



January 2017 ISSUE 16

# Cover Story

## Design Day

EOTC Trips

Career Fair

Terry Fox Run Gallery

Alumni Stories

College Fair Gallery



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New year's greetings to the RCHK Family!

I'm delighted to share with you the latest edition of *RCHK World*, featuring stories and photographs of our students making a difference in the world by focusing their efforts on the community.

The annual Terry Fox Run, which raises funds for eliminating cancer in our lifetime, has become one of the College's signature events. The Run is named for the young man who, upon his diagnosis of cancer, attempted to run across his home country of Canada to increase cancer awareness. While his body succumbed to the disease before he could finish the mission, his spirit lives on in the students, parents, guardians and community members who ran in memory of Terry and on behalf of family and friends whose lives have been impacted by cancer.



RCHK students and teachers have been trendsetters in Hong Kong and abroad since the College opened 10 years ago. ESF Design Day, first held in 2015, is an initiative born from the inspirational efforts of our very own design department. Led by teachers Boyd Jerman and Clare Musgrove, ESF Design Day brings real-time authenticity to students studying design by inviting leaders in the community to share their creative ideas and innovative careers with students across the Foundation. A special feature again this year were the RCHK alumni who shared how they harnessed their passion for design to develop successful career paths.

Thank you all for your continued support of teaching and learning at RCHK.

Dr. Harry Brown  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry T. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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## Angus Yip

Year 7



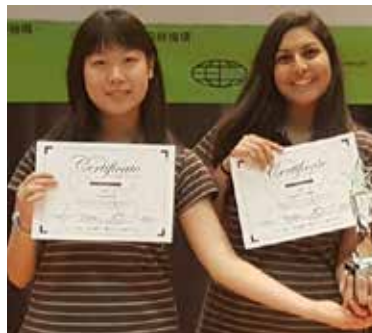
Angus recently received the Distinction Award for the Open Junior Section (9-11 Years Old) of the Yamaha Electone Festival 2016 with his performance of his own electone composition, 'Space Adventure'. At the same festival, Angus also received the Yamaha Children Music Ensemble Champion Award. In addition, the music enthusiast recently passed his ABRSM Grade 3 Clarinet Examination with Distinction and his Yamaha Electone Grade 6 Examination.

Without a doubt, these awards and achievements are a great encouragement to him. Congratulations and keep up your good work, Angus. Your parents and the RCHK community are very proud of your hard work and outstanding achievements.

## Anushka Purohit, Kelsey Chan, Jennifer Choi and Pandora Sze

Year 12

SEYSA is an annual program in which students pitch and execute a service initiative in Hong Kong. Anushka, Kelsey, Jennifer and Pandora teamed up to create an activity that promised to lessen the distance between people from Hong Kong and Mainland China. After numerous presentations, camps and orientation sessions, they made it to the finals. Overcoming multiple hurdles, like unfortunate technical difficulties, they won the championship for RCHK. They were named the 'Difference Makers of the Year - Senior Division', defeating teams like DGS, PLKCKY and Marymount to gain the title. Well done, girls!



## Cordelia Poon

Year 12



In November 2016, Cordelia attended Trinity College London's 13th Music Diploma Graduation Ceremony at Hong Kong Baptist University. In 2014, she passed with Distinction the Licentiate of Trinity College London (LTCL), which is equivalent to the standard of the final year of an undergraduate degree. Congratulations, Cordelia!

## Nathan Hui

Year 8



After winning First Prize for Violin Concerto, Age 13 or Under, at the 67th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival in March 2015, Nathan began exploring opportunities beyond the competition circuit.

In November 2015, Nathan was chosen to perform at a violin masterclass led by Charlie Siem, Sony Classical recording artist and Visiting Professor at Leeds College of Music. For his first masterclass, Nathan played 'Preludio' from Partita No. 3 in E major by J.S. Bach.

On the 6th December 2015, Nathan made his debut as a vocal soloist with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (CCOHK) under the baton of guest conductor Colin Touchin. Nathan sang 'Walking in the Air' from *The Snowman* at Sha Tin Town Hall Auditorium. Before making his solo debut, Nathan studied singing under the tutelage of Candy Chik. He also sang in Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus for two years, receiving the Award for Outstanding Performance in 2014.

Leanne Nicholls, artistic director of CCOHK, discovered Nathan at an open audition held at Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

In January 2016, Nathan was invited to play First Violin in Hong Kong Camerata Strings, a new chamber ensemble for outstanding young musicians. Six months later, the ensemble and its music director, Jeremy Williams, were featured in a one-hour broadcast on RTHK 4.

In July 2016, Nathan participated in the Hong Kong Music Summer Orchestra (HKMSO), an intensive training programme that included rehearsals, masterclasses and a performance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. At 11, Nathan was the youngest violinist admitted to the HKMSO in 2016. He enjoyed playing the HKMSO repertoire, which included music from *Star Wars* by John Williams and the *1812 Overture* by Tchaikovsky. This was Nathan's second time playing in a full orchestra. Keep up the great work, Nathan!

## Jada Chui

Year 8



Jada is devoted to the sport of figure skating, so much so that she goes for practice five nights a week. In the beginning of October 2016, she participated in the Asian Junior Figure Skating Challenge and placed third out of 19 in the category of Basic Novice Subgroup A. We are very proud of her and hope that she will keep up the great work!

## Kaitlyn Leung

Year 8



Kaitlyn has published an e-book called *Riding with Teens* on Amazon KDP. She has been writing competitively since the age of seven. While working on a book about family relationships in 2015, she was impacted by a spate of student suicides in Hong Kong. This led to her making alterations to her book, which she published this year in dedication to those students. In writing a fictional story from a young teenager's point of view, she hopes to reach both adolescents and parents with her message, highlighting the choices young people must make regarding family, school and peer pressure. Well done, Kaitlyn!

## Jonathan Poon

Year 3



Many congratulations to Jonathan, who won a silver medal at the Mau Fung Chido Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in November 2016. About eight taekwondo organisations and more than 190 primary students took part. It was an honour for him to represent Renaissance College. In May, Jonathan also received silver and bronze medals (for individual and group) in a taekwondo competition held by Eastern Dragon Taekwondo Federation Hong Kong. Jonathan loves sports and, through taekwondo, he is both gaining self-confidence and developing his ability to work with team members.

## Richard Yeung

Year 12



Richard, Daniel Ling and Matthew Li recently participated in 'I Can Fly', Cathay Pacific Airways' flagship education programme which provides aviation education and professional insight into the aviation industry for young enthusiasts. The top 100 graduates of the programme go on to a sponsored overseas trip to a major aviation facility.

