





# St. Clare's, Oxford

*Welcome to*  
**ST. CLARE'S**

St. Clare's is unique. It offers students from all over the world the opportunity to pursue a first-class education in Oxford, one of the most vibrant and interesting cities in Europe. St. Clare's was founded in 1953 with a mission to advance international education and understanding and has been doing so successfully ever since.

As you walk through the College campus, you will hear languages being spoken from all over the world. We welcome applications from students irrespective of gender, race, colour, religious belief or national origin. We are proud of the diversity of our student body and the impact it has on the culture and life of the College.

The following pages will highlight some of the characteristics which make St. Clare's special as well as providing more information about the International Baccalaureate.



## Why study at St. Clare's?

- You will be in the company of about 250 students aged 15 – 19 representing forty different nationalities.
- You will be studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma, a qualification which gives you a more broadly balanced education than A Levels, a qualification which, furthermore, is recognised as producing well-rounded students with the necessary skills to make a successful transition to university and the world beyond “school”.
- You will be pursuing an internationally recognised qualification which will allow you to study in universities and colleges of further education all over the world. A recent survey among UK universities showed that universities consider the IB to be superior to the current A Level curriculum in terms of breadth, critical thinking, communication skills, self-management and motivation.



## What about being away from home for the first time?

Many young adults are ready to leave school and expand their horizons before they are able to go to university.

St. Clare's provides a mature environment where the atmosphere is relaxed, where rules are sensible and students are expected to take responsibility for their own actions.

Many St. Clare's staff have worked overseas and have experienced the joys, bewilderment and frustrations of learning to live in a new country. They understand the problems which students face and know how to help them settle in and get the most out of their studies.

The residential houses were once the homes of Oxford academics and provide a homely and comfortable atmosphere. You are known as an individual as each house is run by a resident warden who will help you find your feet and support and encourage you to take increasing responsibility for your work and life.

## What about the academic environment?

St. Clare's is a small college – small by design. We value knowing all our students well; their strengths and the challenges they face.

Our classes are small and allow high-quality interaction between teachers and students. The teaching environment is a combination of being academically challenging whilst also being friendly, supportive and informal.



## Where is St. Clare's?

The College is located in a pleasant residential area just north of Oxford city centre. Its 25 buildings are clustered along the Banbury Road and house classrooms, laboratories, a magnificent library, the administration building and residences. The College is only a five-minute walk to Summertown with its banks, chemist, post-office, cafés and supermarkets. Buses to the city centre, with its museums, bookshops, galleries and shops of all kinds, stop just outside St. Clare's. There are excellent links to Heathrow, London and the motorway system.



## St. Clare's IB Diploma course

The IB Diploma is an internationally recognised qualification, accepted and welcomed by all British universities, and many others throughout the world.

The programme combines in-depth study with a wide range of subjects. It allows students to retain a broad range of subjects: all students continue to study the literature of their native language, plus another language, a scientific subject, the humanities and mathematics. Students do not, therefore, specialise too soon.

The IB also recognises the educational value of independent study and participation in creative, sporting and community service activities, the CAS programme.

### The Diploma programme consists of:

- 6 subjects, 3 at Higher level and 3 at Standard level
- an Extended Essay - a personal research project of up to 4000 words.
- Theory of Knowledge - a practical philosophy course
- Creativity, Action and Service – a programme of sports, artistic and cultural activities and voluntary service to help others.
- a second language such as English, French, German or Spanish for those with some knowledge already; Spanish and Chinese are available at beginner's level.
- a humanities subject such as History, Geography, Economics, Psychology or Business and Management
- a science such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Ecosystems and Societies
- Mathematics
- an Arts subject such as Visual Arts, Music or Theatre Arts.

### At St. Clare's, the six subjects include:

- your first (native) language. This is a literature course, covering literature of the language, plus world literature. It is usually possible to offer every student their native language.

**PHSE is also a compulsory part of our IB Diploma Course**



### Assessment in the International Baccalaureate Diploma:

- is through a set of examinations at the end of the 2 year course and by a programme of internal assessment
- you score up to 7 points for each subject and can get up to three extra points for the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge.
- you must also complete the CAS programme - which involves a minimum of 150 hours of activities
- the maximum score for the IB Diploma is 45 points and the pass mark is 24 points.

