

The Curriculum



The course is for students who:

- are following or planning to follow the IB Diploma or A-levels
- need to revise a particular academic subject
- are interested in the ethos of the IB Diploma but are unsure whether to commit to it
- are considering a boarding school education in the UK
- plan to use English for study and work in the future
- are looking for a stimulating and enjoyable summer learning experience
- enjoy meeting and communicating with people from a wide range of countries and cultures

In today's world, Academic Summer believes everyone is a native speaker of English as an international language; whether or not English is their first language, students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in *interpersonal communication* and in *academic language proficiency*. When these skills are integrated, they will help them to study and communicate in the international world of today and tomorrow.

Personal Best

The Academic Summer programme gives students the chance to reach their personal best in every way. PB - the philosophy of Personal Best - extends to all aspects of the experience at Academic Summer. Achievements in social and personal development, contribution to the community, cultural awareness and physical education are all highly valued. The PB philosophy is shared by the academic and pastoral staff of Academic Summer and we as a team will work to help students to achieve their Personal Best.

The Academic Programme

Academic Summer offers the subject areas below in classes of up to fifteen students. The medium of instruction is English and there are 30 hours of lessons a week (60 minute lessons); students are encouraged to work independently outside the classroom to develop study skills to take with them to school, university and beyond into their professional lives.

Administratively, the curriculum is organised into three blocks, each of ten hours a week:

- Theory of Knowledge and Maths
- English options
- Academic subjects – Science stream or Arts and Humanities stream

Each week, there is a choice of English options depending on student interest, English level and ability, and a choice of the Science stream or the Arts and Humanities stream. The subjects offered depend on the expertise of the teachers, the needs of the students and the facilities and location of the school.

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge is a timetabled subject for all Academic Summer students. The course is planned and delivered by the Principal. Students will explore the central question, 'How do we know what we know?' in a variety of ways and with reference to the acquisition of knowledge in a wide range of educational and cultural settings. They will learn to appreciate their own and others' knowledge gained through language, reason, emotion and sense perception.

The contents of the *Theory of Knowledge* course component are:

'How do we know what we know?' Learning

- Learning via language and communication
- Learning through our emotions
- Learning by applying reason
- Learning through sensory perception

'What do we learn?' Areas of Knowledge

- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The Arts
- History
- Ethics

'How do we know that we know what we know?' Supporting claims to know things

- Sensory perception
- Logic
- Intuition
- Memory
- Faith
- Revelation
- Authority
- Consensus
- Self awareness

How do we test what we know?' Submitting to what we claim to know to tests

- Coherence
- Consensus
- Correspondence
- Pragmatism

'What do we do with what we know?' Applying what we know

- Discussing obligations as knowers
- Putting or knowledge into practice in real life
- Communicating what we know to others
- Accepting and evaluating what others know

Mathematics

The Mathematics option covers algebra, geometry and statistics and is good preparation for the IB Diploma or A-Levels.

Students from different learning backgrounds will work together to help one another understand challenging mathematical concepts and functions.

English Options

English options are designed to meet students' individual needs.

For students whose first language is English or for those students with a high level of English, the course focuses on the academic language proficiency which to help students succeed in future studies. Students will develop productive skills in speaking and writing, including writing and giving presentations; they will also work on a wide range of text types from the time of Shakespeare to the present day. This is good preparation for those students going on to study English A1 or A-Level English Literature; it will also help them with all other subjects.

For students for whom English is not a first language, the course, focuses on the communicative use of English as an international language and provides opportunities to practise the grammar, vocabulary and functional language they have studied in your own country. In skills development, students learn how to make effective presentations and to produce written work with appropriate accuracy, range and organisation. The topics covered will complement other areas in the curriculum accessing the power of the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach.

Students have the option to take an external examination as appropriate to their needs.

The Science Stream

In the science stream, students can study Biology, Chemistry and Physics intensively. This will involve a mixture of theory and practice and will include field trips and visits.

Students will develop their scientific knowledge and will have the opportunity to communicate to others what they know and what they have discovered at Academic Summer.

Topics may include the following:

Biology

- Microscopy
- Simple Maths
- Basic Chemistry as it relates to Biology (bonds etc)
- Natural History / classification / diversity and cell biology
- The use of experimental apparatus

Physics

- Forces and Motion (to include vectors resolution and components)
- Electricity (Kirchoffs laws at a basic level)

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure
- Chemical Bonding
- The Periodic Table
- Acids and Alkalis

The Arts and Humanities Stream

The Humanities curriculum makes the most of the international nature of the student body and encourages students to explore interesting concepts in the context of the locality of the school and the knowledge and experience that the students bring to Academic Summer.

Topics may include the following:

Geography

- Population and development
- Coasts
- Climates
- Settlements

History

- Project on history of the area
- Historical investigation
- 20th Century world history topics such as World Wars, Cuba, Korea etc

Economics

- Macro and Micro Economics
- Economics of the area / How the credit crunch is affecting the area?
- International Economics

Art

- History of Art – development from cave paintings to graffiti
- Encourage students to experiment with a range of materials
- Explore a variety of cultures and their attitude to the Arts

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

This area of the curriculum involves students in artistic pursuits and community service work, thus improving their awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena. Students will participate in a charity event and a talent show during their time at Academic Summer.

The Leisure Programme

Academic Summer offers a structured and balanced leisure programme including sports, evening activities, guest speakers, workshops and weekend excursions to complement the academic programme and to encourage cultural awareness and social interaction.

Sport

The sport programme aims to develop students' ability to work as part of a team and to reach their personal best by setting and achieving targets. Sports available at Academic Summer include: football, badminton, basketball, cricket and many more.