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#### DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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Supervisor: Ms Benita Yu

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#### **Enter the DGS Metaverse**



Fröliche Weihnachten! This year's Mini Bazaar was held on a chilly 20 December morning. This highly anticipated occasion had scaled up into a total of 37 sale stalls, 18 game stalls, and even a bouncy castle!

The day started with the Opening Ceremony, where our former head girls introduced the DGS Metaverse. This platform was designed by technology-related clubs and teams, offering a virtual experience of attending the Mini Bazaar at a virtual DGS Christmas Market, where visitors can browse and purchase products exclusively designed by our talented students.

The Under Secretary for Education, Mr. Jeff Sze Chun Fai JP, graced the occasion by joining the headmistresses of Senior School and Junior School, and representatives of our School Council, for the ribbon cutting. The school was filled with a joyous atmosphere: parents were prepared to shop enthusiastically for products, while children queued up for fun game stalls. What a joy to see everyone's hard work – teachers, parents and students alike – coming to fruition!

We were pleased that the DGS Metaverse not only doubled the fun of our traditional



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Mini Bazaar

Christmas celebrations, but also made the occasion more inclusive by offering the housebound or those living abroad an opportunity to play and shop remotely.

More meaningfully, this pioneering project offered our students hands-on entrepreneurial training and lessons on how to set up a digital economy. They also learnt about the creative industry firsthand when creating a virtual world from scratch, on top of designing products to market and drafting the promotional catalogue. This is but one more example of how our Technology School has been making inroads, and transforming students into web designers and entrepreneurs.



### **Becoming Athletes**



Our Sports School has been rising from triumph to triumph. This was evident in the number of DGS recipients at the BOCHK Bauhinia Bowl Awards Presentation Ceremony on 6 July 2023. In addition to acknowledging the Headmistress for her dedication to the promotion of sports in schools in Hong Kong, our contingent of athletes were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in their respective individual and team sports.

We were also honoured to be the hosting school for the ceremony, at which our Head Girls served as emcees, earning much praise from the organizers, for their bilingual proficiency, quick thinking and professional attitude.

Our elite swimmers held on to their lead, achieving a grand slam again and breaking two records at the annual interschool championships this year. They were declared overall champion swimmers for the 35th consecutive year.

On 29 November 2023, our Cross Country Team gamely assembled at Tai Tong Country Park to defend their overall champion title in the annual interschool competition. Satisfied that they were declared number 1 again, they hit the books to prepare for the mid-year examinations a day away.





bouquet for her contributions to

promoting sports in HK schools

中銀杳港紫荊盃頒獎典禮 HK Bauhin<u>i</u>a Bowl Award 2022-2023

Team HK (Tennis) at the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Games of the PRC

Long before the Tokyo Olympics made fencing popular in Hong Kong, our fencers have been attaining fantastic results. They were named champions for the 18<sup>th</sup> successive year at the interschool competition on 22 October at the Hong Kong Park Sports Centre.

Since the lifting of travel restrictions after the pandemic our tennis aces have been playing abroad more and more. A new adventure this year was to represent Hong Kong at the First Youth Games of the People's Republic of China.



Fencing triumphs

Our Basketball Team and Rugby Team showed grit in the face of challenges. Hot on the heels of the Handball Team who qualified for the final for the first time last March, our basketballers achieved a breakthrough on 24 November when they were first runner-up in the A grade (Kowloon) Division 1 final for the first time in 17 years. Likewise, our Rugby Team were not daunted by more experienced opponents.



Cross-country champions



### **S4 China Programmes**

Ahead of the curve, our school forged ties with sister schools in many parts of China long before the government's call for exchanges with the mainland. Now that travel restrictions necessitated by the pandemic were removed, our Secondary 4 cohort resumed our extensive exchange programmes.

Starting from 30 October to 3 November, six groups, chaperoned by Chinese Language, Chinese History and Geography teachers, left to learn with their counterparts at the Affiliated High School of Peking University,





Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, Shanghai Soong Ching Ling School, Zhenjiang Chongshi Girls' High School, Zhixin High School, and the Zhuhai No.1 High School. A seventh group set out to visit the Shanghai No.3 Girls' High School for a week from 1 November, and the last group completed their week long exchange at the Tsinghua University High School in the capital on 17 November.

