

ST CLARE'S



OXFORD

International Baccalaureate



"I have spent two unforgettable years of my life here. I have grown immensely and I am incredibly grateful for everything that has happened to me"

Lucien – France

"When you leave St Clare's you are prepared for anything life can throw at you"

Mirabel – Nigeria

"I originally came to St Clare's because of its academic excellence and prestigious status. Whilst being here, however, I certainly received more than I bargained for"

Brandon - UK

"Coming to St Clare's is one of the best decisions I have ever made"

William - Norway

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Introduction from the Principal

2017 was another busy and successful year. The results of the students who took the IB examinations in May were excellent.

This IB Guide is designed to give you detailed information about our examination results and university destinations as well as descriptions of the different subjects which you can study at St Clare's through the International Baccalaureate Diploma or through the Pre IB programme.

2017 was another busy and successful year. The results of the students who took the IB examinations in May were excellent. 97% of our students passed the Diploma (in contrast to the worldwide pass rate of 79%).

These results are not only a credit to the students themselves but also to the teaching and other staff who support their learning. We also need to appreciate that St Clare's achieves these results from a student body where the majority of students do not speak English as their first language, where many of them have never lived in a boarding school before or lived away from home. The College's academic success is also, therefore, very much the result of the way that students are integrated into and supported by our community.

We have now moved into our beautiful new residence at 121 Banbury Road. The buildings are centred around a quadrangle, very much in the style of an Oxford college.



Double ensuite study bedrooms are provided for male and female students in separate houses. There is also an impressive art studio which looks out upon the central garden. These wonderful new buildings manage to complement the historic house which is at the centre of the development.

St Clare's is a college which provides a very high standard of education and care to its students while continually striving to enhance the quality of their experience. The Diploma provides a real education through an integrated programme which both engages and challenges young people at all stages of their intellectual and personal development.

Being part of the St Clare's community is a real pleasure. I hope that you will find this Guide interesting and that it will stimulate questions about St Clare's and encourage you to find out more about us and, of course, pay us a visit. We are proud of the work we do here and would welcome the opportunity to share our enthusiasm with you.

With my best wishes.

Andrew Rattue
Principal



"The school of independence, where you take initiative and build your future"

Alba - Albania

An **international** education

St Clare's offers students from all over the world the opportunity to pursue a first-class education in Oxford.

St Clare's welcomes students and staff of all nationalities and cultures who will benefit from, and contribute to, our learning community. Living and studying together, we learn from one another.

The College seeks to nurture in our students a lifelong passion for learning and an enduring commitment to global citizenship.

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.

We have been offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma since 1977, longer than any other school or college in England. There are only 13 other institutions in the world that have taught the IB for longer than us and we offer an especially wide range of subjects at higher and standard level. Unlike other schools in the UK we teach literature in over 25 different languages.



We have been offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma for almost **40 years**; longer than any other school in England



Unlike other schools in the UK we **teach literature in over 25 different languages**



Currently we have students from **over 40 countries** living and studying here



The atmosphere here is informal and friendly, with an equal emphasis on hard work and encouraging personal responsibility.

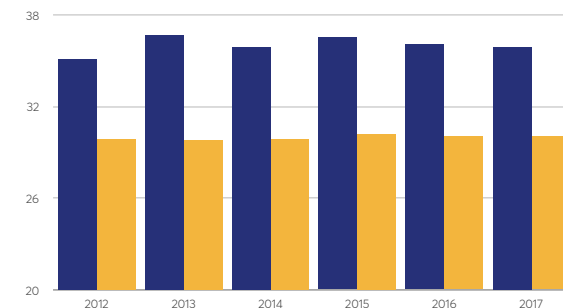
2017 IB Diploma results

St Clare's is pleased to announce an impressive set of results in the May 2017 exams.

