

7. Personal, Social and Humanities Education

7.1 Humanities

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At DGS, education in the Humanities aims to foster a social and humanistic perspective among students as they study subjects like Economics, History and Geography. With sustained efforts and dedication of both teachers and students, we have maintained pleasing results in public examinations.

Public examination results

Our students continued to show keen interest in humanities subjects and attained encouraging results in the public examinations. In the Hong Kong Diploma Secondary Examination (HKDSE), 38.5%, 25% and 21.4% of the students attained 5* or above in Economics, Geography and History respectively. In the Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Examinations, 86% of the Economics students scored A or above, and in the Cambridge International Advanced Level (CIA) Examination, 66.7% and 50% of the students scored A or above in Geography and History respectively. The encouraging results are the fruit of the joint effort and hard work of the Humanities teachers and students over the past years.

Teaching and Learning

2022-23 has been a challenging but fruitful year. Teachers were actively involved in a wide range of teaching and assessment work.

This year, we continued to attend professional training courses, conduct development programmes, give supplementary lessons and tutorials, upgrade teaching pedagogies and prepare students for the public examinations. To allow more time to discuss in-depth problems during lessons in S4 Economics classes, the chapter of Production, Factors of Production and Business Ownership was taught with a type of blended learning called flipped classroom. Generally speaking, students were on task and the learning objectives were met. The Economics department would continue to employ different teaching strategies to enhance the effectiveness in teaching and learning. Measures were also taken to cater for learning diversity. Based on students' performance in internal tests and exams, weaker students were invited to do retests and attend small group tutorials, in which they were required to complete assignments that were designed to cater for their needs.

The Geography Department has continued to cultivate spatial thinking skills, enabling students to comprehend and interpret patterns, relationships, and interactions between people, places, and environments through inquiry-based learning. Students learn to evaluate sources of information, analyse spatial data, make informed judgments, and propose solutions to geographical challenges across local, national and global scales. Through a wide range of educational activities, students are empowered to become informed global citizens who understand the complexities of our interconnected world and are prepared to address different pressing issues.

After the pandemic, the resumption of field trips brought a renewed sense of excitement and experiential learning opportunities for students. This year, the Geography Department organised three field trips for S4 and S5 classes, including urban microclimatic studies in Central, woodland inquiry in Cheung Chau, and drifting classroom in Mui Wo. These field trips helped promote active engagement and hands-on learning, enabling students to apply their knowledge in practical situations by providing them with a real-world context to observe geographical phenomenon, features, ecosystems and landforms in Hong Kong.

The History Department offers both the HKDSE and A Level curriculum. Students studying history are encouraged to develop an understanding and appreciation of historical events, and be able to apply them to the world today and in the future. Through a wide range of educational activities, including the usage

of IT tools, students are able to learn collaboratively and be able to critically analyse both the recording and interpretation of history from different perspectives, and to form balanced judgments.

Enrichment Programmes

Economics

In addition to academic pursuit, our students also took part in various extra-curricular activities to broaden their knowledge and skills. We took part in the 18-week Junior Achievement Company Programme, through which the participating students developed valuable entrepreneurial skills as well as positive values and attitudes. For junior secondary students, S3 students developed personal finance management skills through their participation in a workshop entitled “Money sense”. Last year, we continued to engage all S4 students in the “Mini-bazaar Company Programme”, in which each S4 class formed a mini company to plan and implement their own sale stall for the Mini-bazaar.

Through the participation in external competitions, not only do students enrich their knowledge preparing for the competitions, but also hone their generic skills during the competitions. Last year was another rewarding year as our students accomplished a lot through their participation in external competitions. Their achievements are as follows:

- The World Economics Cup is a pure economics competition, consisting of material-based questions about economics concepts, thinking and innovation tasks to demonstrate students' problem-solving abilities to deal with real-world problems. Among the 53 participating teams from around the globe, our team comprising Nicole Deng (5U), Jayna Chiu (5U), Sophie So (5W), Chan Hei (5W), Liz Lee (5U) and Charmaine Wu (5W) was placed 6th in team overall performance. Jayna Chiu was also the Gold Medalist of the individual Economics Award. She was placed 5th among the 300 student competitors.
- The Hong Kong Innovation Challenge is an intensive team competition for students to apply what they learned about financial capability in solving real-world challenges. Out of the 13 participating teams, our team comprising Sabina Chung (4U), Wong Shu Hang (4U), Yang Meng Yu (4W), Lau Yan Yu (4X), Xu RuoHan (4Y), Vanessa Kan (4Z), Michelle Lau (4Z) and So Hei Tung (4Z) won the Champion.

Geography

The Geography Department arranged for students to take part in an extensive variety of competitions and encouraging results were attained. Cheng Pik Ching in S6 took part in the 12th Hong Kong Geography Olympiad and captured the Second Runner-up. In the 1st Hong Kong Secondary School Geological Survey School Competition jointly organised by the Field Trends HK Discovery and the Hong Kong Geological Society, the team comprising Choy Man Yuet Michelle, Han Choi Yin and Yau Man Hei Meri in S4 attained the Silver Award. Cheuk Nim Yan in S3 took part in the Eco-lifestyle Competition 2022 organised by Surein Foundation Limited and was crowned the championship.

