



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) IN KENYA

THE NAIROBI ACADEMY



The Nairobi Academy launches IB Diploma, an academic exploration driven by passion

BY MILLICENT MWOLOLO

The Nairobi Academy is set to take in the first cohort of the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) students this September. Mr Samuel Karinga, the IB Co-ordinator at the school, explains why the school has made this move, and why parents should consider enrolling their sons and daughters into the curriculum: "The IB Diploma Programme is an all-rounded academic journey that develops students into internationally-minded people, who are open-minded, dynamic, purposeful, and balanced."

While the IBDP entails an academic rigour that requires students to focus, it also engages them elaborately in all other aspects of life. The holistic approach prepares students for success in higher education, and at the same time nurtures them to become well-rounded individuals with good grasps of what is happening around the world.

Throughout the programme, IBDP learners work independently, but with the guidance and support from their teachers. They freely interact with knowledge, and hence strive to be inquirers, thinkers, communicators, and leaders who are principled, reflective, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, and balanced. This indeed reflects the IB learner profiles.

Admission and enrolment into The Nairobi Academy IBDP is ongoing. The school is targeting an initial class of about 45 students. They will be drawn from Year 11 learners transitioning to Year 12 in the British National Curriculum, Year 11 students from other schools, and the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) leavers.

KCSE graduates can transition into the IB Diploma Programme and fit so well. "I have seen it work very well in the past," says Mr Karinga, who has previously taught in the IB Diploma Programme at other IB world schools.

This being an international programme, The Nairobi Academy is expecting learners from other East African countries as well, and even beyond. "We are also targeting students from the di-



From the Head of School

The International Baccalaureate provides the opportunity for students to challenge themselves to higher levels of educational excellence.

The IB provides the foundation for intellectual curiosity and academic rigor to thrive. It levels the playing field for every student, despite their academic abilities, with an educational philosophy that prepares them to be world-class scholars and first-class citizens.

Offering the IB curriculum is a great way to give our students an advantage. I do not know of a more comprehensive and appropriate learning model.

Students are invited to engage on the many academic and co-curricular provisions and programmes that we offer. All our students progress to some of the world's leading universities, and we can't be happier for them. Their success is our pride!

John Karanja

More than four decades of offering globally-competitive education



The Nairobi Academy is a co-educational school catering for children of ages two to 19 years. The school offers the British National Curriculum, leading to students taking the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and General Certificate of Education (GCE) A-Level. Now the school is also offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), making it an IB World School, a Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE), and a Pearson Edexcel Education and Examination Centre.

The Nairobi Academy has a rich history that spans over 45 years, having been founded in 1976. It sits on a 60-acre property with extensive fields and spaces for learners to explore a diverse range of holistic educational experiences.

The school's environment is safe, vibrant and multicultural, and provides learners with an enriched international curriculum, equipping them with knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them for new and future challenges. This has seen The Nairobi Academy develop all-rounded and well-educated individuals for generations; preparing global thinkers and leaders to transform the world.

The school also provides a pathway for KCSE graduates who would wish to pursue GCE A-Level, BTEC, and IBDP.

Well resourced faculty with global exposure

of the best teachers with both regional and global teaching exposure in different parts of the world, ultra-modern learning facilities, and sufficient learning resources.

Some of the learning facilities include a richly-resourced library, spacious and well-equipped science laboratories, art room, music room, computer laboratories, an auditorium and an arts theatre, indoor games facilities, a spacious playground, outdoor sports pitches for basketball, football, hockey, volleyball, netball, and running tracks. Besides, the compound has adequate space for outdoor learning, or for just taking a walk and ruminating on some ideas.

Mr John Karanja, the Head of School, has a footprint in IB, having previously worked with two top-tier international schools. His main role in setting up the IB involves looking at the strategic inception and implementation of the programme, getting the teachers prepared for it through training, and making the resources available for the teachers to run it. "We hope to also implement the IB PYP (Primary Years Programme) for primary school in the next year," he says.

The school has adequate boarding facilities to house both boys and girls, and is well-secured by a 24-hour manned-security gate and perimeter wall fencing.

Enrolment is ongoing for all Key Stages, from Early Years to Sixth Form, which give different pathways to university: A-Level, BTEC Diploma, and the IB Diploma Programme.

For more information, visit www.nairobiacademy.or.ke.



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Mounting the IB Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma journey at The Nairobi Academy started with explorations in 2019. On August 9, 2021, the school gained candidacy status for the IB authorisation, heralding the initiation process. It implemented the standard practices for the IB Diploma, and realigned the vision and mission of school to suit IB ethos.

The teachers underwent IB training and got equipped with the necessary tools. A majority of the teachers championing the IB Diploma at The Nairobi Academy have vast experiences teaching in different settings, and have enthusiastically embraced the introduction of the IB Diploma programme. They bring along the necessary depth in

terms of knowledge, diversity and global-mindedness.

There are phases in the IB authorisation that are meticulously planned, thus making this process thorough and rigorous. The result is the assurance of a quality administration of a programme.

