

# THE HARBOUR SCHOOL

School Profile 2024-2025

CEEB Code: 670001



Unlocking the best

## At THS we are driven by our mission and our core values.

### Mission Statement

We are thoughtful about the individuals we serve and the future they bring. We aim to create authentic, collaborative, and human learning environments that reveal and empower the best in every person. The Harbour School's mission is illustrated in each unique member of our community.

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### Accreditations/memberships



### Awards

2024 SDG Enterprise Awards:  
Outstanding Enterprise

2023 World's Best School Prize:  
Top 10 Shortlisted School for Environmental Action

2023 Hong Kong Sustainability Awards:  
The Distinction Award

2023 ESG Achievement Awards:  
Platinum Award

2022 International School Awards:  
Best in Teaching & Learning

2022 UNSDG Achievement Awards:  
Silver Project Award  
Best Approach  
High Replicability

2021 Hong Kong Living Awards:  
HK International School of the Year  
Best in Humanities & Social Sciences  
Best Technology Program

### Students Nationalities



90

Current  
Enrollment

85

Alumni

30

Number of  
Teaching Staff

1:8

Average School  
Wide Ratio

17

Nationalities of  
students

9

Average  
Class Size

### Five Core Values

#### Experience First:

We promote learning as an experiential process through which the insights of a moment inform the insights of a lifetime. THS is a leader in experiential education and a Leadership Circle school in the Independent Schools Experiential Education Network (ISEEN).

#### Lifeworthy Learning:

We value learning that will be used throughout a lifetime. We place a focus on skills that are needed in the 21st century, including creativity, flexibility, collaboration, presentation, self-direction, social responsibility, critical thinking and problem solving.

#### Redefining Rigor:

Learning is multi-directional, authentic, and tied to an individual's greater understanding. A new set of rigorous classroom expectations is evaluated in terms of the intellectual, personal, academic and creative challenge of the experience, rather than the passive absorption of information.

#### Invested in the Individual:

Rather than trying to fit all people into one mold with the same result in mind, we endeavor instead to find and reveal each individual's best self.

#### Community Oriented:

We recognize the interdependence of people across grade levels, roles, relationships and skill levels. We also see ourselves as part of the larger symphony that is the world around us. As part of that world community, we are responsible for our own contributions and for creating the harmonies of the future.

## Academic Program Overview

Our high school is a progressive learning community which redefines the secondary schooling experience by providing different graduation pathways within a respectful and individualized community setting. Our students acquire the necessary attributes to be empowered agents in young adulthood and to cultivate their independence. Having matured within a socially conscious, progressive, and inclusive learning community, they are thinkers, speakers and doers with a conscience. They work well with people from different backgrounds and learning styles because they have been taught to value the advantages of growing up within an international and neurodiverse community.

Our high school curriculum is uniquely student-centered, offering individuals the opportunity to curate their academic program to meet their future goals. THS believes in a personalized approach to learning, where students develop skills by exploring questions that are meaningful to them as learners and citizens. This approach allows students to be invested in the projects on which they work, individually and in groups. The school is an intentionally inclusive environment, with a demographic that encompasses a range of learners. In addition to typically-formulated high school classes, noteworthy features of the THS academic model include: co-taught transdisciplinary courses, Project Development, Independent Study Modules (ISMs), and a robust internship program. THS courses are structured to be thematic, integrated across content areas, and focused on the real-world application of academic content. This variety of offerings invites students to become self-directed critical thinkers who are engaged in their education.

### Redefining Rigor

#### Independent Study Module (ISM)

Every year, students at the high school complete their own year-long, independent project as part of the Independent Study Module (ISM) program. The topics explored are student driven and faculty supported. Throughout the year, students will revise and refine their plan through expert and peer feedback to iteratively make improvements while gaining the necessary skills to successfully execute a long term project. The program unfolds in three phases: 1. research and writing 2. making connections to the real world 3. a final presentation during our ISM symposium. Student projects result in a wide range of outcomes including novels, art, engineering projects, documentaries and the creation of charitable NGOs to name a few.

#### Advisory Program

A school is much more than a place of traditional academic learning. Our advisory program is a truly holistic approach that has been developed to empower students with the necessary life skills to become expert navigators of the 21st century. Each grade level advisory cohort meets daily to learn about subjects such as mindfulness, social-emotional intelligence, physical and emotional well-being, research skills, university planning, internships, eportfolio building, artificial intelligence, building a reading culture and 21st century careers.

