



ISSUE 21

January 2020



TO SEEK TO SERVE TO STRIVE

Feature Story:

A Decade of Experience -
catching up with John Law,
Class of 2009 and current
IB Diploma Coordinator



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From the Principal's Desk

Dear RCHK Family,

Happy Holidays!

It's that time of the year again when we get to share with you and the community much of what has been taking place on and off the campus this term. It also gives us an opportunity to profile certain elements of what our students are doing now and even after they have graduated.

The College has always been committed to Education Outside the Classroom and teamed up with ESF last spring to offer a truly transformational experience for a group of Year 9 students from across the Foundation. A brave trailblazer and leader, now in Year 10, shares his story of adventure Down Under as an inaugural "Limitless" team member.



RCHK has been in operation for almost 13 years which means that our inaugural graduation cohorts are alumni of university and serving in many different capacities here in Hong Kong and abroad. In this edition, you will read about one of our first graduates from the Class of 2009 who is teaching and helping lead an IB school here in the New Territories. You will also see a story of a 2018 graduate whose commitment to service in the world community led to participating with a NGO to raise awareness and funds to solve the environmental problems associated with climate change.

There has also been the usual flurry of activity in the Primary and Secondary phases with autumn camps, EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) trips, World of Work Experiences, and so much more. Of course, another highlight was the performance of "Chicago" with over 100 student cast and crew for two stellar and well-attended evenings.

Thank you for your continued support of the faculty and staff who work with you to make the learning experiences at RCHK the finest for your children and your young adults.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Dr. Harry Brown
Principal



3 NEWSMAKERS



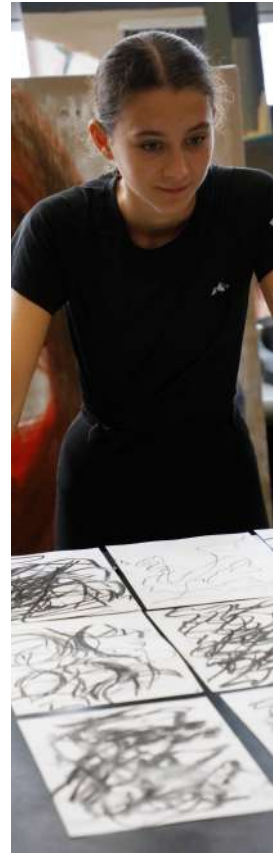
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Newsmakers

Angus Yip

Year 10



Over the summer 2019, Angus decided to meet the challenge of the sustained 30-minute programme for Associate of the Royal Schools of Music (ARSM), Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance. This piano exam, which he passed successfully, developed his greater technical assurance and instrument control, and he is now authorised to add letters "ARSM" after his name professionally. Angus also won the Champion Award of Open Junior Section (12-14 years old) for the performance of his original composition, "Mr. Wondrous" on electone at the Yamaha Electone Festival 2019 held in Hong Kong - his second win at this event. Additionally, he took home the Champion Award of Yamaha Children Music Ensemble - his third! This past September he attained the Bronze Award of Clarinet Solo in the Intermediate Section of the 2019 Buffet Crampon Clarinet Competition, and the following month, Angus was recommended by Tom Lee Music Foundation to be the Hong Kong representative to join the Asia-Pacific Electone Festival 2019 Video Audition at Junior Age Group 3 (12-14 Years Old). This international musical event was organised by Yamaha Music Japan Co. Ltd. and the Yamaha Music Foundation and Corporation. Contestants came from many different regions, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, China and Indonesia. Angus was awarded the Silver Prize for his video performance of "Mr. Wondrous". He was then entitled, as a performer from overseas, to gain the right to enter into Yamaha Electone Concours 2019 Final held at NHK Osaka Hall in Osaka, Japan at the end of November this year. We wish him all the best! Well done and hearty congratulations to your excellent work, Angus! RCHK community and your parents are very proud of you and we continue to look forward to hearing about your future successes on your musical journey.

Joyce Kei

Year 9

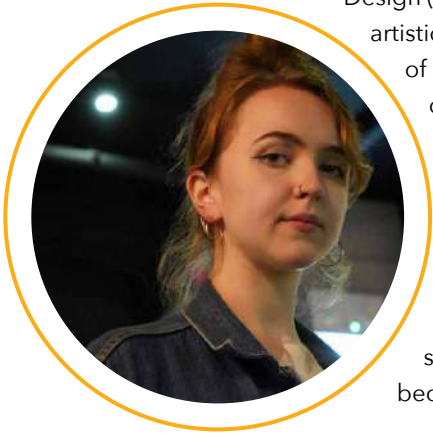


Joyce has had an incredible year thus far participating in numerous projects, but she has dedicated her heart and soul mainly to dancing and rhythmic gymnastics. She won a number of local and international competitions: the overall champion in the Hong Kong Rhythmic Gymnastics Open; first place in Hong Kong (Asia) Solo Dance Competition and in Asia Student Arts Festival, the Gold Award; Judges Favourite Award in the World Championships of Performing Arts; the Gold Award in CCTV Kids Spring Festival Gala; and the Gold Award in the Dance World Cup Asian Cup - for the second year in a row. The most satisfying part of these achievements is the fact she also choreographed all her own dances, and found freedom and joy when expressing her emotions through each movement and gesture.

Joyce was accepted into the Gifted Young Dancer Programme at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and is the youngest student to be invited to join the Assistant Choreographers Programme at the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation. She also picked up more camera-facing experience when she was invited to shoot the Kids Spring Festival TV programme in Beijing for the national audience. In addition, Joyce has been using her talent to serve the community; performing in such charity events as the Children Heart Foundation and The Intellectually Disabled Education and Advocacy League. She has choreographed and danced in Public Service Announcement dance film "Plastic Soup" to raise awareness of plastic pollution in the ocean, which can be found on YouTube. Congratulations on all you have accomplished in 2019 Joyce! The RCHK community wishes you all the best as you continue to dance your way to success!

Abby Mansfield

Class of 2019



At RCHK, Abby felt fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to participate in the IBCP (Career Programme) in conjunction with The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) as a Visual Arts student. Her experience not only improved her overall artistic skills but also gave her direction in both her career path and in the pursuit of her artistic identity. Abby's experience at SCAD was so rewarding that she decided to apply there as a full-time student after graduating from RCHK this past spring. Abby shared that her first semester as a full time SCAD student was initially nerve-racking - the workload of her classes was daunting and she worried about meeting the expectations of her professors. She also shared that the work of her peers was exquisite and their passion for sequential art motivated her to deliver her best work this term (as seen in the accompanying graphics to this article). "I've learned a lot from my first semester at SCAD about myself, becoming an adult and the artist I want to become," says Abby.



Editor's note: Prior to graduation, Abby's 3D design work was also on display at SCAD's 2nd stART Foundations Exhibition on Friday 24 May 2019, which was open to the general public. Her work, along with fellow classmate Samatha Tsui, were one of the few of over 200 submissions to be selected for excellence in this prestigious exhibition. We look forward to her future creations!

