

9. Arts Education

9.1 Visual Arts

Mrs. P. Kam

Curriculum & Major Concerns

The Art Department designed the Visual Arts curriculum in accordance with four key learning targets, i.e. developing creativity and imagination, developing art skills and processes, cultivating critical responses to arts and understanding arts in context. In the process of experiencing the arts, the nurturing of generic skills such as communication skills, problem-solving skills, IT skills and self-management skills was also a focus. From an understanding of the individuals to an understanding of the motherland, Hong Kong and the different ethnic groups, the department has assisted our students in attaining positive values as well as respectful attitudes. The thematic approach was adopted in our holistic curriculum planning. Diversified visual art forms and learning across the KLAs were provided among the themes.

The Department drew up the following major concerns last year. Corresponding targets have been effectively achieved.

1. Holistic provision of students' emotional support
2. Provision of multiple perspectives of STEAM learning
3. Preparation of decoration for the 160th anniversary and the boarding house

Other Learning Experiences

1. The Visual Arts Club organized a visit to the "Digital Dunhuang" exhibition in the HK Heritage Museum. The members learnt about the history and art of Mogao Caves through the interactive multimedia installations and the virtual reality devices.
2. Three experts conducted workshops and demonstrations. The president of a local society of kites led our Visual Arts Club to realize the stories of traditional kites and to experience the science of making modern kites. The internationally renowned fabric art artist guided our S2 students to create gorgeous illusion artworks with fabrics. The former interior designer helped our young artists prepare to become future architects by developing superb portfolios.
3. In July, the Art Department collaborated with the Science Department to go on a STEAM study tour to Taoyuan, Taiwan. Nineteen students participated in two DIY workshops and visited six factories, one traditional dye workshop, one art museum, one green building and a few places of creative business.
4. Our School Art Team participated in eight international competitions and an art service. The members captured some art prizes for the School.

External competitions

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

International Finalist: 4	National Gold Honour Award: 3
International Gold Award: 1	Hong Kong Champion: 2
International Silver Award: 3	Hong Kong Silver Award: 1
International Bronze Award: 1	Hong Kong Bronze Award: 1
Provincial Best Level: 2	Hong Kong Merit Award: 5

Our successes result 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

Miss M. Yim

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 in Music, Drama and Visual arts.

In Secondary Four, students experimented with script-writing and produced a ten-minute play based on a theme. 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, three of which were showcased on Drama Night, which was held on 3rd May 2019, 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 dramas/ documentaries 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

1. Learning and Serving

Classroom teaching and learning continued to focus on developing students' appreciation of the musical arts, from the basic identification of sounds and instruments, building towards in-depth listening, delineating styles and techniques, and subsequently to express their ideas through writing concert reports. On the other hand, performance tests and creative projects complement learning by immersing all students in the actual music-making process.

Beyond the usual confines of the classroom, training camps for the orchestras and senior 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 seven winners selected, among which five students performed with the Symphony Orchestra at the Concerto Concert in July; the winners include: Elena Vermeer (soprano), Ng Hoi Yin (marimba), Isabella Qian (flute), Nicole Ng (trumpet) and Yip Hiu Tung (piano). Two other winners, Athena Shiu (violin) and Rachel Wong (trombone), who took part in overseas music camps over the summer months, are also recognized for their outstanding performances.

“Daily Giving Service” continues to be the guiding principle of music learning at DGS, where our musicians continued to share their music at QEH in the seven sessions between September 2018 and June 2019.

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 Ensembles, three String Ensembles, three Brass Ensembles, two Wind Quintets, one Erhu Ensemble and a Pipa Ensemble. Besides participating in the annual competitions, our musicians also performed at the following events:

