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#### Introduction

At BIC, our curriculum blends the rigour of a traditional British education with the flexibility and innovation required of an international school context. It is carefully designed to provide breadth, balance and progression in line with the English National Curriculum while also reflecting the diverse needs and aspirations of our students.

We are committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need to thrive in an ever-changing world, intellectually, socially and emotionally. Our curriculum is both broad and sequenced, ensuring appropriate coverage and continuity across year groups, while fostering independence, resilience and creativity.

BIC's approach strikes a deliberate balance between proven, evidence-based practice and innovative pedagogy, making effective use of technology while retaining the tried-and-tested methods that underpin strong educational outcomes. The curriculum is regularly reviewed, evaluated for impact, and adapted to ensure it remains relevant, age-appropriate and responsive to the needs of our learners.

Everything we do is underpinned by our core values of Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Compassion. These guide our teaching, shape our culture, and ensure that students leave BIC not only academically successful, but also as principled, confident and compassionate young people ready to contribute positively to society.

On the following pages, we hope you will find all you need to know about the curriculum we provide for our students.

Phil Brown

Head of Secondary





# **Key Stage 3 (Age 11-14)**

### About Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) is a critical phase of education, bridging the foundations of primary school with the more specialised pathways of Key Stage 4. Spanning the ages of 11 to 14, it is a transformative period in which students consolidate core knowledge, develop independence, and acquire the study skills needed to thrive in the later stages of their education.

Our three-year transitional curriculum has been carefully structured to ensure breadth, balance and progression in line with the English National Curriculum and statutory guidance, while remaining responsive to our international context and local setting. This approach guarantees appropriate coverage across all subjects, while also embedding the global outlook that is essential to life at an international school.

The KS3 curriculum is deliberately sequenced and progressive, ensuring that students build cumulatively on prior knowledge and are well prepared for the demands of Key Stage 4. It fosters independence, resilience and academic discipline, while also nurturing the creativity, curiosity, and enjoyment that characterise learning at BIC.

We are committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of our curriculum, ensuring that it remains impactful, age-appropriate and relevant to the changing needs of young people. This includes regular review of outcomes, student progress, and pupil voice, alongside feedback from staff and parents.

Central to our provision are the school values of Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Compassion, which permeate every subject and aspect of school life. These values underpin a curriculum that is academically ambitious while also developing principled, empathetic, and responsible young people.

In summary, Key Stage 3 at BIC provides a coherent, compliant, and values-driven curriculum that is closely aligned with UK standards, rigorously monitored for impact, and enriched by international perspectives. It equips students with the academic foundations, personal qualities, and global awareness they need to flourish in Key Stage 4 and beyond.





### The Importance of Transition



We recognise that the move from Year 6 into Year 7 is one of the most significant steps in a young person's educational journey. The transition to secondary school brings new academic expectations, broader social environments, and greater personal responsibility. While this can be exciting, we are very mindful of the challenges it may present, and we place great importance on ensuring that every child feels supported, understood, and confident as they begin this new chapter.

Our transition process begins many months before the end of Year 6. With a dedicated Transition Lead overseeing the process, we have a carefully designed programme that provides a strategic and structured approach to this key stage. This includes opportunities for Year 6 students to get to know their future tutors, peers, and teachers, as well as to begin developing the organisational and study skills that will serve them well in secondary school.

In the final months of Year 6 and the first months of Year 7, transition is supported through a blend of tutor sessions, PSHE lessons, assemblies, and workshops. These sessions are designed to help students adapt academically, personally, and socially, while also offering practical guidance on time management, homework routines, and wellbeing. For students who need additional support, our Transition Lead, pastoral team, and Wellbeing Lead provide individual outreach, ensuring that no child feels left behind during this important stage.

By taking a planned, personalised, and proactive approach to transition, we aim to make the move into secondary school a positive and empowering experience. Our goal is that every student enters Year 7 not only ready to learn, but also feeling a strong sense of belonging, resilience, and excitement for the years ahead.





# Subjects at Key Stage 3

Subject	Classes per week	Notes	
English	4	All students study English up to age 16	
Mathematics	3/4	All students study Mathematics up to age 16	
Science	3	All students study Science up to age 16	
Spanish	3	All students study Spanish up to age 16	
Catalan*	4	All students by law are required to study 4 sessions per week of Catalan lessons. We have scheduled these so as to still allow access to the rest of our core curriculum	
History	2	All students study History up to age 14	
Geography	2	All students study Geography up to age 14	
French / German	2	All students study French or German up to age 14	
Computer Science	1	All students study Geography up to age 14	
Art	1	All students study Art up to age 14	
Physical Education	2/3	All students participate in Physical Education up to age 16	
Music	1	All students study Music and Drama up to age 14	
Drama	1	All students study Music and Drama up to age 14	
PSHE	1	All students in the school have an hour per week following our PSHE curriculum	
Total	30		





