**The International Baccalaureate at Helene Lange Gymnasium**

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) is a two-year educational programme aimed at students aged 16–19. The program provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education and is recognised by many universities worldwide. It was developed in the early to mid-1960s in Geneva, Switzerland in close collaboration with UNESCO, by a group of international educators. After a six-year pilot programme ended in 1975, a bilingual diploma was established.

Through the DP, schools are able to develop students who:

* have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge
* flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
* study at least two languages
* excel in traditional academic subjects
* explore the nature of knowledge through the programme’s theory of knowledge course

Helene Lange Gymnasium became an IB World School in 2003. Every year there is one group of students (20 – 24) in our upper school who choose the “IB Profil” as their option. Places are allocated first to suitable internal applicants, remaining places are then made available to external candidates. As a German State School, it is important to notice that all our students are first and foremost registered for completion of the German Abitur, the IB is merely an addendum. All students simultaneously study and prepare for both qualifications, which makes the IB Profil at HLG an accelerated learning course. All students wishing to apply for the IB therefore have to fulfill the criteria for being eligible to study in the “Sekundarstufe II” of a state school in Hamburg. Eligibility has to be checked and proven with the “Schulinformationszentrum (SIZ) der Hamburger Behörde für Schule und Berufsbildung” before applying for a placement at HLG. A native speaker ability in German is essential, as German is studied at higher level and as language A option and is an integral part of both qualifications.

Further, as we are only a small IB school we do not offer services for the registration for taking or retaking any examinations that are part of the DP. Only students registered at HLG may sit our IB examinations. Also our subjects on offer for the DP across the range are prescribed every year; no examinations or other assessment components are available at our school. The subjects currently are:

* History (HL)
* Biology (SL)
* TOK
* German Language A (HL)
* English Language B (HL)
* Mathematics (SL)
* Theatre or Film (SL)

In addition and to comply with German Abitur requirements, students take one course in Physical Education and one course that can be elected each semester.