



## The Anglo European School “A Distinctive Education”



The school is an 11-19, co-educational comprehensive school situated between Brentwood and Chelmsford in Essex (UK), 30 minutes from Liverpool Street station in London.

It was opened in 1973 after the closure of a secondary modern school. The local residents of Ingatestone had campaigned to keep their local school open and the Local Authority, Essex, took the visionary step to establish a school with a “European Dimension”. The Education Committee decided in 1967 that they wanted a “school along European lines” whatever that meant and they took this as an opportunity to realise that vision. The school would serve local needs but also draw students from a much wider sphere of influence. That sphere of influence now includes almost the whole of Essex and parts of London including Islington, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Redbridge. We also draw students from Suffolk. The railway line is our life-blood but students also arrive here by bus, car, foot and bicycle. Altogether 1,380 students come to this school in the village of Ingatestone. The school is in Willow Green, which is a cul-de-sac.

We have no evidence to prove it but there is a view that the local authority decision-makers at the time may have been influenced by the US ‘magnet’ school model. It was certainly the case that they saw it as an opportunity to consolidate the position of Essex as an important EU hub. The county faces Europe and the debate about our membership of the Common Market was as lively then (there was a referendum in 1975) as it is about our membership of the EU now.

Jean Monet gave us permission to use the EU flag as our logo even though the 12 yellow stars on a blue background is, first and foremost, the flag of the Council of Europe. Towards the end of the 1990s our ethos changed to embrace people from all over the world. ‘Anglo European’ became a misnomer but our reputation had been built on it so we have never changed the name.

Virtually all of the children from our local primary schools come here, namely: Margaretting CofE Primary School; Ingatestone & Fryerning C of E (VA) Junior School and Mountnessing CofE Primary School. They are all entitled to a place. This amounts to about 300 students. A small number may choose local grammar schools or private schools. In one very important sense this is a local comprehensive school.

So what is it that draws over 1000 students to this school every day from beyond Ingatestone?

We have a reputation for high academic standards, our exam results are very good and we are a values-driven school. There are five particular features (pillars) which enshrine these values and attract parents and their children in large numbers.

1. **A commitment to a broad and balanced (baccalaureate) curriculum:** Every student studies the humanities, the Arts, technology, languages, Citizenship and PE as well as Mathematics, English and Science until Year 11 (age 16). In the Sixth Form they study

either one of two International Baccalaureate (IB) courses or a 4 A level programme. All students in the Sixth Form study a language and the IB course Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). We have Artsmark Gold status recognising the commitment we make to arts education. (A former student recently played Robert Oppenheimer in the West End stage play Oppenheimer).

2. **Languages:** We offer Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish as well as English as an Additional Language and Latin. Up until age 16 most students study two languages other than English and in the Sixth Form they have to study at least one. We are a Confucius Classroom supporting Chinese teaching in this school and in other schools and we host the Essex Jiangsu Resource Centre for the teaching of Chinese. The school is one of two state schools in the UK to be part of the government's Mandarin Excellence Programme which seeks to develop fluent Chinese speakers. We are also developing (2016) our own Lingua Centre for the teaching of languages including English to adults.
3. **Citizenship:** This is both a taught course for all students as well as an applied course. All students take part in a Model United Nations and work experience. With regard to the latter a significant number choose to do their work experience abroad. Political education is a key part of this programme. Applied Citizenship develops the importance of giving, volunteering and service above self.
4. **Visits and exchanges:** Every year between 6-700 students travel abroad, most of them on family exchange. All of our full-time teaching staff agree to support this programme which takes them away from their own families for up to 10 days every year. We have a network of partner schools throughout Europe as well as in India, South Africa (Lesotho) and China some - 23 schools altogether. The school maintains a "scholarship fund" to support students who are not able to afford the costs of the programme.
5. **The International Baccalaureate:** Whilst we run the IB Diploma and Career Programme and our main school curriculum is inspired by their Middle Years Programme, it is the IB philosophy and ethos which makes the school tick. Whether students follow IB programmes or not, they are all influenced by its philosophy. (See Mission Statement and Learner Profile). We were the first state school to establish the IB Diploma in 1977 and the first to introduce their Career Programme in 2010.

In our view none of the 5 'pillars' can be found in any other school in the country and certainly not altogether.

You can see that it is a school with a difference and from those early days we are very proud of what we have achieved as a comprehensive school. Ofsted have referred to us as 'distinctive', others refer to us as 'quirky'. Either way, we are different and we feel it is a very special place to be. In some ways it can be likened to a faith school except that we are secular and our 'faith' is internationalism which permeates all aspects of what we do.

### **Some key milestones**

- 1973 The school was founded
- 1977 The first UK state school to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma
- 1995 The first comprehensive school to become a specialist Language college
- 2005 The first co-headship model in a state secondary school
- 2010 The first UK state school to offer the IB Career Programme
- 2011 The Anglo European Co-operative Educational Trust along with our local primary schools, the Anglia Ruskin University and the Co-operative Society was established

- 2011 The school became the Anglo European Co-operative Academy as part of the drive to make all schools independent companies within the state sector
- 2016 One of two state schools to introduce the DfE's Mandarin Excellence Programme

### ***What is a 'baccalaureate education'?***

There is no clear definition of the word baccalaureate, yet it is an increasingly important concept in educational philosophy and curriculum design. This definition is offered by the Anglo European School;

*A baccalaureate programme is an educational experience that is broad (involving all major subject disciplines); balanced (in that specialisation is deferred or avoided) and coherent (with clear values, learner outcomes and themes which add relevance to subject study). The programme adds up to more than the sum of its parts and provides for the rounded education of the student.*

*Learning is concurrent to enable connections to be made and the programme is founded on a very clear set of values. A baccalaureate will also contain a core of learning common to all learners which could include individual research, an element of study skills, work experience/internship and an opportunity to demonstrate service above self. The core provides an opportunity for learning to be applied as well as to deepen understanding and enrich learning itself.*

*Where appropriate, assessment is rigorous and based on agreed criteria which are not subject to change other than as part of periodic systematic review.*

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#### **Exemplars**

The International Baccalaureate Organisation offers four programmes: the Diploma (16-19), the Career-related Programme (16-19), the Middle Years Programme (11-16) and the Primary Years Programme (4-11). The Diploma is often cited as the global standard for baccalaureates. However, there are others. For example, the Welsh Baccalaureate, the French Baccalaureate, the AQA Baccalaureate. The English 'Baccalaureate' comprises five subjects at Key Stage 4—Mathematics, English, Science, a language and Geography or History but has no core.

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