



The IB Learner Profile – one school's experience

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Dartford Grammar School

*A learning community
developing global citizens*



Dartford Grammar School

- State school on the edge of SE London but in the County of Kent
- Selective boys school 11-16
- Boys & Girls 16-18
- DP since 1996
- MYP since 2004



International Mindedness

Language College since 1995

International School Award

All MYP students study 2 languages other than English

Wide range of exchanges and visits across the globe

Partner schools around the world

Visiting Language Assistants

Diverse student body



The IB Learner Profile Attributes

Inquirers
Knowledgeable
Thinkers
Communicators
Principled
Open-minded
Caring
Risk-takers
Balanced
Reflective



Personal Learning & Thinking Skills

Independent
enquirers

Creative
thinkers

Reflective
learners

Team
workers

Self-
managers

Effective
participators



How do we develop the LP attributes?

The formal curriculum – subject lessons, PHSE, enrichment activities, cross-curricular activities, The MYP Aol, The Personal Project, TOK, The Extended Essay

The co-curriculum – MYP Community & Service, DP CAS

The wider life of the school – Assemblies, Charity work, open evenings

‘It’s all hidden in the programmes’

Implicit in all our activities



MYP Areas of interaction

Themes common across the curriculum which draw it together and also drive its planning:

Approaches to Learning

Community & service

Health & Social

Environments

Human Ingenuity



Approaches to Learning (ATL)

How do I learn best?

How do I know?

How do I communicate my
understanding?

Skill Areas:

Organisation

Collaboration

Communication

Information Literacy

Reflection

Thinking

Transfer

Perseverance/Commitment



Creativity Weeks - 1

- Whole school off timetable twice a year
- Each year group works on a curriculum focussed project but through the input of 2 or 3 subject areas
- Project based learning with a long timescale
- Communication central
- Development of teamwork & research skills
- Innovation
- Coherent 6 year programme



Creativity Weeks - 2

Year 7 Community & Service

- Bath Residential - caring
- Citizenship - principled
- thinkers

Year 8 Environments

- Activity Centre residential - risk takers
- Web design - communicators
- knowledgeable



Creativity Weeks - 3

Year 9 Human Ingenuity

- African Storytelling - Open minded
- risk takers

Year 10 Community & Service

- The DoE Award - risk takers
- caring
- balanced
- Forensic Science - Knowledgeable



Creativity Weeks - 4

Year 10 All Aoi

- The Personal Project
- inquirers
 - risk takers
 - reflective

Year 12

- The Extended Essay
- inquirers
 - knowledgeable
 - thinkers
 - principled
 - communicators



The Sum

Inquirers

Knowledgeable

Thinkers

Communicators

Principled

Open-minded

Caring

Risk-takers

Balanced

Reflective



The Personal Project

*What impacts does human activity
have on a particular environment and
how can this be portrayed?*





DP Theory of Knowledge

- Allows open mindedness to be demonstrated through discussion of controversial topics
- Allows deep thinking to take place
- Allows risk taking to take place when students put forward or challenge positions



DP Extended Essay

To what extent are Marks & Spencer's silver impregnated socks effective in killing off bacteria which are responsible for foot odour?



MYP Community & Service

How do we live in relation to each other?
How can I contribute to the community?
How can I help others?

Active citizenship
DoE
Sports Leadership
Charity
Student voice
Work Experience



MYP Reflection

- Community & Service portfolio
- The Personal Learning Portfolio (PLP)
 - termly reflection on the LP



DP Creativity, Action & Service

- Experiential Learning
- 8 Learning Objectives
- Student driven
- Schools provide a framework and time in the curriculum but action is student initiated
- No set hours but we have an expectation of about 50 hours of each



Diploma Reflection

The CAS portfolio

Not quite joined up – currently opportunities have been missed



**What do students think the
Learner Profile Attributes mean?**

**Which activities contribute to
developing the learner profile
attributes?**



Inquirers

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Someone who asks a question based on a meaning. This meaning could be something to do with a subject or a personal meaning.

Year 13 (DP 2)

Someone who is not afraid to ask questions. They are confident in acquiring knowledge through a wide range of means. They enjoy being inquisitive so it enhances their learning experience.

Year 7

In language lessons when I have asked teachers what things mean.

Year 11 (MYP 5)

I have been an inquirer in my personal project where I asked the question: 'How can you make your house sound proof'.

'Is hosting the Olympics a good idea?'

Inquiring about careers.

Asking questions in History and in languages, eg about sentence structure, and developing ideas and knowledge.

Year 13

An inquirer would like to broaden their knowledge of the subject through asking questions, group discussions and independent study.



Thinkers

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Thinkers are intellectual people who think outside the box.

Year 13 (DP 2)

Thinkers take ideas for themselves and question aspects of them. Finding their own personal thoughts of something, instead of learning only what we are told. To question something's validity.

Year 7

I always think things through before making a decision.

Year 13

In the Extended Essay to think of a question, problems and to solve them.

Creating personal opinions effectively on relevant topics in the news.



Communicators

Year 7 (MYP 1)

A communicator communicates with their environment and isn't afraid to talk.

Year 13 (DP 2)

The ability to discuss, debate and argue a point

Year 7

Students show this by talking to students that they have never met before.

