

Equity Research Education/ China

John Siah

+852 2135 0248 john.siah@oriental-patron.com.hk

Company Update

BUY

UNCHANGED

Close price: HK\$18.46

Target Price: HK\$21.80 (+18.1%)

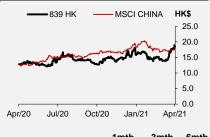
Prior TP: HK\$20.00

Key Data

HKEx code		839 HK
12 Months High	(HK\$)	19.50
12 Month Low	(HK\$)	12.10
3M Avg Dail Vol.	(mn)	7.09
Issue Share	(mn)	2,150.22
Market Cap	(HK\$mn)	41,958.32
Fiscal Year		08/2020
Major shareholder	(s)	Mr. Yu Guo and Mr Xie Ketao(66 00%)

Source: Company data, Bloomberg, OP Research Closing price are as of 29/4/2021

Price Chart



	imtn	əmtn	omtn
Absolute %	28.0	15.2	44.7
Rel. MSCI CHINA %	24.3	22.2	36.1

PΕ



Company Profile

China Education Group is a private higher education provider in China. The Company operates universities and vocational colleges and enrolls students across all provinces in mainland China. The Company provides bachelor's degree programs, junior college diploma programs and vocational education programs.

China Edu Group (839 HK)

Ready for more M&A

- 1H21 rev/adjusted net profit +38.6%/50.2% to RMB1.82 bn/RMB738 mn. DPS +47% YoY to HK\$ 19.7 cents.
- Songtian and Chongqing School has been converted into private universities while Shandong School is pending for conversion
- Planned to acquire 2 schools in 2H21
- Strong organic growth with 26.7% EPS CAGR between FY20 to FY23E
- Maintain Buy, TP lift to HK\$21.80 on 29.9x FY21E PER

1H21 results beat consensus. Catalysts include: (1) Baseline GPM rose 3.5pp to 61.1%, (2) 46.1% yoy growth in adjusted EBITDA mainly thanks to solid opex control especially in admin expenses.

New round of expansion set to take off. CEG said it currently has 7 potential M&A (most are universities with enrolment between 10k-20k) and it will acquire 2 of them in 2H21. We believe CEG has enough financial resources to support sizable expansions in future given: (1) it has RMB5.1bn cash as at Feb 2021 and (2) >RMB 2bn operating cash flow.

Operational expertise to unlock value of schools. CEG has solid track record in profitability enhancement, resulting in 2.2x-18x increase in net profit for schools it acquired after the IPO. In spite of improvement of education value added and pricing power, we believe CEG could realize synergies among its schools and achieve additional tuition upside by introducing UK dual-degrees and high-end colleges(premium programmes with higher tuition) across its schools.

Strong organic growth. CEG reports +15% yoy growth in rev for its existing schools (excluding schools acquired in FY20). We believe China's push to expand vocational education and higher education will boost CEG's student enrolment. It revealed that top-up degrees admission quota for schools in the Great Bay Area, Chongqing University and Shandong University for SY22 had grown 113%/17%/67% respectively.

Maintain BUY with TP lift to HK\$21.80 on 29.9x/22.9x FY21E/FY22E PER. We fine-tuned our forecast and see a 26.7% EPS CAGR between FY20 to FY23E without new M&A, attributable to organic student growth and better profit margins on the successful conversion of independent colleges into private universities. We reckon CEG could sustain robust growth driven by sizable M&As and such expectations will remain as major share price catalyst.

Risks: (1) Delay commencement of new campuses, (2) M&A targets missed

Exhibit 1: Forecast and	Valuation				
Year to Aug. (RMB mn)	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Revenue	1,955	2,678	3,762	4,638	5,207
Growth (%)	50.9	37.0	40.5	23.3	12.3
Adj. net profit	765	984	1,486	1,941	2,112
Growth (%)	20.3	28.7	51.0	30.6	8.8
Adj. diluted EPS (HK\$)	0.395	0.509	0.729	0.952	1.036
Adj. EPS growth (%)	5.6	28.8	43.1	30.6	8.8
Change to previous EPS (%)			-7.6	-3.1	+0.6
Consensus EPS (HK\$)			0.726	0.913	1.054
ROE (%)	8.8	8.0	12.0	16.2	16.4
P/E (x)	46.7	36.2	25.3	19.4	17.8
P/B (x)	5.0	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.8
Yield (%)	0.7	1.5	2.4	3.1	3.4
DPS (HK\$)	0.125	0.273	0.437	0.571	0.622