Richard, Daniel and Matthew were selected to participate in the programme along with a group of 300 people, besting over 1000 applicants; they achieved such success in the competitive and demanding programme that they became three of the top 100 participants, thus earning sponsored trips to a special Rolls Royce aircraft engine facility in Singapore which is normally closed off to the public. Great job, guys!







## Career Fair

By Vivian Qi, Year 11

At Renaissance, students are provided with a wide variety of opportunities to discover first-hand what the outside world has to offer. As early as Year 10, for example, students can participate in the RCHK Career Fair.

The 2016 Career Fair was held on the 27th of September, and was for many students their first taste of what their futures could entail. The event, organised by Ms. Wilma Shen and a group of student volunteers, was highly successful. Students were encouraged to visit as many booths as they could, and to explore different career paths. A number of guest speakers from various industries gave presentations to those hoping to pursue similar careers. During these presentations, students were given the opportunity to learn more about the career paths they wanted to pursue and more in-depth facts about the jobs.

Here are just a few comments from students and teachers:

"I find jobs within law more intriguing than before, and there is definitely more to being a doctor than simply operating on a patient. I thank all the people at the Career Fair who took time out of their busy

schedules to enlighten us about possible future pathways!"

- Maisha Maryam, Student

"Organising and being part of the committee for the Career Fair was an insightful experience. It allowed me to work with peers from different year levels, learn about different career options and learn how to actually organise a fair."

- Sheryl Saw, Student Leader

"The goal of hosting a Career Fair is to let our students know that there is a world of possibilities out there for them to explore. Most students can understand the concept of having a job, but building a career is a far more elusive idea. Thanks to parents' and community members' support, we were able to bring 55 professionals from various industries to share their career knowledge with our senior students on the day. There were many engaging conversations between our students and industry people, and students came well prepared with really good questions."

- Ms. Wilma Shen, Career Counsellor and Scholarship Manager

As student coordinators, we were given the opportunity to plan the event, which really allowed us to grow as leaders. We used our strengths, gained collaboration skills and got insight into how

the planning of such events works. Each student leader was assigned a specific speaker from a career that we were particularly interested in, and this gave us better understanding of our desired career paths. We emerged as better learners, but also as teenagers much less intimidated by the future.

Many thanks to all the parents and professionals who participated in the event - without your support the event would not have been successful.



## Zhaoqing Camp

By Jiali Luo, Chinese Teacher

From the 27th to 30th September 2016, a group of 46 Year 6 children went to Zhaoqing, China, for EOTC camp. The students took part in outdoor activities like cableway hiking, and got to experience local culture first-hand, trying their hand at ink stone carving, Chinese brush painting and treasure hunting. Our students also had the chance to create and lead a range of learning opportunities for students at a local school, as well as use Chinese in an authentic and meaningful context. Through this experience, the students explored the PYP unit of inquiry 'How We Organise Ourselves', focusing on non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"In this China camp experience, I learned that Mother Nature is very important to us. Without her, we wouldn't have most of the things we do right now. I learned that Mother Nature is a big part of us!

In the camp not only did I learn about Mother Nature, I also learned about responsibility and self-management and how we really need them when we are away from home.

What I really like about camp is you always get to try new things! I had never tried ink stone carving before and I thought it was very interesting how they use tiny little tools to make a masterpiece!" - Vanecia Lai, 6SP



"I enjoyed the China camp because it increased my self-management skills and independence, and that's what we need if you want to live by yourself!

And sometimes staying away from your family can be fun and relaxing. And you get to do activities that you can't do normally in school. And if I didn't come, I wouldn't have done things I've never done in my life. If I had another chance to go to camp, I would be really excited and happy because, well...I love camp and I don't wanna miss it!" - Marcus Yeung, 6TW



在這幾天裏，我們玩了很多新奇有趣的活動。當我在繩索上往下看的時候，我聽到流水的聲音，還看見山水在山上流下來。我十分享受這個過程！這個活動對我來說雖然並不太困難，但在過程中總有點兒緊張。完成後，我感到十分興奮和驕傲！這幾天的時間過得特別快！我真的捨不得離開肇慶這個好玩的地方，我亦捨不得我和朋友共渡的時光。

- Jace Lee, 6AH



我每一個活動都很喜歡，可是我最喜歡的活動是到肇慶本地的學校教那裏三年級的同學關於我們節慶日的知識。我學到要自己獨立，好好管理時間，要準時，還要保管好自己的東西。這幾天真的很開心！我很不捨得離開肇慶這個充滿美好回憶的地方。我希望未來的六年級和我一樣會在這裡度過一段快樂的時光。 - Eunice Chiu, 6AH

我最喜歡的活動是索道遠足，因為那裡的風景很漂亮，而且現在香港沒有那麼漂亮的風景，我覺得很開心。我真的希望以後的每一次露營都可以玩得這麼快樂！ - Sarah Liu, 6CV

## Laos Action

By Joseph Fahy, PYP Teacher

Ten Renaissance College primary students took the opportunity to visit Laos as part of their Year 6 EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) experience. This was the fifth year in which there has been a Year 6 camp option in Laos. Each student was accompanied by one of their parents, and Mr. Bradley Davies and myself accompanied the group as teachers and camp facilitators.

Since this EOTC programme's inception, RCHK has been working in partnership with Community Learning International (CLI) and supporting its goal to provide educational opportunities for children living in rural Laos. As a result of the fundraising efforts in school, coupled with a donation from the Service Projects @ Renaissance College (SP@RC) fund, a total of HKD\$43,200 was donated to CLI. The ten families who attended the camp also made their own donations to this worthy cause.

During the group's six-day stay in Luang Prabang, there were invaluable opportunities to engage with other NGOs operating in the area, including 'Laos Friends Hospital for Children' and 'Free the Bears'. This enabled the students to

make strong connections to their classroom learning, as the first unit of inquiry undertaken by Year 6 students has the central idea of "organisations provide services within communities". The students spent the bulk of the trip observing and helping out with CLI's great work. They visited a children's centre and a school in a remote village, both examples of places where CLI focuses its efforts. They had several opportunities to make friends with local children, which they happily did. Aside from learning more about the work of NGOs, the students also got a dose of Laotian culture, visiting Laos Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre and taking in beautiful dance and martial arts performances.

