



Bishopstrow College

**IGCSE / Preparatory IB Programme
Guide 2016/17**

**Recent IGCSE Results
School Destinations
Key Subjects**



**BISHOPSTROW
COLLEGE**

A pathway to excellence

Introduction



Our 1 Year IGCSE / Pre-IB Programme offers 12 examinable subjects and is an excellent preparation for students before they begin their A Level studies or the IB Diploma Programme. This Guide is designed to give you detailed information about our examination results, school destinations, as well as descriptions of the different subjects which the College offers for the IGCSE and the Preparatory IB Programme

It also gives me the opportunity to share some of the highlights of what has been another exciting year for Bishopstrow College. They include:

- Another strong set of results in the IGCSE examinations, with 90% of candidates achieving A*-C Grades, matching last year's record results. Meanwhile, our students continue to achieve exceptional results in the Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations
- The completion of the new teaching facility, which was officially opened on September 18, 2014, at a cost of £1.5 million. The building was named The Henson Building after the College's founders. It has provided an excellent learning environment, incorporating 8 classrooms, a science lab, IT suite, library and multi-activity room, as well as being a light and spacious building. Feedback from the students has been extremely positive

All of the above paints a picture of a College which is providing a very high standard of education and care to its students, whilst continually enhancing its facilities. Our new one year IGCSE and Preparatory IB Programme provides an exciting education through an integrated programme, which both engages and challenges students at all stages of their intellectual development

I hope that you find this Guide interesting and that it will stimulate questions about Bishopstrow College and encourage you to find out more about us and of course, visit our campus, including our new classroom building. We are proud of the work that we do here and I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about our College.

With my best wishes.

Lorraine Atkins, Principal

Contents

Part		Page	
1	Results	The pattern of recent IGCSE and Cambridge English Language Assessment results at Bishopstrow College	4
2	School Destinations	The schools to which our students go	6
3	Overview of the Programme	A summary of the key components of the Programme	7
4	Subjects	Information about the subjects we teach	8
5	Preparation for the IB Diploma “Core”	A summary of the preparatory modules for the IB Diploma Programme “core”	14
6	Financial Assistance	Scholarships and Bursaries for the IGCSE / Preparatory IB Programme	15
7	How do I apply?	The application process	16

Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent IGCSE Results

Bishopstrow is an Authorised Centre for the University of Cambridge International Examinations.

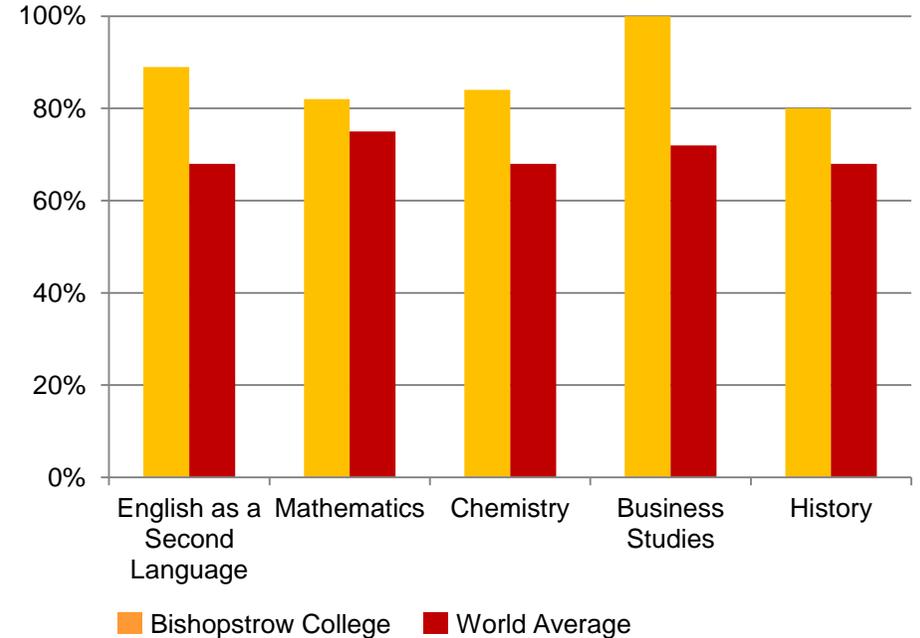
The College is pleased to announce another strong set of results in the IGCSE examinations in 2015. The class of 2015 matched last year's record results, in terms of the percentage of candidates achieving A*-C grades. This reflects the outstanding work of students and staff alike.

