



IB BROCHURE

AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORIENTATION GUIDE

Nothing
ordinary comes
from this
extraordinary
school.

WELCOME

to the Sixth Form at Swans School

The appeal of the IB Diploma is based on the philosophy of the programme; foreign languages, international-mindedness and service learning are combined with a sustained focus on thinking skills, academic writing and subject-specific rigour. It is a challenging programme, but each year we see our IB Diploma graduates leave Swans as mature, resilient, knowledgeable, principled and capable individuals, well prepared for the challenges of studying at university.

Universities have told us that students studying IB are better prepared for their undergraduate course than those students who have undertaken a national qualification; it is the gold standard of post-16 qualifications.

Students study six subjects to achieve a well-balanced curriculum. Three subjects are taken at higher level (HL) and the other three at standard level (SL). Higher level subjects include a wider range of modules to allow students to study the course in more detail and develop more specialised knowledge. The core of the programme requires students to study Theory of Knowledge, to undertake a research project that culminates in the production of an Extended Essay and to show Creativity, Activity and Service across the two years that they take the course.



We encourage our
IB students to fully
engage in the
classroom, to
challenge ideas, to
look beyond
local and national
boundaries, and
to develop an
international
perspective.

LIFE

in the Sixth Form

The Swans School Sixth Form provides a rich and demanding two year experience, full of academic and creative activities.

Fully embracing the IB ethos, we seek to inspire independent, curious and ambitious students who are well-prepared for success in education, and beyond. High quality teaching is combined with an encouragement to develop key life skills. For example, our incredibly successful Debate Team, (who compete in a number of local and national tournaments), builds communication skills and an ability to be open-minded.

We also make the most of our incredible environment, with team-building excursions once a year, the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh's Award, twice-annual hikes through the Andalucian countryside and staff versus Sixth Form football matches every Friday.

The IB Diploma years are challenging, and therefore we ensure that the students receive high levels of pastoral care from their form tutors, Head of Year and the entire community. Students are encouraged to share concerns and support their peers.

Our Sixth Form students are role models for the whole school. They receive greater freedom and are therefore expected to act responsibly at all times. There is no uniform, but an "office smart" dress code should be adhered to, with more formal wear requested on certain occasions.

In Year 13, students are nominated by their peers and teachers to form the Head Student Team. This team represents the Swans School core values of positivity, proactivity and pride.



A broad and balanced curriculum that builds character and discipline.

THE IB CIRCLE

The International Baccalaureate operates in the form of a circle. On the outer edges of the circle is the Learner Profile. These are the principles that the diploma programme seeks to nurture and develop in the student.

The inner circle comprises the range of subjects that the IB has to offer; students are required to select one from each group, meaning that their programme of study will be broad and balanced, and will span the different disciplines.

Finally, there is the core, which consists of Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). The core underpins critical thinking, independence and the outward looking international-mindedness that are the principles that lie at the diploma programme's heart, hence, they must be achieved to pass the diploma.



Students achieve a maximum of 7 points per subject. In addition, they can achieve another 3 points for their Extended Essay and TOK.

45 points is a maximum score of 100%.

