

**St. Clare's, Oxford**  
— An International Education —



## International Baccalaureate Diploma Guide 2013 - 2014

Recent IB results  
University destinations  
Choosing your subjects

**6**   
YEARS  
1953-2013

# Introduction

Our IB Guide is designed to give you detailed information about our examination results, university destinations as well as descriptions of the different subjects which the College offers for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the Preparatory IB Programme.

It also gives me the opportunity to share some of the highlights of the previous academic year. They include:

- An extraordinary good set of examination results and the best set of results which the College has ever achieved: one student achieved the perfect score of 45 points and the Diploma pass rate was 98%. This needs to be put into the context of approximately 100 students worldwide achieving top marks and an average world pass rate some 20% less than that achieved by students at St. Clare's. It is also far too easy to forget that St. Clare's achieves these results from a student body where the majority are second language learners of English, who only spend two years studying the Diploma.
- An outstanding inspection report by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in March 2013
- As part of the College's drive to provide excellent accommodation for its students we have started to construct a wonderful new teaching building which will house three science laboratories and three classrooms. This project will be completed in August 2014 at a cost of £2.7 million. It will dramatically enhance the quality of teaching provision for future students.

All of the above paints a picture of a College which is providing a very high standard of education and care to its students whilst continually enhancing its facilities. The Diploma provides a real education through an integrated programme which both engages and challenges students at all stages of their intellectual development.

I hope that you find this guide interesting and that it will stimulate questions about St. Clare's and encourage you to find out more about us. We are proud of the work that we do here and I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about our College, its ethos and its mission.

With my best wishes,

Paula Holloway  
Principal



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## Matthew Durkin, UK

Warwick University, Politics with International Studies  
36 Points

St. Clare's is not a school; it is a college. It is a centre of education with a very high academic standard where students are given a lot of freedom and are helped to develop independence. You are in a learning environment with friends of every nationality and are treated as a young adult.

## Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent IB Results

St. Clare's is pleased to announce an outstanding set of results in the May 2013 exams. The class of 2013 have broken previous records and achieved the highest average IB points score in the history of the College. This reflects the outstanding work of students and staff together.

We achieved:

- An average points score of 36.7; this compares very favourably to the World average of 29.8
- An excellent overall pass rate of 98%
- 79 students with 35 points or more (considered equivalent to 4.5 grade As at A level)
- 1 student with 45 points - the highest possible mark, achieved by only 0.2% of candidates around the world
- 31% of students gaining the elite category of 40+ points (top 5% in the world)

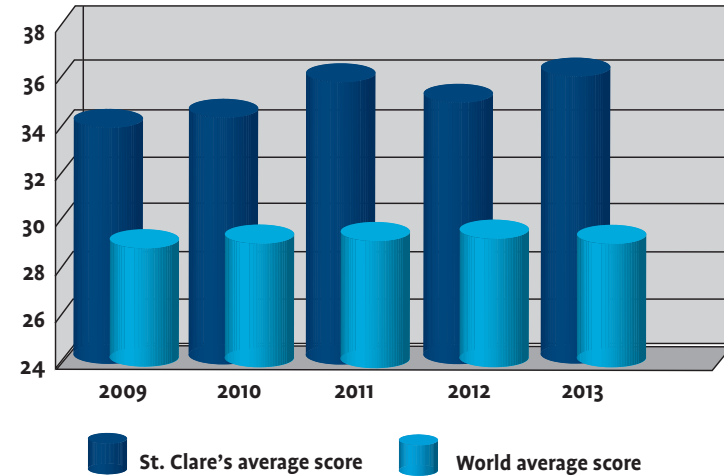
This is the ninth consecutive year in which we have had one or more 45 point students, an outstanding achievement in the fiercely competitive IB environment.

### Comparison of St. Clare's 2013 results with previous years

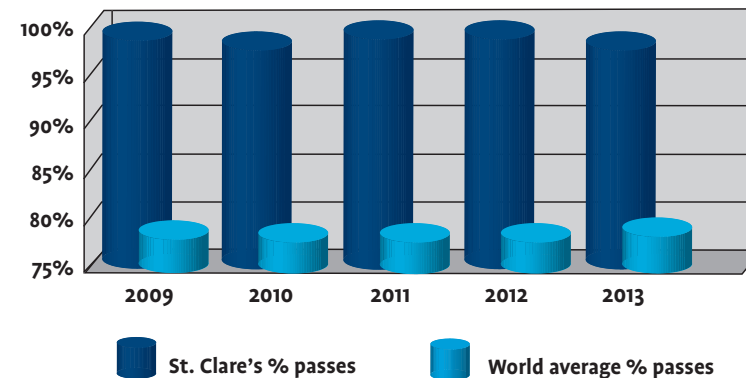
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Students with 40 points or more	17%	15%	24%	22%	31%
Students with 30 points or more	83%	83%	91%	90%	92%
Students with 24 points or more	99%	99%	100%	99%	99%
Mean score (excluding retakes)	34.4	34.5	35.9	35.1	36.7

The maximum score is 45 points and the pass mark is 24 points.

