



Introducing the British School of Amsterdam Upper School



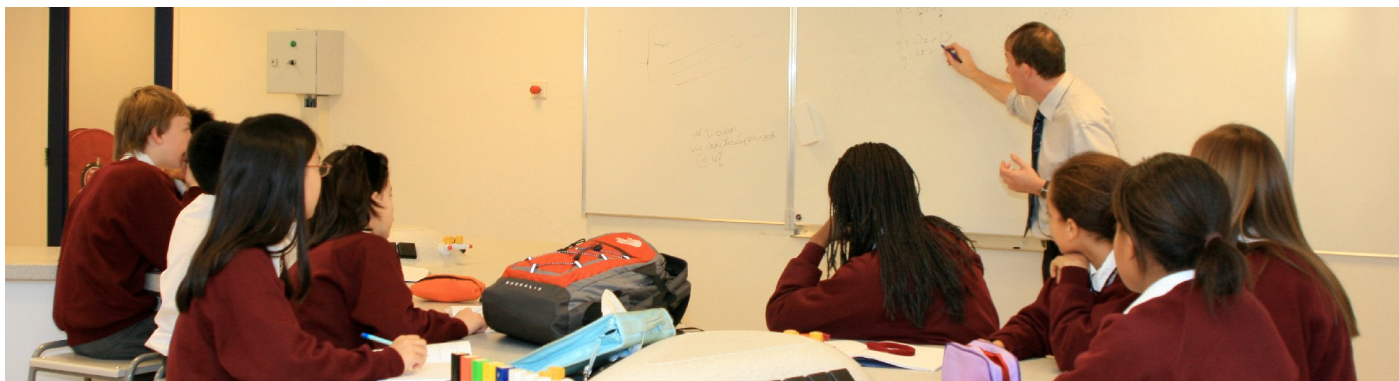
The British School of Amsterdam has been offering a secondary education to pupils since 2002. It moved to its existing premises in September 2004 and has recently been extended to include additional specialist teaching facilities. The Upper School offers a quality education to pupils between the ages of 11–16. The school prides itself in the high quality learning environments that it provides to all its pupils and the high academic success they achieve. All our teachers have qualified in the United Kingdom and have worked in schools in England for a minimum of two years. A high teacher:pupil ratio ensures every student receives individual attention and help. Committed classroom and form group teaching alongside the provision for pupils with special educational needs and a programme for Able, Gifted and Talented pupils ensures that the social and educational needs of every pupil are met. Every effort is made to ensure that pupils settle quickly and comfortably into our school. The school has a non-selective admissions policy. Pupils are not required to sit entrance tests and examinations. We welcome

students of all nationalities and students for whom English is an additional language. We accept pupils regardless of their intended length of stay, from those children of parents who are working in the Netherlands on a short term project to families who have chosen to relocate to the Netherlands on a more permanent basis. Pupils may enter at any point during the academic year.

The school has International Centre status by the University of Cambridge, one of the world's leading assessment providers and pupils are taught and examined in a range of internationally accepted qualifications including CIE's and IGCSE. At year 12, students follow an A level curriculum, and sit examinations in their chosen subjects at the end of the two year course. However, in line with the recent changes in the UK system, the British School of Amsterdam is also in the process of registering its Upper School with the International Baccalaureate Organisation and intends to offer students the option of following the IB curriculum.



For Information and Enquiries please contact the admissions office on 00 31 20 6797840 or visit our website www.britams.nl

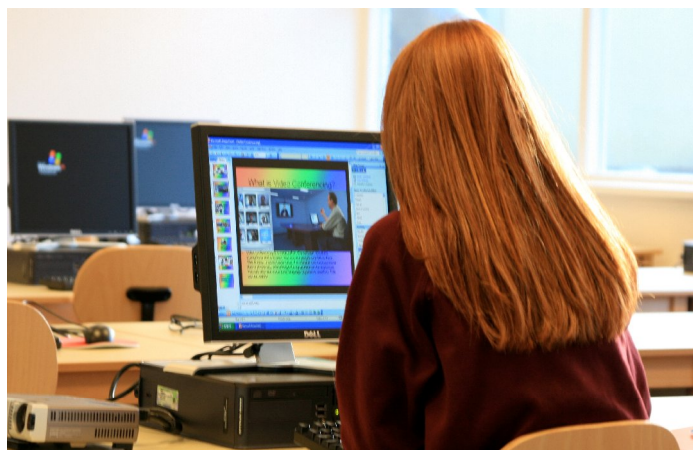


The Curriculum



All students must opt to follow a course of study in English language, English literature, mathematics, ICT and one science subject. They may select up to six more subjects according to their academic ability, further study or career needs. Other examination subjects include additional Sciences, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, PE and Modern Foreign Languages. All students also take part in a PSHE programme which includes Citizenship, Sex and Relationships education. Physical Education remains a compulsory subject. In Key Stage 4 the students are preparing for public examinations which will lead to increased opportunities to follow a chosen career. In addition to this academic preparation, the PSHE programme provides them with the opportunity to discuss their career ideas and to find information related to their career development, including reflective appraisal on their careers “so far” and preparation in Year 11 of a Curriculum Vitae. In Year 10 they also take part in a work experience placement which gives them the opportunity to see the commercial world in operation. During their school career in the Upper School of the British School of Amsterdam, all students keep a personal Record of Achievement. By the end of Key Stage 4, the students will have refined their Record of Achievement into a Personal Portfolio which they can use during interviews with prospective employers to illustrate their achievements.