Arrangements were also made for students to take part in other external programmes to raise their awareness about environmental issues, promoting an understanding of the interconnections between societies and natural surroundings. 13 students were awarded the Gold Certificate of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eLearn Award Scheme 2023 organised by UNICEF. Wang Cindy Hing Yu made significant achievements in the Scheme and was honoured with the Most Active Contribution Award.

History

The History Department aims to foster students' awareness and interest in the historical development of the world, and to enhance their knowledge and skills in independent historical research. Through various classroom activities, the department hopes to cultivate a culture of "learning to learn". Field trips to various locations in Hong Kong also provide first-hand insights into history that directly has impacted the city. Overseas travel to noteworthy historical sites and museums in other countries, such as the visit to Germany this past summer in July 2023, is an invaluable complement to the study of history.

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

7.2 Religious Education

Mrs. M. Fong

Praise be to God who has abundantly bestowed His kindness and grace upon us throughout the year! We are deeply grateful for the ongoing privilege of beginning each day with morning assembly where we worship God and receive inspiration from His Word, empowering us to face each day with renewed thoughts and attitudes. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Headmistress and all the teachers who have graciously dedicated their valuable time to prepare enlightening assembly messages that uplift and edify us.

Throughout the year, we were privileged to be nurtured by the dedicated team of pastors from St. Andrew's Church. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Revd Alex McCoy and Revd Darren Pollock for their inspiring messages shared during the Friday assemblies. Moreover, we would like to extend our special thanks to Revd McCoy for leading the Christmas Service in December, as well as the Holy Communion Service and Easter Service in April, which brought spiritual renewal to many of us.

The Scripture says, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2a). The overall theme of this year's class assembly "Old Testament Encounters with God," and each class took turns to share with the whole school how God has revealed Himself to us through the ways He relates with His people in the Old Testament, helping us to lead lives that are pleasing in His eyes. We are thankful for the encouraging messages prepared by the S1-S6 classes throughout the year.

The blessings that God showered upon us in this year's Gospel Week were beyond measure. Many girls responded to God's love by praying to receive Christ into their lives or reconfirming their faith in Him. Special thanks must be given to members of One Circle GLOW Youth Ministry for being our guests at the whole-school evangelistic meeting, where they generously shared their beautiful music and encouraging messages. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Youth Fellowship teachers for their dedicated effort in mentoring the Youth Fellowship committee members and guiding their preparation for the special morning assemblies during Gospel Week.

To reciprocate God's love, our girls were encouraged to spread His love to their neighbours by contributing some of the food or money they had to support those in need. During the Harvest Festival in October, junior and senior students generously donated food and money, respectively, to the Light of Yung Shu Tau Christian Society Limited. Moreover, the money raised from the Famine Lunch activity and the Lenten Bag activity during the Lent season were sent to several charitable organisations, including the People's Food Bank of St James' Settlement, the 'Poverty and Care Simulation Programme' of the Mission to New Arrivals Limited and Watoto Hong Kong Limited.

This year, we were continually blessed with the love and support from a group of old girls who returned to organise a retreat day camp for their S5 sisters at St. Andrew's Church. Our sincere thanks go to Ms.

Mona Au, Ms. Fanny Leung and their team, who selflessly dedicated their time to meticulously planning enjoyable and meaningful retreat activities, guiding the S5 girls to reflect on their lives from different perspectives. We would also like to express our special gratitude to Miss Amanda Looi for her vibrant and generous sharing, which helped the younger sisters understand how they could lead fulfilling lives by embracing God's guidance.

Special commendations should be given to the Christian student leaders who served diligently in the Youth Fellowship committee. Despite their busy schedule, they remained steadfast in their service, selflessly working to help their peers grow in their knowledge of God and cultivate a closer relationship with Him. Besides organising the regular general meetings on Mondays, they also devoted their lunch breaks and many hours after school to prepare for various whole-school activities over the course of the year, such as the special morning assemblies in the Gospel Week, Harvest Festival in October, Prayer Meeting for S6 DSE and S5/6 AL girls in March, Famine Lunch in April and the New Student Orientation Programme in August.

To end this report, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Headmistress for her trust, guidance and unwavering support throughout the year. My sincere appreciation goes to my teammates, Dr. A. Cheung, Mrs. H. Leung, Mrs. S. A. Leung and Miss T. S. Wun, for their faithful service in the department. They have wholeheartedly brought the Good News and God's love to the girls, both inside and outside the classroom. Special thanks must also be given to Mr. D. Pang, Ms. O. N. Chan and Mr. B. Lo for their time and effort in caring for the Youth Fellowship. Last but not least, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His abundant protection and loving guidance throughout the year. May His name be glorified!