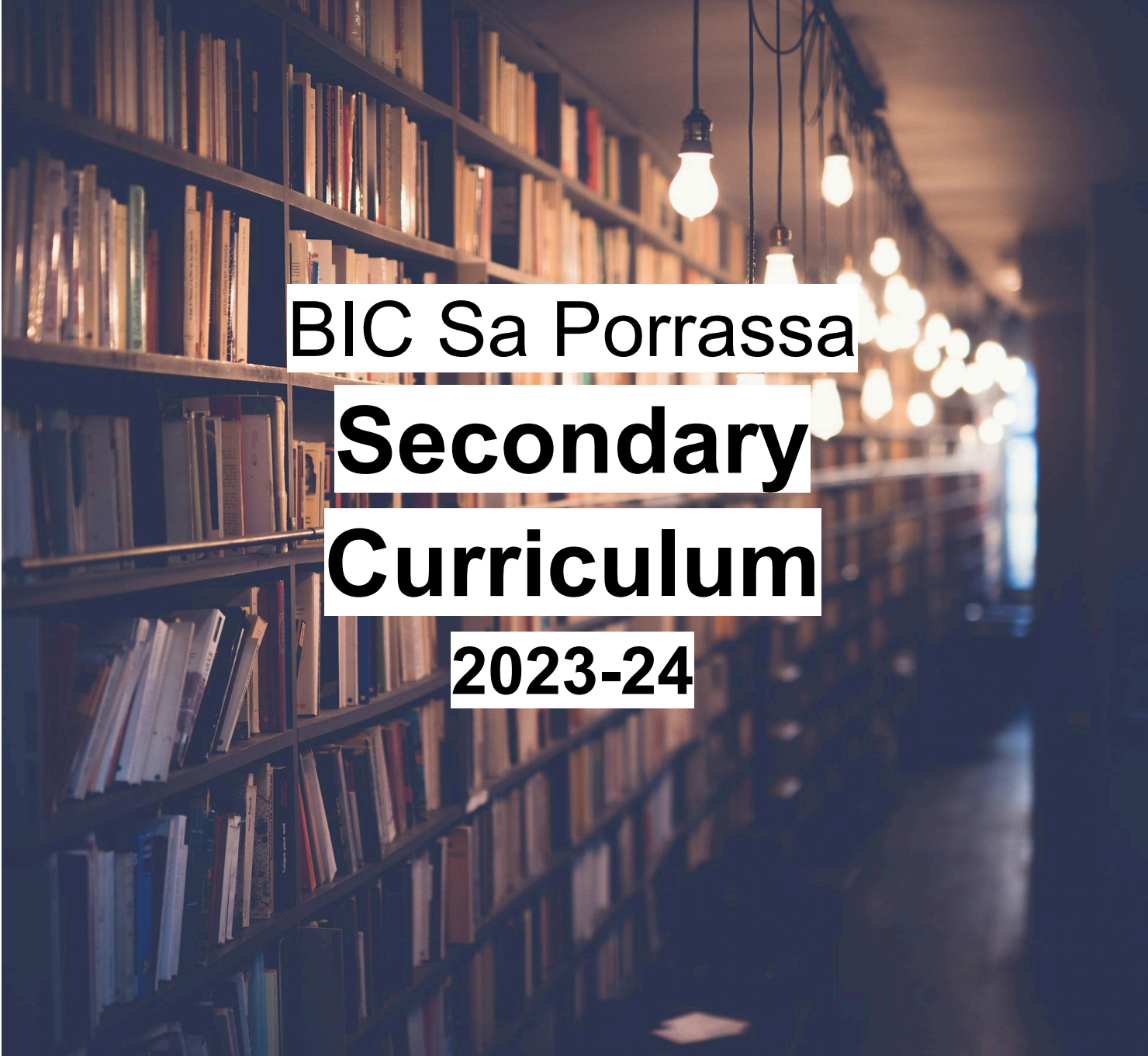




Baleares International College
Mallorca
an Orbital Education School



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BIC Sa Porrassa
Secondary
Curriculum
2023-24



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Introduction

At BIC, we pride ourselves on blending the best of a traditional British education with innovative responses to the unique contexts of our students and environment. Our curriculum is meticulously designed to prepare students for an ever-changing world, equipping them with the qualifications and skills needed to thrive intellectually, emotionally, and physically. We believe in nurturing independent citizens who not only enter the job market successfully but also contribute meaningfully to society.

In our pursuit of educational excellence, we embrace technological advancements and pedagogical innovations. We understand the significance of staying at the forefront of educational practices, leveraging emerging technologies, and exploring new teaching methodologies. However, we also recognize the importance of retaining the tried and tested methods that have consistently yielded excellent educational outcomes throughout the history of teaching. By striking a balance between tradition and innovation, we provide our students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the demands of the modern world.

As educators, we are committed to continuously refining and adapting our curriculum to meet the evolving needs of our students and the advancements in pedagogy. We understand that every student is unique, and we strive to tailor our teaching approaches to accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities. By staying abreast of the latest research and educational practices, we ensure that our curriculum remains relevant, engaging, and impactful.

