



Brentwood School



International Baccalaureate

Diploma Programme





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“

Our IB Diploma Programme prepares students for elite academic success and it provides the specialist understanding needed to excel at the highest level”

Jonathan Barfield Moore, Deputy Head (Academic)

Welcome

The International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) is a two-year programme which provides an academically challenging and broad curriculum for well-motivated Sixth Form students. The IB requires the study of six subjects and the completion of core components: the 'Theory of Knowledge' course; an extended essay; and the 'Creativity, Action and Service' module. If you undertake the IB course, you will benefit from seeing what you learn from a global perspective in all your studies.

The IB Diploma is a distinguished qualification that is recognised by universities all over the world, and Brentwood School sits proudly in the top 10 UK IB Schools and in the top 10% worldwide.

In 2024, our IB Diploma students achieved a record breaking 38.2 point average (with 45 the maximum). Out of the 31-strong cohort two students secured the maximum 45 points and no fewer than 12 students scoring 40 or more points, putting them in the top 4% of IB students worldwide.

One of the top scorers, Salman Yaqub is studying Medicine at Anglia Ruskin Medical School, alongside his twin Adnan, who scored 44 points. Meanwhile, Sophia Assitzoglou, who was the other top scorer is reading Liberal Arts at Freiburg University, Germany.

Ben Raynham secured an excellent 44 points and is currently reading Maths at the University of Warwick. After scoring 40 points Jenson Martell is studying Engineering at University College London. With 42 points Charlotte Elliston is studying Law at Bristol. HMC Scholar Amor Šaćić secured 43 points and is heading back to The Balkans. Finally, with 39 points in the bag, Alex Lockyer is continuing his musical prowess as he takes up the Vice-Chancellor's scholarship at Bristol, where he is studying Medicine.

All five students holding medical/veterinary degree course offers gained the points required by their first choice universities with a further two securing places to study Law.

Hollie Carter
Director of IB

What makes us Brentwood

Brentwood School shines out as a beacon of excellence.

Academically, we sit comfortably alongside the best day and boarding schools in the country, and we enjoy an unparalleled local reputation. Our students are happy individuals who thrive on the high standards which are expected of them. They benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, set in the heart of Brentwood in Essex, and are surrounded by 75 acres of green playing fields and gardens. Our close proximity to London is especially helpful for international families looking to place their children in a safe UK location but within easy reach of the Capital.

We offer full and weekly boarding for 11 to 18 year olds in comfortable houses where experienced Houseparents ensure the best possible care for all the boarders.

Founded in 1557, we take our heritage seriously. We are a Christian School with a chapel and a chaplain, and our School values, encapsulated in our motto "Virtue, Learning and Manners", have as much resonance today as they did when written in 1622. Our students are expected to have self-respect, to exhibit pride in their appearance and embrace values such as courtesy, consideration for others, kindness, looking after each other, honour, courage, sportsmanship, duty and selflessness.

Our vast and exciting co-curricular programme enjoys national prominence, and we focus on providing opportunities for all to participate, as well as the pursuit of excellence for the most able. Our Combined Cadet Force is one of the oldest and largest in the country, we offer The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Outdoor Learning to students who want to satisfy their taste for adventure, and a

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Voluntary Service in Action Unit which raises tens of thousands of pounds every year to help specific charitable organisations.

Our sports centre houses a 25-metre swimming pool, glass-backed squash courts, fencing salle and dance studio and students achieve top sporting honours both nationally and internationally.

We are proud to be a Steinway School, enabling our students to learn on the very best-made pianos in the world, as well as some rare instruments otherwise unavailable to them. Our musicians have played in the National Youth Orchestra, and our actors have gained places in the National Youth Theatre, RADA and other top Drama schools.

Our students achieve excellent academic standards that rank among some of the best in the country and consistent high grades are achieved by all students. They work exceptionally hard and are supported by highly professional and inspiring teachers who offer dedicated Oxbridge mentoring.