St. Clare's IB Diploma average points scores have consistently outperformed world averages:



St. Clare's IB Diploma pass rates have consistently outperformed world pass rates:



# Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent IB Results

## IB Highlights from the past 3 years

- In 2011 we achieved excellent IB results with a 99% pass rate, an average IB score of 35.9 and 3 students achieving 45 points in their IB Diploma.
- In 2012 our results were just as impressive, with an average points score of 35.1 and a pass rate of 99%, compared to 78% worldwide.
- In 2013 we achieved our best ever IB results with an average points score of 36.7 for St. Clare's students. This compared with 29.8 worldwide.

In 2011 most of our academic subjects outperformed the world average by a significant margin. The following is just a sample:

- ◆ in English Language and Literature Higher Level the average was 6.13, compared to 5.29
- ◆ in Economics Higher Level the average was 6.03 compared to 5.12
- ◆ in Physics Standard Level the average was 6.20 compared to 4.10
- ◆ in Spanish Language Higher Level the average was 7.00 compared to 5.59
- ◆ in Theatre Higher the average was 6.00 compared to 4.61
- ◆ in Maths Higher Level the average was 5.35 compared to 4.97.

In 2012 we were very pleased with our students' examination results, which again exceeded a points average of 35 points. Here are some examples from a range of subjects:

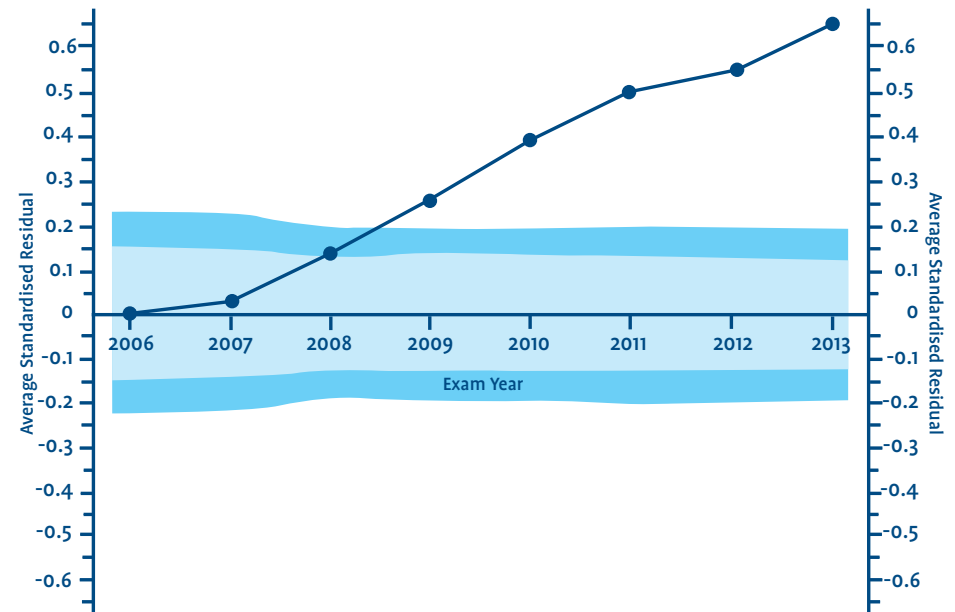
- ◆ in English Language Higher Level the average was 6.73, compared to 5.60
- ◆ in Economics Standard Level the average was 6.50 compared to 4.89
- ◆ in Biology Higher Level the average was 5.52 compared to 4.39
- ◆ in French Language Standard Level the average was 6.14 compared to 4.83
- ◆ in Business and Management Higher Level the average was 5.67 compared to 4.75
- ◆ in Maths Studies Standard Level the average was 5.44 compared to 4.65.

In 2013 we achieved an average points score of 36.7, so unsurprisingly, the vast majority of our subjects exceeded the world average by a considerable margin.

- ◆ in English Literature Higher Level the average was 5.88, compared to 4.77
- ◆ in Chemistry Higher Level the average was 6.00 compared to 4.55
- ◆ in Biology Higher Level the average was 6.28 compared to 4.34
- ◆ in Spanish Language Standard Level the average was 6.67 compared to 5.01
- ◆ in History Higher Level the average was 5.75 compared to 4.75
- ◆ in Maths Standard Level the average was 5.78 compared to 4.46.

## How much value do we add for our students?

The graph below is based on an ALIS analysis (Advanced Level Information System) carried out by Durham University. It compares the progress made by students during their two years at St. Clare's to the progress made by students in other schools and colleges. The results show the excellent progress that students make at St. Clare's between the time of their arrival and sitting the IB exams. It also shows how this indicator of success has improved over the past 8 years.



