

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE  
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF  
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LINDSAY DE SAUSMAREZ**

**Note:** Deputy de Sausmarez has confirmed that throughout her questions 'IB' means the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

**For the avoidance of any doubt, International Baccalaureate Certificates continue to be offered at the Sixth Form Centre alongside A Levels and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).**

**Question 1**

We have been informed that the IB will not be offered to the September 2025 intake of students attending the Sixth Form Centre because only 14 students signed up to the programme, but it will continue to be offered to those already taking the course.

- a) How many students take the IB in the current Year 12 (who will move into Year 13 in September 2025), and what proportion of the year group does that represent?
- b) How many students take the IB in the current Year 13, and what proportion of the year group does that represent?
- c) Since the introduction of the IB, what has been the typical uptake (in terms of student numbers and as a proportion of the relevant year groups) and are any trends discernible – for example, has uptake been falling as a proportion of each year group?

**Answer 1a)**

12 students currently take IBDP in Year 12 (out of 186 students in Year 12 at the Sixth Form Centre). This represents 6% of the cohort. There were originally 20 applicants for the Programme.

**Answer 1b)**

17 students currently take IBDP in Year 13 (out of 179 students in Year 13 at the Sixth Form Centre). This represents 9% of the cohort. There were originally 25 applicants.

**Answer 1c)**

The average number of annual IBDP applications over the past 5 years has been 22, with the highest being 25.

**Question 2**

In terms of viability:

- a) What is the minimum number of students required to make the provision of an IB subject viable?

b) What are the sizes of the largest and smallest IB classes currently being provided?

**Answer 2a)**

As supportive as the Committee is of the choice of Post 16 qualifications, readers will appreciate these are not easy decisions and it is not simply the number of students that has to be considered when offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; we also have to consider the range of the six subjects they are each selecting from the suite of 20 subjects within six blocks on offer, and the attrition rate that has always been a feature of this Programme. On this occasion, indicative take up was very small, and the breadth of subjects the students would have chosen was wide.

The optimal number of students varies from one subject to another, but it is educationally suboptimal and inefficient to run what would have been 18 teaching groups with three or fewer students in each. This is especially so when the specialist teachers involved could potentially be used to benefit a greater number of students across the Sixth Form and the 11-16 schools in the Secondary School Partnership and, potentially, primary aged children to support the delivery of French.

(It is interesting to note that Jersey stopped the IBDP in 2024 – In oral questions at the time of that decision, its Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning suggested 50-75 students were needed to make the programme viable: [States Assembly | OQ.90/2024](#))

**Answer 2b)**

This year the smallest class has 1 student (Higher Level Sports, Exercise & Health Science – the course started with 3 students. The largest class is English, with 17 students.

**Question 3**

How many students are expected to join the Sixth Form Centre in Year 12 this September (i.e. from the current Year 11 cohort, taking into account the average rate of students not accepting offers or meeting the entry requirements), and what will be the estimated total number of students at the Sixth Form Centre from September 2025?

**Answer 3**

Currently applications have been received from 223 students and 208 offers have been made. Of the 208 offers, 178 students currently attend the States High Schools and 30 students currently attend the Grant-Aided Colleges or are from elsewhere (e.g. moving to Guernsey).

The estimated total number of students in the Sixth Form Centre in September 2025 is: 208 (starting Year 12) + 186 (moving from Year 12 to 13) = 394 in total. Although it should be noted that these numbers could fluctuate (up or down) depending on exam results this summer.

#### Question 4

What is the current buyout rate after Year 11 from the state sector to the independent sector, and what has the trend in movement between the sectors post-secondary been over the last decade or so?

#### Answer 4

		Number/proportion of Secondary School Partnership Year 11 students moving to Grant-Aided College for Year 12			
Academic Year starting:	Year 11 SSP students progressing to Year 12	Blanchelande College	Elizabeth College	The Ladies' College	Proportion
2024	347	2	5	0	2.0%
2023	329	0	2	1	0.9%
2022	319	0	1	1	0.6%
2021	333	2	3	1	1.8%
2020	334	0	0	1	0.3%
2019	346	N/A	0	0	0.0%
2018	316	N/A	0	1	0.3%
2017	349	N/A	0	0	0.0%
2016	407	N/A	1	0	0.0%

		Number/proportion of Grant-Aided College Year 11 students moving to States provider for Year 12		
Academic Year starting:	Year 11 GAC students progressing to Year 12	TGI	SFC	Proportion
2024	159	14	21	22.0%
2023	177	11	31	23.7%
2022	183	7	34	22.4%
2021	176	8	28	20.4%
2020	167	12	33	26.9%
2019	152	5	41	30.2%
2018	154	12	45	37.0%
2017	174	7	49	32.2%
2016	169	12	35	27.8%

### Question 5

Given the student numbers in lower year groups and the estimated buyout rate, what are the projected student numbers for the Sixth Form Centre over the next ten years?