Our trip to Laos was an incredible learning experience. Parents who participated in the journey wanted to share these reflections with the RCHK community:

"Laos is a beautiful and unspoiled country. There are smiling faces everywhere, with flashes of amazing colour, almost shrouding the poverty here. I love seeing the flashes of orange that catch my eye - the monks and novices. I can only compare it to the pages of National Geographic. There is a very relaxed feeling here, with people busy getting on with their

daily routines, no concerns with having the best fashions and latest iPads."

"We were fascinated to see the work of CLI and the joy their hard work brings! Meeting schoolchildren at one of the learning centres was so incredible and eye-opening. These kids have very little but clearly love what the learning centre has brought to their lives, racing to get there after a hard day at school! Playing games with them and seeing them have so much fun was humbling. Their performances were magical and something we will take away with us and remember forever. This trip has certainly enriched both our lives and I hope my daughter learns a lot about how other children, less fortunate, live happily without the need for luxuries we all take for granted."

"I hadn't been to Laos before. The place is beautiful and the Laos people are nice. This trip gave me a great experience and understanding of what CLI does for the Laos children. More financial support will help them (CLI) reach and help more children in remote areas. I think we can do more after we return to HK by sharing our experiences with fellow RCHK families. Let them be aware of how they can help CLI more."



## Sai Kung Camp

By Concettina Ventura, PYP Teacher

As part of the holistic nature of our Primary Years Program, we planned an Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experience for Year 6 students in Sai Kung. This was a three-night, four-day experiential learning and outdoor camp run by 'Oceanic Sports Hong Kong Limited' at Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp. The students were accompanied by a number of RCHK staff and led by myself. The main aim of the camp was for our Year 6 students to be given the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities that would provide them with challenges and enable them to move beyond their comfort zones, supporting the transition from the PYP to MYP. It also provided students with a chance to demonstrate their ability

to "live" the IBO Learner Profile and Attitudes in what could have been a very unfamiliar environment.

On the 27th September 2016, a group of 109 students and 10 teachers/EAs set off to Sai Kung in what could only be described as one of the hottest days ever! At the Pak Tam Chung BBQ site in Sai Kung Country Park, the students made their own lunches before beginning a long and challenging hike. Although the students were exhausted by the end of it, there was a shared sense of accomplishment among them, which set the tone for the rest of the camp.

Divided into 12 groups, the students worked cooperatively and collaboratively to complete the many activities assigned to them over the next few days. They built

a Roman cannon with bamboo and string, faced off against one another and the teachers in a water balloon fight, and challenged themselves with a hike to Trio Beach that ended in a variety of water-based activities.

Students were encouraged to develop their thinking skills to solve problems and use a variety of strategies during the team-building games; collaboration also came through as the students took active roles in competitive games such as bubble soccer, easy hockey and tug of war.

We enjoyed plenty of great food (like spaghetti and chicken wings) during the camp, but the BBQ on the second night takes the cake! Lots of food and delicious s'mores - it was an experience as fun as it was delicious.



Our EOTC experience in Sai Kung proved to be a rewarding experience for all, encompassing a challenging hike, a visit to Trio Beach, a delicious BBQ, a talent show and lots of exciting and challenging activities.

So how did we end our amazing camp? Well, there definitely had to be another challenge, and there was. This time, it was a competitive game of flags and tails across the campsite in which all 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.



## The Personal Project Enhancement Team

By Rachel Wan, Year 13

The Personal Project Enhancement Team is a team of Years 12 and 13 DP students aiming to provide long-term support for the Year 10s and Year 11s working on their Personal Projects at Renaissance College. As a group of students who have experienced the process of working on our own Personal Projects, we understand how hard it is to juggle assessments, extracurricular activities and the Personal Project. This is the reason we want to help alleviate any stress or worry students face during this process.

From our starter team of six Year 12 students in 2015, we have grown into a team of 22 DP students providing support in smaller teams

depending on interests, strengths and experiences. Since the start of this school year, our Project mentors have been holding one-on-one support sessions with Year 11s every Wednesday at lunch, aiding students who wish to seek further advice on their process journals and products. In the upcoming months, our Project and Report mentors will provide more one-on-one help sessions to give students feedback on their written reports.

As one of the leaders of this project, I am extremely proud of all the time and effort each member of our group has put into making this support team possible. Without the hard work and perseverance of our starter team last year - Ringo Chung, Natalie Law, Jackie Tsoi, Sarika Mahbubani and Daniel Ling (all currently in Year 13) - and our

Project mentor Ms. Glenda Ray, we would not have been able to expand our team and make such great progress within the last one and a half years.

As this will be my final year at Renaissance College, my project leadership team and I really hope we can make a difference in the Year 10s' and Year 11s' Personal Project experience. We truly hope that they take this opportunity to develop skills they can use and enjoy, and hope that this project will continue on with the many generations of RCHK DP students to come.





# TERRY FOX RUN 2016







# COVER STORY

## Design Day

By Boyd Jerman, Secondary Design Teacher

Wednesday, the 2nd November 2016, saw the third iteration of the annual ESF Design Day, conceived, designed and hosted right here at Renaissance College.

This is a day when Hong Kong's rich creative community of designers and entrepreneurs come together at our College to share their passion, innovation, knowledge and daily practices with students.

The vision for this student-centred event is focused on broadening thinking in design and business. By bringing the outside in, we want to introduce young minds to experienced industry design practitioners and create authentic, practical and inspiring learning experiences for the students.

This ESF-wide event gives students from across the ESF family the opportunity to learn and design

together. This year, participants included over 200 secondary students from West Island School, South Island School, King George V School, Sha Tin College, the non-ESF Canadian International School as well as our own RCHK students.

We had hugely enjoyable presentations from overseas designer Mr. Klaus Kummer, president and CEO of KDT International, who inspired the students with a talk about design drivers and his own design education and ethos, and renowned designer Mr. Douglas Wong, founder of the massively popular Goods of Desire. Mr. Wong caused wave after wave of laughter as he relayed to students the value of not taking everything too seriously and drawing inspiration from the absurd, the irreverent, as well as across multiple cultures.

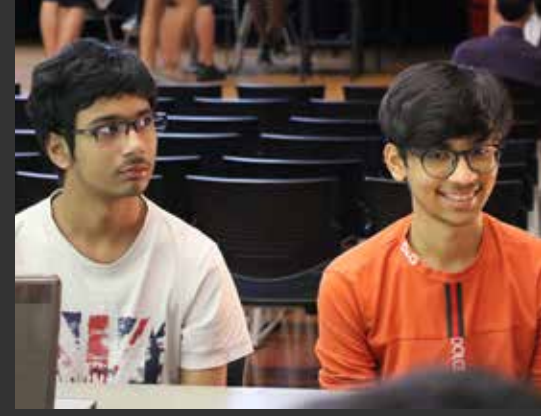
Without the good will, time and energy of our amazing designers, companies and brands, this event

would not have happened, and it would certainly not have become the RCHK staple that it has. Some of the guests are parents and alumni, which made the event even more special.

