



THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF GUANGZHOU  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# *Welcome to Secondary School*

A Guide For Parents

*The British School of  
Guangzhou is part  
of a Global Campus  
of over 40,000 students  
in 15 countries*



## A message from the Principal

The British School of Guangzhou is a truly international school, with students from over 50 different countries. While many parents select our school for our impressive academic reputation, we understand that education is about much more than academic success.



Our school is a member of Nord Anglia Education (NAE), a premium education provider with over 50 international schools in 25 different countries. NAE's Global Classroom initiative provides our students with a unique opportunity to meet and collaborate with other schools from around the world. Our continued focus on 'Be Ambitious' also inspires them to become socially and academically confident.

Our emphasis on five core values ensures that students develop a love of learning that will support them throughout their lives. I am proud to say our children leave us with a sense of confidence and an awareness of the world that is inspiring.

This is a busy school with events taking place throughout the year on our two campuses, which helps to make us a truly special place to study. Our parents, staff and students are fully involved in school events ranging from International Day to Book Week, and help to place our school at the heart of the local community.

I would encourage families who are moving to Guangzhou to come and visit us and experience for themselves our international school environment, a place where your children can achieve their academic potential and have a great time as well.

I am always happy to meet visitors in person and take great pride in showing you exactly why we are the school of choice for so many families.

*Mr. Mark Thomas*  
School Principal

# A message from the Head of Secondary

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The British School of Guangzhou is a prestigious successful school that operates in an environment that both challenging and exhilarating. BSG is never quiet and centre of our attention is to always provide the best possible opportunities for our students and staff.

In Secondary School Classrooms, we challenge students' thinking. If they are not thinking, they are not learning. Lessons are engaging, encouraging inquiry, creativity risk-taking in a supportive atmosphere. Learning, of extends beyond the classroom; all students are involved in curricular and community-service activities. It is through that they reinforce their leadership, collaboration, problem- and decision-making skills, as well as developing independence.

We do not believe in fixed ability but are committed to the notion that every learner can succeed to the highest level. Through support and opportunity, commitment and perseverance, there literally are no limits. Through this ambitious approach to learning our students manage to achieve outstanding examination results, as well as developing as Global Citizens. In a global community that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, we help to nurture citizens who understand the world on many levels and are able to find solutions to current and future challenges.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to BSG and look forward to you joining our community.



*Mr. Paul McConnell*

**Head of Secondary**

“ Being a member of the student body for so long, I feel a strong sense of pride looking at the school I first moved to in comparison to what it has flourished into now. ”

— Head Student, Year 12





## Our Curriculum

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At the British School of Guangzhou, we follow an internationally adapted British National Curriculum at Key Stage 3, which is wide ranging, skills-based curriculum designed to allow students to apply their skills and knowledge to real life scenarios.

At Key Stage 4, our students follow the IGCSE programme and at Key Stage 5 the AS and A Level programme of study, externally examined and awarded by Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel. These highly recognised global qualifications provide our students with a pathway to tertiary education at the most prestigious academic institutions all over the world (Please see 'Preparing for Life beyond BSG' for further details).

### Assessment

Throughout their time at BSG Secondary, our assessment policy is key to supporting the continued achievement of all students and encourages them to become well-rounded individuals. Our targets are aspirational and encourage each student to 'be ambitious' as well as reflective and resilient in their approach to all challenges they face.



# Core Subjects

At Key Stage 3, all aspects of the National Curriculum are taught, providing a holistic educational experience as well as a diverse range of skills and experiences allowing students to further develop their love of learning.

At Key Stage 4, students begin to specialise their learning, making well-informed choices about the next stage on their educational journey. Whilst students can choose to pursue subjects of their choice, there are core elements in which all students will be examined and gain qualifications. These are: **English (or EAL), Mathematics, Science, Global Perspectives and a chosen language.**

In addition to these examined subjects, students also continue to study **Physical Education**, in order to maintain a healthy balance to the curriculum, as well as continuing to learn about and develop a healthy lifestyle.



## English

Through the study of English language and literature, students develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. They can discuss and explore how the language, form and structure across a range of literature are crafted in order to impact the reader. Developing effective and coherent writing using Standard English with accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling is a key skill and students will also acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

### English as Additional Language

Our EAL curriculum focuses on developing and moving students forward from abilities in social and communicative English to the use of more advanced academic English in a range of academic genres and situations, with steadily increasing levels of complexity and sophistication. Confident use of the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in an academic environment,

*"Be awesome!  
Be a book  
nut!"*

Dr. Seuss



“ At BSG, there is very much a reading culture that exists amongst students. This high level of commitment for reading means everyone goes through school with the ambition to gain knowledge and develop a love of learning. ”

— English Teacher



## Mathematics

Throughout the different courses studied in Mathematics we look at developing our students ability to reason logically and to develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to wider society. It is essential for the students to be able to apply the skills that they study to 'real life' situations and this is supported through problem solving and critical thinking activities.

Throughout their educational career students will develop their understanding of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Data Handling. These are then applied to practical situations such as proofs and projects in order to consolidate understanding and develop their ability to solve problems.

