

The IB Diploma

IB students complete a programme of education which emphasises high academic standards, international mindedness and the development of skills that will last a lifetime.

The IB was founded in 1968 and the first IB teaching in the UK was in 1971. It is now offered in 153 countries. This is now the sixteenth year in which the College has been offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma as a highly regarded alternative to the more traditional A level programme. There are now 112 IB centres in the UK. The UCAS tariff which attempts to draw a comparison in achievement between the IB Diploma and A level scores, undoubtedly shows the IB in a very positive light. See college website for details.

Why would I choose the IB?

It is an integrated programme of study. It develops breadth as well as depth.

Is the IB only for high ability students?

No. The IB will be of interest to students who want to maintain a broad range of subjects. A balance of GCSE qualifications is more important than outright ability.

Is the IB Diploma much harder than A Levels?

The IB Diploma and A Levels test quite different skills. IB Diploma skills are useful in later life and are applicable to university study. To pass the IB, students need to be organised and be able to sustain that effort across six subjects. A Levels require a singular focus on three subjects.

How do universities regard the IB?

For many universities, the IB Diploma is most highly rated by admission officers as preparation for undergraduate study. The average International IB score is 29 points which is the equivalent to BBC at A level. Our own average is 32 points = equivalent to AAB at A level.

Does the IB Diploma allow you to apply to specialist courses at UK universities?

IB students regularly go on to specialist courses such as medicine, dentistry, engineering, or maths.

I don't feel I have achieved my potential in maths or languages – can I do the IB?

Emphatically yes! – it is possible to study a language (Italian or Spanish as a beginner) and Maths studies demands a moderate standard of mathematical ability.

Is studying six subjects, as well as Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay too hard?

Students need breadth throughout their lives and careers. The IB programme can be tailored to suit the specialist interests of the student.

Does studying so many subjects allow for enough depth?

The depth of coverage is considerable, and the style of questioning in exams means the students have a great deal to assimilate. With a well-designed programme there will be curriculum coherence and interrelated strands running through the subjects. The extended essay is typically written in one of the student's higher level subjects. It is great preparation for university essays and interviews.



The learner profile

IB Students strive to be:

- inquirers ■ open minded ■ knowledgeable ■ caring ■ thinkers
- courageous ■ communicators ■ balanced ■ principled ■ reflective

What is the IB Diploma?

1. The IB diploma is a well established post-16 two year course which leads to a qualification which is nationally and internationally recognised for entry to university.

Students must choose six subjects, one from each family, although it is also possible to do two sciences, two humanities or two languages. This allows for students, who have a specific Higher Education focus or career aim in mind, to devise a programme of study which will help them to realise their aspirations. This will be particularly important for those wishing to go into medical careers or a foreign language based career.

For those, however, who are still uncertain about what they may wish to do in the future, the skills developed across the breadth of the programme are designed to equip the young person of today with the educational background to pursue a whole range of interests.

Three or four subjects will be pursued at Higher level and the rest at Standard level.

2. In addition, students have the opportunity to personalise their course of study – the Inner Core is student-driven and comprises:

- The Extended Essay – a 4000 word in-depth study chosen by the student
- CAS – Creativity, Activity, Service – a mini “Duke of Edinburgh” style award designed to educate the whole person, students are encouraged to follow sporting and creative activities as well as an element of community service
- Theory of knowledge: critical thinking skills
- All are intended to help develop GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP for the 21st Century

The Diploma core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.



Group 1 – English

English Literature Higher or Standard level

Group 2 – Modern Foreign Language

(MFL – French/German/Spanish/Italian)

Students who do not have a language qualification can choose either Spanish or Italian ab initio (beginners course)

Group 3 – Individuals and societies

• Geography • History • Philosophy • Psychology

Group 4 – Experimental sciences

• Biology • Chemistry • Physics
• Environmental Systems and Societies

Group 5 – Mathematics

• Mathematical Studies standard level

Group 6 – The Arts or Electives

• Music • Theatre • Visual Arts

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The IB & Higher Education



The Sixth Form
College Colchester

“Universities laud the independent thinking and creativity the IB encourages in students – skills which last beyond university and into the world of work – that are invaluable, but very difficult to teach in a classroom. **The Independent Newspaper.**”

Will I get a university place?

