

# Secondary School

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Dear Parents,

## Key Stage 4

A happy new year to you all!

Our Key Stage 4 PHSE programme in January is about '**Preparing for the Future**' and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about it as you are also involved in the work we will be doing.

The first session on January 4<sup>th</sup> was a presentation on entering the IB programme. The aim of this session was to get the students thinking about what the IB diploma programme will offer them and how important it is to make the right subject choices when entering the IB.

The second session on January 11<sup>th</sup> is entitled 'Applying for a Job and Choosing a Career'. The students are encouraged to broaden their knowledge of careers available and think about what personal qualities and qualifications are needed for different jobs. They are then asked to take home the Career Opportunities Forms and with your help find four different jobs that they think might suit their personality and interests. I hope you all enjoy the challenge of thinking together about what job your son or daughter might be doing ten years from now.

My motivation for running this unit of work is to help our year 10 and 11 students to find a goal to work towards so that they can see that the hard work they put in now will reap rewards as they enter IB, apply for universities and eventually enter the job market.

On the following pages you will find information about the IB diploma. Please read through it with your son or daughter and then come with them to our **IB Subject Choices Meeting** on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Theatre. This meeting will be compulsory for our Year 11 students and we hope all of our Year 11 parents will attend. Year 10 students and parents are also welcome to attend this meeting which will give an insight into the Diploma Programme even though the course choices will not affect them yet.

From January 17<sup>th</sup> to January 28<sup>th</sup> some students will be sitting Mock Examinations. I have attached the IGCSE mock exam schedule for year 11 students and for those year 10 students taking Accelerated Mathematics examinations.

May I remind you all to look through the homework diary regularly together with your son or daughter and to sign the diary every weekend so that the Form Teacher can countersign it each Monday. This is so that we all know that it is being used and looked at regularly.

Reports will be issued on January 21<sup>st</sup> for year 10 and February 4<sup>th</sup> for year 11. There will be a Parents Evening early in March and I will give you more details about that event nearer the time.

Thank you for taking the time to read through all this information. I look forward to receiving the completed Career Opportunities Forms and to seeing as many of you as possible at the IB Subject Choice Meeting

Yours faithfully,

Joy Bosman  
KS4 Leader

# IB Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)) Programme is a comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum, leading to examinations, for students aged between sixteen and nineteen. The general objectives of the IB are to provide students with a balanced education; to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility; and to promote international understanding through a shared academic experience. In the 38 years since its founding, the IB diploma has become a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual promise. The student who satisfies its demands demonstrates a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of the mastery of subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world. Colleges and universities are well served by encouraging the enrolment of these able young scholars.

The IB Diploma curriculum consists of six subject groups:

**Language A1 – Second Language – Individuals and Societies**  
**Experimental Sciences – Mathematics and Computer Science – The Arts**

All IB candidates are required to take six subjects: three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. Each examined subject is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The award of the Diploma requires a minimum total of 24 points and the satisfactory completion of three additional requirements:

- **The Extended Essay** of 4000 words which provides the experience of the independent research paper
- **Theory of Knowledge** which explores the relationships among the various disciplines and ensures that students engage in critical reflection and analysis of knowledge acquired within and beyond the classroom
- **CAS (Creativity, Action and Service)** is an integral part of the IB programme and provides a wonderful opportunity to supplement the students' academic work in their demanding IB programs. It focuses on the 'whole person' which is a crucially important element in the students' development as they enter their final school years. CAS students are encouraged to pursue their activities both inside and outside the school: to interact with the local Turkish environment as much as possible, and to do so in taking up numerous sporting, artistic, charitable or environmental activities through clubs and associations. Within the school, students offer service activities by helping in the classroom, often in the Primary School, working, for instance, in reading, tutoring, or computer skills with individuals or small groups.

*Bonus points (up to three) may be awarded for an exceptional performance in the Extended Essay or in Theory of Knowledge.*

Of the 888 current IB member schools in more than 124 countries throughout the world, some 500 are located in the Europe/Africa/Middle East region. Experience has shown that IB Diploma holders gain admission to selective universities throughout the world.

The International Baccalaureate Organization is based in Geneva, Switzerland, with Regional Offices in New York, Buenos Aires, and Singapore. The Curriculum and Assessment centre in Cardiff, Wales, organises two examination sessions per year: May and November. Some 2000 individual examiners worldwide participate in the assessment of student work.

A final, official transcript will be sent by the IBO Headquarters in Geneva following grade awarding. The document will indicate the level of subjects, the grade awarded in each, the total point score and the completion of the additional Diploma requirements. Results are available in early July.

# Choosing subjects for the IB Diploma Programme

Think about what subjects you like studying the most, what career you want to have, what the requirements might be for a particular university course (eg: International business , engineering, Medicine, ).

For a full diploma you need to choose six subjects: 3 at higher level and 3 at standard level.

One subject must come from each of the first 5 groups. The sixth choice is a free choice (either from group 6 or a second subject from group 3 or 4)

		<b>Available at both Higher Level or Standard Level</b>	<b>Only available at SL</b>
Group 1 <b>Language A1</b>	A1 - Literature based course with both traditional and modern authors.	English Turkish	Your own native language as a self-study course.
Group 2 <b>Second Language</b>	A2 – Literature based course for those doing Turkish A1 B – foreign language learners. Ab initio – for beginners	English A2 French B / ab initio German B Spanish B / ab initio	
Group 3 <b>Individuals and Societies</b>	You do not need to have previously studied these subjects to choose them	Business & Management Economics History Geography Psychology (if available)	
Group 4 <b>Experimental Sciences</b>		Biology Chemistry Physics	
Group 5 <b>Mathematics and Computer Science</b>	Core level IGCSE students should choose Maths Studies	Maths Higher (not SL) Computer Science <sup>(see note 2)</sup>	Maths SL Maths Studies
Group 6 <b>The Arts</b>		Visual Arts Theatre Music	

## Notes:

1. In very exceptional circumstances it is possible for a very strong student to take 4 higher level subjects or take a seventh subject chosen from one of the groups. Weaker students may opt to take a certificate programme which would have 2 or less higher level subjects.
2. Although Computer Science is a Group 5 subject, it is an IB requirement that all students study Mathematics. Computer Science will be offered as an option against Group 6 subjects.