Bishopstrow College's 1 Year IGCSE Results, 2012 to 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
A* - A Grade	39%	22%	39%	20%
A* - C Grade	70%	85%	90%	90%

Relative to the 2014 world averages for the Cambridge IGCSE examinations, the College performed exceptionally well, with the proportion of candidates securing an A*-C Grade exceeding the world averages in a number of core subjects, including English as a Second Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Business Studies and History.

Bishopstrow College A* - C Grades at IGCSE, 2014 versus World Average



Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent Cambridge English Language Assessment Results

The necessity of competency in the English language becomes much more of an issue as students begin to study IGCSE level courses and prepare for examinations. The demands are even greater for those wishing to study A Levels, with sixth forms requiring a much higher level of proficiency in the language. At most entry points, these skills will need to be tested and sometimes backed up by a certificate from one of the many Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations.

Bishopstrow College is an Authorised Centre for the University of Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations. All students at the College follow an intensive course in English for academic purposes, with a large part of the English language timetable devoted to 'academic English', the study of reading and writing academic texts, listening to lengthy discussions on topical or specialist subjects, delivering presentations or taking part in debates. Essentially, this is the delivery of an English programme but within the context of education.

Students at Bishopstrow not only learn the language, but also learn the techniques required to plan and structure an argument, identify facts and opinions in reading texts, and follow a speaker's line of argument. Students cover the skills necessary to learn independently, such as how to effectively record vocabulary, 'guess' unknown words in a challenging text, and proof read their own work to correct errors and learn from them.

Bishopstrow College's Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) Results, 2012 to 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
% of Students Obtaining a Pass	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of Students Obtaining a Distinction or Merit	44%	25%	71%	62%

Bishopstrow College has a distinguished track record of success in the Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations. In the PET examination, more than 60% of students achieved a Distinction or Merit in 2014 and 2015, whilst in the FCE examination, the proportion of candidates obtaining an A or B Grade has exceeded 50% for the past three years.

Bishopstrow College's Cambridge English: First (FCE) Results, 2012 to 2015

	2012	2013	2014
% of Students Obtaining a Pass	100%	100%	100%
% of Students Obtaining an A or B Grade	50%	57%	73%

Part 2 – School Destinations

School Destinations 2014/15 – Summary Information

The vast majority of students attending Bishopstrow College continue their education at a British boarding school or sixth form college, with a small number opting to join an international school outside the UK or to return home to continue their studies.

Leading schools all over the world welcome our students, as during their year at Bishopstrow College, they are well prepared for and guided through admissions processes, including entrance examinations and interviews.

Students have been successful in securing places at some of the UK's most prestigious schools, including a number of leading IB World Schools.

The full list of destination schools of students leaving Bishopstrow College in recent years was as follows:

Senior Schools

Aysgarth School
Badminton
Box Hill School
Cheltenham College
Concord College
Dauntsey's School
Eastbourne College
Gordonstoun
Harrow
King's School Canterbury
Malvern St James
Millfield
Oundle School
Padworth College
Queen Anne's School Caversham
Queen Ethelburga's College
Royal Russell School
Salem International College
Sherborne International
Shrewsbury School
St Mary's School Cambridge
Strathallan School
The Leys School
Wycombe Abbey

Senior Schools offering the IB ("IB World Schools")

Bedford School
Bradfield College
Bromsgrove School
Bryanston School
CATS College
Charterhouse
Cheltenham Ladies' College
Ellesmere College
Felsted School
Fettes College
Gresham's School
Haileybury
Kent College Canterbury
King Edward's School Witley
Leighton Park School
Malvern College
Marlborough College
Oakham School
Rydal Penrhos
Sevenoaks School
St Clare's, Oxford
St Edward's School Oxford
Stonyhurst College
Taunton School

Part 3 – Overview of the Programme

- Students can take up to 8 IGCSE examinations, depending on their level of English

Group	Subject	Details
1	LANGUAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English as a Second Language• English as a First Language, for more able English speakers• Own Language• Modern Languages – e.g., German and French (arranged at extra cost)
2	MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics• Statistics, for more able mathematicians
3	SCIENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combined Science• Co-ordinated Science
4	HUMANITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Studies• Geography• History
5	OTHER (NON IGCSE SUBJECTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Perspectives• Personal, Social and Health Education ('PSHE')
6	PREPARATORY MODULES FOR THE IB DIPLOMA "CORE"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Research Essay• Group Multimedia Project• Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Bronze Award



Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 1 - LANGUAGES

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Students develop a strong communicative ability in English and learn to understand a range of social registers and styles.
- They gain a greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills.
- The subject is taught to encourage an international perspective on culture and learning.
- This course is a sound foundation for progression to further study at A Level and Pre-U qualifications.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week, with an additional 30 minutes of supervised “prep” (homework). Written and spoken communication in the language is assessed by coursework, weekly assessments and external examinations.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

ENGLISH AS A FIRST LANGUAGE

- Students develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing.
- They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.
- Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used.
- The course develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week with an additional 1 hour of prep. Written and spoken communication in the language is assessed by coursework, weekly assessments and external examinations.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a strong B2 Level of language ability.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 2 - MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS

- Students develop mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study.
- The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results.
- Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week, with an additional 1 hour of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations.

Previous Knowledge

- It is expected that students will have studied at least the equivalent of the British Key Stage 3 Mathematics curriculum.

STATISTICS

- Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of statistical techniques and concepts.
- They will learn statistical problem solving and develop an understanding of the importance and limitations of statistics.

The Course

- Students will study around 2 hours a week with an additional 30 minutes of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations covering mathematical techniques and applications for problem solving.

Previous Knowledge

- It is expected that students will have studied at least the equivalent of the British Key Stage 3 Mathematics curriculum and have a strong ability in the subject.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 3 - SCIENCES

COMBINED SCIENCE

- This course gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each covered in separate syllabus sections.
- Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.
- They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.
- As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.
- The study of Biology covers: Characteristics of Living Organisms, Enzymes, Nutrition, Respiration, Coordination and Response, Reproduction, and Ecosystems.
- The study of Chemistry covers: The Particulate Nature of Matter, Experimental Techniques, Atoms, Elements and Compounds, Stoichiometry, Electricity and Chemistry, Energy Changes in Chemical Reactions, Chemical Reactions, Acids, Bases and Salts, The Periodic Table, Metals, Air and Water and Organic Chemistry.
- The study of Physics covers: Motion, Matter and Forces, Energy, Work and Power, Simple Kinetic Molecular Model of Matter, Matter and Thermal Properties, Transfer of Thermal Energy, Waves, Light, Electromagnetic Spectrum, Sound, Electricity, Electric Circuits.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week with an additional 1 hour of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations covering knowledge and understanding, handling information and problem solving, and experimental skills and investigations.

Previous Knowledge

- It is expected that students will have studied the equivalent of the British Key Stage 3 Science curriculum.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 4 - HUMANITIES

BUSINESS STUDIES

- This course develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week with an additional 1 hour of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations covering knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

GEOGRAPHY

- Learners develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week with an additional 1 hour of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations covering knowledge with understanding, skills and analysis and judgement and decision making.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

HISTORY

- Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence in the study of 19th and 20th Century history.

The Course

- Students study for around 4 hours a week with an additional 1 hour of supervised prep. Progress and ability are assessed through weekly assessments and external examinations covering knowledge, evaluation and application of skills.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 5 – OTHER (NON IGCSE SUBJECTS)

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

- The emphasis of this course is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues, where there is always more than one point of view.
- Students learn how to work effectively in a group, take part in seminars, complete projects, and work with other learners around the world.
- Students have opportunities to acquire and apply a range of skills, including gathering, synthesising and communicating information, collaborating with others to achieve a common outcome, analysing and evaluating planning processes and outcomes and developing and justifying a line of reasoning.

The Course

- Students study for around 2 hours a week. Progress and ability are assessed by coursework, weekly assessments and external examinations.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION ('PSHE')

- The course covers how cultures around the world view various social issues, such as 'Human Rights' and 'Racism', as well as discussing different cultural interpretations of concepts such as 'Charity' and 'Human Rights'.
- It balances learning about 'self' with learning about the culture in which students are living.
- Learners also have the opportunity to learn about British traditions, customs and history.

The Course

- Students study for about 1 hour a week.

Previous Knowledge

- No previous knowledge of the subject is required.

Part 5 – Preparation For the IB Diploma “Core”

The IB Diploma “core” has three compulsory elements which make it distinctive:

- **The Extended Essay** asks students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the Diploma Programme subjects they are studying. The world studies extended essay option allows students to focus on a topic of global significance, which they examine through the lens of at least two Diploma Programme subjects.
- **Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)** involves students in a range of projects and activities outside the classroom
 - *Creativity* encourages students to engage in the arts and creative thinking, including music, drama and arts projects
 - *Activity* seeks to develop a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, including individual or team sports and expeditions
 - *Service* focuses on community outreach and voluntary activities, such as working for local charities
- **Theory of Knowledge** develops a coherent approach to learning that unifies the academic disciplines. A fusion of Critical Thinking and Philosophy, students inquire into the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construction.

