January 2009

Calendar of Events

NSS & IB Talk for Parents
21 Feb 2009 (Sat): School Hall

IB (Math & Eng) teachers joining DBS
4 Feb 2009

Application for IB Bridging programme
5 Feb – 27 Mar 2009

IB (Econ) teacher joining DBS
15 Apr 2009

Interviews with Prospective IB students
Late Apr – May 2009

IB (Phy & Bio) teachers joining DBS
24 Aug 2009

Message from the Headmaster

It has been an exhilarating period for DBS. The school is going through a series of projects, including the introduction of Boarding School, Comprehensive Review, and various activities that are on-going throughout the year. DBS has always been the pioneer of all-round education. To build upon these successes and with the aim of being a true gateway between the East and the West, our school will incorporate the IB programme in the next school year. With a proud history of 140 years, there are so much that we must do to continue this legacy. It is our aspiration that prospective IB graduates from DBS will not only benefit from the valuable learning experience, but also be able to give back to the community with what they have learnt. I hope in the foreseeable future, the term “DBS IB Graduate” will speak for itself.

Terence Chang
Headmaster

Welcome Note

Welcome to the first issue of IB information at DBS. We wish you a fresh new start for 2009! I believe most of you must have heard about the introduction of IB Diploma programme in DBS. We hope that through this newsletter you may be able to obtain first hand official information about our exciting development. You will be updated about the preparation progress, information about application, subject groups and their teachers, etc.

Ronnie Cheng
Dean of Culture/IB Coordinator Designate

Concurrent Developments
Bridging Programme

The Bridging Programme is targeted at G10 students (age equivalent to F4-NSS). It is a school based curriculum combining elements from the IB and NSS, reviewed by tertiary curriculum experts, and led by our curriculum advisor from the School council.

Besides Chinese, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, P.E. and Music, students will take an additional two subjects: Project Learning and Introduction to Culture. These subjects put special emphasis on the IB methodology and will better prepare students for the rigor of the 2-year Diploma programme.

We will admit a maximum of 60 students (internal and external), with an approximate of 20 students per stream. School fee is currently set at HK$4,800.00*/mth (Bridging Programme) and HK$5,800.00*/mth (Diploma Programme).

*School fees may be revised in due course

IB Learner Profile

Inquirers
Thinkers
Communicators
Risk-takers
Knowledgeable
Principled
Caring
Open-minded
Well-balanced
Reflective

What do these words mean to you?

Welcome Aboard Teachers!

Bringing the World to DBS

How should I apply?

- Attend DBS IB information sessions
- Collect Application form
  [4 Feb – 27 Mar 2009]
- Meet with Dean of Culture, Overseas College Counselor and/or prospective IB teachers to discuss about your study plans and suitability for the IB Diploma
- 850-1150 words essay (in English) “What makes you a suitable IB candidate” with reference to the IB Learner Profile
- Complete and submit Application
  [on or before 27 Mar 2009]

Interview

Applicants will be interviewed in Apr – May 2009, where the panel will discuss with them their experiences in extra-curricular activities, service projects, international exposure, and their understanding towards the IB Learner Profile.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is boarding compulsory for the IB?
A: The school strongly encourages students to experience boarding in DBS. As most activities will be held in-school, it is likely that students will spend majority of their time on campus. With their commitment in the demanding Diploma Programme, they will need the environment and space to prepare for the examinations.

Q: How will academic ranking be taken into account?
A: Grades are important, but it is also crucial that students are suitable for the IB way of learning. That is why the school aims to interview all IB applicants – to gain a better grasp of their personality and temperament.

Q: What is the percentage of overseas and local teachers?
A: IB is a world recognized programme, and with its rapid development in the Asia-pacific region, teachers become critical and rare assets for schools. Recruitment is now a year-round process. DBS has confirmed employment with 6 overseas teachers, and will continue its search. 9 of our current teachers have been trained and will hybrid between the local curriculum and IB. They will work side-by-side with the new teachers.

Prepared by Stephanie So
Cultural & CAS Coordinator