

Welcome to the Upper School, Hangzhou International School



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to our Upper School.

We know that starting Upper School is a big change.

You may have attended our Lower School or be joining us for the first time. Wherever you have come from, we are sure you will be feeling a range of emotions and have lots of questions.

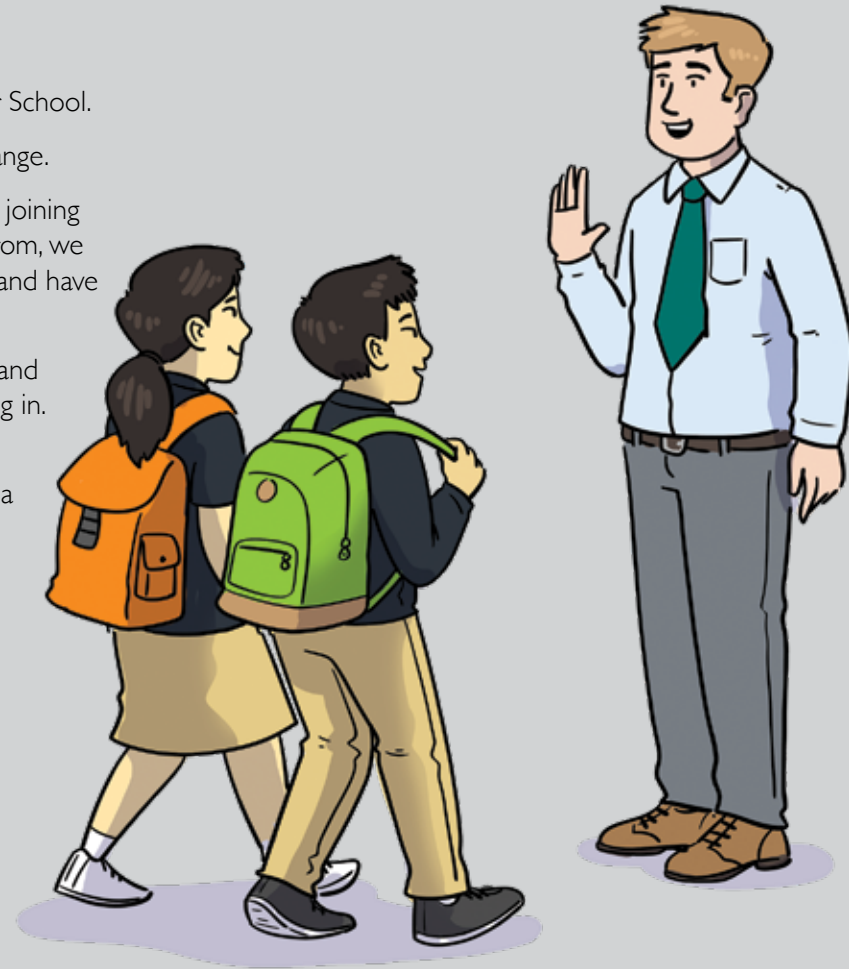
We will offer you a warm welcome, and all staff and students will be on hand to offer you help settling in.

We will provide an exceptional environment to help you achieve academic success and become a world citizen.

We have produced this book to provide some useful information and to help your transition to Upper School get off to a great start.

Again, welcome to HIS and...

GoooOOO Dragons!!!



How should I prepare for joining Upper School?

Uniform

We have a simple, practical and smart uniform. We expect you to be proud to represent our school and always be well-presented.

