

## **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the Middle Years Programme (MYP)?**

It is a programme of international education designed to help students ages 11-16 develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world.

### **2. What is the curriculum?**

The curriculum contains eight subject groups (humanities, technology, mathematics, arts, sciences, physical education, language A, and language B) together with a core made up of five areas of interaction. The five areas of interaction include:

- Approaches to learning
- Community and service
- Human ingenuity
- Environments
- Health and social education

Essentially, we are taking our current curriculum and placing it into a MYP framework. The MYP framework and methodology assists us to organize and teach the curriculum as well as how we should assess the students.

### **3. How are students assessed?**

Teachers organise continuous assessment over the course of the programme taking account of specific criteria that corresponds to the objectives for each subject. The MYP offers a criterion-referenced model of assessment. This means that students' results are determined by performance against set standards, not by each student's position in the overall rank order. Teachers are responsible for structuring varied and valid assessment tasks that allow students to demonstrate achievement according to the required objectives within each subject group. These tasks may include for example: tests and/or examinations, open-ended problem-solving activities and investigations, organized debates, hands-on experimentation, analysis and reflection.

### **4. Are teachers trained to teach the programme?**

Teachers will receive training before and after a school becomes authorized to teach the programme. Teachers may either attend an IB teacher-training workshop or may participate in a school-based training organized by our MYP coordinator. In addition, teachers will have scheduled common planning time throughout the year.

### **5. What are the strengths and the benefits of a MYP programme?**

The MYP is based on a Constructivist Model for Learning. One of the strengths of the programme is that students learn that knowledge is connected. The curriculum offered is broad and balanced and the students must study a second language. Community and service and the personal project are also features of the programme. Overall, the MYP supports students in achieving their academic, physical, social and emotional potential in becoming global citizens.

**6. How would it be for students to move from ACS to a non-MYP school?**

We will provide sufficient information on students' transcripts to ensure that future schools will be informed of their academic level in all subject areas. Students will adapt to a different system as they do now when they arrive at ACS from a non-MYP school.

**7. How will these number grades be translated to the US (letter or percentage)?**

ACS will provide a conversion table to parents and the students' future schools, which will provide equivalent grade translation.

**8. What will happen differently this academic year?**

All students in Grades 6-10 will be doing the MYP and the transition will be as seamless as possible. As ACS Hillingdon begins to implement the MYP for the 2008/2009 academic year across all 8 subjects, second language acquisition will no longer be an option. The eighth subject group of Technology was added at the beginning of the 2007/2008 academic year and technology is offered as a two-part course: Music Technology and Design Technology. All students will benefit from the programme even if they will be attending our school for one, two or three years.

**9. What is the school's current official status regarding MYP?**

ACS Hillingdon is a candidate school for the MYP programme as it is currently pursuing authorization as an IB World School. The accreditation period varies, but it will most likely be a minimum of three years. ACS Hillingdon already holds IB World School status for the IB Diploma Programme. All IB World Schools share a common philosophy – a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students.

