

Jan 2016 ISSUE 14

REAL WEEK

Students get a taste of
Real World Learning

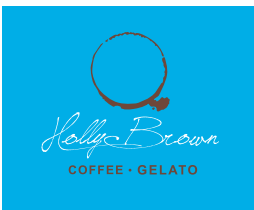
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Dear RCHK Family,

Holiday greetings to all of you and welcome to the winter 2015 edition of RCHK World!

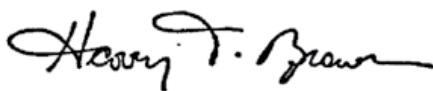
The first half of the school year has been very busy and also very rewarding for the students and teachers at Renaissance College. The annual Terry Fox charity run to raise funds for cancer research was phenomenally successful both in the numbers of people who attended and money pledged. Again this year, we hosted a College-wide run for our students and faculty as well as a community run which featured dignitaries from across Hong Kong and Canada.

"Friendships Beyond Borders" was the theme of the RAPT sponsored College Fair this autumn. The record number of attendees and donations was a testament to the tireless dedication of our team of parent volunteers who make the fair the must attend event for families of all ages in the New Territories.

EOTC, or Education Outside the Classroom, is often featured in our publications because we believe it to be an essential element in the educational experience and development of young people. In this issue you'll get a glimpse of EOTC in the primary school.

In the secondary school, MYP teachers have been cultivating opportunities for students to have more authentic learning experiences. "Real Week" was created to provide students in Years 7, 9 and 10 the chance to take action with "Real" skills to solve "Real" problems. I'm sure you'll be impressed with what the students accomplished.

Every two years, RCHK hosts the annual ACAMIS volleyball tournament. We had over 100 male and female student athletes with us for almost three days of non-stop action this past October. The Black Kites played with the heart and skill of champions. The photographs inside are inspirational.



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Principal





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Cliff Leung

Year 2



Cliff was awarded merit in the Opus 1 'Music. World' drawing competition organized by the Opus1 Arts Music Studio in October 2015. Cliff chose France as the theme of the painting and created a painting called 'France Midsummer Music Trip'. Well done, Cliff.

Jacob Campbell

Year 3



In November 2015, Jacob competed in the ESF Sharks Swim Gala held at the South Island School. He came in second place for Boys Level SW4/5 25 meter butterfly and came first in 25 meter race breaststroke and fourth overall. Congratulations, Jacob.

Angus Yip

Year 6



In October Hong Kong Tennis Association once again selected Angus as a Ballperson for the Hong Kong Tennis Open 2015. He was honoured to be part of this world-class tennis event and thoroughly enjoyed this memorable experience. In November 2015, Angus also won the bronze medal at the ESF Sharks 15th Annual Swim Gala in Boys 9 & Over 50 SC Meter Freestyle Parent & Child Relay. In addition, Angus successfully passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Piano Examination with Merit. Congratulations and keep up the good work, Angus.

Richard Yeung

Year 11



Richard, who is a member of the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra, got a fantastic opportunity to act in 'Shaolin Music Theatre' organized by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra & Chung Ying Theatre. The show incorporated elements of theatre and music. Richard portrayed two characters in the show: one as a young Ye Yiping and another as a novice monk. Richard found this experience really rewarding as he got to work with theatre professionals. The show was held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall on 24-25 July 2015.

Sofia Leung

Year 5



In October 2015, Sofia participated in the Opus 1 'Music. World' drawing competition organized by the Opus1 Arts Music Studio. Sofia selected London as theme city and painted a dancing Tower Bridge. Her painting won the first runner up prize in the senior primary group.

Ryan Lee

Year 7



Congratulations to Ryan and his team for winning the first runner-up at the 2015 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Youth Soccer Exchange Program, held in Macau from 18-20 September. Ryan, who is a member of the Hong Kong U12 Football Team, was representing Hong Kong in this prestigious program.

Chloe Chan

Year 5



Chloe danced her way to success in the 2015 World Chinese Cup Ballroom Dance competition, held in Taiwan. Chloe won first place in Solo Rumba and second place in Solo Cha Cha, Jive, Samba and Paso Doble. Chloe also participated in the 8th Latin Dance Competition in Macau, and won second place in Cha Cha, Rumba and Jive under 10 years old and second place in Cha Cha, Rumba, Jive, Samba and Paso Doble under 10 years old. Well done, Chloe.

Brian Wong

Year 8



Congratulations to Brian who recently completed the Cub Scout Golden Bauhinia Award, the highest award of the Cub Scout Section. It is in recognition of the Cub Scout's achievement in the areas of Outdoor Challenge, Adventure Challenge, Sharing Experience and Leadership. Geoffrey Ma, the Chief Justice of Hong Kong Court in the Hong Kong Scout Rally, presented the award.

Clean Dat Beach

By Ryan Law & Crystal Law, Year 10

On October 31, Year 10 students Crystal Law and Sarah Lam led the annual secondary “Clean Dat Beach” at Whitehead to raise awareness about coastline pollution. With Ms. Gore and Ms. Wickens supervising, a group of Years 7-10 students spent two hours picking up plastic bottles, styrofoam, straws, cans and many other forms of human pollution. The most unusual find this year was an abnormally huge light-bulb, as seen in our photograph. After cleaning the beach, the area looked as good as new and the group left knowing they had contributed towards making Hong Kong a cleaner, more beautiful place.



Renaissance College Football Club

By Cheuk Lun Ko, Year 11

Founded as a CAS activity last year, the Renaissance College Football Club (RCFC) is a small-scale club initiated by Year 11 students. Aimed at boys and girls in Years Three and Four, it is a place for young football enthusiasts who want to develop their skills, make new friends and play in a team. It's a place to have fun after seven hours of school!

Each 75 minute weekly session involves warm-ups, team building practices and modified games to challenge the skilled and new alike. Participants also get to bond with the four student-coaches and fellow members. The club has already hosted its first inter-club tournament and is looking to expand soon, providing more fun and footballing opportunities for the Renaissance College community.



24 Hour Sailing

By Laura Grodewald,
STL Coordinator

On 31st of October and 1st of November 12 RCHK sailors from Year 7 to Year 13 sailed for 24 hours to raise money for charities. The annual Hebe Haven Yacht Club 24 hour Charity Dinghy Race raises awareness and money for local organizations including The Children's Cancer Foundation, TREATS, Enlighten-Action for Epilepsy, IDEAL, and Sailability. This year Renaissance College was represented by Sim Hoekstra, Sorcha Whyte, Sam Hui, Damien Chung, Pei Yip, Christy Leung, Kelsie Leveille, Eva Spicciolato, Yee Loong Tang, Ryan Ng, Eshani Goonetilleke, and Jayden Lau.

The team raised over HK\$8,000 for the charities and sailed 99 continuous laps around the course in 24 hours!





International Culture Festival Hangzhou

By Cheer Li, Chinese Teacher

On November 7, accompanied by Chinese teachers Ms. Cheer Li and Mr. Huiling Yu, seven RCHK students went to Hangzhou Green Town Yuhua School for the 12th International Culture Festival. Teachers and students from Spain, Germany, Korea and Singapore also came to join this festival.

