

## **IB -INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME IN OUR SCHOOL**



**Are you considering studying abroad? Do you enjoy taking up challenges and you're searching for something that will really engage your mind? Or maybe you just dream of being able to link your passion for history and chemistry? If your answer to one of those questions is "yes", then the IB programme is the option suited for you!**

**Connecting people full of passion and commitment, the IB programme presents you with an opportunity to gain access to education at a very high level and to open yourself up to the world. Education in English and a diploma recognized by every single university on the planet are making it substantially easier to access university education abroad, while the possibility of shaping your curriculum to your own interests and needs gives the chance for versatile growth: both intellectual and physical. Simultaneously, the programme helps in creating bonds between its students and their community. It also develops creativity and willingness to help other people.**

**However, we have to warn you- it won't be easy! And yet, what is life if not a series of obstacles, which you have to overcome? If you think that you're up to the task, feel encouraged to familiarize yourself with this brochure!**

## **What exactly is the IBDP?**

**International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO)** is an international, educational organisation present in over 5000 schools across the globe- including ours. The 2-year IB Diploma Programme does not only prepare you for studying and for work, but it also helps you in self-development, not limited to increasing your knowledge. 2 years of work in this system is a combination of academic studies, pursuing your passions and interests, social engagement and shaping your personality. That is why this programme is not only for people interested in popular subject sets, like maths-physics or biology-chemistry, but also artists interested in mathematics or biologists interested in literature. The IB course consists of 6 subject groups - each student ought to choose at least one subject from each group.

## **IB subjects taught in our school:**

### **Group 1- Studies in Language and Literature**

- Polish A Literature

### **Group 2- Language Acquisition**

- English B
- German B
- French B

### **Group 3- Individuals and Societies**

- History
- Geography
- Philosophy

### **Group 4- Sciences**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- ESS (Environmental Systems and Societies- an interdisciplinary subject: individuals and societies /sciences)

### **Group 5- Mathematics**

- AI- Application and Interpretation
- AA- Analysis and Approaches

### **Group 6- The Arts**

- Visual Arts



3 or 4 subjects have to be studied at Higher Level. 2 or 3 at Standard Level

Every IB student in our school has to take English B HL (High Level). Students who are not interested in visual arts may choose instead an additional subject from groups 2,3 or 4.

## Extended Essay

The EE is a 4000-word essay which you can write in a number of available subjects (even if it is not included in your curriculum). The choice of a topic depends only on you. The aims of this work are the development of research skills, broadening the knowledge on a chosen topic which you find interesting and testing your ability to draw conclusions and structure your writing. Based on the opinions of graduates, the skills gained in the DP course are extremely useful in writing works in college.

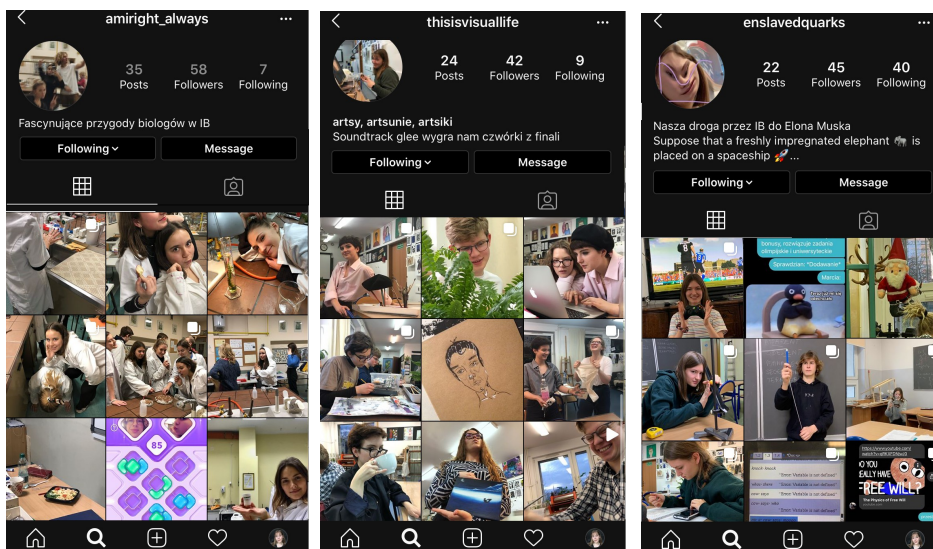
## TOK (Theory of knowledge)

