



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



The IB is a highly-recognised international qualification. It allows you to continue a breadth of subjects. You can pick one from each of the 6 subject groups. This keeps your skill-set wide, and makes you a highly attractive candidate for universities and employers in the future.

You can take 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard. Unless stated opposite, most subjects are available at both levels, depending on uptake. HL and SL are conceptually the same for most subjects, but HL features a bit more breadth. In some languages, you can choose *ab initio* instead, if you are new to the language.

At TBGS, you will get 8 taught lessons per fortnight for HL level subjects, and 5 for SL. In addition, the IB features a core of three components. Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) means you gain credit for your involvement in sport, arts and the community. The Extended Essay is a research project you conduct in the subject and field of your choice. Theory of Knowledge is a timetabled lesson where you interrogate the nature and legitimacy of knowledge. This core, along with the style of teaching and assessment across the IB, makes this course perfect preparation for university study.

The final diploma is scored out of 45, a grade out of 7 for each subject, and 3 for the core. TBGS has a track record of a high average score, usually around 36 points, compared to a world average of 29.



Theory of
Knowledge
Creativity, Activity,
Service
Extended Essay

GROUP 1

English Literature

GROUP 2

Second Language

Chinese (SL only)
French
German
Japanese (*ab initio* only)
Spanish

GROUP 3

Individuals & Societies

Economics
Geography
Global Politics
History
Philosophy

GROUP 4

Experimental Sciences

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

GROUP 5

Mathematics

Analysis & Approach
(HL/SL)
Applications &
Interpretation (SL only)

GROUP 6

Arts & Electives

Music
Visual Arts
or a 2nd choice from group 2-4

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level

English Literature

■ What will I study?

Our aim is to give you breadth and experience, so expect to read an **exciting** and **varied** selection of literature from different historical, social and cultural perspectives. The emphasis is also on **enjoyment** and **enrichment**, so we have designed the course to give you the opportunity to **explore** a wide and **dynamic range** of poetry, novels, plays, genres, contexts and styles including the poetry of William Blake, modern novels, 19th-century drama in translation and Shakespeare.

■ How will I be assessed?

IB assessment consists of one oral exam and two final written exams. Higher students will also complete one written piece of coursework. Your powers of communication, as well as your written expression, will be extended and developed.

■ How will I be taught?

The entire course is designed to be **interactive, creative and dynamic**: you will be expected to think, reflect, read, take risks, create, discuss and present, and, naturally, to have an open and curious mind. Lessons are often student-led, with a high degree of **independence** and proactivity expected throughout.

During the course you will also have the opportunity to attend theatre trips, cinema screenings, study days and lectures.

■ Why should I study English?

The study of Literature will open your mind to **exciting** new worlds, concepts and cultures. Literature and language also **reveal** so much about the human mind, the factors that affect the language we use, and the **rich and varied** ways that we can interpret it.

English is a **facilitating subject, highly-regarded** by universities and employers alike; its traditional academic nature gives students **invaluable** experience and skills in analysis, research, critical thinking and argument, as well as improved written and oral skills. It combines well with every subject, both Arts and Sciences, and will help you to succeed in the future, whatever path you choose to follow.

The English Department have a **highly-successful** track record with, on average, over 90% of students achieving grades 7-5 on this course.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs C Warde cwarde@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"As an external student, coming to TBGS was a very daunting prospect, but I remember having an IB English lesson on my very first day, and it instantly **became my favourite subject**. I felt so at ease, and the department was so **welcoming** - it really felt like I'd found my home."
Loren



"The teachers are really **passionate** about their subject, and it's infectious! IB English relates to so many other subjects, and I loved seeing the **connections** and really being made to think. And we have lots of cake!" Will

dare to be

IB Standard Level Chinese

■ What will I study?

We will use **authentic** material to practise speaking and listening, so that your **understanding** of interactions with native speakers will greatly **increase**. You will spend time with our Chinese language assistant so that you can practise what you have learnt in class and improve your speaking skills and understanding.

You'll handle a wide **variety** of texts that you would deal with every day were you living in China, including advertisements, newspaper articles, blogs and letters. We will also show you how to write these too!

Topics covered include communication and media, global issues, and social relationships, especially topics such as the wider Chinese family, festivals and the issue of minority groups in China.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are two papers taken in the May of Year 13:

Paper 1: Written production: one short writing task from a choice of six (25%)

Paper 2: Text handling and listening comprehension (50%)

There is also a spoken exam in January of Year 13 (25%), conducted by your class teacher.

■ How will I be taught?

Standard Level is for those having completed GCSE or equivalent. This course is for non-native speakers of Chinese.

All lessons will normally be conducted in the target language in the Chinese Hub (LA2). You will also have a weekly session with the Chinese language assistant.

■ Why should I study Chinese?

Take the opportunity to express yourself more fully in Chinese! The IB course builds on the GCSE Chinese course. By the end of the course students will be able to interact well with native Mandarin speakers.

Studying Chinese alongside a degree course in business, engineering, and journalism, to name a few, will open up amazing opportunities in your future career.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs V Allen vallen@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I have found my understanding of Mandarin **useful** in many aspects of my **life**, and aspects of the language have consistently interested and **engaged** me." Ben



"Learning Mandarin has really **aided** me in my understanding of the vast and **diverse** Chinese **culture**, whilst giving me an **insight** into the complexity of Asian languages and helping my engagement with people from other cultures." Jacob



"Studying Mandarin through the IB has been challenging yet **rewarding**. The possibility to broaden my language ability was something enticing to me, and the course has helped me to **achieve** this aim". Dan

dare to be

IB Ab Initio, Standard and Higher Level French

■ What will I study?

