



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
HILLINGDON

INFORMATION BOOKLET

READY FOR A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

In this booklet, you will find answers to the most common questions about life here at ACS Hillingdon - everything from “what curriculum options do you offer?” to “what afterschool activities are available?”

This document only begins to scratch the surface of what our school has to offer and everything about such a vibrant, inclusive environment.

To find out more, including how our distinctive approach to education ensures our students are ready for the rest of their lives, we encourage you to visit us – either for a Personal Tour or as part of one of our regular Open Days. To arrange your visit, simply email our admissions department at **hilladmissions@acs-schools.com** or call us on **+44(0) 1895 816802**.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

ACS Hillingdon is a co-educational day school for around 600 students aged 4–18 from nearly 65 countries, supported and taught by around 150 expert staff and teachers. We offer world-renowned programmes of study – including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP), IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Our campus boasts a stunning mansion house and a modern extension – these are home to our three libraries, science and IT labs, art studios, cafeteria, gym, auditorium and a dedicated music and technology centre, affectionately known as Harmony House. Our delightful grounds feature a new, state-of-the-art purpose-built Sports and Activities Centre, an all-weather playing field, tennis and basketball courts and adventure play areas, supported by 14 acres of off-site facilities for football and rugby. We also have priority access to a 50-metre Olympic-size swimming pool and athletics track in the local area.

ADMISSIONS

Application procedure

We operate a rolling admissions policy that enables students to join us in any grade and at any time of the academic year, subject to acceptance and availability.

Our online application process takes a holistic approach, assessing each candidate individually by reviewing previous school records, references, questionnaire answers and standardised test scores. This helps us understand the complete student, giving us a real insight into who they are today and how we can make them ready for tomorrow.

Offer and acceptance of place

Each application is accompanied by a non-refundable application fee, paid online. If your application is successful, we will then contact you with an offer of a place for your child. To secure the place, we require a non-refundable enrolment deposit, which we set against the second semester tuition fees. Additionally, there is a one-off non-refundable Campus/Development Fee to be paid the first year at ACS Hillingdon, which contributes to facility developments and maintenance. For more details of application fees, deposits and tuition costs, see the School Fees section of our website.

Practicalities for international families

Our Admissions team are experienced in helping families with their relocation process, especially to a new country. Our Welcome Guide provides useful information on settling in the UK and our Welcome Committee, part of our exceptionally active PSO (Parent School Organisation) are always there to help your family settle in comfortably.

BURSARIES

ACS International Schools is a registered charity with the mission of advancing education for all. To help us achieve our philanthropic goals, we offer financially assisted places in the form of bursaries.

Our bursary programme enables us to offer places to talented students who would benefit from our world-class education, but whose family circumstances make it difficult to meet our usual fees.

These financial awards range up to 100% of our full fees. All bursaries are means-tested, with each award dependent on the student's individual circumstances. Selection is based on exceptional personal and academic potential, intrinsic motivation, and demonstrated capacity for independent learning.

We offer Upper School bursaries for students aged 11, 13 or 16 (Entering Grades 6, 8 or 11). Students applying for the International Baccalaureate (IBDP) bursary should display the ability to benefit from an academically-rigorous programme.

Our criteria for awarding bursaries

We welcome applications from parents who believe their child will benefit from our international curriculum and who will make a real contribution to life at ACS Hillingdon. We ask only that the candidate and parents are residents of the UK with the right to remain and are local (living within the school busing catchment area). Following an application, we assess the student information and financial data provided, and reach a decision in March prior to the academic year of entry.

Calculating the bursary award

Our financial awards are for up to seven years and range up to 100% of the full tuition fees. In exceptional circumstances, these awards can also include additional school-related expenditure, so students can participate in every aspect of school life. We calculate the size of each bursary based on an assessment of parental income and other financial assets, so we ask for appropriate documentation as part of each application. We review means-tested bursary awards on an annual basis to ensure they reflect any changes in parents' financial circumstances.

There is a strict deadline for bursary applications. Families are advised to consult the website for these dates and apply as early as possible.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Divisions

ACS Hillingdon is organised by two divisions: Lower School for our youngest students aged 4–10, and Upper School for those aged 10–18. Each division is led by a highly experienced Principal, ably assisted by superb teaching staff and support specialists.

Grade placement

Children come to our school from a wide range of countries and curriculums. This table shows the equivalent class age and curriculum for different education systems.

AGE	US SYSTEM	ACS GRADES		UK YEARS	EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
4*	Early childhood	Pre-Kindergarten	●	Reception	–
5	Early childhood	Kindergarten	●	Year 1	–
6	Lower school	1st Grade	●	Year 2	–
7	Lower school	2nd Grade	●	Year 3	–
8	Lower school	3rd Grade	●	Year 4	–
9	Lower school	4th Grade	●	Year 5	–
10	Middle school	5th Grade	●	Year 6	–
11	Middle school	6th Grade	●	Year 7	–
12	Middle school	7th Grade	●	Year 8	–
13	Middle school	8th Grade	●	Year 9	–
14	High school	9th Grade	●	Year 10	–
15	High school	10th Grade	●	Year 11	Advanced Placement
16	High school	11th Grade	●	Lower 6th / Year 1 College	IBDP IBCP Advanced Placement
17	High school	12th Grade	●	Upper 6th / Year 2 College	IBDP IBCP Advanced Placement

