

We don't know
what the future
holds for our
students, but we
know it will be
extraordinary.

Welcome to International School of Milan.



The value to be part of the International Schools Group

The International Schools Group, is the largest provider of quality international education in Italy, characterised above all by the extent to which its philosophy and approach is perfectly aligned with that of the **International Baccalaureate®**.

Alongside the use of English as the language of tuition for **students from 2 - 3 to 18 years of age**, all of our schools have an excellent track record in using group dynamics, innovative teaching techniques and tools that are updated continuously in a unique and stimulating educational context.

From Early Years through to High School, all these International Schools offer International Baccalaureate® programmes adopted by over **4500 schools in 150 countries**. (www.ibo.org). We are proud to be able to call ourselves IB continuum schools as every one of our schools is officially authorised by the IB (or is in the final candidate phase preceding authorisation) to exclusively offer its programmes at every level:

- **Primary Years Programme (PYP)**
- **Middle Years Programme (MYP)**
- **IB Diploma Programme (DP)**

In this way all our schools offer what is a **truly international curriculum**, widely considered to be the most forward-thinking and avant-garde educational model in the world, aimed at stimulating inquiry, critical thinking and international-mindedness.



Since September 2016, the group has been a member of Inspired.

A definitive statement of excellence in private education, Inspired, founded by Nadim M. Nsouli, is a leading international group of **33 premium schools educating 20.000 students on four continents**, designed to inspire students to achieve their maximum potential in a nurturing, progressive academic environment.

Inspired offers a fresh contemporary approach to education by re-evaluating traditional teaching methods, curricula and creating a more dynamic, relevant and powerful model reflecting current attitudes.

Inspired schools nurture the unique individuality, talent and self assurance of each student, equipping them to take on the world with the skills and confidence to ensure success.

(www.inspirededu.co.uk)

Why choose International School?

High Standards, International Values and Active Citizenship

These core values are embedded in our mission statement and experienced every day by students of all ages, coordinated by an outstanding team of educational leaders and implemented by our **highly skilled and dedicated professional staff**. Learning at our International School is exciting and engaging, as students strive for excellence in a climate that is caring and responsive to their personal needs and goals.



Five key reasons to set your child on course for the future

1> International perspectives and values

Learning at the International School is an international experience. It leads to a perception of the world that merges understanding of our global context with the development of **skills and attitudes** that young people require **to participate fully in the world of tomorrow**, both as national and global citizens. The school community extends to parents and staff and to our network of partners across Italy and throughout the world. We encourage our students to feel **part of a dynamic enterprise, committed to development and cultural interaction**.



2> Top class facilities for successful schools in the heart of their community

Each school is uniquely designed and developed in response to its environment and location. Varying in size mainly between 130 and 1200 students, our schools provide an **excellent education** in every case **for both local and international students** in each community.

All campuses are extremely attractive, functional and designed around students' needs and are equipped with:

- **libraries**
- **professional science laboratories**
- **creative arts centers**
- **music studios**
- **a wide range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities**

We are committed to incorporating technology to support our educational vision and enable students to integrate the use of personal mobile devices to assist learning. At every stage of education we stress the importance of **balance between traditional and contemporary skills** to ensure that young learners are fully equipped to face future challenges.