THE 40 POINTS CLUB INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE			
2015 Daisy Chapman 42	2018 Carlos Casado Alba 42	2020 Inés Iles Mejías 41	2022 Habi Aldehvi García 44
2015 María Solís Bravo 41	2018 Inés Benkirane Metzger 41	2020 Emma White 41	2022 Samuel Riquie Gallego 44
2015 Lola Rodríguez Molina 41	2018 Ignacio Casado Alba 40	2020 Katharina Bruggitten-Finck 40	2022 Mencia Castaño García Valdecañas 43
2015 Nicole Quinn 40	2018 Silo Hui 40	2020 Christine Dekker 40	2022 Lucía Solís Bravo 42
2015 Qianhe Lu 40	2019 Lara Kratzer 42	2021 Jessica Newton 44	2022 Felipe Bider Cordano 42
2016 Sara Benkirane Metzger 44	2020 Bárbara Linares Millán 43	2021 Shafina Schwalter 43	2022 Severino Borvini 42
2016 Ranya Leguel 43	2020 Alesia Collot d'Escury Ariza 44	2021 Chiselle Vail 43	2022 Mia Gale 41
2016 Jenny Simons 41	2020 Michaela Zhukovskaya 44	2021 Aleksiya Gabenko 43	2022 Paulina Desbailles 40
2017 Lucía Gómez Osuna 44	2020 María Nono Benmoudo 43	2021 Diana Nabazhera 42	2023 Jade Becks 43
2017 María Rodríguez Molina 40	2020 Caolán Dopico Murgu 43	2021 Varvara Sivichikina 41	2023 Simona Bonasa 43
2017 Ella Justh de Nercygal 40	2020 Aaron Gabriel Yee 41	2021 Abby Warriner 40	2023 Samuel Coriñe 43
2018 Andrea Hernández de la Fuente 43	2020 Javier Pallas Rodríguez 41	2021 Erik Dekker 40	2023 Paulina Sidropoulos 43
2018 Nicola Lovinetti 44	2020 Calum Naylor 41	2022 Roni Maori 45	2023 Sophie Newton 42
2023 Yeliseveta Polyanskaya 41			
2023 Mia Sullivan 41			
2023 Finya White 41			
2023 Don Rico Saloveer 40			
2024 Lola Martín Higuera 43			
2024 Jazmin Hernandez 41			
2024 Sophia Valeria Zambonari 40			
2024 Gabriela Chundaribari Pezeta 40			
2025 Julia Natalia González 43			
2025 Daria Zudenkova 44			
2025 Miguel García Sánchez 43			
2025 Mika Itakura 42			
2025 Ana Rodríguez Rodríguez 42			
2025 Sharina Fard Sultani 41			
2025 Carola Muñoz Vento 41			
2025 Filipa Popov 40			



“The IB promotes learning that goes far beyond classroom walls and a textbook.”

Mr Rob Maldonado,
Headteacher

THE CORE

Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay, Creativity, Activity and Service.

TOK

The TOK course provides students with an opportunity to explore and reflect on the nature of knowledge and the process of knowing. It is a core element of the DP to which schools are required to devote at least 100 hours of class time. In TOK, students reflect on the knowledge, beliefs and opinions that they have built up from their years of academic studies and their life outside the classroom. The course is intended to be challenging and thought-provoking, as well as empowering for students.

The Extended Essay

The Extended Essay is a research project that culminates in the students producing a 4000 word essay on a subject of their choice. Students get the opportunity to investigate an area of interest and, drawing from both primary and secondary sources, present their findings at the end of the process. Essentially a pre-university task, the essay, along with TOK, can enable the students to earn a further three points for their overall diploma total.

CAS

CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development by learning through experience. It complements academic studies by building a portfolio of artistic or creative thinking activities and examples of physical exertion. It also necessitates students to volunteer or assist in a way that benefits the community. Students must achieve a pass in order to complete their diploma.



