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ISSUE
19



TO SEEK TO SERVE TO STRIVE

Feature Story:

A New Chapter of Learning for Renaissance College

The Specialist Centre
Grand Opening





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From the Principal's Desk

Dear RCHK Family,

What a delight it is for us to share with you the spring edition of RCHK World. Our students, teachers and staff have been very busy these past few months, both on and off campus, as you will see and read in the following pages. Be prepared to be amazed!

The RCHK cast and crew of *Footloose* had us singing and dancing in the aisles just before the winter holiday. The students had been working for months, under the tutelage of our expert team of Performing Arts teachers, and successfully awed sold-out crowds for two evening performances and one dress rehearsal matinee. I'm always blown away by the radiant enthusiasm coupled with the unyielding dedication our dramatists put forth in these thoroughly entertaining musicals.



One of the highlights for me every January is the RCHK alumni reunion in London. There I meet with our former students who are studying and/or working in the UK while I'm in London for our annual new teacher recruitment. It was a joy to visit our alumni and hear their stories of success, challenge and opportunity as they strike out on their own in university and employment.

We couldn't have been more excited about the grand opening of the new Specialist Centre in February! Thanks to the vision of the College Council, the support of the ESF Centre leadership and Facilities Department, and the innumerable hours of technical work by our support staff, the four-story building and Chinese garden rooftop opened to rave reviews by students, faculty and parents. This was truly a team project by many players including the architects and contractors and we are forever grateful for the magnificent results. For generations to come, our students will be the beneficiaries of this extraordinary project.

Thank you for your continued support as we soon head to the close of another school year.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Harry Brown
Principal



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Newsmakers

Joyce and Crystal Kei

Years 7 and 12



These two talented sisters recently distinguished themselves at the Dance World Cup: Asian Cup held on 30 March 2018. Joyce (Year 7) took home the Gold Award in Children Solo Modern category, and her older sister, Crystal (Year 12) won the Silver Award in Junior Solo Jazz category. Crystal also helped spearhead RCHK's first International Evening this past spring which you can read more about in our Leadership and Service section. This amazing sister team will be proudly representing Hong Kong in the Dance World Cup finals in Spain this coming June. Great job to them both and the college community wishes you the best of luck and safe travels this summer!



Audrey Lau and Megan Chan

Year 8



After 18 months of hard work, Audrey's third book, "An Unbreakable Promise" was finally completed, and it documents an 11-year-old girl who experiences paediatric cancer and encourages patients and their families to not give up and to fight for their children's lives. Net proceeds from sales of this book will go to "Little Life Warrior Society" - a charity that aims to promote and improve the service and welfare of child cancer patients.

Furthermore, Audrey has worked with her fellow Year 8 classmate Megan Chan to bring this book publishing project to participate in the annual Kids4Kids Act!on for a Cause (AFAC) 2018, which has successfully been selected as one of the 20 winning projects city-wide to fund and mentor. Kids4Kids has assigned a professional mentor to support Audrey and Megan to implement the whole project from January to June 2018. Great job ladies! You make the RCHK community proud!

Lykke Lee

Year 6



From April 5 to 8, Lykke participated in the World Irish Dance Association (WIDA) Championships held in the Netherlands and won first place in Intermediate Softshoe, second place in Intermediate Traditional Set, and third place in Primary Traditional Set. She also came second out of 15 other older competitors in the intermediate premiership category. Lykke would like to thank the support of her dance teacher, Catriona Newcombe, with whom she is pictured with. Great job Lykke!

Angus Yip

Year 8



In November 2017, Angus successfully passed the ABRSM Grade 8 Piano Examination with distinction. In January 2018, he performed his original composition "Secret Island" by electone at the Yamaha Junior Original Concert in Hong Kong. He was then to be selected as one of the junior composers to perform his own piece at the Yamaha Junior Original Highlight Concert (Hong Kong) held in March of 2018. In the same month, Angus was very honoured to be nominated and invited by Yamaha Corporation in Japan to represent Hong Kong to perform at the Asia Pacific Junior Original Concert held in Nagoya, Japan. He performed his own original composition "Sea of Dolphins" in jazz style by electone at Tsumagoi Music Garden Studio. He enjoyed this performance and learning experience very much with other junior music composers and performers of different Asia Pacific countries. In addition, Angus also attained the Third place of Grade 7 Piano Solo and the Merit Award of Clarinet Solo in Secondary School Junior Section of the 70th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. Wonderful work on your notable achievements and awards and keep up your good work, Angus. The RCHK community and your parents are very proud of your hard work and the efforts you put into your music.

