

FOUNDED 1851

聖保羅書院 ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE

Senior Students' Handbook 2025-2026



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This handbook has been written to clearly communicate information about the HKDSE curriculum (Forms 4-6) to parents and students. Graduating to senior high is a milestone in a student's life and I hope students are looking forward to a broad and balanced senior curriculum in which they can choose their own elective subjects.

In senior high, apart from the four compulsory core subjects, namely Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Citizenship and Social Development, we offer thirteen elective subjects. All students in Form 4 take three elective subjects on top of the four core subjects. Choosing elective subjects can be difficult and students should consider their interests, abilities as well as their career aspirations. We ask that parents work closely with their child (or children) in this decision-making process.

We hope this handbook plays its part in helping students to be ready to embark on an enjoyable and productive school year ahead.

Mr. Dennis Yuen Dick Yan

Principal



SENIOR SCHOOL Forms 4-6

At St. Paul's, our senior school aims at preparing students for the challenges they will have to face in society. Our aim is to train our students to be articulate, balanced, caring, knowledgeable, risk-taking, reflective and principled global citizens.

(A) Curriculum

(I) LOCAL CURRICULUM

Starting in Form Four, students at St. Paul's College can choose to follow a three-year course of study leading to the award of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). The senior secondary curriculum consists of three major components: Core subjects (~45-55%), Electives (25-35%) and Other Learning Experiences (10-15%).

Core Subjects: (~45-55%)

These subjects have to be taken by all students and they include English Language, Chinese Language, Mathematics (core only / core + an extended module) as well as Citizenship and Social Development.

Electives: (~25-35%)

Students would be able to choose a maximum of 3 subjects from *five* key learning areas:

Personal, Social and Humanities Education (Chinese History, Economics, Ethics and Religious Studies, Geography, History)

Science Education (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

Technology Education (Business, Accounting and Financial Studies, Information and Communication Technology)

Arts Education (Music, Visual Arts) and

Chinese Language Education (Chinese Literature).

Other Learning Experiences: (10-15%)

In addition, senior students at St. Paul's College are required to study a prescribed amount of Physical Education, Religious Studies, Music, Visual Arts and a school-based new Common Core - Extended Study.

(II) INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVELS EXAMS (IAL) CURRICULUM

Commencing in the year 2018-2019, St. Paul's College diversified its senior curriculum and subject choices for senior students. The IAL gives our students an opportunity to pursue an alternative curriculum based on their skills and proficiency. While the overwhelming majority of SPC students will continue in the DSE curriculum in their senior years, the IAL curriculum enables our students to sit the International Advanced Levels exams. This provides a viable alternative to the DSE curriculum, which may allow a more suitable pathway for some of our students. In relation to the IAL curriculum, the Principal, Mr. Yuen, has stated, 'By broadening our outlook, we are in the position to serve each of our students according to their particular needs and orientation.'

The IAL subjects offered at the College include Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Our IAL students also complete GCE A Level Chinese and take the IELTS Academic test. Moreover, to provide a broad-based education to all our students regardless of the qualification they will obtain at the conclusion of their secondary education, all Form 4 students study Citizenship and Social development and have music, visual arts and physical education lessons.

All Hong Kong UGC universities recognise the IAL qualification. Hong Kong students can be assessed as non-JUPAS candidates. Each university has a separate mechanism for evaluating students, just as they do for DSE candidates. In addition, many universities in Hong Kong have an early-admission scheme based on prior exam results or predicted grades, as is the case in the United Kingdom. The IAL is also a recognised qualification by all universities in the United Kingdom and the European Union, and widely accepted in USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as many Asian countries.

THE CURRICULUM STRUCTURE (HKDSE)

CLASS	A	B	C	D	E
CORE SUBJECTS	English, Chinese, Mathematics (Core / Core + Module I / Core + Module II), Citizenship and Social Development				
X1, X2 and X3	Business, Accounting and Financial Studies / Biology / Chemistry / Chinese History / Chinese Literature / Economics / Geography / History / Information and Communication Technology / Music / Physics / Ethics and Religious Studies / Visual Arts				
OLE	There will be lessons for a school-based new Common Core - Extended Study, Music, Physical Education, Visual Arts and Religious Studies				

THE CURRICULUM STRUCTURE (IAL)

