



**Baleares  
International  
College, Sa Porrassa**  
an Orbital Education School



# SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

## 2024 - 2025

EXCELLENCE · RESPECT · RESPONSIBILITY · INTEGRITY · COMPASSION

## About our School

# Welcome to Balears International College

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Balears International College welcomes students aged 5 - 18 from over 45 different countries. Our school blends the highest quality, rigorous British education through the English National Curriculum, within a learning environment that is positive, constructive and a happy place to spend the day.

Our teaching staff are fully UK trained and experienced, and bring with them the latest educational methodologies and approaches. Our school features a wide range of facilities, and we make excellent use of outdoor learning spaces as well.



## Orbital Education

# Bringing the best of British education to the world

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Orbital Education is completely dedicated to the service of advancing international education based on the British model. The company's head office in Manchester, England is staffed by a highly qualified team who support and direct the schools throughout the world.

The team are experienced educationalists, and all are united in the belief that the quality of education and the welfare of students is their greatest concern.

For more information go to:

[www.orbitaled.com](http://www.orbitaled.com)

## Our Sixth Form

### Come and meet us

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You are invited to visit the school at any time. Prospective Sixth Form students and parents/guardians are warmly welcomed by the Principal, Head of Sixth Form and our current Sixth Form students to talk about BIC and tour the school to see the high-quality facilities on offer.

To arrange a guided tour, contact our Admissions team:

Tel: (+34) 971133167

Email: [secondary@admissions.balearesint.net](mailto:secondary@admissions.balearesint.net) Web:

[www.balearesint.net](http://www.balearesint.net)

Facebook: @BICSaPorrassa



## Open Day and Taster Sessions for prospective Sixth Formers

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### *School Tours and Taster Sessions*

BIC is delighted to invite prospective students to meet our Sixth Form specialised teachers. Contact us for an appointment for a tour, we look forward to welcoming you!

### *Contact us*

Email: [secondary.admissions@balearesint.net](mailto:secondary.admissions@balearesint.net)

Telephone: +34 971 133 1 67

Address: Calle Figuera 3A - 07181 - Calvià - Mallorca

## Welcome to our Sixth Form

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We are delighted to introduce you to Balears International College Sixth Form, where we are committed to helping all our students achieve success. We provide a friendly, respectful and stimulating Sixth Form community in which students achieve the highest standards in their A Level subjects as a vital step towards university life. BIC Sixth Formers also benefit from a range of experiences and skills to allow progression to higher education, training or employment. Our Sixth Form students enjoy exceptional teaching across a wide range of subjects.

Globally, A Levels are a popular and respected route to universities across the world. They are valued for their challenge and depth of study. At BIC, we offer a vibrant and successful learning environment and an enriching curriculum. In the Sixth Form, we would expect most students to follow a programme that includes:

- Four full A Level courses
- Global Citizenship Programme focused on social wellbeing and knowledge for independent living after BIC.
- Community Leadership: A volunteer programme to help Sixth Form students develop the skills they need for University and life beyond.

We aim to enable each student to achieve success by offering opportunities and support for all.

BIC offers its Sixth Form students individual help and support tailored to their needs:

- A dedicated Sixth Form study centre with a college feel
- Additional staff time and one-to-one support to mentor individual students
- Small, seminar-style classes with a focus on individualised feedback
- Help with applications to universities in the UK, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, US and others
- Experienced, qualified UK teachers, many of whom have experience as examiners and textbook writers
- Extra Curricular activities like Drama, Dance and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Opportunities for leadership through our House System, Sports Captains or as Student Leaders

At BIC, we offer a package that we believe maximises students' opportunities. We want BIC Sixth Formers to be happy, to aim high, to be lifelong learners and to be responsible citizens.

**Alison Colwell**  
*Principal, BIC Sa Porrassa*



**Gordon Brown**  
*Head of Sixth Form*



## Share in our Sixth Form's success

# We think some things are worth celebrating!

### 2024 A LEVEL RESULTS

#### 84% A\* to C AT BALEARES INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

We welcome applications from students of all academic backgrounds and assess their entry requirements on an individual basis.

#### GREAT STUDENT : STAFF RATIO

Small group teaching is a hallmark of BIC. Given that A Level studies stretch our students' learning boundaries, we believe it is essential to provide a high level of personal support.



#### A SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

With over sixty Sixth Formers the BIC experience means having a range of peers to share learning and social opportunities with.

#### A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

With 485 students from over 45 different countries, BIC has one of the most varied international student bodies in Spain. In recent years, BIC Sixth Form students successfully started university courses in countries such as the UK, USA, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands.



#### MODERN SIXTHFORM CENTRE

Custom-built school, with air-conditioned classrooms and modern Sixth Form spaces with Wi-Fi, which includes a social space and a study area that provides a calm place to work and to develop independent study skills before going to university. Sixth Form students generally work on their own laptops.

#### OUR STUDENTS ARE WELL SUPPORTED

BIC has a strong system of pastoral support and guidance with a separate Head of Sixth Form and form tutors. Students get personalised careers advice, wellbeing coaching and English as an additional language support.



## Why we chose BIC Sixth Form



### FORMER STUDENTS

“With a warm and friendly atmosphere, in which to learn and expand your knowledge, BIC has all the right ingredients to take you to the next stage of your life, whatever you choose to do. There is a wide variety of courses to choose from taught by highly knowledgeable tutors. They are enthusiastic and passionate about their specialist subjects and dedicate their time to ensure every student achieves success. As well as working hard we always make room for fun with a vast array of social events throughout the year. If you want to be inspired and motivated to reach your ultimate goal, then come and be a part of the BIC family.

**Jessica Gilson, BIC Class of 2022**  
Keele University, UK - Psychology

“BIC offers a unique learning experience with small class sizes and incredible teaching. BIC offers a range of subjects which aren't available at other schools on the island. I have thoroughly enjoyed studying here, and I'm sure you will too!”

**Olivia Taylor, BIC Class of 2022**  
Reading University, UK - Law

### FORMER STUDENTS

On looking forward to going to Delft University of Technology to do Aerospace Engineering, former student Nacho said: “I am without a doubt looking forward to this new experience. I will, for sure, keep in contact with BIC and my fellow teachers. I have really good memories of my years at the school and I will never forget where I come from.

**Nacho Diaz, BIC Class of 2021**  
Delft University of Technology - Aerospace Engineering  
Engineering

“I personally think that the BIC Sixth Form is great as it's very welcoming when it comes to new students and we integrate them into our group of friends right from the start. I believe that this eliminates the fear of being new in school and allows them to settle in much more quickly and get straight into learning whilst also developing a social life.”

**Santos Alcover, BIC Class of 2021**  
Leeds University - Banking and International Finance



## Discover your potential

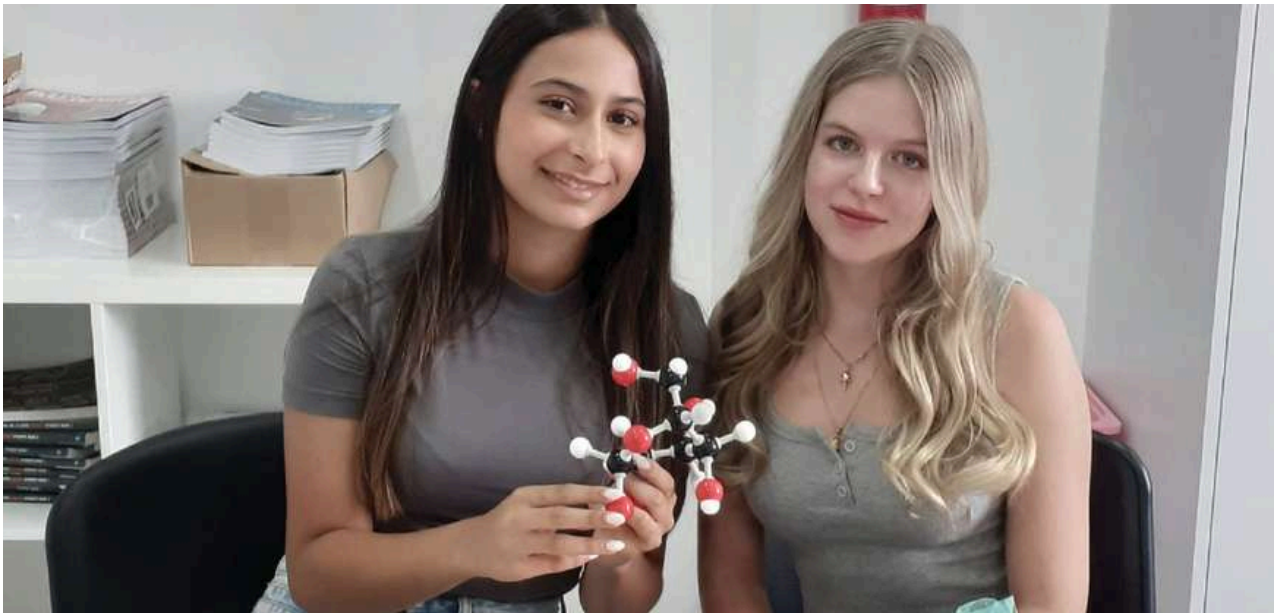
# Choose the right courses for you

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Students must be fluent in written and spoken English in order to meet the demands of the Sixth Form courses at BIC, with the exception of the language courses, which are taught in the language studied.