Communicating with your teachers

Year 13

Through writing a piece of music feelings can be expressed

To be a good listener

To analyse points communicated by others



Risk Takers -1

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Someone who does something without knowing the cost of what the person is doing. In other words I think a risk taker in school is someone who thinks outside of what he or she knows and doing things where consequences are unclear, to improve knowledge and understanding. But it could also mean doing something stupid or irresponsible and risk something bad happening.

Year 13 (DP 2)

Willing to take chances and to make decisions without knowing the outcomes for certain or that they have a high chance of going wrong.



Risk Takers -2

Year 7

Running without looking across the road.

In English thinking of a sentence and not know whether it makes sense or is right but you write it down anyway

Your taking a risk because it might not make sense or is wrong, however it could have a good consequence.

Year 11 (MYP 5)

Crashing the ball up in rugby because you could get hurt.

When I went on the DoE expedition I had to be independent.

Taking on the DoE because I had to lead myself and look out for my group in an unknown place.

Playing tennis for the school despite missing important lessons

In Drama going out of my comfort zone during acting

In language using new words I had learnt, risking my marks as I may have got the tense or the structure wrong.

Doing experiments in science that can be dangerous.

Year 13

Organising a fund raising concert for a volunteering trip in South Africa



Knowledgeable

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Knowledgeable is a word that is used to often praise others of being intelligent as well as being well informed of a particular subject/event.

Year 13 (DP 2)

To be in possession of the facts and hold the capability to apply that information in order to function every day; to solve problems.

Year 7

Learning from mistakes

Learning lessons and understanding them.

Learning by experience

Year 13

Being able to apply knowledge from different subjects in order to further ones understanding of something.

Being able to conduct oneself safely with an awareness of dangers and how to avoid them.



Principled

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Principled means that you know what is right and what is wrong and what I will never change because I know it's right and it's important to me to stick to these principles

Year 13 (DP 2)

To be organised and well aware of the aims that I have to achieve.

Year 7

I am principled in the way I respect other peoples' religions.

I am principled in the way I carry out the school rules.

Year 11 (MYP 5)

Letting elderly people on the bus first.

I open doors for not just members of staff but for others as well.

I handed in someone's Oyster Card.

Handing in a lost labcoat.

Doing all homework by myself.

Handing in a lost wallet.

Handing in a lost USB drive.

Telling new Year 7s how to get to lessons.



Caring -1

Year 7 (MYP 1)

A caring person is considerate and puts others first. They help or look after another person, an animal or the environment. They don't just think about themselves all the time

Year 13 (DP 2)

To be caring is to be aware of others around you and to act accordingly to ensure their safety, comfort and peace of mind. Caring for yourself and ensuring your own safety both physically and mentally. Putting effort into whatever we do. Caring for the future by providing a sustainable vision for future generations and the environment.

Year 7

Looking after parents who are really ill and not complaining about it; being a child carer.

Opening doors for staff when we see they are carrying a lot of books.

In the playground when we see someone getting bullied, we would stick up for them.

At home we can keep our bedroom tidy and make our bed in the mornings

We can recycle things and turn off the light when we leave the room

Year 13

Being able to apply knowledge from different subjects in order to further ones understanding of something.

Being able to conduct oneself safely with an awareness of dangers and how to avoid them.



Caring -2

Year 13

Volunteering at a local primary school to help out at an after school club providing socio-therapy to autistic children.

Not over dedicating ourselves to society and wearing ourselves down to a husk in the process.



Open Minded

Year 13 (DP 2)

Being willing to try things, or willing to listen to other people's opinions on different issues; someone who doesn't go on what they just know and who listens to other options and ideas and considers them.

Year 13

In TOK everyone has different opinions on a topic. Everyone will listen to other people's points of view and maybe it will change their way of thinking or open their eyes to another way of thinking about something. To get to understand where other people are coming from.

For CAS you can try to do activities that you wouldn't consider. If you are sporty person and have not really tried the Arts then you have the chance to join a choir or learn how to play an instrument.



Well-balanced

Year 7 (MYP 1)

To have well balanced school and home life. To balance your time efficiently.

Year 13 (DP 2)

Someone who is academic but is also creative or sports related. A well balanced student is one that can organise themselves well to be able to have fun and still have plenty of time to revise and to do school work.

Year 7

Being well organised with your school life and homework and so leaving time for leisure activities.

By choosing a lunch time club instead of an after school club on a Tuesday I have time to go to my battle gamers club when I have finished my homework.

If I attend rugby training and complete my homework on a Saturday morning, I have the rest of the weekend to myself.

By completing each piece of homework on the day it set and not letting it build up I have time to attend scouts on a Thursday evening.

Year 11 (MYP 5)

A student may have coursework to do over the week but also has a friend's birthday to attend. A well balanced student would do their work on a Friday evening and/or Saturday morning so that they can enjoy the party without having to worry about doing the coursework.



Reflective

Year 7 (MYP 1)

Taking time to reflect on what you have done and what you have achieved in the past. Many people see this as a way of learning.

Year 13 (DP 2)

The ability to look back in hindsight and think or analyse past experiences, often in the attempt to develop or improve something.

Year 7

By seeing where you went wrong and what you could improve on in the future.

Year 11 (MYP 5)

Revising a subject involves reflection, as you must look back at what you have learnt previously, so as to improve or develop upon an area of knowledge.

In TOK you are expected to reflect and apply knowledge you have learnt to new examples. This used to question the reliability of knowledge, determine whether something is truth or belief, or using ethical propositions to determine whether an action is morally correct

**What activities are your schools
already carrying out to allow
students to access the learner
profile attributes?**