The IB as a post-16 qualification is held in very high regard by universities both undertaken within the UK and worldwide. It is considered to be as good as the more traditional A-Level route in preparing students for undergraduate study. Our IB students have successfully transferred to almost every university in the country and have taken a vast range of undergraduate courses including Classics at St. Andrews, Modern Languages at Durham, Geography at Oxford, Neuroscience at Bristol, Law at UEA Norwich, Kent and Nottingham, PPE at York, Music at Southampton, English at Warwick and Sheffield, Drama at Essex, Royal Holloway, Central School of Speech and Drama, Paramedic Science at Herts, Medicine at St. Georges in London, Leicester, Exeter and Physics at Durham, Psychology at UEA and Cardiff, Marine Biology at Hull and Plymouth.



Ben

“I chose the IB because it gave me the opportunity to study 6 subjects I enjoy from a broad range of subject areas, leaving my options open for university. The international focus of the course and small class sizes were also appealing.”
Ben went on to study History and Politics at Nottingham University.



Olivia

“I chose the IB because I didn't want to narrow down my options too early and I really liked the idea of carrying on with all the subjects that I enjoyed at GCSE. With the IB, I am doing six really varied subjects, whilst also developing other skills through CAS and doing the extended essay, which add a lot to my personal statement and have opened up lots of opportunities to me.”



Reuben

“I soon knew that the IB would not only help me in my academic life, but in all aspects. The CAS helps me to develop new skills. The Theory of Knowledge helps me to look into real world issues, and my extended essay helped me prepare for my studies. The low number of students in some classes allows for a more 1 to 1 experience with teaching staff. I definitely have no regret in picking this course!”
Reuben went on to study Civil Engineering at Cardiff University.



Hannelore

“I chose the IB because I didn't know what I wanted to do at university, and it kept my options wide open. I have always loved languages and the IB has fantastic international aspects to all the subjects you study. Ultimately, it seemed like an interesting and exciting challenge that would really stretch me and reveal my strengths, and it's left me confident to enter my next stage of education!”
Hannelore went on to study Philosophy and French at Oxford University.



Clara

“I have chosen the IB program because I really like languages and I would like to be able to study in different countries, so the IB is a good opportunity to access this. Also, as I haven't got a precise idea of my future career, being able to keep 6 subjects really suites me. I am pleased with my choice because the IB program is great, so is the IB family!”

Clara has gone on to study International Relations at the Leiden University in The Hague.



Joey

“For me, the IB was the perfect course. I didn't know what I wanted to do post sixth form studies, and I really liked the idea of keeping my options open. I can still study core subjects, languages, humanities, and even arts if I wanted to. The teachers are passionate and the classes are small. Be prepared to work, keep organised, and meet all sorts of interesting people.”



Alex

“I chose the IB course because I had no clear sense of direction, or any idea of what I wanted to study. The IB was perfect for me as it allowed me to study a wide range of subjects and to help keep my options open for further education. In addition, the smaller and more focused classes is something I prefer.”

“The IB first appealed to me because I saw myself as an all rounder and my GCSE results supported this. The idea of only choosing four subjects scared me, as I did not have a clear idea of a career. After doing the IB for a year, it has opened a range of options for me and it was definitely the right choice for someone who didn't excel in just one subject.”

Jess (front cover)

How to apply...

Application can be made online at www.colchsfc.ac.uk – just follow the 'apply online' link. For further details on admissions please consult the main college prospectus.

Important dates

Open Evenings: Wednesday 17 or Thursday 18 October 2018 any time between 6.15pm and 9.15pm

IB Presentation: Monday 12 November 2018 at 7pm

Please note that the application deadline is 31 January 2019

