

## **11. Student Support Services**

### **11.1 Careers Guidance**

**Mr. A. Ebrahim**

The Careers Team aims to help students in their acquisition of relevant knowledge, values and skills to prepare them for their further studies and personal development.

DGS has been fortunate enough to attract top non-local university representatives to talk to our students and parents. These representatives are eager to recruit top-notch students for their university classes. This past year we welcomed representatives from various non-local universities such as Cambridge University, UCL, King's College (KCL), Imperial College and University Arts London (UAL). We also hosted over 30 universities from the U.K. as part of the U.K. Unifest Roadshow, and welcomed a representative from UC Berkeley to share details about their Dual Degree Programme with the University of Hong Kong. We look forward to hosting more overseas visitors in the next academic year.

Local universities continue to be a very attractive destination for our students. We helped girls with their applications for university courses this year through both JUPAS and non-JUPAS. This year, we invited representatives from the Veterinary Medicine programme at City University, as well as speakers from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to speak to our girls. We supported outbound visits to both The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong for various courses.

DGS girls this year received an admirable range of university offers from around the world, including prestigious scholarships such as the Hong Kong Excellence Scholarship, the Jardine Scholarship and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Chairman's Scholarship. Moreover, girls received placements at The University of Hong Kong through the School Nominations Direct Admission Scheme (SNDAS) as well as the Top Athletes Direct Admission Scheme (TADAS). We owe a big debt of gratitude to all the university representatives who have given their time and effort to speak to and advise our girls, and for reviewing their applications and giving offers of admission.

Our alumni association, the DOGA, and all our former graduates, have always been great supporters of our department as they continue to share their knowledge and experiences. We are most appreciative of the many alumnae who are willing to speak to our students formally and informally. This year, we organised a series of enrichment classes to give our students insights into real-life careers knowledge and to also offer advice on choosing career paths. Specifically, we welcomed Dr. Masayo Kotaka, Jennifer Qiu, Mcqueen Sum, Kate Chan, Cynthia Shum, Noreen Chui and Jenna Mak, to share knowledge and advice relevant to a variety of careers such as Finance, Sociology, Medicine, Occupational Therapy and Biomedical Sciences. We look forward to continuing to hold similar enrichment classes next year.

Our annual Job Shadowing Programme for all S5 students continued this year, with all of our girls participating and enjoying a few days at various companies or organisations around the city. We will continue to run this job shadowing programme next year, as well as to support girls for summer programmes and other career-related opportunities. I wish to thank the DOGA, and Ms Yvonne Chan, Ms Diana Ting and Ms Connie Lung for their continued support of this programme and for all other old girl events that help to support the development of our students.

Within the school, the careers teachers continue to guide our students with their career and university choices. Different workshops were held, enabling students to identify their career interests and skills and to inform them of the application process for different universities. Additionally, much effort has also been put into supporting the girls such as through writing recommendation letters for them, guiding students with their essays and preparing them for interviews through a series of mock interviews.

The student Careers Committee this year was ably led by Denise Chan and Karina Ip in S5, who supported the department throughout the school year. I wish to extend my sincerest of thanks to team members – Mrs. RL Wong, Mrs. M. Lam, Ms. O. Ho, Mr. HC Chan, Mr. YC Fok, Ms. Y. Chan, Miss W. Cheng, Miss S. Li, Mr. D. Pang, Miss S. Cheung and Dr. HM Ku – who have given their 100%, to support the Careers Department. Many other teachers have also given their time assisting students with interview practice, essay advice and writing reference letters. Ms. C. Ma ably assisted with a large range of administrative tasks, and with organising and implementing events. Ms. J. Tsoi, our full-time Careers Counsellor, invested her expertise into mentoring and guiding our students. Also, while their work may go unseen, the DGS Office Staff have been essential to the success of the Department through their handling of many responsibilities.

Finally, my appreciation must be extended to Mrs. Lau, who has taken the lead in building our relationships with universities, scholarship organisations and other careers related partners. She offers her wealth of experience and advice so that the Careers Teachers are in the best possible position to ably assist our girls.

## **11.2 Guidance and Counselling**

**Mrs. M. Fong**

To promote the mental and emotional wellbeing of our students, the Guidance and Counselling Team continued to prioritise establishing an effective support network by offering activities and programmes for students, parents and peers, as well as providing training and resources for teachers.

Before the start of the academic year, our S1 students participated in the New Student Orientation Programme at school and a team-building day camp at Wu Kai Sha Youth Village, helping students cultivate friendships, essential teamwork skills, positive attitudes, and familiarity with school life, culture and the campus.

Tailored orientation programmes were also organised for transfer students who joined us in September and after the first term to address their specific needs, with our school social workers, mentor teachers and class buddies providing guidance and support as needed. We are delighted that these initiatives have proven highly beneficial to new students, aiding in their smooth adjustment academically, socially and emotionally.

This year, our Form Teachers continued to play an active role in fostering students' mental and emotional wellbeing. In addition to offering individual guidance and support to students under their care, Form Teachers led their class to prepare for the Inter-class Display Board Competition on the theme "Unity and Diversity" in the first term, which encouraged students to discover, respect and appreciate the unique qualities of their classmates and to explore ways to pursue unity together as a class. In November, Form Teachers conducted a form period activity on "Self-Care" to help students manage stress and develop self-care habits using materials provided by the EDB.