The Upper School follows the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11). During Key Stage 3 students follow a broad and balanced timetable which ensures good access to both the Core Subjects (English, Maths, Science and ICT) and the Foundation Subjects (History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, PE and Modern Foreign Languages). The school offers four Modern Foreign Languages (Dutch, French, German and Spanish). Most students have the opportunity to take part in foreign language classes. However, in some cases, students for whom English is an additional language may benefit from extra English language classes rather than studying another foreign language. The Middle School offers Public Examinations in certain subjects by the end of Year 9. Pupils have the opportunity to sit IGCSE examinations in Modern Foreign Languages (Dutch, French, German and Spanish) mathematics and ICT if the school considers pupils are suitable by virtue of their ability and experience in those subjects. For non-native speakers of English the school offers the opportunity to sit internationally-recognised English as a Foreign Language qualifications, such as those offered by the Cambridge University syndicate. At the end of Year 9, students choose their ‘options’. These are the subjects that they will study at IGCSE level and in which they will be examined at the end of Year 11.



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The Extended Curriculum



Performing Arts

The school offers a wide and varied programme to its pupils. In KS3, pupils follow a three-year course which serves to give them a broad overview of styles and eras of music, through half-termly projects aimed at all levels of ability, understanding and previous knowledge. Within these projects they work on the skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising as a whole class, in small groups and as individuals. In KS4, music is an optional subject leading to an I.G.C.S.E. qualification at the end of year 11.

Whilst the pupils continue to investigate and gain knowledge about the styles, traditions and history of music throughout the world, there is a more formal emphasis on performance and composition. The music curriculum is enriched with assemblies, practical workshops and visiting musicians. The school has an outstanding school choir which performs regularly in events both inside and outside of school. The BSA Band has members from Years Five to Ten. Membership of the band is by invitation only and is made up of experienced players alongside enthusiastic beginners. The BSA Band develops the pupils experience of playing together and of listening carefully to each other. It develops students ability to follow a conductor and fosters the enjoyment and social side of playing music as part of an ensemble. All pupils take part in an annual large scale musical production.

Physical Education

In the Upper School, the Physical Education programme aims to enable students to realise their full potential in a variety of physical activities, and stimulate a lasting interest in physical exercise and sport. The PE department aims to develop the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding students require for career pathways in sport and recreation. Students have the opportunity to study for the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership, and PE is offered as an option at IGCSE level. The school is well equipped for physical education. It has a large gymnasium and a sports and playing field with a grass pitch and an all weather pitch. The physical education curriculum develops pupils knowledge, skills and understanding in football, gymnastics, basketball, rugby, volleyball, badminton, health related fitness, softball, cricket and tennis. Speed skating is also included to give pupils the opportunity to experience a typical 'Dutch' sport. The school also has its own sailing boats and kayaks and pupils are able to learn to sail and to kayak in the waters surrounding the school. The extra curricular activity programme also includes a range of sports and physical activities which provide pupils with the opportunity to pursue and develop their own interests, to experience new ventures, to compete as individuals or as members of a team in various settings.



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Modern Foreign Language Residential Visits

During their career in Key Stage 3 and 4 the students are offered the opportunity to visit a country where their target language is spoken. This gives them the opportunity not only to practice the vocabulary and sentence structures they have been learning in class but also gives them the opportunity to hear the target languages in their natural setting. In addition to this, the students have the opportunity to experience first-hand the life and culture of another country. As most students study two foreign languages, their residential visits form part of a two-year cycle which gives them the opportunity to enjoy both of their chosen languages in their native countries.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme

A further development for the Key Stage 4 students is the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. The Award is administered in the Netherlands under the name of The International Award for Young People. The British School of Amsterdam is now preparing to administer this prestigious award for the students in Year 10, beginning in the summer of 2007. The award will contribute significantly to the "hidden curriculum" the students follow which prepares them for their role as citizens of the future.

Scholarship Programme

The British School of Amsterdam offers academic scholarships to pupils in Year 7 and upwards. Pupils are required to sit tests in English or Dutch language, mathematics and non-verbal reasoning. Successful students receive a 50% reduction in school fees.

Work Experience

Work experience takes place in the British School as part of the National Curriculum for students in Year 10. The aim of this experience is to provide students with opportunities to explore the types of work that may interest them and then follow this up with school centered discussions regarding their further study needs and career choices. Work experience takes the form of a two week placement on an employer's premises. Students carry out the tasks of an ordinary employee but with extra guidance and an emphasis on learning about the job or organisation. The experience is usually unpaid but results in a character reference from the employer. Work experience is both beneficial and highly motivating for the participating students. It helps young people to:

- *experience work and the working world*
 - *find out about the skills and attitudes needed in particular types of work, and to begin to practise KEY SKILLS such as working with others and communication*
 - *learn about changes in the world of work and how these might affect their choice of career*
 - *provide 'real examples' for coursework and develop their job-related skills to support any vocational courses they study*
 - *develop maturity, motivation, self-confidence and "people skills"*
- develop their understanding of business, economic and social issues as part of the national curriculum.*



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