



ESTABLISHED 1860

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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GBA Through the Eyes of Students

What was the DGS Greater Bay Area Project?

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's Reform and Opening Up, and to deepen the understanding of students' knowledge about the Greater Bay Area initiative, a whole school project was created. The whole school actively participated in conducting research and analysis on their chosen topic, which ranged from livelihood to economy to the environment. Lectures by renowned professors were also provided for students to gain a deeper understanding of GBA and its lasting impacts. After six months of hard work, the school community came together at the GBA Project Presentation day on the 1st of March, 2019. On the GBA Project Presentation Day, students presented their findings from the previous seven months in various ways. S1-S2 students showcased their hard work in the form of posters and videos in the Assembly Hall packed with colourful booths, while S3-S5 students reported their research findings through presentations for their peers.



Personal Experience with GBA

As S4 students my group and I were very interested in Urbanization in China, and especially wanted to investigate the future city cluster, GBA. The rapid economic development in China since the Reform and Opening Up policy has facilitated the current GBA initiative. GBA will play an important role in the future development blueprint of China, and will bring about huge economic benefits. We conducted research on past, present and future policies in order to achieve an all-round understanding of the development blueprint.

Reflection

During the six months of the research project, I have come to realise that it is integral for Hong Kong as a whole to understand the role GBA will play in the future. Hong Kong will have access to various resources and will be given many new opportunities. However, there are still certain doubts from society about the impact on Hong Kong, particularly the possibility of slowing down local development. Cooperation cannot be facilitated unless cities join hands and gain support from their citizens. Through this research project, not only have I deepened my understanding of the Greater Bay Area, but it has also led me to ponder on what we, as individuals, can contribute. Despite the challenges faced by our city, it is essential for us to have the ability to adapt to change. Whenever I come across articles and opinions about GBA, I am now able to form my own critical views on the issues. I am more than grateful to have had the opportunity to explore and analyse this future initiative which is going to have such a great impact on our city.



DGS House of Debate

"Knowledge is power. Speech is agency." The English Debating Society, which is fondly known to students as the "DGS House of Debate", is an ECA group dedicated to developing its members' potential in public speaking and logical thinking. Through rigorous training, our members learn to harness the power of knowledge and channel the art of speech, stimulating their growth as creative and intellectual thinkers.

In the 2018-2019 school year, our cohort of over 60 girls achieved highly promising results in a variety of events: students honed their critical thinking skills through competitive debates, polished their rhetoric in preparation for public speaking events, and immersed themselves into intense case scenarios for mock trial competitions. These achievements are the culmination of many hours spent on meticulously refining speeches, attending training sessions after school, and conducting friendly debate matches with other institutions.



17th and 18th Junior Hong Kong Schools Debating Championship (JSDC), 2019

In February and March 2019, our debate teams comprising of Secondary 1 to 3 students, captured the champion titles of two successive JSDCs, making Diocesan Girls' School the first school to ever accomplish such a feat in the long history of this competition. The JSDC is a debate competition which essentially acts as a gateway into competitive debating for many aspiring junior students - this was no different for our competing junior members, who were less experienced at the time. However, they persevered despite their initial doubts and rose to the occasion with poise and skill.

17th Senior Hong Kong Schools Debating Championship (SDC), 2019

A team comprising of 6 senior members were also crowned Champions of the 17th SDC, the senior counterpart to the JSDC. Although the team faced challenges in the form of eventful preliminary rounds and difficult debate motions, they were undaunted by these setbacks and managed to progress to the grand final. Ultimately, they were able to sway the judges' decision in their favour, crowning them the winner of this year's competition.



2019 Junior Individuals Public Speaking Competition

The Junior Individuals Public Speaking Competition is modelled off the format of the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship, an annual international event where secondary school students represent their countries to compete in categories including Persuasive Speaking, Interpretive Reading, Impromptu Speaking and more. Under the aid and guidance of senior members, 6 junior members penned out watertight persuasive speeches of their own and fine-tuned their delivery of interpretive reading passages. One of our junior members, Vanessa Woo, was the overall champion of this competition while Jamie See (3rd best), Lorraine Tang (5th best) and Natalie Leung (7th Best) all finished in the top 10.