### Experience First

#### Centers of Excellence

These are unique avenues for STEAM experiential learning. *The Black Dolphin* is a classic 50-foot wooden ketch that serves as The Harbour School's "outdoor classroom" which can be used for a variety of topics ranging from Shakespeare to coral mapping. Data and samples often collected in the field come into our *Marine Science Center*. It is complete with multiple aquaria, student research tanks and a touch tank, with faculty experts in marine animals and ecosystems in Hong Kong. *The Foundry* is the school's purpose-built makerspace - a learning environment designed to encourage students to build, experiment and prototype inventions as they engage deeply in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

#### Global Classrooms

3 - 12 week international trips form the basis of the Global Classroom program, offering students the opportunity to see the world as their classroom. Whether they hike the Camino de Santiago to uncover the rich history of the pilgrimage route, or work with our NGO partner to develop and implement solutions for the marine environment and people of Cambodia, students are engaged in interdisciplinary, real-life learning to deepen their understanding of the world.



## Invested in the Individual

### Internships

Internships can be a vital bridge that helps students connect their interests to the real world. THS offers internships facilitated through the school (for example in our *Marine Science Center*, on *The Black Dolphin*, in classrooms or administrative offices) or from external vendors, driven by student interest. The internship opportunity provides students a chance to explore and engage with hands-on experience of their potential future pathways.

### Interims

Students take part in two interim weeks across a school year, *STEAM Week* and *Arts Interim*, choosing from a variety of deep-dive, intensive, hands-on learning experiences related to specific focus areas. During STEAM Week, some students may explore the construction of an artificial reef to collect marine samples. During Arts Interim, some may choose to research, write and produce their own play. Courses during this week run from Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM and are facilitated by a field expert.

## Graduation Requirements

Students are expected to exceed the minimum graduation requirements and to take additional classes as electives in literature, science, social studies, the arts, and physical education depending on their academic and personal interests.

As a matter of school policy, students are not ranked nor do we weigh classes or calculate GPAs.

Subject	Credits
English	4.0
Math	3.0
Science	3.0
Social Studies	2.0
Language	2.0
Art	1.0
Movement & Wellness	1.0
Electives	4.0
ISM	2.0

**22**  
**Total**

### Grading Scale

A+	100-97	Beyond exemplary effort / ability
A	96 - 93	Exemplary effort / ability
A-	92 - 90	Approaching exemplary effort / ability
B+	89 - 87	Strong effort / ability
B	86 - 83	Solid effort / ability
B-	82 - 80	Somewhat solid effort / ability
C+	79 - 77	Some effort / ability
C	76 - 73	Passing effort / ability

## Lifeworthy Learning

### Global Project Development

Global Project Development is a student-driven course focused on sustainable practices, design thinking, and entrepreneurial skills. It encourages students to integrate their interests and skills to address challenges posed by climate change and inequality.

By emphasising empathy, the course teaches students to develop sophisticated organisations and initiatives, creating human-centered designs aimed at maximising impact on global societies, environments, and economies. Students will engage communities both globally and locally to find out how they can make a lasting impact.

### Advanced Coursework and Advanced Placement Program

Honor streams at THS are available through highly rigorous extension material and projects in all courses. They are the default for highly advanced courses.

THS does not offer traditional Advanced Placement courses, but prepares students to take Advanced Placement exams through close consideration of course design and high standards utilised within courses. Our focus is on learning, not testing.

## Community Oriented

### Social Impact and Sustainability Program (SISP)

The Social Action and Sustainability Program (SISP) is THS' framework to build social consciousness and a sustainability mindset within the school by incorporating the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals into our curriculum, primarily our Global Classrooms Program and Social Enterprises classes.

Term by term, our approach phases in awareness, planning and action to address real world problems with local and global partnerships including;

- Corporate member of The Green Council, Hong Kong
- General member of Business Environment Council
- Member School of UNESCO Hong Kong
- Member School of Global Schools Program
- UNICEF Hong Kong
- World Vision Hong Kong



**Social Impact & Sustainability Program**

## Single-Subject Courses

Many subjects are offered as single-subject, such as our mathematics and science streams, as well as our Advanced Placement offerings.

