



EtonHouse International School Orchard

## **Sixth Form - International A-Levels**

Information Booklet



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# Sixth Form

## Introduction

EtonHouse International School Orchard is a passionate, driven, and thriving learning community committed to providing Singapore's most inclusive and personalised education. Our small class sizes and boutique context enable us to realise this vision. Every teacher knows every student's interests and competencies, which helps them tailor lessons accordingly and ensure that all students receive the attention and support they need to succeed.

The EtonHouse Group's Vision and Mission provide us with our anchor points. The students' passions and interests provide direction and purpose; teachers provide momentum, support and reassurance.

Conveniently located in central Singapore, we offer a first-class education to children from Primary to High School (ages 5 to 18), offering the IB PYP, IGCSE and International A-Level learning pathway with an academic calendar that runs from August to June.

### **Our Vision**

Shaping the future through education

### **Our Mission**

Developing confident and capable global citizens



We understand and recognise that for every child that may suit a large school, there is another who would equally be at home in a small school context. We provide that setting. Our school is an environment where every child feels safe, is happy and has the opportunity to flourish academically, socially and emotionally. We believe in a value-based education system where we place the child at the heart of the decision-making process. We provide every child with opportunities to achieve their potential and be the best they can be.

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Utopia is reached when a school strives to create, develop and promote synergy between the academic, pastoral and co-curricular domains. This ‘wraparound’ care which sees the child develop holistically, is even more important in the challenging climate in which we currently live. Communities and parents look to the school to provide that leadership. At EtonHouse International School Orchard, we recognise the importance of providing students with a holistic education that goes beyond academics. This is supported through our Lifeskill courses and bespoke EtonCore programme, which is a combination of elective and accredited pathways. Each student will be able to select an individualised and personalised journey comprising elective aspects of the EtonCore where they will have opportunities to develop their interests and nurture a growth mindset.

A successful school should be a happy and thriving learning community. We recognise that it’s important for children to want to come to school, that they feel safe, they flourish and are engaged.

## Aims and Objectives

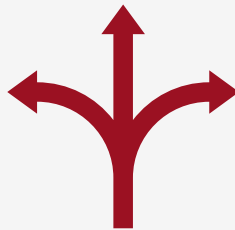
The Sixth Form at EtonHouse International School Orchard is designed to prepare our students for the increased expectations of universities and employers. Besides good grades, students are expected to develop as confident young adults who can take responsibility, be accountable, develop high levels of self-esteem and confidence, and have the ability to set and meet personal targets.

Personalised support and guidance will be given to each individual student. They, in turn, will be expected to develop a range of skills and experiences they will need for Higher Education and employment.

**It is hoped that by the end of their Sixth Form career, every student will:**



Have achieved their academic potential



Be better informed about potential career pathways and prospects



Have played an active role in the school and wider community



Have developed qualities of resilience, teamwork and integrity



Have developed a range of recreational and cultural interests



Have developed lifelong skills such as empathy, independence and problem solving



Have made decisions about their future and achieved an appropriate place in Higher Education or employment

## Sixth Form at EtonHouse Orchard

At EtonHouse International School Orchard, we have chosen to offer the International A-Level pathway in Sixth Form. It provides globally recognised qualifications that enable students to gain entry into universities around the world as it demonstrates a student's ability to handle the demands of higher education. Employers also value them as a measure of academic achievement and potential.

The International A-Levels allow students to further their studies in subjects which interest them in greater depth. Specialism focuses determination and, with guidance and support from our academic team, our students will be on a direct and fulfilling journey towards their undergraduate studies. At EtonHouse, we also offer numerous enriching opportunities for students to pursue other interests, broaden one's perspective and understanding of life, and help build a comprehensive and meaningful CV.

All students in the Sixth Form will have some private study or self-directed time periods on their timetable, and they will decide for themselves the work done within these periods. Study is a very individual activity; students are expected to engage in independent study and be responsible for their own learning as they learn to be more disciplined and self-motivated. If students are to make the most of their opportunities in the Sixth Form, they must learn to use these periods effectively. They may also use this time to pursue other interests through our bespoke EtonCore programme and to assume positions of responsibility and leadership within the school or participate in and organise school functions to build an enriching Sixth Form life.

