

# Bilingual Education (TTO) at Da Vinci College



## What is TTO?

TTO stands for Bilingual Education. Bilingual Education is groundbreaking education. Its goal is not just to give the student a more than excellent knowledge of English, but it is also intended for those who wish to get the most out of their secondary education and who would possibly like to continue their tertiary education in an international context.

For those students who would like to see much further than Holland in the future and who would like to continue their studies either abroad or continue their English-language training here, TTO offers the right basis to open international doors. Also, more and more tertiary courses are taught in English and lectures, books, curricula, etc. are often presented (partly) in English.

## TTO at Da Vinci College

Da Vinci College has been a certified Junior TTO school since 2009. This means that there is an emphasis on English in the lower forms. The course includes more English lessons than regular students at *havo* or *atheneum* level have and as many subjects as possible taught in English. TTO schools are visited every three years by *Nuffic*, the Dutch organization for internationalization in education, to guarantee the quality of this form of education.



## English as the main language

In TTO you are being submerged into the English language right from the start. Instead of three English lessons in their first year, our TTO students are given five, followed by four in both their second and third years. Only in the beginning of your career at Da Vinci College may teachers possibly use Dutch sporadically, but the tendency is to use English as the main language. This also means that the student will have to express himself/herself as quickly as possible in English in the English lessons, but also in the other subjects taught in English:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Aardrijkskunde             | Geography                              |
| • Biologie                   | Biology                                |
| • Economie                   | Economics                              |
| • Geschiedenis               | History                                |
| • EIO                        | European and International Orientation |
| • Lichamelijke Opvoeding     | Physical Education                     |
| • Muziek                     | Music                                  |
| • Natuur-scheikunde          | Science                                |
| • TechScience                |  |
| • Tekenen en handvaardigheid | Art & Design                           |
| • Wiskunde                   | Mathematics                            |



## EIO (European and International Orientation) en Internationalisation

EIO and Internationalisation are a compulsory part of TTO. TTO students partly follow an internationalisation programme during their EIO lessons, partly in other lessons, partly in the *DiMi*

activities (extracurricular activities on Tuesday afternoons and partly in the form of foreign excursions and/or exchange projects.

EIO is an essential part of your TTO education. TTO students are expected to learn and know about the history and practice of the European Union, with a view to developing an outlook on the world that reaches beyond the national borders.



### **Finishing Junior TTO**

Your Junior TTO career as far as English is concerned will end with an Anglia exam at the end of the third year (*havo* and *atheneum*). Anglia is an English language teaching organisation whose exams are internationally acknowledged. If you follow the *havo* stream you will sit the exam at the second but highest level (of the 15) – Advanced; if you follow the *atheneum* stream you will do the exam at the one but highest level – Proficiency. With the results of these exams the school can prove that it meets the quality requirements that are inspected every three years by *Nuffic* (see above).



### **Entry requirements**

TTO asks more of students than our regular streams. TTO students have to meet the following requirements:

- an unambiguous *HAVO*, *atheneum* or *gymnasium* advice
- a good feel for language (visible in the student tracking system)
- a good motivation to choose for TTO
- a good attitude as to organisation, neatness and (study)planning
- a broad outlook on the world and one's own development in it
- an open and curious attitude towards other cultures and ways of thinking

### **Choosing TTO**

The choice of TTO should be a well-considered one. More is expected of the student than in the regular streams – it is not just about 'better English' or the fun aspects of TTO. A good motivation, proper attitude and the right approach all determine whether you are suitable for TTO.

### **Transferring from TTO to the regular stream**

Although we assume that every TTO student stays the entire (3-year) course, there is always a possibility of transferring to the regular stream (preferably at the end of a school year and depending on space available in classes there).

### **Fees**

TTO involves extra costs. That is why there is a mandatory financial contribution that can vary depending on the stream and year one is in and depending on the activities scheduled in that year.

In the lower forms this contribution varies from €430 to €490. This money is used to pay for trips abroad, theater performances, workshops, extra materials, extra external (English) exams and

other matters that attribute to the quality of our bilingual education. For reports of all these activities we refer you to the [Codex](#) our digital online school newspaper.

### **TTO in the upper forms**

In the upper forms (years 4 up to and including 5/6) you can further enhance your English by choosing Business English at the *havo* level and Cambridge Advanced at the *atheneum* level, later possibly continued with the IB (*International Baccalaureate*).

Business English students do a Business English Advanced Exam halfway through their fifth year; *atheneum* students finish their fourth year sitting the Cambridge Advanced Exam and can then opt for the IB in years 5 and 6.



Both CAE and BEC courses take the place of the regular English lessons. The target language is the main language. Not only will CAE and BEC students be well prepared for an (international) course of study, but they will also be ready for their national (Dutch) exam, the *CE (Centraal Examen)*. On top of that both CAE and BEC students have a little extra to their credit when it comes to tertiary education (where entry is decided in a decentralised way). A CAE and/or BEC qualification also forms a good basis for studying at a technical college or university where English is more often than not the main language.

Other subjects (in years 4-5-6) will no longer be taught in English as our bilingual students also have to prepare for their national exams which are held (with the exception of the foreign languages) in Dutch.



Regular students can choose to join either the BEC stream (for *havo*) or the CAE stream (for *atheneum*) after their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. In order to qualify they should have shown an exemplary record in both attitude and results as far as English is concerned, in particular for their listening and reading skills as well as for the average mark for English at the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Apart from that they can only enter those streams if they have a positive recommendation to do so from their 3<sup>rd</sup> year English teacher.

### **Mandatory participation (external) exams**

By enrolling on these courses one automatically commits oneself to taking part in (and paying for) the external exam at the end of them. The expense involved in the past year varied from €240 to €265 (depending on which exam one took).

### **English language levels (CERF)**

Within the European Community six different language levels have been agreed on (from A1 to C2). A1 is the lowest (starters) level, C2 the highest.

At the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup>-year lower form period TTO students have to finish their English at level B2 (*havo*) and B1 (*atheneum*). The Anglia exams mentioned above conform to these levels.

Business English (BEC) students take a Vantage exam (level B2); Cambridge Advanced (CAE) students sit the Cambridge Advanced Exam (level C1); IB (International Baccalaureate) students take the IB English Language and Literature exam (halfway year 6 *atheneum*).

The IB is a two-year pre-university course. The IB programme challenges students to excel in their field of study and encourages both their personal and academic development. This exam is sat at the highest CERF level possible, the C2 level, which is the level of a near-native speaker. The IB diploma is internationally recognised and opens doors of many universities all over the world.



### Teacher training

The non-language teachers that teach TTO classes all need to have passed the Cambridge Proficiency English exam. All our English teachers are (academically) qualified and have often added courses to their CV to specialize in their field of expertise. Some of them are also qualified to take certain exams.

