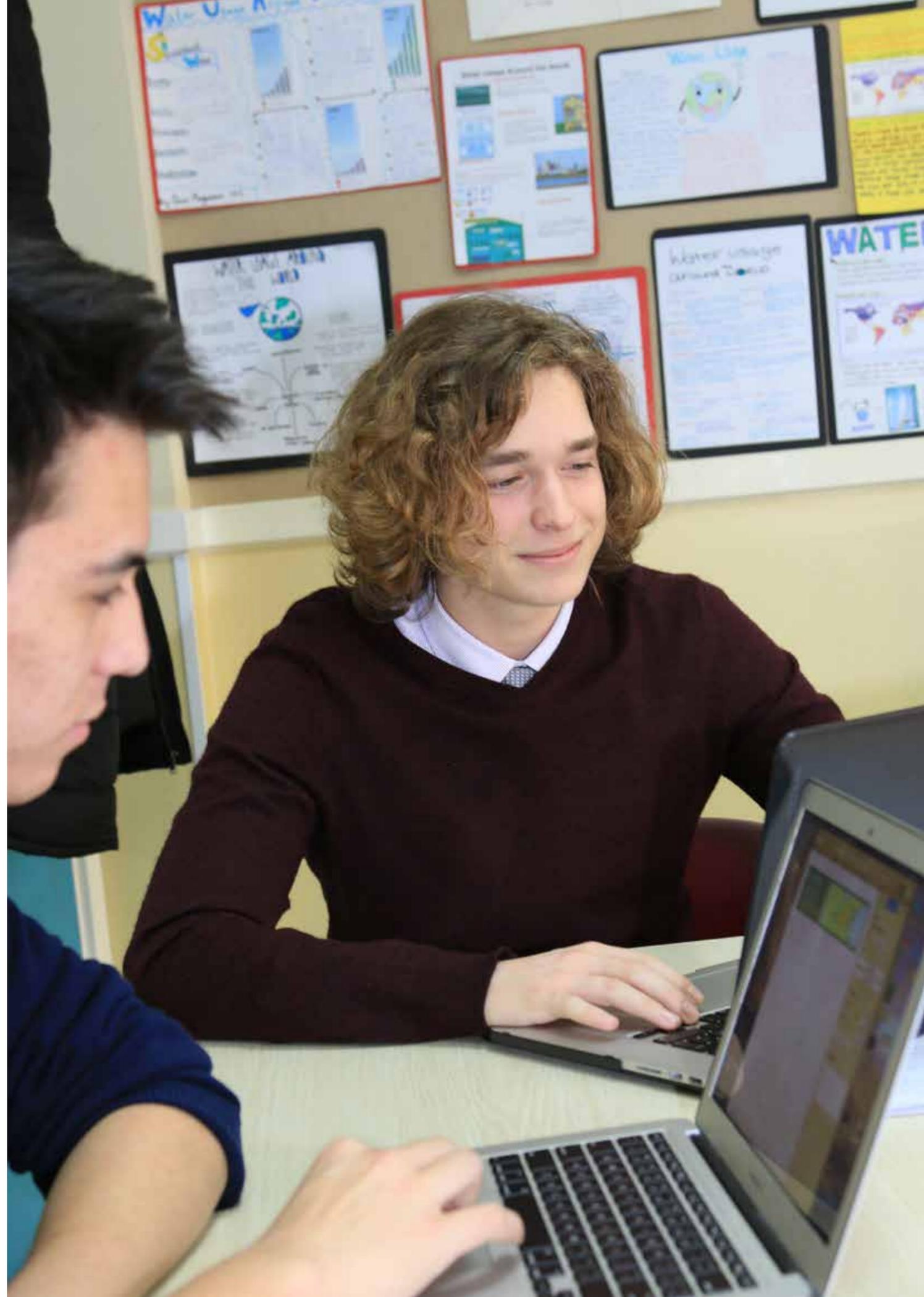
Through comparing the lives of people struggling for survival on the edge of deserts with those living well in major cities you'll gain a unique understanding of the citizens of our global society. You'll learn directly about the environment too, as you study the management of local and global ecosystems. Fieldwork is at the centre of geographical exploration, and you'll research an extended

topic on a residential trip outside your normal environment: for example this year's students will conduct an urban field study in Phnom Penh, Cambodia following their CAS project. This is an exciting and interesting opportunity, but we'd like to make you aware that fieldwork in Geography does involve a significant extra cost. Please ask if you or your parents would like more information about this.

