

# FOUNDATION IB PROGRAMME (FIB)

SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION



## WHAT IS THE FIB PROGRAMME?

Students joining EtonHouse International School @ Orchard in Year 11 (15+ years) can choose to follow the school's bespoke Foundation IB programme (FIB)\*, which encompasses a mixture of prescribed courses, intense English language tuition, extracurricular activities, and out of school learning experiences. The holistic nature of the FIB learning programme ensures that students are extremely well prepared for the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), which is undertaken in Year 12 and 13.

The focused study is a key factor in the FIB course, as it is designed to help the student make informed choices in preparation for the IBDP. Our experienced teaching faculty offer the necessary support and preparation to ensure success throughout the year aiming towards internal assessments in May, once those are completed, each student will have a series of interviews with the school's university counsellor to plan the path through the IBDP and beyond.

One of the main focuses at EIS @ Orchard is learning that takes place beyond the classroom. Students are offered a vast array of opportunities through the school's extracurricular activities, outdoor education, personal and social education, and service programmes; these are all in line with preparation for the IBDP. All FIB students participate in an outdoor education trip which allows them to further develop the skills and qualities expected of an IBDP graduating student.

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## WHO IS THE FIB SUITABLE FOR?

The FIB is aimed at students who have a genuine interest in studying the IB Diploma, but require a year in which to develop both their English language proficiency and the study skills necessary to fully engage with the programme.

## HOW LONG IS THE FIB PROGRAMME?

The duration of the FIB programme is one academic year followed by 2 years of IB DP.

## WHAT SUBJECTS WILL STUDENTS TAKE DURING FIB?

The FIB programme gives students exposure to a wide range of courses that lead to specific IBDP options in Year 12. Each course provides the required depth of knowledge and understanding to ensure that students are extremely well prepared and will have the confidence to select options at IBDP with confidence and a firm understanding.

Each student follows a core study programme of:

FIB Programme		Number of periods (each period is one hour) per week
Core	English as an additional language	15
	Combined Sciences	6
	Mathematics	4
	Combined Humanities	3
	Mentor time	2

## WILL THE FIB STUDENTS TAKE THE IGCSE EXAM IN THEIR FIRST YEAR?

The aim of the FIB is to be in the best possible position to enter the IB Diploma, all students will start the FIB with the intention of sitting the IGCSE exams at the end of the year because this often helps with university entry requirements. Decisions on which examinations students are entered for will be made on an individual basis in the best interest of the student.



# ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

The EAL (English as an Additional Language) team strives to support students and English language learners should be able to access all areas of the curriculum in the most inclusive and least restrictive environment possible and be empowered to be active members of the EtonHouse community.

The overall objective of the course is to provide learners with a solid foundation in English language to best prepare them for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Further information can be found below.

## WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE EAL COURSE?

- Develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Build up skills in reading and writing through a variety of visual stimuli
- Learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences
- Listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills.
- Engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a degree of accuracy and clarity.
- Become independent users of English, and to be able to use English to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts

## WHAT SKILLS WILL STUDENTS DEVELOP FROM THE COURSE?

There is a key focus on developing the four language skills of **reading, writing, speaking and listening**. Additionally, there is a focus on building students' vocabulary and developing their grammatical accuracy. In particular, support is provided in relation to mainstream subjects students take. There is a heavy emphasis on collaboration between teaching staff to ensure project-based tasks are aligned across the curriculum. In this way the English language department is fully prepared to support learners in their mainstream subjects and prepare them for the IB Diploma.

## HOW WILL STUDENTS BE ASSESSED?

All English language assessments are conducted in line with the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) framework. The CEFR is an international standard framework for measuring language ability. It describes language ability on a six-point scale, from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language.

Further details can be found [here](#).

Potential students are provided with a language test prior to admission to ensure their language proficiency is of the required standard. Learners will need to be at least at a B1+ level in order to gain admission onto the course. Frequent testing will take place during the course to monitor students progress and development.



Students who are performing capably on the course may have the opportunity to partake in the IGCSE English as a second language examination at the end of the course. This will depend on their performance and progress over the course of the year.