Throughout the year, our school social workers conducted various activities and programmes to promote healthy and holistic wellness among students and strengthen students' relationships with their parents. During the S4 CCE lessons, a tailor-made wellness programme was conducted to enhance students' social and emotional wellbeing. In November, DIY workshops on "Chocolate and Greeting Card Making" were organised for transfer students to create their own chocolates and greeting cards as a way to show appreciation to their buddies or teachers. In December and January, a relaxation workshop was conducted for each S6 class to introduce relaxation and stress management techniques. The session encompassed strategies for finding calm during high-stress times, practising soothing breathing exercises, savouring a warm beverage and crafting a personal note of encouragement or reflection. In July, a talk on "Understanding Emotions" was conducted to help S1 students gain an in-

depth understanding of the sources of their emotions, take better care of themselves by recognising their emotional needs and learn to manage their feelings.

To raise students' awareness of mental health and foster overall well-being within the school community, various activities were organised for students across different year groups. For the S1 students, a session on understanding emotions was conducted to deepen their understanding of emotional sources, self-care by recognising their emotional needs and techniques to manage their feelings. S2 students attended a talk on peer support to learn methods of providing emotional support and setting emotional boundaries and to develop skills needed to support their peers and family members within their capacity during times of emotional distress.

In November, S3 students engaged in the "Mind Matters" programme, which enhanced their understanding of mental health and suicidal risks, fostering empathy and supportive peer relationships. S4 students took part in the "Crafting Kindness: Gifts and Cards Preparation" activity initiated by the student leaders from the Counselling Committee, allowing S4 students to share the care they received from the previous year's S.H.I.E.L.D. Programme by creating personalised message cards and soothing gift sets for their S3 sisters. In July, S4 and S5 students attended the sharing session on "A Journey to Resilience: Insights from DGS Old Girls on Mental Wellness", which offered valuable insights and practical advice to empower students to prioritise their wellbeing and take proactive steps to promote their mental health.

S6 students engaged in a relaxation workshop and a "Building Mental Resilience" talk in December to learn stress management techniques and practical tips for coping with stress, adversity and setbacks. In February and March, the S6 "Recharging Station" Activity and the Presentation of Encouragement and Blessings for S6 Graduates were organised to provide opportunities for the school community to express love, care and support for S6 students as they prepared for the public exams.

To assist our students in making wise and informed decisions in their lives, knowledgeable speakers were invited to address pressing issues concerning today's youth. In January, a seminar titled "Say No to Cyberbullying" was conducted to empower our S1 students to become conscientious and responsible digital citizens. The session focused on recognising harmful cyberbullying behaviour, cultivating psychological resilience, responding assertively to cyberbullying incidents, seeking timely assistance from family and teachers and providing support to peers by confronting cyberbullies. In November, a talk on "Real life vs. Online life?" was arranged for S2 students to learn how recent advances in internet technology, ease of accessing information and use of social media communication could affect their lifestyle with detrimental consequences, including cyber addiction, fake information, online bullying, fraud and pornography. In July, the S2 students participated in an engaging seminar titled "Building Healthy Relationships: A Sex Education Perspective." This session aimed to provide them with a profound insight into cultivating healthy relationships, promoting informed decision-making and raising awareness about the potential risks linked with pornography. By exploring the themes of relationships, love and self, and dispelling misconceptions about pornography, the talk sought to empower students with essential knowledge for navigating the challenges of relationships. In July, our S4 students participated in a seminar on Future Careers, where they explored the influence of present technological advancements on upcoming job prospects. They also discovered how to incorporate innovation and technology into their future professions, fostering a well-rounded approach to life planning.

Throughout the academic year, our school social workers and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) proactively helped our students and their parents develop stronger ties and better mutual understanding through various events and activities. In February, Ms. C. Leung gave useful seminars to S1 and S4 parents on Parents' Day, helping them understand the developmental and academic challenges encountered by their daughters, the impact of parental attitudes on students' adjustment and strategies for supporting their daughters during challenging times. In February, a Parent-Daughter Fun Day was organised for interested DGS parents to have a glimpse of their daughter's school life and enhanced parent-daughter relationships through various fun and meaningful activities. Every other Thursday

morning from October to June, the PTA held the Christian Mothers' Group (CMG) in collaboration with St. Andrew's Church, providing a platform for Christian mothers to connect with a supportive community, deepen their relationship with Jesus and strengthen their relationships with their spouses and children. In addition, Mothers' and Fathers' Breakfast Meetings on "Positive Education in the age of AI" were conducted from October to June to help DGS and DGJS parents rediscover guiding values and positive ways of living out a full and abundant life and explore how to positively educate children in a scientific manner amidst rapid development in artificial intelligence. In December, the PTA hosted a seminar on "AI and the Future of Learning" to help parents better support their children in their exploration of AI and prepare them for the future by learning more about the benefits and challenges presented by AI. In March, the PTA organised a seminar titled "Essence of the DGS Education," aimed at enlightening parents on how DGS education empowers girls to confront challenges with confidence, pursue their dreams and make meaningful contributions to society post-graduation. The seminar also highlighted the crucial roles parents play in facilitating this transformative journey.