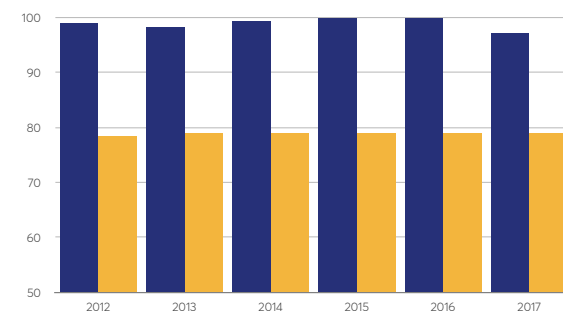
We achieved:

- Four students gained the magic 45 points, a grade achieved by only 0.2% of students around the world
- An average points score of 36; this compares very favourably to the world average of 30
- A 97% pass rate; the world pass rate is 79%.
- 60% of students with 35 points or more (considered equivalent to over 4 grade As at A level).
- A quarter of our students gained the elite category of 40+ points, putting them in the top 5% in the world.
- 21 subjects had average scores of one grade or more higher than the world average.

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:



● St Clare's
● World Average

Comparison of St Clare's 2017 results with previous years

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Students with 40 points or more | 22% | 31% | 25% | 26% | 24% | 25% |
| Students with 30 points or more | 90% | 92% | 87% | 98% | 93% | 95% |
| Students with 24 points or more | 99% | 99% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 98% |
| Mean score | 35 | 37 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 36 |

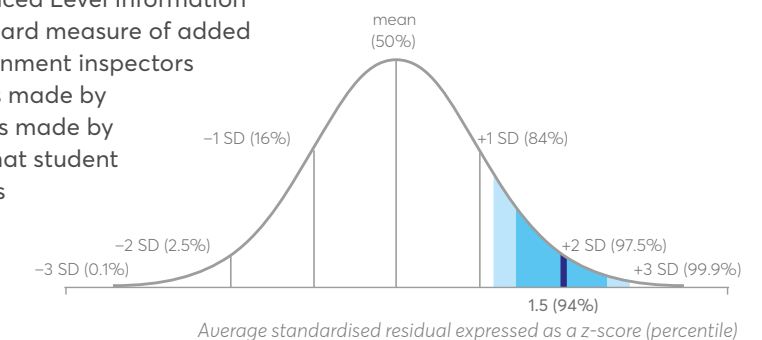
The maximum score is 45 points and the pass mark is 24 points.

IB highlights over the past few years

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|--|---|
| <p>For the tenth year running, we had students gaining 45 points (statistically we should have one every five years):</p> <p><i>In 44 subjects, our students scored higher than the world average</i></p> <p><i>In Chemistry SL, the average score was more than 2 points above the world average</i></p> <p><i>In Biology at both HL & SL, it was just under 1.5 better</i></p> <p><i>In Business & Management, the average score was 6.05 as opposed to a world average of 4.65</i></p> <p><i>In Maths HL, it was 5.61 as opposed to 4.41.</i></p> | <p>We had 100% pass rate, two students scoring 45 points and the second highest average in St Clare's history:</p> <p><i>In 48 out of 56 subjects, our students scored higher than the world average</i></p> <p><i>Out of the 630 subject exams sat, only 3 were graded at 3. None was graded lower</i></p> <p><i>The average grade in English Literature was 6.14, as opposed to a world average of 4.74</i></p> <p><i>The average grade for Environmental Systems was 1.73 above the world average</i></p> <p><i>Biology & Chemistry at both HL & SL were very significantly above world averages.</i></p> | <p>We had a 100% pass rate; the world pass rate is 80%:</p> <p><i>65% of students with 35 points or more (considered equivalent to 4.5 grade As at A level).</i></p> <p><i>Roughly a quarter of students gaining the elite category of 40+ points (top 5% in the world).</i></p> <p><i>29% of Maths Studies students & 22% of Maths SL candidates scored a 7, against a World Average of 8%.</i></p> <p><i>95% of English B candidates scored a 6 or 7.</i></p> <p><i>7 subjects had average scores of 1.5 or more higher than the world average.</i></p> |

How much value do we add for our students?

The graph on the right is based on an ALIS analysis (Advanced Level Information System) carried out by Durham University. This is the standard measure of added value for IB & A Level schools in the UK, the one that government inspectors use to measure student progress. 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 graph shows that student achievement at St Clare's is in the top 6% of all the schools measured by Durham University.



