



## KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

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# A Guide to the Pre-IB Course *2021 -2022*

### **Dear Parents,**

The Pre-IB (Year 11) course at King William's College is a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with the British educational system, to acquire the academic skills and vocabulary which will ease the transition to the IB Diploma Programme in Sixth Form and to become more self-confident and independent in a boarding school environment.

King William's College offers a broad range of academic and extracurricular activities for your child and gives them the chance to discover and develop their personal talents as well as form friendships in an international environment.

The British system differs greatly from that of other countries and this guide will give you an impression of what your child will experience during the Pre-IB course.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Kind regards,

**Sonja Ellson**

Head of German and Head of Overseas Students

## **The Pre-IB Course Requirements**

All German Pre-IB students study the IGCSE First Language German and the IGCSE First Language English courses, which are specifically designed for them. The Pre-IB students also join existing (I)GCSE classes. It is a two-year course (comparable to the Mittlere Reife in Germany), which Pre-IB students join in the second year.

In addition to English and German, Pre-IB students join the Mathematics and Science classes. The Sciences are taught as coordinated Sciences or separately (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). The Head of Science will assess students on arrival and put them on the appropriate course.

Pupils then choose three additional (I)GCSE subjects from a wide choice of options such as Business Studies, Geography, History, Photography, Latin, Spanish and Physical Education. German students are required to take either Geography and/or History and continue studying a second foreign language to meet the 'Mittlere Reife' requirements.

## **Examinations**

All German Pre-IB students take the IGCSE First Language German and the IGCSE First Language English examinations at the end of the school year. Due to the two-year nature of the (I)GCSE course we do not put any pressure on Pre-IB students to take the (I)GCSE examinations in all their other subjects at the end of the year. We do, however, encourage them to have ago at the examinations in those subjects in which they feel most confident or which they are considering for the IB Diploma Programme. Dropping one or two Sciences frees up study time in which the students can catch up with the necessary coursework and subject topics that were covered in the first year of the course. The subject teachers will advise them of the requirements. County-specific study requirements might apply should the pupil decide against continuing at King William's College at the end of the Pre-IB year and return to Germany. Parents are advised to check with their agent and local school authorities.

## **Assessments and Reports**

Every half-term pupils take assessments and receive attainment and effort grades for each subject. In some subjects pupils may be taught by two

teachers, who give separate marks, which might differ as they teach different elements of the course.

The attainment grade reflects the pupil's results in homework tasks and tests. King William's College uses the (I)GCSE marking system, which distributes grades from Level 9 to Level 1, with 9 being excellent and 1 being very poor. It should be noted that Level 9 is expected to be awarded only for students who demonstrate an exceptional performance.

The effort grade reveals the effort the pupil makes in class and in their homework. Punctuality, the meeting of deadlines, neat presentation of work and class participation are taken into account. Effort grades range from Level A, being excellent to Level E, being unacceptable.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

At King William's College pupils have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Pupils can join a variety of clubs, which take place either at lunchtime or after school. There are choirs, bands, drama, sport, ballroom dancing, sailing, CCF or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, to name but a few. Throughout the year there are also school theatre productions and House competitions which showcase talent in a variety of areas. All these extracurricular activities provide great opportunities to explore new interests, to experience a different side of school life and to have fun with new friends. Extracurricular Drama and Music lessons can also be arranged upon request.

## **Boarding**

In the boarding houses pupils live as an international family of students and learn to respect and work with each other regardless of any differences. In addition to local students, there are borders from all over the world. The only spoken language is English, a rule which is strictly enforced. Boarding offers the pupils the opportunity to experience living away from their parents and to become more self-confident and independent. Pupils have time to relax, socialise or go to town for some shopping, but they are also expected to work.

Monday to Thursday nights pupils have two hours of supervised homework in the library. A teacher and Sixth Form students (prefects) are available to

help pupils should they require support with their homework. They also have full access to the facilities of the library, including books, computers and printers, should they require them for their homework. On some Saturday mornings boarders, as well as day students, attend subject-specific study mornings from 9am to 12pm.

Every weekend different activities are on offer, in which pupils are expected to participate. These range from social events to sports, outdoor activities and trips to see the Island's sights. Cinema trips and in-house movie and games evenings are also arranged by the house parents.

## **Communication**

If you have any questions relating to subjects, the Pre-IB programme or the IB Diploma please contact:

**Mrs Sonja Ellson**                      Head of German and Head of Overseas Students.  
Mrs Ellson is also in charge of English as a Second  
Language.  
**sonja.ellson@kwc.im**

If you have any questions or concerns relating to boarding please contact:

**Mr Edmund Jeffers**                      Head of Boarding and Housemaster of Colbourne  
House (boys' boarding).  
**ed.jeffers@kwc.im**

**Mrs Susie Parry**                         Housemistress of School House (girls' boarding).  
**susie.parry@kwc.im**

Your child will have a personal tutor who is your first contact if you have any questions about their academic progress and other issues that might arise. You will be advised of their email address once your child has been assigned a tutor.

Parents should also feel free to contact any other member of staff if they would like further details about any subject-specific aspects.