Apart from academic learning, they undertook sightseeing tours of historic landmarks like Qiangdeng Ancient Town, the Great Wall of China and The Palace Museum.

Students were enriched with hands-on experiences in clay modelling, brush painting, fan making, paper-cutting, Chinese tea etiquette, calisthenics exercises, and even a volleyball game. Some watched a performance of Suzhou Pingtan while others frolicked on snow covered slopes.

Participants fondly remembered the scrumptious meals they shared, the friends they met, and appreciated their Chinese heritage even more.











## S5 Citizenship and Social Development Mainland Study Tour

As dawn broke on 15 November, Secondary 5 HKDSE students headed for the West Kowloon Station to board the High Speed Rail for Guangzhou. The specially designed excursion by the EDB would take them on a study trip to one of the cities on the Belt and Road Initiative.

Accompanied by a dozen teachers including the Headmistress and a Deputy Head, the group enjoyed rare privileges most tourists do not get to experience. They had an adrenaline rush as they took part in a simulation exercise in an overturning car to

> abseiling out of a window in an emergency, and followed evacuation procedures in an earthquake.



On a lighter note, they had fun trying their hands at traditional dye printing and tea making. In the traditional Chinese medicine lesson, they learnt to identify herbs. It was a fulfilling and fun-filled day for all.







### Speech Day 2024



Headmistress with prize recipients



President Ip, first female president of a publicly-funded university in Hong Kong

The DGS campus was draped in rosy pink, welcoming distinguished guests, members of the school council, parents, teachers, and fellow Diocesans to commemorate not only the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2023, but also the fruition of our girls' hard work on the annual Speech Day, held on the evening of 5 January this year.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer by the Most Reverend Andrew Chan, followed by Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau's annual report in which she expressed her commendations towards the Graduating Class' achievements. Mrs. Lau reminded students of the importance of living a life of compassion, integrity and discernment in the light of exciting developments like ChatGPT that may be a tool as well as a temptation.

This year we were graced with the presence of our guest-of-honor, Professor Nancy Y. Ip, President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology who gave an inspiring speech about her pursuit in areas of STEM. Through the story of following her

dreams to build a career in neuroscience, she encouraged our students to chase their dreams, have the courage to seize opportunities and never give up.

Our Supervisor, Ms Benita Yu, the Most Reverend Andrew Chan, and President Nancy Ip presented numerous awards and scholarships to prize recipients in different academic and non-academic categories.

After the prize presentation, our Head Girls delivered their votes of thanks in English, Cantonese and Putonghua, moving the audience with their collective memories as a Diocesan, as well as giving their sincere thanks to Headmistresses, teachers, parents and friends on behalf of the graduates.





# The days of old have dowered us.....to serve the coming days

In an interview, Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau referred to the five colourful butterflies in the banner on our façade to illustrate her expectation of every Diocesan girl. Painted in the colours of our five Houses, the butterflies open their wings as they emerge from chrysalises, ready not only to pollinate the surrounding flora in daily giving service, but also to beautify life itself.

Building on our strong English foundation, the DGS Education is a life-changing experience that holistically nurtures each of us in an environment conducive for endeavour, innovation and collaboration, so that we can make a difference in the world.

With the blessings we have received at school, such as the spiritual nurturing, the skills, the opportunities, and the bonds we have formed, we are empowered to share our endowments with others to make the world a more beautiful place for all. Like the butterfly effect, the Diocesan spirit can spread and benefit even more people.



Passing with flying colours

# Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition 2023

Building on the legacy of our alumnae, both our Chinese and English Debating Teams emerged as winners in the Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition 2023 last July. The DGS Chinese debaters were champions and the DGS English debaters were first runners-up.



**English finalists** 



Chinese champions



Hong Kong Police

#### Careers Fair 2023

Through its 164 years of history, our school has been a place of transformations and a space for aspirations. Since its founding in 1860, the campus has undergone important upgrading to provide students with the best amenities and opportunities for learning. This "brave venture" of the wife of the first Bishop of Victoria and South China has today become a leading school in China and the Asia-Pacific region whose graduates contribute proactively in the international and domestic spheres.



Our alumnae's sense of belonging to the school has always been a priceless asset; at the Careers Fair 2023, many returned enthusiastically to share invaluable experiences with current students across different levels so that they may also pass with flying colours in their studies, future career and in life.