Shao Qian Mah

Year 13



Hearty congratulations to Shao Qian (SQ) Mah for winning the South China Morning Post(SCMP)/HKJC Student of the Year - Scientist & Mathematician Award 2017! This is a highly prestigious honor and the RCHK community couldn't be more proud of him. The prize is awarded to a student "who can demonstrate outstanding research results supported by competition awards and noteworthy personal accomplishments," according to the SCMP. Mah is the technology director of Hydropol, a company comprised of 26 fellow students that created a bottle which tracks how much water a person consumes in order for people to stay better hydrated. It also interfaces with a person's smartphone to remind the user to drink the proper amount, and the company sold 120 bottles last year.

"I really did not expect to win," says Mah. "The competition criteria emphasised having science and math related awards....and I didn't have very much, especially compared with my competitors. But I think what did stand out was my vision of how I wanted to use science, math and technology to shape the future."

Hydropol bottles are no longer in production as "they had to be hand-assembled and we have a lot

of school commitments now," says Mah. "Looking forward, we're using Hydropol as a platform of outreach: we've exhibited at events such as the Shenzhen Maker Faire, the Girl Scouts Science and Robotics Fair, as well as the Opportunity Festival to talk to more Hong Kong youth and show them it's possible to make a company, a technical product, and buy and sell it without needing to have any experience or graduate high school."

Mah says that he intends to study aerospace engineering after leaving RCHK, possibly combining entrepreneurship with aerospace applications, and is inspired by Elon Musk, who uses his wealth for innovation and problem-solving. The entire college community wishes him only the best in what appears to be very bright future!

Leadership and Service

Inaugural International Evening Promotes Diversity and Raises Funds for Hong Kong Unison

By Crystal Sum-ying Kei, Year 12

On the evening of Friday 9 February, students hosted the first International Evening in the PAC to promote cultural acceptance in Renaissance College and the larger Hong Kong community. As a third culture kid who was raised in both the United States and Hong Kong, I have experienced discrimination because of my ethnicity and cultural differences. Therefore, I was compelled to make a change through International Evening - an event where we celebrate our cultural diversity and raise awareness of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. Participants and attendees were encouraged to dress in cultural attire and enjoy a variety of ethnic food dishes prior to watching the globally diverse performances. As part of our CAS project, we raised HK\$9202 for the NGO Hong Kong Unison, whose mission is to serve and support local ethnic minorities.

It was challenging to organise International Evening as the event had never been done before. This was also my

first time directing a fundraising event with a small team of myself and three fellow Year 12 students, which included Yashasvi Parekh, Forrest Jiang, and Ethan Tsang. We had to plan the performances, food, promotions, etc. while trying to maximize our contribution to Hong Kong Unison. Overall, I think the event was a great success because it brought the school community together. Everyone could represent their ethnic roots and be proud of where they come from. I could see many parents smiling as they talked about their regional dishes and the audience members thoroughly in awe as they watched the performances – that for me was the greatest success.

Of course, the success of this event is thanks to the RCHK community who are incredibly open-minded and accepting. Without the parents who volunteered to prepare food, students who enthusiastically performed, and our supervisor Ms. Shobha Sanker who helped us tremendously, we would not have been able to coordinate the event with such great results. Hopefully, we will be able to find students interested in hosting International Evening next year to continue spreading the message.



Year 4 Market Day raises HK\$8,128 for Hong Kong SPCA

As part of the "How We Organise Ourselves" unit, the Year 4 students held a Market Day on Friday 2 March; selling products and providing services to fellow students and parents/guardians. Items on sale included bookmarks, cushions, puppets and more - all for a modest HK\$2 to \$10 each. The purpose was for the Year 4 teams to learn how to run a small business successfully and to make a profit. Fellow Primary students learned how to spend money wisely and get correct change back. Not only was this a great learning experience, but they donated all the proceeds to the Hong Kong chapter of the SPCA; which promotes animal welfare. Some representatives from SPCA came to visit RCHK on Monday 11 March to thank the students and explain how their donation will benefit the local chapter directly. Great job to everyone involved and special thanks to Year 4 Coordinator Nathan Pither for orchestrating such an enlightening and special event.



Beleza 7.0 - Fashion for a Cause

Style, glamour, creativity and compassion all came together at Beleza 7.0 Fashion Show held on the evening of Friday 8 December 2017. As part of the students' CAS project, nine fantastic collections were showcased during the event that raised HK\$8,183 for the Mental Health Association of Hong Kong and HK\$910 for RCHK's outreach programme, SP@RC - a total of HK\$9,093 for charitable causes. Combining collections from designers such as Diane Freis and 9wula with original creative lines from our very own students, everything from casual everyday wear to wedding dresses were on display. A big thank you to all the students, faculty and support staff who volunteered their time to make the evening such a glittering success.







