



ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1885



IB Middle Years Programme

Information booklet 2017

www.sacs.nsw.edu.au

Sydney Square, Sydney



heart
mind
life



IB Middle Years Programme explained

St Andrew's Cathedral School introduced the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) to Year 7 students in 2016. This means the first Year 10 graduates of the programme will emerge in 2019. The IB MYP is a natural fit for the St Andrew's Cathedral School Learning Model which aims for teaching and learning to be Significant, Challenging, Networked and Future-focused, graduating from the school with Hearts that Love, Minds that Grow and Lives that Give.

What is the MYP?

The IB MYP is an internationally accredited framework for learning which is specifically designed for students aged 11 to 16 and caters for their particular learning needs and styles during this stage of life. It is a learning prism through which the content of the NSW syllabus is taught and which seeks to enrich it and empower students. It is inclusive in nature, providing opportunities for all students, including gifted and talented and those needing support.

The MYP is undertaken by all students in Years 7 to 10 and was first introduced to Year 7 students in 2016.

The IB MYP framework

Noticeably, the framework places the student at the centre with the other key elements radiating out. The MYP curriculum structure replicates very closely the eight Key Learning Areas of NSW curriculum courses: Language and Literature (English), Language Acquisition (French, Mandarin or Spanish), Mathematics, Science, Individuals and Societies (History, Geography), Design, Arts (Drama, Music, Visual Arts) and Physical Education (PDHPE). In Years 7 and 8, they will study all the Key Learning Areas and Christian Development and then in Years 9 and 10, they will continue to study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Christian Development, PDHPE and their

second language. They will also have a choice of two elective subjects.

Is the MYP more academically rigorous and perhaps too challenging for some students?

The introduction of the MYP at other Australian schools has seen a distinct improvement in the HSC and IB Diploma results of students in those schools two years later when they graduated from Year 12. Students entering Year 11, whether they chose the HSC or International Baccalaureate Diploma, were better equipped to function with Senior School academic rigour, than had been their predecessors. St Andrew's Head of School, Dr John Collier, pointed out



that at his previous school, all 146 students in the first graduating cohort of the MYP achieved the MYP credential. This included students with learning difficulties. It is an inclusive programme designed to suit every learner, where best practice is required.

Service

All students are required to take part in service activities both within the classroom and beyond. This may take the form of awareness raising of global problems in Geography or creating quilts in Textiles to give to orphans in countries like Uganda. The opportunities are endless!

The Personal Project

In the final year of the MYP, students undertake an independent 'Personal Project' which is a significant piece of work of the student's own initiative and creativity. The project requires research and the creation of a product with supporting documentation. Examples of this have been the creation of a garden, a website regarding ways to save power or the writing of a novel. This incredibly rewarding project gives students an opportunity to research an area of passion which may not have been covered in school subjects.

Is the MYP assessment and reporting different?

MYP assessment is different to more traditional ideas of assessment in that it is a criterion based assessment. Credit is given to what they know and can do. Each subject has four criteria each out of 8. Year 7 and 8 use the same criteria, so learning is seen as a continuum, with results expected to be higher in Year 8 than Year 7. Assessment tasks may contain two, three or four of these criteria. An Assessment Notification will be uploaded on Edumate and Schoology two weeks prior to the due date with the assessment criteria on it. Marks should not be seen in total for an assessment but what they achieve in each criterion.

At the end of each semester, students will receive a report for each subject with the four MYP criteria and the BOSTES outcomes. They will also receive an overall MYP Grade out of 7, in line with the IB Diploma Programme, and a BOSTES Grade. On the report will be a Grade distribution graph to allow students and parents to see where they are sitting in their cohort, and a teacher comment.



For further information regarding the IB Middle Years Programme, please go to:

www.ibo.org/en/programmes/middle-years-programme

or email:

Kate Layhe

Director of Learning
Years 7 & 8, (BOSTES & IB MYP)

klayhe@sacs.nsw.edu.au

St Andrew's:

St Andrew's Cathedral School is a coeducational K-12 Anglican school, located in the heart of Sydney's CBD.

St Andrew's Cathedral School
Sydney Square, Sydney NSW 2000
ABN 34 429 367 893

phone +61 2 9286 9500
fax +61 2 9286 9550
email info@sacs.nsw.edu.au

CRICOS Registration: The Council of
St Andrew's Cathedral School 02276M

www.sacs.nsw.edu.au



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