

BSB

THE BRITISH
SCHOOL OF
BRUSSELS



Years 7-9
Course Guide
2025-2026

Learning together
inspiring success

Welcome to Years 7-9

Our aim is to be an educational force for good by:

- Developing confident, caring and courageous people who engage actively, ethically, and purposefully with the world around us.
- Fostering curious, resilient learners who enjoy life and achieve the best that they can.
- Encouraging respect for self, others, and the wider world.

















Our curriculum has an emphasis on:

- Learning together by valuing collaboration, connectivity and diversity
- Student agency to make a positive difference in the world
- Becoming the best person we can be
- Providing opportunities for inquiry, critical thinking, creativity and learning beyond the classroom
- Scholarly endeavour and challenge
- Provision of a variety of pathways to set students up for success

What does Secondary School look like?

Year groups	Age	Programme of study	Other information
Years 7-9	11-14	<p>A broad curriculum ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for Real World learning <p>A broad spectrum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid foundation in a wide range of subjects
Years 10-11	14-16	<p>Exam years</p> <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 rather than having final exams
Years 12-13	16-18	<p>Pre-university exam years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEC Extended Diploma Level 3 • A Level • International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-year programmes • BTEC Extended Diploma Level 3 is assessment based and has no final exam • A Level and IB have final exams • 3 subjects for A Level and/or BTEC • 6 subjects for IB • Entry criteria apply

The Curriculum: Lessons per week

Subject	Lessons per week		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
 Art and Design **	1	1	1
 Computing	1	1	1
 Design and Technology*	1	1	1
 Drama	1	1	1
 NL, GE, SP Dutch, German, Spanish fluent and second language or EAL †	2,2	3	2,5
 EN English †	3,5	4	4
 Food Science and Nutrition **	1	1	1
 FR French (in sets according to ability and experience) ††	2	3	2,5
 Geography	1,5	1,5	1,5
 History	1,5	1,5	1,5
 Mathematics (in sets according to ability) †	4	3,5	4
 Music	1	1	1
 Physical Education	2	2	2
 PHSE/Tutor †	1	0,5	1
 Science †	3,5	4	4
 Textiles*	1	1	1

* Will be taught as a double period every two weeks

† Where the timetable allows, our most proficient French learners will join the bilingual French speakers for practical subjects such as Art and Design and Food Science. This will be an ideal way for students to improve their French listening and speaking skills.

†† The balance of lessons from year to year may change

French and Spanish is compulsory for all students in Year 7. Students will also have a choice between Dutch or beginners German as the 3rd language.

Bilingual Programme

“Childhood bilingualism is a significant experience that has the power to influence the course and efficiency of children’s development. The most surprising outcome is that these influences are not confined to the linguistic domain, where such influence would be expected, but extend as well to non-verbal activities.”

Ellen Bialystock, PhD York University, Canada

The Bilingual Programme at BSB aims:

- to foster enjoyment in students’ bilingual skills and ability to use French and English in a natural way
- to offer academic content in both languages within an international environment
- to encourage students to be curious and confident learners allowing them to develop transferable skills

Admission: Students entering a bilingual class will need to demonstrate age-appropriate language development in English and/or French, together with a strong aptitude and motivation for, and some background in, learning and using the second language. All students have their levels of French and English assessed around the same time as the admissions interview to ensure the course is appropriate for them.

- At least one third of the curriculum is delivered in French
- Support at home is needed in ensuring that students get balanced exposure in French and English outside school e.g joining clubs in a language that is not their mother tongue

English as an additional language

Students at the early stages of English acquisition may be withdrawn from the mainstream English, History or Geography lessons to focus on developing their language skills. Progress is reviewed every half term and timetables changed as appropriate. While their English is developing, students do not study a second foreign language. Instead, they have small group EAL lessons with a specialist teacher who is responsible for monitoring and reporting on their English acquisition.

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, confident and curious learners who achieve individual success.

Equipment provided (included in fees)

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

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

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

Reporting sessions with parents will take place during Term 1 and 2. These are an integral part of our academic calendar and dates are published at the start of the school year. If a parent is unable to attend, alternative feedback will be provided where there is a specific concern.

Trips

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

Our Enrichment activities are extensive and our facilities are superb. We have over 100 sports/arts/technology activities available out of school hours.



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 and Design, DT, Textiles and Food Science are taught with a working maximum of 16 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 the 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 education facility in the world.

Why is there no school uniform?

School uniforms are not common in 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 Team will be happy to provide details.



Family testimonials



“ 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 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 develop his capabilities, as a student and as a person, in an environment that was rich and diverse. ”
Nosti family



An international learning community

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