BRITISH SCHOOL of Costa Daurada

SECONDARY AT BSCD



The transition to secondary school in England marks a significant step in a child's education, typically occurring at the age of 11.

In secondary school there are three different Key Stages. Key Stage 3 covers Years 7 to 9 (ages 11-14). Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11 (ages 14-16). In these two stages students follow the English national curriculum and complete their iGCSE exams by the end of Year 11.

Once achieving the iGCSEs students can then choose to progress to Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form), which covers Years 12 and 13 and in this stage they complete their A-Level examinations.

Studying at the British School of Costa Daurada offers students and families a unique educational experience that combines the strengths of a British education with an international perspective.

Smaller class sizes allow for more individualized attention and support from teachers, fostering a close-knit community where students can thrive academically and socially.

Within our educational vision, academic emphasise not onlu achievement but also personal growth, social responsibility, and emotional wellbeina promoting well-rounded development for all students. With a focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills, students are well-prepared for higher education and future careers in an increasingly competitive global job market.

Last but not least, the school employs qualified teachers who are experienced in delivering the national curriculum of England. They are dedicated to providing personalized support to help each student reach their full potential.





Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 & 9

Key Stage 3 (KS3) is an educational stage in England that typically encompasses the first three years of secondary school, covering students aged 11 to 14. It follows the completion of Key Stage 2 and serves as a crucial transition period where students build on their primary education foundations. During KS3, learners engage with a broad curriculum fostering both academic skills and personal development.

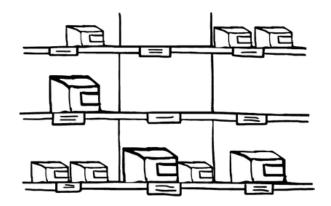
These are the subjects that we teach at BSCD.

British curriculum:

- English Literature & Drama
- English Language
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- German
- Music
- Citizenship / PSHE / RE
- PF
- Computing
- Robotics
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology

Catalan & Spanish curriculum:

- Spanish
- Catalan
- Geography & History



Throughout the second term of Year 9, and as part of their transition into Key Stage 4, students need to decide what GCSE subjects they will take. This is one of the first decisions pupils need to take for their future. Most of the time, they find it difficult to decide which one will best define their academic and adult life; this is why they have the opportunity to trial the option subjects during the second term of Year 9.

By the end of Year 9, parents, students and the Career Department help each student make a proper choice, based on their knowledge of the student and also the results of the GL Assessments and the termly exams in each subject.



Key Stage 4 - Years 10 & 11

Key Stage 4 (KS4) in the English education system typically encompasses students aged 14 to 16, covering Years 10 and 11. During this stage, students work towards their General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) qualifications, which are crucial for further education and employment opportunities. KS4 aims to equip students with essential knowledge and skills while fostering critical thinking and independent learning in preparation for post-16 education or vocational pathways.

In Key Stage 4, students usually take 9 iGCSE subjects of which 6 are compulsory and 3 are optional. These latter allow students to explore their interests and strengths.

iGCSE subjects:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Maths
- Science (Double Award)
- Spanish

Non iGCSE subjects:

- Citizenship
- PE
- Careers
- PHSE
- Català (+ Geography & History)

KS4 iGCSE Option Subjects:

3 from the following options

- Drama
- German
- Historu
- Geography
- Business
- Sport Science
- Computing
- Art & Design
- Music
- Triple Science

iGCSE allow us to:

- Customize the curriculum for each student according to their interests.
- Direct the curriculum towards the future of each student.

In order to advance to KS5 you need a minimum of 5 iGCSE's. The school recommends a minimum of 8 iGCSE subjects.

The iGCSE's that the school will offer are numerous and this will involve:

- A small teacher/student ratio = greater attention and preparation.
- A minimum of students per subject.

CONVALIDATION OF SECONDARY CERTIFICATES

At the end of Key Stage 4 students can also receive the convalidation of the Catalan Certificate of Secondary Studies, called ESO. It is important to highlight the fact that students have to pass Catalan, Spanish and Catalan Humanities from Year 8 to Year 11 in order to get it. See Convalidation Process for more information on convalidations.



Sixth Form - Years 12 & 13

Key Stage 5, commonly referred to as Sixth Form, entitles the last stage of the English curriculum and is not compulsory.

In Year 12 and 13 students complete AS/A levels from the choice below. The subjects selected are so far in draft format and will be reviewed as we draw closer to opening the Sixth Form and gauging the interest of the pupils. This list may, for example, be opened to include Drama, Sports Science, Psichology, Music and Design Technology.

