

# 1. English Language Education

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*“Wherever you go, go with all your heart”*  
Confucius

The saying above epitomizes the spirit of the English Department, which perennially seeks out ways and means to improve the performance and outlook of their students. We continued to streamline the set system in S5 and S6 to achieve optimum effectiveness, while we catered to the needs of incoming S1 girls by splitting the G set into G1 and G2, to offer them more individualized attention as they work to improve their English language acquisition in their first year at DGS. In the past academic year our girls reaped very pleasing results in language and literature in public examinations. In English Language, 33 % and 67 % received 5\*\* and 5\* and above respectively in the HKDSE external examinations. This year, we invited S6 girls to engage in oral practice sessions with students from two other schools as part of exam preparation. This proved worthwhile for everyone, so we will continue to explore possibilities of linking up with different schools in future. The performance of the those taking the Literature in English subject were spectacular, with 50% of the literature cohort obtaining 5\* or above. The GCE A Level cohort sat the IELTS test whilst in Secondary 5 and achieved pleasing performance, with all scoring high grades. Such results enabled our girls to pursue their preferred university choices.

The Speech Festival, a popular event in the school calendar, is now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year. There were 8 first places, 11 second places and 12 third places this year. Students were able to perform well, thanks to the guidance of their English teachers, and I thank them for sparing personal time to coach the speech festival entrants.

The Debating Team reaped the benefits of the training sessions conducted by external coaches and internally by senior students. In particular, senior girls in the House of Debate are to be commended for demonstrating clear resolve and team spirit as they put in time and effort to groom their junior members. This has led to very pleasing results this year. Natalie Woo was the first among Hong Kong Team members to be placed in the top 20 in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships organized by Branksome Hall. Vanessa Woo was the Champion in the 2019 Junior Hong Kong Individuals Public Speaking Contest. The team comprising Nathania Ngo, Claire Wai, Jamie See, Gianna Lai and Madeleine Wu were Champions in the 18th Junior Hong Kong World Schools Competition organized by the Hong Kong Schools Debating and Public Speaking Council (HKSDPSC). In another event the junior team comprising Chloe Pak, Jamie See, Ingrid Wu, Cheng Chun Yan and Madeleine Wu were the Champions in the Hong Kong Schools Junior Debating Tournament, with Madeleine Wu winning the Best Speaker in the Grand Final. Gwyneth Gunawan, Jade Wong and Tania Chan were the Grand Finalists in the Hong Kong British Parliamentary Debate Championship. These achievements reflect the strong sense of camaraderie and sisterhood that permeate the House of Debate, something that is gratifying to behold.

The practice of spreading opportunities equally amongst the MUN team delegates continued this year as we took part in various MUNs organized locally, as well as one held overseas. Members of the MUN community were able to represent various countries and try their hand at constructive dialogue and negotiations. At the Hong Kong Model United Nations 2019 organized by Renaissance College Olga Kwan, Qian Shi Qi, Chan Lok Yin and Sin Ka Long were Outstanding Delegates while Li Wing Yan was the Most Improved Delegate of the US Senate. In the HARMUN III 2019 organized by Harrow International School Chloe Ching and Mavis Lam won Best Speaker while Ashleigh Fung and Olga Kwan were the Best Delegate. In the Victoria Shanghai Academy Model United Nations Li Wing Yan and Luk Mei Kei were Best Delegate while in the Discovery College Model United Nations Leung Ho Kiu and Lam Tsz Huen were Best Delegate. Students also went overseas to Singapore Chinese Girls' School Model United Nations Youth Conference in March 2019 where Tiffany Chan and Valerie Chan won the Best Speaker Award.

Apart from public speaking, girls also sought expression through various writing projects. The 2016-2018 edition of the Quest School Magazine, whose butterfly motif represents the gradual development and transformation of our school community, was very well received upon its release this year. I wish to thank all members of Editorial Team for their selfless contributions towards this issue of Quest, with its noticeably softer,

aesthetically pleasing tone. Girls also contributed many articles and reflections of high quality to the 5A magazine, *Vivace*, as part of a class journalism project, and these were sold during the DGS Mini-bazaar in December. Many girls developed an appreciation of novels through the Reading Club, as we worked in conjunction with the Chinese Department to provide them a platform to appreciate and enjoy selected texts in both languages. In the spirit of daily giving service, a number of girls put their reading skills to good use by sparing time to read storybooks to younger children from underprivileged background through the Kids-for-Kids Reading Programme. Exchange programmes with various overseas schools presented our girls with additional opportunities to utilize English in a practical and purposeful way. Last year we had exchanges with three schools in Singapore, two schools in Australia and one in New Zealand. Twenty girls presented papers on topics such as *The Depiction of Native Americans in Film* and *The Synthesis of Serial Killers – Child Abuse and Its Psychological Impacts*, amongst others, in the Humanities Research Symposium for Youth held at Bugil Academy, South Korea.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the English Department for their zeal and professionalism in delivering quality language and literature teaching to our girls. Certainly, they went in with all their hearts to fulfill the Department's goals. Finally, I would like to express gratitude to Mrs. Lau, our Headmistress, for her full support and encouragement of all that the Department has done throughout this year.