



Brentwood School

#WeAre*Brentwood*

International
Baccalaurate

www.brentwoodschool.co.uk



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 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 2023, our IB Diploma students achieved a great 36 point average (with 45 the maximum). Out of the 17-strong cohort, three students scored 40 or more points, putting them in the top 4% of IB students worldwide.

Top scorer Abigail Rice is now reading Economics at Queen's College, Cambridge, after scoring 44 out of the maximum 45 points. Precious Babatunde scored 42 points and is reading Biomedical Sciences at St George's, University of London; and with 40 points in the bag, Josh White, former swim team captain and water polo player, is continuing his sporting prowess at Warwick where he is studying Economics.

Head of School, Cameron Davies scored 38 points and is studying Music at St Chad's College, Durham where he is Director of Music. HMC Scholar Sandra Laur (38 points) and Armin Ramhorst (37 points) are both studying International Relations at King's College London and the University of Edinburgh, respectively.



"It's wonderful to see our IB students receive such an excellent set of results after all the effort that they have put in over the last two years. 40 is a superb points average and demonstrates the School's commitment to this more rigorous qualification, which is highly valued by academic institutions the world over. I'd like to pay tribute to our talented team of teachers who have guided them through so admirably."

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.

Mrs Hollie Carter, Director of IB

#WeAreBrentwood

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 13 to 18 year olds in comfortable houses where experienced husband and wife teams ensure the best possible care for all the boarders.

We celebrate a 466-year history and 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 by English poet John Donne in 1622. Our pupils 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 pupils who want to satisfy their taste for adventure, and a 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 pupils achieve top sporting honours both nationally and internationally.

We are proud to be a Steinway School, enabling our pupils 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 pupils achieve excellent academic standards that rank among some of the best in the country and consistent high grades are achieved by all pupils. They work exceptionally hard and are supported by highly professional and inspiring teachers who offer dedicated Oxbridge mentoring. An average of eight students per year are offered places at Oxford or Cambridge.

In 2023, a strong set of A Level results saw 41.4% graded A* or A. Over 80% of students went to their first choice destination and over two-thirds of our students moved on to a 'top 20' university.

The School is proud to report that Brentwood School secured pole position in the 2023 UK Top IB Schools (Small Cohort) league tables. Brentwood's 36-point IB average made the school the joint leading day & boarding school in the UK ranking (securing third spot overall).

We offer an enviable range of subjects including Dance, Film, Theatre, Chinese ab initio and Global Politics, as well as more usual subjects like Physics, History, English, Mathematics, Psychology and Economics. More than two-thirds of our IB students are from the UK, with one-third international.

A flourishing Old Brentwoods community keeps thousands of alumni connected across the globe.

The lessons pupils learn at Brentwood will last for a lifetime. Integrity, initiative, a spirit of enterprise and an international mind-set help our pupils to thrive in the twenty-first century.

The IB at Brentwood

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 pupils 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;



- 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 for European students

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.





A Shaped Timetable

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 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 following recommendations/guidelines 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.

Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science:

Both Chemistry and Biology at Higher Level, with free choice of other subjects.

Natural Sciences:

Two Sciences (at least two of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics at Higher Level).

Engineering:

Physics Higher Level is required usually, and Mathematics at Higher Level or Standard Level, depending on the university course.

Computer Science:

Mathematics is required. Physics may also be desirable.

Economics and PPE:

Whilst Mathematics is advised, students should also consider Economics, History, Geography, Global Politics or Philosophy.

Business Studies, Management, Marketing:

Mathematics can be helpful, but not essential. Economics, Geography, Psychology, Global Politics may be helpful.

Architecture: Visual Arts at Higher Level.

Foreign Languages: Two modern languages are desirable but not essential.

Law:

Any subjects at Higher Level with strong grades.

* Many degrees have no formal requirements, so students should research carefully by checking on university websites. While it is important students choose subjects that they feel they are able to achieve a good grade in, the ability to succeed must be balanced with an appreciation of the utility and enjoyment of a subject.



Boarding at Brentwood

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

The Boarding houses are set within the Brentwood School site at the heart of the thriving town of Brentwood, yet within a green and spacious 75-acre plot. With just a 25-minute train journey to London we are close to the amenities of the capital and easy links to four international airports. In this way boarders get the best of both worlds; a safe secure and green space to live with easy access to the vibrant metropolis when required.

There are two boarding houses, Mill Hill for up to 28 girls and Hough House for 42 boys between the ages of 13 and 18. Our boarding houses are small and intimate so all boarders are well-known to boarding staff and quickly settle in and feel at home. Both houses provide spacious accommodation where pupils are looked after by husband and wife teams to create a warm, close-knit family environment; a home from home.

“My boarding parents are really supportive and interested in what my passions are – that means an awful lot to me.”

Our boarders benefit from the stability of a regular routine with dedicated time for academic work and can easily join in the huge range of co-curricular activities without the worries of a long commute or fitting around a busy home life.

