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STATE SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND IMPLEMENT THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Cardiff, UK, IBO, 30 November 2006 -- The International Baccalaureate Organization today welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Tony Blair to support the implementation of the IB Diploma Programme in one state school or college in each local authority area in England, where there is currently no provision. The announcement follows a number of meetings between representatives of the IBO and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The Diploma Programme, for students aged 16 to 19 years old, achieves an integrated balance of subject breadth and depth, prepares students for university and is widely welcomed by leading universities. Furthermore students develop an international outlook.

Regional director, Nérida Antuña Baragaño highlighted “we are delighted that the UK government wants more students to benefit from the depth, rigour and holistic nature of the IB Diploma Programme”.

Strategy director Andrew Bollington added “one of the major priorities of our organization is to make our programmes accessible to a wider group of students and we welcome this move to spread the Diploma Programme further into the state system in the UK. This is consistent with the actions of governments in other countries, who are actively supporting the introduction of IB programmes in state schools”.

Each school will go through the IBO’s authorization process to ensure it meets the necessary criteria with the objective of making the Diploma Programme available by 2010. There are currently 95 schools offering the programme in the UK, 51 of which are state schools.

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. Founded in 1968, we currently work with 1,899 schools in 124 countries to develop and offer three challenging programmes to more than 488,000 students aged 3 to 19 years. For further information about the IBO and its programmes, please visit:

www.ibo.org/media/

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