



An Afternoon to Remember: The Opening Ceremony of the Redeveloped DGS Campus

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DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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On a sunny 17th January afternoon, the whole Diocesan community gathered together to celebrate the official opening of the newly redeveloped campus at 1 Jordan Road. With upgraded facilities in the beautiful new campus such as a modern library with study areas, a heated indoor swimming pool, and a 1400-seat capacity auditorium, a total of 600 guests were in attendance to celebrate the next chapter in the School's 153-year history.

The official Campus Redevelopment Opening Ceremony commenced at 2:30 pm at the DGS Plaza. In keeping with the grandness of the occasion, the School was lavishly decorated with sparkling ribbons and tinsel, whilst the stage was adorned with clusters of bright flowers and greenery to express our sincerest thanks to the donors and guests who have lent us a helping hand in the School's redevelopment project. Guests of Honour, including the Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Archbishop and Primate of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, Mr Hardy Lok, Chairman of the Building Sub-Committee for the DGS Redevelopment Project and Mr Kenneth Ting, SBS, JP, Chairman of the Fundraising Campaign Committee, joined hands with the members of the School Council and the Headmistresses of DGS and DGJS in declaring the campus officially open. Mrs. Doris Ho, Supervisor of the School then expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the people who had helped make the redevelopment project possible, and thanked everyone for their love for DGS and their generosity.



The ceremony included a rousing rendition of the celebratory hymn, the Te Deum, along with other hymns sung by girls decked along the different levels of the main campus building and around the DGS Plaza, accompanied by music from the School Orchestra. With angelic singing coming from all sides of the campus, many were touched by the occasion. The ceremony then concluded with the presentation of hand-painted souvenir boxes by girls to guests and a blessing from Archbishop Paul.

After the ceremony, all the guests were invited on a school tour to various rooms and special venues within the school campus, where keys were given to them, providing photo-taking opportunities. Delicacies were offered for the guests throughout the tour. This was followed by the 150th Anniversary Celebration Wall Opening Ceremony at 4 pm, involving the unveiling of the celebration wall decorated with 150 gold leaf motifs representing 150 years of schooling excellence, and the DGS Alumnae Wall Opening Ceremony at 4:15 pm.

All girls and teachers were anxious to make the widely anticipated Opening Ceremony a success. They were all drawn in by their love of the school and were eager to play host to the many patrons and guests present. A deep sense of gratitude was felt throughout the campus, as all recognized the deep impact they have made to the DGS education for many years into the foreseeable future. This certainly marks one of the most memorable occasions ever witnessed in the School's history.



A Speech Day to Remember



The evening of the 17th of January 2013 was an evening of "double happiness" for DGS as she celebrated the 2011-2012 Annual Speech Day after the Opening Ceremony of the Redeveloped Campus, held earlier that afternoon. Archbishop Paul, Mr. Hardy Lok and Mr. Kenneth Ting were invited to officiate as Guests of Honour.

The evening commenced with the Headmistress' report on the events of the past school year. After congratulating girls on their fine performance in the last Advanced Level examinations and the first cohort of Hong Kong's Diploma for Secondary Education examinations, she outlined the importance of "access, coverage and purpose" of education; citing examples of how DGS is faring in these respective domains through the provision

of financial aid such as fee remission schemes, scholarships and exhibitions and the provision of a variety of extra-curricular activities in sports, music and the arts. Quoting from Professor Darling Hammond's research at Stanford University, Mrs. Lau emphasized the importance of education of the whole person. The School also enhanced its teaching by upgrading its mobile learning platform, for example through the purchase of 50 tablet computers and the provision of a Wi-Fi network throughout the campus. Mrs. Lau invited the audience to read the reports by different departments in the Speech Day Booklet.



The Most Reverend Dr. Paul Kwong addressed the audience; praising the School's accomplishments over the years whilst upholding the virtues of the Christian faith, before proceeding to remind girls that information in society should not be taken at face value. He urged girls to apply the critical thinking skills taught at school in order to make a positive impact on the world. The three Guests of Honour took it in turn to present the many prizes to the graduating classes, and to girls of other forms from DGS and DGJS for their accomplishments in the past academic year. Afterwards, three student

representatives delivered a vote of thanks in English, Cantonese and Putonghua respectively. There were plenty of chuckles when a student representative thanked her classmates for "knowing the best restaurants in Jordan" and having the latest news of celebrities and teachers, while a strong sense of gratitude was felt when the Cantonese and the Putonghua student representatives thanked the School for cultivating their moral values and providing abundant extra-curricular learning opportunities.



