



Our Guide to...

Key Stage 4

2017-18



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SHANGHAI, PUXI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

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

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



Contact Us

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

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Welcome to Our School

A Note to our Parents

Dear Parents,

The style in which we've written this guide is to address everything directly to your son or daughter. This is an exciting time in their school career as, for the first time, they are having the opportunity to make significant decisions about what they study.

This is, for most, the first of many academic decisions that will define their own distinctive path through life. Experience tells us that education works best and that students get the most from it when they are fully engaged, and we like to think that your son or daughter will make their own choices and really embrace them.

Nonetheless, the best choices come after 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. We understand that you'll want to

be reassured about the choices your son or daughter makes, and we're very happy to talk about them at any point. 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.



Dr Neil Hopkin
Principal



An Introduction

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 course guide. We expect that you'll have many questions about what happens next in your education, and we've written this guide to try to answer as many as possible.



If there's anything you aren't sure about, however, at any point in the process, please just ask.

Here at the British International School, we follow the UK education system, although we change it in places to make sure it is right for people living in Shanghai. The UK system divides your time at school into sections, called "Key Stages" (KS for short), and, if you're in Year 9, you've been working your way through the last year of KS3 up to now. You're about to start KS4, which is the name given to Years 10 and 11. It marks an important time in your education, as in many countries it's the last two years of compulsory school. Most people are 14 at the start of Year 10, and 16 by the end of Year 11, although many students are a little younger or older too.

KS4 is probably the first time you've had much choice in the subjects you'll study. You don't get a completely free choice: there are still subjects that everyone takes, but you'll have the chance to choose some courses because you are interested in them, and you'll start the process of taking responsibility for your own education that will continue into IB courses and then as you go on to university.

Your study over these two years will lead to important examinations at the end of the course. These are not just school examinations: they are recognised qualifications that will help you get into university and help you on the way to a successful career in the future. These exams are called IGCSEs, and you'll take them in all your subjects except Games.

“ KS4 is probably the first time you've had much choice in the subjects you'll study. ”



About IGCSEs

IGCSE – short for International General Certificate of Secondary Education – is the international version of the GCSE exam taken by all students in the UK at the end of Year 11.



More than that, the IGCSE has gained such a reputation of its own that many of the best known UK independent schools are choosing to let their students sit it instead of the ordinary GCSE because it gives an even better preparation for future study.

You'll take IGCSEs in a range of subjects, and you'll find details of the subjects that we offer here in this course guide. We use two main examination boards: both very well-known and regarded in Britain and internationally, so you can be sure that the qualifications you get are highly regarded wherever you go in the world. One is Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), which is part of the University of Cambridge and also the world's largest provider of international qualifications to

school age students. The other is Pearson (Edexcel), the UK's largest examination body, which started life over 150 years ago as part of the University of London. We also use OCR, which is the UK-based section of CIE. At the end of your two-year courses, after successfully passing the exams, you'll be awarded these world-recognised certificates in each of your subjects, ready for the next stage in your education.

IGCSEs are graded from G, which is the lowest grade, up to A and then A*, which is the highest grade you can get. Although getting any of these grades means that you have passed the exam, many universities and employers regard getting a C or better in a subject as important. Most of our students are capable of getting C grades or better in their exams, and this is a good target for anyone here to aim for. Many

students gain much higher grades than this, with a number gaining all A and A* grades across a wide range of subjects.

A few of our subjects follow the GCSE curriculum. In those subjects, students are graded from 9 (high) to 1 (low). Universities across the world understand that international students may have a mixture of IGCSE and GCSE qualifications.

Making Choices

In KS4, everyone takes Mathematics and English. You'll also study the three sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There's more detail about each of these later in the guide.



Everyone has PE sessions (although we call them “Games” to avoid confusion with the IGCSE PE course that you can choose as an optional subject). These are the core subjects.

This will leave space on your timetable for four more subjects, and you can choose these from a range of courses on offer within our option blocks. Most importantly, we want to make sure you choose the right subjects for you. We're here to offer advice, so please ask us if you aren't sure about anything.

It is always a good idea to think ahead to the choices you might make for the IB Diploma programme. Again, we can advise you about progression from IGCSE to IB Diploma level.

Please note that we may be unable to offer option subjects if there are insufficient student numbers.

IGCSE OPTION CHOICES FOR 2017/2018

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Dutch
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Korean
- Mandarin
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Spanish

The English Department

The IGCSEs offered in English are two-year courses in which we hope to inspire and develop your skills and passion for English. You will explore different genres, cultures and essential themes of life, and as a result of this exposure we are confident that you will become an insightful and perceptive individual.

The English Department offers the opportunity to study two IGCSEs: English Literature and English Language.

English Literature IGCSE is closely focused on analysing works of fiction in the three traditional genres of Drama, Poetry and Prose.

In the English Language IGCSE we concentrate more on how writers craft and manipulate the English language for specific purposes such as to inform, to analyse or to argue. So, for example, our students may study speech-making and then write a speech showcasing their persuasive and rhetorical skills.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

You will study three texts from the IGCSE Literature list. For example, you could be reading a poetry collection featuring various 20th

and 21st century poets from the Poetry section, Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* for the Drama and Kate Grenville's *The Secret River* for the Prose.

If you are a highly able student we recommend taking both English Language and Literature, particularly if applying to UK Russell Group Universities, as this is highly favoured. Unlike English Language, Literature is assessed by 100% examination.