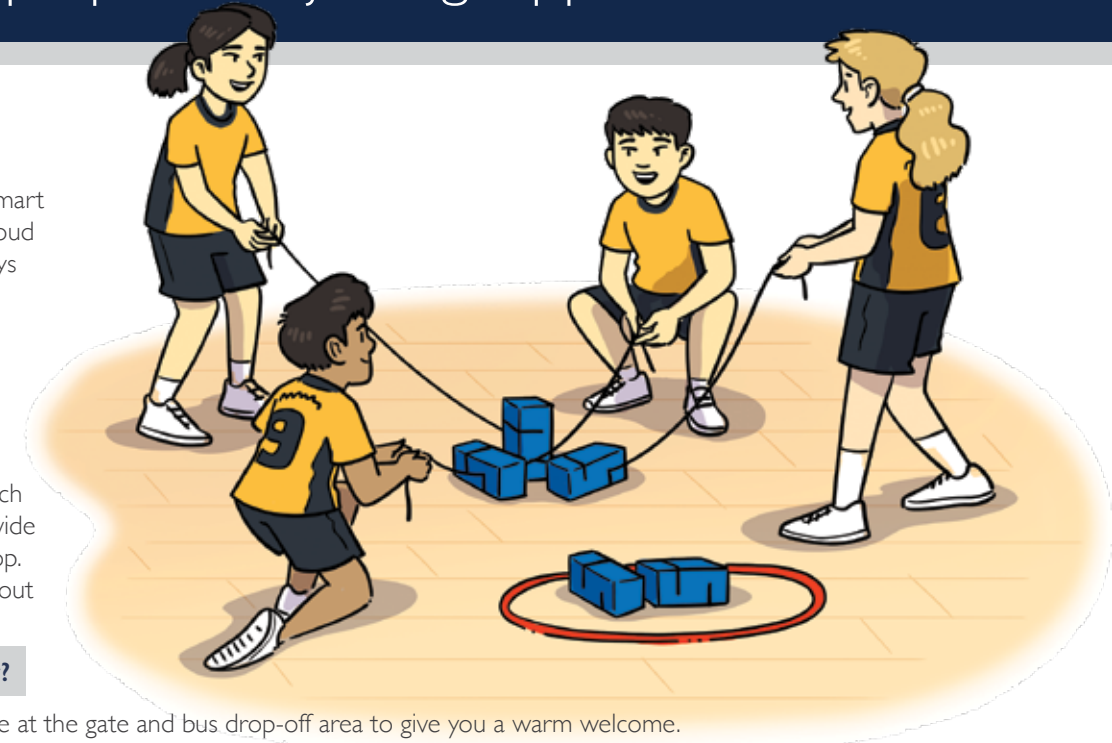
Equipment

You will need a backpack, pens, pencils and water bottle. Your teachers will let you know about specific equipment needed for each subject. Your parents will also provide you with an Apple MacBook laptop. We will give them information about the specifications needed.

What happens on the first day?

The Principals and teachers will be at the gate and bus drop-off area to give you a warm welcome.

You will start the day by meeting your Advisor and classmates. You will meet key faculty members, get your ID badge and meet your buddy, who will help you settle in. We will show you how to use the IT systems and how everything works. You will then continue with your schedule for that day.



What happens in a school day?



In Upper School, you are expected to arrive between 7.30 and 7.55am, ready for the school day, which starts at 8.00am.

The school day ends at 3.00pm and buses leave at 3.30pm.

Some co-curricular activities will run after school.

Each day has four periods of teaching, and you will move between classes for each lesson. We allow time for you to move from class to class, and you will have lots of help finding your way around. You will soon know where everything is!

Food

You can bring lunch from home or get something from our cafeteria. There is a fantastic range of food available, such as snacks, sandwiches, salads and main courses.

What subjects will I study?

You will follow the International Baccalaureate curriculum.

You will study Languages (including Chinese), History, Geography, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Design, and Physical and Health Education.

