



**HK** EDUCATION  
AWARDS



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

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Hong Kong Living, the team behind the successful Hong Kong Living Awards and Hong Kong Dining Awards, is proud to announce a brand new initiative to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong's top international schools, principals, teachers and the wider education community. The Hong Kong Education Awards will evaluate the performance of international schools based on academic performance, student engagement, campus culture and people. The awards will be decided by an independent panel of education experts, academics and consultants covering the 2020 academic year. Winners will be announced during an awards ceremony in June 2021.

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## HONG KONG EDUCATION AWARDS CATEGORIES

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1. Education Consultancy of the Year
2. Best Tutoring Centre
3. Best After School Program
4. Best Language Centre
5. Best School - Arts
6. Best School - STEM
7. Best School - Humanities and Social Sciences
8. Best School - Physical Education
9. Special Education School of the Year
10. Support Staff of the Year
11. Most Socially Responsible School
12. Best Technology Program
13. Best School Strategic Plan
14. Best Student-Centered School
15. Kindergarten of the Year
16. Primary School of the Year
17. Secondary School of the Year
18. All-Through School of the Year
19. Boarding School of the Year
20. Principal of the Year - Kindergarten
21. Principal of the Year - Primary
22. Principal of the Year - Secondary
23. Principal of the Year - All-through
24. Teacher of the Year
25. Hong Kong International School of the Year

# CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

## Education Consultancy of the Year

Recognises the important role of education consultants in helping to connect schools with prospective students, in addition to improving the overall education community through outreach programs, training and recruitment.

## Best Tutoring Centre

This award will recognise the important role tutoring centers play in furthering academic achievement. Be it language, science, music, art or maths, judges will consider the success of the center over the past year and how it has shifted to online learning and homeschooling. To be eligible, the centre must hold a certificate of school registration from the Education Bureau of Hong Kong.

## Best After School Program

Recognises the most comprehensive after school program in Hong Kong. Judges will be looking for innovative teaching methods and a high quality of teaching staff and how the business has adapted to online learning and homeschooling.

## Best Language Centre

This category recognises the important role of language centers in Hong Kong. From English to Mandarin, Japanese or Korean, judges will be looking for innovative teaching methods, a high quality of teaching staff and how the center adapted during 2020.

## Best School - Arts

Recognises a school that offers the most comprehensive arts program in Hong Kong. Applications can range from classical art to new forms of graphic design, digitally-inspired work and can also include painting, sculpture, music, theater and dance. Judges will consider all areas of the arts program, including staffing, funding, resources and results.

## Most Socially Responsible School

Recognises a school that goes beyond the traditional educational experience. From innovative approaches to learning, physical setting of classrooms, innovations in curriculum, community contribution and environmental awareness, we are on the hunt for those who are creating globally-minded students ready for an ever-changing world.

## Best School - STEM

Recognises a school that offers the best science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program in Hong Kong. Judges will look at how the school developed its STEM program, performed against other schools, recruited relevant staff and showed outstanding leadership in the field of STEM education.

## Best School - Humanities and Social Sciences

Recognises the best humanities and social sciences program in a Hong Kong school. Judges will look at how the program helped students to become leading global citizens by cultivating critical thinking, moral reasoning and analytical skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

## Best School - Physical Education

Recognises the best physical education program in a Hong Kong school. Judges will look at how the school developed its sports program, invested and hired relevant staff to bolster its credentials in encouraging sport and sport science as a key pillar.

## Special Education School of the Year

Recognises the most outstanding special education school in Hong Kong that provides care and dedication to students with special education needs. Judges will look for a balanced programme that adapts to individual student needs and includes a range of innovative learning opportunities.

## Support Staff of the Year

Often referred to as the backbone of the classroom and an asset to the teachers they support, this category is open to all classroom assistants, teaching assistants, learning mentors, learning support assistants and those involved directly in supporting teaching and learning. This category is open for nominations.

## Best Technology Program

Recognises the best use of technology by a Hong Kong school, especially in response to Covid-19. Judges will evaluate how a school embraced technology to reshape the learning journey and how technology made a positive impact on a student's learning and school experience.

### **Best School Strategic Plan**

Recognises those that have a clear and well communicated vision for the future. Judges will look at how that vision prepares students for the future and how that vision resonates with the wider community. The plan can be applied to a specific project or a larger, school-wide initiative.

### **Best Student-Centered School**

Recognises a school which puts student needs at the heart of its operation, from wellbeing and counselling programs to innovative curriculum and individual experiences for those with learning needs. Judges will consider schools that seek student representation and challenge perspectives, promote tolerance and prepare students for a life beyond education.

