



Malvern College

# Briefing on Sixth-Form Choices

*For entry into the Sixth Form in September 2022*

The background of the slide features a large, faint watermark of the Malvern College crest. The crest is a shield-shaped emblem with a central figure, likely a lion or a similar heraldic animal, surrounded by intricate scrollwork and floral patterns. The watermark is rendered in a dark green color that blends with the overall dark green background.

# Malvern College

## Briefing on Sixth-Form Choices

For entry into the Sixth Form in September 2022



**Mr Holroyd (Deputy Head Curriculum) & Mr Gauci  
(Director of Studies)**

Introduction and overview

**Mr Reid (Head of Sixth Form) –  
Sixth Form: Opportunities & entry qualifications  
A Levels & Enrichment**

**Mrs Akehurst (IB Co-Ordinator)  
The IB Diploma**

**Mr Thurlow (Head of Careers & University Applications)  
Universities & Careers**

# Timings

## Autumn term

- Week commencing 4 October - Careers profiling for the Hundred & Pre6
- 6 October - Briefing of the Hundred & Pre6 on Sixth Form choices
- By Half-term – link to Sixth-Form prospectus sent to Parents
- Wednesday 10 November - Sixth Form taster lessons
- Weeks 11/12 – Initial indication of subject choices

## Lent term

- Weeks 2 & 3 - Trial GCSE Examinations
- Friday 11 February – Hundred & Pre6 Parents' Meeting:
- Week 7 - Sixth Form Choices made within provisional A Level & IB blocks
- Week 9 – A Level & IB blocks confirmed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> half Lent term –Hundred & Pre6 pupils interviewed by Sixth Form academic team

## Summer term

- Choices refined

## Post GCSE results

- Changes possible dependent on space in sets being still available

## September 2022

- Changes possible dependent on space in sets being still available



# Two courses of study...

## IB Diploma

- 6 subjects (normally 3 HL and 3 SL)
- Core of CAS, ToK and EE

## A Level

Either: 3 A Level subjects  
plus an  
Enrichment course

Or: 4 A Level subjects

# Sixth Form Entrance Requirements

Minimum requirements for Sixth Form Entry:  
3 x **5** at GCSE (including English & Maths) and 3 x **6** at GCSE

- Individual A level & IB Higher Level subject minimum requirement: 6 in GCSE
- For Business and Economics: 6 in Maths & English
- For Psychology: 6 in Maths, English & Biology or a Science
- For Politics: 6 in English or History

## **Recommended**

- For Mathematics: 8 for A level, 9 for Further Maths & IB Higher Level
- For Physics, Chemistry & Biology: 8 for A level & IB Higher Level

# A Level Programme September 2022

Either: 3 A Level subjects plus an Enrichment course

Or: 4 A Level subjects

- All examinations in all subjects will be at the end of the Upper Sixth year (May/June 2024)
- A-Level grades are: A\* – U

# A Level examinations

- Internal (trial) exams in A Level subjects

Upper Sixth – first week of the Autumn Term 2023  
& week after half-term in the Lent Term 2024

- Final A Level exams in May/June 2024



# A Level Subjects

Art	History
Biology	Latin
Business (cannot be combined with Economics)	Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Classical Civilisation Computer Science	Photography
Design Technology	Psychology
Drama & Theatre Studies	Physical Education
Economics (cannot be combined with Business)	Physics
English Literature	Politics
French	Religious Studies
Further Maths (must choose Mathematics as well)	Spanish
Geography	
German Greek	

# 2018-19 A Level Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Enrichment Block
Art	Chemistry	Business*	Biology	Extended Project
Biology	Design Technology	Chemistry	Business	Maths for Science A Level
Drama	Economics*	Economics*	English Literature	Further Maths AS
Economics	Geography	English Literature	French	Classical Civilisation
Geography	History	Latin	Mathematics	Beginners Italian
Mathematics	Music	Music Technology	Mathematics & Further Mathematics	Learning Enhancement (if you already receive LE lessons)
Physics	Psychology	Photography	Physical Education	e.g. private tuition Mandarin
Religious Studies		Physics		Your own suggestion for Enrichment
		Politics		