Within five themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organisation, and sharing the planet, there is a broad range of topics, and the course will be built upon the group's particular interests in various aspects of **language** or **culture** that best helps you.

These themes will allow you to **compare** French **language** and **culture** with your own, and they will also provide you with opportunities to make **connections** to other IB subjects.

You will achieve a high level of **fluency** allowing you to interact **confidently** with a native speaker about your culture, but their own as well. You will become grammar **experts** and if you're taking the higher course, you will cover two literary works that will exemplify some aspects of the themes. This will allow you to **progress** from comprehension to **interpretation** and **inference**, as well as **develop** your **international-mindedness**.

■ How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on your ability to produce and understand French through four components. 50% of the assessment will be based on productive skills (writing and speaking) and the other 50% will be based on receptive skills (reading and listening).

■ How will I be taught?

In the true spirit of the IB course, you will be taught through a range of **authentic** materials. You will produce "real life" work, through the study of a wide **variety** of texts. You will not write essays, but you will study and produce different types of texts (including formal and informal letters, articles, ads, flyers, films reviews, interviews). Your learning **experience** will be based on **cultural** aspects of the French speaking world through a range of oral, written and visual materials present in society.

■ Why should I study French?

Pourquoi pas! C'est la langue de l'amour, non? Do you need any more reasons?! Becoming fluent in French could improve your life, and that's not just because France is a beautiful country to visit on holiday.

French is the second most-taught language internationally after English. It's spoken in 5 continents. 72% of businesses value languages as a skill – 49% of British employers look for employees that can speak French.

The international body supervising the following of French as a language is known as the International Organization of Francophony, which has 51 countries as its member states, and out of these 51 states, 28 countries have French as their official language.

French is the official language of the EU and all its administration in Brussels. France is the nearest neighbour to the UK and its largest business partner. With the Eurostar, Paris and London are only 2 hours apart!

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Miss A Roberts aroberts@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Taking French at Higher Level in the IB definitely was the **right decision** for me as the course suited my **love** for speaking French and learning more about its grammar perfectly! I always **enjoyed** attending the well-prepared lessons and it was a pleasure to constantly **improve** my French and be **rewarded** for it! Merci beaucoup!" Maria



"With **cooking**, cultural trips, fun lessons and the occasional **French movie** (as well as some work!) I'm so glad I took **IB** French and I got **7/7 result**" Luke

dare to be

IB Ab Initio, Standard and Higher Level

German

■ What will I study?

Unlike GCSE, IB German is much more about the **German-speaking world** and its people. The current IB syllabus is based around exploring these five broad themes:

1. Identities: the nature of the self, and what it is to be human
2. Experiences: events and journeys that shape our lives.
3. Human ingenuity: how creativity and innovation can affect our world.
4. Social organization: how groups of people organise themselves.
5. Sharing the planet: challenges and opportunities faced by the modern world.

This course covers the same 5 themes for SL & HL.

■ How will I be taught?

Lessons will be very different from GCSE; they are much smaller, and everyone is highly motivated. Most importantly, teachers will predominantly speak German in lessons, as this is the best way to improve and to achieve the required level of competence. Also, all texts are authentic, i.e. they are not adapted for learners. You will learn about current affairs and a wide range of topics relevant to the German-speaking world.

There are many opportunities to broaden horizons and get involved in extra-curricular trips & events:

- The Vienna trip in October. "One of the best school trips ever!" The next one will hopefully be in 2024 (when you will be in Y13).
- www.ukgermanconnection.org They offer sponsored trips to Germany, and in the last four years, three TBGS students were selected to spend 2-4 weeks in Germany. Es lohnt sich!
- Oxford German Olympiad: This annual event aims to challenge students to be creative or investigative. TBGS students have won several categories since 2015, both as individuals, and as teams.
- SWAT Challenges: a 1-2 min presentation on a topic of your choice.
- DEUTSCH AG: This lunch-time club will not only give you CAS points, it is also a fun way to relay your knowledge and expertise to younger students in the school.

■ How will I be assessed?

Just like at GCSE level, you will be assessed in the usual four skills areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing.

There are two formal end exams, one on writing, (25%), one on reading and listening (50%). There is also an individual oral worth 25%, usually in February of Year 13.

■ Why should I study German?

German is spoken by **100 million** native speakers, making it the most **dominant** language in the EU. Furthermore, German remains the **most sought-after** foreign language in the UK, yet numbers of British students studying German are dwindling, both in schools and at universities. This means, you are a **highly attractive** candidate for many universities and employers, whether they are German, British, or multi-national companies.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr C Zursiedel czursiedel@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Challenging, but rewarding" Tom



"A good mixture of topics and activities" Charlotte



"So much better than GCSE; small classes, and everyone gets it." Harry



dare to be

IB Ab Initio Japanese

■ What will I study?

You will study a wide range of **useful**, everyday topics so that you can **express** yourself in Japanese including:

- Personal information
- Education and employment
- Holidays
- Travelling, going out and leisure activities
- Health and general wellbeing
- Solving problems
- Future jobs and careers

■ How will I be assessed?

There are two papers taken in the May of Year 13:

Paper 1: Written production: two writing tasks from a choice of six. Text types include letters, emails, speeches and blogs (25%)

Paper 2: Text handling and listening comprehension (50%)

There is also a spoken exam in January of Year 13 (25%), conducted by your class teacher.

■ How will I be taught?

All lessons will normally be conducted in the target language. We will learn the main script, **hiragana**, initially and add in **katakana** and **kanji** as the course progresses.

