



Years 10 & 11 Course Guide

Learning together
inspiring success



Contents

- 03 Introduction
- 05 The Core Curriculum
- 06 The Option Subjects



Introduction

The British School of Brussels (BSB) is an inclusive, international learning community for students from approximately 70 different nations. We offer a wide choice of 15 (I)GCSE and BTEC subjects for 14-16 year olds at examination level, in addition to the core subjects of English Literature and Language, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry which all students will study.

Though we are a non-selective school, our standards are high. We consistently obtain a very high (I)GCSE pass rate. Equally, with our results at Post-16 for our three pre-university courses: The IB Diploma, BTEC and A Levels our results are superb. (Averaging a 99% pass rate in both A Level and IB over the past three years with an average IB score of 36 points during that time). A comprehensive Higher Education advice team is on hand to direct students on their future careers leading up to their choices for A Level, BTEC and IB in Years 12 and 13.

In recent years, the whole campus has been redeveloped and improved. Impressive facilities include: 11 well-equipped Science laboratories, Maths and Computing areas, a Modern Languages centre, a 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 as all students from Year 10-13 are expected to bring their own device into school. Students have their own large lockers securely accessed through an individual electronic card. To add to our existing sports facilities, in 2016 we opened our Jacques Rogge Sports Centre containing a competition-standard pool, gymnasium, sports hall, dance studio and fitness room.

All students are encouraged to take part in our extensive range of enrichment activities and student leadership programme. In addition, the school has a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular trips on offer to students throughout the two years.



The Core Curriculum

The Year 10 and 11 curriculum is broadly based on the English curriculum and is adapted by our teachers with the aim of ensuring that students follow a broad and balanced range of courses and have access to a wide variety of teaching and learning styles.

The **English General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)** and the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** are public examinations which provide a superb foundation for preparing students for more advanced study in Years 12 and 13. **Subjects will be graded 9-1, 9 being the top grade and a 5 or 4 being seen as a satisfactory standard.**

Most students take **six core subjects** and **three or four optional subjects** at (I)GCSE or BTEC, and so usually take a total of nine or ten (I)GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11.

Whichever of our three courses students study from 16-18, (I)GCSE grades will form an important part of any application to university, especially in the UK since they will probably be the only qualifications a student has at the point of higher education application in Year 13. For students planning to apply for places on the most selective courses at university, it will be essential also to have achieved top grades at GCSE and IGCSE as well as IB and A Levels. Students wishing to study subjects at A Levels or IB Higher Level, there will be entry criteria which can be seen in the Post-16 Course Guide.

BTEC is graded, D* (starred) or D (Distinction), M (Merit) and P (Pass). BTEC is continually assessed throughout Year 10 and 11 through units of work and hence no examinations are presently taken for BTEC at the end of Year 11.





The Option Subjects

The optional subjects are divided into four curriculum areas:

- humanities
- second additional language
- creative subjects
- technological subjects.

For most students, breadth and balance will be achieved by choosing an option from each area. However, it is recognised that the backgrounds, talents and aspirations of BSB students vary greatly and the option system has been designed to allow a certain degree of flexibility.

*Provision is made within the option system for non-native English speakers to improve their English with specialist help from the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department. Learning Support may replace **one (1) GCSE option** - this should be discussed with the Learning Support Department. For those students for whom a ten (1) GCSE programme may not be appropriate or desirable: for example, those students who may need additional learning or language support, have a heavy extra-curricular load, Supervised Study may replace one option. This allows these students to increase their chances of achieving better grades in their remaining subjects.*

Initially, all students must choose **at least one subject from Group 1** and **at least one subject from Group 2**.



Group One	
Humanities	History
	Geography
	BTEC Business
Second Additional Language	German
	Dutch
	Spanish
	English as an Additional Language

Group Two	
Creative	Art & Design
	Drama
	Music
	Physical Education
Technological	Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
	Design & Technology: Textiles
	Food & Nutrition
	Computer Science

Students are strongly advised to select six subjects initially, then put the preferred four subjects on the choice form. The remaining two will act as your reserve subjects.

From this initial student selection, our option blocks will then be published in March. These will aim to meet the maximum number of choices possible, but it will not be possible to meet all options. Also, subjects will need to have a minimum of ten students selecting the subject for it to run.

From March, new students to BSB will need to select one subject from each of our four option blocks. Option blocks are available from our Admissions Department.



An international learning community

The British School of Brussels vzw

Pater Dupierreuxlaan 1, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 766 04 30 – Fax: +32 (0)2 767 80 70

www.britishschool.be

email: admissions@britishschool.be



Learning together
inspiring success