Welcome Note

This is the second issue of the IB Newsletter, on behalf of the school, I would like to extend our warm hospitality towards the newly appointed teachers. We are also very excited with the confirmed appointment of the IB Coordinator, Dr. Michael Higgit, who will join us in September 2009. In this issue, we will look into Universities’ recognition towards the IB Diploma, and things that students should pay attention to when considering to pursue their future studies in IB.

Ronnie Cheng
Dean of Culture

DBS and IB : what are the similarities?

If you ask me about the characteristics of a DBS boy, I would probably come up with a list that is very similar to the IB Learner Profile. Traditionally, DBS boys has been citizens of international and local community, that is why we are delighted to find a curriculum that coincides with the outlook and mindset of DBS. With the approach of applications and interviews, bear in mind that we are looking for persistence more than talents, humbleness more than flair, and the ability to learn from mistakes more than complacency.

Terence Chang
Headmaster

Hola: 你好: Ciao: привет: こんにちは: Hello Teachers!

My name is Vladimir Plačkić (or Vladimir Плачкић in Serbian Cyrillic) and I will be teaching the Bridging programme and later the IB Mathematics HL course. When I was 21 (1995), I immigrated to New Zealand. I finished my primary and secondary education in Serbia as well as two years of a Bachelor of Engineering degree. After arriving in New Zealand, I enrolled at Victoria University of Wellington and changed my course of study to pure mathematics and psychology, graduating in 1998. I am also a jazz drummer and spend my free time working on philosophy, chess and on extending my mathematical knowledge. I look forward to working with students in and out of the IB programme.

Vladimir Plačkić
Mathematics Teacher

My name is Rebecca Jessup from New Zealand. I will be teaching English literature on the Bridging programme. I love teaching literature as it encourages students to appreciate different perspectives of the world. My Bachelor of Arts degree is in both English and Mandarin. After graduating, I studied in Beijing and taught writing at East China Normal University in Shanghai. I have a Masters degree in teaching English and enjoy analysing poetry, novels and plays. When I have spare time, I attempt to read literature in Chinese, to do taichi and also yoga. I am really looking forward to challenging students at DBS to explore how literature can improve our understanding of history, of other cultures, generations and points of view.

Rebecca Jessup
English Teacher

DBS is now a Candidate School for the IB Diploma Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy – a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that believes is important for our students.
University Recognition

Same as the A-Levels that we are familiar with for the past years, the IB Diploma is an “entrance ticket” to tertiary education. IB Diploma is gaining its importance and recognition in Universities all over the world. However, specific admissions criteria depend on individual universities and their programmes. Various colleges and universities have developed their own recognition policies, some of the common forms of recognition include: Recruitment, Admission, Placement, Credit, Scholarships, etc. Students are strongly encouraged to check the admissions criteria directly according to their interests, to ensure accurate and updated information.

There are over 2,500 universities worldwide that recognize the IB Diploma, and the number increases continuously. In Hong Kong, all the eight institutions recognize the IB Diploma, however the minimum entrance requirement varies. Students who wish to apply for local universities will fall under the “Non-JUPAS” category, where there are relatively less vacancies, but IB graduates are often favourably looked upon.

Below is a table comparing well-known universities from four different countries for your reference [updated 19 Feb 09]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Institute</td>
<td>Oxford University</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Points to be obtained from IB Diploma</td>
<td>38 – 40 pts</td>
<td>Min. 24 pts</td>
<td>Min. 26 pts (for international students)</td>
<td>“we value predicted A-level and IB results... results from these examinations cannot substitute for our required admissions testing. All applicants must submit the results of the SAT I or ACT as well as three SAT II Subject Tests.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra requirements</td>
<td>6-7 pts for HL subjects</td>
<td>Min. 5 pts for English (SL)</td>
<td>Min. 29 pts for most Conjoint Programmes</td>
<td>IELTS/TOEFL score may be required for English Language Proficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Year Credit (exemption)</td>
<td>Depend on specific subjects</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Depend on specific subjects</td>
<td>~quoted from Harvard College Admissions Office: FAQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above information is extracted from the IB official website; you may access further details by following this link: [http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/](http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How critical is English Language Proficiency for the IB Diploma?
A: The IB Diploma is a rigorous programme that requires an extensive amount of reading and writing. Especially if students decide to take English A1, a rich literature knowledge and exposure is expected. Thus we strongly recommend students to critically assess their ability in the English Language before making major decisions.

Q: Are there Sciences/Arts stream in IB Diploma?
A: There is no such streaming within the IB Diploma. However, should students decide to choose another subject from Groups 1 - 5 instead of Group 6 – The Arts as an elective, they will have an additional exposure in that particular subject group.

Q: Is IB suitable for students planning to study in HK?
A: We would highly recommend students to discuss with our Local and/or Overseas Counselor from the Centre for Further Studies about their study plans. The choice of IB Diploma should lie not only in the geographic location of the desired university, but also subject choice(s) according to their ability and interests. IB graduates applying for HK tertiary institutions will be considered under “Non-JUPAS”, which has relatively less vacancies when compared to NSS graduates applying under “JUPAS”.

Prepared by Stephanie So
Cultural & CAS Coordinator