

Outstanding International Baccalaureate Results at Varndean College

The International Baccalaureate is a worldwide organisation based in Geneva offering international qualifications in over 4,000 schools in almost every country in the world.

The IB Diploma is a pre-university qualification taught in 135 British Schools and colleges, mostly in the private sector.

Varndean College introduced the International Baccalaureate Diploma in 2008 and is the only college designated by the Government to offer this demanding and prestigious qualification in Brighton & Hove. IB Diploma students study six subjects, including maths, a science and a foreign language. They also complete a long essay and a programme of extra-curricular activities and community work.

Results achieved by Varndean College IB students have improved year on year with this year's set being the best ever. 43 students followed the 2-year course, an increase of 41% since 2013. The maximum number of marks possible to achieve is 45 and four Varndean College students scored 44 points each:

- Eliza McHugh (ex-Burgess Hill School), a finalist in the recent Argus Youth in Action Awards, is going on to study Chemistry at Balliol College Oxford.
- Ella Cohen-Haddon (ex-Priory School in Lewes) is going on to study Persian and Arabic at Wadham College Oxford.
- Jake Kroeger (also ex-Priory School) is taking a gap year before studying Anthropology.
- Nesta Smith (also ex-Priory School) is taking a gap year.

Keeping IB success in the family was Toby Gazeley (ex-Ratton School in Eastbourne), the third brother of the family to study the IB at Varndean College. His cousin, Ella Cohen-Haddon, was one of the highest-achieving IB students this year.

Freya Barry-Conlon (ex-Dorothy Stringer), was particularly proud of what she has achieved on this demanding course and is now going on to study Medicine at Brighton University.

IB Coordinator, Dr Sean McEvoy said of his students: "What's so great about the IB is the way it encourages students to engage with all kinds of ideas and to develop as people. When they leave the course they know such a lot, can do so many things and are so impressive at thinking and communicating. I don't think there's another qualification anywhere that offers such an educational experience."