RCHK Ignites a SP@RC with Walk for Change

On a picture-perfect sunny Thursday 29 March 2018, the entire college joined in the Walk for Change that helped raise funds for SP@RC; our community service fundraiser that supports service projects in Hong Kong as well as the greater Asia Pacific region. The goal was to expand our support towards those underprivileged in countries such as Cambodia, Nepal, Laos and Indonesia. According to David Harvey, Head of English and one of the main coordinators of this event, roughly 2,000 students participated in the walk, which covered the following distances:

Years 5-13: 7km
Years 3-4: 4km
Years 1-2: 2km

Through dedicated efforts, a total of HK\$158,762 was raised and will be used to help reinforce a core IB mission to help those less fortunate. Warm thanks to all the coordinators, support staff, teachers and students who came together to make this event such a great accomplishment!







Sports

Primary Mixed Basketball Tournament Report

By Sandra Gordon, Primary PE & Sports Coordinator

On Friday 2 March 2018 RCHK hosted the annual Primary Mixed Basketball Tournament that consisted of 12 teams playing five games each and the standard was very high. In the group stages RCHK A was the winner of group 1 with German Swiss International School (GSIS) taking second place. Kowloon Junior School (KJS) dominated group 2 and Discovery Bay International School (DBIS) was runner up. In the semi-finals, RCHK A played against DBIS and KJS played against GSIS. GSIS and DBIS lost and played each other for third and fourth place. This left RCHK A and KJS to battle it out in the finals. It was a fantastic game to watch and unfortunately after 8 minutes of intense play RCHK A lost to KJS 7:10. Congratulations to the students and coaches!



Secondary Athletics Carnival Report

By Kate Nankivell, Athletics Director

On Thursday 22 March 2018, the Secondary school held its annual Athletics Carnival at the Ma On Shan (MOS) Sports Ground. There was enormous hype surrounding the day perhaps because the Swimming Gala earlier in the year had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Therefore, the scene was set for houses to face off and show their commitment to taking home the overall House trophy in 2017-18.

As has become customary, the 1500m and preliminary rounds of the high jump were held in the morning of the day before and both set the tone for the day to follow. Nicholas Tsang ran exceptionally well in the 1500m and Ryan Ballesty showed he was sure to be a threat in the high jump, albeit with a somewhat unorthodox technique. Participation points were on offer and to the eye, it was Tang House who was making the most of these.

On Thursday, students and House Directors arrived early to the sports ground to dress their area in the stands and perform their final rehearsals for the much-anticipated cheerleading event. At 9am, students were welcomed by Head of Secondary Ms. Natasha Williams and the day commenced.

An abundant array of events were on offer, formal and informal, and it wasn't long before the sports ground was awash with RCHK students running, throwing, jumping and participating in an eclectic mix of DIPS events for this year's carnival. Spirits were high and the enthusiasm palpable. Staff were enjoying time to align with their House as well as friendly competition with their colleagues - as were the students, who displayed pleasing levels of sportsmanship and endeavor throughout the entire day.

Lunchtime saw the cheerleading ensembles take to the track and wow us with some incredibly polished routines. This year it was Qing House, with an astoundingly difficult and well-executed routine, who took the victory, followed by Ming House.

Overall, it was SONG HOUSE who again reigned supreme and were crowned Athletics Carnival Champions for 2017-18. Congratulations Song!

Individual Age Group Champions will be announced at the annual Sports Awards Assembly to be held in the PAC on Wednesday 23 May 2018. Thank you everyone for an amazing day!





Learning 360

RCHK hosts Inter-ESF Math Race

Mathematics teacher Mrs. Shobha Sanker, along with a team of RCHK students, held an ESF-wide Math Race on Saturday 13 January 2018 with Secondary students from Discovery College, King George V, South Island School and Island School participating. With around 80 in attendance, the day was dedicated to celebrating and appreciating the fun side of Mathematics and was filled with exciting and worthwhile events! Forrest Jiang, Ethan Tsang and Lok Wa U from Year 12 were the key organisers of the day and other student volunteers from Year 12 and Year 11 worked very hard to make this event successful. Special thanks to Daniela Vazile, Head of Mathematics at South Island School and Matthew Lacey, our very own Head of Mathematics, for their helpful leadership and contributions. We are also grateful to the prize sponsor Ludwig Leung from Goldwise Development Limited, supplier of the various models of Texas Instrument calculators for the winners.

