



ISF 弘立

THE ISF ACADEMY



## ISF VISION

The Independent Schools Foundation (“ISF”) is a community of learners, **independent** in thought and action, deeply rooted in **Chinese** culture, **global** in understanding and experience, and excellent in all endeavors.

## ISF MISSION

An ISF education is to develop:

### Independent Minds

Nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning for academic, personal and social development;

### Chinese Virtues

Educating learners in a uniquely Chinese-English bilingual and East-West bicultural environment rooted in timeless Chinese values embodied in the *Eight Virtues + One*; and

### Global Outlook

Building life skills through experiential learning, inspiring learners to act as empowered and resilient global stewards.

## ISF CORE VALUES

All members of ISF respect and follow the core values of the *Eight Virtues + One*:





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The Independent Schools Foundation Academy (the “ISF Academy” or the “Academy”) is a non-profit Private Independent School offering a 13-year program spanning from Foundation Year (Hong Kong equivalent of K3) to Grade 12.

This prospectus provides an overview of the school. Additional information can be obtained from the Admissions Office or our website at [academy.isf.edu.hk](http://academy.isf.edu.hk).



## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE

The Independent Schools Foundation Academy (the “ISF Academy” or the “Academy”) is an internationally accredited independent International Baccalaureate World School, founded on Chinese values, offering a unique immersive Chinese and English language education with a global perspective. Striking a balance between tradition and innovation, between China and the West, The ISF Academy is a globally connected community of learners inspired by a vision of education where the power of ideas to shape lives is understood and respected, and where the pursuit of a better, brighter future forms an essential driving force for learning.

At The ISF Academy, we believe that an excellent education touches both the head and the heart: it is both challenging and inspiring, balancing a rich experience of the real world with the security of a planned and expansive learning environment and the individualized attention possible with small classes. Great learning charts the journey between aspiration and achievement, instills values and virtues, inspires courage and commitment, and draws wisdom from experience. An ISF education values, nurtures, and celebrates the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of the human experience.

ISF Academy students learn to embrace and exemplify the essential human values that form the philosophical foundation of our school: commitment, respect, care, passion, courtesy, integrity, harmony, and balance: these are the *Eight Virtues* that culminate in wisdom – the *One*. We put these values into practice each day, shaping our school culture, our personal interactions, our decisions, and our ideas. ISF Academy students are inquisitive about the world around them and their study programs are designed to encourage exploration, analysis and reflection. They learn about our world from many different perspectives and through a range of technologies; they gain not just knowledge, but also a practical framework of human values deeply rooted in Chinese culture to inform actions and attitudes.

As the builders and shapers of tomorrow, ISF Academy students are being equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to make their own contribution to an interconnected global community. They speak more than one language, embrace technology, and move freely in both Chinese and Western cultural contexts. They are accomplished communicators whose voices are heard in our school and the community beyond, as observers, contributors and leaders.

The ISF Academy has a strong, future-focused vision of education that is well grounded in traditional Chinese cultural values, where the world is a classroom, and learning is not constrained by differences of language and culture. Our commitment to The ISF Academy community is to work in partnership with each family to develop the individual potential of each child, to share the learning journey with its trials and challenges, and to turn today’s dreams into tomorrow’s achievements.

I am delighted that you are interested in our school and invite you to explore The ISF Academy experience in person.

**Dr. Malcolm Pritchard**

Head of School



*J. Lohil*

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our six-year Primary School program cultivates in our students a passion for learning and lays the groundwork for global citizenship. Students are motivated to observe, reflect, and formulate questions as they learn, create and act upon personal initiatives. Students are also given opportunities to practice leadership and teamwork.

We aim for our students to develop native level fluency in both English and Putonghua Chinese, appreciate Chinese culture and values, and thereby build the foundation upon which they learn respect for other cultures.





**Ms. SHAN Ning**  
Principal, Primary





**Mr. Nicholas FORDE**  
Principal, Secondary

In support of The Academy's mission and vision, the Clifford C. F. Wong Libraries feature an inviting, friendly, service-oriented, student-focused environment that encourages the exchange of ideas, intellectual curiosity, learning, and discovery. For our students to be lifelong readers and lovers of literature, we believe it is important to create a sense of wonder about scholarship, books, and reading.

黃浩輝圖書館在支持弘立書院的創校願景和目標的原則下，以建立一個具啟發性、友善及良好學習氣氛的環境為目標，藉著以服務為導向，鼓勵用者交流思想、分享知識和培養好奇心。為了使弘立學生具備終生學習和喜愛閱讀的態度，我們認為培養其對學術、書本、與知識的渴求至當中的關鍵。



**服務櫃檯 Service Counter**

英文小說  
English Fiction (F)

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

The philosophy and vision of our Secondary School parallel those of the Primary School, and are realized within the framework of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes.

We blend the best practices of the East and the West. Since our establishment, our percentage of Bilingual IB Diploma Programme (DP) graduates has consistently been more than twice the global average and is consistently among the highest in Hong Kong. We aspire for all our students to be independent, creative thinkers who are also compassionate and responsible global citizens, with positive self-esteem, effective communication and literacy skills, have a true love for learning, and an enduring commitment to be excellent in all endeavors.

The academic learning evolution from Grade 6 to 12 in Secondary is expressed by the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and DP offerings. It promotes the education of the whole person by emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth through all domains of knowledge.



# STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Student well-being develops when a student has a positive sense of identity, builds a range of supportive relationships with others and has a sense of belonging.

At The ISF Academy, student development consists of integrated and comprehensive courses, co-curricular activities, student leadership opportunities, guidance counseling, and experiential learning programs aimed at promoting the pursuit of excellence while instilling in our students' persistence and resilience. Personal well-being is critical for young children and adolescents as they navigate the many stages and challenges of personal and physical development throughout their Primary and Secondary school years.

Grounded on a network of personal and academic support, our students develop an increasing sense of confidence, independence, and values that are the hallmarks of The ISF Academy education.









## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The experiential learning curriculum offers a progressive pathway for students to enhance their life skills outside of the classroom and is a vital cornerstone of learning at The ISF Academy. All students from Grade 4 to 11 participate in this carefully sequenced experiential program that promotes learning skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, global citizenship, service and communication. Our students gain real-world experience that is connected to and directly supports academic studies and is also an essential component of The ISF Academy's *Eight Virtues + One*, the IB Learner Profile and the IB's Approaches to Learning.

Our Experiential Learning Program ("ELP") relies on immersion in unfamiliar settings and participation in novel activities that support personal development. Each year, students in Grade 4 to 11 undertake two Experiential Learning Programs (ELP1 and ELP2) as a part of their core studies at The ISF Academy. ELP1 allows students to develop leadership skills, resilience, courage, cooperation, tolerance, problem-solving abilities and physical endurance. ELP2 trips are closely linked to our Chinese Guided Discovery curriculum (Grade 4 and 5), our Chinese Humanities curriculum (Grade 6 to 8), and service learning (Grade 9 and 10). The Grade 11 ELP2 program is the pinnacle and culmination of The ISF Academy experiential learning program. This program is designed to provide students with a springboard to university and career path where students are given the opportunity to 'put into practice' the skills developed during previous ELP experiences.

## THE ACADEMY SHUYUAN

The Academy *Shuyuan* was established in 2011. Unique to our school, it is based on the classical Chinese learning sanctuary and the Platonic Academy, the goal of which is independent study and enquiry under the guidance of a master.

### SHUYUAN CLASSICS PROGRAM

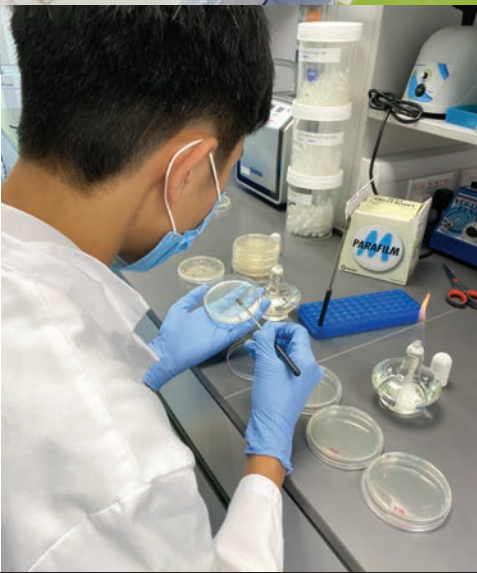
The *Shuyuan* Classics Program offers a wide range of opportunities for our students to connect with the foundations of Chinese and Western culture through the comparative study of classical artifacts, texts and languages. The program gives students the opportunity to create intellectual, moral and cultural frameworks within which to function effectively as bilingual and bicultural citizens. Ongoing programs include a bespoke classics summer program at Oxford University, England.

### SHUYUAN STEM PROGRAM

The *Shuyuan* STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program addresses the fundamental connection between humans and their environment and offers a variety of opportunities and extension activities within the STEM framework. Ongoing programs include the Needham Research Institute summer program at Cambridge, England, and student research posters at international scientific conferences such as the American Geophysical Union Conference and the American Society of Microbiology Conference.



*Carpe Diem  
Discendo Discimus  
Aurora Borealis  
Solis Occasum  
Alis Propriis Volat*



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development at The ISF Academy supports the school's Vision and Mission by providing Faculty with access to learning opportunities directly related to student teaching and learning. In addition, non-Faculty staff are given access to training relevant to their role in supporting the teaching and learning process.

The ISF Academy exceeds the minimum IB Professional Development guidelines and many of our Faculty members are IB Examiners and IB Workshop Presenters.







## SCHOOL CAMPUS

The ISF Academy moved to its current campus in the tranquil, verdant setting of the Southern district of Hong Kong Island in August 2007. Built on a 13,152 square meters site and with a gross floor area of 56,759 square meters, our campus has been carefully designed to reflect and reinforce our distinctive educational mission and culture.

The campus comprises of five main buildings – the Primary Building, the West Annex Building, the Secondary Building, the Center for Culture and Sports that includes our auditorium, indoor swimming pool and squash courts, and the Academic and Administration Extension Building that houses the *Shuyuan* Programs. At the heart of the school are our Primary and Secondary Libraries. As demonstrated by our remodeled Charles Kao Square cum Clifford C. F. Wong Secondary Library, our libraries are not mere depositories of books but spaces that incorporate technology and technology-related settings to provide areas for collaboration, discovery of new knowledge and private study.

Our distinguishing flexible clusters and other facilities allow for a warm and inviting atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of self-motivated academic excellence and the learning of Chinese and Western cultures, an ideal environment for our students to explore the world.