

# Understanding Our New Academic Model

*A guide for families to the three components of a Woodstock education*

From Grade 9 onwards, every Woodstock student works toward three complementary qualifications that together form one of the most distinctive and globally recognised academic profiles available. This document explains each component clearly, so you know exactly what your child is building and why it matters.

## 1 The Woodstock School Diploma (WSDP)

*Woodstock's own fully accredited high school diploma — the heart of everything*

**What is it?** The WSDP is Woodstock's own high school diploma, accredited by the Middle States Association (MSA), one of the most respected school accreditation bodies in the world. It has existed at Woodstock for over 60 years, and is recognised by universities across the USA, UK, India, Australia, Europe and beyond as a rigorous, academic qualification.

**What makes it distinctive?** Unlike any standardised international curriculum, the WSDP is built around Woodstock's own values, educational vision and Himalayan context. It includes not just academic subjects, but outdoor learning, religious education, the arts, physical education, community engagement, building values and independent project work. It measures the whole student, not just exam performance.

Far more than a checklist of courses completed in a classroom, at its heart is a dynamic, values-led model in which students pursue their passions through domain pathways, for example, Global Affairs, STEM, Business, the Arts, Life Sciences, Sport and more. Students earn credits by doing real work that matters in the world. Guided by the values of Our Calling, students collaborate across disciplines to tackle genuine local and global challenges such as the Mussoorie traffic problem: a STEM student might design an air-quality monitoring system for Landour while a Business student models sustainable alternatives for the local economy and an Arts student produces a documentary to raise public awareness, all working on the same problem, from different angles, at the same time. This is not passive learning; it is the kind of active, team-based, purpose-driven inquiry that builds the skills universities and employers most value: critical thinking, leadership, collaboration, creativity and moral courage, while simultaneously forming the character and values that define a Woodstock graduate. By the time your child leaves, they will have not just accumulated credits; they will have owned their learning, contributed to their community and discovered where their passions and their sense of purpose meet.

### WSDP Graduation Requirements at a Glance — 24 credits across Grades 9–12 (example)

Subject Area	Credits	What this looks like at Woodstock
English	4	Literature and language — every year of high school
Mathematics	3	Core numeracy and analytical skills
Science	3	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Computer Science
Social Studies	3	History, Geography, Economics, Global Affairs, Psychology
Foreign Language	2	To third-year (IGCSE) level — French, Spanish or Hindi
Religious Education	1	Compulsory in Grades 9–10; elective thereafter
Physical Education	1	Active wellbeing across all four years
Outdoor Learning	1	Himalayan expeditions, environmental fieldwork
Fine & Performing Arts	2	Music, visual art, theatre, dance
Junior/Senior Projects & Seminar	1	Independent, interdisciplinary capstone work
Electives	3+	Student-chosen subjects to reach the 24-credit total

*The WSDP is the "operating system" of a Woodstock education. It ensures that values, character, service, creativity and real-world learning are not extras bolted on after exams, rather they are woven into the fabric of every school year. When universities read a Woodstock transcript, they see a student who has been doing things that matter, not just studying for tests.*

## 2 International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

Cambridge's gold-standard subject qualifications for Grades 9–10

**What is it?** The IGCSE is one of the world's most widely recognised secondary school qualification, set and examined by Cambridge Assessment International Education. It is taken in specific subjects at the end of Grade 10 (equivalent to the UK's GCSEs and India's Class 10 board exams). Over 10,000 schools in 160+ countries offer IGCSEs.

**Why IGCSEs at Woodstock?** IGCSEs give students rigorous subject foundations in Grades 9–10, preparing them well for AP-level study. They are well-understood and highly respected around the world, and map directly onto the academic expectations of UK, Australian, and European universities. Critically, they are standalone subject exams, students are not locked into a fixed package.

**How many IGCSEs will students take?** Woodstock will use IGCSEs strategically, typically 5–7 subjects, covering the core academic disciplines, while leaving meaningful time for WSDP activities each week. This 60/40 balance (IGCSE core: WSDP/holistic learning) ensures students are both academically grounded and richly formed.

### Subjects available (examples – full range to be confirmed)

Core Subjects	Sciences & Technology	Languages & Humanities	Enrichment
Mathematics (Core, Extended, Additional)	Biology, Chemistry, Physics,	Hindi / French / Spanish	Music, Art & Design, Drama
English (ESL, Language, Literature)	Sciences Combined, Environmental Science, Computer Science	History, Geography, Sociology, Global Perspectives, Enterprise	Physical Education, Religious Studies

*IGCSEs are externally marked by Cambridge. Grades run from A\* to G. Universities worldwide treat strong IGCSE results as clear evidence of subject mastery at a high international standard. For Indian families especially, IGCSEs are a familiar and respected credential, equivalent to (and often regarded as more rigorous than) the CBSE/ICSE Class 10 examination.*

## 3 Advanced Placement Examinations (APs)

The global standard for university-level subject achievement in Grades 11–12

**What are they?** Advanced Placement (AP) exams are university-level subject qualifications set by the College Board (USA) and taken at the end of a one-year course in Grades 10, 11 or 12. They have been offered at Woodstock since 1961. Over 4,000 universities in 75+ countries accept AP scores as evidence of university readiness, including Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, the Ivy League, MIT, Stanford, ANU, University of Melbourne, and leading European institutions.

**How are they scored?** AP exams are scored on a scale of 1–5. A score of 3 is generally considered a pass; scores of 4–5 signal outstanding university-level performance and can earn students college credit, advanced standing, or reduced first-year tuition at US universities. Students typically take 3–5 APs over their final two years, but may take them earlier.

**Why APs instead of the IB Diploma?** The IB Diploma is a fixed, high-pressure two-year package with strict subject requirements. AP exams are flexible one-year standalone courses: students choose only the subjects that suit their interests and strengths, and a poor result in one exam does not jeopardise the others. This dramatically reduces student stress while maintaining world-class academic standards. Furthermore, APs allow students to qualify for university entrance by the end of Grade 11 (if entrance requirements are fulfilled), thus enabling potential unconditional offers from UK universities and freeing up time in their last year for excelling in their field of interest via the WSDP.

### AP subjects available (examples — full range to be confirmed)

Mathematics & CS	Sciences	English & Languages	Social Sciences & Arts
AP Calculus AB/BC	AP Biology	AP English Lang & Comp	AP World History
AP Statistics	AP Chemistry	AP English Lit & Comp	AP Human Geography

Mathematics & CS	Sciences	English & Languages	Social Sciences & Arts
AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	AP Physics 1 / 2 / C	AP Spanish / French / German	AP Psychology, AP Economics (Micro/Macro), AP Art History, AP Comp. Government and Politics
AP Precalculus	AP Environmental Science		AP Research / Seminar

*A student who graduates with 4–5 AP scores of 4 or 5, alongside a strong WSDP portfolio of real-world projects such as environmental research in the Himalaya, service work, arts and leadership, will stand out in any admissions process in the world. That student hasn't just studied hard. They have also begun to change the world.*

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**How do the three components fit together?** The WSDP is the diploma: the full four-year record of who your child is and what they have accomplished. IGCSEs provide rigorous subject foundations in Grades 9–10. APs demonstrate university-level subject mastery in Grades 11–12. Together they create a profile that is both globally credible and distinctively Woodstock.