

## VSA Summer School

### *Delivering high quality K-12 vertical educational offerings*

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The VSA Summer School is one of the largest of its kind in Hong Kong. Since 2019, the summer school has offered a K-12 vertical program structure where each year group was served with at least one program that was geared towards them. Currently, the VSA Summer School runs 5 programs: EXPLORERS, INQUIRERS, KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS, GAME CHANGERS and VSA-Oxford Summer Program, which together serve around 350 students annually. A brief description of each program is shown below.

Name of Program	Description
<b>EXPLORERS</b>	Year 1 Preparation Program offered to K3 kindergarten students attending VSA in the coming academic year
<b>INQUIRERS</b>	PYP Academic Program offered to current PYP students
<b>KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS</b>	Year 6 Preparation Program offered to Year 5 students promoting to secondary school in the coming academic year
<b>GAME CHANGERS</b>	Critical Thinking Program offered to MYP students
<b>VSA-Oxford Summer Program</b>	University Program taught by University of Oxford Faculty offered to Year 10 students and above

The VSA Summer School is designed as a through-train summer program that serves students across the ages and moves beyond a conventional tutorial style program. The experience sets out to provide students with an all rounded educational program that provides them with a coherent educational experience that complements their formal schooling during normal term time.

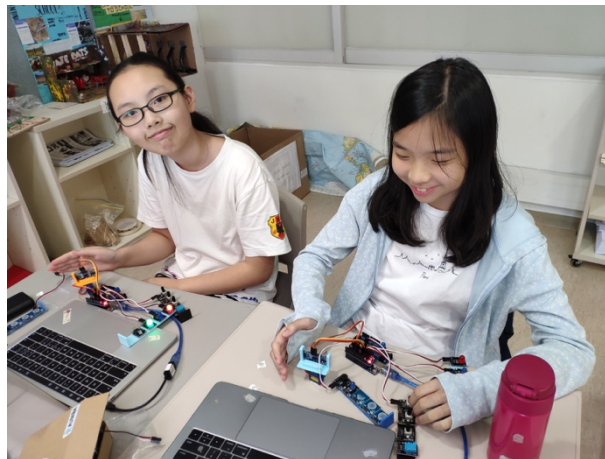
**EXPLORERS → INQUIRERS → KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS → GAME CHANGERS → VSA-Oxford Summer Program**

The themes of the program are structured in a way that mimics some of the key skills that are critical for students at their stage of learning. For example, when kindergarten students transit to primary, “exploring” the new environment is very important as they face totally new experiences, and hence challenges, from the people that they meet (teachers and classmates), the way lessons are conducted, and the surrounding physical environment that is vastly different. Class activities in *EXPLORERS* are therefore designed to reflect the felt needs of students in context. For example, in mathematics class, students are perhaps asked to count the number of steps between certain floors and make comparisons between parts of school.

As students settle in into primary schooling, class activities in *INQUIRERS* will deal with more abstraction as they learn to inquire about their surroundings. Critical thinking will be developed in the *GAME CHANGERS* (the MYP Program) course where students' ways of thinking and methods of discerning information/biases will be explored. These all culminate in the VSA-Oxford Summer Program, a tertiary program delivered by academics from the University of Oxford where a wide variety of courses from Medicine, Law, Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, Engineering, English, Economics, Business are delivered. The VSA-Oxford Summer Program is the largest of its kind taught by elite universities globally and will be taught by 33 Oxford instructors offering 69 introductory university courses in the summer of 2021.



*PYP Students learning Chinese in INQUIRERS*



*Students making a candy dispenser in GAME CHANGERS*

By delivering the courses above, it is hoped that students will be developed to be critically minded inquirers and would one day be able to translate the things they have learnt inside the classroom to change the world for the better. This naturally resonates with the IB learner profile of being risk-takers, inquirers, thinkers, caring people as well as other attributes that students learn to develop during the course of the academic year.

Although COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges in the way the courses are delivered, exciting times certainly lie ahead for the VSA Summer School in the long run as it continues to grow and further expand. Pedagogically, it has the distinct advantage of being supported by the professional and high-quality teaching faculty. Physically, the presence of a top-notch school environment, which will only become even better with the opening of the new campus in the coming academic year, will allow a richer and meaningful experience to be enjoyed by participating students.