During the festival, RCHK students got the opportunity to participate in various featured events, ranging from a Global Tour, Model United Nations to a Sports Carnival. RCHK students won different awards in sports. In the Model United Nations, students showed their excellent performance and were awarded Best Diplomats.

Staying with host families was another memorable aspect of the

experience for RCHK students. During the stay, they were invited to visit the beautiful scenic spots in Hangzhou and explore the local culture with their host families. Students were very appreciative of the hospitality of their host families.

Through this exchange program students developed new friendships and learned about different cultures.



Senior Activities Day

Jim Morgan, Year 12

Years 11, 12 and 13 students were given the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities as an alternative to the annual swim gala this year. Teachers and students organized

and led a wide range of physical activities such as hiking, cycling, basketball and Ultimate frisbee. There were also creative pursuits such as dance, art, photography and cooking workshops. All in all it was a very enjoyable day for everyone experiencing these extra curricular pursuits.



Photo by Lawrence Ge



Photo by Adrienne Lam

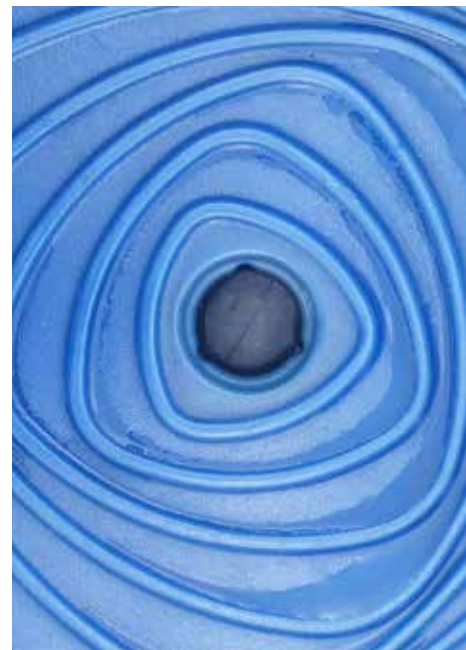


Photo by Melory So



Photo by Rachel Wan

Laos Action

By Joe Fahy, PYP Teacher

After a number of weeks of school-based action, eight students took the opportunity to visit Laos as part of their Year 6 EOTC (Education Outside of the Classroom) experience from 4th to 9th of October. Each of the students was accompanied by one of their parents. Miss Helen Morris and Mr. Joseph Fahy were the accompanying teachers to facilitate the trip.

One of the main objectives was to support the work of a local non-government organisation in Laos called 'Community Learning International'. CLI provides educational opportunities for children living in remote communities in Laos through a range of outreach programs including

six learning centres and a 'Library River Boat', which reaches out to villages located along the Mekong. As a result of fundraising efforts in school, coupled with a donation from the Service Projects @ Renaissance College (SP@AC) fund, a total of US\$6000 was donated to CLI.

This five-day educational camp included a visit to CLI's Children's Learning Centre (CLC) to meet local students. Despite initial hesitation the students quickly became at ease with each other and it was wonderful to see them having fun, playing games and working together to solve cooperative challenges. Through some of the money donated by RCHK, numerous game materials (skipping ropes, balls, hula hoops) were donated to the CLC. Other activities included distribution

of the book bags in a remote village school funded from the donation made by RCHK community. We also got the opportunity to visit the Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC) in Sayaboury where students got some incredible close up experiences with the elephants, including a short ride on their backs.

The final morning of the camp saw a very early 5 am start as this was an opportunity for some of the students to experience the local religious custom of giving 'alms' to the Buddhist monks.

Laos - a short visit but a long lasting impression.



Sai Kung Camp

By Concettina Ventura, PYP Teacher

As part of the holistic nature of our Primary Years Programme we planned an Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experience for the Year 6 students in Sai Kung. This was a 3-night, 4-day experiential learning and outdoor camp run by 'Oceanic Sports Hong Kong Limited' at the Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp, accompanied by a number of RCHK staff and led by Ms. Concettina Ventura and Ms. Tracey Wnek. The main aim of the camp was for our students to experience a wide range of challenging activities that would enable them to move beyond their 'comfort zone' and would support the transition from the PYP to MYP.

On the 6th of October, a group of 118 students and 10 teachers/EAs set off for Sai Kung. With the focus on 'adventure' and 'team building' skills, students were able to develop both their personal and interpersonal skills such as problem solving, sharing ideas, dealing with challenges, listening to others and using perseverance. Some students had the opportunity to use the climbing wall while others enjoyed getting extremely wet during the 'water tower' challenge.

Divided into 12 groups, students worked cooperatively and collaboratively to complete the many activities assigned to them. Team spirit came through as the students took an active role in

competitive games such as bubble soccer, dodge ball, bubble soccer, easy hockey and tug of war.

Throughout the camp, students were encouraged to 'reflect' on the new experiences they had been involved in and a real sense of belonging and camaraderie developed among the students, camp leaders and teachers/EAs.

To sum up, our EOTC experience in Sai Kung proved to be a rewarding experience for all - a challenging hike, a visit to Trio Beach, an indoor BBQ, a talent show and lots of exciting and challenging activities.



Zhaoqing, China Camp

By Mike Hogg, PYP Teacher

From October 6th to 9th, 38 RCHK students travelled by train to Zhaoqing to experience the China camp. They met at the Hung Hom station before the 4-hour train trip (which soon turned into 5 hours due to some delays).

Once at Zhaoqing, the students made their way to the hotel 'Nine Dragons', which is situated on a tranquil lake about 10km out of Zhaoqing city. We also met our Dragonfly camp leaders who began by developing team-building skills through a range of activities.

The next morning the students took part in the cable way hike. This involved the students being zip lined onto ropes above streams and waterfalls. This was an exciting activity that challenged the students. It was also a beautiful setting amongst the forest. The students were also involved in traditional Chinese painting. This was run by a local artist, and all students created artistic masterpieces using traditional methods.

The students also went into Zhaoqing city to create an ink stone carving. Again we learnt about the rich history behind this and looked at some intricate carvings created by professionals. Following this we went to a local Chinese school. The

students interacted with the students there by reading, playing games and creating cards. This was a thoroughly rewarding experience for both sets of students as they were able to share their way of life in Hong Kong, and learn about life in Zhaoqing.

The last day the students visited a park in the city to take part in the Dragonfly challenge. All students were in groups and answered questions and took photos of the many interesting landscapes and sculptures. Overall, it was an amazing experience as the students were great and all had such positive attitudes that enabled them to embrace the variety of activities with perseverance and smiles.





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COVER STORY

REAL Week

Students get a taste of Real World Learning

By Jayne Wickins, Vice-Principal, Secondary

Empowering student learning through EOTC, Work Experience, CAS and Inter-disciplinary experiences is the vision behind one week in November. This is when Renaissance College Secondary School collapses its day-to-day curriculum and enables students to explore learning without boundaries.

Now in its second year, 'REAL week', as it is known, aligns with EOTC, one of our bedrock principles. Education Outside the Classroom can be experienced in a variety of ways. Year 8 were enjoying the challenges and thrills of camp in the wilds of Hong Kong, while Year 11 students were living 'WOW' or the World Of Work through seven days of work experience. For CAS week, many Year 12 students were in remote locations overseas working on NGO projects, or in Hong Kong

learning a new skill, hobby or sport.