A Levels are a natural progression for students who have completed IGCSEs and build on similar skills taught at this level.

To be eligible to study A Levels, students need to have at least 5 IGCSE passes at grade C or 5 and above (including mathematics and first language English) or the equivalent from their previous school system. For specific subjects, grades may need to be higher. Please check the subject pages for further details.



### What are AS and A Levels?

A Levels remain the gold standard for students who aspire to access university in the UK, their home country or elsewhere in the world. A Levels are taken over two years: the first year is called an AS, or Advanced Subsidiary level. This is equal to half an A Level. The second year is called an Advanced level.

For most subjects, BIC offers the international A Level (IAL) with module exams. Year 12 IAL sit AS exams at the end of Year 12. Year 13 will have options to sit exams in October, January and May/June. However the UK A Levels (GCE) have exams at the end of the two years.

The subjects you study at A/AS Level can help shape your future, so your choices are very important.

You do not necessarily need to choose between mathematics/sciences or English/humanities – it is fine to mix them. However, if you are already focused on a particular career, this is a chance to start to specialise.

What matters most is choosing subjects that you will really enjoy and have a passion for. To do well, you will need to undertake wider reading and become absorbed in your subjects.

If you wish to study at a university from a German background, you need to ensure that the mix of your choices fulfils the requirements of the country or area within which you wish to study.

### A Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB)?

- A Levels are a natural progression for students who have completed IGCSEs.
- A Levels allow you to specialise. Unlike the IB, they give students the opportunity to specialise in their preferred subjects, thereby allowing more in-depth study.
- A Levels prepare you for your specialist chosen degree. The depth of study at A Level enables students to strengthen their chance of securing their chosen university course.
- A Levels enable a focused curriculum, allowing you to self-manage your study time and to take part in extra-curricular activities.
- Globally, A Levels are a respected and popular pathway to university.

### Applied Learning courses

Most A Level courses leave the door open for students to follow many different career paths. For some students we are aware that they already have a clear career path in mind and are better suited to doing coursework rather than a 100% exam-based course.

BIC has carefully selected new international A Level courses which are heavily career-based, applied qualifications, providing learners with a clear route into university or straight into their chosen careers. Today's employers are looking for confident, work-ready employees who have the practical knowledge and technical skills that are acquired through career-based A Levels.

BIC's current career-based courses include:

- Art and Design
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre
- Information and Communications Technology
- Mathematics in Context

### Need advice?

If you are unsure, please speak to our subject teachers, and our Head of Sixth Form. In addition, we offer access to a range of university fairs for our Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students.

Whatever your final decision, you will need to consider: what subjects you enjoy, what you are good at, career implications and which university courses you wish to access. The following pages will give you an overview of each subject, topics covered and who your teachers will be.





## What we offer

### Course List

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Here is a list of Sixth Form courses\* offered at Baleares International College:  
*Click on the course name to take you directly to the page.*

- **Art and Design**
- **Biology**
- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Dance**
- **Drama and Theatre**
- **Economics**
- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **German**
- **German**
- **History**
- **Information and Communication Technology**
- **Mathematics**
- **Further Mathematics**
- **Mathematics in Context**
- **Physics**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Spanish**

\*Please note that whilst we hope to run all these courses, the final subject offer will depend on student uptake and staffing levels. If we cannot run a specific course we will let you know in advance and work with you to find a solution.

## Art and Design

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### Why choose art and design?

A level art and design is a creative course that gives students the opportunity to develop their art and design skills. Students will explore their own ideas in a personal way.

Term 1 of Year 12 is a skill building project, where students will explore a range of techniques such as acrylic painting, fine liner drawing and negative space drawing. Students will then choose and develop a personal investigation. This will consist of photography, artist

research, drawing and painting and end in a final outcome or outcomes. Students will choose their starting point with teacher support.

The final project of the course is set by the exam board and ends in a 15 hour controlled assessment (sometimes called the exam project).

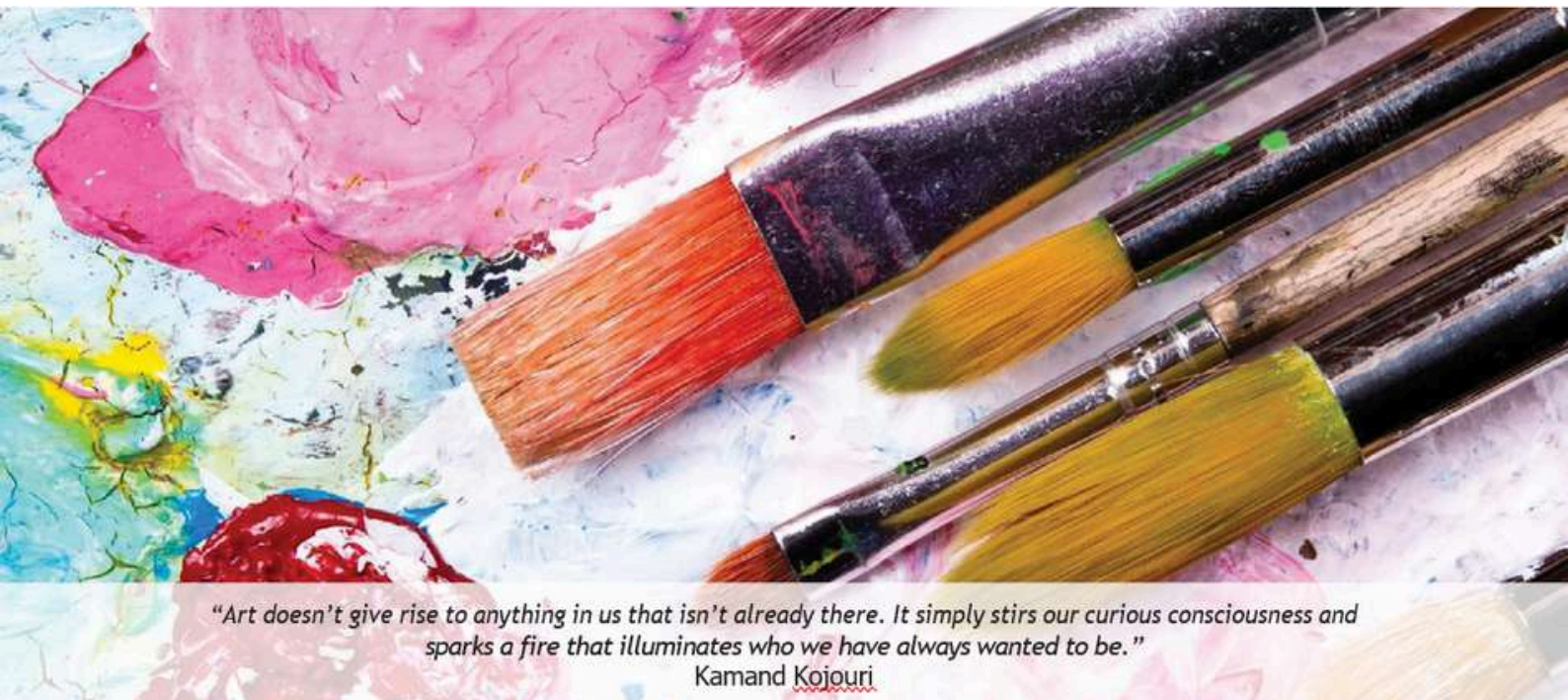
### What you will need to study A Level art and design:

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 or C in English first language or literature and in Art.

Students who have not studied IGCSE Art will be asked to provide a portfolio of their previous art work at sixth form entry interview.

### About your teacher:

Holding a BA in ceramics from Edinburgh, Mr Whitehead brings a wealth of experience to our school having successfully taught art, digital media, sculpture, painting and textiles, to name but a few. He joins BIC after teaching for 17 years in an outstanding school in Plymouth.



*"Art doesn't give rise to anything in us that isn't already there. It simply stirs our curious consciousness and sparks a fire that illuminates who we have always wanted to be."*

Kamand Kojouri

# Biology



## Why choose biology?

Many of the important and often contentious issues which society must address relate to the biological sciences. Ethical issues include stem cell research, genetically modified organisms, animal experimentation and the Human Genome Project and the use of its findings.