External Assessment: Final examination 100%

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

You will analyse a range of non-fiction and fictional pieces of writing from newspapers reports, speeches, blogs and creative writing.

You will learn essential skills such as summary skills, reading comprehension and language analysis.

You will also complete a portfolio of three coursework pieces.

External Assessment: Final examination 50%

Internal Assessment: Three coursework essays 50%

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language is designed for students who have studied English for only a short period of time, or are not yet close to C1 level on the Common European Framework of Reference CEFR. The course is accepted by universities and employers as proof of ability to understand and communicate well in English.

During the course you'll improve your English skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, and develop different styles and levels of formality, depending on the situation. You'll develop a greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills with an international perspective.

By the end of Year 9 you may have passed Cambridge English Language Assessment's PET exam, but your English level still may not be high enough to begin studying first Language IGCSE English or English Literature, in which case in Year 10, you will work towards Cambridge English Language Assessment's First Certificate in English (FCE) exam for the whole year. This is a rigorous English Language exam, thoroughly testing all the skills including various writing types. There is a Use of

English and Reading paper which tests your grammar, vocabulary and reading skills to B2 level. Improving your English language level in this respect ensures the movement to a good B2 level in KS4 which is considered the level necessary to access IB Diploma work in KS5.

If in Year 10 you achieve an A or B grade in FCE you could be advanced enough to take IGCSE First Language English in one year in Year 11. If you get a C grade or below in FCE then you'll follow the one year course of ESL at IGCSE level. Whether you do the Extended or Core papers in the final exams very much depends on your mock exam grade in Year 11.

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



Mathematics

Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics is an essential subject for all students. It encourages the development of mathematical knowledge and thinking skills to help with life in general, and it's an excellent basis for more advanced study at IB and beyond.

Although Mathematics at BISS is challenging, you can be confident that you'll progress at a level which is appropriate to your needs. The syllabus aims to build your confidence by developing your skills in number, algebra, geometry and statistics. We'll also provide you with the skills necessary to make an informed and confident start to all of the International Baccalaureate Mathematics options. We do this through a thorough grounding in the basic concepts, by introducing a variety of topics using project work and with apps like Geogebra and software like Desmos.

In addition, we'll ensure you're confident using a scientific calculator, and you'll have plenty of opportunities to use ICT to explore different concepts. We'll introduce you to a variety of powerful tools in class to make sure you have a working knowledge of how to use the basic functions before the start of the IB courses.

There are two written exams at the end of the course. Both require the use of a standard scientific calculator. There is no assessed coursework, but you will use project work to develop strategy, communication and reasoning skills.

Mathematics is engaging at all levels and is used as a common language the world over. It is at the basis of many everyday life situations from determining the best deal on a loan or credit card, to calculating the materials needed to redecorate your home. Further afield, it is easy to find examples of how Mathematics is at the heart of many science and engineering concepts and used in business, finance, and even music and practical photography.

Pearson (Edexcel) IGCSE Further Pure Mathematics is offered to students who have shown the necessary skills and ability in Mathematics for them to be able to engage with this more challenging course. These are students who have either completed their regular IGCSE Mathematics at the end of Year 10 or January of Year 11. Not all students will undertake the final examination in Further Pure Mathematics, and this will be explained during the course.

Science

Edexcel IGCSE Science is an essential subject for all students, although students can choose to take either two or three IGCSEs in Science.

The word 'Science' comes from the Latin 'Scientia', which means knowledge or awareness. This course aims to give you knowledge and awareness of the Earth, the Universe and living organisms. It will also help you to develop skills that will encourage you to question the world around you and develop your own theories for how things work. The course is practical based and encourages you to question and test scientific theory.

The course is separated into Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and although we would like all our students to study all three, some only study two of the three. The course is examined with a final written examination for each of the Science subjects and there is no coursework element to this qualification.

Within the Biology course you will learn about animal and plant physiology, the importance of microorganisms, how genetic information is passed from one generation to the next, evolution and the environment. In Chemistry

you will learn about why and how elements react with one another, as well as the practical and industrial uses of Chemistry. In Physics you will learn about forces, electricity, waves, radioactivity and motion.

TRIPLE SCIENCE

Most of our students will finish Year 11 with three separate Science IGCSEs, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will study each Science in a bit more depth and more breadth, covering some parts of Science which you won't study on the old Double Award course. This is useful if you are thinking of going on to study Science at university, although not essential.

TWO SCIENCES

Some students do not sit the final exams for all three sciences, and with the guidance from their teachers will choose two out of the three subjects. This is different to Double Award Science, as using this pathway students will get separate grades rather than combined grades, reflecting their ability in the distinct disciplines.

Games

Games at KS4 is for everyone. You might also choose to study PE as an IGCSE, but you'll still be able to take part in the games programme, reflecting our belief that physical activity is both fun and good for you.

Games will continue what you've been doing in KS3, developing your competence and confidence to take part in physical activities that will be an important part of your life both in and out of school. However, the emphasis will move away from individual skills and move to more team or group based development. You'll continue to develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics and strategies to perform successfully. Games is not just about performance, you will also learn to analyse situations and make decisions. Our aim is to develop the importance of having a healthy, active lifestyle.

Games will help you to develop personally and socially. You'll work as an individual, in groups and in teams with different roles and responsibilities, including leadership, coaching and officiating. The programme for Years 10 and 11 is based around a variety of units. You'll be able to access a choice of outdoor games (football, rugby, softball and

tennis), indoor games (basketball, volleyball, badminton and netball), health and fitness activities (circuit training, aerobics, conditioning, and spinning), dance and gymnastics and water activities. Over the two years of KS4, we'll make sure the range of options available will mean you continue to have fun and develop a good range of skills at the same time.