Fieldwork will sharpen your ability to collect, describe and analyse data, draw conclusions and make recommendations. From the field work you will prepare an internal assessment (IA) based on a research question of your choice. The skills from field work and writing the IA will prepare you well for success at university and beyond.

The delicate balance between the natural world and the people who inhabit it is the issue that will define us as a generation. You'll learn to look at the decisions that individuals and societies make as they come to terms with the changing world around them from topical news events today, and you'll be able to make an important, educated and intelligent contribution to the environmental debate in the years ahead.

“ Through comparing the lives of people struggling for survival on the edge of deserts with those living well in major cities you'll gain a unique understanding of the citizens of our global society. ”



Experimental Sciences

As you'll expect, these subjects are about science. More than that, though, you'll learn how scientists work and share ideas: about the "scientific method".

If you have a love of science then of course the group 4 subjects will appeal to you. The main skills which you'll acquire from your group 4 subject(s) will be the ability to analyse data in all its forms, answer technical questions and justify your answers. This will usually involve selecting the correct information to use from the large amount you are presented with. This is of course what making decisions in real life is like and so is a vital skill to have in any career. You'll also learn how scientists work, share ideas, use the scientific method and the very nature of science itself. For all the experimental sciences there is a considerable amount of practical work which you'll undertake and some of which will count towards your final grade. The group 4 subjects emphasise experimental work and a practical approach to learning, which complement the different ways of learning in other parts of the DP. If you study Biology, you'll also take part in a field trip as part of your course.

This is an exciting and interesting opportunity, but we'd like to make you aware that it does involve an extra cost. Please ask if you or your parents would like more information about this.

Additionally the option to take a science as your group 6 option will allow you to study two sciences together. This will be particularly important for you if you're thinking about careers involving the pure sciences, medicine or engineering.

4



Biology

Biology provides an exploration of the vast and diverse world of living organisms. You'll be studying people, but you'll also be learning about the 40 million or so other species with which we share our planet.

If you've ever wondered about our origins, how we evolved or if our planet can continue to sustain a rapidly increasing human population, studying DP Biology will help you find some answers. You'll spend time on topics such as cells, biochemistry, genetics, human physiology, ecology and evolution, and you'll learn how to apply the tools of science to gain a deeper and more secure understanding of the issues at the heart of life itself.

Like all good scientists, you'll divide your time between learning the theory and carrying out carefully planned experiments. Experimental work has been at the heart of most great discoveries, and the lab work you do will develop your ability to work accurately. Project work will allow you to explore ideas in more detail, preparing you for the kind of independent study you'll face later.

As the next century unfolds, biologists will be in the forefront of

the most challenging intellectual problems. You'll see that Biology lies at the heart of major social problems that will face the human race in the coming decade: genetic engineering, population control and environmental management. Whether you end up as a research scientist, doctor, ecologist, dental surgeon, veterinarian, or just as a concerned citizen of 21st century Earth, you'll gain a great deal from the DP Biology course.

“ As the next century unfolds, biologists will be in the forefront of the most challenging intellectual problems. ”



Chemistry



Chemistry spans the scientific spectrum. At one end, the reactions and processes you'll study are those that biologists need to explain the mechanisms of life, at the other you'll gain a deeper understanding of the physical explanations of chemical effects.

The course is a fairly even mixture of factual recall, writing explanations of chemical observations and using mathematics to do chemical calculations. As your knowledge deepens you'll frequently discover that your teachers significantly simplified what they told you at IGCSE. At several points in the DP course you are likely to accuse your IGCSE teachers of having lied to you. You can be smug in the knowledge that you only know that because you chose Chemistry at DP!

At DP level you must be able to turn your chemical knowledge into practical reality and be able to explain practical observations using your theoretical knowledge. Hence, you'll spend a considerable proportion of your lessons carrying out practical work. You'll also learn how to communicate the methods and results of experiments to other

chemists in ways which they will understand. These skills will be applied outside lessons as you write up your practical work.