Key

● Lower School ● Upper School

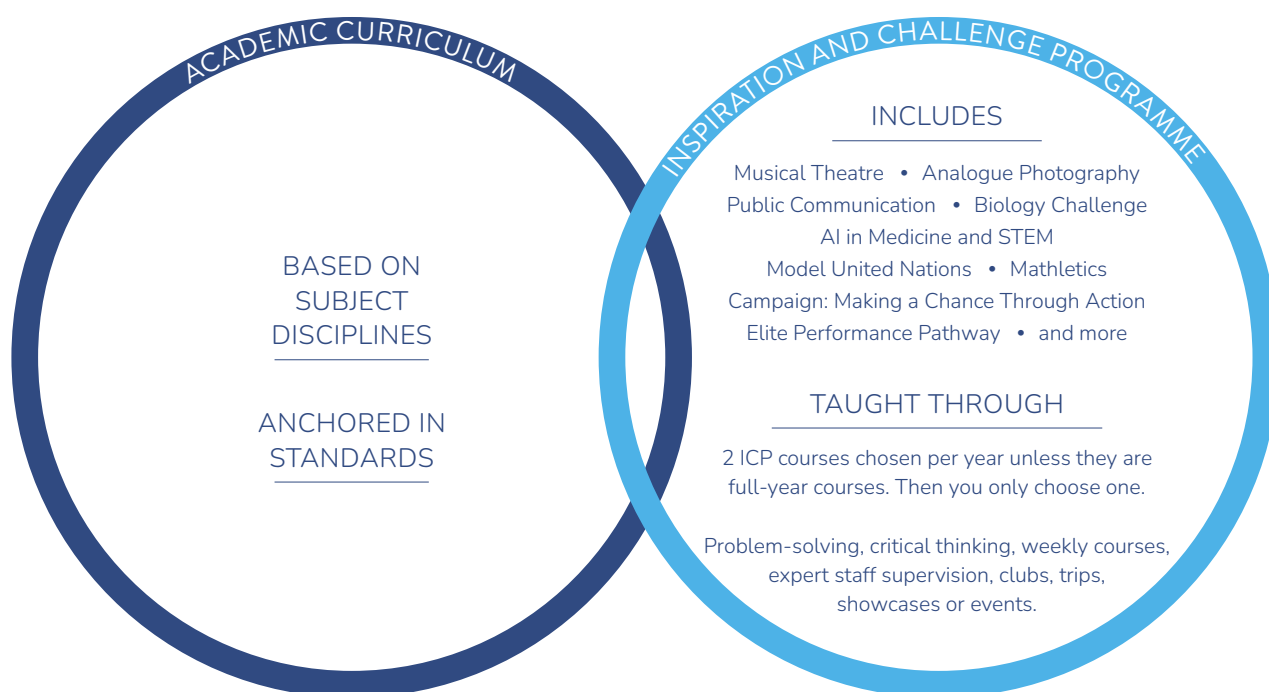
*Students in Pre-Kindergarten must be 4 years old before August 31st in the year in which they enrol.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN AT ACS

Our academic programmes are based on world-class educational standards and qualifications, including those of the International Baccalaureate and the Advanced Placement programmes.

The Inspiration and Challenge Programme (ICP) empowers Grade 7-10 students to reach their full potential through engaging, high-level academic and creative opportunities. Designed to inspire excellence, this programme challenges students to explore the academics and their interests beyond the curriculum.

The ICP, alongside our Global Citizen Diploma (GCD), enables us to create resilient, balanced, high-achieving individuals who are ready for whatever is in store for them.



EFFECTIVE LEARNERS • CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS • CARING CONTRIBUTORS

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

Global perspective

All ACS International Schools offer a unique educational experience for students aged 4 to 18, characterised by a bold international approach that proudly asserts our common global citizenship. At the heart of this experience is a commitment to providing exactly the right support for each student, so they thrive within our culture of high expectations. As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we support a wide range of student interests and abilities, including the language requirements of globally-mobile students and their families.

Another distinctive feature of ACS culture is our attitude to assessment, which is based on identifying what each individual student needs to do to improve and excel. We use high-quality data and feedback regarding each student's achievements to adjust our teaching strategies, improve individual performance and celebrate learning.

The result is a flexible system that works for each student, regardless of their previous achievements. At the heart of this is our rigorous academic programme, designed to help highly-ambitious learners excel in widely-respected international qualifications that support strong applications to the world's top universities. At the same time, we encourage all our students to pursue individual passions and explore personal interests – with a particular emphasis on sport, visual and performing arts, enterprise and service to the community.

Put all this together and ACS International Schools deliver transformational learning. We help students help themselves, by teaching them how to become effective learners, confident individuals and caring contributors – ready for success in a changing world.

Premier academic programmes

At ACS Hillingdon, the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP) and the IB Career-related (IBCP) Programmes for students aged 16–18 encourage both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal interests.

Developed independently of national standards, the IB incorporates best practice drawn from research and a global community of more than 4,000 top-performing schools, encouraging students of all ages to think critically, challenge assumptions and adopt a global perspective – with some students choosing multilingual learning.

Our other globally recognised academic programme is the College Board's Advanced Placement Programme (AP). This is designed to help motivated students pursue US university-level studies while still in Upper School, giving them the opportunity to dig deep into subjects that interest them, developing their skills and analytical potential in the process. This is significant for students likely to study further in the USA, as many US colleges and universities offer credit or placement based on successful AP examination results. AP results are also widely accepted in UK universities.

Well-respected national and international standards

The curriculum at ACS Hillingdon is informed by well-established, professional standards that provide students with clear milestones to guide their academic development. Our standards are research and evidence-based, helping to prepare students for the demands of university, career and civic life.

By identifying and prioritising significant content, standards promote deep learning that connects with the individual student's knowledge and skills. Standards also provide a common language for parents, teachers and students to discuss education topics, and enable students to transfer to other schools – national or international – with the minimum of disruption.

Lower School Programme (Pre-K to Grade 4)

Our broad and balanced primary curriculum prepares students for independent learning through core studies in language, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students also work with specialists to explore language and culture, art, music and physical education, celebrating our diverse cultural backgrounds and participating in a huge range of activities – including assemblies, forest school, musical performances, field trips and community service.

Our programme for Pre-K and Kindergarten focuses on purposeful play, active learning, creativity and critical thinking. We encourage our young learners to explore the world as part of a dynamic and joyful community with solid educational foundations.

Programme for Grades 5-8

Our students in Grades 5-8 embark on an exciting educational journey that blends a flexible, enquiry-based approach with rigorous academics. Our curriculum uses internationally recognised standards and is designed to cater to the diverse needs of our student body.

During these formative years, students are encouraged to explore a wide array of subjects, allowing them to develop critical thinking skills, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. Our enquiry-based model fosters curiosity and independence, preparing students for future academic challenges and global citizenship.

In addition to our robust academic programme, we offer excellent co-curricular opportunities. Students can participate in a variety of arts, sports, clubs, and activities, ensuring a well-rounded education that nurtures both their academic and personal growth. During these years, every ACS student is inspired to achieve their full potential in a supportive and dynamic environment.

Programme for Grades 9 and 10

Building on the strong foundation laid in Grades 5-8, our Grades 9 and 10 programme continues to offer a rigorous and flexible curriculum tailored to our diverse student body. These years are designed to provide greater student agency and autonomy, allowing students to take charge of their educational journey.

Our comprehensive curriculum is complemented by a plethora of co-curricular opportunities. Students can engage in leadership roles, participate in overseas trips, and lead from the front, whether within clubs and activities, student organisation, or in curriculum-based roles. These experiences help our students develop into well-rounded individuals and global citizens.

Our students in Grades 9 and 10 are empowered to reach their full potential, both academically and personally, in a vibrant and supportive environment.