We are very grateful to the following designers and entrepreneurs for taking the time to share their knowledge and passion with our students.

Santina Bonini, Eddie Chan, Bibi Cheung, John Denton, Enoch Ho, Sjoerd Hoekstra, Simon Kwan, Philippe Larose, Victoria Leigh, Jason Webster, Ari Liu, Kay Liu, Ellis Lowers, Murbarak Marafa, Anne Carroll Marshall, Barney McCann, Judy Wong, Amelia Moss, Jen Paolini, Alan Peggie, Jerome Tam, David Waterman, Sarah Williamson, Garlake Wong, Tim Wong





Our designers and creative entrepreneurs hail from such diverse fields as fashion, textiles, jewellery, interior, product and landscape design, branding, F&B, marketing and architecture. This range of expertise helped our students gain a broader understanding of how design touches so many aspects of life.

ESF Design Day aims to enhance students' understanding of design and business, knowledge they can apply to their current studies and also to their future careers. We are so very proud that this

event creates unique, lifelong and memorable learning experiences for our students.

Here's just some of the feedback from the students who participated in Design Day:

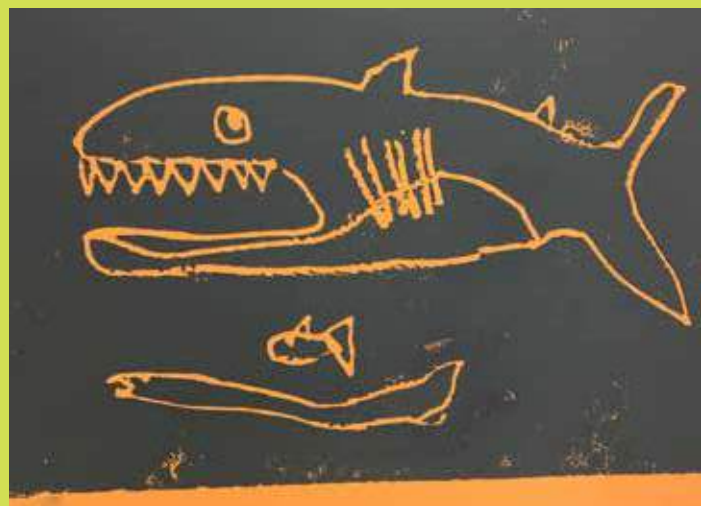
"I'm a new student at ESF and at my old school, we never experienced anything like this. I really enjoyed sitting and listening to the speakers. Design Day has opened another door in the design world for me. Design Day was very educational for me and I am very grateful for being invited to go this year."

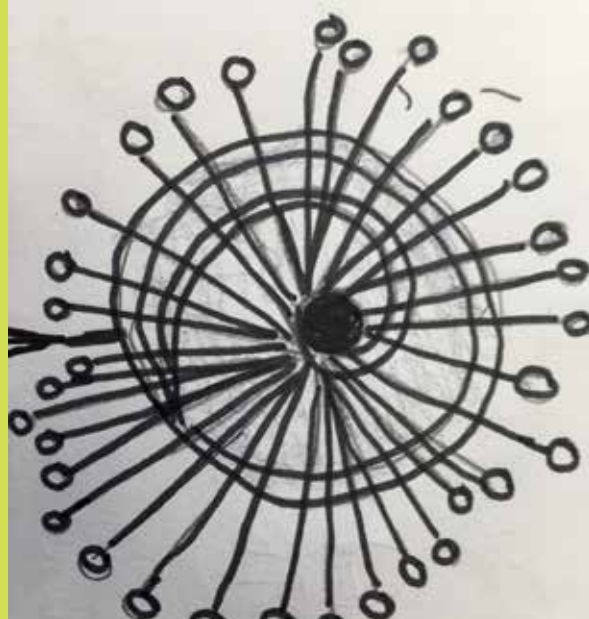
"[It was great] interacting with several speakers and gaining a wider understanding of design interpretations and also meeting many new kids my age."

"I really liked the insight it gave me into the real world of design: highlights, complications, things to do and experiences to look forward to."

"[The best parts of Design Day were] getting to ask the designers questions and meeting other people who are interested in the subject."

PRIMARY GALLERY

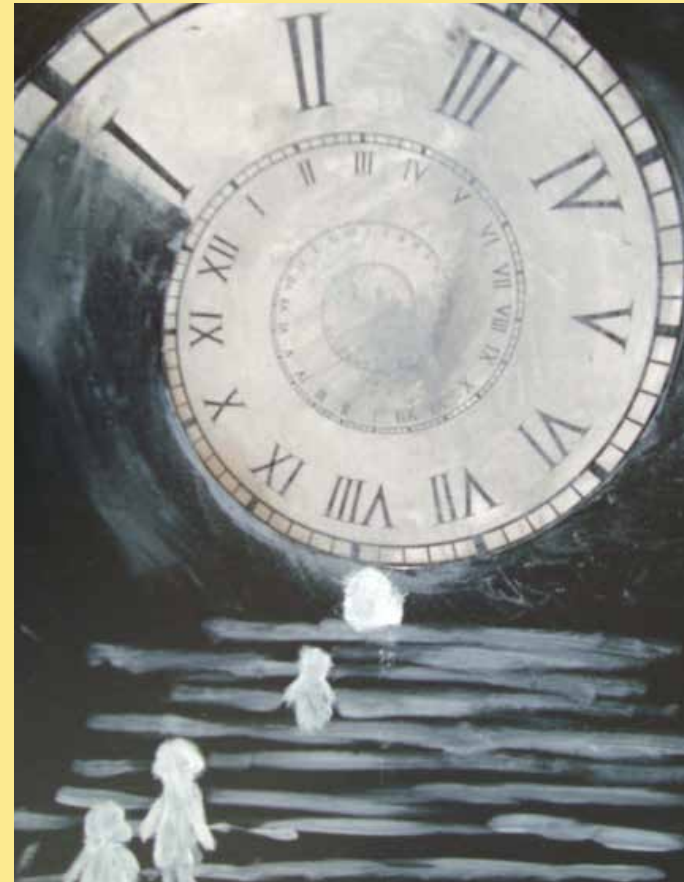




SECONDARY GALLERY







## **Year 12 Workshops with Visiting Artist Ian Murphy**

By Glenda Chung, Year 12

As part of the introduction to our new 'Environments' unit, the Year 12 visual arts students were treated to the opportunity to meet and work alongside visiting artist Ian Murphy. The day-long workshops allowed students to further experiment with and analyse various techniques acquired by Murphy himself to produce his antique-looking pieces.