■ Why should I study Japanese?

Japanese is an **amazing** language which is quite unlike the other languages taught at TBGS. In order to understand how the language works, you need to **develop** a **broad** understanding of Japanese **society** and **culture**.

During the course, you learn a **new alphabet**, plus a new way of doing shorthand through reading and writing kanji. We study **cultural** points regularly to **highlight** that although there are many similarities between the UK and Japan, the Japanese mindset is very complex and frequently very different to our own. Thus, classes encourage you to put yourself in another culture's shoes and view the world from a **different perspective**.

Travelling the world from the comfort of your own classroom!

■ Who should I contact for more information?

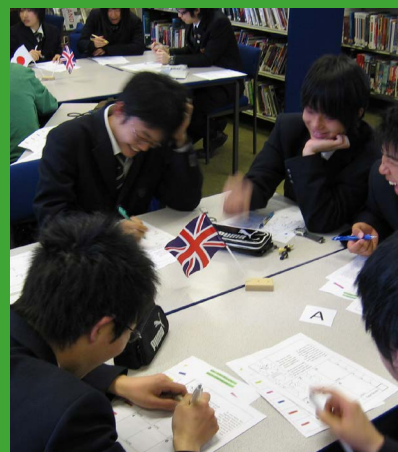
Mrs V Allen vallen@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Japanese introduces you to **a new way** of seeing the world; both in terms of language and a new perspective on another society". Finn



"Japanese is one of my **favourite** subjects because not only is it an interesting language but the **cultural** aspect is also **fascinating**." Felicity



It **is a unique** course with a large emphasis on teaching **the culture** as well as the language. This makes it very interesting, and also fun to learn". Reuben

dare to be

IB Ab Initio, Standard and Higher Level Spanish

■ What will I study?

Learning languages is fun! You'll be practising speaking, listening to authentic audio in Spanish, watching videos and increasing your **ability** to understand what real people are saying nowadays in the Spanish-speaking world. You'll handle a wide variety of texts, from advertising leaflets to poems and novels and newspaper articles, to prepare you for the **experience** of life in a Spanish-speaking country, and you'll be writing your own too!

The kinds of topics covered are those related to identities, human ingenuity, social organisation and sharing the planet.

■ How will I be assessed?

Assessment is in the four skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing, each worth 25%. Exams can be scary – especially speaking exams – but you'll be very well **prepared** for them, through all the activities in class.

■ How will I be taught?

Spanish is available in IB at 3 levels: Ab initio (Standard Level) for complete beginners or those with just a couple of years' learning, Standard Level and Higher Level for those having done GCSE or equivalent.

Ab initio and Standard Level, will take you to an ability to **interact** well with Spanish speakers and in Spanish-speaking countries. Take higher level study and you will be a **competent** user of the language, ready to study further, or **live and work** abroad.

Studying languages alongside other degree courses, in fields such as marketing, retail, engineering, will take you on an **incredible** journey later in life.

■ Why should I study Spanish?

The department has a highly **successful** track record: previously, everyone has achieved 5 or above.

Apart from being spoken by so many as the native language, it is fast becoming of **major importance** in the USA to speak both English and Spanish, with over 50 million speakers. Knowing Spanish will **transform** your travel experience, with over 20 countries to choose from. You could be working in the **future** with companies based here but with subsidiaries abroad, you could be living abroad, you could be working as a Diplomat, maybe just visiting...

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs M G Foster mfoster@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"The trip to Salamanca was **amazing**. We did loads to improve and every day we had to use what we'd learned to interview locals. The visits were also absolutely **fantastic!**" Harry



"I really enjoyed the Uruguayan short stories – they weren't like anything I'd read before, and I was surprised how **easy** they were to understand." Ben

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Economics

■ What will I study?

Most students at IB haven't studied economics before. You might have an **interest** in economics and want to know more about the impact of **government policies** on the **world** around you. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news – Why do some economies grow and others don't? What will trade be like after Brexit? Will there be another global financial crisis? This course will help you to understand all this and more.

■ How will I be assessed?

Studying economics will help you develop **transferable** skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data **interpretation** and essay writing.

Although regular weekly assignments are set throughout the course, **dedicated** students must be keen to supplement specific class and homework activities with **individual research** and investigation from books, journals, newspapers, computer based resources and television reports. A lively interest in current affairs is essential.

There are 2 exam papers at standard and 3 at higher making 80%, and a 20% portfolio of 3 commentaries on recent news articles

■ How will I be taught?

An economic way of thinking can help people to make better choices. Economics is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- **debating** economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare;
- using and **interpreting data** to analyse economic problems;
- **discussing** alternative courses of action for example in the Budget or when setting interest rates;
- understanding **international trends**, such as why poverty is falling so fast around the globe.

■ Why should I study Economics?

Economics is about scarcity and choice, and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms.

With an Economics IB and related degree, you can work in a variety of different fields from stock broking, finance and banking, public policy, sales and marketing, civil service, journalism, insurance and actuarial work. Five years after graduation, the income gap between students who studied the subjects that attract the highest and lowest salaries can be considerable. Economics comes second highest after medicine and dentistry, taking home an average of £40,000 five years after graduation, according to the IFS in 2017.

Economics gets your brain "muscle" working! "It's a great subject for those with questioning minds, curious about what goes on around them. And what's more, it's fun!" Lucy Rock, News Editor, The Observer

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Aziz saziz@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I was fairly set on a career in medicine and chose economics on a whim, but the **applicability** of the subject and all the world events it helps to explain **interested** me to the extent that I chose to study it at university instead, and I'm so happy that I did."
Julia



"Economics develops and values **critical thinking** more than any other subject. The skills learnt from studying the subject are **invaluable** for any future **career**, economics-related or otherwise." Ed



dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Geography

■ What will I study?

