

The IB Diploma at Varndean College

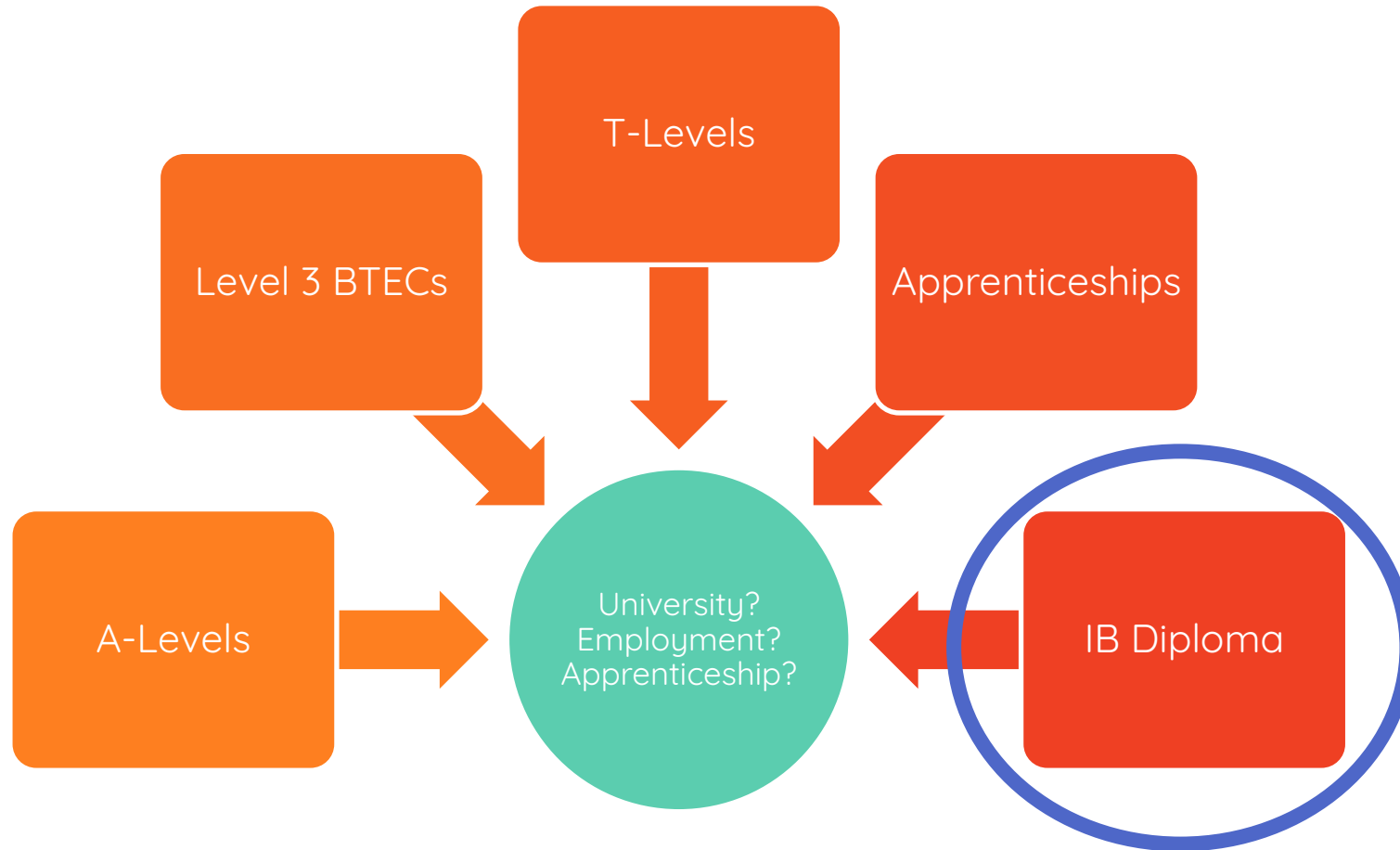


Lee Finlay-Gray:

IB Diploma Programme Coordinator
and Director of Curriculum Quality & Development

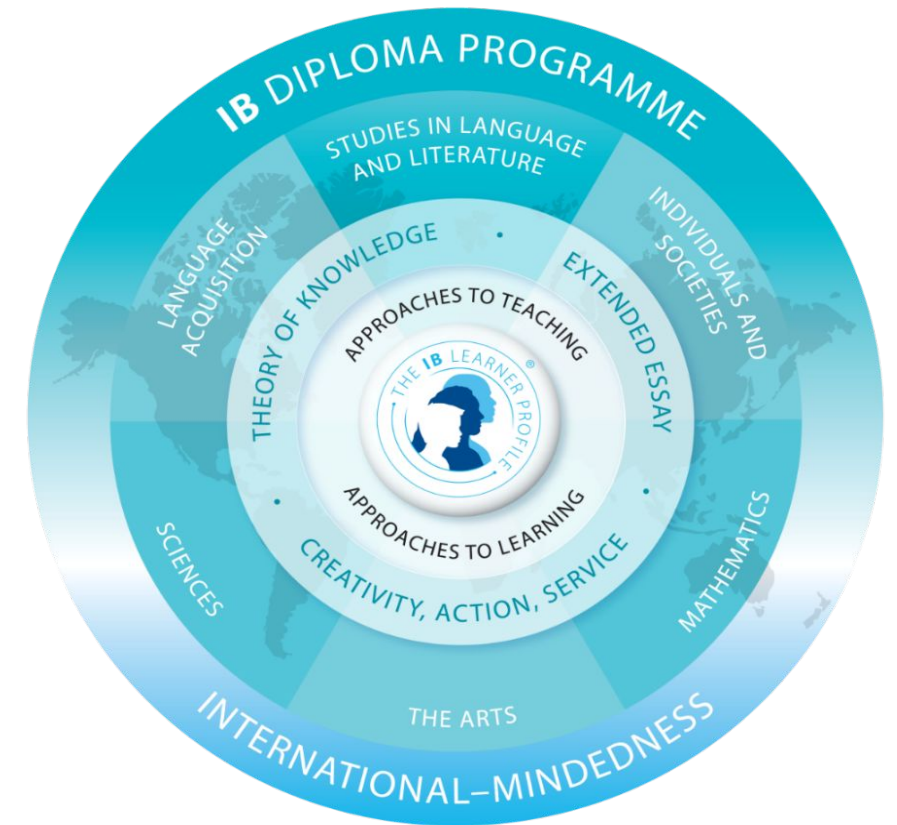
“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

DECISIONS, DECISIONS!



