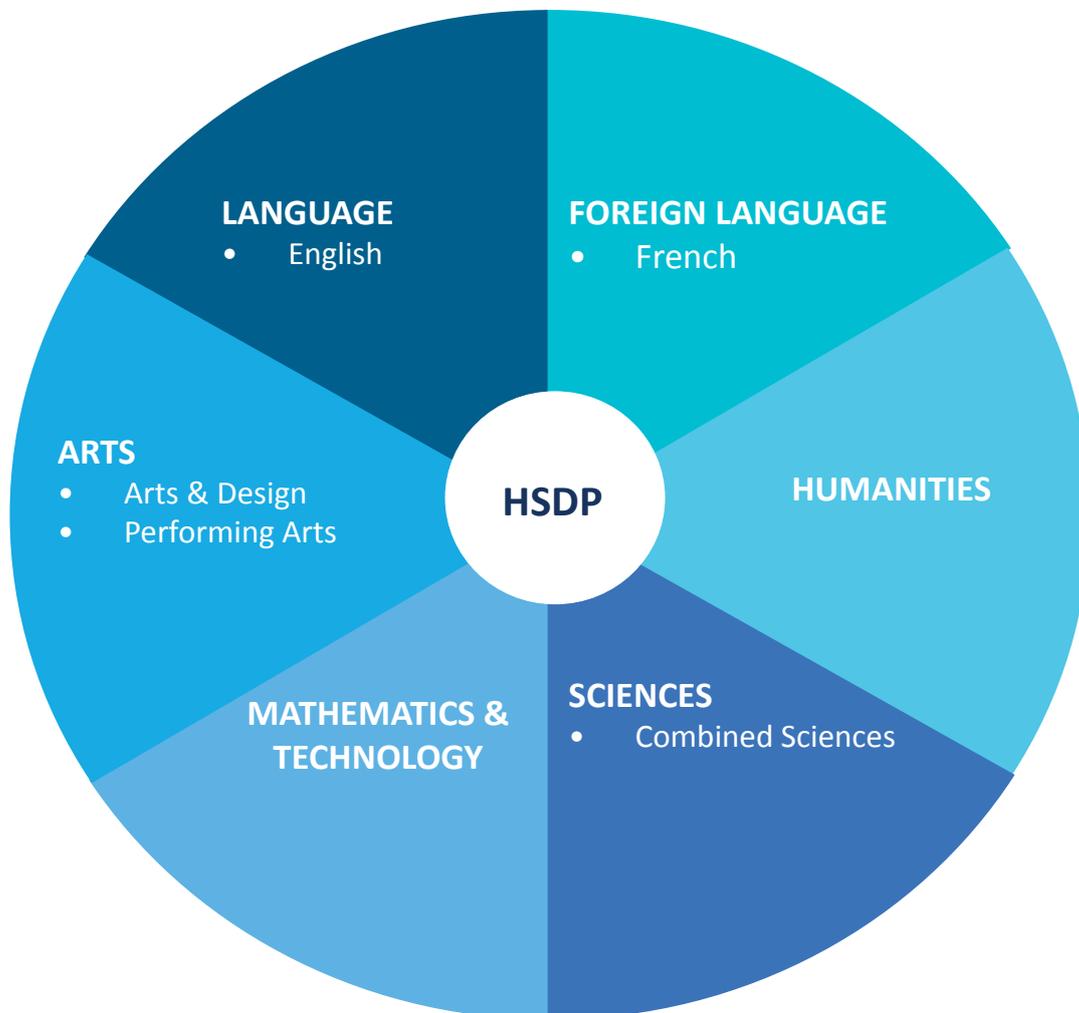


High School Diploma Programme 2015-2017

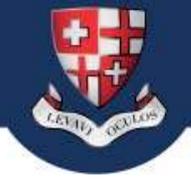
What is the High School Diploma Programme?

St. George's aims to combine its well-structured, traditional ethos with academic excellence in an international environment. The school fosters mutual respect and understanding whilst cultivating individual talents and potential.

The **High School Diploma Programme (HSDP)** is a two-year course which includes the study of the following subjects from the following groups:



Physical Education is compulsory. CAS (Community, Action and Service) is also compulsory.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English

Depending on the student's English level, two options are available. Students who are native or near-native speakers follow a language and literature course which reinforces language and analytical skills. The students are able to explore the culture of the language, to develop key skills and to study aspects of English and World literature. Students study various types of texts. The study of these texts includes the analysis of style and register and the analysis of how cultural contexts influence the use of language.

Non native speakers follow an essential English as a Foreign Language course to continue to improve their skills in English. The course is flexible in nature and, although it generally follows the guidelines set down by the Cambridge Advanced and Proficiency examinations syllabi, it can be adapted each year to include material relevant to the students' needs and interests.

Students are offered the possibility of taking the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and the IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Both examinations are required for admission to universities in the USA and also to some universities in other parts of the world. Students are also offered the possibility of taking the Cambridge Advanced Examination (CAE) or the Certificate of Proficiency examination (CPE) which assess language ability at C1 or C2 level (determined by the European Framework of Reference for Languages).

French

The main emphasis of these modern language courses is on language acquisition and usage. Students are encouraged to develop the ability to use French effectively for the purpose of practical communication in the French speaking part of Switzerland as well as in all French speaking countries. The courses encourage fuller integration into the local community.

