

4. Liberal Studies

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The development of our curriculum in school is always directed by the needs and strengths of our students. By offering a wide range of courses and qualifications students benefit from an increased freedom of choice at DGS which in turn means higher levels of satisfaction, and happier, improved outcomes at the end of Secondary 6. This increased breadth and balance enable our students to find their chosen pathways with relative ease, equipped as they are with a thorough understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses.

Public Examinations

This was another year rewarding year in academic performances. The hard work of our students and teachers was correspondingly rewarded with good HKDSE results with 27.2% achieving 5** and 69.4% attaining Level 5 or above. The department is delighted with their success and wishes them well for the future.

Curriculum enrichment and extension

Students are increasingly able, and we are aware of the need to extend and challenge these students through activities in lessons and stand-alone challenges that enable students to perform at the highest level. The A-Level cohort continues to enjoy a new, experiential, approach in their pursuit of the General Studies module with the introduction of a new scheme of work. The broader specification of this syllabus has enabled the students to gain a wider understanding of a diverse range of topics related to Britain as well as gaining hands-on experience in class activities. The Department's extensive co-curricular programmes have further motivated students to engage in and enjoy learning. In one of the activities in co-operation with the Geography Department, students acquired the basic skills in Geography lessons, underwent preparation, and applied what they have acquired in Liberal Studies lessons in a form of an activity. The department had also been working closely with the 'Humanities Symposium for Youth' in conducting preparation workshops to sharpen students' research skills when they formulate research topics and choose evidence to support their explanations.

The department continues to look for opportunities to extend students' learning experiences beyond the classroom. Our girls have had a number of opportunities to undertake experiential learning. The S4s enrolled in a Community Tour to appreciate how urban renewal and development have influenced the way of life, the living environment and the local cultural heritage in Wanchai. In March, a group of selected students participated in a forum organised by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to discuss face-to-face with the Financial Secretary Mr. Paul Chan Mau-po the latest 'Budget'. S5 students attended a lecture delivered by the Head of the Faculty of Social Science and Health from Durham University on the topic on Globalisation. The lecture discussed the latest developments in the context of Brexit, President Trump and the growth of right wing political parties in Europe. By exploring common global issues, students were able to gain a better understanding and appreciate its relevance in today's world, with political, social and economic focus.

To enhance their learning, we have always encouraged our students to venture out for a full and enriched curriculum. An array of activities and competitions were offered to cater for all interests. A group of keen students competed in "Expert on Liberal Studies" Online Competition and Liberal Studies Programme 2017-2018 – "Healthy Living – Food and Habit" to hone their skills in self-directed learning.

My sincere thanks go to all members of the department for their commitment to ensure that our standards continue to be held high. We are truly fortunate to have so many dedicated and committed teaching staff. Last but not least, we wish to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau for her unwavering support and continuous guidance and encouragement. We look forward to another fruitful and rewarding year.