



University Counselling and Post-Secondary Admissions

Article contributed by Mr. Christopher Coates, Secondary School Principal

VSA produces outstanding academic results every year. But our school is so much more than IB Diploma scores. We pride ourselves in offering a holistic programme that emphasises the social, emotional, physical, and character development of our students, as well as the academic. In doing so, we prepare our children for a smooth transition to adulthood, independence, and self-actualization. Along with excellent IBDP results, it is many of the other non-academic factors that make our students so attractive to university admissions departments around the world, and ultimately contributes to the success of VSA graduates in their post-secondary lives. We are very pleased with the many diverse options that are offered to our students when they graduate.

Our **University Counselling Office (UCO)** is made up of a very knowledgeable and experienced group of educators who have, for many years, been guiding students during their academic lives and throughout the university admissions process. They begin working with our students in the early years of Secondary School, helping them identify strengths, passions, and related pathways. As they move into the upper years of Secondary, their work intensifies as they counsel students through the very important process of IBDP course selection, researching post-secondary institutions and programmes, and the completion of university applications and personal statements. This is a complex and comprehensive process leading ultimately to what, for many of our students, is a difficult choice when so many universities come calling.

VSA is extremely proud of the post-secondary offers and scholarship funding that our students receive every year. The variety of world class universities is extensive, as are the countries where our graduates continue their studies. This includes Hong Kong, UK, USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and China. Over the years, some of the notable universities are Oxford, Cambridge, University College London, London School of Economics, Durham, Boston College, USC, UCLA, Northeastern, Stanford, McGill, University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, Melbourne, UNSW, and Sydney. As diverse as the universities are, so are the programmes our students are choosing. Some of the disciplines include: medicine, pharmacology, physiotherapy, engineering, law, business, finance, economics, journalism, architecture, design, languages, and education, to name a few.

VSA has a long history of graduating outstanding students who become wonderfully positive and productive citizens. They move on to some of the best universities and colleges around the world, graduate, and eventually become dynamic members of society, often in leadership roles. A significant part of their success is due to the rigorous IBDP, but it is equally due to the holistic education they experience while at VSA. None of this would happen without the essential guidance and mentorship they receive from all of their teachers and coaches, but especially from our UCO Team.



The VSA faculty will continue to guide our students at all age levels and assist them in making the right choices about their future. Our goal, as always, is to produce successful students and, more importantly, good people.

VSA University Counselling Team:



**Mrs. Rebecca
LUCAS-TIMPANY**
Student Support Services
Coordinator



Ms. Carolyn LEE
Head of University
Counselling



**Ms. Wai Shan
Vanessa FONG**
University Counsellor



**Dr. Gavin
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