In 2024 a strong set of A Level results saw 37.2% graded A* or A and a 100% pass rate. Over 80% of students went to their first choice destination and over two-thirds of our students moved on to a 'top 20' university.

With our 38.3 point average. The School is proud to report that Brentwood School secured 8th in the 2024 UK Top IB Schools in the UK.

We offer an enviable range of subjects including Dance, Film, Theatre, Chinese and Global Politics, as well as more usual subjects like Physics, History, English, Mathematics, Psychology and Economics.

The IB at B

The IB Diploma is a holistic qualification, combining specialist depth for university entry and the wider portfolio of skills valued so much by employers.

Brentwood is an IB World School. We believe education is about individual transformation, developing character, cultivating human flourishing. We believe in the importance of being outward-looking, being internationally-minded, encouraging students to think more widely, and preparing our young people for a global workplace. When students leave here, we hope that they not only have a great set of academic results, but that they have a better understanding of others, that they are able to work with others effectively, and that they take principled action to make our world a better place. The IB Diploma is underpinned by an aspirational idealistic vision, and an educational ethos that we at Brentwood School share.

The IB Diploma is for students who are curious, open-minded, interested, resilient, adaptable; the programme helps develop communication skills as well as self-management and academic rigour. We have found these character traits to be valued by universities and employers.

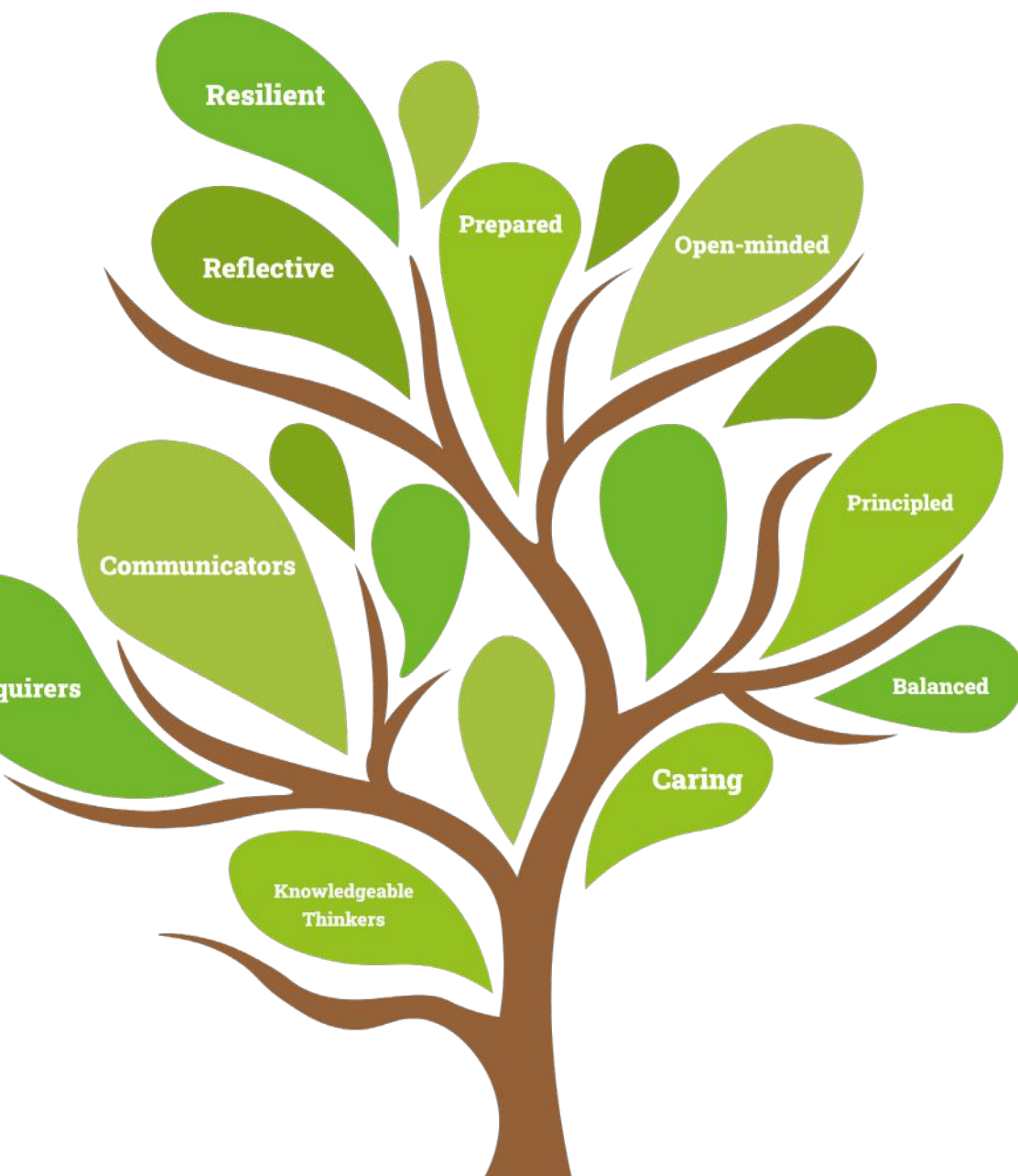
The type of student that would study the IB Diploma is someone who enjoys many different subjects, and has a complete love of learning therefore would like to continue with more than three subjects. This leads to an interesting and varied week. An IB student might be looking to keep as many options open as possible for their future. They might have a clear ambition to go to a top university, or they may potentially want to study abroad. If some of that applies, it might be that the IB would be the perfect choice.