9 Sep 2018	HKSMSA 70 th Anniversary Celebration Concert	School representatives from the Senior Choir & Symphony Orchestra
21 Sep 2018	DGS PTA AGM	Symphony Orchestra
22 Sep 2018	DGS S1 Introductory Talk	Wind Quartet & Concerto Competition winners (Chloe Chung, Wong Pui Ying)
1 Oct 2018	Flag-raising Ceremony of the 69 th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China	Senior Mixed Choir
6 Oct 2018	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui 20 th Anniversary Service	Representatives from the Symphony Orchestra
13-15 Oct 2018	「閃耀香港 2018」 Wuhan-Hong Kong Youth Cultural Exchange Concert (Wuhan, China)	Symphony Orchestra & Concerto Winner Wong Pui Ying
27-29 Oct 2018	「閃耀香港 2018」 Changsha-Hong Kong Youth Cultural Exchange Concert (Changsha, China)	Senior Choir
4 Nov 2018	TVB "Cultural Engine 4U" Interview and performance	Representatives from the World Choir Games (Tshwane) Choir
13 Nov 2018	RTHK Radio 3: Operation Santa Claus Launch Ceremony	Senior Choir
16 Nov 2018	DGS Speech Day Reception	Junior & Senior String Quartets
29 Nov 2018	Winter Band Festival Workshop	Concert Band
20 Jan 2019	Beautiful Sunday at Shenzhen Concert Hall (Shenzhen, China)	Senior String Ensemble, Senior Brass Ensemble, String Orchestra & Symphony Orchestra
26 Jan 2019	DGS Pre-Competition Concert I	All western Instrumental Ensembles
27 Jan 2019	DBS Pre-Competition Concert	Mixed Choirs & Madrigal
1 Feb 2019	DGS Pre-Competition Concert II	All Choirs, Madrigals, Chinese Orchestra & Concert Band
20 Feb 2019	Hong Kong Arts Festival Plus: Open Rehearsal with Maestra Marin Alsop & the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra	Symphony Orchestra
30 Mar 2019	DGS Spring Concert	All choirs, Chinese Orchestra & Guzheng Ensemble
27 Apr 2019	71 st Hong Kong Schools Music Festival Winners Concert II	Senior Mixed Choir
27 Apr 2019	第三屆同心耀中華 - 深港台澳青年文化交流藝術季「琴韻山河」民樂音樂會 (Shenzhen, China)	Chinese Orchestra
29 Apr 2019	71 st Hong Kong Schools Music Festival Winners Concert IV	String Orchestra, Concert Band, Senior Wind Ensemble & Junior Choir
10 May 2019	71 st Hong Kong Schools Music Festival Winners Concert for Sacred Music	Church Music Choir
4 Jul 2019	DGS Summer Concert I: Instrumental Ensemble Showcase	Instrumental Ensembles

9 Jul 2019	DGS Summer Concert II: Concerto Competition Winners Showcase	Concert Band, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra & Concerto competition winners
10-11 Jul 2019	DBS Homecoming Concerts	Mixed Choirs

3. External Competitions

As motivated as our students are, competitions serve as a gateway for our musicians to further hone their skills and to gain further exposure:

28 Nov 2018	Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows - Chinese Orchestra Contest (Secondary School Class A) Gold Award	Guzheng Ensemble & Chinese Orchestra representatives
28-29 Nov 2018	10 th Winter Band Festival - Senior Division Gold Award	Concert Band
25 Feb - 27 Mar 2019	71 st Hong Kong Schools Music Festival	All groups
11 Apr 2019	Joint School Music Competition 2019 - Gold Prize	Guzheng Ensemble
Apr 2019	6 th International Zheng Contest (Hong Kong Regional) - Gold Prize & qualified for finals in August	Guzheng Ensemble
14-18 Apr 2019	6 th National Arts Showcase of Primary & Secondary Students (Suzhou, China) - First Level Prize	Symphony Orchestra
15-18 Aug 2019	6 th International Zheng Contest (Finals)	Guzheng Ensemble

As in previous years, our Guzheng Ensemble partnered with the Chinese Orchestra to participate in the annual Hong Kong Youth Music Interflows and won the Gold Award in the Chinese Orchestra Contest (Secondary School Class A). On their own, they took part in the Joint School Music Competition 2019 and the 6th International Zheng Contest (Hong Kong regionals) and were awarded Gold in both events.

Meanwhile, the Concert Band took part in the 10th Winter Band Festival, which encompasses a competition with bands from Hong Kong and South East Asia, and a workshop by renowned clinician Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser. Despite participating for the first time at the festival, the Band captured the Gold Award in the Senior Division.

The 71st Hong Kong Schools Music Festival took place from 25th February to 27th March, 2019, and among the many school entries, our ensembles won 11 First places, 9 Second places and 2 Third places. Our students also took home 17 Firsts, 10 Seconds and 15 Thirds in the individual items.

In April 2019, our Symphony Orchestra was invited by the Education Bureau to represent Hong Kong in the Sixth National Arts Showcase of Primary and Secondary School Students. Held once every three years, the National Arts Showcase, organized by the Ministry of Education of the PRC, attracted young talent from around the country for a week-long festival of visual arts, dance, vocal and instrumental music. Featuring the best from each of the provinces, school students convened at Suzhou to present their unique pieces at the Suzhou Culture and Arts Centre and the Suzhou Poly Grand Theatre. It was indeed an eye-opening experience for our students, and we are especially pleased to be awarded the First Level Prize for our performance.

Besides competitions and performances, we are also happy that among our S6 students, Ma Cheuk Lam will enter Colburn School to continue her professional viola studies, while Kate Lee will join Northwestern University to pursue Piano performance. Locally, Chloe Chung will major in Piano at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, while Vivian Lee will study Violin at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Looking back at a year packed with experiences local and beyond, we are immensely grateful for the unwavering support from students, old girls, parents, colleagues, and in particular, our Performing Arts Director Mr. Leung Kin Fung and our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau, for their generous guidance and for bringing the many opportunities to the Music Department. May our work here at DGS continue to bring quality education to our girls, and in turn, enable them to become beacons and blessings to our community.