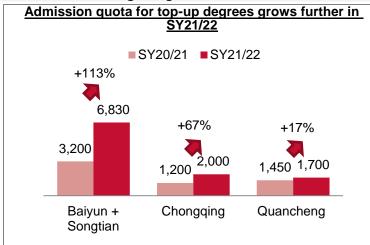
Source: Bloomberg, OP Research

Exhibit	2:	Earnings	Revision
----------------	----	-----------------	----------

		FY21E			FY22E		OP Comments
(RMB mn)	New	Old	% Chg	New	Old	% Chg	
Revenue	3,762	3,975	(5.4)	4,638	4,574	1.4	Due to the weaker student enrollment for CEG's vocation schools in 1H21
Gross profit	2,249	2,393	(6.0)	2,837	2,848	(0.4)	
Gross margin	59.8%	60.2%	(0.4)	61.2%	62.3%	(1.1)	Due to lower GPM of Haikou School
Opex	-921	-1,068	(13.8)	-786	-762	3.2	Due to (1) lower admin expenses ratio and also (2) lower expenses relating to conversion of independent colleges to be booked in FY21E
EBIT	1,446	1,447	(0.1)	2,187	2,220	(1.5)	
Net Profit	1,226	1,221	0.4	1,941	1,932	0.5	
Adj. net Profit ¹	1,486	1,543	(3.7)	1,941	1,932	0.5	
Diluted adj. EPS ¹ (HK\$)	0.729	0.789	(7.6)	0.952	0.983	(3.1)	Due to increase of share outstanding after shares placement in Jan 2021

Source: OP Research

Exhibit 3: CEG's organic growth drivers

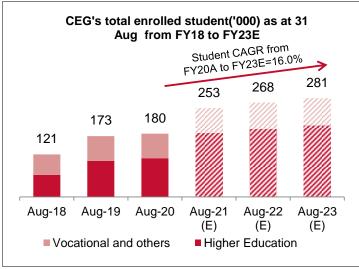


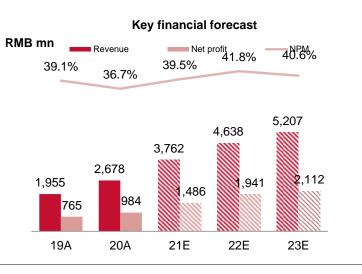
CEG identifie	ed 7 potential nea	ar-term M&A
Degree level	Location ³	Enrolment
University ²	Tier A	>20,000
University ²	Tier A	>20,000
University ²	Tier A	>20,000
University ²	Tier A	>10,000
University ²	Tier B	>15,000
University ²	Tier B	>10,000
Junior College	Tier A	>15,000

² including Independent College

Source: Company

Exhibit 4: CEG's growth forecast





Source: Company, OP Research

¹ We include one-off and other current period expenses related to conversion of independent colleges into private universities

³ CEG classify locations into three tiers based on growth projections. Tier A has the strongest enrolment growth potentials and the least provider competition



1,028							
(RMB mn)	1H19	2H19	1H20	2H20	1H21	YoY%	OP Comments
Revenue	927	1,028	1,315	1,363	1,823	+38.6%	•
COGS	(391)	(442)	(558)	(519)	(746)	+33.7%	
Gross profit	536	585	757	844	1,077	+42.3%	
Other income & gains	29	(7)	74	5	130	+74.3%	
Selling exp	(25)	(28)	(61)	(74)	(86)	+40.6%	
Admin exp	(175)	(178)	(179)	(193)	(208)	+16.3%	
Operating profit (EBIT)	366	371	592	581	913	+54.3%	
FV change of CB or other items	0	0	(3)	(367)	34	n/a	
Interest income	11	22	12	7	29	+146.1%	
Finance costs	(33)	(53)	(51)	(41)	(93)	+82.3%	Due to increase in borrowing
Pre-tax profit	344	324	550	180	883	+60.5%	
Tax	(0)	19	(9)	(11)	(30)	+247.6%	
Minority interests	(44)	(50)	(43)	(34)	(21)	-52.1%	
Net profit	300	293	498	136	831	+67.1%	
One-off items	73	99	(7)	358	(94)	n/a	
Adj. net profit	373	391	491	493	738	+50.2%	
Key ratios							
GPM	57.8%	56.9%	57.6%	61.9%	59.1%	+1.5p.p.	
Selling exp	2.7%	2.7%	4.6%	5.4%	4.7%	+0.1p.p.	
Admin exp	18.8%	17.4%	13.6%	14.2%	11.4%	-2.1p.p	If we excludes the net reversal of share-based payments, admin exp ratio should be 13.0%
Effective tax rate	0.0%	-5.9%	1.6%	5.8%	3.4%	+1.8p.p.	
Net profit margin	32.3%	28.5%	37.8%	9.9%	45.6%	+7.8p.p.	
Adjusted net margin	40.2%	38.1%	37.3%	36.2%	40.5%	+3.2p.p.	