Specialist and well resourced arts studios and science laboratories



Bright classroom, eco-friendly design

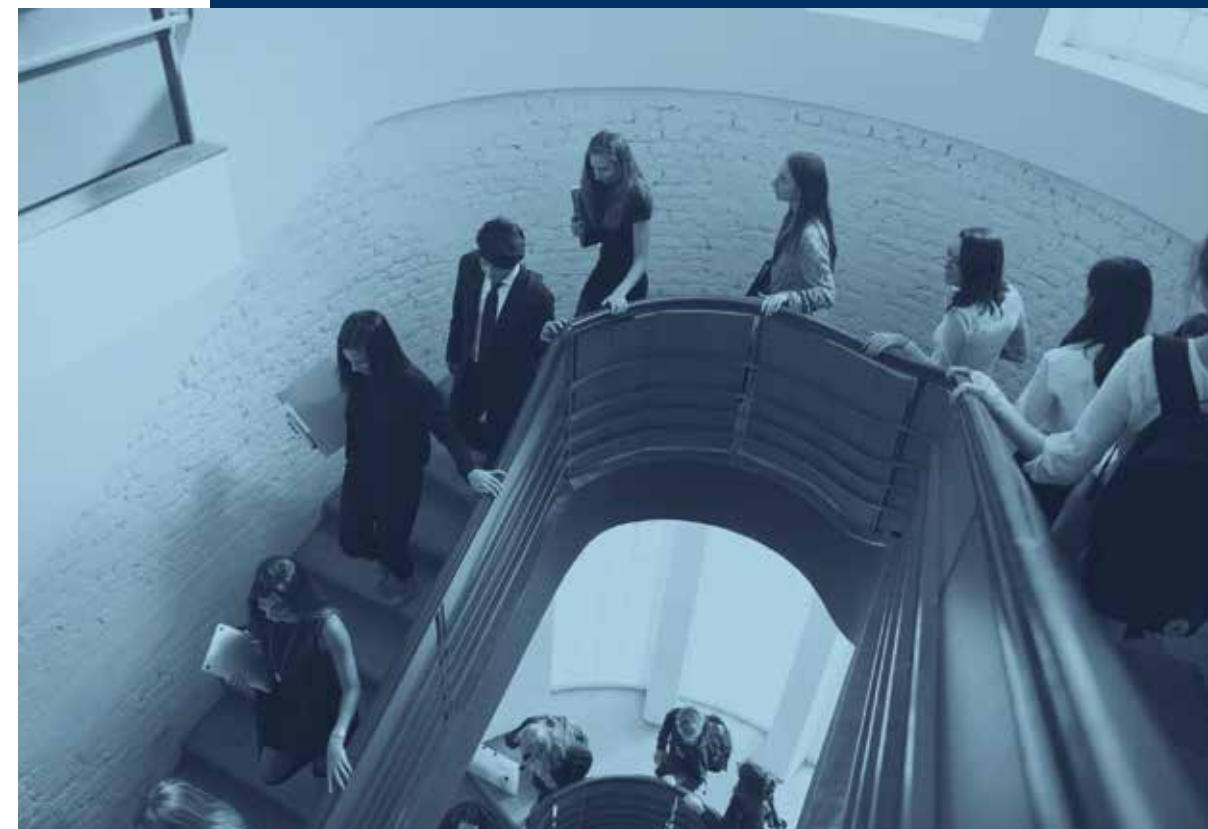


Library and learning centre



Outdoor playgrounds and sports facilities





3 The IB Curriculum Framework



The International Schools Group was the first group in Italy to be authorised by the International Baccalaureate to **offer all three of its curriculum programmes**:

- Primary Years Program (PYP)
- Middle Years Programme (MYP)
- Diploma Programme (DP)

Its programmes are internationally recognised for their quality and the innovative approaches. There is a high value placed on learning through inquiry, which engages students to participate actively in the learning process and provides students with the most challenging and rewarding experiences available in schools today.

4 Outstanding results and a proven track record

In the 30 years since we introduced the International Baccalaureate as a Group, our results have been consistently outstanding. All graduates have an **excellent record of academic success** and go on the world's most renowned universities to study in a wide range of faculties and specialisations. The IB was created for internationally mobile citizens and

is recognised worldwide, allowing students an enviable breadth of choices for their future studies and ensuring global opportunities for their future professions. Alongside our international programme, Italian students follow mother-tongue courses that prepare them for the **Licenza Media Level** with lessons that are fully integrated into the IB Curriculum.



LATIN AMERICA - 2 SCHOOL
EUROPE - 12 SCHOOLS + 2 ELS

AFRICA - 13 SCHOOLS
AUSTRALIA - 3 ELS

5 Member of Inspired, a leading international group of 33 schools.

Inspired sets a new standard in premium private education with hand-picked teachers and a dedication to excellence that permeates every aspect of each school. **Integrating innovative, challenging and enriching academic, performing arts and**

sports programmes, Inspired's students leave with outstanding results, a love of learning, confidence and a firm value system that prepares them to embrace the challenges life throws at them in their future endeavours.