RCHK winners:

Years 7 and 8 Category

Overall First Place:

Cheryl Wong, Erin Tan and Serena Ng

Overall Third Place:

James Tsang, Cavis Chan and Tanush Agarwal

Years 9 and 10 Category

Overall Second Place:

Aaron Zheng, Eugenia Tong, Markandeya Karthik

Special mention First Place Vortex round:

Angus Leung, Joshua Tsang and Justin Lam

Year 11 Volunteers

Gin Gin Mak, Vivian Qi, Theodore Chow, Adrian Leung,

Michael Tsao and Richard Cheung

Year 12 Volunteers

Key organisers: Forrest Jiang, Ethan Tsang and Lok Wa U

Walden Leung, Merwyn Kong, Aryan Sethi, Robbie Yeung,

Sahil Daswani, Isaac Tong



Secondary EOTC Report

By James Diamond, Science Teacher and EOTC Coordinator

The RCHK EOTC programme has continued to promote students' development and personal growth. It offers students an opportunity to fully enact the IB Learner Profile attributes in a non-academic environment and is able to get the students moving and engaging in a way that a classroom cannot offer. In an age of modern technologies and conveniences that takes away from appreciating the natural world, as well as the physicality of life, EOTC provides that component of being physical and connecting with the natural world. It is a fantastic way for the students to appreciate the world around them as well as to get to know themselves and their capabilities.

EOTC in the Middle Years Programme focuses on experiences that encourage independence, self-management, organizational skills, resilience and personal responsibility. Challenge and risk-taking activities provide leadership opportunities and develop self-confidence. Essentially, EOTC guides adolescence towards effective adulthood by developing invaluable life skills.

During the 2017-2018 school year the EOTC experiences were as follows:

Year 7 - Hong Kong-based trips focusing on peer inter-relationships, independence and team building. The photos accompanying this report are from their visit to the Tai Tam Reservoirs from 21-23 November 2017. Being a transition year, it allowed the students an opportunity to get to know their peers whom they will be working with throughout their MYP years.

Year 8 - Hong Kong-based trips focusing on open water competence and confidence. Many adventures that the students will go on throughout their lives will

involve water activities. This programme really focuses on developing their comfort level in and around water, while at the same time continuing to develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

Year 9 - Hong Kong-based trip, which had the students in small groups doing a weeklong adventure race. This programme has been built to challenge the student's teamwork skills. Each day the students had to plan how they would carry out the tasks assigned to them for that day. They collected points throughout the week based on how they had completed the different tasks. At the end of the week the scores for each team were added up to determine which team was the most successful at completing the adventure race.

Year 10 - Trips have been delivered in Cebu in the Philippines, Kanchanaburi in Thailand, and Tioman Island in Malaysia.

The Cebu excursion had the students exploring Cebu's surrounding islands in local outriggers as well as snorkeling in one of the world's most diverse coral reefs. The students collected data about the ecosystem and brought that data to the local people to help them better understand how to maintain a healthy environment.

The Thailand excursion immersed the students in the local culture. The students had the opportunity to experience kayaking and bamboo river rafting down the River Kwai while surrounded by beautiful jungle scenery.

The Malaysia trip had the students visit Tioman Island where they got to see and work at a turtle sanctuary, as well as did some diving and snorkeling around some beautiful underwater scenery.

Year 11 - This EOTC experience has continued as in previous years, consisting of the highly successful Work Experience Week.



Year 7 EOTC Gallery





A New Chapter of Learning for Renaissance College The Specialist Centre Grand Opening

WELCOME TO THE
GRAND UNVEILING OF OUR NEW
Specialist Centre
THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2018

By Elizabeth Ellis and Farina Shroff,
RCHK Communications Managers



On the morning of Thursday 1 February 2018, teachers, staff, Primary students and members of the ESF community gathered together for the grand opening of the Specialist Centre, a new wing adjacent to the Primary building that houses new facilities dedicated to Chinese, Art, Learning Enhancement Team (LET) and PE. It was a memorable time as students performed traditional Chinese dances as well as a Kung Fu routine for their peers, and everyone was treated to a whimsical and colorful Lion Dance by the very talented students at Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong.

VIP guests for the ceremony in attendance included ESF CEO Belinda Greer, College Council Chairwoman Anne

Choi, RAPT co-chairs Yvonne Tse and Mehul Tanna, former College Council Chairman Benny Ng, ESF Director of Facilities John Stewart and ESF Learning and Teaching Adviser Kirsty de Wilde. Along with Dr. Harry Brown and student council members, the VIPs cut the ribbon in a dramatic unveiling of the new covered playground, complete with confetti! The students excitedly ran toward their new play area, fully equipped with brand new outdoor games. Afterwards, the special guests were escorted to the new Multi-Purpose Room for a reception catered by Chartwells, where they had the opportunity to view photos and a video presentation on display chronicling the development of the Specialist Centre.

How It All Began

Business Manager Samuel Hureau says discussions started in early 2010 on how to bring the Primary Art classrooms, at that time in the Secondary block, closer to the Primary Building.