Source: OP Research



Financial Summary

Year to Aug	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Income Statement (RMB mi					
Higher-education	1,278	1,744	2,878	3,617	4,108
Vocational education	677	736	658	777	827
Overseas education	0	197	226	244	272
Turnover	1,955	2,678	3,762	4,638	5,207
YoY%	50.9	37.0	40.5	23.3	12.3
COGS	-833	-1,077	-1,513	-1,801	-1,963
Gross profit	1,122	1,601	2,249	2,837	3,244
Gross margin	57.4%	59.8%	59.8%	61.2%	62.3%
Other gain/losses	21 -53	79 -135	118 -172	136 -183	147 -183
Selling expenses Admin expenses	-353	-135	-172	-603	-103 -677
Other expenses	-333	-3/2	-260	-003	-077
Total opex	-406	-507	-921	-786	-860
Operating profit (EBIT)	737	1,173	1,446	2,187	2,531
Operating margin	37.7%	43.8%	38.4%	47.2%	48.6%
Interest Income	34	18	18	18	18
Change in FV of CB	-17	-369	0	0	0
Finance costs	-86	-93	-162	-180	-180
Pre-tax profit	668	730	1,302	2,026	2,370
Tax	19	-19	-55	-71	-83
Minority interests	-95	-77	-22	-14	-175
Net profit	593	633	1,226	1,941	2,112
Net margin	30.3%	23.6%	32.6%	41.8%	40.6%
Adj. net profit	765	984	1,486	1,941	2,112
Adj. net margin	39.1%	36.7%	39.5%	41.8%	40.6%
YoY%	20%	28.7%	51.0%	30.6%	8.8%
EBITDA	975	1,477	1,739	2,547	2,881
EBITDA margin	49.9%	55.1%	46.2%	54.9%	55.3%
EPS (HK\$)	0.395	0.509	0.729	0.952	1.036
YoY% DPS (HK\$)	6% 0.125	28.8% 0.273	43.1% 0.437	30.6% 0.571	8.8% 0.622
Year to Aug	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Cash Flow (RMB mn) EBITDA	975	1,126	1 720	2 5 4 7	
Chg in working cap	44	-549	1,739 1,874	2,547 850	2 221
Others	123		1,074		
	120		0		45
		354	0 3 613	0	45 0
Operating cash	1,142	931	3,613	3,397	45 0 2,926
Tax	1,142 -1	931 -20	3,613 -19	0 3,397 -55	45 0 2,926 -71
Tax Net cash from operations	1,142 -1 1,141	931 -20 911	3,613 -19 3,594	3,397 -55 3,342	2,926 -71 2,855
Tax Net cash from operations Capex	1,142 -1 1,141 -593	931 -20 911 -844	3,613 -19 3,594 -820	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400	2,926 -71 2,855 -400
Tax Net cash from operations	1,142 -1 1,141	931 -20 911	3,613 -19 3,594	3,397 -55 3,342	2,926 -71 2,855 -400
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0	45 0 2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0	45 0 2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 0 36 0 18
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974	45 0 2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 18 0 -346 2,491
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 0 36 0 18 0 -346 2,491
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 0 36 0 18 0 2,491
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 0	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0	0 3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 188 0 -346 2,491
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 0 -411	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 188 0 -346 2,491 0 0 0
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190 -32	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 -411 -139	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 -735 -162	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 188 0 -346 2,491 0 0 0 -1,164 -180
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 0 -411 -139 594	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 0 -735 -162 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 0 36 0 18 2,491 0 0 0 1,164 -180
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans Others	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074 -49	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 -411 -139 594 -212	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815 0	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 -735 -162 0 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 18 0 -346 2,491 0 0 -1,164 -180 0 0
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans Others Financing cash	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074 -49 2,810	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 0 -411 -139 594 -212 1,630	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815 0 1,816	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 -735 -162 0 0	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 36 0 18 0 -346 2,491 0 0 -1,164 -180 0 -1,344
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans Others Financing cash Net change in cash	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074 -49 2,810 1,684	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 -411 -139 594 -212 1,630 -49	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815 0 1,816 1,523	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 -735 -162 0 0 -897 2,095	2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 366 0 18 0 -346 2,491 0 0 -1,164 -180 0 -1,344 1,165
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans Others Financing cash Net change in cash Exchange rate or other Adj	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 -2,268 -1,160 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074 -49 2,810 1,684 74	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 -411 -139 594 -212 1,630 -49 -56	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815 0 1,816 1,523 0	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 -735 -162 0 0 -897 2,095	45 0 2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 0 366 0 0 -346 2,491 0 0 0 -1,164 -180 0 0 0
Tax Net cash from operations Capex Acquisitions Other investment Net loans to related parties Div from assoc Interests received Others Investing cash FCF Issue of shares Proceeds from convertible Minority interests Dividends paid Interest paid Net change in bank loans Others Financing cash Net change in cash	1,142 -1 1,141 -593 -1,065 -305 23 -1,065 34 -360 0 2,007 0 -190 -32 1,074 -49 2,810 1,684	931 -20 911 -844 -1,116 -59 31 0 18 -622 -2,591 -1,698 1,799 0 -411 -139 594 -212 1,630 -49	3,613 -19 3,594 -820 -3,112 0 26 0 18 0 -3,888 -312 1,677 0 0 -586 -90 815 0 1,816 1,523	3,397 -55 3,342 -400 0 32 0 18 0 -350 2,974 0 0 0 -735 -162 0 0 -897 2,095	2,881 45 0 2,926 -71 2,855 -400 0 366 2,491 0 0 0 -1,164 -180 0 0 0 -1,164 1,165 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