Our Brentwood Learner Profile aims to develop students who are:

- Reflective learners – they set clear goals and devise strategies for personal growth, evaluate their experiences and monitor their performance;
- Open-minded to new situations, creative adaptable flexible thinkers;
- Resilient, determined and resourceful when approaching unfamiliar situations;
- Communicators and leaders – active participants in sustained, collaborative projects; they have confidence in their contribution and adapt their behaviour to suit different roles and situations;

Brentwood

- Prepared and organised, managing themselves and their time effectively;
- Principled, caring, responsible citizens – they appreciate their own culture and identity, while being open to the perspectives, values and traditions of others; they take principled action to improve the lives of others and their environment;
- Balanced, achieving intellectual, physical and emotional balance through a range of experiences both in and outside school.





Pre-IB Pathway

We offer a Pre-IB pathway for high-achieving ambitious students, who would like to join us in Year 11. Our Pre-IB pathway is part of a 3-year educational programme, rather than a stand-alone entity.

Pre-IB students are integrated into existing mainstream 2-year GCSE classes with UK day students. As such, students joining our programme need to be committed, resilient and ambitious.

We have had many students go through this programme successfully, attaining strong results and providing a great preparation for the IB Diploma in Sixth Form.

Students receive support and guidance about their academic programme from the Director of IB, as well as pastoral oversight from their Head of Year, form tutor and boarding houseparents.

Students have classes in GCSE Mathematics, GCSE English Language (First Language), GCSE English Literature, IGCSE Biology, IGCSE Chemistry, IGCSE Physics, then a choice of 3 GCSE subjects from: History, Geography, Religious Studies, Latin, Classical Greek, French, Spanish, Computer Science, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, Physical Education, Classical Civilisation.

Of these 9 GCSEs they study, students will take final GCSE examinations in between 6 and 9 of these subjects, depending on their progress and in discussion with the Director of IB.

Students will also have timetabled private study time in the Library where they can work independently on Year 10 work, and a small number of lessons over the year to prepare for IGCSE German or Russian (First Language).

There is also an opportunity for additional EAL lessons to support English language skills, though students joining the Pre-IB pathway need to have certificated B2 CEFR-level English for admission.

In the IB Diploma, students take six subjects. Most students take three subjects at Higher Level and three at Standard Level, but we also have a number of students taking four at Higher Level and two at Standard Level.

