

S1 Admission FAQs

S1 DP Interview Arrangement

How many applicants are there each year? How many of them are shortlisted for an interview?

In the past few years, our School has received about 500 applications each year. We invited about 200 students for an interview annually.

How is the interview conducted?

The interview is conducted in both Cantonese and English, and no group interview is arranged.

Through the interview, we aim to evaluate applicants' proficiencies in Chinese and English, understanding of general knowledge, and logical thinking in mathematics.

What is the interview schedule?

Our School has planned to conduct face-to-face interviews on 9th March 2024 (Saturday).

Do applicants need top academic results in primary schools to be selected for an interview?

Our School selects students for interviews based on their (1) academic performance in school and rank orders provided by the Education Bureau, (2) achievements and awards in extra-curricular activities, and services.

Can I ask for a change of time for my S1 Discretionary Places interview?

The interview time will not be changed. However, applicants may contact our School General Office (23809621) in case of personal predicament. Our School might exercise discretion for individual cases.

Admission Criteria

What are the admission criteria for the Discretionary Places under the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) System?

Admission criteria and weightings:

- (1) School performance and rank order provided by the Education Bureau (40%)
- (2) Achievements and awards in extra-curricular activities, and services (20%)
- (3) Interview performance (40%)

The conduct grade of applicants must be B or above. Our School first selects about 200 students to participate in the S1 DP interviews based on items (1) and (2).

After the interviews, we will select successful applicants based on an aggregate score from items (1) to (3).

Approximately how many places are available for unrestricted school choices in Central Allocation (CA)?

In the Discretionary Places (DP) stage, there are 43 places not subject to restriction on districts.

In the Central Allocation (CA) stage, there are 7 places for unrestricted school choices.

Does the School prefer boys or girls for admission?

As the first government co-educational Anglo-Chinese secondary school, we aim to provide equal learning opportunities for boys and girls. Therefore, applicants' ability and performance are considered, regardless of their gender.

Does the School prefer applicants who specialize in certain extra-curricular activities for admission?

Our School emphasizes the whole person development of students.

Applicants should state their top five outstanding performance or activities in different areas in the application form.

Learning and Teaching

How many tests and exams does the School have throughout the school year?

There are two terms in each school year, with one uniform test and one exam in each term. There are also continuous assessments throughout the school year.

How does the School support the less able students?

Besides the individual support provided by teachers, our School organizes additional enrichment courses of core subjects after each uniform test and exam to help them achieve their full potential.

What are the highlights of the School's junior secondary school curriculum?

Our School's junior secondary school curriculum follows the Education Bureau's Curriculum Guides.

We adopt English as the medium of instruction in all subjects, except Chinese Language, Chinese History and Putonghua.

In addition, our School equips S1 to S3 students with communication, collaborative, and problem-solving skills, and cultivates students' values of cherishing life and caring for the community through interdisciplinary projects and studies in conjunction with STEAM education, such as 'Aquaponics', 'Preliminary exploration of Biotechnology' and 'Smart Home'.

With tailor-made school-based learning materials, students are trained to solve authentic problems in daily life through reading and hands-on-minds-on practice.

How does the School create a rich English learning environment?

Through standard readers, the class library and the online platform LightSail, students' reading habit is fostered. Students are also encouraged to read daily news to promote their reading and writing skills.

Moreover, the English Department conducts cross-disciplinary project learning in collaboration with various subjects such as History, Geography, Life and Society, and STREAM in different years.

In addition to summer bridging courses for pre-S1 students, those who are less proficient in English will be arranged to attend enrichment courses after each uniform test and exam.

Outside the formal curriculum, our school organizes a wide range of activities to enrich the English learning environment, to name but a few, the reading competition 'Battle of the Books', English debate, English drama, Hong Kong Speech Festival, the public speaking programme of 'Time to Talk', the English Society, and the English Ambassadors, and the English Morning Assembly every Thursday.

Are there any platforms for communication between students and teachers after lessons?

Our School has had solid experience in using the Google Education Platform for years. Each subject at every level has its respective online classrooms. Students and teachers can extend their learning and teaching after school by means of the online platform.

Teachers will distribute preview and review learning materials in their online classrooms, and students can also ask questions through the online platform.

How does the School stretch the potential of gifted students?

Our School adopts the "Three-Tier Implementation Model" to plan and implement school-based gifted education:

Tier 1 is to adopt various teaching strategies in regular lessons to develop students' potential in creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership, such as the STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) project learning in junior levels.

Tier 2 is to provide specific or interdisciplinary pull-out training programmes in school for students with remarkable abilities, such as the "HKU Academy for the Talented", "Secondary Schools – HKUST Dual Programme" and "CUHK Science Academy for Young Talent".