Renowned qualifications

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

The IBDP is an academically-rigorous programme that ensures students aged 16 to 18 are ready for success at university and beyond. It addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical wellbeing, and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

IBDP students take responsibility for their own learning, developing critical and creative thinking as well as collaboration, research, self-management and communication skills.

The IBDP's broad and balanced curriculum requires students to study six subjects during their final two years of school – a minimum of three higher levels and three at standard level. The curriculum includes languages, science, history, social sciences, mathematics and the arts. IBDP results are based on a combination of end-of-course examinations and externally marked course work.

In the IBDP's signature Theory of Knowledge course, students examine the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construct. IBDP students also complete a major independent research project in the form of an Extended Essay, in which they conduct an in-depth study of one of their IBDP subjects. These are all mandatory components every IB student must complete to be eligible for a full IBDP.

The IBDP also encourages self-directed learning through its Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) element. Based on the idea of reciprocal service, CAS involves students taking part in a range of activities alongside their academic studies – helping promote healthy lifestyles, original thinking and active participation in local and global communities.

Importantly, the IBDP helps students gain offers from prestigious universities around the world. Higher education institutions in more than 90 countries accept students based on their IBDP credentials, while many US public and private colleges and universities offer credit or accelerated courses of study in the light of strong IBDP results.

The IBDP is ACS Hillingdon's most demanding and frequently-chosen academic programme. It requires commitment, resilience, excellent time management and determination. In return, a substantial body of evidence shows the IBDP is excellent preparation for university – ensuring that students are ready for advanced study, helping them achieve results that go beyond anything they thought possible.

The International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP)

The IBCP was specifically developed for students who want to engage in career-related learning while gaining transferable skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication and cross-cultural engagement.

IBCP students undertake a minimum of two IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) courses, as well as core studies and a career-related study. Career-related study supports the programme's academic strength and provides practical, real-world approaches to learning. Core studies help students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for lifelong learning.

Today's careers make great demands on graduates; the IBCP prepares students to meet those demands in the form of self-confidence, accomplished personal and professional skills, an understanding of global languages and the ability to make ethical decisions.

The IB Career-related Programme leads to higher education and is increasingly valued as a university entrance credential. At ACS Hillingdon, our chosen IBCP core is in the Arts. We are the only school globally with a course structured in this way with our specific industry connections.

IBCP – Theatre Arts

This course consists of three components: the theory section, the skills-based career-related component and the LAMDA Course. In addition to the programme of study in school, students will benefit from industry experience in workshops hosted by Creative Media Skills, situated in nearby Pinewood Studios. The workshops include acting for film, set design, art direction, props, and decorations amongst other skills, and are led by experienced industry professionals. Each student will build their own portfolio which will become part of their application for any related courses at university.

The LAMDA component covers Speech and Drama with Performance studies but can also be done as a stand-alone qualification.

IBCP – Digital Arts

This course enables students to learn about the techniques used in modern media to create films, animations, and video games. They will learn how to apply creative skills in 2D and 3D including sketching, animation, 3D modelling, green screen compositing, visual effects, and design.

Students will be working towards a personal portfolio of skills that will become part of their university application and a foundation for showcasing their work to prospective employers. They will benefit from our programme of workshops in partnership with Creative Media Skills at Pinewood Studios. These workshops are led in collaboration with industry specialists and mentors and provide students with the skills and opportunity to learn how their digital arts integrate into the industry production process.

Advanced Placement (College Board)

- AP Seminar and Research Certificate
- AP courses

Students who display exceptional ability across a variety of disciplines can study for globally-recognised qualifications, designed to recognise and reward outstanding academic achievement with a global perspective. AP courses give students a first taste of demanding university-level work. AP students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success. Importantly, higher learning institutions value the rigour of AP courses, giving applicants a competitive advantage for admission.

ACS High School Diploma

All ACS Hillingdon students who successfully complete the relevant studies receive an accredited High School Diploma. As part of this, students choose from an extensive range of traditional and contemporary subjects, to create stimulating programmes of study that reflect their interests. Importantly for our American students, the ACS High School Diploma meets the admission requirements of US colleges and universities.

À la carte AP and IBDP courses offer students advanced academic rigour in many subjects. Students can choose courses of study that specialise in particular areas of interest and ability or meet the admission requirements of more narrowly-focused national education systems.

Global Citizen Diploma

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is essential to identify opportunities for student engagement and action beyond the traditional curriculum. Inspiring individual pathways for global awareness and encouraging students to think beyond their immediate context gives authenticity to their learning.

The Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) is an additional credential, which is earned between grades 9 - 12 and complements the IBDP, IBCP, AP or High School courses. Through the GCD, students identify and validate the experiences they have, creating a platform for publication of these achievements with an audience beyond their immediate context. The various elements of the GCD encourage students to move outside of their comfort zones and foster a sense of self-awareness and self-directedness in relation to their experiences locally and globally. Ultimately, the learning journeys that students capture through the GCD demonstrate authentic engagement and action, and celebrate personal growth and change. By identifying their passions, each student who earns the GCD becomes more inclined to act in an ethical and responsible way as a global citizen.

DIGITAL TEACHING AND LEARNING

Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) continues to enhance and transform how we learn, teach and interact with each other and the world around us. We prepare students for a changing world by practising the use and application of technology to solve authentic problems. Lower School coding and media classes lead to Grade 5-8 coding, media and design classes, ensuring our students learn to research, evaluate and utilise appropriate, relevant and reliable information and tools. Options in Grades 9-12 include courses in Digital Arts, Film, and AP Computer Science. Every Lower School student has access to a class set of iPads, and laptops are also available. We have a 1-to-1 iPad environment in Grades 5 to 8, and students can access desktop and laptop computers as needed.

Consistent with our interdisciplinary approach, the teaching of safe technology skills is appropriately embedded into our lessons. Students benefit from a stimulating array of on-line educational resources. We work closely with teachers and parents to support students to be balanced, informed and respectful as we learn in a digitally rich world. With regular opportunities to explore, investigate, create and reflect, students develop into effective learners, confident individuals, and caring contributors to build skills that will be employed beyond the classroom both whilst at school and after.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Our Language and Literature Programme is designed to help students acquire the ability to write and speak well, and to examine, process and use information gained through listening and reading skills in English. Our primary goal is to encourage children to become enthusiastic, motivated, and confident lifelong communicators. Students are encouraged to find their voices as writers and refine their tastes as readers by developing skills that will benefit them long after leaving ACS Hillingdon.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

From Grade 9 onwards, we offer Japanese A Language and Literature for students who are native Japanese speakers. Students study Japanese/non-Japanese fiction and non-fiction as texts. The focus is on reading, speaking, writing and thinking in Japanese. Students are given various tasks such as analysing the text, expressing opinions and interpretations orally, creating novels, poems and mock radio broadcasting. Students are encouraged to view Japan and the world from broader perspectives to understand how the world is shaped and how they can contribute to the world.