*\*Please note that Economics and Business Studies cannot be chosen together*

# 2020-21 A Level Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Enrichment Block
Spanish	Art	Psychology	Mathematics & Further Mathematics	Extended Project
Design Technology	Physical Education	Business*	Mathematics	Global Perspectives
History	Geography	Chemistry	Politics	Maths AS
English Literature	History		English Literature	EAL
Geography	Psychology	French	Biology	
Mathematics	Music	Photography	Business*	
Computer Science	Physics	Greek		
Drama			Economics*	
			Latin	

*\*Please note that Economics and Business Studies cannot be chosen together*

# A Level Enrichment Programme

Pupils studying 3 A Levels will choose one course from the A Level Enrichment Programme

The most popular options for 2021-22 are:

- The Extended Project Qualification
- Global Perspectives AS
- Maths in Context
- EAL
- Pupils' own choice, e.g. private tuition Mandarin, Elite Music Programme



# The IB Diploma

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

*IB Mission statement*

# Learner profile

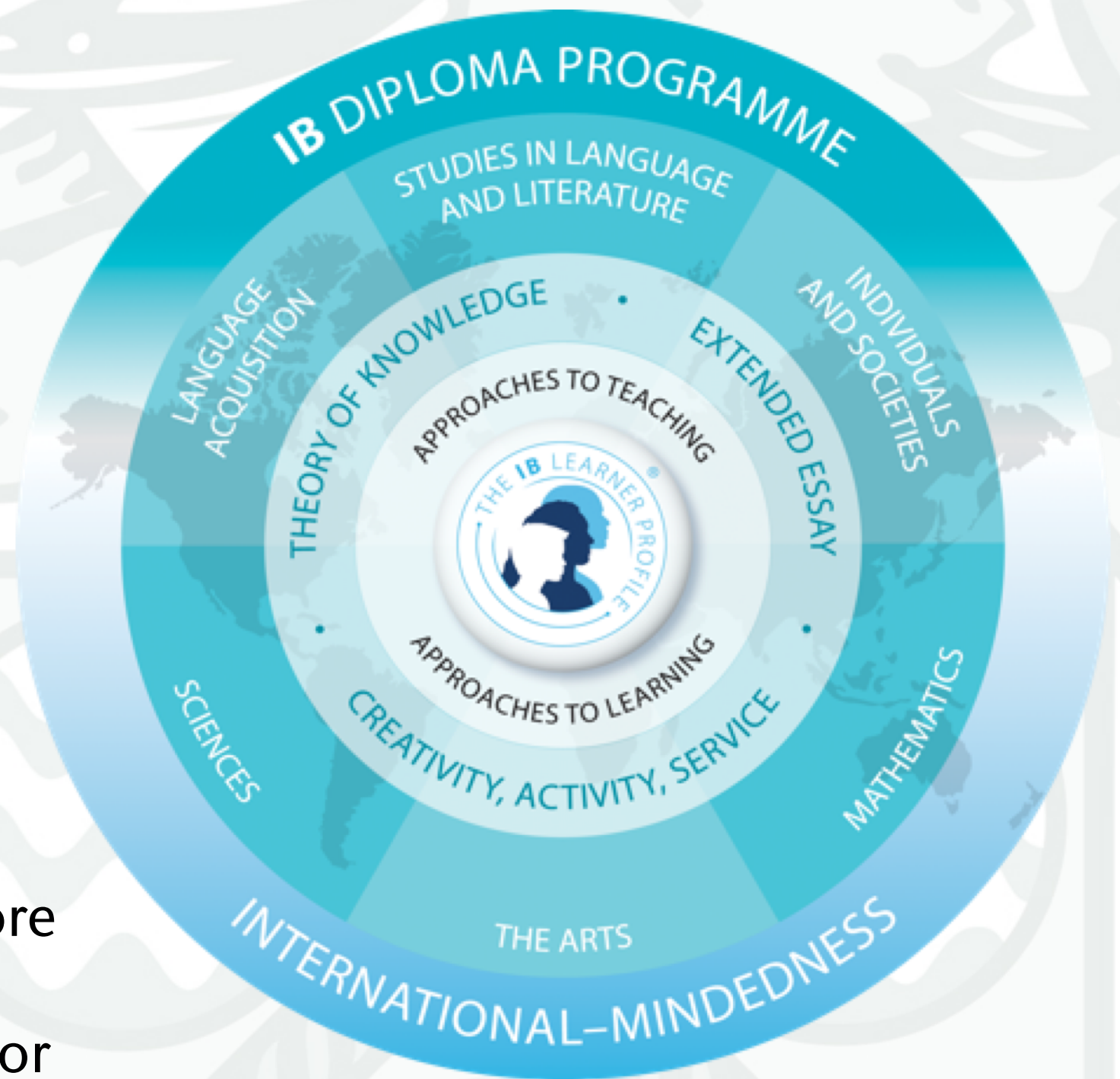
The IB learner profile is the mission statement translated into 10 learning outcomes:

inquirers  
knowledgeable  
thinkers  
communicators  
principled  
open-minded  
caring  
risk-takers  
balanced  
reflective

- Three subjects at higher
- Three subjects at standard level
- All three parts of the core

The **core** is compulsory and central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.

- Each subject is graded from 7 (highest) to 1 (lowest)
- 3 - 0 points awarded for the Core
- Maximum total is 45 points
- Usually a Diploma is awarded for 24 or more points





## **Studies in Language and Literature (A)**

English A Lit (H/S)  
English A Language & Lit  
(H/S)  
German A (H/S)  
Self-taught Language A (S)

## **Language Acquisition (B)**

French (H/S)  
German (H/S)  
Spanish (H/S & ab initio)  
Latin (H/S)  
Greek (H/S)

## **Sciences**

Biology (H/S)  
Chemistry (H/S)  
Physics (H/S)  
Design Technology (H/S)  
Computer Science (H)  
Environmental Systems & Societies (S)

## **Individuals & Societies**

Business Management (H/S)  
Economics (H/S)  
History (H/S)  
Geography (H/S)  
Philosophy (H/S)  
Psychology (H/S)  
Environmental Systems & Societies (S)

## **Mathematics**

Maths – Analysis and Approaches (H/S)  
Maths – Applications and Interpretations (H/S)

## **The Arts & Elective**

Visual Art (H/S)



# Subjects you may have questions about

- Self-taught Language A
- Spanish Ab Initio
- ESS (Environmental Systems & Societies )

Timetable Block	P	Q	R	English	Maths	U	V
Group 1	GERMAN A German A			ENGLISH A LITERATURE* ENGLISH A LANGUAGE & LITERATURE* English A Literature English A Language & Literature			
Group 2	FRENCH B GERMAN B German B		SPANISH B LATIN Latin			French B Spanish B Spanish (ab initio) Self-taught language A	
Group 3	ECONOMICS PHILOSOPHY Philosophy	ECONOMICS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT Business Management HISTORY History GEOGRAPHY Geography PSYCHOLOGY Psychology	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT Business Management			Economics History	Environmental Systems
Group 4	CHEMISTRY	CHEMISTRY COMPUTER SCIENCE	PHYSICS BIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY Technology				Environmental Systems Chemistry Physics Biology
Group 5					MATHS APPLICATIONS MATHS ANALYSIS* Maths Applications Maths Analysis		
Electives		VISUAL ART Visual Art					

# Core requirements

## Extended essay

- 4,000 word limit
- Opportunity to investigate
- Research skills for university
- Increasing numbers opting for World Studies essays

## ToK

- Interdisciplinary
- The nature of knowledge
- How do we know what we know?
- Not one perspective

## Creativity, Action and Service

- Pupils need to be involved in a range of activities
- Pupils need to be involved in their community
- Balanced lifestyle
- Appreciation of life outside the classroom
- Reflection is important

# Universities and Careers

- 133 pupils in last year's U6th
- 74 going to UK universities (56%)
- 28 going to international universities (21%)
- 31 on a Gap Year: work exp, travel, (re-)application (23%)
- 99.1% will go to university/college
- 99.9% will be employed



# Gap Year projects

- MC in China, Egypt and Hong Kong
- Community project work in Nicaragua
- Banking internship in Hong Kong
- Teaching & skiing in French Alps
- Conservation & trekking in Costa Rica
- Safari guide in Tanzania
- Coaching rugby in New Zealand
- Golf in USA
- ‘Gapper’ at prep school in Kenya

# UK universities

- 83% went to first choice university
- 11% went to second choice university
- 6% used Clearing
- 69% went to Russell Group universities
- Top choices: Exeter (8), KCL (6), Edinburgh (6), Nottingham (5), Oxford Brookes (5), Bristol (4), Durham (4), Manchester (4), Newcastle (4) and Warwick (4)
- Elite universities: ICL (4), Oxford (3), Cambridge (1) and LSE (1)

