



# «XXI Century Integration» International Secondary School



## МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОБЩЕОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНАЯ ШКОЛА **ИНТЕГРАЦИЯ XXI ВЕК**

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CONTINUO DEL IB



# ADMISSIONS POLICY

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## Contents:

The Admissions Committee .....	3
Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme .....	3
Diploma Programme .....	7
After the exams .....	9
Additional exams .....	9

***XXI Century Integration* has an inclusive school policy and all students are welcome.**

The wide array of cultural backgrounds means that students' educational and personal experiences and opportunities may vary. The admission committee therefore carefully considers all applicants according to their individual abilities and skills.

## **The Admissions Committee**

### **PYP, MYP**

The members of the admission committee are Principal, IB coordinator, Head of Studies, Russian, English and Mathematics teachers and Psychologist.

### **DP**

The members of the admission committee are DP coordinator, Math's teacher, academic writing teacher and 1-2 two other English teachers (depend on the cohort) to ensure fair assessment; there are no names and surnames on the essays), Principal and Head of Studies, MYP coordinator/ Personal Project coordinator if needed.

The Admissions Committee of the school reviews the completed applicant portfolio (parent application form, English and Math's exams scores and transcripts and interview's findings in case with external students). Applicant families are notified of the Admissions Committee decisions by the DP coordinator in April/May (if additional exams are needed).

### **Primary Years Programme (PYP 1-4 Year),**

### **Middle Years Programme (MYP 1-5 Year)**

The crucial part of the admission process is the applicant's personal Russian and English test (if student does not speak Russian then only English), Mathematics- which outline their achievements — and a personal interview with psychologist (and with a speech specialist in PYP if needed). It is important for the teachers to know each student, taking into consideration their educational background, potential and psychological features.

### **Pre - Diploma Programme (for MYP Year 4 & 5 students)**

The Pre-IB Diploma Programme has been designed for students who want to build a solid foundation

before embarking on their two year IB Diploma programme.

The Pre-IB Diploma Programme (Pre-IBDP) is a two-year course which includes the study of *academic writing, public speaking and debate club*.

School students (MYP Year 4 and 5/external students upon request) participate in a unique curriculum specifically designed to prepare our students to be successful in their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). Furthermore, as an international school welcoming students from all over the world, this programme is designed to engage a wide range of learners from diverse educational backgrounds.

The Pre-DP programme is compulsory for the XXI Century students but it is especially useful for those:

- who require further academic preparation before starting the IB Diploma;
- who need to improve their English language before starting the DP;
- who join us during the academic year too late to begin the IB Diploma;
- who need to improve skills that are necessary for studying in the DP.

Subjects are taught by teachers who have qualifications in teaching of English as a foreign language, mostly by native teachers.

- The emphasis in all subjects is on the development of relevant academic skills to prepare for IB Diploma work.
- In addition to the above programme, students are also expected to engage in the school's activities programme.

### *Academic writing*

Academic writing course aims to prepare students for written assignments in the Diploma Programme and written tasks for university admission. Each year we prepare a list of the titles that are interdisciplinary by their nature, they presume that students develop a balanced answer referring to the real life examples from the disciplines that they study and demonstrate an awareness of different perspectives and counterclaims. Each year we make a new list of the titles while previous become specimen for practice. Since we took the idea of the TOK essay titles and adopted it at the MYP

level, the students that had Academic writing course feel more comfortable when they have to choose meaningful real-life situations and especially one of the 6 IB TOK titles (in DP Year 2).

### *Public speaking*

Public speaking course aims to help the students develop excellent communication and presentations skills which they will need to fulfill IB mission - to create a better and more peaceful world through education, intercultural understanding and respect.

### *What is public speaking?*

Basically, it's a presentation or speech that's given face to face live before an audience. However, today it also includes any form of speaking (formally and informally) to an audience, including pre-recorded speech delivered over great distance by means of technology.

### *How can this course benefit you?*

- Overcome nervousness in public
- Boost self-confidence
- Influence people
- Communicate information effectively
- Develop a success mindset

### *Examples of real-life public speaking situations*

- School project presentation
- Graduation speech
- Conference report
- Diploma thesis defense
- Sales presentation

### *Examples of past and present public speakers*

- Mahatma Gandhi
- Steve Jobs
- Martin Luther King
- Barack Obama

### *Debate club*

Debate club is a space for independent search for answers to the questions that are beyond the disciplines, for creative activity of students in dialogue with each other and the school teachers.

In the process of preparing discussions and discussing problematic issues, students will be able to realize the following abilities:

- culture of dialogue and respect for the position of the opponent;
- the ability to build a logical and consistent argumentation of their position;
- determination of one's own system of values and priorities;
- understanding the relationship between subject knowledge, personal hobbies and everyday experiences;
- development of ATL skills and emotional skills;
- a deeper understanding of the selected issues and their place in the MYP global contexts.

