

7. Personal, Social and Humanities Education

7.1 Humanities

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Education in the Humanities plays an indispensable role in all-round education at DGS. It aims to develop students in the interest, knowledge and skills in studying Economics, History and Geography.

Public Exam Results

Humanities subject teachers dedicated much of their efforts in providing quality education for the students, who continued to attain encouraging results in public examinations.

HKDSE results

The past year witnessed some pleasing results in students' performance in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), with 40% and 41% of the students obtaining Level 5* or above in Economics and History respectively.

GCE AL examination results

The AL Geography and History students sat the Cambridge International Examinations while the Economics students sat the International Advanced Level Examinations. Last year, they obtained excellent results, with half of the first-year cohort scoring Grade A in these three subjects at A level. The performance of the second-year cohort who sat on the components at AS level was even more pleasing. Around 85% of the scores of the ASL papers they attempted were Grade A.

Teaching and Learning

Implementation of AL curricula

One of the main focuses in teaching and learning is to implement the AL curricula. School-based teaching materials were carefully designed and developed, catering for the learning needs of the AL students. With an increase in teaching time and adjustment of teaching sequence, from 2018 onwards, AL students will write the full Advanced Supplementary Level (ASL) examinations in May in their S5 year and the rest of the AL papers in their S6 year.

Preparation for public examinations

Extra practice and revision tests were given to S5 and S6 students to equip them with the skills for answering public exam questions. They were given questions carefully selected from previous years' internal assessment papers to practice before tests and exams.

Catering for learning diversity

Based on students' performance in internal tests and exams, weaker students were invited to small group tutorials, in which they were required to complete assignments that were designed to cater for their needs.

Enrichment Programmes

A long-term goal of the Humanities Education in DGS is to equip students with prerequisite research skills and to develop in them a positive and healthy mindset that enable them to effectively meet the challenges ahead through their participation in enrichment programmes. The following are some of the programmes conducted beyond the traditional classroom context in the past academic year:

Mobile learning, Visits and Fieldwork

To provide students with hands-on experience and to support learning using IT and mobile devices, the Geography Department arranged a series of activities, visits and fieldwork last year. Using their iPads, mobile phones and the self-directed learning packages developed by geography teachers with the app "EduVenture X", S1 students conducted a cross-curricular project (Geog. & L.S.) on urban land use in the Jordan area while S2 girls carried out a field study on the slopes along Gascoigne Road. Using iPads and free apps, S3 students visited Hong Kong Park to collect field data on plant-environment relationship. In November, S5 & S6 DSE and AL students visited the Stephen Hui Geological Museum at the University of Hong Kong, where they enjoyed watching the exhibits and exploring a huge collection of fossils and rock specimens. In February 2018, S4 & S5 DSE and AL students joined a 2-day field study camp organized by the Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre, during which they investigated various coastal processes and the sustainable development of Cheung Chau. They also attended a public lecture titled "An Xtreme Life - An encounter with alumnus Wilson Cheung and Dr. Rebecca Lee" at the Hong Kong Baptist University in March. Through all these various activities, the students have developed useful research and presentation skills, broadened their horizons and heightened their environmental awareness.

In the first term, all S1-S3 History students visited the Hong Kong Science Museum to learn more about the history of ancient Egypt. During the visit, students acquired valuable life-wide learning experiences through the study of the historical remains. They gained a deeper understanding of ancient Egypt and ancient civilization.

With the use of iPads, History students conducted research and shared their findings. Through this, they engaged in collaborative learning and rudimentary computer networking. They also took part in learning activities involving the production of videos which pushed some to showcase their artistic and creative abilities.

External Competitions

To foster students' awareness and interest in Hong Kong's historical development and unique cultural heritage and to enhance their knowledge and skills in conducting historical research, students are encouraged to take part in competitions organized by various organizations. Two teams of students took part in the 7th Inter-school Competition of Project Learning on Hong Kong's History and Culture. This proved to be a fruitful learning experience for the participants as they polished their research skills and communication abilities.

Entrepreneurial Programme

The Company Programme organized by Junior Achievement Hong Kong is an annual event which offers precious learning opportunities for secondary students in Hong Kong to hone their entrepreneurial skills. Last year, under the guidance of two business advisors, fifteen S5 students participated in the Programme by setting up their own company, raising capital by issuing shares, selling their product and eventually liquidating them within the time period of eight months.

