



FAQs on Ellesmere's Sixth Form courses: A levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma

A Levels

How many subjects do I need to take for A levels?

Most candidates choose three subjects for A levels. Universities make their offers on three subjects and taking more subjects may impair an individual's ability to achieve three top grades. It is better to achieve AAA than ABBB. If breadth of study is the aim then serious consideration should be made of the IB. (One exception is that it is not unusual for candidates to take double Maths and two other subjects.)

When are the exams and is there any coursework?

Most courses now involve a linear, two-year period of study with exams all in the Summer Term of the U6th. IB exams tend to be in May and can start immediately after the Easter break. A-levels are more spread and tend to focus across either side of half term in the summer. A small number of subjects still require external assessments in the L6th. Some subjects still involve practical assessments or personal investigations (please check the current Sixth Form prospectus).

How many lessons will there be in each subject?

At A level there are normally eight lessons a week for each subject. For the IB it can depend on whether a subject is taken at Standard or Higher level.

What is the EPQ and why is it of value?

The Extended Project Qualification is a valuable addition to the curriculum. Individuals choose their own topic and decide whether to produce an essay or artefact. It is a way of demonstrating research skills and suggesting personal interest / motivation for a particular topic. It can help in the writing of a Personal Statement for university entry and all universities value the qualification (with some reducing their grade offers for outstanding work). The assignment has to be completed in the L6th.

What is the advantage of gaining an ESB qualification?

Communication skills are valued in all walks of life and individuals will benefit from the opportunity to make a presentation to an audience. The qualification counts towards UCAS tariff points but also allows a student to develop a degree of self-confidence in public speaking.

How does College decide what my predicted grades for university will be?

The majority of Ellesmerians enter Higher Education after leaving College. Universities will make their offers based on GCSE results together with a candidate's Personal Statement and the College Reference. Grade predictions are based on academic achievement in the L6th which will include Period Grades and end of year internal exams.



International Baccalaureate Diploma

The International Baccalaureate is a comprehensive and challenging Gold Standard pre-university course that demands the best from both students and teachers. It is a sophisticated two year course covering a wide range of academic subjects. Since its foundation in 1968, the IB Diploma has been adopted around the world and over 60,000 candidates in 135 countries now sit the Diploma each year. IB Diploma graduates are welcomed by the world's leading universities. It is the qualification for the 21st century, when young people are competing for work in a globalised society.

The IB Diploma is now well established and unites many students across the world in a shared academic experience, promoting critical thinking and intercultural understanding. The International Baccalaureate was introduced at Ellesmere College in September 2006, providing an exciting new challenge. At Ellesmere great emphasis has always been placed on breadth of education. The IB Programme widens this breadth yet builds on already established strengths within the College such as our sporting reputation, outward bound opportunities, and the Arts Award programme.

Why choose International Baccalaureate?

- An opportunity to do something different, stand out from the crowd.
- A chance to continue your studies in English, maths, science, and humanities
- A global qualification – recognised by all universities around the world (including all in the UK)
- Learn alongside people from all over the world, and make friends for life

Doesn't following the IB path means you do 6 subjects instead of only 3 at A level?

You select three higher subjects, and three standard or beginner level – you don't study all six to higher. UK universities like the fact that you continue your core subjects of English, maths and one science, as they see these as providing a good foundation for any degree. You still specialise in the areas you might have chosen for A level by choosing your three higher subjects, which can still be one of the core subjects or one of the options such as economics, history, geography, drama, visual art, French, Spanish, or music.

If you aspire to follow a career with an international focus, you see yourself as a global citizen, you see the value of acquiring skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalising world then take your first step to making that a reality by choosing the International Baccalaureate.



FAQs on Ellesmere’s Sixth Form courses: BTEC, BTEC Sport Diploma and BTEC Extended Sport Diploma

BTEC

BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. They are specialist work related qualifications and they combine practical learning with subject and theory content. We offer 2 main qualifications.

BTEC National Diploma in Sport

This course is a two year course which is equivalent to 2 A levels. Students need to complete thirteen units over the two years. There are nine mandatory units and four optional. During the two years, all of the units are internally assessed. All students will complete the following units during the two years:

Unit Number	Unit Title	Type	Credit
1	Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport	Mandatory	5
2	The Physiology of Fitness	Mandatory	5
3	Assessing Risk in Sport	Mandatory	10
4	Fitness Training and Programming	Mandatory	10
7	Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise	Mandatory	10
11	Sports Nutrition	Mandatory	10
17	Psychology for Sports Performance	Mandatory	10
27	Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport	Mandatory	10
28	The Athlete’s Lifestyle	Mandatory	10

Units	Optional	Type	Credit
5	Sports Coaching	Optional	10
8	Practical Team Sports	Optional	10
18	Sports Injuries	Optional	10
19	Analysis of Sports Performance	Optional	10



BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport

This course is a two year course which is equivalent to 3 A levels. Students need to complete nineteen units over the two years. There are nine mandatory units and four optional. During the two years, four of the units are internally assessed. All students will complete the following units during the two years:

Unit Number	Unit Title	Type	Credit
1	Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport	Mandatory	5
2	The Physiology of Fitness	Mandatory	5
3	Assessing Risk in Sport	Mandatory	10
4	Fitness Training and Programming	Mandatory	10
7	Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise	Mandatory	10
11	Sports Nutrition	Mandatory	10
17	Psychology for Sports Performance	Mandatory	10
27	Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport	Mandatory	10
28	The Athlete's Lifestyle	Mandatory	10

Units	Optional	Type	Credit
5	Sports Coaching	Optional	10
8	Practical Team Sports	Optional	10
12	Current Issues in Sport	Optional	10
14	Exercise, Health and Lifestyle	Optional	10
15	Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise	Optional	10
18	Sports Injuries	Optional	10
19	Analysis of Sports Performance	Optional	10
22	Rules, Regulations and officiating Sport	Optional	10
23	Organising Sports Events	Optional	10
25	Sport as a Business	Optional	10

What can I do after this course?

Alongside A levels, BTEC Nationals are widely accepted for progression into Higher Education at Degree Level in a range of Sports Courses at University. The course also prepares you with the background knowledge and experience to work in a number of Sports, Leisure and Recreation sectors.

What careers would this course be useful for?

The knowledge and experience developed within the course can be useful when seeking employment in Physical Education, Fitness Instruction, Sports Coaching, Personal Training, Sports Development and Sports Conditioning. The skills gained on the course are also transferable to a range of job areas.