To foster peer support among students, a series of training programs were initiated throughout the year. In September, the S1 Ambassadors Training Programme was introduced, empowering a select group of S1 students with the expertise and abilities to act as empathetic peers. They were trained to comprehend their classmates' need, assist fellow students in adjusting to the new school environment and cultivate a compassionate and inclusive school atmosphere for the incoming Secondary 1 cohort. From January to March, seven students from S2-4 attended a Peer Counsellor Training Workshop conducted by social workers from the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to provide support for their own emotional wellbeing and that of their peers. In April and May, the S2-S4 Peer Counselling Training Programme was conducted to help 44 interested students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to bolster their personal emotional health and that of their fellow students. In June, the S1-S4 Buddy Training Programme was organised to equip 52 interested students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand the needs of new students and serve as supportive buddies for the upcoming academic year. In June, the "Student Gatekeepers & Ambassadors for Mental and Emotional Health" Programme was launched to empower 38 Counselling Committee members to serve as mental and emotional health ambassadors and gatekeepers to their peers as well as mentors to our incoming S1 students. 30 students engaged in the "Wellness Buddy Training Programme" orchestrated by a team of HKU MBBS students and supported by the HKUMed Faculty, with an objective to educate secondary school students on prevalent mental health conditions and empower them to serve as Wellness Buddies, offering support to their peers.

Given the pivotal role our frontline teachers play in recognising and addressing the emotional and personal needs of our students, a film screening of "Time Still Turns the Pages" (年少日記), accompanied by a pre-screening talk by Ms. C. Leung, was organised in February. This event aimed to enhance teachers' awareness of the significance of students' mental health, highlight potential indicators of distress, emphasise the importance of early intervention and support as well as foster a compassionate and supportive community.

Throughout the academic year, we provided pastoral care and counselling to individual students in need of our support and attention. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our school social workers, Ms. C. Leung and Miss C. Hui, as well as my colleagues: Mr. J. Oddie, Miss T.S. Wun, Miss C. Au, Mrs. H. Leung, Miss C. H, and Mrs. M.P. Chow, who have generously devoted their time and compassion to address the mental and emotional wellbeing of our students. I also extend my sincere appreciation to Mrs. R. Santos, Mr. H.Y. Li and Miss N. Ng for their supervision and care for our student athletes, supporting them as they face the challenges of balancing rigorous training schedules with their academic commitments.

The Counselling Committee, led by our able and dedicated Chairladies, Heini Lam and Sophie Keung, along with Vice-Chairladies, Galie Chan, Sharmaine Kong, Janna Lau, Rainbow Chan, Sarah Liu and Hebe Yeung, did an excellent job in serving the school and their fellow students throughout the academic year. They worked selflessly in organising a variety of events, including the S1 New Student

Orientation Programme, Inter-class Display Board Competition, S6 “Recharging Station” Activity, the Encouragement and Blessings Presentation for S6 Graduates, Mother’s Day Origami Activity for S1-3 classes and the “Harmonious Friendships” Activity for all interested students. Furthermore, they conducted various creative, enjoyable and meaningful whole-school activities during the Mental Health Awareness Week, such as the Heart2heart Chat Activity, Photo Booth, Sandglass Making and “Spacing Out” Competition. We are delighted that these initiatives were well received, fostering student wellbeing and strengthening relationships with their peers and teachers.

To conclude, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Lau for her invaluable advice and support for the team, as well as her loving guidance and care for the students. Finally, my deepest gratitude extends to our Heavenly Father for His unwavering grace, protection and guidance over the school community throughout the year.

### **11.3 Other Learning Experiences**

#### ***1. Other Learning Experiences Team (OLE Team)***

**Ms. A. Sy**

Extending our students’ learning beyond classrooms and textbooks has always been a mission of our school. This year, after celebrating the full resumption of extra-curricular activities, we are blessed with capturing uplifting results in various domains. The school community, teachers and students alike, have exerted their fullest effort to showcase their abilities and talents in an all-round manner.

#### **Introduction of New Activities**

To ensure that the Other Learning Experiences of our students are enriching and vibrant, we have been constantly reviewing the activities offered by the school. New programmes and activities were introduced to arouse students’ interest, as well as to expose them to new trends in society. This year, a Cricket Taster Programme was arranged to introduce our students to the sport, and our girls were thrilled to try out the new sport. Collaboration with different organisations and government departments was also made to bring in new activities that would broaden our girls’ horizons. For instance, our students had the chance to visit the Marine Police Headquarters and the Fire and Ambulance Services Education Centre cum Museum to understand more about the work of the two units. During the latter visit, students were also given a hand-on training session on CPR and AED. Students enjoyed their visits and were happy to have acquired new skills during such visits.

#### **Encouraging Self-Directed Learning**

Other than knowledge acquisition, it is also essential that our students are able to conduct self-directed learning, which is a skill that would benefit them for life. To encourage self-directed learning, students are allowed to form their own interest groups and organise their own learning activities amongst the group members during the OLP Days. These groups, commonly referred to as “Self-Paced Learning Group (SPLG)”, allow students to explore their own areas of interest that are currently not listed on our ECA profile. Teachers-in-charge are assigned to each group to assist them if they need any advice, but the activities are mostly designed by the students themselves. This year, three SPLGs were formed, namely on the topics of “Entomology”, “Astronomy” and “Soccer”. The variety of topics chosen reflects the wide spectrum of interests that our girls have and we are glad that they all run the SPLGs in a fun and organised way. Near the end of the year, representatives of these groups were invited to present their learning to the whole school, and we were also impressed and inspired by their dedication and passion towards learning new topics.

## **Promoting House Spirit**

In order to promote house spirit amongst our students, inter-house activities were organised periodically. Other than the major inter-house events such as Athletics Meet and Swimming Gala, there were also other competitions such as badminton, basketball, indoor rowing etc. To further expand the range of inter-house activities such that it could be more inclusive of various talents, there were also inter-house competitions related to programming, science and mathematics. To attract more students to support the inter-house events and cheer for their own houses, student-teacher competitions were also arranged as part of the inter-house competitions. The atmosphere in the competition ground was always at its peak when students cheered for their peers and their teachers during these competitions. After a series of exciting and intense competitions, our heartfelt congratulations go to Hurrell for winning the overall championship.

