

Background Information about Creative Secondary School

School Motto

“Through this place we strive, we serve and find our place in the world”

A special kind of state school

Creative Secondary School is a co-educational day school located in the town of Tseung Kwan O in Hong Kong. The school began its operation in September 2006. Currently there are 700 students from Form 1 to Form 6 (equivalent to grade 7 to grade 12). Our first cohort of students graduated in August 2012. Typical class sizes are 20 – 25 in Form 1 to Form 4, and 10 – 20 in Form 5 & 6.

CSS is part of the state sector, operating under the Hong Kong Education Bureau’s Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS), thus receiving the same funding per student as other Hong Kong state schools. DSS schools are privately operated and can hire their own staff, charge fees to enhance quality and introduce curriculum innovation. They must operate without profit-taking, must set aside a proportion of school fee income to offer grants to students in financial need and scholarships to talented students, and must principally offer the Hong Kong curriculum. CSS is governed by its own Board of Directors. (Please see school website for details).

CSS is the first DSS school to become an IB World School. It was authorised in Feb 2009 to offer the IB Middle Years Programme and in April 2010 to offer the IB Diploma. Before that, no other IB World Schools offered the Hong Kong curriculum. Now there are several other DSS schools authorized as IB World Schools, but CSS remains the only MYP-authorized DSS school. Our affiliated Creative Primary School was authorized in the summer of 2011 and became the first and only Cantonese Chinese medium IB PYP school in the world.

CSS was reviewed in May 2012 by the Hong Kong Education Bureau. The report concluded:

“CSS values and commits itself to students’ all-round development. A wide range of activities is organised to achieve the aims of enabling whole-person development and to help students to develop life-long learning capabilities. Meticulous effort has been made in developing a school-based curriculum which lays equal emphasis on academic advancement, personal growth and fostering positive attitudes. Small group teaching is extensively implemented, with appropriate curriculum adaptation, ability grouping and differentiation strategies in place to cater for the diverse learning needs of students. Assessment for learning is widely and effectively practised. Due attention has been paid to fostering students’ creativity and international-mindedness. Students’ interests and potential are developed and realised through inter-disciplinary and inquiry-based learning. CSS sees the importance of school self-evaluation and demonstrates strong readiness to move from good to best.”

Likewise the school has had a positive evaluation of its IB Middle Years Programme implementation in 2013, and of its IB Diploma Programme in 2015. Both programmes are due to be evaluated by the IB again in 2019.

The student body and school culture

Our student body is around 85% ethnically Chinese, mostly native speakers of Cantonese, the city's most widely spoken language. Around 5% are Chinese students from overseas. There are also a small but increasing number of native speakers of Putonghua, the national language of China. The other 15% include Caucasian, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Nepalese and Pakistani students. A significant number of students speak more than one language at home with their parents. There are over 15 nationalities represented in the student body. A good number of students will have more than one nationality / passport.

In 2010 CSS received the Inviting School Award from the International Alliance for Invitational Education (www.invitationaleducation.net). This was followed by the IAIE's First Silver Fidelity Award received in 2015.

CSS has an active PTA, a recently established Alumni Association and an elected Student Representative Council. Students are organised into six Houses, named after 6 common trees in Hong Kong and they elect their House captains. All teachers belong to a house and act as house tutors to support student progress and achievement, together with our two counsellors, careers team and our school-based social worker.