By the end of KS4 you'll have covered many activities during your Games lessons and you may well have represented the school in team sports as part of a BISS Lions squad. More than this, though, you'll have had fun and you'll be well on the way to establishing the patterns that will keep you fit and healthy for life.

“ You'll learn how to be effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations. ”



Art

GCSE Art facilitates the experience, knowledge and understanding, and practical skills needed for further studies at IB and future careers in the many fields of art and design. Students gain creative and imaginative skills that will enable them to express themselves in a visual manner.

The course will perfect technical ability that will be used for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings within Art.

The GCSE Art curriculum is split into two components. All coursework you produce at school and at home over the two year course will constitute 60% of your final IGCSE grade. Coursework is marked at BISS by our staff, but it is also moderated and standardised according to the exam board assessment criteria as outlined in the syllabus. You will be issued with a weekly homework which underpins the development of skills and work in the classroom. This is graded and feedback is given directly to you verbally or in written form. Coursework projects are graded weekly dependent on the task given and then as a whole project at the end of the Unit. It is expected that you will complete

three projects over the course of the academic year, exploring a wide variety of techniques and materials within these projects. Grades and teacher assessment comments are recorded on student record cards. Weekly discussions take place between you and your teacher to evaluate progress. 'Crit' sessions are also conducted throughout the two year course; these seek to encourage and motivate, as well as establish a positive and constructive verbal rapport between you, your classmates and your teachers.

The external exam constitutes the remaining 40% of the final grade. The paper is available from 1st February each year. The final Art exam is based on a theme set by the examination board. Students have preparation time and the final piece is completed in 10 hours under exam conditions.

All exam and coursework is marked and standardised internally by the school and externally moderated in the UK or by the visiting examiner. GCSE Art will enable you to make a smooth transition onto the IB Visual Arts course. It also provides further opportunities for you to explore the idea of working in the visual arts industry as a fine artist, architect, art director, fashion

designer, illustrator, photographer, graphic designer or anything else imagination and ability allows. Above all, the course is engaging and exciting; it will give you the freedom to explore and express yourself whilst developing your own unique style.

“ The course will perfect technical ability that will be used for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings within Art. ”



Business Studies

Business Studies looks at how and why businesses are set up, from small one-person enterprises trying to survive, through to multi-million dollar international companies aiming to dominate a global market.

Over the course of the two years you will look at how businesses make the transition from small to large corporations. You will get the chance to learn about how businesses are organised and how they manage and motivate their workforces. You will look at how they attract customers by marketing their products and you will see how they manage their finances in order to make a profit. We will also look at how they manage the production side of a business, contrasting the mass-producers to the small scale bespoke-product manufacturers. Your learning will involve looking at real businesses and you will have many opportunities to be creative and to come up with your own ideas.

The Business Studies course provides a detailed look at each area of a business, and attempts to explain the decisions that they make and the challenges that they face. It is a very practical course and you will constantly find yourself

referring to real-world examples of things that are discussed in class. In fact, an ability to do just this is a key ingredient for success in the IGCSE course. The course offers you the opportunity to participate in business simulation exercises, and you will learn how to make decisions that will lead to success in the face of competition and scarcity of resources.

In terms of assessment, there will be two exam papers of 1 hour and 30 minutes each at the end of Year 11. Business Studies makes an ideal starting point for studying IB Business and Management, and Economics. It's also a good introduction if you think you may be involved in any sort of business later in life. You'll develop an understanding of the commercial world you interact with every day, and the planning, organisation, vision and management that make it work.

Computer Science

In Computer Science you will investigate how computers work, how they're used and develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You'll start the course by learning to program in Python.

IGCSE Computer Science is split into two sections. There are two examination papers and one consists of a pre-released practical activity that you will complete during class time in Year 11. Each component aims to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Overall the course will help you learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving.

The course is split into eight units and each unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, the representation of data in computer systems, databases, computer communications and networking, programming and more.

The pre-release component is all about engaging with computing in the real world. You'll look at a computing topic in more depth and carry out a practical investigation into a computing

issue. Furthermore, the pre-release section of the course will call on you to design code and test a solution to three tasks using the Python programming language. The assessment of this course is 100% examination. You will cover the theory units for the course in Years 10 and 11, followed by the pre-release material in Year 11 in term 2 (January).

You do not need to have studied computing or done any programming before, but an interest in mathematics would definitely be helpful as programming requires some mathematical skills.

“ Overall the course will help you learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. ”



Drama

IGCSE Drama is above all about acting: about being on a stage and performing in front of other people. It is a fun, engaging, thought provoking and exciting course in which you'll develop skills that you will need for any career path you take, including team skills and the ability to communicate effectively with others.

Although 40% of the course is based on a written paper, this examination still demands that the student writes about acting and their own original ideas. Therefore, the majority of the course is taught through practical workshops and group based activities. In the first term pupils are given workshops on a wide range of theatrical styles including comedy, physical theatre, symbolism and realism. They will be shown the skills needed to effectively produce both scripted and original productions and will be given the opportunity to perform frequently throughout the year to a live audience.

From January in Year 10 you will begin creating the three performance tasks: one solo monologue, one scripted play and one original devised play. These performances make up 60% of the final course mark. In the December

of Year 11 you will be sent unseen material from the exam board. You will perform this play within a group and create a devised piece around the stimulus sent. You'll then go on to write about these two performances in their final written exam.

