

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE,

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EDUCATING WORLD CITIZENS

The IBO primary and secondary programs emphasize critical thinking and humanistic values.

More than 30 schools and colleges in Britain now offer the International Baccalaureate, which is administered by a chartered foundation, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), based in Geneva. Founded in the 1960s, the IBO grew out of international efforts to establish a common curriculum and university entry credential for geographically mobile students. Today, its members include educational institutions in almost 100 countries.

In Britain, Southbank International School in the Hampstead area of north London has become one of the first to offer the IBO's new Primary Years Program

experience of the real world."

Marymount aims to "teach girls how to learn on their own," adds Ms. Chamberlain, thereby enabling them to be self-motivated throughout their lives. "This is the real core of the courses," she says, adding that "it's changed the way I teach."

Other participating schools in Britain, such as Swansea College in Wales, Maidstone Grammar School in Kent, Malvern College in Worcestershire and Ullswater Community College in Cumbria, offer the IBO's Di-



for pupils aged from 3 to 12 years. Launched in September at the start of the current academic year, it makes the IBO the only private organization in the world to offer an international curriculum from kindergarten through the pre-university years.

Founded in 1979, Southbank serves children of all nationalities up to age 18, with pass rates well above international standards. In addition, it provides a U.S. High School Diploma at its Kensington campus, as well as art shows, science fairs and the London International Gallery of Children's Art.

Marymount International School, a girls' school based in Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey, offers the IBO's Middle Years Program for students from 11 to 15 years of age and will be adding the final year, for students aged up to 16, in the next academic year. The school seeks to "coordinate content areas, such as history, geography, science or maths, with areas of interaction that provide interdisciplinary links," explains Helen Chamberlain, curriculum coordinator. "Whether it's the environment, community service, health or social education, we provide girls with

ploma Program for students in the final two years of secondary school and/or the middle years.

Grants from the Ford Foundation, the Twentieth Century Fund and others have helped the IBO to develop a balanced, advanced curriculum that embraces institutions operating within a variety of national systems. The IBO also assesses the courses offered by its participating institutions and provides teacher training and information seminars, electronic networking and other educational services, as well as fostering program development.

IB schools also pride themselves on combining intellectual rigor and high academic standards with a strong emphasis on teaching their students the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship. The desired aim is to create a student who is a critical and compassionate thinker and an informed participant in local and world affairs.

As IBO officials in Geneva explain, the IB student is one "who values the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life."