



ESTABLISHED 1860

**DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL**

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## A League of Their Own

Passing through the entrance of the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool, the overwhelming atmosphere could clearly be felt: enthusiastic cheers of students could be heard from afar. The swimmers entered with their heads held high. Ahead of them, they had two days of tough competition. They were striving for glory in the pool not merely for themselves, but for the pride of the school.

They achieved their goal; our swimming team procured the Inter-school Division One overall championships for the 32nd consecutive year, with a 136 point lead. It was a Grand Slam sweep, with the team bringing home six new records, twenty one gold medals, nineteen silver medals and eleven bronze medals in total.

Our swimmers performed spectacularly on the days of the competition. One swimmer completed her last inter-school race in style with two gold medals and two records in both the A Grade 100-meter Freestyle and 200-meter Freestyle. Another swimmer put in an extraordinary performance, finishing first place in both the B Grade 50-meter and 100-meter Freestyle race. She also made two new records in her individual events, breaking the previous record set by Olympian Siobhan Haughey. Relay teams across the grades also secured first place victories, with the B and C grade relay teams setting new records too.

Nothing would have been possible without the support from our teachers-in-charge: Mrs P Hui, Mrs V Ma, Mr HY Li, Mr KC Lo, Mr J Tam, and Mr KL Chan. They were the ones we turned to when we encountered seemingly insurmountable challenges. Our parents, who sacrificed time and energy, deserve a big "Thank you!" for driving us to the swimming pool early in the morning, for reminding us to get sufficient food and rest, and for believing in us even when we did not believe in ourselves. Lastly, we would like to thank our headmistress Mrs Lau for her understanding and unwavering guidance all these years.

While the competition for this year is over and the chanting of "Go DGS!" might have died down, the flames in our hearts continue to burn, reminding us of the spirit of the Diocesan swimming team: never give up. Why? Because we know that though the journey is not easy, it is definitely worthwhile.



# DGS at the Cutting Edge



## 1.0 Innovation and Technology Lectures at DGS

Technology is everywhere. Things like Artificial Intelligence, Fintech and 3D-printing are more frequently talked about than ever before. Often, we might find ourselves distant from these technical terms and inventions. However, ultimately, the intention of these technologies and innovations is really to solve the problems we face in our daily lives. Because of that, although we might not all be developing our future careers in STEM related fields, it is undeniable that we should equip ourselves with the knowledge of how these new technologies can affect our lives.

To kick-start our whole-school Innovation and Technology Project in this academic year, the school invited pioneers from STEM-related industries to share with us their areas of expertise during the first week of September 2019. These guest speakers displayed how impactful STEM can be in our daily lives and showed us that it can be applied in areas that we have never thought of. Professor Helen Meng (photo below), an alumna of DGS and MIT, shared how she and her team applied Artificial Intelligence to develop Cantonese intelligent speech systems for patients with speech disorders and communicative impairment to facilitate their reintegration into society, and language learning platforms which can detect mispronunciation and perform diagnosis. Mr Edmond Yau and his team (photo above left) displayed to us how technology like high-precision metal 3D-printing could be utilized, not only for industrial use but also for making highly personalized bone implants. From these lectures, we could see STEM applied in solving problems encountered in the medical world and how it helps those suffering from sickness.



DGS alumna, Miss Pauline Yeung (photo above right), through her lecture on Fintech, showed us how integration of technologies like cryptocurrency into financial sectors could benefit the various industries we often come across in our lives such as insurance, wealth management, and more. From Miss Jackie Wong's lecture, we explored how Virtual Reality and 3D Modeling technologies could be implemented to enhance the management of our own campus. Through Mr Man Cheuk Fei's lecture, we were fascinated by the power of the internet media in modern day society, which is leading to the shift from traditional written mass media to online platforms.

Though we might not all be engineers or programmers in the future, as students aspiring to give back, we should always be eager to solve problems in our society. In this era of technology and innovation, this can now be done through utilizing STEM in different fields of interest, just like what the five great speakers are doing in their sectors of expertise.

## 2.0 The new ABC - AI, Big Data and Cloud Computing

Ever wondered what the outlook for girls in engineering is? You may be surprised to learn that there is no bias, at least in the admissions to CUHK. The gender ratio is 1:1. That is good news for Diocesans keen on AI, Big Data and Cloud Computing, or the new ABC.