Fundamentally, our entire curriculum is underpinned by a set of core values: Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Compassion. These values serve as the guiding principles that shape every aspect of our educational approach. By instilling these values in our students, we foster a positive and inclusive learning environment, where students are encouraged to excel academically, respect themselves and others, take responsibility for their actions, demonstrate integrity in all they do, and show compassion towards others.

In summary, our school's curriculum combines the best of tradition and innovation, preparing our students to thrive in an ever-changing world. We remain committed to embracing technological advancements while retaining the proven methods that have led to excellent educational outcomes. Our continuous refinement of the curriculum, guided by our core values, ensures that we meet the needs of our students and provide them with a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in all aspects of life.

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

Phil Brown
Head of Secondary



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Key Stage 3 (Age 11-14)

About Key Stage 3

KS3, or Key Stage 3, represents a crucial phase in a young person's educational journey, and at our international school, it holds immense significance in fostering holistic development. Spanning the ages of 11 to 14, KS3 serves as a transformative period where students transition from the foundations laid in primary school to a more specialised approach to learning. This phase lays the groundwork for their future studies, making it a pivotal moment in their educational development.

Our KS3 curriculum has been thoughtfully crafted, drawing upon the best aspects of traditional British education while remaining responsive to our international context and the unique characteristics of our local surroundings. We believe in embracing the strengths of both approaches to provide our students with a comprehensive and well-rounded education.

In recognizing the importance of preparing students for their later studies and external exams, our three-year transitional curriculum focuses on coaching students in independence and academic discipline. Through a structured and progressive approach, we equip students with the necessary skills, study habits, and critical thinking abilities to thrive academically. However, we are committed to ensuring that this transition does not compromise the passion, creativity, and enjoyment that permeate every year group in our school.

Underpinning our KS3 curriculum are our core values of Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Compassion. These values guide every aspect of our teaching and learning, ensuring that students not only achieve academic success but also develop into compassionate, principled individuals who positively contribute to society.

Excellence is woven into our curriculum, encouraging students to strive for personal growth and achieve their full potential. We promote an atmosphere of respect, where students learn to appreciate and value diverse perspectives, cultures, and experiences. Responsibility is instilled through opportunities for student leadership, fostering a sense of accountability and encouraging active participation in their own learning.

Integrity is a fundamental aspect of our KS3 curriculum, emphasising honesty, ethical conduct, and a strong moral compass. We encourage students to act with integrity, both in their academic pursuits and their interactions with others. Compassion is at the heart of our educational approach, promoting empathy, understanding, and a sense of social responsibility. We foster an inclusive environment where students learn to support one another and make positive contributions to their local and global communities.



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In summary, our KS3 curriculum represents a crucial phase in a young person's educational journey. It seamlessly integrates the best aspects of traditional British education with an international outlook and an awareness of our local surroundings. Through a three-year transitional curriculum, we guide students towards independence and academic discipline while retaining the passion, creativity, and enjoyment that characterise our school. All of this is underpinned by our core values of Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Compassion, which shape every aspect of our curriculum, creating a transformative educational experience for our students.



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Subjects at Key Stage 3

Subject	Classes per week	Notes
English	3	All students study English up to age 16
Mathematics	4	All students study Mathematics up to age 16
Science	3	All students study Science up to age 16
Spanish	3	All students study Spanish up to age 16
Catalan*	4*	All Spanish citizens by law are required to study 4 sessions per week of Catalan lessons. We have scheduled these so as to still allow access to the rest of our core curriculum
History	2	All students study History up to age 14
Geography	2	All students study Geography up to age 14
French / German	2	All students study French or German up to age 14
Computer Science	1	All students study Geography up to age 14
Art	1	All students study Art up to age 14
Physical Education	2	All students participate in Physical Education up to age 16
Performing Arts	1	All students study Music and Drama up to age 14
Co-Curricular	4	We end every day in KS3 with opportunities for pursuits such as sports, crafts, life-skills, clubs, creativity and other activities which are essential to the wider development of our students, as well as extra support for students who require it in particular areas.
Values	1	We have 1 session per week dedicate to our school values where we will have activities such as assemblies or workshops around important issues.
Global Citizenship	1	All students have an hour per week of sessions preparing them for life as citizens of the world.
Total	30	



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Example of a KS3 Timetable

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



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Co-Curricular Timetable

At BIC, we have taken a student-centric approach to crafting a co-curricular timetable at KS3, ensuring that students have the opportunity to pursue activities they are most passionate about while maintaining a strong focus on academic support and extension. Our aim is to provide a well-rounded education that caters to the diverse interests and needs of our students.

To achieve this, we have carefully curated a wide range of elective subjects that encompass various areas such as sports, crafts, mindfulness, performance, creativity, and more. This allows students to explore their passions and develop new skills outside of the core curriculum. Whether it's joining the football practice, participating in the choir, rehearsing for the school show, contributing to the year-book committee, practising yoga, playing basketball, or learning DIY and maintenance skills, students have the freedom to choose activities that resonate with their interests and strengths.

