



Teaching and Learning at 7Hills (2022-3)

7Hills is a multi-cultural International School.. We provide positive learning experiences for students through a rich variety of developmentally appropriate activities. Our learning environment encourages students to socialise, explore, solve problems, collaborate and communicate with their teachers and peers in a diverse setting. Our purpose is to provide a holistic programme of education through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, supported by enriching, varied and quality resources and interactive teaching that allows for individual differences and learning styles of the child; a programme that incorporates creative, inclusive, student-focused learning whilst fostering independence, curiosity, self-confidence, performance, resilience and innovative thinking within a safe, supportive and welcoming setting. The importance of creativity and critical thinking is strongly emphasised in all areas of learning. Each day at 7Hills students have opportunities to develop these essential life skills, discover themselves and their own unique talents.

Values

Active Learning

We believe in using a wide range of active methods to enhance the learning experience of the students. It is proven that sitting at a desk for the whole of the school day is not healthy for the mind and body of both students and adults. Thus 7Hills uses a diverse variety of activities to ensure our students are active learners. Active learning also encourages the development of a diverse range of transferable skills and life skills that pupils are able to apply to everyday life. As with life, learning at 7Hills is not limited to the classroom environment, and pupils are encouraged to explore their world.

Collaboration

In order to provide an excellent learning environment, teachers, parents and students must work together as collaborators. Our students are encouraged to work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others, promoting teamwork, listening skills, leadership skills and appreciation of others. 7Hills values and encourages the contributions of all our stakeholders to school life: parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education at 7Hills.

Commitment

We value the dedication and commitment of all our stakeholders; we encourage pupils to be persistent and not to give up and be willing to try new things with energy and enthusiasm.

Creativity

Through exploration and discovery students are able to form original ideas, encouraging them to think and problem solve, skills essential for everyday life. When students are allowed to make mistakes, they then have the freedom to invent, create and find new ways to do things. 7Hills encourages creativity in all areas of learning.

Diversity

We are an inclusive community that celebrates diversity, believing it is a positive strength within our community. Mutual respect, tolerance and awareness are key elements in constructing a community of learners and ultimately, responsible global citizens. 7Hills values and celebrates diversity and actively promotes international awareness including an understanding of different ways of life, and encourages its community to do so too.

Empowerment

Students should always be encouraged to help themselves according to their own capabilities. When students feel empowered to make decisions and problem solve, they begin to take responsibility for their own learning, their own actions and their own choices.

Equality

7Hills values all members of the school community equally; and encourages other school stakeholders, including students to do the same. We promote and practice tolerance, respect and patience in the school community.

Excellence

7Hills strives to be a place of outstanding education: we recognise and celebrate both academic and all round achievement both in teaching and learning. Our pupils are encouraged to work to the best of their ability, developing their confidence, courage, persistence, and perseverance, in both the learning environment as well as in all aspects of their life. Our staff are encouraged to perform to the best of their ability, to motivate and inspire our students to achieve their best, and to be positive role models for the students and school community. Staff are valued and regularly undertake professional development to remain at the top of their game, with all teaching and learning techniques, and staff development, informed by research and effective practice. 7Hills also invests in high quality resources to support effective learning.

Honesty, Integrity, & Responsibility

Honesty, Integrity and Responsibility are core values we aim to develop in all our pupils and therefore set the bar high by expecting school management and teaching staff to act with a high level of honesty, integrity and responsibility at all times. We encourage each other to be consistent with our words and actions; to follow through on what we say; to be trustworthy; and to take responsibility for our actions. 7Hills also endeavours to be not only a responsible and fair employer but also to promote and practise environmentally friendly policies within the context of the school.

Individuality

Every child has a unique character and an individual learning style. 7Hills acknowledges these and allows for differentiation and equal access to all learning opportunities. 7Hills actively encourages students to maintain their individuality and build on their interests, strengths and talents, whilst encouraging its community to give everyone a fair go.

Respect

7Hills believes in the importance of respect for all members of our community, whatever their role. This includes demonstrating self-control, showing care and kindness to others, sharing, cooperating, and being friendly, polite and thoughtful in dealing with others. We encourage all stakeholders to treat others the way they would like to be treated, listen when others are speaking, take turns and use good manners.

Personal Learning Goals



The school promotes 7 personal learning goals on 7 layers. Teachers should implement and promote these Personal Learning Goals in their lessons and learning units. The teachers should tell students at the beginning of the lesson or learning plan which Personal Learning Goals and at which layer they are promoting. IMYC Unit Plans outline how the unit links to personal learning goals and international mindedness.

