

## 1 Why is the school introducing the Diploma?

### Advantages of studying the IB Diploma:

- ❖ Encourages intercultural understanding and international mindedness
- ❖ Develops a positive attitude to learning that prepares students for a successful university education
- ❖ Has a reputation for rigorous external assessment with published global standards, making this a qualification welcomed by universities worldwide
- ❖ Emphasizes the development of the whole student - physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
- ❖ All subjects have the same value (no scaling)

The IB Diploma is an academically challenging pre-university matriculation course which provides “in depth academic rigour with breadth, ensuring each student finishes school competent in their own language, numeracy and a foreign language, and knowledgeable in science, humanities and the arts. In addition, students will have followed a course in critical thinking (Theory of Knowledge) completed a research essay and developed their own CAS program of creativity, action and service.” (IBO, 2011)

Students who receive a Diploma are eligible to apply to universities in Australia and overseas as the Diploma is internationally recognized and highly regarded.

#### **Australian students excel in IB Diploma**

Australian students have consistently received higher than world averages in most subjects and the Diploma average. In 2011 a number of Australian students received perfect scores, (45/45) equivalent to an ATAR of 99.98, making them top of the world as well as their State or Territory.

#### **Independent International and Australian recognition of the strength of the IB Diploma**

Australian universities prefer the IB Diploma to state based programmes. Independent research performed by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) in 2007 showed that the IB Diploma was the preferred entry qualification by Universities across Australia.

## 2 What is the difference between SACE and the IB Diploma?

See the chart comparing the SACE and IB courses for the answer to this question. It is available on the school website.

### 3 How will doing SACE benefit me?

SACE offers a greater range of subjects and more flexibility in terms of assessment. It is a nationally and internationally recognized pathway for university, TAFE and employment

### 4 What are the advantages of studying the IB Diploma at St Peter's Girls'?

- ❖ Encourages international-mindedness
- ❖ Develops a positive attitude to learning that prepares students for university education
- ❖ Has a reputation for rigorous external assessment with published global standards, making this a qualification welcomed by universities worldwide
- ❖ Emphasizes the development of the whole student – physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
- ❖ All subjects have the same value (no scaling)
- ❖ Suits students who enjoy learning and who are able to achieve a pass level in the IB that is equivalent to an ATAR of 70+ while successfully completing 3 HL subjects.
- ❖ Students who receive a Diploma are eligible to apply to universities in Australia and overseas as the Diploma is internationally recognized and highly regarded

### 5 How many points do you need to get the IB Diploma?

The Diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole programme. This includes satisfactory participation in the **Creativity, Action, Service** requirement. The highest total that a Diploma Programme student can be awarded is 45 points.

### 6 Which one should I do, SACE or IB Diploma?

Choose the program that fits your learning style and your future pathway needs (tertiary, career etc.). Do your homework. Listen to the subject podcasts, read the subject descriptions in the Curriculum book. Talk to your teachers, the IBDP coordinator, the Director of Teaching and Learning and your parents. Consider your learning style and your learner attributes and make an informed and realistic choice.

### 7 How soon do I have to decide on my pathway in Year 10?

Subject selection for Senior School is conducted in Year 10, Term 3 for Year 11 subjects. Changes to your pathway and subject choices may be made until the end of Term 4 in Year 10.

### 8 Which course is better?

The courses are different. The best course is the one that suits your learning style, your future academic or work pathways and your educational needs.

### 9 Which course would suit me best?

See above.

### 10 Who are ideal IB Diploma candidates?

#### **Students who fit the IB Learner Profile:**

- ❖ Independent, active, curious learners
- ❖ Like to be challenged, personally and academically
- ❖ Have good management and organisational skills
- ❖ Are interested in becoming well-rounded individuals and good global citizens

## 11 How experienced are the Diploma subject teachers?

All of the teachers of Diploma subjects are experienced senior school teachers in these subjects. Many of them will also be teaching the SACE equivalent of that subject. Additionally, all Diploma teachers have recently been trained in their subject area at IB Diploma Workshops and the training of IB teachers will continue in the future. Current IB teachers have experienced Diploma teachers as mentors and communicate regularly with subject consultants and other subject teachers all over the world through an IBO on-line facility called the OCC. The IB coordinator is an experienced Diploma coordinator and subject teacher.

## 12 Will the IB teachers be teaching SACE as well as IB?

Generally yes, but there may be some variations across subjects.

## 13 What happens if the subject I want to do is not offered?

If it is a language, such as Korean, the school will support the students to study Language A in their mother tongue. Subjects that are not offered may be possible. Speak to the IB Diploma coordinator at the subject selection stage or as soon as possible and we will investigate possibilities such as studying off-line, joining a class in another school for that subject etc. The subjects that will be offered will depend on student numbers and resources.

## 14 Once I start IB am I committed to it for two years?

No, you may choose a SACE pathway at the end of Semester 1, Year 11 or at the end of Semester 2, Year 11.

## 15 Will I be disadvantaged if I am a SACE student doing an IB subject in Year 11?

No, IB develops high level skills that will be beneficial at SACE Stage 2 level.

In Group 2, Acquired Languages and Group 6, The Arts subjects (Music, Theatre, Visual Arts) students who are otherwise completing SACE in Year 11 will be doing Standard Level IB courses. This is due to the small number of candidates for these subjects.