“Mr. Benny Ng, the College Council chairman at the time, decided to do a feasibility study for a new building,” says Hureau. “The feasibility study was done in 2012/2013 and the results were good. It was decided to erect a new building, not only for Primary Arts, but also for the whole Primary Chinese department.”

Hureau says the Primary LET section and the Multi-Purpose Room, which is often used for college-wide and Secondary school special events as well as Primary PE lessons, were added to the blueprints later. Construction started with Three’s Architects Ltd. in June 2015 with the main contractor being Hon Fung. The building was officially opened in November 2017; although construction continued on the covered playground until shortly before the grand opening. The total number of facilities are as follows:

- 8 Primary Chinese classrooms and one Primary Chinese meeting room
- 2 Primary Arts rooms and a Primary Art storeroom
- 2 Primary LET classrooms spaces and one Primary LET office space
- 1 Secondary music room
- 1 Multi-Purpose room
- 1 Chinese rooftop garden
- 1 new covered playground with outdoor games

We interviewed a few people from the various departments who are teaching in the new building to find out what kind of impact it is making on the learning environment for students as well as teachers. Everyone seems to agree: dedicated space equals more efficiency, and flexible classroom environments allow for more creative thinking and learning. Read on!



A Dedicated Space for LET

When it comes to the college's building transformations, Primary LET teacher Therese Owen has truly seen it all. She can remember a time not that long ago when RCHK was just a construction site.

"I've been here since day one," says Owen. "I came here to look at the work site and wore a hard hat - I go back a long way!"

Owen is originally from Melbourne, Australia and has been teaching at Renaissance College when it used to be Phoenix International, and before that, Canadian Overseas International College. Owen explains the LET department helps pinpoint students who may have challenges in a particular area or various areas and provide additional support and/or extension. This support even extends to students who have challenges with social and conversational skills across many different types of cultural backgrounds.

"Sometimes the difficulties are very short term - for instance, you might get a young child who hasn't yet developed their reading skills and we might do a quick six to eight-week intervention in, say, reading, and then they actually improve and match the expected level," says Owen. "Other interventions are long-term and we see them on an ongoing basis."

Owen says the LET department had significant input into the creation of their area and what would be important to the students. Having previously been teaching in various year hubs, everyone agreed that having sufficient room was a critical element in the design.

"There are six of us in the department plus another six EA's so it's terrific to have a workable, functional space where we can fit and not be on top of each other while we are teaching," says Owen. "I think everyone's generally pretty pleased!"

"It makes me feel like a facilitator of learning rather than someone who is imposing learning on someone."

Features of the LET area include a whiteboard wall, TVs, colorful furniture and plenty of natural light. Owen says the students love being able to choose a working space that works for them rather than being regulated to a table and chairs.

"They might sit on the sofa with a clipboard, or the side bench looking out the window at our ocean view, or even choose to be on the floor," says Owen. "And they don't have to traipse halfway across the school to get to their classes."

Primary LET teacher Jerry Carroll Jr. from Jonestown, Texas has been with RCHK for the past four years, and he agrees that cutting down on the commute time by having their dedicated facilities so close has been very beneficial.



"There's a lot of research that says environment impacts wellbeing and wellbeing impacts learning...there's a direct correlation to my student's productivity being close proximity and being in a new space," says Carroll. "First comment they make is 'I love this space', and then the second thing they mention is that there is so much space to move and do different things. As a teacher, it sparks the creative juices having so much flexibility."

Owen comments that there were times when the year hubs could be very loud or distracting, and one significant benefit that she is starting to see with the new space is its quiet, peaceful nature that allows students to concentrate more easily. Also Carroll and Owen both agree that having all their resources in that space within easy reach, rather than having to transfer it from building to building, has been a major plus.

"It makes me feel like a facilitator of learning rather than someone who is imposing learning on someone," says Carroll. "They are teaching me things because I ask them what they are thinking."

Carroll says that because the space is more integrated with the college community overall, it doesn't feel isolating for the students that go there for help. And the Chinese Garden on the rooftop provides one more area for the LET teachers to take advantage of to boost interest and learning.

"(Having) flexibility in the working space just opens up possibilities for creative learning and teaching, and it is really exciting," says Carroll. It inspires you to think on your feet and do something different - and we now have a good to have a setup to do that."

Owen says from her long-range perspective, the biggest changes within the LET department over the last several years has been the staffing numbers and the amount of professional development opportunities increasing.

"We are able to give a lot more dedicated support to the students than we were," says Owen. "I love that there is so much opportunity to join workshops and seminars and meetings to enhance our own knowledge....and everything we learn gets passed back onto the students."