Bishopstrow College’s Preparatory-IB Programme includes some specific modules designed to prepare international students for the Diploma Programme “core”, namely:

- Academic Research Essay – an extended research study of 1,500 words, which introduces the format of academic writing and research, thereby preparing students for the Extended Essay.
- Group Multimedia Project – an inter-disciplinary project promoting research and team work, with an end presentation using various media.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Bronze Award) – preparation for Creativity, Action, Service

Further details of these preparatory modules can be found on the following two pages.

Part 5 – Preparation For the IB Diploma “Core”

GROUP 6 – PREPARATORY MODULES FOR THE IB DIPLOMA “CORE”

ACADEMIC RESEARCH ESSAY

- An extended research study of 1,500 words in **any** subject discipline.
- The essay introduces the format of academic writing and research to the student.

The Course

- Students study independently for about 2 hours a week for 10 weeks. A subject tutor is assigned to support students' independent research. The assessment is made and moderated within the College.

Previous Knowledge

- Students will require at least a B2 Level of language ability.

GROUP MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

- A multi-disciplinary project, to be presented in a variety of ways (poster, PowerPoint or film) by a team of students.
- The project requires a theme to be researched in a variety of ways.

The Course

- The project is researched in a two day period after the main IGCSE examinations. It is designed to enhance both research and team work skills.

Previous Knowledge

- The project is an integration of all subjects that the 'team' have studied.

Part 5 – Preparation For the IB Diploma “Core”

GROUP 6 – PREPARATORY MODULES FOR THE IB DIPLOMA “CORE” (CONTINUED)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME – BRONZE AWARD

- Bishopstrow College is launching the globally renowned Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- This voluntary programme compliments the College’s existing clubs and activities programme.
- It allows students to show commitment over 3-6 months in a variety of disciplines.
- The Award has four distinct areas: Physical Activity, Volunteering, Skills and Expedition. Examples of the activities that can be completed are outlined below

Physical Activity

- Dance
- Extreme sports
- Fitness
- Individual sports
- Martial arts
- Racquet sports
- Team sports
- Water sports

Volunteering

- Charity community organization
- Coaching / teaching / leadership
- Community action / raising awareness
- Helping people
- Working with the environment / animals

Skills

- Creative arts
- Games and sports
- Learning and collecting
- Life skills
- Media and communication
- Performance arts
- Science and technology

Part 6 – Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students who could not otherwise attend the College. They are offered on the basis of an assessment of the applicant's school record, performance in a Skype or face-to-face interview with the College's Principal or Director of Studies and performance in the UK Independent Schools' Entry Test (UKiset).

Scholarships apply to course fees only. Only a small number of awards are made in an academic year. A scholarship award will cover up to one term's course fees. The College currently provides assistance to 2 students.

Scholarship applications are considered at the time of application. Please contact the Admissions Office for Further details.

Bursaries

Bursaries are partial fee awards made on the basis of financial circumstances and likely contributions to and benefits from the IGCSE / Preparatory IB Programme. Bursaries may be awarded to applicants who apply for Scholarships.

Scholarships and bursaries are only awarded to students on entry to the IGCSE / Preparatory IB Programme, who enrol at the College in September for three terms.

Email: admissions@bishopstrow.com for more information

Part 7 – How should I apply to Bishopstrow College

If you want to apply for the IGCSE or the Preparatory IB Programme, please send us the following:

- A completed Application Form
- The registration fee of £150
- School report for the last two academic years, from your current school
- A character reference from your headteacher or teacher

When we have received all of the above, we will assess your school reports and character reference. If these are satisfactory:

- We will invite you to attend a Skype or face-to-face interview with the Principal or Director of Studies
- We will invite you to complete the UKiset assessment in your home country or at Bishopstrow College

If your interview and UKiset assessment are satisfactory, we will offer you a place at Bishopstrow College.

Fees for the 1 Year IGCSE Programme and the Preparatory IB Programme are £11,500 per term for the 2016/17 academic year. Fees include all tuition, full board accommodation and excursions and activities.

When you accept the offer of a place at Bishopstrow College, you will need to pay a refundable deposit of £1,200 to the College. Fees are payable 8 weeks before arrival.

Please send all correspondence to:

Sarah Miles
Head of Admissions
Bishopstrow College
Bishopstrow
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 9HU

sarahm@bishopstrow.com

Tel: +44 (0) 1985 219210