

During the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Hong Kong Tournament 2017-18, our school team, comprising ten Electronics and Robotics Team members, was awarded the competition's most prestigious award, the Inspire Award, as well as the opportunity to represent Hong Kong in the FIRST Championship 2018 in Houston, Texas.

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DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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The FTC is an annual robotics competition that aims to build students' potential in STEM by engaging their critical thinking and creativity. The competition encourages teams to learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses and support one another. Over the course of three months, competing teams are required to create a robot that can adapt to the season's variety of game tasks and document the development of their design in an engineering notebook, which is then presented to the judges for evaluation.

Out of over 6000 teams competing in FTC worldwide this year, 128 teams were selected to take part in the FTC World Championship in the FIRST Championship held on 18-21 April 2018 in Houston. Held annually in mid-April, the FIRST Championship is one of the largest student robotics competition in the world. It is a celebration of the students' hard work and a toast to their creativity and innovation.

The team's journey has been an enriching and enlightening experience, and they would like to thank the school for graciously supporting them throughout the competition and providing them with this valuable opportunity.



DGS Attends UN's Women's Conference in NYC

Why were we chosen to go?

After winning a video competition on gender equality organized by the Hong Kong Federation of Women, our group, along with three others, went on a trip to New York City with the federation to present our video during United Nations' 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW). The commission, which is held annually, aims to promote gender equality and empower women. Our video, "The Architect", is dedicated to Miss Zaha Hadid, an Iraqi-British architect who was the first woman to receive the Pritzker Architecture prize. The 5-minute short film explores why and how we should support everyone, especially girls, to pursue their dreams without fear of stigma. We hope to use the film to spread the message that anyone can be an architect by supporting and building up others, and that no one should be limited by their gender.



What we learnt from our experience?



This trip gave us more insight about various issues concerning gender equality. This year's theme focused on the challenges faced by rural women, an issue we don't have much experience with in highly urbanized Hong Kong.

Many rural women lack access to health services or educational opportunities, and many young girls are affected by child marriage and early pregnancies. Through reaching out to representatives from less developed regions, we learnt more about their goals and their policies for achieving gender equality in their countries. The

6-day trip was very fulfilling and educational. Hopefully, in the future, we will gain more opportunities to promote gender equality, both in our own society and in the world at large.

DGS Victorious in Inter-Schools Athletics Competition

This year's Hong Kong Inter-School Athletics Competition (Division One) took place on the 6th & 9th of March, 2018, at the Wan Chai Sports Ground. For us as members of the DGS Athletics Team, this annual competition represents the culmination of months of hard work and training.

The Athletics Team demonstrated commendable teamwork throughout the entire process. We trained incredibly hard, supporting each other as we juggled team practices and individual training sessions with very busy academic schedules. Our close bond helped us as we faced the toughest competition of the school year. Our team faced many challenges, including injuries and last-minute adjustments to our relay team. However, our girls pushed through with the support of our schoolmates and alumni.

The team eventually clinched the overall championship, securing the title for the 12th consecutive year. We give God all the honour for the talents and achievements bestowed upon us and the school. We would also like to thank the whole DGS community for their support. We are particularly grateful to Mrs. Lau for giving us these opportunities and for her unwavering enthusiasm and support. Finally, we must pay tribute to our coaches and teachers who helped guide us and foster our talents.



S4 Exchange Trips to China – In Their Own Words

This year, as part of the DGS Overseas Exchange Programme our S4 students were given the incredible opportunity of spending a week at one of our partner schools in China. The form was divided into different groups, each accompanied by DGS teachers. Each group visited a different school. We asked the students to put the experience into their own words, to convey how successful the entire programme has been. Below are some of the highlights as told by the S4s themselves.

