Building on the work we have done over the years, the Liberal Studies Department saw how our students have acquired the necessary skills in the subject to enhance their learning. Never before has it been more important to develop various skills and knowledge to prepare our students for life in understanding local, national and global issues, both within the setting of the school environment and beyond it.

The 2015-2016 year has been yet another rewarding year in terms of academic performance. The hard work of our students and teachers was correspondingly rewarded with good HKDSE results that saw a record 23.7% of students achieving 5** and 65.5% attaining Level 5 or above. This was an outstanding record created by a group of competent students. The department is delighted with their success and wishes them well for the future.

New initiatives

One of the key areas we have improved upon this year is to stimulate higher-order thinking and to develop less formulaic enquiries. In line with one of the school’s objectives: Global Exposure and Experience Enrichment, by exploring common global issues, students were able to gain a better understanding of the global situation and appreciate its relevance in today’s world, whether they focussed on such issues from a political, social, environmental or economic perspective. For example, they explored the consumption of sugar, which has caused global health problems with more people suffering from obesity and diabetes. Another topic was air pollution, in which students examined the serious harmful consequences that such pollution bring to the global environment. While both issues impact our well-being, there is also the financial implication to consider, wherein it ultimately becomes an enormous financial burden on the healthcare system, one which is already affecting many countries around the world.

To keep up with social issues through the process of self-directed learning, our senior students would formulate their own enquiry questions, and then proceed to conduct their own research to support their arguments. In doing so, all students were provided with the opportunity to explore and discuss in depth social issues that they are interested in. In setting enquiry questions for IES, we have witnessed how our students took it to the next level by exploring topics like energy use and water utilities in Hong Kong, which are also pertinent topics to consider at the national level.

Educational visits continued to play an important part in enriching the Liberal Studies curriculum for students. S4 students enjoyed a visit to the Court of Final Appeal with a rare glimpse of the former Legislative Council building. The visit has helped our students to gain a better understanding of the expectations of the legal system, the meaning of rule of law, the importance of judicial independence, and how justice and equality are being upheld in Hong Kong.

To enhance their learning, we have always encouraged our students to venture out for a full and enriched curriculum. An array of activities and competitions were offered to cater for all interests. Many participated in competitions such as “Expert on Liberal Studies” Online Competition and Liberal Studies Programme 2015-2016 – “Healthy Living – Food and Habit”.

To conclude, none of this would have been possible without the continuous dedication of our teaching staff who gave countless hours of their time to enrich out students’ learning. Above all, we wish to
take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau for her unfailing support and continuous guidance and encouragement. We look forward to another fruitful and rewarding year ahead.