THE IB DIPLOMA: AN ALTERNATIVE TO A-LEVELS

- Pre-University qualification combining rigorous academic study with voluntary work
- Coursework throughout and written exams at the end
- Different to A-levels due to its
 - Breadth (6 subjects)
 - Integration (how it syncs up)



IB DIPLOMA: BACKGROUND

- Established in 1968.
- Administered by the non-profit making International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), based in Geneva
- IB Diploma Mission Statement:
 - **inquiring, knowledgeable** and **caring** young people who **help to create a better and more peaceful world** through **intercultural understanding** and **respect**.
 - **active, compassionate** and **lifelong learners** who understand that **other people, with their differences, can also be right**.

AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF STUDY

- Aims to give young people a complete and thorough education
- The academic subjects and core course form a coherent and connected programme
- At the very centre of the programme sits the *Learner Profile...*



THE IB LEARNER PROFILE:

Via syllabus,
specification
& assessment

Via lessons
and teaching
methodology



Via the core
(EE, ToK,
CAS)

Via tutorial
and pastoral
support

THE LEARNER PROFILE IN ACTION

- The IB educates the whole person, **intellectually, morally** and **emotionally**.
- Students are helped to **take charge** of their own learning, to be **well-organised** and **self-motivated**. The pace of lessons is fast. Students help each other.
- They have freedom to **pursue own interests** through choices of **level, coursework** topics and **Extended Essay** titles – some subjects even involve students choosing **exam options**



THE IB DIPLOMA AROUND THE WORLD AND IN THE UK

- As of May 2022
 - 2,932 IB Diploma schools in 150 countries = 113,706 candidates globally
 - 91 UK schools offer the Diploma, 22 of which are state schools
 - May 2022 = 5,250 UK candidates
 - Recognised by 172 UK Universities

Source: <http://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/the-ib-by-country/u/united-kingdom/>

THE IB AT VARNDEAN

- We have offered the IB since 2008 with our first cohort sitting exams in May 2010
- **Varndean College is the only state provider of the IB Diploma in Sussex**
- One of the top-performing IB colleges in the UK
- Cohort size between 80-100 students, but there is no maximum
 - May 2024: 33% Male
 - May 2023: 24% Male
 - May 2022: 42% Male
 - May 2021: 26% Male
 - May 2020: 31% Male
 - May 2019: 18% Male



WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT THE IB

Challenges, encourages and inspires internationally-minded students to become caring, critical thinkers, ready for University study and a globally focused career



Let's hear from
some of our
students

Why did you pick
the IB over A-levels?

YEAR 1 STUDENTS:

WHY DID YOU PICK THE IB OVER A-LEVELS?

Annabelle

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, GloPo, English

Lili

HL English, Psychology, Spanish
SL Maths, Philosophy, Biology

Zarrina

HL Biology, English, German
SL Philosophy, Psychology, Maths

Jivin

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Psychology, English, French Ab

Erik

HL Physics, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, English, GloPo

Maddi

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Psychology, French, English

WHY IB



Critical thinking



Balanced programme



Recognised worldwide

YOU ARE SUITED IF YOU



Are an all-rounder



Are able to multitask



Up for the challenge



Are creative and inquisitive

ToK and the IAs help you grow to be a critical and independent thinker, encouraging you to ask challenging questions and perform research.

The 6 subjects and the core give you a more well-rounded perspective, ensuring that you are active intellectually, physically and emotionally.

The IB is accepted by over **100 countries worldwide**, so you will not have to worry about having an unrecognised qualification once you've completed this course.