Leadership and Service

The Primary Student Council implements new Lost and Found system

The Primary Student Council has been busy this year! Besides helping with all of the marketing and promotion for the Terry Fox Run, they have also been working hard to help improve the Lost and Found system. To do this, they have come up with a new technique that employs wooden boxes in the Primary Office for each Year level from 1 to 6. They have also been going into classes and making presentations to ensure everyone is labeling their items and doing their part. They helped reduce the amount of lost items around the College. Next on the agenda, the council will continue the monthly news bulletin board that started last year and is considering designing their own custom shirts!



Red Door Centre

Empowering Primary students to share their tech savvy with the larger college community

By Jason Prohaska,
Primary Technology Integration Coach

It has been an exciting and fast paced several months to start the year in the Red Door Centre. One of our aims is to always work with classrooms and the college community to enhance and transform learning. Our office has been very busy since August 2019 in trying to do this by making some fantastic connections.

Kicking off the year, our Year 6 Bauhinia trainers assisted with bringing our new students in Primary up to speed with the use of technology at our school with an introduction to Mac laptops training session. Through the months of September and October 2019, they have also been offering classes for students in Years 4, 5 and 6 in robotics and programming during lunch and break times. More recently, our Bauhinia Trainers have been involved in supporting the RCHK Terry Fox School Run, held at the end of October, using their technical abilities to prepare promotional materials, including a video montage.

Through the RCHK Parent University, the Red Door Team has offered Mac 101 classes for the Jie Jies at our school and 'parenting with tech' and more 'Mac 101' sessions for our Year 6 parents and guardians. Additionally, we have worked directly with teachers, students and parents to help bring a makers mindset to the classroom creating opportunities for students by using a design process to follow their interests and passions.

To see more of the great things happening in the Red Door Centre, you can find us on Twitter at the following handles: @RCHKrdc, @jasonprohaska, @aniazielinska, #RCHKrdc





RCHK Terry Fox School Run enters its 11th year!

By James Schulz, Year 2 Teacher

The annual RCHK Terry Fox School Run held on Friday 25 October was bigger than ever! In our 11th year, we had volunteers and participants from across the college community, including Primary Student Leaders, Secondary Student Leaders, teachers, staff, families and so many more. All of this teamwork paid off because the school run and community run together raised over One Million Hong Kong Dollars!

This is an exciting and fun event, but also a very meaningful one because every single one of those dollars will be donated to our research partners here in Hong Kong; including The Chinese University of Hong Kong Prince of Wales Oncology Department for liver cancer research and The University of Hong Kong Queen Mary Hospital Oncology Department for lung cancer research. Thank you for doing your part to help make this year's Terry Fox Run such a huge success and keep Terry's dream alive!







Year 7 students visit world-travelling "Race for Water" eco-friendly catamaran

By Elizabeth Ellis, Communications Manager

On a clear sunny afternoon on Wednesday 6 November, a group of Year 7 students had an opportunity to visit the Race for Water ambassador vessel, docked at Central Ferry Pier during its Hong Kong stopover until Friday 10 January 2020 during its five-year expedition around the world. This super eco-friendly catamaran boasts a deck almost completely covered in solar panels, and students learned that the solar energy is converted into electric energy via photovoltaic cells. However, the sun isn't enough to keep this vessel moving, as there are overcast days and limitations with the batteries. That is why the crew also employs a self-piloting towing kite which increases boat speed by five to eight knots (roughly 9 to 15 kilometres per hour), and - most notably - 200kg of hydrogen, which is then converted into electricity through the use of two fuel cells, making Race for Water 100 percent sustainably powered with zero carbon emissions.

Students had the opportunity to tour the vessel with Technical Director and Captain, Jean-Marc Normant, as well as Second in Command, Erwan Lohezic. They asked questions about how fast can the boat go on pure eco-friendly energy (answer: not very; but the technology is improving quickly) and learned much about the Race for Water Foundation, started in 2010 by Swiss entrepreneur Marco Simeoni in an effort to raise awareness about ocean health and the serious epidemic of plastic in our oceans worldwide. Amazed by this passion project, our students took away life lessons on protecting our waters and an unforgettable experience on the importance of our ocean health as well as innovative sustainable technology.



To learn more about the Race for Water Odyssey, visit www.raceforwater.org/en





Pushing the Limits Down Under with ESF

By Maximilian Owen-Wong, Year 10

Year 10 student shares his “Limitless” adventures in Queensland with fellow ESF students during spring 2019.

Last year, the English Schools Foundation (ESF) launched an inspirational project for Year 9 students called “Limitless”; which took students into rural Queensland, Australia for a life-changing six weeks of living, learning, and working together under the careful eye of trained counselors from the EOTC group, Higher Ground. Our student Maximilian Owen-Wong, now in Year 10, participated in this programme this past Spring and agreed to share with us the highs and lows (mostly highs!) of this thrilling adventure of teamwork and camaraderie Down Under. Read on!

The Limitless trip was definitely one of the most significant experiences I’ve ever had...and one of the greatest. To say that I was out of my comfort zone would be an understatement. I was the only student from RCHK attending the camp so I was feeling terribly nervous about heading off to this remote destination with a bunch of strangers. But it wasn’t too long before I realized I was with a cool bunch of people and we soon became great mates. When you’re living 24/7 with thirty-odd other kids from across ESF, you learn a lot about yourself - and

them. I realized that I was pretty good at getting along with others and making new friends. I also learned how much I missed my family and my life in Hong Kong. Interestingly, I didn’t miss my phone at all - that really did surprise me. Learning to look for the good in others was a regular activity on camp. We did “Strength Spotting” to find admirable qualities in our team mates, which was a good way of getting to know and understand other people.

Teamwork and collaboration were really important aspects of Limitless, especially when we headed off on our “Expeditions” - into the bush for several days.



We each had our own jobs to do and had to cooperate with one another to make the system work. There were times when things got pretty tough both physically and mentally but everyone was really encouraging and helped each other out. I remember one of my experiences rock climbing when I really didn't think I could go any further and wanted to give up. However, the encouragement from my group enabled me to persist and finish what I'd started. I felt a terrific sense of accomplishment when I completed the task.

We did heaps of great activities such as abseiling, kayaking, bush navigation, mountain biking and hiking. Sometimes we hiked up to 13kms a day! I've never been so fit. We also learned to cook and clean, to set up and take down a campsite and even how to track weather patterns. The food at the homestead was fantastic and the baked goods were the best. The food we made ourselves didn't quite match up to it; but it surely made us appreciate the camp food even more!



A lot of time was spent journaling and reflecting; which is certainly not something I was used to doing. It was interesting to have that time to think about the impact of the week's activities, how we were all affected by our experiences with the natural world and with each other.

At times, I got extremely homesick but I now look back with so many fond memories and I know that the lessons I learned on Limitless will stay with me for life. If I had the opportunity to do it all again, I'd jump straight in, without a moment's hesitation.