University destinations 2017

– summary information

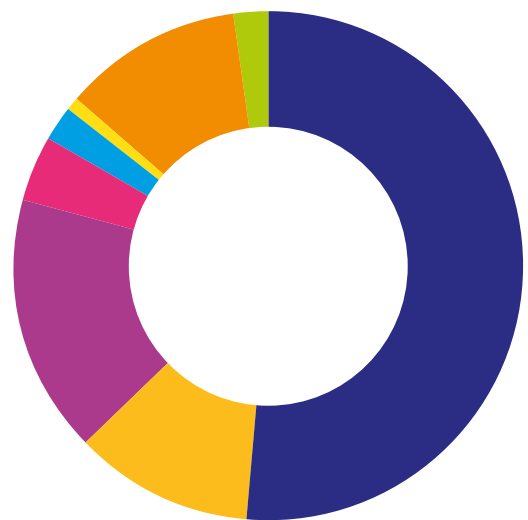
The vast majority of St Clare's graduates go to university as the next step in their career. Institutions all over the world welcome our students and during their two years at St Clare's, they are well prepared for and guided through decisions and applications.

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 2017 will be at:

| Destination | Students |
|---|----------|
| UK Universities (see right for details): | 60 |
| US Universities and Liberal Arts Colleges (see right for details): | 13 |
| European Universities and Colleges: University of Amsterdam (2), Amsterdam University College, Bocconi (Italy), International University of Catalonia, ESMOD (France), IE x3 (Spain), Istituto Marangoni, Maastricht, Jacobs (Germany), KU Leven, Parsons Paris, Passau (Germany), Poznan (Poland) and Webster Vienna, | 19 |
| Canadian Universities: McGill (2), Toronto (2) and UBC | 5 |
| Australian Universities: Melbourne | 2 |
| Gap year: This year the students' gap year plans include: Volunteering as an English Teacher in India, working with an environmentalist campaigner in Senegal on environmental and community projects, internships in multiple hotels, working within event management to gain experience, gaining their TEFL then moving to Provence to teach English and the guitar whilst improving their French, shadowing in a law firm, then volunteering on a Human Rights Project in South Africa. | 16 |



- UK Universities
- US Universities and Liberal Arts Colleges
- European Universities
- Canadian Universities
- Australian Universities
- Russian Universities
- Gap Year
- Gap Year – Deferred Entry

US and UK university league tables

For 2017, 29 St Clare's graduates, have been placed in the Top 20 UK universities as ranked by the independent Complete University Guide 2017, with 21 in the top 10 (see below).

Eleven students are taking up places in Top 100 US universities, 9 of them at Top 50 Institutions and a further 2 have gone on to a Top 35 Liberal Arts College 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.

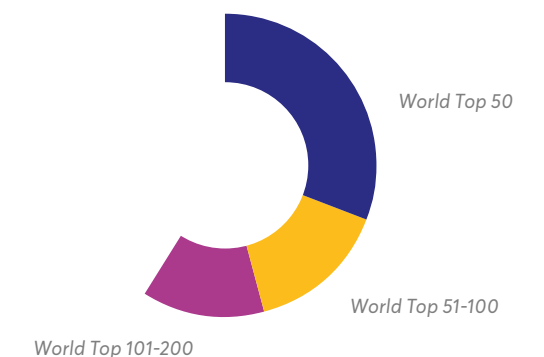
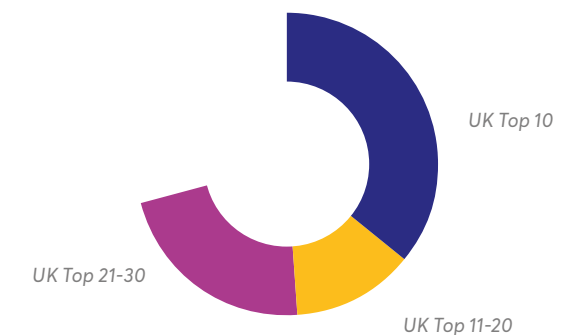
St Clare's is an international school and, as such, our students view universities from a global perspective. This year 59 (59%) of current students are progressing on to a University in the Top 1% in the World as measured by the Times Higher Education World Rankings and the QS World Rankings.