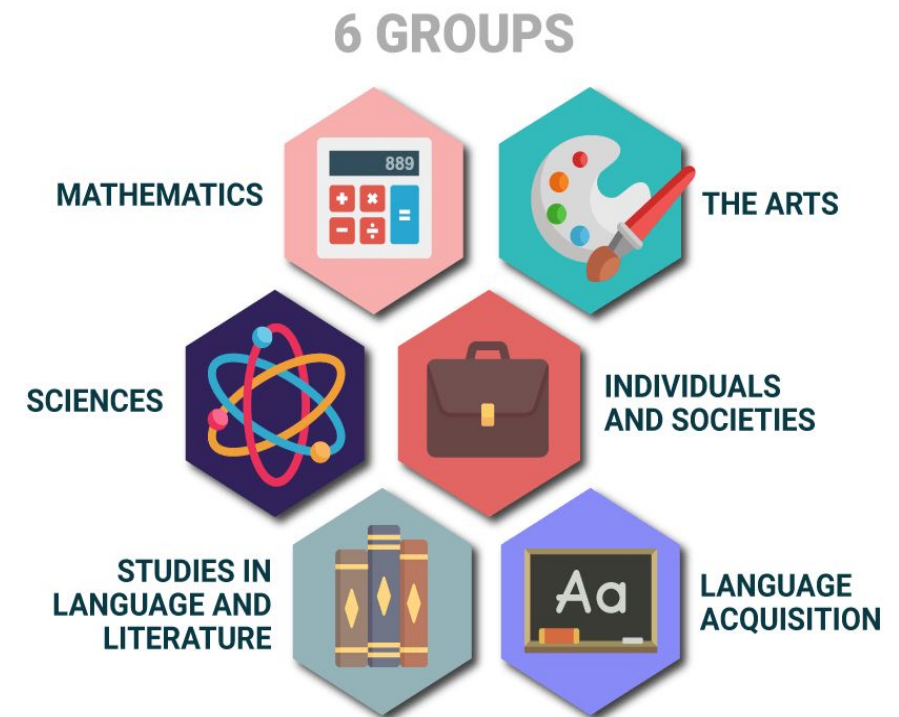


SUBJECT CHOICES



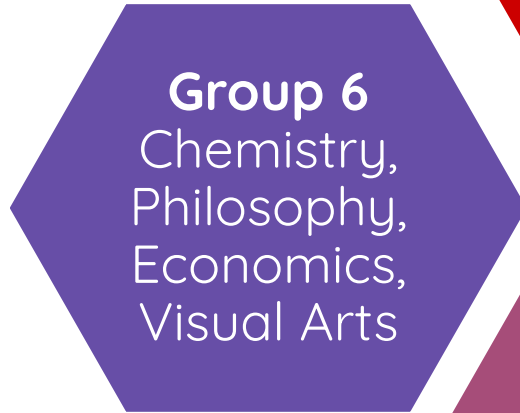
BREADTH AND INTEGRATION

- **Six subjects** from different curriculum areas:
 - 3 at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level
 - Customise your Diploma by choosing HL's which are required by Universities or career pathways, or fit with interests, skill sets and passions
 - HL is harder – more knowledge, or different assessment
 - HL subjects are taught in 240 hours across the course, SL in 150
 - However HL and SL count equally – maximum of 7 points per subject
 - Mixture of exams, and coursework

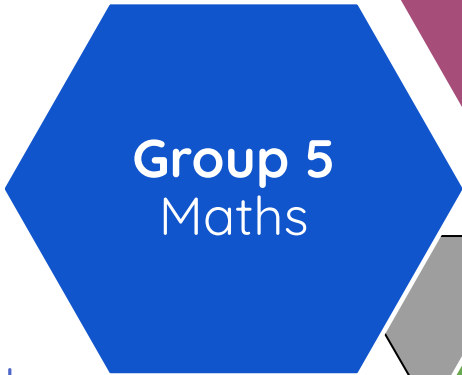
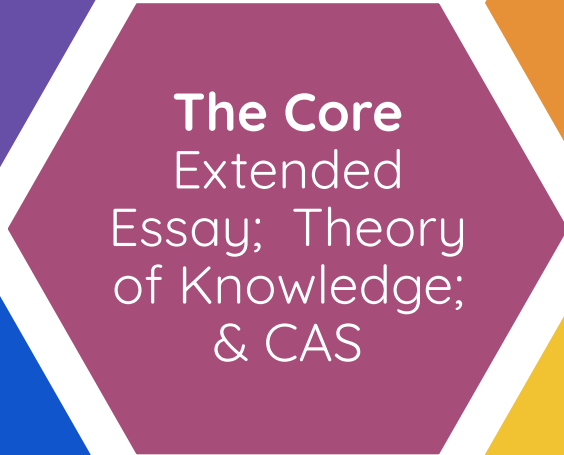




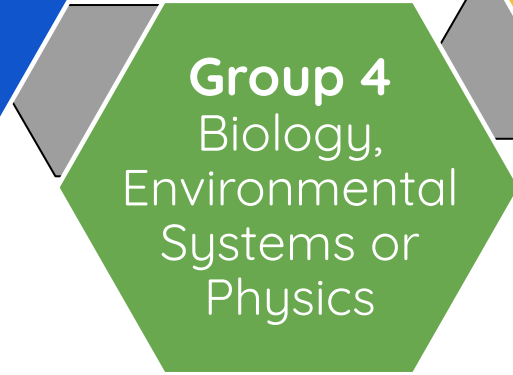
MedVetDent students can study Biology & Chemistry together



SL beginners Mandarin/ French course available



Two types of Maths depending on your skills, preferences and Uni/career destinations



All subjects are currently offered at HL and SL except Mandarin (n/a *The Core*)

Student Choices

- **Bea** from [Our Lady of Sion](#) in Worthing, studying History at Durham
- HL English, History, French
- SL Biology, Maths, Chemistry



Student Choices

- **Luca** from Lewes Priory, studying Biology at Manchester
- HL Biology, Chemistry, Spanish
- SL English, Maths, History



Student Choices

- **Carla** from Davison High School taking a gap year, looking to study Psychology
- HL English, Psychology, Chemistry
- SL Biology, Maths, Spanish



Student Choices

- **Jonas** from Burgess Hill Academy, taking a gap year
- HL Physics, Maths, French
- SL English, Philosophy, Psychology



Student Choices

- **Isobel** from Brighton and Hove High School, studying Medicine at Queens Belfast
- HL Chemistry, Biology, English
- SL French, Psychology, Maths



Student Choices

- **Alice** from Lewes Priory School, studying History and English at Oxford
- HL English, History, Philosophy
- SL Biology, Maths and Mandarin Ab



Student Choices

- **Ushika** from a Scottish School, studying Human Sciences at Oxford
- HL French, Biology and English
- SL History, Maths and Spanish



Student Choices

- **Jens** from Lewes Priory, applying for International Management and Spanish at Bath
- HL Spanish, History, Biology
- SL English, Chemistry, Maths



Student Choices

- **Elinor** from Hove Park School, applying for Civil Engineering at Imperial London
- HL Chemistry, Maths, Physics
- SL English, German, Psychology





Let's hear from some of
our students

Why did you pick that
combination of subjects?

