

AMDG



STONYHURST
COLLEGE



PRE-IB PROGRAMME

DEVELOPING *outstanding* INDIVIDUALS



Pre IB at Stonyhurst

Stonyhurst College's one year GCSE programme, usually referred to as 'the Pre-IB programme' is primarily designed to prepare non-UK pupils for progression onto Stonyhurst's IB Diploma Programme in our Sixth Form (known as 'Higher Line'). It also aims at rapidly integrating non-UK pupils into the academic, social, spiritual, and co-curricular life of the College.

Stonyhurst offers a rich and intense experience of academic study and personal, social and spiritual growth. Pupils live and study in a magnificent historic building, surrounded by superb grounds, in the heart of the beautiful Ribble Valley; the coast, Manchester, and Manchester International Airport are less than an hour away by car; London Euston is two hours by train from the local station (Preston).

Global vision and Jesuit identity

Since its foundation in 1593 in mainland Europe, Stonyhurst has always had a strong international outlook. Although most Stonyhurst pupils come from the UK, there are pupils from around thirty different countries at the College. Stonyhurst is the UK's only Jesuit IB school and is one of the UK's leading Catholic schools. Stonyhurst aspires to form young men and women of conscience, compassion and competence, able to offer their gifts and talents at the service of the world (and particularly of those who are poor and disadvantaged).



Subject choices – and tailoring a programme to suit each individual

The Pre-IB curriculum is primarily designed to be tailored to the likely future IB subject choices of each pupil, with a programme which offers breadth of study across a range of subject areas (languages and literature, humanities, sciences, mathematics, and, possibly, arts). The individual pupil's academic interests and university/career ambitions drive the process.

Pupils starting the Pre-IB year are, in most cases, joining a course of study that normally takes UK pupils two years. In consequence, Pre-IB pupils take fewer subjects (with the norm being 6 or 7 instead of 10 or 11). They also have more lessons per subject in one week, to ensure that they have covered the syllabus before the examinations in May/June. It is important to recognize that the full Pre-IB course is an academically challenging programme, and therefore a small minority of pupils will need to follow a reduced number of subjects, and instead have a greater degree of English language tuition; this can be negotiated as part of the interview and selection process or may need to be agreed after acceptance.



All pupils must take the Core subjects, and will then choose their remaining subjects, as follows:





- Any permissible combination is theoretically possible, subject to timetabling restrictions, and it may be possible to offer additional GCSE subjects that lead on to IB Diploma Group 6 Arts options (e.g. Music, Art, Computer Science and Drama).
- As stated above, the Pre-IB programme is an academically challenging programme. Therefore, we would also consider the option of a child attending classes in an additional subject, such as Music or Art, without sitting for a GCSE in that subject..
- In consideration of the significant academic challenge of completing GCSEs in one year, for a minority of pupils it would be more appropriate to focus on the development of their English language skills, rather than taking an additional subject in Step 4 of the options choices. Hence, additional EAL lessons are offered as alternatives in this section.
- Significant guidance is offered, both at interview stage, and following acceptance, in making the right subject choices for each individual. In addition, as pupils' needs change and academic potential is achieved, there is flexibility within the year to provide the best possible experience for each child.
- Pupils will be formally entered for the external (I)GCSE examinations, following internal 'mock' examinations, held in January of the Pre-IB year, and following consultations with teachers at the parents'

weekend immediately following the examinations. For some pupils, it may be more appropriate to not sit formal external examinations in one or two subjects, and instead have a convalidation of internally awarded end of year grades. The school reserves the right to decide on the most appropriate course of action for each child.

- Wherever possible, Pre-IB pupils will be integrated into existing GCSE classes (i.e. those established in the preceding year). They also have additional 'catch up' classes, in order to cover material that will have been taught in the previous year. To keep class sizes small, however, an additional set for Pre-IB pupils may sometimes need to be created in some subject areas.
- Different countries have different recognition systems for UK qualifications. Pupils' parents must ensure that these are satisfied by the choices that pupils make. German candidates, for example, need to take and pass at least 5 GCSEs, excluding short courses, in the following subject areas: mathematics, two languages (including German), one science and one humanities subject (Geography or History).