Classed in the other category are also specialist institutions who are top in their field. This includes:

- 3 IE # 4 European Business School (Financial Times Rankings).
- 4 Bocconi # 10 in the World for Business and 17 for Economics (QS World Subject Rankings).
- Parsons School of Design (Paris Campus) # 5 on the Global Fashion School Rankings (Business of Fashion Rankings 2016)

| Top UK Universities | Students |
|---------------------|----------|
| Cambridge | 2 |
| Oxford | 4 |
| LSE | 2 |
| Imperial | 2 |
| Warwick | 5 |
| UCL | 6 |

| Top US Universities and Colleges | Students |
|--|----------|
| Amherst College | 1 |
| Bryn Mawr College | 1 |
| Harvard University | 1 |
| University of Pennsylvania | 1 |
| The University of Southern California on the prestigious WBB Programme | 1 |
| Carnegie Mellon University | 1 |
| University of Rochester | 1 |
| Brandeis University | 1 |
| New York University | 1 |

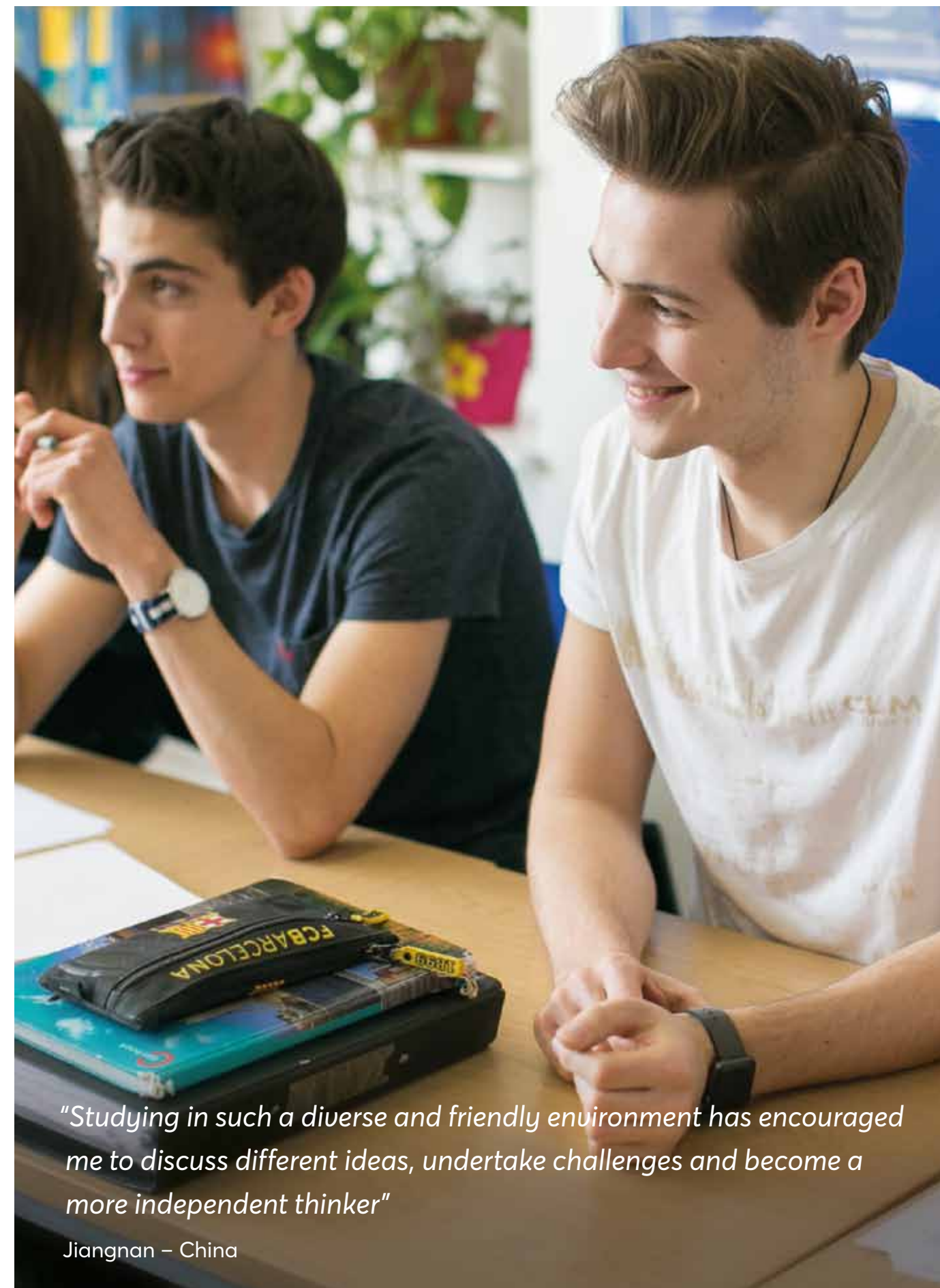


Most popular subject areas this year:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| Maths & Science | 20 | Engineering | 8 |
| Politics & Economics | 19 | Law | 7 |
| Business & Finance | 18 | Creative Arts | 7 |
| Social Sciences | 9 | Humanities | 5 |
| | | Liberal Arts & Sciences (undeclared) | 3 |
| | | Medicine & Healthcare | 3 |
| | | Language, Literatures & Linguistics | 1 |

Students have chosen to study a range of subjects including:

Aerospace Engineering, *Biochemistry*, Biology, *Biomedical Science*, Biotechnology, *Chemistry*, Chemical Engineering, *Civil Engineering*, Classics, *Computer Science*, *Criminology*, Drama, *Economics*, English Literature, *Fashion Marketing*, Fine Art, *Film Directing*, Genetics, *Geology and Nutrition*, Global Sustainability Science, *History*, Information Management for Business, *International Aviation Management*, International Development with Economics, *Law*, Liberal Arts, *Management*, Medicine, *Neuroscience*, Pharmacology, *Philosophy and Religious Studies*, Philosophy, *PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)*, Physics, *Psychology and Social Anthropology*.



"Studying in such a diverse and friendly environment has encouraged me to discuss different ideas, undertake challenges and become a more independent thinker"

Jiangnan – China

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)

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.

Yasmina O'Sullivan
British
Gap year volunteering with Project Trust, India