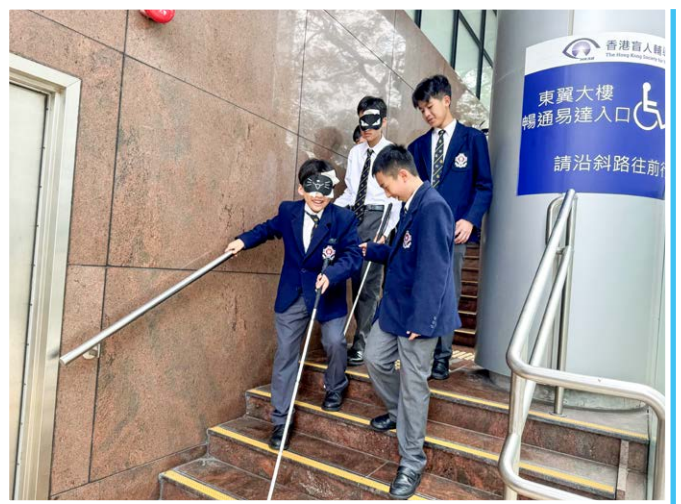
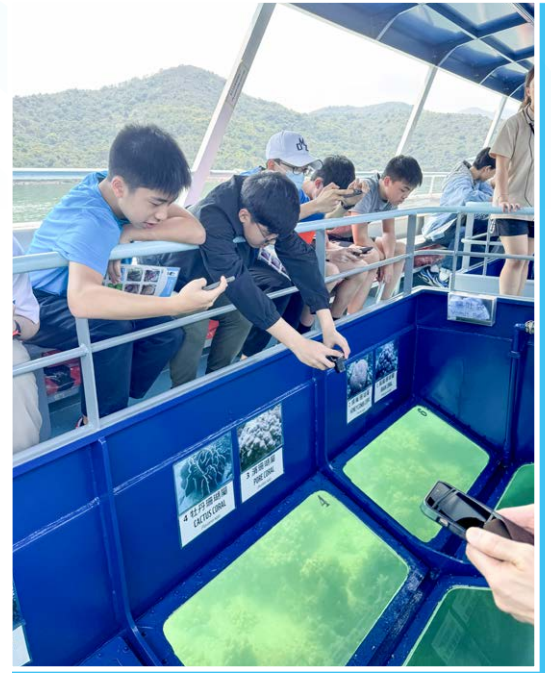
SUBJECT	FORM 5 (IAL)	FORM 6 (IAL)	PUBLIC EXAMINATION
English	✓	✓	IELTS (Form 5)
Chinese	✓	✓	GCE AL (Form 4)
PE/ RS/ VA/ Music	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	IAL (Form 5)
Further Mathematics	✓#	✓#	IAS (Form 5). IAL (Form 6)
Physics	✓	✓	IAS (Form 5). IAL (Form 6)
Chemistry	✓	✓	IAS (Form 5). IAL (Form 6)
Biology	✓#	✓#	IAS (Form 5). IAL (Form 6)

Students are required to take either **Biology** or **Further Mathematics** in **Form 5** and **Form 6**, not both.

(B) Co-Curriculum – Other Learning Experiences

Under the academic structure in Hong Kong, schools are expected to offer students a range of learning opportunities in the five areas of Other Learning Experiences (OLE), namely **Values Education, Community Service, Career-related Experiences, Aesthetic Development** and **Physical Development**.

The College believes that the very essence of OLE is to facilitate students' all-round development as life-long learners with a focus on whole person development. The College always provides an exciting and diverse co-curriculum to involve students in a variety of physical, aesthetic, cultural, social and spiritual experiences. These life-enriching experiences help to instil in each student a lasting sense of moral, social and spiritual responsibility for the world. OLE in the new senior secondary curriculum is therefore an essential complement to the core academic curriculum that students have to follow. We aim at providing a framework to engage students in experiential learning and to involve young people in new roles. The emphasis is on learning which must be achieved through real tasks that require real commitment. Students taking part in this programme are expected to reflect on these new experiences that they have gathered over time.



(I) Values Education

The College has incorporated the twelve priority values put forth by the Education Bureau with Christian values. The twelve priority values include Perseverance, Respect for Others, Responsibility, National Identity, Commitment, Integrity, Benevolence, Law-abidingness, Empathy, Diligence, Unity and Filial Piety. Taking inspiration from the school motto, “*The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom*” the College has developed eight categories of fundamental values that serve as the foundation for values education at St. Paul’s College.

The College adopts a multi-pronged approach to permeate values development in everything that we do including form teacher periods, assembly, formal curriculum and informal curriculum. We also adopt a whole-school approach because we recognise that it is everyone’s responsibility to help students develop a positive value system.



Form Teacher Periods

Form Teachers are provided with teaching materials on Values Education, which they use during the Form Teacher Period on a weekly basis. These materials consist of videos, readings, and other media, such as song appreciation, accompanied by discussion and reflection questions. They serve as valuable resources for Form Teachers in facilitating class discussions that cater to the developmental needs of students.

Other Programmes Include:

- Celebrating Diversity Programme to embrace inclusiveness and respect
- Interactive Drama conducted by the ICAC to instil fairness and integrity
- Civic Ambassador Training Scheme to cultivate law-abidingness and citizenship
- Activity Week to encourage diversity
- Paul’s Challenge to cultivate perseverance, commitment, and resilience
- Paul’s Action to foster compassion and benevolence
- Posters and Social Workers’ assembly presentation to instigate Growth Mindset and resilience among students
- Sayings of Wisdom English Writing to advocate thankfulness
- Exploring Sing Tao Tour to cultivate responsibility and citizenship
- Values Quest Day to foster empathy and compassion
- Gratitude Campaign for students, teachers and parents to encourage thankfulness
- Chinese Culture Week to uphold national identity and unity
- Establishment of the Gratitude Garden to promote gratitude and thankfulness
- Discipline Week to reinforce self-discipline, responsibility, and law-abidingness
- Exploring Reptiles and Biodiversity Educational Talk to promote stewardship and sustainable development
- Gospel Week to promote hope