# Example of a KS3 Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 08:45					
Period 1 09:00	English	Computer Science	PSHE	Spanish	Mathematics
Period 2 09:55	Catalan	PE	Mathematics	Performing Arts	PE
Break 10:50					
Period 3 11:10	Art	History	English	Mathematics	Spanish
Period 4 12:05	German	Science	German	PE	Geography
Lunch 13:00					
Registration 14:00					
Period 5 14:10	Science	Catalan	Catalan	Activities Afternoon	English
Period 6 15:05	Spanish	Geography	English	Catalan	History
End of Day 16:00					





# The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

In the links below you will find a brief description of the content covered in each subject for each year group throughout the year. Please note that these Curriculum Overviews are in the process of being updated for the 2024-24 Curriculum and will be published online at the end of September. The curriculum below is for the 2023-24 curriculum and provided as an illustrative example of our curriculum design.

Subject Overviews				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		
English / English as an Additional Language  Mathematics Science Spanish Lengua Castellana Catalan History Geography French / German First Language / German Foreign Computer Science Physical Education Performing Arts Music Art	English / English as an Additional Language (EAL) Mathematics Science Spanish Lengua Castellana Catalan Social Science (Catalan) History Geography French / German First Language / German Foreign Computer Science Physical Education Performing Arts Music Art	English / English as an Additional Language (EAL) Mathematics Science Spanish Lengua Castellana Catalan Social Science (Catalan) History Geography French / German First Language / German Foreign Computer Science Physical Education Performing Arts Music Art		





## Key Stage 4 (Age 14-16)

### About Key Stage 4

KS4, or Key Stage 4, represents a critical phase in a student's educational journey, building upon the foundation laid during KS3. Typically spanning the ages of 14 to 16, KS4 is a stage where students delve deeper into their studies and prepare for the internationally recognized International General Certificate of Secondary Education (iGCSE) qualifications. This phase marks a significant step towards future academic and career pathways, making it an important and defining moment in a student's educational development.

Our KS4 curriculum is carefully designed to provide students with a comprehensive and rigorous education that prepares them for the challenges of iGCSE examinations. iGCSEs are highly regarded qualifications, renowned for their academic rigour, breadth of content, and recognition on a global scale. They provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills, empowering them to pursue further studies such as A Levels.

iGCSEs are important qualifications for several reasons. Firstly, they provide students with a comprehensive and well-rounded education, offering a wide range of subjects to suit individual interests and career aspirations. This allows students to explore various disciplines, develop essential skills, and identify their strengths and areas of interest.

Secondly, iGCSEs are internationally recognized, providing students with greater opportunities for higher education and employment across the globe. Their credibility and standardisation ensure that students' achievements are understood and valued by universities and employers worldwide.

Moreover, iGCSEs foster essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent study. These skills are invaluable in preparing students for higher education and the demands of the modern workplace, equipping them with the tools necessary to adapt to an ever-evolving world.

In our KS4 curriculum, we provide a supportive and structured learning environment to help students thrive in their iGCSE studies. We offer a wide range of subjects, allowing students to pursue their passions and develop expertise in their chosen areas. Our experienced educators provide guidance, support, and targeted instruction to ensure that students acquire the knowledge, understanding, and examination skills needed to excel in their iGCSEs.

For full details of our KS4 programme, including our list of subjects, please see the <u>iGCSE</u> Options Book. This will be updated in March with next year's iGCSE options.





# Subjects at Key Stage 4

As detailed in our <u>Options Book</u>, all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish, PSHE and PE in KS4. They also have the opportunity to choose from a range of other subjects, according to their passions, career aspirations and academic strengths.

# Example of a KS4 Timetable

\*Please note that this is an illustrative timetable. The subjects shown in green are 'Options' subjects which means that they would only show up on your timetable if you have chosen to study them.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 07:45					
Period 1 08:00	Business*	Biology	Biology	Spanish	PSHE
Period 2 09:55	English	History*	Mathematics	English	German*
Break 10:50					
Period 3 11:10	Mathematics	Spanish	English	Business*	Chemistry
Period 4 12:05	Spanish	Business*	History*	Mathematics	Biology
Lunch 13:00					
Registration 14:00					
Period 5 14:10	Chemistry	PE	German*	Chemistry	English
Period 6 15:05	German*	Mathematics	English	History*	PE
End of Day 14:00					





# The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Below you will find links to the content covered by each department over the course of KS4 with information the key topics, skills and opportunities for support.