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Language learning is fundamental to our students' cognitive, intellectual, social, and emotional development. From Pre-K right up to Grade 4, language and culture lessons celebrate our international student body. Our cultural differences are explored alongside the spoken and written language, focusing on geography, architecture, and the arts. All Lower School students participate in language of the month, learning about a chosen language and the culture surrounding it, providing them with a breadth of exposure. From Grade 3, students also begin to take Spanish lessons.

Students in Grade 5 onwards will learn either French or Spanish. Our older students have also been known to travel overseas to countries including France and Spain to immerse themselves in culture, supporting what they've been taught in the classroom and providing them with practical experience. Grade 11 and 12 students learn languages following the IB structure.

MATHEMATICS

Skill mastery and conceptual understanding are at the core of our engaging and inclusive programme. Problem-solving, critical thinking, and mathematical computation skills, including mental math, are emphasised to foster a positive attitude towards the study of mathematics. Our maths curriculum focuses on understanding mathematical concepts to be applied in a meaningful and purposeful way and to stay with our students for a lifetime. Students often engage in hands-on activities to build understanding to increase their confidence in maths in real-life situations. The various mathematical models throughout the curriculum build from concrete to abstract. There are explicit opportunities for students to engage in mathematical discussions to focus on reasoning and constructing mathematical arguments. Instruction is differentiated to equip all students with the mathematical skills needed for life in a modern, technological society.

PERFORMING ARTS – MUSIC, FILM AND DRAMA

The performing arts programme places great value on engaging students in learning through a rigorous and challenging music, film, and drama programme. Music is compulsory from Kindergarten, and drama is compulsory from Grade 5. Both become elective options in Grade 9. Film is also an elective option from Grade 9. These three disciplines contribute to the school curriculum by developing students' abilities to work as part of a group, present in any given circumstance, refine performance skills, analyse and evaluate work and develop independent thinking. The performing arts significantly contribute to students becoming well-rounded, empathetic, and confident individuals. The skills developed in performing arts are essential in everyday life and in many forms of employment.

Performing arts thrive at ACS Hillingdon with productions throughout the year for the different divisions, including *Grease*, *Footloose*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Hairspray* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Our students travel throughout Europe to participate in ISTA (the International School Theatre Association) festivals. Music is equally important, with our after-school rock band club, jazz band and choirs.

Our film programme enables students to develop their skills based on key artistic influences from around the world. Students are given the opportunity to create film in a variety of genres and styles, using industry standard film technologies and software.

As part of the IB Careers-related Programme (IBCP), ACS Hillingdon has a unique partnership with Pinewood Studios located near our school, offering career-related internships and workshops in some of the creative skills involved in film production currently including make-up and prosthetics. Students in the IBCP develop skills that are genuinely valued by employers as well as gain valuable real-life work experience. Students taking the film courses as part of the IBCP can also choose film-related themes for their reflective projects e.g. Environmental Impact of Film Locations, Body Image in Films (Unrealistic Expectations).

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) offers learning opportunities and experiences which reflect our students' increasing independence and physical and social awareness. PSHE helps our students to be active participants in the wider world. Students learn to develop effective relationships, assume greater personal responsibility, manage personal safety and well-being. Themes of community, environment and wellbeing are central to our school-wide PSHE programme.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Physical and health education provides students with opportunities that foster a lifetime commitment to physical activity and motivation for making healthy lifestyle choices. Through opportunities for active learning, we aim to instil our students with the skills, knowledge and values that help foster an awareness of physical development and health perspectives, empowering students to make informed decisions and promoting positive social interaction and intercultural understanding.

We ensure the equal inclusion and recognition of all students regardless of ability. Our students are as active as possible in all lessons, developing the enjoyment, engagement and confidence in physical activity needed to achieve and maintain a balanced, healthy life.

SCIENCE

We encourage and build on students' natural curiosity and inquisitiveness through science. The science curriculum enables students to become scientifically literate and passionate about exploring the natural world. By learning how to think scientifically, students are equipped with critical thinking skills that will allow them to make sense of our rapidly changing society. Our enquiry-based programme provides a balanced study of the biological and physical sciences, designed to challenge learners at all levels.

Student learning experiences incorporate current technology and include hands-on activities, reading, research, discussion and engineering practices. As science is collaborative, the development of effective communication skills is emphasised. The science programme's complexity level increases as students progress through the school, moving from guided inquiry to independent investigations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The overarching aim in social studies is to enrich the learning experience by focusing on the interactions of people, cultures and the physical and intellectual environment. Students will embrace the concept of change, a constant in our global community. Over time, students will learn to respect others' perspectives, attitudes and values as they encounter course content that inspires them to become ethical, responsible and productive world citizens. We incorporate disciplines including history, geography, economics, psychology, government and international politics to contribute to the development of informed, empathetic, confident and responsible young people. We are also introducing a new AP course: Human Geography.





VISUAL ARTS

Through the visual arts, students develop observation skills and learn to examine the objects and events of their lives. At the same time, they grow in describing, interpreting, creating, evaluating, and responding to work in the visual arts. By examining their own work and that of other people, students learn to unravel the essence of artwork and appraise its purpose and value. Through these efforts, students begin to understand the meaning and impact of the visual world in which we live. As students move up through the school, the visual arts programme places great value on engaging students in learning through a rigorous and challenging programme as it changes from a compulsory subject to an elective subject in Grade 9 that is individualised and student-centred.

The Visual Arts department at ACS Hillingdon stays up-to-date with the latest in arts education – through our educational partnerships, previously done with the Tate Modern.

SPORT

ACS Hillingdon is a full member of the London Schools Sports Association (LSSA), which provides weekly fixtures and end-of-season tournaments. We are also a member of an international league for varsity teams. Importantly, this league offers a new route to success in the International Schools Athletics Association (ISAA), with Hillingdon students competing in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Spain.

As a comparatively small school, we are proud of our ability to put forward competitive, successful teams of student athletes. We celebrate each sport season with an awards ceremony, and hold a banquet at the end of the school year. In the same spirit, we hold two Hawks Nights annually, to promote school spirit by bringing our community together to cheer on our young athletes.

Sporting Calendar

Autumn Football, volleyball, cross country and dance

Winter Basketball, rugby, swimming and dance

Spring Tennis, track and field, golf, baseball (boys) and softball (girls)*

*subject to change

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities are an important facet of a well-balanced programme. Students need opportunities to socialise, learn new skills and have fun with their peers in our international community. With our students' homes spread out over the western side of London, after school activities provide children with additional occasions to see their friends. Our goal is to provide our students with a choice of activities.