To learn more about Limitless, go to <https://limitless.esf.edu.hk/>





RCHK students shine at the World Mathematics Championships (WMC) 2019

By the RCHK Math Team

The World Mathematics Championships, or WMC as it is now called, is a prestigious mathematics competition replacing SEAMC (South East Asian Mathematics Competition) and NEAMC (North East Asian Mathematics Competition). The first stage, which is WMC Qualifier, is a four-day event held in various Asian cities and is comprised of nine rounds of competitions - three individual, three school-team and three buddy-team (teammates randomly assigned) rounds. Student qualified from the first stage were given a Golden Ticket for the second stage, the WMC Final, which is a one-week event held in Australia. In the Final, three more buddy-team rounds are added to a total of 12 rounds.

RCHK sent 12 students divided into four teams to participate in NEAMC (when the new name of WMC was not yet introduced) in Nanjing held in March 2019. There were a total of 130 students from all over Asia participating in this competitive event. The four teams of RCHK returned with 15 medals and two overall performance medals. Moreover, four of the 12 students were given Golden Tickets to participate in the WMC Junior Final held in July 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. These four Year 11 students, Angus Leung, Eugenia Tong, Joshua Tsang and Justin Lam, were invited to compete among 100 mathematicians from around the

world. Congratulations to this team of five from RCHK as they came back not only with a memorable journey but also an incredible eight medals from the Junior Final.

Encouraged by these achievements, RCHK decided to send two teams of three students each for the Senior WMC Qualifier held in Jakarta in October 2019. As these six, Year 11 students, knowing that they would be competing with mainly Year 12 students, started preparation for the event as soon as school resumed in August of this year. With over 120 students participating from all over Asia, this Senior Qualifier held in Jakarta was much more challenging and competitive - but that didn't stop the two teams of RCHK returning with four medals and one overall performance medal. Moreover, Year 11 students Aaron Zheng, Angus Leung, Eugenia Tong, Joshua Tsang and Justin Lam were able to win Golden Tickets to participate in the Senior WMC Final to be held in Melbourne December 2019 as of the printing of this RCHK World issue. These achievements should deserve a round of applause by the college community!

A strong fighting spirit is a must for all this to happen, and it would not have been possible without the support and persistent efforts of Math mentor Mrs. Shobha Sanker. Special thanks must also be expressed to Mr. Naveen Khanna, a parent at Discovery College who works at Bank of America, who had kindly provided training to our students on a voluntary basis. Last but not the least, best of luck to the five student representatives in the coming Senior WMC Final!



Year 5 EOTC Camp in Lantau Island is a “thrilling time” for students

By Justin Cheung and Alyssa Leong, Year 5

Do you want to know more about our Year 5 EOTC camp? If the answer is yes, then read on! On Wednesday through Friday 16 -18 October, we went to Hong Kong Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) Sydney Leong Holiday Lodge, in Mui Wo, South Lantau Island. We did a lot of team-building activities, such as fire and shelter making, protecting an egg from a fall, making a flag for our group, gorging, and more! Gorging is an outdoor activity where we hiked on rocks along a stream of water. It was quite a challenge for some of us because we had to balance on rocks, and a few were afraid of insects, making their challenge even more difficult. It was a long hike and some of us were exhausted afterwards. We also went to Cheung Sha Beach to play some fun activities like tug of war, racing and a water pipe challenge which involved getting a table tennis ball out of the pipe that had holes in it by pouring water inside. Led by Oceanic Sports, we were divided into 12 groups, each group had two camp counsellors to support. We were very fortunate to have sunny weather because lots of outdoor activities were involved.

One skill that we used was collaboration because all activities required teamwork. We also excelled in our communication skills during the activities because we had to talk with each other to complete challenges. For example, we did an activity where everyone except two people had to wear blindfolds, and the two people that weren’t wearing blindfolds had to guide the other teammates with their voice. Furthermore, we respected each other during activities; even though some of us made mistakes. However, there were some challenges - we could have improved on time management. Many of us were late for muster

(assembly time) because very few of us brought watches to camp hence we did not know what time it was. Luckily, some brought watches so their groups were on-time. Another challenge we faced was when it came to making decisions. Some students’ kept others awake on the first night; but fortunately we slept better on the second night because everyone was exhausted after gorging.

All of us learned something during this great experience - about each other’s character strengths and skills, how to make a fire, gorge hike, tie tight knots, help people with sand in their eyes and make a shelter. Furthermore, we learned that if we trust ourselves and our teammates, we can achieve a lot and lastly - even without adult supervision - we can still make sensible choices. A tip for Year 4 students is to bring a watch so you can be on time and sleep earlier because you need a lot of energy every day - especially for activities like gorging!





“In a place beyond words”: Year 6 Laos Camp Report

By Brendan Lee and Rachel Morgan, Year 6 Teachers

"Laos was a fun, exciting and challenging experience. Overall, an experience of a lifetime. It is hard to believe that a place can be so different when it's only a two-hour flight away. We met great people and got to do AMAZING things." - Suzanne Hureau, Year 6

These are just some of the impressions of the participants from this incredible EOTC experience. From RCHK, ten Year 6 students - risk-takers at heart - seized the opportunity to visit Laos and be part of an experience of a lifetime, accompanied by one of their parents. In the seventh year since its inception, the Laos camp continues to evolve, grow and adapt, which in some ways reflects the Lao way of life.

The Laos experience was developed to have students form a greater understanding of the Laotian culture and an awareness of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in this developing country. The hope is that the students themselves will take further action in the future to support these groups and their worthy projects.

Renaissance College has been working in partnership with Community Learning International (CLI) and

supporting its goal to provide educational opportunities for children living in rural areas. As a result of the Year 6 students' fundraising efforts, coupled with a donation from the Service Projects and Renaissance College fund, a total of HK\$35,000 was donated to CLI. The ten families attending the camp also made their own donations to this worthy cause.

Immersed in the heart of Luang Prabang and amidst the hustle and bustle, the Year 6 group immediately embraced the vibrancy of Laos. During their six days with the support of CLI, the Year 6 group visited two rural learning centres. Travelling down the Mekong River with the soft overtures of the lapping water they were greeted like rockstars by the cheers of enthusiastic local children. The students energetically threw themselves into games, music performances and art activities with Laos children.

There were also opportunities to engage with other NGOs operating in the area. It was sobering to visit the 'Laos Unexploded Ordinance Centre' (UXO) with the impact of World War II still causing calamity, heartache and sorrow in Laos today. We were happy to leave a donation and support this cause to clean up this beautiful country.





Also enlightening for the Laos team was visiting the 'Free the Bears' rehabilitation centre and the 'Living Land Organic Farm'. Visits were made to local artisans where students created Saa paper and paper lanterns, we were greeted enthusiastically.

Heart, bravery and courage were shown throughout the week as students were stretched to their physical limit. In the early hours of Wednesday morning, the Chomsi Challenge awoke only the hardest of souls. As the participants managed to clamber up the stairs to the top before they collapsed, tired and happy, they were equally rewarded by one of the most amazing views in Luang Prabang. The opportunity and the day was successfully seized - carpe diem! The second part of the physical challenge was exploring the Kuang Si Waterfalls, where students and the team navigated a fast-flowing river and tested their open water swimming prowess. Determination and bravery was demonstrated by all!