## Part 2 - University Destinations

### UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2013 – SUMMARY INFORMATION

The vast majority of St. Clare's graduates go to university as the next step in their career. Institutions all over the world welcome our students, and during their two years at St. Clare's they are well prepared for and guided through decisions and applications.

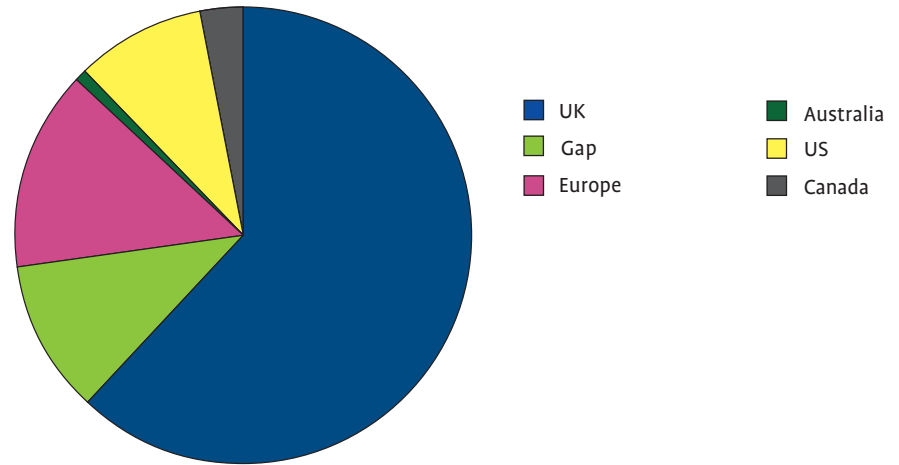
Most students start university immediately, while a number choose to develop their personal skills and interests by taking a 'gap year' in which to travel, work or volunteer and thus improve their career prospects prior to continuing in education.

Students applied far and wide and have been successful in taking places at prestigious universities around the world. This year's excellent results have ensured success for our students, particularly at a time when competition is strong. Many students have had offers from universities in different countries and been able to take up their first choice university.

Students who left St. Clare's in 2013 will attend:

Destination	Students
UK universities (see below for details)	71
US universities and liberal arts colleges (see below)	11
European universities and colleges including Krems (Austria), Copenhagen (Denmark), Jacob's (Germany), Bocconi & Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy), ESADE & IE Business School (Spain)	16
Australian university	1
Canadian university	3
Gap year (most already placed in universities)	13

### 2013 worldwide destinations of IB leavers



#### Arielle Busetto, Italy

St. Andrews, Economics & Modern History  
44 Points

St. Clare's is a place where diversity is celebrated and accepted. It is so inspiring to live amongst people coming from all over the world, with different experiences and customs. I feel incredibly lucky that I was able to attend this wonderful place!

## Part 2 - University Destinations

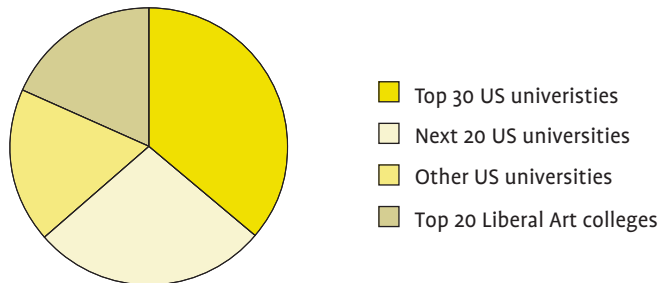
### US and UK university league tables

For 2013, 41 St. Clare's graduates, including those who took a gap year from 2012, have been placed in the top 20 UK universities as ranked by The Independent newspaper, with 32 in the top 10 (see below). Nine students are taking up places in top 50 US universities and liberal arts colleges according to the standard ranking list by U.S. News and World Report. Rankings represent an average of each university's provision, for example, in teaching, research, entry standards, staff-student ratio, degrees awarded, job prospects, resources, retention rates and spending per student.

Students placed in top US and UK universities are as follows:

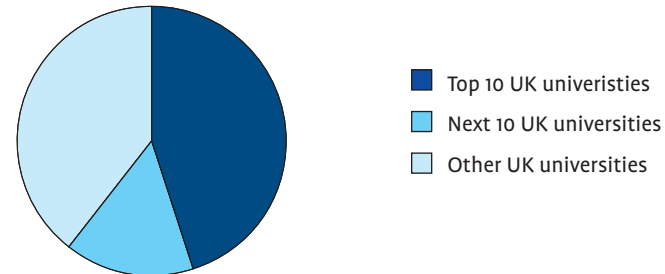
	No. of students
<b>US top universities and colleges</b>	
University of Pennsylvania	1
Brown University	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1
University of Michigan	1
New York University	1
University of California	1
University of Texas (Honors Program)	1