Ian showed us a considerable amount of his artwork: mostly drawings and paintings, varying in size and media, supplemented by many workbooks. We gained valuable insight and were given first-hand information on how a working artist develops ideas and approaches composition, ranging from small thumbnail sketches to the layering of media and colour experiments.

With reference to their prior visit to the bustling streets of Central, when they individually produced

drawings and photographs, the students used their newly honed techniques to capture various aspects of the traditional and modern within Hong Kong, further inspiring their usage of line, texture and stylistic interpretation through pencil, graphite, ink and acrylic.

The new skills examined and learned by the students allowed for a further expansion of artistic knowledge, effectively facilitating the creation of some final imagery for the unit.



## **Activities Day Art Jam**

By Visual Arts Department

As part of Activities Day, a group of Years 11-13 students took part in an immersive and expressive artistic experience: An Art Jam comprises a group of 10 or more people getting together to experience and explore the joy of painting, mixing unlimited paint with unlimited imagination and creating unique pieces of art in a stress-free atmosphere. It's all about putting on an apron to face a blank canvas and letting one's creativity run wild.





*Holly Brown*

COFFEE • GELATO



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Discovery Park • City Plaza • Tuen Mun Town Plaza • Langham Place • Yoho Mall  
Neihu District, Taipei



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## **Year 10 Creative Arts Day with Visiting Artist Eleanor McColl**

by Jane Chan, Year 10

The opportunity to work a whole day in visual art, uninterrupted, was a truly enlightening experience. Throughout the day, we were given the chance to explore a medium that we hadn't previously been exposed to in an everyday format, and test the limits of what we could do with the materials we had. The resulting mosaic pieces, themed 'Supporting Change', reflect the issues we think are important and worthy of raising awareness of, such as schizophrenia, water pollution, overpopulation,

depression and human trafficking. We were taught under the guidance of an amazing artist, Eleanor McColl, who successfully makes her living from her paintings and mosaic pieces. She introduced to us both an unconventional art medium and a career path that many may erroneously consider to be unrealistic or impractical.

We were also able to interact with classmates we weren't familiar with, since groups were pre-selected. The whole day was an amazing chance to create large-scale pieces of art with new friends: a bonding and learning experience combined.



## **Drama Scholars Production - REMOTE by Stef Smith**

By Iunia Dinu, Year 12

*REMOTE* - the story of a teenage girl who sat herself on a tree to protest against all that is wrong with the world.

*REMOTE* - a play that follows seven characters and their intertwined stories.

*REMOTE* - a production put on by RCHK's own Drama Scholarship students.

The Drama Scholars are proud to announce that we will be putting on a seniors' play that is

completely different from what the community has seen before - an experimental piece of theatre that incorporates both naturalistic and non-naturalistic elements along with physical theatre and the use of an ensemble.

After a rigorous search, we decided to perform *REMOTE*, a play by Stef Smith, because we feel that it really bores into the mind of a teenager and takes focus on apathy in the world, which we as IB learners can probably relate to.

*REMOTE* is directed, designed and managed completely by us, the RCHK Drama Scholars, under the guidance of producer/ teacher Ms. Brandy Stern, and

will be performed by students between Years 9 and 13. For this project, each Drama Scholar has taken on an unfamiliar role that they are interested in. Elizabeth Chu and Iunia Dinu became co-directors, Bethan Cotton and Tara Wnek became costume and set designers, and Thomas Morgan and Dominique Tse became stage managers. Through challenging ourselves to put together this play from conception to performance, we are stepping out of our comfort zones of being onstage and trading the experience for a valuable lesson in working offstage.



Photos courtesy of Daniel Ling, Year 13

## ESF Orchestra Jam

By David Niermeier, Primary Music Teacher

On the 4th November 2016, the 50 secondary students who make up the RCHK Concert Band were joined by students from across ESF to form a giant orchestra of over 200 students.

The day-long event involved three conductors, the RCHK Concert

Band and a Chinese orchestra. Great fun was had by students and teachers as they rehearsed and finally performed as a 200-piece orchestra in the grand finale. As well as being fun for all involved, the event gave students and teachers alike the opportunity to connect with one another via their passion for music.



## Year 10 Creative Arts Day

### Drama

By Tara Wnek, Year 10

Creative Arts Day is a day on which Year 10s immerse themselves in their chosen arts subjects, learning more about drama, music or visual arts, rather than go through ordinary school lessons. This year, I chose to take drama in my first semester, so on Creative Arts Day, I and whomever else was in my drama class participated in the same activities.

Our first Creative Arts Day session involved us using Theatre in Education (TIE), and the second involved verbatim theatre. At the TIE session, my group was given the theme of healthy eating, about which we had to produce a drama piece. In the second session, we used verbatim theatre to express the stories of people in different communities around the world, repeating their words and interpreting how they would have acted in certain situations using their exact quotes.

As a drama student, I really liked this year's Creative Arts Day, as it was completely different from what we'd been doing in class but still incorporated some of the same topics we'd previously learned. It was genuinely refreshing using TIE and verbatim theatre, two theatre elements we'd never before explored in class. The sessions themselves were entertaining, as well as educational, leaving us with a wealth of theatrical terminology and themes for future use.



### Music

By Tom Morgan, Year 10

The music portion of Creative Arts Day brought us a day of hip hop culture. During the first session, we received special lessons in hip hop dance, and we attempted to learn some moves. The workshop was led by an RCHK graduate who now runs a dance studio

in Hong Kong. After the hip hop dance session, we went back to our classes and performed our summative assessment raps for the music classes, which went really well; it was really nice to hear about other groups' issues. Overall, I really enjoyed CAD and am excited for the next one later in the year!

## ACAMIS Volleyball 2016

By Kate Nankivell, Athletics Director

The RCHK Black Kites Open Volleyball teams (boys' and girls') competed in the ACAMIS Green Division Tournament hosted by Shanghai Community International School (SCIS), Hongqiao, on the 20th-22nd October 2016. After a strong showing last year when RCHK hosted this event, both teams were excited to once again have the opportunity to be involved and, hopefully, bring home the championship. Below are accounts of the tournament from team captains Daniel Ju and Endria Tai.