International A Levels are modular based qualifications and students can sit exams at different points in the year (October, January & May/June). These exams can be re sat to obtain a higher grade and the highest of the last two attempts is taken for the calculation of the final grade.

Students can also study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a project based qualification. There is no exam and it allows students to explore a chosen topic and is worth half an A Level for access to University.

In Sixth Form at BSCD students will also take classes in PE, Catalan, PSHE, Careers and will be provided with tuition for the PCE exams if they are applying to university in Spain.

KS5 Subjects:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Maths
- Chemistru
- Biology
- Physics
- German

- History
- Geography
- Business studies
- Computing
- Art & Design
- Spanish
- Catalan

KS5 Subjects:

Choose a minimum of 3 of the following A level subjects. BSCD recommendation 3 A levels + Spanish A level.

ABOUT THE A- Levels

Sixth Form Curriculum

- Students at BSCD will normally study three A Levels of their choice and Spanish A Level.
- A Levels are graded from A* U and an E grade is the lowest pass. Three E grades are equal to the Spanish nota de corte 5.

Work Experience

In Year 12 students will complete work experience to enhance their course of studies and aim to provide involvement in their areas of interest. This will be supported by the BSCD Business Networking Program.



Academic Support Services at BSCD

At BSCD, three key academic support services guide students and families throughout Secondary and Sixth Form: the Career Advisor, the Exams Officer and the Technical Director. Together, they ensure personalised guidance, secure examination processes and full academic recognition.

The Career Advisor helps students identify their interests and future pathways. From Year 9, they receive tailored advice on GCSE and A Level choices, university routes in the UK, Spain and abroad, as well as support with personal statements, applications and interviews. The service also coordinates Unifrog and Work Experience, helping students make confident decisions about their post-16 and post-18 options.

The Exams Officer oversees all iGCSE. GCSE Α Level examinations. and entries. timetables and manaaina communication with families. Theu organise mock exams, ensure Access Arrangements are in place guarantee that all procedures comply with the exam board.

The Technical Director ensures that studies completed at BSCD are fully recognised by the Spanish education system and international authorities when required. This includes the validation of ESO after Year 11.

Languages in Secondary

BSCD follows the national curriculum of England within a bilingual environment (Catalan-Spanish), with German as a foreign language. Our aim is to ensure that all students—regardless of their linguistic background—can access the curriculum, make academic progress, and feel fully part of our school community.

In secondary, languages are approached not only as academic subjects but also as essential tools for communication, learning, and social integration. Our language policy is designed to develop strong competences in all the languages that form part of our educational project.

English is the school's main language of instruction and also an academic subject. It plays a central role in learning across all areas of a British curriculum.

Catalan and Spanish these are compulsory subjects for all students. Their inclusion ensures solid competence in the official languages of our local context and compliance with the academic requirements of the Catalan education system.

German is introduced as a foreign language up to Year 9. From that point onwards, students may choose to continue studying it and may sit the official iGCSE and later A Level examinations, depending on their interests and academic pathway.



Convalidating from (i)GCSE to ESO

In order to obtain validation within the Catalan educational system we need:

- To pass 4 iGCSE's (5 iGCSE's to access Year 12).
- To pass the following subjects: Catalan, Spanish, and Catalan Geography & History.

At this time our students will have:

- The International General Certificate in Secondary Education from England.
- The school (BSCD) can validate this Certificate to ESO.

The convalidation procedure is carried out by the "Director Tecnico" of the school in accordance with the inspections of the Department of Education of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Convalidating A-Levels into Bachillerato

To convalidate the Bachillerato courses, students must get:

- 5 subjects of iGCSE, 2 of which must be Maths, English or Science, with grades between 9-4.
- 2 subjects of Advanced Level (A Level).
- A minimum grade of five (5) in Spanish and Catalan.

Access to Universities in Spain and Worldwide

Students at our school gain access to universities across the world thanks to the academic strength of the English curriculum (iGCSEs and A Levels).

A Levels are internationally recognised, allowing our students to apply directly to universities in the UK, the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and many other countries. Admissions decisions are typically based on A Level results, school references and, when required, interviews or portfolios.

For Spanish universities, students obtain an official UNEDasiss accreditation, which converts A Level grades into the Spanish scale. Depending on the degree they wish to study, they may also complete PCE exams, equivalent to the specific phase of the Spanish EvAU. This process enables access to both public and private universities in Spain.

This pathway provides our students with a wide range of academic opportunities and ensures they can pursue university studies that match their interests, either in Spain or internationally.

All university applications will be guided by the Careers Advisor and de Technical Director.