Studying Chemistry is vital for some courses at university such as: Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Materials Science and Medicine. It is also useful for some courses which you may find surprising, such as Archaeology. And if your aim in life is just to make lots of money it may be worth knowing that many investment bankers studied Chemistry, not Business or Economics, at university.

“ At DP level you must be able to turn your chemical knowledge into practical reality and be able to explain practical observations using your theoretical knowledge. ”



Physics



Physics asks the fundamental questions about our universe. The laws of physics came into existence 15 billion years ago at the start of the universe, and everything in time and space has been governed by them ever since.

Through the DP Physics course, you'll extend the understanding of classical physics you have from IGCSE of mechanics, waves, energy and electromagnetism, but you'll also discover that reality is stranger than you can possibly imagine. Studying quantum mechanics, particle physics and relativity will force you to question your basic ideas about how the world works and will stretch your imagination and your ability to think.

Physics is an experimental science, and you'll spend at least a quarter of your time on practical work. Your work will include short laboratory experiments and some extended project work that will give you experience in the sort of task that you'll meet studying science at university. You'll become familiar with techniques for analysing data that you'll be able to use far more widely than in the Physics lab.

As a successful Physics student, you'll need to be comfortable

with mathematics. The blend of calculation and imagination needed for DP Physics is much prized by universities and employers, and you'll find that the ways of thinking you develop over the two-year course will be of great value to you in the future. Physics is a must if you intend to study not just Physics itself, but also Material Sciences or Engineering.

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Mathematics

Mathematics flows in and around our everyday lives. Wherever you go and whatever you do, mathematics will play some part in your future.

You'll need to buy and sell goods, read timetables and understand architects' plans. Perspective for artists, rhythms and harmonies for musicians, financial trends for economists, stress patterns for engineers: these are all places where you may meet and use mathematics in your life. You may regard mathematics as just an essential tool, or you may see it as the purest of all academic disciplines. Either way, you'll be better equipped for the path you choose to follow having studied Mathematics as part of the DP.

Students have different strengths in Mathematics and to cater for this we offer three programmes. This ensures that you can study the right kind of Mathematics at the right level for you. HL Mathematics, SL Mathematics and SL Mathematical Studies are the three options and they have very different requirements. On the next few pages you can read about the suggested profile of students

taking each course. Your teachers will suggest the most appropriate programme of study and this may include a choice between two of the options.

Of course, to study any Mathematics course, you'll need a good calculator. All our DP students will need a Texas Instruments TI-nSpire CX graphical calculator (non-CAS version). We're letting you know this now as many students choose to purchase this while visiting their home country over the summer, though it is also available in Shanghai and online. Just ask if you'd like more information.



Mathematics at Higher Level

Mathematics HL is for students with a high level of mathematical competence as well as a good background in mathematics. You'll choose to study this if you are going on to study mathematics or a course that depends critically on mathematics at university.

A typical student who takes this course has excellent skills in algebra. They find the theoretical side of Mathematics very interesting and have studied further Mathematics content. Typically, they would have achieved an A* at IGCSE Mathematics as part of an early entry group in Year 10 or January of Year 11. Successful students enjoy the kinds of challenges and problems that Mathematics presents, seeing it as entertainment at least as much as hard work.

The DP approach is about developing important mathematical concepts in a coherent and rigorous way. You'll gain the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle sophisticated mathematical problems, both in abstract and in practical ways. Core topics include work on number; algebra; equations; trigonometry; vectors; statistics and calculus, but extension work

will take you into less familiar areas too: perhaps set, relations and group theory; further statistics and probability; or further calculus. Physics, Computer Science and Engineering courses normally require mathematics at this level, and it can be very useful for courses like Economics and Architecture

By the end of the course, you'll have access to a high level of mathematical skill and knowledge, changing the way that you perceive and analyse the world. Along the way you'll complete an internal assessment based on an individual mathematical exploration, giving you a chance to be rewarded for high quality mathematics produced without the normal limitations on time and the 'need for speed' seen in written examinations. You'll also have banked a lot of future credit: the demand for capable mathematicians is very high, not only in the academic world, but also in business, commerce and industry.

“ The DP approach is about developing important mathematical concepts in a coherent and rigorous way. ”



Mathematics at Standard Level



Mathematics SL is for students with good mathematical competence as well as a secure background in mathematics.

