

KODAIKANAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Guidance Newsletter

22 Nov 2006

Grade 11 course registration and implications for college & university applications

Dear Parents,

As I take over the responsibility of Guidance Counselor from Pippa Mukherjee I write firstly to introduce myself to you and secondly to inform you about the college application process.



In March 2007 your child will be registering for grade 11 courses. This registration includes making decisions about:

- the kind of college program your child is aiming for and the courses he/she needs to take in grades 11 and 12 to be well prepared for their choice of program
- what countries your child will be applying to
- whether your child will:
 - o enroll as an IB Diploma candidate along with the KIS Diploma
 - o prepare for IB certificate exams in selective subjects, as well as the KIS Diploma
 - o not take any IB certificate exams but earn the KIS Diploma

Several people at KIS are available to work with you and your child throughout this process:

1. **KIS Guidance Counselor** (guidance@kis.in) will begin meeting and talking with 10th graders about the college application process which begins in 11th grade. Our counselor is an excellent resource for:
 - o Assisting students select the courses needed in grades 11 and 12 to prepare them for the colleges to which they plan to apply.
 - o Guide IB diploma subject choices
 - o Check KIS graduation requirements
2. **KIS High School Coordinator** (hsc@kis.in) leads the course registration process, working to ensure that your child is scheduled for the courses he/she needs.
3. **KIS Academic Advisors** will have one-on-one discussions with all grade 10 students to help define choices and advise on individual decisions. The Advisors also help keep track of graduation credits and courses required at each grade level.
4. **KIS IB Coordinator** (ib@kis.in) will be available to answer any questions about the IB Diploma program, the diploma and /or certificate exams.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above people with any questions you may have about the courses your child will be taking. More detailed information on the KIS and IB Diploma programs is available on KIS website: <http://kisindia.com/pdf/1153382735.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

Christine Fernandes
KIS Guidance Counselor

KIS... over 100 years in global education

Grade 10 Parent Information sheet

Grade 11 course registration and implications for college & university applications

Section 1 - Registering for Grade 11 courses

The college application process begins during the second semester of grade 11 for students at KIS. Second semester of grade 10 is thus a vital time for students as the courses they choose will determine the options open to them when applying to university/college. The purpose of this information sheet is to help you understand the issues involved and give you time to have thoughtful discussions with your child during the vacation in preparation for his/her registration next March.

When considering what courses your child should take it is important to take into account the following:

- College students in the US and Canada often change their major during the 4 year degree program. Studies show that after obtaining a bachelor's degree the average adult changes profession or type of work at least twice. Consequently, though the choice of a major is important for you to consider, it is not likely to be a binding and lifetime decision.
- The obvious status of certain professions e.g. medicine, engineering and law, make them more sought after, in turn creating higher demand for entrance into such programs. This is currently the situation worldwide although engineering and law are easier than medicine and veterinary science outside India. Employment and status often cut across all fields of study but it should be noted that people with arts & sciences training are as successful as those in the specialized, professional areas. Broad development of knowledge and personal skills, especially in writing and speaking, are essential criteria.
- KIS Guidance Counselor is now pursuing alternative options for study including Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand, Europe, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Africa, Japan and Korea.

KIS Diploma

All grade 9 – 12 students take the KIS Diploma program to obtain the required number of credits in each of the subject areas. In grade 11 students are required to take English, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, Social Studies, Physical Education and Social Experience. Additional required subjects that can be taken in either grade 11 or 12 are:

- Health - one semester
- Religious Education (RE) - 2 semesters
- Fine and Practical Arts or Computer Education – any remaining credits required
- Computer Applications, a required course for graduation, should be taken as soon as possible

For complete details on credit requirements, refer to: 2006-2007 Curriculum Guide on KIS website
<http://kisindia.com/pdf/1153382735.pdf>.

The syllabus for most core subjects in grades 11 and 12 is the IB diploma program syllabus. In the core subjects only English and Science (Biotechnology for grade 12 students only) are offered as non-IB syllabus courses. This means that whether or not a student plans to do the IB Diploma or take certificate exams, he/she will study the IB diploma program content in most courses.

(Note: Religious Education courses differ depending on the student. If students are taking the IB Diploma program only two courses of RE are required. If students do not take Life and Teachings of Christ in grade 9, Basic Christianity is required in grade 11. (The RE Department may be requested to give permission to take another course if the student is a practicing Christian and has been baptized or confirmed into the Christian faith.)

IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma and/or certificate exams

The IB Diploma or IB certificate exams are optional. There are some restrictions, based on grades and levels of subjects taken in grade 10, for entering higher level courses in grade 11. Occasionally, the School will suggest that a student drop the program if she/he is not doing the work required, but once students have signed up for the IB Diploma they are expected to continue with the courses.

The IB diploma program is considered an honors program because of the pace, the depth of learning in higher level courses, the breadth and number of required courses and activities. It takes commitment, hard work and good organizational skills to manage. Not all students are suited to this intensity of study, although most are able to do it if they work hard. A careful look at personal goals should indicate to a student whether or not he/she should enroll in the IB Diploma program. However, it should be clearly understood that the IB Diploma is an excellent program and parents should encourage their child to do it if at all possible as it is recognized in nearly every country in the world.

The IB Diploma is awarded for satisfactory performance in six subjects, plus TOK (Theory of Knowledge), CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) activities and an extended essay.