Environmental protection and health are topics that are high on the political agenda. Studying biology will also help students understand many of the issues that face society today such as cancer, drug use, climate change and antibiotic resistance.

Biology is a fascinating and varied subject, which is reflected in the high numbers of biology-based courses offered at university.

Topics include, among others: health, biodiversity, immunology, gene technology and practical skills.

Biology is a well-respected course and students can move on to a wide variety of careers. For example, if your interests lie in medicine, biotechnology or conservation then biology is the right course for your future career.

Students also go on to study non-biology related topics such as law. The A Level course demands a lot of critical thinking, data analysis and problem solving, all of which are vital transferable skills for the future.

## Over the course of two years, you will study the following modules:

Unit 1: Molecules, diet, transport and health  
Unit 2: Cells, development, biodiversity and conservation  
Unit 3: Practical skills in Biology 1

Unit 4: Energy, environment, microbiology and immunity  
Unit 5: Respiration, internal environment, coordination and gene technology  
Unit 6: Practical skills and biology II

## What you will need to study A Level biology:

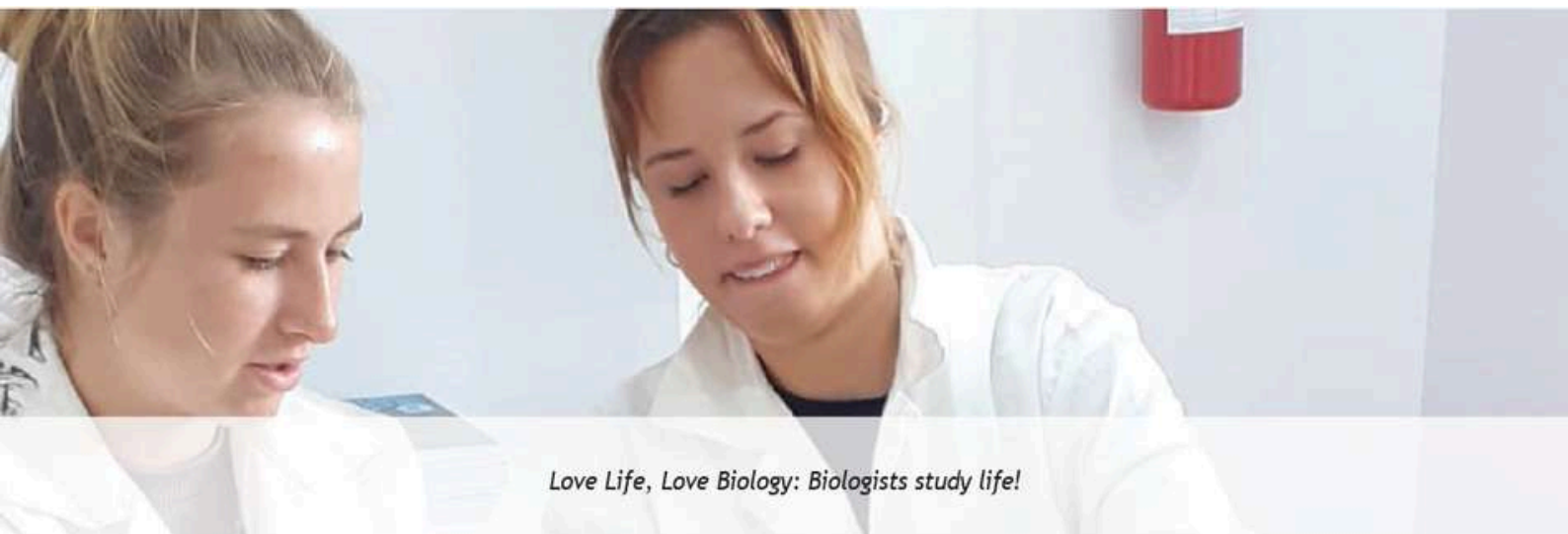
Minimum IGCSE grade 6 in biology (or 7 in double award science) and grade 6 in mathematics.

## About your teacher:

Miss Turley has a first-class honours degree in biomedical sciences from Newcastle University. After travelling the world, she started her teaching career in Leeds and takes credit as Head of Biology for a school that was

subsequently judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Since joining BIC in 2016, she has overseen the changes to the new A Level biology course.



*Love Life, Love Biology: Biologists study life!*

## Business



### Why choose business?

Today's business climate makes it an exciting time to study business. This course enables students to gain the required business understanding of all aspects involved in running businesses, as well as the detail and depth to develop a career in a specified area of the subject.

Students will study topics linked to people in businesses, marketing, staff recruitment, finance management and business organisation.

Students will develop personal skills such as planning and organisation, conducting research, problem solving and communication

This course include topics such as marketing, business finance, business strategy, managing employees, and how businesses participate in a global content. Students in Year 12 are encouraged to start a 'Young Enterprise' business during the year.

There will be the opportunity to take part in group work, welcome guest speaker visits from employers and universities, and visits to businesses.

### What you will need to study A Level business:

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 in Business Studies.

### About your teacher:

Mr Miller joined BIC in September 2023.

With a degree in history from the University of Leeds, as well as a masters in economics from the prestigious

London School of Economics, Mr Miller is experienced in teaching business studies, economics and maths. In addition he also has twenty five years of experience working in investment banking and finance.



*"Business touches on pretty much every aspect of modern human society; careers with a business degree are diverse and often highly paid."*  
www.topuniversities.com

# Chemistry



## Why choose chemistry?

Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It's in the food you eat, the clothes you wear, water you drink, medicines you take, cosmetics you put on your face, the packaging that wraps every consumer product you buy - it's in everything. It is often called the “**central science**” because it connects other sciences to each other, such as biology, physics, geology, and environmental science.

Chemistry helps you to understand the world around you. Our chemistry course covers a range of scientific disciplines, including physical, inorganic and organic chemistry. During the course, students will delve into the worlds of thermodynamics, rate equations, aromatic chemistry, protein synthesis, plus much more!

Chemistry is at the heart of many of the best hopes to solve global environmental issues such as climate change, air pollution, and the fate of plastics. It also helps you to understand current events, including news about

petroleum, product recalls, pollution, and technological advances.

It lets you study to become a doctor; that's right, if you want to study **medicine**, chemistry is even more important than biology! This really shows the diversity and importance of the subject. Jobs directly related to chemistry also include, among others: biotechnologist, healthcare scientist and research scientist. Jobs where chemistry will be useful include: environmental consultant, nuclear engineer and patent attorney, amongst others.

Even if you're looking for a job in another field, the skills you gained in chemistry will be very helpful.

This course will teach you problem solving, teamwork, numeracy, communication and practical skills, as well as hugely valuable independent study and reasoning skills. Chemistry applies to every industry and field out there.

## What you will need to study A Level chemistry:

Minimum IGCSE grade 6 in chemistry (or double award science) and grade 6 in mathematics.

## About your teacher:

Mr Cadman brings to his favourite subject nearly 20 years of experience resulting in a proven track record of academic success. His drive, enthusiasm and personable nature develops a learning environment where students

are actively encouraged to continually strive to push through barriers of understanding to become the masters of their own destiny.

## Over the course of two years, you will study the following modules:

- Unit 1:** Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- Unit 2:** Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols
- Unit 3:** Practical Skills in Chemistry I
- Unit 4:** Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry
- Unit 5:** Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry
- Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Chemistry II



*Everything you see around you involves chemistry in some way!*



## Computer Science

### Why choose IT?

Information Technology (IT) is the application of technology to process information. The impact of IT on all aspects of everyday life is immense. The enormity of the impact can be seen in industry and commerce, transport, leisure, medicine and the home. The impact of technology on the global economy and in making the world smaller means that students equipped with the skills to take advantage of this will be highly sought after.

The course aims to help develop a broad range of IT skills and knowledge of the uses of IT in the workplace and will provide a springboard to advanced university courses or into business. It also features more 'Creative Computing' content by introducing Video and Audio Editing, Web Design, Graphic Design, Animation and Web Programming.

### What you will need to study A Level IT:

Some of the topics covered during Year 12 and Year 13 are: hardware and software, the online environment, data

### What you will need to study A Level IT:

It would be useful if you know the basic programming.

### About your teacher:

Having previously trained and worked as a graphic artist, Mr Bramwell entered the teaching profession nearly 20 years ago having studied Information Technology and Computing at university in the UK.

It allows students to develop their IT skills by solving real world problems in one or more of these areas.

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of information technology by applying the concepts and solving a range of different problems that include a variety of contexts. They will develop their practical skills, particularly in coding for the web and databases.

The International A Level Information Technology course will provide students with excellent grounding to enable further progression to higher education. Future careers could include Computer Engineer, Software developer, Games developer, Network manager, Website/APP developer, Security analyst or Games/Software tester.

and databases, manipulating data, using IT systems in organisations, emerging technologies, etc.