TOK is a subject that for most students seems terrifying at the beginning. It is a thoughtful and purposeful inquiry into different ways of knowing, and into different kinds of knowledge. What do you do in such classes? Practically everything. The lessons are based on discussing, debating or analysing different issues. It is used for creating philosophical bases of each area of knowledge that is included in the syllabus. We are taught how to learn, which maybe sounds funny, but it is crucial in the IB programme. We practice logical thinking. We get to know remarkable scientists, psychologists and philosophers who for ages elaborated on ways to increase the effectiveness of research and by ourselves we evaluate our own working process to decide what methods are effective in assimilating knowledge for us.

## CAS

**Creativity, Activity and Service** is what hides under the CAS acronym. But what exactly is it? It is an obligatory element of the IBDP, during which we need to fulfill a required amount of creativity, activity and service. CAS is constructed in a way that gives us almost unlimited personalization of activities that we choose - the only condition is the balance between all three types of activity.

The first category is creativity - writing poems, painting, managing an instagram account and many others - what you choose depends solely on you.





During the time we would be on PE lessons we can decide whether we want to go swimming, exercise at the gym or even learn martial arts. IB gives us full freedom of choice and organization of those activities which is why CAS is never boring.



Volunteering is the most challenging part of CAS for a lot of students. As IB students we need to have to be involved in both direct and indirect volunteering, which shapes our attitude towards the problems of this world. Working to help other people creates a habit of helping and motivates us to everyday social activity. Nothing is as satisfying as the knowledge that your actions, even the smallest ones can help others.



Reading books in preschool



Dance for Kindness Event 2019



Both the organization and participation in Model United Nations is one of the most popular indirect social actions.

## **Our experiences in the programme**

The courses in the International Baccalaureate programme are unique in terms of their character and material that we cover. A great asset of the programme is the ability to choose options that we cover in most of the subjects. Instead of covering large parts of material superficially, in the IB, we concentrate on smaller parts analysed thoroughly, so that we can understand them and apply them in the future. Work in the IB programme prepares us for further education. Assessments that we work on give us the possibility to develop the skills of analytical thinking. Moreover, the programme enables us to balance school work with extracurricular activities, due to the presence of CAS (Creativity, Action, Service), which each of us has to fulfil additionally to our chosen subjects. The biggest benefit is, however, the ability to personalise the choice of subjects to a large extent. The IB programme, although it demands work, gives the opportunity of achieving great success. ~**Kuba (mathematics HL, history HL, geography SL, environmental systems and societies SL)**

The thing I appreciate the most in the IB programme is the open-mindedness when it comes to practical and theoretical knowledge and simply curiosity of the world. Studying history, Polish, English or biology, we don't learn by certain patterns, or from the perspective of our own culture – we study the problem in depth, from every possible point of view, examining different outlooks and beliefs. We evolve comprehensively, broadening our knowledge about Poland, Europe, as well as all the distant places – thanks to literature, debates, or our teacher's lectures, we go all around the world sitting at the school desk. ~**Julka (Polish SL, history HL, geography HL, biology SL)**



If it weren't for the IB, I would have never found either time, or the motivation to fulfil my dream. I have wanted to train martial arts for as long as I can remember, but I used to lack confidence to join a group and time to engage in it. It changed when I enrolled in the IB class and found out about CAS – Creativity, Activity, Service. Under this mysterious abbreviation, particularly under “A” hides the obligation to train sports under a coach's direction. It replaces traditional P.E. and, in my opinion, it is a far better solution. It was exactly CAS that pushed me to sign up for Krav Maga classes in my hometown and I fell for it. The time miraculously appeared, because now it wasn't just pleasure, it was also a duty. Now I can do something I love and at the same time fulfil my Activity hours. If it weren't for IB, I would never have decided to do it. ~**Basia**