There are 3 parts with a range of optional themes. Part 1 world Geographic themes includes Oceans and Coasts, extreme environments, and the geography of food and health. Part 2 is around perspectives and global change including population distribution, Global climate and Global resource.

The core theme provides an overview of the geographic foundation for the key global issues of our times. The purpose is to provide a broad factual and conceptual introduction to the geography of population dynamics, climate change and resource consumption issues.

Part 3 offers an extension focused on global interactions for HL only. There are three compulsory topics in the HL extension: Power, places and networks, Human development and diversity Global risks and resilience.

■ How will I be assessed?

The external assessment in geography consists of two examination papers at SL and three at HL. They are designed to allow students to demonstrate their competencies in relation to the geography assessment objectives and specific parts of the geography syllabus, namely the geographic skills, the core theme, the optional themes and, at HL, the higher level extension. The external components contribute 75% to the final assessment at SL and 80% at HL.

The internal assessment will, as far as possible, be woven into normal classroom teaching and not be a separate activity conducted after a course has been taught. The internal assessment requirements at SL and at HL are the same. The time allowed is 20 hours and the weightings are 25% at SL and 20% at HL. Students are required to undertake fieldwork collecting primary information and produce one written report that is based on a fieldwork question.

■ How will I be taught?

You will build up a learning **portfolio** compiled from lesson tasks, **personal** research and reading, short assignments and investigations. You will also be **encouraged** to keep a blog to **promote** opinion and interaction. Beware -you might have to compose and perform a water cycle rap and create a stop-motion film explaining the tides.

■ Why should I study Geography?

Hugely **relevant** and contemporary subject matter, particularly the challenges of Globalisation in the 21st Century, enthusiastic teachers with significant IB teaching and examining experience.

Geography is a popular subject at IB level with many students choosing to complete IB Extended Essays in the subject.

There are many opportunities to get outdoors including a three-day coastal fieldtrip to the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset and a two-day trip to London in the Summer term. The department also runs a six day residential trip to Iceland every 2 years for anyone interested in geography.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr H Fyfe hfyfe@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I really like how Geography relates to **current affairs**" Meg



"Geography is really **interesting** and **useful** as it allows you to gain a better **understanding** of the **world** you live in." Liv



"**Geography** is the **highlight** of my timetable!" Molly

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Global Politics

■ What will I study?

The main themes are people, power and politics, covering the theories and application of four compulsory units that include: Power, Sovereignty and International Relations, Human Rights, Development and Peace and Conflict. Students will look at the role of the UN and non-governmental organisations, social resistance movements such as Occupy, and finally terrorism and interstate war.

In addition at higher level, students extend to consider global political challenges. This gives the opportunity to explore important global political challenges through a case studies approach. HL students must study two of the following six topics: environment, poverty, health, identity, borders, security.

For each of the two topics chosen, students must undertake a detailed case study, culminating in a 10-minute video recorded oral presentation. These case studies provide an **opportunity** for students to conduct an in-depth analysis of complex political issues in real-life situations. The approach also familiarises students with the case study as an important method of **gaining knowledge** in the **social sciences** and allows them to practise **skills** considered important for students of the politics subject area, such as **research** and **presentation skills**.

■ How will I be assessed?

At Standard Level, students will complete two exams and an Internal Assessment or 'Engagement Activity' around a political issue of their choice.

At Higher Level, students will complete two exams and an Internal Assessment or 'Engagement Activity' around a political issue of their choice. In Year 13, they will complete two presentations each on a global political issue.

■ How will I be taught?

Lessons take a seminar format to prepare you for university.

■ Why should I study Global Politics?

RESULTS:

83% 6 - 7

100% 5-7

Global Politics is recognised as an academically **rigorous** discipline and the knowledge, understanding and skills it develops make for students whose **attributes** are sought after by many employers. It is a subject that can link well with many other academic subjects such as History, English and Economics. Many students of Politics go into the legal **profession** and the civil service, the media, and in business and commerce. To name but a few, Harry Enfield (Actor), Jerry Springer (TV Host), Alec Baldwin (Actor), and Rupert Murdoch are all politics graduates.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Miss J Bradbury jbradbury@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Global Politics is a **fascinating** subject that is **constantly moving**.

There are so many **opportunities** available from the subject including the Model UN which was great fun and very useful for my CAS and UCAS application! I am now going to study **International Relations** at University."

Cameron



"I didn't know what to expect when I started Global Politics but straight away it became my **favourite** subject! The lessons are fun and we got to **participate** in lots of **debate**. The Engagement Activity has allowed me to get much more **involved** in Politics and base it around my chosen career path."

Madison

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level

History

■ What will I study?

The main themes at both Levels are:

Authoritarian states in the 20th century, analysing the rise, consolidation and development of authoritarian states as well as opposition to them. It will concentrate on the governments of Stalin in Russia, Hitler in Germany and Mao in China.

The Move to Global War, investigating the nature of wars in the twentieth century, focusing in particular on the First and Second World Wars, the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, the Chinese Civil War 1927-37 and 1946-49, the Falklands/Malvinas war of 1982 and the Gulf War of 1991.

Higher Level

Higher Level students will additionally study European history in the 19th and 20th centuries. They will look in more detail than the Standard Level course at a range of topics from Imperial Russia under Alexander II, to the rebuilding of the European continent after devastation of the 2nd World War.