You'll wish to take Drama if you are open minded and able to work with other pupils effectively. No previous experience of performing is necessary but an outgoing personality is important. This is a great course for those who already excel at performance as the course offers no limitation to the standard of work they can create and the style they perform. You'll also be interested in Drama if you want to develop your confidence as you are able to do this in a controlled and structured environment with the support of other pupils.

Pupils who take IGCSE will of course be expected to be in some way involved in school productions, either as a performer or backstage, as this will further develop their understanding of the theatre. These opportunities are frequent and varied, and pupils will learn the skills in this subject to help them create strong and successful roles in any type of performance. Above all, this is a practical, demanding, yet

rewarding, subject for you to take at IGCSE and shows universities and employees that you are creative, confident, dedicated and able to work with others.

Dutch/Nederlands

Voor studenten die het Nederlands als moedertaal hebben, bestaat er de mogelijkheid tot het kiezen van het vak Nederlands: IGCSE Dutch - First Language. In de hedendaagse, internationaal geörienteerde wereld is een tweetalig diploma een pluspunt in de studieloopbaan en toekomstige carrière van de student.

Bij het vak Nederlands werken we met de digitale methode Bruuttaal. Ook maken we veelvuldig gebruik van verschillende bronnen, zoals digitale kranten, romans, speeches, korte verhalen, onderzoeken en divers beeldmateriaal. Uiteraard wordt getracht om de lessen actief en veelzijdig in te vullen waar dat kan en de onderwerpen te laten aansluiten op de actualiteit.

Waar het in het eerste jaar nog gaat om het uitbreiden en inoefenen van basisvaardigheden, leggen we ons in het tweede jaar meer toe op de examenonderdelen schrijven en tekstverklaring. Leerde je in het eerste jaar de meest uiteenlopende teksten te schrijven, nu word je klaargestoomd tot een betoger van formaat en ken je de trucs voor het schrijven van een spannend, mooi of griezelig verhaal. Om moeilijke vragen bij teksten te kunnen

doorgronden, trainen we met actuele artikelen van verschillende bronnen je tekstuele inzicht. Bij beide onderdelen is een goede beheersing van de Nederlandse spelling natuurlijk onontbeerlijk. Daarom blijven ook die en andere vaste onderdelen van de taal deel uitmaken van het programma.

De Nederlandse taal is onmisbaar in het leven van iedereen die het als moedertaal heeft, ongeacht de toekomstplannen. Die plannen kunnen veranderen, je moedertaal blijft altijd dezelfde.

Het IGCSE diploma Dutch First Language geeft je zonder toelatingsexamen toegang tot de vierde klas van het voortgezet onderwijs in Nederland of België. Het staat dus niet gelijk aan het Nederlandse havo-diploma. Toch is het van grote waarde bij een eventuele overgang naar welke andere vorm van onderwijs dan ook. Het is je internationale bewijs van de afronding van een belangrijk deel van je middelbare schoolloopbaan.

Een goed argument om Nederlands te (blijven) volgen in het IGCSE-programma hangt samen met je studiewensen voor de toekomst. Wanneer je van plan bent na het voortgezet onderwijs in Nederland

of België te gaan studeren is goede beheersing van die taal een absolute must. Ondanks dat veel universiteiten zeer internationaal geörienteerd zijn, blijft Nederlands een centrale rol spelen. Daarnaast zorgt je verdere ontwikkeling van je moedertaal voor een sterkere band met je vaderland. Taal is de toegang tot het vervolledigen van je identiteit, al zal je dat zelf in eerste instantie niet merken. Doordat je je steeds beter kunt uitdrukken in een taal, in woord en geschrift, bouw je aan een verankering van je eigenwaarde in de cultuur waar je thuishoort.

Film Studies

In 2017, we will be able to offer students EITHER Film Studies OR Media Studies. We will decide which of the two subjects will be taught depending on student preferences.

Fascinated by the movies? Want to learn to plan, shoot and edit your own film production? Want to know the history of film and examine movies from all around the world?

We are delighted to offer this brand-new Film Studies course for GCSE.

In Film Studies, you will look at how film represents global cultures. You will develop your analytical skills and become a confident reader of films, learning to appreciate cinema in a new way. You'll understand how films reflect their culture, social and political context. You'll learn about significant developments in film history such as sound, 3D and CGI (computer generated imagery).

You will learn how to read a film and understand how films make effective use of camera shots, sound and editing. This will give you a new appreciation of the filmmaking craft and help you understand the visual language of our modern world.

You will study six films on this course, covering a range of historically and culturally diverse movies. Among the films on the exam list are: Rocky (1976, USA), Star Wars (1977, USA), Whale Rider (2002, New Zealand), The Dark Knight (USA, 2008), Wadjda (2012, Saudi Arabia), The Selfish Giant (2013, UK), Girlhood (2015, France) and Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (2015, USA).

For your coursework assignment, you will learn key production skills and work in a team to create your own short film. This will make full use of our excellent media facilities and equipment. You'll learn to be a filmmaker and gain skills such as team-management, research and self-reflection that will also benefit you beyond our classroom.

This course offers an excellent preparation for IB Film as well as critical thinking, teamwork and practical skills. It looks closely at world cultures and film history, and also involves a close study of several films.

French

An understanding of French will open international doors for you, both professionally and personally.