The three remaining year groups had the space and facilities of the secondary school to themselves. A carefully planned programme of integrated learning was created where skills, creativity and concepts were all woven together through a variety of fun learning experiences allowing students to express and understand themselves better as learners and as individuals.

Year 7

From 'Parachutes to Pizza'. Year 7 had a week exploring, demonstrating and reflecting upon the skills that make them a successful learner. All students took part in a carousel of skills based activities where they were actively engaged in a range of experiences that included physical activity, inquiry, problem solving, creative and critical thinking skills. They then built on their learning through a program called 'Feeling Good' which included circus skills to develop their communication and trust as well as a variety of workshops encouraging them to think about their online and personal wellbeing.



Year 9

Raising Self Esteem was the theme of the Year 9 Pastoral event. This was achieved through a variety of physical and practical activities such as dance, drama and team games. This theme continued into the second day with an exploration of the tools of Positive Education and how to improve wellbeing through empathy followed by confidence building activities. Student feedback was enthusiastic and appreciative generating an opportunity for discussion and further development.



At the end of the week, the Year 9 took to the streets in a peaceful demonstration along the Ma On Shan waterfront to display the chants, slogans, posters and banners they had created during the previous three days of interdisciplinary learning. The theme was 'Rights' and students researched and gained a detailed insight into their chosen topic, such as refugees, animal rights and LGBT.



Year 10

The theme of sustainability was woven throughout the Year 10 week that started on Monday with a presentation from 'Plastic Free Seas' and ended on Friday with a sustainable beach barbeque. Students experienced, sustainable drumming with recycled bottles, dance and multi-lingual rapping about their feelings on the 'Plastic Vortex'. They combined their knowledge of science, design and art by creating digital art work, and designing a sustainable light made from plastic bottles and cardboard. At the end of the week, the students put their collaborative and organizational skills to the test in planning for their sustainable

barbeque and negotiating their menu and budget. The trip to the Sai Kung peninsula allowed them to engage in their personal wellbeing through playing beach games, cooking and eating, swimming and snorkeling. Students took action at the end of the day with an impromptu beach clean to consolidate their learning and commitment to sustainability.

Student reflection revealed how much they valued their learning from this week; the skills they learned, the wellbeing explored and the confidence gained. REAL week is now part of the student experience at Renaissance College and we are already planning for 2016.



Seeing is Believing: Arts Action Project

By Merry Hamilton, Primary Visual Arts Teacher

Under the central idea of organizations provide services within the community, Year 6 students worked in a collaborative unit of inquiry with class teachers and Visual Art.

In Art, students found out about Orbis and the Hong Kong Youth

Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and how these NGO's work together to take action to improve people's lives in a tangible way. They worked on creating mandalas as a way to contribute their creativity and artistic skills to a large-scale exhibition that helps raise awareness for "Orbis", a global NGO who help tackle avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

Drawing inspiration from classical music, the artworks created

unique reinterpretations of what they hear as Mandala Art.

Artworks were displayed at Victoria Park at the Standard Chartered Arts in the Park Mardi Gras on the 14-15 November 2015. The Mardi Gras which is organized by HKYAF was a fantastic event which celebrated the arts. It was a fun event for all the family with food, music, face painting, dance, musical performances and amazing visual arts displays.



CAS - Art in Action

By Jerry Cheung, Year 12

Working with orphans in the Po Leung Kuk art studio session was a very rewarding experience as it changed my impression about the emotions of orphans in Hong Kong. Normally, students have an impression that orphans are not very happy, yet this experience shed a new light on the happiness of these children and they have taught me the importance of

resilience and friendship. It was a gratifying experience to work with these children as they were bright, cheery and fun to be around. I have warm memories of their big smiles and how they enjoyed making art together. Moreover, it made me realise that art can bring people together and create joy amongst a group no matter what age or gender. Art is a creative method of expression and can be used as a therapeutic technique.



Art Jamming - Activities Day (Yr 11 - Yr 13)

By Art Department

An Art Jam is a group of ten or more people, getting together to experience and explore the fun of painting. An Art Jam is mixing unlimited paint with unlimited imagination - Playing, painting, sponging, spraying and creating your very own unique piece of artwork in full colour in a stress-free atmosphere. It's all about putting on an apron to face a blank canvas and unleashing your creativity.



Year 10 Creative Visual Arts Day

By Bernice Tao, Year 10

'Visual Arts' - two simple words, but consisting of a lot of emotion, technique and meaning. From painting to pottery, Year 10 students were given a chance to explore two very different areas of art. After learning about the guest artists, students got straight into practical work.

Victoria Leigh introduced herself and showed her pen and ink paintings. She talked about techniques while

painting some examples. Applying new knowledge about the use of paintbrushes, contrasting colours, connecting nature with art, and minimizing and magnifying leaves and flowers, students were then able to make their own pieces.

Ending with pottery, Elaine Meigh showed her ceramic artwork to the class. She taught the fastest way to make a pot from scratch using clay. Students were challenged to make the tallest pot, which made them more focused on the production. Pottery is not often a subject that students do at school and was

therefore a chance to learn new things, understand pottery tools and be creative with clay, constructing a design straight away.

Concluding, Visual Arts Day was a success evident in the response students showed. We were given an amazing chance to explore two very different areas of art and to do something that can sometimes seem rare nowadays - being creative.



Our Sculpture Lesson - The most fun-filled and exciting lesson ever!

By Shriya Srinivasan, Year 5

Who out there likes sculpture? Well, we are a group of arty students in Renaissance College that really, really like sculpture! Mrs. Psillides, our teacher teaches us the basic techniques and details of sculpture. This exciting learning journey started from 24 September, 2015 until 10 December, 2015.

In the first few lessons, we learnt about balancing the pipe cleaners on pieces of plasticine clay and beading colourful beads on the pipe-cleaners. This is a very important aspect of sculpture as we learnt all about balance which we would use in the actual sculpture later on. We also learnt how to make pipe-cleaner people and animals, which by the way was the most exciting part of the lesson. Some of us used a technique we watched in a video, while others tried to invent their own techniques.

Mrs. Psillides gave us important pointers for making sculptures. For example, the sculpture should not be on its side unless it is supposed to be. It should not be tilting backwards or forwards when it is on the piece of clay or the base. We also practised beading on the pipe-cleaners and different kinds of twists using various materials like pencils, highlighters and just our fingers, too!

In the second lesson, everybody watched the video on "How To Make Pipe-Cleaner People"

and some of us followed it, while others explored their own techniques. We had lots of varieties of pipe cleaners like thin ones, standard and very hairy ones! Each one of us had one piece of plasticine and had to balance our pipe-cleaner sculptures carefully and properly because they were very fragile! When we finished our pipe-cleaner people, we chose one of our sculptures to put onto the Big Garden Of Sculptures. The Big Garden of Sculptures? What's that? You might be thinking! Well, it is a big piece of plasticine that we use like a base to put all our sculptures on and once they were all in it sure looked like a garden!

Our pet project – Wire people and wire animals!

We are growing up! We have moved on to wires from pipe-cleaners! Hooray! We are now learning to bend and twist wires to make standing and properly balanced wire sculptures. After a bit of practice using the wire, we made the wire skeleton of our sculptures. Then we used masking tape around the wire to hold it together and make a layer. Once that was done, we started wrapping pieces of tin foil very tightly around the masking tape, making another layer to support the skeleton and to eventually make the sculpture heavy enough to stand firmly.

