

## **7. Personal, Social and Humanities Education**

### **7.1 Humanities**

**Mrs. RL Wong, Mr. A. Ebrahim**

Education in the Humanities at DGS aims to develop students in a social and humanistic perspective in studying Economics, History and Geography. With sustained efforts and dedication of both teachers and students, we have maintained pleasing results in public examinations.

#### **Public examination results**

Our students continued to show keen interest in humanities subjects and attained encouraging results in the public examinations. In the Hong Kong Diploma Secondary Examination (HKDSE), 42.9%, 33.3% and 33.3% of the students attained 5\* or above in Economics, Geography and History respectively. In the Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Examinations, 80% of the Economics students scored A or above, and in the Cambridge International Advanced Level (CIA) Examination, 83% of the students scored A or above in Geography. The encouraging results are the fruits of the joint effort and hard work of the Humanities teachers and students over the past years.

#### **Teaching and Learning**

Teachers in the team, as in the past, continued to employ various teaching strategies to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

This year, in anticipation of optimising measures to be implemented in the HKDSE Economics curriculum for the academic year 2025-26, members of the Economics department devoted considerable time and effort to attending seminars and workshops organised by the EDB and HKEAA. This was to ensure they stayed updated on the latest developments within the curricula. To enhance teaching quality, more peer observations and class visits among teachers were conducted, after which opinions and experiences were shared. The teachers endeavoured to upgrade teaching pedagogies and to conduct supplementary tutorials whenever necessary in order to better prepare students for the public examinations. Our girls continued to show interest in Economics and attain good academic results in the public examinations, reflecting the motivation and effort of both students and teachers.

The Geography department has consistently fostered the development of spatial thinking abilities, equipping students with the capacity to understand and interpret geographical patterns, connections, and interdependencies among individuals, locations and environments through a learning approach centered on inquiry. Students acquire skills in assessing information sources, analysing spatial data, making well-informed assessments and presenting solutions to geographical issues at various levels, spanning from local to global. Through a diverse array of educational initiatives, students are empowered to become knowledgeable global citizens who grasp the complexities of our interlinked world and are ready to tackle a wide range of pressing global challenges.

This year, the Geography department organised five field trips for S4 and S5 classes on topics including climate change, urban microclimatic studies in Central, woodland inquiry in Cheung Chau, and changing industrial landscapes in Kwai Hing and Wong Chuk Hang. These field trips helped promote active engagement and hands-on learning, enabling students to apply their knowledge in practical situations by providing them with a real-world context to observe geographical phenomenon, features, ecosystems and contemporary global challenges.

The History department offers both the HKDSE and A Level curriculum. Students studying history are encouraged to develop an understanding and appreciation of historical events, and be able to apply them to the world today and in the future. Through a wide range of educational activities, including the usage of IT tools, students are able to learn collaboratively and be able to critically analyse both the recording and interpretation of history from different perspectives and to form balanced judgments.

## **Enrichment Programmes**

### **Economics**

The team continued to plan and implement various education programmes to enhance students' knowledge in business. Our Business Enterprise Club co-worked with Diocesan Boys' School, St. Paul's College and Maryknoll Convent School to organise a joint school business case competition for members to take part. Participants were required to work in groups to come up with business plans with respect to the sustainable development goal assigned to them. The competition aimed to amass like-minded students who have an interest in business and entrepreneurship, whilst providing them with a platform to discuss and exchange innovative ideas based on the theme. Last year, we continued to engage all S4 students to take part in the "Mini-bazaar Company Programme", in which each S4 class formed a mini company to plan its sale stall for the Mini-bazaar. After attending training sessions on different aspects of running a small enterprise, students put what they have learnt into practice by creating their own products, which were then marketed during the Mini-bazaar. Our school also took part in the eighteen-week Junior Achievement Company Programme, through which the participating students developed valuable entrepreneurial skills, positive values and attitudes.

Through the participation in external competitions, students not only enrich their knowledge in preparing for the competitions, but also hone their generic skills in leadership, critical thinking, creativity and speech, which are important assets to becoming prospective entrepreneurs. Last year was another rewarding year in which students accomplished a lot through their participation in external competitions. Their achievements are as follows:

- GenerationTech Hong Kong 2024 is a competition organised by Junior Achievement Hong Kong. Under the mentorship by J.P. Morgan Technologists, participants underwent a 3-week design-based technology challenge to work in teams to design a solution for a U.N. sustainable development goal. Our team comprising Ng Pui Yin Zoe (3W), Cheng Wai Yan Josephine (4W), Ching Helen (4W), Xiao Ka Yee Brianna (4X) and Law Tsz Nga Hazel (5Z) won the People's Choice Award in the competition.
- The HSBC Young Financial Planners Programme is a short film creation competition co-organised by the Education Bureau, the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong. Contestants played the role of financial management experts and created short videos to analyse the financial status and goals of the characters and to provide feasible financial management plans as solutions. The team comprising Cheng Yuet Yee Ashlyn, Choi Shin Chi Gabriella, Chow Choi Ching Sophie, Chu Tin Wing and Nam Wing Kiu Aria in 3U attained the Outstanding Creativity Award.

### **Geography**

The Geography Department arranged for students to take part in an extensive variety of competitions and encouraging results were attained. Cheuk Nim Yan in S4 took part in the Eco-lifestyle Competition 2023 organised by Surein Foundation Limited and was crowned the champion. The Royal Geography Society Hong Kong awarded the prestigious Young Geographer of the Year Award in the Upper Secondary category to Chung Hei Man, who excelled in the field of Urbanscape. Tsang Evelyn Wai Ning from S4 emerged as the champion in the MSW Charging Slogan Writing Competition organised by the Hong Kong Cultural and Creative Industrial. These achievements collectively demonstrate the department's effectiveness in providing valuable opportunities for students to excel and make a positive impact in their respective fields.