Having returned to Hong Kong, enlightened and eager to share their experiences, the Year 6 students are motivated to continue to take action. They will be presenting at a school assembly and creating display boards to raise awareness of the NGOs which are trying to make a positive difference in Laos, as well as finding opportunities in which to sell Lao handcraft items to raise further funds for the NGOs they have pledged to continue supporting. These parting words by Mr. Lee sum it up beautifully:

"And in this home, a place beyond words, where the Tuk Tuks rumble along the street, the birds natter gently, it'll always be there, this peace, this serenity, this feeling. Sabaidee Laos. Until we meet again."



Sai Kung Camp

By Concettina Ventura, Year 6 Teacher

Excitement was in the air on the morning of Tuesday 29 October 2019 as our Year 6 students arrived at RCHK. It was not a regular school day as this was the first day of the Sai Kung camp - a three-night, four-day experiential learning and outdoor experience run by Oceanic Sports. Taking place at the Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp, the programme allows participants the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities that challenge them to move beyond their 'comfort zone' and help support their transition from the PYP to MYP. It also allows our students the chance to 'live' the IBO Learner Profile in an unfamiliar environment.

Until Friday 1 November 2019, a group of 153 students, seven teachers and four EAs set off to Sai Kung in what can only be described as nearly perfect weather! Before leaving school students made their own lunches to take on the big hike. At Pak Tam Chung BBQ site in the Sai Kung Country Park, the challenging hike began. There was undoubtedly great team spirit amongst the groups and a sense of camaraderie as students encouraged one another to persevere through some challenging terrain. Arriving back at the campsite, they were tired but happy, especially when given the option to buy an ice cream! There was a definite sense of accomplishment and this set the tone for the rest of the camp.

With the focus on adventure, team building, and problem solving skills, participants developed both their personal and interpersonal skills; including problem solving, sharing ideas, dealing with challenges, listening to others, using perseverance and having a positive mindset. Divided into 12 groups, students worked cooperatively and collaboratively to complete the many activities assigned to them. Students were given the opportunity to build a Roman Cannon with bamboo and rope and thoroughly enjoyed throwing water balloons at each other.

Another big highlight was the water sport activities at Sha Ha Beach in Sai Kung. The weather was absolutely perfect for being out on the water and all the groups were able to participate in the challenge of raft building. The 'Titanic' was an apt name for some of the creations! They were also able to choose between stand up paddle boarding and kayaking. Having lots of hot chocolate afterwards certainly brought a smile to everyone's faces.

Throughout the camp experience, students were encouraged to develop their 'thinking skills' to problem solve and use a variety of strategies during the team building games such as the 'Marble Transfer', 'Speed' number game and 'Octopus Galaxy'. Team spirit and collaboration also came through as the students took an active role in the competitive games such as 'Bubble Soccer', 'Easy Hockey' and 'Floor Curling'.

There was great food during the camp (e.g. spaghetti, fried rice, noodles, chicken wings, fish and chips, etc), but the BBQ on the first night was a great success and the biggest hit - hot dogs and delicious smores for everyone! During the camp, students were encouraged to reflect on the new experiences they had been involved in and a real sense of belonging developed among the students, camp leaders, the teachers and EAs.

To sum up, our EOTC experience in Sai Kung proved to be a rewarding experience for all - a challenging hike, great water sports, delicious BBQ, a talent show and lots of exciting and challenging activities. How did we end our amazing camp? Well, with another challenge of course!

This time it was a competitive game of 'Dragons' Tails' in the gym, in which all the students, teachers, EAs and camp leaders had to participate. There was an abundance of enthusiasm and energy as well as high spirits, not to mention some cheating (definitely not by the teachers) and it was certainly a great way to end our adventure.





Sports

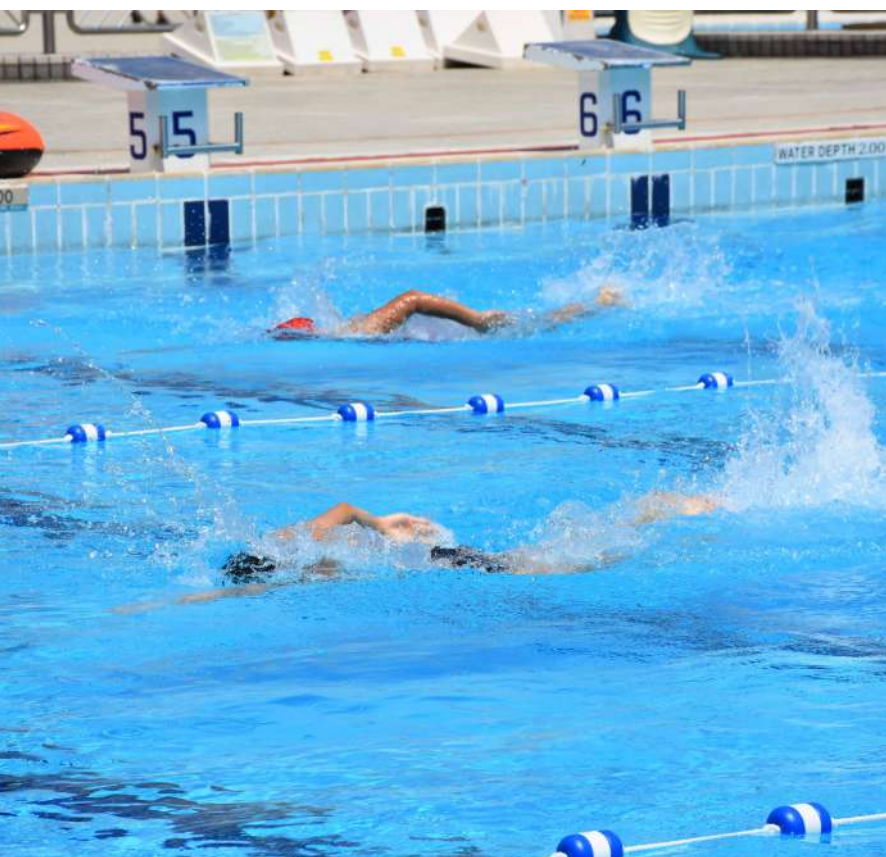
RCHK Swimming Gala

By Nick Sherriff-Smith, Athletics Director

At the beginning of the Term, the first Swimming Gala of the year kicked off with a splash! The Secondary students were in high spirits and cheered on their House competitors along. Song was the overall House winner!

A week following that, the Upper Primary swimmers strapped on their goggles and plunged to championship for their respective Houses. It was a great day filled with team spirit and enthusiasm. The overall winning House was Tang followed by Ming, Song and Qing.

Huge cheers to all the swimmers for putting up a stiff competition between the Houses - very well done!