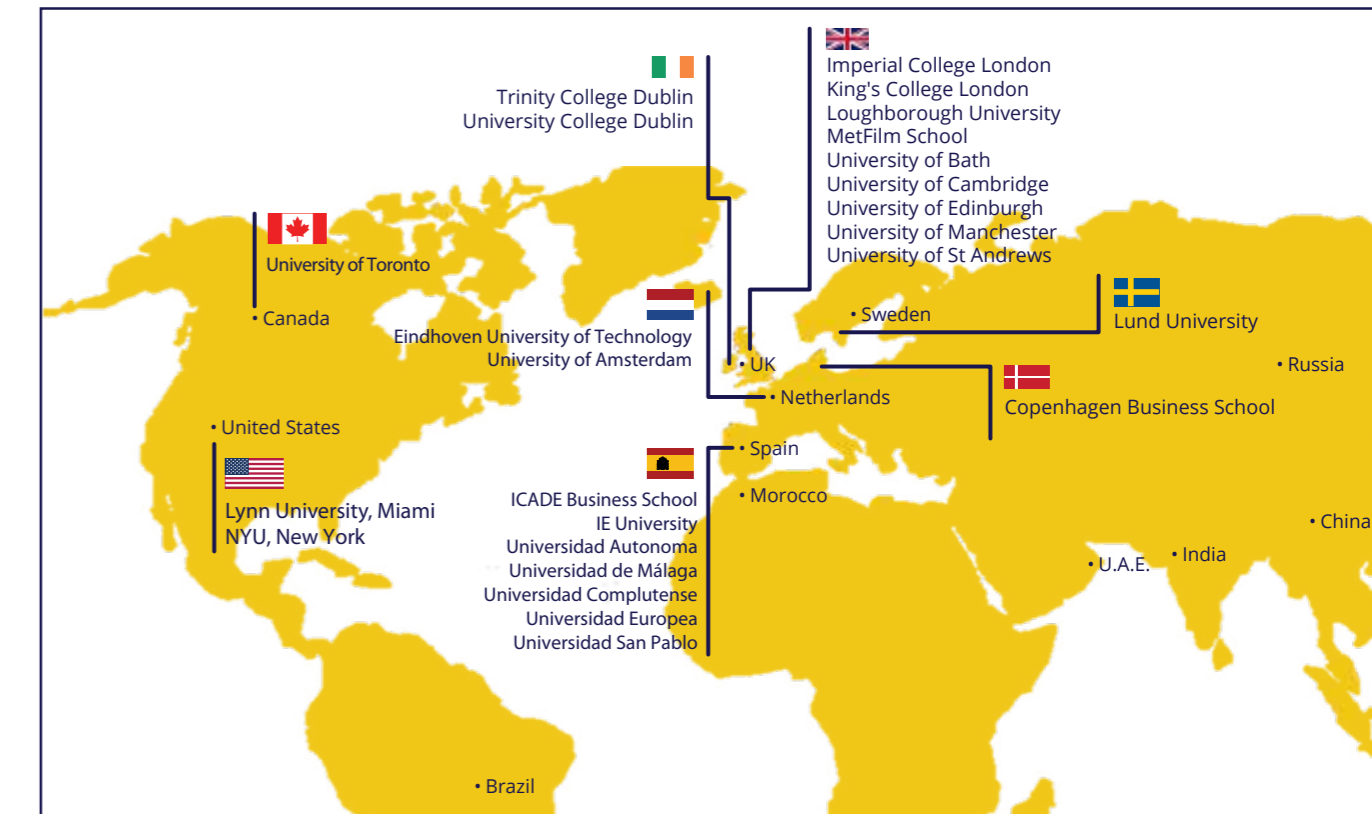
IB students have a 57% greater likelihood of attending one of the top 20 UK universities than students who study traditional A-Levels.

UK HESA

UNIVERSITY

The vast majority of our students attend university at the end of their IB Diploma course. Some attend university here in Spain, but many venture further afield to other countries in Europe, and some across the Atlantic Ocean to the USA and Canada. Our students are guided through the university application process by a dedicated

programme organised by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. However, this support does not stop at the end of the two-year course. We support our students when they receive their exam results and beyond. Our 'after-care' service offers guidance to current students and to ex-students. We are always willing to help.



SUBJECTS

LANGUAGE GROUP 1

Language A:

Language A is a literature based course which introduces students to the in-depth study of literary texts. The course promotes a high level of independent learning and analysis in order to strengthen students' ability to communicate complex ideas with confidence and skill.

At Swans School we offer Español A and English A.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	70%	30%
Higher Level	80%	20%

LANGUAGE GROUP 2

Language B:

An additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of that language. It may be studied at either SL or HL. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills should be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts (at HL) and will be related to the culture(s) concerned. The material will enable students to develop mastery of language skills and further intercultural understanding.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	75%	25%
Higher Level	75%	25%

Ab Initio:

A course designed for students who have little or no formal experience in the chosen language. The design of the course gives students the opportunity to achieve an intermediate level of the language and understanding of the culture through a demanding yet rewarding new experience.