### IB students attending top 50 US universities



	No. of students
<b>UK top 10 universities</b>	
Cambridge	1
Oxford	2
London School of Economics	3
Imperial	4
Durham	1
St Andrews	2
UCL	11
Warwick	6
Bath	1
Exeter	1

### IB students attending top 20 UK universities



Students have chosen to study a range of subjects including: Accounting and Finance, Archaeology and Anthropology, Archaeology and Ancient Civilizations, Arts and Sciences, Biochemistry, Business, Chemistry, Economics, Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Management, Engineering with Business Finance, European Social and Political Studies, French and Linguistics, Geography, International Relations, Mechanical Engineering, Modern Languages, Planning and Real Estate, PPE, Politics, Politics and Philosophy, Psychology, Urban Planning and Design Management.

We pride ourselves on helping students to make well-informed choices and applications for their future. Our careers and higher education programme provides a strong foundation for future study, work and life. Students comment on its value many years after they have left St. Clare's.

Melanie Moorhouse  
Careers & Higher Education Adviser

Paul Sinclair  
US Universities Adviser

## Part 3 – Choosing your Subjects

- Students have to choose six subjects, one from each group
- Three of these must be at higher level (H) and three at standard level (S)

Group	Subject	Details
1	<b>Studies in LANGUAGE and LITERATURE</b>	Your <b>first</b> or <b>best</b> language. The following Literature courses are offered: H and S: English, German, Italian. S only: Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, Icelandic, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and other languages on request. Language and Literature is available only in English.
2	<b>LANGUAGE ACQUISITION</b>	A second language. H and S: English, French, Spanish and German. Some previous knowledge is necessary. S only: Chinese for beginners and Spanish for beginners
3	<b>INDIVIDUALS &amp; SOCIETIES</b>	H or S: History, Geography, Psychology Economics. H only: Business and Management. S only: World Politics.
3 or 4	<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY</b>	S only: Environmental Systems and Societies.
4	<b>SCIENCES</b>	H or S: Biology, Chemistry, Physics. S only: Astronomy
5	<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	H: Mathematics S: Mathematics S: Mathematical Studies
6	<b>ELECTIVES</b>	H or S: Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, or another Language or another Individuals and Societies subject or another Science.

*Some subjects run only if there is sufficient demand.*

### How to choose your programme:

- Choose your Highers from those subjects which you enjoy most and which support your career aspirations. These subjects are the ones that you will study in depth.
- Choose your Standards to give you a good balanced programme. You will be asked to record these subject choices on the application form.



## Part 4 – Subjects

### GROUP 1 – STUDIES IN LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

#### LITERATURE

- Literature is the study of a range of literary works e.g. novels and poetry in the mother tongue.
- Most of the students in the class will be native speakers of the language and will have been educated in the language.
- Only English, German and Italian are offered at both Higher and Standard levels.
- If you want to study Standard level and your language is not mentioned in the list, do not worry: we will almost certainly be able to find a teacher for you.

#### The Course

You will study about 13 (H) or 10 (S) works of literature in the language, at least 3 of which will be World Literature in translation. Written and spoken communication in the language is assessed by coursework and external examination.

#### Previous Knowledge

You must have native or near-native knowledge of the language. Wide background reading will give students a head start, but is not essential.

#### LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

Language and Literature is available only in English. It is aimed at bilingual students who are already taking Literature in their mother tongue (in this case the student would have two subjects in Group 1 and possibly none in Group 2).

Native speakers of English may study Language and Literature as an alternative to the Literature course.



#### David Genis, Russia

University College London, Economics & Business  
with European Studies  
36 Points

Every lesson of every subject is always interactive, informative and entertaining. It is the best feeling to know that you will be looked after by people who are ready to support you. All of this makes St. Clare's a great college.

## Part 4 – Subjects

### GROUP 2 – LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- Language B is for foreign learners of the language.
- It is not primarily a literary course, though literature is studied as a means of understanding the complex use of the language.
- The emphasis is on communicative skills in speech and writing and on understanding the culture of the language.

#### The Course

Students learn the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking through a range of resources related to three themes: Relationships, The Media and Global Issues. Reading and writing are tested by externally set examinations and written coursework (70%), while oral skills are tested internally (30%).

#### Previous Knowledge

You should have at least 2 years of serious study in the language, a good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, and be fairly fluent in ordinary conversation.

#### LANGUAGE B Ab Initio (beginners)

- If you want to learn a new language or do not have a second language, you should choose Spanish Ab Initio or Chinese Ab Initio.
- These are offered at Standard level only.

#### The Course

You will acquire a good basic knowledge of the language so that you can engage in conversation to do with everyday situations and understand and write short pieces.

#### Previous knowledge

Obviously you don't need any. However, any start you can make on the language (e.g. a Teach Yourself book) in the summer before you come to us would help you to get a good start.

