St Stephen’s College is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme and pursuing authorization as an IB World School.

IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse and inclusive community of students by delivering challenging, high quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision.

*Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org

**Mission Statement from the IB**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

St Stephen’s College is planning to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme in parallel to the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education. By becoming an IB World School, St Stephen’s reinforces its commitment to delivering a high quality, challenging and international education that meets the needs of our students.

We intend to offer the two-year IB DP in S5 and S6 preceded by a bridging year in S4. In preparation for launching this programme to S4 students from the 2014 academic year, (subject to IB authorization) we have provided an overview of the IB Diploma Programme.
Overview
Life in the 21st century, in an interconnected, globalized world, requires critical-thinking skills and a sense of international mindedness, something that the IB Diploma Programme students come to know and understand. Founded in 1968, the IB DP is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations, that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond.

The curriculum
IB DP students study three courses at the higher level (240 hours over two years) and three at the standard level (150 hours over two years). Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5 (see the diagram), thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics. The sixth subject may be chosen from groups 3 to 5 in place of an arts subject.

In addition, the IB DP has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding. The extended essay is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying. In preparing this 4,000 word essay, students are able to specialise in a certain subject area and prepare for university study. Theory of knowledge is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of
knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

**Creativity, action, service** requires that students actively learn from real life experiences beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately. Over the two year programme, students are required to spend 150 hours in service to the local or international community through these activities.

**Assessment**

**Written examinations** are held at the end of the programme, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external moderators or sent directly to external examiners. **Subjects** are scored on a 1-7 scale, plus a further three points for the Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay components. The diploma is awarded to students who display good levels of performance across all subjects, demonstrate satisfactory participation in the creativity, action, service requirement and gain at least 24 points. (A certificate is awarded to students who do not achieve this result, recognizing the subjects completed.) The highest total that an IB DP student can gain is 45 points.

**University recognition**
The IB DP is widely recognized around the world and in Hong Kong and has won respect from leading universities. Over 100 universities in different countries including Hong Kong offer scholarships for IB Diploma holders.

**Annual School fees** for the IB DP are expected to be in the range of $75,000 to $80,000 in 2015/16 (subject to inflation).

**References**

International Baccalaureate – [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org),
International IB scholarships at HKU – [http://www0.hku.hk/admission/scholarships(IB).htm](http://www0.hku.hk/admission/scholarships(IB).htm)