IB Diploma students must:

1. Select one subject from each of the following six groups. Three, with a maximum of four, of these subjects must be taken at Higher Level and a minimum of 2 at Standard Level.
 - **Group 1**
Language A1 - English (students may study another A1 language from the list offered by the IB as a self-study option at Standard Level (SL) level)
 - **Group 2**
Language B - A modern foreign language selected from French, German, Hindi, Spanish *ab initio* (only open to students who have not studied Spanish before)
 - **Group 3**
Study of Individuals & Societies - History, Geography, Economics, Business & Management
 - **Group 4**
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems, Experimental Science
 - **Group 5**
Mathematics Mathematical Studies – SL (basic calculus)
 Mathematical Standard Level – SL (calculus)
 Mathematics Higher Level – (calculus & advanced Algebra)
 - **Group 6**
Art & Electives - Visual Arts, Design Technology, Computer Education, Music or a selected subject from groups 2-4.
2. Complete at least 100 hours of instruction in a trans-disciplinary course called “Theory of Knowledge” or TOK as it is known.
3. Complete an extended essay of approximately 4,000 words involving independent research in any area of IB approved interest, usually one of the IB subjects chosen.
4. Participate in an approved program of creative, active and social service activities (CAS).

Students planning to enter college/university in:

- *United Kingdom, Canada (Ontario), Singapore and Europe* - should take the IB Diploma program.
- *Australia and other provinces in Canada* - are recommended to take the IB Diploma program.
- *United States of America* - are encouraged to do the IB Diploma for a more competitive edge in admissions and advanced placement in first year courses. Higher Level certificate exams may also qualify a student for advanced placement if scores are good.
- *India* - are encouraged to take the IB Diploma for its value but the final scores come out too late to be used for admission to Indian colleges. However, students applying in India have the benefit of weighted grades on the Indian mark sheet if they are taking IB diploma courses and more and more Indian universities are recognizing IB predicted grades. Some Mumbai universities are now accepting predicted IB Diploma grades for the purpose of university entry.

Section 2 - Anticipating the college application process

When planning for further studies at college/university the two big questions are:

1. What will my child study?
2. Where will my child study?

In August 2007 KIS will begin a two year preparatory process with your child. Please find time between now and the beginning of the new academic year in July 2007 to discuss these issues in sufficient detail.

1. Possible countries for future study:

Entrance options for many colleges/universities and the relative cost of the programs depend first on the student's citizenship and second on the amount of money available to finance further education options. Here are some basic facts:

- **India**

Indian citizens compete heavily for admission. Non citizens go through the foreign quota admission procedure or can often acquire reserved places through donation and enhanced fees. Admissions requirements vary significantly from college to college and state to state so parents should investigate these requirements carefully for the colleges that their child is considering.

At top-ranked engineering, medical and science colleges there is extreme competition. We recommend additional tutorial studies (i.e. Brilliant's Tutorial) for KIS students competing in these particular exams

Entrance to arts and commerce programs at most colleges is very accessible for KIS graduates

- **United States**

Admission competitiveness varies across a range of schools. KIS graduates have traditionally been most comfortable at smaller, private liberal arts colleges. The most influential factor, however, will be cost. US citizens and permanent residents qualify for a range of scholarships and grants in addition to those available through the college for non-citizens. Fees at private and public (government) colleges are almost the same for non-residents, but are significantly lower in state colleges for state residents. Some colleges allocate grants/scholarship funds for international students but even with such assistance the student's cost will be \$18,000 - \$35,000 annually.

Note that medical, veterinary and law studies in the US are lengthy and that admission places in these three degree programs for non-citizens are limited, costly and not guaranteed after undergraduate study.

TOEFL or IELTS tests are required for students coming from non-English speaking countries. Most colleges require the SAT I tests and many require SAT II tests. ACT tests are required as an alternative to SAT and are widely accepted in US and Canada.

- **Canada**

Conditions for admission are similar to the US. Costs for Canadian citizens are moderate but non citizens usually pay full fees. There are some funds available at certain universities to assist international students but do expect to pay C\$17,000 – C\$20,000 annually. The IB Diploma is required for Ontario and recommended for other universities.

- **Australia**

Citizens have definite priority for admission and much lower fees. Non-citizens can gain admission at one or more universities. Recently Australia has had a friendly visa policy for Asian students. Expect to pay AUD \$20,000 annually. The IB Diploma is recommended and IELTS is mandatory.

- **United Kingdom**

UK and EC citizens who can prove residency for 3 years prior to university entrance will have home fee status and will have definite priority for admission. Students with home fee status pay lower fees in all programs. Non citizens or non residents can apply to 6 universities but costs will be at least 18,000 pounds sterling annually depending on the program chosen. The IB Diploma is normally required although some universities will accept IB certificates. IELTS or TOEFL tests are usually required but if students are taking IB Higher Level or Standard Level courses in English these tests may not be necessary. One-year foundation programs or short bridging courses are available for students who do not have the requisite IB scores for admission.

- **Other countries**

For study in other countries the Guidance Counselor will help parents and students gather admissions information necessary for the colleges they are considering.

2. Citizenship

Make sure your child understands the details and implications of his/her citizenship and residence status as this can have an important effect on the options of where to study.

3. Interests and aptitudes

Discuss with your child what his/her interests and aptitudes are for future study and career options. What is important to him/her? To you? Is it service to others and to society, personal fulfillment of interests, high income, status or prestige, problem solving etc? Use this college selection process as a way to help your child clarify "Who am I?" and then plan for the college and career that fits! (Refer to the grade 9 newsletter to identify your child's strengths and skills).

Watching your child develop is challenging. We encourage you to use these next two years to listen to your child, to genuinely hear her/him state a sense of self and to add your perceptions. Please support him/her in this process. Pressuring young people into courses that are not suited to them is tantamount to disaster.