*Please note that students are not automatically accepted for the IB Diploma programme as Diploma candidates after the Pre-DP programme. Entrance exams are needed.*

The Pre-Diploma Program course of study has been developed to help students to improve the habits and prerequisite knowledge needed to succeed in the IB DP.

### *Academic programme*

We take a challenging and interactive approach to learning that inspires students to take part in a co-curricular programme of environmental education, outdoor activities.

### *Assessment*

Students will be assessed on their English / Mathematics ability on arrival and will be placed in appropriate groups to support or stretch where appropriate. Throughout the course teacher assessment is reported to parents through a ManageBac reporting system.

## Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma programme is open to all students, regardless of previous educational experience, and is an extension of the XXI Century Integration mission to promote the development of world citizens.

Students may elect to participate in the IB Diploma programme in one of three ways:

- as an IB Diploma candidate only;
- as an IB Diploma candidate and a student who studies Russian Programme at the same time;
- as a student who studies Russian programme but takes the DP courses that they need for their universities/ just like.

It is recommended for the most students to elect the full IB Diploma but the decision for which path to take is made in consultation with a student's parents, teachers, head of languages, and the DP Coordinator. Three paths together with the subjects offered are in the special form that is completed by the parents and submitted to the DP coordinator after the spring holidays (mid-March).

A student who decides to participate in the IB Program as a Diploma candidate should expect to:

- work very hard;
- approach tasks with a sense of purpose;
- demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility;
- learn from fellow students as well as teachers;
- share with, and contribute to, the community.

Students gain experience and knowledge which will strengthen their ability to meet academic challenges at university.

The admission policy to the Diploma Programme addresses both internal and external candidates. Internal candidates are those students who are already members of the XXI Century Integration Middle Years Programme while external candidates are students who are applying to join the school at the beginning of the 10th grade.

## Entrance exams

Most MYP students are expected to enter the Diploma Programme but they still have to pass two exams (English, Mathematics) and to have an interview with the IB coordinator and English teacher if needed.

### *English exam*

Students are prepared for English exam during the academic writing course. Students need to choose the title that they like more than others and write a well-structured essay that will demonstrate critical thinking and academic writing skills in 90 minutes. Although the titles are not published in advance and students see them for the first time specimen titles and academic writing course preparation help students to complete the task.

### *Mathematics exam*

School needs to see what the strengths and weaknesses of our students are, which topic to revise and which level is more suitable to take. If the student needs HL for the University but the test results were not as good as expected, they still can take HL course but we will already know what needs to be done to make the student confident. Duration of the examination is also 90 minutes.

### *Interview is needed if:*

- The application is not clear (the choice of the subjects is unclear. We should be sure that every student understands why they chose particularly this set of subjects) or student needs an advice.
- The essay is good but we doubt about oral and listening skills
- We suspect a malpractice.

### *For the external students*

School implements the same procedure for the external students including the completion of special form but current transcripts and related records from the last two years of the student's educational history and meeting with the DP Coordinator are needed.



## MYP Personal Project

Despite the fact that MYP Personal Project is not the determining factor for the admission it is preferably for the students to take it seriously since completion of the MYP Personal Project is very important for future studies in the Diploma Programme. It helps students to understand what the product-based learning is and improve ATL and writing skills that are needed for the DP written assignments, especially, Extended Essay.

## After the exams

If the applicant has passed the stipulated requirements for the DP entrance the student is accepted to the Diploma Programme for the next academic year.

Next step is ensuring that the subject choices of the students and their parents are appropriate and address the needs of pupils. In order to achieve this goal, the DP coordinator meets with all the students (and parents if necessary or if something remains unclear) and discusses the completed form. If there is a need to change a subjects' choice (wrong combination/ unclear specialization/choice does not address the university admission) then the DP coordinator asks the parents to resubmit the form. The deadline for finalizing the subjects' choice is the end of April<sup>1</sup>.

By the end of August students and parents receive the schedule of the DP classes and all the necessary documents (Year book, DP Handbook, Extended essay handbook, policies, Calendar of deadlines, etc.)

## Additional exams

Any student who does not meet the basic requirements listed has a second chance. School organizes additional exams in August. If a student still cannot pass the exams school offers them to take the DP courses instead of full Diploma believing that this path will be more comfortable and profitable for a student. If a student has not passed the stipulated exams in August but has a strong portfolio and recommendations from the Admissions Committee the School offers a 'trial period'. In a trimester student should demonstrate academic achievements and willingness to study in the Diploma Programme and should be active in CAS.

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<sup>1</sup> School understands that students may wish to change the level or course itself (if it remains too difficult even after additional guidance and lessons/if another level or course is needed for the university admission). School gives two months (September-October) for such changes that should be requested in a written form by the parent. School may consider changes later if the teaching hours requirements are fulfilled (for example, school can organize additional lessons that students missed in the autumn holidays).