Subject Overviews			
Year 10	Year 11		
English / English as an Additional Language  (EAL)  Mathematics  Biology  Chemistry  Drama  Music  Physics  Lengua Castellana  Spanish  Catalan  Social Studies  PE (core)  PE (iGCSE)  Psychology  Geography  History  Computer Science  French  German First Language / German  Foreign  Business Studies  Art	English / English as an Additional Language  (EAL)  Mathematics  Biology  Chemistry  Drama  Music  Physics  Lengua Castellana  Spanish  Catalan  Social Studies  PE (core)  PE (iGCSE)  Psychology  Geography  History  Computer Science  French  German First Language / German  Foreign  Business Studies  Art		





## **Key Stage 5 (Age 16-18)**

### About Key Stage 5

KS5, or Key Stage 5, represents the final stage of secondary education and serves as a crucial stepping stone towards higher education or career pathways. Typically covering the ages of 16 to 18, KS5 is a transformative period where students specialise in their chosen subjects and pursue Advanced Level qualifications, commonly known as A Levels. A Levels are renowned for their academic rigour, depth of study, and the valuable skills they impart to students.

A Levels are highly regarded qualifications that hold immense importance for several reasons. Firstly, they provide students with a deep understanding and mastery of specific subjects, allowing them to explore their academic interests and develop specialised knowledge. A Levels foster critical thinking, analytical skills, and independent study habits, preparing students for the intellectual demands of university education.

The rigour and breadth of A Level courses make them highly valued by universities and colleges worldwide. A Levels are internationally recognized qualifications, opening doors to higher education opportunities globally. Universities often require specific A Level subject combinations and grades for admission to various degree programs. The depth of study provided by A Levels enables students to pursue specialised fields of study, making them better equipped for university coursework.

Furthermore, A Levels offer a pathway to gain employment opportunities both locally and internationally. Many employers highly value A Level qualifications as they demonstrate a student's ability to tackle complex subjects, think critically, and excel academically. The BIC Sixth Form curriculum includes an expectation that students will participate fully in the life of the whole school. Additionally to their A Level programme, Sixth Form students are also expected to attend Global Citizenship lessons and to participate in our Community Leadership programme. In Global Citizenship lessons, students will focus on their lives, now and in the future, as participants and contributors to the global context, also learning a range of 'soft-skills' appreciated by universities and employers. This is added to by our Community Leadership programme whereby students help someone, somewhere, for an hour per week, learning leadership skills as well as adding to their 'soft-skill' development. There is also a range of specific leadership positions that students can apply for to help them further develop their skills.

For full details of our KS5 programme of study, our Sixth Form Prospectus <u>can be found</u> <u>here</u>, where you will find a full list of our subjects and entry requirements.





# Subjects at Key Stage 5

As detailed in our <u>Sixth Form Prospectus</u>, all students study 5 hours per week of their 4 chosen subjects. They will also receive 1 hour per week of PSHE, where they will gain lifeskills and information relevant to their lives after school. All students will attend 1 session per week on the School Values, which will either be an assembly or a workshop, and all students will receive an hour per week of Physical Education. Due to the importance of independent study at KS5, all students will also have a number of 'Private Study' periods, where they will direct their own learning.

### Example of a KS5 Timetable

\*Please note that this is an illustrative timetable. The subjects shown in green are 'Options' subjects which means that they would only show up on your timetable if you have chosen to study them.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 07:45					
Period 1 08:00	Mathematics	Private Study	Physics	Mathematics	Private Study
Period 2 09:55	Economics	Psychology	Mathematics	Private Study	Economics
Break 10:50					
Period 3 11:10	Psychology	Physics	PE	Private Study	Private Study
Period 4 12:05	Physics	PSHE	Economics	Physics	Psychology
Lunch 13:00					
Registration 14:00					
Period 5 14:10	Private Study	Private Study	Psychology	Economics	Mathematics
Period 6 15:05	Economics	Mathematics	Private Study	Psychology	Physics
End of Day 14:00					





# The Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Subject Overviews			
Year 12	Year 13		
Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science Drama Economics English French Geography German History Mathematics Further Mathematics Physics Politics Psychology Sociology Spanish Art	Art Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science Drama Economics English French Geography German History Mathematics Further Mathematics Physics Politics Psychology Sociology Spanish Art		





#### **Homework at BIC**

In order to foster independent study skills and reinforce the content covered in lessons, we have implemented a structured schedule for homework across all subjects at our school. This ensures that students have dedicated time to develop their learning habits, consolidate understanding, and avoid being overloaded with multiple assignments on the same day.

All homework for every year group is clearly set out in our <u>central homework document</u>, which serves as the first point of reference for students, parents, tutors, and teachers. This central schedule makes it easy for everyone to see which tasks are due on which day, ensuring clarity and consistency across the school.

Alongside this, all students and teachers also have access to the online learning platform Canvas, which can be used to post resources, set tasks, and allow for digital submission and feedback where appropriate. This provides an additional layer of flexibility and support, particularly when teachers wish to share materials or track progress online.