One very important point to realise is that Sixth Form life is not just for academically capable students. It enables everyone to develop their abilities individually and achieve their potential in their search for qualifications and a successful future.

We are very pleased to welcome applications from students who wish to continue their next stage of studies at EtonHouse International School Orchard. We are confident that both students from our current Year 11 batch and students transferring from other international schools within Singapore or abroad will benefit from our highly personalised and bespoke approach.



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## International A-Levels

International A-Levels (IALs) are qualifications offered to students ages 16 to 18 at international schools globally by Cambridge International Examinations and Pearson Edexcel. They are internationally recognised qualifications equivalent to British A-Levels, the standardised academic examinations taken in the United Kingdom. Both qualifications are highly respected by universities and employers alike and provide a direct path to university. Thousands of learners worldwide gain places at leading universities every year with International A-Levels.

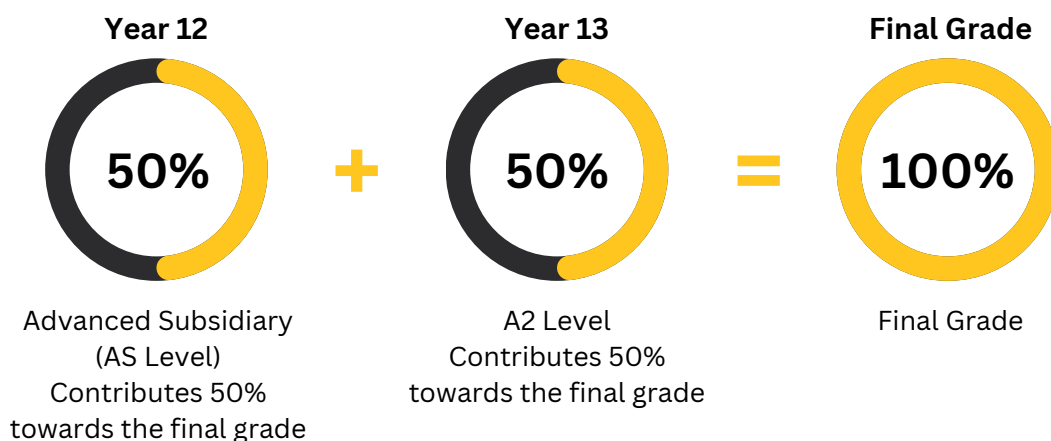
Among the various internationally recognised post-16 qualifications, EtonHouse chose to offer the International A-Levels for the following advantages that provide students with even greater opportunities for success:

### 1

International A-Levels only require students to choose 3 or 4 subjects to specialise in and study in depth over the two years. Students can choose to study and focus on the subjects that interest them or are required for the degree they intend to pursue at university (most university entry requirements specify only three grades at A-Level). They are also likely to maximise their potential and achieve the best outcomes/grades in these subjects by specialising earlier.

### 2

Students do not have to sit the final examinations all at once and can instead space them out. Students will sit for the AS exams at the end of their first year (Year 12) and receive an AS-Level grade which can also be a stand-alone qualification in its own right that is worth half the equivalent A-Level grade. Students may then decide which three subjects to continue into the second year (Year 13) and take the A2 exams, which test on the content covered in the second year, at the end of the year. The final A-Level grade will be an average of the grades achieved in the AS and A2 exams.



### Which Post-16 qualification is better?

Universities don't really have a 'preferred' qualification when it comes to admitting students. Admissions Departments evaluate each student based on their overall achievements, including academics and extracurricular activities. As long as your child meets the minimum grade requirements in the necessary subjects for their chosen course, it doesn't really matter whether they're applying with the A-Levels results or IB Diploma.

## 3

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There are two examination periods within the year. At EtonHouse International School Orchard, students will take their exams in May/June. They would have the flexibility to resit and retake their AS modules in October/November if necessary, ensuring they get the best result possible to get them into their dream university.