Tier 3 is to provide special training and learning opportunities outside school for exceptionally gifted students, such as International Junior Science Olympiad HK Screening Competition, International Biology Olympiad (HK Contest), Hong Kong Physics Olympiad, Hong Kong Mathematics Olympiad, as well as competitions and project learning jointly organized by our School, universities, and the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park.

Our school-based gifted education incorporates the three gifted elements of high-order thinking skills, creativity, and personal and social skills into the first and second tiers of the whole school curriculum.

Student Development

Do S1 students need to stay in school for lunch?

Our School is located at the junction of Mong Kok and Prince Edward. There are many restaurants nearby, so we do not arrange lunch at school for students. All students can eat outside school during lunch break, or have takeaway meals in the covered playground.

How does the School help students adapt to secondary school life?

Guidance and Counselling Committee organizes a series of activities and programmes that help S1 students adapt to a new school life. S1 Orientation Day in August and Talk on S1 Adaptation in September equip students with the skills and knowledge to prepare themselves well for the challenges ahead. The Big Brothers and Sisters Scheme and S1 Sunshine Meeting also allow S1 students to get access to timely support and guidance. All S1 students are put into small groups in which their trained big brothers and sisters would offer them help on a regular and frequent basis. For instance, BBSS Study Group conducted before examination is for S1 students to get additional help on a specific problem or topic.

How does the School cater for the whole-person development of students?

In line with the spirit of the school motto 'Prepare yourselves that you may serve', our School places great emphasis on the whole-person development of students so that our graduates can serve the community.

Our School has a dual class teacher system from S1 to S5, so that students can receive more attention and support.

Moreover, the Pastoral Care Team conducts regular meetings for class teachers to promote student well-being.

In addition, our School conducts Life Education Programme once a cycle.

The functional teams of Careers and Life Planning, Discipline, Environmental Education, Extra-curricular Activities, Guidance and Counseling, Health and Sex Education, Moral Education, National and Civic Education, and together with the Special Education Needs Coordinator design and conduct various activities, exhibitions, competitions, talks, and sharing sessions for students to nurture their positive values and attitudes.

Last but not least, gifted students are encouraged to participate in various competitions and activities, so as to unleash their potential and enjoy valuable learning opportunities and experiences.

How does the School nurture student leaders?

Our School nurtures student leaders through experiential learning, engaging them in significant duties and responsibilities.

We have five major student bodies, including Big Brothers and Sisters' Scheme, Camp Warden Association, House Association, Prefect Body, and Student Union.

There are also many student-led clubs, societies and interest groups. Not only do students learn to design and host a wide range of activities, but also serve their peers and enrich their school life.

More importantly, it is necessary for them to hone their skills in problem-solving, collaboration and communication as leaders, so as to prepare them for future challenges.

You can share the learning experiences of our student leaders through the videos in our S1 Admission webpage.

What extra-curricular activities does the School offer?

Our School has a total of 29 ECA clubs and societies, each student is allowed to join the activities freely.

They are grouped into three main categories: Subject-based groups, Interest groups, and Personal Development and Service Teams.

Besides, students are also nominated by teachers to join the School Teams according to their various talents. Our School ensures that all students enjoy sports, music, and other extra-curricular activities in their learning experience.

Apart from the Chinese and Western orchestras, sports teams, academic societies, uniform groups, and interest groups, we also emphasize bringing fascinating learning experiences to students.

For example, in P.E. lessons, there are fun-filled activities like javelin, archery, inflatable boat rafting, shuttlecock kicking, bowling, Wushu, etc.

What is the direction of school development?

Our School Motto is 'Prepare yourselves that you may serve'.

We enable our students to build a solid foundation of subject knowledge, master the necessary generic skills in the 21st century, foster positive core values, and then apply what they have acquired to serve and better the whole community.

Therefore, we conduct the School Self-Evaluation (SSE) once every three years to collect opinions from stakeholders, review the development direction of the School, and formulate the school development plan to keep pace with the times and facilitate students' personal growth and social development.

(Please refer to the School Development Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 for details. English version only.)

What is the procedure for elective subjects selection for the Senior Secondary level?

Our School conducts the S3 preliminary survey for students to indicate and rank their choices of elective subjects.

Through the survey, we identify the learning preferences of students, re-examine various related resources, and devise which elective subjects and subject combinations to be offered in the coming school year, catering for the interests and needs of students.

After that, the S3 students will submit the official elective subjects selection form. We will then allocate elective subjects to students based on their annual average scores in internal exams. The results of elective subjects allocation are released in July.

In 2023/24, our school arranges 11 elective subjects and more than 40 subject combinations for S4 students to facilitate their learning.