You will also need the ability to think creatively, critically and logically.

As well as teaching in the UK, he has also taught in Vietnam, Thailand, Japan and most recently in the British International School of Stockholm.



## Dance



### Why choose dance?

Dance has for many years been an admired art form, taking the form of many different styles and genres. The study of dance will not only allow students to develop dance choreography and performance skills, but an appreciation and history of the art form.

Students will follow the IDTA Level 3 course and look at many different genres of dance, from ballet, to street, to contemporary, jazz and many in between.

The International Dance Teacher's Association is a globally recognised dance exam board. This qualification will not only demonstrate the student is an accomplished performer upon completion, but will also give them the necessary qualification to work as a teaching assistant in a dance studio. It will allow them further progression to complete their dance teaching qualification.

Students will also study the choreographic process for dance. They will look at how dance pieces are constructed, both in group and solo pieces. They will learn how to create their own original pieces of dance, responding to a stimulus, and how to create pieces suitable for different ages and abilities, in different styles and for different dance events.

### What you will need to study A Level dance:

Grade 5 in English and in Dance discipline from any exam board.

### About your teacher:

Ms Mayes is a qualified dance teacher and has a diploma in the performing arts. Her performances include: the Edinburgh Fringe; the Royal Albert Hall and in Mallorca. Ms Mayes taught in the UK and spearheaded the opening of a Performing Arts Academy at her school.

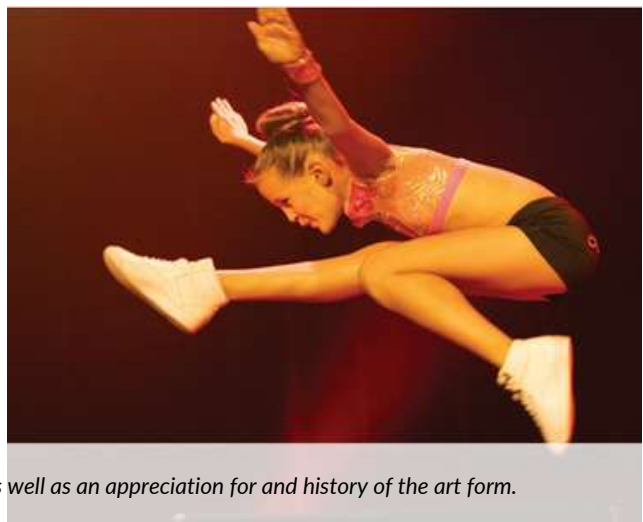
She has successfully coached students into top UK colleges for dance, music and drama. Previous students of Ms Mayes can also be found in the West End, as Entertainment Managers and even in films such 'Rocketman'.

Students will study anatomy and the importance of understanding the impact of dance exercise on the body. They will learn how to prepare the body correctly for dance, health and safety within a dance class and how to cool down and prevent injury. They will learn about all body systems but with specific focus on the muscular and skeletal system. They will complete a written anatomy diploma paper for this.

Students will study good teaching practice of their choice genre of dance for lower graded classes. They will learn dance pedagogy and different approaches for different learning styles. They will learn what makes a good dance lesson, and how to help younger dance students progress.

They will learn how to structure and lead a class, and they will learn the lower IDTA grades for demonstration in that style. This will lead up to their final exam, which will take place with an IDTA examiner, and will involve them presenting a portfolio and answering questions on, and discussing with the examiner, approaches to teaching the exercises.

You will need to audition to assess practical ability, a 5-year extra-curricular dance experience is ideal.



*Develop your dance choreography and performance skills, as well as an appreciation for and history of the art form.*

## Drama and Theatre



### Why choose drama and theatre?

Drama promotes the development of relevant transferable skills, using several areas of a student's academic life and beyond. These include communication, teamwork, confidence, leadership, creativity, problem solving, time management and research. There are several moments in academic and professional life past 6th form that individuals are asked to utilise these skills, for example in role play scenarios in job interviews, in a group project, or presentations made academically or professionally.

Some professions that largely benefit from the skills built in drama include teaching, law, project management, first responders, hospitality, media and politics. According to a study of Russell Group universities, 100% of students who applied for a law degree at three of their universities who studied Drama and Theatre at A Level were successful in

their application, which demonstrates the cross curricular value of the subject.

Throughout the course students will study devising, performance or design and play texts. Students will learn about a range of influential theatre practitioners and playwrights, and gain an in depth understanding of how a new performance can be developed through practical exploration and theoretical study. They will study historical theatre trends and compare these to modern theatrical conventions. Students will work in groups to create original pieces of theatre and bring extracts of existing plays to life. All of these explorations will be supported by a dynamic programme of school productions, theatre trips and professional workshops.

### What you will need to study A Level drama and theatre:

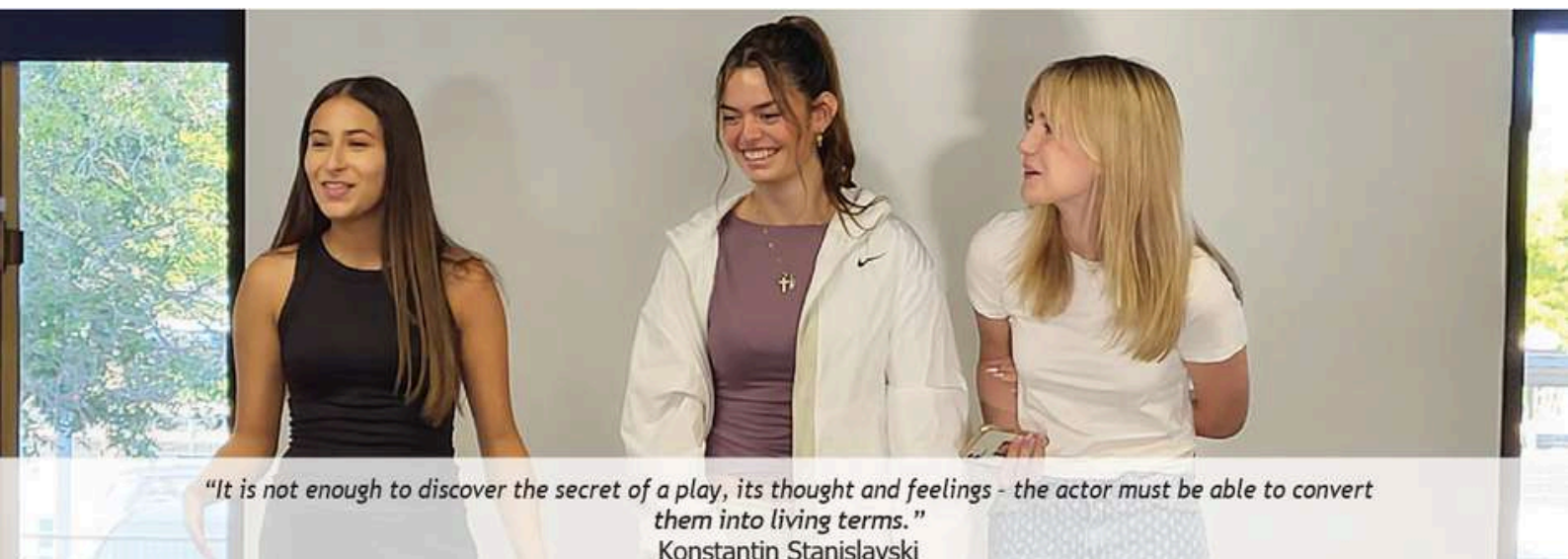
Minimum IGCSE entry requirements.

If you have not previously studied IGCSE Drama, you will be asked to audition for this course.

### About your teacher:

Ms Mayes is a qualified dance teacher and has a diploma in the performing arts. Her performances include: the Edinburgh Fringe; the Royal Albert Hall and in Mallorca. Ms Mayes taught in the UK and spearheaded the opening of a Performing Arts Academy at her school.

She has successfully coached students into top UK colleges for dance, music and drama. Previous students of Ms Mayes can also be found in the West End, as Entertainment Managers and even in films such 'Rocketman'.





## Economics



### Why choose economics?

It is an exciting time to study economics and gain a real understanding of the main issues of today. Whether you are concerned with climate change or trade wars, the impact of Brexit or multinationals, economics will give you real insights. This course will improve your mind and open up wide career opportunities.

Taught lessons will focus on applied economics with up-to-date examples. A keen interest in current affairs is essential for the research work you will do. Confidence in using mathematics will also help.

### What you will need to study A Level economics:

Minimum IGCSE grade 6 or B in English first language and mathematics

### About your teacher:

Mr Miller joined BIC in September 2023.

With a degree in history from the University of Leeds, as well as a masters in economics from the prestigious London School of Economics, Mr Miller is experienced

Written work will consist of essays, data response and multiple choice questions.

