



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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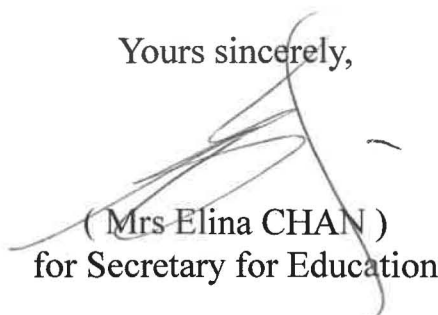
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel WONG)

Dear Ms Wong,

Panel on Education
Enquiries concerning the item on
“Interest-free loans to four non-profit-making international schools”
at the meeting on 5 June 2020

At its meeting on 5 June 2020 when the item on the provision of interest-free loans to four non-profit-making international schools was discussed, the Panel on Education requested us to provide two pieces of supplementary information after the meeting. For the information on Alberta’s provincial curriculum, please refer to **Annex 1**; and for the details of the scholarships and bursaries offered by the four international schools applying for interest-free loans from the 2017/18 to 2019/20 school years, please refer to **Annex 2**.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Elina CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

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Summary of the Alberta Curriculum

Based on the information provided by the Christian Alliance International School and the materials published at the website of the Government of Alberta, Canada, the salient features of Alberta's provincial curriculum are set out as follow:

1. Vision of the Alberta Curriculum

“Alberta Curriculum” (the Curriculum) refers to the standard curriculum provided in the province of Alberta, Canada, and recognised and monitored by the Ministry of Education of the Alberta Government. Teachers determine students' learning methods based on their professional judgement having regard to the curriculum framework and the prescribed teaching materials. The vision of the Curriculum is to educate students to be “lifelong learners inspired to pursue their aspirations and interests; achieve fulfilment and success; and contribute to communities and the world”.

The characteristics of the Curriculum include striking an appropriate balance between the conceptual and procedural knowledge, enhancing students' basic competencies in understanding and use of literacy and numeracy, etc.. Based on the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education of the Alberta Government, schools are required to provide a minimum of 950 hours of instruction for Grade 1 to 9 students in each school year, and a minimum of 1,000 hours of instruction for Grade 10 to 12 students in each school year. Students develop positive values through the Curriculum, which include democracy and citizenship, belonging and identity, integrity and respect, perseverance and excellence, and innovation and stewardship.

2. Framework and Objectives of the Curriculum

The Curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects, which include English language, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, physical education, etc., and provides students with opportunities to put their learning into practice, with a view to integrating their development in knowledge, skills and attitudes for application in various aspects, i.e. learning, living and working in the future.

The Curriculum promotes the following competencies of students:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Collaboration
- Managing information
- Cultural and global citizenship
- Creativity
- Personal growth and well-being

3. Academic Assessment

Apart from internal assessment and course work, there are three external assessment programmes under which students have to take the Alberta provincial assessment for core subjects¹:

- **Student Learning Assessment at Grade 3**

Student Learning Assessment is a standardised provincial assessment being conducted at the beginning of the school year for Grade 3 Students. The assessment is prepared based on the Alberta's learning framework on areas in language and mathematics set for Grade 2 students, with a view to assessing students' capabilities in literacy and numeracy. This enables parents and teachers to understand and identify students' strengths and areas for growth at the beginning of the school year.

- **Provincial Achievement Tests at Grade 6 and 9**

Provincial Achievement Tests are standardised tests established by the Ministry of Education of the Alberta Government, aiming at reflecting whether all students under the Curriculum could meet the expected learning requirements in areas of language, mathematics, science and social studies. The Achievement Test at Grade 9 also includes arts and employability programmes in addition to the subjects stated above.

- **High School Diploma Exams at Grade 12**

Alberta's Diploma Exams are accepted as a valid entry requirement to universities worldwide. The Diploma Exams assessments comprise of two parts, with the internal course work and assessments being weighted at 70% of the total marks, and the Diploma Exams results weighted at 30%.

Please refer to the website of the Alberta Government for details of the Curriculum (<https://new.learnalberta.ca/>).

