



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUDAPEST

Smart Education.
Smart Life.

Information Booklet- 2021/22

ISB Middle School- Grade 5 to Grade 8

Table of Contents

Welcome to the ISB Middle School Programme!	2
MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY	3
GRADE EQUIVALENCIES	3
Teaching and Learning in the Middle School	3
THE CAMBRIDGE PATHWAY	3
A Brief Overview of the Programmes	4
THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME	4
THE BILINGUAL PROGRAMME	4
SUBJECTS OFFERED	5
EAL in Middle School	6
Practical Information	7
A typical day in Middle School	7
Absence	7
School Supplies	8
Lockers	8
Phones	8
Technology	8
Rewards and Sanctions	8
What Next?	9

Welcome to the ISB Middle School Programme!

Within the story of a young person's educational experience, the transition from Primary School to Middle School is a notable turning point. The changes are obvious: more teachers, more classrooms, more subjects, more homework. When the additional factors associated with adolescence are included – more hormones, more choices, more pressures – it is unsurprising that these years can be tumultuous.

Nonetheless, with all the challenges, these can be exhilarating times. It is during these years that boys and girls make giant strides to adulthood. It is during these years that they lay the foundations of work habits that will underpin academic achievement in later years. It is during these years that they entrench the character traits that will shape the decades to come.

Our Middle School culture recognises the distinctiveness of these early and mid-adolescent years. This culture recognises that our students are not little versions of Year 12, but have their own specific learning and maturation needs at this formative stage. We therefore aim to build challenge in order to extend capacity. The Middle School is established with the students in mind; we want to make these years good years for them.

In this information Booklet, you will be able to find practical information about the Middle School including sample daily schedule, subjects offered in the Middle School and EAL in Middle School among others. In our school, skills, competencies and values taught in our Middle School years prepares the students for a future and jobs that are yet to be created. Focus of soft skills, which include communication, creative thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking, and conflict resolution, enable our students to become confident high schoolers who are able to meet the challenges of High School and IB.

The Cambridge international curriculum sets a global standard for education and is recognised by universities and employers worldwide. Our curriculum is flexible, challenging and inspiring, culturally sensitive yet international in approach. Cambridge students develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. They also gain the essential skills they need for success at university and in their future careers (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/why-choose-us/benefits-of-a-cambridge-education/international-curriculum/>)

I welcome you to explore this booklet with your child and will be happy to answer any additional questions you may have regarding our Middle School Curriculum and the International and Bilingual Programmes offered.

Sincerely,

Dhanya Seshan

Vice Principal- Middle School

dhanya.seshan@isb.hu

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY

We welcome children from all backgrounds, even with minimal English to our Middle School Programme. Support for children with minimal English is available and is detailed in a different section, under EAL support, of this document. The entrance process comprises of assessments and observations in English and mathematics for International Programme, and additionally in Hungarian for the Bilingual Programme, to determine the level of the student. Students are offered an opportunity to spend a half day in our school and to get to know our school and teachers, and vice versa, in case they are able to visit.

GRADE EQUIVALENCIES

Child's age	ISB Grade	Hungarian Grade	Year based on UK system
10-11	Grade 5	5. osztály	Year 6
11-12	Grade 6	6. osztály	Year 7
12-13	Grade 7	7. osztály	Year 8
13-14	Grade 8	8. osztály	Year 9

Teaching and Learning in the Middle School

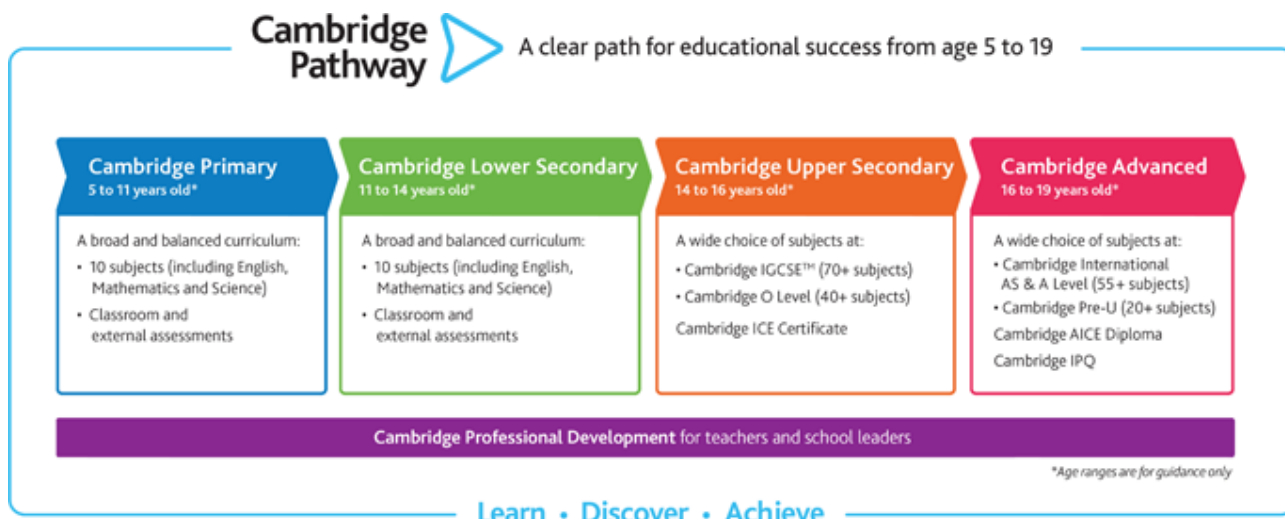
Within the framework of Cambridge, ISB Middle School comprises of the final Grade of Key Stage 2 (Grade 5) and key Stage 3 (Grades 6, 7 and 8). This division has been designed to cater to the unique needs of our students and enabling our bilingual and international students to integrate equally.