YEAR 1 STUDENTS:

WHY DID YOU PICK YOUR COMBINATION OF SUBJECT AND LEVELS?

Annabelle

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, GloPo, English

Lili

HL English, Psychology, Spanish
SL Maths, Philosophy, Biology

Zarrina

HL Biology, English, German
SL Philosophy, Psychology, Maths

Jivin

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Psychology, English, French Ab

Erik

HL Physics, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, English, GloPo

Maddi

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Psychology, French, English

WHAT IS THE CORE?

■ Theory of Knowledge

- different ways of knowing, and different kinds of knowledge

■ Extended Essay

- 4,000 word dissertation
- Students have the freedom to choose their topic

■ CAS

- Creativity; Activity; Service





Let's hear from some of
our students

Tell us about your ToK
Exhibition, EE title and CAS

YEAR 1 STUDENTS: TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAS PLANS?

Annabelle

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, GloPo, English

Lili

HL English, Psychology, Spanish
SL Maths, Philosophy, Biology

Zarrina

HL Biology, English, German
SL Philosophy, Psychology, Maths

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Erik

HL Physics, Chemistry, Maths
SL Spanish, English, GloPo

Maddi

HL Biology, Chemistry, Maths
SL Psychology, French, English

YEAR 2 STUDENTS:

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TOK EXHIBITION, EE TITLE AND CAS

Henny

HL English, GloPo, Philosophy
SL Biology, French, Maths

Ella

HL Physics, Maths, Chemistry
SL English, Psychology, German

Isobel

HL English, Art, French
SL Biology, GloPo, Maths

Nina

HL Biology, Chemistry, English
SL GloPo, Maths, Mandarin Ab

FURTHER INTEGRATION: THE GROUP 4 PROJECT

- Students from the different group 4 subjects analyse a common topic or problem
- Collaborative experience which allows students to appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science and technology
- It may also allow them to understand the limitations of scientific study, for example, the shortage of appropriate data and/or the lack of resources.



TUTORIAL

- IB students have one 45 minute tutorial session each week, and regular 1-2-1 meetings with their personal tutor
- The tutor assists with study skills, pastoral support, guidance with CAS and helps the students in their university applications.
- Parents get regular formal feedback on student progress

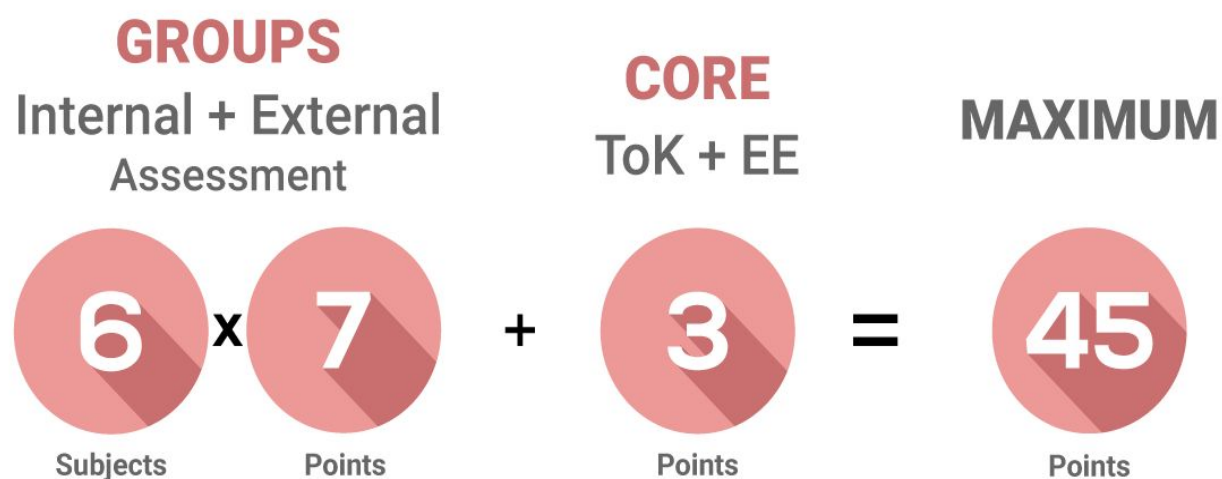




GRADING, COURSEWORK AND RESULTS



GRADING



- Each subject, whether HL or SL, is awarded 0-7 points (maximum 42 points).
- There are also up to 3 points awarded for The Core (ToK & the Extended Essay combined)
- The maximum score is 45
- 24 is the minimum for a pass.

		Theory of Knowledge			
		A	B	C	D
EE	A	3	3	2	2
	B	3	2	2	1
	C	2	2	1	0
	D	2	1	0	0

ASSESSMENT

- 20-30% of the assessment in all courses is ‘internal’ i.e. teacher-assessed but externally moderated coursework.
- In English and in Modern Languages there are oral internal assessments and presentations in GloPo
- All subjects except Visual Art have final exams
- EE and TOK are externally graded by IB examiners from across the world
- CAS is a pass/ fail component judged against 7 reflective learning outcomes



Let's hear from some of
our students

What sort of topics have
you picked for your IAs?

YEAR 2 STUDENTS:

WHAT SORT OF TOPICS HAVE YOU PICKED FOR YOUR IA'S?