Visit to the Affiliated High School of Peking University, Beijing

"This meaningful exchange programme ended in the blink of an eye. Albeit we didn't spend long in China's capital city, all of us agreed that it had been an eye-opening and rewarding week. Thanks must be given to our teachers for accompanying and guiding us throughout the trip. I must also extend my gratitude to our headmistress, Mrs. Lau, for her generous support for this programme, and for giving us such a precious opportunity to learn from different cultures and broaden our horizons."



Exchange with Fudan University Affiliated High School, Shanghai



"I think we all agree that the highlight of this trip was the project "Humans of Shanghai". The task required us interview local inhabitants of Shanghai to find out more about their lives and culture. At first, we were a bit reluctant to complete the project but after carrying it out we realized that we really enjoyed the process of interviewing people of different backgrounds as well as our buddies and new friends at school. This project gave us more insight into the lives of people in Shanghai and allowed us to compare their lives to the ones we have in Hong Kong."

Trip to Zhixin High School, Guangzhou

"On the last three days, we visited tourist attractions and museums. First, we set off for the electric car exhibition centre of the China Southern Power Grid Company Limited. Afterwards, we went to Beijing Road and learnt about its history during the Sung Dynasty. In the afternoon, we visited the Museum of the Mausoleum of the Nanyue King, granting us the chance to truly immerse ourselves in ancient Chinese culture. On the following day, we went to the Nanhai Zhixin Middle School, where we toured around the enormous campus and enjoyed a performance by their Guzheng Ensemble. Then, we visited the Nanhai Museum, where we learnt about the history of Nanhai and its famous historical legends, giving us the chance to learn more about Chinese History. We were completely in awe of our country's rich history, and glad to have seen such sights with our very own eyes."



Exchange with National Tainan Girls' Senior High School, Taiwan

"The school very kindly arranged for us to attend a variety of classes. For example, we had the chance to make our own notepads, join different clubs and societies and to attend cookery lesson. One of the most interesting lessons was their extra elective lesson. Our students got to attend board game, modern dance and stress relief classes, which were relatively new experiences and eye-opening for us."



DGS Dance Team's Golden Year

Senior Dance Trio leap their way into the Dance World Cup Finals

Last year the beautiful promotion poster for the Dance World Cup Hong Kong Qualifying Match caught our eyes, and the three of us (Shermane Chou, Daisy But and Cherry Tsang of S5) decided to join the competition. The Dance World Cup is one of the largest international dancing competitions in the world and this would be the first time our school would compete at such a high level of competition. We thought that it would also be a great opportunity for us to meet new friends and learn about different styles of dance. With the help of our coach, we entered the competition and started to prepare.

On the day of competition, we were very nervous when we saw the competitors, as they all looked incredibly professional in their expensive costumes while we wore simple dresses. Nevertheless, we forgot all our worries once we set foot on the stage, and we were pleased with the performance we gave. Despite our initial worries, our hard work paid off when we were awarded the Gold Medal in the Junior Modern Dance Trio category, earning us an opportunity to represent the school and Hong Kong at the Dance World Cup Finals in Spain.

We are very grateful for this opportunity and what we have achieved. It was a challenge to learn an unfamiliar style of dance, but with practise and support from our coach and our friends, we restored our faith in ourselves and believed that we could strive our best in the competition. Thanks must be given to our coach, Miss Humphreys, for offering her personal time and dance expertise to help us choreograph and practice, and encouraging us to try our best and shine on stage. We must also express our heartfelt gratitude towards Mrs Lau for her unfailing guidance and support throughout the competition.

Dancing all the way to the Winners' Showcase

This year the DGS Dance Team were highly privileged to receive the Honours award, the highest award in the Schools Dance system, at the 2018 Schools' Dance Festival. Teams receiving the Honours award were given the opportunity to perform at the Winners' Concert, where they got to showcase their dance piece again. It meant so much to all of the team members, especially the senior ones, since this piece, 'Inkheart', is the puzzle piece that completes our trilogy of dances over the last three years. Knowing it would be the last chance to perform as a team this year, our wonderful choreographer Kenny Leung had put in extra effort in details and techniques so that our message could be more dynamically conveyed through our dance.

