

# Education

## YHKCC provides a holistic education for whole-person development



YHKCC students come from over 40 countries worldwide, forming a multicultural community

Carissa Ma

**W**ITH ITS HIGHLY dynamic international learning environment and student-centered approach, YHKCC aims at nurturing students to become confident and caring global citizens.

The first secondary school sponsored by the YMCA of Hong Kong, YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College (YHKCC) a Direct Subsidy Scheme English-medium school in the islands district, offering mission-driven, quality global education.

Recognized for its vibrant, caring and multicultural learning environment, YHKCC offers quality education based on Christian beliefs and values. Mr. Dion Chen, Principal, describes the school as having a strong sense of direction and purpose. "We make sure to always walk our talk, ensuring that all school policies abide by our core values and ethos."

"We emphasize a collaborative three-way partnership among teachers, parents and students, to make sure that the whole learning



Mr. Dion Chen, Principal of YHKCC, encourages his students to take part in various activities for whole-person development

community is on the same page in regards to the school's vision and mission," he elaborates.

### Pastoral Care for Students

Apart from strong Christian beliefs and values, the school is also committed to providing high quality pastoral care to sustain and enrich the educational experience of each student.

"We want our students to flourish knowing that they are valued as individuals within a structured and supportive environment," Mr. Chen stresses.

Under the special Student Guidance and Discipline System (SGDS), each of the 6 year groups is headed by 2 Heads of Year, one western and one local. Together, they provide support to class teachers and subject teachers, while working with highly qualified school social workers and educational psychologists to accommodate each student's specific educational needs.

The school also believes in small-class teaching, especially in English, Chinese and Mathematics classes, to better cater for the diversity in students' abilities, and to maximize their learning effectiveness. Average class size is around 27, with a teacher-student ratio of 1:10.2, thereby ensuring that students are individually nurtured and motivated to fully develop their potential.

### Unique and diversified curriculum

YHKCC offers both international curriculum - IGCSE curriculum and UK GCE 'A' Level, and the Hong Kong curriculum leading to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), allowing students of different aptitudes, needs and abilities to reach their full academic potential.

Following a well-balanced 2-2-2 framework, students in Form 1 and 2 study the school-based curriculum designed to provide a broad and extensive educational experience; in Form 3 and 4, students can take IGCSEs 'on top' of the HKDSE curriculum to obtain international qualifications in addition to fulfilling requirements of the local curriculum; in Forms 5 and 6, students can opt to take either the HKDSE curriculum, or apply to study UK GCE 'A' Levels.

The diversified curriculum affords students greater flexibility by giving them the opportunity to undertake the appropriate set in line with their interests and abilities.

### Whole-person Education

To deliver a truly holistic education, YHKCC offers a rich and diverse choice of extra-curricular activities, ranging from sports, music, to performing arts and visual arts. There are altogether 45 clubs for students to discover and develop their talents and interests outside the academic curriculum. "It is very important that students find campus life stimulating and enjoyable," Mr. Chen explains.

The school places great emphasis on community service. The Service Outreach Week (SOW) encourages students from Form 3 and 4 to participate in community service projects of their choice in Hong Kong, China or overseas, so as to instill in them a sense of social responsibility and compassion for the less advantaged.

To provide students with a diverse range of service opportunities, the school collaborates with over 15 non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong and abroad to launch various service programmes.

The Work Experience Programme allows Form 5 students to experience a real-world workplace environment for a week. Students are provided with a fantastic opportunity to gain first-hand, on-the-job experience in the workplace of their choice. Through carrying out various duties, students can gain valuable insights into specific industries, develop deeper self-understanding, as well as polish generic skills, including communication and organizational skills.

The above distinguished elements have made YHKCC an excellent alternative choice for parents and students who yearn for high-quality education with internationalized environments in Hong Kong.

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## The IB according to students



### Brighten Youth Education Centre

AS AN INCREASING number of schools in Hong Kong follow either the IB or A-Level curriculum to some extent, it is perhaps becoming harder for parents who want to guide their children when selecting an international syllabus to follow between the ages of 16 and 18.

In order to prefer some assistance, intermittently over the next few months we will be talking to parents and students who have followed both curriculums as they offer their insights on both options.

Annie was previously a student at an E5F school and is about to begin life as an undergraduate at the University of Hong Kong. She agreed to share an insider's perspective on the IB syllabus.

Annie chose a diverse collection of subjects as part of her studies. "I studied higher level business and management, Chinese B and visual arts. For standard level, I took English language and literature, maths and physics. "I thought I would be studying fine arts at university at the beginning of my IB course, but I've now ended up doing English studies at HKU."

In general, Annie is highly complimentary of the IB system.

"Realistically speaking, the best part of IB was when we obtained our qualification afterwards. I guess you can say that for everything, but I'd say this course really is worth your time.

"When you're done with this course, you'll feel like you've become a more well-rounded person, and it's especially good because this course helps to prepare you for university."

However, she is careful to recognize that the IB syllabus is not perfect.

"I'd say it's more difficult than other courses out there. Every year, previous IB students would pass on advice, and they'd tell me to try to manage my time."

"That is the most difficult part of this course. You have to balance all your subjects, as well as your core and your CAS activities. It really wasn't easy and it certainly was a stressful two years, but in the end, it's worth it."

Overall though, she would recommend the IB to future students hoping to follow in her footsteps. "The IB is really a tough year out, but I can't stress enough on how grateful you'll be when you're done. It's actually very beneficial for each student's personal growth, but this course isn't really for everybody."

"You'll really need to brace yourself for two years of tears and sweat, but then again, it all depends on what subjects you take and your own level of self-discipline."

"You have to make sure you prioritize the right things, because time management really is the key to getting through this course. If you have the right attitude towards this course, you'll glide through the two years quite easily!"

"If you have any questions about our column, or the issues raised within it, please e-mail them to: [enquiry@brightenlearning.edu.hk](mailto:enquiry@brightenlearning.edu.hk)