In the last few sessions, we used mod rock bandages. Bandages? Ouch! Don't worry, no one was hurt! Mod rock bandages are for the sculptures. These are made of Plaster of Paris, and is a fabulous material to sculpt with. We started to wrap the wire frames with these

bandage rolls which we cut into thinner strips. We quickly dipped the bandages into water and then wrapped them around our wire skeletons. Then, we rubbed the layers with our fingers to make them smooth. We did two or three layers. Then we left our sculptures to dry and harden.

The next steps would be to either spray or paint the sculpture and make a base for it to stand on. I could not wait to see what my sculpture would look like! What next?

Once we have finished this project, we will explore using clay and ice to make sculptures in the RCHK garden. Clay and ice! I'm already excited!

Hope you all enjoyed reading about our sculpture class!



Access Board Project – VA Scholars

By Ji Yuan Hung, Year 11

This year, the VA scholars are working on a project to raise money for the refugees in Hong Kong. We are reusing old skateboards to produce artwork. These 'Access Boards' will then be auctioned and the money will be donated to refugees here in Hong Kong.

To connect with this project, we went on a refugee walk lead by

Christian Action to experience and see the situation that the refugees are in. We visited a family of five from Nepal, who were living in a tiny 400 sq ft apartment. The youngest child and the mother are both battling leukaemia, and they are expecting another baby. In Hong Kong, refugees are not able to get jobs without a permit and have to pay rent every month which is above their limited government allowance. The children are different from the other children at their school, unable to go on field trips. They have so much less than

we have, but they still have uplifting spirits and a positive attitude despite those conditions. Many other refugees live this way, or have it even worse than they do. It made us as VA Scholars realise how fortunate we are. This experience has inspired us to produce the best artwork that we possibly can, to raise enough money to really impact and improve the lives of refugees within our community.



John the chef shares his passion with MYP students

By Leah Putnam Year 12

John, who works as the Head Chef at RCHK, is also a sculptor. John has his own studio and makes and sells his own Polymer clay. John shared his passion with our Year 7, 8 and 9 students and will run an ASA in term 2 on model making every Monday in S411. Feel free to pop in or alternatively you can see his work at <http://www.fotop.net/siusart>. It's great having a passionate practicing artist right here on campus!

Ian Murphy - Year 12 Workshop

By Leah Putnam, Year 12

In late October, the Year 12 Visual Arts students were given the opportunity to work with Ian Murphy and participate in a print-making workshop where they gained further knowledge on printing techniques. The workshop not only allowed students to explore different use of media, but also brought inspiration and influence to the students as it coincided with the introduction of their 'Environments' unit.

During the workshop, they were given the chance to view several pieces of Murphy's work as well as thumbnail drawings within his

sketchbooks. This experience was excellent as we gained insight and were given first hand information on how a working artist developed their ideas as well as their thought-process. Murphy discussed the process of the development of the art compositions, ranging from small sketchbook thumbnails to layering of media. In addition, he discussed various printing techniques, such as Lino-printing and Intaglio printing.

Throughout this workshop, Murphy focused particularly on Intaglio printing. The students had no knowledge of this form of printing prior to the workshop and learnt about the process and methods used to create a print using the intaglio technique. Intaglio printing

is done from ink that is below the surface of the plate. The design created is etched or engraved into the printing surface. Each student was able to create various prints based on one design. They initially learnt how to create a basic print with the use of black ink. Later during the workshop, they also learnt how to incorporate various colours into the piece.

Having the opportunity to participate in the printmaking workshop with Ian Murphy was truly enlightening and enjoyable and has definitely influenced the students to go beyond their boundaries when they create their own work.

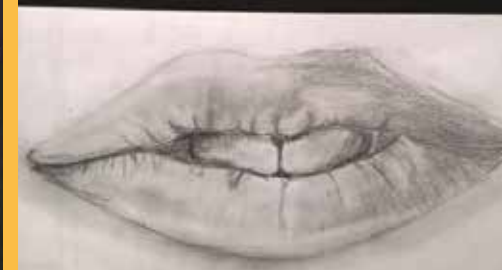
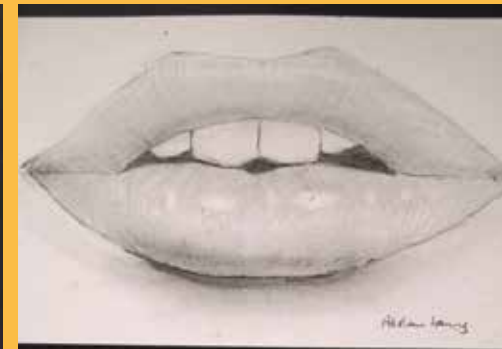
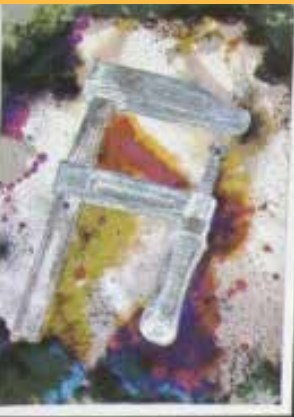
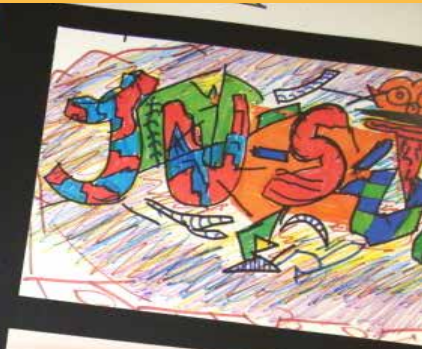


PRIMARY GALLERY



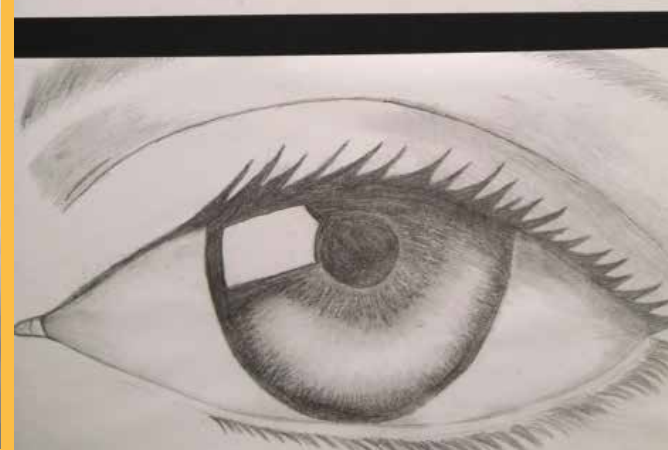


SECONDARY GALLERY



FROM LOSING WORK SLAVE

FAMILY CHILDHOOD RELAX HOME LIFE CHILDREN



LIPSTICK & GLOSS
 August 2015
 need to tell, everyone can see the kiss
101
 Get lipstick STAINS OUT OF YOUR clothes
 Matching and using lipliner
ASK THE EXPERTS



Bugsy Malone

By Lawrence Ge, Year 13

The idea of being a part of a large scale production, an ensemble where students from all year levels can work together to produce something magnificent, always brighten our day. For me and many others, Bugsy Malone is one of those things.

