



FAQs on Ellesmere's Sixth Form courses: A levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma, BTEC Sport 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 after 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.

BTEC National Diploma in Sport

This course is a two year course which is equivalent to 2 A levels. Students need to complete nine units over the two years. There are six mandatory units and three optional. During the two years, three of the units are externally assessed either through a written examination or a controlled task set by the exam board. All students will complete the following units during the two years:

Unit Number	Unit Title	Type	How Assessed
1	Anatomy and Physiology	Mandatory	External
2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	Mandatory	External
3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	Mandatory	Internal
4	Sports Leadership	Mandatory	Internal
22	Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry	Mandatory	External
23	Skill Acquisition in Sport	Mandatory	Internal
5	Application of Fitness Testing	Optional	Internal
7	Practical Sports Performance	Optional	Internal
10	Sports Event Organisation	Optional	Internal



BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sport

This course is a two year course which is equivalent to 3 A levels. Students need to complete fourteen units over the two years. There are ten mandatory units and four optional. During the two years, four of the units are externally assessed either through a written examination or a controlled task set by the exam board. All students will complete the following units during the two years:

Unit Number	Unit Title	Type	How Assessed
19	Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity	Mandatory	External
22	Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry	Mandatory	External
23	Skill Acquisition in Sport	Mandatory	Internal
7	Practical Sports Performance	Mandatory	Internal
8	Coaching for Performance	Mandatory	Internal
9	Research Methods in Sport	Mandatory	Internal
5	Application of Fitness Testing	Optional	Internal
10	Sports Event Organisation	Optional	Internal
25	Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport	Optional	Internal
26	Technical and Tactical Demands of Sport	Optional	Internal

What can I do after this course?

You can progress onto Higher Education at HND or 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.