Henny

HL English, GloPo, Philosophy
SL Biology, French, Maths

Ella

HL Physics, Maths, Chemistry
SL English, Psychology, German

Isobel

HL English, Art, French
SL Biology, GloPo, Maths

Nina

HL Biology, Chemistry, English
SL GloPo, Maths, Mandarin Ab

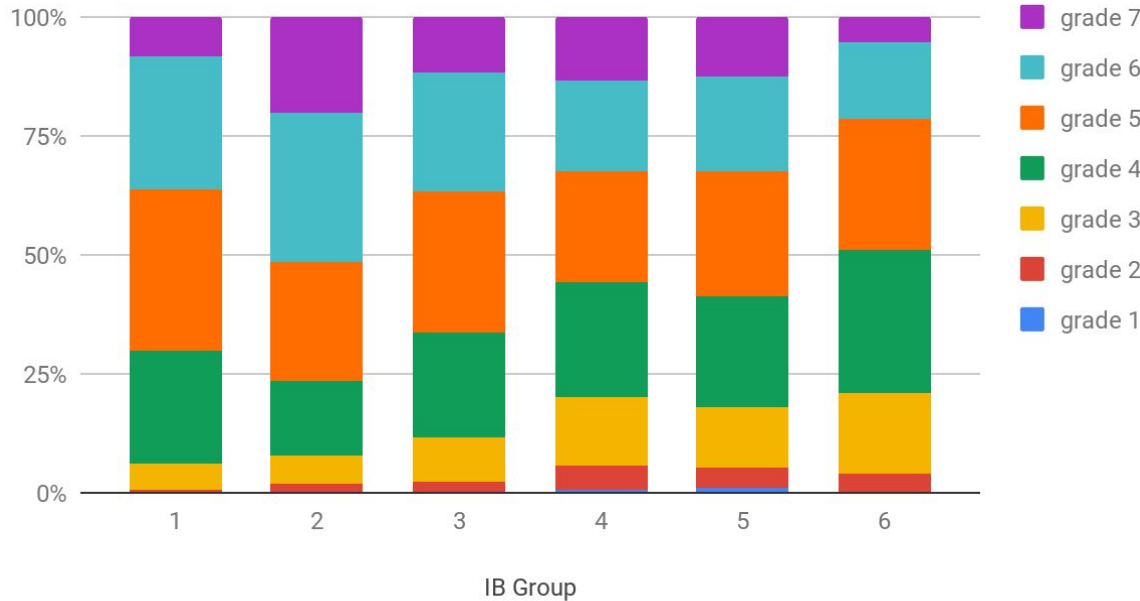
May 2022 Results



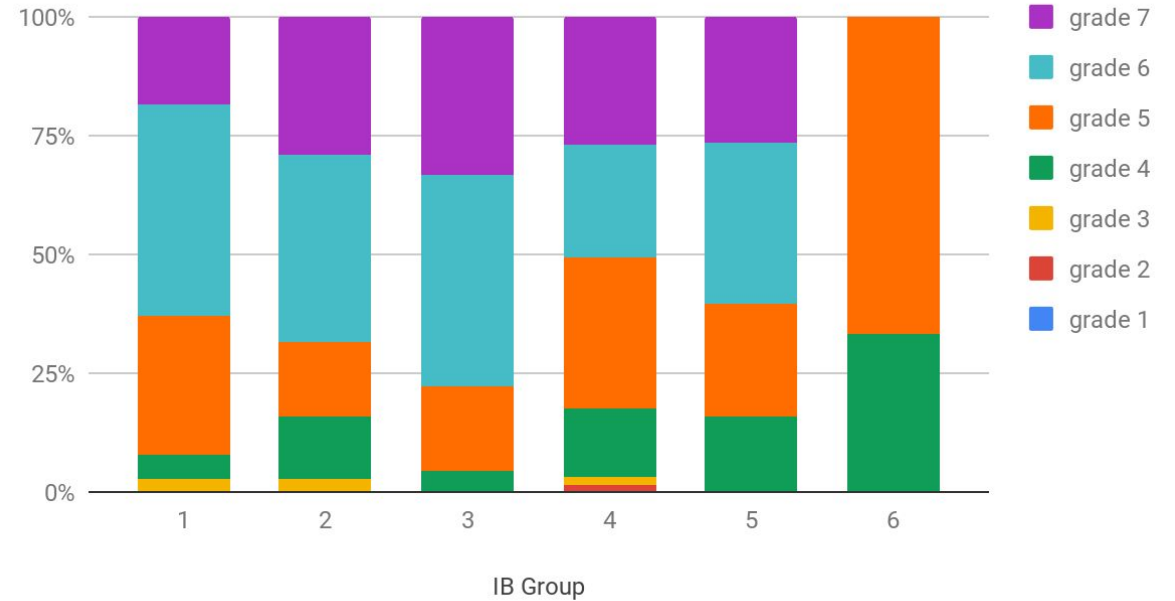
- 38 Learners
- 95% pass rate at Varndean (91% UK, 86% globally)
- Varndean average Diploma score: 36.24 points (31.98 globally)
- Average subject score = 5.72 (5.12 globally)
- 61% of our subject scores were graded 6-7
- 73% graded 5-7
- Four students achieved 44 points
- 32% achieved 40+
- 63% achieved 36+
- 84% achieved 30+

Group	Global Mean	College Mean	Global grade 5	College grade 5	Global grade 6	College grade 6	Global grade 7	College grade 7	Global grade 5+	College grade 5+
1	5.08	5.724	33.80%	28.95%	28.40%	44.74%	8.10%	18.42%	70%	92%
2	5.39	5.79	24.90%	15.79%	31.40%	39.47%	20.20%	28.95%	76%	84%
3	5.00	6.07	29.80%	17.78%	25.10%	44.44%	11.50%	33.33%	66%	96%
4	4.75	5.56	23.20%	31.75%	19.10%	23.81%	13.30%	26.98%	56%	83%
5	4.80	5.71	26.50%	23.68%	20.00%	34.21%	12.40%	26.32%	59%	84%
6	4.50	4.67	27.40%	66.67%	16.00%	0%	5.40%	0%	49%	66%

Global distribution of grades May 2022



Varndean distribution of grades May 2022



- The IB Diploma itself does not attract UCAS points but the components which make it up do. To achieve the IB Diploma, you have to pass each component and achieve a total IB point score of 24 or more.