School structure

IB Programme

Sistema Italiano

Primary Years Programme		
Early Years		Scuola d'infanzia
Prekindergarden	2 years old	
Kindergarden	3 years old	
Transition	4 years old	
Elementary School		Scuola Primaria
Grade 1	5 years old	
Grade 2	6 years old	
Grade 3	7 years old	
Grade 4	8 years old	
Grade 5	9 years old	
Grade 6	10 years old	
Middle Years Programme		
Grade 7	11 years old	Scuola Secondaria di 1° grado
Grade 8	12 years old	
Grade 9	13 years old	Scuola Secondaria di 2° grado
Grade 10	14 years old	
Grade 11	15 years old	
Diploma Programme		
Grade 12	16 years old	
Grade 13	17 years old	



Early Years



Curriculum

As an integral **part of the IB Primary Years Programme** our Early Years curriculum takes a trans-disciplinary inquiry approach to learning and is inspired by the philosophy and practice of the world renowned **Italian Reggio Approach**. Children are given time to explore concepts and construct their theories together with teachers in **small groups**:

- elaborating their understanding through all **expressive, creative, verbal and mathematical languages**
- creating **natural connections between mathematics, science, digital technology and the expressive arts**
- making a **full immersion in an English language context**

The flexibility in thinking involved encourages not only the development of proficient language skills but also the creative and lateral thinking skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

Children are exposed to the **English language** in its written form throughout the Early Years setting within imaginative and **symbolic play contexts and teacher led activities**. As the child progresses through the Early Years setting this is supported and developed directly by the teacher to ensure the gradual acquisition of literacy skills needed as they move onto primary school.



Identity

Our youngest children are a fundamental part of our community who make a significant contribution to the educational experience of our schools. The identity of our Early Years Departments is constructed around the **three pillars of children, parents and teachers**. We consider the child to be a bearer of rights who is a collaborative protagonist of their own learning experience and who must be supported by the teaching staff to fulfil their potential and prepare them for the rigours of an international primary education and beyond. As a group of international schools our **ethos** is one of **tolerance, respect and open mindedness** and we believe that diversity enriches our community.



Environment

Children learn by building relationships with their surrounding environment. The carefully planned and stimulating physical environment of our Early Years settings reflects this both inside and out. The **spaces are organised to support and enrich the children's learning experience**. Children are given time and space to explore natural and open ended materials, that are carefully chosen with the teachers and support the **development of inquiry projects**. Our gardens stimulate children's curiosity about the natural world.

Primary School and the IB Primary Years Programme



Action

The **Primary Years Programme (PYP)** is a trans-disciplinary curriculum **framework with an inquiry approach to conceptual learning and teaching**. It is taught in over 100 countries of the world. The learner, and the learning community, is at the centre of learning and teaching. Through the embodiment of the attributes of the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile the **programme strives to build cultural understanding and internationally minded young people**.

Throughout an academic year, **student inquiry is guided by conceptual ideas that are connected to six transdisciplinary themes of global significance**. Bridges between subject disciplines are fostered and developed to build transferable knowledge, understanding and skills. The PYP has **five Essential Elements** which are outlined below.

We encourage the children to see their **learning as valuable experiences** that, as well as forming their intellectual development, should guide how they act. Therefore, **learning should be demonstrated by positive action and service**. The children are encouraged to reflect, choose wisely and to act responsibly with their peers, school staff and in the wider community. All children also have the opportunity to contribute to the student council.



Attitudes

Alongside the Learner Profile, PYP teachers aim to **foster a set of attitudes** in our children, **which are discussed, modelled and reflected upon through the units of inquiry**. These twelve attitudes help towards students being life-long learners on the global stage.





Key Concepts

Thinking conceptually through a unit of inquiry helps the children to view topics and issues through various lenses. **The PYP is built around eight key concepts which are used across all subject areas.**

These concepts are:

Form: What does it look like?

Function: How does it work?

Causation: Why is it this way?

