

■ IB Diploma (Years 12 – 13)

All students entering the Sixth Form at Taunton School are required to have a minimum of five GCSE grades A* to C. Success at the International Baccalaureate Diploma depends on **good motivation** and **organisational skills**, and every case will be looked at individually. However we do recommend that a student should have at least grade 'A' at GCSE in any subjects they wish to study at Higher Level. We also recommend that they have at least grade 'B' at GCSE (or equivalent) in mathematics, English and a foreign language.

Each student studies the Theory of Knowledge, plus six subjects – at least three at Higher Level and the others at Standard Level. Students will also write an extended essay on a topic linked to one of their subjects and be required to complete 150 hours of extra-curricular activities. The six subjects must include English, a second language, a humanity, a science and a mathematics course. The sixth subject can be a creative subject or a second subject from one other group.

The subjects available in September 2008 are as follows. The list of subjects below remains provisional until May 2008 according to the demand for specific subjects. If there is insufficient demand, a subject may not run. Once the timetable is finalised, certain combinations of subjects may no longer be possible.

All subjects are available at both Higher Level (HL) or Standard Level (SL), unless indicated.

Theory of Knowledge	(studied by all students)
Group 1 English*	English A1
Group 2 Second Language*	German A2 (HL) French B; German B; Spanish B Spanish ab initio (SL); Mandarin ab initio (SL) Latin
Group 3 Humanities	History; Geography; Economics; Philosophy
Group 4 Sciences	Biology; Chemistry; Physics, Design Technology
Group 5 Mathematics	Mathematics; Mathematical Studies (SL); Further Maths (SL)
Group 6 Arts	Visual Arts; Music (or a second subject from the Groups above)

In the event of sufficient demand, other subjects may become available. These could include: Theatre Arts, Psychology, Italian ab initio (SL)

General Studies

For two periods on a Saturday morning, Sixth Formers attend 'Horizons' lectures. These sessions are planned so as to develop a breadth beyond the curriculum. Issues covered include: health, higher education, gap years, work experience and politics.

* Language courses are tailored to the previous experience of the learner. A1 is the student's own language or a fluent second language, A2 is a reasonably fluent second language, B is a second language learner with experience and 'ab initio' is starting from scratch.

Students who are not native English speakers may wish to take their own language A1 in Group 1. This is possible if a suitable tutor can be found. In this case they can take English A2 in Group 2. Further details are available on request.