

**BSB**

THE BRITISH  
SCHOOL OF  
BRUSSELS



# The Senior Section

at The British School of Brussels

Learning together  
inspiring success

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# Introduction

The British School of Brussels is an inclusive, international learning community catering for students from over 70 different nations. We offer a wide choice of subjects in the Senior Section which provides enormous flexibility for future Higher Education:

- More than 25 International Baccalaureate Diploma subjects allowing students to maintain breadth as well as depth.
- More than 20 A Level subjects allowing students to specialise as well as selecting a range of subjects.
- 4 BTEC subjects, which caterers for those students more suited to continuous assessment and who prefer a more vocational method of study.
- A Level and BTEC can be combined

We have high academic standards. A very high A Level pass rate is usual and approximately 70% of all grades are at A\*-B. The pass rate and points average in the IB Diploma is consistently above the worldwide average. BTEC students have a 100% pass rate so far with the majority of grades at Distinction or Distinction\*.

A comprehensive higher education advice team is on hand to guide students with their choices on their future careers. The school has an excellent record of Year 13 university placements, including Oxbridge, the Russell Group, Ivy League and many other international universities on a wide range of courses.

Impressive facilities include a superb Senior Section, with excellent learning and research facilities, a common room and close access to the Library and higher education materials. In addition, in recent years, the whole campus has been redeveloped or renovated: There are ten well-equipped science laboratories, maths and computing areas, a Modern Languages centre, Drama studio and recording studios as well as an Arts Centre, an excellent Music Suite and film-editing facilities. Design and Technology, Food and Textiles workshops have state of the art equipment. All our main classrooms have modern furniture and are fitted with interactive whiteboards. There is wifi connection across the whole campus. Students have their own large lockers securely accessed through an individual electronic card, which also contain USB low charging facilities. To add to our existing sports facilities, our new Jacques Rogge Sports Centre, containing a competition-standard swimming pool, was opened in September 2016.

All students are encouraged to take part in our extensive range of extra-curricular activities and the student leadership programme. The Extended Project Qualification (A Level and BTEC students) or the Extended Essay (IB students) require and enable students to undertake a piece of individual, independent research which is excellent preparation for university. A link to comprehensive information on the Senior Section and all our courses can be found on our website. [www.britishschool.be](http://www.britishschool.be)



# International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma

## Overview

The IB Diploma programme is a two year course which meets the needs of well-motivated students with all-round capabilities. It is first class preparation for the future and, like A Level, is widely accepted internationally for university and beyond.

## Structure and subjects available

Students study six subjects from each of the following areas:

- Studies in Language and Literature (English, French, Dutch, Self-Study)
- Language Acquisition (French, German, Spanish, Dutch)
- Individuals and Societies (History, Economics, Psychology, Geography, Business)
- Sciences (Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems and Societies, Computer Science and Design & Technology)
- Mathematics (Maths, Further Maths and Maths Studies)
- The Arts or an elective (Music, Visual Arts, Film, Theatre or one of the subjects from above)

Three subjects will be studied at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. In addition students take a Core curriculum which consists of: Theory of Knowledge (TOK) which is assessed by presentation and essay; the Extended Essay; and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).

**Please refer to the option blocks provided with this pamphlet to see what combinations of subjects are available within our blocking system.**

## Entry requirements

Students require **a minimum** of 5 (I)GCSEs at grade C or above including 3 at grade B. There are additional entry requirements for some subjects:

Subject	GCSE Minimum Entry Requirements
Physics, Biology and Chemistry Higher Level	Grade A or A* in chosen Science
Mathematics Higher Level (including students that chose Further Maths also)	Grade A*
Mathematics Standard Level (only students that are continuing with a maths based subject should be choosing this subject)	Grade A
All other Higher Level subjects being continued from GCSE	Grade B, A or A*

New students arriving from other educational establishments will be interviewed and will be expected to have reports for subjects in line with these grade requirements. Students selecting Maths or Science will be tested at the beginning of term.

# Advanced Levels (GCEs)

## Overview

The A Level programme is a two year course. It is suitable for students that wish to specialise and those that have all-round capabilities. It is first class preparation for higher education and, like the IB Diploma, is widely accepted internationally for university and beyond.

## Structure and subjects available

Students select 3 A Level subjects from: Art and Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Drama and Theatre Studies, Design and Technology, Economics, English Literature, French, German, Government and Politics, History, Music, Spanish, Textiles, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music Technology.

All A Level students take final exams at the end of Year 13.

In addition, all students will study the AS Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which offers a comparable experience to the Extended Essay in IB.

In a few cases, some students may be allowed to take an extra A Level in addition to their main three A Levels. This will only be allowed where a student's higher education profile will be enhanced and the student has the capability to study an extra subject.

Students who do not hold a GCSE grade C or above in Mathematics and/or English will also take extra compulsory lessons in Year 12 to sit these examinations.

These will replace EPQ and/or CAS lessons as appropriate. Students can still take EPQ in Year 13.

**Please refer to the option blocks provided with this pamphlet to see what combinations of subjects are available within our blocking system.**

## Entry requirements

Students require a minimum of five (!)GCSEs at grade C or above including 3 at grade B. There are additional entry requirements for some subjects:

Subject	GCSE Minimum Entry Requirements
Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry	Grade A or A* in chosen subject
Further Mathematics	Grade A*
All other subjects being continued from GCSE	Grade B, A or A*

New students arriving from other educational establishments will be interviewed and will be expected to have reports for subjects in line with these grade requirements. Students selecting Maths or Science will be tested at the beginning of term.

# BTEC Nationals Level 3

As an alternative route to A Level and the IB Diploma, The British School of Brussels offers an exciting range of BTEC National Level 3 qualifications. These courses are designed specifically to meet the needs of those students who prefer continuous assessment rather than the traditional external examination style of assessment. Many BTEC students take a combination of subjects to include one or more A Level.

All BTEC students who have applied have graduated from BSB to take up places at a wide range of universities. This is primarily a qualification recognised by many UK universities.

## Structure and subjects available

We have four BTEC subjects on offer:

- Business (Certificate, Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma)
- Hospitality (Certificate and Subsidiary Diploma)
- Sport (Certificate and Subsidiary Diploma)
- Applied Science (Certificate and Subsidiary Diploma)

BTEC Level 3 Certificate = ONE AS Level	<b>3/4 Units of Study.</b> This can be obtained after one year of study (Year 12).
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma = ONE A Level	<b>6/7 Units of Study.</b> This can be obtained after two years of study (Year 12 & 13).
BTEC Level 3 Diploma = TWO A Levels	<b>12 Units of Study.</b> This can be obtained after two years of study (Year 12 & 13). This is only available in the Business qualification.

The grading for the BTEC National qualification is different from that of A Level and IB students. Students are assessed continuously via coursework assignments and obtain a summative grade of **Pass, Merit, or Distinction** per assignment. This grading is then transferred into an overall grade for that subject at the end of the course, where students can be awarded: **Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\***.

**BTEC Nationals can also be combined with A Levels. Not all combinations of subjects can be catered for. Please refer to the option blocks provided with this pamphlet.**

## Entry requirements

Students require five (!)GCSEs at grade C or above. However, due to the continuous assessed nature of the programme, we can be more flexible in allowing students with lower grades entering the course.



An international learning community

**The British School of Brussels vzw**

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