

# International School Hilversum

*Alberdingk Thijm*



The opportunity to embrace challenges



INFORMATION MAGAZINE



# International School Hilversum

*Alberdingk Thijm*

**The International School Hilversum 'Alberdingk Thijm' serves the international community of Hilversum and surroundings. We are an internationally orientated institution with over two decades of experience in providing international education. As pioneers of bi-lingual education in The Netherlands, we lead the way in innovative developments in teaching.**



Hilversum is situated in the very centre of Holland. The area features magnificent country manors, lakes, estates and lots of scenic and natural beauty.

Hilversum has been the home of the Dutch broadcasting organisations from the very start and evolved into the multimedia capital of the Netherlands.

It is also famous for its modern architecture.

The world famous urban architect W.M. Dudok left his mark on several locations, including ours.

**W**ith over 35 countries represented amongst the student body and 14 countries amongst the teaching staff, internationalism is of fundamental importance. We strive to develop academically skilled and reflective individuals with an appreciation for diversity. We offer a supportive environment that gives the whole school community the opportunity to embrace



**Jetty van Driel, MA**  
Head of School

challenges and contribute positively to an ever-changing world. At the International School Hilversum staff and students are committed to a learning environment which produces thoughtful, critical and creative thinkers, life-long learners, and responsible world citizens.

We believe that it is important to provide a secure yet challenging environment which promotes active, student-centred learning, to foster respect for the individual and for cultural diversity, to nurture personal growth and responsibility and to offer every student the opportunity to fully develop his or her potential.

The school offers coordinated programmes of study for 6 - 19 year olds in an international environment. All programmes are fully compatible and interchangeable with other International Baccalaureate schools throughout the world. The school is government subsidised, and hence school fees are reasonable and the school is accredited both nationally and internationally.

All students take part in cultural exchange and excursion programmes. The school has an outstanding success rate.

The International School Hilversum 'Alberdingk Thijm' is a member of:

- Foundation of Accredited Lyceums in 'het Gooi' (KLG)
- Dutch Ministry of Education
- International Baccalaureate Organisation
- Foundation of International Schools in the Netherlands (SIO)
- Dutch International Secondary Schools Association (DISS)
- European Platform in the Netherlands (EP)
- Internationaal Georiënteerd Onderwijs (IGO)
- Council of International Schools (CIS)
- European Council of International Schools (ECIS)
- International Schools Association (ISA)

The International School Hilversum 'Alberdingk Thijm' is one of four independently operating schools supported by the Foundation of Accredited Lyceums in 'het Gooi'. The four schools are all located centrally in the Netherlands.





## Admission

### Admission to the International School Hilversum is open to:

- The children of families of diverse nationalities who are transferred to the Netherlands on a short- or long-term basis.
- The children of Dutch families who have lived abroad or will be living abroad.
- The children of Dutch families who meet the qualifications for entry into the bilingual programme. (Please refer to our information brochure 'Bilinguaal VWO').

### Prospective students should be able to meet the following requirements:

- They must be between the ages of 6 and 19 to enter the Primary, Middle School or Upper School programme.
- They must have followed previous education successfully and submit written evidence of this.
- They must have the ability to follow the type of education in the International School and must adapt to the curriculum (interviews and tests form part of the regular admissions procedure.)
- They must have a sufficient command of English, or show that they have the potential to improve their English skills to the required level.
- The parents must endorse the aims of the International School and must submit a written agreement to fulfil financial obligations subsequent to admission. To this effect, the school requires parents' signatures on the admission form.
- They must adhere to the behavioural expectations of a community of learners.

*"The deliberate, planned interaction of students from different cultural backgrounds is widely regarded as a cornerstone of international education."*

George Walker, Director General, IBO

## Curriculum Summary

As an International Baccalaureate school, it can be seen that we support not only a curriculum that is internationally recognised and valued, but also that we strive to develop a community where diversity amongst cultures is celebrated. It is an expectation that the philosophy underlying this curriculum is endorsed and adopted by the whole school community, and that it is reflected in the daily life of the school. Students are expected to relate firstly to their own national identity, regardless of where this may be located within the world, and gain some insight into it. Students are encouraged to continue to study their native language where possible. Beyond this, our students acknowledge and develop an understanding of the traditions and values of other cultures within a framework of tolerance and respect. This experience, hopefully, leads students to a greater understanding and appreciation of themselves, and the best in their own culture, whilst allowing others to be different.

