

**English Language Acquisition
Intensive Level Student
Parental Support**

Before enrolment at HIS

- Before joining HIS, discuss why you and your child want to come to HIS. Why is an English-medium IB school important to you and your child? How will this impact his/her future? Success here requires a commitment by the whole family.
- Engage in some type of English language instruction: eikaiwa, online English-language learning programs, home stays or camps in English

Daily support

Students at the intensive EAL level will be exhausted and overwhelmed in the early days. Enough sleep is important. A break is needed from academics, but consistent support at home is also needed. Daily support may include look like:

- Ensuring your child gets enough sleep
- Discussing your child's day in home language
- Going over assignments to see what your child is learning and how you can support it in the home language (this may be borrowing library books, finding online resources, etc.)
- Taking interest in what they are studying
- Making sure your child reads EVERY night even for only 15-30 minutes a day with raz-kids, newsela or other material as assigned by the English/Reading teacher
- Writing in the EAL journal
- Understanding the modified homework requirements and expectations
- Helping students synthesize questions to follow up with teachers
- Supporting the home language reading and learning
- Watching the news and other age-appropriate programs to discuss current events in the language(s) used at home

Support through extra-curricular activities

- Encouraging your child to join a school club to foster social interactions
- Attending school events to understand the culture of HIS
- Considering the support a English-language tutor and/or after-school English classes

Support during summer and holiday breaks

- Continuing with daily reading habits/reading programs
- Following advice of teachers for English language development and subject area knowledge (if applicable)
- Attending English camps, homestays, or other English language learning programs

General Understandings

Learning in another language is a serious commitment. It is helpful if parents keep in mind the following:

- Students must fully engage in the support offered. Language learning is not a passive process. It requires students to acquire speaking, listening, reading, writing and thinking skills in English.
- A lack of language proficiency is not an excuse to not to attempt homework or classwork
- Understand that the student may not be able to access the regular homework, but every student has modified and/ or individual reading homework.
- If homework is spending lengthy amounts of time on home assignments, notify the teacher. Homework is assigned as a support and should not be a regular cause of frustration or late nights for students.
- EAL students need a lot of rest. Juku is not recommended.
- English language learning needs to be a priority and is a commitment on part of the entire family to support it. English language learning cannot happen at school alone; it needs to become part of everyday life outside of school as well.
- Students who are most successful take part in English language learning experiences outside of school (tutoring, summer programs).