- Community Awareness Week to foster benevolence and compassion
- Constitution and Basic Law Student Ambassador Scheme to nurture national identity
- Local student exchange programmes to instigate respect and appreciation
- Inter-class competitions, including basketball, football, tug of war, and aeroplane chess, to foster unity and brotherhood
- Values Igniting Actions Comic Drawing Competition to consolidate SPC values among students

(II) Community Service

Commitment to community service is one of the features that distinguishes St. Paul's College from other schools. The College firmly believes in its responsibility towards society and demonstrates its social and educational responsibility through a host of service activities. Examples of community service activities organised by our College include:

- Be an ORBIS Ambassador
- Campus Support (S.A. Officials, Prefects, Librarians, Photography Team, Referees, Student Officials, Bible Readers, Assembly Pianists, etc.)
- Christian Union Service Activities
- Community Awareness Project
- Community Youth Club Activities
- Flag Selling Days
- Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme
- Interact Club Projects
- Joint Schools Leadership Training Scheme (Community Service)
- Plan International Hong Kong – Youth Conference
- Paul's Action
- School Health Ambassadors (Youth Red Cross)
- School Timing Team Service
- Scout Volunteer Work
- Serving the Disabled
- Serving the Elderly
- Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped
- SPC Student-LED Projects
- UNESCO Hong Kong Peace for All Youth Programme
- UNICEF Young Envoys Programme
- Youth Red Cross Activities
- Joint School Community Service



(III) Career-related Experiences

Career exploration, planning and management is an important part of life planning. The College provides information, counselling and education on local career choices and study opportunities for students in all forms. The Careers and Life Planning Team organises a number of career-related experiences and programmes for our students.

For Senior Form students, the programmes include:

- The Mentorship Programme
- Careers guidance lessons for Form 4-6
- Talks on writing self-accounts and personal statements
- Careers Awareness Week – small group counselling sessions for Form 6
- Admission talks given by local and overseas universities
- Company visits
- Job shadowing and internship opportunities



(IV) Aesthetic Development

Aesthetic Development fosters students' life-long interest in the arts and cultivates positive values and attitudes in them. The College aims to provide students with rich and meaningful arts learning experiences through appreciating, creating, performing and reflecting. The programmes include structured arts learning sessions and a wide variety of co-curricular activities related to Music, Art, Drama, Speech and so on.

Music

Music Activities

- Overseas Music Tour (International Music Festival and Competition, Music Exchange and Performances)
- Performance tour in the mainland China
- Music Scholarship Scheme
- Masterclass with professional musicians
- Collaboration with overseas music universities
- Local public performances
- Annual summer concert
- Hong Kong School Music Festival
- Music Assembly and assembly concert
- Workshops under Hong Kong Arts Development Council
- Instrumental Class

School Teams

- School Symphony Orchestra
- School Concert Band
- School String Orchestra
- Chinese Ensemble Group
- Ensemble groups (Strings, Winds, Brass, Percussion)
- School Senior Choir
- School Junior Choir
- Vocal Ensemble Group
- School Pianists & Organists Team
- School Stage and Management Team



Art

- Alumni Workshop
- Art Experiences Scheme for Senior Secondary Students
- Artist-In-Residence Programme (Visual Arts)
- Art Club
- Arts Ambassadors-In-School Scheme
- A Journey on Learning the Arts for Senior Secondary Students
- Aesthetic Development Programme in Visual Arts
- Architectural Course - Young Architect and Design
- Courses / Workshops of interest, such as ceramics
- Competitions and exhibitions outside the College
- Digital Creative Art Workshop, such as Procreate
- Education Programme: Joint-curriculum programme with other departments
- Exploring the Theatre: Arts Experience Scheme for senior students
- Magic Club
- Muse Teens: Youth Leadership Scheme
- Mixed Media and Sculpture Workshop
- MTR Community Art Gallery
- Video Production Team
- Visual Arts Educational Tour
- Visits to local exhibitions, seminars, workshops and relevant venues
- Watercolour Painting Workshop
- Workshop on 'Ceramic Experience' - Electric Pottery Wheel
- Procreate Workshop
- Shibori Workshop
- Cyanotype Workshop
- Exhibition for the Architecture Summer Programme
- Decoding Chinese Historic Buildings' Workshop
- Magic Performance
- SPC Academy Programme
- Conservation DIY



**We believe that every student is unique
and possesses the ability to learn**

Debate, Drama and Speech

- Friendly Debates
- Inter-school Debating Competitions
- Drama Club Activities
- Performances in school
- Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival



(V) Physical Development

Physical Action is an essential and integral part of students' learning experiences. It makes significant contributions towards the achievement of desirable education and health outcomes through the medium of physical activity, expedition, sports participation and competitive games. Quality physical action programmes promote the physical growth and development of students while contributing to their general health and well-being. Ultimately, they should help students keep physically fit and enjoy many forms of physical activity during the schools years and continuing throughout life.

