

## Woodstock School Curriculum Transition

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

#### What decision has Woodstock School made about the IB Programme?

After extensive review and consultation, Woodstock School's Board of Directors has decided that the school will transition away from the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes and implement a new academic framework centred around the Woodstock School Diploma (WSD), IGCSE and Advanced Placements.

This change will occur through a phased transition over four years, ensuring continuity, fairness, and stability for all currently enrolled students.

The transition allows the school and its faculty to design and implement a distinctive educational model that aligns with the school's vision and values while maintaining strong academic preparation for universities worldwide.

#### How will the transition be implemented?

The transition will occur gradually so that no high school student is required to change programmes mid-course.

Key milestones include:

- 2027–28 – Final intake for IB programmes
- 2028–29 – Woodstock Diploma and IGCSE introduced in Grade 9 with AP courses beginning in Grade 11
- 2029–30 onward – Full implementation of the new programme with no IB programmes remaining.

This phased approach ensures each cohort follows a clear academic pathway while the school prepares curriculum design, teacher training, and student support structures.

#### What does this mean for students currently in the IB?

Students already in IB programmes (MYP or DP) from Grades 8 and above will be fully supported to complete them.

- Current Grade 11–12 students will complete the IB Diploma Programme.
- Current Grade 10 students will also complete the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11–12.
- Current Grade 9 students will complete MYP and then the IB Diploma Programme.
- Current Grade 8 students will complete MYP and then move into the Woodstock Diploma with AP courses in Grades 11–12.
- Current Grade 6–7 students will transition into the new structure, completing Middle School and then progressing to Woodstock Diploma plus IGCSE followed by the AP pathway.

**Please note: the option for choosing IB courses with WSD electives instead of the full IBDP will remain available over the transition period of 4 years.**

#### Will any student have to change programmes halfway through?

**No.** A core principle of the transition is that no student in high school will be asked to leave a programme mid-stream. Protecting student continuity and wellbeing is central to the Board's transition planning.

#### What will replace the IB at Woodstock School?

Woodstock School will move toward a three-part academic structure:

Middle School – Grades 6–8

High School – Grades 9–10 (Woodstock School Diploma & IGCSE programme)

Senior Years – Grades 11–12 (Woodstock School Diploma with Advanced Placement courses)

This model allows for academic rigour and flexibility, enabling students to pursue a wide range of interests alongside Woodstock's programmes in music, outdoor education, service and creativity.

### **What is the Woodstock School Diploma (WSD)?**

The Woodstock School Diploma is a highly respected qualification accredited by the MSA and recognised by universities around the world. It is based on the credit system and has been the foundation of the school's education system for decades. It combines rigorous academic coursework, IGCSE core subjects, AP subject options, interdisciplinary learning, experiential education, leadership, service and project-based learning.

### **Why did Woodstock School decide to move away from the IB?**

The Board's decision followed several years of educational review and consultation.

Key considerations included:

- alignment with Woodstock's renewed vision for education
- the rapidly changing global university landscape
- increasing diversity in student university destinations
- the need for greater flexibility in academic pathways
- strengthening experiential learning and creativity

The goal is to prepare students who are academically strong, creative, resilient and purposeful.

### **Does this mean Woodstock School no longer values the IB?**

**No.** Woodstock School recognises that the IB Diploma is a respected and rigorous programme and many students have benefited from it.

This transition is not a rejection of the IB, but a strategic decision about the educational model that best aligns with Woodstock School's mission and long-term vision.

### **Will Woodstock School students still be competitive for top universities?**

**Yes.** Universities evaluate applicants holistically, considering academic rigour, course choices, teacher recommendations, extracurricular engagement, leadership and character.

AP courses and IGCSE qualifications are widely recognised by universities worldwide, including leading institutions in the North America, United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and Asia.

### **Who made this decision?**

The decision was made by Woodstock School's Board of Directors following several years of extensive review and consultation with our current students, staff and parents and with our global Woodstock community.

*The process involved the Board's Education Committee, an Education Working Group, school leadership and faculty, external advisors, and input from parents, alumni and students.*

**Why was a phased transition chosen?**

A phased transition ensures continuity for current students, adequate time for curriculum development, teacher training and staffing, and clear communication to families and universities.

**How will students be supported during the transition?**

Woodstock School will provide strong academic advising, university counselling, pastoral support and careful monitoring of student progress to ensure every student experience stability and clarity.

**How will teachers be supported?**

The school will support faculty through professional development, retraining opportunities and thoughtful staffing planning to ensure the success of the new programme.

**How will Woodstock keep the community informed?**

The school will maintain transparent communication through community meetings, parent information sessions, written updates, FAQs, webinars and admissions materials.

**What does this change mean for Woodstock's future?**

This transition represents an opportunity to strengthen Woodstock's distinctive educational model, one that honours its heritage, reflects its Himalayan setting, and prepares students for a rapidly changing world.