A selection of activities is offered Monday through Thursday for students in Lower (Grades 1-4) and Upper School (Grades 5-8). Parents may collect their children after an activity or the late bus service may be used. Supervision is provided after activities that end at 4:30pm to enable students to utilise the 5:00pm late bus. No supervision is available after 5:00pm late busing. If your child is staying after 5:00pm for another activity, you must arrange adult supervision.

Please note that our afterschool activities are fee-based programmes run by external agencies. A complete list detailing what is currently on offer for each Grade level is available to look through.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Our after-school Home Language Enrichment (HLE) programmes support students learning away from their home languages and cultures. Students attend cultural exchange and language development classes in small groups led by teachers (and sometimes parents) with native language fluency. Classes are designed to be fun and gently instructive, inspiring a love for language and a lived experience of multilingualism. HLE promotes language development and cultural identity; it builds community and promotes international mindedness for today's highly mobile global families.

PRIVATE MUSIC TUITION

Students have the opportunity to take private music lessons on campus, subject to availability. The programme is available to students for most instruments including viola, cello, flute and clarinet and will be looked into by our Head of Department to ensure we can accommodate all students' interests. The private music lessons are 30 minutes long once per week and occur during regular classes, at an additional cost and subject to a rotating basis.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

Our Personal Development and Wellbeing Programme focuses on personal, social and emotional learning through classroom lessons. The programme helps young people develop effective relationships, assume greater personal responsibility, manage personal safety and become active participants in the wider world.

Our counsellors and advisors work with parents and teachers to identify and address the specific needs of every student, from goal-setting and decision-making, to coping strategies, crisis intervention and transition planning. From your first day with us, your child is part of a caring classroom community in which everyone is valued.

Our high teacher-to-student ratio enables our students to be supported by personal learning mentors who guide our students to care for others, engage in healthy activities and be ready to contribute to the wider world.

Throughout the school, we embrace opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom – from forest school for our youngest children, to hiking, camping and international expeditions for our older students. Our extensive programme of after-school activities supports students in pursuing their existing passions and developing new ones.

An age-appropriate programme of Relationships, Sex and Health Education helps children and young people remain happy, healthy and safe.

MENTAL HEALTH

As part of our overall commitment to wellbeing and mental health, qualified school counsellors support students facing social-emotional, developmental and personal challenges. Counsellors work with school support teams, Designated Safeguarding Leads and curriculum experts to offer short-term individual and group assistance and education.

In addition, ACS provides up to six sessions of counselling intervention assessment by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy therapists for early identification and referral to social services or private practice for longer-term mental health support services.

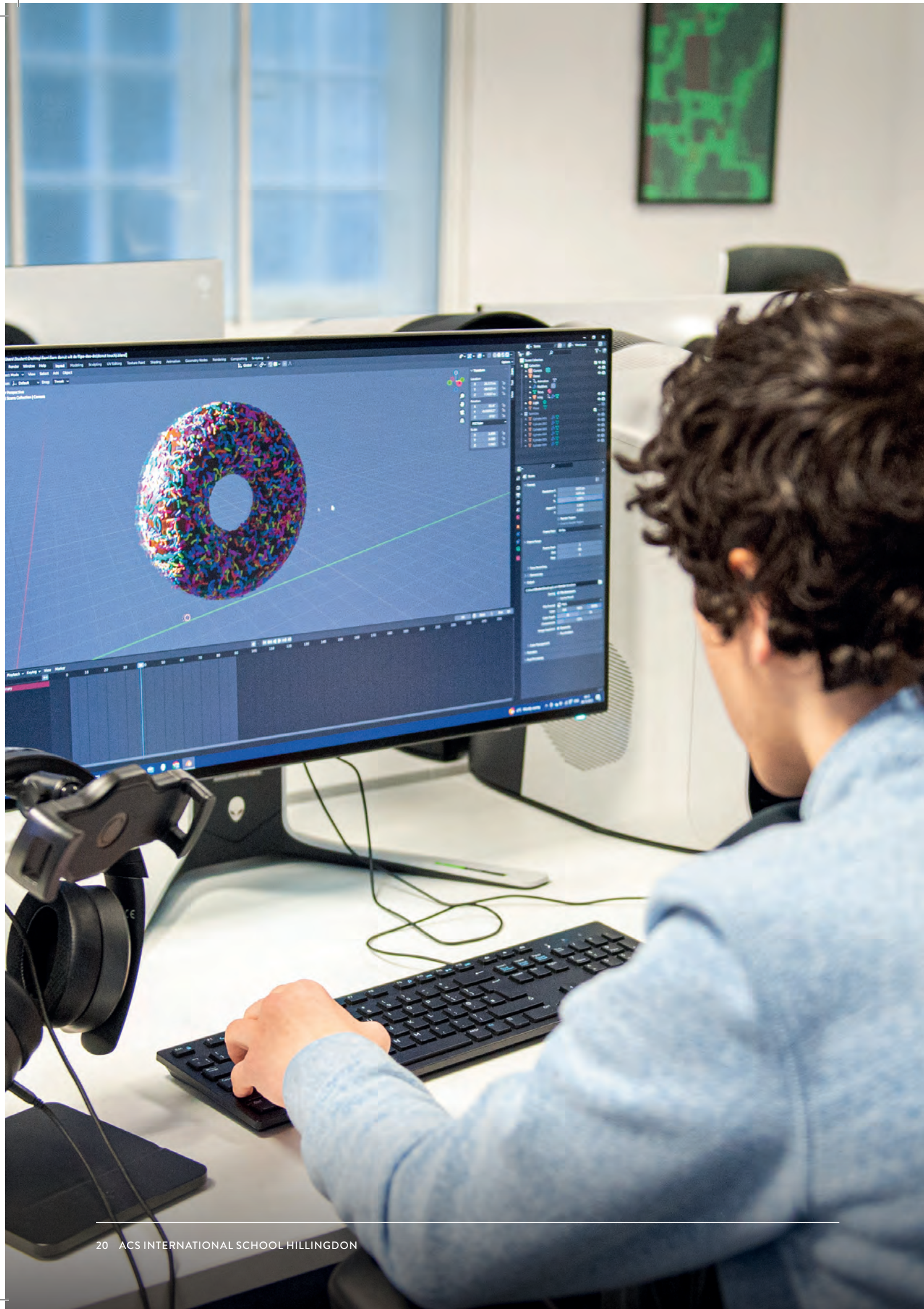
To enhance our mental health and wellbeing provision for our community, ACS has partnered with Valley Trust, an external counselling service. This partnership enables ACS to offer a confidential therapeutic counselling service designed to provide support for students who would benefit from up to 10 sessions of 40 minutes each of solution-focused interventions beyond what our school counsellors offer.