Sports Team

- Archery
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cross Country
- Football
- Handball
- Hockey
- Fencing
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Track & Field

Action Events

- 3-on-3 Basketball Competition
- Global Classrooms
- Graduates' Cup
- Graduates' Shield
- Inter-class / house Competitions
- Inter-school Competitions
- Principal's Cup
- Smith Cup
- Sports Day
- Swimming Gala
- Stanton Cup



(VI) Global Classroom And School Connections

St. Paul's College places great emphasis on the all-rounded development of students. Cross-disciplinary exchange programmes in mainland China and overseas tours have been organised to enhance students' language and communication skills, cultivate interests, and showcase their talents and strengths. In the 2023-2024 academic year, Principal Mr. Yuen and a group of students travelled to London and Paris to participate in the British Educational Training and Technology (BETT) Show. The College also established a sister school relationship with the High School Affiliated to Southern University of Science and Technology to deepen cultural exchanges between the two regions, enhance technological innovation education, and enable students to practise humanistic values.

The College organised a series of tours with exchange activities aiming at extending collaborative inter-school activities, broadening students' worldviews, and discussing globally relevant issues. These included the Football Training Tour to Spain, Geography Study Tour to Morocco, English Language Study Tour to the United Kingdom, History Study Tour to Germany and Austria, International Band Competition (The 9th Singapore International Band Festival) Tour to Singapore, Music Performance Tour to the United Kingdom, and Sports Team Training Tour to Japan.

St. Paul's College has always been committed to forming partnerships with world-renowned schools such as the High School Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the High School Affiliated to Xi'an Jiaotong University, Christ Church Grammar School in Australia, and Trinity-Pawling School in the United States. The College is currently a member school of the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC), dedicated to unlocking students' various potentials.



(VII) Leadership Training & Academic-related Experiences

The College strives to foster academic excellence and global awareness, and nurture future leaders. Structured leadership and training programmes and a wide variety of academic-related learning activities are organised throughout the year. The three major student bodies that nurture servant-leaders are as follows:

- **Students' Association:** It unites all students and helps them voice their opinions. It also organises school-wide activities and joint-school events, and offers support to its affiliated clubs.
- **Prefects' Council:** Prefects help maintain school discipline and assist students in their everyday school life. They also assist the College in organising various school events, serving as the school ambassadors on F.1 Admission Briefing sections and Admission Day etc., and acting as a bridge between the students and the school to foster a closer relationship.
- **Peer Mentorship Programme:** Form 4 students are trained to help their junior form schoolmates, especially Form 1 students, to adapt to the school life. They work with Form 2 Wellness Ambassadors to organise activities on the Wellness Day to promote wellness on campus. Peer mentors also offer help to Form 2, Form 3 and Form 4 new comers.
- **OLE Student Executive Committee:** It serves as a programme coordinator to connect with external NGOs to provide opportunities and updated information on community services and leadership training programmes to our students. The student-LED projects allow students to have greater autonomy and encourage them to put into practice what they have learnt in the classroom.

Students are recommended to participate in these student bodies for their personal development as well as contribution to the SPC family.

The College holds inter-class academic-related competitions to foster a culture of healthy competition. Various subject and cross-subject learning activities are held throughout the year, including the Activity Week, Science Week, Chinese Culture Week and Community Awareness Week and so on. Besides, the STEAM team has actively participated in district-wide and overseas competitions and worked with organisations in order to gain more exposure.



Students can choose to study applied learning courses offered by external providers in senior secondary years. The duration of each Applied Learning (ApL) course is 180 contact hours generally spanning two school years. The courses mainly take place at the venues of course providers on Saturdays. Students can start the course in Form 4 or Form 5.

The course place equal emphasis on practice and theory linked to professional vocational fields:

1) CREATIVE STUDIES	2) BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND LAW	3) APPLIED SCIENCE
a. Design Studies b. Media Arts c. Performing Arts	a. Accounting and Finance b. Business studies c. Legal Studies	a. Food Science b. Medical Science and Health Care c. Psychology d. Sports
4) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION	5) SERVICES	6) ENGINEERING AND PRODUCTION
a. Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies b. Media Production and Public Relations c. Language and Culture	a. Food Services and Management b. Hospitality Services c. Personal and Community Services	a. Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering b. Information Engineering c. Services Engineering

In each applied learning course, students are asked to complete 6 to 10 assessment tasks. The students' performance is reported in three levels:

- A. Attained;
- B. Attained with Distinction (I), which is comparable to Level 3 of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination; or
- C. Attained with Distinction (II), which is comparable to Level 4 of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination.

While some local universities recognise the performance of “Attained with Distinction (I)” or above as meeting general entrance requirements or recognise the course as a senior secondary elective subject for programme admissions, others consider the assessment results as additional supporting information or do not recognise the qualification at all.

For further information, please refer to the EDB's Applied Learning website:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/index.html>

and the HKEAA's website for ApL Subjects:

https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/subject_information/category_b_subjects/



(D) Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning. Its role is to provide constructive and timely feedback to improve the quality of students' learning and to provide teachers with informed evidence of students' achievements.

(I) HKDSE

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

For internal assessment, both progressive assessment and formal examinations are used in St. Paul's College. Classwork / progressive assessment is used to track students' learning progress over time, build up their confidence and help students to take responsibility for their own learning. We strongly believe that every student is unique and possesses the ability to learn.

