

# IB Middle Years Programme Authorization Visit Report

Discovery College, Hong Kong

1 - 3 November 2010

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## Middle Years Programme Authorization Visit Report

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### DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

#### Location

Discovery College is located in Discovery Bay on Lantau Island in Hong Kong.

#### Nature of the school

Founded in 2007, Discovery College is a private co-education K -12 school which is affiliated with the English Schools Foundation. The school has an authorized PYP programme and plans to implement the diploma in 2012. The school uses English as its medium of instruction.

#### Students

At the time of the report the school had an enrolment of approximately 720 students. There are 540 students in their primary school and approximately 140 in their secondary school. The student body is composed primarily of expatriate students from a wide range of backgrounds.

#### Curriculum

The school has developed a school based curriculum designed to meet the aims and objectives of the MYP programme.

#### Facilities

The school is situated in a purpose built facility with well resourced classrooms, sporting facilities and specialist rooms suitable for the delivery of the programme.

#### Standards

The visiting team agrees that the following Standards show satisfactory development:

##### Standard A1

There is close alignment between the educational beliefs and values of the school and the fundamental principles of the MYP.

##### Standard A2

The school promotes international-mindedness on the part of the adults and the students in the school community.

**Standard B1**

The school demonstrates ongoing commitment to, and provides support for, the programme through appropriate administrative structures and systems, staffing and resources.

**Standard C1**

A comprehensive, coherent, written curriculum, based on the requirements of the programme and developed by the school, is available to all sections of the school community.

**Standard C2**

The school has implemented a system through which all teachers plan and reflect in collaborative teams.

**Standard C3**

Teaching and learning at the school empowers and encourages students to become lifelong learners, to be responsible towards themselves, their learning, other people and the environment, and to take appropriate action.

**Standard C4**

There is an agreed approach to assessment, and to the recording and reporting of assessment data, which reflects the practices and requirements of the programme.

**Standard D 1**

Students learn to choose to act, and to reflect on their actions, so that they contribute to their own well being and that of the community and the environment.

**Standard D2**

In the final year of the programme, all students complete a programme-specific project that allows them to demonstrate a consolidation of their learning, in the case of the PYP and MYP, and to demonstrate the extension and development of their learning in the Diploma Programme.

**Section A: Philosophy**

<b>Standard A1</b>
There is close alignment between the educational beliefs and values of the school and the fundamental principles of the MYP.

**COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- its commitment to continuous improvement.
- promoting student inquiry and the development of critical-thinking skills.
- providing a climate that encourages positive innovation in implementing the philosophy of the programme.

<b>Standard A2</b>
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The school promotes international-mindedness on the part of the adults and the students in the school community.
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### **COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- developing a climate of open communication and careful expression of ideas, attitudes and feelings.
- providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment based on understanding and respect.
- ensuring, where possible, access to global information and recognizing the potential for wider communication through the availability and use of appropriate information and communication technologies.
- taking advantage of the international network of IB schools teaching the same programme, through involvement in the local MYP coordinators network, relationships with other MYP schools, personal exchanges and attendance at conferences and workshops.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team recommends that the school:

- investigates means by which to further support members of its community for whom the school's language of instruction is not their mother tongue.

### **Section B: Organization**

<b>Standard B1</b>
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The school demonstrates ongoing commitment to, and provides support for, the programme through appropriate administrative structures and systems, staffing and resources.
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### **COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- building an understanding of, and support for, the programme throughout the school community.
- ensuring that questionnaires and other requests for information sought by IB working groups and committees are completed by the appropriate members of staff.
- contributing to the ongoing development of the programme by encouraging teachers to participate in appropriate IB activities (for example, applying to be members of IB working groups/committees, responding to requests for samples of student work).

- ensuring the continuity of the programme; this includes an induction system for new staff and ongoing staff professional development.
- providing learning environments and opportunities for learning that support the pedagogy of the programme.
- allocating appropriate print and electronic resources to support the teaching of the programme.
- recognizing and promoting the role of the library/media centre in the implementation of the programme.

### **Section C: Curriculum**

<b>Standard C1</b>
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A comprehensive, coherent, written curriculum, based on the requirements of the programme and developed by the school, is available to all sections of the school community.
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#### **COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- providing ample opportunities for student inquiry and the presentation of ideas.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team recommends that the school:

- ensures that the curriculum encourages students to develop strategies for their own learning and assessment, and to assume increasing levels of responsibility.
- ensures that the holistic education initiatives are contextualized and focused through student learning expectations of the areas of interaction.

<b>Standard C2</b>
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The school has implemented a system through which all teachers plan and reflect in collaborative teams.
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#### **COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- ensuring that planning at the school takes place collaboratively.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team recommends that the school:

- further develops teachers' understanding of interdisciplinary learning in order to strengthen cross-curricular skills and deepen the understanding of wider concepts through meaningful and focused integration.

**Standard C3**

Teaching and learning at the school empowers and encourages students to become lifelong learners, to be responsible towards themselves, their learning, other people and the environment, and to take appropriate action.

**COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- ensuring that teaching and learning at the school is supported by a range of appropriate resources, including ICT.

**Standard C4**

There is an agreed approach to assessment, and to the recording and reporting of assessment data, which reflects the practices and requirements of the programme.

**COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- developing assessment practices at the school which provide students with regular opportunities for reflection on their own learning.
- developing an assessment process which allows for meaningful reporting to parents about students' progress.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team recommends that the school:

- formalizes opportunities for teachers/supervisors to participate in the internal standardization of assessment, both vertically and horizontally within subject groups.

**Section D: The Student****Standard D 1**

Students learn to choose to act, and to reflect on their actions, so that they contribute to their own well-being and that of the community and the environment.

**COMMENDATIONS**

The visiting team commends the school for:

- supporting students in learning how to reflect on their experiences and make more informed, independent choices.
- ensuring that community and service is monitored for each student and is reflected in the portfolio of achievement.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The visiting team recommends that the school:

- ensures that community and service, as an area of interaction, is coordinated through the development of student learning expectations through every year of the programme to ensure progression of learning.
- considers strategies to enhance the involvement of all subject teachers in raising awareness of community issues.

### Standard D 2

In the final year of the programme, all students complete a programme-specific project that allows them to demonstrate a consolidation of their learning, in the case of the PYP and MYP, and to demonstrate the extension and development of their learning in the Diploma Programme.

## COMMENDATIONS

The visiting team commends the school for:

- the level of supervision given to guide students through each phase of the process.
- allowing students to choose from a variety of projects according to the guidelines provided in the Personal Project guide.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Authorization Team recommends that Discovery College be authorized to offer Years 1 through 5 of Middle Years Programme immediately.

The MYP Coordinator is encouraged to maintain communication with the IB Asia Pacific office.

The school's first evaluation visit is scheduled for November 2015. Please ensure that the school submits samples for monitoring in the year prior to the visit if the school does not moderate before then.

We congratulate the entire school community, the leadership team, MYP coordinator, and teaching faculty on the development of the school's teaching and learning environment.

We wish to sincerely thank the administration and the entire staff for their very generous hospitality during the visit.