### How well do students do at St. Clare's?

- over 50% of St. Clare's students recently achieved 35 points or more, the intellectual equivalent of 4 grade "A"s at A-level
- our average total points score and our percentage of students with 40 points or more are both considerably higher than the world averages.

More information about the IB course, our exam results and our students' university destinations can be found on our website: [www.stclares.ac.uk/ib](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/ib)

### What if I don't feel ready for the IB but really want to take the Diploma?

You can prepare for the IB programme in a number of ways and we will help you choose the one which is best for you.

#### Preparatory IB Course

During the pre-IB, students acquire academic skills, improve their English language level and develop the confidence necessary to tackle the IB Diploma. The course includes Mathematics, English Language, World Literature, Science, Humanities, Art or Music and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Students also participate in a busy activities programme similar to CAS.

The course is organised into 5 modules so students can join at different times during the year.

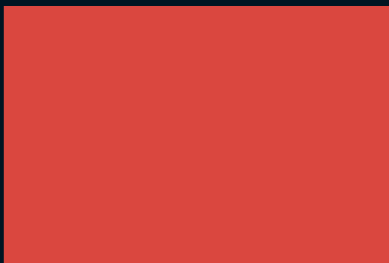


## English and Academic Subjects

This course is similar to the Preparatory IB Course though it is focussed more on the needs of students who must improve their level of English before embarking on the IB course. Half of the students' time is spent on English Language. Science, Humanities, Art or Music, and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) are also studied.

## Introduction to IB and IB Revision courses

St. Clare's uses its expertise in the IB to offer an IB Introductory course for students about to start the IB Diploma, and a revision course for students who are mid-way through the course. We have the approval of the International Baccalaureate Organisation in Geneva to run these courses. Our courses attract participants from around the world. You can read more about the course and apply online at [www.stclares.ac.uk/ibinstitute](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/ibinstitute)



## Will I get advice about universities?

St. Clare's is exceptional in having a full-time Careers and Higher Education Adviser as well as an extensive range of information on UK and other universities. Our advisers guide students individually through the university entrance process, so that they make the right course decisions and apply in good time. Recent students have been accepted to Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial and other 'top ten' universities in the UK.

We also have a specialist counsellor to assist those students who wish to apply to US universities. Recent students have been accepted to Harvard, Yale, Stanford and other first ranking universities.

St. Clare's is a centre for SAT I and SAT II; IELTS and TOEFL examinations can also be taken locally.

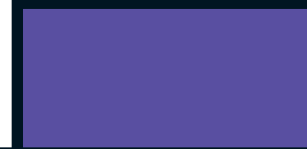


## Life at St. Clare's

### Activities, visits, trips and excursions

Every evening and weekend we offer a wide range of activities for our students. These provide an important complement to the academic work and offer opportunities for each student to excel. St. Clare's is unusual in having an Activities Department which has four full-time staff members. Each teacher in St. Clare's also contributes to the programme of enrichment activities.

Our busy Music Department offers instrumental and vocal lessons and the chance to play and perform in chamber, choral and jazz groups. Regular concerts in College are supplemented by performances in and around Oxford. Our Theatre and Dance groups offer the chance to participate in workshops and performances, and to experience new styles such as Latin Funk and Capoeira.



Students can participate in a team sport, such as football, basketball, volleyball, rugby or netball or an individual activity such as yoga, aerobics, fitness training or swimming. Rock climbing, hill walking, and horse riding are also popular. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is well established and a number of our students earn the prestigious Gold Award each year.

Our students make a contribution to the local community in Oxford, supporting the work of local charities such as Oxfam, or assisting the elderly or disabled. Events and support groups increase involvement in recycling and conservation. Students get involved in the way the College operates, through the Student Council, and in global issues through activities such as the Model United Nations and International Affairs discussion groups.

