The IB is a curriculum for the modern world

With an abiding philosophy and growing following, the International Baccalaureate is the best way to prepare students for their future lives, a headteacher argues

Michael Carslaw

HERES A question I am sometimes asked: “Why is a proud Scot the headteacher of a Scottish school that chooses not to teach the Scottish curriculum?”

At St Leonards, we follow the International Baccalaureate (IB) because we want to contribute to the enhancement of the place of Scots and Scotland in the world – it has nothing to do with not being Scottish. (And some may be surprised by the IB’s Scottish connections: the first director was renowned Edinburgh-born educationalist Alec Peterson.)

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A fellow IB head described the IBDP by invoking that old tagline for a well-known beer, as “probably the best-sixth-form education in the world.” He’s absolutely right. Coupled with the IBCP, it wins hands down. You can tailor it to your strengths (and weaknesses) while laying a strong foundation for next steps, whether university or the world of work. St Leonards Junior School is also the only school in Scotland that follows the invigorating primary version of the curriculum. Our pupils are being ideally prepared for anything life has to offer.

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