A typical student who takes this course enjoys and has good skills in algebra. They find the theoretical side of Mathematics interesting and may have studied further Mathematics content. Typically they would be predicted an A grade or above at IGCSE. You would also have an affinity for mathematics and an interest in the kinds of problems it poses.

This is likely to be the right Mathematics course for you if you'll use mathematics as part of your future study or career, but where mathematics is not a critical part of your future plans. Standard level Mathematics will support science subjects at university, for instance, and you'll probably choose Mathematics, at least at standard level, if you are studying DP science subjects at higher level.

As with the higher level course, the subject focuses on developing important mathematical concepts in a comprehensible, coherent and rigorous way. You'll be encouraged to apply your mathematical knowledge to solving problems set in a variety of meaningful contexts.

The course covers all the major areas of mathematics, including number; algebra; functions and equations; trigonometry; vectors; statistics; and calculus, giving you a secure foundation and set of tools to help you succeed in other subjects, at university and beyond. Along the way you'll complete one internal assessment assignment based on an individual mathematical exploration, giving you a chance to be rewarded for high quality mathematics produced without the normal limitations on time and the 'need for speed' seen in written examinations.

“ As with the higher level course, the subject focuses on developing important mathematical concepts in a comprehensible, coherent and rigorous way. ”



Mathematical Studies



Mathematical Studies at the British International School is designed to engage you in mathematics by making it relevant to you in your daily lives in Shanghai and as a member of a global community.

A typical student who takes this course prefers seeing mathematics in a real world setting. They find algebra and other theoretical models more challenging. Students also select this course if they have achieved a higher grade but know that they will benefit from learning statistical analysis in more depth. This would be beneficial for students looking at social sciences or Arts based degrees.

Whatever your relationship has been with mathematics in the past, as you study this course you'll gain confidence in mathematics and you'll discover that it is an essential part of life. This is likely to be the right Mathematics course for you if you don't anticipate needing mathematics in your future studies at college or university, since its principal focus is on giving you a grounding in the mathematical processes and skills that will help you in your everyday life.

Through Mathematical Studies, you'll appreciate the multicultural

and historical perspectives of mathematics, and you'll develop an appreciation of its elegance, power and usefulness. You'll find that you improve your ability to think logically, critically and creatively, and you'll develop patience and persistence in problem solving. You'll develop the talent of being able to think in abstract terms and about general principles, and this is a skill that will improve the quality of your work in any area of study or life.

As well as mathematics topics that you'll be familiar with, like number and algebra, functions and geometry, the course looks at topics that have a broad application beyond mathematics: logic and probability, statistics, and financial mathematics for example. You'll also undertake a project involving the collection, analysis and evaluation of information, which will give you a chance to see how mathematical techniques can be applied to real-world problems. By the end of the course you'll be able to use a new, wide range of skills, and you'll see the benefits of being able to apply your mathematical knowledge in the variety of situations you'll meet beyond school.

“ You'll find that you improve your ability to think logically, critically and creatively, and you'll develop patience and persistence in problem solving. ”





The Arts & Elective Courses

When you study Film, Music, Theatre or Visual Art, you'll spend time exploring diversity across time, places and cultures.

You'll learn to express yourself with greater confidence and competence, and you'll develop perception, creativity and analytical skills. Sometimes the most important thing you can do is to take time out of the commotion of everyday life and you'll have opportunities to reflect and contemplate as part of your study of the arts.

Your study of the arts will be the start of a lifelong relationship, and your ability to perceive a situation more deeply will stay with you, carrying over into other disciplines and changing the way you view the world.

You may also choose to study Chemistry as an elective option here instead, if you want to take two science courses as part of the IB Diploma, or it may be possible to opt for a second individual and societies subject from group 3. You can find details of these options in the group 3 and group 4 sections of

this guide. There's also the chance to study Computer Science, which is also a group 4 subject.



Film

DP Film is the study of global cinema cultures. As well as learning key practical skills – directing, editing, cinematography, sound design and screenwriting – you will study films from many different countries and time periods.