Teachers' Daily Schedule

The school day begins at 7.30am. Students have sports between 7.45 - 8.45am, and classes begin at 8.45am. Homeroom takes place at 8.45am and 3.00pm each day. School ends at 3.15pm, clubs are available for students between 3.15pm-4.15pm. Teachers are expected to arrive by 7.30am and be in school until 4.30pm. Please refer to your personal timetable for details on lesson timings and for supervision and club responsibilities. Please note the school schedule may be modified by school administration/Head of School.

All staff are expected to:

- Arrive at school on time and be on time for all lessons
- Attend weekly assembly on Wednesdays
- Attend all staff meetings and trainings
- Grade and give feedback (weekly or every 2 weeks depending on subject - see Homework Policy)
- Undertake assigned supervision of break, lunch times and clubs
- Be involved in entry and exit points, extra-curricular activities, and field trips
- Be a role model and be responsible for students at all times throughout the school day
- Be fully involved in the school community and life

Assessment

7Hills International School is strongly committed to the authentic assessment of every student. It is important for teachers to know the strengths and educational needs of each individual student. Students should have work marked, and be given feedback on their learning, on a regular basis. Teachers are expected to carry out continuous formative

assessment during lessons, which can include, but is not limited to, questioning, discussion, written work, observation of skills and group work.

Students in all classes are assessed using formative and summative assessments. Assessment includes work done in class, presentations, homework, quizzes, projects and end of unit assessments. Feedback, and steps for improvement, should always be given to students.

School reports are sent to parents at the end of each term and parent-teacher-student conferences are held twice a year for each year group.

Teachers should also refer to the 7Hills Homework Policy.

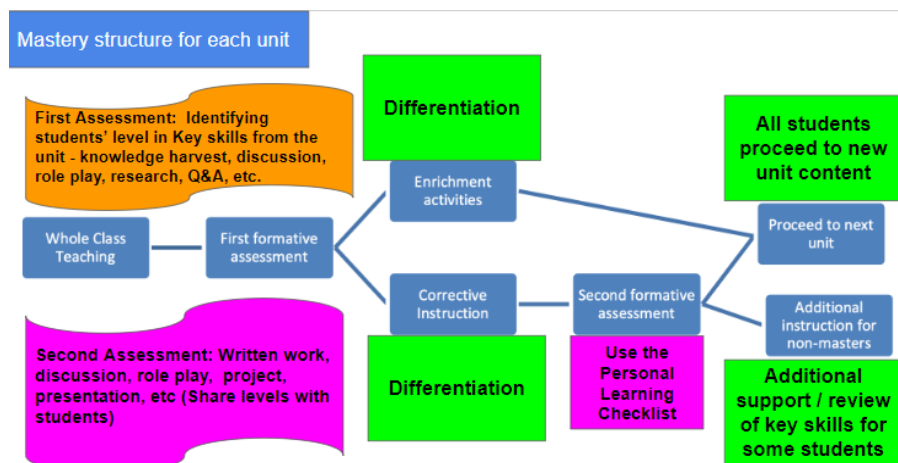
International Middle Years Curriculum (Years 7, 8 & 9)

The International Middle Years Curriculum is designed around a ‘Big Idea’ as the lens through which students study each of their subjects. The structure of learning is prescribed by the IMYC to be 6-week units in which students are first introduced to the Big Idea through ‘Entry Point’ activities. The unit concludes with an ‘Exit Point’, a student presentation to demonstrate learning from the unit. Exit Points are interdisciplinary and parents are invited. 7Hills has also included a ‘mid-unit’ project in which teachers work together to support the students to complete an interdisciplinary activity or project, often explicitly linked to the Exit Point. The IMYC encourages students to link their learning, apply their understanding to the real world to make meaning, work with their peers, and take risks. Personal Learning Goals, and developing International Mindedness, are key components of the curriculum.

Students study a wide range of subjects: Maths, Language Arts (English), Science, French, Spanish, History, Geography, Art, Music and ICT. Once a week students also have PSHE, Drama, Design Technology and Library lessons. Maths is studied using Singapore Maths. French and Spanish use the Pearson curriculum.

Teachers plan their lessons following the learning goals, key skills and personal learning goals of the IMYC. The IMYC divides learning into knowledge, understanding and skills. Key skills are assessed using a mastery curriculum approach and graded from *Beginning*, *Developing*, *Mastering*, *Innovating*. This reflects the progress the student has made over the term working on key skills for the subject. A student at Beginning level will be working with support, a student at Developing will be able use the skills with some guidance, while a student at Mastering is independently able to apply their skills, a student working above this level is Innovating. Students should be familiar with the key skills being assessed and receive a Personal Learning Checklist to track their progress through each key skill.