We truly believe that in nurturing our younger generation, providing abundant opportunity while at the same time creating an atmosphere of independent learning is essential. Therefore, we have been constantly on the lookout for new learning opportunities, programmes and events to engage our students. In terms of independent learning, it is our belief that through such student-led activities, our girls would be able to grow and learn in an all-round manner. We are glad that students of self-directed learning groups have constantly reflected that they had learnt a lot, not only about the content related to the topic they have chosen, but also in terms of their organisation and collaboration skills. While we adhere to the mission mentioned above, this task is only made possible with the support of the School Council, the P.T.A. and the Headmistress. For this, we are deeply grateful.

## ***2. Cultural Interest Classes and Intensive Classes***

**Miss C. Ho**

The Cultural Interest Classes aim to empower students to become self-sufficient language learners, equipped with strong communication and interpersonal abilities. Students are motivated to explore grammatical structures and experiment with language, fostering an awareness that may enhance their literacy and overall academic performance. The lessons are tailored to help students express themselves in the target language with growing confidence and fluency.

Approximately 100 students from various year groups participated in a diverse array of activities centred on linguistic diversity and cultural appreciation. Throughout the year, students demonstrated remarkable resilience and autonomy in their learning, adapting to various teaching methods. Language instructors introduced a wide range of new challenges, using diverse resources that allowed students to delve into cultural topics related to Japanese and Spanish cultures.

Our success in internationally recognised academic qualifications continued to build on previous years' accomplishments. The students worked diligently all year long. We take immense pride in their commitment and dedication, which led to significant achievements. The students who sat for the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (Spanish as a Foreign Language Diploma) exams were rewarded with a 100% pass rate. The results were impressive.

The school remains committed to providing a supportive, well-structured and resource-rich learning environment for students enrolled in these language classes. As a form of recognition, scholarships were awarded to those who excelled in their language studies at all levels.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to our dedicated language instructors for their unwavering support and patience, as well as to our colleagues and office staff who contributed over the past year. Last but not least, we must acknowledge the steadfast guidance and leadership of our Headmistress, Mrs. S. Lau. With the talent and commitment of our students, we eagerly anticipate another successful and rewarding year ahead.

### ***3. Overseas and Exchange Programmes***

**Mrs. R.L. Wong**

The Overseas and Exchange Programmes Team provides students with unique and fruitful experiences outside the limits of a classroom. Unlike the experience of travelling as a tourist, the participating students of an overseas exchange programme get to be fully immersed in the language, culture and learning environment of another country both at school and at home. We believe that students are not only offered an opportunity to expand their horizons, their self-confidence and self-esteem will also be enhanced as they learn more about themselves and tackle the challenges encountered during the exchange.

In 2023-24, our school arranged for more than 140 DGS students to travel abroad to participate in conferences, competitions and school immersion programmes held in the United States of America, Australia, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the Netherlands. This year, our school participated in a Joint School Literature Trip. Over 50 participants from S.K.H. St. Mary's Church Mok Hing Yiu College, Sha Tin Methodist College, Henrietta Secondary School and DGS went to Tokyo in Japan to cultivate interest in literature. Under the theme of "Exploring the Footsteps of Writers", they visited famous literary landmarks associated with the works of famed Japanese writers. Through attending lectures hosted by contemporary Japanese authors, the participants gained a deeper understanding of their perspectives on literature. The students commented that their interest in reading and writing was enhanced through this rewarding trip.

The number of subject-focused trips related to STEM education has also expanded. In November, the Information Technology department took 12 students to participate in the International Blockchain Olympiad held in Amsterdam. The Science department sent 18 students to participate in a few competitions held outside of Hong Kong. The competitions included the International Young Physicists' Tournament in Budapest, 2024 FIRST Lego League Championships in Houston, China Young Physicists' Tournament in Beijing and the International Science Youth Forum in Singapore. In early August, six DGS girls went to Beijing to participate in Centennial Schools Mathematics Competition.

The 16th Humanities Research Symposium for Youth (HRSY) was held in South Korea. The HRSY delegation consisting of 20 DGS students came together with their counterparts from Australia, South Korea and Singapore to engage in academic discussions and intellectually stimulating activities. Our students broadened their horizons by interacting with delegates from diverse backgrounds, allowing them to learn more about the unique cultures of the different countries.

While these fruitful programmes will continue in the coming year, we endeavour to keep exploring more exchange opportunities for our students. In the upcoming academic year, we will further expand our student exchange programmes under the new partnership with La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls in the United States of America. Apart from co-organising local school exchange programmes with Wah Yan College Kowloon and St. Paul's College, we have invited Wah Yan College Hong Kong to join us in partnership next year.

We would like to thank the School Council, the Supervisor and Mrs. Lau for their support in our work. I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to my fellow colleagues who have helped in organising and running the exchange programmes. My heartfelt gratitude must be given to Ms. Y. Leung, Mrs. M. Galin, Ms. O. Ho, Miss C.R. Lau, Mrs. P. Kam and Mrs. V. Daryanani for their support throughout the year.

#### 4. Services

Miss C. Au, Ms. A. Lai, Ms. S. S. Tam, Mrs. H. Leung

The Service Team, comprising teachers-in-charge of the Citizens' Club, Girl Guides, Red Cross and various service projects and programmes, continues to nurture and encourage our students to be involved in community service programmes within and outside the school to live out the school motto, Daily Giving Service. Through the experience of caring for and serving others, we hope to instill a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment and to foster empathy and compassion for the underprivileged and less fortunate in our community among our students.

