

A photograph of three cyclists riding away from the camera on a paved path through a lush green forest. The cyclist in the foreground is wearing a pink shirt, black shorts, a blue helmet, and a blue backpack. The middle cyclist is wearing a bright green shirt and a grey helmet. The cyclist in the background is wearing a blue shirt and a blue helmet. The path is surrounded by tall evergreen trees.

BSB

THE BRITISH
SCHOOL OF
BRUSSELS

Years 7-9 Course Guide

2022-2023

Learning together
inspiring success

Welcome to Years 7-9

During these first three years of Secondary School, students will be able to study a range of different subjects and take part in sports, trips and a wide range of activities. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills that are valued both at BSB and in the wider world such as resilience, courage and respect as well as becoming responsible global citizens.

What does Secondary School look like?

Year groups	Age	Programme of study	Other information
Years 7-9	11-14	A broad curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solid foundation in a wide range of subjects
Years 10-11	14-16	Exam years <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (I)GCSEs: (International) General Certificate of Secondary Education• BTEC Level 2 in Business also available as an option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-year programme• Exams at the end of Year 11• 6 core subjects and 4 option choices• BTEC is vocational and is continually assessed
Years 12-13	16-18	Pre-university exam years <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Level• International Baccalaureate• BTEC Extended Diploma Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-year programmes• A Level and IB have final exams• 3 subjects for A Level• 6 subjects for IB• Entry criteria apply



The Curriculum

	Subject	Lessons per week
	Art and Design	1
	Computing	1
	Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition and Textiles	2
	Drama	1
	Dutch (fluent and second language), German and Spanish (second language)	3
	English	4
	French (in sets according to ability and experience)	3
	Geography	1.5
	History	1.5
	Mathematics (in sets according to ability)	4
	Music	1
	Physical Education	2
	PSHE/TUTOR	1
	Science	4

Bilingual Programme

- Years 7 – 9 have French/English bilingual classes
- Approximately one third of the curriculum is delivered in French
- Eligibility: Students need to have good levels of reading and writing in both English and French
- Students have their levels of English and French assessed at the admissions interview
- Support at home is needed in ensuring that students get balanced exposure in French and English outside school e.g. joining clubs in the language, which is not in your mother tongue.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Provision is made by replacing the 2nd modern language with English for non-native speakers to improve their English, with specialist teaching from the English as an Additional Language Department. Teaching is organised into small groups to provide individual attention and systematic corrective feedback. The focus is placed on the development of both receptive and productive language skills to be used across the curriculum.

Additional Educational Needs (AEN)

Learning Support may be offered in place of the 2nd modern language for neuro-diverse learners and for students who require additional support (academically, socially, emotionally). Learning Support is taught in small groups to provide individual attention, support and feedback to students. The focus is on the development of organisation, time management, motivation and study skills with the goal of creating independent, curious learners who achieve individual success.

Equipment provided (included in fees)

- Laptop
- Personal locker
- Calculator
- Textbooks
- Basic sports kit provided for new students
- Trips.

Homework

A timetable is given for each Year Group	
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each subject gives one piece of homework a week• Spend on average 20 minutes per piece
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each subject gives one piece of homework a week• Spend on average 30 minutes per piece
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each subject gives one piece of homework a week• Spend on average 40 minutes per piece

Assessments and reporting

Assessment

- Settling in report during September
- Interim Report during Autumn Term and Spring Term
- Annual Report in the Summer Term

Reporting sessions with parents will take place during each term.

Trips and visits

There are many trips and visits that take place throughout the year. Here are some examples:

- Fieldwork trips
- International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) festivals
- Year Group residential trips.

Enrichment

As you would imagine from an international school, our enrichment activities are extensive and our facilities are superb. We have over 100 sports/arts/technology activities available out of school hours.

See our Enrichment brochure for more details.



FAQs

How big are the classes?

The working maximum is 21. There may be occasions where we go over this size but this is rare. The practical subjects of Art, DT, Textiles and Food and Nutrition are taught in half tutor groups in class sizes no larger than 11 students.

If my child fails the year, do they need to repeat it?

The curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of students of all abilities. Therefore, we do not operate a pass/fail system as in other educational systems. Students progress each year to the next year group with their peers.

How many students are British and how many other nationalities are represented?

Around 30% of students at the school are British. Approximately 70 nationalities are represented within our school community, making it one of the most diverse and inclusive student environments in any educational facility in the world.

Why is there no school uniform?

School uniforms are not common on mainland Europe. However, BSB students are expected to respect a dress code and ensure their clothing is appropriate for the learning environment. There is a school PE (sports) kit which all students must wear for PE from Year 1 onwards.

Is there a school bus?

Yes, we operate a supervised school bus service that covers many routes. Our Admissions Office will be happy to provide details.

Family testimonials



“The BSB is an exceptional school, and it brings the best out of the children.”

Van Waeyenberge family

“Excellent teaching quality and first-class school facilities.”

Yang family



“Both our children flourished academically and personally at BSB. They were given all the attention they needed to reach their learning goals and achieve their best.”

Featherstone family

“Part of BSB’s success comes from the quality of the relationships it develops between staff and students and partnerships it creates with parents.”

Copner family



“The school methodology and ambience enabled our son to fully develop his capabilities, as a student and as a person, in an environment that was rich and diverse.”

Nosti family



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



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