HUMANITIES GROUP 3

Business Management:

The course develops students' knowledge and understanding of business management theories, as well as their ability to apply a range of tools and techniques. Students learn to analyse, discuss and evaluate business activities at local, national and international levels. The course covers a range of organisations from all sectors, as well as the socio-cultural and economic contexts in which those organisations operate. Emphasis is placed on strategic decision-making and the operational business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing and operations management. N.B Business Management is also available in Group 6

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	70%	30%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Geography:

This course examines some of the planet's most relevant concepts and ideas from a wide variety of disciplines. This helps students develop an appreciation of, and a respect for, alternative approaches, viewpoints and ideas. The geography course embodies global and international awareness. It examines key global issues, such as poverty, sustainability and climate change. It considers examples and detailed case studies at a variety of scales, from local to regional, national and international. Geography deals with many of the key challenges that governments and businesses face and the solutions that are being developed to meet them. The knowledge and skills being taught in geography are increasingly being sought after in the business world.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	75%	25%
Higher Level	80%	20%

History:

An exploratory subject that fosters a sense of inquiry. It is also an interpretive discipline, allowing opportunity for engagement with multiple perspectives and opinions. Studying history develops an understanding of the past, which leads to a deeper understanding of the nature of humans and of the world today. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including political, economic, social and cultural, and their impact on the development of human society throughout history.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	75%	25%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Psychology:

Psychology ensures, through a holistic approach, that students are able to develop a knowledge and understanding of biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour and emotions. Students will be able to consider ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research used.

Career Paths: Psychology can be useful for any career that involves working with other people. However, specific jobs in the field of psychology include: occupational therapy, psychiatry, forensics or educational and child psychology.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	75%	25%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Economics:

This course aims to enable students to develop a critical understanding of a range of economic theories, models, ideas and tools in the areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics and the global economy. Students will apply economic theories, models, ideas and tools and analyse economic data to understand and engage with real-world economic issues and problems facing individuals and societies. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of individuals' and societies' economic choices, interactions, challenges and consequences of economic decision-making.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	70%	30%
Higher Level	80%	20%



SCIENCE GROUP 4

Biology:

The study of "life". Biologists investigate the living world at all levels using many different approaches and techniques. Biology provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the natural world from the simplicity of one cell organisms all the way to the other end of the scale, to complex ecosystems. Ecology, evolution, microbiology and molecular biology are some of the sub-disciplines that students will uncover throughout their course.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

SEHS (Sports, Exercise and Health Science):

Sports, exercise and health science (SEHS) is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigative skills. It is an applied science course within group 4, with aspects of biological, physical and psychological science being studied in the specific context of sports, exercise and health. Moreover, the subject matter goes beyond the traditional science subjects to offer a deeper understanding of the issues related to sports, exercise and health in the 21st century. Apart from being worthy of study in its own right, SEHS is a good preparation for courses in higher or further education related to sports fitness and health, and serves as useful preparation for employment in sports and leisure industries.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

ESS - Environmental Systems and Societies:

Through studying environmental systems and societies (ESS) students will be provided with a coherent perspective of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies; one that enables them to adopt an informed personal response to the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face.

The course aims to foster an international perspective, awareness of local and global environmental concerns and an understanding of the issues of sustainability that all businesses are increasingly engaging with. ESS students gain a valuable insight into the current technologies and initiatives being used by industry and governments to meet environmental targets. It teaches skills and knowledge that are essential for young people entering the world of work.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	75%	25%
Higher Level	80%	20%