The Geography department is dedicated to promoting sustainability education as a vital component of its curriculum. Recognising the urgent need to address environmental challenges, the department strives to instill in students a deep understanding of the interconnections between ecosystems, societies and the economy. The department also fosters collaboration with local communities and organisations to create real-world opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and make a positive impact. This year, 11 students were awarded the Gold Certificate of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eLearn Award Scheme 2024 organised by UNICEF HK. By advocating sustainability education, the department equips students with the knowledge and skills to become responsible stewards of the planet and contribute to a more sustainable future.

## **History**

The History department aims to foster students' awareness and interest in the historical development of the world, and to enhance their knowledge and skills in independent historical research. Through various classroom activities, the department hopes to cultivate a culture of "learning to learn". Field trips also provide first-hand insights into history that directly impacted the city. For instance, this year, the department organised a successful field trip to Wong Nai Chung Gap Trail: Hong Kong's Battlefield Trail. This trip was exclusively for our S5 HKDSE History students to enable them to gain insights into how World War II directly affected the city of Hong Kong.

Last but not the least, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Headmistress for all her support to Humanities education in the School. Thanks must also go to the teachers for their concerted effort and commitment in developing in our students' humanity studies.

## **7.2 Religious Education**

**Mrs. M. Fong**

All glory be to God, for He is the Most High over all the earth; His dominion endures through all generations! We are grateful for the invaluable opportunities for the entire school community to begin each day with morning worship, embracing His loving presence and gaining wisdom and guidance from His Word. Our appreciation is extended to the Headmistress and all teachers for their dedication in preparing the enlightening messages.

This year, we continue to be blessed with spiritual nurturing and guidance from the ministers at St. Andrew's Church. We express our sincere appreciation to Reverend Alex McCoy and Reverend Darren Pollock for taking turns to deliver their insightful messages during the Friday assemblies. Special thanks must be given to Reverend McCoy for his uplifting sermons during the Christmas and Easter Services, as well as for leading the Holy Communion ceremony in March.

The overarching theme of this year's class assemblies is "The Work of God", which leads students to explore the diverse ways in which God manifests in the lives of individuals in the Bible and in their own experiences. We are grateful for how students have encouraged one another to deepen their understanding of God's work and strengthen their relationship with Him through their presentations to the whole school.

The blessings of God during this year's Gospel Week were immeasurable. Through three special assemblies centered around the theme "Finding Joy In Christ" prepared by the Youth Fellowship committee, students had the opportunity to reflect on the sources of their joy and to embrace Christ as the ultimate and fulfilling source of joy. During the whole-school evangelistic meeting at the end of Gospel Week, many students prayed to receive Christ and expressed a desire to learn more about Jesus.

Special thanks are extended to the Hong Kong Gospel Festival (香港福音盛會) for jointly organising the whole-school evangelistic meeting with the School, and to the members of ETERNITY for their enthusiastic participation, sharing uplifting music and personal testimonies. Our heartfelt gratitude is

extended to the Youth Fellowship teachers for their invaluable mentorship and for overseeing the students' preparations leading up to Gospel Week.

As a result of acknowledging God's generous provision for our material needs, we embraced the act of sharing, reflecting His love by giving a portion of our food and financial resources to those in need within our community. At the Harvest Festival held in November, both junior and senior students contributed dried food and monetary donations to support the efforts of the Light of Yung Shu Tau Christian Limited in serving the needy. Furthermore, proceeds from the Famine Lunch and Lenten Bag activities held during Lent were donated to various charitable organisations, including the People's Food Bank of St. James' Settlement, the "Poverty and Care Simulation Programme" of the Mission to New Arrivals Limited, and Watoto Hong Kong Limited.

In this year's S5 Retreat, we were continuously blessed by the love and kindness of a dedicated group of alumnae who returned to organise an engaging day camp at St. Andrew's Church for their younger sisters in S5. Special thanks must be given to our alumnae, led by Ms. Mona Au, for conducting various engaging and enjoyable activities for the retreat, guiding the S5 students in introspection from various viewpoints. Our appreciation extends to Miss Ng Hoi Yin for the insightful and generous sharing of personal experience, helping students understand how divine guidance can navigate them through uncertainty towards discovering and embracing God's marvellous plan for their lives.

Throughout the year, we were grateful for the dedicated and joyous service of our Christian student leaders. Special recognition is due to the entire Youth Fellowship committee. Despite their busy school schedules, they remained steadfast and selflessly dedicated to helping their schoolmates deepen their understanding of God and His love. In addition to their regular Monday lunchtime meetings, they enthusiastically prepared for various whole-school events, including the special morning assemblies during Gospel Week, Harvest Festival in November, Prayer Meeting for S6 DSE and S5/6 AL girls in January, Famine Lunch in April and the New Student Orientation Programme in August.

To conclude, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Headmistress for her unwavering support and trust over the past year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues, Mrs. H. Leung, Miss T. S. Wun, and Mrs. S. A. Leung for their dedicated and caring service within the department and their commitment to sharing God's love with the students. I am also grateful to Mr. D. Pang, Mr. B. Lo, and Mrs. M.P. Chow for their time and dedication to nurturing the Youth Fellowship. Lastly, my deepest gratitude belongs to my Heavenly Father for His constant love and abundant blessings throughout the year. All honour and glory to Him!