

# Bright Kids

## The whole picture

THE British Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) found that International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) students have 57% higher probability to enter one of the United Kingdom's best colleges or universities compared to traditional A-Level students. They also have higher likelihood of being awarded first- and second-class honours.

Sunway International School (SIS) started offering the IBDP since January in both their campuses, Bandar Sunway and Sunway Iskandar.

The distinctive feature of IBDP is the core, which consists of a theory of knowledge (TOK) course, 4,000-word extended essay and ongoing out-of-class activities called creativity, activity and service (CAS).

TOK hones each student's ability to assess the uncertainty about information presented to them. The extended essay, written over 10 months under the supervision of an advisor, develops each student's ability to research and persuade.

In CAS, students use the ideas and skills they have learnt to contribute to their community based on its needs. They learn about themselves and how to manage human-based projects more effectively through the activities that they organise.

### Creativity, activity and service

Each student chooses the activities they wish to organise or take part in. Then, they work with advisors within the school to develop and implement their plan through a series of monitored stages. A CAS activity may be a single or continuous programme,



Sunway International School offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, which is one of the most popular English language curricula for international schools.

individual or collaborative work, and it may focus on oneself or community work.

IBDP students remain active, healthy, well-rounded and engaged with their community through CAS.

### Reflection journey

IBDP students are required to implement their initiatives and witness its efficacy, hence, CAS is an ideal tool to teach reflection with. Student learning is enhanced by reflection on their choices and actions. Through reflection, a student examines

ideas, which leads to improved problem-solving, higher cognitive processes and greater depth of understanding.

Teachers regularly meet with students individually to reflect on their progress, skills and challenges they have encountered. Each student is given an opportunity to describe what they have learnt about themselves and the strategies they have implemented to overcome the obstacles they face.

By the end of the two-year IBDP, students plan and implement CAS activities, show the ability to reflect on the activities they

have organised, use that reflection to improve those events and demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively.

In addition, students also produce a CAS portfolio. This portfolio can be of any form – blog, journal or artwork.

Their portfolios include a description of what they have done, problems faced, and practical ways of improving their initiatives. This framework assists students to identify achievable projects, overcome challenges, develop their ability to communicate, collaborate with others and recognise personal development.

Along the journey in planning and reflecting the CAS experiences, students are constantly receiving support from their supervisor, designated IB CAS coordinator and IB coordinator who coach and monitor their progress every week. CAS lessons are a part of the weekly Friday colloquium to equip students with relevant knowledge and skills required in IBDP.

CAS complements a challenging academic programme, providing opportunities for self-determination, collaboration, accomplishment and enjoyment.

Visit SIS Bandar Sunway during its IBDP Exploration Day on August 12, from 10am to 1pm.

■ For more information, call 03 7491 8070 or visit [www.sis.sunway.edu.my/IBExplore](http://www.sis.sunway.edu.my/IBExplore).