Background information for applicants of teaching positions:

The school – CSS began in September 2006 as new co-educational school, offering the Hong Kong curriculum under the HKSAR Government’s Direct Subsidy Scheme. It caters mainly for children of permanent residents of Hong Kong, including children whose families have returned to Hong Kong from overseas. Most children are Cantonese native speakers with Hong Kong passports; there are at least nine other home languages, and at least thirteen other national passport holders amongst the student community.

There are currently over 600 students in Form 1 to Form 5 (Grade 7 to 11) and next year it will have around 720 students from Form 1 to Form 6, and the first cohort of students will graduate. This is the last year that the school will be advertising for a substantial number of teaching positions.

The teaching staff – there are 57 teachers this year. 26 are largely monolingual English speakers; 25 are native Cantonese speakers; 14 are natively fluent in English as well as a native speaker of (at least one) another language. About a third have Master degrees or PhDs, and 40 have worked or studied outside of Hong Kong. The school has a strong record of providing professional development for teachers, including IB workshops.

The school culture and school life – an indicator of our culture and ethos is our affiliations – CSS has received the Inviting School Award from the IAIE (www.invitationaleducation.net), is a member of the HK Schools Self-Evaluation Network (www.edb.org.hk/hkssen), and just recently a member of the Rotary-Adopt A School Scheme (www.rotary3450.org). The school has a very active PTA and the CSS Student Council is in its second year of operation. There is a strong House system to support student guidance and achievement, together with guidance counsellor, careers adviser and a school-based social worker. There is a rich co-curricular programme that all teachers and some support staff contribute to. Support staff are also invited to participate in educational excursions in and beyond Hong Kong. During one week each year, the entire school timetable is suspended and students and staff participate in camps, excursions and overseas visits.

The curriculum – as a Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) school we principally offer the Hong Kong secondary school curriculum (www.edb.gov.hk) This curriculum, with eight key learning areas (Chinese, English, Maths, Arts, Humanities, PE, Science, Technology) is delivered through the framework of the IB Middle Years Programme, which operates up to Form 4 (grade 10). After Form 4, students in their last two years of school have the option of remaining with the Hong Kong Diploma or switching to the IB Diploma.

Typical class sizes – 20 – 25 in Form 1 to Form 4, and 10 – 20 in Form 5 & 6.

Language courses and languages of instruction – the school offers Chinese and English courses to all students. Both languages are offered as IB Language A and as Language B. Students with other home languages are encouraged to maintain these and study them to examination levels.

Chinese is taught through the medium of Putonghua in the MYP programme. In both Diploma programmes, students following first language Chinese courses may opt to be
assessed in either Cantonese or Putonghua for the speaking/listening component of their Diploma examinations.

All other courses throughout the school are delivered through the medium of English. For most students, English is their second language and many of them typically switch over from Cantonese-medium primary school to English-medium learning at CSS. Supporting their successful transition is a major whole-staff effort; all teachers are also expected to be teachers of language and are expected to model good use of instructional language.

The school campus – this is a purpose-built modern facility in its 5th year of operation. It is well-designed to support inquiry-based learning and a well-balanced curriculum where all students are expected to follow courses in all eight key learning areas through their MYP years. The school has already expanded its Visual Arts and Design Technology facilities, and is expected to add additional science laboratories and enhance physical education space in the coming years.

**Teaching positions**

A new teacher is offered a two year contract, with the option of further two year contracts subject to good performance. Teachers offered contracts on local terms can expect their salaries to at least match the master pay scale of government schools. Some positions are available on overseas contract terms, which includes a housing and flight allowance, plus an end-of-contract gratuity.

Teachers are expected to be well-qualified and experienced in the subject area(s) that they are applying for, which will be within one of the school’s eight faculties. Experience of public examinations such as HKDSE or IB Diploma are most welcome. Prior experience of MYP is highly desirable but not essential. Teachers can expect to be assigned teaching duties across the entire age range unless their subject is confined to certain grades only e.g. business / economics from F4 – F6 only.

Apart from subject teaching duties, teachers are also assigned to one of the school’s six houses and are expected to support house activities, including being a house tutor when required to do so. They are also expected to contribute one activity to the co-curricular programme for at least half a year.

**Summing up**

Teaching at CSS is an exciting challenge. The students are lively and keen, and want to enjoy their learning. As a teacher you are expected to be creative and highly effective in your teaching approach, friendly and inviting to students and parents, and a good team player with your colleagues.

You will be helping a dynamic new pioneering school getting itself well-established in the Hong Kong educational landscape. As an inclusive, locally-rooted school offering an internationally-minded curriculum, we hold a unique position. There are good opportunities for getting involved in collaborative curriculum writing, in professional development and in career advancement. We have a great staff team and I am both proud of and humbled by the great work that they do here.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Cheung Siu Ming, Principal
January 2011