

## **9. Arts Education**

### **9.1 Visual Arts**

**Mrs. P. Kam**

#### **Introduction & Curriculum**

Our Visual Arts Education curriculum aims to help our students develop non-verbal communication skills and creativity in art-making. Through art skills manipulation, problem solving and critical thinking, they construct knowledge and develop their aesthetic sensitivity. Cultural awareness is targeted in art appreciation. We hope that our students develop a lifelong interest in Visual Arts by gaining delight, enjoyment and satisfaction through participating in arts activities.

#### **Teaching Approaches & Strategies**

Our teaching-&-learning activities have been designed in accordance with the four key learning targets set by EDB, i.e. developing creativity and imagination, developing skills and processes, cultivating critical responses and understanding arts in context. The thematic approach has been adopted in our holistic curriculum planning, which include the provision of diversified opportunities for learning various visual art forms and learning across the KLAs. Our strategies of e-learning and “assessment for learning” have also helped our students become self-directed and lifelong learners.

#### **Other Learning Experiences**

##### ***Visual Arts Club***

Through the guided tour of the City Gallery, our students better realized the many artistic movements in Hong Kong on how city planning and infrastructure development have shaped our city to become an Asia's world city.

In response to our School's major concern for STEAM education, an artist-in-school workshop was organized. Our students experienced the chemical art of cyanotype. Moreover, some of them used their own body's shadow to jointly create a large piece of a solar print. In response to the emotional needs of our students, we also invited an artist to teach how to relax through creating patterns.

Last year the Committee continued to organized the Logo Design Competition for the Mini-bazaar. The winning logo was made a sales item during the Mini-bazaar.

##### ***Workshops***

Apart from the aforementioned workshops, the department organized three ambitious, specialized workshops. One of them aimed at life planning education. The purpose was to enhance students' art portfolios in order to help students apply for Architecture/ Interior Design courses at university. An interior designer was invited to run regular workshops on Saturdays.

Another workshop aimed at STEAM education was held at Hong Kong Baptist University. Our students learned to create 3D jewellery drawings with computers. In the end each of them received a print-out of their creation and a 3D printing model.

The third workshop was jointly organized by the School Social Worker. The whole Secondary 5 cohort was guided to take some techniques to create patterns and lanterns for the purpose of reducing their stress.

### **External competitions**

We are grateful and proud to achieve the following results from external competitions:

International Champion: 1	Hong Kong Champion: 4
International Gold Award: 1	Hong Kong 1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up: 1
International Silver Award: 2	Hong Kong 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-up: 1
International Bronze Award: 1	Hong Kong Gold Award: 1
International Merit Award: 5	Hong Kong Merit Award: 9
National Champion: 1	

Our success results from the efforts of our dear Teachers and Students and the supports of other DGS Members. We are also grateful for the support of the School Council, Mrs. Doris Ho, JP, Mrs. Stella Lau, SBS, JP, the PTA and the DOGA.

## **9.2 Aesthetic Development**

**Mrs. Y. Chan**

The focus of Aesthetic Development in the NSS curriculum is to help students develop a heightened awareness of and appreciation for art and beauty through an exploration of the creative processes involved in music, drama and visual arts.

In Secondary Four, students experimented with script-writing and producing a ten-minute play. Students from 4W, X, Y and Z were divided into twelve groups, out of which the best three English and Chinese groups of the year were selected to perform their plays on stage in a finale performance.

In Secondary Five, students could opt to specialize in one of the following five areas: English Drama, Chinese Drama, English Musical, Stage Make-up (conducted by an external guest tutor), and last but not least, Set and Prop Design. Through these workshops, students were introduced to practical skills that were essential to producing an effective play. To put the theories which they learned into practice, students embarked on a long collaborative process to produce five twenty-minute long plays – two English plays, two Putonghua plays, and an English musical, four of which were showcased on Drama Night, which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, so that parents, teachers, and other students could come and celebrate the fruits of the Secondary Five students' labour.

In Secondary Six, students had the opportunity to learn to read documentary films through a critical lens.

A hearty vote of thanks must be extended to the School Council, our Headmistress Mrs. Lau, parents, the AV team and technicians. Without their support and guidance, the AD programmes would not have run so successfully in the last academic year.

## 9.3 Music

Miss G. Chiang

From classroom learning to competing on the international stage, music making continue to take a central role in the teaching of the subject at DGS in past academic year.

### 1. Learning and Serving

Teaching and learning of Music took place both within and without the classroom. Over a span of three years, junior form students were encouraged to build a listening portfolio supplemented by concert reports, while performance tests were designed to assess their singing skills and ensembleship with fellow classmates, all of which culminated in the creative project in S3, where students collaborated in writing and performing an original song.

