

## THE BRITISH SCHOOL CARACAS

### School Profile 2021-2022

#### School and Community

The British School Caracas (TBSC) is an intimate co-educational private international school, opening its' doors in September 1950, providing rigorous, quality education to local, expatriate families & diplomats. TBSC operated first as a Primary up to grade 6. Just Over ten years ago, TBSC expanded its academic offering to include high school, serving a total of 300 students. **The class of 2022 will be our 8<sup>th</sup> HS graduating class.** Many of our students are dual Venezuelan nationals with passport holders from over 40 countries. All staff members have significant English National Curriculum, IPC, IGCSE and IB experience and are recruited from the U.K, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, USA, EU and Venezuela.

#### Curriculum

TBSC became an IB World School in 2013. **Our language of instruction is 100% in English;** Students must take IB English Language and Literature or IB English B within the IB Diploma. TBSC curriculum is as follows:

Preschool to Year 6 - International Primary Curriculum (IPC)	Years 7 to 9 - English National Curriculum
Years 10 and 11 - Cambridge IGCSE Programme	Years 12 and 13 - IBDP

#### International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

At The British School Caracas, we offer the following subjects as part of the IB Diploma Programme

Group	Subjects Offered
Group 1 - Studies in Language and Literature	English Language and Literature, Spanish Language and Literature
Group 2 - Language acquisition	English, Spanish, French
Group 3 - Individual and societies	Business & Management, History, Economics, Geography
Group 4 - Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Environmental Systems and Societies
Group 5 - Mathematics	Mathematics
Group 6 - The Arts	Music, Visual Arts, Theatre

#### Grading in the IB Diploma, GPA, Class Rank

TBSC uses IB's grading system of 1-7 for all subjects and 1-3 for Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay.

We do not report ranking, please see GPA Equivalences below:

IB HL MARK	GPA EQUIVALENT	DESCRIPTOR	IB SL MARK	GPA EQUIVALENT	IGCSE Grade	US Grade	GPA EQUIVALENT
7	4.5	Excellent	7	4.0	A*	A	4.0 or 4.33 (weighted)
6	4.0	Very Good	6	3.5	A	A	4.0
5	3.5	Good	5	3.0	B	A-	3.7
4	3.0	Above Average	4	2.5	C	B	3.0
3	2.5	Satisfactory	3	2.0	D	C+	2.3
2	2.0	Poor	2	1.5	E	C	2.0
1	1.5	Very Poor	1	1.0	F	D+	1.3
0	0	0	0	0	G	D	1.0

**Cambridge Assessment International Education (IGCSE)** At TBSC we offer the following subjects as part of IGCSE:

English as 1 <sup>st</sup> Language	English Literature	French
Spanish as 1 <sup>st</sup> Language	Spanish Literature	Spanish as 2nd Language
Cambridge International Mathematics	*Additional Mathematics	Art and Design
*Co-ordinated Sciences (Dbl)	Geography	History
Business Studies	Computer Science	Drama

\*Additional/Advanced Math is equivalent to Pre-IB Mathematics for students on the IB Higher Level Math track.

\*Coordinated Science includes Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

**IGCSE Grading** – IGCSE Exams in Grade 10 are **externally graded** and marked by Cambridge Assessment International.

A\* - 90-100% | A - 80 - 89% | B - 70 - 79% | C - 60 - 69% | D - 50 - 59 % | E - 40 - 49 % | F - G - Below 40% | U - Ungraded

#### Co-Curricular and Athletic Programmes

TBSC offers many personal enrichment activities such as student publications, performing arts clubs, gymnastics, Model United Nations, chess, cooking, origami, sports, photography, various musical activities and social events. Our students participate in interscholastic competitions with other international schools, as well as charity and community service projects, such as teaching English to local public-school students, visiting and working with orphanages, Children's Orthopedic Hospital and elderly peoples' homes, the Fundación TECHO, among others.

#### Timetable and Calendar

There are 185 teaching days in the year, starting in late August, finishing early July. The year is split into three terms. First term runs from August - December, second runs from January to mid-March, and third term runs from April - July.

#### COVID-19 Update - Graduating Class of 2021:

During their final year of IGCSE, strict quarantine restrictions were put in place beginning Friday, March 13th 2020; local authorities closed TBSC. Day's later students were alerted that the majority of their teachers would be taking a repatriation flight back to London for their safety. TBSC moved to remote, online instruction from April 2020 - June 2020 where there were no flights in or out of the country. During the first year of their rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, September 2020 to June 2021, TBSC trialed a hybrid approach, however the majority of this cohort's 1st year in IB remained remote with the added challenge of their multi-national teachers on different time zones around the globe. To add to this, a gas crisis hit the country during the summer and continues to be an added challenge, where one could not acquire petrol for weeks on end, with lines for fuel averaging 14 hours. This only added to the natural feelings of isolation and demotivation over the last 15 months without their teachers and community. Vaccine roll-out has been very slow in Venezuela, where loss of life due to COVID in the local and wider school-community has certainly been felt. Having been exposed to unrest and disruption throughout their lives, we believe our students have coped extremely well under these challenging circumstances. Beginning September 2021 our teachers have returned to Venezuela and TBSC has returned to physical on-site classes for the time being.

**Class size** As part of its Mission Statement, TBSC aims to keep class sizes small, to a maximum of 20 students per class. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:13 in the Primary Section and 1:10 in the Secondary Section. This allows our teaching staff to monitor and observe student progress closely, with individualized attention for each child. Our class sizes also enhance our aim for a close knit, intimate and community- spirited atmosphere.

## University Matriculation

100% of TBSC graduates go on to attend 4-year institutions at both competitive and highly selective universities and colleges around the world! The following is a list of many of the colleges and universities that our (small yet mighty) cohorts have been admitted to in the USA, UK, EU and rest of the world, from 2018 – 2021 for your review:

