
BISHOP
MACKENZIE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

MISSION

We are a diverse and welcoming community in a joyful learning environment that promotes well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity and celebrates growth as success.

FACULTY

We have a very diverse faculty reflecting our diversity according to our mission spanning across 20 different nationalities.

ACCREDITATION

BMIS is fully accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and was recently re-accredited in November 2024 and also re-authourised for the PYP/MYP/DP during the same visit.

STUDENTS

BMIS enrolment is at over 500 students. There are 320 students in the Primary School and 240 students in the Secondary School. About 40% of students are Malawian and the school hosts 50 different nationalities in line with our mission to be diverse.



SCHOOL AIMS

Bishop Mackenzie International School is committed to the development of responsible, confident, compassionate and independent citizens of society. Teachers, students and parents will work together to ensure that all students:

- Receive equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum, regardless of race, religion, ability or gender;
- Have the opportunity to reach their full potential intellectually, emotionally, socially, morally and physically;
- Develop skills for independent, creative and critical thought;
- Develop a positive attitude towards our host country, based on understanding and knowledge;
- Develop an awareness and tolerance of different cultures, beliefs and lifestyles;
- Are encouraged to act in a courteous and responsible manner towards all members of the community and the school;
- Become concerned for the quality and care of the local and global environment;
- Are offered education in an international context which ensures transferability and continuity with educational institutions around the world.

HISTORY

Bishop Mackenzie International School (BMIS) is an English-medium private, non-profit co-educational day school founded in 1944 that has grown to provide an education to 600 students in the primary and secondary schools from Pre-K to Grade 12 (4 – 18 years old, grades K-12). The school was named in memory of Charles Mackenzie, a prominent figure in the early history of Malawi. He joined David Livingstone on the Zambezi in 1861 as Bishop of Central Africa and Head of the Anglican Universities Mission, the first Christian mission in this part of Africa and the inspiration of Livingstone himself. Mackenzie's career was brief and was a tragedy of disease, hunger and tribal warfare. Mackenzie died of malaria and the mission collapsed almost before it began, yet he helped create a vanguard for the destruction of the slave trade by means of Livingstone's much heralded "Commerce and Christianity."

BMIS was founded in 1944 as The European School under a colonial administration that maintained separate European, Asian and African schools. Originally there were no more than a dozen pupils, housed on the site of the Golf Club. The school expanded rapidly in the 1950s, acquired its present location and became a boarding establishment throughout the then Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This reverted to a day-school under the Nyasaland Government, and later provided boarding facilities again when the Designated Schools Board was organised in 1977.





FACILITIES

The school occupies a 25-acre site on the southwestern edge of Lilongwe's Area 3, a settled area of suburban housing. In the primary school, there are 21 teacher-based classrooms and specialist rooms for art, music and French. In the secondary section, special facilities include 21 teacher classrooms, 4 fully equipped laboratories, language acquisition lab, open collaborative "Breakout Space," drama studio and a design lab.

The newly renovated libraries are shared by the Primary and Secondary Schools, as are the sports fields and gardens. Hard play areas include 1 tennis court and basketball and netball courts. The school recently invested in multi-sports courts, acquatics centre renovation, and hosted the Malawi National swimming competition – the largest swimming event in Malawi 2 years in a row. We are also used as a training centre for the Malawi National football association and are the centre for sports in Malawi. There are 2 assembly halls and 2 outdoor volleyball courts. A swimming pool complex comprises of a 25m pool, an 18m pool, and an infant splash pool.

The school has invested significantly to upgrade and improve facilities and has an 8 year capital development plan and an IT and vehicle replacement plan all fully funded.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At BMIS our curriculum framework is developed through the IB Primary Years Progamme (PYP). The PYP is an international, transdisciplinary program designed to foster the development of the whole student encompassing social, physical emotional, and cultural needs as well as academic welfare. A PYP school such as BMIS strives toward developing an internationally-minded person who demonstrates the attributes of the IB learner profile.

BMIS has been authorised since 2011 to teach the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) which reflects the best practices from international perspectives, emphasising the BMIS traditions and valuing inquiry as a powerful force in the natural learning of childhood. The programme of inquiry is flexible enough to accommodate the demands of our international curriculum and provides the best preparation for students to engage in the IB Middle Years Programme.







PRIMARY CURRICULUM

The curriculum is defined by six Transdisciplinary Themes of global significance, supported by knowledge, conceptual understandings, and skills from the traditional subject areas, and it uses them in ways that transcend the confines of these subjects such as Math, Language, Science, Social Studies, PSPE (personal, social, physical and emotional), Visual Arts, Music with a powerful emphasis on inquiry-based learning.

These themes provide BMIS students the opportunity to explore concepts, by looking at issues or problems that are relevant and meaningful through the lens of different subject areas while developing skills in order to make connections with new knowledge resulting in deeper understandings of the world around them.