Change: How does it change over time?

Connection: How is it connected to other things?

Perspective: What are the points of view?

Responsibility: What is our responsibility?

Reflection: How do we know?



Knowledge

What we teach is based on the themes of the PYP, current research and the needs of our school community. At the beginning of each unit parents receive a **Unit Newsletter which outlines the objectives for the unit** and how parents can support their child to develop their understanding. There are clear assessment tools and strategies and standards which align with those outlined by the IB.



Skills

As well as learning specific subjects skills, there are **many transdisciplinary skills** that our students should develop that **transcend subject areas** and are not limited to one subject. These 'Approaches to Learning' are developed throughout the units of inquiry.

The five 'Approaches to learning' areas skills

1 Thinking skills - the acquisition of knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, dialectical thought, and metacognition (thinking about thinking).

2 Research skills - formulating questions, observing, planning, collecting and recording data, organising and interpreting data, and presenting research findings.

3 Communication skills - listening, speaking, reading, writing, and non-verbal communication.

4 Self-management skills - gross and fine motor skills, spatial awareness, organisation, time management, safety, a healthy lifestyle, codes of behaviour and making informed choices.

5 Social skills - accepting responsibility, respecting others, cooperating, resolving conflict, group decision making, and adopting a variety of group roles.

The PYP Coordinator sends PYP Curriculum updates to parents and holds regular meetings and workshops to support parents in their understanding of the unique features of the PYP.

In these six years of primary school we provide the important elements of the Italian State Curriculum: **we take the Italian Scuola Elementare programme and integrate it into the PYP program** so that Italian students are prepared for the Licenza di Quinta Elementare Exam. Our international students in the main do not sit the Italian state examinations unless they wish to.

The average school day lasts around seven hours in most of our schools, from Monday to Friday. There is a full and varied after-school programme with activities including music, sports, drama, an extensive range of personal interest clubs and homework supervision for one hour after school on most days.

Middle School and the IB Middle Years Programme

The International School offers the **IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)** which is the next step in the IB continuum of international education. The MYP builds on the foundations acquired in Elementary school, encouraging students to become independent, internationally minded, and lifelong learners. All of our students receive a **rich curriculum which is comprehensive and challenging**, helping students build a strong foundation in the major subject areas as well as several foreign languages. Skills are developed alongside knowledge, and the students become thoughtful, creative and valuable members of the International and Italian communities. Our educators are caring and experienced and are aware that students in this age group need security, support and success.



Curriculum

Our aim is to deliver an **International Education** and at the same time, as for the primary school, we provide the **important elements of the Italian State Curriculum**. In these three years of middle school we take the Italian Scuola Media Programme and integrate it into the MYP program so that Italian students are prepared for the end-of-year State Italian Exams which they invariably do superbly well in. Our international students in the main do not sit the Italian state examinations unless they wish to.

The MYP curriculum is organised around **eight traditional subject areas**:

- **Arts:** Art, Music and Drama
- **Individuals & Societies:** History and Geography
- **Language & Literature:** English and Italian (Mother Tongue Teachers)
- **Language Acquisition:** Spanish or Italian or other languages including French, German and Mandarin Chinese
- **Mathematics:** Mathematics
- **Physical & Health Education:** Physical Education
- **Science:** Integrated Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- **Design:** Product Design and/or Digital Design

There are 35 lessons of 50 minutes that makes 29 hours 10 minutes weekly, plus 2 hours for Individual Tutoring, Enrichment Activities or Library. Some subjects will have double lessons. There is a full and varied after-school programme with activities including Music, Sports, Drama, an extensive range of personal interest clubs and homework supervision for an hour after school on most days.

High School and the IB Diploma Programme

Our four-year high school is divided into **two distinct phases, each with a duration of two years.**

1 During the first two years, students complete the final years of the **IB's Middle Years Programme (MYP)**, with the key difference that subject specialisation takes place in some of the **eight subject groups**, allowing the biennial to be both the culmination of the MYP as well as preparation for the IB Diploma Programme.