At whatever stage our students enter the school, they are encouraged to be both critical and compassionate thinkers, and regard education as a lifelong experience that involves them with local as well as worldwide affairs. They are encouraged to recognise those characteristics that link all humanity and explore differences in an objective, articulate way that takes into account their strengths as learners.

Only schools officially accepted for membership by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), based in Geneva, are authorised to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma curriculum and to present candidates for external examination in the latter.

During the year 2004 there were nearly 900 participating schools in around 100 countries, with numbers rising. Amongst these, the International School Hilversum is a well-established, successful member school.

'Education is not about filling minds with knowledge - it's about turning the lights on and starting fires!'

GLYN JONES 2004



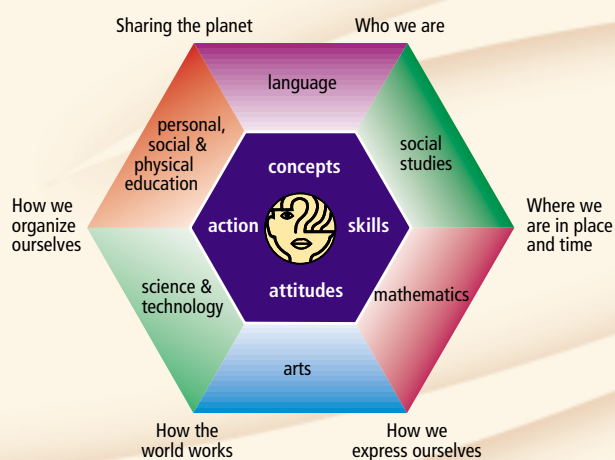
## The three main programmes at the International School Hilversum

- **The Primary Years Programme** is designed for students of pre-middle school age.
- **The Middle Years Programme** is a five year programme designed for students between the ages of 10 and 16 years. Students who at the end of the five year programme are able to meet a given standard successfully, are awarded the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Certificate. All students receive a portfolio of achievement. For Dutch students, the IBMYP is offered within a Dutch/English curriculum: the Bilingual VWO (please refer to the brochure 'Bilinguaal VWO').
- **The Diploma Programme** leading to the IB diploma for students aged 16 to 19 years old.

## • The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP)

At the International School Hilversum the Primary Years Programme students acquire an understanding of the six transdisciplinary themes and they become aware of the interrelatedness of knowledge and skills. At the same time there is emphasis on a sound advancement in the skills of literacy and numeracy. The PYP focuses on the heart as well as the mind and addresses social, physical, emotional and cultural needs as well as academic ones.

### Primary Years Programme



Children are encouraged to think creatively and to work both independently and in groups. The need to develop a sense of community and a personal responsibility for oneself and others is an important goal.



### Mission statement

#### International School Hilversum 'Alberdingk Thijm'

##### Mission

We strive to develop academically skilled and reflective individuals with an appreciation for diversity. We offer a supportive environment that gives the whole school community the opportunity to embrace challenges and contribute positively to an ever-changing world.

##### Aims

Staff and students are committed to a learning environment which produces:

- thoughtful, critical and creative thinkers
- life-long learners
- responsible world citizens

##### The school community shall:

- provide a secure yet challenging environment which promotes active, student-centred learning
- foster respect for the individual and for cultural diversity
- nurture personal growth and responsibility
- offer every student the opportunity to fully develop his or her potential.



## • The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP)

The IB Middle Years Programme is open to international and bilingual students who meet the entry requirements. The IBMYP is a five year course designed for 10-16 year olds. Its purpose is to define and assess a broad spectrum of areas of study in an approach and process that focuses on the whole student.

The IBMYP focus is based on three fundamental concepts. Firstly the holistic approach which is concerned with student learning and encouraging students to make realistic links between school subjects and the world outside. Through this holistic approach to learning the student acquires the skills to adapt knowledge to new situations, to use his or her social intelligence and to establish a basis for problem solving.

