

# OUR MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

We strongly believe our International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) provides the education students aged between 11 and 16 need at this stage of their life. One that is holistic and engaging, and relevant to the personal, local and global issues that affect and concern them.

Our MYP curriculum also helps students to ask challenging questions, learn how to learn, establish a strong sense of their own identity and culture, and develop their ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures. Importantly, it also builds upon the knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired through our Primary Years Programme; and it prepares students for the academic challenges of our Diploma Programme.

Overall, our MYP Programme is organised around the rigorous and thorough study of eight traditional subject areas, as well as participation in extra-curricular activities and community work. These eight subject areas are:

- Language and Literature (English or another mother tongue)
- Language Acquisition (French or Spanish)
- Individuals and Societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Arts
- Physical and Health Education
- Design

You can find out more about these subject areas in our subject guides section, which starts on page 22.

## THE COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

The Community Project is an important piece of work for students aged 13 and 14 which takes place over a significant period of the school year.

The project gives students an opportunity to understand the needs of various communities and use what they've learnt in class to have a practical, positive impact on people's lives. Importantly, the Community Project develops skills such as decision making, problem solving and effective communication, and helps students to acquire in-depth knowledge of their chosen subject.

## SERVICE AS ACTION

We place a strong emphasis on community and supporting charities through the Service as Action (SA) programme, part of the MYP curriculum, as well as our extra-curricular activities. These help students to gain a better understanding of the needs of others and make a difference in the world.

## MYP GLOBAL CONTEXTS

Another important aspect of our Middle Years Programme is that our teachers deliver the curriculum through the MYP Global Contexts. These contexts help students approach subjects holistically and encourage them to see the links and cross over between different subjects.

### Identities and relationships

- Who am I? Who are we? Students explore identity; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; what it means to be human.

### Orientation in space and time

- What is the meaning of 'where' and 'when'? Students explore personal histories; homes and journeys; turning points in humankind; discoveries; explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between, and the interconnectedness of, individuals and civilizations, from personal, local and global perspectives.

### Personal and cultural expression

- What is the nature and purpose of creative expression? Students explore the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy

our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

### Scientific and technical innovation

- How do we understand the worlds in which we live? Students explore the natural world and its laws; the interaction between people and the natural world; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on communities and environments; the impact of environments on human activity; how humans adapt environments to their needs.

### Globalisation and sustainability

- How is everything connected? Students explore the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the relationship between local and global processes; how local experiences mediate the global; reflect on the opportunities and tensions provided by world-interconnectedness; the impact of decision-making on humankind and the environment.

### Fairness and development

- What are the consequences of our common humanity? Students explore rights and responsibilities; the relationship between communities; sharing finite resources with other people and with other living things; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

At the end of term one, every student's 'approach to learning' is reported on by each of their teachers, who assess the student's skills, behaviour and attitude in class. Students use this information to make targets for themselves to improve their own learning style and overall achievement in each subject area. Parents also have the opportunity to discuss a student's progress at two parent / student / teacher conferences held during the year.

At the end of each school year, we also provide our students with an IB MYP summative grade for attainment in each of the eight subject areas. These grades range from 7 for excellent / outstanding to 1 for very poor.

In Grade 10, students must submit a mandatory Personal Project (see left) which they work on throughout the final MYP year. This is moderated and assessed by the IB and awarded an attainment grade of 1 to 7.

## OUR SCHOOL DAY

Our school day starts with registration at 8.40 and finishes at 15.30, apart from Wednesdays when the school day finishes at 15.15. Students have a 50 minute lunch break (55 minutes on Wednesdays) at 11.50.

We operate on a two-week timetable. Over the course of two weeks, each lesson meets 5 times. Lessons run for 80 minutes except for Wednesdays when they run for 65 minutes. ECAs take place during lunch and after school.

Our MYP students do not have to wear a school uniform, and no school bells are sounded during the day. This aligns with our liberal ethos and belief that students should be encouraged to be independent and express their individuality.

“Since going to Southbank, I've learnt from so many different people. All my friends are from so many different countries. I've learnt about their cultures, their backgrounds, and everything about them.”

Cambron, Grade 9 student