



Pathway C - IB Diploma

What is IB? - The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme has been running for 50 years. Although not that common in the UK it is a widely recognised and respected qualification which allows students the chance to study a broader range of subjects than at A level. It has exactly the same status as A level with British universities.

How long is the IB Diploma Programme? - This is a two year programme.

What does it involve? - The Diploma is a qualification made up of 9 components:

- **Diploma Higher Level Programmes (H)** – here you can choose **three** of the courses we are offering to study at higher level over two years – these are the same standard as A Level
- **Diploma Standard Programmes (S)** – here you can choose **three** courses (different to those you take at higher level) to study over two years.
- **TOK** - the Theory of Knowledge
- **CAS** - Creativity, Action and Service
- **Extended Essay.**

How will I be assessed? - Assessment will be through a combination of examinations and coursework.

What choice is there with IB? - you choose your higher and standard courses from six different groups

- **Studies in Language** – here you take your own native language
- **Language Acquisition** – here you study a foreign language. If you choose a language you have studied before you can take it at Higher or Standard. You can choose a new language but this can only be taken to standard level
- **Individuals and Societies**
- **Experimental Sciences**
- **Mathematics**
- **The Arts** – (Music or Art) or an elective choice from either group 2, 3 or 4.

I am not good enough at Maths to take it past GCSE – There is the option to take maths at a slightly lower level than Standard, this is known as Maths studies and is accessible to anyone with a Maths GCSE at grade 5. Don't dismiss this as an option. The government will shortly introduce Maths for all post-16 students regardless of which course they are on. A good background in Maths is something all employers will value as well.

I'm not sure I really want to carry on with a language – ok, but remember too that your language option can be a course that is called "ab initio". This is where you start a language completely from scratch. Again the level is lower than required on a standard course. A language or two is a fantastic way of making yourself more marketable when it comes to getting a job. Even if you have no intention of working abroad it leaves you with the ability to communicate electronically in another language and gives you an advantage over those who only speak English.

Do these qualifications count? - Yes! IB has been running for 50 years, it is well established and valued by employers and universities alike. IB carries UCAS points (for university entry) just like A Levels.

Will universities understand the IB? - Yes!

Will employers understand the IB? – many will although probably not as many as we might like because this is a new qualification but in addition to your certificates we will provide you with a document to explain the IB to present to any employer at interview. In addition at any point when you apply for a job (even after you have left Dallam) you can contact us and we will write to the potential employer explaining the IB pointing them to the appropriate websites to show what a strong qualification it is.

Which is better IB or A Level? -

Neither, they are just different –

- With IB you study more subjects
- With A Level you study fewer subjects in more depth
- IB has more teaching time and might suit you if you prefer to have your time planned out for you
- A Level means you have more private study time and might suit you if you prefer to plan your own time and be a little more independent
- Both courses will give you access to UK and overseas universities
- If you want to focus on all three sciences then A Level is probably the better route for you
- Students move on to the most prestigious universities from both routes
- Be open minded and speak to us about the different choices.

Can I change my mind? - We always try to be flexible if students think they may have chosen the wrong course we do allow you to switch but it has to be within the first two or three weeks of the Sixth Form.

How is IB graded? Each individual subject is graded from 1 to 7, 7 being the highest. There are 3 further points available for the core. Students need to gain 24 points in order to pass the Diploma. The maximum score possible is 45 points.

How can I find out more? -

Speak to staff in the Sixth Form Office.

Please note that if a course fails to recruit sufficient numbers it may not run.

The IB Programme

Group 1 - Native Language Here you choose your own native language	English (H & S) German (H & S) Italian (H & S) Spanish (H & S)
Group 2 - Foreign Language Here you study a foreign language, either continuing one you have done or “ab initio” starting from scratch	English (H & S) (non-native English speakers only) French (H & S) Spanish (H & S) Italian ab initio (beginners)
Group 3 - Individuals and Societies	Geography (H & S) History (H & S) Psychology (H & S)
Group 4 - Experimental Sciences	Biology (H & S) Chemistry (H & S) Physics (H & S)
Group 5 - Mathematics	Higher Standard Mathematical Applications (just above GCSE level)
Group 6 - Elective	Art (H & S) Music (H & S) Chemistry (H & S) Business Management (H & S)

In addition all students take the IB core. This is made up of :

- The Extended Essay
- The Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Creativity, Action & Service – many students use the Duke of Edinburgh Award to complete this element