

Creative Secondary School – School Report for 2006 – 2007

I School Motto, Vision and Mission

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

A full elaboration of the school’s vision and mission statement is contained in our parents’ handbook which is downloadable from the school website www.css.edu.hk .

II Basic Information about the school

1. School Management Committee

The school’s sponsoring body is the Creative Education Foundation Ltd. The school is governed by the Creative Secondary School Management Committee Ltd.

Chairman:	Mr. Yeung Po-Kwan	
School Supervisor:	Mr. Fong Hup	
School Principal:	Mr. Cheung Siu Ming	
Committee Members:	Dr. Eddy Fong	Mr. Victor Fong
	Dr. Ng Ho Ming	Mrs. Tai Lam Sau Mui
	Mrs. Clio So Chan So Ming	Mr. Fung Chi Kwan
	Mr. Tony Yen Yuen Ho	

2. Start of the school’s operation

The school opened in September 2006 as a co-educational Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) school using English as the medium of instruction (EMI). For the first 4 months of the year it was located in temporary premises in TKO Methodist Primary School. The school community moved into the school’s permanent campus in January 2007. The school’s Opening Celebration was held in May 2007 and the Guest of Honour was Mr Raymond H.C. Wong, JP, the Permanent Secretary of the HKSAR Education Bureau.

3. School Campus Facilities

The campus has 30 classrooms as well as the following specialist facilities:

- School Hall, extended to accommodate the whole school community
- School library on the top floor of the main teaching block
- Visual Arts studio
- Music studio
- Dance studio
- Multi-purpose activity room
- Design Technology centre
- Food Technology and Textile Technology suites
- 3 Computer suites
- 5 Science laboratories
- 3 outdoor basketball courts and other sports facilities
- 2 rooftop garden areas
- 5 seminar rooms and 2 conference rooms to support small group teaching and learning and other activities
- staffroom located on the 1st floor to facilitate easy communication between teachers and students

The campus has ample additional space for future development. The school has identified a number of possible projects including additional Visual Art studio, science laboratories, an indoor gymnasium and a new block which can accommodate future needs including a swimming pool.

4. Information on students

The school's enrolment in September 2006 was 108 students joining the school as Form 1 students. In February 2007 the enrolment rose to 111 students. Because of the restriction of the temporary premises, the school opened 4 Form 1 classes with a class size of less than 30 students per class. The enrolment for 2007 – 2008 is expected to be close to 250 students, when existing students progress to Form 2 and a new cohort of Form 1 students join the school.

5. Curriculum Organisation

5.1 School Calendar and the Timetabled Week.

For 2006 – 2007, the school operated on a calendar of 190 school days over 2 terms, based on a weekly timetable of 40 periods @ 40 minutes, and a co-curricular programme which ran after school on 2 days per week.

5.2 Class Organisation

For the purposes of registration and attendance, social organization and personal growth & development, students are organized into 6 houses, named after 6 trees commonly found in Hong Kong – Bauhinia, Bombax, Cassia, Delonix, Jacaranda and Juniper.

For the purposes of learning, students were organized into 4 classes for the following subjects – English, Mathematics, Chinese, Science, Humanities & Personal & Social Education, Library and Information skills, Performing Arts and Physical Education – and into 6 classes for the following subjects – Visual Arts, ICT, Design Technology. These 6 teaching groups are identical to the social groupings for the 6 Houses.

5.3 The New Hong Kong Secondary Curriculum and the IB MYP

The school was granted permission by the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** organisation to implement its **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** as a candidate school starting from September 2006. The 8 key learning areas of the new HK curriculum exactly match the 8 curriculum subject areas of the IB MYP. For details of the IB MYP please visit the weblink www.ibo.org/myp . By July 2007 the school has successfully implemented the first year of the New Hong Kong Junior Secondary School curriculum through this framework.

5.4 Lesson Time for the 8 Key Learning Areas of the Curriculum

Key Learning Area	Number of lessons per week	Minutes of learning per week	% of total learning time
English	5	200	12.5
Chinese	5	200	12.5
Mathematics	4	160	10
Humanities & Personal & Social education	4	160	12.5
Science	1	40	
Physical Education	4	160	10
Arts:			
Visual Arts	2	80	10
Performing Arts	2	80	
Technology			
Design Technology	2	80	10
ICT	2	80	
House Time /Assembly	1	40	5
Curriculum Enrichment	3	120	10
Library & Information skills	1	40	
Total	40	1600	100%

Notes:

1. Curriculum Enrichment lesson time enabled students to have extended reading time in English and Chinese, additional research time for projects, as well as preparation time for specific activities such as speech and music festival performances, Maths Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind contest etc. This together with the lesson on library and information skills, provide additional support to all key learning areas.

6 Information on teachers

6.1 Number and composition of the teaching staff team

In 2006 – 2007 the school had 12 f.t.e. teaching staff and the Principal.

The school's policy was not to employ any NET teacher but to rely on appointing a critical mass of native-speaking or fluent English speakers and Putonghua speakers on the staff team to provide a holistic language learning environment across the different subjects of the curriculum to support students' acquisition of English for academic purposes. Of the full-time teachers appointed, 3 were native English speakers, 7 had overseas teaching qualifications and 9 had a university degree from overseas.

6.2 Professional Development

As a new school in its first year of operation and implementing an innovative curriculum plan of delivering the new Hong Kong curriculum through the framework of the IB MYP, professional development of teachers was given a very high priority.

Teachers attended a 3 day introductory workshop on the IB Middle Years Programme in August 2006, facilitated by a certified trainer from the International Baccalaureate. 8 teachers attended 3 day IB MYP subject workshops overseas.

