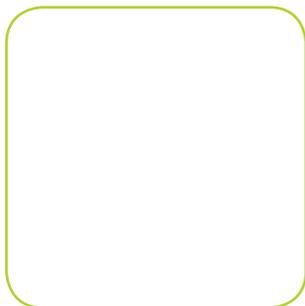


Prospectus



Welcome

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The British School of Brussels (BSB) is a wonderful school and I am so proud to be its Principal! Here 1,350 students (aged 1-18) from 70 nationalities work together like a large family on our beautiful campus just 20 minutes drive from Brussels in Tervuren. This is a very special community: mutually supportive, unconditionally welcoming and unfailingly respectful.

BSB is a truly world class international learning community, taking seriously the individual progress and development of every child, whatever their age and future educational paths. We broadly follow the structure of the British curriculum, yet this is embedded in an international understanding which permeates all parts of school life, from lessons themselves to the varied extra-curricular activities and the choice of public examinations and university choices that our oldest students make.

Choice is an important word when considering the right school for your child. Here at BSB, students from the ages of 4-14 and beyond can choose a Bilingual, dual-language programme in English and French if they want to extend their language skills beyond the usual English-medium classes. We are unique in Belgium in offering both the English A Levels alongside the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and English BTEC in Business, Hospitality, Sport and Applied Science so that our oldest students can make choices best suited to their learning preference and university ambitions. Our option subjects offer the widest choice in Belgium and we have small class sizes and well-qualified teachers who give of their best to get the best from students of every age – inspiring and challenging them.

We have an overriding aim: to shape well balanced, self-confident, compassionate human beings, with a lifelong love of learning, who will be able to fulfil their individual potential and make a difference in the world after their BSB experience – how ever long it may have been. We hope that this prospectus gives you a flavour of BSB life in all its fullness – and of course you would be very welcome to come and see it for yourself!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Melanie Warnes'.

Melanie Warnes
PRINCIPAL



The journey begins...



Founded in 1969, BSB is an outstanding British success story in Europe. Since its inception, the school has gone from strength to strength, combining the best features of British education with a truly European and international perspective. BSB is truly a world class international learning community.

Perhaps it is something about our shared ethos of *'learning together: inspiring success'* that makes us a high performance school. Since BSB's early beginnings when Sir Dick Pantlin, with a small group of like-minded enthusiasts, opened the school in 1970 on the present site, the school has grown steadily and successfully. With considerable foresight, our founders understood that for all students and teachers to be on first name terms would ease communication, break down barriers, and help the integration of all children especially those whose first language was not English. It is a tradition we both retain and cherish.



“ As parents we were first attracted to BSB through the extremely positive reference we had from other parents. We have four daughters and from the very beginning we were all made to feel most welcome and involved fully in school life. ”

BSB Parent

BSB- an international learning community for children from age 1 to 18 years.

- Early Childhood Centre (age 1-3)
- Primary (age 3-11)
- Secondary (age 11-18)



The only school in Belgium to offer the choice of A Level, IB Diploma and English BTEC Post-16.



Founder Sir Dick Pantlin



1969 BSB was officially created

1970 Duke of Edinburgh opening ceremony

1981 King Baudouin attends official opening of the new auditorium, now known as the Brel Theatre

2010 BSB celebrates the 40th Anniversary of its official opening in Tervuren

2016 Jacques Rogge Sports Centre is opened. New facilities mean BSB is the only international school in Belgium to offer an indoor swimming pool



“ We visited most of the other international schools. BSB was the school we liked the best. ”

BSB family who chose BSB Primary for their children

“ Integration is very fast. Within weeks our family was involved in activities and birthdays. I don't feel I'm in a foreign country anymore. ”

BSB Parent



Learning



BSB is an inclusive, international learning community. All students follow a British-based curriculum up to age 16, adapted to our European context and international cohort. **Students have the choice to follow a French/English bilingual programme that complements our existing English-medium teaching.** Learning is at the heart of everything we do.



A BSB education extends outside the classroom to include a variety of experiences such as school trips in Belgium and beyond, language exchanges with other schools, drama productions, themed history days and a host of extra-curricular activities. The teachers are also learners, taking seriously their own professional development. And parents learn too, with an array of courses and trips offered by the Friends of BSB (FoBSB).

“ The Music Department made a conscious effort to nurture my abilities as a musician. I will never forget the unending support of all the departments who encouraged me throughout my Oxford application and interview. I will forever be indebted to BSB and its staff for the chances they gave me, and shall never forget my time spent and friends made there. ”



BSB Alumnus

We are unique in Belgium in the range of courses we offer...



