

7. Personal, Social and Humanities Education

7.1 Humanities

Mr. MH Au, Mr. A. Ebrahim, Mrs. KL Shing

Education in the Humanities plays an indispensable role in all-round education at DGS. It aims to develop students' knowledge and skills to enable them to hold informed views when they study economic, historical and geographical issues.

Public Examination Results

The past year witnessed some pleasing results in students' performance in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), with 42% and 34% of the students obtaining Level 5* or above in Economics and Geography respectively. 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 about 80% of them scoring Grade A or above in these three subjects at A-level.

Teaching and Learning

Updating students' knowledge on current issues was one of the main concerns of the Economics Department. Current socio-economic issues such as the Sino-US trade war and the Greater Bay Area initiative were incorporated into the school-based curriculum. These issues were discussed with respect to relevant economic concepts during the course of teaching. To better prepare students for public examinations, students were given topic revision questions (adapted from past internal assessment papers) to practice before tests and exams. A data-response question (DRQ) was firstly introduced in the HKDSE in 2019. Extra sessions and exercises were given to S6 students to equip them with the techniques and skills in approaching DRQs. To reduce the S3 students' workload on project work, the teaching sequence of the S3 E&C syllabus was revised so that two projects were combined into one.

To facilitate enquiry learning, to provide students with hands-on experience and to heighten their environmental and social awareness, the Geography Department arranged a series of mobile learning activities last year. Using their mobile phones & iPads, S1 students studied urban land use in the school district, S2 girls conducted a field study on the slopes along Gascoigne Road and S3 students visited Hong Kong Park to investigate plant-environment relationships.

Enrichment Programmes

To supplement classroom teaching, a wide range of educational activities on current issues were arranged in 2019. S2 students attended a talk on climate change and did some interactive experiments that were organized by the World Green Organization. An exhibition on Slope Safety arranged by the CEDD was held in the Geography Room from 18 to 29 March. S5 DSE Geography students joined a guided visit to the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change in March. Two groups of students attended interview sessions with Mr. Leung Wing Mo who is an Ex-Assistant Officer of the Hong Kong Observatory and Professor NG Yan Yung Edward who is the Associate Director of the Institute of Future Cities (IOFC) of CUHK in June and July respectively. Two S4 students took part in the "Mapping My Neighbourhood" community project in Yau Ma Tei organised by the HK Institute of Architectural Conservationists and iDiscover Asia and the "8th Continent Exploration Tour Madagascar 2019" organised by Yan Oi Tong. These projects helped to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of the importance of environmental conservation. S4-S6 DSE and AL students participated in two local field trips organized by Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre to study the industrial activities in Yuen Long and farming in Kam Tin. An overseas field trip to Barcelona in Spain was organized in February 2019. The fieldwork arranged made the subject a living reality and helped students develop the abilities to apply their knowledge to practical issues. Through all these various activities, students also acquired useful research and presentation skills and broadened their horizons.

Students studying History were also involved in a wide range of educational activities: the History department has made heavy use of iPads, in conducting research-based tasks, as well as sharing files and information; through this, students were exposed to collaborative learning and rudimentary computer networking. Students also took part in learning activities involving the production of videos which pushed some to showcase their artistic and creative abilities. The History Department also organized an 11-day study tour for senior History students to visit Germany in August. The aim was to enrich students' understanding of the developments in world history. Through this visit, students explored history independently and acquired a life-wide learning experience in the actual historical sites. After the study tour, students had a deeper understanding of medieval history, the First World War, the Holocaust and the Cold War.

Humanities Symposium for Youth

The 12th Humanities Research Symposium for Youth (HRSY) was held in June 2019. Through an in-house selection exercise held in December 2018, 20 students were selected to take part in the 12th HRSY in South Korea, in which they gained fruitful learning experiences through a wide range of academic and cultural exchanges during that week.

External Competitions

JA Company 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. Last year, under the guidance of two business advisors, 20 S5 students set up their own company, Novalast, which designed and sold their products and eventually liquidated the company once it achieved its objective eight months later. Through the students' hard work, the company won the corporate sustainability award and it came second out of 74 participating teams.