Teachers also attended a school-based workshop on Invitational Education.

Further numbers of teachers attended EDB-sponsored professional development workshops on various topics including gifted education, Invitational Education.

The positive feedback from teachers on these training events has helped the school to plan further professional development activities for the year 2007 – 08.

III Major Strands of Development addressed in 2006 – 2007

In September 2006, the school had identified the following major strands of development that it needs to address over the next 3-4 years:

1. *successful enrolment & promotion of school*
2. *establishing student guidance and achievement framework*
3. *active development of curriculum & pedagogy*
4. *establishing a holistic language policy*
5. *continue with staff recruitment, retention, professional development*
6. *establishment and effective utilization of new school site*
7. *establishing a climate of respect and trust through IE*
8. *establishing a culture and framework of school improvement through self-evaluation*

The developmental task at that point was to compile these strands of development with sufficient detail into a formal 5 year School Development Plan (SDP) to be submitted to the Education Bureau (EDB) within the first year of the school's operation on its permanent site, for agreement, as part of the school's 10 Service Agreement with the EDB.

During the course of 2006 – 07, the school had made progress on the above 8 strands of development, as outlined below:

Major Strand of Development	Progress made in 2006 - 2007
1. Successful Enrolment and Promotion of the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- By September 2007, the school had successfully enrolled 130 students for Form 1 for 2007 – 08, and increased the Form 2 roll from 108 in September 2006 to 120 in September 2007.- During 2006 – 07, the school conducted 4 public seminars, introducing the school, its IB MYP curriculum and its scholarship scheme, for prospective parents.- On 19 May 2007, the school held its Opening Celebration & Exhibition, which was very well attended.

<p>2. Establishing a student guidance and achievement framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The House system was initiated and all teaching staff and students inducted into their houses. - The Guidance Counsellor from Creative Primary School was seconded to the school to set up a programme to develop students' personal growth and to provide guidance and counseling advice to students, together with the social worker appointed to the school - A co-curricular activities programme to broaden students' horizons and to deepen their interests and talents was established and timetabled so that 100% student participation was achieved. - A community service programme was initiated to provide students with leadership and service opportunities in and out of school, including a shared reading event with TKO Methodist Primary School and a service activity with the Haven of Hope Elderly Home during Chinese New Year. - A behaviour for learning policy and an awards points system were established to encourage students' positive conduct and achievement
<p>3. Active development of curriculum & pedagogy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All teachers developed a school-based curriculum and pedagogy for Form 1 based on the new HK curriculum policy for junior secondary school, and which met the requirements of the IB MYP. - The curriculum plans were reviewed at the end of the year and the plans were extended into Form 2 for the school year 2007 – 08. - Preparation for the later introduction of the new Senior secondary Curriculum began in earnest.
<p>4. Establishing a holistic language policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school promoted Putonghua through its use as the medium of instruction for the Chinese course, and promoted English through its use as the medium of instruction for all other subjects including PE, Art, Music, Drama and Design Technology. - In addition, both languages have been strongly promoted through a programme of co-curricular activities including HK Speech Festival, reading programmes, OM contest and many other activities. - The challenge of stimulating students' interest in English and Putonghua while maintaining and celebrating their mother tongue and culture is an ongoing one and the school has noted this as a big area of development for the future.
<p>5. Continue with Staff recruitment, retention and professional development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject teachers were sent for IB training workshops to enable them to deliver the HK curriculum through the IBMYP effectively. Staff participated in a range of professional development experiences in and out of school. - The school appointed 12 new teachers for 2007 – 08, taking the strength of the teaching team to 20.
<p>6. Establishment and effective utilization of new school site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school community moved into the new site in January 2007. 10 classrooms and specialist rooms for science, ICT, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Design Technology were opened to cater for student learning and usage. The 10 classrooms accommodated 6 house bases and 4 subject-based teaching rooms.
<p>7. Establishing a climate of trust through IE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school affiliated to the International Alliance for Invitational Education and participated in its professional development activities in Hong Kong. It began implementing the 5 P's of the IE philosophy, starting with Places and People. Plans were made to strengthen the school's participation through attendance at the IE World Conference in October 2007.

8. Establishing a culture and framework of school improvement through self-evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school joined the HK Self-evaluating schools Network (HKSSSEN) and participated in its activities. - The school conducted a number of surveys to gauge students' and parents' views on how the school was developing. - Teachers participated in individual end-of-year reviews and their perspective informed improvements and developments for the following year.
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IV Areas of Development identified for attention in the year plan of 2007 – 08

1. Consolidate plans for the school's long term development and further develop its administrative structure

The key task in 2007 – 08 is to draft a 5 year School Development Plan and seek the approval of the Education Bureau (EDB). This essential step will also enable the school to agree a 10 year Service Agreement with the EDB.

A further key task is to further develop the administrative structure so that it can support the dynamic growth and development of the new school.

2. Further develop the school's curriculum and learning and teaching programme; begin planning for NSS and the authorization of the IB MYP programme

The key task in 2007 – 08 is to consolidate curriculum developments from the first year and to extend this, to enable the school to apply to the IB to authorize the school's Middle Years Programme (MYP).

3. Continue to strengthen the ethos and culture of the school as an inviting & learning organization.

A key task is to build on the start made in 2006 – 07 and further promote a climate of trust, respect, optimism and intentionality amongst all stakeholders of the school – staff, students and parents.

A further key task is to encourage students to engage actively with their learning through the medium of English, using inviting and motivating approaches.