¹ The Ministry of Education of the Alberta Government is the assessment institution of the provincial assessment.

Details of the scholarships and bursaries offered by the four international schools applying for interest-free loans from the 2017/18 to 2019/20 school years

School	Details of the scholarships and bursaries	Number of students received scholarships and bursaries and the total amount offered		
		2017/18 school year	2018/19 school year	2019/20 school year (as at May 2020)
Christian Alliance International School	<p>Scholarship The school awards scholarships to students with outstanding performance in one of the areas including music, culture, sports and academic, and accords priority to students from families with financial hardship. Scholarship is granted in the form of cash.</p> <p>Bursary The school provides bursaries to needy students each year. Key consideration is given to factors including the number of dependents of the family, the monthly family income and net asset value, etc.. Parents with financial hardship can submit applications to the school at any time. Bursary is granted in the form of fee remission, ranging from 10% to a maximum of 60% of the school fee.</p>	<p>No. of student beneficiaries: 287</p> <p>Total amount: about \$9,130,000</p>	<p>No. of student beneficiaries: 315</p> <p>Total amount: about \$9,050,000</p>	<p>No. of student beneficiaries: 1,390</p> <p>Total amount: about \$13,470,000</p>

School	Details of the scholarships and bursaries	Number of students received scholarships and bursaries and the total amount offered		
		2017/18 school year	2018/19 school year	2019/20 school year (as at May 2020)
Malvern College Hong Kong ^(Note)	<p>Scholarship The school offers various scholarships to students of Year 4 or above who have potentials in different areas, including sports, music, academic, visual arts, design and diversity etc.. Scholarship is granted in the form of fee remission.</p> <p>Bursary The school provides bursaries to students with financial difficulties for paying school fee each year. Key consideration is given to factors including the number of dependents of the family, the monthly family income and net asset value, etc.. The application can be submitted at any time. Bursary is granted in the form of fee remission, ranging from 20% to 100% of the school fee.</p>	-	No. of student beneficiaries: 37 Total amount: about \$3,610,000	No. of student beneficiaries: 67 Total amount: about \$8,480,000

School	Details of the scholarships and bursaries	Number of students received scholarships and bursaries and the total amount offered		
		2017/18 school year	2018/19 school year	2019/20 school year (as at May 2020)
Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong ^(Note)	<p>Scholarship Scholarship is awarded to students in recognition of their outstanding performance in the areas of music, arts and design, drama and sports. Scholarship is granted in the form of fee remission.</p> <p>Bursary The school provides bursaries to needy students each year. In processing the bursary applications, the school will consider the financial matters in all aspects, including the family income, assets, personal circumstance, etc.. The bursary application can be submitted at any time. Bursary is granted in the form of fee remission, ranging from 10% to a maximum of 40% of the school fee.</p>	-	<p>No. of student beneficiaries: 4</p> <p>Total amount: about \$420,000</p>	<p>No. of student beneficiaries: 307</p> <p>Total amount: about \$4,550,000</p>

School	Details of the scholarships and bursaries	Number of students received scholarships and bursaries and the total amount offered		
		2017/18 school year	2018/19 school year	2019/20 school year (as at May 2020)
French International School (Tseung Kwan O Campus) ^(Note)	<p>Scholarship The school awards scholarship to outstanding students. The assessment criteria include academic achievements and the financial situation of the family. The scholarships cover the awardees' expenses on debenture, school fee, school exchange trips, one extra-curricular activity, etc..</p> <p>Bursary “Fonds des Amis” or “Finance Assistance to Family” is set up to provide assistance to students and families experiencing temporary financial hardship. Considerations include assessment of the current and future family income, the number of family members, changes in the family or occupation situation, other subsidies or grants received by the subject family, etc.. The application can be submitted at any time. Bursary is granted in the form of fee remission, ranging from 10% to a maximum of 100% of the school fee.</p>	-	No. of student beneficiaries: 123 Total amount: about \$4,220,000	No. of student beneficiaries: 122 Total amount: about \$4,980,000

Note: Malvern College Hong Kong, Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong and French International School (Tseung Kwan O Campus) are newly established international schools which started operation in 2018.