

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ABOUT VICTORIA-CEDAR ALLIANCE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME (VCA IP)

### **1. What are the unique features of the VCA IP? How is it different from the IP offered in other schools?**

The VCA IP draws on the outstanding academic track records of VS and Cedar Girls' Secondary School (CGSS) and builds on the very successful Victoria Integrated Programme (VIP) in VJC which was launched since 2005. It will be a programme that stretches pupils' potential, demands their full participation and develops their individual voice and identity.

Besides the core curriculum, a signature programme of the VCA is the Imagineering Programme, which aims to inspire students to become social innovators with the passion, attributes and ability to imagine and engineer innovative solutions to social problems. Other key programmes include the Helmsman programme for character development and life skills; the Beyond Borders programme for overseas exposure; and the Electives, consisting of a wide range of subject interests which pupils can choose from to further develop their creativity, communication and thinking skills which are all important 21st century competencies.

In the co-curricular arena, pupils in VS and CGSS will experience the ethos and privilege of an all boys and an all girls education respectively and at the same time, they will also participate in joint programmes to broaden their social outlook. In addition, the pupils will enjoy the full range of co-curricular activities such as sports, performing arts, uniformed groups and experience the schools' leadership development programme.

### **2. For VS, how is the IP curriculum different from the 'O' Level curriculum?**

The vision of VS is to nurture every Victorian as a Gentleman, a Professional and a Sportsman. To grow the potential of each and every pupil towards this vision, the total curriculum in VS will comprise 5 main domains, that is, character, cognitive, community, aesthetics and physical. Each boy develops and matures in his exposure through carefully planned programmes in each domain.

Adolescence is both an exciting yet uncertain time of discovery, exploration and growth. While we are keenly aware that each boy is different and develops at his own unique pace, ultimately, our purpose is to create the best array of options to secure each boy's future. To this end, the IP and the 'O' Level curriculum in VS will each serve to deliver a holistic educational experience that will provide the maximal exposure and post-secondary options for boys, in a manner best suited for their pace of learning and developmental needs.

The IP curriculum in VS will be tailored for boys who are clearly JC-bound. The curriculum puts emphasis on applying intellectual abilities to engage and solve societal issues, both present and future, through the Imagineering, Helmsman, Beyond Borders and Elective Programmes. The 'O' Level curriculum in VS on the

other hand seeks to further raise the overall potential of boys who, although having demonstrated significantly above average results at PSLE, would benefit from a structured environment that not only puts focus on knowledge acquisition and developing deep understanding, but also balances the time in academic learning with co-curricular activities. In other words, learning in the IP curriculum has greater flexibility and less defined boundaries between disciplines and programmes, while learning in the 'O' Level curriculum has greater structure and teacher facilitation.

**3. How will pupils in the VCA IP be assessed? Will there be examinations or are they expected to do more project work?**

A variety of assessment modes will be used to assess the learning progress and understanding of the pupils so as to cater to different learning styles and multiple intelligences. On top of traditional pen-and-paper assessments to consolidate pupils' learning, alternative assessment modes like projects, oral presentations and portfolio assessment will also be used.

**4. How will the school prepare each pupil for the transition to VJC for Year 5 and 6 of the VCA IP?**

There will be multiple opportunities for every pupil to participate in programmes and activities organised by all three schools throughout the 6 years. These include the Electives and Imagineering Programme. Through these platforms, students from all three schools will have the chance to interact and learn from one another.

In terms of the academics, the VCA IP is essentially a 6-year programme and the curriculum in Year 1 to 4 will be closely linked to what they will be learning for Year 5 to 6. Therefore it will be a seamless transition to Year 5 and 6 at VJC.

**5. If, after attending the Integrated Programme for some time, I find that I am more suited for the 'O' Level curriculum, can I opt to make a switch?**

There are various programmes in place to help pupils level up their performance if additional help is needed. You are advised to talk to your teacher if you encounter any difficulties during the course of your studies.

The school has clear promotion criteria for the Integrated Programme. Students who fail to meet the promotion criteria might be advised to switch to the 'O' Level programme. Otherwise, the school generally does not encourage pupils in the Integrated Programme to switch to the 'O' Level programme and will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. You can approach your teachers to discuss the options available should you consider to do so.

