

## 9. Arts Education

### 9.1 Visual Arts

Mrs. P. Kam

Our Visual Arts curriculum is designed in alignment with the four key learning targets set by the Education Bureau (EDB): developing creativity and imagination, cultivating art skills and processes, fostering critical responses to the arts and enhancing understanding of arts in context.

To instill positive values and promote respect towards individuals, Hong Kong, our Motherland and other regions, the Art Department utilises a thematic approach. These themes cover a wide spectrum, from exploring art materials and textures in our surroundings to portrait drawing, realistic painting, Kusama-inspired sculpture, Chinese calligraphy, Nagomi art therapy, wire art jewelry, DGS poster designs, the Design Thinking Process, modern art-inspired paintings, art criticism and creating art portfolios.

The Visual Arts Club, comprising around 45 members, successfully organised various events including the Flower Arrangement Competition and backdrop decorations for Speech Day, and the Mini-bazaar Logo Design Competition. We also hosted expert-led workshops on city sketching and organised a guided tour with a workshop at the M+ Museum. To nurture art talents, our Visual Arts Team, comprising 19 members, actively participated in around nine outbound competitions.

In line with National Education initiatives, the Art Department invited Dr Liao Su Lan to speak on Qipao for S1 and S2 girls. Additionally, we take pride in hosting Mr Louis To Wun, a distinguished expert in sugar-blowing art, along with other artists, to lead a series of workshops on this traditional folk art.

We are thankful for the numerous awards we have garnered in external competitions, which serve as a testament to the dedication and talent thriving within our artistic community.

International Silver Award: 1	National 3 <sup>rd</sup> Honour Award: 1
International Special Award: 1	Hong Kong Champion: 1
National 2 <sup>nd</sup> Honour Award: 1	Hong Kong Commendable Award: 2

The Art Department's success is contributed to the collaborative efforts and unwavering support of all school stakeholders. We sincerely appreciate everyone's invaluable contributions.

### 9.2 Aesthetic Development

Mrs. P. Kam, Mrs. S.A. Leung

The focus of Aesthetic Development in the NSS curriculum is to help Secondary Five and Six students develop a heightened awareness of and appreciation for art and beauty through an exploration of the creative processes in Drama, Music and Visual Arts.

In Secondary Five, students could opt to specialise in one of the following six areas: English Radio Play, Cantonese Radio Play, Putonghua Radio Play, English Musical Radio Play, Stage Make-up, and last but not least, Visual Backdrop Design. Through workshops during the first term, students were introduced to practical skills that were essential to producing an effective radio play. To put the theories which they learnt into practice, students embarked on a long collaborative process to produce five 15-minute-long plays. Students were able to experience a more technical dimension of the creative arts – voice acting and recording, music and sound effects, digital backdrops and even animation.

One group of students served as the Organising Committee of this year's joint-school Drama Night. Students, teachers, parents and past students gathered together in the Assembly Hall for a breathtaking evening of drama performances by the School and two other guest schools. Through this valuable

experience, students were able to learn the essence of collaboration, leadership and communication in the world of performing arts.

In Secondary Six, students had the opportunity to learn to understand and appreciate stage productions, films and documentaries through a critical lens by participating in class discussions.

A hearty vote of thanks must be extended to the School Council, our Headmistress Mrs. S. Lau, parents, the AV Team and Technicians. Without their support and guidance, the AD programmes would not have run so successfully in the last academic year.

### **9.3 Music**

**Miss G. Chiang**

The past academic year was, in certain respects, a series of new beginnings. We welcomed our new music teacher, Miss Sharon Chu, who rejoined DGS upon the departure of Ms. Dorothy Hui. 2023-24 was also the year where we saw the full-fledged resumption of competitions and activities for all teams, students benefiting from whole-day schooling between September to April, as well as a better integration of practical and theoretical knowledge both within and beyond the classroom.

#### *Academics*

First and foremost, we continued with listening, creating, performing – the major components of music learning – in the form of hymn tests, listening tasks, creative song projects and collecting students' aesthetic responses in writing. With ampler lesson time, we were able to catch up on lost teaching time in the previous years. As for the HKDSE Music elective, among the ten students currently enrolled in our network programme with Diocesan Boys' School, La Salle College and Maryknoll Convent School across three cohorts, 6U Ng Sum Yin is admitted to Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and will continue her music studies in London coming fall on scholarship.