Depending on the requirements of individual subjects, a students' assessment may include tests, assignments, homework, book work, practical work, exhibitions and presentations. A wide variety of assessment tasks will be assigned to measure students' learning progress in the different components of the course. Students will be given sufficient guidelines as to how they can achieve the criteria set. Feedback about different aspects of good work achieved and areas of improvement will also be given when their work is returned.

Formal examinations include a mid-year examination and an end of year examination which indicate students' achievements at significant points during their school life.

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Students following the local senior secondary curriculum will be expected to take the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).

Besides the core subjects (Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Citizenship and Social Development), most school candidates are expected to take two or three elective subjects in the HKDSE. Standards-referenced reporting of assessments is used in the HKDSE.

Candidate's results indicate the standards achieved in terms of knowledge and skills regardless of the performance of the other candidates taking the same examination. The results will be reported in terms of five levels of performance, of which 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest. Candidates who have attained Level 5 with the best performance will be awarded a 5**, and the next top group will be awarded a 5*. The results of Citizenship and Social Development are reported in one level, 'Attained'. Achievements below 'Attained' are designated as 'Unattained'.

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT (SBA)

One of the features in the new diploma is the introduction of school-based assessment. A lot of the assessments will actually be carried out at school internally and there should be less reliance on a pen and paper type of examination.

SBA will be implemented in the following subjects:

- Chinese Language
- English Language
- Chinese Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- ICT
- Physics
- Visual Arts



(II) IAL

As with its local counterpart, the IAL has a combination of both internal and external assessment to ensure quality feedback to student learning and to provide a record of student achievement.

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

The internal component for the IAL is the same as that for DSE.

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Students following the IAL exam route will study the exam syllabus of the course prescription as set out by GCE Edexcel, IAL Edexcel, or IELTS (International English Language Testing System).

Students will take GCE Chinese, IELTS, and four IAL subjects:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Either Biology or Further Mathematics.

After taking IAL, students may apply to universities in Hong Kong through the non-JUPAS route, or may also choose tertiary study overseas.

IAL subjects are 100% exam based, and exams may be taken more than once. Passing results are Grade C, B, A, and A*.



(E) University Admissions

Joint University Programme Admissions System (JUPAS)

Joint University Programme Admissions System (JUPAS) is the main route of application designed to assist students with Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) results to apply for admission to:

University Grants Committee (UGC)-FUNDED

1. UGC-funded full-time bachelor's degree programmes offered by the following eight JUPAS participating institutions:
 - City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK)
 - Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)
 - Lingnan University (LingnanU)
 - The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
 - The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)
 - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
 - The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
 - The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
2. A UGC-funded full-time higher diploma programme offered by EdUHK;

SELF-FINANCING PROGRAMMES

3. Self-financing full-time bachelor's degree programmes offered by Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU); and

STUDY SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR DESIGNATED PROFESSIONS / SECTORS (SSSDP) PROGRAMMES

4. SSSDP full-time bachelor's degree programmes offered by SSSDP institutions.

On the JUPAS website, students can find important information on how this admissions system works, the institutions that participate in it, details of their programmes, entrance requirements, admission scores and interview arrangements, as well as previous years' application and offer statistics.

The Non-JUPAS Pathway

Students who will be sitting the International Advanced Level (IAL) exams may apply to universities in Hong Kong through what is commonly known as the non-JUPAS pathway, which means applying to the universities individually instead of through a common platform. Information regarding the non-JUPAS pathway can be found on the official websites of the different universities.

(F) Points to Consider When Choosing Senior Secondary Subjects

1. Interest

Interest is what motivates us to explore. When we are interested in something, we are happy to spend time doing it without being asked or forced. Interest also helps us learn more efficiently and effectively as it enhances both memory and understanding.

2. Aptitude

Our aptitude for something gives us confidence in what we do. Confidence enhances performance. Experiences of success, in turn, reinforce interest. When compared with a subject we are not good at, having the aptitude for a subject often means spending less time but getting better results.

3. Goal

Goals give us a sense of direction. Without a goal, we sometimes wonder why we are doing what we are doing. Or we just accept whatever comes our way instead of taking control of our present and preparing for our future. By setting a career goal, it is easier to figure out what subjects to take in senior forms, what university major to choose, and what career to pursue.

4. Understanding Yourself

Reflect on your past experiences. Ask yourself what draws your attention, what excites you, what you enjoy, and what you find relatively easy or difficult. Your family, teachers and friends are also good sources of information on the kind of person you are as well as your strengths and weaknesses. In addition, careers talks, careers guidance lessons, and career interest inventory tests will also help to point you in the right direction.

5. Understanding Your Choice

It is hard to choose without sufficient information. Thus, a closer look at the syllabuses of the subjects you want to choose as electives is essential. Also, with a career in mind, it is easier to see how our choices today will help us achieve our goals. The website below will give you a basic idea of many careers and how they match up with different personality types and skills:

<https://sites.google.com/spc.edu.hk/careers/local-opportunities/jobs-and-professions>

6. Specific Requirements for University Admissions 2025 through JUPAS

The list below is extracted from the JUPAS website. It is not an exhaustive list and it is for your reference only.