European diplomacy and the First World War 1870-1923 will involve a more thorough analysis of the long-term causes of the breakdown of pre-1914 diplomacy and the wider consequences of that breakdown after the First World War.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exams at Standard level and 3 at Higher level, alongside an Internal Assessment on a topic of History that you are interested in.

■ How will I be taught?

Lessons will be taught in a variety of ways, including seminars to prepare you for University.

■ Why should I study History?

RESULTS:

100% PASS RATE EVERY YEAR

67% 7-6

History is **recognised** as an **academically rigorous discipline** and the knowledge, understanding and skills it develops make for students whose **attributes** are **sought after** by many employers. There are many **successful** historians in the legal profession and the civil service, in the media, in the tourism and heritage industries, and in business and commerce. To name but a few, Gordon Brown, Jeremy Bowen (BBC correspondent), Steve Coppel (football manager), and Louis Theroux and Michael Palin (documentary makers) are all History graduates.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Miss J A Bradbury jbradbury@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"IB History is totally different from GCSE. The **range** of History studied is **fascinating** and the opportunities to get involved in History Society have helped **improve** my **leadership** and team work skills. This was really useful for my CAS and UCAS application!" Anna



"I have really **enjoyed** studying IB History as I have been able to **explore** the relationships between **Historical change** in different parts of the world. Due to the way IB History is taught and the level of support from my teachers, I feel very **prepared** and **excited** to study History at Oxford University!" Harry

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Philosophy

■ What will I study?

Philosophy dares us to ask the biggest questions about the world around us and our relation to it. Our course enables you to directly engage with fundamental questions and to add your voice to discussions with scholars from over 2000+ years of academic history. It may turn out that you think Sartre, Plato, Descartes, Singer, De Beauvoir, Bentham or Kant have illogical or even incoherent ideas and with our support you will be able to find and sharpen your philosophical voice to make clear, precise and analytical arguments. Studying philosophy in this way, in the safe, respectful environment of the TBGS Philosophy classroom, means you can discern the right and wrong answers in everything from the ideal political structure for a successful society to the nature of human consciousness.

■ How will I be assessed?

Aside from the Internal Assessment, all exams are at the end of course.

Both Higher Level and Standard Level students engage with our prescribed text: *The Republic*, authored by Plato. In their exam, students complete a two-part essay answer.

Both Higher Level and Standard Level students also complete an essay on the Core Theme: Being Human. This is an essay in response to a stimulus (a piece of writing, or a picture) where students draw a relevant philosophical question themselves from that stimulus, before answering based on their Core Theme studies relating to topics such as Identity, Human Nature, Freedom and Consciousness. The other half of this exam sees students answer an essay on either one [SL] or two [HL] Optional Themes we have studied – Ethics and Philosophy of Religion.

Higher and Standard Level students also complete an Internal Assessment on a philosophical topic entirely of their choosing.

Finally, Higher Level students sit Paper 3, which asks students to respond to an unseen text that links to Philosophy and Contemporary Issues, such as environmental ethics.

■ Why should I study Philosophy?

Philosophy at TBGS has a clear track record of success. Not only is this found in our average points score, but it is found in the IB Philosophers who have left equipped not only for the further study of the subject that many opt for in both single and joint honours contexts, but in the skills and mindset that they leave with. Studying Philosophy enhances skills in logical thinking, rational analysis, clarity of thought and the ability to disagree carefully and healthily when engaged in debate. By choosing to study Philosophy, students are keeping open their options for their futures as they develop the skills and understanding to take them into Medicine, Law, PPE, Journalism, Business or many other areas! Beyond this, you join a vibrant Philosophy community with the chance to run clubs, give talks and take your skills and ideas beyond our classroom!

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr M Dimmock mdimmock@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I'm very grateful for the **foundation** you gave me in Philosophy. I don't think there's any way I would be doing what I am currently doing if it wasn't for your teaching while I was at school."



"Every time I entered the **Philosophy classroom** it was with complete understanding that I would potentially leave with an entirely **different perspective** on an issue, or life in general. At no point were we allowed to rest easy in our **theories**." Luke

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Biology

■ What will I study?

Regardless of your chosen course, you will study a broad range of topics including cell biology, biochemistry, ecology, classification, exchange and transport, communication, energy transfers and genetics. Extensive **training** in a wide range of **laboratory** and **fieldwork** techniques is a key part of both courses. Both standard and higher courses cover the same content and only differ slightly in detail and emphasis.

■ How will I be assessed?

IB Biology is 80% exam assessed. There are two papers with a mix of multiple-choice, structured short and extended response questions. The Individual Investigation contributes 20% of the final mark and is a self-directed piece of practical work carried out at the end of Year 12. This is a challenging part of the IB course, but you will be well-supported by staff throughout and students find the process a rewarding one, particularly in having the opportunity to investigate something of personal significance or interest.

■ How will I be taught?

IB Standard Level Biology is suitable for students with an interest in the subject, but who have no plans to study a biological degree at university. IB Higher Level Biology allows students to access the full range of biological degrees at university.

Either course is accessible to students who have completed either Biology as a separate GCSE or as part of a Combined Science course. All students complete an induction course at the start of Year 12 to introduce them to the practical and mathematical skills required for their studies.

■ Why should I study Biology?