With guidance from the school and support from all teachers-in-charge, partner organisations and students, the team continued to offer the following wide range of service opportunities and activities for girls of all forms to apply their diverse talents to serve the needy in our community, enriching their learning experiences and building their positive character:

- 'Sharing Music, Sharing Love' Service Project (S.1 – S.5 students)
- "Angel Clothes" Sewing Service Project 2024 (S.1 – S. 6 students)
- "Best Buddies Hong Kong" Movement (S.1 – S.4 students)
- 2024 Egg-cellent Hunter (S.3 – S.4 students)
- C.U.H.K. Jockey Club Myopia Prevention Programme (S.4 – S.6 students)
- Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme (S.3 – S.6 students)
- Humanitarian Education Talk by the G.X. Foundation (whole school)
- Making Dummy Certificates for the DGS Speech Day 2023-2024 (S.3 – S.4 students)
- Rainbow D.R.E.A.M. Camp 2024 (S.3 – S.5 students)
- Receiving students from Christian Alliance SC Chan Memorial College (S.3 Students)
- S.2 Mini-Summer Term Service Learning Project (S.2 & S.6 students)
- Sandy Bay Charity Fair (S.1 – S.5 students)
- Sewing Service Project for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital 2023-2024 (S.1 – S.5 students)
- Student Helper for S.1 Admission Interviews 2023-2024 (S.5 students)
- Student Helpers for Mini Bazaar Pre-ordering (S.1 – S.5 students)
- Youth Impact Award 3.0 (S.2 – S.5 students)

#### **The Citizens' Club**

Established in 1963, the Citizens' Club is a student-led organisation at DGS, in which student volunteers are given numerous opportunities to initiate, organise and implement various community service programmes for students in DGS.

One of the unique characteristics of the Citizens' Club is the proactive leadership role taken up by its student volunteers. Under the guidance of the teachers-in-charge of the Citizens' Club, at the beginning of each school year in September, student leaders, comprising one Chairlady, two to three Vice-Chairladies, a Secretary, a Treasurer and other committee members, make plans for all the community service programmes to be rolled out that year at DGS, including regular and irregular ones. Throughout the school year, student leaders play an indispensable role in the running of the regular service programmes, responsible for liaising with our partner organisations, reporting to teacher advisors of different service programmes regularly, preparing and supervising student volunteers under their care in respective service programmes, as well as compiling evaluation reports by the end of the school year. As for the service projects implemented during long school holidays, student leaders of the Citizens' Club take up opportunities to design, execute and evaluate their service plans under the guidance of different teachers-in-charge. In the process, DGS students are given numerous opportunities to apply and practise the idea of "PIE (Planning-Implementation-Evaluation)", and understand the spirit of "sustainable volunteering", that is a commitment to giving back without leaving a destructive footprint. Through the debriefing sessions they have with their teachers and peers, all student volunteers are given the chance to share their views and reflect on the plans they have implemented and come up with better plans for future programmes.



Up to the present day, the Citizens' Club has collaborated with various organisations in Hong Kong to hold a range of community service programmes involving a significant proportion of the student body at DGS. Our partner organisations for the past decade include, but are not limited to, Po Leung Kuk Lo Yau Yuk Sheung Neighbourhood Elderly Centre, Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited Chan Hing Social Service Centre, Salvation Army Mongkok Integrated Service for Senior Citizens, Salvation Army Yaumatei Integrated Service for Young People and the Social Welfare Department. Regular service programmes, usually conducted after school from Monday to Friday and on Saturday mornings, include tuition classes for children from low-income families and ethnic minority children, interest classes for senior citizens and programmes for those with disabilities. To maximise the opportunity for students to participate in different community service, especially those unable to participate in the regular service programmes, the Citizens' Club has also routinely organised flag-selling activities during weekends, raising funds for different NGOs in Hong Kong. The Citizens' Club is one of DGS's most popular student clubs, with the largest student membership. In 2023-2024, though the service programme Service Beyond Hong Kong (sewing reusable sanitary napkins for South Sudan) was shelved, the Citizens' Club continued the legacy by accumulating over 5,000 service hours in total.

### **DGS Zonta Club**

This year, our DGS Z Club, an affiliate of Zonta International consisting of 34 officers and directors, hosted her first ever joint-school Induction and Installation Ceremony, with Wong Shiu Chi Secondary School (WSC) and CCC Hoh Fuk Tong College (HFT), on 14 October 2023 (Saturday) in the DGS Chapel, gladly welcoming the 33 new members from DGS and the member representatives from WSC and HFT. The three schools will take turns to host the ceremony.

From time to time, members of the DGS Z Club are invited to participate in different activities organised by our Mother Club, the Zonta Club of Hong Kong East. We must extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Mother Club for granting our girls numerous enjoyable learning opportunities beyond classroom learning to broaden their horizons, as well as financially sponsoring our service projects over the past years.

### **DGS Community Youth Club**

Our Community Youth Club (CYC) has again garnered great enthusiasm and generosity from our girls in the annual CYC Charity Plant Sale as always. This year, with the keen support of more than 230 volunteers, our Club was awarded the Bronze Award in the event, and the Gold Award Cup in the Yau Tsim Mong District.