Primary Football Tournament

By Sandra Gordon,
Primary PE & Sports Coordinator

On Tuesday 5 November 2019, our Primary Black Kites Football Team took part in the Kowloon Football Tournament at Kings Park. It was a great event and our young athletes displayed fantastic team spirit and enthusiasm. We were able to enter two boys teams and three girls teams supported by our wonderful coaches Luke Jones, Mike DeVries, Lewis Newman and Tim Ryan.

Both boys teams came in third in their pools and our girls B team won the B competition. Well done to our students and coaches!

On Friday 29 November, a selected group of students competed in the Football Championships organized by Quarry Bay School. The team faced stiff competition playing in a pool against Clearwater Bay School, Kellet International School and German Swiss International School. The boys gave it their all, and although they come out on the top of the scoreboard, they won their first game against Clearwater Bay School! This qualifies them into the Bowl Competition, which they also ended up winning! Huge congratulations to the boys and coach Newman for their dedication and tenacity.



Black Kites: Mid-season Report

By Nick Sherriff-Smith, Athletics Director

ACAMIS Volleyball 2019

From Thursday 31 October 2019 to Saturday 2 November 2019, Renaissance College hosted a hugely successful volleyball competition for the ACAMIS Red Division. This competition takes place at RCHK every two years and is a very prestigious event on the Black Kites Sporting Calendar. The Athletics Council had been busy planning from the beginning of the year to welcome and host schools from Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

Throughout the three days of competition, there were great demonstrations of physical athleticism and skills from the players and tremendous displays of sportsmanship, both individually and as teams.

The Renaissance College Black Kites represented the school with pride. The boys battled through against a high calibre of opposition, showing fantastic power and skill as well as excellent resolve which resulted in a good deal of progression over the weekend. They ultimately finished in third place.

In the girls' competition, our young team struggled to secure wins in the early rounds, despite some very close games. In the end though, against all odds, they found their form and fought back to knock the leading team out in the semi-final. They then continued on to win the final, and therefore the championship, in an amazing show of resilience and determination! The home crowd were elated. It was an extremely exciting finish to a great weekend.

Further to these successes, Endria Tai, Year 12 was very deservedly awarded the tournament MVP, with Kassidi Lau, Year 10 and Julia Chia, Year 13 also making the tournament all-star team. The girls' team were also voted by opposing teams for the sportsmanship award. For the boys, Ho Wang Yeung, Year 13 was selected for the tournament all-star team.

Thank you to all those who took part and came to support. It was a superb event made possible by the PHE department, members of the administration team and Black Kites Athletic Council!





STEAM

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Music and Theatre

RCHK's Chicago Musical is all that jazz and more

By Kathy La Brooy, Director of Chicago Musical and Head of Performing Arts

With two sold out nights, our Secondary students amazed audiences as they shimmied across the stage - Broadway style - at PAC all through Wednesday and Thursday on 27 and 28 November 2019.

In a world of showbiz, trials, and lies, the strangest of circumstances always turn out to make the most trivial stories. RCHK's captivating rendition of Chicago explored themes of crime, corruption, and all that jazz highlighted by the popular music and heavy dance numbers! It calls back to the great jazz age of the 1920s and follows the story of two death-row murderesses, Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, who compete for fame, freedom, and their lives.

The four month production of over 130 RCHK students involved tireless preparations starting with auditions in June, scheduling rehearsals from August till the day of the show, costume and makeup, props and staging, photoshoots to campaign, designing marketing materials to raising awareness of the show. The buzz that was created sold out the two nights within a couple of weeks of announcement!

The cast first learned the dances and songs, while the band worked on the music. They later joined forces to fuse the moves and music together, along with the crew in our "in the round" style staging. The entire PAC hall, stage and lighting was set up as a Cabaret Theatre Club transporting the audience back in time to the 1920s.

The attention to detail and dedication by the cast and crew created not only a show, but an adventure; one with a pinch of razzle dazzle and a hefty helping of heart!







A little drama can't hurt

By Gentle Lung, Year 12

As soon as Term 1 kicked off, our Year 12 Drama talents joined the ESF-wide Post-16 Drama Conference learning about various types of theatre and the importance of stage, costume, set design and movement from industry experts Marsha Roddy of UK's Gecko Theatre Company, Declan of Move for Life and other amazingly talented professionals!

"It was an incredible experience having to work with and learn from such seasoned practitioners. Together we were able to apply 100% of our creative energy into every activity!" says Year 12 Drama scholar, Gentle Lung.





Enlivening Hong Kong communities with signature tropical themed murals

By Sofia Paymaster, Year 12 Visual Arts Scholar

A popular but rundown footbridge that connects to Festival Walk shopping mall has been recently rejuvenated with a 40-metre long mural reminiscent of the tropical landscape - waterfalls, rocks, leaves, flowers, butterflies and bright pink flamingos.

Sofia has been working with her mother, famed Hong Kong mural artist Riitta Kuisma, on these murals that have been popping up around the city, adding pops of colour in unlikely places - such as the bubblegum flamingos now gracing a previously nondescript side of a stairwell in Hung Hom. Sofia took some time to talk to RCHK about working with her mother on this project and how it has developed her artistic skills in her own right.

Sofia: I have a great passion for art and have been participating in various community art projects in Hong Kong since 2015. These projects have mostly been wall murals and stair paintings in different parts of Hong Kong. Working with my mother has given me the opportunity to participate in public art projects with different art groups and volunteering in my mother's mural projects. I have also done three commission mural paintings on my own.

The latest community art projects I took part in were in Kowloon Tong and in Hung Hom in September to October 2019. Kowloon Tong mural is part of the footbridge that connects to Festival Walk. My mother's design was rainforest-themed with colourful plants and animals. I got to help her by painting plants, butterflies, rocks and waterfalls on the walls and pillars. In Hung Hom, there were two walls with the total area around 20