## Science

Students study science as well developing specific skills linked to the distinct disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Within their study students are encouraged to develop planning and organisational skills for practical work, the awareness of hazards and how to work safely, enhance observational skills to record changes and results, be able to work confidently and accurately with data, and gain knowledge, recognition and understanding of scientific equipment.

In addition to this our students will have the ability to critically evaluate their work and gain an appreciation of how scientific theories are developed, challenged and accepted as well as an acute awareness of the role of science in all aspects of life.

## Languages

Within languages, our students will gain the ability to communicate in a foreign language focussing upon listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

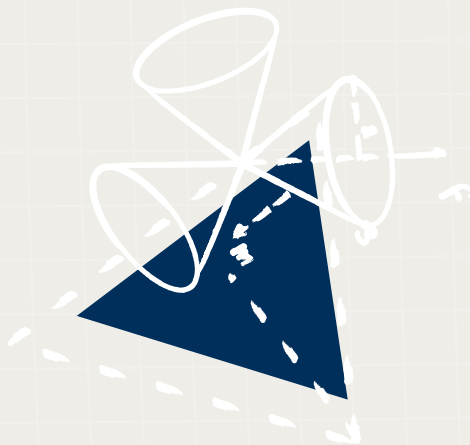
Through their studies they will also gain an insight into, and a positive attitude towards, foreign cultures and civilisations.

Students also develop the skills to analyse texts to extract meaning through gist and inference, improve memory skills as well as expressing and justifying points of view, attitudes and emotions.

## Physical Education

Students will take part in a variety of sporting activities during their time at BSG, developing an understanding of the importance of exercise, fitness and healthy lifestyles.

Through their experience of sport they develop agility, balance, co-ordination, speed, strength and endurance. In addition, key transferable skills such as leadership and teamwork are integral to Physical Education lessons and are developed through independent, collaborative and investigative learning.







# The Arts

## Music

Through the study of music, students will develop and enhance their ability to play or sing in ensembles and as soloists. Keyboard skills are key to this development and will be acquired by all.

Students will acquire knowledge of the history of music and how it relates to its cultural context whilst developing skills to listen differently, to obtain a deeper appreciation of the music they hear.

In addition, many cross-curricular skills are developed through musical study such as numeracy, problem solving, critical reflection, teamwork and self-management. Music also enables students to develop concentration levels and memory and resilience, leading to enhanced intellectual, personal and social development.

*Students benefit from our collaboration with The Juilliard School, New York, a world-renowned performing arts conservatory.*



## Drama

As well as looking to develop spoken English and also performance skills (facial expressions, use of space, vocal articulation and projection, showing emotional intensity and developing clarity of body language) Drama encourages and develops many

important key, transferable skills such as: self-confidence, creativity, spontaneity and the ability to think quickly and improvise. Students also work collaboratively enhancing their listening skills as well as empathy and sensitivity toward others.

## Art

At BSG, Art is an integral part of our students' holistic learning experience. Through their study, they develop numerous transferable skills and will learn to express their thoughts and choices confidently; apply creative approaches to problem solving and critically analyse their own work as well as the work of others.

They will also consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realization, considering aesthetics, presentation and composition, taking risks, experimenting and learning from mistakes.

# Humanities & Social Sciences



Enterprise Week

## Geography

Within Geography our students develop and enhance a number of subject specific and transferable skills. A key skill our students develop is the application of Ordnance Survey map skills such as four and six figure grid references, contour lines, scale and map symbols as well as the identification of landmarks and landforms.

Through the study of human and physical geography they are also able to recall distinctive characteristics of different places, use evidence to support their ideas and draw conclusions, with increasing independence. Our students also develop a wide range of communication skills and can transfer ideas, information and findings using a variety of techniques. In our ever-changing world they are also able to demonstrate an awareness of sustainable development and an appreciation of differing viewpoints.

“ Enterprise Week allowed us to take our business lesson into the real world, as we were tasked with making a profit by selling toys to Primary. It was a fun and crazy experience! ”

— Year 10 Business Student



## History

As students experience History at BSG, they not only develop knowledge of wide ranging human experiences but acquire and hone valuable subject specific and highly sought after skills. Key to their success is developing their explanations and discussing why events happened; using historical sources to gain knowledge about the past; evaluating evidence by considering multiple perspectives on events and developing the skill of interpretation by formulating how and why different opinions of the past are formed. As these skills develop students also explore the concepts of significance, change and continuity, cause and consequence.

## Business Studies

Business Studies and Economics students begin their studies in Key Stage 4 and can continue these into Key Stage 5. They are assessed upon their knowledge, application analysis and evaluation. Throughout the course they develop the skills to write impersonally, think critically, analyse data effectively, identify trends using theories and case studies to support their arguments and evaluations.

## Global Perspectives

Global Perspectives is an innovative and stimulating skills-based programme that places academic study in a practical, real-world context.

It provides students with the opportunity to cultivate the critical thinking, research, communication and collaboration skills needed to be successful at school and university as well as in their future careers.

