

**BSB**

THE BRITISH  
SCHOOL OF  
BRUSSELS



# Years 10-11

## Course Guide

**2024-2025**

Learning together  
inspiring success

# Welcome to Years 10-11

Years 10 and 11 are part of a two-year exam cycle that culminates in the (International) General Certificate of Secondary Education (I)GCSEs. These are British public examinations that provide a solid foundation in a wide range of subjects and prepare students for more advanced study in Years 12 and 13.

We have high academic standards despite being a non-selective school. Our students consistently achieve excellent results.

## What does Secondary School look like?

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







# The Curriculum

The Year 10 and 11 curriculum is based on the UK National Curriculum. Most students take six core subjects and four optional subjects at (I)GCSE and one BTEC, resulting in a total of nine or ten examinations at the end of Year 11.

GCSEs are graded in numbers from 9-1, 9 being the top grade and 4 being a satisfactory standard.

## Core subjects – obligatory

Subject	Lessons per week
 <b>English Literature and Language</b>	4.5
 <b>French</b>	3
 <b>Mathematics</b>	3.5
 <b>Science (Biology, Physics &amp; Chemistry)</b>	6

## Option choices – divided into curriculum areas

Areas	Options
<b>Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	History
	Geography
	BTEC Business
<b>Second Additional Language</b>	German
	Dutch (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> language)
	Spanish
	English as an Additional Language
<b>Creative</b>	Art & Design
	Drama
	Music
	Physical Education
<b>Technological</b>	Design Technology: Resistant Materials
	Design Technology: Textiles
	Food & Nutrition
	Computer Science

\*Please note that not all combinations of subjects are possible.

Final option blocks are confirmed towards the end of the spring term.

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Throughout Year 10 and 11, the primary aim in EAL is to ensure that all students are taught the necessary language to meet the academic demands of their mainstream classes. In addition, they will also develop the skills to express themselves effectively and respond appropriately to others.

## Learning Support

Learning Support may be offered to replace one (1) GCSE option for students who require additional support (academically, socially, emotionally). This choice is made in collaboration with students, teachers, parents and sometimes external agencies. 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, exam technique, motivation and study skills with the goal of creating independent and curious learners who achieve individual success.

## Supervised Study

Where students have a demanding workload, including high level enrichment participation, we provide supervised study as an option. This gives students one less GCSE and the supervised study class supported by a qualified teacher from a range of subjects.

## Equipment provided (included in fees)

- Personal locker
- Basic sports kit
- Textbooks

## Homework

A timetable is given for each Year group	
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each subject will give students one homework per week</li><li>• It is expected that students should spend around 40 minutes on each homework task</li></ul>
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each subject will give students one homework per week</li><li>• It is expected that students should spend around 50 minutes on each homework task</li></ul>

## Assessments and reporting

- Settling in report during September
- Interim Report during Autumn Term
- Interim Report for Year 10 and Annual Report in Year 11 during the Spring Term
- Annual Report for Year 10 in the Summer Term

There are three reporting sessions in Year 10 and two reporting sessions, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term, in Year 11.





## Enrichment and Trips

As you would imagine from an international school, our enrichment activities are extensive and our facilities are superb. There are over 100 sports/arts/technology activities available out of school hours. Please see our enrichment brochure for full details. A variety of curriculum and enrichment trips take place throughout the year.

# Year 11 Pre IB and A Level Course

This is a one year course, ideally for students of age 15, starting at BSB during the month of September. The purpose of the course is to equip students with the skills in various subject areas ready to start a Post-16 programme.

All students will study the core (I)GCSE subjects of English Language, Mathematics and Science. Students will have the opportunity of obtaining 3 (I)GCSEs in these subjects the following summer.

Those students who have studied French previously, will also have the opportunity of taking (I)GCSE French (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> language) exams.

In addition, students will follow a broad range of subjects covering the Humanities, the Arts and Technology. Although non-examined, these subjects will cover the essential skills required for Post-16 study.