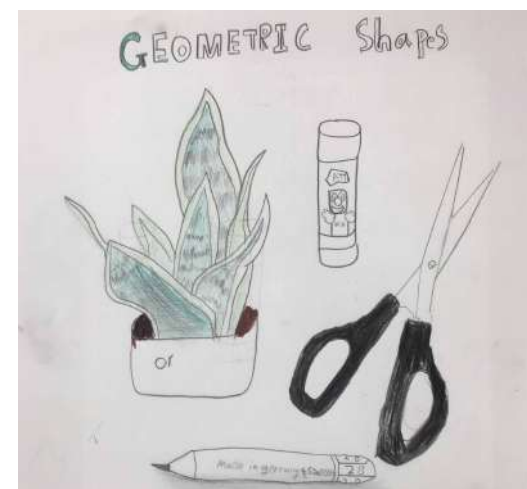
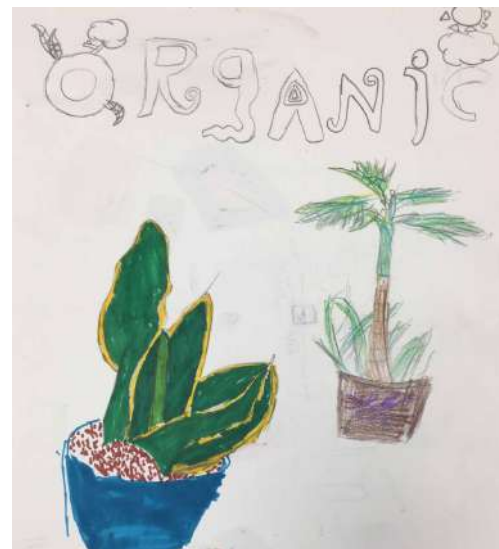
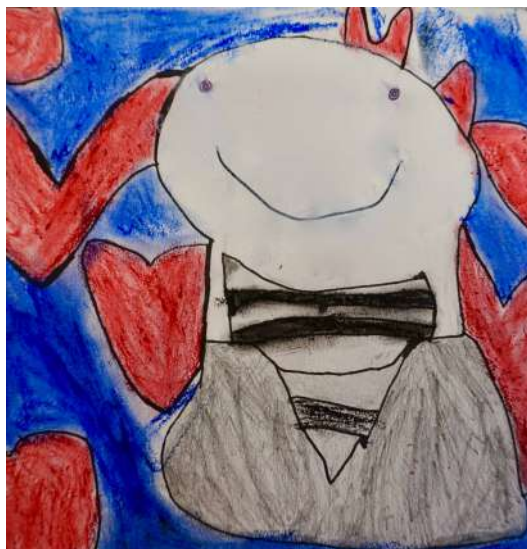
square metres that we covered with flamingos, flowers and plants. I helped out a lot there during my mid-term break.

It is interesting to paint in public places. There are always people who stop by watching and talking. Earlier I felt intimidated by people watching, but now I have gotten used to it and it is nice to have a chat and get positive comments. Doing public art is a great opportunity to interact with people and that has helped build up my confidence. Besides doing something for the community feels good even more so, when you get the positive feedback. Taking part in different art groups has made me a better communicator. Helping my mother has built up my personal skills as an artist and grown my interest in painting murals. I am looking forward to taking part in more mural projects in future as well as hoping to get more commissions to do my own work.

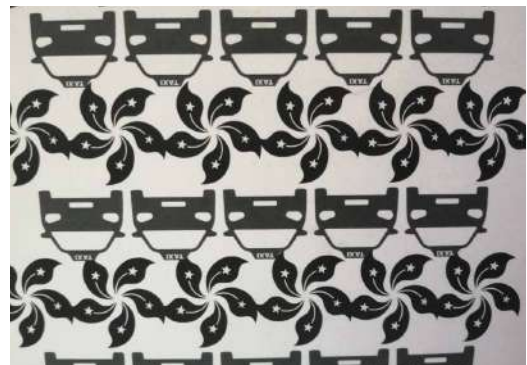
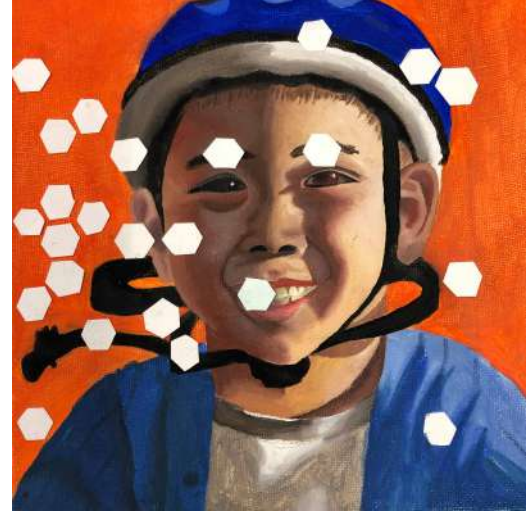


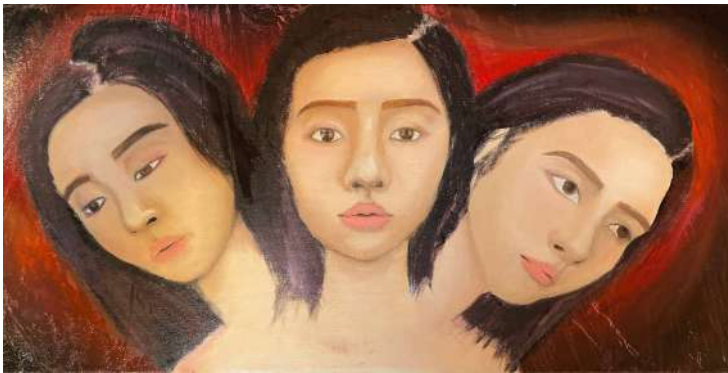
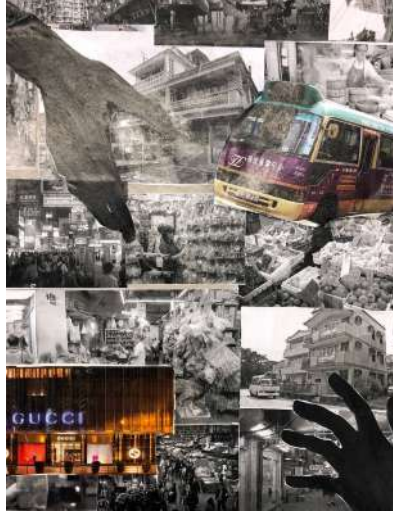
Primary Art Gallery





Secondary Art Gallery





The Arts

Year 12 Visual Artists take inspiration from Hong Kong Artist Angela Yuen creating Shadow Art

By Sameera Pelham, Visual Arts Teacher

In October 2019, the Year 12 IBDP Visual Artists were lucky to spend a day with Hong Kong Artist Angela Yuen. Through her work Yuen looks to the symbolic meaning of found objects, physically joining similar materials to transform them from their original state into a meaningful piece of visual language. Yuen's most prominent works feature sculptures made from seemingly meaningless plastic toys. The sculptures are cleverly lit in a carefully planned choreography of coloured lighting to create shadow art. The toys she collects in these pieces are a nod to the history of Hong Kong and the production of these plastic toys that once was a key part of this city's industry.

Yuen's visit was perfectly timed, prompting our students to consider the meaning and cultural context in all objects and materials in the world around us. She shared with us artists that inspire her, the role of the artist in explaining cultural context of objects through the medium's language, and explained her art making process by grouping students and guiding them through the same process.

Yuen had the Diploma Visual Artists deep dive into thinking, making, and collaborating. They worked in groups to take old toys (collected from the RCHK community) and objects found around the school. They set up the object sculptures against white backgrounds and worked meaningfully to produce shadows that, in all of the eight groups presented a unique narrative, that they were all able to explain, and to give and receive peer feedback.

This experience comes at a time in our IBDP Visual Arts curriculum, where students will begin to develop their ideas for a body of work for their 2021 exhibition, bringing together a meaningful concept through assured skill in their chosen media. We hope to welcome Ms. Yuen back to share her practice with future Diploma groups!