Geography

To widen their scope of experiences, geography students were encouraged to participate in different project competitions. One team of S4 students took part in the 5th Enquiry Field Study Project Competition organised by the Education University of Hong Kong and Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Study Centre. Two teams of students participated in "Desertification: Video Competition for Secondary Students" organized by the Elion Foundation, the objective of which was to raise public awareness of the imminent environmental issues of climate change and desertification. A team comprising two S5 students was selected as one of the 20 finalists.

History

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 and to achieve the goal of "learning to learn", they are encouraged to join activities organized by various organizations. One team of students took part in the 8th 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 advanced their research skills and communication abilities, and gained more insight into the different communities in Hong Kong, which have established their own characteristics after decades of development.

To end the report, we would like to express our gratitude to the Headmistress for her guidance and consistent support towards Humanities education within the School. Thanks must also go to all teachers of Economics, Geography and History departments for their expertise and concerted effort in providing quality education to our students.

7.2 Religious Education

Mrs. M. Fong

All praises to God who generously poured out His kindness and grace on us throughout the year! We were deeply grateful for the continued opportunity to start each day with morning assembly to worship God and be refreshed by His Word, enabling us to face the challenges of each day with renewed thoughts and attitudes. Thanks must be given to the Headmistress and all teachers for sparing their precious time to prepare for the many edifying assembly messages.

Throughout the year, we were privileged to be nurtured by the team of pastors and ministry workers from St. Andrew's Church. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Revd Alex McCoy, Revd Darren Pollock, Revd Alistair Gibbs, Mr. Ryan Rudolph and Mr. Ian Miller for their inspiring messages in the Friday assemblies. Special thanks must also be given to Revd McCoy for conducting the Holy Communion Service in April and leading both Christmas and Easter Services, renewing the life of many of us.

The Scripture says, "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known" (John 1:18). This brings us to the overall theme of this year's class assembly "Encounters with Jesus: Knowing God through Jesus Christ." Each class took turns to share with the whole school what they have learnt about God from an assigned Bible character's encounter with Jesus, and how they have been blessed through their personal encounters with God.

The blessings of God in this year's Gospel Week and Gospel Camps were bountiful. 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 The Heralders for being our guests at the whole-school evangelistic meeting, where old girls and other team members generously shared their beautiful music and life stories of rediscovering the peace and joy that comes through a personal relationship with God. Our gratitude also goes to the team of experienced youth workers from the Boys' Brigade Hong Kong for helping our girls grow in their understanding of God's love and in their love for one another through various meaningful activities in the S2 and S3 Gospel Camps in April.

This year, our dedicated old girls continued to bless their S5 sisters with a most memorable and enjoyable retreat day camp at St. Andrew's Church. Our sincere gratitude goes to Ms. Fanny Leung, Ms. Mona Au and their team for preparing various fun and thought-provoking activities and guiding the S5 girls to reflect on their lives from different perspectives. Special thanks must also be given to Ms. Mona Au for her lively and inspiring life stories, helping the girls understand how they could overcome challenges in life by God's grace.

As part of the School's tradition, girls were encouraged to share God's love with the less fortunate in society through donating food and money. The dried food and money collected from the Harvest Festival were sent to the Light of Yung Shu Tau Christian Limited, while the money raised through the Famine Lunch and Lenten Bag activities 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.

Throughout the year, we were greatly blessed with the dedicated service of our devoted Christian teachers and student leaders. Under the guidance of the teachers-in-charge, committee members of the Youth Fellowship led regular meetings every Monday during lunch time for both Christian and non-Christian students, and organized a number of whole-school activities, such as the special morning assemblies during the Gospel Week, the Harvest Festival in October, the Famine Lunch in March, and the New Student Orientation Programme in August. Thanks must be given to all Christian teachers who willingly sacrificed precious time to lead the six-week S1 Bible Study Programme in the Final Term.

To end this report, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Headmistress for her full support and trust throughout the year. I would also like to thank my teammates, Dr. A. Cheung, Ms. K. Suthiphongchai, Miss T. S. Wun and Mrs. H. Leung, for their faithful service to the department and continued effort in bringing the love of God to our girls. To Mrs. K. Tsang, Mrs. J. Fung and Mr. D. Pang, I would like to thank them for their support and hard work in leading the Youth Fellowship. Thanks should also be given to all the Youth Fellowship

committee members for their commitment and joyful service to the Lord and the school community. Last but not least, my deepest gratitude goes to our Heavenly Father for His unfailing love and abundant provisions throughout the year. All glory be to Him!