Dancing is an abstract concept to many. It requires a great level of skills to pull off a performance. Yet, it must also appear easy and free to the audience. This conflict is what we as dance team members constantly face. Being one of the senior members of the team, it feels amazing to see our members training so diligently with each other, putting their greatest effort into every rehearsal after school and during the holidays. There is no doubt that training can be demanding both physically and mentally. However, the process of seeing our performance gradually take shape through our concerted efforts, and the feeling of the tight bonding we shared as a team made it worth all the pain and sweat.



中國語文菁英計劃 2017/18



「中國語文菁英計劃」是由教育局資優教育組委託中國語文教育研究學會舉辦，旨在發掘在中、小學中國語文方面表現優秀的資優學生，並為其提供課堂以外有系統的培訓，以讓學生擴闊視野和發展潛能。本校同學榮獲多個獎項：

中三丁班余芊衡同學榮獲菁英金獎、才藝表演比賽冠軍、即席演講比賽優異獎、即席辯論比賽優異獎及團體寫作比賽優異獎。

中三戊班黃愷呈同學榮獲菁英金獎、即席演講比賽亞軍、即席辯論比賽優異獎、中華文化問答比賽優異獎及團體寫作比賽優異獎。

中二甲班張禧媛同學獲得團體寫作比賽優異獎。

本校兩位菁英金獎得主余芊衡同學和黃愷呈同學，與其他得獎者組成「中國語文菁英學習團」，於三月下旬代表香港往西安交流。

Backstage Pass to the DGS Drama Night

On the day of our annual Drama Night, we were excited but also quite nervous. Although we rehearsed almost every day since February and had been awarded several prizes in the Hong Kong School Drama Festival Competition, this was still the first time that we were putting on our show, "The Frame", for a larger audience, most of whom were our family, friends and classmates. Butterflies!

The whole Drama Ensemble had put in a lot of effort for this performance. During our rehearsals, the actresses dedicated themselves to accurately portraying their characters. They spent a lot of time working to understanding their characters' motivations and personalities. By the first performance, the actresses were able to completely disappear into their roles. As this year's play focused more on the psychological journey of the characters, it was even more crucial for our cast members to understand the reasons for their characters' actions. The end results were phenomenal, as our cast members staged a spectacular show.

Our backstage members also devoted a lot of time to ensuring a smooth production. Despite being out of the limelight, they put their full effort into creating the props, helping with the set changes, and handling the hair and makeup of our cast members. It is this sense of devotion to the team which makes the Drama Ensemble a family. Last but not least, our director and producer of the show have also been incredibly committed to their difficult job of managing the show's overall production. It is not easy to oversee all the different aspects of a drama production, but they did a fantastic job.

Although rehearsals may sometimes have seemed long and exhausting, as we finished our last performance and took our final bow, hearing the applause from the audience and seeing the smiles on their faces convinced us that our hard work had paid off. Given the chance, we would do it all again in a heartbeat.



Leading by Example – Mrs Lau Makes DGS Proud

DGS is pleased to announce that our Headmistress, Mrs Lau, received a University Fellowship from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The title of University Fellowship was awarded to seven outstanding individuals in recognition of their significant contributions to the University and community. Presided over by Mr Chan Tze-ching, Chairman of the University Council, the conferment ceremony was held on the 30th of January, 2018, at the Jockey Club Auditorium on the PolyU campus. The recipients were warmly greeted by PolyU President, Professor Timothy W. Tong, and other senior staff members of the University.

During the Ceremony Mrs Lau was described as a widely known and well respected veteran educator, renowned for inspiring students with her commitment to a wide range of public duties and contributions to society beyond education.

We are so lucky to have Mrs Lau at the helm of our school and as a community we would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to her for this wonderful, well-deserved achievement.

