

Dear ISG+ students & parents,



In 2012, ISG first opened its doors to pupils. Over the years, our school has seen significant growth and is now a well-established school, offering pupils from 2,5 to 12 an inclusive learning environment where they are all supported to reach their full potential. This year, on September 1st, ISG is celebrating a new beginning with the opening of our brand new Secondary School, affectionately referred to as ISG+. The ISG+ staff is very excited to introduce the curriculum we will be offering our students: the Middle Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate.

THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

The Middle Years Programme (MYP) provides a challenging framework that encourages students to connect what they learn with the real world. The curriculum comprises eight subject groups: Arts, Design, Individuals & Societies, Language & Literature, Language acquisition, Mathematics, Physical Education & Health and Sciences. This broad and balanced curriculum aims to develop active learners and open-minded young adolescents.

The MYP curriculum is based on **conceptual understanding**. The students use concepts as a vehicle to inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local and global significance. The **IB learner profile** outlines for all members of our school community the attributes to which we will work toward every day. We strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

A common thread throughout all MYP subject groups are the **common approaches to learning** teachers use to encourage students to apply their knowledge and skills to new contexts. Developing and applying these social, thinking, research, communication and self-management skills help students learn and enables them to become lifelong learners. To ignite student learning all subject groups will work with **statements of inquiry** as a starting point within each unit.

Each subject group is working with **specific assessment criteria**. Each criterion has eight possible achievement levels, divided into four bands that generally represent limited (1-2); adequate (3-4); substantial (5-6); and excellent (7-8) performance. Each band has its own unique description that teachers use to make “best-fit” judgements about students’ progress and achievement. There are required assessment criteria for years 3 and 5 of the MYP.

Within the MYP, students will carry out a **Community Project** where they actively can make a difference in their close community by helping others and the environment. They will take ownership of their learning by investigating, planning, taking action and presenting their

findings within this project. During the final two years of the MYP students will work on a **Personal project**. With this project they can deepen their knowledge and further develop their skills within a subject they are passionate about. This project is a lovely challenge for the students, as a culmination of their learning in the MYP.

MYP 2 & 3

On September 1st ISG+ is opening years 2 & 3 of the Middle Years Programme - in the IB these are also referred to as years 7 & 8. Students of both years will share one home class. Both years will be working towards the same learning objectives. Nevertheless year 2 students are starting their path towards these objectives, while year 3 students will have to demonstrate that they have reached the objectives by the end of the year. Our subject teachers will differentiate the content of their courses to make sure both groups are catered to and have the support needed to reach their full potential in each discipline. Our students will also work on common projects to benefit from the class set-up and to learn from each other.

MYP subject groups

The MYP requires at least 50 hours of teaching time for each subject group in each year of the programme. The students also work each year on at least one interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject groups.

Arts

During Art lessons, students will be able to function as artists and as learners of the arts. This course enables students to develop not only practical skills but also creative- and critical-thinking strategies. The key concepts contributed by the study of arts are aesthetics, change, communication and identity.

In MYP 2 & 3 students will focus on at least one visual arts discipline (Media arts or Visual arts) and one performing arts discipline (Dance, Music, Theatre). In the final two years of the MYP ISG+ will guide students to choose the art discipline that resonates most with them and they want to pursue further academically.

Students will work with an arts process journal: a self-maintained (digital) record of their progress (written, visual, audio) within the course. It is an evolving record of the artistic intentions, processes, accomplishments and journey of our student artists.

Design

The Design course challenges students to apply practical and creative-thinking skills to solve design problems; encourages students to explore the role of design in historical and contemporary contexts; and raises students' awareness of their responsibilities when making design decisions and taking action.

Students are encouraged to develop knowledge, understanding and skills from different disciplines to design and create solutions to problems using the design cycle. In the first years of the MYP, we will work on design projects to improve our school, health, and community.

Individuals & Societies

Individuals & Societies (I&S) encourages learners to respect and understand the world around them, and equips them with the necessary skills to inquire into historical, geographical, political, social, economic, and cultural factors that affect us in different contexts.

The approach to I&S includes a strong focus on inquiry and investigation. After getting acquainted with the relevant terminology, students learn through action and realize that both content and methodology can be debatable. In this way, I&S helps students to appreciate the diversity of human cultures, attitudes and beliefs. Key concepts such as change, global interactions, time, place and space frame the curriculum.

In MYP 2 & 3 we will work with interdisciplinary units that are structured around a specific inquiry question, e.g. 'What was life like in the Middle Ages?'. In one specific unit there might be a stronger focus on one discipline, such as history, but other disciplines will also be covered within the unit.

Language & Literature

In the Language & Literature course our students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting skills, both as independent and interdependent skills. The lessons will offer, among others, the study of different genres (for example, short and long fiction, extracts and full-length works, poetry, drama, non-fiction and visual texts), the study of a range of literature and will have a world literature component.

The key concepts that will spark our learning are communication, connections, creativity and perspective.

Examples of statements of inquiry that will guide our learning during the first years of the MYP will be: 'How can we separate fact from fiction?', 'Should we forgive and forget?', 'Can we ever escape the past?', 'Is knowledge power?'

Language Acquisition

The study of an additional language in the MYP provides students with the opportunity to develop insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture. The aims of MYP language acquisition are to encourage and enable students to gain proficiency in an additional language while supporting maintenance of their mother tongue and cultural heritage. In this way, students also develop a respect for, and understanding of, diverse linguistic and cultural heritages.

At ISG+ we aim to design a learning trajectory that best prepares students for their future, as well as possible enrolment opportunities in DP courses within the IB-curriculum. In MYP years 2&3, we will offer Dutch courses at two levels: emergent and capable.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we will cover four branches of mathematical study: numerical and abstract reasoning, thinking with models, spatial reasoning, and reasoning with data.

Our mathematics program promotes critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as well as real life applications of mathematics. We will instil the concept of inquiry to encourage students to apply their mathematical knowledge in new situations.

In the first years of the MYP, we will cover percentages, ratios, statistics, 2D & 3D shapes, graphing, scaling, and algebra.

Physical education & Health

In this course students develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that contribute to a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Students engaged in physical and health education will explore a variety of concepts that help foster an awareness of physical development and health perspectives, as well as positive social interaction.

Physical and health education focuses on both learning about and learning through physical activity. It also provides a unique perspective to the development of the IB learner profile. Students not only learn to appreciate and respect the ideas of others, but also develop effective collaboration and communication skills.

An example of an inquiry question in MYP Year 2/3: 'How can thinking logically help you to be successful in a badminton match?' The unit will take this as a starting point to develop knowledge and understanding, after which we will continue towards planning for performance, applying and performing, and reflection.

Sciences

Science promotes inquiry by developing conceptual understanding within global contexts. We will work to cultivate analytical thinking and flexible minds able to question and develop approaches to answer those questions.

The MYP Science curriculum explores the connections between science and everyday life. The key concepts we will explore are change, relationships and systems.

In MYP 2 & 3 we will include units on scientific process, biology, environmental science, and chemistry.

ISG+ is whole-heartedly convinced of the many advantages of the MYP programme. To learn more, feel free to take a look at [Middle Years Programme \(MYP\) - International Baccalaureate® \(ibo.org\)](https://www.ibo.org/myp)