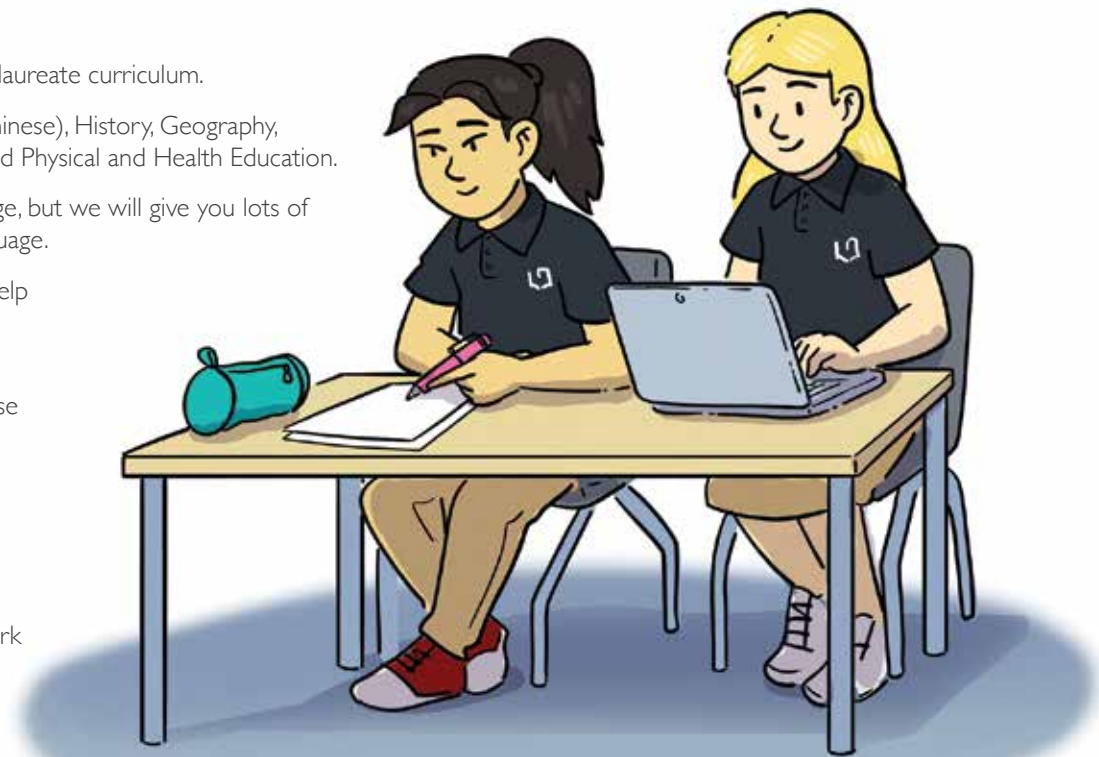
We use English as our primary language, but we will give you lots of support if English is not your first language.

We provide lots of opportunities to help you to maintain your main language.

We will also help you develop an understanding of Mandarin and Chinese culture.

Homework

You will receive regular homework. Homework helps you develop skills in independent study, research and time management. The amount of homework given will allow you to have a good balance of study and other interests.



What else can I do in Upper School?

We have a brilliant range of co-curricular activities on offer:

These are just some of the clubs and activities we currently offer:

Language and Literacy: Chinese character writing, poetry, creative writing, film club.

Physical Activities: taekwondo, cricket, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, golf, nature walks and hikes.

Music, Instrument and Performance: dance, Chinese instrumental music.

Life Skills: baking, HIS Community Gardeners.

...and lots of activities to provide academic enrichment in all the subjects you study.

And our **Spectacular SPAN Group!** – which helps new students and families settle into life at HIS.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.



You will be able to meet students with similar interests and make friends.

You will also mix with students from different grades. So, in addition to pursuing an interest, you will develop your social and emotional skills.

You will also develop skills which will help you in future careers and even have a positive impact on your academic results!

What support will you give me?

Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills

We will help you 'learn how to learn' by helping you develop Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills.

You will develop skills in **Thinking, Communication, Social, Self-management** and **Research**.

So, for example, you will be shown how to skim and scan texts as part of researching information.

Self-management will show you how to organise work.

Who can I speak to if I need help?

We have a wide range of help available. You can speak to your Counseling Team or Student Support Services. You can also speak to your Advisors, Grade Level Leader and Principals. They will all be able to help.



We look forward to
welcoming you to Hangzhou
International School



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