Hong Kong Inter-School Mock Trial Championship 2019

Our mock trial team maintained its legacy from previous years, delivering another admirable performance by finishing 6th overall in a highly competitive championship and attaining the Best Witness prize. The professional advice and assistance of our DGS Old Girls, who are practising lawyers, were immensely valuable in helping us to consolidate legal concepts and construct compelling arguments.

We would like to direct our heartfelt gratitude towards the School, our Headmistress Mrs. Lau and our Teachers-In-Charge for providing us with a platform for debate and public speaking. The inclusive atmosphere in DGS has allowed us to speak our minds and exchange ideas freely, strengthening our skills as students and debaters. Your unfailing guidance and support has encouraged us to reach for our goals and actualize our dreams.



DGS Girls Gain Recognition in Geneva, Switzerland



Four girls from DGS were chosen to represent the Hong Kong Delegation in the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland. The exhibition, the largest of its kind in the world, featured more than 700 inventors from 45 countries. After 5 days of showcasing their app invention, our team comprising Selina Kwok (4U), Yannis Chui (4U), Ada Song (4W) and Katrina Liu (4X) was awarded the Gold Medal by the National Research Council of Thailand and the Silver Medal in the Exhibition of Inventions category.

In their own words: "Two years ago, we developed an educational mobile app that helps users learn Mandarin through popular songs and games. At that time, we didn't win any top prizes in any competition. However, we did receive many valuable comments from different judges. This year, we decided to redevelop the app and add more new features to it. The name of our app is "Language Pop" and it has three major functions: the puzzle game, practice screen and the forum.

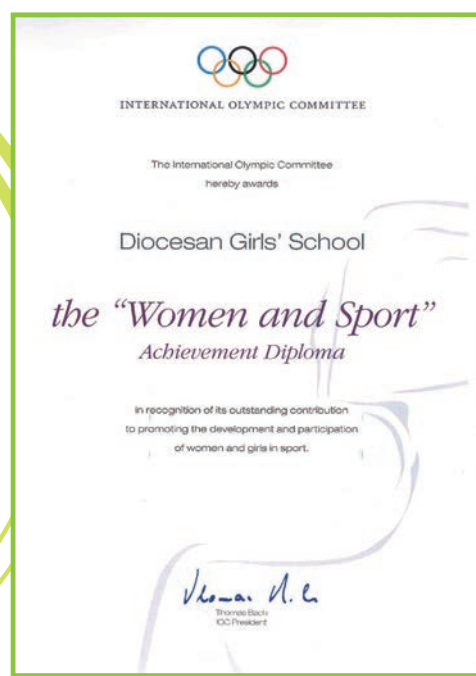
During January 2019, we were informed that we would be sponsored by the Lam's Foundation to attend the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland during April 2019. To better prepare ourselves for attending this global event, we participated in the international AppJamming Summit 2019 and the Hong Kong ICT

Awards during February to April 2019. These were very meaningful competitions for us. Not only did we capture the Grand Prize in both competitions, the judges generously offered us constructive criticism and suggestions about our app after we presented each time. We were inspired to add new features to improve our app, making it more effective. With these experiences in pitching our app to different judges and audiences, we became more confident in presenting our app and this helped us to do our best at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva.

Computer Science and app development are something that may seem to be very distant from our daily lives. However, not only did we find these competitions really fun and gratifying, we also drew a lot of inspiration from them. Through seeing many of the competitors' works and listening to their feedback, we have gained a better understanding of how computer science and app development can be utilized in creating solutions to the problems around us. We have been deeply motivated by their passion and this has encouraged us to further develop our app. Although creating a bubble-popping puzzle game might not be a world-changing concept, we will start small and dream big - solving the smallest problems in our lives, one at a time.

