



## Europa School UK

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### Europa School UK Contextual information for UCAS student references

Europa School UK is a 4 - 18 mixed non-selective UK state Free School in South Oxfordshire. Europa School UK provides a multilingual and multicultural education for nursery, primary and secondary level pupils. We have approximately 950 pupils on roll, of which about 75 are in the sixth form.

Our sixth form students study towards the European Baccalaureate, which is a two-year cycle (S6 (Yr 12) and S7 (Yr 13)), consisting of a comprehensive multilingual curriculum. Pupils must always follow a combination of language, humanities, and scientific subjects with subjects taught through more than one language. The EB programme is delivered over 31-35 weekly periods (45 minutes). Pupils study 10 or more subjects and are examined by means of written and oral examinations and by continuous assessment, which includes internal exams.

The school was closed for the majority of pupils, with the exception of vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, from 23rd March 2020 when the national lockdown began. During this period we provided distance learning using the Google Classroom platform. Weekly tasks and assignments were followed by students independently for each subject. Direct and live teaching via Google Meet was provided for one period per week for each subject. The purpose of these online lessons was to facilitate direct contact with their subject teachers. In some cases, the live lessons were used for content delivery and in others, students received individual support and feedback on their individual learning.

This teaching arrangement was welcomed by those students who enjoyed being able to organize their schedule independently. However for others, it was very difficult to follow and keep up with the task load as they rely more on the teacher's input. This experience has definitely shifted us further and led to the development of time management skills and technical skills, although communication, collaboration, and peer learning were impacted. During the last two weeks of the academic year, we offered on-site lessons for this cohort, which the students embraced very positively to capitalise fully from the learning. Nonetheless, the cohort is seen to have experienced heightened stress levels in the early stages of this autumn term.

The Office of the Secretary General of the European Schools has indicated that there will be no change to the curriculum content or the structure of the European Baccalaureate examination. This is contributing to the increased stress levels for this cohort in the early stages of the autumn term as teachers attempt to recover some lost delivery time as well as anticipating further potential disruption.

We were unable to hold the final exams in year S6 (present S7 students) so the process of awarding the year mark has been adjusted in line with the European Schools' regulations for assessment during the Covid-19 pandemic for the 2019-20 reporting cycle. The S6 subject year marks were based on teacher assessment including first semester coursework and tests, internal exams held in December 2019 and the second semester distance learning assessments.

In May 2020 we ran a UCAS week for our present S7 students in the form of online workshops and webinars, supported by universities and our former graduates. It was an intensive programme with a focus on university research and personal statement writing skills. The students were presented with information and tips on how to research universities and to structure their personal statement. However, due to the online provision, individual support was more limited and there may have been some delay in providing tailored advice to some students on their career choices.