### **Kindergarten of the Year**

Recognises the most outstanding kindergarten in Hong Kong that demonstrates a consistently high standard of teaching and learning. Judges will look for strong academic achievements, innovative teaching methods, dedication to staff and student communications and a commitment to continuous academic improvement.

### **Principal of the Year - Kindergarten /Primary/ Secondary/All-through School**

These four awards recognises the most outstanding principal of a kindergarten/ primary/ secondary/ all-through school in Hong Kong. Judges will look for effective leadership, a balanced approach to education and a commitment to the wellbeing of staff, students and the community. Judges will consider the success of the school and the team the principal has built. This award is open to nomination by teachers, parents and students.

### **Primary School of the Year**

Recognises the most outstanding primary school in Hong Kong that demonstrates a consistently high standard of teaching and learning. Judges will look for strong academic achievements, innovative teaching methods, dedication to staff and student communications and a commitment to continuous academic improvement.

### **Secondary School of the Year**

Recognises a secondary school in Hong Kong that demonstrates a consistently high standard of teaching and learning. Judges will be looking for strong academic achievements, innovative teaching methods, dedication to staff and student communications and a commitment to continuous academic improvement.

### **All-Through School of the Year**

Recognises the most outstanding all-through school in Hong Kong that demonstrates a high standard of teaching and learning. Judges will look for strong academic achievements, innovative teaching methods, dedication to staff and student communications and a commitment to continuous academic improvement.

### **Teacher of the Year**

This award recognises a teacher who has made an outstanding impact on students learning experience and consistently demonstrates an outstanding commitment to professional development. Nominees must have excellent subject knowledge, innovative teaching practices and the ability to prepare students for life beyond education. This award is open to nomination to all teachers currently employed in a school in Hong Kong.

### **Hong Kong International School of the Year**

This award recognises the most outstanding international school in Hong Kong. Finalists in this category have demonstrated exceptional leadership, a commitment to professional development, outstanding academic achievements and a commitment to innovation and new ways of learning.