The programme is designed to inspire learners to be curious, independent thinkers, ready to engage positively with the rapidly changing world around them.

## Psychology

When studying Psychology at IGCSE and AS/A2 Level, students develop many subject specific and transferable skills.

Self-management is a core skill that is enhanced through developing time management skills, independent learning and research skills and as a result will develop high levels of self-discipline. Critical thinking and problem solving are also key skills for success and students will be able to critically evaluate research from a variety of key studies discussing the validity, reliability and applicability to their own work.

High levels of communication are developed through their studies; as students will be required to work collaboratively over long periods of time, particularly during practical and research tasks where they formulate hypotheses, enhance their research methodologies and collect, handle and analyse information.

*"Reach for your dreams, and above all, be ambitious."*

Mrs Helen Russell  
English Teacher



## Computer Science

Computer Science allows students to develop knowledge of computational thinking, understanding and applying the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.

Through this they can understand data management, encryption and different number systems such as binary and hexadecimal and are encouraged to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. Students are also challenged to assess the impact of digital technology on individuals and wider society with a focus upon ethical issues that arise from the use of computer solutions.





# *Enrichment*

In addition to the standard curriculum at BSG, we firmly believe in a holistic education and therefore we are committed to developing extension and alternate learning experiences for all.

We believe these opportunities encourage further challenge outside the classroom, nurturing, developing and growing specific interests and talents and create further opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate our core values.



## Residential Trips

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At BSG, we truly believe that some of the best learning takes place outside of the classroom, where students are working together in an unfamiliar, exciting and challenging locations. Each trip is designed to provide opportunities to be involved in new activities and to work with different people. This enables our students to continue to develop as well as apply the skills they have learnt within the classroom.

Our Residential Programme is an integral part of our curriculum and is an annual event for all of our students.

## After-School Activities (ASAs)

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Our extensive After School Activity (ASA) programme provides an additional opportunity for students to develop skills and attributes outside of the regular classroom environment. There is a wide variety of activities on offer and at BSG we value the importance of choice and variety for our students, allowing each student to choose their own programme to fit their own interests and passions.



### *ASA opportunities include...*

- Primary ASA Leadership
- Production
- Sports Clubs
- Sports Teams (PRC & FOBISIA)
- BSG Times
- Choir & Orchestra
- Model United Nations
- Science Club
- IELTS
- Preparation for University
- Coding
- Fitness
- Cross Phase Climbing
- Creative Writing
- Film Making

# Duke of Edinburgh International Award

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The Duke of Edinburgh International Award scheme develops the whole student, particularly in terms of leadership, self-discipline and self sufficiency. There are three levels for students to complete, Bronze, Silver and Gold. The scheme is very much global with over 8 million 14-25 year olds successfully receiving awards since its launch in 1956.

At the start of each year, students commit to a series of activities centred on building confidence and developing key decision making skills in young people working within peer groups. Physical pursuits are key to the award but students also gain valuable life experience through community service, charity work and much more.

We highly value the International Award as it fosters a true sense of adventure and helps to further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, commitment and integrity.



Proud to deliver

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**





# Global Campus

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The Nord Anglia Global Campus connects over 35,000 students around the world to collaborate, discuss and learn together every day. Global Campus provides students with the opportunity to explore the world and develop a truly international perspective through outstanding online, in school and worldwide experiences.

From the Global Challenge, in collaboration with the United Nations Global Goals, MIT Challenge and STEAM Festivals through to Expeditions to Tanzania and Les Martinets, the Global Campus provides amazing and life changing experiences for our students.



## GLOBAL CAMPUS

## Preparing for Life Beyond BSG

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A fundamental element of our students' education is to prepare them for life outside of school in the world of higher education and global employment. We provide a comprehensive programme of careers advice and university guidance that starts with individually tailored input from our dedicated full-time Careers and University Adviser. Our students are truly global in their outlook and are provided with taster sessions and visits from a variety of world class Universities such as UBC, Sydney, Oxford, Durham, UCL, King's College London and St Andrews as well as an annual visit from a consortium of universities from the USA.

To prepare for life at university, our Year 12 students complete a two-week programme designed to support their application process and in addition, students also complete a 'Surviving at University' ASA where they experience the more practical aspects of living away from home including healthy living advice, budgeting and coping with culture shocks. The specialist post-16 team are also in the position to offer expert advice on all university destinations and BSG is also a registered SAT centre to support student applications to the USA.

Our students are also given the opportunity and guidance to undertake a period of formal work experience in order to enhance university applications and to provide a valuable insight into a variety of career pathways available to them. We also support our students in a life-long love of learning by offering the Extended Project Qualification as an academic enrichment opportunity as well as promoting wider reading and independent learning through completing additional online courses provided by prestigious educational institutions.



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**Contact us**

The British School of Guangzhou  
983-3 Tonghe Road, Baiyun District,  
Guangzhou, 510515

**Email**

[admissions@bsg.org.cn](mailto:admissions@bsg.org.cn)

**School Website**

[www.bsg.org.cn](http://www.bsg.org.cn)

**General Enquiries**

+86 (0)20 8709 4788

# NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION

