



International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme – Parent Information Pack

This pack is designed to support your understanding of our academic offering in Forms 1-3 which includes information about assessment and reporting.

What is International Baccalaureate? - The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global leader in international education—developing inquiring, knowledgeable, confident, and caring young people. The IB programmes empower school-aged students to take ownership in their own learning and help them develop future-ready skills to make a difference and thrive in a world that changes fast.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the IB organization.

Why IB at Oakham? – Oakham School is officially authorised by the IB Organization to deliver the Diploma Programme to pupils aged 16-17 (since 2001) and, more recently, the Middle Years Programme to pupils aged 11-14 (since 2021). Therefore, we have an extensive experience of working with the IB Organization and we believe that its educational principles and philosophy strongly align with our School purpose “to teach our pupils knowledge, skills, and values to thrive and confidently contribute at Oakham School and beyond.”

[Click here](#) to watch the Headmaster explain how the IB Middle Years Programme fits with our vision of Oakham Education.

What is the IB Middle Years Programme? – The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is a teaching and learning framework that emphasizes intellectual challenge and encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world, preparing them for success in further study and in life. It is based on a wide range of pedagogical research that was summarised by the IB organisation into a comprehensive framework that encourages teachers to employ the most innovative approaches and strategies to education. The IB Middle Years Programme does not contain any prescribed content and as such we can continue to teach our traditional curriculum by utilising the most innovative approach to its delivery.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the IB Middle Years Programme.

What are the distinctive features of the IB MYP? – The IB MYP emphasizes that the students learn best when their learning experiences have context and are connected to their lives and their experience of the world. The teaching and learning in the MYP promotes conceptual understanding of knowledge - MYP students use concepts as a vehicle to inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local and global significance and examine knowledge holistically. A unifying thread throughout all MYP subjects is approaches to

learning (ATL) which provides the foundation for independent learning and encourages the application of student knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Another important feature of the IB MYP is Service and Action. Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service—making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

[Click here](#) to watch the Deputy Head (Academic) discuss the value of skills (ATLs) in the IB MYP.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the IB MYP curriculum.

How are the students assessed in the IB MYP? – Assessments take place regularly throughout the academic year and in a variety of forms, both formative and summative. Each subject within the MYP has 4 subject-specific assessment areas called “the assessment criteria” (A B C D). Each assessment criterion contains 8 proficiency levels (“levels of achievement”) that can be used to judge a student’s performance in that specific area (1 - lowest and 8 - highest). Teachers collect both formative and summative evidence throughout a unit of work and then decide on the “best-fit” levels of achievement that best describe a student’s performance in that unit.

Having clear criteria is very helpful as students know what the learning expectations are for a particular level of achievement before attempting an assignment and as a result, your child is able to monitor their own progress. The criteria also support teachers to clarify expectations to students and can shape the flow of lessons.

At the end of the academic year the teacher decides on the final “best-fit” level of achievement for each criterion and those are added together creating a combined total out of 32. This is then converted to an MYP Grade from 1-7 (with 7 being the highest) by using the pre-defined grade boundaries and communicated to parents in PR 6.

[Click here](#) to learn more about interpreting an MYP progress report

Is there a relationship between IB MYP grades and GCSE? – The IB MYP grades have been officially recognised by Ofqual and there is a direct correlation between the IB MYP grades and the GCSE equivalents which helps our teachers make accurate predictions about the students’ potential in their GCSE studies in Forms 4 and 5.

[Click here](#) to read about the grade comparisons with the General Secondary Certificate of Education (GCSE).

How can I find out more? – in the first instance please contact our IB MYP Coordinator Dmitriy Ashton at dna@oakham.rutland.sch.uk We are also planning a parent MYP curriculum conference to take place in February 2023 where the aspects of the IB MYP will be explained in greater detail. Please check the Spring Term Red Book for the exact date.