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# Students celebrate IB exam success

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**By Thom Airs**

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THE International Baccalaureate has taken hold in Oxford as dozens of pupils toasted their results.

The six-subject courses are offered as an alternative to A-Levels, with a maximum mark of 45 points.

Sixth formers at a trio of Oxford schools picked up their results on Tuesday.

At St Edward's, in North Oxford, 25 pupils averaged a score of just under 37 points, with Clio Chartres notching 44 points and head boy Ben Street, from Summertown, Oxford, scoring 43.

Ten students at the school achieved 38 points or more, the equivalent to more than 4 A\*s at A Level.

Ben said: "I've really enjoyed the IB. Studying six subjects gives you a much broader perspective. You can see connections between different disciplines which makes studying much more interesting."

Head girl Fiona Shajko said: "I found it hard work but genuinely stimulating, and, looking back, I would make the same choice again."

Warden Andrew Trotman said: "I am proud of our pupils. Results of this calibre place them at the highest levels internationally."

"We have been delighted with the success of the IB programme at St Edward's, introduced three years ago and already an essential part of the intellectual diaspora of the school".

Headington School completed its first year of the IB with just under half of entrants achieving scores of 40 or more. Top performers were 18-year-olds Shuxin Cai with 44 and Aarushi Bajaj with 43.

Teacher James Stephenson said: "We are absolutely delighted that the girls have achieved the challenging goals they set for themselves."

"Here at Headington we offer a broad choice of subjects and examinations, and the increasingly popular IB is one of the options."

St Clare's College, in North Oxford, achieved its best International Baccalaureate results so far with Olga Vasilenko scoring a perfect 45 – a mark received by fewer than 0.2 per cent of students worldwide.

Spokesman Tei Williams said: "The 2011 average student score of 36 points is the equivalent of more than four A grades at A-Level. Ninety per cent of entrants gained 30 points or more, the equivalent of three A grades at A-level."

"Other notable local achievements include two students gaining entry to Oxbridge, one to Oxford (St John's) and one to Cambridge (Trinity Hall)."

Principal Paula Holloway said: "These results can be attributed to the application of our students and the hard work and motivation of St Clare's teaching staff."

"Everyone here is very pleased indeed to see how well the students have performed and the effort which they have made to achieve these wonderful results."

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