Humanities Symposium

Last year was the eleventh year in which the Humanities Research Symposium for Youth (HRSY) was held. In December 2017, around 50 students participated in an in-house selection exercise for the HRSY. They engaged in group discussions and wrote research papers which they presented on the theme "Discord and Unity". 20 students were selected as delegates to take part in the 11th HRSY held in Brisbane in late June 2018.

Talks

In March 2018, S5 students attended a talk on "Competition Law in Hong Kong", delivered by Mr. Rasul Butt, Senior Executive Director of the Competition Commission of Hong Kong. Students have gained increased awareness of Competition Law in Hong Kong.

Staff Development

To enhance the quality of teaching, sharing sessions were arranged among teachers and constructive exchanges on teaching materials and pedagogies were made. At different times of the year, teachers attended various educational talks, seminars and workshops to acquire the latest information and skills.

After the staff development workshops organized by School on Google educational tools, the Geography Department started to use Google Classrooms for class activities, dissemination of learning materials and collection of assignments. Google Forms were created to conduct online surveys to collect student feedback on teaching and learning.

To end the report, we would like to express our heart-felt thanks to the Headmistress for her guidance and consistent support of Humanities Education in the school. Thanks also go to the teachers for their concerted effort and commitment in developing in our students' humanity studies.

7.2 Religious Education

Mrs. M. Fong

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) This brings us to the overall theme of this year's class assembly “The Beautiful Exchange,” which helps us to explore and appreciate the manifold ways that God takes on our imperfections in exchange for all His goodness.

We are truly blessed with the opportunity to start each day with morning worship. Morning assembly is the nurturing ground where many were encouraged and refreshed by the word of God. Thanks must be given to the Headmistress and all teachers who willingly sacrificed their precious time to prepare for the many edifying assembly messages. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Revd Alex McCoy, Revd Darren Pollock and Mr. Ryan Rudolph from St. Andrew's Church for their many enlightening messages in the Friday assemblies. Special thanks must also be given to Revd McCoy for his service in the Holy Communion in March and his encouraging messages during both Christmas and Easter Services.

The blessings of God are abundant. In the Gospel Week and S3 Gospel Camp, many girls received Christ or reconfirmed their faith in Him. Special thanks must be given to Dr. and Mrs. Milton Wan for their inspiring and lively sharing in the evangelistic meeting as well as the Youth Fellowship teachers for their dedicated effort in guiding the Youth Fellowship committee members to prepare for the special morning assemblies during Gospel Week. Our gratitude goes to the team of experienced and loving youth workers from the Boys' Brigade Hong Kong for leading various meaningful activities and helping our S3 girls to understand more about God's love in the Gospel Camp in September.

This year, we were continually blessed with the love of a group of dedicated old girls who sacrificed precious time amidst their busy schedule to conduct a most memorable and enjoyable retreat day camp for their S5 sisters at St. Andrew's Church in July. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Ms. Fanny Leung, Ms. Mona Au and their team for preparing the various fun and meaningful activities and guiding the S5 girls to reflect on their lives from different perspectives. Special thanks must also be given to Ms. Simmy Yeung for her sincere and inspiring message, helping the younger sisters understand how they could depend on God to overcome different challenges in life.

In response to God's love, girls were encouraged to share His love with their neighbours. As part of the School's tradition, dried goods and money were donated to the Light of Yung Shu Tau Christian Limited

by girls in S1-S3 and S4-S6 respectively. Money raised from the Famine Lunch activity and the Lenten Bag activity were donated to various charitable organizations, 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, the Youth Fellowship continued to play an important role in the Christian life in school. Special commendations must be given to all the Youth Fellowship committee members for their joyful and dedicated service throughout the year. Apart from the regular lunch-time general meetings on Mondays, they also served loyally by preparing for different activities, such as the special morning assemblies in the Gospel Week, Harvest Festival, Famine Lunch, and the New Student Orientation Programme.

To end this report, I must thank the Headmistress for her trust, guidance and full support throughout the year. To my team-mates, Mrs. S. Kun, Ms. K. Suthiphongchai, Mrs. J. Cheung, Miss T. S. Wun, Mrs. V. Stephens and Mr. D. Pang, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for their faithful service in the department, bringing the Good News and God's love to the girls inside and outside the classroom. Special thanks must be given to Mrs. K. Tsang for her time and effort in taking care of the Youth Fellowship as well as to all the devoted Christian teachers who willingly sacrificed their precious time to lead the six-week S1 Bible Study Series in March and April. Last but not least, my deepest gratitude goes to my Father in Heaven for His countless provisions and loving guidance throughout the year. May His name be glorified!