University	Programme	Minimum Requirement
CityUHK	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (Features: One Health paradigm / Animal Health & Welfare / Public Health / Dual Accreditation)	Level 5 in English; Level 3 in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry
HKBU	Bachelor of Chinese Medicine and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biomedical Science	Level 3 in Biology and / or Chemistry
CUHK	Global Business Studies	Level 5 in English; Level 4 in Chinese; Level 3 in Mathematics; 100 in TOEFL (iBT) or 7.0 in IELTS
CUHK	Bachelor of Laws	Level 5 in English; Level 4 in Chinese; Level 3 in Mathematics
EdUHK	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Artificial Intelligence and Educational Technology and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Primary Mathematics)	Level 3 in Mathematics; Level 2 in Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2 / Biology / Chemistry / Physics / ICT
PolyU	BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy	Preferred Electives: Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
HKUST	Science (Group A)	Level 3 in Biology / Chemistry / Physics / Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2
HKU	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	Level 4 in English and Level 3 in Chemistry and / or Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2
HKU	Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering	Level 3 in Mathematics and Biology / Chemistry / Physics and / or Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2
HKU	Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science	Level 4 in Mathematics and Mathematics (Extended Part) Module 1 or Module 2

Besides general entrance requirements, sometimes there are also specific or additional requirements, especially with science, health science, engineering, and business programmes. If a subject is “required” for admissions, students without the subject do not fulfill the entrance requirements. If a subject is “preferred”, students without the subject are at a disadvantage in the admission process.

7. Two Electives or Three Electives

Besides the four core subjects, most local university programmes require one to two electives. The number of electives required can vary from one programme to another even in the same university. Most programmes do not specify what the electives have to be while some programmes give a number of possible subjects the elective(s) could be (see examples on the previous page). A small number of programmes specify what elective(s) students must take.

The percentage of students with three electives as well as those with both three electives and M1/M2 was high in 2024 JUPAS admissions, especially for highly competitive programmes such as Medicine, Pharmacy, and some business programmes at more popular universities. Some programmes award bonus points to the third elective when calculating admission scores while others may use it as one of the tie-breakers when too many applicants have the same admission score for the remaining places.

Whether students should keep all three electives depends on their interest level in each one of them after at least one year of study and how likely it is for them to do well in these electives in the HKDSE examination. Students who find themselves struggling could consider dropping one elective. They should, however, first check whether after dropping a particular elective they still fulfil all the requirements of the programmes they are interested in. With only two electives, students need to understand that if they fail to attain a certain level (usually Level 2 or 3 minimum) in one of the two remaining electives, they would only have one elective left, which means they would no longer be eligible for programmes that require two electives.

Academically better prepared students who wish to get into a competitive programme at a popular university are encouraged to keep all three electives. Students who wish to continue their studies overseas, for example in the U.K., should also check the requirements of the universities they wish to apply to. Students who are particularly weak in one of their three electives and strongly believe that they would do better in the subjects that remain by dropping the weakest link could consider keeping only two electives.

(G) Planning for University Applications

1. Selection Principles and Subject Weightings for University Admissions 2025 through JUPAS

Different university programmes use different selection principles and weighting systems. This can be found on the JUPAS website as well as those of the respective institutions. The following are some examples of selection principles and subject weightings.

CityU – BSc Data Science (Majors: BSc Data Science / BSc Data and Systems Engineering) (3C + 2X)

English x 2 and Mathematics x 2

LingnanU – Bachelor of Liberal Arts (Hons) in Global Development and Sustainability (Best 5)

English x 2, Mathematics x 1.5, M1/M2 x 1.5, Biology x 1.25, BAFS x 1.25, Chemistry x 1.25, Economics x 1.25, Geography x 1.5, ICT x 1.25 and Physics x 1.25

PolyU – BA (Hons) Scheme in Fashion (Fashion Design / Knitwear Design / Contour Fashion and Activewear / Fashion Business / Fashion Innovation and Technology) (Best 5)

Subjects with Heavier Weighting: Biology, Chemistry, Business, Accounting and Financial Studies (Accounting), Business, Accounting and Financial Studies (Business Management), Chinese History, Economics, Geography, History, Visual Arts

HKUST – BBA in Global Business (English + Mathematics + Best 3)

English x 2 and Mathematics x 2

HKUST – Department of Computer Science and Engineering (English + Mathematics + Best from Biology / Chemistry / Physics / ICT + Best 2 other subjects)

English x 2, Mathematics x 2, Biology / Chemistry / Physics x 2 and M1/M2 x 1.5

Students need to be aware of the selection principles used by different programmes and the weighting they give to different subjects. This is because doing well in subjects that are given a heavier weighting in a particular programme will increase their chances of receiving an offer from that programme. The weightings above are subject to change and so may not stay the same every year.

2. University Information Days

On Information Days, different faculties and schools of universities set up stalls to give visitors information on their programmes and answer questions. There are also general admission talks that explain entrance requirements and sometimes mini-lectures that give those in attendance a taste of particular programmes. Students are strongly encouraged to start going to these information days when they are in Forms 4 and 5 instead of waiting until Form 6. Information Days of local universities are usually held in October and November on Saturdays.

3. Education Exhibitions and Fairs

For those students who plan to further their university studies overseas, education exhibitions and fairs are definitely a good place to start. The dates and venues may vary but they are held every year, often at the start and at the end of each school year. Students should try to find out as much as they can about countries, universities and study programmes that interest him as well as the steps they need to take and the documents they need to prepare for their applications.

