



每班人數約為十五人，多以小組形式上課，增加同學間的交流，老師亦能照顧每位學生的需要。

「Alpha世代」受德式教育 思維自主開明

「Alpha世代」泛指繼「Z世代」後，二零一零年後出生的人。成長於數碼、多媒體資訊泛濫的時代，這群未來主人翁可更易、更主動吸收各類知識，這代表他們更需具備獨立自主、批判性思考方式，與及社交能力，才能明辨對與錯，真正成為社會棟樑。

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學術與品德同樣重要

教育能塑造人，家長的以身作則與學校的教育方式則對學童有着重大影響。Melody現育有九歲及十二歲的兒子，她認為子女的學術成就與品德培育同樣重要，於是她為兒子們選擇以雙語（德語及英語）並行教育的德瑞國際學校。「我期望兒子們學會尊重別人、待人有禮，而我有些朋友都是受德式教育長大，我從他們身上看到德式教育對學術及品德的好處。」



（左起）德瑞國際學校小學部校長 Johannes Claassen 先生及德瑞國際學校署任校長 Grit Cichon 女士



德式教育鼓勵學生持批判性思考，課堂氣氛較輕鬆，鼓勵學生踴躍發問。

德式教育以培育學生具開放而批判性思考、解難技巧、社交溝通為重點，加上德瑞國際學校奉行雙語制度，令學生能長時間沉浸在兩種語言環境中學習。「學生不但可學習在兩種語言中轉換，更能從中學習德國、西方、東方文化，即使他日到外國升學、就業也可輕易融入當地文化，成為『全球公民』。」德瑞國際學校署任校長 Grit Cichon 女士解釋。

把握學習語言黃金期

德式教育並非德國人限定，本地學生也能參與其中，皆因德瑞國際學校德語國際部分別為非德語系的初中、小學生提供「Fast Track」及「CLIPPY」銜接課程，從中培養批判性思維及自主獨立的學習方式。「幼稚園是德式教育的最佳入學時機。」德瑞國際學校小學部校長 Johannes Claassen 先生表示小學階段是學習另一門語言的黃金時期，學生吸收語言知識的能力較強。他提出跨學科教育也是提升語言能力的方法，如學習寫劇本時可增加德語詞彙容量，體育課時與同學的互動能學習德語社交技巧。

「CLIPPY」銜接課程為零德語背景學生提供有趣、主動、具鼓勵性的教學方式。學生每周有 15 小時的專屬德文課堂，採用小組教學，幫助他們銜接至同齡學生的水平。「雙語學習可以提升學生的社交能力，將來也掌握更多工作機會。」Johannes Claassen 先生解釋。

「Fast Track」銜接課程則是專為零德語背景的初中學生而設，為學生提供沉浸式的德語學習環境，邊學習各課目知識，同時進修德語。本地學生 Dennis 正是此課程的學生，他現正就讀德語國際部中學二年級，直至入學後才由零開始學習

德語。這年齡可算是語言學習的「最後一個黃金階段」，Dennis 表示起初學習德語時也倍感困難。「德語發音比較困難，但老師會逐步解釋我們提出的問題，加上學校鼓勵我們在課餘時間也說德語，所以現時已能追上母語學生的進度，並考獲德語 A2 級 (Goethe-Zertifikat A2) 水平。」

怎樣達至「全人發展」？

升中對學生、家長來說都是一個重要階段，尤其來到新的語言環境，社交技巧對青少年來說更加重要。Dennis 提到德瑞每年的探索周 (Discovery Week)，他曾與同學參與淨灘、獨木舟等活動，學習團隊合作，接觸大自然。」Grit Cichon 女士表示德式教育重視「全人發展」，學術與運動並行推動。學生能從探索中認識世界，更鼓勵他們自主學習，針對自己有興趣的課題了解更多，如德語、科學、建築、藝術等。

出路更闊更多

對於未來升學發展，德瑞國際學校作為香港唯一一間提供德國中學國際考試文憑 (German International Abitur, DIA) 的學校，優勢在於競爭少、受全球大學認可，畢業生可選擇到世界各地大學升學，赴德國升學的學生更會被視作德國教育公民，毋須申請學生簽證，學費由德國政府免費提供，變相學生可有更大選擇空間。