### Boys (By Daniel Ju):

It is definitely an understatement to say that we had a great time at this tournament. Travelling to a different city to play in a tournament like ACAMIS allowed us to experience new things, socialise with new people and develop a stronger relationship with our own team as we endured tough situations together. As the captain

of the boys' ACAMIS team, I would like to not only congratulate but also thank my entire team and our coach, Mr. Trevor Newman. The respect and trust we have in each other allowed us to communicate with a high level of mutual understanding and this, together with our positivity and self-belief, contributed to our team achieving second place overall. All members of the team tried their hardest and gave 100% in every match, even when our backs were against the wall. This fighting spirit is one of the many core values of our Black Kites and I am very proud of the way the boys performed and conducted themselves in this tournament.

### Girls (By Endria Tai):

The girls' division this year proved very even and competitive, with a majority of the matches going to three sets before a winner could be determined. The RCHK girls went through ups and downs and faced multiple hurdles during the tournament, including a first-round straight-sets loss to KAS, against whom we would end up playing in the final. As we progressed further into the tournament, the girls began feeling the pressure

and on occasion, this anxiety got the better of us. However, as the team captain, it was crucial for me to calm everyone down and lead the team to success. As a team, we developed a genuine closeness from this experience, and I am extremely proud to be the leader of this group. I am certain that this cohesion and confidence contributed in a big way to our winning the championship against KAS. This time, it was us who emerged victorious from straight sets.

Special acknowledgement must go to the following players named to the All Tournament Team: Elia Brandner and Daniel Ju for the boys, and Endria Tai, Jade Lewis and Sheryl Saw for the girls. Endria Tai was also named girls' MVP of the tournament. Once again, a special thank you to Ms. Stacey Leung and Mr. Newman, who coached the teams throughout Season 1 and during the off-season last year. Thank you for your time and energy, and for being amazing role models for us. To Ms. Nankivell, our Athletics Director, thank you for supervising us and being a part of this unforgettable trip!





## Hebe Haven Charity Race

By Sim Hoekstra, RCHK Sailing Team Leader 2016

On the 5th and 6th November 2016, 10 sailors (Damien Chung, Eva Spicciolato, Faolan Patrick Whyte, Kelsie Ann Leveille, Michael Tsao, Pei Tsun Yip, Ryan Presley Ng, Sim Neeltje Miene Hoekstra, Sorcha Whyte and Yee Loong Tang) from RCHK took part in the 24-hour sailing charity race at Hebe Haven Yacht Club, raising more than HKD\$3500 for various charities

including Sailability, an initiative aimed at providing an opportunity for disabled children to experience sailing. We started off well in the competition, and over the course of the 24 hours, maintained our third-place position (out of 28 boats). This third-place finish was a first for sailing at RCHK, and it definitely resulted in a lot of celebrating, but the experience also demonstrated how far the sailors and the sport itself at RCHK have come. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Laura Grodewald last year, sailing became the newest addition

to the Black Kites family of sports teams, joining Season 2 sports as an official team.

The team's sail training sessions are held every Friday after school at Hebe Haven and have recently seen an explosion in the number of students participating, allowing the team to foster a new generation of sailors as more experienced sailors leave RCHK. As a Year 13 student, I hope to see the sport I love continue to develop after I graduate to eventually become an integral part of the Black Kites at RCHK.



## Secondary School Swim Gala

By Catherine Broome, Head of Physical and Health Education

On Wednesday, the 26th October 2016, RCHK held its annual Secondary School Swim Gala for students in Years 7-10.

The Swim Gala was well attended and showcased a combination of novelty events and the very best of our swimming talent in their respective year groups. The following students were

crowned Age Champions at the end of the day and deserve special acknowledgement.

Junior Boys Champion:

Marvin Lin

Junior Girls Champion:

Jessica Cheng

Intermediate Boys Champion:

Harold Yick

Intermediate Girls Champion:

Mia Rice

The novelty events proved extremely popular and were a fantastic opportunity to score

huge points for the House Trophy. Students participated in a rotation of events, including the chariot relay, mascot relay, may relay, monkey bar relay and monster swim.

The spirit of participation was very pleasing to witness and extended to the staff, who jumped at the chance to race in a House staff vs. Seniors vs. House Captains relay. At the end of the day, it was Song House who bagged the 2016 House Swimming Trophy ahead of Ming, Tang and Qing.





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## Cherry Wu

Class of 2016

Go Bears! I'm Cherry Wu from the Class of 2016, currently majoring in Urban Design at the College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley. As a young author and illustrator of a children's book that addresses social justice, *The Boy in the Chameleon Mask*, I am humbled to not only be attending one of the world's most prestigious universities, but also be part of a dynamic student community with a reputation for activism and free speech. At Cal, students are encouraged to "make the Berkeley difference", and the school's ambiance of freedom and responsibility fuels my inquisitive spirit with a social mission - to bridge.



With that in mind, I have decided to join the marketing team of LiNK - Liberty in North Korea, Berkeley Chapter, an international organisation that raises funds for North Korean refugees and promotes awareness of human rights issues in North Korea through media. This experience has granted me the opportunity to meet North Korean activists such as Park Shin Hye, and thus gain thought-provoking insights into life in the closed society.

Being an Urban Design major at the College of Environmental Design has also prompted me to simultaneously pursue my passions for social change and design. Both studio and theoretical classes at CED focus on integrating environmental design with social, political-economic and cultural contexts. Thus, students like me are inspired to be visual thinkers as well as critical observers of the world's most pressing urban challenges. Above all, I cannot wait to further harmonise the elements of creative power and practicality, and to initiate innovative solutions for social problems through design activism at UC Berkeley - Bear Territory.

## Christie Lau

Class of 2016

I am Christie Lau and I graduated from RCHK in 2016. I am currently studying Fashion and Textiles at Central Saint Martins in London. In the two months I've been here, I've used up more sketchbooks than when I did my IB Diploma. Having to source my own materials makes me so appreciative of how easily I could get my hands on various art supplies during my time at RCHK. So far university life has consisted of endless research and burning midnight oil to finish one-week projects on time, so it's really not that different from the Diploma Programme!



In terms of tips for current Diploma students, public library study rooms are one of the best places to go; whether it's working on your first draft of EE or studying for exams, they are perfect for when you need to get things done. Going back to where I was a year ago when I was preparing my portfolio and for my interview, the best piece of advice I got was to be more confident

in my work, so good luck to everyone applying to universities this year!