Subject	(I)GCSE Level or overview	Lessons per week *
<b>Mathematics</b>	A full (I)GCSE Mathematics course at Foundation, Higher or Further depending on ability	4.5
<b>English</b>	1st or 2nd GCSE Language depending on standard of English. EAL students usually take the 2nd language exam	4.5
<b>Science</b>	Students study all three Sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics aiming for the (I)GCSE Single Award in Science	9
<b>French (or Supervised Study)</b>	Students who have a previous background in French will have the opportunity to take 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> language (I)GCSE exam. Other students will have supervised study time	3
<b>History</b>	These courses offer a flavour of content and skills from the (I)GCSE course, with the aim of developing transferable skills and knowledge to equip the students for IB and A Level, through essential literacy skills (reading and writing), a process of identification, explanation and evaluation.	2
<b>Geography</b>		
<b>Computer Science</b>	This course allows the student to foster an interest in, an enjoyment of, and confidence in the use of computing. The candidates will develop their ability to code in a high level language.	1

# Year 11 Pre IB and A Level course (continued)

Subject	(I)GCSE Level or overview	Lessons per week *
<b>Design Technology</b>	A course which increases the student's awareness of the world of designing and making a product. This will include designing and practical skills which could lead to taking Design and Technology at A level.	1
<b>Art and Design</b>	Students will be developing a wide range of skills . Among them, students will develop a working knowledge of the materials, practices and technology of art and design.	1
<b>Music</b>	This course provides students with an opportunity to compose their own music in a range of styles using 'cakewalk' software, as well as learning about some theoretical aspects of music.	0.5
<b>Drama</b>	The course is active and places great emphasis on learning by doing. Through a wide range of activities, students learn the skills that go into creating what we finally see on stage.	0.5
<b>Tutor/PSHE</b>	The overall aim of the PSHE course is to enable students to increase their awareness of themselves, other people, the local community and the larger society, national and international, to which they belong.	1
<b>Physical Education</b>	Students cover a diverse range of sport - including invasion games, swimming, fitness, gymnastics and ball and net games. The focus is on both character and physical development as we look to equip students with a life long passion for activity.	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>

\*The subjects and time allocated can change from year to year.

Note: For students currently studying GCSEs in Year 10, it is not usually possible to transfer from the previous school to BSB on a full set of GCSEs. This is due to:

- Different exam boards
- Different order of teaching
- Timetable does not allow for the same subjects to be studied

Therefore it will only be possible to study the above course if a student is transferring at the age of 15.

# FAQs

## **How big are the classes?**

The usual working maximum class size is 21 and 16 for practical subjects. There may be occasions where we go over this size, but this is rare.

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

You cannot “fail” the year under the (I)GCSE system. A wide range of grades are available to students depending on their level of application and ability. Students who get lower than a grade 4 in Maths and English at (I)GCSE will be required to resit in Year 12 and 13 if they chose A Level or BTEC.

## **Can I join either of these year groups at any time?**

The (I)GCSE courses are two years in length. Therefore we will usually only accept new students for the full programme at the beginning of Year 10. However we have a reduced (I)GCSE programme for Pre-IB & A Level course for those entering in Year 11. This covers the core (I)GCSE subjects of Maths, English Language, Single Award Science and French (or supervised study) together with a broad range of not or subjects including the Arts & Humanities.

## **What is included in the fees?**

Textbooks, enrichment clubs and activities, basic PE kit, calculator. Students are required to have their own laptop. Ideally, this should be a laptop with a long battery life that is light to carry.

## **Are any external tests used for assessing students during the course?**

CAT and PASS tests are taken in collaboration with GL assessment which give information about students’ study skills and learning preferences. More information about these can be given on request.

## **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 school has taught, encouraged and shown our children to never limit their capabilities. ”

Qalo family

“ The teachers and resources are really impressive and we, as a whole family, feel lucky to be part of BSB. ”

Bielawska family



“ The culture of the school instils respect and self confidence in the students which in turn leads to an excellent learning experience. ”

Matthews family



“ The quality of teaching, the facilities and how much the teachers care for their students are unlike any other school. ”

Carvalho family



“ The high-level academic programme, excellent staff and structured learning, greatly benefited our child. ”

Raducanu family



# Notes

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# Notes



**An international learning community**

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