4. SAT / ACT / TOEFL / IELTS / University Admission Test

Universities in English-speaking countries often require applicants whose mother tongue is not English to take tests such as SAT, ACT, TOEFL, or IELTS to show their proficiency in English. Registration for these tests can be done on their official websites. Students who need these tests should make sure that their test scores will be released in time for them to meet the application deadlines. Also, some overseas programmes require university admissions tests such as UCAT, LNAT, etc. Students should register for them as soon as the registration period starts, usually near the end of their Form Five year. It may be too late to register in September when they are in Form 6.

5. UCAS / The Common Application

UCAS for UK universities and The Common Application for many US universities are systems similar to JUPAS for universities in Hong Kong. Application starts with the registration for an account online. The deadline for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine / science in the UK is often 15th October. For the majority of courses in the UK, the UCAS deadline is often the last Wednesday in January. For universities in the US using The Common Application, the deadline varies but certain universities have their Early Decision deadlines in early November.

(H) Application procedures and deadline

1. Schedule of selecting subjects

Date	Particulars
30 th May 2025	The online subject selection system will be open.
30 th June 2025 3:00 p.m. (according to our system time)	Deadline for students to submit their choices. No changes will be allowed once the confirm button is pressed.
3 rd July 2025	A printout of students' choices will be given to parents for reference.
10 th July 2025	Students will be notified of the result of their allocation when they receive their report cards.



Subjects are allocated according to students' ability, academic performance and preferences.

2. The SS Online Subject Selection System

The screenshot shows the St. Paul's College website. The main navigation menu includes: SCHOOL INTRANET, LEARNING HUB, OLE, SPC ACADEMY, SPORTS RECORDS SYSTEM, LIBRARY, CONTACT US, SITEMAP. The secondary navigation menu includes: ABOUT US, ADMISSIONS, STAFF, CURRICULUM, CO-CURRICULUM, GLOBAL CLASSROOM, STUDENTS, SPC FAMILY. The page title is "CURRICULUM SENIOR SECONDARY (FORMS 4-6)". The content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists links for Senior Secondary (Forms 1-3), Textbook Lists, Senior Secondary (Forms 4-6), IAL, Textbook Lists, Departments, Learning Hub, Academic Results (2016-2022), and Other Programmes (Artist-in-Residence, Academic-in-Residence). The right column contains text about the senior secondary course and a section titled "(A) The Curriculum" which describes the components of the curriculum: Core subjects (45-55%), Electives (25-35%), and Other Learning Experiences (10-15%). A hand icon points to a button labeled "SS Online Subject Selection System" which is highlighted with a dashed orange border.

Key Steps

1. College Website
 - “Curriculum” menu
 - “Senior Secondary (Form 4 - Form 6)” submenu
 - “Senior Secondary Online Subject Selection System” button
2. Login the system
3. Input choices
4. Confirm choices on or before 30th June 2025 3:00p.m.

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.”

Abraham Lincoln

16th President of US (1809-1865)

STEP 1 Login

- Go to the login page of the Senior Secondary Online Subject Selection System (<http://app.spc.edu.hk/sop/>)
- Log in with either method
 - Press “Sign in with Google” button and sign in with your son/ ward’s school gmail or
 - Input the assigned Login ID and Password, then click the Submit button.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE
 Welcome to Senior Secondary
 Online Subject Selection System
 System Date/Time: 08-Oct-2024 08:52

FOUNDED 1851

Login ID:
 Password:
 Submit

*Login name is your son/ ward's school computer login ID (e.g. 221001)
 *Password is the first 6 characters of your son/ ward's HKID number (e.g. if HKID is Y123456(7), then password will be Y12345) Or you can sign in with your son/ ward's school gmail.

Sign in with Google

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STEP 2 Submit Choices

- Input your preferences of Curriculum, DSE Electives and Extended Modules in Mathematics.
- Then Click Submit to proceed.

NSS Student Survey

Class: 3C
 Name: Matthew Ewok
 Student Number: 123456

Curriculum

Enter 1 for your 1st choice and 2 for your 2nd choice in the text boxes below.

Curriculum	Choice
HKDSE Curriculum	<input type="text"/>
IAL Curriculum	<input type="text"/>

HKDSE Elective Subjects
 Enter a number (1-13) in the option boxes.

DSE Subject	Option
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	<input type="text"/>
Biology	<input type="text"/>
Chemistry	<input type="text"/>
中國歷史 (M001) 粵語	<input type="text"/>
中國文學 (M01) 粵語	<input type="text"/>
Economics	<input type="text"/>
Ethics and Religious Studies	<input type="text"/>
Geography	<input type="text"/>
History	<input type="text"/>
Information and Communication Technology	<input type="text"/>
Music	<input type="text"/>
Physics	<input type="text"/>
Visual Arts	<input type="text"/>

HKDSE Mathematics Extended Modules
 Enter a number (1-3) in the option boxes.