By combining a carefully balanced homework timetable with clear communication and the effective use of digital tools, we help our students to manage their workload, build independence, and take responsibility for their own learning journey.





#### **Examinations at BIC**

At BIC, we place great importance on preparing students for formal assessments in a structured, age-appropriate way. Our examination cycle is designed both to provide a clear measure of progress and to build the skills and resilience needed for success in public examinations later in school life.

In Years 7 to 10, all students sit internal end-of-year examinations in May. These assessments are carefully tailored to the content studied during the year, ensuring they are age-appropriate while gradually introducing the structure and discipline of formal examinations. They serve as a summative assessment of the year's progress and as vital preparation for the more demanding qualifications that lie ahead.

In Years 11, 12, and 13, students sit public examinations at the end of the summer term. These are accredited and assessed by external examination boards, principally Cambridge International and Pearson. These qualifications are formally recognised worldwide and represent the culmination of years of academic study.

Students who require special access arrangements for examinations, due to identified learning needs or specific circumstances, will have these provided in line with our policy and the guidance of our SEN Coordinator. This ensures that every student is able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on a fair and equitable basis.

In the weeks and months leading up to examinations, students receive explicit guidance on examination technique and preparation strategies, helping them to approach assessments with confidence and calm. This structured approach ensures that examinations not only reflect what has been learned but also build the essential skills for success at GCSE, A-Level, and beyond.





### **PSHE, RSE and Careers at BIC**

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education), alongside RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and Careers guidance, forms a core part of the holistic development of our students. These subjects ensure that young people gain the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to navigate life's opportunities and challenges, to stay healthy and safe, and to be prepared for life and work beyond school.

At BIC we are committed to ensuring that our curriculum meets and exceeds <u>UK government requirements</u> in these areas. We have mapped out a 13-year PSHE, RSE and Careers journey from Year 1 through to Sixth Form, ensuring that all content is taught in a carefully sequenced, age-appropriate way. This mapping is explicitly aligned with government-approved roadmaps, consulting <u>the PSHE Association Programme of Study</u>, statutory <u>RSE guidance</u>, and the <u>Gatsby Benchmarks</u> for Careers.

We deliver this provision whilst remaining sensitive to our local context here in Mallorca and responsive to the diverse international backgrounds of our students. Our curriculum reflects both the realities of life in our community and the global perspectives necessary for students who may continue their education or careers in a wide variety of countries and cultures.

Whilst PSHE is taught as a discrete subject, in addition, key themes are woven into other aspects of our curriculum, to make the learning experience more relevant and meaningful for students. (For instance, students may also learn about the potential dangers of alcohol as part of their science course, and engage in important conversations about relationships through the study of relevant literary texts in their English lessons.) This integration allows students to further explore PSHE themes within the context of their wider academic studies, enabling a deeper understanding and practical application of the knowledge and skills they acquire.

We also recognise that the cultural landscape is constantly evolving, and with it the needs of young people. Our PSHE, RSE and Careers curriculum is therefore regularly reviewed and refined to remain current, relevant and impactful. A key part of this process is our strong commitment to parental consultation. We welcome and value parent feedback and input on the content of our PSHE programme, ensuring that it reflects the values and expectations of our school community as well as statutory guidance. In addition, we actively encourage parental participation in our Careers programme, drawing on the diverse expertise, industries and backgrounds represented within our parent body to enrich and broaden the opportunities available to our students.

Through this integrated, progressive and consultative approach, every student has access to a comprehensive, government-aligned programme that balances personal wellbeing,





relationships, and preparation for the world of work. In doing so, we equip our students not only with academic knowledge, but also with the resilience, values, and life skills needed to thrive as responsible, confident and compassionate global citizens.

**Our PSHE curriculum** reflects our school's aim and ethos and encourages respect for other people. We pay particular regard to the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sex and sexual orientation precludes the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school. Where political issues are taught, we ensure students are offered a **balanced** presentation of opposing views.

In addition, we promote the **spiritual, moral, social, and cultural** development of our students. Our PSHE curriculum actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs. We actively promote principles that enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence, to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.

One of our school values is **responsibility.** We encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in our locality and to society more widely. PSHE enables pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England and for the responsibilities of citizenship in Spain.

Another of our school values is **respect.** We aim to have harmony between different cultural traditions, by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of their own and other cultures. We encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 20102 as well as respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied.

By following the **latest advice from the UK Ministry of Education** and integrating PSHE within our curriculum, we strive to provide our students with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the complexities of life. We believe that by delivering these essential lessons in a relevant and interconnected manner, we empower students to make informed decisions, develop strong personal values, and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.





### **Extracurricular at BIC**

For full details of our extensive extra-curricular activities on offer after-school, please see our ECA brochure. This will be emailed to all parents by our ECA coordinator during the first Half Term.