



King's Group



## Press Release

# King's College Madrid presents its application to offer the International Baccalaureate programme (IB) in parallel to A Level subjects from September 2020

King's College, The British School of Madrid is currently undergoing all the necessary processes to apply to become an official IB world school in order to ensure that they are fully prepared to teach the International Baccalaureate (IB). This programme will be followed in parallel to the A Level curriculum.

Once approved, King's College in Soto de Viñuelas would be the only school in Madrid offering both IB & A Level programme in English, taught by British trained teachers thus providing students with a unique offer in the country's capital.

The school aims to begin the implementation of the IB from September 2020 and will be running this in parallel with the existing A Level programme. Students will be able to choose which path they continue their education on once they leave Year 11.

The decision was taken in order to continue to follow the Group's Vision "to be at the forefront of education" and to continually innovate, as the Group has been doing over the last 50 years. Elena Benito, King's Group CEO added "*we are keen to ensure that our students are prepared for life beyond school, and therefore we have taken the decision to provide them with the choice of electing which curriculum they wish to follow in their final two years at school, which will allow them to tailor their decision most appropriately to their chosen higher education studies and ultimately career path.*"

*"At King's College we are committed to offering an excellent British education in English and delivered by native British and British trained teaching staff, while also personalising learning to meet pupil needs. Introducing the IB Diploma at King's College, alongside continuing to teach A Levels, enables King's to offer a unique, and unrivalled series of educational options, planned to maximise the range of educational opportunities available to our Sixth Form pupils",* said Matthew Taylor, Headmaster of King's College Madrid.

As an IB school, King's College would also become part of an exclusive International Baccalaureate Organisation world organisation (IBO) which would enable the school to work with other high-level institutions internationally and share excellent practice to enhance pupils'

learning environment. According to the last IBO Network report, there are 3,182 schools offering the Diploma Programme (DP, final two years of the IB), in 153 countries.

*“Our specialist native British trained staff are able to offer the bespoke IB Diploma qualification to pupils, drawing on their expertise as teachers, whose excellence was recognised in our most recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate”*, continued Matthew Taylor, Headmaster.

## **IB at King’s College Madrid**

The IB has proven to explicitly foster the values already promoted in King’s College, such as critical thinking, determination and open-mindedness, in particular through the compulsory subjects of Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and a Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) project.

The IB works to provide the student with a wider breadth of education as they choose to study 6 subjects and a further 3 subjects focusing on developing an independent learning approach.

The Diploma Programme consists of both internal and external examinations. External examinations form the primary basis of the assessment due to their high levels of objectivity and reliability.

The students must choose 3 Higher and 3 Standard level subjects from various groups, ranging from Sciences to Humanities to Technology and they are awarded grades between 1-7 with an additional 3 points awarded for completing compulsory subjects of the Theory of Knowledge, CAS and an Extended Essay. Students can receive a maximum of 45 points.

With an IB diploma, much like A Levels, students are readily accepted into the world’s best universities and Colleges. The breadth of the DP enables students to offer extra, not only in higher education but also within their future careers. Our Chief Academic Officer, Dawn Akyurek said, *“Some see the International Baccalaureate, as the world’s fastest growing qualification, and the best choice for today’s students, while others still firmly believe that A Levels remain the gold standard in global education. In truth, I think the best path for a student largely depends on their individual personality and goals. Both programmes take equally valid approaches, but focus on different aspects of a student’s education. It’s for this reason that we have decided to offer both the IB Diploma and A level options, allowing our admissions department to provide unbiased advice to both students and parents in helping them make the right choice for their needs.”*

All Diploma Programme (DP) curriculums are also reviewed on a seven-year teaching cycle to ensure that each cycle of study is fit for purpose in today’s ever-evolving world and to continue to incorporate the latest educational research.

## **About King's College schools**

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, King’s Group is one of the most prestigious educational institutions internationally, currently operating **a total of 10 schools in the UK, Spain (Madrid, Alicante, Murcia and Elche), Germany (Frankfurt), Latvia (Riga) and Panama**

**(Panama City).** The Group was **founded in 1969 by Sir Roger Fry**, knighted in 2012 by Queen Elizabeth II for promoting British education internationally.

King's College schools offer pupils a quality British education based on the **National Curriculum of England & Wales**, which emphasises strong academic values through experiential learning. Pupils from the age of 18 months to 18 years old are taught by native British and UK trained teachers. The educational model of the schools is characterised by its rigorous broad and balanced curriculum, its interdisciplinary approach and its emphasis on practical learning, creativity and the active participation of students.

Testament to the exceptional academic and pastoral standards that the schools embed is the recent recognition as **"Private Education Group of the Year"** by Education Investor, one of the sectors most prestigious publications.

Moreover, King's College schools in Spain are the only schools in their respective regions to offer a British Curriculum from 18 months to 18 years accredited by the Department for Education (DfE) as "Excellent" in every category.

To be recognised by the DfE, a British school overseas (BSO) must have an inspection report which shows that their performance against all the BSO standards is at least satisfactory. This reflects the standards required for continuing registration as a school in England. Following a successful BSO inspection, schools are allocated a unique reference number on the UK's national school reference system, Edubase.

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