Studying at University of the Arts London (UAL) has been great, as you get access to so many libraries across the different colleges, and being at Central Saint Martins has allowed me to develop my ideas freely and organically. The high density of creative individuals from a variety of backgrounds creates a rich and motivating atmosphere; Central Saint Martins is definitely a place worth considering for students who plan to pursue art and design as career paths.

## Jackie Sing Yin Chan

Class of 2016

I've decided to stay in Hong Kong for my tertiary education and am currently doing a double degree in BBA(Law) & LLB at the University of Hong Kong.

Unsurprisingly, it turns out that university life offers a greater degree of freedom to students. There is a lot of free time outside of lecture/class time. That's not to say that the workload is small. If you don't manage your time well, a university workload can be overwhelming. Other than that, university life is pretty isolated and independent compared to high school. Appreciate your high school years, because they really are great. However, HKU has a great selection of high quality canteen food, so that's good.

One useful thing I learned during the IB Diploma is staying focused in the face of recent success.



Although teachers may give you a high predicted grade, it's important to question its validity and strive for the best. Grading, although it strives to achieve objectivity, is in reality greatly subjective. Hence, getting that seemingly perfect '7' or 'A' is by no means a reason to become content. In Year 13, those who received relatively harsh marks used them as motivation to strive for something better. In the end, the actual grades they received were reflective of their motivation and fervour.

Not only does HKU offer educational and recreational opportunities, but it is also a

part of a vibrant environment with a diverse community. The areas around HKU, specifically Sai Ying Pun and Kennedy Town, are both relatively underdeveloped parts of Hong Kong. This leaves them full of traditional local establishments, ready to be discovered and explored. During my time at RCHK, Ma On Shan was dull - but then again, the lunch trips to Chung On/Heng On were fun and memorable.

At HKU, I am extremely grateful to be surrounded by plenty of other RCHK alumni from a range of class years. Not only do they provide us freshmen with great tips on coping with university life, but they also provide us with a sense of familiarity, reminiscent of our days at RCHK. Additionally, a surprisingly large proportion of the Class of 2016 is studying at HKU, and similar to what we went through in the IBDP, we're making it through university and all its surprises and challenges together.

## James's Secret

Class of 2016

James's Secret is a nine-piece contemporary fusion rock band made up of current students and alumni from RCHK. Members include music and academic scholars - Arthur Leung, Jacob Leung, James Koo, Michael Ju, Patrick Yau, Phipson Lee, Samuel Pang, Walter Chan and Wilson Chan.

James's Secret has played numerous gigs across Hong Kong, including HK Rugby Sevens, The Big Picnic, Freespace Happening,

and Clockenflap. They have also been crowned winners of the YRock Award for Best Performance at the YRock Pop Finale for the past two years. They wish to prove through their successes that it is important to have a balanced lifestyle and hope that their music can inspire young, aspiring musicians.

The band's songs range from progressive rock to funk rock and incorporate R&B stylings. Their music has been released on iTunes, Spotify and Apple Music, and they would like to invite the RCHK community to enjoy their music.



JAMES'S SECRET

**Etienne Lee**

Class of 2016

I'm currently in my first semester at McGill University and am planning to study History and Political Science. Studying at McGill has been simultaneously amazing and challenging. The school's constantly changing atmosphere can range from party to study, and I think this is one of McGill's most noteworthy characteristics.

I always thought I would attend university in the UK; at the beginning of the semester, I constantly questioned whether coming to McGill instead of studying in the UK was a good decision. Now, I firmly believe it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. So to those who are reading this, whenever you see

yourself facing a fork in the road, simply choose the road you think best suits you. Trust your instincts, and do not let anyone or anything impact your decision.

The contrast between university and high school is monumental. In university, you have to learn to be more independent, not only in your studies, but in life. I have to make sure I wake up early for morning lectures and hand in assignments on time. No one is going to chase after you; your education is your own responsibility. Finances are also a struggle. It's important to be conscious of how much you are spending on a daily basis. So always keep a little notebook or your receipts to record your spendings -- you do not want to have the realisation that you spent

\$200 on just drinks in a day.

McGill definitely has high expectations for academic performance; they expect a lot more than what is expected in high school. However, the organisational skills I honed in the IB program have helped me immensely in coping with the workload here at McGill. My favourite course this semester is 'An Introduction to Political Theory'. The professor is absolutely amazing: His lectures are engaging and insightful, and every time I attend one of his lectures I learn something new and find my pre-existing beliefs challenged. He speaks extremely quickly, but thankfully, taking IB has enhanced my writing speed and reduced the amount of pain receptors in my hands.

**Timothy Tan**

Class of 2016

Like most people, the idea of applying to Cambridge intimidated me. Throughout my life I've been told that it is a school for the social elite, the drivers of innovation and the individuals who will be leading the world of tomorrow. I certainly did not see myself fitting any of those descriptions, and did not expect to be offered a place in its undergraduate programme.

The closer I got to Cambridge, the more I was able to tear down the stereotypes I had of the institution and the people within the Cantabrigian community. Although we are all scholars to some extent, that does not define our existence. We're also musicians, athletes, artists and volunteers, and we eat,



sleep, drink and play as much as any other university student would. The workload is tough, but in the pockets of time between having to deal with lectures, supervisions, and recommended (but really quite mandatory) readings, Cantabs manage to have fun too.

Of course, some parts of Cambridge's reputation are true. Like most would expect, the traditions of Cambridge remain one of the most attractive features of the university. It does have an

extensive history, and it's quite inspiring to sometimes remember that it is centuries old. Attending the Harry-Potter-esque formal hall dinners, where everyone dines in suits and gowns, complete with Latin prayers and the passing of Port around the table, really makes me appreciate how deep the roots of Cambridge traditions go.

A word of advice for the rising stars of RCHK: Don't be afraid to try something that seems out of reach. Though your goals may seem impossible, passion and commitment are really all you need. Even if you do not know what your goal is yet, make an effort to explore new and previously undiscovered options - you never know where you may end up!

## Rachel Tsao

Class of 2016

Before entering college, I already had expectations of what my experience at UCLA would look like. Based on movies and TV shows, I thought I was about to dive into four years of football games, house parties and all-nighters at the library. These expectations may or may not have been met (Me at a football game? Who am I kidding?). However, there is one thing that I did not anticipate at all coming to college: discovering how minuscule I am.