STUDENT SERVICES

ACS international schools are capable of accommodating students who need services for English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Students are challenged and supported in inclusive classrooms and specialist teaching environments so that they can equitably access the curriculum. Personalised learning accommodations and assessment access requirements empower students to progress academically and strengthen their capabilities as life-long learners.

English language support is available for all ages, with proficiency requirements from Grade 8. For older students, EAL courses are offered. ACS Hillingdon serves students with mild learning needs at all Grade levels, both subject to admission requirements and available spaces.





There is a cost for SEND Level 3 students who are accepted. This covers moderate special educational needs (SEND) and will be based on an assessment upon admission. We are not able to support students with severe behavioural, emotional, or learning difficulties; or older students with very limited English.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

We have a growing programme of service-learning, as our students learn to become caring contributors in their local and global community. This can include expeditions to different countries. It is a superb opportunity for ACS Hillingdon students to gain different cultural perspectives, by serving communities in a meaningful way – taking part in sustainable projects that help the local community achieve educational, environmental and ecological goals, learning with humility and exploring the rich, stimulating environment of another country.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Our attractive grounds, spacious facilities, and easy access to several outdoor spaces near our campus make it possible to take our students into the school grounds and beyond for learning and exploration, whether for a lesson, a day trip, or on a residential trip. We know that learning should not be contained only within the walls of a classroom. Our learning experiences in outdoor environments encourage staff and students to see each other in a different light, build positive relationships, and improve self-awareness and the understanding of others. Forest school lessons are part of the weekly timetable for students in Lower School, and science students also take trips (in the past it's included Kew Gardens and Juniper Hall).

LIBRARY

We have a library for Pre-k-G4, G5-8, G9-12 and librarians who promote reading, build information and digital literacy skills. Our librarians champion intellectual freedom to support members of our multi-national communities in their growth as passionate readers and lifelong learners, responsible global and

digital citizens, and ethical, effective handlers of information. We have books in various languages starting from Pre-K with a section of their library dedicated to popular children's stories in different languages. We have an impressive print collection and interlibrary loan system from other ACS campuses. We also provide 24/7 access to electronic databases, e-books, audiobooks and student-created digital resources. Our libraries are collaborative and welcoming spaces where our international community thrives. All ACS community members are welcome to explore and use our valuable library resources.

CATERING

ACS Hillingdon's catering department is operated in-house, enabling us to employ and train all our own chefs. We take great pride in producing delicious, fresh and nutritious food that appeals to our international community. Our seasonal menus follow the School Food Trust's nutritional guidelines. We source all our fresh ingredients from nominated and approved suppliers. Most of our daily deliveries of vegetables, fruit, dairy and meat come from local producers, so we can trace each meal from "farm to fork". We also offer breakfast, break-time snacks and lunch via the parent pay system.

UNIFORM

Our students do not wear a uniform, reflecting our belief in the importance of individuality, while encouraging our students to make sensible choices, there is a dress code for guidance which all ACS students are expected to respect and follow. All students from Grade 5 onwards will be expected to wear a uniform during PE classes.

UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS COUNSELLING

ACS university and careers counsellors work with each and every G11-12 student to plan and manage the application process for post-secondary studies. Through events (like career fairs), group meetings and self-service information resources, counsellors help students in Grades 9–12 develop personalised plans of study, explore opportunities,

and realistically assess challenging university destinations that align with students' aptitudes and ambitions. Counsellors assist students with local and international university applications for selective and highly-selective institutions, and support students as they seek and choose among admission offers. Counsellors support students as they research university options, choose courses, develop personal statements, explore careers, navigate the selection process and prepare for standardised tests – paving the way for a smooth transition to university.

HIGHER DESTINATIONS AND DEGREES

Our students attend a wide range of university destinations including the following:

United Kingdom

- Brunel University
- City, University of London
- Goldsmiths University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- London South Bank University
- Queen Mary University of London
- Ravensbourne Greenwich
- University of Bristol
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- University of Oxford
- University of the Arts London
- University of Warwick
- University of Westminster

US and Canada

- Brigham Young University, Provo Campus
- Concordia University
- Kent State University
- Pace University
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Toronto
- University of Virginia
- Warren Wilson College

Rest of the World

- Bocconi University, Italy
- John Cabot University, Italy
- Linköping University, Sweden
- Massey University, New Zealand
- Sophia University, Japan
- University of Bamberg, Germany
- University of Turin, Italy
- Waseda University, Japan

Courses undertaken include:

- Art
- Business Management and Marketing
- Criminology and Law
- Cyber Security
- Economics
- Engineering - Mechanical and Electrical
- Film and TV Production
- Fashion Journalism and Content Creation
- International Relations
- Law
- Molecular and Medical Genetics
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Psychology
- Sociology