SACE students will not be disadvantaged by this arrangement. At the completion of a full semester or a full year of these courses in Year 11, the students are given SACE accreditation provided they achieve a 3 or more out of 7 for that subject. Additionally, they will be well equipped to continue studying one of these subjects in Year 12, either at SACE level or, if they choose, as an IB subject.

Should they choose to continue the subject at SL in Year 12 and successfully complete the subject with a score of 4 out of 7 or more, this subject will contribute to their ATAR. The conversion will depend on the score they receive. Finally, if they do complete Year 11 and 12 as an IB subject they will be awarded an IB Certificate for that subject as well as a SACE certificate. The advantage of this is that they have had experience of both systems.

Only one IB Diploma subject is allowed in Year 12 for Year 12 SACE students.

## 16 How do I choose my HL subjects?

To fit the IB Diploma pattern students need to choose 3 Higher Level subjects and 3 Standard Level subjects. With the exception of Mathematics, this is done at the end of Year 1 of the programme, when you are in Year 11. HL subjects are more demanding, academically and time wise than SL subjects. Whereas a SL subject is taught for 150 hours over the two years of the programme (for full IB students) a HL subject is taught for 240 hours. The breadth and depth

of HL subjects are greater than SL subjects. The subjects you choose as your HL subjects should be the ones that you will do best in for this reason. You should choose them based on your aptitude and attitude.

## 17 What subjects are being offered?

### **Diploma Subjects Offered:**

- Group 1** Language A1 - English, Chinese (off campus)
- Group 2** Second Languages - French, Japanese, English, Spanish Ab Initio (off campus)
- Group 3** Individuals and Societies - History, Geography
- Group 4** Experimental Sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Group 5** Mathematics - Higher and Standard Level
- Group 6** The Arts - Theatre, Music, Visual Arts or second subject chosen from Groups 2, 3 or 4
- Core** Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)

## 18 How do I convert my IB score to an ATAR score?

SATAC 2013 - IB to ATAR Table	
45	99.95
44	99.95
43	99.95
42	99.85
41	99.20
40	98.85
39	98.50
38	98.20
37	97.75
36	96.30
35	95.50
34	95.15
33	94.55
32	93.30
31	91.35
30	87.15
29	83.85
28	82.90
27	81.30
26	78.95
25	75.55
24	69.90

Student A: Arts/Humanities student, studies the following subjects and receives:

English A HL	French B SL	History HL	Physics SL	Maths SL	Visual Arts	ToK / EE
7	7	7	5	6	7	2
<b>IB Score</b>						<b>41</b>
<b>ATAR</b>						<b>99.20</b>

Student B: Mathematics and Science student who is studying the following receives:

English A SL	Spanish ab initio SL	History HL	Physics HL	Maths SL	Chemistry HL	ToK / EE
5	4	5	6	6	5	2
<b>IB Score</b>						<b>33</b>
<b>ATAR</b>						<b>94.55</b>

Student C: Humanities student who is studying the following, receives:

English A HL	French B SL	History HL	Biology SL	Maths HL	Geography SL	ToK / EE
5	5	4	4	5	5	1
<b>IB Score</b>						<b>29</b>
<b>ATAR</b>						<b>83.85</b>

**Please Note:** The above conversion is as published in the SATAC 2013 guide and may be subject to change.

## 19 Is doing the IB going to cost more?

Yes. A fee statement is available from the Finance Department.

The school will look to supplement individuals if circumstances jeopardise their enrolment in the IB Diploma course. This will be dealt with on a case to case basis managed by the Principal.

## 20 Can I still do the IB if I have not studied an acquired language in Year 10 or ever before?

Yes, you can do the Diploma in Year 11 if you have not studied an acquired language in Year 10 or ever before. For those who have never studied an acquired language you may choose Spanish Ab Initio as your language B option. Similarly, if you have dropped your acquired language in Year 10 but decide to enrol in the Diploma you can also take Spanish Ab Initio. However, keep in mind that Ab Initio courses are only offered as a Standard Level course and are intended for first time learners of that language and that it will only be offered off campus, at the School of Languages.

## 21 How many students are needed in the year level for a subject to go ahead?

We are committed to offering IB. Final decisions about viability of a class will be made on a case by case basis.

## 22 What is EE?

The Extended Essay. The Extended Essay requires students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying, and complete a 4000 research essay in response to their question.

## 23 When is it researched and written?

Year 2 of the programme. It is introduced at a workshop at the end of Term 4 in Year 1 of the programme (Year 11). The subject area, the topic and the mentor are identified during this workshop.

## 24 How do I choose a topic?

The topic needs to relate to one of the subjects being studied. It should be an area of interest that enables rich research. Examples of past topics and questions will be examined at the workshop and students will work with their mentor to formulate their question or statement prior to the end of Year 1 of the programme.

## 25 What support will I get with the EE?

The IB Coordinator will publish an EE schedule at the end of Term 4, Year 11 that indicates timelines and due dates for the following year.

Mentors and students will create an agreed schedule for EE meetings.

The librarian and the IB Coordinator will provide research skills support.

## 26 When is it due?

Term 2 in the second year of the Programme (Year 12)

## 27 How does it contribute to the final DP score?

The mark for EE is combined with the marks for TOK and converted to a grade out of 3. It is combined with the subject marks out of 7 for each of the 6 subjects (for a maximum total of 42) for a mark out of 45.