### GROUP 3 – INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

#### Previous knowledge

All these courses may be taken without previous knowledge. Clearly, if they have been studied before, this will be helpful.

#### BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT (H only)

You will be learning to understand why business organisations are formed, the principles, practice and basic competence employed to make them successful and their decision-making processes. Real life examples and case studies will be used. Assessment is via project (25%) and final examinations (75%).

#### ECONOMICS (H and S)

You will learn how to use economic reasoning and apply the tools of economic analysis to everyday problems and social issues. You will learn how individuals and societies organise themselves in the pursuit of economic objectives and will seek answers to questions such as:

- How are resources allocated between alternative uses to attain maximum levels of output?
- How do governments intervene in the economy to foster desired levels of economic stability and growth?
- How do societies around the world interact with each other, via trade or other mechanisms, to create an international economic framework?

## Part 4 – Subjects

- How do societies create new wealth?
- Why have some been more successful than others?
- Why does the spectre of poverty still haunt many nations?

### **GEOGRAPHY (H and S)**

Geography is a bridge between the social and the natural sciences. The IB programme reflects the concern with man's relationship with the environment while retaining topics such as human geography, population, economic development and human settlements. Examples of human and physical geography are taken from all over the world. The subject is assessed through a combination of coursework and a final examination. The Standard level course deals largely with some current global problems (e.g. population, refugees, inequality, urbanisation, environmental hazards, food), and is attractive to students with an interest in current affairs and the environment. Higher Geographers study more physical geography with an emphasis on geomorphological processes. Both Higher and Standard level students will use spreadsheets, computer mapping and geographical databases.

### **HISTORY (H and S)**

Higher level History covers major trends in Europe and the Middle East from the mid 19th century. In the 20th century, the course extends to other parts of the world to avoid a Eurocentric view. One of the major themes is the Arab-Israeli conflict, which helps the student better understand the tensions in the world today.

Higher and Standard level students study three twentieth century world topics:

- the causes, practices and effects of war,
- origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states, and
- the Cold War.

Both H and S Level students prepare a piece of Internal Assessment on a topic of their choice.

### **PSYCHOLOGY (H and S)**

You will be helped to an increased understanding of the nature of human beings, as individuals and in social groups, and you will learn to appreciate psychology as an academic discipline.

You will learn the various methods of psychological enquiry and examine the subject from biological, cognitive, learning and humanistic perspectives. Internally assessed experimental work during the programme will count (20%) towards the final marks.

### **WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (S only)**

World Politics and International Relations familiarises students with the framework for understanding the perspectives, behaviours, and decision-making procedures of international organisations, governments, and various other national and sub-national groups.

The four modules covered are:

- The underlying principles of modern world order and power;
- The world and regional integration;
- Human rights and international law; and,
- Conflict, peace and reconstruction.

The course draws its examples from the contemporary world.

World Politics may not be combined with Astronomy.

## Part 4 – Subjects

### GROUP 3 OR GROUP 4 – INTERDISCIPLINARY

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES (S only)

This is an interdisciplinary course which covers the requirements of Group 3 and Group 4 subjects. This broad course aims to give you an understanding of scientific method whilst at the same time heightening your awareness of the multidisciplinary (biological, geographical, political, economic, social and historical) aspects of environmental issues. The areas studied are: Ecological principles; Ecosystems; Conservation and Biodiversity; Pollution; Population and Resources.

### GROUP 4 – SCIENCES

All science courses on the IB share a common structure. Each is in three parts:

- a core of material that is studied at both Higher and Standard levels,
- additional material that is taken at Higher level only,
- options, which may be for Standard level only, Higher level only, or for both levels.

All students take part in a cross-disciplinary Science Group Project. The assessment pattern is the same for all sciences. Exams at the end of the course contribute 76% of the final mark. The remaining 24% is based on practical work set and assessed by the College.

#### Previous knowledge

For Higher level sciences, some previous knowledge is essential, though a general science course should be sufficient. At Standard level, previous knowledge is helpful, and students without a science background should try to do some reading before they start.



#### Sophie Spies, Germany

Gap Year followed by Medicine, Berlin  
45 Points

St. Clare's is a safe environment where effort is rewarded, personality is valued and unforgettable memories are formed. I have been encouraged to broaden my horizons, develop as a person and of course I have gained immensely from an academic point of view.

## Part 4 – Subjects

### **BIOLOGY (H and S)**

In Biology you will study the science of living things and how they function. The Core includes Cells, Genetics, Ecology and Human Physiology. The additional material takes these further, and adds some more, such as Plant Science, and Defence Against Disease. Linking themes are Structure and Function; Universality versus Diversity; Equilibrium within Systems; and Evolution. Some Options are: Diet and Human Nutrition; Evolution; Ecology and Conservation; and Further Human Physiology.