Is it worth it to add so much more work onto the heaps we already have?

Absolutely no doubt about it, because you will be able to end every day feeling proud of partaking in something that can bring real smiles and laughter to so many parents, teachers and peers alike. Singing and performing in a hilarious and heartwarming

musical alongside students from a diversity of cultures and year levels is enough to touch one's heart. We also know that this isn't something that's getting graded and put onto a report card; this is something that we are committed to and are passionate about. There is a lot to gain from being able to work on something in order to share a certain joy with the rest of our community.

Despite how enjoyable it's been to be a part of this production thus far, a lot of work still needs to be done. Being a part of Bugsy Malone requires everybody to provide a substantial amount of effort and commitment to the production. Nobody wants the show to end up being a let down.

Over the last few months, all of us have put huge amounts of time and effort in making sure the production can be as good as it can be, and we only intend to work harder from here on in. Sure, we may have been slow off the mark at times when we forgot our lines or queues, but problems arise and mistakes are made in any production. It is what we gain from our errors that truly matter, and I believe that we've all learned a thing or two about working as a team!

At this point, everything seems to be coming together and we're all thrilled that we will be performing in just a few weeks time! All of us have put a lot of work into this performance thus far, and by the time you read this article, it will all be done and over.



Performing at Government House

By Jonathan Leung, Year 12

We were very fortunate and honored to perform at Government House and meet our Chief Executive, C.Y. Leung.

Five musicians, including a quartet and a pianist were invited by the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) to perform at the ICMM conference held at Government House in November.

As a cellist from the newly formed quartet, we found it very challenging

to prepare an hour of 'top-notch' program including movements by Borodin, Tchaikovsky and Mozart. Since we were only given less than a month to prepare our performance, we practiced extensively on our own and during the time we were together. Over the mid-term break, our quartet spent most of the days rehearsing at school for endless hours digging through the pages of notes. Despite the hard work, we enjoyed and cherished every second of it, merging souls and beautiful melodies together.

All the hard work paid off at the event, as we were praised and

complimented by the audience, some even spent most of their time standing next to us listening to our music!

Looking back, I cannot believe that our quartet was able to put up a superb performance given a limited preparation period.

It has been a sheer pleasure to have such a wonderful, once in a lifetime opportunity to perform for the leading figures from all around the world.



Music Scholarship Concert

Hazel Yeung, Year 12

Beautiful music filled the air as the nine music scholars performed in the Maritime Museum for the annual Music Scholarship Concert. Funds were raised for the Nesbitt Centre, helping adults with special needs to achieve their potential. The evening started with all the

music scholars playing a fun arrangement of Soul Limbo, from the 60s, by Booker T & The MGs. The evening then proceeded to diverse music styles ranging from the Classical era to more modern Jazz and contemporary music, with instrumentalists on violin, piano, flute and marimba, as well as electric guitar, bass guitar and singers. The group Blue Steps, as well as violin trio also played two pieces from Blues and Romantic

Era respectively. Additionally, Vicky Wong, a student at the Nesbitt Centre, played a heart-warming piano piece, which not only sounded harmonious, but also touched everyone's heart. The night was delightful and unforgettable, and was definitely a good opportunity for us music scholars to share our music for a good cause, with the community.



Interview with Zoe Watkinst

Elizabeth Chu, Year 12

In November, Zoe S Watkins, a professional actor, director and writer from the UK, visited RCHK. She previously studied in Central School of Speech and Drama and currently lives and works in New York City. She starred in Talking Heads, Good People, the Report and several other productions. I was lucky enough to be able to interview her, to hear some of her insights.

"Follow your dreams, and grab life"

At the age of 36 Zoe left the UK and crossed the Atlantic Ocean

to New York City. "I went from being a vice principal of a high school to being a student again", says Zoe, speaking in an interview on the topic. This brave and bold decision was driven by her dreams of being an actor. She wanted to start acting, and she knew she first needed training. "I knew that the time was right, so I went for it". The main lesson she thinks other should learn from this is that no matter if you are eighteen or eighty you should "follow your dreams, and grab life." She dislikes living an unfulfilled life more than anything else, and calls on everyone to "be brave and be willing to take risks", without the fear of failure.

"There is only one "you"

According to Zoe, the greatest setback in her acting career, unsurprisingly is not getting hired. Describing her experience with auditions as an actor, she remarked on one particular one where she was close to casted in a major television series. She went through all the callbacks and laid all her hopes on it, but suddenly out of the blue the directors changed their minds about her. Zoe admits that the hardest part of being in the industry is to deal with the 'NOs'. The way she keeps her head up high is by knowing that there is only one "you". On the topic of auditions, she also had another piece of advice for aspiring actors

"tell yourself " I did my job today and it's done." after walking out of any audition. The decisions directors make about whether you get the role or not is not always down to you, sometimes it could be due to something that you can't change. You just have to accept the person you are and love yourself for being yourself, and then can you present the best version of yourself in auditions.

" Hard work!!"

When asked about her greatest achievements, she talked about the nomination for the New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Director this year. On the other hand, a few highlights of her acting career would be her participation in *Louie*, a TV series in America, as well as starring in plays such as *Good People* and *The Report*. The major reason for her greatest success, she said, was her "hard work". This includes a lot of making sure your body is flexible, is able to work properly and do what is asked of you. In the play *Good People*, Zoe had to play with a Boston dialect. It was extremely challenging for her but eventually, after working on it over and over again, her hard work paid off. The audience was thoroughly convinced. It is not enough to just be passionate about drama, but it also requires tremendous hard work to be put into it, in order to achieve what you want from it. This is a lesson Zoe hopes many could understand.

In addition to an interview with her, the Year 12 theatre group were also lucky enough to have 5 double lessons with Zoe on an actor's approach to a monologue and tips for an audition. The lessons we had were both practical and inspiring. At the beginning of each lesson, there was a set routine in order to warm ourselves up, involving simple group exercises to get our brains and bodies focused. This is extremely important in a professional rehearsal room as it allows actors to be mentally and physically ready for drama. Throughout the course, we each had to choose a monologue and work on it for the rest of the lessons. Zoe guided us into exploring different ways to approach a monologue. She wanted to teach us to be open minded about how we approach the piece with exercises as bizarre as shouting the first line of the monologue at the top of our lungs while running around the room, to "dancing out the monologue". And to do so we had to first understand the emotions of the piece and imagine body movements that connect with the emotions. Zoe explained that her main message for us was to always try different approaches to work and never be confined by one set method.

Having a professional actor from the industry here at RCHK provided students like me who wish to pursue acting as a future career with an insight about how the industry is. Apart from practical and technical advice on acting, Zoe encouraged and motivated us to better prepare ourselves in order to achieve our best potential.



ACAMIS Green Division Volleyball Tournament 2015

By Kate Nankivell, Athletics Director

On 8th - 10th of October, Renaissance College hosted the ACAMIS Green Division Volleyball Tournament. RCHK welcomed over 140 athletes and coaches from China and Taiwan in what was a truly high-class display of volleyball. Not only was this a wonderful opportunity for our athletes, it also provided the opportunity for RCHK to showcase itself to the wider international school sports community across Asia.