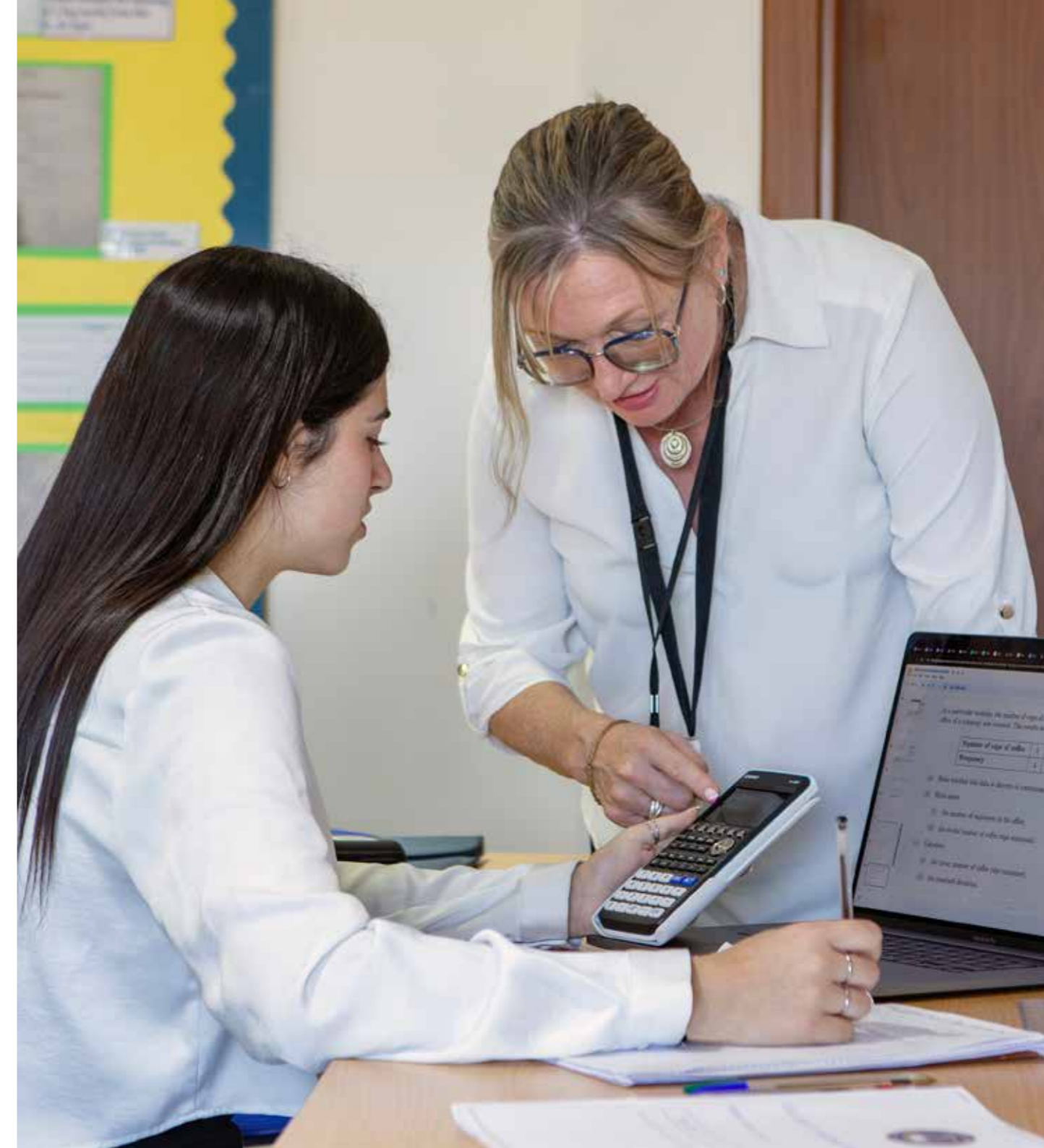


Physics:

The study of matter, motion, force and energy. Physics aims to provide insights to some of the most fundamental questions of the world around us. Students will be pushed to explore ideas and potentially uncover some of the deepest mysteries of subatomic particles, all the way up to cosmology.

As with chemistry and biology, physics is taught practically. Students have opportunities to design investigations, collect data, develop manipulative skills, analyse results, collaborate with peers and evaluate and communicate their findings. The investigations may be laboratory-based or they may make use of simulations and databases. Students develop the skills to work independently on their own design, but also collegiately, including collaboration with other students, to mirror the way in which scientific research is conducted in the wider community.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%



MATHEMATICS GROUP 5

Mathematics (Analysis and Approaches):

Aimed at students who wish to study mathematics or courses with substantial mathematical content. Analysis and Approaches is a pure mathematics course with a strong emphasis on calculus and algebraic, graphical and numerical approaches. The main focus of the course is calculus.