**(Polish SL, history SL, geography HL, biology HL)**

The IB programme gives a lot of possibilities. Thanks to the flexibility in our choice of subjects, I have met a lot of interesting people. Throughout every course we are obliged to write a research paper, which gives extensive experience in doing experiments. Through the CAS programme, we have the possibility of finding new hobbies and being engaged in charity work. ~**Mateusz**

**(geography HL, chemistry HL, physics SL, mathematics AA SL)**

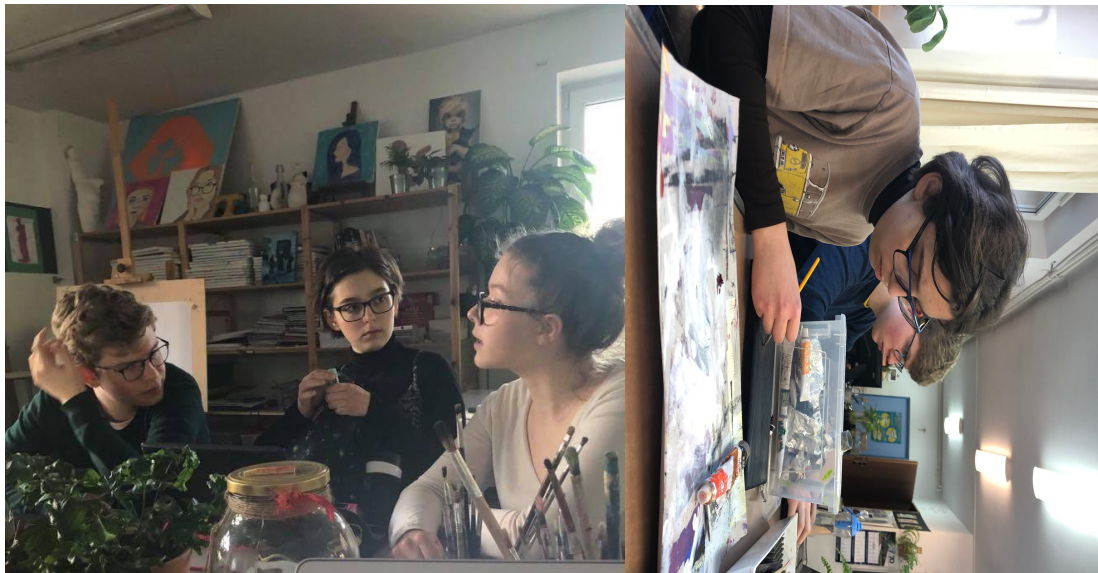


The IB programme is demanding, but very developing?. Thanks to the possibility of choosing any subjects from particular groups, we can learn what we are really interested in- no class profile limits us. CAS (creativity, activity and service) enables us to take part in many charity events, as well as broadens out horizons through creative activities. TOK allows us to look at the world around us from many perspectives through discussions during which we exchange our views on various topics. ~**Martyna**

**(mathematics AA HL, chemistry HL, physics SL, geography SL)**



Thanks to the IB I faced a brand new series of hard challenges that I had to overcome. However, due to the unique approach towards teaching and the availability of various subjects to choose from I realised how developing and helpful in finding oneself in the world high school level education can be. The IB Diploma Programme is not an easy path, but one worth taking. ~**Igor**  
**(mathematics AA HL, physics HL, history SL, visual arts HL)**