This course is 100% exam based. Practical knowledge will be gained through speakers and participation in the Bank of England's competition. Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies. To enable this and when possible, the school organises trips to Oxford, London, Paris and Madrid, hosts guest speakers and, above all, encourages debate.

IGCSE grade 6 Business studies should have been achieved by students following this course.

in teaching business studies, economics and maths. In addition he also has twenty five years of experience working in investment banking and finance.



*"On many issues, including some where the passions run highest, economics offers startlingly illuminating insights."*  
Paul Krugman



## English Language

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### Why choose English Language?

Unlock the power of words with A Level English Language! This dynamic course offers students a captivating journey into the heart of communication, equipping them with invaluable skills in analysing a range of written genres whilst also getting to delve into the art of creative writing.

In the second year, explore the intriguing intersections of social, psychological, and historical aspects in linguistic modules, gaining profound insights into the evolution of language. Uncover the mysteries of human communication and enrich your understanding of the world.

### Over the course of two years, you will study the following modules:

Paper 1: Reading  
Paper 2: Writing  
Paper 3: Language Analysis  
Paper 4: Language Topics

### What you will need to study A Level English Language::

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 or C in English first language.

### About your teacher:

Mr Brown has been teaching A-Level English Language and Literature since 2009. He has taught in a range of schools around London and recently in Seychelles. He has been Head of Secondary at BIC Sa Porrassa since August 2022. His degree is in English Literature and Creative Writing and, outside of his career in teaching, he has been a widely published award-winning poet and journalist. In 2010 he won the Eric Gregory Award for poetry, whose

A qualification in English Language opens doors to a wide range of higher education and career opportunities.

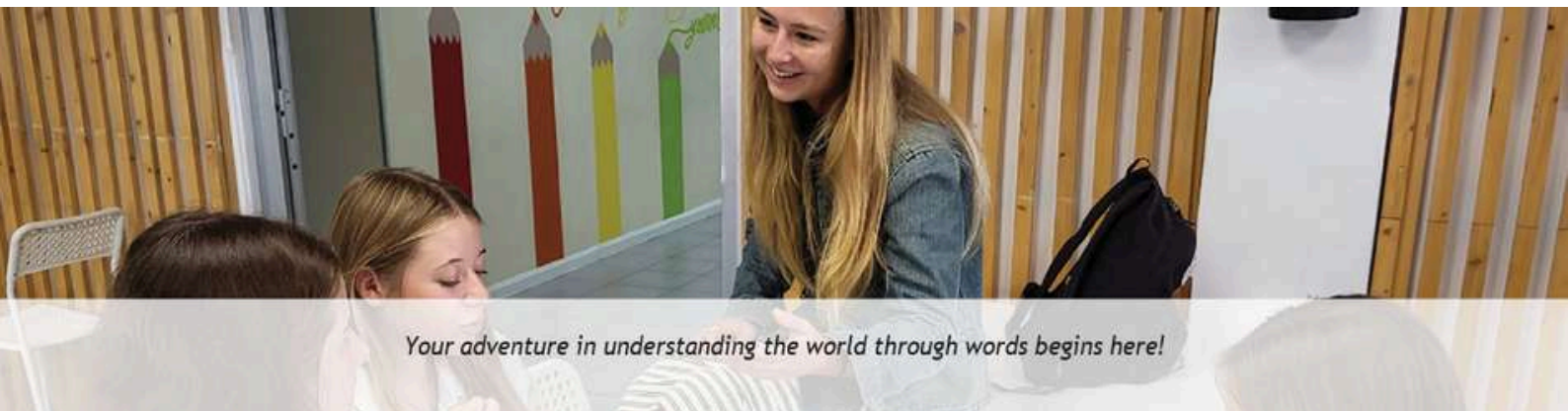
Enhance your prospects in fields such as journalism, marketing, or education, where the ability to craft compelling narratives and decode messages is paramount. It seamlessly complements subjects like sociology, psychology, literature and history, broadening your knowledge base and enhancing your analytical prowess.

### What qualifications will you need to take A Level English Language?

We would expect anyone taking this course to have a minimum of a grade 5 at English Language or Literature.

If you have not previously studied IGCSE Drama, you will be asked to audition for this course.

previous winners include Simon Armitage, Seamus Heaney, Andrew Motion and Carol Ann Duffy. His poems have appeared in anthologies and magazines and a full-length collection of his work was released in 2011. His journalism has appeared in The Guardian, The Times Educational Supplement, The Huffington Post and Seychelles' national paper of record, The Nation.



*Your adventure in understanding the world through words begins here!*

## English Literature



### Why choose English Literature?

Poet, Ted Hughes spoke of poetry having an effect on him even before he understood it. Reading literature has that power. Studying A Level English Literature enables you to begin to understand that effect while developing your ability to explain the way in which literature influences readers and audiences. You will develop an appreciation of literature as well as skills of interpretation and analysis, essay writing, recognising contextual significance, and making connections between texts. You will be challenged to question ideas around authorial intention and to analyse

language and literary techniques while being rewarded by some of the best works the world has seen: canonical texts, works from different literary movements, and literature from a range of cultures.

You will read prose, drama and poetry, from Shakespeare and Marlowe to modern novels and a range of works in verse, gaining a thorough grounding in literary study. In addition, your skills as a critical thinker will be developed to enable you to be successful in your next steps beyond A Level study.

### What you will need to study A Level English Literature:

Minimum IGCSE grade 6 in English first language and English literature.

### About your teacher:

Ms Austin is an experienced Head of English who joined BIC in 2020 having studied for an MA in Comparative Literatures and Cultures. She is passionate both about her subject and developing in students an appreciation of

literature. She is experienced in teaching in the UK and internationally, and throughout her career has worked to support young people to reach their full potential.



*"When I was too young to understand very much about [poetry] it had an enormous effect on me. And this was an effect quite apart from anything that I would call understanding or being able to explain them or knowing what was going on."*

*Ted Hughes, poet*

## French



### Why choose French?

More than 300 million people speak French on the five continents. French is the fifth most widely spoken language in the world after English, Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage in the international job market. French is the second business language in Europe and the third in the world.

Speaking French opens up study opportunities at renowned French universities and business schools, which are ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world. Students with a good level of French are eligible for French government grants to enrol in postgraduate courses in France in the discipline of

their choice and to qualify for internationally recognised degrees.

French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union and most international bodies.

The course will focus on current developments. In Year 12, students will look at new family structures in France, the French educational system, employment, music, media, French traditions and a French movie. In Year 13, they look at immigration in France, the Nazi occupation and the Résistance movement in France during the Second World War and a novel, "Un sac de billes".

### What you will need to study A Level French:

Minimum grade A or 8 in IGCSE Foreign Language or grade B or 7 in First Language French at IGCSE.

### About your teacher:

Madame Etienne has been teaching French at BIC since 2003 and previously she taught at the Alliance Française. She has a great deal of experience in the English

curriculum and has been a "DELFL" examiner for a year. She enriches her lessons with aspects of French culture and current events.



*"Avoir une autre langue, c'est posséder une deuxième âme"*  
Charlemagne

# Geography



## Why choose geography?

A rapidly changing world makes studying A Level geography a useful and fascinating subject. The course is a mixture of physical and human geography and students will study current, topical global issues. As geographers, students will develop essential skills in both numeracy and literacy as well as learning fieldwork skills and data analysis techniques developed through fieldwork trips.

Students will take a closer look at how physical and human issues influence lives and can be managed. They will investigate how the use and management of resources is a key issue for geography in today's world.

Contemporary global issues like the climate crisis, globalisation, geopolitics and economic development run through the course, providing students with a link between the physical and social sciences.