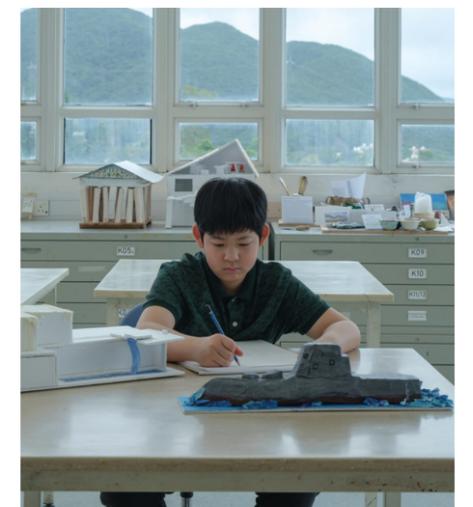
德國中學國際考試文憑與國際文憑大學預科課程 (簡稱 IB) 不同，毋須預早決定選修科，令學生可接觸各科目，在中學階段認清自己的興趣與優劣，到大學時再選擇專科深造，令學生的選擇更闊更大，不會因在高中時過早選科而限制自己未來的出路。德瑞學生普遍自律，投入學



Dennis 媽媽 (右) 為兩位兒子選擇德式教育後，明顯感覺他們更期待上課，對學習有着強烈好奇。

習，在公開試上成績突出，過往畢業生曾被美國史丹福大學、柏克萊加州大學等取錄，學業成就超卓。

「我們鼓勵高中學生在暑假參考實習，提早接觸職場，了解自己的就業及升學興趣。」Grit Cichon 女士解釋，學生須自行尋找香港或海外實習機會，這步驟已令他們率先體會就業的感覺，靠自己爭取學習機會，亦是獨立自主的一部分。科技發展一日千里，「Alpha世代」學生可更主動地吸收新知識，變相更考驗他們明辨是非的能力。若有着獨立自主、開放而批判的思維下學習，定能更大地提升學習水平與全人發展。」



Dennis 對設計、建築、機械都感興趣，他能透過德式教育學習不同學科，在升讀大學前認清自己的興趣及能力。





Each class typically consists of approximately 15 students, fostering effective communication within small groups. The teachers diligently attend to the individual needs of each student.

"Alpha Generation" benefits from German education Promoting independent and critical thinking

The term "Generation Alpha" generally refers to individuals born after "Generation Z" (post-2010). Growing up in an era abundant with digital and multimedia information, this emerging generation has a remarkable ability to absorb knowledge actively and effortlessly. Consequently, they must cultivate independence, critical thinking skills, and social competence to discern right from wrong and become valuable contributors to society.

Academic and moral development go hand in hand

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals, and parental influence, along with educational approaches implemented by schools, significantly impact children. Melody, a mother of two boys aged 9 and 12, emphasises the importance of both academic achievements and moral upbringing. Consequently, she has chosen the German Swiss International School, which offers bilingual (German and English) education for her sons. "I want my children to learn respect and politeness towards others. Witnessing the positive impact of German education on academics and character from my friends who grew up with it, I see the value it brings," she explains.

The German education system focuses on nurturing students' critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and social communication skills. Additionally, the German Swiss International School adopts a bilingual approach, immersing students in two language environments. "By learning to switch between languages and being exposed to German, Western, and Eastern cultures, students not only become adept at integration but also embrace a global mindset. This prepares them to effortlessly adapt to foreign cultures when studying or working abroad," explains Ms. Grit Cichon, Acting Principal of the German Swiss International School.



Pictured from left are Mr. Johannes Claassen, Head of the German Primary Department and Ms. Grit Cichon, Acting Principal of German Swiss International School



The German educational approach emphasises critical thinking, creating a relaxed classroom environment where students are encouraged to inquire and seek knowledge.



Dennis's mother has observed a heightened enthusiasm in her two sons since they enrolled at GSIS, fostering their curiosity and love for learning.

