

Creative Secondary School – School Report for 2008 – 2009

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

For 2008-9, the campus had 28 classrooms as well as the following facilities:

- School Hall, extended to accommodate the whole school community
- School library on the top floor of the main teaching block
- Three Visual Arts studios
- 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 - additional 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 2008 was 347 students. 97 students joined the school as Form 1 students.

5. Curriculum Organisation

5.1 School Calendar and the Timetabled Week.

For 2008 – 2009, the school operated on a calendar of 190 school days over 2 terms, based on a weekly timetable of 25 periods of 60 minutes each, and a co-curricular programme comprising 36 school clubs which were run after school on 4 days per week.

5.2 Class Organisation

For the purposes of registration and attendance, social organization and personal growth and 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 or 6 classes for the following subjects – English, Mathematics, Chinese, Science, Integrated Humanities – and into 6 classes for the following subjects – Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Food/Textiles Technology, Design Technology, ICT and Physical Education. The latter 6 teaching groups are identical to the social groupings for the 6 Houses.

5.3 Implementing the Hong Kong New Senior Secondary Curriculum and seeking authorization of the IB Middle Years Programme

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 December 2008 the school was visited by the IB's Europe and Asia Pacific Regional Managers for MYP. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the school's application to be authorized as an IB World School. The outcome of the authorization visit was successful, and **the school became a member of the global family of over 2700 IB World Schools In February 2009, with the distinction of being the only one to offer the Hong Kong curriculum.**

By the end of the year, the school's first cohort of students had completed the new junior secondary curriculum, learning through the framework of the IB MYP. The school is ready to review this curriculum in the following year.

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	4	240	16
Chinese	4	240	16
Mathematics	3	180	12
Humanities & Personal & Social Education	3	180	12
Science	3	180	12
Physical Education	2	120	8
Arts: Visual Arts Drama Music	1 1 1	60 60	12
Technology Design Technology/ICT Food / Textiles	1 1	60 60	8
Personal Growth Program	1	60	4
Total	25	1500	100%

Note: In addition, students had daily reading time of 15 minutes four days a week, and assembly once a week, after lunch.

6 Information on teachers

6.1 Number and composition of the teaching staff team

In 2008 – 2009, the school had 34.6 f.t.e. teaching staff and the Principal.

The school was to appoint a critical mass of fluent English and Putonghua speakers on the staff team to provide a holistic language learning environment across the different subjects of the curriculum. This provides effective support for students' acquisition of English for academic purposes. Of the full-time teachers appointed, 17 were native English speakers, 15 had overseas teaching qualifications and 20 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 third 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 2008, facilitated by a certified trainer from the International Baccalaureate. 12 teachers attended 3-day IB MYP subject workshops overseas. Teachers also attended 41 Hong Kong Diploma training workshops.

In addition, teachers attended EDB-sponsored professional development workshops on various other topics including gifted education and Invitational Education.

The positive feedback from teachers on these training events has helped the school to plan further professional development activities for the year 2009 – 10.

III Major Strands of Development addressed in 2008 – 2009

The school plan for 2008 – 2009 is derived from the school's 5 year school development plan for 2006 – 2011 submitted to the Education Bureau. The 5 year plan was accepted by the Education Bureau and the CSS School Board of Directors signed a 10 year Service Agreement with the Education Bureau to operate the school, in April 2008.

In the 2008 – 2009 school plan, the major areas of school development were as follows:

1. Strengthen the school's profile as an IB and IE school, and consolidate the development of distributive leadership & self-evaluative culture
2. Further develop the school's curriculum and learning and teaching programme; begin planning for the NSSC and the authorization of the IB MYP programme
3. Continue to strengthen the ethos and culture of the school as an inviting and learning organization

During the course of 2008 – 09, the school had made progress on the above 3 strands of development, as outlined below:

Major Strand of Development	Progress made in 2008 - 2009
<p>1. Strengthen the school's profile as an IB and IE school, and consolidate the development of distributive leadership and self-evaluative culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school's promotion of its status as the only DSS school seeking authorization to become an IB World School in 2008-9 and its commitment to offer the IB Diploma Programme in 2010-11 was successful. The school's MYP was authorized by the IB, enabling CSS to achieve the distinction of being the first DSS school to be an IB World School, and also being the only IB World School out of over 2700 to offer the Hong Kong curriculum. Furthermore the school's feasibility study of the IB Programme began in earnest with the appointment of its IB Diploma Coordinator, and its letter of intent to seek authorization from the IB to offer the IB Diploma Programme was acknowledged. - The school successfully inducted a further cohort of new teachers into its staff team and further consolidated the school's inviting ethos and learning culture as an IB and IE school. The school's leadership structure was formally extended into a faculty structure through the promotion of existing staff alongside the appointment of new Heads of Faculty; the Guidance and Achievement team was likewise strengthened with promotions and appointments. <p>The school's self-evaluative culture was further developed through surveys of stakeholders, a start to some observation of lessons and staff self-reviews conducted through faculty heads.</p>
<p>2. Strengthen the school's capacity to meet the needs of individual students through curriculum planning and teaching and learning strategies to support differentiation; progressively implement the IB MYP and prepare for the start of the HK and IB Diplomas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school progressively implemented the IB MYP framework, before and after achieving IB World School status in February. Form 3 students were introduced to the Personal Project which they need to complete in Form 4 to achieve the MYP certificate. - The Form 4 – 6 curriculum plans were further developed and shared with students and parents. Preparation for individual subjects in Form 4 was undertaken by faculty teams under the leadership of the Curriculum Director & Curriculum Coordinators for the HK Diploma and IB Diploma. Form 3 students were individually counseled to inform their decision making regarding choice of Form 4 elective subjects in 2009-10. - Professional development through the DOLACEE ESL course proved to be inappropriate for the needs of CSS staff; initiatives from the Curriculum Director to introduce differentiation and to provide focused learning support for targeted students were more effective in meeting the learning needs of CSS students.

<p>3. Continue to strengthen the ethos and culture of the school as an inviting and learning organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school launched a two year plan to achieve the IE school award. A number of key staff attended further IE training, and the school continued to strengthen its implementation of the IE policies and practices. Visiting IE educators in mid-2008 confirmed the progress made by the school and signalled that the school was on track in its two-year plan. - The school established a number of small teams to further develop policy and practice on student conduct, student guidance and student leadership. The Co-curricular Activities programme was extended to support greater flexibility, participation and ownership by students. Inter-house competitions were introduced and these strengthened students' sense of affiliation, involvement and collaborative teamwork in their Houses. The role of House tutors was successfully reviewed and decisions were made to introduce year-based tutor teams and more house tutor time in the following year to support the work of house tutors. Key staff were promoted and appointed for the following year. - Digital portfolios were explored alongside other technology-based developments such as wireless internet to facilitate more student ownership of learning. - The school stakeholders' voices were further established through the successful inauguration of the Parent Teacher Association in November 2008. A number of seminars on teenage development were offered through a newly established CSS Parents' Academy. Preparatory work to establish a Student Council for 2009 – 2010 has begun. Stakeholders' surveys were conducted to inform the school leadership's decision-making.
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IV Conclusion - Areas of Development identified for attention in the year plan of 2008 – 09

1. **Supporting the all-round development of students as effective learners** - develop and strengthen the school's Guidance and Achievement framework; further embed the IB Learner Profile and IE policies and practices
2. **Consolidate existing Curriculum and develop the Senior School Curriculum** - deliver the first year of the new senior secondary curriculum (NSSC); implement the post-IB MYP authorisation action plan & consolidate the IB MYP's implementation in Form 1 to Form 4. Continue planning of Form 5 & 6 curriculum leading to the HKDSE; secure authorization of the IB Diploma Programme in readiness for implementation in 2010; establish a careers guidance & college preparation programme
3. **Review the school's development in the first 3 years and further enhance the school's culture, leadership & management systems** - further establish the school's self-evaluative culture and extended leadership; seek for IAIE accreditation as an Inviting School.