

Creative Secondary School – School Report for 2007 – 2008

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, OBE, O.St.J., CPM, MCIL, FCMI, FRSA, JP
School Supervisor: Mr. Fong Hup, CPA, MH
School Principal: Mr. Cheung Siu Ming, BSc, MA, PGCE
Committee Members: Dr. Eddy Fong, CPA, SBS, JP
Mr. Victor Fong, BSc, RIBA, HKIA, RA
Dr. Ng Ho Ming, PhD
Mrs. Tai Lam Sau Mui, BA, CEd
Mrs. Clio So Chan So Ming, MEd, BPhil, CEd
Mr. Fung Chi Kwan, MEd, BEd, BSocSc, CEd
Mr. Tony Yen Yuen Ho, SBS, JP

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). 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 2007 was 249 students. 129 students joined the school as Form 1 students, and the number enrolled in Form 2 in September 2007 was 120 students.

5. Curriculum Organisation

5.1 School Calendar and the Timetabled Week.

For 2007 – 2008, the school operated on a calendar of 190 school days over 2 terms, based on a weekly timetable of 36 periods @ 45 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 5 classes for the following subjects – English, Mathematics, Chinese, Science, Humanities & Personal & Social Education – and into 6 classes for the following subjects – Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Food/textiles technology, Design Technology and Physical Education. 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.

In November 2007 the school was visited by the IB Asia Pacific Regional Manager for MYP to review progress. The school is on track with its MYP implementation and expects a further visit from the IB in 2008 – 2009 to evaluate its readiness to become an IB World School.

By July 2008 the school has successfully implemented the first two years 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	225	13.3
Chinese	5	225	13.3
Mathematics	4	180	10.6
Humanities & Personal & Social education	5	225	13.3
Science	4	180	10.6
Physical Education	4	180	10.6
Arts:			
Visual Arts	2	90	10.6
Performing Arts	2	90	
Technology			
Design Technology/ICT	2	90	10.6
Food / Textiles	2	90	
Daily Reading Time	1.66	75	4
House Time /Assembly	1	45	2.7
Total	37.66	1695	100%

Note: Daily Reading time of 15 minutes occur each morning before lesson 1.

6 Information on teachers

6.1 Number and composition of the teaching staff team

In 2007 – 2008 the school had 19 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, 7 were native English speakers, 6 had overseas teaching qualifications and 9 had a university degree from overseas. Next year's staff recruitment plan will continue to follow this policy.

6.2 Professional Development

As a new school in its second 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.

New teachers attended a 3 day introductory workshop on the IB Middle Years Programme in August 2007, facilitated by a certified trainer from the International Baccalaureate. 10 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, new Senior Secondary Curriculum.

The positive feedback from teachers on these training events has helped the school to plan further professional development activities for the year 2008 – 09.

III Major Strands of Development addressed in 2007 – 2008

The school plan for 2007 – 2008 is derived from the school's 5 year school development plan for 2006 – 2011 submitted to the Education Bureau. The 5 year plan has since been accepted by the Education Bureau and the CSS School Board of Directors has now signed a 10 year Service Agreement with the Education Bureau to operate the school.

In the 2007 – 2008 school plan the major areas of school development were as follows:

The key tasks of development of the school for 2007 – 2008 can be grouped under 3 major priority areas:

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

In 2006-07 the key focus was implementing a short term action plan and setting up an interim school structure to operate the school while the 5 year development plan was drafted. The priority for 2007-8 therefore was to begin the detailed implementation of an agreed 5 year development plan and to develop an administrative structure to support the dynamic growth in this early phase of the school's development.

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

In 2006-7 the school began the implementation of the new junior secondary curriculum through the framework of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. In 2007-8 the focus was on implementing the planned curriculum for Form 1 & Form 2, to map out the Form 3 to Form 6 curriculum plan and to review and refine units of work by the end of the year. The MYP developments to date was to be shared with the IB Asia Pacific Regional Office and their advice sought on further development required to enable the school's programme to be authorized by the IB at a later stage in the following year.

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

In 2006-7 the staff was introduced to the philosophy of Invitational Education and a good level of awareness was achieved. In 2007-8 the focus was to deepen the understanding of IE and the practical implications of implementing this philosophy through places, policies, programmes, processes and people, with the aim of embedding this approach as the key to strengthening the school's ethos and aspiration to become an inviting and learning organization.

During the course of 2007 – 08, the school had made progress on the above 3 strands of development, as outlined below:

Major Strand of Development	Progress made in 2007 - 2008
<p>1. Consolidate plans for the school's long term development and further develop its administrative structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 year School Development Plan to EDB drafted and a 10 year Service Agreement signed. - A strong reputation for the school established through promotional activity throughout the year - the administrative structure, policies and procedures have been further developed to take account of the school's growth, including financial management, human resources management, curriculum, and student guidance - 6 existing staff promoted to and 4 new staff recruited to mid-level leadership positions for the following school year. - a culture for school self-evaluation further developed, including the commissioning of an external consultant in June 08 to facilitate a thorough survey of stakeholder opinion – parents, students and staff.
<p>2. Further develop the school's curriculum and learning and teaching programme; begin planning for NSS and the authorization of the IB MYP programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MYP pre-authorization visit in Nov 07 resulted in positive report and clear recommendations; action plan drafted for implementation over next 12 months; authorization visit confirmed for 2008-09. - NSS curriculum plan and implementation road map drafted and shared with parents and students in March 08; NSS Curriculum Coordinator appointed. - Curriculum Director appointed to conduct review current scheme of work and further writing of Form 3 curriculum for 2008-9. - professional development through DOLACEE ESL course and teacher support appraisal conducted from April – Jul 08
<p>3. Continue to strengthen the ethos and culture of the school as an inviting & learning organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - guidance counsellor appointed - new staff inducted into the role of house tutors and house system strengthened - 2 key staff attended IE conference in USA in Oct 08, leading to IE training and advisory visit from IE team, who commended the school on progress. Whole school commitment made to a 2 year action plan to gain IE award - the IB Learner Profile was promoted all year through CCA, assemblies, school & house events and through the curriculum, school report & student portfolio - policy framework for student achievement and guidance further developed and promoted, including publishing a parent handbook

	<p>containing policies for student conduct management and other school policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parents' and students' understanding of and commitment to school vision & mission deepened, and opportunities created for communication, representation and collaboration, through commissioned survey and subsequent action plan; preparatory group established to set up the CSS PTA by next October 2008.
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IV Conclusion - Areas of Development identified for attention in the year plan of 2008 – 09

1. Strengthen the school's profile as an IB and IE school, and consolidate the development of distributive leadership and self-evaluative culture
2. Strengthen the school's capacity to meet the needs of individual students through curriculum planning and teaching & learning strategies to support differentiation; progressively implement the IB MYP programme and prepare for the start of the HK & IB Diplomas.
3. Continue to strengthen the ethos and culture of the school as an inviting & learning organization