I have to admit that the IB programme is not the easiest one. Although I often feel exhausted by schoolwork, it is not totally a bad feeling. One could compare it to muscle pain during a workout. Even though it is unpleasant, at the end it is worth the effort. I think my experience in IB is quite similar. I really love how customisable that programme is. I could choose subjects which fit both my interests and career plans. Choosing higher level mathematics and physics, I did not have to resign from studying arts. That gave me a possibility to develop in multiple, different areas. I can feel that since I started IB, I am becoming wiser and wiser every day. And by wisdom I don't mean the dry facts we all have to learn by heart. IB taught me how to think logically and draw conclusions from all of the problems I come across. In my case, choosing IB was a great choice. If you are wondering whether or not to choose Visual Arts- do it. The atmosphere in the classroom is absolutely wonderful, as it is created by many, different people, linked by their passion for art. ~**Iwona**  
**(mathematics AA HL, physics HL, visual arts SL, geography SL)**

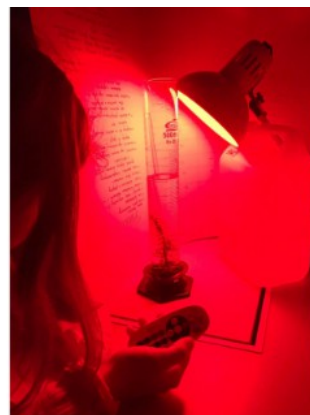


My ambitions and life goals are constantly changing. Throughout the course of one afternoon, I go through at least 50 different ideas for my future. The IB program doesn't force me to choose one, highly specialized course of study and allows me to follow the path to self-realization at my own pace. The IB offers me education at a high academic level and, through CAS, encourages me to develop my interests outside of school and give back to the community I am a part of.

If you, too, struggle with horrible indecisiveness and live in a state of constant uncertainty in regards to your future goals, then a) I am terribly sorry and b) come and join us in the IB!

Keep in mind, though, it's not fun and games! The program requires you to pour a lot of heart and dedication into your work. The IB highly encourages systematic work and expects that you get on good terms with your keyboard and a nice text editor.

Furthermore, you should be aware of the costs that come with it. Think about it before you decide that the program is the right choice for you. With that information in mind, I hope you'll be able to choose what is right for you. See you soon! ~**Julka** (Polish HL, history HL, biology SL, visual arts HL, mathematics AI SL)





The IB programme enables me to not only broaden my knowledge but also the skills of critical thinking, creativity and curiosity. Thanks to the fact that we were able to choose our higher level subjects, additional options and topics of the research essays by ourselves, I am able to fully choose my own path when it comes to learning. It's true, the IB programme is a lot of work, but when you put some effort into it, it brings you positive, visible results. I really enjoy our biology and chemistry classes due to the fact that we spend so much time doing labs. The IB programme does not expect us to only acquire theoretical knowledge, it teaches us how to use it in practice. I am extremely happy that I choose this path and I recommend taking the IB programme to everybody who does not want to be a cliché. ~**Natalia**

**(biology HL, chemistry HL, geography SL, mathematics AA SL)**



It was important for me to study a combination of higher level subjects which wasn't possible in the Polish system of education- biology, chemistry and Polish literature. IBDP enabled me to develop in multitude directions and meet people with diverse interests and passions. During Polish lessons we could quite freely choose what texts to analyse, as there is no such thing as an externally set of obligatory books to read. With the help of our teacher we have decided on works that are attractive for us- thanks to that working on them is much more pleasant for us. Teachers are very engaged and interested in our work and are ready to help, which is crucial during the writing process of research papers or conducting experiments. ~**Jadwiga**  
**(Polish HL, biology HL, chemistry HL, ESS, mathematics AI SL)**

More information regarding the International Baccalaureate can be found in the 'educational offer' tab on our school website(<https://lo3.gdynia.pl/ofertaedukacyjna/page-31>) or on the official IB website(<https://ibo.org/>).

If you consider going to the IB, but you are still not sure if it is the right decision and you need someone to convince you or you have any additional questions to the current IB students, you can contact us via email ([ib2019.2021@gmail.com](mailto:ib2019.2021@gmail.com)). We will definitely do everything we can to answer your questions.

You can contact the IBDP coordinator: [ibcoord@lo3.gdynia.pl](mailto:ibcoord@lo3.gdynia.pl)

We are looking forward to seeing you in the IB next year!