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Alumni Feature Story



A Decade of Experience - catching up with John Law, Class of 2009 and current IB Diploma Coordinator

On a sunny Saturday this past August, RCHK welcomed back over 50 members of our College community at the annual Alumni Reunion 2019 edition. One of those was John Law, Class of 2009, who graduated with his Bachelor of Education at the University of Hong Kong and is now an IB Diploma coordinator himself at ELCHK Lutheran Academy. He caught up with several members of our Class of 2019, and it was exciting to see a decade of excellence all in one room together. Law kindly allowed RCHK to pick his brain on the challenges going from IB student to IB Coordinator, the “countless” valuable lessons IB taught him, his words of encouragement from a decade of experience for our Class of 2020 - and more!

RCHK: How has your view of the IB programme changed from being a student to now being an IB teacher and DP coordinator in Hong Kong?

Law: I appreciated the IB philosophy ever since I started the IB Diploma at RCHK. Back then, I consider the IB as a progressive and liberal form of education and my view still remains the same today. Being a teacher and DP Coordinator means that I can know more about how it is being implemented. I must say that teaching the IB is equivalently challenging as studying the programme. Upon realising this when working as a teacher, I developed an even stronger respect and admiration for my former teachers and

also any fellow IB teachers out there. Compared to what I had as a student ten years ago, the support that students receive has increased dramatically. In the past, there were very few outside organisations that were aware of the IB curriculum, not to mention the tutorial centres. Nowadays, the centres supporting students in the IB are growing exponentially. It does certainly give students more options - however, that means they need to be more balanced with their time management and informed about their choices.

RCHK: What was it like for you returning to RCHK after 10 years and talking to our most recent graduating 2019 cohort?

Law: First of all, I would like to congratulate the recent cohort that finished the Diploma Programme. My impression of the recent graduating class is that they are a mature and determined cohort. When asked about the recent social events in Hong Kong, I am amazed by their critical and rational insight.

RCHK: Are there any valuable lessons you learned during your time at RCHK that has carried over into your professional career as a teacher?

Law: There are countless! The ones that stand out the most are self-management skills, reflective skills and resilience. Years ago as a student, I had to balance

endless deadlines and commitments. I learnt self-management the difficult way, I still remember how I struggled with completing my Extended Essay because of procrastination. This was a very valuable lesson and since then I learnt how to deal with enormous tasks more effectively. These skills helped me become a better teacher and leader. I was able to effectively manage different colleagues and tasks given by the school without being too stressful.

I always have to reflect my everyday performance as an educator. I developed this attitude thanks to CAS and Theory Of Knowledge. To me, being reflective is not just evaluating the task itself, but also my thinking habits. For every task, I would always self-reflect before and after its implementation.

I also got inspired by RCHK's open-mindedness and I still practice these values. As a teacher, I wish to cultivate a democratic learning environment in which students can express their views and question in a respectful manner. Likewise to leading the department with my colleagues, I respect their opinion and incorporate it to the department's practices.

RCHK: What inspired you to become a teacher?

Law: There are various sources that inspired me. I studied history during the Diploma Programme and was amazed by how countries used education as a means to modernize the area. I see education as a process that drives improvement and change for humanity. I am also interested in the Humanities, and a school is where I can share my interest and practice it as well.

RCHK: Anyone at RCHK that particularly inspired you on your academic journey? Were you able to see that person during this year's reunion?

Law: Most of the teachers that taught me back in those days have probably left. Here are a few that I would like to mention, not in any particular order:

I would like to thank Mr. Jonathan Field for being my History teacher. His lessons were full of intellectual and fun discussions. The other is Mr. Hugh Pizzi, who was my Chemistry teacher. I was not great in Chemistry, but his support did really help me get through the course. Next is my Year 10 group advisor Ms. Louisa Yen; she was a caring teacher and was always ready to listen to my concerns. Ms. Tracy Cheung, who was my Chinese Language A2 (now Language and Literature) teacher. Our class size was extremely small, with less than five students, and because of that, my Mandarin improved dramatically and I find it very useful now when liaising with other IB schools in mainland China. Mr. Peter Kenny, our principal back in 2009, and Ms. Carol Larkin, who was our DP Coordinator, provided us emotional support during the tough times of the IB. Last but not the least, Dr. Harry Brown: though he came in after I graduated, I would like to thank him for keeping in touch with the alumni community and connecting us back to our Alma Mater.

RCHK: What are your words of wisdom to our Class of 2020?

Law: You are on your way to the finishing line of the IB Diploma. At this moment, you might have many mixed feelings. You might feel anxious, stressed, and lost. On the other hand, you might be looking forward to life after IB examinations. This is a crucial time of the year, so hang in there, and don't let your distractions get the better of you. Procrastination and distraction steal our time and opportunities. I hope by the end of this programme, you do have a sense of accomplishment. Even if your results might not be what you desired, do remember that the process itself is as equally important. What's after IB is a gateway to many other possibilities - some pathways could be easier than the IB, or even more challenging. Whatever it is, do greet these opportunities with an open-mind - what can be learnt from these opportunities is more than you could imagine.

John Law (far right) Class of 2009 catches up with several members of our Class of 2019 at our recent Alumni Reunion.



Alumni and Community

Cordelia Poon

Class of 2018

Hello from the University of York, where the White Rose of York reigns! I am in my second year studying law and it has been a splendid experience so far! I had long acknowledged my aspiration to administer and restore justice in differing aspects, and so naturally, I decided to pursue a law degree to explore the means of solving current loopholes that impede on the socio-political climate.

After careful consideration, I settled on the York Law School (YLS) to study a law degree due to the rigorous programme. I cannot emphasise enough the importance and merits of problem-based learning (PBL) in YLS. Utilising a PBL approach through student law firms to decode virtual cases aids me in understanding the ramifications of legal principles in both theoretical and social contexts. Through regular PBL workshops, I feel strengthened and equipped with the right qualities, skills, and techniques that prepare me for entering the legal field and working as a professional. It is a much more cohesive and integrated programme compared to a more traditional approach, with interlocking modules that reflect, in reality, how various areas of law will overlap.

However, my passion for law is not quite as established as my lifetime passion for music- you might remember me as a music scholar when I was in RCHK. Reflecting back, the music scholarship programme was vital to my development in a multitude of ways, and it has aided me to thrive in university and beyond. From a personal development perspective, the scholarship programme enabled me to access more advanced music lessons to better myself as a well-rounded musician. Moreover, the extensive performance opportunities such as music ensembles and events that RCHK provided has encouraged me to better my leadership skills as part of organising and leading music events for the school. I have found these skills indispensable for me to lead university orchestras and to make a mark within them. The highlight of my orchestral experience at university was performing a violin solo with the University's Concert Orchestra for last year's summer concert which garnered much attention. Subsequently, I was successful in getting into the University's Symphony Orchestra, and I currently play alongside third-year undergraduate and postgraduate music students.

