



The ESF Diploma Introduction September 2007

The ESF Diploma is an entitlement curriculum and a qualification for students in Years 12 and 13. This is an overarching Diploma comprising four possible pathways. They are: the IB Diploma, the Advanced Diploma, the Intermediate Diploma and the Foundation Diploma. All of these pathways provide opportunities for a broad, balanced, international education. We believe in a range of pathways that meets the needs of all students appropriately. Each pathway leads to further opportunities after completing secondary school.

The [IB Diploma](#) is a two year course which was introduced into four ESF secondary schools in September 2007. Sha Tin College has been teaching the IB Diploma for five years and has an excellent record of results. The course is based around a hexagon of learning in which students choose six subjects. Three of these subjects are at Higher Level and three are at Standard Level. There is a compulsory core element that includes Creativity, Action and Service; the Extended Essay and the Theory of Knowledge. Entry to this programme is based on successful completion of GCSE with a minimum of five grades A* to C grades.

The [Advanced Diploma](#) is a two year course, based around a hexagon of experience which will include a menu of Applied A level courses, B Tec qualifications and IB courses. There is a compulsory literacy and numeracy component as well as the core of experience which will include Creativity, Action and Service; the Extended Essay or Project and the Theory of Knowledge. Entry to this programme is based on successful completion of GCSE or its equivalent with a minimum of four/five A* to C grades.

The [Intermediate Diploma](#) is meant to be a bridge year to meet the needs of students who would benefit from a three year senior school experience for a wide variety of reasons. This is to be a positive learning experience that will support literacy, numeracy development. It has a core similar to the above diplomas. Students will be able to progress to the IB Diploma or to the Advanced Diploma from this pathway.

The [Foundation Diploma](#) is for students with significant learning difficulties and is an entitlement curriculum based on a hexagon of learning and experience. It has the same educational values as the other pathways and takes into account individual learning needs. As part of their entitlement to a breadth of experience, students in this programme will be involved in a core programme of Creativity, Action and Service. Students in this pathway will be involved in transition training and preparation for the next stage of their learning.

The provision beyond the IB Diploma is focused on learning that is applied and meets the needs of the learner. We are preparing to offer programmes that are valued world wide as vocational or applied learning. In no way are these routes of lesser value than the IB Diploma. In fact, *by offering a range of pathways, the ESF makes a clear statement about the value of a clear, coherent and dynamic set of pathways that are aimed at meeting the needs of a range of learners.* The ESF has always been

passionate about its mission to give all students the best possible opportunity to do well.

Please consult individual schools for the details of the programmes in each pathway.

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