2 In the **second two years of high school**, our schools offer the **International Baccalaureate's rigorous two-year Diploma Programme (IBDP) for 16-19 year olds**, which is widely considered to be the **leading pre-university qualification in the world**. We have offered the IB Diploma programme since 1987 and are proud of both our long-standing relationship with the IB as well as our **track record of academic success**, evidenced by the following statistics taken from examination sessions over the past decade:

Average score:
35-36 out of 45 (global average 29.8 out of 45)

Pass rate:
100% (global average 80%)

One in three students attaining 38 points or more (often considered as the benchmark for admission to the top rung of the world's leading universities)

These results are particularly impressive when one considers that ISE's approach to admissions is not purely based on prior academic merit. We believe that as many young people as possible should have access to this wonderful programme of study and hence our policy is that, if we believe an applicant can have an enriching experience during their time with us and that they can leave with an IB Diploma in their hand to open doors with, then we will offer a place.

Whilst preparing students exceptionally well for academic success in each of their chosen subject disciplines, thanks to a team of highly qualified teachers – many of whom are IB examiners and trainers – we endeavour to **ensure that the underlying philosophy of the IB is at the forefront of the student experience during their Diploma Programme studies**. We encourage students to be knowledgeable and inquiring, but also caring and compassionate. There is a strong **emphasis on encouraging students to develop intercultural understanding, open-mindedness, and the attitudes necessary for them to respect and evaluate a range of points of view**. To this end, the school is often commended as such when the IB conducts its evaluations of us.





The programme model

The programme is presented as **six academic areas** enclosing a central core. It encourages the concurrent study of a broad range of academic areas.

Students study:

- **two modern languages;**
- **a humanities or social science subject;**
- **an experimental science;**
- **mathematics;**
- **one of the creative arts or an additional subject from one of the aforementioned groups.**

It is this comprehensive range of subjects that makes the Diploma Programme a demanding course of study designed to prepare students effectively for university entrance and, above all, success in life beyond.

In each of the academic areas students have **flexibility in making their choices**, which means they can choose subjects that particularly interest them and that they may wish to study further at university.

Three subjects (and not more than four) are taken at higher level (HL), and the others are taken at standard level (SL). Subjects at HL are studied in greater depth and breadth than at SL.

At both levels, **many skills are developed, especially those of critical thinking and analysis**. At the end of the course, students' abilities are measured by means of external and internationally standardised assessment. All subjects contain some element of coursework assessed internally by teachers.

The core

All Diploma Programme students actively participate in the three components that make up the core of the "hexagon". Reflection on all these activities is a principle that lies at the heart of the thinking behind the Diploma Programme.

The theory of knowledge course encourages students to think about the nature of knowledge, to reflect on the process of learning in all the subjects they study as part of their Diploma Programme, and to make connections across the academic areas.

The extended essay, a substantial piece of writing of 4,000 words, **enables students to investigate a topic of special interest that they have chosen themselves**. It also encourages them to develop the skills of independent research that will be expected at university. Creativity, activity, service involves students in experiential learning through a range of artistic, sporting, physical and service activities.

Subjects offered

We offer a wide range of subjects to cater for all needs and we are sure that whichever school you visit there will be a **range of options to set your child up to fulfill their future tertiary education and career pathways**.

Career and higher education counselling

We are fortunate to have an **highly experienced and passionate team of university counsellors**, meaning that we can draw on a wealth of knowledge which allows us to advise families regarding the most appropriate tertiary education pathways across the globe, with the majority of our graduates choosing to pursue **studies in the UK, followed by The Neth-**