International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma: Ucas Points

Below are scores for each component of the IB diploma:

Higher Level	Standard Level	Extended Essay	Theory of Knowledge
H7 56	S7 28	A 12	12
H6 48	S6 24	B 10	10
H5 32	S5 16	C 8	8
H4 24	S4 12	D 6	6
H3 12	S3 6	E 4	4

41 Points
 HL 7 7 6
 SL 6 6 6
 EE A, ToK B
 Core 3

776 = A* A* A
 PLUS
 24 + 24 + 24
 + 24



A-Levels and Highers: Ucas Points

	A-levels	AS levels	Scottish Highers	Advanced Highers
A*	56			
A	48	20	33	56
B	40	16	27	48
C	32	12	21	40
D	24	10	15	32
E	16	6		

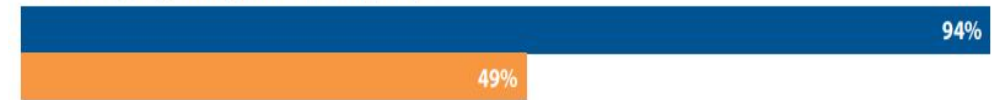
WHY DO THE UNIVERSITIES LOVE THE IB?

- Universities know that IB students are open-minded, independent thinkers and good at organising their time.
- This makes them more likely to thrive at University and achieve top marks in their degrees
- 3% of UK applicants to UCAS study the IB, but a higher proportion take up places (Kings College London - 20%)
- It's recognised by universities around the world (but do check country-specific requirements and requirements of individual universities on the IBO website)

According to university admissions officers, how well do A Levels and DP develop the following qualities in UK students? ¹

● The DP ● A Levels

Encouraging independent inquiry



Nurturing an open mind



Developing self-management skills



Encouraging a global outlook



UNIVERSITY AND THE IB

The following information
was kindly shared with us by
Peter Fidczuk
(IB Development and
Recognition Manager, UK &
Ireland at the IB Schools and
Colleges Association (ibsca))



WHAT ARE UNIVERSITIES LOOKING FOR?

- The ability to engage with the chosen course/ University
- Enthusiasm for the chosen subject
- The right mix of HL subjects
- Grades
- Personal profile
- Work experience (for some specific courses)

SUCCEEDING AT UNIVERSITY

- Getting a place at university is only the first step after sixth form. What happens next is even more important:
 - Succeeding in stepping up to the demands of higher education
 - Coping with living away from home
 - Achieving a good outcome
 - Thinking of life after university – employment or postgraduate studies

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY

- Research by Dr Harriet Jones, University of East Anglia has shown that the transition to HE is an issue for some students as they have the following problems:
 - Forgotten much subject knowledge
 - Lack ability to inquire
 - Lack ability to read extended texts
 - Lack ability to select sources and extract relevant material

UNIVERSITY AND THE IB



In our experience, IB Diploma students...

- **have a wide range of knowledge/skills:** *flexible and adaptable in new modes of learning*
- **can manage and organise their time:** *taking responsibility for own learning*
- **engage in social/community participation:** *to the benefit of themselves, and the university as a community*

In our experience, IB Diploma students benefit from the IB's...

- **Depth and Rigour** (*Higher level and Standard level combination*)
- **Breadth** (*broad curriculum develops wide knowledge and range of skills*)
- **Coherence of the IBDP 'package'** (*skills in critical thinking; communication; self-management ; motivation*)
- **Internationalism** (*global outlook*)
- ... and being able to draw on all this in writing their **Personal Statement** – plenty to write about (*academic and other dimensions*)!

UNIVERSITY AND THE IB

- 2% of all applicants to UCAS hold IB qualifications
- Top universities disproportionately recruit IB students:
 - Oxford 6% of Y1 UGs in 2015
 - Cambridge 6%
 - Bath 6%
 - Exeter 7%
 - Imperial College London 10%
 - University College London 13%
 - Kings College, London 16% (including Nursing), 20% (excluding Nursing)

IBO REPORT COMPARING THE OUTCOMES OF IB AND A LEVEL STUDENTS (April 2021)

- Key findings:
 - IB students are 3 times more likely to enroll in a top 20 university
 - IB students are 21% more likely to complete their degree
 - IB students are 7% more likely to achieve a first, and 40% more likely to achieve a first or 2.1
 - IB students are 38% more likely to continue to postgraduate studies

<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/uk-higher-education-outcomes/>

SUPPORTING PROGRESSION TO UNI AT VARNDEAN

- **82%** of students applied for 2022 entry
- **90%** of applicants secured a place
- **77%** of those with places were at Russell Group Universities
 - Including Medicine, Law, PPE, History, Classics, English, Computer Science, Zoology, Mechanical Engineering, MFL, Mathematics, Midwifery, Psychology, Business and Fine Art!
- Specialist tutors and careers team guide students through UCAS process
- Visiting speakers - admissions tutors, undergraduates, our alumni
- Super-curricular activities: going beyond syllabus
- Summer schools, taster days, subject masterclasses e.g. UniQ, Sutton Trust
- Guidance on drafting personal statement, preparing for admissions assessments, interview
- Post-results advice and support

The logo for UCAS, consisting of the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a red triangle pointing upwards, forming the top of the letter.