### Answer 5

	<b>Projected Year 12</b>	<b>Projected Year 13</b>	<b>Total</b>
2025-26	208	186	394
2026-27	195	186	381
2027-28	216	174	390
2028-29	197	193	390
2029-30	214	176	389
2030-31	196	191	387
2031-32	198	175	373
2032-33	207	177	384
2033-34	178	185	363
2034-35	177	159	336
2035-36	175	158	334
2036-37	162	157	319

(The above figures are based on actual student population data within both the States and Independent sectors and the last three year averages for: movement between the States' sector and the Grant-Aided Colleges between Years 6 and 7; movement between the Grant-Aided Colleges and the Sixth Form Centre between Years 11 and 12; and progression from Year 12 to Year 13).

### Question 6

The removal of provision of the IB has been described as a "pause", but given the projected student numbers over the next decade, the trends in uptake and the minimum number of students required to make IB courses viable, how realistic is it to expect that the IB will be offered again in future years?

### Answer 6

This will depend on future application numbers and viability, and it has to be kept in mind that an increase in take up of the IB Diploma Programme could risk some A Level programmes dropping below viability thresholds.

The Committee has asked operational leaders and will be asking Governance Boards across the Secondary School Partnership, The Guernsey Institute and St Anne's School in Alderney to continue to actively promote the full range of post-16 options available. The IB Diploma Programme is open to all post 16 students in Guernsey and Alderney including those attending the Colleges in Year 11 and, as the above figures show, we have students from the Colleges moving to the Sixth Form Centre to study a range of programmes including the IB Diploma Programme.

Students from across the island are invited to the Sixth Form Centre's open evenings but no active 'promotion' of any States' provided post-16 options takes place in the Grant-Aided Colleges to students in Key Stage 4 years as it does in the 11-16 States schools. In closer partnership working with the Colleges, perhaps this opportunity can be considered.

### **Question 7**

With respect to curriculum choice:

- a) Which subjects will be provided to Year 12 students at the Sixth Form Centre in September 2025?
- b) Which subjects are being provided to current Year 12 students (who will be in Year 13 in September 2025) that will not be offered to the Year 12 intake in September 2025?
- c) Have any subjects been added to the curriculum offer for the September 2025 intake in Year 12 compared with the subjects provided to the current Year 12 (who will be in Year 13 in September 2025)?
- d) How does the breadth of the curriculum offer in September 2025 compare with the breadth of the curriculum offer when the Sixth Form Centre was an integral part of an 11-18 structure, in the previous five academic years (e.g. from September 2019)?

### **Answer 7a)**

Art & Design  
Biology  
Business Management  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Design & Technology  
Digital Society  
Drama & Theatre  
Economics  
English Language & Literature  
English Literature  
Environmental Science  
Environmental Systems & Societies  
Extended Project Qualification  
Film

French  
Further Mathematics  
Geography  
History  
Mathematical Studies  
Mathematics  
Mathematics (GCSE)  
Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches  
Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation  
Media Studies  
Music  
Philosophy  
Photography  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Sports, Exercise & Health Sciences  
Visual Arts

**Answer 7b)**

The A Level Drama qualification is not currently planned to be available for Year 12 students this September 2025.

The following qualifications are not running for Year 12 students this September 2025, but the subjects are available via alternative qualifications:

IBDP Digital Society  
IBDP English  
IBDP Maths Analysis and Approaches  
IBDP Maths Applications and Interpretations  
IBDP French  
IBDP History  
IBDP ESS  
IBDP Chemistry  
IBDP Physics  
IBDP Biology  
IBDP Philosophy  
IBDP Business Management

**Answer 7c)**

No subjects have been added.

### **Answer 7d)**

The breadth of curriculum offer is the same. (The only change has been a switch from Nature of Science to Environmental Systems & Societies due to the International Baccalaureate's cessation of the Nature of Science course.)

### **Question 8**

With respect to the anticipated impact of not providing the IB:

- a) What is the anticipated financial impact of this change from September 2025, compared with the current academic year?
- b) What is the staffing impact of this change from September 2025? (E.g. will any teachers have less contact time, or will any be required to reduce their hours, or distribute their hours differently – for example by spending more time in the 11-16 schools?)
- c) What would be the anticipated financial impact of this change from September 2026 if the IB were not to be provided in that year either?
- d) What would be the staffing impact if the IB were not to be provided from September 2026 – in other words, if there were to be no provision of the IB through the Sixth Form Centre?

### **Answer 8a)**

As planning for next academic year is currently underway it is not yet possible to quantify the financial impact of pausing the IB Diploma Programme for the 2025/2026 academic year.

### **Answer 8b)**

No staff will be required to reduce the number of hours they work as a result of this change. Additional capacity will be created in the Sixth Form Centre which might allow some staff to support teaching in the Secondary School Partnership schools or to perform other essential functions within the Sixth Form Centre.

### **Answer 8c)**

In some subject areas provision would be reduced to a level which would reduce the number of staff required in a subject area, which could mean that vacancies arising in the future were not replaced or staff were redeployed to Secondary School Partnership schools. This would depend on vacancies in any given year, and it is anticipated that any savings would be redirected to areas of need.

**Answer 8d)**

In some subject areas it would mean reduced staffing would be required in the Sixth Form Centre, which could mean fewer staff members or increased output to Secondary School Partnership schools depending on the subject area.

**Date of receipt of the Question:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Date of Reply:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025