Lower Primary students or sometimes Early Years are in three levels; Pre-Kinder, Kinder Garten, and Grade 1. Each class has a classroom teacher as well as a teacher assistant. Upper Primary refers to Grades 2 to 5. Each class has a classroom teacher and a teaching assistant.
Learning is also supported by our Specialist teachers for Art, Music, Malawian Culture, Physical Education, French (Grades 1- 5), and Educational Support across Primary.

EARLY YEARS

Experiences during the early years lay the foundation for all future learning. A rapid rate of development during the early years occurs in the physical, emotional, social and cognitive domains.
The brain and body develop faster than at any other point in a child's life. Social development also takes shape in these early years as children are naturally inclined to explore, to discover, to play and to make connections between self, others and their entire surroundings. Through these interactions, children form their perception of themselves and others in the world (Rushton, Juola- Rushton 2010).

During these stages of development, as a learning community, we begin supporting our students with skills and dispositions to enable them to become lifelong learners.
BMIS provides a secure learning environment in which the individual is valued and respected. The child is best served when the relationships between the teacher and the parent, and between the school and the home, are reciprocal and supportive.



THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Secondary school students are prepared for the IB Diploma at 18.

The IB Diploma is well established at BMIS as a route to post-18 education around the world, with more than 90% of our graduating class annually finding places at colleges and universities worldwide.

The Middle Years Programme, provides a natural progression from the Primary Years Programme in the primary school at the age of 11, and perfect preparation for IB Diploma studies at 16. If students join us for only a few years and leave before they finish their secondary education, our IB programmes will guarantee good preparation for their next destination as well as providing a smooth transition.

We aim to provide the very best of secondary education by means of:

- **A well-designed international curriculum**
- **High expectations**
- **Good facilities**
- **Encouragement of self-discipline**
- **Care and enjoyment**



Our Service Cheerleaders are teachers who encourage, guide and connect — without taking over. They may help students refine ideas, think through challenges, prepare events or trips, and provide a reliable adult touchpoint while students retain ownership of their projects.

GRADES 6 - 10

In Grades 6–10, students follow the full MYP curriculum across eight subject groups:

- Language & Literature
- Language Acquisition — Spanish and French
- Mathematics — Standard and Extended levels
- Sciences
- Individuals & Societies
- Arts — Visual Arts, Music, and Theatre
- Design
- Physical & Health Education

This breadth is deliberate. The MYP is designed to develop the whole person — intellectually, creatively, and socially — and every subject serves that purpose.

Community Engagement runs throughout the programme as a lived expression of IB philosophy. Students identify genuine needs, take thoughtful action, and reflect on what those experiences reveal about themselves and their responsibilities to others. This is not a subject — it is a disposition we cultivate.
Elective choices are available in the Arts from Grade 8, and in Sciences and Design in Grade 10. All other subjects are compulsory across the five years, ensuring every student arrives at Grade 11 with the full range of Diploma Programme options open to them.

GRADES 11-12

For 2026-27, we are offering the following range of subjects for students in Grades 11 and 12.

Group 1 LANGUAGE A (First language)
English Language and Literature (HL or SL)
English Literature (HL or SL)
School Supported Self Taught

Group 2 LANGUAGE B (Second language)
French B (HL or SL)
Spanish B (HL or SL)
Spanish ab (SL)

Group 3 INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES
Global Politics (HL or SL)
Business Management (HL or SL)
Environmental Systems and Societies (SL or HL)

Group 4 EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES
Biology (HL or SL)
Physics (HL or SL)
Design Technology (HL or SL)

Group 5 MATHEMATICS
Maths. Analysis & Approaches (HL or SL)
Maths Applications and Interpretation (SL)

Group 6 ELECTIVES :
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS
Visual Arts (HL or SL)
Chemistry (HL or SL)
Theatre (HL or SL)
Sport, Exercise, and Sport Science (HL or SL)

Some of these and additional courses may be offered to students in an online format. The IB Diploma Guide provides more information about this programme and the subjects offered. Information is also available at www.ibo.org.

Some subjects may not be offered depending on demand.

BMIS also offers an alternative to the full IB Diploma Programme by offering individual subjects to be studied at Course Level only. A student could choose to take 5 or 6 of these IB Diploma courses along with participation in the CAS programme. For these students completion of the Extended Essay is not required, but they are encouraged to follow the Theory of Knowledge course.

BMIS High School Diploma

The BMIS High School Diploma is a four year programme beginning in Grade 9, that provides an alternative pre-university qualification for students who elect, or are advised, not to continue with the IB Diploma Programme in Grade 11 and 12.

The BMIS High School Diploma is recognised by universities around the world. All students in Grades 9-12 at BMIS are able to graduate with the BMIS High School Diploma providing they meet graduation requirements:



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