French is an international language spoken by over sixty million people in France and a further 10 million in Europe. It is also the first language of six and a half million people in Canada, is the language of government in twenty-two countries in Africa, as well as being an important language of communication in South Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Throughout the two years of your IGCSE course you'll cover various topics: travel and tourism; business, work and employment; sport and leisure; and media and culture. You'll also be exposed to a variety of different teaching styles, with the emphasis on extending your knowledge in all four language skills. Our exam board is Edexcel and as a study aid you'll be issued with a copy of Edexcel IGCSE French and a revision guide. Class teaching will be supplemented by materials drawn from a wide range of sources, including French films, such as *Amélie* and *L'auberge espagnole*.

At the end of two years you'll sit exams in each of the four skills. For the listening exam you'll need to

be able to understand authentic spoken French. You'll also be expected to speak in French, describe a picture and give your own opinions on a variety of topics. In the reading exam you'll be required to read and understand texts of different lengths and complexity. In these exams you will be expected to show knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar points, as well as more complex linguistic structures.

We won't only prepare you to meet the requirements of the exam; we'll also develop your ability to use your French effectively in real-life situations. Learning a modern foreign language is fun, and it will stand you in good stead in later life. Not only will you find it an enriching experience as you learn about the culture of France and the French-speaking world, you'll also be gaining an invaluable skill.

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” - Nelson Mandela





Geography

Geography is a fascinating study of the science of the earth and its inhabitants: the features or the arrangement of a place. As a geographer, you'll learn to ask where things are located on the surface of the earth.

You'll also learn why they are located there, how places differ, and how people interact. You'll develop lifelong skills, including understanding the impacts which both physical and human geography can have and the processes which affect their development. You'll learn a sense of place, understand location on a local, regional and global scale, and understand how communities and cultures around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.

Throughout the course you'll develop a sense of environmental responsibility and learn many useful and interesting facts (for example, the cause of volcanoes and earthquakes). You'll learn how to read and use different maps, and how to discuss and evaluate large scale issues like global warming and poverty. You'll carry out valuable and accurate fieldwork on a four day residential field trip*, and have a great time while you're doing it.

During Year 10 you'll study plate tectonics, weathering, weather and climate, ecosystems, and how humans interact with these environments. You'll also study settlement, leisure and tourism. There is a residential field trip* in term one of Year 10 where essential field skills in Geography will be taught; these are essential for one of the final examination papers. You will learn how to conduct field investigations in a river and tourism environment. In the second year of the course, you'll study agriculture, energy, industry, environmental risks, resource conservation and management, and population. At the end of the course you'll sit three exam papers covering population and settlement, the natural environment, and economic development and the use of resources. There won't be any coursework. IGCSE Geography prepares you well for many IB courses: not just Geography, but also Environmental Science and Systems, Informational Technology in a Global Society, Economics and many more. It can lead to success at university in a range of subjects and in many careers: cartographer, air traffic controller, civil engineer, environmentalist, geophysicist, town planner, meteorologist, hydrologist, surveyor, financial advisor or even teacher!



Residential Field Trip

The residential field trip will be for 4 days during term one of Year 10 (provisionally October 2017). Please note that there is an additional cost of approximately 2000RMB for this residential trip to cover travel, food, accommodation and equipment costs.

German

German is more important than ever: as the first language of business, diplomacy and tourism in Eastern Europe, it is very important for business men and women who want to compete in the emerging Eastern European market.

An understanding of German will open many international doors for you. More Europeans are native speakers of German than of English, French or Spanish, and German is an official language in seven different countries.

Our exam board is Edexcel and as a study aid you'll be issued with a text book, but class teaching will be supplemented by materials drawn from a wide range of sources that include German books, films and music. Throughout the two years of your IGCSE course you'll study various topics: travel and tourism; business, work and employment; media and culture. You'll also be exposed to a variety of different teaching styles, with the emphasis on extending your knowledge in all four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. At all times, we'll prepare you to meet the requirements of the exam, but we'll also develop your ability to use your German effectively in real-life situations.

At the end of two years you'll sit an exam in each of the four skills. For the listening exam you'll need to be able to understand authentic spoken German. You'll also be expected to speak in German, describe a picture and give your own opinions on a variety of topics. In the reading exam you'll be required to read and understand texts of different lengths and complexity. In your writing exam you'll be expected to demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar points, as well as more complex linguistic structures.

Learning a modern foreign language is a great experience that will help you a lot in later life. Not only will you find it an enriching experience as you learn about the culture of Germany and the German-speaking world, you'll also be gaining an invaluable skill.

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

- Ludwig Wittgenstein



History

History will offer you an insight into the significant personalities and events of a turbulent, intriguing and innovative 20th century. Our course has been remodelled this year to reflect the internationalism of our student body, focusing in depth on the Americas, Central and Eastern Europe and Asia.

Within the History department we aim to develop knowledge and understanding, but also universal and inter-disciplinary skills of critical analysis and literacy through a course that is accessible to all students.

Our course will begin with a consideration of one of the most cataclysmic events of the 20th century: the Russian Revolution. Not only will this depth study introduce some of the most influential political thinkers of the 20th Century, it will require you to develop an understanding of the principles of cause and effect. The course will then go on to examine the key features of Stalinist USSR between 1929 and 1954 and its consequences, not only for the people of the Soviet Union, but also international relations before, during and after World War Two.

During the second half of Year 10 you will move your attention westward, focusing on the rise of National Socialism in Germany in the aftermath of the post-World War One peace settlements. This course will consider both the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, and will also focus on the social and economic impacts of their policies on the lives of German people – notably women, children and minority groups. This area of content will be assessed primarily through the analysis of contemporary source material, which will allow you to develop your skills of inference and critical analysis.