Our school now offers two OLP courses, CU13: Application of AI, Big Data & Cloud Computing in Modern Society and CU14: Everyone a Change-maker with the help of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The monthly sessions from September to February aim to help S3 – S5 students understand the development, opportunities and risks, and ethical implications of the application of cutting-edge technologies like AI, Digital Marketing, Biomedical Engineering and FinTech. Many of us have found the courses extremely educational, especially when we toured state-of-the-art laboratories.

So what are the advantages for girls studying engineering?

According to Professor Raymond Tong, the world is currently providing women in engineering with more job and advancement opportunities. In biomedical engineering, the prospects are huge, be it in research, product support or medical sales. As medical developments thrive regardless of economic circumstances, the future of biomedical engineering remains bright. Therefore, girls should go for it.

### 3.0 Everyone a Changemaker

How can everyone be a changemaker? That's what OLP course CU14 Everyone a Changemaker – with Human-centred system designs and technology aims to show us. Launched by our school in conjunction with the HKUST, the programme has been a rewarding one while giving us, thirteen Secondary 4 and 5 students, a taste of campus life too.

One professor, Dr Winnie Leung, shared with us: "Designs without empathising users may target wrong problems. Design thinking allows engineers to solve problems from stakeholders' perspectives while considering technological feasibility." When it comes to designing new products, this mindset should be the heart of the process.

The five workshops cover topics ranging from design thinking to sustainability to entrepreneurship to enrich our learning in these subjects. The course inspired us to reflect on the relationship between technology and humans as we eagerly took to designing our own 'hopper' when learning about biomimicry or arranging different water bottles according to their sustainability.



However, this programme has transformed us in another way.

"Be brave and ambitious. Girls should not be timid or see themselves as less capable ... we never know how much potential we have," Dr Leung replied when asked about women participating in the traditionally male-dominated field. Not only have we gained a deeper understanding on science and technology, but we also feel reassured by the opportunities that girls have as changemakers in this sector.





## A Life Worth Living

At the evangelistic meeting on 24 October, we were very grateful to have Dr. Winnie Fung, former head girl and top scholar, as our speaker. Dr. Fung spoke on how we fit into God's plan, which, in contrast with other narratives in today's society, tells of how God pursues His people in His love. She reminded us that our achievements do not determine our worth by sharing about the counter-intuitive nature of God's love - how Jesus chose to give up his identity as God, to become a man and a servant, and ultimately died on the Cross for our sake. Many members of our community were moved by the Holy Spirit, and we will continue to share this message of faith, hope and love in the days to come.

Dr. Fung's sharing was one of this year's Gospel Week activities held from 22-24 October on the theme "A Life Worth Living". Having observed how fellow students' pursuit of academic results or extracurricular achievements has led to many feeling tired, lost and insecure, the Youth Fellowship shared on the eternal value of life in Christ throughout the week. It also led the school in worshipping through Christian songs, including 《叫我抬起頭的神》, 《恩典之路》, "Because He Lives", and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus".

Through a skit, a mime, a video, and worship sessions across three assemblies, the school learnt about an alternative to striving for our best with our own means: to fix our eyes upon the eternity of God's Kingdom, and the true joy and peace that come in accepting His plan for us.

In addition, the Harvest Festival was organized for students and teachers to celebrate the joy of sharing by donating food and money to the Light of Yung Shu Tao Christian Society Limited. The Youth Fellowship also led the whole school in praising God's abundant blessings that we have received and are able to share.



## Wonders in Ningxia

Thanks to the EDB, this October ten Diocesan girls flew to Ningxia, an autonomous region faraway in Northwestern China that not many teenagers from Hong Kong get to visit. This week-long excursion gave us an invaluable opportunity to appreciate our nation's rich heritage and God's wonders.

We saw breathtaking sights in nature and man-made monuments: the renowned Helan Mountains radiate a celestial glow in the sun and the amazing rock art by the indigenous people depicts their prehistoric lives and beliefs. A famous engraving known as 'The Sun God' portrays a deity with a fascinatingly human face. At the foot of the mountains lay the Western Xia mausoleums comprising nine imperial tombs and 250 royal graves, an ancient burial site whose magnificent towering sand constructions were a marvel to behold.

Apart from the Helan mountains are natural wonders like the Yellow River, whose importance is often celebrated in Chinese literature, and the Sha Pou Tou Desert, where camels dotted the vast landscape of dunes. We felt like travellers on the ancient Silk Road.