While we encourage students to pursue their passions, we also recognize the importance of providing additional support when needed. Our core departments are committed to offering extra assistance to students who require it or providing extension work for those who seek additional challenges. By integrating these support mechanisms into our co-curricular timetable, we ensure that every student receives the individual attention they need to thrive academically.

Furthermore, we understand the significance of independent study and research. To facilitate this, we have incorporated a daily 'Prep' session where students have a supervised area to complete homework or engage in further exploration of the topics covered during the day. This dedicated time allows students to deepen their understanding, reinforce their learning, and cultivate valuable research skills.

At the beginning of the academic year, we provide students with the opportunity to select their preferred elective subjects, enabling them to have a say in their co-curricular experience. We believe that by involving students in this decision-making process, we promote ownership and engagement, leading to greater enthusiasm and commitment in their chosen activities.

By offering a diverse range of elective subjects and integrating academic support, independent study time, and student choice, we have designed a co-curricular timetable that truly caters to the interests, needs, and holistic development of our students. Our ultimate goal is to foster a well-balanced and nurturing learning environment where students can flourish academically, emotionally, and creatively.



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The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

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

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



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Key Stage 4 (Age 14-16)

About Key Stage 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

For full details of our KS4 programme, including our list of subjects, please see the [iGCSE Options Book](#). This will be updated in March with next year's iGCSE options.



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Subjects at Key Stage 4

As detailed in our [Options Book](#), all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish, Global Citizenship and PE in KS4. They also have the opportunity to choose from a range of other subjects, according to their passions, career aspirations and academic strengths.

Example of a KS4 Timetable

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

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



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The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

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

Subject Overviews	
Year 10	Year 11
<p>English Mathematics Science (Double Award) Biology Chemistry Drama Physics Lengua Castellana Spanish Catalan Social Studies PE (core) PE (iGCSE) Global Citizenship Geography History Computer Science French German First Language / German Foreign Business Studies Art</p>	<p>English Mathematics Science (Double Award) Biology Chemistry Drama Physics Lengua Castellana Spanish Catalan Social Studies PE (core) PE (iGCSE) Global Citizenship Geography History Computer Science French German First Language / German Foreign Business Studies Art</p>



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Key Stage 5 (Age 16-18)

About Key Stage 5

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

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

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

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

For full details of our KS5 programme of study, our Sixth Form Prospectus [can be found here](#), where you will find a full list of our subjects and entry requirements.



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Subjects at Key Stage 5

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

Example of a KS5 Timetable

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

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



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The Key Stage 5 Curriculum

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



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Homework at BIC

In order to foster independent study skills and reinforce the content covered in lessons, we have implemented a set schedule for homework across all subjects at our school. This structured approach ensures that students have dedicated time to cultivate their independent learning abilities and consolidate their understanding of various topics.

Through homework assignments, students are encouraged to delve deeper into the subjects they are studying, apply their knowledge in practical contexts, and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By completing homework regularly, students become more self-reliant, develop time management skills, and take ownership of their learning journey.

To streamline the homework process and enhance communication between teachers, students, and parents, we utilise an online platform called 'Canvas.' This user-friendly platform serves as a centralised hub for recording and submitting homework assignments. At the beginning of each academic year, detailed instructions on how to use Canvas are provided, ensuring that everyone is familiar with the system and can access the necessary resources effortlessly.

By leveraging technology and providing a centralised platform for homework management, we aim to create a seamless and efficient workflow that benefits both students and teachers. Students can access assignments, resources, and submission guidelines conveniently, while teachers can track progress, provide feedback, and address any queries or concerns promptly.

Our commitment to utilizing 'Canvas' and implementing a structured homework schedule reflects our dedication to promoting independent study skills and consolidating learning outside of the classroom. We believe that by instilling a culture of independent learning and leveraging technology effectively, we equip our students with the essential skills they need to thrive academically and beyond.



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PSHE at BIC

PSHE, which stands for Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education, plays a crucial role in the holistic development of students within the education system. It encompasses a wide range of topics that are essential for their ethical, social, and personal growth, helping them navigate various aspects of life and become well-rounded individuals. In line with the [guidance provided by the UK Ministry of Education](#), we prioritise the delivery of relevant and up-to-date information to our students, ensuring that they receive essential life lessons throughout their educational journey.

Rather than teaching PSHE as a discrete subject, we have adopted an integrated approach, seamlessly weaving its aspects throughout our curriculum from Years 7 to 13. By embedding PSHE within academic subjects, we make the learning experience more relevant and meaningful for students. For instance, students may learn about the potential dangers of alcohol as part of their science course, receive nutritional advice from their PE teachers, and engage in important conversations about relationships through the study of relevant literary texts in their English lessons.

This integration allows students to explore PSHE themes within the context of their academic studies, enabling a deeper understanding and practical application of the knowledge and skills they acquire. Furthermore, some aspects of the PSHE curriculum are covered through subjects like Global Citizenship or incorporated into our 'Values' sessions conducted during assemblies or workshops in small groups. This multi-faceted approach ensures that students receive a comprehensive education that addresses their personal, social, and health-related needs while nurturing their global awareness and understanding of values.

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



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Extracurricular at BIC

For full details of our extensive extra-curricular activities on offer after-school, please see our ECA brochure.