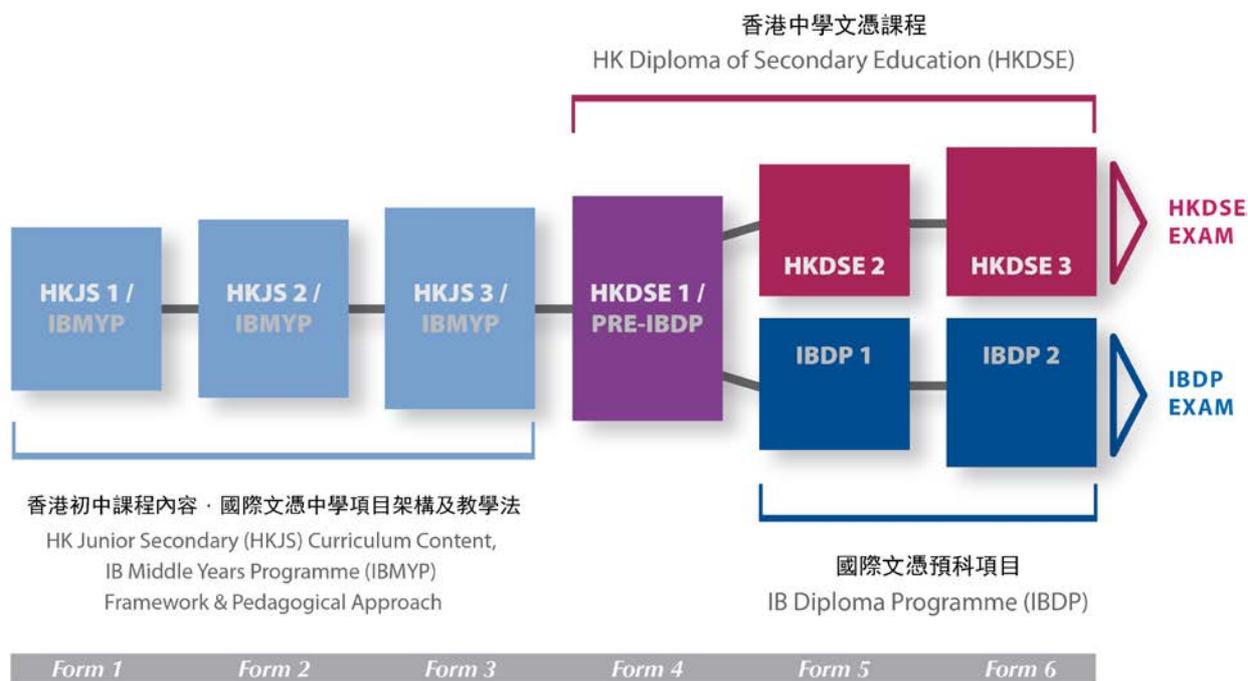
The CSS Learner Attributes

This has been developed in 2017 by a process of consulting students and other stakeholders. It seeks to integrate the IB Learner Profile, Invitational Education values and the core values of the Creative Education Foundation. The embedding of the CSS Learner Attributes so that it informs the work of the staff team is a key developmental task of the Progress & Achievement team.

CSS Learner Attributes 啓思中學學習者特質



The CSS curriculum



CREATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL 啓思中學

As a Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) school we principally offer the Hong Kong secondary school curriculum (www.edb.gov.hk) The junior secondary curriculum, operating from Form 1 to Form 3, is delivered through the framework of our three year IB Middle Years Programme, which culminates with all students involved in MYP Community Projects.

Form 4 is the first year of the three-year Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). In the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), students study 4 core subjects – Chinese Language, English Language, Liberal Studies and Mathematics, follow a programme of Other Learning experiences (OLE) which includes Physical Education, and choose up to 3 elective subjects. At CSS students can choose from the following:

| Curriculum Area | Elective Subject Courses |
|-----------------|--|
| Sciences | Biology, Chemistry, Physics |
| Humanities | Geography, History, Economics |
| Arts | Visual Art, Music |
| Technologies | Business, Accounting & Financial Studies (BAFS), Design & Applied Technology (DAT), Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Technology & Living (Food) |
| Mathematics | Mathematics Module 1, Mathematics Module 2 |
| Languages | English Literature, Academic English Proficiency |

Students who wish to opt for the IB Diploma will apply during Form 4, and the school will decide which students would be offered this option. Under the Government's guidelines for DSS schools, at least 51% of F5 students must follow the HKDSE.

In the IB Diploma Programme, CSS offers the following subjects to students:

| Curriculum Area | Elective Subject Courses |
|-------------------------|--|
| Language & Literature | Chinese Literature, English Language & Literature |
| Language Acquisition | English Language B, Chinese Language B, Spanish ab initio (online) |
| Individuals & Societies | Business Management, Economics, Geography, History, Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) |
| Sciences | Biology, Chemistry, Design Technology, Health Exercise & Sports Science and Physics, ESS (which also counts as a science) |
| Mathematics | Mathematics HL, Mathematics SL, Mathematics Studies (from 2019 the school will begin to offer the 2 new Maths HL/SL courses which will replace the current 3 discrete Maths courses) |
| Arts | Music, Visual Art, Theatre, Film Studies (to be offered from 2019) |

Experiential Learning

There is a rich programme of experiential learning that teachers and support staff contribute to. This includes over 50 co-curricular activities after school and on weekends, combined CAS / OLE programme for F5 & F6, exchange programmes with schools beyond Hong Kong (Denmark, Edinburgh, Hangzhou) and Creative Week. During Creative Week, the school timetable is suspended and students and staff participate in camps, service excursions, study visits or work-related experiences in and beyond Hong Kong. There are also subject-focused study trips e.g. History trip to Germany/Poland, Technology trip to Japan, Arts trips to various European cities, Physical Education trips to Spain.