Description	Option
Compulsory Part Only	<input type="text"/>
Compulsory Part with Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics)	<input type="text"/>
Compulsory Part with Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)	<input type="text"/>

Submit Logout

STEP 3 Confirm Choices

- Check the Curriculum, Elective Subjects preferences and the Mathematics Extended Modules preferences you have entered.
- Click the Confirm button to proceed (you cannot modify the preferences afterwards), or click the Reset button to cancel your preferences.

Class:	3G
Name:	Matthew Kwok
Student Number:	123456

Curriculum	Choice
HKDSE	1
IAL	2

DSE Subject	MOI	Option
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	英文	1
Biology	英文	2
Chemistry	英文	3
中國歷史	粵語	4
中國文學	粵語	5
Economics	英文	6
Ethics and Religious Studies	英文	7
Geography	英文	8
History	英文	9
Information and Communication Technology	英文	10
Music	英文	11
Physics	英文	12
Visual Arts	英文	13

Description	Option
Compulsory Part Only	1
Compulsory Part with Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics)	2
Compulsory Part with Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)	3

Confirm Reset

STEP 4 Logout

- After completing the above steps, a “Record Saved” message will be shown.

Class:	3G
Name:	Matthew Kwok
Student Number:	123456

Curriculum	Choice
HKDSE	1
IAL	2

Subject	MOI	Option
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	英文	1
Biology	英文	2
Chemistry	英文	3
中國歷史	粵語	4
中國文學	粵語	5
Economics	英文	6
Ethics and Religious Studies	英文	7
Geography	英文	8
History	英文	9
Information and Communication Technology	英文	10
Music	英文	11
Physics	英文	12
Visual Arts	英文	13

Description	Option
Compulsory Part Only	1
Compulsory Part with Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics)	2
Compulsory Part with Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)	3

Logout

STEP 5 Reference

- When you login again, you can only see the options you have entered and confirmed.
- You should print a copy of this webpage for your reference.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `app.spc.edu.hk/sap/confirm.php`. The page displays the following information:

Class:	3C
Name:	Matthew Kwok
Student Number:	123456

Curriculum	Choice
HKDSE	1
IAL	2

Subject	MOI	Option
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	英文	1
Biology	英文	2
Chemistry	英文	3
中國歷史	粵語	4
中國文學	粵語	5
Economics	英文	6
Ethics and Religious Studies	英文	7
Geography	英文	8
History	英文	9
Information and Communication Technology	英文	10
Music	英文	11
Physics	英文	12
Visual Arts	英文	13

Description	Option
Compulsory Part Only	1
Compulsory Part with Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics)	2
Compulsory Part with Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus)	3

Logout



天行健，君子以自強不息；
地勢坤，君子以厚德載物。

易經

3. Guidelines for Form 4 Streaming

There will be a Form 3 to Form 4 promotion committee meeting in July. The records of all present Form 3 students will be studied carefully. Parental preferences will be taken into account. Wherever possible our Form 3 students who are promoted to Form 4 will be placed in the class/ subject of their choice, but the permitted capacity of any one class may prevent all preferences from being met.

As a rule, a student with a higher Form 3 Annual Rank Order across the whole form will have his application considered first, in this order of his subject choices, before another student with a lower Annual Rank Order.

Similarly, in deciding whether a student can do extended Module I or II in Mathematics, the weighted mean of his Form 3 Mid-year and Final examinations in Mathematics will be considered.

St. Paul's College offers IAL as an alternative curriculum to DSE in the senior school. Students who wish to take the IAL curriculum must take an intensive mathematics and science-based course. Students in this course are expected to have potential and interest in mathematics and science. Applicants to the IAL course are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, IAL students are more capable in Mathematics and Science than language-based courses. While the students are selected on the basis of their facility in mathematics and science, interest and aptitude are the key measures.

4. Deadline for Changing Courses in Senior School

- Subject to the availability of places in the new Form 4 year, opportunities will be provided for students on the waiting list to change courses. A parent's letter has to be submitted to the Assistant Vice Principal, Ms. Amanda Ng by mid-July before the new Form 4 year. An e-notice will be sent to notify the application result by August.
- Subject to the availability of places in the new Form 5 year, opportunities will be provided for students on the waiting list to change courses. A parent's letter and the completed application form have to be submitted to the Assistant Vice Principal, Ms. Amanda Ng by September in the new Form 4 year (for taking BOTH Mid-Year and Final Exams of the subject-to-be) or within 5 school days after the Form 4 Parents' Day (for taking Final Exam* of the subject to-be).

* Students wishing to change one of their elective subjects in Form 5 year should approach the College Office for a copy of the application form. Before submitting the application form, they should consult their subject teachers, the Heads of Departments concerned, and the Career Master for advice.

*An e-notice will be sent to notify the application result by July. The Final Exam result of the subject to-be will be used as a standard for a successful application.

5. Dropping an elective / change of programme

Students are generally not encouraged to withdraw from their elective subjects unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. Students wishing to withdraw from any of their elective subjects should approach the College Office, for a copy of the application form. The completed application form and a letter from their parents should be submitted to the College Office before the end of the school year in Form Four or Form Five, or five school days after the Parent's Day in Form Five if the applicant wishes to keep two electives from April in Form Five onwards. Students taking two elective subjects may be required to attend extra Chinese and / or English lessons in Form Five in lieu of the third elective.

St. Paul's College

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