

WE AIM TO DEVELOP LIFELONG LEARNERS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO ADAPT IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY

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Julia Watson, MYP Coordinator and Assistant Principal, Upper School, Dwight School London

“Since the introduction of International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes at Dwight School London in 1995, the reputation of our school has grown significantly in North London. We have offered the Middle Years Programme (MYP) for 15 years now. At first we ran the programme in tandem with GCSEs but made the decision to drop the national curriculum because of the school’s belief in the programme and the need for a new style of teaching and curriculum in the area.

We aim to develop lifelong learners who have the ability to adapt in a rapidly changing society. We try to instil in our students a sense of belonging in the world around them. This means that we also aim to help students to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to participate actively and responsibly in a changing and interrelated world. Ultimately, they

**Dwight School, London,
United Kingdom**

First offered the MYP:
2003

Head of School:
Prof David Rose

IB coordinator:
Ms Julia Watson

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are being taught to become independent learners who can recognise relationships between school subjects and the world outside and learn to combine relevant knowledge, experience and logical thinking to solve problems. This attitude is reflected in the IB learner profile which promotes the values inherent in an international student worldwide.

The eight subject groups within the MYP framework provide a broad, traditional foundation of knowledge, while the pedagogical devices used to transmit this knowledge aim to increase the students' awareness of relationships between the subjects. Students are encouraged to question and evaluate information critically, to seek out and explore the links between subjects, and to develop awareness for their own place in the world. Most importantly at Dwight School we encourage our students to respect others and appreciate similarities and differences, not only on a local level but globally as well.

The MYP is a programme with added value; its teachers are not trained for testing but to promote student inquiry and enhance a student's learning. The beauty of the programme is that it allows teachers and students alike to think beyond the subject and standard syllabus you would find within the national curriculum; MYP concepts are learned in context and it is because of this that students are engaged with their learning because it is relevant to them. For me, the greatest benefit of the programme is that it allows students to find their passion, allowing for real progression."

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