### **CHEMISTRY (H and S)**

In Chemistry you will study materials, and the conversion of substances one to another. Core and Additional Higher level: material covered here includes such important themes as Atomic Theory; Bonding and Structure; the Periodic Table; Acid-Base and Oxidation-Reduction Behaviour; Energetics; Equilibrium; and Organic Chemistry. Some Options are: Human Biochemistry; Environmental Chemistry; Fuels and Energy; Modern Analytical Chemistry.

### **PHYSICS (H and S)**

In Physics you will study the properties and interactions of matter and energy. Core and Additional Higher level: these introduce the central concepts of Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Waves; Thermal Physics; Electricity and Magnetism. Options: Standard only: Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Energy. Higher and Standard: Biomedical Physics; History of Physics; Astrophysics; Relativity; Optics.

### **ASTRONOMY (S only)**

Four distinct areas are studied in Astronomy - The Stars, The Planets, Galaxies and Cosmology.

The Stars looks at our sun in detail and then goes on to stellar evolution / the life cycle of a star. The Planets focuses on the formation of our solar system and then planets in general. Galaxies concentrates on the constituents of our Milky Way galaxy and then galaxies in general. Cosmology is the evolution of the universe otherwise known as 'Big Bang theory'.

Astronomy may not be combined with Physics or World Politics.



**Karl Marco, Egypt**

Imperial College London, Mechanical Engineering  
42 Points

St. Clare's combines academic rigor with a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The experience teaches you to be more independent and appreciate that for every place, culture and mentality, there are different ways to approach the same issue.

## Part 4 – Subjects

### GROUP 5 – MATHEMATICS

#### **MATHEMATICS (H)**

This is a challenging programme designed for students with a strong background and ability in mathematics. You may choose this level because you aim to study Mathematics at university, because you need it to support university study in subjects such as physics, engineering or technology, or simply because you enjoy mathematics.

#### **MATHEMATICS (S)**

This is a demanding course requiring strong background knowledge and ability. The programme contains a broad range of mathematical topics and is designed to help those students who wish to pursue further studies with a high degree of mathematical content such as chemistry, economics, geography and business.

#### **MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (S only)**

This programme is designed to develop the skills needed to cope with the mathematical demands of a technological society. Emphasis is placed on the application of mathematics to real-life situations. You should choose this course if you do not need advanced mathematics for your future studies.

### GROUP 6 – ELECTIVES

**In this group you can study another subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4 i.e. another second language, another Individuals and Societies subject or another science. Or, you can take:**

#### **VISUAL ARTS (H and S)**

There are two parts to the course: Studio Work (practical) and Research Workbook (theory). Higher level students study both. Students choose either a course which is 60% practical and 40% theory or alternatively a course which is 60% theory and 40% practical.

You will discover, develop and enjoy different means of creative visual expression in the studio and elsewhere. You will also learn about the visual arts in all their forms, from the past, the present, and emerging trends.

Choose this subject if you have some practical skills in drawing and painting and some natural talent and interest in the subject.

#### **MUSIC (H and S)**

You will gain a worldwide and historical perspective of music as well as studying its elements. You will also create and perform music. The Standard level is a subset of the Higher level. It is helpful to have some earlier study and some musical qualification.

For Higher level it is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or to offer the voice. At Standard level the ability to play and/or sing at a reasonable level is required.

#### **THEATRE (H and S)**

You will learn to understand the nature of theatre by making it as well as studying it. Making will include developing performance skills and mounting theatre productions. Studying will include historical and theoretical theatre developments and play analysis and interpretation. No previous experience is required, though it would be helpful.

## Part 5 – Core Elements of the IB Programme

The IB Diploma is a complete educational programme. The subjects provide both breadth and depth, and there are three core elements which help to provide overview, additional academic specialisation, and recognition of interests outside the classroom. These are the course in the Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Activities (CAS).

### Theory of Knowledge

While students choose their programmes from a range of subject areas, these are still separate subjects. With the Theory of Knowledge course, the IB adds two further qualities to a student's study. First, by looking at the pattern of all knowledge, that which is gained from subject studies and that which is gained from friends, family, the media and other sources, a sense of perspective is achieved. Students can see how new knowledge relates to the world of knowledge as a whole. Second, students are trained in the critical evaluation of knowledge, so that they can see how different types of knowledge have to be judged in different ways, and so that they can assess the value of new knowledge claims.

### Extended Essay

During the two years of their Diploma studies, students are required to undertake a specific piece of research. This is usually research into an aspect of one of their subjects. For example, History students might look at a battle or a political incident that is of special interest to them. Economics students might look at the performance of a company that they know well. Biology students might study one particular ecosystem or one organism in that system.

The results of this research must then be written up in the form of a research paper of up to 4000 words. This can be a challenging task, but intellectually very satisfying for a good student.