Beyond the standard classroom setting, training camps for western ensembles and choirs were held during the Christmas holidays, while the camp for Chinese ensembles took place over the Lunar New Year holidays. The annual Concerto Competition saw five winners selected to perform with the Symphony Orchestra at the Concerto Concert in May, and three at the Taiwan tour in July. The winners include: Anson Chan (soprano), Erica Wong (cello), Wong Tsz Yan (guzheng), Victoria Ng (violin) and Nicole Wong (viola) performing in DGS, and Canice Chiu (flute), Chloe Chung (piano) and Wong Pui Ying (violin) playing in Taiwan.

In living out the school motto, “Daily Giving Service,” our musicians continued to share their music at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in the eight sessions between September 2017 and June 2018, ranging from solo performances to Lunar New Year classics played by the Chinese Orchestra.

### 2. Performances

In addition to our six Choirs, three Orchestras, Concert Band and Guzheng Ensemble, we continued to have an array of chamber ensembles, including two Madrigal teams, two Piano Quartets, three String Quartets, a Wind Quintet, a Bassoon Quartet, and a Brass Ensemble. Besides participating in the annual competitions, our musicians also performed at the following events:

22 Sep 2017	PTA AGM	Symphony Orchestra
1 Oct 2017	National Day	Senior Mixed Choir
25-26 Nov 2017	Rockhard Musical (with Yat Po Singers)	Members from School Choirs
5 Jan 2018	Exchange with the HK Police Band	Concert Band
2 Feb 2018	HK International Youth Chinese Music Festival	Chinese Orchestra & Guzheng Ensemble
2 Feb 2018	DBS Pre-competition concert	Mixed Choirs
9-13 Feb 2018	DGS Chinese Music Week	Chinese Orchestra & Guzheng Ensemble
23-24 Feb 2018	DGS Pre-competition concerts	Ensembles / Choirs
4 Mar 2018	Zonta Club of HK East Annual Lunch Party	Chinese Orchestra

10 Mar 2018	SEYSA Award Gala Dinner	String Orchestra
22 Mar 2018	QEH 55th Anniversary Kickoff Ceremony	Chinese Orchestra
21 Apr 2018	Spring Concert	Ensembles / Choirs
23 April 2018	70 <sup>th</sup> HK Schools Music Festival Winners' Concert	Concert Band
12 May 2018	Masterclass by Quatuor Zaide	Junior String Quartet
19 May 2018	Joint School Chinese Orchestra Concert (at Wah Yan College Kowloon)	Chinese Orchestra
19 May 2018	DGS Concerto Competition Winners' Concert	Symphony Orchestra
1 Jul 2018	Flag-raising Ceremony	Senior Mixed Choir
10 Jul 2018	HK Sheng Kung Hui 20th Anniversary Concert	Members from School Choirs

To conclude the year, three Western ensembles, together with three Concerto Competition winners, travelled to Taiwan between 12th to 17th July to participate in the 4th Schools Orchestra Festival at Keelung Cultural Centre, as well as an all-DGS concert on 16th July at Taipei's CPC Building Main Hall.

### 3. External Competitions

In the 2017 Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows organized by the LCSD Music Office, the Guzheng Ensemble and Chinese Orchestra was given the silver award. Meanwhile, the 70<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Schools Music Festival took place from 26th February to 28th March, and among the many school entries, our ensembles won six First places, seven Second places and seven Third places. Our students also took home 24 Firsts, 15 Seconds and 22 Thirds in the individual items.

Our instrumentalists also achieve outstanding results in the past year, to name but a few, Cheung Yim Ting of S1 was selected to be a Young Scholar (2018-20) in the Young Scholars Program organized by Lang Lang International Music Foundation; Ma Cheuk Lam of S5 was invited by the Netherlands consulate-general in Hong Kong and Macao to perform as a HK representative at the Dutch Days Concerts 2018 as a viola soloist; Lun Hoi Ching Sherri won the First Prize in Amateur Class (Group C) of the 2017 The 8th Steinway & Sons Youth Piano Competition China National Final and The 81st Steinway & Sons International Youth Piano Competition (China Final) held in Beijing; Wong Pui Ying of S2 won the First Prize in the First Age Category of the IV Yankelevitch International Violin Competition held in Omsk, Russia.

The highlight of the year for the Senior Choir was participating in the 10th World Choir Games, in Tshwane, South Africa over last July. 70 DGS choristers, accompanied by teachers and old girls, participated in a choral workshop with maestro Donka Miteva and two friendship concerts. Our students took part in the category Youth Choir of Equal Voices, and with God's abundant blessings, we were awarded Champion with 95 marks, the highest score DGS has ever achieved at the World Choir Games; and together with the choristers of Diocesan Boys' School, we were also awarded Champion in the Mixed Choirs category.

As the year comes to a close, we look back at the many valuable experiences with gratitude and awe, none of which would have been possible without the immense support from students, parents, alumnae, colleagues, and in particular, our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau, for her unceasing support and generous guidance to the Music Department. May our work here at DGS continue to be a blessing to our community, and may it continue to bring quality music-making experiences to our girls.