A Subject-Specific Spot for Chinese

With the inauguration of the new Specialist Centre, the Chinese department has been able to broaden their teaching scope in a fun and practical way. Prior to the new opening, Primary Chinese classes were held in the year-level classrooms.

Aki Siah, Primary Chinese Coordinator, is elated by the new classrooms, as it allows for a fresh environment, which is subject-specific, with learning apparatus to aid students of all ability levels. There is a versatility element to the new spaces too, as each teacher can make modifications for their own room - which adds to the excitement that the pupils feel, each time they enter. The classrooms are fully equipped with overhead projectors, interactive whiteboards, group and also individual learning areas.

With regards to the designing of the classroom layouts, the Chinese department staff were able to input their own ideas and feedback on the elements that they wished to have incorporated during the early phases of planning and construction.



"We had the chance to meet with the architects and review the details, talk about our ideas and help with the design [...] and I am grateful that the school gave us the opportunity to do that" says Siah.

Her favourite design element is the moon arc cut-out in the classrooms, as it symbolizes "unity, togetherness and a sense of belonging" which is what she hopes each of her students feel upon entering the unique learning space.

When asked how the new classrooms have improved the learning environment for the students, Siah reiterated that the teachers are now more easily approachable, as there is one classroom per teacher, and the students know exactly where they can seek help if they require additional assistance. There is a "stronger connection" between the students and teachers. It is also much more time-effective, as they no longer need to set-up and dismantle all the settings for each class, as done

"The school had always provided a tremendous amount of support for Chinese enquiry teaching and learning."

previously, when they were shifting from one year-band area to another for their classes.

Having been at RCHK for over 10 years, Siah has seen a great deal of changes that have come about during her time at RCHK. She truly appreciates the fact that, with the opening of the new building, the Chinese department now has a complete "sense of identity and confidence" amongst the staff and the students whilst also noting that prior to the new building, "the school had always provided

a tremendous amount of support for Chinese enquiry teaching and learning" even though they did not have a dedicated subject teaching space, for which she is also grateful.

Aki will be leaving RCHK at the end of this academic year, and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

Visual Arts with a View



Primary Visual Arts occupy the uppermost floors of the new Specialist Centre, and Susannah Psillides, one of our Primary Visual Arts teachers, discussed her first experiences in the new learning environment. She enjoys working in the space, as its bright and inviting for Primary students of all ages, and she especially likes that she was able to add her own input for the design elements of the classroom space.

Previously, the Primary Visual Arts students would share the Secondary students' classrooms, which meant a lot of time got lost in setting up and travelling. Now, with everything in one place, it allows for more productive teaching time, as they simply go to their other classes, within the same Primary building.

When asked how the students reacted to the new classroom, Psillides says "they loved it, as there was something for everyone" all the way down to the finer details, such as having wash basins of varying heights for different age groups, window panels on the cabinets to display students' artworks, retractable walls for classroom expansions and so much more!

The students now feel more independent, as they are familiar with the placements of items around the classrooms, and they no longer need to enquire for trivial details. They have wheelable trolleys with art equipment, which can be taken around the classroom and easily shared. The seating

and furniture is all far better suited to the Primary children's needs, and the set-up is more efficient, making it a far more conducive working environment.

"With a separate storage facility, students' artwork can now be kept outside of the classroom too, leaving more space for actual learning" says Psillides.

She enjoys being able to work outdoors too. One of her recent Year 5 classes had the choice of "doing their work on the terrace instead, as it was a beautiful day!"

Ms. Psillides is looking forward to continuing to use the new classroom and is excited to see how she can make the space even more learning-friendly for her students.



The Arts

Year 11 Hong Kong Change Exhibition

By Carla Divry, Year 11 Visual Arts Student

In mid-January, the Year 11 Visual Arts students hosted an exhibition outside the art hub on the fourth floor displaying their art pieces created around the theme of Hong Kong Change. The exhibition presented a wide range of art pieces from oil on canvas, pen on paper, ceramics and photography that were thoughtfully developed to address an issue in Hong Kong, and to initiate change. We explored the statement of inquiry, "Beliefs and Values can Initiate Change", and were inspired by artists including Joan Cornellà, Grayson Perry and Shepard Fairey.

The event gave us a chance to experience curating an exhibition by making decisions on where and how each of the pieces were going to be presented based on the colour, theme, message and media. The exhibition also allowed us to receive feedback and comments from the public. Overall, I found the exhibition very successful and rewarding. We were able to experience the full process of creating an exhibition from researching up until the final presentation where we displayed our art pieces which we put a lot of time and effort into creating.