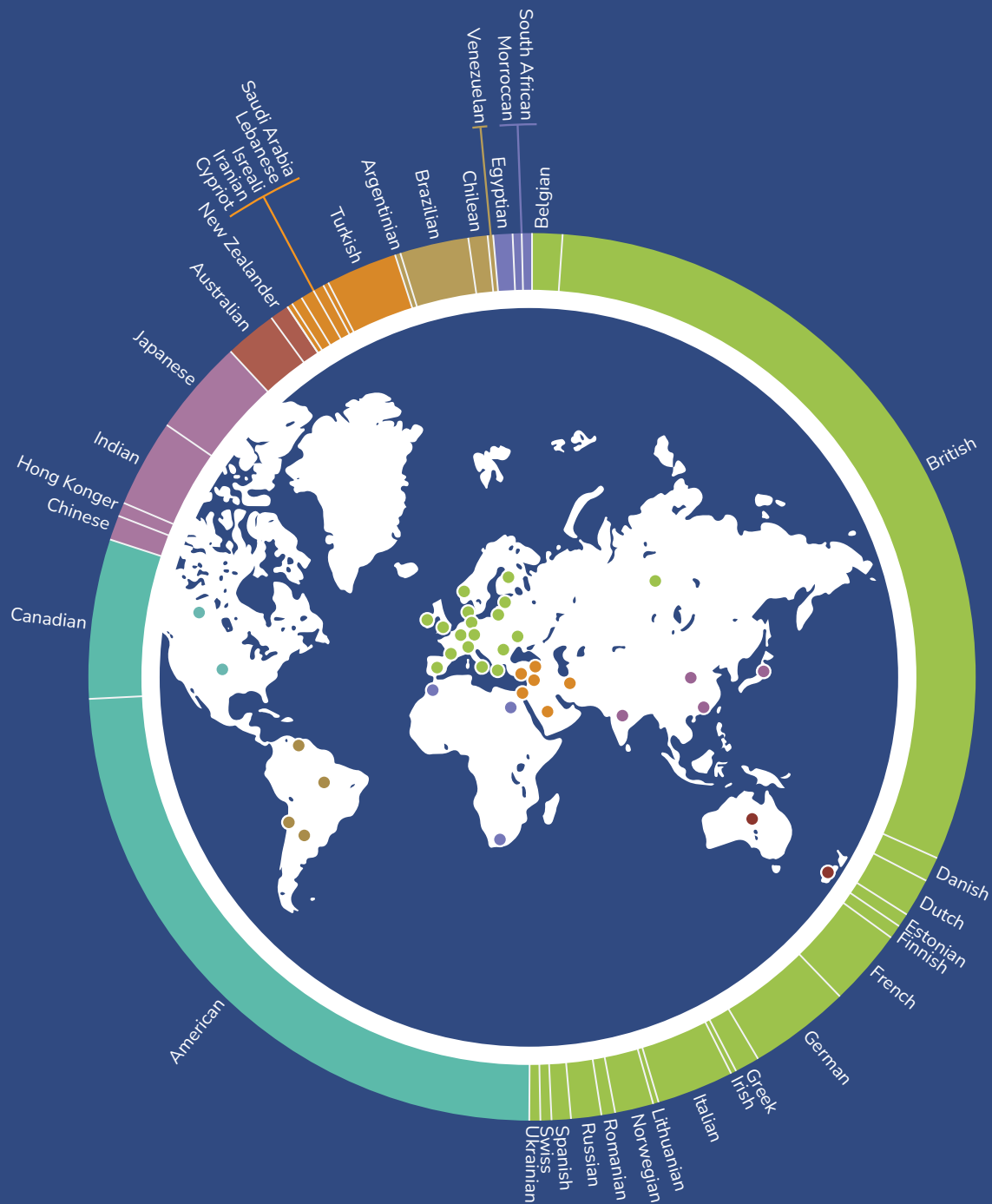
ACADEMIC RESULTS

We're proud to say that ACS Hillingdon students have a long tradition of achieving excellent exam scores in both the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement, consistently achieving well above the world average.

Our graduates go on to attend some of the most prestigious universities in the world, with the majority gaining places at their first-choice institution, including Russell Group and Ivy League universities.

Our latest academic results can be found on our website acs-schools.com/hillingdon or requested from our admissions team.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



ACCREDITATION

ACS Hillingdon is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and is authorised by the International Baccalaureate to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme. The school holds memberships in the US College Board Advanced Placement programme, the European Council of International Schools, the Council of International Schools and the Independent Schools Association.



ACS Hillingdon received an “Excellent” score across all measures in the latest ISI Inspection.

Please refer to our website for further details:
www.acs-schools.com/hillingdon/about/inspectionreports.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Location and transport

ACS Hillingdon is close to junction 16 of the M25. To find us, just enter our postcode UB10 0BE into your satnav. Heathrow and Gatwick airports are around 15 and 60 minutes away respectively.



Busing service

ACS Hillingdon operates an extensive busing service for families, to transport children safely and efficiently between home and school.

- Door-to-Door and Shuttle options
- Experienced and safe drivers
- Fees charged to recover costs only

We understand the many challenges facing both local and relocating families. Our School Transport Co-ordinator will make every effort to arrange busing for your children from their first day of school. In order to ensure the process runs smoothly, we would appreciate your assistance by informing us of your home address as soon as possible.

Door-to-Door service

All families living within the Zone 1–3 shaded areas on the map can apply to use our Door-to-Door busing service.

Shuttle service

Selected areas also offer a Shuttle service to pick up and drop off students at specific points along a designated route:

- Hillingdon (Zone 1)
- Ickenham (Zone 1)
- Northwood (Zone 1)
- Beaconsfield (Zone 2)
- Chiswick (Zone 2)
- Ealing (Zone 2)
- Gerrards Cross (Zone 2)
- Hammersmith (Zone 2)
- Kew (Zone 2)
- Putney (Zone 2)
- Pinner (Zone 2)
- Richmond (Zone 2)
- Ruislip Station (Zone 2)
- West Ruislip (Zone 2)
- Kensington (Zone 3)
- Marylebone (Zone 3)
- Notting Hill (Zone 3)
- St John's Wood (Zone 3)

Average one-way journey times

- Central London: 50–60 minutes
- Gerrards Cross: 35–45 minutes
- Middlesex: 45–60 minutes
- Richmond: 55–60 minutes