### **Girl Guides (Second West Kowloon Company)**

Through exposing our guides to a wide variety of skills and activities, our unit continued to thrive and strive for excellence. Other than the unit-level award, individual guides in our unit have also earned recognition by engaging in various guiding activities and committing themselves to community service. Our Chairlady has been awarded "The Outstanding Girl Guide Award", which is given to recognise Guides' outstanding performance in the unit. Two guides joined the YTM Division – Orienteering Event and won the second runner-up. They enjoyed and learnt a lot. The whole team also participated in Hong Kong Flag-selling Day and won the Most Volunteers Award and first runner-up in the Secondary section.

In terms of regular activities, general meetings were held each week for the whole year. During these meetings, the guides were introduced to skills such as knotting, lashing, first aid and decoding. Tasks and challenges were assigned to help them incorporate these skills into their daily life. Station games and group challenges were used during general meetings. There were various badge assessment sessions to assess the guides on different skills and knowledge areas, such as Community Health, Hong Kong History and Weather Knowledge. A total of 207 certificates were given out to recognise the guides' effort in acquiring new guiding knowledge.

The annual camp, held to foster a stronger bond among members of different patrols, was held in June after the final examinations. The girls enhanced their knowledge and interest in guiding activities by learning different skills in camping and putting skills learnt in the previous school years into practice. The camp also helped our guides develop independence and self-reliance by learning to act in the service of others. They were also engaged in services at school. During occasions such as Speech Day, our guides served as the “Guard of Honor” and developed good habits and values as responsible Girl Guides and world citizens.

2023-24 was a fruitful and rewarding year for our unit. With the school’s support, the guides could develop themselves in different areas and make progress in their whole-person development. While understanding their relative privileges to many others in society, the guides also showed empathy to the less privileged through actions and services. The guiding experience they have gained this year could help them better integrate into society and take up the challenges they might face in the future.

### **Red Cross (Youth Unit 55)**

This year has been another fruitful year for the Red Cross. Members displayed excellent engagement in different types of services and training. Our unit continued to uphold the five objectives of the Red Cross, including protecting life and health, serving the community, enhancing friendship and mutual understanding, promoting the spirit of the Red Cross and attaining personal growth.

Our members received training and acquired first aid, health care and community service skills. Many training courses, including Youth Sign Language Instructor, Youth Knotting, Youth Basic First Aid, Standard First Aid Blended Learning, Youth Service Skills (Mental Health), Youth Nursing, Youth Drill, Youth Drill Instructor, Youth Drill Proficiency, Youth Knowledge of Red Cross, Youth Leadership Training and Committee Member Training, were organised this year. Members were equipped with the skills and knowledge needed in different situations and emergencies.

Different internal and external voluntary services were carried out to serve the needy. An Easter Service Project and a Summer Service Project were organised. During school events like the Swimming Gala and Speech Day, members were stationed at the first aid station to provide first aid service to injured students. Members also joined the School Health Ambassador Programme to promote health care and services to the whole school. Game stalls and displayed boards were set up during lunch, after school and at Mini Bazaar.

Members of our unit broadened their horizons and social circles through various recreational and inter-school functions. Friendships were established with members from other Red Cross units in the Christmas party, co-organised with Ying Wa College, and the Easter party, co-organised with True Light Girls’ College and United Christian College. Members exchanged their experiences in the Red Cross and learnt to understand and accept others.

To promote the Red Cross spirit, topics of disability, first aid and humanitarianism were discussed in the general meetings. Games and presentations were designed to help members learn about the importance of these key principles. Upon passing the drill exams and training for leadership, cooperation and self-discipline, many members successfully fulfilled the requirements of different levels of the Progressive Programme. One member completed all the stages and achieved the Hong Kong Red Cross Youth Attainment Badge. The Enrolment Ceremony was successfully held this year. We were beyond grateful to be able to invite the District Officer of the Yau Tsim Mong District as the officiating guest as well as friends from other schools to witness this big event. It was an emotional and memorable event for the new and existing members to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.

Overall, our members showed personal growth while advocating the key principles of the Red Cross. A high sense of belonging towards the unit was also developed throughout the year. Our unit participated in various competitions and achieved pleasing results. In the Red Cross West Kowloon Division First Aid Competition, two teams representing our unit came second and seventh, respectively. The leader of one of the teams also captured the Best Leader Award. In the Red Cross West Kowloon

Division Best Service Project Competition, the Team came second. In the Red Cross West Kowloon Division Friendship Function Design Competition, the Team came first. Noteworthy, our unit ranked first in the Yau Tsim Mong South District Best Unit Competition and represented the district to compete in the West Kowloon Division Best Unit Competition, where our unit came third and was awarded the Best Unit Award. We would like to congratulate all members on their outstanding achievements in the unit.

### **Conclusion**

As shown in an anonymous online survey conducted from July to August 2024 about our students' participation in community service organised by DGS in 2023-2024, the majority of target participants (83%) who had taken part in community service programmes organised by the school agreed that their participation in these service projects was a rewarding experience. Below are some major findings of the survey:

- 77% of them agreed that they benefitted from their participation;
- 73% of these students gained a sense of achievement of their involvement;
- 69% of them decided that their social skills were enhanced;
- 63% of them became more compassionate;
- 62% of them gained a sense of satisfaction from their participation;
- 62% of them felt that their service targets appreciated their service;
- 61% of them agreed that their communication skills were enhanced;
- 56% of them became more empathetic;
- 55% of them became more patient;
- 52% of them agreed that their problem-solving skills were enhanced;
- 51% of them agreed that they became a more thankful person;
- 51% of them agreed they learnt how to better get along with people around them after their participation.