Lessons provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation and complement as often as possible other areas of study. Literacy skills of a more general application such as analysis, synthesis, memorising etc. are encouraged. The courses strive to develop cultural awareness by working with authentic

materials in the target language. Students are invited to consider their own culture and to compare it with the cultures of the countries and communities where the target language is spoken.

Various levels are offered to allow students to maximize their potential and to be challenged. The school offers a beginners' course for students with no previous experience of French, an intermediate course for students who have had some experience of French, and an advanced course for students with a solid previous experience. The advanced course is not primarily a literature course, although literature is studied as a means of understanding complex use of the language. The emphasis is on communicative skills in speech and writing, and understanding the culture of the language.

At the end of the course, students are offered the possibility of taking the DELF (Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française). The DELF exams are recognised worldwide as official certificates which verify the student's level according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages. High School Diploma candidates can also enter for IB Certificates in French ab initio or French B.

Humanities

This course aims to make students aware of changes in society that encourage or hamper human development. By emphasising the interaction among economic, geographical, social and political processes, students gain a greater awareness of the local, regional and national issues that affect development. Students will become more informed about their own local context, and can participate positively in the shaping of their own society.

The curriculum is flexible and tailored to individual students' needs and interests. The course involves the students' own individual research, with guidance from the teacher. Students produce a number of pieces of written work which are assessed against set criteria.

Combined Science

This is a coordinated science course intended to show how the three major branches of science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are linked together, both in the subject matter itself and the approach taken to studying these areas. The subject is taught on a topic basis rather than a separate science basis. Emphasis



is placed on the application of the scientific method, with a logical approach to problem solving and data analysis.

Being a practical subject, introduced theory is reinforced through the use of experiments. Learning accurate experimental techniques and how to interpret experimental observations is fundamental to success in science at this level. Students will be assessed on the appropriate use of practical equipment, both in terms of precision and safety. Students will also be expected to demonstrate their understanding through practical design, personal research and presentations.

General Mathematics

The High School Diploma Programme in Maths is intended to help the students apply simple maths concepts to actual everyday problems and projects. They will also focus on how a project should be structured and written up, including analysis techniques and how to plan and conclude a piece of work. Each piece of work will be a long term project and will develop a theme from basics to a higher level within a term or even over a year.

Information Technology

This course is essentially designed to provide all pupils with the fundamental skills in preparation for further studies. It focuses entirely on the practical necessities in modern working environments, and covers all common Microsoft software packages such as MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and MS Publisher in addition to graphic design packages and website design packages. The objective is to put the pupil in a real life situation in charge of an imaginary company. A pupil will combine these MS package skills previously mentioned to work on formulating brochures and marketing material. This leads to the graphic design section which demonstrates how to edit photos and images, and create logos for use in the brochures. Ultimately a website will be produced individually with their own company domain name.

Art & Design

The aim of this course is to teach basic core skills practically and conceptually. At a practical level, these include methods of drawing and painting and ways to generate and research ideas. These ideas are used to develop work in media such as 3D, textiles, photography and graphic design. At a contextual

level, cultural issues and Art historical material are studied in the course. The programme is a good foundation for the IB course in Visual Art and a complete course in Art & Design.

Performing Arts

The course aims to develop in all students self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment. Not only will the course give a good grounding in developing broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the performing arts industry but will actively engage students in the processes of performing arts to develop into effective and independent learners. This course is designed to allow students to gain a broad experience of more than one performing arts discipline. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop skills in Acting, Singing, Music, Music Technology, Dance, Lighting, Sound, Set design Costume design Properties, Masks, Puppets, Stage Management, Front of House and Marketing and Publicity. Each unit of the course will be project-based and students will be assessed both through their development in performing / practical skills and written understanding. It is hoped that students will develop an understanding of the contribution the performing arts industry makes at national and international level and each module introduces a wide range of personal and organisational skills for the work place.

In addition to classroom lessons, students will be expected to be involved in the wider life of the Performing Arts department by attending rehearsals either as a performer or helping out backstage. There are many opportunities for students which include private instrumental lessons, music ensembles, inter-house competitions and a variety of annual concerts and productions. Where appropriate, there are opportunities for students to take music exams (practical and theoretical) through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) centre based at St. George's School.



Graduation requirements

The majority of pupils receive the High School Diploma in Year 13.

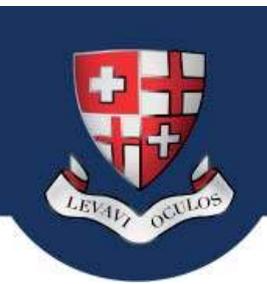
The High School Diploma is awarded to students who have successfully completed four years of high school study and who have met the school's graduation requirements, as outlined below:

- Minimum age of 17 attained before the date of graduation.
- Minimum of 26 credits attained in academic work during Years 10 - 13.

The 26 credits must include:

English:	4
Foreign Language:	2
Humanities:	2
Science:	2
Mathematics:	3
ICT	2

- Minimum score of 90/120 in TOEFL, a pass in Cambridge Advanced Examination or a 6/9 in IELTS or IGCSE English (Grade B).
- Physical Education and extra-curricular activities are required for each year of attendance (credits not awarded).



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