

The International Baccalaureate Diploma

The Sixth Form College
North Hill
Colchester
CO1 1SN

t: 01206 500700

f: 01206 500770

www.colchsfc.ac.uk

**IB Diploma
Programme**
Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions about the: **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**

Question: What is the IB and how does it differ from A levels?

The International Baccalaureate is a different programme of study that maintains a broad range of subjects. The programme includes six subject areas plus an inner core. Students choose a subject from the Sciences, Modern Foreign Languages, Maths and English, Humanities and the Arts. In addition students do 150 hours of CAS activities (Community, Action & Service) and two essays, Theory of Knowledge and an Extended Essay which involves independent research. Contact time with teaching staff is similar to that of a student doing four AS levels. Unlike A levels the grading is by number with each subject attracting a maximum of 7 marks and the Inner core attracting a maximum of 3 marks making a total of 45 marks. The student can choose to do 3 subjects at standard level and 3 subjects at higher level. It is ideal for any student who wants to keep their options open. The IB programme is highly thought of internationally, and is designed to address the challenges of a changing, more globalised work environment both in the UK and abroad.

Question: What GCSE grades would I need to be successful at IB?

Answer: The requirements are broadly the same as for a 4 AS programme. However, students will normally need a C or above in English, Maths and Science and in a Modern Foreign Language (where taken). For subjects studied at a Higher Level grade B or above is required. See the latest college prospectus for entry requirements.

Question: Is it better to do 4 Highers? Will I get more points?

The college recommend that you choose three at standard level and three at higher level. You don't attract any more points by doing more than 3 Higher Level subjects.

Question: Can I take two sciences?

Yes you can, we run courses in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Environmental systems. The IB Diploma programme is ideal if you wish to pursue any medical or veterinary further education.

Question: I would prefer to concentrate on my languages can I still do this on the IB?

Answer: Yes you can, we have abinitio languages in Spanish and Italian which start from the beginning and don't assume any knowledge. We also have German, Spanish and French which can be studied at Higher level or Standard level. You have to do at least one language but you can opt to do two and not choose an option from the Arts group.



There are also additional studies you can get involved in such as Japanese, and Latin which you can count towards your CAS activities.

Question: **I'm not very interested in Maths/sciences/languages do I have to do a subject from each of these ?**

Answer: Yes you do. BUT, we offer Maths studies which is at a similar level to GCSE. We offer Environmental Systems which is a more geography based science and we offer abinitio languages such as Italian and Spanish, which assume no knowledge of any language and these options may interest you more. We also offer computer Science which may appeal to you more if you are not arty or musical!

Question: **I would like to do Philosophy and Psychology how can I choose between the two as I haven't done them at school?**

Answer: One way is to go onto the college website and look at the course information sheets and see which you might prefer. Or you can opt to do them both, using one as your group six options. We will be hosting an induction day in July where our teaching staff give taster sessions on what is included on the course and what you will be studying.

Where could I found out what students think about IB?

Answer: Did you know IB is on face book - check out the wall and see what students around the world say!



The IBO also have a web site with information for students and parents. Just google - IBO.



IB as a programme of study and the subject information sheets can be found on the college website.

Still have some questions ??????

You are welcome to come to the IB Presentation evening on the 14th November at 7pm at the college.

Check the college website

Attend the college Open Evening – seek out the IB stand. Speak to the volunteer students or email the co-ordinator at

burnskaren@colchsf.ac.uk