With some adaptations to reflect the multinational and multicultural nature of the school, BSB follows a British-based Curriculum up to the age of 16 when students will usually take ten subjects at General Certificate of Secondary Education level (GCSE), many of which are International (I)GCSE. At Post -16 level **BSB is the only international school in Belgium where students have the choice of either the UK GCE Advanced Levels (A Levels) or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.** Students can choose from approximately 28 different subjects as diverse as Film & Media Studies, Psychology and Food and Nutrition. We additionally offer vocational courses such as the English BTEC for Business (Single and Double Award) as well as Hospitality, Sport and Applied Science.



Our **Early Childhood Centre** provides full-time or part-time availability for children between the ages of 1 to 3, providing a happy, caring, safe and stimulating pre-school environment, where *real learning* is encouraged.

English as an Additional Language

Support for English as an additional language is provided for students from different language backgrounds who have little or no experience of using English as a medium for learning. Our aim is to enable these students to develop their listening, speaking, reading, writing and study skills to a level which will allow them to access and succeed within the mainstream curriculum.

A particularly striking example is of a young Polish student who, after only one and a half years at BSB, and with virtually no English on arrival, succeeded in obtaining 9 GCSE's at grades A*, A and B before going on to secure excellent A Levels and a place studying at a UK top university.

Throughout the Primary School years, we focus on the development of the whole child with a broad range of **integrated learning themes (ILT's)** across the curriculum. Primary education is designed to be an enjoyable experience using play-based learning in the early years and practical, hands on, experiential learning wherever possible. Our primary class teachers pride themselves on knowing every learner as an individual and they make sure that learning

opportunities are planned to enable each child to be challenged appropriately. Above all, we are interested in the learning process – learning how to learn and how to apply skills and knowledge in a wide range of contexts. From the earliest age we expect our students to be motivated to learn and improve. **The use of technology as an additional learning tool is important and iPads are used on a one-on-one basis from as early as Year 4.**

All our children are helped to develop the skills to become independent learners; we build in opportunities for them to plan, direct, assess and review their own learning.

We have established an agreed range of practice which takes into consideration how children learn best. Our key principles for ensuring our children are effective learners are:

- a caring environment
- confidence
- challenge and inspiration
- effective differentiation
- motivation and enthusiasm
- strong relationships

BSB provides students with the option of following a bilingual French/English programme. 50% of the subjects are taught in French and 50% in English; all by mother tongue speakers.

“BSB creates an appetite for lifelong learning...”



One of the benefits of an all age campus is that students learn with and from each other, and some activities cross the Primary and Secondary Schools. For example, senior students help younger students by running lunch time homework clubs or coaching hockey to Primary aged children.

“ Practical work makes learning fun. ”

BSB Secondary Student





Together



We feel that BSB is more than just a school, it is a family. Parents play an active part in the school community from involvement in sport and drama productions, to charity fundraising. New families are always impressed by and grateful for the excellent support provided by the Friends of BSB (FoBSB) who make every effort to ensure that there is a warm welcome here for every family. From day one, the whole family is supported both socially and practically, helping to provide a smooth transition to a new life in Belgium, irrespective of *when* you arrive.



“ Overall I would say that the BSB is not just a school, it is very much a community. It is made up of a wonderful mix of people from around the globe and we are so grateful to be part of it. ”

BSB Parent



The school benefits from membership of international professional organisations such as HMC, IB World Schools, IAPS, CIS, COBIS and AGBIS. In 2012 the Council of International Schools (CIS) inspection described BSB as ‘outstanding’, ‘most professional’, achieving ‘much of which the school can and should be extremely proud.’



Different age groups come together

for a wide range of extra-curricular activities held at the school including sport, drama and music. At times students travel further afield on a variety of school trips including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and visiting our 'Best of Both' schools in Ghana.



Sporting success is not only the result of close cooperation between BSB and a number of national organisations, but also with other schools in the UK and across Europe. Sporting highlights have included wins in international fixtures, and even some alumni progressing to be Olympic medallists.



Our students have set up their own charity, 'Best of Both', which works in partnership with four Primary schools in Northern Ghana. Students have established a long-term, sustainable relationship with the schools. One outcome of this relationship is to give aid for development in exchange for cultural education. Our students have recruited other schools to the programme and secured funding from the IKEA Foundation.