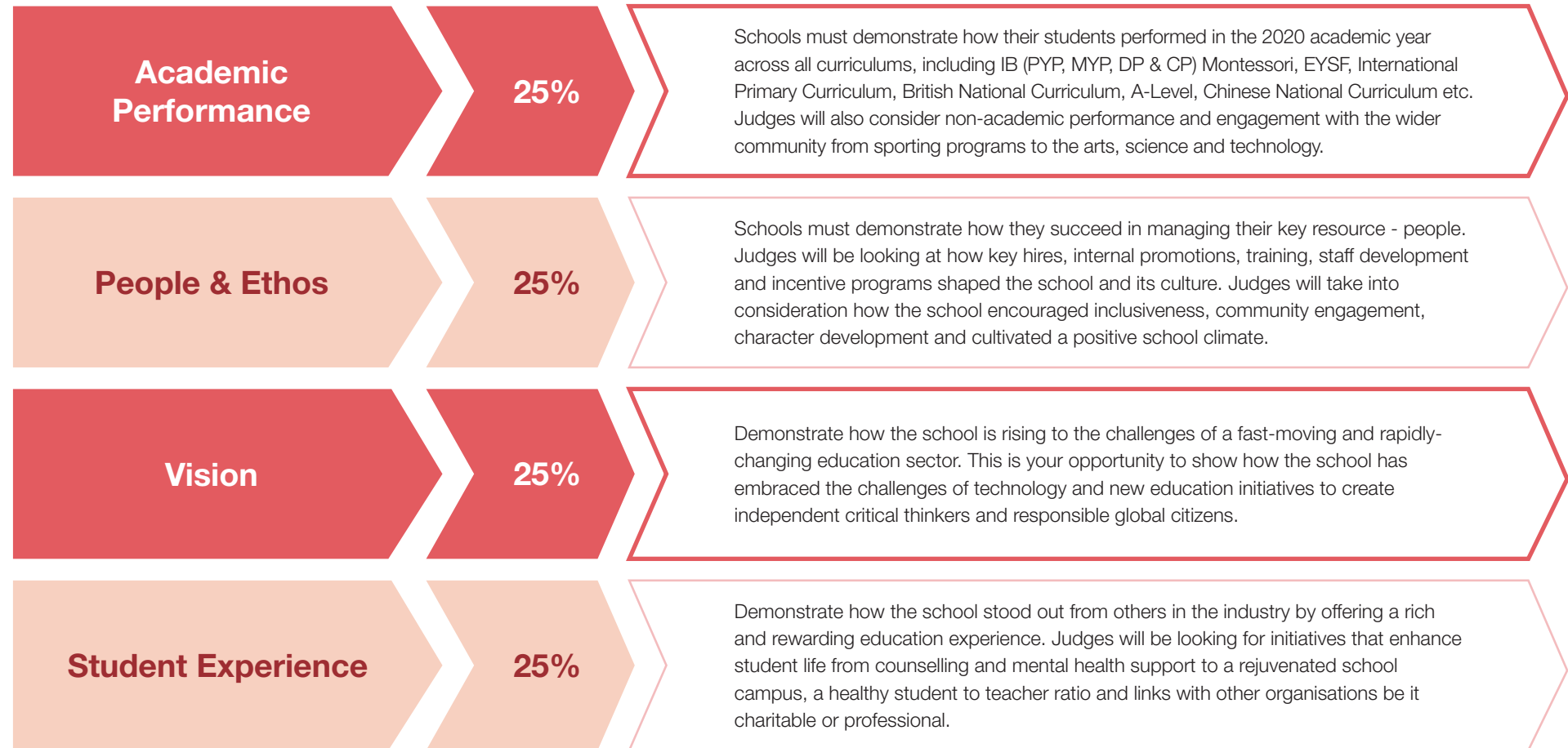
### **Boarding School of the Year**

Recognises the most outstanding international boarding school in Hong Kong that offers a holistic education and boarding experience for students. Judges will consider academic excellence, social development and a positive learning environment. Judges will look at the school's well-rounded curriculum and the diversity of extracurricular activities.

# JUDGING CRITERIA

The Hong Kong Education Awards will send final submissions to an independent panel of judges, comprising education industry leaders and senior representatives. Judges will be well known and respected throughout the education industry and their judgment

will be impartial, balanced, incisive and fair. Judges will review submissions and allocate a score for each finalist. The finalist with the highest score in each category once the judging process has been completed will be named the winner.



## Eligibility

Submissions are open to any school and education-related businesses based in Hong Kong or the Hong Kong office of a global company for the 2020 academic year.

# JUDGES

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Over the coming weeks, we will continue to update our list of high-profile and experienced judges who will be fair, balanced and impartial.



**Dr Jessie Wong**

*Assistant Professor, The Open University of Hong Kong*

Dr Jessie Wong has devoted her time and energy to advocating the rights of children in Hong Kong and worldwide by undertaking research which specially focuses on the policies of early childhood development and education. Prior to her current posting at The Open University of Hong Kong, she was World General Secretary of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education. A registered social worker, Dr Wong is the recipient of a competitive research grant from the Faculty Development Scheme of Hong Kong Research Grant Council and has published a number of top-ranked academic journal articles. Wong received a Doctor of Philosophy in Early Childhood Education Policy from The University of Hong Kong.



**Divya Samtani**

*CEO & Co-Founder, Savvy Sapiens*

Divya Samtani is the CEO and co-founder of Savvy Sapiens, an organisation dedicated to helping students prepare for a future that no one can predict. Through in-school workshops and online programs she helps equip young adults with the entrepreneurship, leadership, and communication skills they need to succeed in today's fast-changing global landscape. Her aim is to help the next generation discover more about themselves and understand how to navigate the 21st Century workplace, so that they feel confident and prepared to face any challenge that comes their way.

# JUDGES

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**Natasha Jain**

*British-born actor, Hong Kong*

Natasha Jain is a British-born actor in Hong Kong, working across theatre, film, TV and radio, in addition to holding a number of roles within the education sector. Jain is responsible for creating curriculum content for several 'Theatre in Education' organisations. She also teaches and supports young people through theatre and acting, in primary and secondary schools, as well as students at Hong Kong University. In her current role as visiting tutor at Hong Kong Baptist University, Jain is teaching a module on the BA course, Acting for Global Screen. Jain has performed in and directed a number of well-known productions in Hong Kong. She is passionate about bringing theatre skills to wider audiences and has her own business, assisting clients through theatre-led learning.



**Anne-Maree Soon**

*Founder & managing director, executive search & education recruitment specialist Oxford Partnership*

Anne-Maree Soon is founder and managing director of executive search and education recruitment specialist Oxford Partnership. Soon has over 15 years of recruitment and employment services experience in Australia and Asia, with proven success in partnering with business leaders to optimise organisational effectiveness across a variety of sectors and functions. Soon has spent the last seven years recruiting for mid-to-senior appointments for the international education sector, covering academic and non-academic positions for international schools, higher education providers and education consultancies. Her talent pool covers candidates in Asia, Australia, UK, USA and Canada.

# ***CONTACTS AND INFO***

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- For more information about the awards or to be considered for the jury panel, please contact **Matt Eaton** at [matt@hongkongliving.com](mailto:matt@hongkongliving.com)
- For sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Debbie Ky** at [debbie@hongkongliving.com](mailto:debbie@hongkongliving.com) or **35911720**

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The Hong Kong Education Awards is produced by Hong Kong Living.