Over the three days, 6 schools battled it out in both the boys' and the girls' divisions. For the boys' division, such was the closeness of all teams that it was only possible to establish the final seeds after the very last round robin match. The

girls' competition was a little more clear-cut but there was still some exceptional volleyball on display.

For our RCHK boys' team, consistency across the round robin matches, bar one, meant we qualified 2nd and would play NAIS PD for a spot in the final. Despite going a set up in this and looking strong, NAIS PD clawed their way back. However, our boys matched this and took victory in 3 sets, meaning a spot in the final against Shanghai Community International School (SCIS) on home soil.

The boys were pumped and ready to play, recognizing that confidence and fluency would be the key to sticking with SCIS. RCHK got off to a flyer thanks to some impressive hitting and RCHK fed off this to create an atmosphere never before seen in the gym. However, such was the quality of the SCIS

team that they clawed their way back, managing to narrowly take the 1st set. Set 2 saw much of the same with our boys launching themselves all over the place in an attempt to keep the ball in play. This was as much a show of high quality volleyball as it was of grit and determination and the Black Kites sure did us all proud in this department. Whilst our boys ending up losing the final in two sets, they can hold their heads high for their undeniable commitment, team spirit and camaraderie. This was a most impressive tournament for the boys.

In the girls division, RCHK showed solid form throughout the round robin stages but just seemed to lack the consistency and composure needed on the big points. Like our boys, the conviction of the girls was also undeniable as they worked hard



to win or stay in points. The girls managed to finish 4th after the round robin matches setting up a semi final against the top seed SCIS HQ.

Although a tough ask against a very strong SCIS outfit, our girls weren't about to be overawed by the occasion and gave it to SCIS for the most part of the first set going point for point with them. Our RCHK girls produced some of their best volleyball of the tournament but unfortunately weren't good enough to overcome SCIS who would eventually go on to win the girls division. RCHK would then play against KAS for the bronze medal, narrowly going down in this one.

Congratulations to the players and coaches of these teams including to Mr. Newman, Mr. Hogan and Ms.

Leung as well as Ms. Draper who assisted with sports psychology. This was an exceptional 3 days of competition that demonstrated the current strength of the RCHK volleyball programme. Thanks must also go to our outside Coach, Chuck, who has been integral to the increased competitiveness and spirit within our teams. A huge congratulations must also go to Ji Fung Lam (Y13) who was named most valuable player for the tournament in the Boys division and to Jackie Chan, Ji Fung Lam and Enriqua Chan for their nomination in the tournament All-Star team.

Finally, for a tournament of this size to run smoothly and successfully, it requires a team of dedicated people. I was fortunate to be supported by a fantastic team that included our PE Assistant Hei Kwok as well as ACAMIS

Administrator Libby Yu, Graphics Artist Samuel Tong and the Red Door filming crew headed up by Jorgen Mortensen.

Thanks also to our student led First Aid team and Maria as well as the Black Chambers, Athletics Council in particular Melvin Kan, and RAPT. Thanks also to our Facilities team overseen by Vivien Lai and Edmond Ng as well as Jennifer Yeung and the Chartwells group who catered for the tournament. Finally, to Ryon Cheong, Matthew and Justin Dunn for their DJ skills at the Awards Dinner.

I feel very fortunate to have worked with such a professional team on this tournament and am proud of all that we were able to achieve together.



HKSSF Inter-School Swimming Championships

By Cody Chan, Black Kites Team Captain – Year 10

Every year, the RCHK Black Kites Swim Team attends the HKSSF Shatin & Sai Kung Secondary Schools Area Inter-School Swimming Championships. On October 16th and 19th, 24 RCHK representatives entered this competition at the Ma On Shan Swimming Pool.

As always, our swimmers tried their very best to excel in both individual as well as team events, earning a total of 12 medals. For individual events, Annabel Suen (Grade A girls 200m medley), Phoebe Mak (Grade C girls 200m

breaststroke), and Harold Yick (Grade C boys 50m freestyle) all won gold medals in their respective events. Harold Yick also finished second in the 200m medley. Third place finishes included Cody Chan (Grade B boys 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle), Geoffrey Ng (Grade C boys 100m backstroke and 200m backstroke), Ryon Lo (Grade C boys 100m freestyle), and Mia Rice (Grade C girls 50m backstroke). Honorable mentions also go to Holly Hou and Tong Pui Lun for their 4th place finishes.

We also did well in the team events. Special mention to our team of Harold Yick, Geoffrey Ng, Ryon Lo, and Sean Woo who finished first in the Grade C boys 4x50m freestyle relay. Our Grade C girls team also finished 4th in

4x50m freestyle relay. In terms of overall school standings, our teams were consistently within the 10 finishes (out of 20+ to 30+ schools). Specifically, our Grade C boys and girls teams ranked 6th (out of 23 schools) and 4th (out of 28 schools), respectively. Both of our Grade A girls (out of 21 schools) and Grade B boys (out of 32 schools) teams ranked 8th.

In addition to the keen competition, everyone had heaps of fun, interacting with swimmers from our own school and others in the District. It was a great learning experience for our swimmers and sets a fantastic platform for improvement for next year. GO BLACK KITES!



ACAMIS Green Division U20 Girls

By Sandra Gordon, PYP PE Teacher

On 10th of October the Primary football team competed in the ESF Ed. Tournament at KGV. It was a fantastic day and the boys played really well. They showed great team spirit and enthusiasm. Our first game was against Beacon Hill, which we won 1:0. We then played against Discovery College and

won 2:0. We lost our third match against Kennedy; however made it through to the Cup Quarterfinals. In a very close game we lost to the eventual finalists 1:0, which ended our time in the competition. The team comprised of Zaki Bougatef, Branden Chan, Maurice Chan, Pranav Chugani, Andrea Fraschetti, Theo Hsiah, Ho Hei Lam, Marvin Lin, Selwyn Saw, And Kin Hei Wong.

Well done, boys!



Primary Swim Gala (Year 5 & 6)

By Sandra Gordon, PYP PE Teacher

On Wednesday the 30th of September all Y5 and Y6 students participated in our annual Y5 and Y6 swim gala. It was a great morning filled with team spirit and enthusiasm.

A special mention must go to Alvin Li for breaking the school record

in the Year 5 Boys 25m Butterfly race with a time of 19.28s and to Ronnie Lo who did the same in the Year 6 Boys 25m Butterfly race with a time of 18.4s. Jessica Cheng broke the school record for Year 6 Girls in the 25m Backstroke race with a time of 17.02s and the 25m Butterfly race with a time of 17.82s.

Song House broke the school record for Year 6 Relay races with a time of 1,09.61.

Overall Song House came in 1st place with 172 points, Qing in 2nd place with 120 points, followed by Ming with 82 points and Tang with 54 points. The overall Spirit Award goes to Song with 140 points, followed by Qing with 131 point, Ming with 115 points and Tang with 109 points.

A big 'Congratulations' to all Year 5 and Year 6 students. Well done!





Secondary School Swim Gala (Years 7-10)

By Kate Nankivell, Athletics Director

The Annual Secondary School Swim Gala was held on Friday 30th October at the MOS Swimming Pool. This year we tried a new format based on on-going discussions with our student council and focus groups regarding what type of gala will best meet the needs of the students.