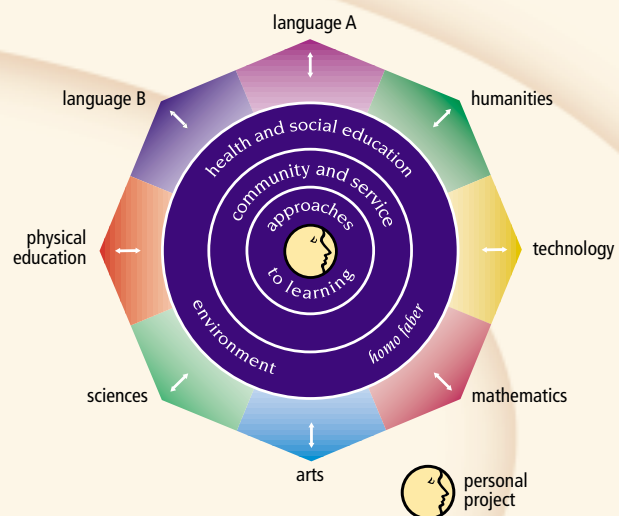


The second fundamental concept is intercultural awareness. This concept fosters the belief that people can make a difference to the world around them.

At the International School Hilversum we encourage students to consider and respect the views of others and to gain a true understanding of many different cultures. The final fundamental concept of the MYP is communication, both verbal and non verbal. A good command of expression in all of its forms is fundamental to learning (IBO 2002).

How do students learn best is a key question in the Middle Years Programme.

## Middle Years Programme



Naturally at the International School Hilversum students are offered a wide variety of languages, including Latin. Also students are encouraged to stay in touch with their mother tongue.

The five areas of interaction (see the Octagon above) provide the focus for the MYP curriculum. The use of the areas of interaction allow for a distinctive way of learning and for connections to be made between subjects themselves and the world outside.

The successful completion of this programme leads to an IBMY Certificate and the consideration for admission to the IB Diploma Programme.

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## • The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate programme is a two year programme of pre-university education for students between the ages of 16 and 19. It is a comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum, leading to external examinations. It is not based on the pattern of a single country but is a deliberate compromise between the specialisation required in some national systems and the breadth preferred in others.

The student who satisfies its demands, demonstrates a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of the mastery of subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world.

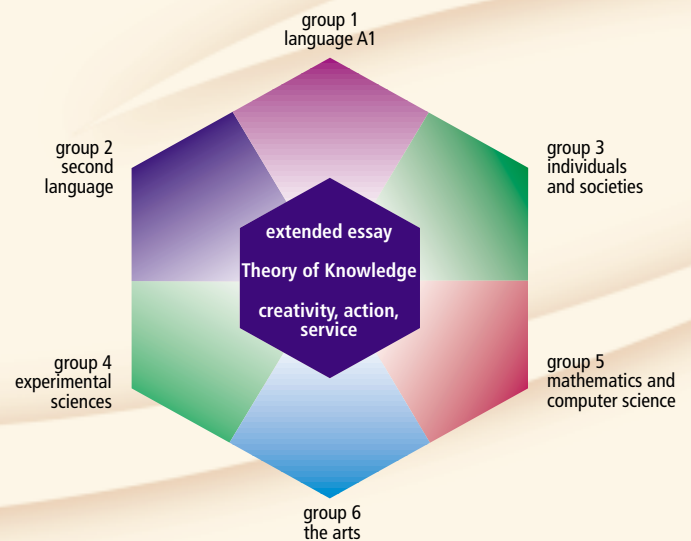


Practical work is an important component of all three sciences in the Diploma Programme.