#### *In Pursuit of Creativity*

5W Andrea But Wing Hei, along with 2Y Yuen Fe, took part in the GalaMusica School Creative Works competition organised by the EDB Curriculum Development Institute and Hong Kong Composers' Guild. Andrea's composition, *The Journey of Water*, along with video designed by Yuen Fe, was highly commended and captured the Outstanding Music Prize, Outstanding Performance Prize, Outstanding Creative Work (Gold Award), and the Outstanding Individual Composition Prize. The group was invited to present their multimedia work at Sha Tin Town Hall, which showcased musicians, dancers and the Audio Visual Team students. Andrea's piece was also chosen as the winner at the open Original Composition class at this year's Music Festival.

Meanwhile, 6Z Angelyne Wong took part in the "Relishing Creativeness in the Hong Kong Palace Museum" Music Composition Competition, and was invited to participate in an individual consultation session with composer Alfred Wong. Her work 《品醺》 was adjudicated at the final showcase held at the Palace Museum, for which she captured the following awards: Gold Prize for Outstanding Award for Solo Instrument, Performers' Adjudication Award, Best Chinese Instrumental Writing Award (Solo), Best Creative Idea Inspired from Chinese Treasures, and Favourite Music Composition (by audience vote).

#### *Live Music-making*

Music-making at DGS manifests in three major forms: daily hymn singing, performances and competitions. From the expression of faith, to sharing their passion with family and friends, and further

to benchmark their abilities against their peers, the vibrant music-making is a vital element to the well-being of our girls. With the resumption of all competitions, our schedule is once again packed with rehearsals and events, and since many of our younger students have not been competing live in any Music Festival group event since 2019, rebuilding their confidence and stage presence thus became as important as enriching their musical experiences, and we are happy to report encouraging results in the following:

2023 Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows	Secondary School Class A	Guzheng Ensemble & Chinese Orchestra	Gold Award
5th Hong Kong Percussion Competition	Western Percussion	Percussion Ensemble	Gold Award
2024 Hong Kong Inter-school Choral Festival (HKICF)	Competition-cum- Masterclass (Junior Division)	Junior Mixed Choir	Gold Award
	Competition-cum- Masterclass (Senior Division)	Intermediate Choir	Gold Award
2024 Joint School Music Association Competition	Chinese Ensemble	Guzheng Ensemble & Chinese Orchestra	Gold Award

In particular, at the 76th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, the school teams achieved the following results:

- Best Girls' Choir in the First Division – Senior Choir (Singing in Foreign Language)
- Senior Choir: 1<sup>st</sup> Place & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Junior Choir: two Silver Awards
- Senior Mixed Choir: 1<sup>st</sup> Place & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Junior Mixed Choir: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Vocal Ensemble: one 1<sup>st</sup> Place, one Silver Award
- Piano Ensemble: one 1<sup>st</sup> Place, one Silver Award, one Bronze Award
- Woodwind Ensemble (Senior – Quintet): 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Woodwind Ensemble (Junior – Quintet): Silver Award
- Brass Ensemble (Senior): 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Pipa Ensemble: 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Erhu Ensemble: Silver Award
- Chinese Orchestra (Intermediate): Silver Award
- Concert Band: Bronze Award
- String Orchestra (Senior): 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Symphony Orchestra (Senior): 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Moreover, our girls also competed in solo and duo events, and gained a total of fifteen 1st Places, eighteen 2nd Places and eighteen 3rd Places, including the Champion in the open Scholarship Class for String Instruments for the third consecutive year, and Original Composition class for the second year in a row.

Over the summer, we competed in two international events, namely the 2024 World Choir Games and the 15th International Zheng Contest. In mid-July, a team of 70-strong musicians travelled to the southern part of the globe to participate in the 13th World Choir Games, held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Throughout an intensive week of choral singing, we took part in an individual coaching session with renowned maestro Romans Vanags, competed in two categories and observed three other competitions. The DGS Choir, comprising singers from Forms 3 to 6, joined forces with several alumni to compete against distinguished teams from Denmark, United States and New Zealand in the Youth Choir category (age 25 or under), and was awarded the Gold Medal with a score of 91, ranking third in the group. Moreover, together with the gentlemen of Diocesan Boys' School, we took part in the category "Sacred Choral Music a cappella" and also won Gold in third place. The mixed choir also took part in a Friendship Concert and had a wonderful time of exchange with the brilliant Young People's Chorus of New York, and we are grateful for alumni residing in Auckland who came to support us at our events.