The Higher Level subjects are the things you are specialising in and the things you might take on to university – so if you want to focus on Science, you might study Physics, Chemistry and Maths at Higher Level. Humanities specialists might study English, Spanish and History at Higher Level.

The Standard Level subjects allow you to keep up some of your other interests, and keep your academic experience varied, while developing complementary skills e.g. presentation and essay skills for Science specialists; conceptual and systematic thinking for Humanities specialists.

We have shaped our timetable so that students can keep their options open by studying one subject from each of the six timetable groups shown in the diagram. Alternatively, most students choose to specialise more by taking two Sciences, two Humanities, two foreign languages or two Creative Arts subjects. You can do this by maintaining breadth in the first five choices but then “doubling up” by using the sixth choice to do a second subject at Higher Level from your chosen specialist area. You can see the combinations available in the IB Diploma Lower Sixth Choices Form. The different pathways and flexibility in the IB Diploma make it truly accessible to all our students.

The IB Diploma is out of a total of 45 points: up to 7 points in each of your six subjects, plus up to 3 points for the “Core” of Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay. As a rough comparison with A Levels, each IB subject is graded out of 7: a 7 is equivalent to an A*, a 6 an A etc. The final total out of 45 compares to A Levels like this: 42 is equivalent to 3 A* grades. Our 5-year average score is 37.9 points (equal to A*AA at A Level),

As with A Levels, all IB Diploma examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year. This allows plenty of time for teaching, and for students to grow and mature. If things go wrong, though of course we hope that they don't, subjects can be re-taken in November after the end of the Upper Sixth.

There is a significant internal coursework element, whether in the form of assessed essays, presentations or practicals – approximately 20–30% in each subject.

Students also take a course in Theory of Knowledge: a fun course where students examine and reflect on questions underpinning the nature of knowledge in their other academic subjects. Students complete an Extended Essay in one of their subjects, involving planning, researching and writing a long project (4000 words): a great preparation for university and something we can really celebrate in their UCAS application. There is also a co-curricular component called CAS, which involves them logging their co-curricular activities.

All of these components combine to create students who are well-rounded, interesting individuals, who flourish in later life, in addition to having the specialist knowledge and skills needed for university.

British universities, European universities, and American universities all want more

A Shaped Timetable

than students who have merely passed exams. They are looking for students who can manage their time effectively, who are open-minded, who are curious and independent, who are effective communicators, able to cope well under pressure and who have strong global awareness.

University offers for IB Diploma students usually involve an overall points total plus sometimes stipulations at Higher Level. Oxford University make offers of 39 points out of 45; King's College London make offers of 35 points. These compare very favourably. In fact, it is probably slightly easier to get into Oxford or King's College London currently with the IB Diploma than A Levels. We have also found that on average our IB Diploma students are made more university offers than A Level students.

Some students will choose to pursue one of their IB Diploma subjects at degree level whilst many others will proceed to university courses in disciplines which they will not have previously studied in Sixth Form such as Law, Sociology, Anthropology, International Relations, Medicine, Engineering, Management or Arabic.

Increasingly, students embark upon programmes of intensive professional training that enable them to enter professions which are not directly related to their undergraduate degree courses. Consequently, we would advise that students do not allow their Sixth Form choices to be entirely governed by their future career aspirations.

The recommendations/guidelines on the following page are not intended to be prescriptive but they are based upon a wealth of information that we receive from university admission tutors and external career advisers.

Consequently, we would urge students to give very careful consideration to these recommendations. If they intend to study a subject that is not listed below then please consult the Deputy Head (Academic), Mr Barfield Moore, Director of Sixth Form, Mr Sellers or Head of Careers, Mrs Monk.

Explore our recommendations →

Boardings



“

Brentwood Boarding, where I have found the best version of myself”

Nicolò, Lower Sixth



Brentwood School has a long history of boarding and our boarders are an important part of the whole School community.

Students benefit from having more time to join in after-school activities without the worries of a long journey home. Dedicated time for homework with support from house tutors helps students keep on top of their work and there is plenty of time to make friends.