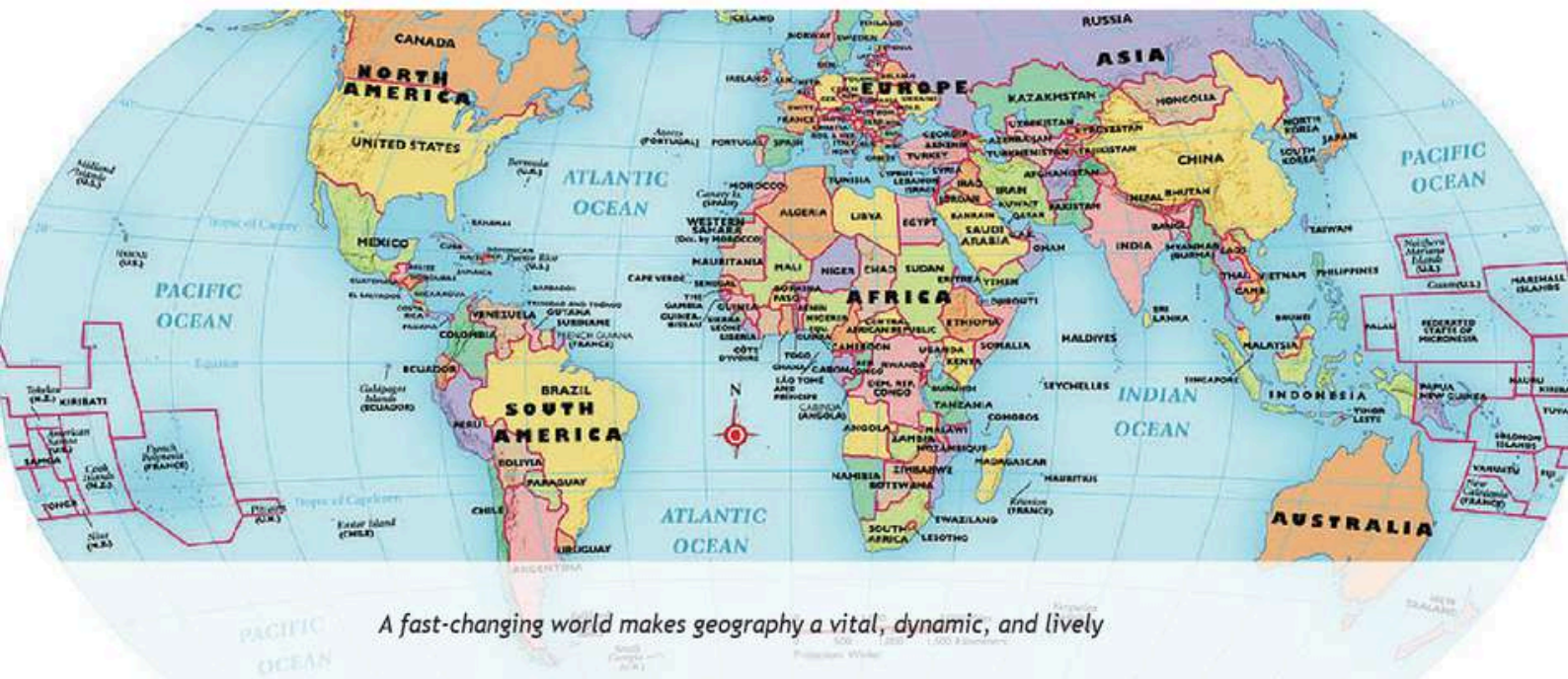
Studying geography provides students with valuable skills and a firm base for lifelong learning. Careers that benefit from a geographical education include urban planner, community development, cartographer, climatologist, transportation management, environmental management and many others.

## What you will need to study A Level geography:

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 or C in geography.

## About your teacher:

No stranger to Spain, Ms Wyatt worked previously for several years as a sailing instructor in Menorca. With a degree in geography from Plymouth University, she has taught in the UK prior to moving back here to the Balearics.





## German

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### Why choose German?

German at BIC has a long tradition. For more than thirty years this subject has been a strong A Level option for our students. Throughout all these years, the German department at BIC has ensured continuity, quality teaching and top results in all external examinations.

BIC is the only college on the island that offers an extended programme for our native and non-native German speaking students. The German department has the following objectives: confidence in both spoken and written German, combined with a wide knowledge of culture, history and literature.

German is the language of Goethe, Mozart, Einstein, Kaha – learning German at BIC is more than learning just a language, it is about cultural awareness, the ability to access German universities or career options and to establish future business contacts inside Europe’s biggest economy.

When possible, trips to Berlin, theatre and movie visits and other educational trips complete our lessons outside school, whilst project work, presentations and group work create a versatile spectrum of learning styles in a familiar and friendly German classroom environment.

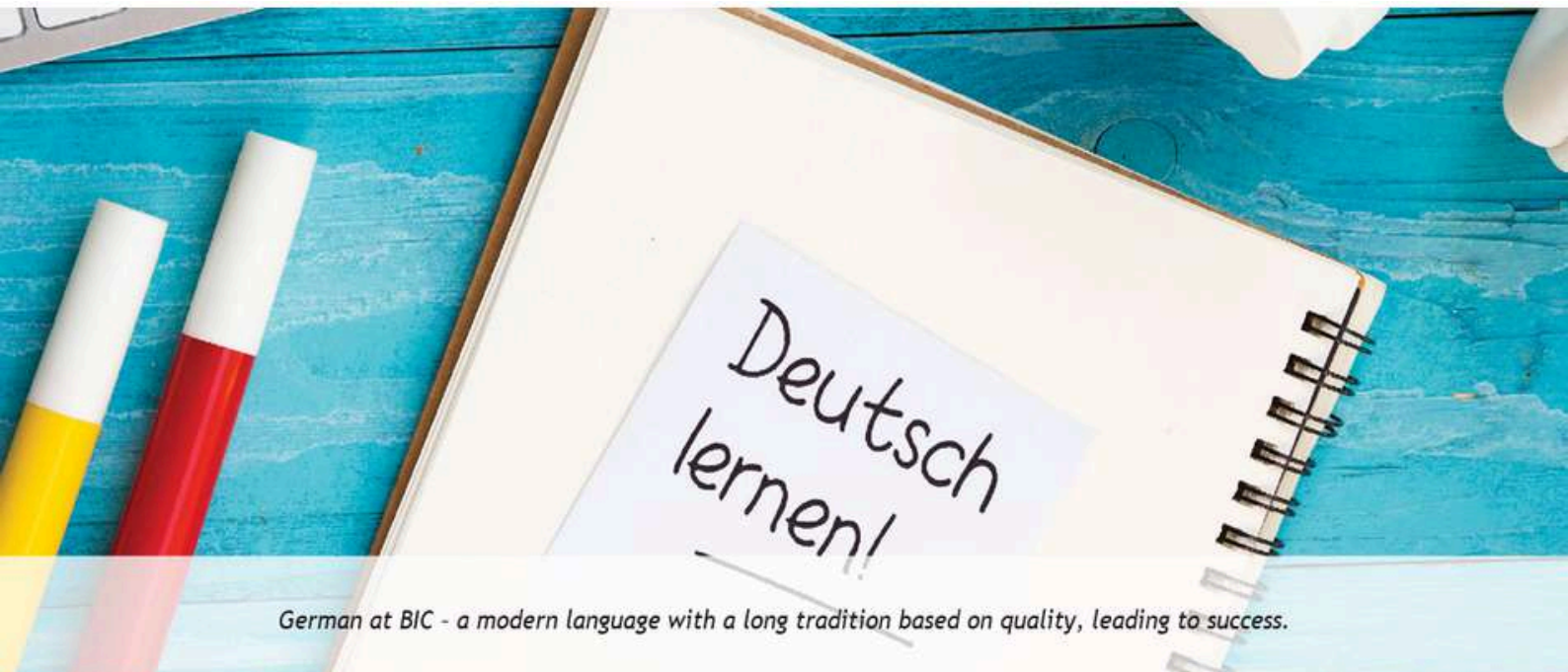
### What you will need to study A Level German:

Minimum grade A or 8 in IGCSE Foreign Language or grade B or 7 in First Language German at IGCSE.

### About your teacher:

Frau Ditthard has taught at BIC since 2006, having previously taught in Germany and Barcelona, and is an experienced examiner. She studied German and history at the University of Cologne.

In 2017, Frau Ditthard achieved the highest results in Spain in first language German and she has had a 100% A grade pass rate for the last 13 years.



*German at BIC - a modern language with a long tradition based on quality, leading to success.*

## History



### Why choose history?

Studying history provides students with skills that are not confined to the study of the past. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. This not only provides a skill set for students but it also keeps career options open. In order to make sense of current affairs, it is important to study the past, as everything happening around us has been influenced by, and is a direct result of, that which preceded it. In this way, the study of history is explicitly relevant to us.

AS topics studied will include: Britain 1964–1990, Russia

1917 - 1991 from Lening to Yeltsin. A2 Topics are: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1865– 2009, from the end of slavery to Obama, and The Cold War and Hot War in Asia 1945 - 1990.

Lessons will consist of a variety of learning approaches (e.g. seminars, groupwork, debates). Students will also have opportunities for independent historical research. To enable this and when possible, a trip to Germany is organised. A history qualification is widely respected and can lead to a number of different careers such as law, journalism, politics, media and banking.

### What you will need to study A Level history:

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 in history.

### About your teacher:

With a degree in history from York University, Mr Dale has taught history and politics for over 22 years, both in the UK and internationally, having been Head of Department in Qatar and most recently in Malaysia.



*History is who we are and why we are the way we are.*

## Mathematics



### Why choose mathematics?

Mathematics is a creative and expansive subject that challenges and excites in equal measure. At A Level you will have the opportunity to take the skills honed at IGCSE and apply them to fascinating new concepts and situations. Through this development of skills you will become a confident problem solver, team worker and communicator primed for success in higher education.