**6. If I am admitted to the 'O' Level Programme, can I opt to switch to the Integrated Programme?**

The school will accept a number of eligible pupils into the Integrated Programme in Secondary 3. If you are identified to be suitable for the IP at Secondary 2, and are interested in the IP, you will have the opportunity to apply to be switched over to the IP. If your application is successful, you will join Year 3 of the IP in the following year.

## **ADMISSION THROUGH DIRECT SCHOOL ADMISSION (DSA)**

### **7. Can I apply for admission to VS through more than one DSA category?**

You should choose **either** the DSA (Integrated Programme), DSA (Sports/Integrated Programme) or DSA (Sports/'O' Level) category, based on careful consideration of your own strengths and talents, as well as your academic and/or sports achievements. The DSA (Integrated Programme) offers admission to a 6-year Integrated Programme and is designed for pupils with special talents and achievements in academic areas such as English, Mathematics and Science. The DSA (Sports/Integrated Programme) or DSA (Sports/'O' Level) offers admission to either a 6-year Integrated Programme or 4-year 'O' Level Programme, and is catered to pupils with talent and aptitude in selected areas of sports identified by VS. DSA (Integrated Programme) and DSA (Sports/Integrated Programme) applicants are to sit for the General Ability Test (GAT).

### **8. For application through DSA (Integrated Programme) or DSA (Sports/Integrated Programme), what other criteria will be considered besides academic results in primary school?**

To be considered for DSA (Integrated Programme) or DSA (Sports/Integrated Programme), you should have attained excellent academic results in primary school. Other achievements in national and/or international competitions will also be considered. Your academic results and achievements, together with the outcomes of the GAT and interview will be taken into consideration in deciding your admission to the VCA IP.

### **9. If I am successful in my application for the Integrated Programme but my PSLE score does not meet VS cut-off for admission to school's Integrated Programme under MOE central posting system, will I be transferred to the 'O' Level Programme instead?**

Your place in the Integrated Programme is confirmed as long as (i) you have been offered a place in Integrated Programme under the DSA scheme, (ii) you have accepted the offer, and (iii) you meet the PSLE cut-off for a place in the Express course.

### **10. If I am successful in my application to VS for the 'O' Level Programme but do very well in my PSLE, can I be transferred to the Integrated Programme?**

No, you will not be transferred to the Integrated Programme in Secondary One, as your place in the 'O' Level Programme is confirmed once you have accepted the DSA offer and you meet the PSLE cut-off for a place in the Express course. However, you may be considered for transfer to the IP at the end of Secondary 2.

**11. If I am not successful in the DSA application, how else can I apply for admission to VS?**

If you are not successful in your DSA application, you can still apply for admission to VS through the MOE central posting system based on your PSLE results. As there are different option codes for the Integrated Programme and 'O' Level Programme, you should indicate the correct option code of the programme that you are applying for. You should also select VS as your first choice in order to stand a good chance to be posted to the school.

**ADMISSION THROUGH MOE CENTRAL POSTING SYSTEM**

**12. How do I apply to Victoria School?**

When making your choice for Secondary Schools with your PSLE results, there is a separate school code of each programme in Victoria School. You can choose:

- School code: 9151 for Victoria School – Integrated Programme
- School code: 3014 for Victoria School – 'O' Level Programme

**13. Can I choose both the Integrated Programme and the 'O' Level Programme among my school choices?**

You may choose both the Victoria School – Integrated Programme and the 'O' Level Programme among your 6 choices of schools. You will be posted to the programme based on merit of your PSLE score. You will not be able to switch between the two programmes in Secondary One once you are allocated to the specific programme by MOE.

**14. I am posted to the Victoria School – 'O' Level Programme as it was my first choice. But my PSLE score is higher than the Victoria School – Integrated Programme cut-off. Can I be transferred to the Integrated Programme?**

No, you will not be transferred to the Integrated Programme in Secondary 1, as your place in the 'O' Level Programme is confirmed once you are posted by MOE. However, you may be considered for transfer to the IP at the end of Secondary 2.

**15. If I am not posted to Victoria School, how else can I apply for admission to VS?**

If you are not successful in your posting to VS, you may place your name on the Integrated Programme waiting list or the 'O' Level Programme waiting list. Places will be made available should students posted to VS choose to be transferred to other schools. Students on the waitlists will be selected based on academic results, sporting talents and interviews. Please note that waiting lists could sometimes run into the hundreds but subsequent available places are usually only in small numbers.