Biology complements the other science subjects, Geography and Physical Education, but will work with any subject provided you have a passion for the subject. Biology is an obvious choice for students wanting to study medicine, physiology and related degrees, but either course provides access to a wide range of degree courses including veterinary, genetics, ecology, marine biology and zoology. An **enthusiasm** for Biology can take you to some **fantastic** places and provide **exciting** and **unexpected opportunities** so even if you don't have a particular career in mind, but have been inspired by David Attenborough then Biology could be the course for you.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Miss S Rowan srowan@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Biology has given me useful **transferable** skills such as **data analysis** that will be really **helpful** when I study Economics at university". George



"The trips are very **informative** and allowed me to consolidate the content learned in class". Sam



"Studying Biology has introduced me to **fascinating** topics such as **epigenetics** and has inspired my future career path" Kate

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Chemistry

■ What will I study?

The chemist is an **artist** who is able to paint in their imagination a hidden world of electrons, atoms and molecules. He or she can understand the behaviour of matter and make predictions about how substances can be made to change chemically to make new materials. **Visualising** the world around us using the chemical 'model' is **fascinating**. Chemistry is, for many of us, **simply enjoyable**.

At TBGS, our aim is to develop in our students this understanding, appreciation and fascination in the science (and art) of engineering on the molecular level.

■ How will I be assessed?

IB Chemistry is offered at Higher Level and at Standard Level. These provide a solid grounding in all the major disciplines of chemistry, namely physical, inorganic and organic.

A total of about 60 hours(HL) and 40 hours(SL) will be spent on various practical activities culminating in an individual investigation lasting about 10 hours. The individual investigation is exciting and engaging and gives students a taste of the thrills and challenges of scientific research.

In addition, all students studying the Experimental Sciences are expected to work together on the Collaborative Science Project, where a scientific or technological topic is studied that allows concepts and perceptions from across the disciplines to be shared.

Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and provide 80% of the marks. The remaining 20% of the assessment is based on the internally assessed individual investigation.

■ How will I be taught?

Students will have two tutors from a chemistry department staffed with very experienced teachers and very capable chemists. Teachers who are enthusiastic about teaching and maintain a great interest and love for the subject. The Chemistry Department achieves outstanding results year after year and sends many students to university to study science and medicine amongst other subjects. We have very many students achieve the top grade 7 (attained by only 6-10% internationally); in some years grade 7 has been the predominant grade for our cohort.

■ Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry is sometimes described as the 'middle science'. It is a physical science applying understandings from physics and mathematics to chemical systems, but chemistry is also the language used to understand much that is of interest in the biological and medical sciences. It also has significant overlaps with geology, earth sciences and engineering. It is essential to study chemistry at A Level or IB in order to apply for medicine or veterinary science.

IB Chemistry is highly regarded for the **analytical thinking** skills it encourages. A high grade is likely to be regarded as evidence for a student's **intellectual** ability to work with abstract ideas to **solve problems** of a challenging nature. This is a **valuable transferable skill**.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Dr S Marr smarr@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"Honestly, Chemistry is my **favourite** Higher Level subject." Chris



"The Chemistry teachers at TBGS provide constant **help and support**. This has helped me to **engage, enjoy** and **flourish** in the lessons." Charlotte



"IB Chemistry at Standard Level is a **brilliant choice**. As someone who is not primarily **focused** on the sciences, Chemistry is an **interesting** and exciting subject that is feeding my **enthusiasm** for learning." George

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level

Physics

■ What will I study?

The IB course builds on the topics studied at GCSE, and develops a more in depth understanding of our universe, from particle physics through materials science to astrophysics and cosmology. Fundamental concepts such as wave theory, electrical circuits, vector analysis and field theory will allow you to access the current explanations of the most complex phenomena. We cover some of the most exciting and challenging areas of physics such as Einstein's theory of special relativity and thermodynamics. Be prepared to change the way you see the world. Theories are built on observations and analysis, so techniques by which data can be handled are also taught.

■ How will I be assessed?

There are 3 Externally assessed papers. Paper 1 is multiple choice and does not allow the use of a calculator. Paper 2 comprises of short and extended response questions on all the topics, and Paper 3 has questions on experimental skills.

The great thing about the IB Physics course is that your Internal Assessment (worth 24%) is based on an experiment that you design, plan and carry out yourself. The experiment is usually based on an interest you have. In the past we have had students investigating guitar strings, rollercoasters and ballet dancing!

■ How will I be taught?

You will be taught in a wide variety of styles by two teachers, which will meet any learning style you favour. There will be some theory lessons, backed up with simulation labs, independent study sessions, as well as experimental lab work where you will work in groups and individually. The subject is taught with a high level of **expertise**, but in an **inclusive, friendly** manner, with the expectation of **commitment** from you.

Physics is an experimental science, and practical skills are taught, such as measurement techniques, uncertainty analysis, graphical skills and quantitative evaluative procedures. You will have access to a huge range of **technical** pieces of apparatus that you can use **independently** such as oscilloscopes, high voltage supplies, lasers and so on. This will form the basis of developing your internal assessment project, as well as helping with the Group 4 Project.

■ Why should I study Physics?

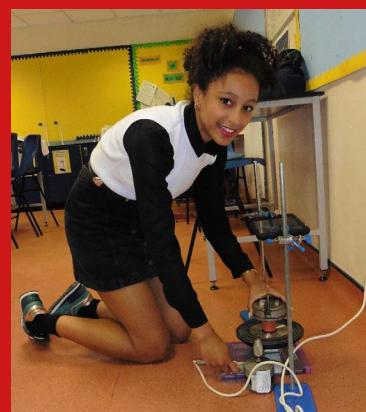
Physics is the most **fundamental** of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself from the very smallest particles to the vast distances between galaxies. The Physics Department at TBGS is characterised by **enthusiasm** and a fascination for the subject, coupled with a commitment to high quality and **effective** teaching. Our aim is for that teaching to bring about deep learning for all students and to develop a **curiosity** about the world and universe that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. The skills that students studying Physics gain at TBGS (practical, problem solving, numeracy, analysis, team work, communication and research) equips them to be able to enter a wide range of professions, not just in physics and engineering, but in finance and journalism, for example.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Britton sbritton@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I enjoy the way we learn the **theory** using mathematics and then get to test it out in **real life** situations" Mike



"The way we are allowed to **design** our own **investigations** is really fun – even though they can be a bit tricky to set up!" Zehara



"Our teachers give us way more freedom than at GCSE and we can work with **really cool experiments** like the Ruben's Tube" Luke

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level Mathematics

■ What will I study?

