

# Inspiring leaders of tomorrow with positive education

*Renaissance College Hong Kong (RCHK) offers an all-through learning environment, coupled with a rigorous IB curriculum, to cultivate well-rounded global citizens that strive for excellence.*

Founded in 2006, Renaissance College is an all-through independent school offering quality education to students from Year 1 to 13 on its Ma On Shan campus, conveniently located right outside Exit A of Heng On Station. It is also a member of the English Schools Foundations (ESF), the largest provider of English medium International education in Hong Kong.

Priding itself on building a family-friendly community, RCHK is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse learning environment to nurture global citizens for the next generation. Currently, it is home to 2,087 students of more than 40 nationalities.



“We want to build a culture that promotes peace and democracy, values diversity and works towards a sustainable future for all,” says Dr Harry Brown, Principal of RCHK. “This underlines how we deliver our education and the values we live by.”

### The first to offer four IB programmes in Asia

This world-class school is known as the first in Asia to offer all four International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes, namely Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP).

Dr Brown explains that both PYP and MYP are inquiry-based learning which provides the framework for teaching and learning. The first one is designed for Year 1 to 6, and the latter one is for students from Year 7 to 11. “These two programmes give the basic content that students need to learn. During the process, we try to encourage students to follow their interests and passion to discover their learning capacity,” he notes.

Moving to the final two years of study at RCHK, students can choose from DP and IBCP. The DP is a comprehensive university preparatory programme in which students are required to undertake an external examination that is written and scored by the IB. “There are six subjects students need to take along with other extra things like a 4000-word essay, community service, and a course in philosophy.”



Another option is IBCP, a career-based programme. “This is for students who are clear about their goal and don’t want to take additional subjects,” he stresses. The programme takes a specialized approach that can be customized to suit students’ needs, personal interests and strengths, allowing students to access multiple pathways including higher education, employment and apprenticeships.

### The heart of RCHK

Beyond providing quality IB education, the school also places wellbeing at the heart of its teaching, namely the ‘heart of RCHK’, aiming to teach the whole child and teenager. It comprises school values for the community, including health and relationships; and key features that help develop one’s wellbeing, such as character strengths and positive emotions.

“We don’t want to be a test preparation factory which only fills children’s brain with content. That is only a portion of it - we also want to serve student’s personal and social aspects,” says Dr. Brown. “Things that are matter to their lives, such as how to make friends and keep friends, how to be safe in dating and cyber safety.”

Taking a cue from positive psychology, the school has introduced wellbeing courses with a positive education approach in both Primary and Secondary curriculums. “When I was in school, my teachers and parents believed that their job was to point out my weaknesses and fix them or get me to fix them. But if we only focus on our defects, we would not make the progress we could,” he stresses. “Therefore, positive education is to help students recognize and build their strengths as well as to gain confidence.”

In addition, the school also has a large wellbeing department that consists of full-time counsellors and social workers to provide emotional support for students and parents through difficult times.

### Home-school cooperation

RCHK has embraced the technologies to support distance learning, such as Google Classroom and Zoom. Dr. Brown shares that the pandemic gave the school a chance to re-imagine and revise their teaching and learning, as well as enhancing the home-school cooperation.

“Parents had a much better idea of what was going on at school when school was at home, and therefore their involvement has increased,” he notes, adding that parents can through the ESF App or email to get instant contact with the school. Additionally, there are also ‘Three-Way Conferences’, where students, parents and teachers sit together to discuss and interact with each other. Lead by students, the conferences are held a minimum of three times throughout the year online or in person.

### Striving for excellence

Asked about the placement of RCHK graduates, Dr. Brown takes pride in their high success rate in securing places at top universities around the world. About one-third of the graduates remain in Hong Kong; another one-third goes to North America, including the United States and Canada; and then one-third pursue their studies in the United Kingdom. He adds that the remaining 1% of students opt for other European and Asian destinations.

Going ahead, the school will continue to develop their campus to satisfy the diverse needs of the students. For instance, a new food lab was built and recently opened for students to learn how to create food rather than just cooking, as well as a possible expansion to include a kindergarten at the site. “We will maintain our enrollment during this difficult time, and grow with our students to provide them quality learning experience,” he concludes.

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