			->/-		
Year to Aug	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Ratios	E7 1	EO 0	FO 0	64.0	60.0
Gross margin (%) - blended Operating margin (%)	57.4 37.7	59.8 43.8	59.8 38.4	61.2 47.2	62.3 48.6
Net margin (%)	30.3	23.6	32.6	41.8	40.6
Net adj. margin (%)	39.1	36.7	39.5	41.8	40.6
Selling exp/sales (%)	2.7	5.0	4.6	3.9	3.5
Admin exp/sales (%)	18.1	13.9	13.0	13.0	13.0
Payout ratio (%)	39.0	58.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Effective tax (%)	(2.8)	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.5
Total debt/equity (%)	60.9	57.3	51.1	47.8	44.1
Net debt/equity (%)	11.0	18.7	8.2	Net cash	
Current ratio (x)	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Quick ratio (x)	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Inventory T/O (days)	0	0	0	0	0
AR T/O (days)	107	81	80	70	70
AP T/O (days)	10	10	10	10	10
Cash conversion cycle (days)	96 0.2	71 0.2	70 0.2	60 0.2	60 0.2
Asset turnover (x) Financial leverage (x)	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
EBIT margin (%)	37.7	43.8	38.4	47.2	48.6
Interest burden (x)	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9
Tax burden (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Return on equity (%)	8.8	8.0	12.0	16.2	16.4
Year to Aug	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Balance Sheet (RMB mn) Net PPE	5,851	6,847	9,198	9,238	9,288
Goodwill	1,566	1,792	1,962	1,962	1,962
Intangible assets	1,708	2,299	2,919	2,919	2,919
Deferred tax	27	18	18	18	18
Other non-current assets	1,281	1,978	1,978	1,978	1,978
Non-current assets	10,433	12,934	16,075	16,115	16,166
Inventories	1	1		1	1
Receivables, deposits and					
prepayments	571	594	825	890	999
Contract assets	53	79	113	139	156
Other current assets	786	924	924	924	924
Cash	3,497	3,443	4,966	7,061	8,226
Current assets	4,906	5,041	6,828	9,014	10,305
Trade payables	23	33	41	49	54
Accruals & other payables Tax	1,506 21	1,447 19	1,447 19	1,447	1,447 71
Bank loans & leases	285	292	292	55 292	292
Contract liabilities	1,617	1,239	2,783	4,166	4,462
Other current liabilities	277	349	349	349	349
Current liabilities	3,729	3,379	4,931	6,357	6,674
Bank loans	1,838	2,387	3,191	3,191	3,191
Convertible bonds	2,144	2,428	2,428	2,428	2,428
Other non-current liabilities	620	874	788	788	788
Non-current liabilities	4,602	5,689	6,407	6,407	6,407
Total net assets	7,008	8,907	11,566	12,366	13,390
Total Equity	7,008	8,907	11,566	12,366	13,390
Shareholder's equity	6,595	8,573	10,731	11,517	12,367
Share capital	0	0 8,573	10.721	0	10.267
Reserves NCI	6,595 414	334	10,731 835	11,517 849	12,367 1,024
BVPS (HK\$)	3.69	4.77	5.65	6.06	6.51
Total borrowings	4,267	5,107	5,911	5,911	5,911
Net cash/(debts)	-770	-1,664	-945	1,150	2,315
, ,					
Year to Aug Key assumptions	FY19	FY20	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Number of student('000)	170.2	180.2	252.5	267.8	281
% change	40	6	40	207.8	5
Of which: Full-time ('000)	150.2	158.1	196.5	211.8	225
% change	37	5	24	8	6
Avg revenue/student(RMB '000)	11.5	14.9	14.9	17.3	18.5
% change	+8	+29	-1	+16	+7