The Speech Day concluded successfully with a beautifully sung School Hymn and a blessing of all those present by Archbishop Paul. It was indeed a sweet and wonderful conclusion to a very special Speech Day in DGS's 153-year history.



25 Years of DGS Swimming Glory

For 25 consecutive years, DGS has retained the championship in the Girls' Division I Inter-school Swimming Competition, a remarkable achievement by any standard. And after so many years of glorious achievement, one may be led to believe that winning the competition is a straightforward and easy thing to accomplish. 'With greater glory comes harder work,' as one of the five swimming team captains puts it. The secret of the team's success, according to her, is pure and simple – hard work and dedication.

Arriving at 6:45 am on the day, the swimming team started warming up in the School's indoor swimming pool before competing at Kowloon Park. Nervous and anxious about this year's most exciting competition, the team was well prepared to face challenges. "We didn't have as many new blood in C-grade as in previous years." Rachel Leung, our swimming team captain explained, "Other than that, our experienced swimmers such as Natasha Tang, Natalie Wong and Teresa Chung left us upon graduation." Our C-grade swimmers performed outstandingly well as one girl swam nine seconds faster than her personal best time, which was a remarkable improvement.



The day bode well from the start. During the A-grade 50m freestyle race, the incredible occurred. Both representatives of our School came first with the same finishing time, capturing the championship together. The races went on, and finally, when it was announced that DGS had swept all the championships, the team was absolutely overjoyed. Winning the Grand Slam is indeed a huge achievement this year. "It's really a perfect ending to my six years contribution to the DGS swimming team." Jessie Leung, our swimming team captain commented. To celebrate and to relax after all the excitements, the swimming team headed off to a pizza party. "We worked hard and played hard during the celebration," a swimming team member joked.

"It's all due to hard work," Noel Leung, our swimming team captain said when asked to comment on capturing the overall champion with a Grand Slam. "We began way back in the summer holidays to prepare ourselves for this competition. Two-day camps were organized, and we had plenty of training sessions held early in the morning and during lunch time." Our outstanding results were achieved through 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration of our swimmers. Yet teamwork and cooperation also played an important role. The team had in place a great management structure, from the teachers in charge Mrs V. Ma, Miss K.L. Liu and the inspirational Mrs P Hui to the coaches and team managers. Our team managers were appointed to take good care of the swimmers and to help team captains give advice to improve the performance of swimmers. There was a lot of encouragement given during the competition from various cheering groups. All these kept the swimmers motivated to carry on, and in the end, they managed to continue the DGS legacy despite all the pressure they faced. What next for the swimming team, then? Another 25 years of glory perhaps?



When Merlion meets Bauhinia

Merlion met Bauhinia when 8 girls from the Covent of the Holy Infant Jesus Secondary School (CHIJ), Singapore, stayed as exchange students at DGS from 29 October to 3 November, 2012.

Eight Secondary 2 girls from DGS became buddies with eight CHIJ students and accompanied them for a week of engaging activities and exchanges.

The eight pair of buddies attended an orientation workshop on the first day of their journey. Two of the CHIJ girls, Niv and Youngsin, especially remembered the "large-screen TV" game, in which one player had to express a word without mentioning the word itself, while other players have to guess the correct word. When it came to the term 'Justin Bieber', the Singaporean girls sang so enthusiastically that everyone laughed. They had lots of fun in various workshops, including one in Geography and English Literature. During the English Literature Presentation, they exchanged a collaborative project on the Shakespearean play "A Midsummer Night's Dream", which both parties found to be very intellectually rewarding and stimulating. The CHIJ students also were able to sample Cantonese cuisine outside the school campus, which was a novel experience for them, as they tended to eat on-campus.

CHIJ students were generally very positive about the characteristics of DGS girls. Niv and Youngsin originally expected DGS students to be rather serious and stern. However, they found DGS girls to be very smart, lively, and joyous after staying together for a week. The large campus also impressed them a lot. Niv told us, 'Even though getting around the school is a bit difficult, it is always good to have so many facilities and rooms for students. The learning environment is really great.' Moreover, they said that the lesson arrangement was comfortable. 'I like how there is a break in between lessons as well as the 1 hour break for lunch,' said Yangsin.

On the other hand, the atmosphere at DGS was quite different from CHIJ. Youngsin admitted that the announcement about detention on Monday was a bit frightening to them. According to them, detention was rarely implemented unless there were repeated offences in their school.

As the week ended, there was a lot that each school learnt from one another in terms of teaching pedagogy, views and opinions. Friendships were developed, contacts were shared and all agreed that it was a very fulfilling week for both the CHIJ girls and their DGS buddies. We look forward to reciprocal visits to their school to enhance this mode of learning.



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