Student	Subject	Provider Name	Russell Group?	Achieved	Offer
EP	Civil Engineering with year abroad	Imperial	Yes	43	39
AB	History and English	Oxford	Yes	42	38
UK	Human Sciences	Oxford	Yes	44	38
CS	Engineering: Renewable Energy	Durham	Yes	42	38
LBM	Biology with a Modern Language	Manchester	Yes	41	36
HC	Mathematics	Bristol	Yes	41	36
ID	Medicine	Queens Belfast	Yes	44	36
ER	Eng Lit & Philosophy	Glasgow	Yes	41	36
MQ	Biomedical Sciences	Bristol	Yes	39	36
BB	Sustainability and Environmental Management	Leeds	Yes	37	35
DH	Social Anthropology	LSE	Yes	37	35
EN	Chemistry	York	Yes	37	35
AE	Biomedical Science with year in industry	Sheffield	Yes	40	34
MW	Medical Biochemistry	Bristol	Yes	44	32
HH	International Relations	Exeter	Yes	33	32
JK	International Management & Spanish	Bath	No	36	36
SF	Geology	Cardiff	Yes	29	29
RPK	History	Durham	Yes	37	38
SC	Marine Biology	Southampton	Yes	31	32
JC	Computer Science	Brighton	No	24	26

Some of our
2022
University
destinations



Let's hear from some of
our students

What are your plans for
after college?

YEAR 2 STUDENTS:

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER COLLEGE?

Henny

HL English, GloPo, Philosophy
SL Biology, French, Maths

Ella

HL Physics, Maths, Chemistry
SL English, Psychology, German

Isobel

HL English, Art, French
SL Biology, GloPo, Maths

Nina

HL Biology, Chemistry, English
SL GloPo, Maths, Mandarin Ab

I've enjoyed the range and depth of subjects i study, along with the core program which allows you to think critically while maintaining creativity.

I wanted to make sure i could go somewhere that would support me and help me, i had only heard amazing things about the wellbeing services and community - it seemed like the best fit.

It is has a variety of subjects that not only develop your knowledge in different areas but also require thinking critically about global issues.

The ethos about interconnectivity and global perspective really appealed to me

You're surrounded by people who are so passionate about learning and think in similar ways to how you do!

The ability to study works in other languages has opened me up to many different cultures and approaches I would have not had the opportunity to discover.

I really love the breath of study, and that we are encouraged to find links across our subjects.

I thought it would be an opportunity to really understand what subjects I enjoyed and not specialise so early

teachers have a real connection with their subjects and care for the students. They are always there to support us wherever they can.

(the EE)... was really satisfying to be able to write for that length on a topic and it has given me more confidence moving forwards about writing in university.





Let's hear from some of
our **ex-students**

What have they been up
to post IB?

WHAT DO OUR VARNDEAN IB ALUMNI DO AFTER UNIVERSITY?

- **Natasha, 2011 - Theology at Oxford, now comedy writer**
- Polly, 2011 - Law at Exeter, now a management consultant for a media firm
- Jasmine, 2012 - Chemistry at Sheffield, now PhD at Bath working on sustainable and biodegradable plastics
- **Peter, 2012 - Law at QM London, then paralegal focusing on white collar crime, now LPC and Solicitor training**
- **Alfred, 2012 - History at Cambridge, now PhD in history of science in Berlin**
- Joseph, 2013 - Ecology and environmental science at Edinburgh, now a warden for the RSPB near Glasgow
- **Jessica, 2013, Medicine at Leicester, working as a junior doctor and runs a national support groups for medical students with disabilities**
- **Aisling, 2013 - Dance and Musical Theatre at London Studio Centre. Featured in Emma; season 3 of Victoria; productions of Singin' in the Rain at the Adelphi Theatre.**
- Lily, 2013 - English Lit at Exeter, now a studio producer at a game development company
- Sam, 2013 - IR at Exeter, now works at the Foreign Office in the communication division.
- Giovanna, 2013 - Child Psychology at East London, now room leader of N Family Club
- **Alice, 2014 - Child Nursing at Southampton, then Great Ormond Street, now Trevor Mann Baby Unit at Royal Sussex**
- Lydia, 2014 - Theatre and French at Bristol, now in a band and running theatre workshops for teens with disabilities
- Juliet, 2015 - Archaeology and Anthropology at Oxford, now a PhD in isotope analysis of archaeological bone
- **Jake, 2015 - Human, Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge now working at a strategic communications consultancy firm**
- Beth, 2015 - Psychology at Bristol, now a speech and language therapist
- Jordan, 2015 - History at York, then History of Design from RCA, now PhD at De Montfort focusing on 18th C women's informal clothing

Natasha, 2011 - Theology at Oxford, now comedy writer

- My favourite thing about the IB was the variety and international focus of the whole curriculum. It felt like I was broadening my horizons beyond the occasionally narrow scope of British education.
- University didn't feel like a dramatic a step up. The extended essay component helped to give me the skills to pursue my academic areas of interest independently and gave me the confidence to pursue education outside of lesson plans.
- The IB gave me a wider base of knowledge than I would have had otherwise and that's meant I can hold my own in conversations with people across a variety of bizarre niches. As a comedy writer, being able to draw on such a variety of extra knowledge is always useful for writers rooms and joke writing. It also means that if I ever decide to have a dramatic career change later in life, I've got a wider choice of which direction to go in!