At TBGS, we offer three Mathematics courses at IB so that you can choose the one that best suits your future aspirations. 'Analysis and Approaches' is offered at Standard Level or Higher Level and 'Applications and Interpretation' at Standard Level.

You'll cover the same core topics in all three courses; Number and Algebra, Functions, Geometry and Trigonometry, Statistics and Probability, and Calculus. Most of these topics will sound **familiar** to you as you will have previously studied elements from them. In each topic there is a core element studied in all courses, then different further content dependent on the course you have chosen.

In the Analysis and Approaches courses, you will develop an **appreciation** of Mathematics for its own sake through its **pure elegance and power**, as well as using it to model and solve real-world problems. The courses are **rigorous** in nature, and so will help you to become **confident** and **analytical** mathematicians who have advanced knowledge in this subject. You will learn to **communicate** Mathematics **concisely** and **coherently** and to think **logically** and **critically** when faced with a range of mathematical problems.

In the Applications and Interpretation course the emphasis is on applying the mathematics you are learning and on understanding how it can be applied in many contexts both in other subjects and in common **real-world** occurrences. You'll also learn how to think **logically**, **communicate** and **interpret** Mathematics **accurately** and **develop** your **problem-solving skills**.

■ How will I be assessed?

In all 3 courses, you will have to write a piece of coursework, worth 20% of the overall grade, and take examinations, which make up the other 80%. Your teachers will give you plenty of support as you write your coursework, and as you prepare for your examinations which take place at the end of your second year.

■ How will I be taught?

You'll experience a **variety** of teaching methods and will have the opportunity to work both **individually** and **collaboratively**. You'll practise routine skills but also tackle longer, more demanding problems. Technology plays an essential part in all the courses. You'll use a graphical display calculator in most of your lessons so that you can solve much more complex problems. Because of this, you'll need your own for use in class and in your examinations.

■ Why should I study Mathematics?

Studying Analysis and Approaches will **prepare** you very well for Further Education courses or careers that involve Mathematics. Standard Level will mean you have the knowledge and skills required to support a subject which has significant mathematical content. Studying at Higher level will mean you will be **well-prepared** to study Mathematics or subjects where mathematics plays a fundamental part at university.

The 'Applications and Interpretation' course is designed for students who do not anticipate a need for mathematics in their future studies and for whom their main interests lie outside mathematics. By choosing this course you will be able to develop the highly transferable skills gained through studying mathematics such as logic and problem-solving, and in particular an understanding of how mathematics can be applied to many different contexts.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr C Price cprice@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk

"IB Standard Level Maths (Applications and Interpretation) **helps** me apply what I have learnt to the **real world** – it's useful!" Will



"Taking Higher Maths has allowed me to **challenge** myself more than ever and enhance my understanding of **various topics** in Maths. It has also allowed me to have a **better understanding** of topics in Physics and Chemistry, which is a good benefit." Dan



"IB Standard Level Maths (Analysis and Approaches) gave me the **opportunity** to continue studying Maths beyond GCSE which I love as it is not only **interesting** but helps me with many of the other subjects I study." Molly

dare to be

IB Standard and Higher Level

Music

■ What will I study?

A new and exciting curriculum which teaches you to make the most of your musical talent, by learning how the best composers and artists make the music you love, developing the skills to help you express yourself musically in an increasingly mature way. You will listen to, play and compose in a variety of musical styles from around the world. You will be taught to work out how a piece of music is constructed by listening and score study, and will use the features you discover in your own compositions and performances. You will collaborate with other artists to create a unique musical project.

■ How will I be assessed?

Students complete three (SL) or four (HL) assessment units, comprising the submission of a portfolio of research, composing and performing work:

Exploring Music in Context (Musical research projects plus composing and performing exercises)

Experimenting with Music (Three related composition extracts, three related performing extracts and a supporting report)

Presenting Music (Performing and Composing portfolio with programme notes)

Contemporary Music Maker (Real life collaborative project evidenced by a 15 minutes presentation)

■ How will I be taught?

Music teaching at IB focuses on developing musical **independence**. Students discover the skills they need to compose, play and analyse music and then apply these to projects tailored to **enhance** musical strengths and improve areas of weakness.

Class sizes are small, so you receive a high level of support from expert **musical practitioners**, who are able to get to know you in depth as a musician and give detailed **constructive** feedback on your **creative** work.

Music students are given priority use of practice rooms and musical facilities when available.

■ Why should I study Music?

A high proportion of our music students enjoy huge success securing places to study the subject at top universities and music colleges, including Trinity Laban, Royal Welsh College, York, Oxbridge and BIMM. We have a superb pass rate and many of our students achieve the top grades.

Music is not just for specialists though. It nurtures **problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, analysis** and **research skills**, is highly valued by top universities in tandem with sciences and humanities.

Albert Einstein identifies **creativity** as the characteristic that sets the greatest scientists, politicians, engineers and sports people apart: "the greatest scientists are artists as well."

