



**ACS INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS**

Cobham Egham Hillingdon

Final
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**ACS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS ACHIEVES EQUIVALENT TO 4 As AT A LEVEL IN 2006
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMS**

Students at UK's largest international school score an average of 33 on 2006 IB exams

ACS International Schools announced this week that its students achieved an average score of 33 points in this year's International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, and a 94 per cent pass rate.

The successful IB Diploma students' scores are also equal to 4 As at A-level under the British national education system, according to the UK's University and College Admissions Service (UCAS). The UCAS points tariff provides a guide for universities to use when converting IB Diploma scores into UCAS points, offering a comparison to A-level grades.

The three ACS schools in the south east of England achieved a combined 94 per cent pass rate – 14 percentage points higher than the average pass rate across all students who sat the IB worldwide (80 per cent). Thirteen per cent of ACS students achieved a score of 40 points and over, equivalent to between 5 and 5 ½ As at A-level based on the UCAS conversion tariff. According to the International Baccalaureate Organisation, just five per cent of students worldwide achieve a score of 40 or above on their IB exam. Amongst that 13 per cent, IB Diploma graduate Stefana Bosse achieved a perfect score of 45 points, a result achieved by only 62 students who sat the exam worldwide.

ACS graduates have secured places at some of the UK's most prestigious institutions, including Oxford University, the London School of Economics, and Edinburgh University, as well as acceptance at internationally renowned institutions, including Harvard University, Cornell University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The course content of the IB is deliberately designed to allow in-depth specialisation within a broad based programme. English, maths, science and a second language are compulsory. Students study three subjects at higher level and three subsidiary subjects, as well as undertake an extended essay (4000 words). The essay is equivalent to work students would be asked to produce during their first year of university, developing research, analytical and writing skills that are key to helping prepare them for their future studies.

ACS Superintendent Malcolm Kay believes the IB Diploma helps universities identify the strongest students and in a highly competitive admissions pool, the IB gives students an opportunity to distinguish themselves amongst other candidates.

Malcolm commented:

"If there was any doubt that the IB is a strong qualification for gaining a place at university and achievement in higher education, ACS's new research amongst UK university admissions personnel gives unequivocal support that IB students leave school poised for university success. The survey found that 89 per cent of university admissions officers believe the IB prepares students well for university-style learning, and that 84 per cent believe the IB helps students develop the self-management skills needed to succeed in their university courses."

“ACS’s strong IB scores and the school’s research findings both make me confident that whatever courses our students study at university, they will be prepared for their area of specialist study and take with them the key skills of numeracy and literacy that both universities and employers are crying out for.”

Talking about this year’s success, Malcolm concluded:

“An average IB exam score of 33 points is an outstanding result for our schools, and we are particularly proud to have achieved such competitive marks as non-selective schools that encourages all students regardless of their academic abilities to sit the examinations. These tremendous results reflect the hard work and commitment of students and teachers alike. I am very proud of them.”

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Note to journalists

About ACS

ACS International Schools were founded in 1967 to serve international and local communities. The schools are non-sectarian and co-educational (day and boarding), enrolling approximately 2,300 students aged 3 to 18 years.

Each school offers a fully international curriculum including the International Baccalaureate. All schools have state-of-the-art facilities and an on-going programme of building investment with impressive grounds. The strong core academic programme and extensive arts, sports and cultural activities support the school’s student-centred philosophy.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma

Universities in the UK and around the world increasingly see the IB Diploma as the most reliable student benchmark of academic excellence. Respected for its breadth, depth and international perspective, the IB Diploma continues to gain popularity for its integrity and extensive extracurricular programme requirements. In addition to six subjects studied, students must undertake a Theory of Knowledge course which questions the foundations of knowledge, write a 4000-word university level research paper, and complete 150 hours of Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) activities.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) conversion tariff for UCAS points comes into effect for entry to higher education in 2008 onwards and are awarded to candidates who achieve the IB Diploma.

For further information

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