Personal Growth Programme (PGP)

This programme has been developed in-house and is delivered by House tutors and operates from F1 to F6, one period per six day cycle. At appropriate times external speakers are invited to deliver specific sessions. The programme themes running through the six years are - self-management, self-awareness, decision-making, relationship skills & social awareness

Language courses and languages of instruction

CSS offers Chinese and English courses to all students. Both languages are offered as Language & Literature (first language) and as Language Acquisition (2nd language) courses. About 30% of students study English as a first language and about 80 % study Chinese as a first language. About 20 % of students study Chinese Language Acquisition and about 15% study both English and Chinese first languages courses concurrently. For most students, English is their second

language and many of them typically switch over from Cantonese-medium primary education to English-medium learning at CSS. Supporting their successful transition is a major whole-staff effort; all teachers are also expected to be teachers of language and expected to model good use of instructional language. To facilitate this transition, the school operates a Centre for Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) which currently provides intensive English language tuition for about 10% of students who need support to access the English-based curriculum.

Students with other home languages are encouraged to maintain these and study them to examination levels. In the IB Diploma, we offer ab initio Spanish as an online course. In the HKDSE, we offer Chinese GCSE to students who do not speak Chinese as a home language, and encourage students to consider taking the GCSE examination in their home language whenever possible.

Our Chinese language courses is taught through the medium of Putonghua from Form 1 to Form 3. From Form 4 upwards, in both Diplomas, students following Chinese first language courses may opt to be taught through the medium of either Cantonese or Putonghua. All other courses throughout the school are delivered through the medium of English.

Languages are also supported through a number of co-curricular activities – debating in English, Cantonese and Putonghua; drama in English & Cantonese; French, Korean and Spanish as club activities etc.

In order to enhance the cultural awareness of all students, the school has this year begun an initiative to promote Chinese Literature, Arts, Culture & History (CLACH), to firstly bring together a number of existing projects and activities under an overarching framework and later to establish inter-disciplinary and subject-focused links with our curriculum.

Examination Results & Destinations of Graduates

IBDP average score over the past 6 years is around 34-5 pts, consistently well above the IB global average. HKDSE results have averaged around 19 points for 6 subjects. Well over 90% of students continue to tertiary education. About half remain in Hong Kong, and the UK is the most popular overseas destination. The school is proud of its value-added track record, given that it is open to students of all abilities and backgrounds, subject only to their ability to access the curriculum delivered through the medium of English.

Leadership of the staff team

There is a teaching staff team of 81 full-time teachers, 5 part-time teachers, several assistant teachers and the Principal.

The teaching team is strongly collaborative, inter-culturally aware and good-humoured, with an exciting synergy between local and overseas colleagues from over a dozen countries from all continents of the world. The school is committed to promoting teachers' professional growth and development through training opportunities, collaborative curriculum planning and sharing of good practice.

The school's leadership team consists of the Principal and 3 Directors:

- 1) Director of Progress and Achievement
- 2) Director of Learning
- 3) Director of Administration

The Director of Progress & Achievement is Ms. Kellie Fagan, who oversees the work of the three school sections, the Head of Experiential Learning, and the following teams - Careers, Counselling and Learning Support. The heads of lower, middle and upper school sections are each responsible for student progress & achievement in two horizontal year groups, coordinating the work of house tutors.

The Director of Learning is Mr. Lee O'Leary, who oversees the work of the MYP, IBDP and HKDSE curriculum coordinators, eight Heads of Faculty (English, Chinese, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, Individuals & Societies, Arts and Technology), the teacher librarian/digital learning coordinator and the Head of the Centre for Academic Language Proficiency.

The Director of Administration is Assistant Principal Mr P.K. Poon. He oversees the work of the school office, finance, procurement, student data management, the campus facilities, ICT technical support, school operations, timetabling and other aspects of school administration.

Cheung Siu Ming

Principal

last updated November 2018