

IB Ready?

BY REBECCA SIMPSON

The new Pre-Sixth Form programme at Malvern College Hong Kong (MCHK) focuses on preparing students for the IB Diploma.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year educational programme offered by many international schools in Hong Kong. It's a well-regarded option for high school graduation and university applications, not to mention a popular choice among expat families in 140 countries around the world.

For senior students (16-to-19-year-olds) who haven't been studying in an IB school, launching into the IB Diploma Programme can feel like an academic baptism by fire. Others take it all in their stride.

So, what are the options for non-IB families requiring additional academic or language support in the lead up to those important (and intense) final years? Rather than struggling through the final year of the Middle Years Programme, one course of action is to join the Pre-Sixth Form programme at MCHK.

This one-year programme has been launched by the school to cater for those students in Hundred (Year 11) who might be new to the IB. According to the Founding Headmaster of Malvern, DR ROBIN LISTER, "The programme provides the opportunity for pupils with no previous experience of the IB curriculum to develop essential skills needed to embark on the IB Diploma programme in the Sixth Form (Years 12-13)."

How does it work?

"Pre-Sixth Form pupils will generally follow the same curricular programmes as the MYP pupils but will not be expected to take MYP eAssessments," explains Dr Lister.

Students are able to focus on settling into the IB curriculum and its structure, rather than preparing for exams. At the same time, they'll also have the opportunity to complete MYP formative and end-of-unit summative assessments along with other Hundred pupils where this is realistic.

"They'll be developing their understanding of ATLs (Approaches to Learning), international-mindedness, service as action and interdisciplinary learning, all core areas of the IB Diploma programme," says Dr Lister. "They'll develop independent study and research skills as well as their capacity for critical and creative thinking."



How to apply

Applicants to the Pre-Sixth Form programme are expected to continue onto the Diploma Programme at MCHK. Students will be assessed via:

- review of school records, including the last two years of school reports;
- online tests covering verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning;
- written assessment in English;
- pupil interview with the MCHK school leader and DP Coordinator; and
- parent interview.

Additional tests and contacting of the student's current school may also form part of the application process.

What they'll study

The available Pre-Sixth Form subjects and activities include the following:

- English
- Chinese
- Maths
- Integrated Sciences
- Individuals & Societies
- Design/Art/Music/Drama (two to be selected from options available)
- PSHE (Physical, Social and Health Education)
- Daily tutor time
- Co-curricular and enrichment activities

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The IB Continuum

