

THE HARBOUR SCHOOL

School Profile 2026-2027

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

2025 & 2026 ESG Achievement Awards:
Platinum Award - Outstanding Award, NGO/NPO category

2025 UNSDG Achievement Awards:
Hong Kong Individual SDG Award for Goal 8: Decent Work
and Economic Growth

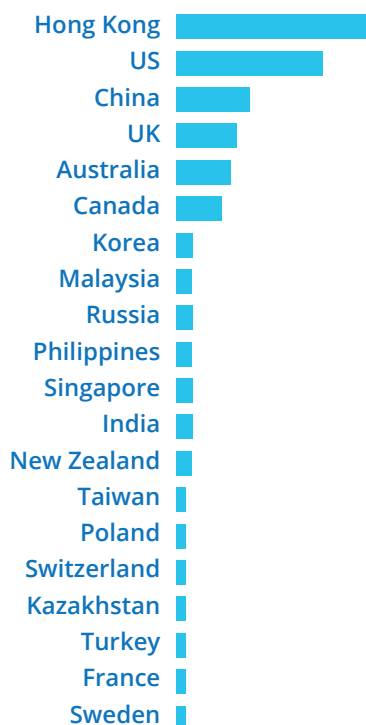
2024 Hong Kong Sustainability Awards:
Grand Award
Distinction Award
Excellence in Economic Sustainability Initiative
Excellence in Social Sustainability Initiative
Excellence in Environmental Sustainability Initiative Special
Award, Kindergarten/Primary & Secondary Schools

2024 UNSDG Achievement Awards:
Individual SDG Award for Goal 14: Life Below Water

2024 SDG Enterprise Awards:
Outstanding Enterprise

2024 TVB ESG Awards:
ESG Special Recognition Award (Merit)

Student Nationalities



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.

127

Current
Enrollment

116

Alumni

42

Number of
Teaching Staff

1:8

Average School
Wide Ratio

20

Nationalities of
students

10

Average
Class Size

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.

English is the primary language of instruction at The Harbour School, and all students who earn a THS High School diploma demonstrate full English fluency.

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.

Lifeworthy Learning

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.

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.

Exemplifying this real-world impact, GPD students made history at the 2026 Diamond Challenge Global Finals by securing second place with St. Martins Apparel—a social enterprise converting textile waste into sustainable handbags while empowering under-privileged youth in the Philippines.

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
Electives	5.0
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

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;

- Business Environment Council
- The Alliance for Sustainable School
- Green Council, Hong Kong
- 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

Advanced Placement

- Statistics
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus BC
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Human Geography
- English Language and Composition
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language
- Physics
- Music Theory
- 2-D Art

Science Courses

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

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 nine years, THS has graduated 116 students who have been offered spots at 230 different universities and colleges across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Singapore, Japan, Italy, Spain, and New Zealand.

UNITED STATES

Angelo State University

Arizona State University

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

Calvin University

Canisius College

Central Connecticut State University

City College of San Francisco

Clark University

Columbia College Chicago

Colorado College

Concordia College

Cornell College

Culinary Institute of America

Denver College

Drew College

Drexel University

DePaul University

Eckerd College

Elon University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical 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

Grand Canyon University

Hampshire College

Hartwick College

Harvard University (G)

IYRS School of Technology and Trades

Johnson & Wales University

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

New York University

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Ohio State University - Main Campus

Orange Coast College

Otis College of Art and Design

Pace University

Pacific University

Parsons School of Design

Pennsylvania State University

Purdue University

Queens College

Reed College

Rochester Institute of Technology

Roger Williams University

Rollins College

Rutgers University

San Francisco State University

Sarah Lawrence College

Scripps College

Seattle University

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

Smith College

South Georgia Technical College

Southern Methodist University

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

Texas Christian University

Texas Tech University

The College of New Jersey

The New School

Truman State

University of Alabama

University of Arizona

University of California -

Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside,

San Diego, Santa Barbara and **Santa Cruz**

University of Colorado - Boulder

and Denver

University of Connecticut

University of Dayton

University of Denver

University of Indianapolis

University of Kansas

University of Lynchburg

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

University of Missouri - Columbia

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of North Carolina - Wilmington

