

## **10. IT in Education**

**Mrs. C. P. Ho**

The School adopts a whole school approach to implement the IT in Education programme. The IT in Education Team and the IT Coordinating Team collaborate closely with each other to support all subject departments to develop and implement the school IT plans.

### **IT Coordinating Team**

The IT Coordinating Team comprises three Computer teachers and three IT technical staff. The Team has the following responsibilities:

- Coordinating and implementing the school IT plans and IT projects in progress
- Maintaining the school network and supervising operations of all IT systems
- Preparing and monitoring the school IT budget and financial accounts
- Procuring, keeping inventory and coordinating the use of school IT resources
- Planning and organizing teacher IT training programs
- Sharing our implementation experience with other schools

### **IT in Education Team**

The IT in Education Team comprises Mr. HC Chan, the Team Coordinator, and 14 teacher representatives from various Key Learning Areas (KLAs). The objectives of the Team include:

- Rolling out the One-Student-One-iPad Policy of the School
- Promoting the use of innovative technologies and pedagogies in teaching and learning
- Exploring and recommending useful e-resources and technological tools
- Enhancing professional development of teachers
- Sharing implementation experience with other schools

### **One-Student-One-iPad Policy**

The One-Student-One-iPad Policy of DGS was initiated in 2012 and reached full-scale implementation in 2016. Now in its sixth year of implementation, it has now become a normal routine every year for the IT Coordinating Team and IT in Education Team to conduct the following:

- Distribute school iPads to all new students by the end of August before the school year starts.
- Arrange an evening session for new students and parents to learn about the school regulations on the use of school iPads, and some examples of using iPads during lessons from core academic subjects.
- Collect school iPads from S.6 students after their mock examinations.
- Take stock of all school iPads before final examinations and arrange for repair.

Gradually a school culture is built up, and iPads become indispensable as a tool for teaching and learning at DGS. In the year-end evaluation surveys conducted in July 2018, over 40% of teachers responded they use iPads frequently (51-100%). The most popular iPad activities are Internet research and group work.

## **G Suite in Education**

Upon the deployment of G Suite in Education starting in the school year 2017/18, teachers could use Google Classrooms as their Learning Management System. The IT in Education Team launched six Google Classroom workshops at the beginning of the school year to familiarise teachers with the necessary setup and daily usage. More than 60 teachers attended these workshops and understood the main functions and related pedagogies when deploying this new platform.

Many teachers have integrated Google Classrooms into their teaching practice. By the end of the school year 2017/18, 182 Google Classrooms were used by 69 teachers in 14 subject departments. Moreover, 14 teachers attained the Google Certified Teachers (Level 2) qualification after completing online training and assessment.

## **Teacher Professional Development**

Four teachers from Science, IT, Mathematics and English KLAs attended the Fourth “Schools with Innovative Future Technology” (SWIFT) conference in Shenton College, Perth, Australia. This conference provided a platform for participating schools (six in total) from different countries to share effective IT practices in pedagogy and curriculum development. Each school had the opportunity to present technological applications in learning, and the respective DGS teachers presented how they have incorporated technology in STEM learning, particularly in ECAs.

In the last Staff Development Day of 2017/18, a series of workshops on pedagogical application of different technology were arranged. Five parallel sessions on Hyperdocs, Production of Teaching Video, Google Classroom advanced application, iPad wireless projection, and the use of Google Form and data processing were held by five different teachers across different subjects, including technical demonstration, pedagogical discussion and some case studies of class usage. More than 85% of teachers commented that different skills learnt from these workshops were relevant to their needs, and they have gained more confidence in applying these technologies to their teaching.

## **Information Technology Staffing Support Grant (ITSSG)**

From the school year 2017/18, the EDB provided an additional recurrent cash grant to all public sector primary and secondary schools for strengthening the IT staffing support to practise e-learning and take forward various education initiatives which will harness IT. Using this grant, DGS has employed an additional technical staff to provide better user support to teachers.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude this report, I would like to thank the Headmistress and the School Council for their generous support, encouragement, and guidance. I also wish to express my gratitude to my teammates in the IT Coordinating Team and the IT in Education Team for their dedication and support.