Professionally, the music scholarship programme has helped pave the way forward for my career as it has helped me cultivate a sense of compassion. With this in mind, I applied to law firms with a similar vision and landed a place on a first-year insight scheme at the

largest law firm in the UK - DLA Piper. The three-day insight scheme encompasses talks from senior partners from UK and overseas offices and a hands-on workshop on business deals. It provided me with invaluable insight into working in a multinational commercial law firm, yet maintaining a passion for solving legal loopholes and administering justice. As I found DLA Piper's values resonated with me, I decided to take on the role as a brand manager, representing DLA Piper at the University of York. I feel contented when I can guide fellow students in pursuing a career in a multinational law firm. What's more rewarding is that liaising with other DLA Piper brand managers across 14 other UK universities allows us to build a network sharing the same vision working towards the same goals. As part of my role, I am currently planning to hold a panel comprised of distinguished female figures in the UK legal field; the panel will deal with the very issue of intersectional feminism and the route into the legal sector.

Preparing for a new chapter of your life can seem daunting at times, especially for those who are currently applying to universities. Despite my fears, I have always found assistance in Dr. Brown's words, which is "there will always be an opportunity to recreate yourself." I have approached every situation in life with this mindset, and needless to say, it has helped me achieve success at university and beyond! Once you start to rethink and recreate yourself, you will then be aware and content with your needs and identity. Stay true to yourself and good luck!



Melanie Mazariegos

Class of 2018

My name is Melanie Mazariegos, I graduated from RCHK in 2018 and I have just started studying at Erasmus University College in the Netherlands. After graduating from RCHK I decided to take a gap year where I wanted to gain work experience, travel, and challenge myself. One of the ways I did this was by planning a trip to Kota Kinabalu to climb Mount Kinabalu in order to raise money for Conservation International (CI), an NGO which promotes environmental resource protection and sustainability.

I went on this trip with Carla Van Hasslet (Li Po Chun, United World College of Hong Kong), Jasmine Turner (Kellett School of Hong Kong) and Sophia Lee (University of the Arts London) who I met back in July of 2018 during a climate change expedition in Mongolia. On this trip we were able to see the first-hand effects of climate change on both the environment and the livelihood of the nomadic people. The expedition was truly rewarding and is also what sparked our passion for sustainability and environmental conservation.

I suggested Mount Kinabalu to my friends largely because it was the CAS trip I wasn't able to go on. Luckily, they were on board and we organized everything for this trip in a month. After a lot of research, we decided it was CI we wanted to support because their values align with our own and we admire the fact they are a multifaceted organization that develops projects on both a local and global scale to support the conservation of our home planet. After two months of fundraising, we managed to raise HK\$ 6,922 thanks to the support of our family, friends and local community, including RCHK.

Climbing Mount Kinabalu was a unique experience and was something we definitely didn't do enough training for. Day One of the two-day climb was spent hiking up the steep six kilometer trail to the base camp which took us around five to six hours. We got to the base camp feeling tired and cold but very accomplished about what we had done. Day Two, however, was nothing like we had anticipated. We were up at 2am to begin our climb to the summit. It was pitch black, incredibly cold and definitely the longest and most difficult two kilometers we've ever attempted to hike.

Unfortunately about half way up, one of our team members had to turn back with our guide to the rest hut due to altitude sickness while the rest of us continued up. All of us began feeling extremely fatigued but kept trying our hardest to stay motivated and follow the rope to the top. We kept going for about another hour but in

the end, we had to make the difficult decision to turn back about 100 meters from the summit. At that point most of us started to feel light-headed and as much as we wanted to push forward, we knew we still had the hike down that day and didn't want to risk injuring ourselves.

Although we were disappointed we didn't make it to the summit, the way down made us feel instantly better. As the sun was rising, our surroundings went from being completely pitch black and seemingly barren to this beautiful landscape that no pictures could do any justice to. This entire experience, albeit challenging both mentally and physically, was incredibly rewarding and unforgettable.

If I have any advice for the graduating class of 2020, it would be to not stress about having everything in your life figured out, you have a lot more time than you think you do. I definitely didn't know what I was going to do when I graduated from RCHK but I took the time to figure out what it was I wanted and ended up accomplishing so much in my gap year. All that matters in the end is that you find something that you enjoy and put your best into it. You'll find that everything has a way of working out!





Tommy Ng

Class of 2018

Hello RCHK, I am a first year at St Andrews University, located in the small town of the same name in the county of Fife, Scotland (NOT England!) The Scottish system is very similar to the US system (in fact, it is its predecessor); it's great because you get an extra two years to declare your major. I am currently under Maths and Economics (Joint Honours), but am able to drop one or both for Philosophy if desired. The flexibility of the Scottish system means that students in first year are allowed to take modules from many areas of knowledge. This school year, I took two math modules and one from economics, philosophy, computer science and astrophysics.

Outside of class, there are so many activities to join; I'm involved with the Parkour club, Pool Soc ("Soc" is short for Society), Astro Soc (Stargazing & Astronomy), the Baroque ensemble, Japan Soc, and the HK Soc committee. Most universities have "give it a go" sessions where you can just walk into a society and try events without paying for membership. I would strongly recommend you to try out as many as possible. I found out I didn't enjoy the Argentine Tango, but on the flip side, I joined the Freshers Pool Tournament which led me into Pool Soc.

Academic families are a big part of the St Andrews culture. Third year students academically "adopt" first years, hosting events like family hotpot (if you're lucky enough like me to have HK parents) and crazy "Raisin Sunday" (aka: big party!). It's a great way to integrate the young and the old and there's no way I would have been close friends with my "academic grandma" without this tradition. I've actually been trying to introduce this system for RCHK as well, creating stronger bonds between Year levels.

Sometimes I regret quitting Snooker (a cue sport) ten years ago. Pool Soc (more like Pool/Snooker Soc) has taught me many things - firstly, that patience is very, very important. Pool is an insane game of the mind. Getting rid of all your balls in one run may seem cool to an eager audience, but your opponent can eclipse the black ball behind their coloured balls, giving them better opportunities later. "Fudgey" games are worse, it's about picking the right shots and intimidating your opponent. Snooker is an entirely different beast. When you thought you've made progress by a break of 32 in practice, skilled players play shots preventing you from doing so. Playing the classic "safety shot", they corner you to the desolate lands of the "balk line", making your next shot a whopping distance of ten feet. "In competition, it's all about making the opponent play the difficult shots."- Adam Fleming, 2018 PoolSoc President

I've had the privilege of joining the senior players to the British Universities/ Colleges Sport tournament (BUCS) for the St Andrews 3rd team. Tournament play is all about the pressure. Here's my first bit of advice - everything in life is "EQ", not "IQ". IB exams are nothing but a test of mental strength. No amount of intelligence (or anything else) is going to save you if the first paper goes poorly and then you struggle with your confidence/mental state for the rest. Outside the competition, it's about the social aspect of sport that's truly worth it. I made two Hong Kong friends who are down for frames and games in Kowloon City. Meanwhile, most of the St Andrews Pool Soc are the older students, with 4 PhD's in the photo in RCHK. I never really dared approaching the seniors, but St Andrews has taught me that it is through the interactions with the older students that you get a much broader view of the world. So, my RCHK friends, go learn from your seniors!

The Big Picture