The 2015 gala was revised to include Year 7-10 students while the Year 11 – 13 students participated in a plethora of sporting, artistic and cultural activities known as the Activities Day. The gala went from 9am until 1pm.

As always, the swimming gala is a fantastic opportunity for us to not only embrace the School's house culture and spirit but also to celebrate the wonderful swimming talent we have at the College. In particular, the Championship Races saw the fastest 8 boys and girls in each division compete in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. There was then an open butterfly race, which included the fastest 8 boys and girls across both age divisions. The House Heats allowed those not selected within the fastest 8 to also take part in the more formal side of the gala and score big points for their houses. There was some excellent swimming and close competition in both of these

competitions (see below for overall individual results).

This year saw the return of the Monster Swim as well as the slightly modified Treasure Chest and Mat Relays. It also saw the introduction of some new and exciting novelty events including the Chariot Relay and the Mascot Relay where Ted the Turtle and his friends proved quite a hit! Judging by the energy and house spirit on the pool deck whilst these events were going on, these were hugely popular. It is quite likely that Ted will want to come back again next year!

Overall results included;

**Junior Boys Overall Individual
Champion**

- 1st - Sean Woo (Tang) 58 points
- 2nd - Keith Man (Song) 49 points
- 3rd - Matthew Wong (Song) 36 points

**Junior Girls Overall Individual
Champion**

- 1st - Phoebe Mak (Ming) 60 points
- 2nd - Mia Rice (Tang) 53 points
- 3rd - Hannah Lok (Song) 48 points

**Intermediate Boys Individual
Champion**

- 1st - Cody Chan (Ming) 57 points
- 2nd - Harold Yick (Tang) 56 points
- 3rd - Geoffrey Ng (Song) 48 points

**Intermediate Girls Individual
Champion**

- 1st - Holly Hou (Qing) 60 points
- 2nd - Kelly Yip (Ming) 48 points
- 3rd - Hilary Lo (Ming) 45 points

The race for house bragging rights was again keenly contested but it was Ming House again, who took out the Overall House Championship. Well done to Ming House.

House Results

- Ming - 1798
- Tang - 1725.5
- Song - 1505
- Qing - 1072.5

I would like to extend my gratitude to my awesome colleagues, both within the PE Department and beyond, for all their hard work running and scoring events as well as assisting in the stands. Also to the parents who came to support their children and their children's house. Finally on behalf of all of the above, I would like to say a massive thanks to all of the RCHK Y7-10 students who thoroughly embraced the day and the events on offer. Your energy and sportsmanship was fantastic to see.



Queenie Chung

RCHK Class of 2015

It's crazy to think only six months ago I was sitting in the exam hall completing my final exams for my IB diploma and yet now I am a Year one Bachelor of Arts student of Monash University in Australia.

Before I started my degree, I was given the choice of either entering semester two in July of 2015 or entering semester one in February of 2016, and I chose the former. The reason for this is because I believe life is full of changes and it is important to



adapt. Exposing myself to a dramatic change in such a short period of time has definitely helped me grow as a person.

As a first year student in the Arts faculty, I am able to explore different areas of study and declare my major in year two. In addition, students can

freely decide the number of majors and minors they want to do. The high degree of freedom gives me the opportunity to study areas that are extremely different from each other and allows me to find out what courses are most suitable for me.

Although I can't guarantee you will learn a lot academically in your first semester, you will definitely learn a lot about yourself, including your strengths, weaknesses and capabilities. If you weren't clear on who you were as a person before you started university, you definitely will be once you get into your degree!

Ellie Castillo Siu

Class of 2011

From an early age, art and design has profoundly interested me. I started painting and making decorative objects as a young girl, which intensified my passion for art. Upon receiving a full tuition art scholarship at RCHK, it became clear to me that I was destined to thrive in the field of art and design. After I graduated from RCHK in 2011, I moved to London to study a foundation course at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. During this course I was exposed to different fields of design, and I realized that jewelry design was the path I wanted to pursue.

My devotion to jewelry only grew as I entered my BA in jewelry design at Central Saint Martins. Throughout my four years in college, I was able to explore what jewelry design actually is, through collaborations with prestigious brands like Cartier, Swarovski, Avakian and Topshop. Working on live projects with



these brands allowed me to gain experience and knowledge on how to communicate and work with real life clients. In addition, during my second year at college, I was selected as one of the five most talented students from our course to participate in an exciting program called the "Young European Talents Workshop" in Pforzheim, Germany. The program involved working with students from different European backgrounds to create a body of work which demonstrates the idea of "fashion infiltration". The collection of work was exhibited at the Pforzheim Creative Center Emma in Germany. This workshop was truly rewarding and inspiring, as it enabled me to work with people from different

parts of the world, see how they approached an idea and understand how they came to realize a final outcome.

For my degree show I created a collection of jewelry pieces that investigated perceived values of materials. By juxtaposing precious and non-precious materials I hoped to invert "material hierarchy", so that materials regarded as non-precious could be put together with precious materials like gold and thread could be valued solely by their aesthetic qualities and not their material value. I decided to use needle and thread to embroider Queen Elizabeth II's jewelry, as her pieces epitomize the apex of luxury jewelry.

Following my graduation, I received a scholarship to study a diamond and colored stone course at the Gemological Institute of America, which I am completing right now. This will be immediately followed by job hunting!

Jeffrey Ngo (with David Deng and Jacky Au)

Class of 2013

"Time flies..." We hear this so often that the phrase has almost become a cliché to be immediately dismissed. Yet what scares us is not necessarily how much truth we eventually realize there is to it, but rather how life can go on even when we are not in conscious of the passage of time—at least not until small interludes intervene in our routined everyday lives. Realising that this will be my third time writing for RCHK World since I graduated is certainly one of these occasions.

Another I remember most clearly happened three years ago, back in RCHK, around the time we were tremendously stressed by the heavy IB workload, tremendously concerned with our college applications, and tremendously worried about the inevitable—the most important final examinations we would have had up to that point—which were only months away. Then suddenly I found myself dressed in a graduation cap and gown; classes had been suspended just so we could take our individual and group photos. "It was not that long ago when we walked up those stairs for the first time to come here," I told David and Jacky. "And now we are ready to say goodbye."

Grace Yau

Class of 2015

I am currently in the second month of my BBA in International Hotel Management Program in Les Roches International School of Hotel Management Switzerland. I'm a little bit "special" since I started my uni life in October, because I'm part of what we call the "October batch" which is a small intake (normally around 30 people, but we're a group of 47 this year) between the two big intakes in July and January.



Three years later, half the globe away in Boston, the three of us meet and pick up from that unfinished conversation. One is now a Brown computer science student, the other an NYU history student, and another, an HKU exercise and health science student on exchange in California, each with new, unique experiences but equally concerned with internships, jobs, and life after our fast-approaching college graduation. We talk about former classmates and teachers, friends, relationships, academics, work, even politics and the Umbrella Movement, and we look back on the times, good and bad, at RCHK; indeed, we have all come a long way.