The beginning of Year 11 will see you turn your attention to the United States of America, 1919-54. This element of the course will give you the opportunity to develop an understanding of economic theory and practice through an analysis of the cycle of boom, bust and recovery that has come to be so inherent within the capitalist system. The Wall Street Crash, the Great Depression and the New Deal will have a significant impact on your understanding of the economic and political debates prevalent within modern America, whilst also developing your ability to write multi-faceted mini essays. However, this course is not all about

economics: it will also give you the opportunity to consider social changes in the fields of music, art, fashion, and notably the roles of women in 1920s America.

Finally, Year 11 will end with a return to the Middle Kingdom and a breadth study of China, 1911-1989. This course, which will chart the rise of Mao and the CCP and the formation and development of a modern Chinese state, is as challenging as it is interesting. It is a rare privilege to be able to study modern Chinese history within China, and it will require you to be able to analyse some of the most contentious events of the 20th century from multiple perspectives.

At the end of Year 11 there will be two 90-minute examinations for everyone. Success at IGCSE can lead you to IBDP History, which in turn can take you to university. As a History graduate you'd be highly valued, with possible careers ahead of you within fields such as law, archaeology, architecture, politics, diplomacy, economics, finance, business, education, the military and journalism.

한국어 (Korean)

**“한류”라는 이름으로 전 세계로 뻗어 나가는 ‘한국어!!’
해외에 있는 한국인으로서의 큰 자부심을 갖게 하는 원동력!!**

그러나... 우리 학생들은 오히려 한국어와 점차 멀어지고, 한국어와 한국 문학을 배울 수 있는 기회조차 잃어버리곤 합니다. 이는 곧 그 언어 속에 담겨 있는 또는 문학 속에 담겨 있는 우리의 문화와 역사, 시대적 현실에 대한 이해가 부족해지기도 합니다. 여기에 우리 한국 학생들이 IGCSE Korean을 배우는 데 큰 의미가 있다고 할 수 있겠습니다.

‘읽기 영역’과 ‘쓰기 영역’으로 나뉘어서 시험이 치러지는 IGCSE Korean!!

IGCSE Korean 시험은 paper 1과 paper 2로 나뉘는데, paper 1은 ‘읽기 영역’에 해당되며, 두 종류의 문제에 답을 하게 됩니다. 먼저 paper 1의 첫번째 시험은 한국 문학 또는 논설문과 같은 산문의 일부가 제시되고, 이에 대한 글을 잘 읽고, 여러 질문에 대해 답을 서술하는 방식입니다. 그리고 두번째 시험은 첫번째 문제의 글과 공통적 요소가 있는 또 다른 산문을 제시하여 두 글의 공통점과 차이점을 분석한 후 글을 쓰는 형식입니다. 다음으로 paper 2는 ‘쓰기 영역’에 해당되며, 이 시험도 paper 1과 마찬가지로 두 종류의 문제에 글을 쓰게 됩니다. Paper 2의 첫번째 시험은 논술

문제가 4개 제시 되는데, 이 중 한 문제를 선택하여 논술 문제에 대한 본인의 주장을 제시하고, 그 주장에 대한 여러 근거를 제시하면서 논리적으로 글을 써 나가는 것입니다. 그리고, 두번째 시험은 소설 쓰기나 어떤 대상에 대하여 묘사하기인데, 이 시험도 첫번째와 마찬가지로 4문제가 제시되는데, 소설 쓰기 문제 또는 묘사하기 중 한 문제를 선택하여 글을 쓰는 것입니다.

문학, 비문학, 논술 등 다양한 장르를 통해 한국의 문화, 역사, 사회적 이슈들을 배우다!!

우리 학생들은 가장 먼저 한국 문학에 대한 이해를 넓혀 갈 것이며, 부차적으로 문학 속에 담겨 있는 우리의 역사, 문화 등을 공부하게 될 것입니다. 또한 논술을 통해서 한국 사회의 이슈들을 파악하고, 이에 대한 배경지식을 쌓게 될 것입니다.

Mandarin

Mandarin Chinese is spoken by 873 million speakers, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. Through studying the Chinese language, you’ll learn to understand the Chinese people and their culture.

You’ll be joining a special club as you learn Mandarin, since it isn’t learned widely as a second language. There is likely to be more and more demand for people who can speak it, particularly as the Chinese economy continues to grow. Learning Mandarin will make you a better thinker. You’ll need to use many different learning styles to master the language. You’ll get better at speaking and listening, but you’ll also improve your visual memory and your co-ordination as you learn to read and write Chinese. You’ll gain a great deal from studying Mandarin, but we hope you’ll also see that it is a fun and worthwhile experience. Depending on your level when you start the course, you’ll study for one of four different exams. This means that you’ll be able to make as much progress as you can over the two-year course.

We have four pathways:

- You’ll study IGCSE Chinese First Language if you are a fluent or

near fluent Mandarin speaker. This will prepare you well for the IBDP Chinese Language and Literature course.

- If you are a near fluent Mandarin speaker and are at the HSK equivalent level of 5, you’ll study for the Chinese as a Second Language IGCSE. This will prepare you well for the IBDP Mandarin B Higher Level.
- If you’ve studied Mandarin for 2 to 5 years as a foreign language, you’ll study for the Mandarin as a Foreign Language IGCSE. This will prepare you well for the IBDP Mandarin B Standard or Higher Level.
- If you are a beginner or near beginner, you’ll work on developing your skills in Mandarin and will take an HSK or equivalent examination.