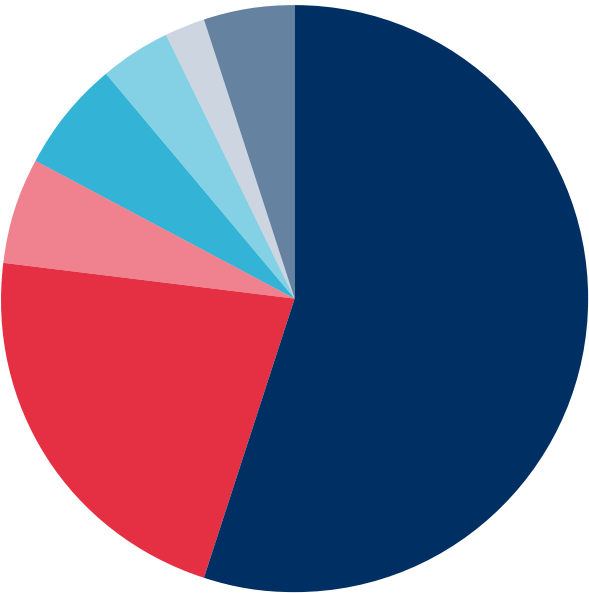
erlands, Spain, Italy, US and elsewhere. In addition, we arrange for students to do work experience with both local and international organisations whilst in high school. Many students also participate in pre-university courses, internships and volunteer projects locally and abroad throughout the year in order to prepare them for future career choices.



University destinations by country

- UK
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Spain
- US
- Switzerland
- Elsewhere

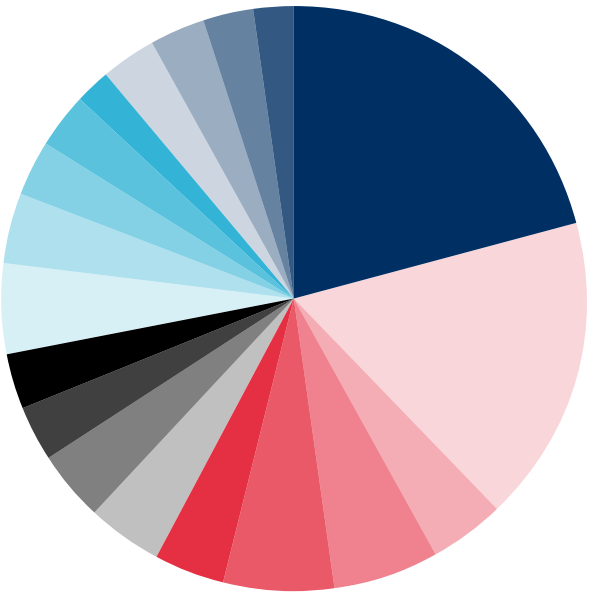
> More than 50% of our students are going to the best universities in UK.



University destinations by degree

- Business & Management
- Economics
- Hospitality & Sports Management
- International Relations
- Philosophy, Politics & Economics
- Criminology, Psychology & Sociology
- Law
- Liberal Arts
- Architecture & Civil Engineering
- Chemistry & Chemical Engineering
- Medicine, Dentistry & Biochemistry
- Physics & Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Computer Science
- Journalism
- Languages & Literature
- Film
- Fashion & Design
- Visual Arts

> 33% of our students chose Business and Economics faculties.



Where do our students go on to at University?

United Kingdom

University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Exeter
University of Hull
Keele University
University of Kent
Kingston University London
University of Lancaster
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of Stirling
University of St. Andrews
University of Southampton
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Warwick and York
Goldsmiths, University of London
Imperial College London
King's College London
London School of Economics
Queen Mary & Westfield College
Royal Holloway College
School of Oriental and African Studies
University College London
Royal Veterinary College
Central St. Martin's Art College
The London Institute
The European Business School London
London University of the Arts

Spain

Esade
IE

The Netherlands

Amsterdam Delf University
Rotterdam Erasmus University
Maastricht UM

USA

University of Pennsylvania
University of Chicago
University of California Los Angeles
Cornell University
Northwestern University
John Hopkins University
Emory College
University of Ohio
Tufts University
Brown University
Columbia University & Boston University
TVI Actors' Studio (NY)

Italy

Università Bocconi di Milano
Università Statale di Milano
Politecnico di Milano
Università Bicocca (Milano)
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milano)
Istituto Universitario di Lingue Moderne
Brera Art School
Politecnico del Design
Marangoni School of Fashion Design
School of Advertising and Communication
Università di Castellanza
Università di Padova
Università di Pavia
Università La Sapienza di Roma
LUISS Roma
Università di Torino
The European Business School Milan
Milan Conservatorio and Venice (Cà Foscari)

Rest of the World

Brazil (Sao Paolo)
Argentina
Canada
Chile
Czech Republic
Ireland (Trinity College)
Israel
Japan
Mexico
Monaco
Portugal
Serbia
Spain (Zaragoza and Valencia)
Sweden
Switzerland (including Lausanne School for Hospitality and Hotel Management)

Co-Curricular Programme



Italian Programme

Beyond our curricular educational activities, we offer a series of programmes and courses to give our students the possibilities to express their full potential. Our additional activities include the Italian Programme, Physical and Health Education, Creative and Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Activities.