70% of these target respondents indicated that they would continue participating in community service programmes in the future, and 54% would encourage their friends/family members to participate in community service.

In light of the above, the DGS Service Team provides an essential platform for DGS students to devote their time, energy and talents to offering concrete and long-term help to the underprivileged in our community, while at the same time being a breeding ground for future leaders, who are trained to plan, organise and implement large-scale community service. It does not only benefit the personal growth of student volunteers, but also channels the love and care of DGS students to various social groups, promoting and enhancing the awareness towards positive values like altruism, volunteerism, sustainable volunteering, and ultimately, contributing to the cultivation of a caring, loving and inclusive society in Hong Kong and even in the world.

Lastly, we would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to our Headmistress, Mrs. Lau, for her valuable advice and continual support and encouragement for the team. Our heartfelt thanks also go to our colleagues, Dr. Y. W. Man, Miss C. Ho, Miss C.R. Lau, Miss Y. M. Tsang, Miss Y.C. Chiu, Mr. B. Lo, Mr. C. Lam, Mr. J. Sit, Mr. K. Kan, Mrs. M. Galin, Mrs. M. P. Chow, Mrs. S.Y. To, Ms. G. Yau, Ms. K.L. Chan, Ms. T.K. Yu, Ms. W.Y. Yeung, Ms. W. Leung, and our school social workers, Ms. Carrie Leung and Miss Chelsea Hui, for their support to the team and contributions in supervising and accompanying our students in reaching out to their fellow schoolmates and people in the community throughout the year.

## **11.4 Library Report**

**Mr. K. Hung**

The DGS library aims to foster a love for reading by offering a welcoming environment where students and staff can explore various resources and engage in collaborative learning. In the 2023-2024 academic year, we focused on enhancing accessibility through system upgrades and diverse book displays, promoting inter-departmental teamwork to create a reading-friendly atmosphere across the campus.

Thanks to the school's support, our library has transitioned from a programme-based system to a web-based platform. This new interface simplifies access, enabling students and teachers to search, renew and reserve books online. Feedback indicates the system is more user-friendly, aiding users in locating and staying informed about library resources.

For the Library Committee, Susanna Lau (5Z) and Annas Yuen (5X) served as Library Chairladies, leading a team of 21 members from various grades, with senior members mentoring others. Our team received training in library operations, assisting with book circulation, shelving, processing new materials and handling inquiries. Over the year, they processed hundreds of new books and organised thousands of items on the shelves. Apart from daily tasks, they supported the librarian by creating posters, arranging thematic book displays and decorating the library to enhance resource awareness. Additionally, on 13 January, 2024, they visited the Eslite bookstore to select books for our collection. These experiences, within and outside the library, equipped them with valuable skills for the future and beyond.

Book exhibitions were organised through collaboration with teachers of different departments, featuring topics like arts, Chinese culture, mathematics and religious studies. These exhibitions aimed to spark a passion for reading, allowing students to discover new titles, revisit existing collections and deepen their enthusiasm for learning and knowledge.

The collaborative efforts of the library team and teachers led to a significant increase in borrowing rates, from 1,673 in the previous academic year to 3,214 books in 2023-2024. This growth reflects our achievement and indicates a growing interest in reading and research among students. Looking ahead, we are committed to maintaining this momentum and providing engaging resources for our school community.

## **11.5 Prefects' Board**

**Au Cheuk Yi Cherry, Kum Ho Yee**

The Prefects' Board is dedicated to fulfilling our duties in serving the school, helping to organise and ensure the smooth running of school events, facilitating communication between the student body and the faculty and maintaining discipline in the community. The Prefects' Board for this academic year consists of two Head Girls (Kum Ho Yee 5Y and Au Cheuk Yi Cherry 5Z), four Deputy Head Girls (Ho Wai Shum Emma 5U, Chan Hoi Chi Galie 5W, Ng Si Ting Eunice 5W and Leung Nok Yin Janice 5X), four Assistant Head Girls (Keung Yan Ching Sophie 5U, Ng Charms 5U, Jiang Yolanda Pak Yin 5W and So Hei Tung Diana 5Z) and 26 other prefects.

Throughout the school year, we aided in organising various school events, a major one being the annual Mini Bazaar held on 20 December, 2023. It was the first full-scaled Mini Bazaar after the pandemic and the largest one yet with the addition of the DGS Metaverse. Through meticulous preparation and multiple meetings, we were able to implement efficient crowd control and draw out detailed logistics on a tight schedule, enabling all guests to enjoy a festive and fruitful Mini Bazaar. The Prefects' Board also oversaw both the making of the logo and the mascot, as well as the venue arrangements, including the setting up of sales and games stalls. We also invited New Sight Congo, a charity organisation, to join us in setting up a sales stall to raise money for a good cause.

We implemented several new additions to the Mini Bazaar this year. The DGS Metaverse in the form of a Virtual Mini Bazaar was highly popular, particularly with the introduction of a new DGS Metaverse booth which featured an interactive AR experience and product collection. We also set up a Photo Booth with a Christmas-themed frame and several props for visitors and students alike to celebrate this iconic event. We were honoured to have assisted in organising the grand opening of the DGS Eco Garden, which included a ribbon cutting session preceded by the Diocesan Alumnae String Quartet, to commemorate the generosity of Mrs. Doris Ho, our former school supervisor, and to remind the school of the importance of environmentalism.