Merging Cambridge Primary and Secondary Pathways has allowed for a smoother transition at ISB. At ISB, students can choose to follow a purely International Stream or a Bilingual Stream. There are several common subjects that students are taught in both streams like Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences (History and Geography), Foreign Language (Spanish or German), Ethics, Information Technology, Art, Music and PE.

Please see the table for a more detailed breakdown of the two streams and the exact number of lessons and subjects offered.

THE CAMBRIDGE PATHWAY

The Cambridge Pathway helps students develop the deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding and higher order thinking skills that they need for success at school, at university and in employment.



If you would like to find out more about the Cambridge Pathway, please follow the link below.
<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmeme-and-qualifications/>

Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary develops skills in ten subjects including English, Mathematics and Science. It is designed to help schools deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that suits their context, culture and ethos.

The curriculum sets clear learning objectives and focuses on developing knowledge and skills in all subjects, providing excellent foundations for the next stage of education. The programme is flexible, so schools can offer any combination of the subjects available. At ISB, students find the transition from Primary to Secondary easier as the final grade is already part of Middle School. To find out more details about the different subjects, please follow the links provided below:

For Grade 5 (Stage 6 in Cambridge): <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmeme-and-qualifications/cambridge-primary/curriculum/>

For Grades 6, 7 and 8 (Stages 7, 8 and 9 respectively in Cambridge):

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmeme-and-qualifications/cambridge-lower-secondary/curriculum/>

A Brief Overview of the Programmes

THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

Students who choose the International stream are offered several extra subjects in English which ISB is able to offer due to the design of the programme. These subjects include Global Perspectives, Hungarian as a Foreign Language, Additional lessons in Social Sciences and Modern Studies in Grade 7 and 8 to prepare them for IGCSE. Apart from Global Perspectives and Hungarian as a Foreign Language, the curriculum and topics for these subjects are designed at ISB based on primarily the British Curriculum and supplementing it with other major world curricula.

THE BILINGUAL PROGRAMME

Our uniquely designed Hungarian programme at ISB allows students to get the best of both worlds. The Hungarian curriculum is followed closely by our teachers who also do their best to make the lessons fun and project based. Students who choose the Bilingual stream are able to

cover all major subjects in the Cambridge stream as well and are well prepared for the IGCSE- International General Certificate of Secondary Education- Exams at the end of age 16.

Please see the table for a more detailed breakdown of the two streams and the exact number of lessons and subjects offered.

SUBJECTS OFFERED

Subject	International Stream- Number of lessons per week	Bilingual Stream- Number of lessons per week
English Language Learning- ELL	6	6
Mathematics in English	6	2
Mathematics in Hungarian	None	4
History in Hungarian	None	2
Hungarian language	None	4
Hungarian as a Foreign Language	2	None
Spanish or German as a Foreign Language	2	2
Science in Hungarian	None	1 – only for Grades 5 and 6
Science in English	3 in Grades 7 and 8 2 in Grades 5 and 6	3 in Grades 7 and 8 2 in Grades 5 and 6
Social Sciences in English	5 in Grades 5 and 6 4 in Grades 7 and 8	2 1 in Grades 7 and 8
Global perspectives	2	None
Ethics in English	1	1
Modern Studies	2- for grades 7 and 8	None
Information Communication and Technology	1 in Grades 5 and 6 2 in Grades 7 and 8	1 in Grades 5 and 6 2 in Grades 7 and 8
Art	2	2
Dance and Drama	1	1
Music	1	1
PE	3	3

EAL in Middle School

Support for students with limited or very limited English is possible in the Middle School through EAL- English as an Additional Language.

An EAL student is someone whose main language is not English and therefore require some support in order to succeed in an English-speaking school. Typically, these students fit one of the following profiles:

- A complete beginner in English
- A student with some experience in English but who is not yet fluent and has not yet reached social proficiency level
- A student who speaks English fairly fluently but is not yet achieving his or her full academic potential in an English-speaking environment

At ISB, in Middle School, students are accepted conditionally into our Bilingual or International Programmes, with additional EAL support and their performance is evaluated periodically to ascertain the students' ability to cope with the programme.