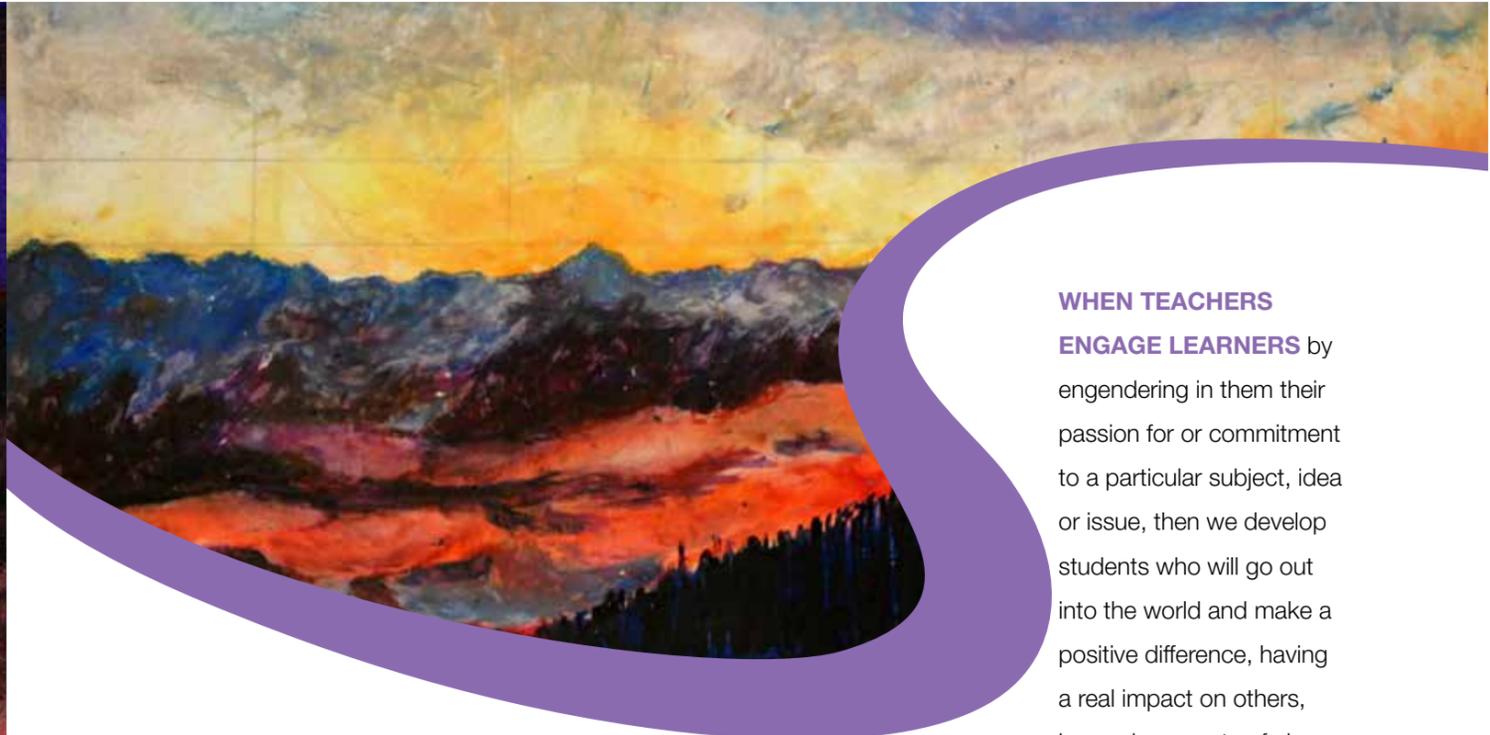
We actively support our local community through our Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) programme. Students get involved and volunteer their time to support a wide range of charitable organisations. Service Learning is an important part of our curriculum. BSB and Special Olympics Belgium have a long-term partnership supporting and embracing the integration of people with intellectual disabilities. BSB students designed, organised and ran the animation programme for the 2012 Belgian Special Olympics team.

“ It’s great that I can participate in the Model United Nations, do gymnastics, be part of the ‘Dolphins’ swimming club and be with my friends at the same time – there’s so much choice here! ”

BSB Secondary Student

“ Working as a team and enduring hardships are all part of the requirements. Sharing the experiences with and being encouraged by friends makes it much more achievable. ”

BSB Secondary Student and Duke of Edinburgh Gold Candidate



WHEN TEACHERS ENGAGE LEARNERS by engendering in them their passion for or commitment to a particular subject, idea or issue, then we develop students who will go out into the world and make a positive difference, having a real impact on others, becoming agents of change and finding their means of contribution in the world.

As educators, the teachers at BSB understand the potential to change the lives of the next generation. We foster a stimulating and challenging learning environment which is both supportive and encouraging. The quality of relationships and the ability to identify and respond to the needs of each student are vital in the process of motivating and developing individuals effectively.