# WHAT ARE THE SUBJECT CHOICES UNDER FIB AND THE PATHWAY TO IB?

## 1. COMBINED SCIENCE

The FIB combined sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a scientifically coherent syllabus. Students gain an exposure to the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, in order to develop an understanding of real world applications as well as the scientific skills essential for further study at diploma level.

### COURSE CONTENT:

#### **Biology:**

- Study different structures within living organisms and the function of these structures
- Chemical processes within living organisms
- Human influences in environment

#### **Chemistry:**

- Components of matter. Their interactions and properties.
- Chemical reactions and energy.
- Industrial chemistry

#### **Physics:**

- Motion and the properties waves
- Thermal physics and energetics
- Electricity and electromagnetism
- Nuclear physics.



## SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- A better understanding of the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, the community and the environment
- Relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, inventiveness and an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life.
- An interest in, and care for, the environment

## ASSESSMENTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF:

- Topic Tests
- Lab activities and reports
- Extended research papers

Pathway - Biology HL/SL , Chemistry HL/SL, Physics HL/SL



## 2. MATHEMATICS

This course aims to prepare students for the rigours of the mathematics course within the IBDP, focusing on a firm understanding of key concepts and learning the correct mathematical language used in the subject area. Students who are already critical thinkers and problem solvers will enjoy this course immensely. The class teacher will tailor the content and pace of the course with the aim of providing a smooth transition into the IBDP.

### COURSE CONTENT:

- Quadratics
- Coordinate geometry and straight line graphs
- Introduction to calculus Sequences & proof
- Relations, functions and graphs
- Logarithms and exponential functions
- Trigonometry
- Descriptive and analytical statistics
- Vectors
- Extended project to simulate IBDP internal assessment

### SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- Manipulation of algebraic terms
- Application of algebra and calculus to real life situations
- Use of mathematics to model and predict the outcome of financial transactions
- Investigation of sequences and patterns to determine outcomes
- Selection of the most appropriate technique when problem solving
- Use of the Ti-84 graphing calculator or similar

## ASSESSMENTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF:

The student will do both tests and extended mathematical projects in order to be fully prepared for the types of assessment used in the IBDP

Pathway - Mathematics HL/SL



### 3. COMBINED HUMANITIES

This is an interdisciplinary course with real world applications. The course is based in both a scientific exploration of geographical systems in their structure and function, and in the exploration of cultural, ethical, political, financial and social interactions of societies in the 21st century. As a result of studying this course, students will gain a foundational knowledge in all areas of social studies in order to recognize and evaluate the role the human race affects the natural world.

#### SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- Apply the knowledge, methodologies and skills to analyse a variety of issues
- Evaluate the combination of personal, local and global perspectives when making decisions
- Be critically aware that resources are finite, that these could be inequitably distributed and exploited, and that management of these inequities is the key to sustainability
- Develop awareness that environmental problems are caused and solved by society
- Engage with the controversies that surround a variety of geopolitical issues
- Create innovative solutions to environmental and financial issues by engaging actively in local and global contexts.

#### ASSESSMENTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF:

- Case study analysis
- Short answer essay questions
- Extended research paper

# PASTORAL CARE, SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

## MENTOR TIME

This is where the EtonHouse pastoral team really shine, with their student centred approach to personal social health and emotional wellbeing curriculum.

## ACTIVITIES

In preparation for all of the course components of the IB Diploma, students will work towards the Duke of Edinburgh International Silver Award for students of ages 15 and over. The framework promotes the areas of physical recreation, skills and voluntary service.

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

As part of the Silver award students will plan and participate in an adventurous journey, which encourages both self discovery and team work.

Participants are taken out of their comfort zone but kept within a safe and secure setting, achieved through suitable training and supervision.



**SERVICE**

For this section participants are required to give service (volunteer) over a set period of time. This enables them to experience the benefits that their Voluntary Service provides to others in their community. Examples of this could be volunteering for a charity, sports coaching or qualifying as a first aider.