The higher level analysis and approaches course is extremely rigorous and students will compete with the best mathematics students in the world for a level 6 or 7. The standard level analysis and approaches course is suitable for students who enjoy a challenge in mathematics.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Mathematics (Applications and Interpretation):

Aimed at students who wish to study courses covering social sciences medicine, business, psychology and some economic courses. The applications and interpretation course teaches students the real life applications of mathematics and how to use technology to discover trends, explore data and make predictions. The main focus of the course is statistics and probability.

The higher level applications and interpretation course is also demanding and students have a large number of skills to acquire using the graphing calculator.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

ARTS GROUP 6

Please note that some non-arts subjects appear in this grouping.

Chemistry:

Chemistry encompasses a study of the composition, structure and properties of matter. It is often called the central science as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems. Apart from being a subject worthy of study in its own right, chemistry is often a prerequisite for many other courses in higher education, such as medicine, biological science and environmental science.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Film Studies:

IB Film examines film as both an art form and a cultural practice. The course considers a range of cinema from different countries, periods, and movements, with attention to how meaning is constructed through cinematography, editing, sound, and spectatorship theories. It includes analytical, practical, and written components, requiring the development of clear textual analysis through essay-based work and filmmaking. Film is also approached as a study of culture, offering insight into different societies, perspectives, and lived experiences, and is situated within its social, historical, and cultural contexts

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	NA	100%
Higher Level	NA	100%

French B:

French B gives students the opportunity to learn how to communicate, effectively and comfortably. Offering cultural insight into the country of France and other francophone countries, French B creates multilingualism in an ever-shrinking global world.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%

Visual Arts:

Visual arts are dynamic and ever-changing, connecting different areas of knowledge and human experience. In this visual arts course students learn how to create, communicate and connect as artists. Students engage in creative practices and processes, and learn art-making as inquiry. Students can adapt the curriculum to their unique contexts, interests and passions. They develop their art through personal lines of inquiry that explore and solve open-ended challenges relevant to them. They experiment with a variety of art-making forms and creative strategies, investigate and connect with past and contemporary artworks, and engage with the world and other people's diverse perspectives. By curating, sharing and exhibiting their artworks, students communicate with a variety of audiences.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	NA	100%
Higher Level	NA	100%

Music:

Involving aspects of the composition, performance and critical analysis of music, the course exposes students to forms, styles and functions of music from a wide range of historical and socio-cultural contexts. Students create, participate in, and reflect upon music from their own background and those of others. They develop practical and communicative skills which provide them with the opportunity to engage in music for further study, as well as for lifelong enjoyment. A language as old as time, music allows students to realise there are more ways to communicate than only with words.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	NA	100%
Higher Level	NA	100%

Theatre Studies:

Theatre is a theoretical and practical subject that encourages discovery through experimentation, the taking of risks and the presentation of ideas to others. Research into theatrical practices and reasons for creating theatre lies at its core. Looking at working as a theatre company, a solo performer, a director and in theatre from around the world, it results in the development of theatrical pieces, but also in an understanding of culture and life skills, as well as the building of confidence, creativity and the ability to work collaboratively.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	NA	100%
Higher Level	NA	100%

Computer Science:

The computer science course requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computational thinking as well as knowledge of how computers and other digital devices operate. The course, underpinned by conceptual thinking, draws on a wide spectrum of knowledge, and enables and empowers innovation, exploration and the acquisition of further knowledge. Students study how computer science interacts with and influences cultures, society and how individuals and societies behave, and the ethical issues involved.

The computer science course is a rigorous and practical problem-solving discipline. Computational thinking lies at the heart of the course and is integrated with other topics. This will be supported by practical activities including programming. Candidates will learn programming skills as a critical element of developing higher-level skills applicable to virtually all fields of study.

