

18 June 2009

Dear DP1/SPENG Students & Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to welcome you to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme/SPENG here at Grennaskolan. We are delighted to see that so many students have opted with great enthusiasm and determination to get through such a demanding course!

As you know, the Diploma Programme consists not only of written examinations at the end of the final year (DP2), but also of Internal Assessments such as coursework, projects, portfolios, the Extended Essay and the Theory of Knowledge Essay. In order for us to support your son/daughter through the busy programme of study and to ensure academic progress, we have developed a calendar, which I am enclosing with this letter. All students have a personal copy too, which they are expected to carry with them and keep up to date to make sure that no element is left incomplete. Please note that the SPENG students will follow many of the DP courses, which makes the calendar an important organisational tool for them too. Naturally, they will not do the final exams and perhaps only some of the Internal Assessments as they will be awarded Swedish grades, but the programme of study is nevertheless similar.

We are pleased that most of our students show both diligence and punctuality in their work and do not usually need reminding. However, there are occasional lapses, which may seem minor at the time but which can put the student at a disadvantage. Therefore, if a student fails to hand in a piece of work, which is highlighted on the academic calendar, we will inform you and their mentors so that you are kept up to speed with your child's progress. I would be very grateful if you would support the school regarding the importance of these deadlines to help prevent your son/daughter falling behind in his/her studies.

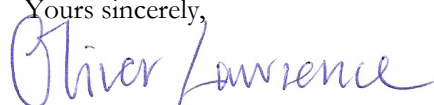
Furthermore, we have introduced specific workshops where we will focus on some of the major and most time-consuming components of the assessments on the Diploma Programme, i.e. the Group 4 Project (in early March), the World Literature Assignment 1 (Tuesday 27 April) and the Extended Essay/Projektarbete days in May. I am of course aware that some of you may have difficulty in planning your child's travel due to the availability and the price of tickets, but I would nevertheless ask you to bear these dates in mind when you make your reservations so that he/she can participate.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the information on the first page of the calendar, which sets out the school's expectations at the end of the first year. Please note that the target of 24 points in the End-of-Year Academic Report, at least a grade 4 in each subject and the completion of the Internal Assessments have been put into place to minimise the risk that the student does not have the academic foundation to continue into the final year. Naturally, we will give the student the opportunity to retake his/her weaker subjects at the start of DP2 and then make a decision on an individual basis on how to proceed. This process applies to the DP students only.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone (+46 390 561 55) or by e-mail (oliver.lawrence@grennaskolan.se). I will be available during the first two weeks of July and then again from 10 August.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all at the start of term!

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Lawrence
Deputy Head / DP Coordinator