Meanwhile, the Guzheng Ensemble took part in the 15th International Zheng Contest, winning Gold and First place in the Hong Kong Regionals in July, then continued to prepare for the subsequent round during August. Amidst intense competition, the ensemble captured Third place with a Silver Award at the Grand Finals in late August.

In addition to the rigorous competition schedule, we had a bustling year of music-making with over twenty performances, namely:

#### School events:

- S1 Introductory Talk: 6Z Angelyne Wong & Cheung Yim Ting class of 23'
- PTA Annual General Meeting: String Orchestra
- Mini Bazaar Christmas carolling
- Speech Day Reception: Piano Ensembles
- CLC performance: Guzheng Ensemble, Chinese Orchestra
- Drama Night: performance of GalaMusica winning multimedia work
- New students ECA Orientation: 3 western Instrumental Ensembles, Vocal Ensemble, Chinese Orchestra, & Guzheng Ensemble

#### Concerts:

- HKSKH Thanksgiving Service: Intermediate Choir, 6U Ng Sum Yin (Percussion)
- Beautiful Sunday at Shenzhen Concert Hall: Concert Band, String & Symphony Orchestras (we were also featured on the Cable HOY-TV programme 「家國天下」)
- DBS Pre-competition Concert: Junior & Senior Mixed Choirs, Vocal Ensembles
- HKICF Opening Showcase Concert: Senior Choir
- DGS Pre-competition Concert: String Orchestra, Chinese Orchestra, Erhu Ensemble, Vocal Ensembles & all choirs
- DGS Instrumental Ensemble Concert: Chinese & western ensembles
- DGS Spring Concert: String Orchestra, Chinese Orchestra, Guzheng Ensemble, Vocal Ensembles & all choirs
- 76th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival Winners' Concerts: 2U Grace Lee (Violin - winner of open Scholarship Class for String Instruments) & Senior Choir (Best Secondary School Girls' Choir in the First Division)
- DBS Homecoming Concerts: Junior & Senior Mixed Choirs
- World Choir Games Pre-tour Performance: DGS Choir & Senior Mixed Choir
- DGS Summer Concert: Percussion Ensemble, Guzheng Ensemble, Chinese Orchestra, String Orchestra & all girls' choirs

- DGS Concerto Competition Winners' Concert: Concert Band & Symphony Orchestra
- Diocesan Alumnae Orchestra Inaugural Concert: Symphony Orchestra representatives
- St. Paul's College Summer Concert: Symphony Orchestra representatives

### *Other Activities*

To broaden and deepen musical knowledge beyond the classroom and the stage, we arranged training camps, masterclasses and other opportunities for students. Three overnight camps were held in December for the western orchestras and two Senior Choirs, while the Chinese Orchestra organised a day camp on campus during the Lunar New Year holidays. We also invited masters to take our students to the next level, beginning with Ms. Li Ping coaching the Pipa Ensemble between January and February, Ms. Elise Bradley (renowned New Zealand conductor and former Artistic Director of Toronto Children's Chorus) giving a masterclass to the Senior Choir in February, and composer Mr. Ernest Hui sharing with the Intermediate Choir in June on performing his work “星星許的願”.

In January and March, our instrumentalists were invited to attend for free for the Youth Music Culture GBA Symphony Orchestra Concert, and the Hong Kong Guzheng Society Inaugural Concert respectively. The annual highlight – DGS Concerto Competition – was successfully held in January, and six winners were selected to perform at the concerts held in July; they are:

- 5Z Lo Yin Ching Julita, Cello
- 5Z Mak Shan Shi, Horn
- 4U Chui Cheuk Ying Kylie, Clarinet
- 4U Leung Tsz Kiu Amanda, Harmonica
- 4U Lo Yu Yin Gladys, Yangqin
- 4Z Charlotte Jane Woo, Violin

Four junior form girls were also given Honourable Mentions: 1W Jasmine Chang (Violin), 1X Audrey Ho (Flute), 1X Calissa Poon (Piano) and 2U Grace Lee (Violin).

As the year comes to a close, we are immensely grateful for the numerous opportunities that brought our musicians together. None of this would have been possible if not for the undying passion and dedication of our students, conductors, parents, colleagues and alumni. May we extend our thanks to the teachers, our Performing Arts Director Mr. Leung Kin Fung, and to our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau, for their continued support to the Music Department. May our music continue to bring comfort and joy to our neighbours.