DP Film is the study of global cinema cultures. As well as learning key practical skills – directing, editing, cinematography, sound design and screenwriting – you will study films from many different countries and time periods. We will use cinema as a window to the past, learning about global cultures through their films. We will examine how historical events inspired and influenced filmmaking, as well as the legacy of key films on today's cinema.

A Film student is part historian, part anthropologist (the study of culture) and part practitioner. You'll learn from the filmmakers of the past in order to develop your own production skills. You'll learn how to frame a shot, use lighting and colour, how to edit a film, how to design a full and interesting soundscape, as well as how to work in a team.

You will look at key movements across film history, such as Silent

Cinema, German Expressionism, Film Noir and the French New Wave, as well as examining genres such as the road movie and the western. You will learn about key film theories and apply these to our study films – these include auteur theory, genre theory, psychoanalytic theory and affect theory. You will learn how politics informs film content, including the effects of postcolonialism and Marxism and how these political ideas can be seen even in popular films like Avatar and The Hunger Games series.

You will leave the course as a filmmaker and will become more politically, socially and culturally aware. While you may not necessarily want to work in the film industry later, this course prepares you well to work in and lead a team, to project manage, to be able to overcome obstacles and to become skilled in video production. With the media an ever-increasing presence in our lives, you will learn skills that are of great value and relevance in the modern world.

Higher Level students will study more aspects of film history and theory, and in greater depth, while the length of assessments differs a little between SL and HL.

“ With the media an ever-increasing presence in our lives, you will learn skills that are of great value and relevance in the modern world. ”



Music



DP Music is about exploring music, making links between music, creating music and performing music. You do not need to be a highly accomplished musical performer to be successful at DP provided that you are able to read notation and have a creative streak.

Music will help to develop your identity, personality, expression and emotion. It can be an opening to many careers such as a sound engineer, producer, composer, songwriter, session musician and conductor. It will develop your skills as a project leader, communicator and a creative and reflective thinker. In exploring music you'll be exposed to musical cultures from all around the world. You'll learn to be able to identify these and analyse their differing structures, rhythms, scales, harmonies and musical devices. You'll learn how these have been, and are, influenced by the culture in which the music was created and explore these through performing, creating and listening.

From these skills, you'll be shown how to make links between very diverse areas of music. This will lead to you completing a research project, linking the music of your choice to any other music from

around the world; whether this is heavy metal, hip hop, musical theatre or traditional folk music. You'll have the chance to choose areas of music which you're interested in, explore them in detail and then describe and demonstrate the links and differences that you can see between them. You will also learn how to analyse music by looking at detailed notated scores and will answer questions on two orchestral set works as part of your listening paper.

If you study Standard Level Music, you can choose between creating music and performing music. If you choose Higher Level Music, you'll study both.

Creating music is one of the most exciting areas of the course and is an area where you have an enormous choice of approaches. You could compose a piece of music from scratch in any style of your choice, make a piece using only music technology, arrange a piece of music already composed and change it into your style, improvise music from the top of your head, or work on a short study to write a piece of music in a specific style.

Finally, there is performance. If you choose to study Higher Level Music or to specialise in performance

for your Standard Level pathway you'll learn to become a confident performer on your instrument, or using your voice. You will develop a broad and contrasting repertoire of music that you will perform regularly to live audiences. As an IB Music student you will be expected to become an integral part of musical life at the school and will be required to perform at frequent recitals, assemblies and events throughout the year.

Whether or not you choose music at Higher Education level, once you've finished the course you'll have a qualification which makes you interesting to employers and universities. If you want to pursue a musical career you'll have a portfolio of compositions and live performances that you can use to promote yourself. If you don't choose a career in music, then you'll have a qualification which demonstrates that you can produce work in a variety of formats, that you have the ability to learn new skills, and that you have a creative flair to complement your academic profile.

Theatre



DP Theatre is about understanding, evaluating and being able to produce theatre. Students who choose to take this course must not only have a passion for performing but also towards all areas of a production process, including directing, practitioner styles, writing reviews, stage management and technical elements.

This course will allow you to develop your skills as a performer through the study of an array of different theatre styles as well as giving you the opportunity to develop your own knowledge and appreciation of theatre from different cultures and eras. You'll develop your leadership, communication and creative thinking, as well as the ability to analytically reflect on live theatre. Theatre will be explored in practical workshops where you'll learn devising techniques, skills for presenting scripted plays and the styles and ideologies of different practitioners and cultures, including Brecht, Berkoff, Commedia dell'arte and symbolism. You'll also lead your own workshops based upon your findings on your chosen style of theatre.