Gail Deayton workshop teaches VA Students new Drawing and Multiple Media Skills

By Hei King Lau, Year 12 Visual Arts Student

On 5 and 6 March, the Year 12 Visual Arts students were given the opportunity to meet and work with Gail Deayton - artist, founder and director of Hong Kong Art Tutoring. The full day of workshops held in her studio at North Point allowed us to be exposed to life drawing, gain experience using multiple media and learn techniques to manipulate an artwork.

The workshop was an exhilarating and fresh experience. It was a bit uncomfortable at first, but slowly, we realised it is only another form of art and embraced it. Starting off with regular timed life drawings, Deayton taught us the basics through different activities, such as continuous line, blind and left-handed drawing.

Later on in the workshop, Deayton showed us how to manipulate a drawing by using different or multiple media, such as red charcoal and white paint. Using these, we explored various ways to make a regular drawing into a different artwork. The workshops presented exceptional and rare opportunities for us to learn and examine new skills which, once acquired, allows us to further develop our artistic knowledge in preparation for the future.



Cerulean IB DP Exhibition 2018

By Glenda Chung, Year 13 Visual Arts Scholar

As part of the International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Course, students put together an exhibition which featured works of art created throughout the past two years of their course. Throughout the tedious yet rewarding experience, the artists developed their own style, intention and theme. Such development allowed for them to convey concepts relative to the artist and society, thus allowing for the exploration of issues relevant to each individual student. The exhibition itself displayed a journey of self-discovery and each of the artist's personalities came through in their style and choice of media and chosen imagery. Without a doubt, the combination of collections demonstrated the diversity and uniqueness of artistic style amongst the different artists. If you didn't get to see the show this year then please make a special effort next year, as it is truly always a highlight on the school calendar.



Art Central Trip Report

By Julie Minkyung Choi, Year 11

On Tuesday 27 March 2018, IB Visual Arts Year 12 students and a few Year 11 students had a great opportunity to visit Art Central that was held in Central Harborfront Event Space in Hong Kong. The gallery was quite a big event, filled with diverse and prodigious artworks from artists worldwide. Each art piece was appreciable and significant with its own unique and ingenious style as well as the message behind it. Furthermore, identifying the media used in each artwork was extremely interesting. There were various types of artworks in different forms such as scratching on steel panel, world money collage, brush marks on Hanji paper, edited digital photographs, creating an image with

strings and buttons, as well as three-dimensional models. There were also numerous sponsors that held small displays and activities for the visitors to participate in the gallery.

The visit to Art Central surely gave us various inspirations and broke our fixed thoughts on certain materials that could be used in an art piece. It was an extremely memorable day for us and we deeply appreciated the chance to visit such an incredible event. From this experience, we were also able to gain further insight on different types of artworks. I believe that with the knowledge and inspirations we gained, we will be able to create highly advanced and amusing artworks to fill our next Visual Arts exhibition.



Year 1 Mural by the VA Scholars and Riitta Kuisma

By Bernice Tao, Year 12 Visual Arts Scholar

The Visual Arts (VA) Scholars and well-known Finnish Mural Artist Riitta Kuisma designed and painted a custom blissful escape from the classroom this spring on the first floor of the new Specialist Centre, allowing the students to reach their full potential, including cultural elements, student interests and a peaceful theme.

This mural was designed with the aim to enhance the learning of Year 1, therefore pastel colours were mainly used to provide relaxation to the eyes and an imaginative utopia. From the left the first section is an scenic outline of the Ma On Shan mountain and the beautiful sea that the school faces; with large stepping stones leading to the second section of the world renowned Hong

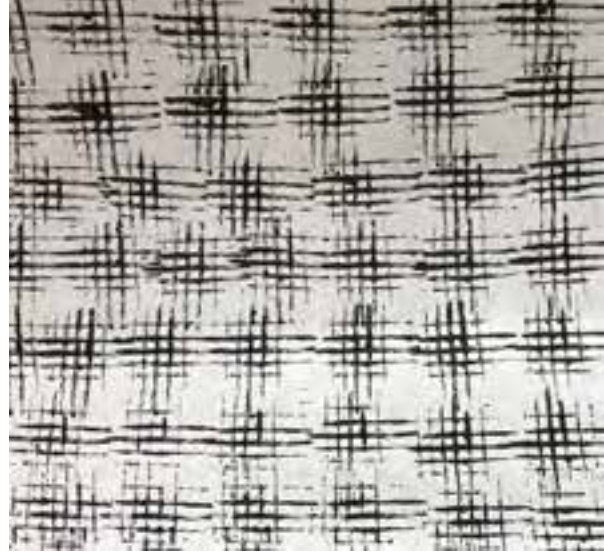
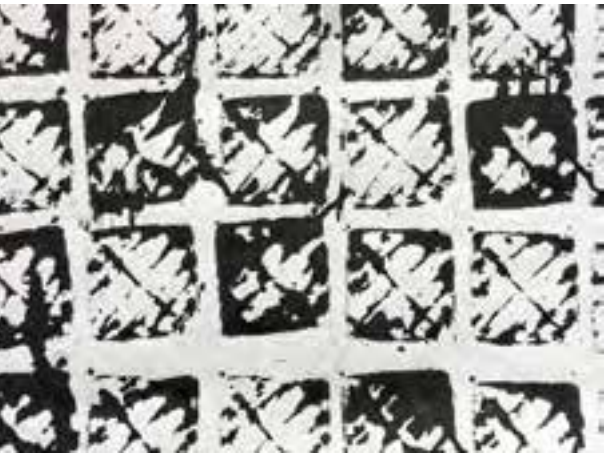
Kong skyline. Following that is the third section with a whimsical tree with animals, giving a friendly atmosphere which includes the student's interest to expand their imagination beyond the classroom.

