
Bac to the future for schools

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The news that [Michael Gove](#) is proposing an "English baccalaureate" to sit alongside GCSEs ([Report](#), 6 September) is to be welcomed by all those who would like our young people to be stretched beyond the limitations of the current system. However, there is an alternative that the government's proposal appears to overlook. The International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme (MYP), which Wellington students study as an alternative to GCSEs, covers maths, English, science, the humanities, technology and the arts, and all students must study a modern language. Crucially, it is an integrated programme which seeks to develop links between subjects. What is also appealing is that it returns responsibility of the curriculum back to the [schools](#): a process of trust and independence that must surely appeal to the new secretary of state.

The government could save a lot of time – and money – by introducing the MYP to schools in this country: in one step they would begin to move our young people out from a rather insular educational system to a more liberated, modern and international system which will better prepare them for study and work in an increasingly interconnected world.

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