



BIRKENHEAD
— SCHOOL —
SENIORS

J.P. Hargreaves
Diploma

J.P Hargreaves Diploma

The J.P. Hargreaves Diploma encourages students to cover a broad base of skills and activities, whilst allowing them the flexibility to follow any special interests or talents.

Duration

Qualification for The Diploma starts in the first week of Year 9, and will be awarded to successful students at the end of Lower Sixth.

Categories

The Diploma is made up of SEVEN categories (see below). Students must complete at least **FIVE** categories as stipulated below to qualify for the award of a Diploma. These categories are based upon experiences and skills young people might be expected to have a grasp of as they proceed through School and then beyond. The Hargreaves Diploma helps students to explore their successes and experiences and challenges them to consider how they might transfer these skills to their future studies and careers. The result should be a well-rounded individual who can articulate what they can offer a prospective employer or institution. We hope that it will also support them to embody our Birkenhead School Values, and therefore enjoy life at School, separate from the rigours of examinations.

Assessment & Criteria

It is the responsibility of the student to submit evidence of completing an activity that is included in the Hargreaves Diploma to the Firefly task Mr Rule sets at the start of Year 9. Students must explain how they have fulfilled the desired criteria, what they have learned from their experiences and what they can do to develop their newly acquired skills. Each section must be signed off by Mr Rule, although other staff can verify the completion of the activity and be referenced in student evidence.

Record-Keeping

Students simply have to upload their evidence of completing activities to their personal Firefly task and email Mr Rule to inform him of their doing so. Mr Rule will then confirm this completion and update it on his central data base. He will also sign off this activity on the student task.

The Diploma as a Partnership

The Diploma should be seen as a partnership between the student and his/her parents, housemaster, tutor, classroom teachers, staff activity leaders, the co-curricular programme and Mr Rule.



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The 7 Categories

Category

1. **Academic:** *two of*

Expected to achieve a Grade 6 or above in at least seven subjects at the end of Years 9 and 10

Nine GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, with at least five at Grade 6 or above

Show progression with effort grades (at the discretion of the Head of Year/Mr Rule)

If a student falls short on the first criterion (Grade 6 or above in at least seven subjects at the end of Years 9 and 10) then they will still be able to attain this category if they achieve Nine GCSEs at Grade 6 or above.

2. **Cultural activity:** *three of*

At least a Grade 6 in GCSE Art or Music

Grade 5 on an instrument or singing

Speaking part in a School play/musical or significant non-speaking contribution

Sing in choir or played in orchestra/band for at least one year

Written/directed a play or musical performed at School

Performed in the House Music or Drama Competition

Led an assembly on a cultural topic

Had art work displayed at a local or national gallery

Taken part in a significant cultural activity outside School (at the discretion of Mr Rule)

3. **Physical activity:** *two of*

School sports teams for three seasons (can be more than one sport) or equivalent outside of School.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze completed.

Play competitive sport on a regular basis outside School

Regular participant in a School physical activity, e.g. Gym Session, Yoga (at the discretion of Mr Taylor/Mr Rule)

Completed at least twelve Park Runs (or equivalent) – 5k run takes place every Saturday.

4. **Communication:** *three of*

Represented the School in a debating or public speaking competition

Taken part in more than one House Debating competition

Article or creative writing in In Focus

Article or creative writing in any School Publication or School Social Media

Conducted more than three readings in Chapel or St. Saviour's

Led an activity in an assembly

European Youth Parliament

Contributed to BBC School Report

5. **Service to others:** *three of*

Running a regular club in Prep (lasting for at least 2 terms)

Been on Student Council for at least one year

Run an activity or activities that raise at least £250 for charity

In charge of a society or activity for at least one term

Another type of service recognised by the Headmaster

Helped to raise funds for a project in a less developed country

Volunteered at a local foodbank or charity on more than one occasion

6. Developing a skill: *two of*

Hold a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certificate

Contributed to an art exhibition

Hold a First Aid qualification

Life-saving course (with certificate)

Cookery course (with certificate)

Duke of Edinburgh Silver

Participated in three or more House competitions (Music or Drama only)

7. A commitment to private reading: *read at least six books from the 'Suggested Sixth Form Reading List' or any suitable book (at the discretion of Mrs Reeve). This will result in a discussion with either a suitable member of staff or a School Prefect.*

Additional bullet points can be added to any of the categories above at the discretion of Mr Rule.



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Successful completion of the J. P. Hargreaves Diploma will be recognised in the following ways:

- Presentation at Prize-giving.
- A J. P Hargreaves Scarf.
- A 'Hargreaves Diploma' pin badge.

Top Tips for Diploma Success

- Do as much as you can during Years 9 and 10 – life gets busier as GCSE Levels get closer.
- Submit activities for assessment/verification as soon as you have completed them.
- Have frequent discussions about the Diploma with your Tutor.
- Be proactive, e.g. consider setting up a club/society aimed at junior pupils – seek advice from your teachers.
- For category 7, the commitment to private reading, there will be a follow-up discussion with an appropriate member of staff or a School Prefect to ensure you have read the books in question.
- Above all else, prepare to push yourself out of your comfort zone.
- Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Rule, or another appropriate member of staff if you have any questions at any stage of your Hargreaves Diploma.

J.P. Hargreaves



John Hargreaves came to Birkenhead School in 1863, only three years after its foundation. He left in 1870 and he is believed to be the first Old Birkonian to obtain a First Class Degree at Cambridge.

He was a member of the Governing body for no less than 39 years and Chairman for 24 of them.

It was Hargreaves who coined the word 'Birkonian'.

Contact Information



BIRKENHEAD
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