International, UK and local pupils alike find they develop confidence and enjoy the diverse mix of boarding life. They have time to develop social skills and gain greater independence as they move through the School so when the time comes to move on, they are fully prepared for university and life beyond school.



IB Facts | Did you know?

37



Our 5-year average is 37 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 can get UCAS Tariff through completing IB because of subjects like EE and

TOK

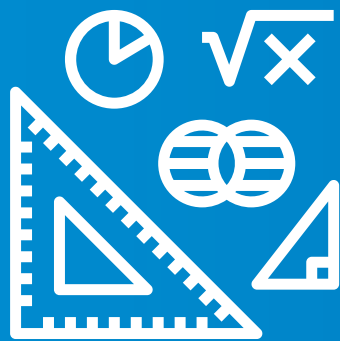


They have timetabled Theory of Knowledge lessons

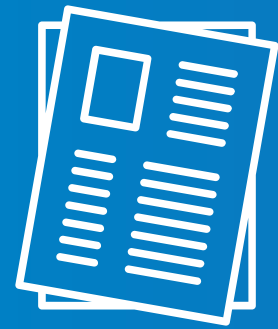
Most of the subjects have a coursework element which is usually worth 20-30% of the course



Students gain more
IB Points
by completing the
course they have 6
and the
and 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

4x



Equivalent of 4 A
Levels worth of work



Performing Arts

The Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) have always been popular at Brentwood School and in recent years there has been an explosion of interest and excellence in all three creative disciplines.

Drama: Record numbers of students study curriculum Drama and more children than ever audition for one of the most diverse programmes of co-curricular Drama in the country. The faculty enjoys excellent links with London Theatre and all Performing Arts Departments are full of teaching staff who continue to work within the industry.

Music: Brentwood is proud to be recognised as one of the leading music specialist schools in the independent sector, with a reputation for musical excellence, inclusivity and enjoyment.

- We became an official Steinway School in November 2019, taking delivery of 11 new Steinway pianos and beginning a formal partnership with the makers of the finest pianos in the world.
- We run a fully-funded endangered

instrument scheme which allows more students the opportunity to trial and experiment with new and exciting instruments.

- We are a partnership school with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, one of the finest musical institutions in the world, who support our work and give our musicians another pathway to success.

Dance: Dance is one of Brentwood's fastest-growing subjects and students have the opportunity to compete in choreographic competitions, perform in dance shows designed by professionals and study curriculum Dance in one of three large and fully sprung studios.

World Class Sport

Brentwood is for you, whether you want to play international sport or simply participate. We aim to create confident, dynamic pupils who think creatively and possess the ability to make good decisions in both a sporting and whole School context.

Sport at Brentwood is incredibly successful and nationally renowned in a number of areas. Winning is a



habit at our School. Physical activity is part of a healthy lifestyle and many of our students enjoy the social, non-competitive aspects of the many sports on offer here: they do them because they are, quite simply, fun. We think that is as good a reason as any to enjoy sport.

We have vast areas of playing fields, as well as a Sports Centre that houses a 25-metre swimming pool, a fitness suite, conditioning room, gymnasium, dance studios, glass-backed squash courts, a fencing salle and sports hall. We organise overseas tours for teams to compete and increase their expertise; we also compete with local schools and within School, there are Inter-House competitions available in most sports.

As our pupils progress through the school, they can participate in over 30 sports. From fencing to shooting, from aerobics to golf - it would be a challenge not to find an activity you enjoy! At the elite end of the spectrum, we have a proven track record of producing top-class performers who excel and inspire. We field in excess of 100 teams who compete at inter-school, county and national level; around 400 pupils represent the School each Saturday.

We also offer the Brentwood School Elite Player Pathway to support our most gifted and talented athletes to help prepare them for possible progression to elite sport.

Co-Curricular

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.

Pupils 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.

Testimonials



Katy (2015-2022) achieved an impressive 42 points, and is studying English at Nottingham.

"I exceeded my expectations and am relieved all my hard work paid off."



Pavle (Hough House, 2020-2022) received a hugely impressive 44 points. A House Captain and HMC Scholar from Serbia, Pavle studied Higher Level subjects German, Physics, Maths Analysis and Chemistry.

"I am very grateful for all of the great times I have had, all the firsts, all of the adventures I have experienced."





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



Haneefah (2020-2022), one of the founding members of the School's first ever girls' football team, gained 39 points.

Key Staff



Michael Bond
Headmaster



Hollie Carter
Director of IB



Jonathan Barfield Moore
Deputy Head (Academic)



Ania Kwolek
Assistant Director of IB



Tim Sellers
Director of Sixth Form



Christian Bryan
TOK Coordinator



Brian Hays
International Recruitment
Manager



Steve & Sue Taylor
Hough Housemaster & Housemis-
tress



Tim & Katie Cope (with their children)
MillHill Housemaster & Housemis-



Brentwood School
Celebrating 400 years of
Virtue · Learning · Manners