# International universities

- USA: Boston, Chicago, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, New York, Northeastern, Princeton, University of Southern California
- Europe: Maastricht, Milan, Munich, Madrid and Utrecht
- Elsewhere: Canada, Hong Kong, UNSW

# A Level or IB?

## Universities' views

- Both courses recognised
- A Level allows for specialisation: focused choice of subjects + potentially EPQ or Global Perspectives
- IB allows for depth but also retains breadth: range of subjects + EE + ToK + CAS



# Degree course requirements: GCSEs

- Basic minimum: 6 x GCSEs at Grade 5 and above including English Language and Maths\*  
\*(Grade 6 in Maths for Business courses)
- Russell Group: 8 x GCSEs at Grade 6/7 and above
- Elite universities: 8 x GCSEs at Grades 8/9
- P6th: your UCAS reference will explain that you take fewer GCSEs



# Degree course requirements: A Level and IB

- Generally: A grade or 6 in HL in subject of choice (eg, English, Geography, History)
- Economics: A\*/A grades or 7/6s in HL Maths and Economics
- Engineering: A grade or 6 in HL Maths
- Medicine: A\*/A grades or 7/6s in HL in Biology and Chemistry

# UK university offers

## Engineering at ICL

A\*A\*A-A\*AAA or 40 (6 in HL Maths)

## Mathematics at Warwick

A\*A\*A or 39 (766 – 6 in HL Maths)

## Medicine at Oxford

A\*AA or 39 (766)

## Nat Sci at Cambridge

A\*A\*A or 40-42 (776)

## Physics at UCL

AAA or 38 (66 HL Maths + Physics)

# UK university offers

**Economics at Cambridge**  
A\*A\*A or 40-42 (776)

**Economics at Warwick**  
A\*AA or 38 (6 HL Maths)

**English at Oxford**  
AAA or 39 (666)

**English at Bristol**  
AAA or 36 (6 HL English)

**Law at LSE**  
A\*AA or 38 (766)

**Law at Birmingham**  
AAA or 32 (666)

# **UK university offers**

**Business at City University**  
AAA or 35 (555)

**Business Management at Oxford Brookes**  
BBB or 30

**Liberal Arts at Durham**  
A\*AA or 38 (666)

**Liberal Arts at Bristol**  
AAA-AAB or 35-36

**Architecture at Kent**  
AAB or 34 (+ portfolio)

**Architecture at Anglia Ruskin**  
BBC or 24 (+ portfolio)

# **UK university offers**

**History at Oxford Brookes**  
BCC or 29

**Politics and IR at Hull**  
BBB or 30

**Business Management at Manchester Met**  
BCC or 26

**Advertising at Greenwich**  
BBC

**Marine Photography at Falmouth**  
BCC

**Sports Coaching (Degree) at Hartpury**  
Degree: BBC      Fdtn: CC-CCD



# University advice

- Briefings - L6th pupils in Sept and Mar; L6th parents in May
- University talks & fairs - Oct & Nov of the L6th
- Open days - May to Dec of the L6th-U6th
- University Day – June of the L6th
- Interviews with UCAS Team - Sept to Dec of the U6th

# Alternatives to university

Apprenticeships

Employment:

- Job search
- Management training
- Starting at the bottom
- Self-employment

Non-degree qualifications

Sponsored degrees

# A Level or IB?

## Employers' views

- Both courses valued for transferable skills
- A Level most widely known in the UK
- IB's breadth appreciated
- Subject of degree rarely matters
- Top degree results from top university wins
- Work experience vital

# Careers Advice

**Tutor group discussions - Oct 2021**

**MyFutureChoices careers briefing, profiling and interview - October to December 2021**

**Careers & Futures Evening - November 2021**

**Work experience - July to Aug 2022/2023/2024**

# A Level or IB?

## How to choose

Both challenging – both highly valued

“Horses for courses”

A Level pupils prefer focus on fewer subjects in depth

IB pupils enjoy breadth of subjects



# Who can pupils talk to for information and advice?

Form tutor

Housemaster/Housemistress

Parents

Teachers

Current Sixth Form pupils

Deputy Head Curriculum (Mr Holroyd)

Director of Studies (Mr Gauci)

Head of Sixth Form (Mr Reid)

IB Diploma Co-ordinator (Mrs Akehurst)

Head of Careers & Universities (Mr Thurlow)

International Applications (Dr Harris)