Theatre students at both Standard and Higher level are presented with a common core syllabus that encourages the development of certain skills, attributes and attitudes. There are 3 tasks that both SL and HL students must take and they are marked using the exact same criteria.

- Collaborative Project: You'll create an original piece of theatre in a group which you then perform to a live audience. You'll write a portfolio explaining how you devised this original play and evaluate how effective you thought it was.
- Research Presentation: You'll choose a piece of world theatre from a list of 30. You must research this tradition, including acting techniques used, and present your findings.
- Director's Notebook: You must choose one play that interests you as a director. You then create a 20 page notebook explaining how you would stage this play, including acting, casting, set, costume, lighting and sound.

HL students must then conduct one further task.

- Solo Presentation: You must perform a monologue, either from an existing play or one you have composed yourself, and use the

ideas of one theatre practitioner to influence your performance. You must then write a report on how you have used this practitioner's work to influence your performance.

Despite all the assessments being marked on your own individual work, the Theatre course is a very sociable and heavily ensemble based subject. You'll be expected to fully produce a selection of your performance proposals throughout the two years in evening events which are to be completely self-organised, giving you the opportunity to develop your skills in the production of theatre as a whole, not just performance. You'll also be expected to be involved in all school productions, either backstage or as a performer, as these will be used as evaluative and development material for the course.

DP Theatre can help you to continue on to further study in this field, including directing, creative writing and, of course, performing. Even if you do not follow these paths the skills that you learn on this course, the ability to critically evaluate, successfully organise, creatively plan and work as part of a team, are essential for almost any career or study path.

Visual Arts



The Visual Arts are what you may be used to calling 'Art'. They reflect humanity's fundamental need to create and communicate personal and cultural meaning through art. You'll be engaging in practical exploration and artistic production, developing your own ideas and styles whilst learning to look critically and sensitively at the work of artists from different cultures and traditions.

You'll discover new ways of expressing yourself and a new understanding of yourself in relation to the world around you.

As a successful student of the visual arts, you'll probably have been studying Art at GCSE, although we'd be happy to talk individually with you about the IB course if you've never formally studied Art. You'll certainly have a passion for creativity, but you'll recognise that quality comes from a mixture of analysis, understanding, planning, creativity and a little genius. You'll be prepared to persevere at a project for a long time to get it right, and you'll want to spend time on your art.

There are no formal examinations as part of the course. Instead, you'll

keep a 'Visual Arts Journal' and build a 'Process Portfolio' in which you'll create, analyse and compare art from different cultures and times. You'll conduct investigations and experiments with various art materials, develop research strategies, and develop ideas. These will all contribute to the development of your own artistic style.

Some of the best learning comes from studying the work of others, and you'll have opportunities to relate your work to the work of other artists, synthesising their findings into something that has meaning to you. These investigations will form the basis of the 'Comparative Study' which is the written component of the course.

At the end of your course you'll curate your own professional exhibition with the rest of the Visual Arts students. The exhibition will be formed from the final studio works from investigations in the 'Visual Arts Journal' and 'Process Portfolio'

Your study of visual arts and your exciting journey within it will encourage respect for cultural and aesthetic differences and will promote creative thinking and problem solving. These are all ways

of thinking that will be of great value to you in the future.

Computer Science



Computer Science is a rigorous and practical problem-solving discipline with computational thinking at the heart of the course. You'll develop higher-level skills through the exploration of programming, algorithmic thinking. You'll work collaboratively and you'll be encouraged to communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts.

The theoretical aspects of the course will introduce you to a range of new concepts from computer mathematics (Binary, Octal and Hex), through to databases and project management. The concepts you'll learn in this section will prepare you to design and integrate computers into any area of life.

The practical aspects of the course will introduce you to computer programming and its associated ideas. You'll cover simple programming concepts from loops to selections to the more advanced structures of object orientation and graphics. The flexibility of the IB Computer Science programme gives you the option of exploring a wide range of programming languages such as Python and Java.