As customary, all our proceeds were donated to a range of charities suggested by the school body, including St. Andrew's Church, New Sight Congo, Children's Heart Foundation, and many others. Through fostering the Christmas spirit of generosity and joy on campus, we hoped to embody our school motto, "Daily Giving Service". The DGS community was able to care for those in need, demonstrating love and compassion through this event. We would like to especially thank the Mini Bazaar Organising Committee, especially Miss C. Wong and Mrs. L. Chan and Mrs. V. Ma for providing unwavering guidance and support to us throughout this process. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to organise such an important and meaningful event, refining our leadership and teamwork abilities while pushing us to step out of our comfort zones.

We were pleased to assist in the Secondary 1 Specific Skills Test on 18 November, 2023. Prefects helped group applicants and led them to various venues, making sure the tests could be conducted efficiently. We also assisted in the Secondary 1 Applicants Meeting with teachers on 25 November, 2023. Prefects were positioned across the campus, including Symons Place and corridors along the classrooms, to provide guidance to and escort applicants for meetings. Many thanks to Miss B. Lee's guidance throughout the day, we were able to complete our duties fully with good communication and coordination.

The Prefects' Board took pride in acquainting new students and their parents with the school during the New Student Orientation Day on 6 July, 2024. They warmly welcomed attendees in the auditorium, guided them to informative sessions, offered support as required and facilitated the Q&A session. Kum Ho Yee, our Head Girl and Ho Wai Shum Emma, our Deputy Head Girl represented the student body to address the new students, welcoming them and sharing personal experiences and advice. We take great joy in supporting new students as they adjust to their fresh learning surroundings, and we sincerely wish them success in all their upcoming pursuits. Thanks must be given to all teachers, including Mrs. M. Galin, Mrs. M. Fong, Miss C. Au, Miss S. Li, Mrs. H. Leung, Ms. G. Yau, Ms. A. Lai, Mrs. J. Hau, Ms. W. Leung, Miss Z. Wang, Ms. C.M. Yip, Mrs. P.S. Tong, Mrs. S. A. Leung, Miss T.S. Wun and Mrs. S.Y. To, for their dedication and guidance during the New Student Orientation Day, enabling us to fulfil our responsibilities smoothly.

During the yearly Parents' Day held on 3 February, 2024, prefects aided the running of the day's programme, including guiding parents to classrooms to meet form teachers, implementing crowd control at the Careers Consultation classroom and the main school gate, and assisting in the Headmistress's talks. We would like to thank Mr. J. Oddie, Miss P.M.L. Cheung and Mr. A. Ebrahim for their guidance and support in this event.

On the significant occasion of Speech Day, prefects were privileged to be able to welcome the Most Reverend Andrew Chan, our guest of honour, Professor Nancy Y. Ip, SBS, BBS, MH, JP, our Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau and other honourable guests. Our team of prefects helped with putting on corsages for our guests, escorting them to their seats and providing them with refreshments.

Additionally, we were delighted to assist in the two-day Athletics Meet held at Wan Chai Sports Ground. Prefects were in charge of crowd control and entrance security before and after the event, as well as monitoring discipline at the venue. By planning ahead and designing a comprehensive crowd control plan, we were able to efficiently manage the crowd outside the entrance gates. Prefects also

patrolled different areas of the sports ground to ensure a safe and enjoyable Athletics Meets experience for all despite the chilly weather conditions.

Outside the campus, we were delighted to have served as student helpers for both the annual Inter-School Swimming Competition at Kowloon Park and the Inter-School Athletics Competition at Wan Chai Sports Ground. The Head Girls, Deputy Head Girls, and Assistant Head Girls meticulously recorded the completion times of contestants, proofread the data, and inputted them into Excel spreadsheets to guarantee that the performance of all athletes was accurately documented.

In addition to assisting in the coordination of school events, the Prefects' Board undertakes patrols during breaks and lunches to monitor any instances of misconduct, particularly in relation to the misuse of lifts. This academic year, we have reintroduced a detention policy aimed at students who have accumulated three or more violations to order to foster a culture of responsibility and encourage students to cultivate positive habits that contribute to a more conducive learning environment overall.

Continuing the tradition from previous years, our school actively engaged in the annual Dress Casual Day organised by the Community Chest on 8 November, 2023. Aligned with our school motto "Daily Giving Service", our students, teachers and staff generously contributed funds and dressed according to the event's theme, "Wear Your Moment". We introduced this meaningful event to our schoolmates in the assembly, outlining its objectives and explaining how donations could be made. Every contribution made during the day was directed towards the Community Chest to aid in their noble cause of providing care for underprivileged children in our community.

The Prefects' Board would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau, for providing us with this valuable opportunity to serve the school this academic year. Thanks must be given to our Deputy Heads, Mr. J. Oddie and Miss P.M.L. Cheung, and our Assistant Principal Mr. A. Ebrahim, for providing unfailing support and guidance throughout the year. Furthermore, we extend our thanks to all members of the School, especially teachers who have provided counsel and tutelage during significant school events.

It has been our honour for all of us to serve the school community as members of the Prefects' Board. We are immensely grateful that the school entrusted us with this responsibility, and allowed us to promote our school's spirit of daily service. Through our involvement in the school events and duties, we have gained insights into the intricacies of organising large-scale events, the significance of effective teamwork and communication, and our steadfast dedication to representing the school with dignity and compassion. With the nurturing from both teachers and schoolmates, it has been a very fulfilling journey.

With the combined effort and dedication of all 36 of us, we have pushed ourselves to exceed our expectations and helped each other improve, growing as a team. Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the school for this once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. It is our privilege to close this rewarding academic year with profound appreciation and respect.