

SCHOOL

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME (BALP)

2017/18

INTRODUCTION

The Bromsgrove Accelerated Learning Programme (BALP) is a one year course that takes place in the Fifth Form at Bromsgrove School. Its primary aim is to prepare students for study in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or GCE A levels. The course is built around a core of the following subjects:

First Language English
Mathematics

Double Award Science (Physics,
Chemistry and Biology)
History or Economics (choose one)

All core courses lead to a separate qualification and are examined at GCSE or IGCSE level (and in the case of Economics, AS level).

Students selecting HISTORY from the core subjects choose **one** option from the following subjects:

Economics (non-examined)
Art Textiles
Latin
Classical

The BALP course seeks to educate the whole person. Through a balanced academic curriculum, contemporary teaching, an extensive extra-curricular programme and full integration into one of Britain's leading Independent Schools, we hope to foster personal development and growth, as well as build a high level of skills and knowledge base for future study.

THE CORE

English

First language English teaches students to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing. Students learn to understand and respond appropriately to what they hear, read and experience. They are encouraged to enjoy and appreciate a variety of languages, which in turn complements other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application. The course is assessed through reading and writing examinations.

Mathematics

Mathematics aims to build students' confidence and skills in areas such as calculus, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics. The course aims to accommodate both those who intend to study Mathematics in the Sixth Form and those who require generic Mathematics skills to complement other curriculum areas. The course is assessed through a written examination.

Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

The Science course seeks to bring together practical and theoretical skills. Students are encouraged to design and pursue their own ideas in class and develop their own ability to effectively question and understand their local environment. Each Science (Physics, Biology and Chemistry) is studied as a separate subject, taught by specialist teachers in the School's new state of the art laboratories. The course is worth two IGCSEs and is awarded accordingly with two grades. It is assessed through a written examination.

History

Economics (for the Historians)

The lessons focus on Micro-Economics. The course encourages students to develop understanding of key economic theories and concepts that will enable them to critically evaluate issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life. Students will develop methods of enquiring and drawing on data from markets considering issues of inefficiency and policies affecting the environment, healthcare and education.

SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

BALP students take full advantage of Bromsgrove's extensive activities and sports programme which encourages initiative, discipline, qualities of leadership, self-motivation and an ability to work with and for others. Activities on offer include: Art, Debating, Street Dancing, Sailing, Riding, Photography, Kayaking, Taekwondo, Italian, Guitar Workshops, Film Club, Chess and Aerobics. Participation in a wide variety of team sports such as Soccer, Hockey, Netball and Athletics is encouraged and welcomed.

POST EXAMINATION PROGRAMME

Following terminal examinations in the summer term, the Accelerated Learning Programme recommences focussing on IGCSE advanced