At its core, problem-solving is a pinnacle component of the

course and as such you'll be required to solve a 'real-life' scenario or situation involving a problem that can be solved using computer systems. This case study will capitalise on relatively current situations, thereby taking advantage of new initiatives which exemplify the social significance and implications of computer systems.

Upon completion of this course you'll be able to pursue a wide variety of university courses including Computer and Electrical Engineering among many others. The skills covered, such as project management, are widely used in most university degree courses and will be of great benefit to any student. After university, the world is currently desperately short of qualified computing graduates, particularly those who can program. Therefore, a range of opportunities will be available to you from programming to project management.

The International Award

Although not part of the IB diploma itself, the International Award is an exciting self-development programme available to you because you're aged between 14 and 25. Launched in the UK in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the programme has now spread to 126 countries.

Over 6 million young people worldwide have taken up the award challenge and we will encourage you to join them. The International Award will support, enhance and extend what you'll be doing for CAS as part of your IB work, and you'll have opportunities you are glad you took up.

The award is tough – deliberately so – but it is about challenging you as an individual, not about you having to reach specific standards set by someone else. Working closely with the programme co-ordinator, you'll design your own award programme, set your own goals, and record your own progress. The only person you'll compete against is yourself, by challenging your own beliefs about what you can achieve.

The programme is based around three levels, each successive one requiring more commitment. You'll

have to be 14 or over for the Bronze award, participating for at least 6 months. For Silver, you'll have to be 15 or over and make a commitment for at least a year. For the highly prestigious Gold award, you'll be 16 or over and you'll commit to the programme for more than 18 months.

You'll complete activities in four different areas: service, an adventurous journey, skills and physical recreation. For the gold award, you'll also participate in a week-long residential project.

Service can include community service projects, conservation work, voluntary service in hospitals or homes, or can include specialised training in areas like lifesaving and first aid.

The Adventurous Journey is about adventure and discovery. You can hike or cycle, and on the way you'll develop an understanding of the environment, and the importance of working as part of a team with a common purpose. You'll learn the significance of training, preparation, self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

The Skills section of the award is where you'll develop personal interests and learn practical skills.

You don't have to reach any set standard: this is about you setting your own goals and measuring your progress against them.

You'll undertake organised and regular physical activity, showing perseverance and improving your fitness. You'll record your own progress, as you participate in the individual or team sports of your choice.

We believe that the International Award complements the IB Diploma perfectly: this is why we offer both programmes together to students in Years 12 and 13. Both are extremely highly regarded international qualifications, valued by universities and employers around the world, and both are superb education experiences. Completing both over your two years on the IB programme will help you to face the future securely, knowing you are ready to meet its academic, organisational, physical and ethical challenges with confidence.



Glossary of Terms

A selection of the most commonly used terms in the IB Programme and an explanation of their meaning.

EE	EXTENDED ESSAY	A 4000 word independent research paper submitted by full diploma students during the senior year. Students formulate an argument, use research to support that argument and reach a conclusion.
SL	STANDARD LEVEL	Designates a course that is 150 hours, taken in Year 12 and 13.
HL	HIGHER LEVEL	Designates a course that is 240 hours, taken in Year 12 and 13.
CAS	CREATIVITY ACTIVITY SERVICE	Students must complete a programme of involvement in the three areas of Creativity, Activity, and Service - during the course of 2 years.
IBO	INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANISATION	IB Organisation as a whole, which includes offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Cardiff, Wales and various regional offices.
TOK	THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE	A required course for diploma candidates. Students explore the bases for knowledge and judgment.
	<i>ab initio</i>	Foreign language course of study for students who have previously studied the language for less than two years.
	INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Evaluative work (presentations, oral interviews, papers, etc.) that are assigned and scored by the IB teachers using IBO's scoring criteria. The IA is then externally moderated by IBO.
	EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Work sent to examiners and moderators of the IB Organisation to be evaluated. Work is sent to examiners in over 100 different countries. IB exams (papers) are graded this way.
IA	INTERNATIONAL AWARD	The International Award is an exciting self-development programme available to students aged between 14 and 25. Although not part of the IB programme itself, it will support, enhance and extend what students do for CAS as part of their IB work.





*We believe that no-one
has a limit to their
potential or ability*

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