Source: Company, OP Research



Exhibit 6: Peer Group Comparison

				3-mth						3-Yr				EV/	EV/	Net	Gross	Net				
			Mkt cap	avg t/o	PER	PER	PER E	PS FY1	EPS FY2	EPS		P/B Hist	P/B FY1	Ebitda	Ebitda	gearing	margin	margin	ROE	ROE	Sh px	Sh px
Company	Ticker	Price	(US\$m)	(US\$m)	Hist (x)	FY1 (x)	FY2 (x)	YoY%	YoY%(Cagr(%)	PEG (x)	(x)	(x)	Hist	Cur Yr	Hist (%)	Hist (%)	Hist (%)	Hist (%)	FY1 (%)	1-mth %	3-mth %
China Education	839 HK	18.46	5,405	14.6	36.2	25.3	19.4	43.1	30.6	26.7	0.95	3.87	3.27	28.0	23.4	18.7	59.8	36.7	8.0	12.0	28.0	15.2
HSI		29,303.26			14.6	13.1	11.5	11.3	13.5	12.2	1.08	1.23	1.27						8.5	9.7	3.4	3.6
HSCEI		11,049.88			15.0	10.9	9.6	38.3	12.8	20.5	0.53	1.28	1.31						8.5	12.1	1.0	(1.4)
CSI300		5,164.17			18.2	14.4	13.4	26.8	7.2			2.26	2.04						12.4	14.2	2.3	(3.5)
Domestic peers																						
Adjusted sector avg*					21.6	13.8	11.1	39.5	24.2	31.0	0.5	2.3	2.2	11.1	10.0	6.7	53.9	39.2	14.1	16.4	6.6	0.9
Edvantage Group	382 HK	8.55	1,180	3.7	24.9	17.0	12.3	45.8	39.0	36.4	0.5	3.3	3.0	21.6	15.2	0.0	49.5	36.4	15.2	19.5	17.0	(1.7)
China Kepei Educ	1890 HK	5.85	1,519	1.6	17.3	12.7	10.5	35.7	21.1	25.3	0.5	3.1	2.6	14.0	10.1	0.0	69.9	65.1	18.9	21.2	15.2	7.1
Hope Education G	1765 HK	2.72	2,794	23.0	35.9	20.1	16.2	79.1	23.9	41.3	0.5	2.7	2.6	N/A	14.0	6.4	49.6	29.1	8.9	13.6	2.3	2.6
Minsheng Educati	1569 HK	1.39	755	0.7	36.4	8.0	6.8	352.8	18.8	85.5	0.1	1.2	1.0	12.4	5.0	0.0	51.2	11.9	3.4	13.8	(4.1)	(0.7)
China Xinhua Edu	2779 HK	2.27	470	0.1	9.4	7.9	6.3	18.7	25.0	20.6	0.4	1.1	0.9	6.6	5.6	0.0	65.0	67.9	12.0	12.3	(4.2)	0.4
China New Higher	2001 HK	6.14	1,254	3.3	19.7	13.8	10.5	43.1	31.2	31.3	0.4	3.2	2.8	13.7	10.2	40.7	49.8	35.5	17.5	20.3	43.5	19.0
Jh Educational T	1935 HK	3.85	794	0.7	19.3	16.9	15.3	14.4	10.5	N/A	N/A	2.9	2.3	12.0	10.2	0.0	59.6	47.4	15.5	14.4	20.3	1.9
China Chunlai Ed	1969 HK	1.44	223	0.2	10.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0	N/A	8.0	N/A	110.2	52.6	20.1	10.4	N/A	0.0	(3.4)