## 4

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Complementing their International A-Level subject choices, students would also have more non-teaching and self-directed time for the EtonCore and Lifeskills programmes. These programmes are designed to enrich students' Sixth Form life and encourage them to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners. It would also help them build a comprehensive and meaningful CV that would benefit university admissions and future employment.

# The EtonHouse Difference

That sets your child up for success

## **Personalised Pathway Plan@16**

The Personalised Pathway Plan@16 is an individual action plan following discussions and interviews in Year 11 between the student and key staff to identify the most appropriate International A-Level courses to maximise academic potential whilst also supporting personal development. These discussions include conversations connected to the student's career aspirations and advice by experienced teachers enables them to make informed and appropriate subject choice decisions. Each individual will also be provided with opportunities outside the classroom to challenge themselves, promote independence and nurture talents. This holistic and student-led approach is unique to our school. Because of our boutique size, rich teacher-to-student ratio and mantra that 'every student is known well by every teacher', we strongly believe that the opportunity to provide a truly individualised educational experience can become a reality.



Our aim is for students to be well placed at the start of Year 12 to ensure a smooth transition and the best possible start to Sixth Form. As part of the comprehensive Post-16 Pathways guidance, students will be advised as to whether they are recommended for the three or four International A-Level pathway. Most university entry requirements specify only three grades at A-Levels. We expect most students to opt to study three subjects at International A-Levels and study them for the duration of the two-year course. We also recognise that the structure of the International A-Levels provides students with an opportunity to take four subjects through Year 12 to AS Level and then 'drop' one subject at the beginning of Year 13. Students considering four International A-Levels subjects should discuss this in their Personalised Pathway Plan@16 interview.

In Year 11, students are asked to make choices from option blocks. Students will be guided by their passions and interests as they select up to four A-Level subjects that intrigue and inspire them. Please note that, as always, some subjects may not be available if the numbers opting, or staffing/timetable constraints do not make them viable. Hence, whilst it is likely that we can accommodate most first choices, we cannot guarantee this. It is therefore crucial to select a viable reserve choice

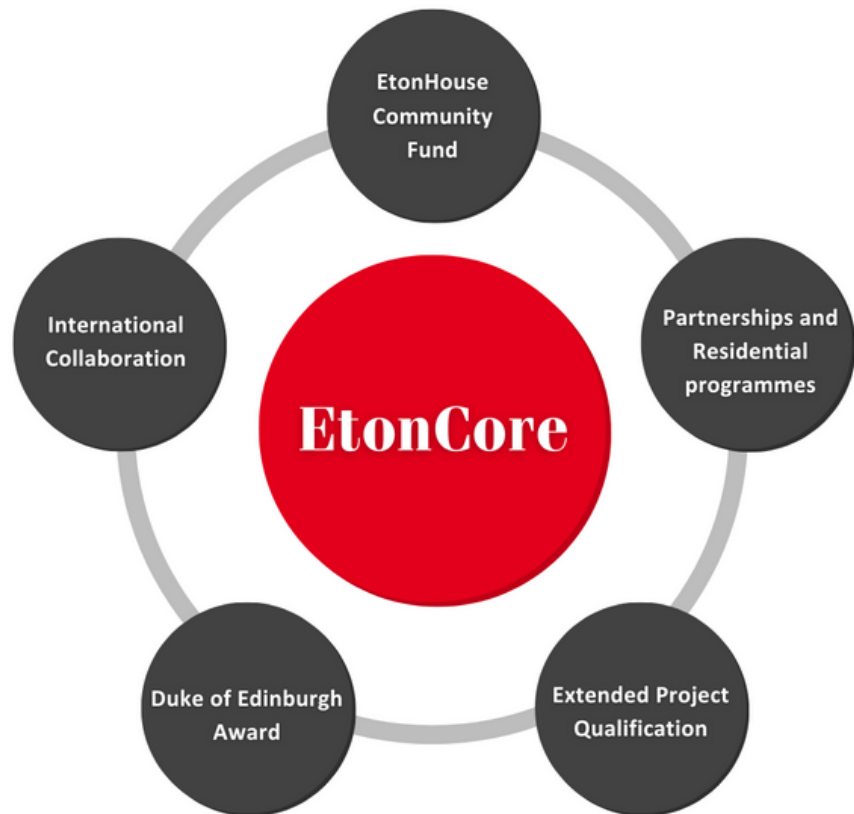
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**Each individual will also be provided with opportunities outside the classroom to challenge themselves, promote independence and nurture talents.**

