



# TGS IB *in* PRACTICE

Issue 8: May 6, 2015

## Foreword

### Thoughts on IB from the UK's Independent newspaper

International Baccalaureate – it teaches you not to give up!

It's one thing to know what the International Baccalaureate (IB) might involve, but anyone enrolled on a programme or investigating the qualification for the first time may well be daunted by the prospect. The good news is that they won't be alone in those fears, as many students share them. They may also turn out to be largely unfounded.

"Before starting the IB I felt extremely intimidated," admits Josh Hammond, a student at St Clare's school, Oxford. "I had heard countless complaints about the difficulties of the IB. But, once you get going, you become more efficient at time management and the work seems less daunting."

There's plenty to think about when it comes to the day-to-day reality of following an IB programme and, like Hammond, many students and teachers highlight the importance of good time-management from the outset. "Your IB experience can become quite gruelling if you don't get on top of it," says Alex Bird, head of the theory of knowledge and world religions faculty at UWC Atlantic College. "If you've got a deadline in six months, don't wait until it's upon you. Chip away at it."

Although students need to sharpen their organisational and study skills, they needn't do it silently – or without support. "IB students are expected to be risk-takers and communicators," says Sarah Jinks, a biology teacher at St Clare's. "But the tasks we set are designed to help them develop those skills. You're not expected to have them when you arrive."

The IB emphasises dialogue and group work, she continues, which can initially be a stretch if you're used to a one-way flow of information from teacher to student. "Being willing to voice your opinions and participate may be intimidating at first," says Jinks. "The benefit is that you're forced to challenge what you think."

According to Bird, being exposed to other perspectives through group work as well as being required to carry on with a broad range of subjects can be both helpful and challenging for students. "They may struggle in one subject but be a master of another, and that can be very humbling," he explains. "But it's also really powerful, it will teach them not to give up and help develop their self-respect."

While the realities of the IB may include multiple deadlines, hard work and the occasional late night, there are plenty of benefits too: developing a broad, inquiring mind; self-discipline; even language skills. They're all things universities and employers value, and Bird adds that IB graduates are often the most interesting people "to sit and talk to about the meaning of life".

## Upcoming

**Assessment Week Year 1 IB students**

8 - 12 June

**Project Samoa**

6 - 11 MAY

**IB Student World Conference**

2 - 8 August

**IB/ NCEA information morning teas 10:30**

18 May Devonport

19 May City

20 May Library at TGS

21 May Takapuna

RSVP Principal's secretary

## Global IB

**IB Parent Community**

Parents are invited to join the IB parent community by signing up on the [Supporters Page](#) by simply providing their information and checking the "IB Parent" box. Members of the IB parent community can choose to receive information about the IB in their region and what other parents are doing to help their students.



Takapuna Grammar School  
ASPIRING TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE

## And it's camp time!

### Year 1s head out to Willow Park by Leah Wilks

Over the first three days of term two, the first year International Baccalaureate students had buckets of water thrown at them, they solved puzzling brain teasers and slept in rooms usually considered too small for ten people. Why you may ask? An IB camp of course.

Set at the quiet Eastern Beach, students were involved in all the usual aspects of a school camp, we spent time outdoors, made friends, but most importantly we learnt new things. Being a camp based on the IB diploma, we did activities not only related to the work we do in class, but also to other aspects of the diploma, such as the CAS program (creativity, activity and service). We made movie trailers based on IB learner profiles, in which my team crafted an IB themed spinoff of the popular movie 'Eat Pray Love'. We built towers of spaghetti and marshmallows in which most of the teams, including my own, spectacularly failed. We took part in a beach clean-up, learning about the global effects of a seemingly small project. We even crafted research based projects all from a single keyword, 'Footprint', in which every team had a completely different idea of what to do.

My favourite activities at the camp were those involving team work, where we could each get to know each other better and work with people we perhaps hadn't worked with in class yet. Overall, the camp was an enjoyable experience, and I think all of the first year students involved would agree that as a result, we've all grown a little closer together.

## IB in Action



Year 12 students make poppies for Anzac Day



Problem solving activities at Camp included making the tallest structure with spaghetti and mini marshmallows.

## A student's thoughts on Nepal by Yutong Cheng, Year 12 IB student

Following the recent devastating earthquake in Nepal I wanted to share with you my own experiences of travelling through Nepal back in 2007, a country that means the world to me.

Nepal is known as one of the poorest countries in the world but this is not the first thing that comes to my mind when I think about the country. It is a country of smiles. It is truly a unique country and the people I met there were devout, kind and sincere. Wherever I would travel in this country, people of all ages would put their palms together and say "Namaste" (Hello) to you with the biggest of smiles. . It was a trip that made memories for life. I can still clearly recall the beauty of the temples, the busyness of the villages, the palaces and the people in Nepal. It is a country where the basic of needs are the focus of the people's daily lives. There are no designer shops, tall buildings nor busy traffic. As poor as they appear they are rich in culture and spirit. It is a country of contrasts and my heart goes out to the suffering that is occurring now.