### CAS

CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service. It is realised by the IB that many students will have extensive interests outside their academic studies. In order to give recognition and encouragement to these, the IB asks them to spend one afternoon or the equivalent time each week undertaking activities that come under one or more of these headings. For example, activities that involve Creativity include Studio Art and Photography. Action could be a team sport like football or an individual activity like swimming. For Service, students may help people in the community such as the old

or the disabled, or may help charities such as Oxfam or each other (by teaching a language, for example). Some activities cover more than one heading. For example, a play performed at a local school or old people's home may well involve creativity, action and service.

### PSHE

Though not an assessed part of the IB programme, St. Clare's offers students a course in Personal, Social and Health Education covering a wide range of topics such as relationships, study skills, citizenship, substance abuse and healthy eating.

The PSHE curriculum includes a programme to develop career management skills and preparation for higher education. The college provides a dedicated careers and higher education adviser to co-ordinate this programme and to provide individual guidance.



Madeleine Bonham Jones,  
UK/Australia

Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London,  
History of Art  
42 Points

I have enjoyed the sense of independence that comes with being at a school like St Clare's and found that making responsible decisions myself, motivates me to continue working hard. St. Clare's has its own unique culture that stems from the fantastic mix of nationalities.

## Part 6 – Grading System: IB and St. Clare’s

The system used for internal purposes during the course is that employed by the International Baccalaureate Organisation in the award of the Diploma. Each of the six subjects studied is graded on a 1-7 scale as follows:

Grade	Description
7	Excellent
6	Very good
5	Good
4	Satisfactory
3	Mediocre
2	Poor
1	Very poor

### Award of the Diploma

The IB Diploma will be awarded to candidates who in the examinations obtain a total points score of 24 points or more.

This total must be achieved in conformity with the following provisions:

- a. Higher level subjects: in principle the candidate should achieve a Grade 4 or above in each Higher level subject. Nevertheless, ONE Grade 3 (but not a Grade 2, nor a Grade 1) will be acceptable if compensated by Grade 5 or above in another subject offered at Higher level.
- b. Standard level subjects: results of subjects offered at this level must not include:
  1. A Grade 1
  2. More than ONE Grade 2.
- c. Overall results: this must not include:
  1. More than three Grade 3s
  2. More than one Grade 3 if there is a Grade 2 at Standard level.

### Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay

Each is graded on one of 5 bands:

Band A	Work of an excellent standard
Band B	Work of a good standard
Band C	Work of a satisfactory standard
Band D	Work of a mediocre standard
Band E	Work of a poor standard

In Theory of Knowledge, written work completed during the course is graded externally. Presentations in class are assessed at St. Clare’s. Extended Essays are graded externally.



### Andrew Reece, UK

Gap Year. Deferred entry, Loughborough University,  
Ergonomics  
42 Points

At St. Clare’s we all learn through experience how best to balance the numerous different aspects of our lives. Over the last two years I have become much more responsible and confident in myself.



## Part 6 – Grading System: IB and St. Clare’s

### Arriving at a Total Points Score

The total number of bonus points awarded is determined according to the following matrix.

		Theory of Knowledge				
		A	B	C	D	E
Extended Essay	A	+3	+3	+2	+2	+1
	B	+3	+2	+1	+1	
	C	+2	+1	+1	0	
	D	+2	+1	0	0	
	E	+1				

For example, a candidate who achieves level B for Theory of Knowledge and level C for the Extended Essay will be awarded one bonus point. Candidates who achieve level E for both Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay fail automatically. Candidates who achieve level E for either the Theory of Knowledge or the Extended Essay will be awarded F for their bonus score. The award F is a failing condition for the Diploma unless 28 points or more are scored overall.

**The combination of points for subjects and bonus points means that the maximum possible points score for the Diploma is 45.**

### Internally Awarded Grades

During the course, work is graded on the IB system and the grades form part of the student’s internal record. These internally awarded grades appear on the transcripts issued at regular intervals throughout the course. These internal grades form the basis of the predicted grades for university applications and for the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

Internal grades are awarded as follows:

- Exam Grades – in the first year awarded on the basis of performances in formal exams held in November and June as well as in-class assessments. In the second year awarded on the basis of formal exams in February as well as in-class assessments.

- Course Grades – awarded at the end of each term on course work done during the term. They represent an average grade for oral and written work actually produced by the student.

### Transcripts

These give a record of grades achieved during the course, along with activities taken. They are produced at the end of each term, and sent to parents with the reports. They are suitable for sending to universities e.g. in the United States.



**Cora Neumann, Germany**

University of Pennsylvania, USA, International Relations & Economics  
42 Points

St. Clare’s is a place full of people who want to learn and who see internationalism as something natural and enjoyable. I always believed I was quite tolerant, but here I learned to embrace tolerance as a fundamental basis for life.

