



# Presbyterian Ladies' College

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme



*“Beyond intellectual rigour and high academic standards, strong emphasis is placed on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship.*

*To this end International Baccalaureate students may become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs, conscious of the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life.”*

IBO

PLC Year 7 students commenced the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) in 2005. The programme will be fully implemented in Years 7-10 by 2008.

2005 Year 7	2006 Years 7 and 8	2007 Years 7, 8 and 9	2008 Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
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The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is a non-profit education foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland that originally provided university entry qualification. Today it offers three programmes that cover the years of formal education – Diploma Programme (Years 11/12), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Primary Years Programme (PYP). The IBO has over one thousand authorised schools in one hundred and one countries. It provides a wide range of services to the schools, from curriculum and assessment development, teacher training and information sharing, to electronic networking and other educational services. Its curriculum and assessment activities are based in Cardiff, Wales, but with an international network of regional offices and representatives they are able to draw on a wealth of experience and excellence in education from throughout the world.

Adopting the MYP is a significant step in moving towards an internationally recognised standard. The IBO authorisation and evaluation process means that the School’s programme and teaching methodologies are audited against internationally established benchmarks. Additionally, our teachers have access to an international network of educators willing to share their practice.

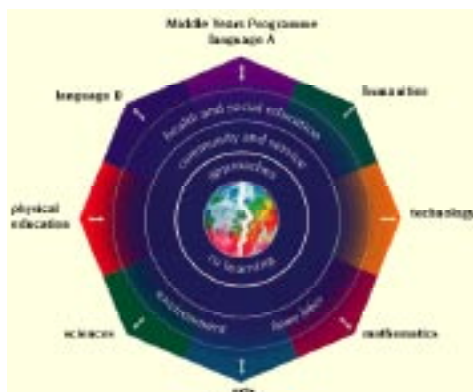
The MYP offers a holistic approach to learning where students are encouraged to recognise relationships between school subjects and the world outside. It encourages students to consider multiple perspectives with the aim of promoting intercultural awareness so as to foster tolerance, respect and empathy. Communication is also considered to be fundamental to learning, as it supports inquiry and allows reflection and expression.

The MYP also accommodates traditional academic subjects but emphasises the interrelatedness of knowledge and skills. It is not only consistent with the outcomes of the Western Australian Curriculum Framework, but also provides outstanding preparation for Year 11 and Year 12 TEE subjects. As in the past, new students will still be able to enter PLC at any Year level provided there are vacancies.

Beth Blackwood  
Principal

## The Curriculum Model

The MYP curriculum is displayed in the form of an octagon with the academic subject groups surrounding the areas of interaction. Areas of interaction are addressed naturally between the distinct disciplines. Taken as a whole, the curriculum provides a balanced education that will equip the students for effective participation in the modern world.



## Learning Areas

Language A (English)

Language B (Languages Other Than English)

Humanities

Sciences

Arts

Mathematics

Physical Education

Technology

## Areas of Interaction

The five areas of interaction provide a framework of learning and reflect the programmes' focus on the student's intellectual and social development. All areas are reflected in every programme of study. The five areas of interaction are:

**Approaches to Learning** - students are encouraged to understand how they best learn and the intellectual strategies that can be developed to improve their capacity for problem solving and decision making.

**Community and Service** - the emphasis is on developing community service awareness and concern, a sense of responsibility, and the skills and attitudes needed to make an effective contribution to society.

**Homo Faber** - students learn to appreciate the creative and inventive genius of people and the impact of this creativity on society and on the human mind.

**Environment** - students are encouraged to become aware of their interdependence with the environment as they examine global issues in the context of sustainable development.

**Health and Social Education** - Students examine what is needed for a physically and mentally healthy life so they can make informed choices based on the respect for body and mind.

## The Personal Project

To be awarded the International Baccalaureate Certificate, students must also complete a Personal Project in Year 10. This is an independent and significant piece of work over an extended period of time and should reflect their understandings of the five areas of interaction.

## Assessment

The Western Australian Curriculum Framework and the MYP have closely aligned outcomes and assessment practices. We will continue to use our current criterion based assessment and reporting structure through to Year 10.

At the end Year 10, each student will also receive a final IB score and grade, which compares them to an international standard. As there are no external examinations in the MYP, the IBO validates the standards of the School's assessment through a process of external moderation.

Further information on the IB MYP programme is available from the IB website

[http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg\\_myp&language=EN](http://www.ibo.org/ibo/index.cfm?page=/ibo/programmes/prg_myp&language=EN)