Study visits enrich the academic curriculum, which could be Field Trips for Geography, Ecosystems and Societies or Biology, or visits to galleries, museums and theatres. At weekends there are additional trips e.g. to London, Bath, Windsor or Winchester. During College vacations there are opportunities to travel further and recent expeditions have taken our students to Barcelona, Belfast, Peru and Prague.





## How should I apply to St. Clare's?

You are welcome to visit St. Clare's for a tour and an informal discussion with staff before you apply.

- 1 You can download the application form from our website: [www.stclares.ac.uk/ib](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/ib)
- 2 Send us the completed application form, registration fee and school reports for the last two years.
- 3 We will invite you and your family for interview at St. Clare's. When you visit, you will meet the Principal and be interviewed by senior academic staff. We prefer you to visit the College, but if this is impossible, we may be able to conduct the interview by telephone.
- 4 We may request a confidential reference from your current school.
- 5 If your school reports, interview and reference are all satisfactory, we will offer you a place at St. Clare's.
- 6 When you accept the offer, you will need to pay a deposit to the College confirming your place.

If you have any questions, contact: Chris Osbourn  
Admissions Registrar, St. Clare's, Oxford, 139 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AL, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 552031 Fax: +44 (0) 1865 513359 Email: [admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk)

## Other IB Information

Further information about our recent IB results, information about our students' university destinations and more about our IB curriculum may be found in the IB zone on our website - [www.stclares.ac.uk/ib](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/ib)

You can also find information about our application procedures including an application form, as well as dates, fees, payment methods and Terms and Conditions.

Details of our Scholarships and Bursaries and how to apply for them, may also be found here.

# Final word from the Principal



Education has made a profound difference to my own life and has allowed me to live and work overseas – in the Far East and the Middle East – as well as in my own country. These experiences have made me realise just how important it is to foster an interest in and awareness of international issues. At St. Clare's, we give life and meaning to our mission – to advance international education and understanding.

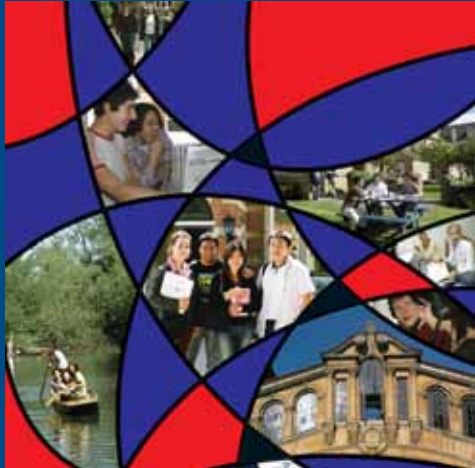
If you share our views or would like to find out more about them, please contact us.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Holloway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Holloway  
MSc (Oxon), BSc (Hons), Dip.PM, PGCE, Cert. TEFL

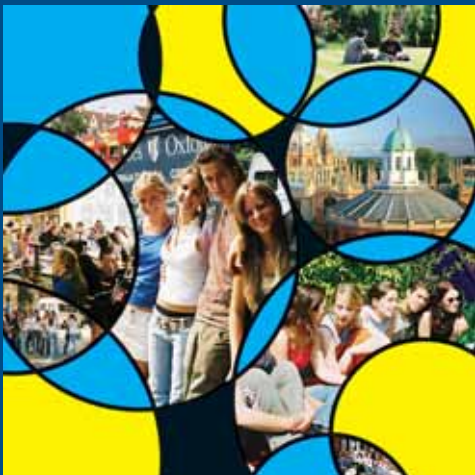
## Other courses available at St.Clare's



### English Language Courses for Adults

- *General English*
- *General English Summer Courses*
- *English Combination Courses NEW*
- *IELTS Bridge to University*
- *IELTS Sprint*
- *University Foundation Course*
- *Advanced Studies Programme*
- *One-to-One Tuition*
- *English for Business*
- *Family Courses*

[www.stclares.ac.uk/english](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/english)



### English Language & Activity Summer Courses

- *General English 16-18 year olds*
- *English Plus Shakespeare*
- *Intensive English*
- *English For Academic Purposes*
- *Junior Courses 10-16 year olds*

[www.stclares.ac.uk/summer](http://www.stclares.ac.uk/summer)

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