

25 May 2010

To: Parents of pupils in Year 10

Dear Parent

International Baccalaureate Diploma

As you know, Portsmouth Grammar School became an IB World School in November 2008 and we are currently enjoying teaching our first cohort of IB pupils as they pursue their Sixth Form studies.

We are aware that many current Year 10 pupils and their parents have expressed an interest in learning more about the International Baccalaureate (IB). Whilst our formal presentation of Sixth Form options will take place while pupils are in Year 11, we thought it would be worthwhile to mention some opportunities this term for pupils and their parents to find out more about the IB should they wish to do so.

The first is for pupils. On Wednesday 9 June, all Year10 pupils will take part in a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) morning run by an outside speaker here at the school. This will encourage and develop their critical thinking capacities (something that will be of value to all pupils at Sixth Form level) in what we hope will be an enjoyable and engaging way. At the same time, the morning will provide an introduction to the IB's TOK programme, a key element of its Sixth Form curriculum. This encourages pupils to think across and outside their subject areas, and to be more independent and precise in both their academic learning and their appreciation of the world around them.

The second is for pupils and parents. At the Year 10 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 16 June, our Director of IB, Mr Taylor, will be present to chat informally to any pupils and/or their parents who wish to enquire more at this stage about the IB Diploma programme and how it works. There is no need to make an appointment.

Finally, additional information about the IB Diploma is available on the PGS website and also on the IB website at www.ibo.org.

We look forward to discussing more about the Sixth Form options over the months ahead; full details of the programme of autumn talks and advice will be given early next term.

Yours sincerely

N G Waters
Head of Years 9 -11