The structure of a mastery approach during a unit is shown below:



Students at IMYC also sit school exams at the end of Term 1 and Term 3. These exams take on a more traditional structure and assess knowledge, understanding and skills in each subject. The exams are to help prepare students for future exams at IGCSE and International A Level by developing study skills and learning how to cope with exam pressure. Grades for these exams are given using percentages.

IGCSE (Years 10 & 11)

7Hills' Year 10 and 11 students follow the IGCSE course from Pearson Education (Edexcel). Pearson is a well renowned British education and assessment service which offers and examines GCSE courses in the UK (as Edexcel) and IGCSEs internationally. The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is a content-rich programme that also develops critical thinking skills, designed to prepare students for further study wherever they are situated in the world. These years are not just about passing through into the next level of education, but crucially provides a base on which students are able to build a successful future beyond school.

All students will be taking the following 5 compulsory IGCSEs:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Double Science (students are examined on Biology, Chemistry and Physics and receive an overall grade worth 2 IGCSEs)

Students choose 4 additional IGCSE from subject options below:

1. French or Spanish
2. History or Business Studies
3. Geography or Sports
4. Art or ICT

The curriculum is content heavy, therefore we recommend that parents buy the relevant textbooks. A copy of each textbook is kept in the library and teachers have access to online textbooks and teaching resources, and hard copies of each textbook. Teachers post essential content on Google Classroom.

IGCSE students are assessed using a mixture of formative and summative tasks. Students become familiar with the IGCSE style of assessment (through practice questions, tests and exams) and are graded using the IGCSE scale 9-1. Students have exams twice a year at the end of Term 1 and Term 3 in Year 10, and mock exams at the end of Term 1

in Year 11. These exams mirror IGCSE exams as far as possible. The IGCSE exams are taken in May & June of Year 11 and are externally marked by Pearson examiners.

IGCSE students also have one lesson of PSHE each week, continue with Sports every morning, and are able to take part in the full range after school activities including sports teams, school performances and the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award.

International A Levels (Years 12 & 13)

Students in Years 12 & 13 study the Pearson (Edexcel) International A Levels. International A Levels are recognised, by universities and employers, around the world. Students are challenged to gain knowledge and understanding in the different subjects while developing their critical thinking and analytical skills.

All students study 3 International A Levels of their choosing. Currently 7Hills offers the following subjects that can be studied in any combination:

- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English Literature
- French
- Business Studies
- ICT

The range of subjects will expand as the International A Level program grows. In addition each student has the option to do the 'Extended Project Qualification' (an independent research project) on a topic of their choice.

Students are encouraged to develop independent research and study skills that will prepare them for life after school. Students are assessed using a mixture of formative and summative tasks and should become familiar with the A Level style of assessment (through practice questions, tests and exams) and be graded using the IGCSE scale A-E. Students will have internal school exams at the end of Term 1 in both Years 12 and 13. In May/June of Year 12 students will sit for their AS exams (the first half of the A Level Course) and can either bank these results or retake the examinations the following year. International A Level exams are externally marked by Pearson examiners.

Alongside their academic studies our students are supported to develop holistically. Students have daily morning sports and homeroom, and a weekly PSHE lesson. Each student is supported to undertake work experience twice a year. Students take responsibility for leading, fundraising a community service project with their class group. Students are able to take part in the full range of after school activities including sports teams, school performances and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Teachers and students are signed up to Unifrog, an online platform that brings together all the available information, on university courses and opportunities post school, into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform that helps students to make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications.

7Hills is an accredited Pearson exam centre and all teachers are trained to invigilate IGCSE and International A Level exams.

Professional Development

Teachers attend faculty meetings twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at 8am. On Thursday mornings teachers meet in their departments (STEM, Languages, Humanities / Creative Arts, Sports) to ensure that documents are updated, and support each other through joint planning.

All teachers attend Professional Development training on Thursday after school. These sessions are led by the Head of School, Head of Student Support. Teachers are required to attend Pearson online training to prepare for teaching new IGCSE and International A Levels. All teachers are familiar with the online resources available for all curriculum and are expected to keep up-to-date with subject knowledge and the requirements of the curriculum. Teachers are also encouraged to pursue other professional development opportunities and can apply for funding from 7Hills.