Your teacher will recommend the appropriate pathway for you.

Whichever course you study, you’ll have the opportunity to look at a variety of Chinese texts, and you’ll work at all four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Your understanding of Chinese culture will grow along with your understanding of the language. Once you have developed your knowledge of Mandarin, you’ll be able to carry on with your study at

IB, where there are a range of levels that follow on from whichever course you have studied at IGCSE. We won’t only prepare you to meet the requirements of the exam, but we’ll also develop your ability to use your Mandarin effectively in real-life situations. Living in Shanghai provides a special opportunity to learn this fascinating, historic and living language and, by taking on the challenge of Mandarin, you’ll be gaining an invaluable skill.

“ Learning Mandarin will make you a better thinker. You’ll need to use many different learning styles to master the language. ”



Media

In 2017, we will be able to offer students EITHER Media Studies OR Film Studies. We will decide which of the two subjects will be taught depending on student preferences.

Are you a user of social media? Do you want to investigate Sherlock? Do you want to understand how the media affects and contributes to our everyday lives?

The media plays an increasingly important role in society, providing us with information and entertainment, and communicating social values. On the Media Studies course, you'll develop a new understanding of the role of the media in the modern world. You'll create your own short film or advertisement, learning to use new terms and language in order to read media texts in a different way.

The newly redesigned course has three sections - one of coursework and two to be tested in the final exam.

Your coursework topic is a practical task where you will work in a team to make your own form of media. This task changes from year to year, but could include planning, filming and editing a music video, your own TV chat show or creating

a website. You will also submit a detailed portfolio of your planning. You'll learn to project-manage a team and learn key production skills such as video editing, making use of our excellent media facilities. Students in previous years have particularly enjoyed creating their own documentaries - some found themselves filming at Shanghai's marriage market, others at an Elton John concert, while one group managed to arrange interviews with players and coaching staff at SIPG (one of Shanghai's professional football teams)!

For the eventual exams, you will study nine forms of media, including advertising, games, newspapers, radio and the film industry. We will look at how the media is funded and regulated, how different types of media link with audiences and understand the importance of digital media.

You will also learn textual analysis - how to read a film by analysing its use of camera shots, editing and sound. This will give you a new appreciation of the visual arts and prepare you well for your own media production. This will be done via an in-depth look at the TV crime drama, so you can look forward to understanding how shows like Sherlock are made.

Completing this course will give you the perfect foundation for IB Film as well as developing key skills valued by employers and universities worldwide, such as creativity and team management. The course will flex your creative muscles and your acceptance of new concepts.

Music

You'll enjoy this course if you have a keen interest in all kinds of music, look forward to performing on your own and with others, and have a desire to create original music.

Sixty percent of the Music course is practical, and the concept of making music is at the very heart of this subject. You will perform regularly throughout the course, both in class and in concerts, and at the end of the course your best performances will be entered. Although you can take this course even if you have limited experience of performing, it is expected that you will receive weekly private tuition on your chosen instrument to ensure that you reach the appropriate standard of performing by the end of the course to achieve maximum marks.

For the coursework element you will also be required to compose compositions. You will notate these compositions using the Sibelius 7 computer software available in school; you will also be taught how to compose in a variety of styles and will have to submit two contrasting compositions for formal assessment.

The other part of the Music course, which is worth 40% of the final

mark, involves developing your listening and appraising skills. You will study music from four main areas of study: Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions and Instrumental Music from 1700-1820. You'll learn to analyse pieces in terms of the musical elements, including structure, melody, harmony and dynamics. More than this, you'll discover an enhanced understanding of, appreciation for and love of, the music that you listen to.

The course is designed for everyone, and the skills that you will learn will be useful in whatever subjects you wish to take later on. All Music students are expected to be involved in the life of the Performing Arts faculty as a whole. You will have the opportunity to perform in the senior school production, orchestra, vocal group and many other ensembles and events organised by this thriving faculty every year and will be required to perform at frequent recitals, assemblies and events.

This course will give you an excellent foundation if you want to study Music at IB and beyond. More than this, it will broaden your mind and develop in you a wider appreciation of music that you'll benefit from for the rest of your life.

“ The course is designed for everyone and you don't have to have high levels of ability on an instrument to enjoy and do well in the course.

”



Physical Education

You will enjoy the PE course if you have a keen interest in a range of sports and fitness, as well as discovering the theoretical element of physical activity.

You will also enjoy looking critically at your sporting performances and implementing ways of improving wherever possible. This is referred to as analysis of performance.

The course is designed to develop knowledge and understanding through practical involvement, and it will suit you if you're keen to take your sporting prowess to a higher level and, importantly, understand the physical, social and psychological links to sport. The course has a practical element, however, you must bear in mind that there is a significant theoretical component and this is taught in the classroom. You should be willing to participate in a variety of sports including 'team games', such as football, basketball, netball, volleyball, rugby and softball. You are also moderated in at least one individual sport including swimming, tennis, dance and athletics. In many of these, you'll learn how to analyse and evaluate your own performance or that of other students. Ultimately, you will need to be able to perform in

a team and individual sports, in a minimum of three activities offered by the exam board.

The theory element of the course makes up a significant part of your final grade and is assessed by a written exam consisting of multiple choice, short and long answer questions, including some requiring an essay type response. You will cover topics such as health and diet, factors affecting participation and performance, anatomy and physiology, biomechanics and the effects of training and fitness on your body. This wide range of topics will give you a thorough grounding in all aspects of sport and physical education. There is also a coursework element and you will be challenged to analyse a sporting performance.