Your skills will be deeply valued in a variety of careers and are insisted upon by many degree courses. Choosing mathematics A Level is a positive statement about yourself and your dreams and aspirations for the future.

### What you will need to study A Level mathematics:

Minimum IGCSE grade 8 or above in mathematics.

### About your teacher:

Mr Cachia is a very experienced Mathematics teacher who completed the prestigious Teach First programme in the United Kingdom and has a Masters in Educational Leadership. He has held leadership roles in his previous

At BIC we study pure maths, statistics and mechanics over the two-year course. There will be a pure maths paper and a statistics paper at the end of Year 12 and a second pure maths paper and a mechanics paper at the end of Year 13.

There is no coursework. Pure maths has a focus on algebra and its applications involving trigonometry and calculus. Statistics allows us to understand the world around us and the meaning of data, and to make predictions about the future. Mechanics inspires physicists and engineers by applying our mathematical knowledge to a fascinating world of Newtonian forces and dynamics.

two schools and has a history of exceptional results at A Level. He is an enthusiastic and energetic teacher, who will do everything possible to ensure that students achieve their potential.

*Students thrive on its challenge and its clarity and love the fact that you know when you are right.*





## Further Mathematics

### Why choose Further Mathematics?

Embark on a mathematical journey beyond the conventional with Further Mathematics - an academic pursuit that not only challenges the brightest minds but also opens a gateway to unparalleled intellectual growth and diverse career opportunities. This advanced level of mathematical study delves into abstract concepts, rigorous proofs, and complex problem-solving, cultivating a profound understanding that extends far beyond the boundaries of standard mathematics.

Universally recognized as a hallmark of academic excellence, Further Mathematics is highly esteemed by top-tier universities worldwide. Its inclusion in a student's academic repertoire not only enhances their application to top universities but also distinguishes them as individuals with a profound grasp of mathematical intricacies.

As a gateway to prestigious career paths, Further Mathematics equips students with the analytical and

problem-solving skills crucial in fields such as finance, engineering, computer science, and research. The subject's emphasis on logical reasoning and abstract thinking prepares students for the challenges of the modern world, where mathematical prowess is increasingly in demand.

Within the course, students will explore advanced topics such as linear algebra, complex analysis, and differential equations, offering a deeper understanding of the mathematical principles underpinning our technological and scientific advancements. Through rigorous study, Further Mathematics empowers students to become the innovators, analysts, and problem solvers of the future, laying a solid foundation for success in academia and beyond. Join us on the forefront of mathematical exploration and unlock a world of intellectual and professional possibilities with Further Mathematics.

### Over the course of two years, you will study the following modules:

The entire of A-Level Mathematics in parallel to the Further Mathematics Papers (see A Level mathematics specification for further details)

Paper 1 and Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics

Paper 3 and Paper 4: Further Mathematics Options (as chosen by your teacher in response to specific skills and

### What you will need to study A Level Further Mathematics:

A Level 9 at IGCSE Mathematics and consistent high performance in the A Level Mathematics unit throughout the course.

### What you will need to study A Level IT:

Minimum IGCSE grade 5 or C in English first language and mathematics or science.

You will also need the ability to think creatively, critically and logically.

### About your teacher:

Mr Cachia is a very experienced Mathematics teacher who completed the prestigious Teach First programme in the United Kingdom and has a Masters in Educational Leadership. He has held leadership roles in his previous two schools and has a history of exceptional results at A Level. He is an enthusiastic and energetic teacher, who will

do everything possible to ensure that students achieve the limit of their potential.

*"My students often ask me, 'What is sociology?' and I tell them, 'It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see.'"*

Sam Richards



# Mathematics in Context

## Why choose mathematics in Context?

This engaging and rewarding one year qualification allows students to build on existing, and develop new, mathematical understanding in the application of mathematics to authentic problems. Knowledge and skills from GCSE is applied in a range of real world contexts that enable students to build confidence in areas that they are likely to encounter in vocational and academic study, future employment and life.

The objective of the course is to develop skills in problem solving, creativity, decision making, communication and reasoning and competence in the selection and use of

## What you will need to study A Level mathematics in Context:

It is recommended that students achieve the equivalent of a grade C or 5 at IGCSE mathematics as a minimum requirement for the study of this certificate.

This course will support students who expect to progress to qualifications that use mathematics such as biology, business, geography, health and social care,

mathematical techniques. Students will develop confidence in representing and analysing situations and applying mathematics to related questions and real world issues.

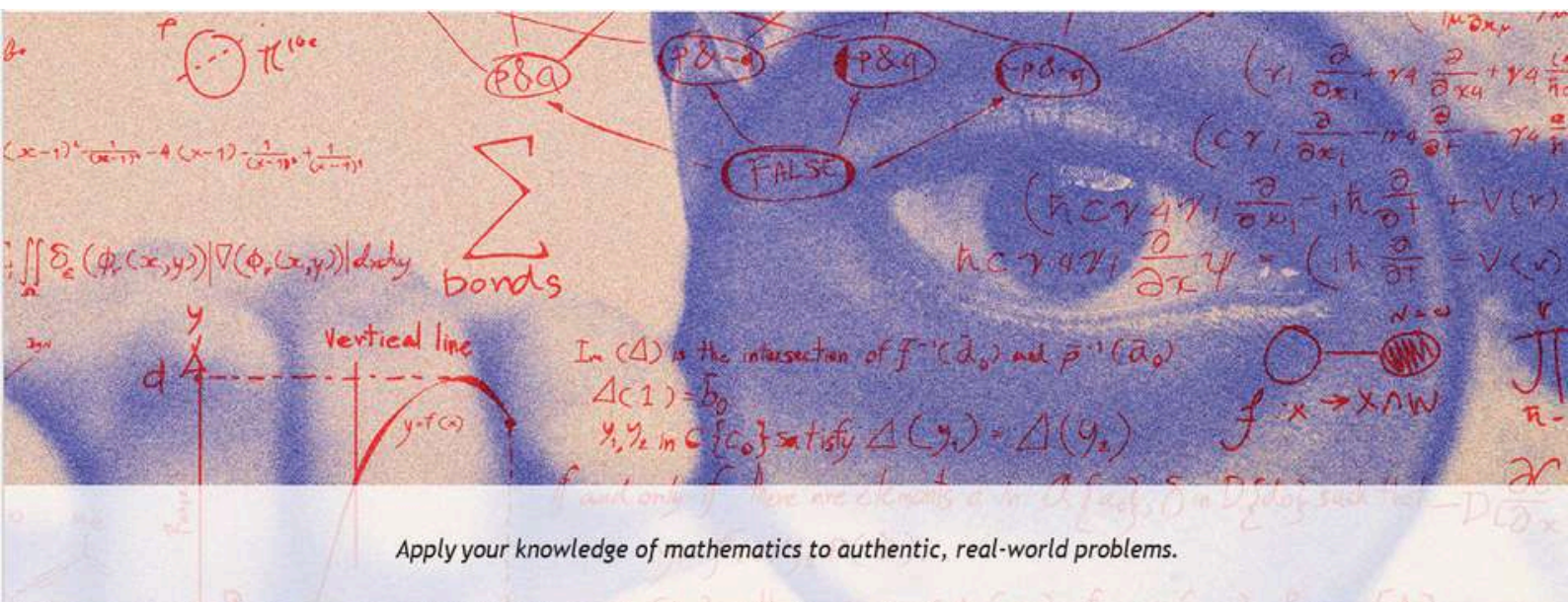
The course is assessed through two externally examined papers. These are designed to test how students comprehend, interpret and analyse the content of a source booklet that will be provided several weeks ahead of the examination. Both papers assess skills in application of statistics, probability, linear programming, sequences and growth. The first paper addresses comprehension and the second paper is focused on applications.

nursing and psychology. For students planning to study mathematically-based subjects including mathematics, statistics and physics, this A Level mathematics course is likely to be an advantage. For other subjects like geography and psychology it would be desirable.

## About your teacher:

TBC

TBC



Apply your knowledge of mathematics to authentic, real-world problems.

# Physics



## Why choose physics?

You will already be familiar with many of the topics that you will study, including forces, waves, radioactivity, electricity, magnetism and quantum physics.

At A Level, you will look at these areas in more detail and find out how they are interconnected. You will also learn how to apply maths to real-world problems and explore new areas such as particle physics, cosmology and medical physics. Perhaps more importantly, you will develop skills that can be transferred to just about any other area of work, from setting up a business to saving the planet. Even if you don't go on to become a physicist, learning to think like one will help you get to the root of any problem and draw connections that aren't obvious to others. Physics won't give you all the answers, but it will teach you how to

ask the right questions.

Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it...), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research and nanotechnology.

## What you will need to study A Level physics:

Minimum grade 6 in IGCSE physics and mathematics.

If you choose to study A Level physics, you must also choose to study A Level mathematics.

## About your teacher:

Miss Wilson has a degree in Biomedical Science from the University of Southampton. She trained as a Science teacher at University College London where she also gained a Masters in Educational leadership.

Miss Wilson is trained as both a Physics and Biology specialist at A-level and in the past has supported a number of successful Oxbridge applicants to fulfil their potential, post-18.

## Over the course of two years, you will study the following modules:

- Unit 1:** Mechanics and Materials
- Unit 2:** Waves and Electricity
- Unit 3:** Practical Skills in Physics I
- Unit 4:** Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles
- Unit 5:** Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology
- Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Physics II



*Investigate the fundamental principles of how the universe works.*

# Psychology

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## Why choose psychology?

The course covers several areas of psychology such as social, cognitive, biological, developmental, criminological, health and clinical, as well as the understanding of learning theories. In addition, the course will entail the development of psychological skills based on issues and debates from some of the areas to be studied. It is a subject of great interest that combines well with other subjects.

This course is 100% exam based and will be assessed in four exam papers. Written work will consist of a combination of short and long answer response questions.

Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current psychological debates.

There is no coursework module but an important element of the course is practical: designing and carrying out four pieces of research, analysis, findings and reporting of data. This provides good opportunities to develop IT and number skills. If you want to know more visit our website:

[www.barterpsychology.weebly.com](http://www.barterpsychology.weebly.com)

## What you will need to study A Level psychology:

Minimum IGCSE grade 6 in mathematics and English language.

## About your teacher:

Ms Kaiser studied in the University of Liverpool before embarking on a career teaching psychology (and other subjects) in both the UK and latterly the Seychelles. She has held Sixth Form leadership roles, supporting students with their applications to university and providing pastoral and careers advice,



*"Psychology is the science of the intellects, characters and behavior of animals including man."*

Edward Thorndike

## Sociology



### Why choose sociology?

In a rapidly changing world, sociology offers learners the opportunity not only to explore the processes that are shaping current trends but also to develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of human societies and their continuities with the past.

The study of sociology stimulates awareness of contemporary social, cultural and political issues, and focuses on the importance of examining these issues in rigorous, reasoned and analytical ways.

Course content focuses on the family and social change, the creation of social identity and research methodology. It will also focus on issues in education, the media, religious movements and global development.

### What you will need to study A Level sociology:

Minimum grade 5 in geography or history if the student has

### About your teacher:

With a degree in sociology from a UK university, Ms Clark has over 25 years of experience teaching sociology (and other subjects). She joined BIC from a prestigious, outstanding Sixth Form College in the UK (where she was identified as being in the top 10 performing staff!),

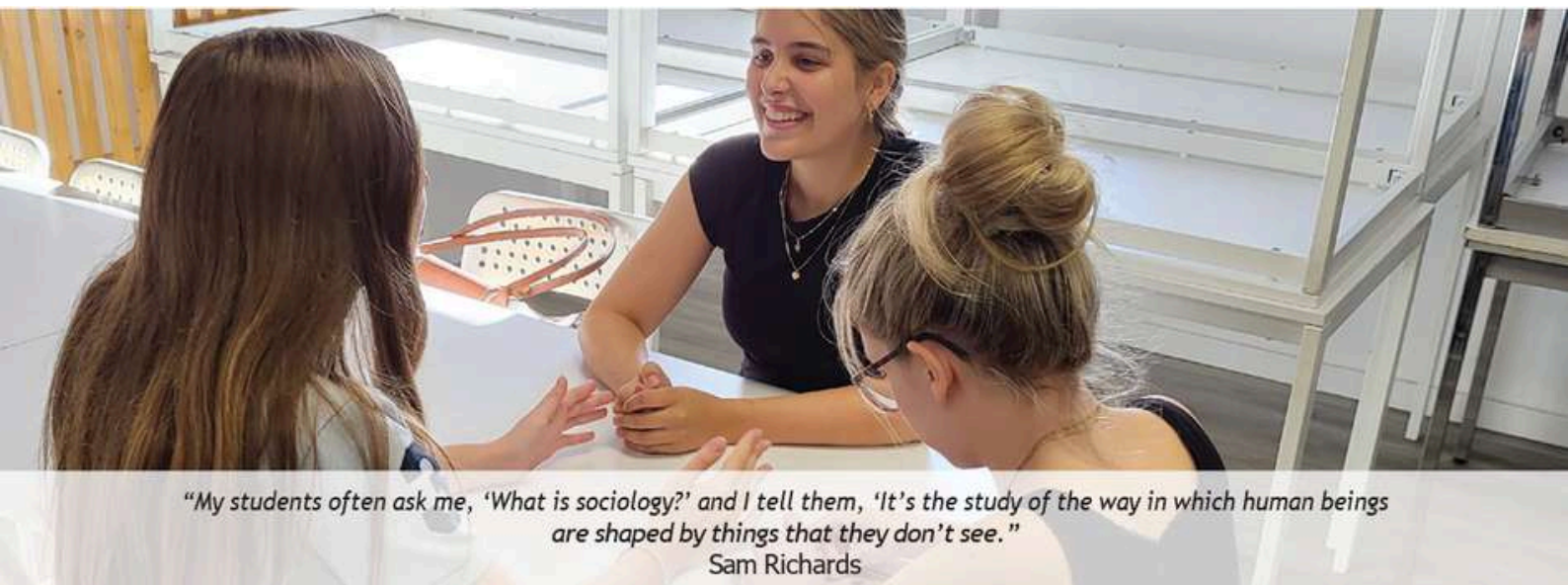
Written work will consist of essays and shorter questions.

This course is 100% exam based. Students will need to apply their knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current sociological interpretations.

Through research and investigation, students will develop a range of transferable skills, among them the ability to construct and deconstruct arguments both orally and in writing, analyse information critically and present information logically. If you want to know more visit our website: [www.bartersociology.weebly.com](http://www.bartersociology.weebly.com)

taken these exams. Students should also be used to keeping up with current affairs and world news

and she also has a wealth of other relevant experience such as being an exam board consultant, a published expert and a manager for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.



*"My students often ask me, 'What is sociology?' and I tell them, 'It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see.'"*

Sam Richards

## Spanish

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### Why choose Spanish?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying Spanish is an excellent choice for you. People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them.

They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. So, success in A Level Spanish means you will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links.

A Level Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and the country. In Year 12, topics include work, evolving society and tourism in Spain, music, the media and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries.

### What you will need to study A Level Spanish:

Minimum IGCSE grade A or 8 in foreign language or  
Minimum IGCSE grade B or 7 in Spanish first language

### About your teacher:

Señora Rodríguez is a highly experienced teacher and Edexcel examiner who has been teaching A Levels in some of the best schools in the UK (Highgate School, Latymer Upper School). Her students have secured places in the top universities around the world, including Oxbridge. She has also organised numerous talks, debate competitions, trips and exchanges (Argentina, London, Salamanca, Barcelona) thanks to her links with educational organisations abroad.

SA film will be studied, which will link to the topics, giving you further insight into Spanish culture. You will also learn accuracy through the study of grammar and to articulate through the learning of extensive new vocabulary.

In Year 13, in addition to the topics and grammar mentioned above, learning will focus on a multicultural society module discussing immigration, integration and racism as well as a history module. In addition, there will be an opportunity to explore these cultural themes through literature.

When appropriate there will be trips to mainland Spain, visits to the main libraries on the island and any exhibitions or talks related to the programme.

Señorita Luengo is a member of Association of Hispanists of the UK and a member of FILTA – Film in Language Teaching Association (Manchester University). She has extensive teaching experience in Spanish A-Levels in the US and as a senior examiner on the Cambridge Internationals A Level Spanish.



*Spanish gives you an enriched view of the world and creates many more opportunities for you.*



# Where do BIC Alumni go to after A Levels?



Balears International College welcomes and values all members of our community in an atmosphere of tolerance and kindness as well as challenge. We aim to motivate and enable our students to:

- work hard and be the best they can be – with timetabled independent study sessions
- behave responsibly, courteously and with consideration for the needs and rights of others
- be responsible and successful citizens within the College and in the wider community
- be mature in self-discipline and self confidence
- take pride in themselves and enjoy their achievements.

If you would like to obtain further information or apply direct please telephone, email or visit us at:

Sa Porrassa School

Ctra. Cala Figuera, 3A, Sa Porrassa, Calvià, 07181

+34 971 133 167 • [secondary@admissions.balearsint.net](mailto:secondary@admissions.balearsint.net) • [www.balearsint.net](http://www.balearsint.net)

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