	Exam	Non Exam Work (oral/ assessment)
Standard Level	80%	20%
Higher Level	80%	20%



40+

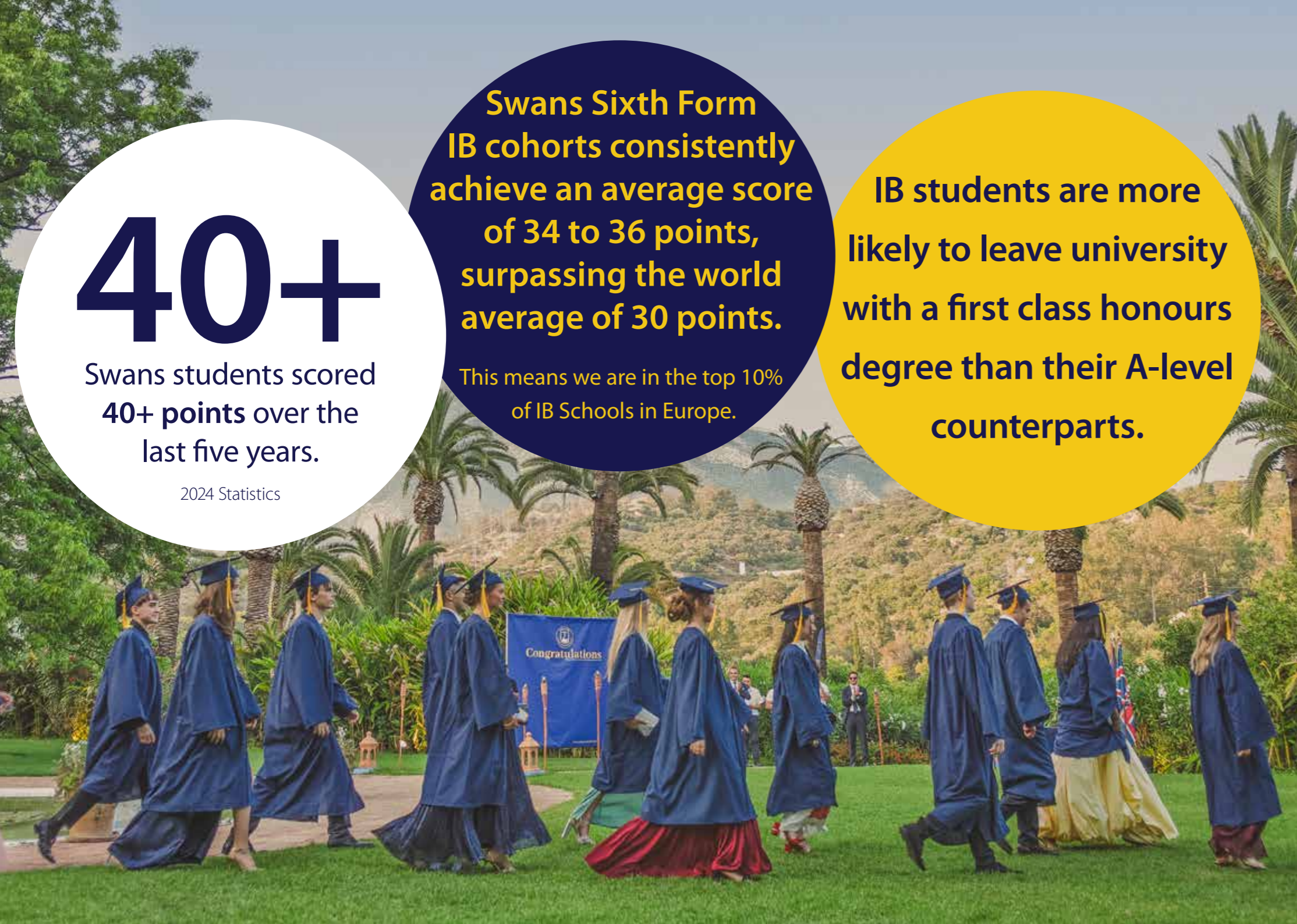
Swans students scored **40+ points** over the last five years.

2024 Statistics

Swans Sixth Form IB cohorts consistently achieve an average score of 34 to 36 points, surpassing the world average of 30 points.

This means we are in the top 10% of IB Schools in Europe.

IB students are more likely to leave university with a first class honours degree than their A-level counterparts.





An IB World School

Swans International School has been dedicated to teaching and learning for over 50 years

swansschool.com