There is something special about seeing secondary school friends once in awhile, when we are all so far away—geographically but more so in life—from where we once were, and especially when occasions like these have become increasingly rare. At times we have trouble remembering when we

As someone who has never studied abroad before, not to mention ever having gone to Switzerland before, I was nervous and scared! I was about to face adulthood, where I had to face reality all on my own. Everything seemed like it was happening so quickly. Time was making me face my fear. It was and still is such a new change for me (I still have moments where I can't believe that I'm actually going to university!). However, what I learnt is that every bad feeling we get is just what we grow from our

last saw one another, but when it comes to making promises about future reunions, we never hesitate: "See you in January!" we wave as we once again part ways at South Station to resume our routine lives—David to catch his evening MBTA train back to Providence; Jacky and I, the MegaBus to New York City.

I congratulate the Class of 2016 on their recent submission of the Extended Essay. As they hold their printed copies of it in hand, a reminder that there was once upon a time when none of them had a clue which subject and what topic to write their EE on, nor who their supervisor would be, will perhaps help them realize exactly what I did three years ago: time flies. In another place, another time when the leaves once more turn brown, I hope they too will remember these memorable times of life, like my friends and I always will.

thoughts; it's often not as bad as it seems in our heads. It will only bother you if you let it.

Though I finished high school a while ago, it still seems like only yesterday that I was doing my university applications. I was one of those students who didn't know what I really wanted to study or where I wanted to go. It wasn't because I didn't like the subjects I took. It was more of not having a clear direction of where I really wanted to go. I noticed hospitality quite late, but I was really

interested so I gave it a go. I support the idea of people going for their interests and passions because it's important to "do what you love and love what you do". When you really like something, it will never seem like hard work. Now that I'm here in Les Roches, I love it and I couldn't be happier!

Coming to Les Roches is definitely one of the best decisions I've made in my life. I am so blessed that I have found a place where I am able to fit in quickly. Just the campus on its own is already a good enough reason for anyone to choose Les Roches. I would have never imagined myself to be studying up in a mountain in a small and quiet part of Switzerland. The scenery here is absolutely beautiful and breathtaking; anywhere you look could be a million dollar view. What makes this school even better is how everyone is so friendly and welcoming and always willing to help. The connection between everyone, even alumni, is unbelievable. Of course, as a hospitality school, how could food and travel not be mentioned? The food here (especially desserts) is absolutely delicious! As for travelling, it's so convenient by train because it's about the same distance to go everywhere. Students always travel to other parts of Switzerland or even other parts of Europe during the weekends, on their own or with the school. e.g. Geneva, Lausanne, Milan and Paris.

But I have saved the best for the last... we have practical lessons where we learn how to serve, barista, do housekeeping work at the front office, work in the kitchen (making the food!), and have wine tasting lessons. This means we basically learn and know everything! Also, within our 3.5 year course, two 6 month internships are included, which is a huge advantage when it comes to finding jobs after we graduate.

I joined RCHK back in 2006 when the school first started. I was in year 5 and, as an 8 year old who was previously in a private school in Vancouver, I was absolutely clueless about the system at the time. As years went by, I worked



my way through PYP, MYP, and even the DP programme. I was always told (and I knew) that these programmes would help prepare me for my life after high school, but I never really understood how much of a strength and advantage it could be for me. After coming to Les Roches, I finally understand the importance of the IB programme and how it has guided and moulded me to become who I am now.

As an IB graduate, I can proudly say that the programme has made me become someone very accepting, open-minded, globalized and international, as well as critical thinker. Meeting people from and learning about different parts of the world is so normal to us. We were always taught that we might all have different opinions and ideas, and so we have to respect everyone and let them share their opinions and ideas. We always look at the situation from different perspectives because we need to be open-minded and not just focus on one point. Throughout the years, we were also trained to have great resilience. We are able to face and solve the problems we encounter calmly. Things that are as simple as knowing how to use APA referencing, the turnitin system and online data bases for research, are already remarkable skills that we have as an advantage that makes things much easier for us in our university lives. I am extremely glad that RCHK is a through train school with the IB programme because it guides us and lets us get used to the system throughout the years before we get to DP.

Obviously, there will always be moments where it will be tough, but remember that you won't get to see the mesmerizing view at the top of the mountain without going for a hike. Also, staying in your comfort zone will always be easy, but nothing really happens when you stay there. Never be afraid to leave your comfort zone, really try to put yourself out there because there is so much more for us to face, meet and become. Life is waiting for us outside our comfort zones! However, most importantly, always remember that university life or even life isn't only about studying. Having fun and enjoying yourself is also a part of it. Work hard, play harder right?!

Lastly, I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who supported me in Renaissance College throughout the past 9 years. It was an unforgettable experience of mine. I can't wait to come back and visit!

Mike Lau

Class of 2015

I have been at university for one and a half months at St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read Physics. Some people have expressed to me that there should be little work at Oxford, with its eight-week terms and six-week term breaks. In reality, what you get is eight weeks of cramming followed by six weeks of catching up.

Like any other university, learning is mainly self-directed at Oxford. Lectures merely provide guidance and motivation. Work started to pile up as I was given problem sheet after problem sheet on topics that had not been covered in lectures. At this moment, I realized that two years of dragging myself through the IB had well prepared me for the heavy workload.

Thus, there has been little free time during my period of study—students generally spend hours in



the library working. Those studying law or social sciences write two to three essays per week. As a physicist, I have to endure seven painful hours of laboratory work once a week in the underground physics dungeon. However, I very much enjoy tutorials, intellectually-engaging discussions with a leading researcher. My tutor, a particle physicist who has a propensity to digress, once spent almost half the tutorial discussing what a four-dimensional cube looks like.

Other than physics, I have done many things that are unique to the "City of Dreaming Spires":

studying in a 12th century library, pretending to be a tourist (and they are plentiful all year round!), and musing on Oxford's greatest minds. For instance, every day I step into the same room where a young Stephen Hawking attended his undergraduate physics lectures. I once attended a physics party in what used to be Oscar Wilde's dorm room. I even managed to run into Andrew Wiles on the street.

Relics of humanity's greatest contributors and the scholarly atmosphere of gothic church spires make studying at Oxford an almost surreal experience. I hope I can make the most of it and enjoy the pursuit of my passion in physics. To current Year 13s who are in a crisis of CVs and university applications, I wish you the best of luck... make sure to stay balanced and optimistic.

Jeremy Leung

RCHK Class of 2015

My name is Jeremy Leung and I study biomedical sciences at the University of Edinburgh. It's been a great few months here; Edinburgh is a really beautiful place to be. The city is just the right size, and it's got everything you'll need in one place. The diversity of the people in Edinburgh is just amazing. Students from all around the world come here to study and it's been great getting to know some of them. You may think that Edinburgh is cold and boring, but surprisingly it's filled with people, tourists, students and locals who all attend different festivals and cultural events throughout the year. The university



offers one of the widest ranges of clubs, societies and academic support, and it encourages students to be part of the international community, and to try new things.

The difference between high school and university is that there are more responsibilities in university, as they view you as an adult, where learning is something

that you have to grasp rather than obtain. In high school we are viewed as teenagers and we get a lot of individual attention from the teachers and it feels like facts and figures are rammed into us. The course material is harder now, so I have to learn to manage my activities. Nevertheless, it is a great experience that develops us into 'proper' adults. I look forward to continuing my studies as well as having more time to explore the great city.

So if you like the chilly weather but you're looking for a place similar to Hong Kong, Edinburgh could be a great choice for you to continue your studies.



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