

Ref: ISB/sec/n/26-0062
11 November 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: ISB Pre-U (16–18 years) Pathways – BTEC Diploma

As you are aware, at ISB we currently offer the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. The IB Diploma Programme offers a globally recognised, academically rigorous qualification that develops well-rounded, critical, and independent learners. Our students excel in the IB programme with students moving on to some of the world's best universities. The school is now looking at alternative and complimentary programmes to further support our students, providing more choice for employment and higher education opportunities.

Specifically, we are currently exploring the need for and feasibility of offering a more vocational programme within our Pre-University (Pre-U) pathway. The qualification under consideration is the **BTEC Level 3 Diploma**.

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is a practical, career-focused qualification, equivalent to the IB Diploma or A Levels. It combines classroom learning with real-world projects, helping students develop skills for higher education or employment. Through coursework, assignments, and applied learning, students gain hands-on experience, build confidence, and deepen their understanding in their chosen field.

The BTEC is ideal for students who already have a clear sense of their future career direction. It allows them to specialise in one or two main subject areas, while still having the option to combine this with one or two IGCSE or IB subjects. We are currently considering the following subject areas for possible introduction:

- Business
- Information Technology
- Health and Social Care
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Performing Arts
- Creative Media Production
- Travel and Tourism

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is widely recognised by universities and employers in the UK, Brunei, and internationally. Many universities accept it for entry to a wide range of degree courses, especially when combined with other qualifications. Employers value BTECs for their practical, work-related approach, which develops technical skills, problem-solving, and teamwork.

(see next page)

The attached PowerPoint presentation, shared with Year 10 and 11 students last week, provides more details about the BTEC. Further information can also be found on the [Pearson website](#) and in the leaflet attached.

In summary, the BTEC Level 3 Diploma offers:

- ✓ Equivalence: Recognised as equivalent to A Level and IB
- ✓ Practical Learning: Apply knowledge to real-life situations
- ✓ Less Exam Pressure: Assessment mainly through coursework
- ✓ Career Readiness: Preparation for specific industries and careers
- ✓ University Access: Accepted by many universities worldwide
- ✓ Flexibility: Can be combined with other qualifications

Over the coming weeks, we will dedicate a lesson to help students explore future pathways, including the BTEC.

We will also send a short questionnaire to gauge student interest, which will help us decide whether to introduce the BTEC and, if so, which subjects to offer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Edwards or me.

Kind Regards,


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