## Part 7 – The Pre IB Programme

The Pre IB programme at St. Clare's is a one year course designed to prepare students for the IB Diploma. The course consists of the same variety of subjects as the Diploma but is structured in a modular way so that students can sample a range of subjects in order to ensure they make the right subject choices when beginning the IB Diploma. Most students do the Pre IB programme because they need a further year's study to deepen and broaden their subject knowledge or to improve their English. Though most students start the Pre IB course in September and complete the full year, some students join part way through the year e.g. in January.

At the start of the academic year, all Pre IB students are tested in English, Mathematics and Science to ensure that the groups they are put in offer the appropriate challenge and support. The year is divided into 5 modules, each of 7 weeks. At the end of each module, students sit exams in all subjects and the results of these are sent home to parents.

The Pre IB programme at St Clare's, like the IB Diploma upon which it is modelled, consists of 6 subjects:

1) **English** – 8 hours a week

This is considered the most important subject and is given a greater time allocation than any other. Students are placed in small groups with others of the same ability level. Topics include newspaper articles, documentaries, films, literary texts, etc allowing students to develop the ability to manipulate language in different contexts.

Native English speakers and fluent second language speakers principally study Literature.

2) **World Literature** – 2 hours a week

The aim of the World Literature course is to introduce students to literary concepts in preparation for the Literature course in their mother tongue and at the same time to improve students' reading skills in the common language of English.

3) **Humanities** – 4 hours a week

In Modules 1, 2 and 3, students take History, Geography and Business. In Modules 4 and 5, they can also study Psychology and Business/Economics.

4) **Science** – 4 hours a week

Students study separate Modules of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems and Physics. The course is a mixture of theory and practical experimentation.

5) **Mathematics** – 4 hours a week

Students are taught in groups divided by mathematical ability but they all study the same topics in the same order. The more advanced groups study the topics in greater depth. Topics covered are: Probability and Statistics, Transformations and Matrices, Number, Algebra and Geometry and Trigonometry.

6) **Arts** – 2 hours a week

Students take one module of Music, one of Theatre Arts and one of Visual Arts. All three Arts subjects are a mixture of theory and practice and are designed to give students a taste of subjects they may well not have taken before. No previous knowledge is required.



**Abigail Myers, USA**

University of Texas at Austin, USA, Plan II - Honors Program  
35 Points

St. Clare's is so welcoming that I immediately felt like a part of the community. The style of the college more closely resembles a university and there is a strong support network of great teachers who are very helpful.

## Part 8 – Scholarships and Bursaries: IB Diploma

### Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students who could not otherwise attend the College. They are offered on the basis of an assessment of the applicant's school record, confidential references and performance in an examination and interview held in Oxford. All awards are means tested i.e. they take account of the financial circumstances of the family of the applicant.

Scholarships can apply to both tuition fees and accommodation fees. No more than two full awards are made. Most are partial awards, covering a proportion of total fees.

Attendance in Oxford for interview and examination is required to be considered for a scholarship.

Scholarship applications are considered in early February of the year of proposed entry. The deadline for applying for a Scholarship for entry in September 2014 is Friday 24 January 2014 and Scholarship Day is on Saturday 15 February 2014. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details and a Scholarship Application Booklet.

### Bursaries

Bursaries are partial fee awards made on the basis of financial circumstances and likely contributions to and benefit from the IB Course at St. Clare's. Bursaries may be awarded to applicants who attend the Scholarship Day. Other bursary awards may be made after the award of scholarships, from March onwards before the September of proposed entry, subject to availability of funds.

Scholarships and bursaries are only awarded to students on entry to the IB Diploma. They are not available for Pre IB applicants.

St. Clare's particularly welcomes applications for scholarships and bursaries from students who live in or near Oxford and could attend as non-residential (day) students.

Email: [admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk) for more information.

## Part 9 – How should I apply to St. Clare's?

If you want to apply for the IB or the Pre-IB please send us the following:

- A completed Application Form (4 pages)
- School reports for the last two years of your studies
- If you are not a native English speaker, evidence of your level of English e.g.
  - a copy of an English language examination certificate such as Cambridge Examinations, IELTS or TOEFL
  - a letter from your English teacher stating your level
- 2 recent passport-size photographs

When we have received all of the above, we will assess your school reports. If these are satisfactory:

- We will invite you and your family to visit St. Clare's for an interview
- We may request a confidential reference from your current school

If your interview and reference are satisfactory, we will offer you a place at St. Clare's.

When you accept the offer of a place at St. Clare's you will need to pay a deposit of £2,500 to the College.

### Please send all correspondence to:

Chris Osbourn  
Admissions Office  
St. Clare's, Oxford  
139 Banbury Road  
Oxford OX2 7AL  
UK  
[admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 517304  
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 513359



St. Clare's, Oxford  
139 Banbury Road  
Oxford, OX2 7AL  
England

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 552031

Fax: +44 (0) 1865 310002

Email: [admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk)

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