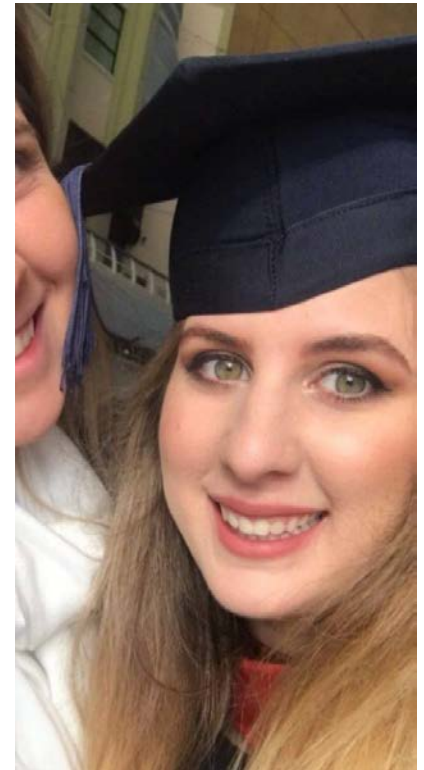
Sam, 2013 - IR at Exeter, now works at the Foreign Office in the communication division.

- The International Baccalaureate at Varndean set me up perfectly for University and post-graduate study. The course promoted independent thought and strong organisational skills that are invaluable in later studies.
- Varndean is a unique college - it really feels like a stepping stone between school and university. The teachers are fantastic and treat you like adults. The campus-feel of Varndean was lovely, particularly in the summer when we regularly revised outside in the quads.
- I made life-long friends during my time on the IB. Our tight-knit group supported one another throughout the 2 year course. I also really personally valued the inclusivity and diversity of the course. My fellow students came from all walks of life and from all over the world.



Giovanna, 2013 - Child Psychology at East London, now room leader of N Family Club

- IB Psychology is what inspired me to pursue my university path, the lessons prepared me for university. When I was in my second week at University, I had a sudden realisation that thanks to the IB Psychology, I knew most of the topics already.
- The college is an experience in itself, the spaces outdoors have gorgeous views where you can go and have a breath in between lessons or on your break. I have met people that I hold dearly to my heart still, I have been to weddings of the friends I met in Varndean.
- I never imagined being a teacher, I thought I had to have an office job and therefore always tried to go for those. Now I found myself working with 1 year olds as a Room Leader and I absolutely LOVE my job. Helping them grow and develop its an honour.



Joe, 2013 - Ecology and environmental science at Edinburgh, now a warden for the RSPB near Glasgow

- I really enjoyed how much learning in the IB is self-directed and the academic freedom that offers, it really stimulated me in a way that school didn't and gave me a great platform of study skills and broad interests to enjoy university life.
- At the same time, it pushed me to study things I'd not realised I would enjoy, and enriched my life outside of my studies hugely, feeding into my eclectic current job which covers education, community work, conservation, and research.
- I had some brilliant teachers and made some great friends who I still see regularly, 12 years after we started.



Lily, 2013 - English Lit at Exeter, now a studio producer at a game development company

- The IB definitely helped me improve my critical thinking skills, which was invaluable at university. The techniques that I developed during Theory of Knowledge classes, and while writing my extended essay, were especially useful! Having the number of subjects that you take in the IB also helped me to learn how to juggle workloads, and competing priorities, successfully. The time management skills that I learned on the IB helped me juggle two jobs at university, while obtaining a 1st class degree and becoming published.
- I currently live and work in Liverpool as a Studio Producer at a video games company called [Firesprite](#), which is a PlayStation first party studio. One of the big lessons that the IB, my time at university, and my career so far has taught me is that careers can be squiggly! On paper, the subjects I studied on the IB and at university don't translate directly to the career path I have taken, but the transferable skills that I developed allowed me to create a career that I love in the video games industry!





FAQ



GCSE GRADES FOR ENTRY

- In order to secure a place on the IB Diploma you require **seven** GCSEs at grade **6+** including **English, Maths** and **Science**
 - Some courses have additional subject specific requirements
- Our standard A-level entry requirements are six GCSE's at grade 4 including English



FAQ

- **What happens if I don't meet those grades?**
 - If you choose Varndean as your 6th Form we will discuss a plan B at your application interview. If you miss the grades we will look at actioning that plan B in August after results when you come for your enrolment interview
- **What if I change my mind?**
 - Once you apply to Varndean you are guaranteed a place as long as you meet our entry criteria, so no need to worry about scrambling around to find a college in September 2024
- **Are IB teachers also A-level teachers?**
 - Yes our IB teachers teach on a range of course including A-levels, BTEC and GCSE

FAQ

- **How is the IB Diploma different to other Baccalaureate qualifications?**
 - It is its own separate qualification run by the IBO - It's not the 13-subject French 'Bac,' the 'E-Bac' GCSE qualification or the AQA 'Baccalaureate' which is an A-level combination.
- **Are IB students ever taught with a-level students?**
 - Yes, but only in Art and German at the moment
- **When do the IB results come out?**
 - The final exams are in the first 3 weeks of May in Year 2 and results are issued on July 6.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS, AND DESTINATIONS

- If the student qualifies for UK home-based status under settled or pre-settled status, then they can apply to the main college admissions and have no fees to pay.
 - Students will need to be living with their families in the UK.
- If the student does not qualify for UK home-based status they need to be sponsored by Varndean under the Student Visa route, pay tuition fees and apply through the international team.
 - Students will live with host families, organised by Varndean College, and will pay for the accommodation
- **What do I do if I want to study at an overseas University?**
 - You apply directly to that university rather than via UCAS. There is support from the college carers department but you will apply independently. Therefore it is essential that you check country/ University specific HL/SL/course requirements and the college will not be held responsible for any inappropriate course combinations.

WHAT NEXT?

- **Open Evenings**
- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd November: 1830-2100
- Applications open now, **closing Friday 2nd December**
 - <https://varndean.ac.uk/apply>

- For more information look at our IB and College prospectus'
 - <https://varndean.ac.uk/brochures/>
- The IBO website
 - <https://www.ibo.org/>
- Or email Lee lzg@varndean.ac.uk

IB Class of 22



Thank you for listening, and hopefully it gives you something to think about.

I look forward to interviewing you in the new year, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have before you leave this evening.