St Clare's is not like other schools where students are simply spoon-fed information. I realised this in my first week. Teachers expected more from me and all at once I was at the helm of my own education. I won't deny that this was shocking and strange, but now, two-years on, I couldn't be more grateful. I have attained greater independence and new-found appreciation for my subjects. St Clare's has bolstered me for the dynamic world ahead. I now enter it knowing that I can take whatever comes my way.

| Group | Subject | Details |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Language and Literature | Your first or best 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 <i>Language and Literature is available only in English</i> |
| 2 | Language Acquisition | <i>A second language</i> H and S: English, French, Spanish, Chinese B and German <i>Previous study of at least 3 years is necessary.</i> S only: Chinese for beginners and Spanish for beginners |
| 3 | Individuals and Societies | H or S: History, Geography, Psychology Economics H only: Business and Management S only: Global Politics |
| 3 or 4 | Interdisciplinary | S only: Environmental Systems and Societies. |
| 4 | Sciences | H or S: Biology, Chemistry, Physics |
| 5 | Mathematics | H: Mathematics S: Mathematics S: Mathematical Studies |
| 6 | Electives | H or S: Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, or another Language or another Individuals and Societies subject or another Science |

Subjects

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.

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 3 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.

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?
- 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.

Global Politics (S only)

Global Politics 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.

3 or 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.

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.

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.

Tianyi (Abbygail) Sheng
British
History at University of Oxford



I guess I could summarize my experience at St. Clare's in two words - positiveness and friendliness. It was clearly noticeable from the very first moment I joined St. Clare's that this was indeed an extremely international community. People were of different races, nationalities, having different cultural backgrounds, speaking different languages, and yet everyone was so prepared to welcome this difference and embrace people coming from other parts of the world. I made friends almost immediately and they really made me feel a sense of home while studying abroad alone. I was surprised at how students and teachers could become friends and build up such a close relationship. I feel extremely lucky to have chosen St. Clare's for sixth form education, and I am proud and honoured to say that I was a student of St. Clare's.