### Mathematics Sequence

1. Pre-Algebra
2. Algebra I
3. Geometry
4. Algebra II
5. AP Pre-Calculus
6. AP Calculus

### Science Courses

- Biology (AP)
- Chemistry
- Physics (AP)

### Advanced Placement

- Biology
- Calculus
- English Language and Composition
- Environmental Science
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Near Native Mandarin
- Pre-Calculus
- Physics

## Multidisciplinary Courses

Many courses are offered as multidisciplinary courses, exploring a topic from various sides and taught by two or more teachers from different academic disciplines. Some examples might be:

### Flatland

**Credit Category:** Mathematics | English

**Course Description:** Yep, that's right, this course combines an unlikely pairing of English literature and Mathematics. For this course, you will be reading the novel, Flatland. You will journey back in time via the fourth dimension to discover how people lived and worked in Victorian society. Through the perspective of the narrator, A Square, you will learn how social satire can expose the two-dimensional thinking that constrained human rights during that time period. The book was written in 1884 and at the time largely unrecognized. It wasn't until Einstein published his Theory of Relativity that it gained notoriety and has since become a classic that has inspired a new genre of literature and mathematical thought. Be prepared to stretch your brain in new ways.

### Hamilton

**Credit Category:** English | Art (Visual Arts) (Music)

**Course Description:** This year, THS has taken on Hamilton as our school wide production. The "American Musical" chronicles the life of Alexander Hamilton through the birth of the United States as a nation meanwhile drawing parallels to the current day socio-political situations. It is a unique blend of sung and rapped political history with the traditional show-tunes theme. Students interested will have the opportunity to participate in a multitude of ways in the production, including: acting, set design and staging, lighting and sound, etc.

### Graphic Novelist

**Credit Category:** Art (Visual) | English | Social Studies

**Course Description:** This course is intended to ignite the creativity and artistic skills of students interested in the world of comic books and manga. Through this course, students will explore storytelling, character development and narrative structures, alongside the artistic visual techniques required to tell these stories. Using a modelling basis, students will discover the comic and manga specific strategies by discovering and understanding some of the medium's most prolific writers and artists, including Jack Kirby, Todd McFarlane, Will Eisner, Osamu Tezuka, Steve Ditko, Frank Miller, and more. By mastering what has already been, students will move to the creation phase of storytelling and bring their stories to life with visual representation. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to develop their original characters, stories, and sequential art, fostering self-expression and individual artistic styles. Whether pursuing future studies or careers in art, writing, or multimedia, this course will empower students with the tools and knowledge to bring their stories to life in the vibrant comic books and manga world.

### Food Detectives

**Credit Category:** Social Studies | Science

**Course Description:** Embark on a culinary and cultural exploration in "Food Science," a dynamic course that unveils the mysteries behind the building blocks of food, taste, cooking techniques, and preservation methods. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of global culinary traditions, where science meets the art of cooking. Throughout the course, students not only explore the scientific principles behind food but also actively engage in hands-on experiences. They have the opportunity to cook in class, applying the theoretical knowledge to practical culinary skills. As they journey globally, students discover how diverse cultures leverage the power of science to craft unique and delicious foods.



# University Acceptances

In the past seven years, THS has graduated 85 students who have been offered spots at 173 different universities and colleges across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Italy, and Spain.

## United States

Arizona State University - Phoenix  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Baylor University  
Beacon College  
Belmont University  
Beloit College  
Bennington College  
Berklee College of Music  
California College of the Arts  
California Lutheran University  
California Polytechnic State University - Pomona  
and San Luis Obispo  
California State University Long Beach  
Canisius College  
City College of San Francisco  
Clark University  
Colorado College  
Concordia College  
Cornell College  
Culinary Institute of America  
Denver College  
Drew College  
DePaul University  
Eckerd College  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Florida State University  
Franklin and Marshall College  
Franklin Pierce University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Gettysburg University  
Goucher College  
Hampshire College  
Hartwick College  
Harvard University (G)  
Kent State University  
Knox College  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Lake Forest College  
Landmark College  
Loyola Marymount University  
Lynn University  
Macalester College  
McDaniel College  
Merrimack College  
Middlebury College  
Oberlin College  
Occidental College  
Ohio State University  
Orange Coast College  
Otis College of Art and Design  
Pace University  
Pacific University  
Parsons School of Design  
Pennsylvania State University  
Purdue University  
Reed College  
Roger Williams University  
Rollins College  
Rutgers University  
San Francisco State University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Scripps College  
Seattle University  
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania  
Smith College