University of Pittsburgh

University of Puget Sound

University of Oregon

University of Rochester

University of San Francisco

University of Texas at Arlington

University of South Carolina

University of Utah

University of Washington - Seattle Campus

Washington State University

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

Birmingham City University

Bristol, University of the West of England

Canterbury Christ Church University

Cardiff University

Goldsmiths, University of London

Liverpool Hope University

Cardiff University

Goldsmiths, University of London

Liverpool Hope University

Liverpool Institute For Performing Arts

Loughborough University

Newcastle 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 Exeter

University of Glasgow

University of Kent

University of Lancaster

University of Leeds

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

IRELAND

Trinity College Dublin

The University of Dublin

University College Dublin

CANADA

Capilano University

Champlain College Saint-Lambert

Concordia University

Fraser International College

McGill University

McMaster University

Ontario Tech University

Queen's University

Ryerson University

Simon Fraser University

Toronto Metropolitan 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

Monash University

Queensland University of Technology

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

University of Melbourne

University of New South Wales

University of Sydney

HONG KONG

City University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong School of

Professional and Continuing Education

JAPAN

Temple University, Japan Campus

ITALY

Istituto Marangoni

SPAIN

IE University, Madrid

NEW ZEALAND

University of Waikato

SINGAPORE

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Nanyang Technological University

**Bolded Names: Universities that students have attended or are currently attending*

**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 likened to collegiate level offerings.

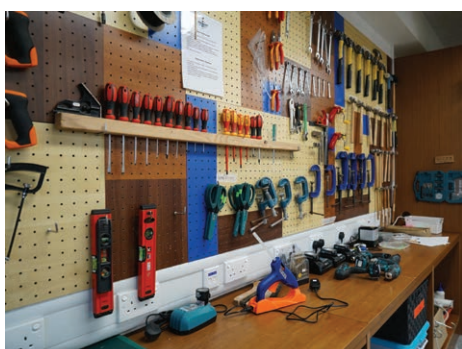


Marine Science Center

Our state-of-the-art Marine Science Center teems with jellyfish, bamboo sharks, stingrays, eels, corals, and more from local Hong Kong waters and beyond. The aquariums and touch tanks rival the best in the world and are truly worth an admission price. Our resident marine scientists are preeminent authorities in the field and include students in collaborations with universities and organizations throughout Southeast Asia to contribute to research in the broader field of marine science. In 2025, two high school students co-authored a chapter entitled *Seaweed, Science and Society: A Collaborative Model for Ocean Literacy, Community Building and Blue Innovation* in **Volume III of Ocean Literacy: The Foundation for the Success of the Ocean Decade: Accelerating Communication, Technology, and Global Initiatives**.

Black Dolphin

We have our own tall ship! 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 taking overnight trips to the outlying islands. The *Black Dolphin* is an adventurous learning lab under Captain Jay, where teamwork thrives and an expanded program of opportunities to get involved with the world of boats is on offer. In 2024, high school students built a boat and added the *Finless Porpoise* to our fleet with the *White Dolphin* and *Black Dolphin*.



Foundry

Our makerspace, The Foundry, is a bustling creative zone where student and teacher ideas materialize. Using the Design Thinking model, The Foundry brings a mindful and interactive process to making crafts, products, instruments, and more. The Foundry is known for thinking big and is involved with many schoolwide initiatives. Sustainability is an important theme and practice in The Foundry. In 2025, high school students completed a renewable energy system that integrates solar and vertical wind turbine technologies, which was shortlisted as a finalist for the Schneider Electric Go Green Challenge. The Foundry is popular for supporting student internships.



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