Pre IB at Stonyhurst

In order to ensure that every pupil can make the most of this exciting and challenging year, we use the following criteria to assess the suitability of potential candidates:

- Pupils will normally be 15 years of age on entry to the College;
- School reports will be considered, including grades awarded in the subjects to be taken for (I) GCSE;
- Pupils will normally be interviewed, either as part of a visit to the College, or online;
- Pupils will complete an online entrance assessment test, to assess abilities in verbal and non- verbal reasoning, as well as quantitative reasoning, and may also be required to take an online CEFR test to determine their ability to access the curriculum content;
- Pupils will need to write a 500 word personal statement, in their own handwriting;
- A reference from the child's current school will need to be supplied.





How Stonyhurst prepares students for the IB Diploma

Culture of learning

At Stonyhurst, we support all of our pupils to become confident and independent learners. There is, however, also a framework within which this process takes place outside the classroom.

For example:

- **Tutorials:** the on-going dialogue between pupil and tutor about how well learning is progressing. All Pre-IB pupils are part of a tutor group and our tutors are skilled in enabling pupils to manage the specific opportunities and challenges of a Pre-IB year.
- **Library**
- **Speakers and Visits**
- **Magis Programme** – to encourage pupils to engage with a variety of academic enrichment opportunities
- **Learning Support**



The Jesuit Pupil Profile and the IB Learner Profile

The Jesuit Pupil Profile is a statement of the qualities which we seek to develop in pupils in Jesuit schools. It is highly visible throughout the College and has great synergy with the IB Learner Profile which is a set of learning attributes embedded in teaching in the IB Diploma. These two profiles give a common language of the main “learner competencies” required for the IB Diploma, and the key “characteristics of a Jesuit education”.

“
**Reflective
learning**
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and mission.**”



A young man with glasses, wearing a school uniform (green blazer, white shirt, and red tie), is looking through a telescope. The telescope is mounted on a large, metallic, cylindrical structure that appears to be part of a museum exhibit. The background is dark and filled with various mechanical and scientific-looking objects, suggesting a museum or observatory setting.

Co-curricular provision

Stonyhurst has an outstanding co-curricular provision, and Pre-IB pupils will get an excellent preparation for CAS through their participation in:

- Sport
- Music
- Clubs and Societies ("Activities")
- CCF (Cadets)
- Chaplaincy & Service
- Drama
- Dance
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Interline or "House" competitions
- Trips and Visits

A brochure of Games options, Activities, and Interline ("House") Competitions is published at the start of each term. Pupils make their selections from these lists, usually with the help of their Tutors. Also with his or her tutor, each pupil discusses how participating in co-curricular activities has developed him or her as a person.

Reflective learning is at the heart of both the IB Diploma Programme and Stonyhurst's Jesuit identity and mission, and the pupil will engage with and develop their skills in reflection in their tutorial individual sessions with the Pre-IB tutors.

Time management

Stonyhurst is a busy boarding school. Days are packed with opportunity and commitment. Pupils at Stonyhurst typically, and with help from staff, learn to manage their time well. Our Pre-IB pupils will have a timetable which balances academic lessons with supervised study sessions as well as games and other activities within the school day.

Example Pre-IB timetable

Time	Period	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
PRE 08:30		Tutor/PSHE GY3	PSHE Assembly		Tutor/PSHE GY3	Playroom Assembly
C1 09:00	Mathematics	French	German	English	History	Religious Studies
C2 10:05	Study (Supervised)	History	Religious Studies	Mathematics	History	Study (Supervised)/ English
REC 11:00						
C3 11:25	Football	Biology	Study (Supervised)	Biology	Biology	
LUN 2:20						
C4 13:40	Study (Supervised)	Mathematics	Badminton	CCF	English	Badminton
C5 14:50	English	History			Study (Supervised)	
TEA 15:45				History		
C6 16:15	Religious Studies	Study (Supervised)		English	French	
CLI 17:15						



Pastoral and Social Integration

Even with the relatively high demand from German pupils for places in the Pre-IB group, due to the nature of the Pre-IB, German speaking pupils still make up only around 10% of the year group. The Pre-IB group make up just over a quarter of the total year group. In the school as a whole, a balance is maintained such that no one nationality makes up more than 10% of the pupil body, and most activities available are open to pupils across year groups.