^{*} Outliners and "N/A" entries are excl. from the calculation of averages

Source: Bloomberg, OP Research

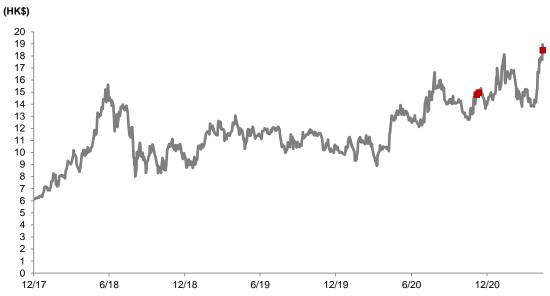


Our recent reports

Date	Company / Sector	Ticker	Title	Rating	Analyst
22/04/2021	New Higher Edu	2001	More visible growth path	BUY	John Siah
22/04/2001	Edvantage Group	382	Fascinating growth story set to take off	BUY	John Siah
21/04/2021	Innovent Bio	1801	More convincing pipeline development	BUY	Kevin Tam
15/04/2021	AAC Tech	2018	Optical segment beginning to shine	BUY	John Siah
31/03/2021	HKTV	1137	FY20 bottom line fell short on fulfillment cost	BUY	Kevin Tam
29/03/2021	361 Degrees	1361	Encouraging recovery in 2H20, visible growth for FY21E	BUY	Kevin Tam
25/03/2021	Greentown Mgmt	9979	Pure cash cow with surprise on dividend	BUY	John Siah
23/03/2021	Yeahka	9923	Payment driven growth thesis remains compelling	BUY	Kevin Tam
17/03/2021	Yidu Tech	2158	Digging the healthcare big data goldmine	BUY	Kevin Tam
22/02/2021	Razer	1337	A year of harvest	NR	John Siah
04/02/2021	HKTV	1137	Flat Jan GMV, but still upbeat on growth prospect	BUY	Kevin Tam
19/01/2021	Yeahka	9923	More conviction on marketing services driven growth	BUY	Kevin Tam
18/01/2021	Xtep Intl	1368	Channel inventory improvement on track	BUY	Megan Jin
15/01/2021	New Higher Edu	2001	More visible and stellar growth	BUY	John Siah
15/01/2021	Anta Sports	2020	More positive Anta brand FY21E outlook	HOLD	Megan Jin
06/01/2021	HKTV	1137	E commerce solution business moving forward	BUY	Kevin Tam/Megan Jin
30/12/2020	New Oriental Edu	9901	Tutoring elephant continues to fly	BUY	Kevin Tam
23/12/2020	Anta Sports	2020	Precor disposal in plan of Amer brands restructuring	HOLD	Megan Jin
21/12/2020	Scholar Edu	1769	Extraordinary growth expected to continue	NR	John Siah
14/12/2020	CG Services	6098	Placement for strategic deployment	BUY	Megan Jin
09/12/2020	Edvantage Group	382	Expansion begins	BUY	Megan Jin
08/12/2020	HKTV	1137	Satisfactory November GMV	BUY	Kevin Tam/Megan Jin
26/11/2020	China Edu Group	839	Robust growth outlook on surging new students	BUY	John Siah
20/11/2020	China Edu Group	839	A fast rising education giant grabbing ample opportunities in China education market	BUY	John Siah
19/11/2020	Ausnutria Dairy	1717	More to expect from FY21E	BUY	Megan Jin
11/11/2020	Edvantage Group	382	Robust organic growth with more boosters ahead	BUY	Megan Jin
10/11/2020	HKTV	1137	All fronts speeding up	BUY	Kevin Tam/Megan Jin

Historical recommendations and target price: China Edu Group (839 HK)

(as of 29/4/2021)



	Date	Rating	TP	Close	
1	20 Nov 2020	BUY	HK\$19.10	HK\$14.90	
2	25 Nov 2020	BUY	HK\$20.00	HK\$15.08	
3	29 Apr 2021	BUY	HK\$21.80	HK\$18.46	



TERMS FOR PROVISION OF REPORT, DISCLAIMERS AND DISCLOSURES

By accepting this report, you represent and warrant that you are entitled to receive such report in accordance with the restrictions set forth below and agree to be bound by the limitations contained herein. Any failure to comply with these limitations may constitute a violation of law or termination of such services provided to you.