The course develops many key skills that will help you in later life. The knowledge gained regarding health and fitness will be of great value, and the ability to look critically at your own performances and analyse them will be useful to you whatever subjects you continue to study at IB. Above all, if you enjoy sport and physical fitness, you will find that you can learn and have fun at the same time.

Spanish

Knowledge and understanding of foreign languages is an increasingly important asset in today's global society. Spanish is spoken by over 500 million people around the world and is currently the second most commonly spoken mother tongue worldwide.

An understanding of Spanish will open many international doors for you, enabling you to access the fast growing Latin-American economies.

Throughout the two years of your IGCSE course you'll cover various topics: travel and tourism; business, work and employment; sport and leisure; media and culture. You'll also be exposed to a variety of different teaching styles, with the emphasis on extending your knowledge in all four language skills. Our exam board is Edexcel and as a study aid you'll be issued with a copy of Edexcel IGCSE Spanish and a revision guide. Class teaching will be supplemented by materials drawn from a wide range of sources, including O.V. films, such as *El laberinto del fauno* and *El secreto de sus ojos*.

At the end of two years you'll sit exams in each of the four skills. For the listening exam you'll need to be able to understand authentic

spoken Spanish. You'll also be expected to converse in Spanish, describe a picture and give your own opinions on a variety of topics. In the reading exam you'll be required to read and understand texts of different lengths and complexity. In these exams you will be expected to show knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar points, as well as more complex linguistic structures.

We won't only prepare you to meet the requirements of the exam, but we'll also develop your ability to use your Spanish effectively in real-life situations.

Learning a modern foreign language is a pleasurable experience that will stand you in good stead in later life. Not only will you find it an enriching experience as you learn about the culture of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world, you'll also be gaining an invaluable skill.

Work Experience

In Year 10, you'll have the opportunity to participate in a work experience programme, gaining a valuable insight into the real world of work through hands-on experience.

You'll spend one week during the summer term with a company in Shanghai, observing and carrying out tasks like a real employee. In addition to being a fantastic learning opportunity, your work experience will also be a fun and engaging activity. It is also possible, under certain circumstances, for you to work outside of Shanghai, but these placements are completely at the discretion of parents and a staff member from school will not be able to visit you.

Through your work experience, you'll find out if a career or job is what you imagined. You'll develop key skills and qualities: organisation, problem solving and acting responsibly. You'll start the process of making future career decisions and you'll improve your chances of employability and getting into a good university when you leave school.

Students in previous years have spent time in many different places: hospitals, architectural firms, fashion houses, financial institutions and film production companies, to name just a few. Many of these companies are committed to continuing to support our programme in the future. However, these placements are limited in scope so we do expect students to look for, and organise, their own work experience.

We maintain close contact with you and your placement supervisor, and after you've completed your work experience week you'll have time to reflect on what you've learned and achieved. If you make the most of this opportunity you'll have a truly memorable and worthwhile learning experience, and a formal reference to use in your future applications for education and work.


Extra Curricular Activities

What goes on in lessons in the classroom is important, and we hope you'll enjoy classes and be highly successful in them. To achieve your full potential, however, you need to do more than this, and we'll encourage you to take on some extra-curricular activities (ECAs) to add to what you are doing in your normal lessons.

ECAs are led by our staff members and are free of charge. You'll find a mix of activities on offer. Sport can be as part of BISS Lions teams, representing the school, or it can be just for fun in a range of different team and individual sports. The arts are well represented, with opportunities to dance, paint or draw, learn digital photography and play in the orchestra or in various ensembles. If you want a more cerebral challenge, you'll be able to improve your chess, develop languages further, join a Science club, or take part in the Model United Nations. Or you might take advantage of being in Shanghai and choose to learn to cook or knit in a Chinese style. The precise mix of activities varies from term to term, but you'll find plenty to broaden your mind and develop your skills.

The ECA and BISCAP programmes change each term. We operate

an online sign up system with a strict closing date. Some of the ECAs are very popular and will get oversubscribed. In order to avoid disappointment, it is important that you sign up for ECAs on time, ensuring all relevant details are in place.



A note about our activity programme

BISCAP (British International School Community Activity Programme) provides additional opportunities for our students and the wider community to focus on skill development in a number of areas. BISCAP brings external, high-quality coaches and organisations into our school so that our students do not have to travel to other Shanghai locations. At present, a variety of sporting activities are on offer, including swimming, football, gymnastics, dance and tennis, but we plan to expand the programme over time, to include other disciplines. As with other specialist programmes around Shanghai, there is a charge for these extra BISCAP activities.

The International Award

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.

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, Mr Mager, 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 one requiring progressively more commitment. You'll have to be 14 years old or over for the Bronze award, participating for at least 6 months. For Silver, you'll have to be 15 years old or over and make a commitment for at least a year. Looking ahead, to gain the highly prestigious Gold award, you'll have to be at least 16 years old and you'll need to commit to the programme for more than 18 months.

You'll complete activities in four different areas: Service, Adventurous Journey, Skills and Physical Recreation. 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.

Adventurous Journey is about adventure and discovery. You can hike or ride, 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.

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

Over 6 million young people worldwide have taken up the award challenge, and we encourage you to join them. The International Award will support, enhance and extend everything you do at school, and you'll have opportunities you'll be glad you took up.





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

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