“ BSB will help you to be what you want to be. ”

BSB Secondary School Student



Our teachers do much more than teach students to pass exams – they seek ways of inspiring the students to love learning and to develop a strong and long-lasting interest in the subject.

Paralympian medallist Mark Inglis inspired BSB students during his visit



“ I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my four years at BSB. Upon arrival, I threw myself into the many opportunities available, such as the annual drama production, sports and music groups. This allowed me to make friends and gain experiences that I will keep with me long into the future. Without the healthy work ethic that the school promotes I would not be where I am today. ”

BSB Alumnus

Inspiring



At BSB we respect and value the experience and expertise that the students bring with them from their time elsewhere, living and learning in other languages and cultures. We celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students, offering opportunities for others to learn from and be inspired by their peers. We look to our wider community to capitalise upon the expertise and knowledge of people who have experiences beyond the usual realm of daily school life. Outside visitors and speakers frequently open our minds to new ideas and challenge us to think and act differently.



IT'S INSPIRING WHEN OUR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

- Have their efforts, successes and citizenship activities publicly celebrated during assemblies
- Have the opportunity to see older students performing at a high level in either sport, music or drama

IT'S INSPIRING WHEN OUR STUDENTS:

- Are selected to play in the Belgian National Teams for their sport – some BSB students are National Captains
- Become experts in instruments that have been dying out – a BSB alumni is one of only four people in the world who play the Welsh stringed instrument, the Crwth
- Take part in language exchange programmes, locally and internationally

- Participate in international competitions, for example in Mathematics, English, Public Speaking, Science and Drama
- Give up their time voluntarily and raise money to support people and charities, locally and worldwide
- Debate world issues at the Model United Nations at the Hague or in the Flemish Parliament
- Interact with, and learn from, our inspirational 'Book Week' authors who visit BSB from around the world



BSB's unique 'English@Work' project enables senior students to gain valuable work experience in industry whilst collaborating with Flemish-based students from a local Belgian College.



- Care about the environment, strive to become a greener school and give up their time to volunteer and support clean-up projects in the local community
- Can learn from the many and varied examples of determination to persevere and succeed in overcoming learning differences or physical constraints



We combine the best of UK educational traditions with the advantages provided by our international setting and the experience this has given us over the past 40 years. The school's long and consistent record of first-rate results at all levels is testament to our academic excellence. Success comes with capable students working hard and conscientiously, motivated by enthusiastic teachers.

In 2016, 100% of BSB graduating students passed their IB Diploma or BTEC exams and 99% passed their A Levels. An impressive 56% of BSB candidates obtained 36 points or higher compared to a worldwide average of around 22%. 26% achieved the Diploma with 40 points or more (worldwide average 6%). Superb results for a non-selective school.

Guidance for higher education and career options form an essential part of the preparation for leaving school and home. Our international careers team offer individual assistance to all students to help with their choices, as well as offering support and guidance at every stage of the application and interview procedure for universities across the globe.



BSB also offers students the chance to listen to visiting speakers from a range of universities worldwide. The school organises talks by representatives of commerce and industry and enables students to meet the speakers and receive one-on-one advice.

“ We feel they are stretched academically and yet encouraged to think about themselves as whole people. ”

BSB Parent

The A Level pass rate in the last 10 years has averaged over 98%.



Success



Musical achievements have also made their mark at BSB. There are many and varied opportunities for established or aspiring musicians. Our Music Department includes a spacious, fully computerised Music Technology suite, a recording studio of high quality and a large rehearsal studio.



“ The music facilities are second to none. In some cases better than those offered at Music colleges or universities! ”

BSB Head of Music



“ Excellent record of academic achievement. There is a broad curriculum with outstanding facilities and a strong focus on Drama and Arts. ”

BSB Parent



“ BSB encourages success by celebrating effort and achievement. ”

BSB Secondary School student

“ Our daughters particularly loved the summer Music Concert, the Jazz Evening, the Rock Show and Anti-Discrimination day. Charities Week, hockey, cross-country and drama productions were also very important. ”

BSB Parent

Sport is an important part of the school curriculum and BSB has outstanding campus facilities which includes a 25m swimming pool, two all-weather pitches, gymnasias, sports hall, tennis courts, dance and fitness studios for all students to enjoy and develop their sporting abilities to the full.