Disclaimer

Research distributed in Hong Kong is intended only for institutional investors whose ordinary business activities involve investing in shares, bonds and associated securities and/or derivative securities and who have professional experience in such investments. Any person who is not an institutional investor must not rely on this communication.

The information and material presented herein are not directed at, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to applicable law or regulation or which would subject Oriental Patron Securities Limited ("OPSL") and/or its associated companies and/or its affiliates (collectively "Oriental Patron") to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

The information and material presented herein are provided for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer or a solicitation to sell or an offer or solicitation to buy or subscribe for securities, investment products or other financial instruments, nor to constitute any advice or recommendation with respect to such securities, investment products or other financial instruments.

This research report is prepared for general circulation. It does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this report. This report is not to be relied upon in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment. Oriental Patron may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them. You should independently evaluate particular investments and you should consult an independent financial adviser before making any investments or entering into any transaction in relation to any securities mentioned in this report.

Information and opinions presented in this report have been obtained or derived from sources believed by Oriental Patron to be reliable, but Oriental Patron makes no representation as to their accuracy or completeness and Oriental Patron accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of the material presented in this report where permitted by law and/or regulation. Further, opinions expressed in this report are subject to change without notice. Oriental Patron does not accept any liability whatsoever whether direct or indirect that may arise from the use of information contained in this report.

The research analyst(s) primarily responsible for the preparation of this report confirm(s) that (a) all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflects his or their personal views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers; and (b) that no part of his or their compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views he or they expressed in this report.

Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance.

Oriental Patron, its directors, officers and employees may have investments in securities or derivatives of any companies mentioned in this report, and may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the views expressed in this report.

General Disclosure

Oriental Patron, its directors, officers and employees, including persons involved in the preparation or issuance of this report, may, to the extent permitted by law, from time to time participate or invest in financing transactions with the issuer(s) of the securities mentioned in this report, perform services for or solicit business from such issuers, and/or have a position or holding, or other material interest, or effect transactions, in such securities or options thereon, or other investments related thereto. In addition, it may make markets in the securities mentioned in the material presented in this report. Oriental Patron may, to the extent permitted by law, act upon or use the information presented herein, or the research or analysis on which they are based, before the material is published. One or more directors, officers and/or employees of Oriental Patron may be a director of the issuers of the securities mentioned in this report. Oriental Patron may have, within the last three years, served as manager or co-manager of a public offering of securities for, or currently may make a primary market in issues of, any or all of the entities mentioned in this report or may be providing, or have provided within the previous 12 months, significant advice or investment services in relation to the investment concerned or a related investment or investment banking service to the issuers of the securities mentioned in this report.

Regulatory Disclosures as required by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission

Oriental Patron (inclusive of OPSL) which are carrying on a business in Hong Kong in investment banking, proprietary trading or market making or agency broking are not a market maker in the securities of the subject companies mentioned in this report. Unless otherwise specified, Oriental Patron does not have any investment banking relationship with the companies mentioned in this report within the last 12 months. As at the date of this report, Oriental Patron do not have any interests in the subject company(ies) aggregating to an amount equal to or more than 1% of the subject company(ies) market capitalization.

Analyst Certification:

The views expressed in this research report accurately reflect the analyst's personal views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers; and no part of the research analyst's compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in the report.

Rating and Related Definitions

Buy (B) We expect this stock outperform the relevant benchmark greater than 15% over the next 12 months. **Hold (H)** We expect this stock to perform in line with the relevant benchmark over the next 12 months.

Sell (S) We expect this stock to underperform the relevant benchmark greater than 15% over the next 12 month.

Relevant Benchmark Represents the stock closing price as at the date quoted in this report.

Copyright © 2017 Oriental Patron Financial Group. All Rights Reserved

This report is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. Except as specifically permitted, no part of this presentation may be reproduced or distributed in any manner without the prior written permission of Oriental Patron. Oriental Patron accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

CONTACT

27/F, Two Exchange Square,

www.oriental-patron.com.hk

8 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong john.siah@oriental-patro

Tel: (852) 2135 0248

john.siah@oriental-patron.com.hk Fax: (852) 2135 0295