It seems natural for me to feel small in a population of 45,000 students. However, this sense of insignificance arose not only from the vast number of people on campus, but also from witnessing the many unique talents that my fellow students possess. In the very first week of school, I had already met some incredible individuals. One of the girls, for example, is both a professional salsa dancer and a mathematician who can perform



mental long multiplication in a matter of seconds. Additionally, I once found myself sitting next to someone who is not only a straight-A pre-med student, but also a national figure skating champion.

Encounters like these have made me realise that there are those who are inevitably more intelligent, more creative and more athletic than I am. At times, such realisations have made me question my worth, especially when I compare myself to those who seem destined to become super-humans. But now, I have a greater understanding than ever that there is no point in trying to make comparisons. So even though I may feel small amongst

these polymathic geniuses, college has taught me to strive to become the best possible version of myself, and to fully materialise my potential as a unique individual.

Therefore, to the Year 13 students who have recently submitted their college applications (Congratulations!), or are still drafting their personal statements, here is some advice: College application is one of the most overwhelming, yet rewarding processes you will go through. During this time, you may tirelessly analyse samples of successful essays, scroll through College Confidential, or even scrutinise the social media accounts of those applying to the same university - all to determine whether you are on par with the other applicants. I've done it all. However, there are some things we cannot change about ourselves. While it is important to showcase your best assets to the admissions office, it is even more important to stay true to yourself.

## Ching Yeung Lam

Class of 2016

Hi, RCHK! I'm Ching Yeung Lam, and I'm a graduate of the Class of 2016. I'm currently studying at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toronto, aiming to enter the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology programme in second year.

University is undeniably stressful, but don't cast your interests aside to

focus solely on academics! Join clubs and varsity teams that you are interested in. For example, if you're a life sciences student, look for research opportunities in university laboratories (what I'm doing now). Aside from the mental and physical health benefits, it also builds your network and strengthens your CV far beyond what a slightly higher GPA can do for you!



**Mike Tang**

Class of 2016

Despite initially wanting to study elsewhere, I've ended up staying in Hong Kong to further my studies. I am currently majoring in Psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. There is so much to say about university – the friends, the life, the studies, the drama, and how it's so different compared to what school life was like in RCHK. Even as the semester approaches its end, I'm still very inexperienced, and there's still a lot for me to learn and do. This is partially due to the fact that CUHK is so huge, and there's never an end to the events you could attend or things you could learn. There's always academic work that you're supposed to be doing and countless extracurricular activities. I think it's best if you're able to find a balance, or – like me – become a



“deadline fighter” (if you cherish your life and sleep, don't).

Psychology is interesting – it's one of those subjects that you only experience a bit of in IBDP and get a lot more in-depth as you study them in university. CUHK offers unique courses, such as 'In Dialogue With Humanity', a philosophy course of sorts that requires you to read older texts and understand how humans thought in the past. This course allows students to really take their time to try and understand. I hope others like me will be able to

intelligence. There are students who have represented their countries in debates and others who have been featured on Instagram's official account, and the fact is this: everyone is here for a reason.

After the first half of the semester, I feel incredibly lucky and happy to be attending Wesleyan. Why? Because when I recently attended a slam poetry recital I felt a myriad of feelings — joy, sadness, rage — and this foreign amalgam of feelings pulled everyone in the room just a little closer. Why? Because I have professors who know my name and a professor who has shared a Nobel Prize with Al Gore. Why? Because my

see university as an opportunity to explore other fields that they otherwise would not get to.

My tip to current Diploma students is to really look forward to it, you know? It definitely gets worse before it gets better. I remember right around this time last year I was still worrying about offers and the exams. It was a really stressful time filled with uncertainty and self-doubt, but don't worry! Have faith in yourself that everything will be better soon – because it definitely will. For now, you just have to do your best. Believe not in other people's expectations, but in the self within that has never doubted.

Attached is a photo taken of me for the proposed cabinet of the Psychology Society. Hopefully, if I do get in the cabinet next year, I'll be able to serve each of you who are coming to CUHK and majoring in Psychology like me.

hallmates don't just ignore me — we're all close friends. Why? Because I've been able to find my niche within the student body. I'm currently a member of Wesleyan's Mock Trial team, one which ranks among the top in the U.S., and the like-minded yet diverse group of people there teaches me more than I have ever learned. So here's a tip for all the RCHK Diploma students out there: Higher education isn't just about the school's brand name. Explore your options and push yourself further. Find your niche, because if you're lucky enough, you'll find yours. I've found mine, and this supportive, intelligent, and academic community is more than I could've ever asked for.

**Josh Ng**

Class of 2016

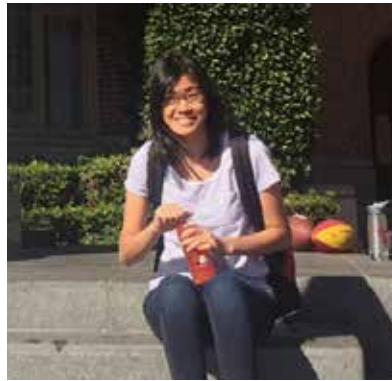
I'm currently a freshman at Wesleyan University on a full ride, thanks to the Freeman Asian Scholarship. Although it's often mistaken for Wellesley College (the women's College) and is largely unknown in Asia or Europe, Wesleyan University is much more prestigious than I initially perceived it to be. With an abundance of students whose parents attended Ivy League universities and several students related to past presidents, the student body may seem intimidating. However, Wesleyan has a student body that also prides itself on diversity and



## Natalie Wong

Class of 2016

Hi! My name is Natalie Wong and I'm currently in my first semester at the University of Southern California, majoring in Writing for Screen and Television in the School of Cinematic Arts. Some highlights from my first few months here have been premiere screenings, festivals and guest talks from alums Judd Apatow and Melissa Rosenberg. Another surreal experience was watching the first episode of *How to Get Away with Murder* and then stumbling onto the set on campus straight after.



Following the summer break, I came to Los Angeles to seek opportunities in film school and it was extremely intimidating. My peers had made, watched, written and starred in more movies than I have and my professors work on their own TV shows when they aren't teaching. I quickly learned that you have to get over your

own self-doubt. Everyone I've met in my freshman class has expressed the same worry and the best you can do is to establish your own voice, creatively or otherwise.

Right now, my main assignment is to write a 50-page screenplay. This links to the IB, I promise. I see you, tired Year 12 student, waiting for your FE appointment. The best advice I've gotten in film school is: "It can't get better if it doesn't exist." And that applies to the EE, IAs, TOK essay, CAS, and everything else that the IB Diploma gifts you. Also, remember to stay hydrated and floss and fight for what you believe in (now, more than ever).



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