We would like to thank DGS, Mrs. Lau, Dr. A. Cheung, our IT teachers and Mr. Sunny Lam from the Lam's Foundation for providing such a good learning environment and so many learning opportunities for us to chase our dream."

We are delighted to have been awarded the Women and Sport Achievement Diploma by the International Olympic Committee for our contribution to women in sport throughout the years.



Sixth National Arts Showcase of Primary and Secondary School Students

(14th to 18th April, 2019) Suzhou, China



Held once every three years, the National Arts Showcase, organized by Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, attracted young talent from around the country for a week-long festival of visual arts, dance, vocal and instrumental music. Featuring the best from each of the provinces, primary and secondary school students convened at Suzhou to present their unique pieces at the Suzhou Culture and Arts Centre and the Suzhou Poly Grand Theatre.

At the invitation of the Hong Kong Education Bureau, DGS Symphony Orchestra was honoured to represent our city, along with students of five other schools from Hong Kong, showcasing the best our instrumentalists, choristers, dancers and visual artists have to offer.

On the evening of the Opening Ceremony, after the choral and dance performances by selected delegations, representatives of each of the participating regions joined together for a procession which marked the official beginning of the Showcase. The subsequent days included visits to the historical sights at the renowned Soochow Academy and the Surging Wave Pavilion, attending the showcases for vocal arts and dance, marvelling at the arts and crafts demonstrated by primary students at the exhibition area, and a very warm welcome by Baodai Experimental Primary School.



We participated in the category of instrumental music, which includes chamber ensembles, symphony orchestras, wind bands and Chinese orchestras, with performances by over forty ensembles and orchestras spanning across two evenings. Our performance on 17th April, 2019 was received with great enthusiasm, and behind the scenes students exchanged ideas ranging from practice tips to the latest trends.



It was indeed an eye-opening experience for our students, and we are especially pleased to be awarded the First Level Prize for our performance. We are grateful to the EDB for organizing the Hong Kong delegation and making this possible. Thanks must also be given to our ever-supportive parents, teachers and Headmistress for their immense support to our girls.

Fencing Team's Perseverance Pays Off

This year has yet been another exciting and challenging year for the Fencing Team. Preparation for the interschool competitions started in August. As we welcomed the big cohort of new members, some of our key fencers graduated, and we knew from the first training that we would have to put in extra effort this year to be able to compete against our strong opposition teams. During the first few months of training, we gave it all we had, doing extra sets of fitness exercises and paying close attention to the coaches' advice.

On the day of the interschool individual competition, our team members excelled and captured a total of 15 individual medals. We were delighted by the results, but were still nervous about the upcoming team competition, as we had seen quite a few strong fencers from the other schools. For the last week of preparation, we focused on team coordination, hoping to build up the teamwork of our members.

On the day of the interschool team competition, things did not go as anticipated and our chance of winning the overall champion diminished. Even so, our team members put on a brave face and persisted in competing despite our lack of confidence. In the end, we were blessed with the result we had so hoped for; overall champions.



During February 2019, we had the humbling experience of meeting Miss Valentina Vezzali, an Italian fencer and gold medallist of three consecutive Olympics Games in the Individual Women's Foil category. We were extremely grateful to have been able to attend a talk held by Miss Vezzali and have her train us for one session. Miss Vezzali generously shared about her competition experience, how she prepared for a competition and how she got back into shape right after her pregnancy. She also addressed some of our questions, for example encountering hardships and bottlenecks in our fencing path, which helped us adjust our

mind-set and improve on our overall performance during competitions. Miss Vezzali then fenced against one of our S6 members and one of our old girls. To see a world champion fencing in front of us was a once a lifetime experience.



This has been a fruitful and enriching year for the team. We are looking forward to facing the challenges that lie ahead of us as a team and we are so grateful that we have the unfailing support of the school and our Headmistress, Mrs Lau.