St. Lawrence University  
St. Louis University  
State University of New York at Geneseo  
State University of New York at Oneonta  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Stonybrook University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
The College of New Jersey  
The New School  
Truman State University  
University of Arizona  
University of California - Berkeley, Davis,  
Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego,  
Santa Cruz  
University of Colorado - Boulder, Denver  
University of Dayton  
University of Denver  
University of Indianapolis  
University of Kansas  
University of Lynchburg  
University of Massachusetts - Amherst  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
University of Missouri Columbia  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Oregon  
University of Rochester  
University of San Francisco  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas Arlington  
University of Washington Seattle  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Wittenberg University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Xavier University  
Yale University (G)

## United Kingdom

Bangor University  
Bath Spa University  
Bristol University of the West of England  
Canterbury Christ Church University  
Cardiff University  
Goldsmiths University of London  
Liverpool Hope University  
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts  
Loughborough University  
Oxford Brookes University  
Queen Mary University  
Saint Mary's University Wittenberg  
SOAS University London  
Solent University Southampton  
St Mary's University Twickenham  
Swansea University  
University for the Creative Arts  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Arts London Wimbledon  
University of Birmingham  
University of East Anglia  
University of East London  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of Kent  
University of Lancaster  
University of Liverpool

University of Manchester  
University of Northampton  
University of Nottingham  
University of Plymouth  
University of Reading  
University of Saint Andrews  
University of Sheffield  
University of Staffordshire  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Sunderland  
University of Surrey  
University of Sussex  
University of the Arts London  
University of the West of England Bristol  
University of West London  
University of Winchester  
University of Worcester  
University of York  
York St John University

## Canada

Capilano University  
Champlain College Saint-Lambert  
McGill University  
McMaster University  
Ontario Tech University  
Queen's University  
Ryerson University  
Simon Fraser University  
University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
University of Calgary  
University of Guelph  
University of Ottawa  
University of Toronto  
University of Waterloo  
Western University  
York University

## Australia

Macquarie University  
Queensland University of Technology  
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology  
University of New South Wales  
University of Sydney

## Hong Kong

Hong Kong University  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
City University of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

## Ireland

Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin  
University College Dublin

## Japan

Temple University, Japan Campus

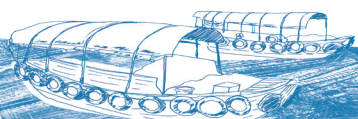
## Italy

Istituto Marangoni

## Spain

IE University, Madrid

\*G = Graduate School



## Centers of Excellence

Our Centers of Excellence at THS truly distinguish the learning experience for our students and set us apart from all other schools around the world. The COEs, as we call them, are on the frontier of STEAM education and learning is unbound by the conventional K-12 system. The integration of state of the art resources and specialized expertise can be likened to collegiate level offerings.

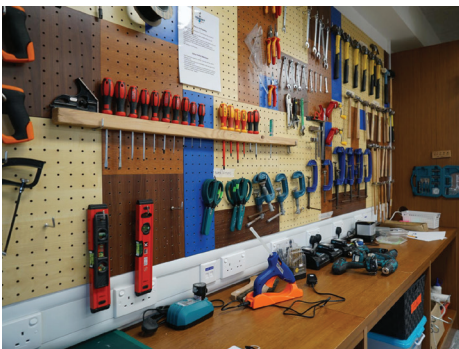


### Marine Science Center

Our state of the art Marine Science Center teems with Jellyfish, Bamboo Shark, Sting Rays, Eels, corals, etc from local Hong Kong Waters and beyond. The aquariums and touch tanks rival the best in the world and truly worth an admission price. Our Resident Marine Scientists are pre-eminent authorities in the field and collaborate with Hong Kong University to contribute to research on the local marine environment.

### Black Dolphin

We have our own tallship! There are a lot of boats that do education, but very few schools that do boats. Our 50' sailboat the Black Dolphin, was built during World War II and has a tradition of sailing all over the world. Maritime history is alive as well as learning navigating the Hong Kong waters under sail and overnight trips to the outlying islands. The Black Dolphin is an adventurous learning lab where teamwork thrives.



### Foundry

Our maker space, The Foundry is a bustling creative zone where student and teacher ideas materialize. Using the Design Thinking Model, the Foundry brings a careful and throughout interactive process to making crafts, products, instruments and more. The Foundry is known for thinking big and is involved with many school wide initiatives.



[www.ths.edu.hk](http://www.ths.edu.hk)



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