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mr C Eastman ceastman@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"My **creative** juices can flow." Maddie



"The **highlight** of my IB experience and a **great contrast** to science and maths." Luke



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IB Standard and Higher Level Visual Arts

■ What will I study?

Learning to **communicate** ideas in a **visual** form is not only a great skill to acquire but is great fun also. Core themes can be **developed** through drawing, painting, sculpture and 3D design, photography and digital manipulation, montage, collage and pretty much any materials that are available. Students have **great freedom** in the themes that they study. This is very much about **personal development** as well as learning about materials and processes. Studying the work of artists, designers and architects will also **enrich** the **creative experience** and help students in terms of ideas and direction.

■ How will I be assessed?

Assessment for the IB course is as follows

- **The Exhibition**, curated by the students and containing between 8 and 11 pieces. (Higher) or 5 and 8 pieces (Standard) (40%)
- **The Process Portfolio**, a workbook or sketchbook, displaying skills-based practical work and critical thinking. (40%)
- **The Comparative Study**, of at least 3 artworks and linking to the student's own practice. (20%)

■ How will I be taught?

Students at higher level will receive 8 lessons per fortnight and 5 lessons at standard level. This is usually split between 2 members of staff.

We have **fantastic** art facilities and the art studios will be available to students during free periods and at lunch times to further their studies. The gallery is an inspiring space to display the final exhibitions in.

At least one art trip will be organised during the course, this will feed into different aspects of the programme of study.

■ Why should I study Visual Arts?

With a highly **successful** track record, the department prides itself on **excellent** results.

This is a subject that can bring great **balance** to a curriculum, **thinking creatively** and working with different materials is a **wonderful** experience.

Students have gone on to study in a whole host of creative industries such as architecture, graphic design, photography, fine art, theatre set design, jewellery making, furniture design, textiles and fashion, interior design, animation, museum curation and many more.

■ Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs M Torocisk mtorocisk@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk



"I really enjoyed Studying Art in the Manor it has helped me to **develop** my skills using a wide range of **materials** and concepts. Throughout the course I have gained in **confidence** and now feel like a much more well-rounded artist." Tallulah



"The Barcelona trip was a **fantastic** opportunity to refresh and expand our ideas at a **pivotal** point in the IB Visual Art course. Visits to numerous artistic and architectural works made for an **unforgettable experience**. It also gave us valuable time to share our **love** of the subject with peers and teachers, leaving us all with some great **memories**." Jake



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IB CORE

The diploma has a central core of CAS,
Extended essay and TOK.

■ Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

CAS is all about experiential learning - learning through doing - and the best part is you get to choose what you do. It can be anything from helping your dad construct a shed, to taking part in a public debate.

You'll need to do roughly 5-10 different 'experiences'. Some will be solely Activity (e.g. playing football for a local team), some a mixture (e.g. raising money by doing a Sponsored Walk). Some will be alone (e.g. learning the drums), some with others (e.g. playing drums in a band). If you're doing DofE, ALL of the things you do for that will count for CAS.

You get to do some exciting activities that you already enjoy, or have always wanted to try, and it counts towards your Diploma. So, it's guilt-free time away from your school subjects! Creative thinkers will be the foundation of the future world, as will healthy, active young people.

■ Extended Essay

All IB Diploma students undertake an Extended Essay on a topic of their choice, to develop skills in independent research, critical evaluation and formal written communication.

Students spend around 40 hours on it spread over several months, and have around 3 hours one-to-one contact time with an academic supervisor, who provides advice and guidance. All the skills involved in preparing and completing an Extended Essay are highly transferable, not least commonly providing a focus for university application personal statements and in competitive interviews.

■ Theory of Knowledge

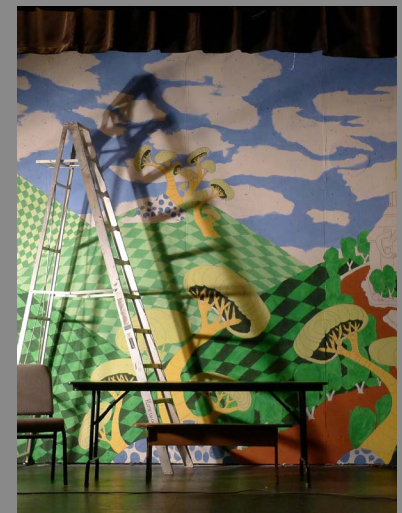
TOK provides an opportunity to stand back from the mere acquisition of knowledge and to ask more fundamental questions such as 'how do I know that?', 'how has that knowledge come about?', and even 'is it possible to know anything for certain?'

The aims of the TOK course are, therefore to develop students' ability to reflect upon, critically examine, and evaluate claims to knowledge in a variety of disciplines and to encourage them to make connections between disparate areas of their studies and their everyday life.

Students will emerge from the TOK course able to analyse, to generate hypotheses make interesting links between different fields, and communicate their ideas clearly.

There are 2 assessments, one essay (1600 words), worth 67%, and one presentation to the class and one class presentation 33%.

Both the EE and TOK will be graded A-E, and the combination will be converted to a score out of 3 towards your 45 point total.



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10 Reasons



why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

1



It increases academic opportunity

Research* shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications.

2



IB students care about more than just results

Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as intellectually.

3



It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner

For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.

6



The IB encourages critical thinking

Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.

5



Graduates are globally minded

Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.

4



It's an international qualification

The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.

7



DP students have proven time management skills

Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.

9



Subjects are not taught in isolation

Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.

10



It encourages breadth and depth of learning

You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

8



It assesses more than examination techniques

Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.



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