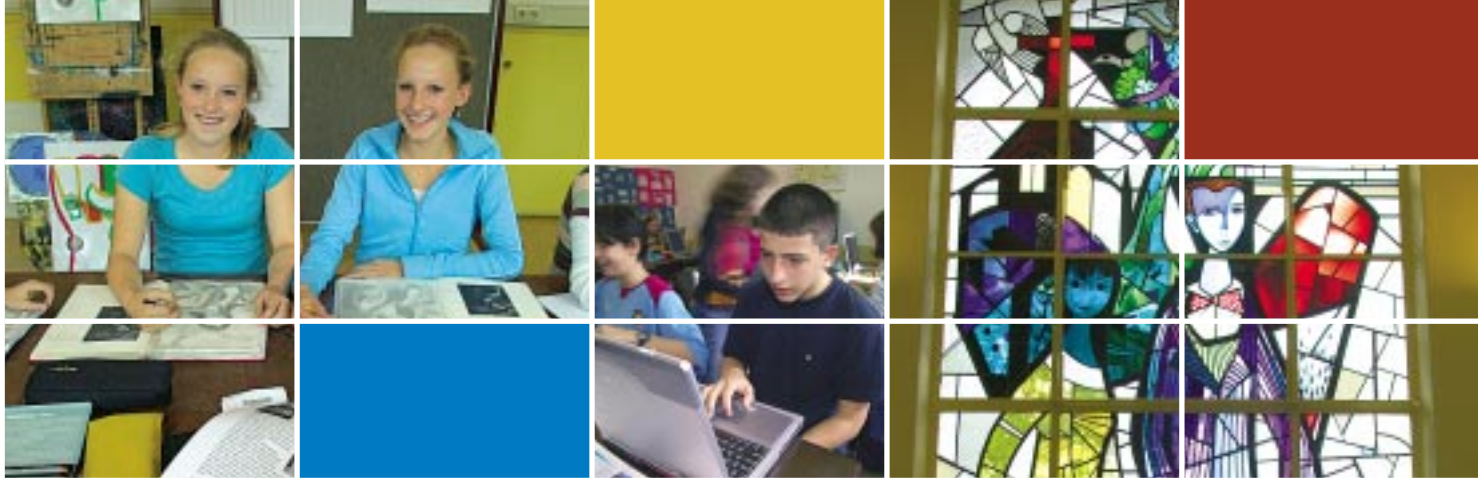
The diploma is displayed in the shape of a hexagon (see below) with six academic areas surrounding the core. Subjects are studied concurrently and students are exposed to the two great traditions of learning: the humanities and the sciences. The Diploma allows entry to universities around the world. In recent years, students from the International School Hilversum have been offered places at Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College and Durham University to name but a few in the UK. US universities regard the Diploma most favourably, even offering advanced credit for certain courses. All Dutch universities recognise the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

### Diploma Programme



Students are required to select one subject from each of the six subject groups. At least three and not more than four are taken at higher level (HL), the others at standard level (SL). HL courses represent 240 teaching hours. SL courses cover 150 hours.

In addition students must also follow a Theory of Knowledge course, submit an extended essay and participate in CAS (creativity, action and service) activities.



## Information Technology at the International School Hilversum

It is a matter of principle that information technology (IT) is incorporated into all subjects and learning at ISH. We believe that it is essential that students learn to disseminate the vast quantity of information that is available to them through information technology. This is done by learning to select appropriate sources and to decide which of these will further the learning process. The school is fully equipped with wireless internet access, a splendid mediatheque and a purpose built IT teaching facility. It is our aim in the near future to provide every student with access to a laptop computer. Currently this facility is available to some year levels only. All students make use of the ISH Digital Learning Environment, which is a series of virtual classrooms holding subject specific information and acting as a platform for communication between student and teacher.

## *Student Life at the International School Hilversum*

Each year students engage in many **special activities** at and away from the school. The school, parents and the students themselves arrange the activities. The activities include **language and cultural exchanges** with students from other countries, **Community Projects, mathematics competitions, drama productions, sports and games** such as: soccer, basketball, cricket and chess tournaments. There are also many **subject related excursions** both within and outside the Netherlands. Team building and **action weeks**. Pre examinations **ski trip**. The school is highly active as a delegate in the Model United Nations (MUN).

## The IB Diploma Examination Subjects as offered by International School Hilversum "Alberdingk Thijm"

### 1. Language A1:

(Best language) English, Dutch, German or Russian, including study of a selection from World Literature. If a qualified teacher can be found, other A1 languages are also offered. For example Danish A1 HL is currently also being taught. Students may study their own language as a self taught A1 programme.

### 2. Language A2 or Language B:

Second modern language; English A2, Dutch A2, French B, German B, Spanish B and Russian B.

### 3. Individuals and Societies:

History, Geography, Economics, Business and Management.

### 4. Experimental Sciences:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics.

### 5. Mathematics:

Mathematics HL, Mathematical SL, Mathematical Studies SL.

### 6. The Arts:

Visual Art  
Latin

- or: a third modern language (French B, German B, Spanish B, Russian B);
- or: another subject from group 3;
- or: another subject from group 4.

Innovation- and communication technology (ICT) is one of the pillars in our modern society. The International School Hilversum strives to prepare students optimally to their digital future.





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