

## Why is Christ Church not an IB School?

At Christ Church Grammar School, we have taken a deliberate and carefully considered decision to offer the WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education) rather than the International Baccalaureate (IB). By its nature, Christ Church is a School that celebrates diversity. We have a long tradition of an international outward-looking perspective which we feel would not be enhanced by commitment to an externally prescriptive curriculum offering such as the IB.

Christ Church Grammar School offers the WACE with pride and confidence to our community as the certificate of school completion that best suits their needs, regardless of their abilities and interests, backgrounds or aspirations. As a non-selective school, we believe the WACE is inclusive in its philosophy and therefore reflects the key values of the School. Often, when offered, alongside a local qualification, the IB creates a two-tiered academic programme. By having our students, as a collective, focusing on a single offering of a course of study (WACE), we believe that an atmosphere of excellence is developed for students of any ability and a superior academic outcome is experienced by all students.

We believe strongly that the WACE curriculum package not only offers the same opportunities as the IB, but also provides superior benefits for our students that the IB cannot.

In common with the IB, the WACE:

- is an internationally recognised certificate of school completion, accepted at all major universities worldwide;
- offers a comprehensive and balanced curriculum package;
- provides opportunities for challenging assessment tasks;
- aims to develop the individual talents of the students;
- relates classroom experiences to the real world;
- places an emphasis on students becoming critical and compassionate thinkers and life long learners;
- encourages students to become informed participants in local and world affairs;
- anticipates significant involvement in community service;
- develops in students skills associated with metacognition and an understanding and appreciation of Individual learning styles.

The WACE also provides the following additional benefits not found in the IB programme:

- **A broad and diverse range of available subjects.**

In 2009 we will offer 31 different Year 12 WACE subjects at Christ Church Grammar School. This level of curriculum breadth is not found in the IB programme. Indeed it is well known that Schools may be restricted by the bureaucracy of the IB in what courses they are 'allowed' to teach. It is our view that this represents an attitude that caters more to the needs of the 'system' rather than to the particular needs of individual students.

- **Subjects that suit the interests and abilities of all students.**

The IB programme promotes relatively traditional methods of teaching, learning and assessment in the limited subjects that it offers. However, many students are now looking for alternatives to such traditional offerings. The learning needs of all students, regardless of their interests or abilities, are accommodated through

the WACE. Further, students are able to incorporate other learning experiences, such as Vocational Education & Training (VET), into their WACE graduation packages.