We firmly believe in the **importance of the development of one's own mother-tongue** and, for many of our students, this means Italian. The school offers **Italian programmes for both mother-tongue and non-mother-tongue students throughout the entire IB continuum**. For students native to Italy, or who intend settling in the country long-term, this includes mother-tongue lessons as well as **preparation for the Quinta Elementare (in Grade 6) and Terza Media (in Grade 9) examinations**, which are sat at local partner schools. Much of this preparation is integrated into our IB programmes of study, with some additional specialist lessons in Grades 6 and 9.

Our results in both of these state examinations are **truly exceptional** and add further weight to the argument that the IB programme offered by us prepares students well for other systems thanks to the transferrable skills it develops. As for the Maturità, our students do not sit the Italian Esame di Stato as the IB Diploma offered by us has full legal equivalence to this qualification from the Italian Ministry of Education, allowing students to access the Italian university system with ease. Non-native students, on the other hand, take Italian acquisition courses throughout their studies with us, to the extent that even these students often graduate from school as fluent speakers of Italian, too. **In parallel to these Italian acquisition courses, we also encourage students to continue studies in their mother-tongue language.**



Creative and Performing arts

Whilst **creative and performing arts are embedded into our PYP and MYP curricula via Visual Arts, Drama and Music**, we also offer students many opportunities to engage actively in these areas beyond the classroom, primarily through our co-curricula programme, visits and workshops. It goes without saying that all of these subjects are taught by **fully qualified and experienced teachers in specially designed and resourced studios**.

Whilst exciting subjects in their own right, which many of our students opt to pursue further studies in for their DP and beyond, we also believe that the skills developed in these areas are extremely use-

ful for developing creative thought – an essential life skill for the modern workplace, no matter what their chosen career path.

We believe in the importance of **giving our students opportunities to be actively involved in the community**. We held our yearly whole **school exhibition in public spaces** where everyone is able to witness and appreciate works of our students and at the same time collaborate with them with some community projects. Our schools are equipped with specialist studios equipped with a large studio space and is a special area for students where they come to enjoy and create some of their personal works during their free time.



Physical and Health Education

We understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional wellbeing. **Physical and Health Education is part of the curriculum and is integrated within the PYP and MYP curriculum**. We instigate students' intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and enthusiasm to endeavour to discover their full potential. Lessons are planned with the aim to offer a **holistic approach including physical, social and emotional well-being**. In addition to PHE lessons,

there are also countless opportunities within the co-curricular programme to develop an enjoyment of physical activity during lunchtimes and also after school. Supplementing this we have a full schedule of competitive fixtures across all sports which take place after school and occasionally at weekends in many of our schools and these will be further developed in others once new exciting facilities have been constructed.



Additional Activities

The International School prides itself on being a learning community for all ages and learning styles. To this end, we value co-curricular learning which allows students to pursue talents and skills outside the classroom. We offer a range of **after school activities** in a variety of areas such as:

- **Drama,**
- **Football,**
- **Rugby,**
- **Coding,**
- **Photography,**
- **Ceramics,**
- **Story Club,**
- **Writing Club,**
- **Italian and Mandarin Language Club,**
- **Judo,**
- **Dance and Musical Instrument tuition.**

In addition, there are also activities close to our core purpose of developing internally minded and active global citizens such as Model United Nations and Global Issue Network. The particular selection of co-curricular activities is dependent on the school. All activities are run by **professional, experienced teachers and coaches**, taking place throughout the week.



We want our students to believe they will become who they want to be.



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