“ There is something for everyone, from Cricket to Rugby from Hockey to Basketball. ”

BSB Parent



A WORLD CLASS CENTRE OF SPORTING

EXCELLENCE – BSB is the only Belgian international school with its own 25m indoor swimming pool. The new Jacques Rogge Sports Centre includes a Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Fitness Studio and Dance Studio. Additional qualified sports' coaching staff will enrich our broad, balanced and integrated extra-curricular programme.

THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES AT BSB IS A REAL STRENGTH

Children at BSB start to learn French at the age of 3, and continue to do so up to and including (I)GCSE level. **BSB was one of the first international schools in Belgium to establish an all-through French/English bilingual stream** from Reception Year (age 4) onwards to complement the English-medium teaching. All students from 4 – 14 years old have the option to choose a bilingual education, including the IB Bilingual Diploma.

At the age of 11, the Secondary School offers a second additional language with a choice between German, Spanish or Dutch. Trips abroad to complement language studies are valuable and contribute to the success and enjoyment of the additional languages programme here.



The journey continues...

BSB has a diverse mix of high-achieving alumni, some of whom made their mark in the world including lawyers, doctors, actors, radio presenters, accomplished authors, and winners of Prize Fellowships to Oxford. To enhance their prospects, all students are given careers advice and guidance as they develop. A confident understanding of the path they wish to take is vital in helping students make the right choices. We feature just a few of our alumni here.

Richard Baker started his career in art at the age of three by drawing 'murals' on the walls at home. Now a famous photographer, he studied at BSB before graduating from the Cooper School of Art. Richard has created award-winning adverts for numerous multinational organisations. Over the past 20 years his corporate imagery has been presented in high-profile company literature and his photo-essays in the world's image-led magazines.

Kaat de Corte at age 17 from Tervuren, Belgium went to Harvard University. Kaat was accepted at no fewer than *four* prestigious universities in the United States after graduating from BSB in 2010. Upon leaving BSB Kaat said she would like to study biochemical or biomedical engineering in preparation for a career in medicine, actually deciding on neurobiology. Kaat played the violin from the age of three and became concertmaster of BSB's string and symphony orchestras. Kaat is a great advocate of gaining experiences and wisdom within and beyond the classroom to complement her practical skills with softer skills. Kaat continues to pursue a variety of interests including music so as not to lose this from her life. Kaat studied the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at BSB and her subjects consisted of three languages and five sciences with music too.

Victoria Hollins In the early 1990s Victoria studied English Literature at A Level at BSB and was known to get involved in some of the student drama productions as well. Victoria trained at Cardiff University's school of journalism and went to work at BBC local radio stations, then as a news presenter at BBC Radio Five live. We are told she 'crossed the newsroom' to work in TV after five years as a reporter and news reader at BBC London 94.9 fm. Victoria Hollins was at BSB for our 'Book Week' where she worked with A Level Media and English students as a very successful role model.

Olivia Vinall was a former student who finished at BSB in 2005. Fast becoming a successful and acclaimed actress, Olivia graduated from Drama Studio London in 2010 and

played Desdemona in 'Othello' at the National Theatre with Adrian Lester and Rory Kinnear in 2013. BSB alumni in the media include other stars such as Christine Kavanagh, who was a student in the 1970s and has been on TV in the British series 'Minder', 'Casualty' and 'The Bill'. Simon Harper, BSB alumnus, is Series Producer for the BBC TV series 'Holby City' and Victoria Hollins who is featured above.

Nick Kennedy is a London-Irish Rugby Union Player, winning his first senior cap in 2008. Nick was picked for the England team to tour New Zealand and for Martin Johnson's Elite Player Squad in 2008. What a great inspiration to our rugby players in school!

Stephen Rowbotham took up rowing at Durham University, was selected in the men's double scull for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and won a bronze medal. Steve started out his athletic pursuits playing tennis at country and regional level before moving to Belgium. Steve attended BSB from 1995 to 1998 before graduating from Durham University in 2003. Since then Steve has won a string of medals in various worldwide championships over the years.

Katherine Rundell was awarded a Prize Fellowship to All Souls, Oxford (English Language and Literature). Each year graduates of the University are invited to compete for this award, which is one of Oxford's highest academic distinctions. The selection is famously rigorous. After a placement with the Arts and Features department at ITV Katherine, having been awarded the Fellowship, took up the seven-year post at the College in 2009. Katherine was at BSB from 2001 to 2005. In 2014 Kate won a Blue Peter Book Award for Best Story; a critically acclaimed second novel called *Rooftoppers*.

**POCKET TO HOLD CONTRACTS
& BUSINESS CARD**



BSB – an international learning community

The British School of Brussels vzw

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inspiring **success**