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## The EtonCore



At EtonHouse International School Orchard, we recognise the importance of providing students with a holistic education that goes beyond academics. This is supported through the bespoke EtonCore programme, which is a combination of elective and accredited pathways and is an integral part of our Personalised Pathway Plan@16. Each student will be able to select an individualised and personalised journey comprising elective aspects of the EtonCore where they will have opportunities to develop their interests and nurture student agency and a growth mindset.

These elements include:

- Researching and producing an essay on a self-selected topic as part of the externally accredited Extended Project Qualification;
- Driving community service projects through the EtonHouse Community Fund;
- Working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a globally recognised accreditation that empowers young people to learn and grow through the areas of physical recreation, skills development, adventurous journey and voluntary service;
- Participating in partnerships and residential programmes that give them real-world experiences;
- Collaborating with other overseas schools in the EtonHouse global network to develop international mindedness

The EtonCore programme encourages students to become well-principled, critical thinkers who are not afraid to take risks, and it is in line with the EtonHouse core values of nurturing independent learners who take responsibility for their future success. These attributes challenge students to think beyond subject-based learning outcomes and are fundamental for helping them prepare for higher education and future career opportunities.

## Lifeskills

The structured Lifeskills programme includes a range of sessions led by experienced teachers and guest speakers on subjects such as study skills, applying for university, university life, wellbeing, finance, and relationships. The aim of this programme is to strengthen students' understanding of how to build and maintain emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing when studying for their A-Levels and start preparing for life after Sixth Form. Maintaining a healthy balance between academic studies and developing a personal life is even more important in these years to support the wellbeing of young people as they approach adulthood.



## University and Careers Guidance

EtonHouse International School Orchard also provides a student-centred university and careers guidance programme that offers personalised support that puts the student firmly at the forefront of the decision-making process. Experienced teachers conduct workshops, talks and discussions to support the Year 12 and 13 students and their families with their decision-making as well as advising on course requirements and steering university research. They work closely with each student to create a balanced university list, write their personal statements and essays and prepare for interviews. With support and guidance, students are encouraged to take ownership of their research and planning process to find their best fit institution or career pathway.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the difference between International A-Levels and British A-Levels?**

British A-Levels and International A-Levels are both qualifications that students can take in order to further their education and access universities all over the world. However, there are differences between the two. British A-Levels are only offered in the United Kingdom and topics are often UK-centric. International A-Levels are offered globally by international schools and whilst the content of these courses is similar, the context in which they are placed is non-country specific and therefore are more suited and appropriate for an international context. However, both qualifications are highly respected by universities and employers alike, and provide a direct path to university.

### **What is the difference between the IB and A-Levels (International/UK)?**

Both programs are widely respected by universities and are seen as indicative of a student's ability to handle the demands of higher education.

The International A-Levels offer flexibility as it allows students to choose three or four subjects of their choice to specialise in and study in depth over the two years. The IB Diploma Programme focuses on breadth as students have to study six subjects from specified subject groups, alongside the core components consisting the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge and CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service).

In general, the IB is more suited to students who are all-rounders and prefers a mix of written, coursework, and activities-based assessments; A-Levels are favoured by students who are stronger in certain subjects or have made up their mind on the type of degree they want. Ultimately, which programme is the best fit for a student will depend on their academic interests, goals, and the specific requirements of the universities they are considering applying to.

# EtonHouse®

International School @ Orchard

A highly personalised education pathway

IBPYP , IGCSE, International A-Levels



Book a school  
tour now!

## **EtonHouse International School Orchard**

 <https://www.etonhouse.edu.sg/orchard>

 10 Tanglin Road, Singapore 247908

 +65 6513 1155

 [orchard@etonhouse.edu.sg](mailto:orchard@etonhouse.edu.sg)

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