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.

Sara Beqiri
Albanian
Medicine at University
College London



As an international student applying to study medicine, my two years at St Clare's were basically a balancing act on a very fine line between complete failure and success. Luckily, along the way I had the support of amazing teachers and friends through every step. St Clare's has made me a stronger person and I can now face the challenges of my future with confidence.

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.



"For me, St Clare's was a place of discovery. It allowed me to find my passions, my strengths and weaknesses, my quirky characteristics and most importantly, myself"

Shani - Kenya



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.

Chloe Caron
French
Engineering at University
of Cambridge



St Clare's offers what is rarely achieved: internationalism, independence and accomplishment. The diversity of the teaching as well as the support behind choosing your future path is one of the strongest features of the school. Personally, the continuous motivation and support given by the entire student and teacher body is what enabled me to strive through the IB and persevere until the end. The environment at St Clare's has given me the opportunity to gain independence, explore my future career paths and challenge my limits.

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 or more except for the following conditions.

1. A failure to complete CAS
2. Grade E in TOK or Extended Essay
3. An N any subject
4. Any grade 1
5. Four grade 3's or below
6. Three grade 2's
7. Less than 12 at HL
8. Less than 9 at SL

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.

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 | 0 |
| | B | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | |
| | C | +2 | +2 | +1 | 0 | |
| | D | +2 | +1 | 0 | 0 | |
| | E | 0 | | | | |

For example, a candidate who achieves level B for Theory of Knowledge and level C for the Extended Essay will be awarded two bonus points. **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 International Baccalaureate 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:

a) 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.

b) 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.

The Pre IB programme

The Pre IB programme at St Clare's is 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 programme, all Pre IB students are tested in English and Mathematics 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 or near-native English speakers principally study Literature. Native English speakers who intend to continue their second language at IB study a Modern Foreign Language for two of these hours a week (usually French, German or Spanish). This is not available to other students. This is intended for students who have studied a language for between 3 and 5 years so is at Language B level. It is not for fluent speakers or beginners.

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 Module 5, they can also study 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. In the final module, all Arts students combine to produce a musical.

The Pre IB programme is currently being reviewed and improved for September 2018 and may differ slightly from this model.

Kevin Hertanto
Indonesian
Design at Melbourne
University, Australia



Coming here is such a unique experience and is one that allows anyone to grow and develop themselves for the better! You meet the nicest of friends and the most supportive of teachers and staff that integrate with you in a level found nowhere else. It has definitely prepared me for my next stage in life as I come out a more independent and determined person.

"Through the triumphs and challenges, students and teachers support each other in every way they can"

Owen - UK



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 January of the year of proposed entry. The deadline for applying for a Scholarship for entry in September 2018 is Friday 19 January 2018 and Scholarship Day is on Saturday 24 February 2018. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details and advice about how to apply.

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 for more information.

Ogheneruteyan Onosode
Nigerian-American
Engineering at University
of Pennsylvania, USA



The IB has given me a new outlook to life and has challenged me in aspects in my education that were previously foreign to me and the international diversity at St Clare's has enriched my global awareness. I have been able to develop both my academic and non-academic interest through various activities and my interactions with other students and staff. The lessons I learnt have contributed immensely to my growth as a person and have paved the path for my future endeavours.

Justas Jasevicius
Lithuania
Biotechnology at Harvard
University, USA



St Clare's maintains a perfect balance between being academically rigorous and at the same time inviting us to try lots of extracurricular activities. During the lessons, our teachers might be showing demonstrations with fluorescent bacteria, or debating how political ideologies vary around the world.

"I have met so many memorable people and amazing personalities, I will truly never forget my time here"

Madison – American





"It was when I called St Clare's "home" that I understood it had become a part of me. I will always be thankful to St Clare's for these two amazing years"

Gino - Italy

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