Shuttle service

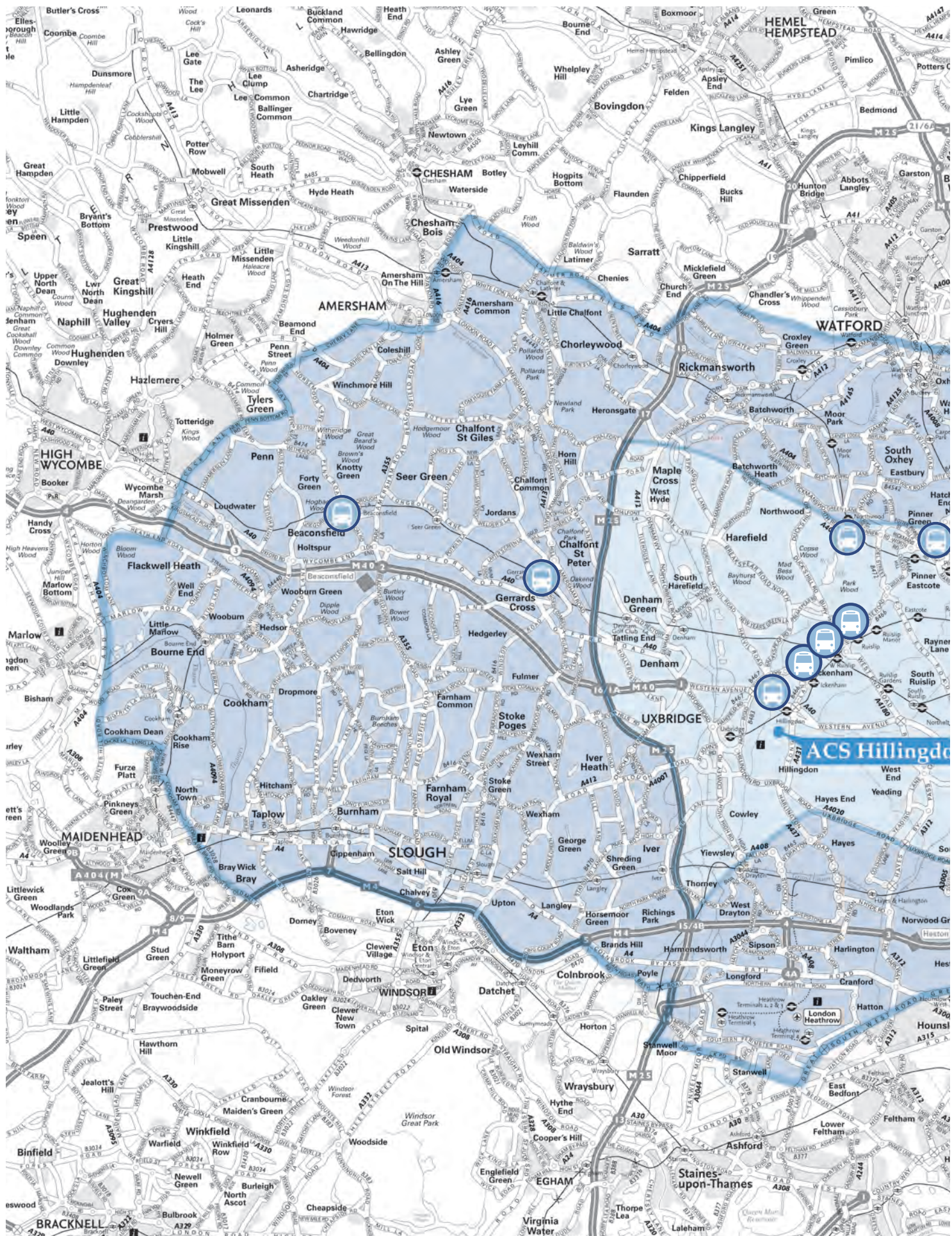
- Beaconsfield: 30–40 minutes
- Central London: 45–55 minutes
- South and West London: 25–35 minutes

*After school activities late buses are shuttle service only for Grade 1 upwards.

For up-to-date busing fees please refer to our website www.acs-schools.com/hillingdon/admissions/fees or email us on mwilliams2@acs-schools.com or call **+44 (0) 1895 259771**.

Open mornings and individual visits

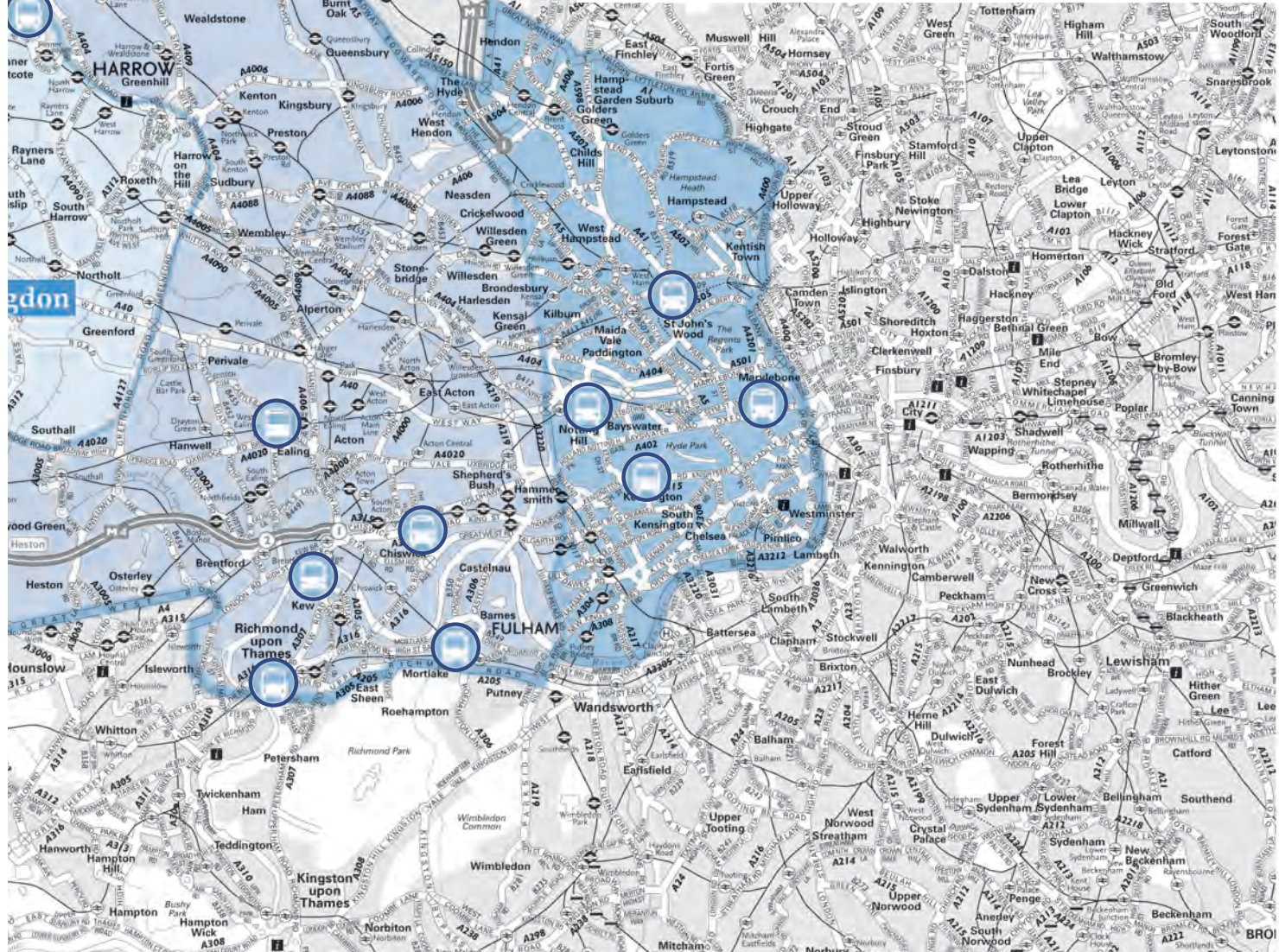
You can book a visit through our website. Alternatively, you can email our admissions team on hilladmissions@acs-schools.com or call us on **+44 (0) 1895 816802** to arrange an individual tour.





Hillingdon busing area

-  Zone boundary
-  Zone 1
-  Zone 2
-  Zone 3
-  Shuttle Service



ACS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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hilladmissions@acs-schools.com



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