Possible support strategies for EAL students within the middle and high school

- Modified test questions, homework assignments, and in-class assignments
- Graded language in the classroom
- Abundant use of visual aids to make ideas clear for students
- Pull-out lessons
- Push-in lessons

Practical Information

A typical day in Middle School

Period	Timing
Period 1	8:15 to 9:00
Snack break	9:00 to 9:10
Period 2	9:10 to 9:55
Period 3	10:00 to 10:45
Morning Break	10:45 to 11:10
Period 4	11:15 to 12:00
Period 5	12:05 to 12:50
Lunch Break	12:55 to 13:35
Period 6	13:40 to 14:25
Period 7 – for all classes, there is an optional early release day in the week, when they can opt to stay in the Study Hall or be picked up.	14:30 to 15:15
Grade 5 and 6 students can join a club until 16:00 pm or remain in the Study Hall until this time, after which they can remain at school, supervised, until 17:00 pm	
Grade 7 and 8 students can join a club until 16:00 pm or remain in the Study Hall until this time, after which they can remain at school, supervised, until 17:00 pm or go home, on prior parental (guardian) written agreement	

As Middle schoolers, our students are expected to be responsible and to ensure that they are in all their lessons on time. Arrival in the morning should be before 8:15 am and the building will be open from 8:00 am.

Absence: If a student is absent, the parent/guardian must notify the Homeroom teacher for the reason of absence by email. Additionally, if the absence is longer than 5 days, permission for

leave of absence should be obtained by filling in the relevant form at the Office. For sickness related absences, please see the Parent Handbook for protocol.

School Supplies: Middle School students are provided with textbooks, workbooks and exercise books in both streams. Students are expected to bring the following:

- Pencil case
- The MS Geometry tools are:
 - Set of rulers: one straight ruler, 30 cm long
 - One right rectangle ruler,
 - 2 pcs of sharp pencils,
 - pencil sharpener,
 - eraser with sharp edge or pointed corner (not round),
 - pair of compasses (recommended: type with pencil filler arm)
 - If the compasses are not the recommended type: spear leads (refills) for compasses, tools to exchange leads and home practice for the student in exchanging leads.
 - Protractor, separate from ruler.
- An extra pair of indoor shoes
- PE kit for use in PE lessons
- A fully charged laptop following school specifications (please see BYOL policy for more details)

Lockers: Students in Middle School will be issued lockers; it is their responsibility to bring the locker key to school every day. As with all school property, students must make sure that the lockers are not damaged and not decorated from the outside. Parents are requested to make a second copy of the locker key as soon as they receive the original. This is so that they will have a second key in case of lost or stolen keys.

Phones: With the rapidly changing world, phones are a necessary evil. Students are allowed to bring their phones to school for use before and after instruction hours in Middle School- before 8:15 am and after 15:15 pm (in case they leave the premises at this time). Phones may be used for calling a parent during After School Supervision with the permission of the teacher doing supervision. At all other times, phones must either be turned off or on silent and remain in the students' bags, so as to ensure that they are not distracted in any way. We request that the parents ring the Office for any communication with the student during the day.

If a student is found in possession of their phone during the school day, the Homeroom teacher, Duty teacher or Management may confiscate it and return it at the end of the day. In case this happens multiple times, a parent will be asked to come and collect the phone.

Technology: ISB has a Bring Your Own Laptop policy in Middle School. Please see <https://isb.hu/bring.php> for more details regarding laptop hardware and software specifications. We understand that there might be occasions where a student might forget to bring their device and, in this case, a teacher may allow the student to use their phone for research. Please note that this is not a replacement for a laptop as students will be expected to use their devices regularly in class.

Rewards and Sanctions: ISB Middle School believes in positive behavior reinforcement and we have a Reward system comprising of teacher praise, 'Caught Doing Good' and monthly 'Stars of the Month'. These will be announced at our monthly Assemblies and a certificate will be

awarded to the student. Sanctions are given in the form of weekly detentions and Red and Yellow Cards with students referred to the Vice Principal or Principal depending on the nature of offence. Please refer to the Rewards and Sanctions Policy for more details.

What Next?

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14-16 year olds, leading to globally recognised and valued Cambridge IGCSE qualifications. Cambridge IGCSE is taken in over 100 countries worldwide and is widely accepted by higher education institutions and employers around the world as evidence of academic ability.

Schools worldwide have helped develop Cambridge IGCSE, which provides excellent preparation for the IB Diploma Programme, A/AS Levels and U.S. AP exams, as well as other progression routes. The IGCSE programme incorporates the best in international education for learners at this level. It develops in line with changing needs and is regularly updated and extended.

Cambridge IGCSE encourages learner-centered and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving learners excellent preparation for the next stage in their education. Schools can build a core curriculum, extend it to suit their learners and introduce cross-curricular perspectives. Clearly defined learning outcomes and content mean Cambridge IGCSE is compatible with other curricula and is internationally relevant and sensitive to different needs and cultures.

Cambridge IGCSE develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- Subject content
- Applying knowledge and understanding to familiar and new situations
- Intellectual enquiry
- Flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Working and communicating in English
- Influencing outcomes
- Cultural awareness

To learn more, visit the Cambridge IGCSE Website.: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

You can find more information about IGCSE and IB in our High School Brochure.