

British International Distance College Newsletter

MAY 2009

Academic Manager: Gerrit Blom
Admin Manager: Vanessa Hawkins



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Academic News

British International Distance College is proud to announce that we have now implemented a whole new department dedicated to Adult Education!

British International Distance College provides world class self study courses, affording adult students the opportunity to achieve an international matriculation through a combination of completing the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education** (IGCSE), the **Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education** (HIGCSE) and the **General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary** (AS Levels).

These qualifications are issued by the University of Cambridge and recognised worldwide by employers and by tertiary institutions for further study.

In broad terms, the Cambridge IGCSE qualification is equivalent to a South African Grade 11 and the Cambridge AS level or HIGCSE is equivalent to a South African Grade 12.

A combination of subjects passed at both the IGCSE level and the AS and/or HIGCSE level are needed to obtain the CIM (Cambridge International Matriculation).

The CIM programme is very flexible and should be customised for the individual student, based on their specific further study or employment requirements.

There is no maximum time period for completion, as students may take as many or as few subjects per year as they like, and can take as long as needed to earn sufficient credits for their qualification as specified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

For more information on this, please contact the Academic Manager, Mr. Gerrit Blom directly.

Communication

As a distance education College we constantly strive towards practicing effective communication to our students.

A number of procedures have been implemented to improve the flow of communication between the College and students.

Our website was recently redesigned to have a fresh new look that is user-friendly and informative.

We would like to encourage students to be in regular contact with their Student Advisors if they require any assistance or need clarity on issues.

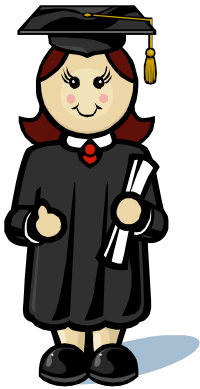
Student Advisors are divided according to students' surnames as follow:

- A – D : Alba Marais
- E – L : Danelle Dames
- M – U : Chris Meintjies
- V – Z : Gerrit Blom

We welcome any suggestions that you may have to further improve on our communication methods. Please e-mail your suggestion to Danelle Dames (Communications Officer) at danelle@bidc.co.za

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Foundation Dinner
- ◆ IGCSE Dinner
- ◆ HIGCSE / AS Dinner



*“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.”
Jack Kinder*

Examinations

Registration for entry into the October / November 2009 examinations will take place during the month of May 2009.

Late entries will result in hefty penalty fees from Cambridge and students should therefore ensure that we receive their entry form along with proof of payment latest 29 May 2009.

If you do not have an Exam Entry form, sent to you with your study materials, contact your Student Advisor immediately.

Please use the following fax numbers to

send Exam Entry Forms and proof of payment:

086 601 0883 or 086 554 7192

No entry will be accepted by Cambridge after 30 July for HIGCSE, 18 September for Checkpoint, 3 October for IGCSE and A-Level Courses. Please note that the Exam Entry Forms should reach BIDC at least 2 days prior to these deadlines to be in time.

Please contact Alba Marais (Examination Officer) at alba@bidc.co.za with any exam related queries.

Assignments

We are aware of a few problems that occurred with the submission and return of marked assignments.

We have taken great care to ensure that the future submission of assignments will proceed smoothly.

Please submit assignments to admin@bidc.co.za or fax assignments to 086 602 9799

Should you experience problems with the

quality of your marked assignments or receive assignments without a mark scheme sheet attached, please contact Chris Meintjies (Quality Control) at chris@bidc.co.za for assistance.

Students can view their assignment history online by logging in at the online services section of the website. (Remember to send Chris your password so he can activate it for you first)

Upcoming Events

We have exciting news for all BIDC Students!!!

We have decided to organize a social event for Distance Students this year!

Social interaction is a vital part of human development. Because our students are not in contact with other students on a daily basis, we would like to give students the opportunity to get to know their fellow students as well as the staff

of BIDC.

We propose that dinners for each of the levels of students are held in Johannesburg during the month of September when students gather for Tutorials.

**Please give us your thoughts on this!
E-mail danelle@bidc.co.za**



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Distance Education
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www.bidc.co.za

Tutorials

Tutorials are offered to all students who are able to attend before their final exams are written.

During Tutorials you will meet your Tutor and your fellow students.

Your Tutor will extensively cover intensive exam preparation work and provide you with helpful hints and study suggestions for each subject.

Tutorials are a vital part of your exam preparation and it is highly advisable to attend them.

Tutorials will be held during the month of September 2009 in Johannesburg (for all level students) and Durban & Cape Town (for IGCSE, HIGCSE & AS Level students).

There is no charge for attending Tutorials.

HIGCSE / AS Level – University Entrance

We would like to remind our HIGCSE/AS Level students to start approaching and investigating different universities for further studies, as some university applications close well before the end of the year.

A student should complete 5 subjects in the correct groups on HIGCSE / AS Level or 4 subjects in the correct groups on HIGCSE /AS Level and 1 subject on IGCSE Level.

Please note that Universities also require students to have done PDP (Personal Development Programme) at HIGCSE /AS Level.

Please contact your Student Advisor for more information.

New Staff

We would like to give a warm welcome to Chris Meintjies as part of our team of Student Advisors!

Please note that Lisa Botha has moved over to our Adult Education department.