We have one girls' and one boys' boarding house. In truth, they are homes more than boarding houses: staffed by dedicated Houseparents and boarding house tutors, they offer warmth and a family atmosphere to students from different backgrounds, both near and far. Friendships made by our boarders often last a lifetime.

We offer full, weekly and flexi boarding and we feel very fortunate to have a wide mix of nationalities from Asia, Europe, and the Middle and Far East.

In addition to the wide range of Co-Curricular activities on offer at the School, boarders have their own programme of social activities. Houseparents make sure there is a plethora of activities on offer in the evenings and at weekends. These include trips to the cinema, theatre, paintballing, bowling and weekends away.

As boarding is such an integral part of the School, we are proud to announce that we will be transforming our boarding facilities by building a new state-of-the-art purpose-built boarding house for September 2025.

The project, which has been years in the planning, will be subdivided into three main sections; a girls' and boys' boarding house, with single en-suite bedrooms and a central shared facility including new dining and communal areas including a Sixth Form Cafe. There will also be an outdoor courtyard with dedicated landscaped social space.

*Find out
more*

IB Facts

38.3

Our 2024 average is 38.3 points, the equivalent of A*, A, A at A Level



The offers from universities tend to be slightly lower for IB students because universities recognise the rounded curriculum of the IB Diploma



Students more UCAS through com IB because t subjects EE and

TOK

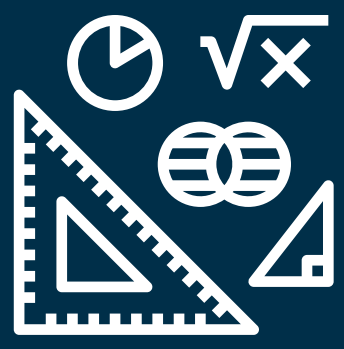
They have timetabled Theory of Knowledge lessons



Most of the subjects have a coursework element which is usually worth 20-30% of the course

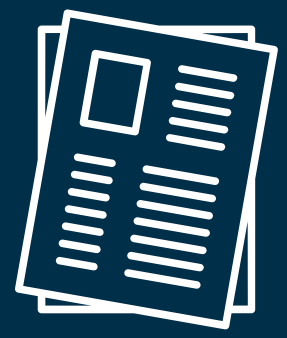


can gain
Tariff Points
ompleting the
they have 6
and the
d TOK



Students study 6 subjects
rather than 3.

Lots of variety!



They complete an
Extended Essay, which is
a 4000-word research
project on a topic of their
choice



They work in small class
sizes at an average of 6



Equivalent of 4 A Levels
worth of work

The School offers an exceptional programme of co-curricular and enrichment activities with a wide and diverse selection of clubs, societies and trips available. Some aim to stimulate and extend students with a particular subject passion whereas some are less subject-driven and more focused on broadening interests and knowledge.

Students may elect to take part in competitive and recreational sport, musical activities, drama groups and productions, public speaking, art, technology and many others.

Our co-curricular provision is inclusive in nature and we encourage all students to take part in activities and societies that they might find interesting.

There is something for everyone.

Co-cur



*Find out,
more*

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Beyond Brentwo



Former Bursary
Ambassador
Sophia scored
the maximum
45 points and is
reading Liberal
Arts at Freiburg
University,
Germany



ood



Cameron (former Head of School) achieved 38 points and is reading Music at St Chad's College Durham, where he is also Director of Music



Twins Salman and Adnan achieved 45 and 44 points, respectively and are both now studying Medicine at Anglia Ruskin Medical School



Sila, a former Deputy Head of School and the School's first Foundation Scholar, achieved 37 points and a place at King's College London to read History and International Relations

Key Staff



Michael Bond
Headmaster



Hollie Carter
Director of IB



Jonathan Barfield Moore
Deputy Head (Academic)



Daniel Rogers
Assistant Director of IB



Tim Sellers
Director of Sixth Form



Christian Bryan
TOK Coordinator