

## **The English National Curriculum for England and Wales, also taught in British schools around the world.**

The National Curriculum for England and Wales is divided into four Key Stages.

### **Nursery and primary schools**

Foundation - Early Years curriculum

**Key Stage 1:** (Years 1 and 2) ages 5-7

**Key Stage 2:** (Years 3, 4, 5, and 6) ages 7+-11

### **Secondary schools**

**Key Stage 3:** (Years 7, 8, and 9) ages 11+ -14

**Key Stage 4:** (Years 10 and 11) ages 14+-16

**6<sup>th</sup> Form** - (Years 12 and 13) this is the part of the school where students are prepared for university entrance or other training.

### **The core subjects of the National Curriculum are:**

English, Mathematics, and Science ( includes literacy and numeracy)

Other subjects include: History; Geography; Design and Technology; ICT; Modern Foreign Languages; Music; Art and Design; Physical Education (PE); Religious Education (RE); and Citizenship. Primary teachers are expected to teach all subjects including PE, art and music unless there is some specialist provision within the school. A Modern Foreign language (MFL) is now required to be taught at primary level. Whole school assemblies are often a feature of schools in England several times a week.

Years 10 and 11 constitute a two-year cycle during which students prepare for the GCSE examinations (General Certificate of Secondary Education). Many students in international schools take IGCSE's (International GCSEs), rather than the standard British GCSEs. These are fully recognised as equal to the standard GCSEs.

Following successful results in (I)GCSE examinations, students wishing to go on to university or other institutions of higher education will take (Advanced) 'A' Levels (or, in a number of international schools, the International Baccalaureate (IB) - see below). 'A' levels constitute another two-year cycle and are highly specialised. Students will normally study 3 subjects for 'A' Level, though they may study for a fourth 'A' Level, or perhaps an additional subsidiary level course (known as 'AS'). The choice of subjects depends upon a student's likely course at university, and likely future career.

Acceptance at a British university depends upon the results gained at 'A' Level (as well as success at GCSE). Competition is very fierce and high grades are important. More information about the National Curriculum can be found at:

<http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/> . Visit this website if you are considering a placement overseas so you can see the requirements of the curriculum you might teach.

### **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

IB is similar to A Levels in that it is a final two-year course for entry to university. It is administered by the International Baccalaureate Office, based in Geneva. It is well established and is acceptable for UK university entrance as is the 'A' Level system. Recognised by most countries throughout the world, it is similar to the A Level system but is broader based, requiring six academic subjects to be studied.