Whilst we recognise that when pupils first arrive, they are likely to be drawn initially to those who speak their own language, all our pupils are actively encouraged to broaden their friendship groups, mix with others of different cultures and try new activities. How much pupils do in reality mix is determined largely by the attitude with which they approach life at Stonyhurst. The opportunities to mix and speak English throughout the day are multifold.

An ideal opportunity for integration is within the Games options, which run at least three times per week. Games options normally include: rugby, hockey, netball, swimming, basketball, cross country, multi-gym, football, badminton, .22 shooting, outdoor pursuits, table tennis, aerobics, athletics, cricket, tennis, golf, aerobics, yoga, fitness, rounders, fell running, swimming, touch rugby (summer).

After dinner, pupils do their studies (homework), and then can relax in the recreation areas, or else read, until bedtime. At various points in the day, it is possible to do an Activity (e.g. Model United Nations, orchestra, debating or an art workshop). Activities and social times are an ideal opportunity to develop friendships with the whole Playroom.

Further activities are arranged each weekend for boarding pupils by their House Parents. These activities are either "in house" or outside College. We also encourage pupils to put forward their own suggestions. We aim to provide a balanced mix of cultural, social and sports events.

“

The Pre-IB course

really helped me to integrate

**with the English students
and familiarise myself
with the school and my
IB subjects.** ”



Monitoring academic progress and pastoral care

The Assistant Head (Middle School) (Mr R Strain) has overall responsibility for the academic and pastoral needs of every child. The Heads of Department, and Tutors liaise with each pupil's subject teachers and keep a close check on academic progress. The Director of Studies (Mr M Evans) has overall responsibility for this area.

Day-to-day concerns and pastoral concerns are the responsibility of the House Parents and their designated staff.

Tutors play an important role, particularly in terms of helping pupils to manage their academic and co-curricular commitments effectively. Because the Pre-IB pupils have particular challenges and concerns when they join Stonyhurst, they are allocated a tutor who has experience in helping the Pre-IB pupils make the most of their academic potential.

These tutors will particularly encourage the pupils to develop their strengths through their year with us. They will keep a close eye on how the pupils manage their challenging curriculum, and also advise on routes onwards from the Pre-IB, in particular advising on subject choices and options for the IB Diploma.

The College Chaplains in the Emmaus Centre and the Health Centre have a significant input as well, as does the College Counsellor. Help, of whatever kind, is always available.





Spiritual life

In addition to Mass on Sunday at 11:00 am in St Peter's, there are fixed weekly times for other masses and spiritual events, published in the College and Chaplaincy calendars. The Chaplaincy organises a range of activities for Syntax pupils, promoting, for example, faith partnerships, social justice, and environmental stewardship.

IB preparation pack

At the beginning of June, all prospective IB Diploma pupils will receive a preparation pack, for each IB subject. This gives the pupils a further opportunity to prepare for the challenges of the IB Diploma, perhaps by looking at the recommended websites, reading some of the recommended books or articles, and also completing some of the practice exercises provided for Mathematics and the Sciences. The aim of the materials is, to not only build the confidence of the pupils, but also to inspire them as they embark on the next stage of their IB study.



Travel & Transport

By Road

Stonyhurst College is located near the village of Hurst Green, half an hour's drive from Preston.

M6 From the South: Leave at Junction 31 and follow signs for Clitheroe, then Whalley and Hurst Green (B6243); **From the North:** Leave at Junction 32 and follow B5269 to Longridge and Hurst Green.

M62: Leave at Junction 18 and follow M66, A56 and A6068 to Padiham, A671 to Whalley, B6246 to Great Mitton and B6243 to Hurst Green.

By Rail

The most convenient railway station for Stonyhurst is Preston, 13 miles away from the College, and just over 2 hours from London Euston and 3 hours from Edinburgh and Glasgow.

By Air

We are easily accessible via Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds/Bradford Airports.

Transfers

Free escorted transfers to and from Manchester, Liverpool or Leeds/Bradford Airport are included between 10:00h–18:00h. Escorted transfers to and from local rail or coach stations, such as Preston or Blackburn, can also be arranged.



Key Contact

Please contact Mrs Deborah Kirkby or our Admissions department for further information.

Mrs Deborah Kirkby, Director of IB

E: d.kirkby@stonyhurst.ac.uk

Admissions

E: admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk

T: 01254 827073





STONYHURST COLLEGE

Stonyhurst College,
Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PZ
T 01254 827073
E admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk
www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

