

## The Dulwich Diploma

The Dulwich Diploma, introduced in 2010, articulates the holistic education that we offer to all pupils. While this booklet focuses on the timetabled curriculum, it is important to understand that we expect pupils to take part in the wide range of other opportunities provided for them at the College, such as in the co-curricular sphere, in service and through our Careers department. There is also an extensive academic programme beyond the classroom to complement and extend the curriculum described here, and we encourage pupils not only to be involved in this, but to lead it as well.

There are three component areas of the Diploma:

- Academic study
- Engagement beyond the Classroom
- Preparation for life after Dulwich

The Diploma looks to offer the best of A level (depth of study) with the breadth and commitment to learning beyond the classroom of the International Baccalaureate. All candidates will have achieved GCSE English and Mathematics (or equivalents). All candidates will be introduced to the concept of intellectual integrity and understand the importance of avoiding plagiarism and of referencing their work. All candidates should have a GCSE or equivalent in a foreign language before embarking on the course, or will be assisted in gaining an EAL qualification while undertaking the Diploma programme.

Diploma certificates are awarded to pupils who have completed every element when they leave the College at the end of the Upper Sixth Year, and distinctions are awarded to pupils who have achieved success in either particular elements or overall.

## Academic study

*Core Curriculum* The Diploma requires the study of at least 4 AS levels and 3 A2s (or their Pre-U equivalents). All candidates will be encouraged to take the most challenging programme possible, with a view to gaining a place at a leading university at home or abroad. Those who achieve three A grades or better will be eligible for a distinction in this area\*. Candidates will also follow a Liberal Studies programme and Critical Thinking programme (in the Remove).

*Research* Every candidate will complete a 2000 word Extended Essay. Candidates will be introduced to how to use the internet, the Wodehouse Library and Archives to best effect. Those who achieve 80% or over in their essay will be eligible for a distinction in this area.\*

*The Master's Lectures* Candidates must attend a series of lectures arranged and introduced by the Master. At the heart of this programme will be the annual Dulwich Upper School Symposium in the October of the Remove and Sixth Form year. In addition, it is intended that there will be at least four lectures a year given by prominent figures from a variety of disciplines and professions.

## Beyond the Classroom

Dulwich College is committed to providing a holistic education. The Diploma will therefore complement the system of College Half Colours and Full Colours in requiring, and recognising, boys' contributions in three areas:

*Activity and Creativity* The Diploma requires candidates to contribute actively to the sporting and/or cultural life of the College.

*Service* Giving something back is an important element of the Diploma. The Diploma requires candidates to offer one service activity within the College and wider community: for example, through prefect duties, mentoring, community service, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Scouts, Isle of Sheppey Academy or as part of Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership.

*Engagement* Diploma candidates will be strongly encouraged to make an active contribution to the Union, such as through membership or leadership of a society, or through journalism or creative writing for *The Alleyonian* or other publications. They will also be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that studying in London provides.

The award of College Colours recognises boys' contributions in these areas, and those who receive Full Colours by the completion of their Dulwich careers will be eligible for a distinction in this area.\*

## Preparation for life after Dulwich

*ICT Skills* All Candidates will complete a Level 2 certificate, certificated by the Institute of Administrative Management and, in their final term, have an interview with the Master.

*Careers* All candidates will have taken the Careers programme in Year 11, including aptitude and interest testing, advice on subject choice at A level and an external Careers interview. (New pupils will follow an induction programme in the Remove). Having completed this programme, candidates are expected to evidence significant engagement with the Careers provision, which will be recorded in their online Careers record. Each candidate will be shown (through the Careers course and individual guidance sessions) a way of researching his potential interests, identifying relevant information and subsequently securing opportunities with experts in the given field. These opportunities comprise work shadowing placements, shorter visits for

discussions and tours, attendance at conferences and lectures, and visits from experts in the academic world or the professions.

\* Candidates who fulfil the criteria for a distinction in all three areas described here (3 A grades at A2 level; research essay; Full Colours) will receive an overall Distinction, to be awarded after A level results. Those who fulfil the criteria for a distinction in two areas by the time of the Sixth-Form Leavers' Prize Giving will qualify for a Merit in the Dulwich Diploma.