Embrace the opportune phase of language acquisition

The German educational approach extends beyond Germans themselves. Local students can also partake in it. This is made possible through the "Fast Track" and "CLIPPY" programmes offered by the German International Stream of German Swiss International School, catering to non-German-speaking primary and secondary students, fostering critical thinking and independent learning. According to Mr. Johannes Claassen, Head of the German Primary Department, "Kindergarten is the optimal time to commence." He asserts that primary school presents a golden opportunity for learning a second language, as students possess a remarkable ability to absorb linguistic knowledge. Additionally, he suggests that interdisciplinary education can enhance language proficiency. For instance, scriptwriting can expand German vocabulary, while social interaction during physical education classes facilitates the acquisition of German social skills.

The "CLIPPY" programme provides students without a German background with an engaging, dynamic, and supportive teaching methodology. These students receive 15 hours of dedicated German class per week, benefiting from small group classes that facilitate interaction with peers of the same age. Mr. Johannes Claassen explains, "Bilingual learning enhances students' social skills and opens up future employment prospects."

The "Fast Track" programme is specifically designed for secondary students with no prior knowledge of the German language. It offers an immersive German learning environment, allowing students to acquire knowledge in various subjects while simultaneously improving their German skills. Dennis, a local student, is enrolled in this programme. Despite commencing his German language learning journey upon entering school, he is currently in the second grade of the German International stream. This stage can be viewed as the "final golden opportunity" for language acquisition. Dennis admits that initially, learning German presented challenges, particularly with regard to pronunciation. However, he highlights that his teachers patiently address any questions encountered, and the school encourages the use of German during leisure time. As a result, he has caught up with native speakers and has successfully attained the German A2 level (Goethe-Zertifikat A2).

How can one achieve "holistic personal development"?

Transitioning to secondary school is a significant milestone for students and their parents, particularly when adapting to a new language environment. Social skills become even more crucial for teenagers during this period. Dennis mentioned the annual Discovery Week, during which he and his classmates engaged in activities like beach cleaning and canoeing to foster teamwork and connect with nature. Ms. Grit Cichon emphasised the German approach to education, which places great importance on "holistic-person development" and emphasises the simultaneous promotion of academics and sports. Students are encouraged to explore the world around them and pursue independent learning in areas of personal interest, such as German, science, architecture, art, and more.

A Promising Future

German Swiss International School is the only school in Hong Kong that provides the German International Abitur (DIA). This distinctive programme offers several advantages, including less competition and worldwide recognition by universities. Graduates have the opportunity to pursue higher education in universities across the globe. Notably, students intending to study in Germany will be considered German educational citizens, exempting them from the requirement of a student visa. Moreover, tuition fees are fully covered by the German government, providing students with a broader range of choices.

The Abitur (DIA) diploma sets itself apart from the International Baccalaureate diploma (IBDP) by not mandating the pre-selection of elective subjects. This flexibility allows students to explore various disciplines, identify their own interests, strengths, and weaknesses during their secondary education, and make informed decisions regarding their university majors. By avoiding premature specialisation, GIS students enjoy greater academic freedom and are not restricted in their future prospects. GSIS students consistently demonstrate self-discipline, dedication to their studies, and achieve remarkable results in public examinations. Past graduates have successfully gained admission to prestigious institutions such as Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, among others, attesting to their outstanding academic accomplishments.

"We strongly encourage secondary students to pursue internships during summer vacation to gain early exposure to the professional world and explore their career and further study interests," explained Ms. Grit Cichon. Students are expected to proactively seek internship opportunities in Hong Kong or overseas. This proactive approach allows students to experience the realities of the workplace firsthand and fosters independence. As members of the "Alpha Generation," students are naturally inclined to embrace new knowledge, which challenges their ability to discern right from wrong. By cultivating independent, open, and critical thinking skills, students can greatly enhance their learning abilities and overall development, keeping pace with the rapid advancements in science and technology.



Dennis exhibits a keen interest in design, architecture, and science, and he can explore these subjects through the comprehensive German curriculum, allowing him to identify his passions and talents prior to university entrance.