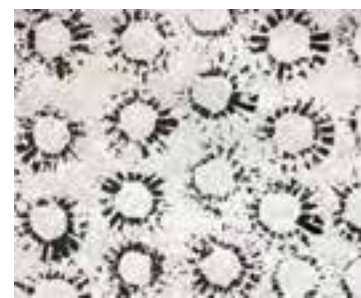
However, there were challenges throughout the process because of the lack of proportion of the wall, which the VA Scholars overcame by dividing the canvas into sections - hence, designing parts and finding elements of design to combine the whole piece together. Furthermore, with a time constraint of one week, we had to work at a fast pace in time for the revealing to the school community.

With the hard work the VA Scholars and Riitta Kuisma we were able to create a wall filled with endless possibilities starting from the smallest of corners.



Primary Art Gallery





Secondary Art Gallery





Footloose Cuts Loose!



RCHK brought back its school musical on 13 and 14 of December 2017 with a packed PAC and over 800 people in attendance! The students worked hard all semester long under the careful direction of the Performing Arts department and judging from the feedback, proved they could really shake things up.

Footloose from the point of view of an audience member

It was a fabulous energetic production. It had you tapping your feet making you want to burst into song with him. The cast managed to fulfill their characters with passion throughout the show which made you feel like you were part of it. It was a phenomenal show executed with professionalism. You would pay to see it again! Congratulations to all the cast and crew. Fantastic work!
- Mia Rice, Year 10

Footloose from the point of view of a cast member in a chorus role

I learnt a lot of things being in this production. I learnt how to perform as a cast and as part of a musical group. I learnt the dramatic effect of acting and dancing and singing. I was a main dancer, I learnt singing and acting techniques and I learnt the value of the chorus. In every rehearsal, I was

always so happy and energetic because the dance and singing rehearsal sounded so good and the teachers taught beneficial ways, strategies and techniques of singing. The best part was that we had categories of singing levels of high, medium and low singing range which was so helpful for the cast. I had never understood the value of the chorus. I used to always think that chorus are just backup and nothing else, but I realized that the chorus has a significant impact on the play's development and the chorus was the main part of the singing, so that in the end, it sounded amazing. I loved being a part of an amazing cast and play, I think everyone was so cooperative, hardworking and dedicated. Some of the times, we weren't performing as good as before, but there was always a time where the seniors would motivate and encourage us to do better and that made us more hardworking and we all made sure we performed our best in the actual performance. I think the dancing in the play was so well choreographed and the dance made the audience so engaged which was good. I would also like to thank the teachers for everything they have done for us so far because they always help us and guide us so much and make sure that everything we do is going smoothly.

- Diya Purohit, Year 9

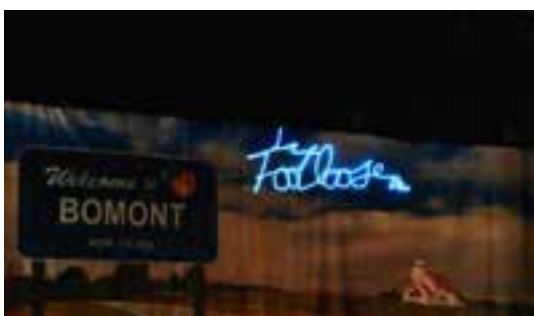




Footloose from the point of view of a cast member in a lead role

As hectic as (the musical) proved to be, it was well worth the investment. To many of us it was much more than just a project. It was an opportunity to experience and learn the skills of the trade, and bond over with people you may not have known the week before. In terms of gaining actual skills and all that jazz, I'd say all of them. I greatly enjoyed it, and I hope everyone else did too. It was something that had brought a lot of people together, at least for me, and personally I really relish and appreciate these moments.

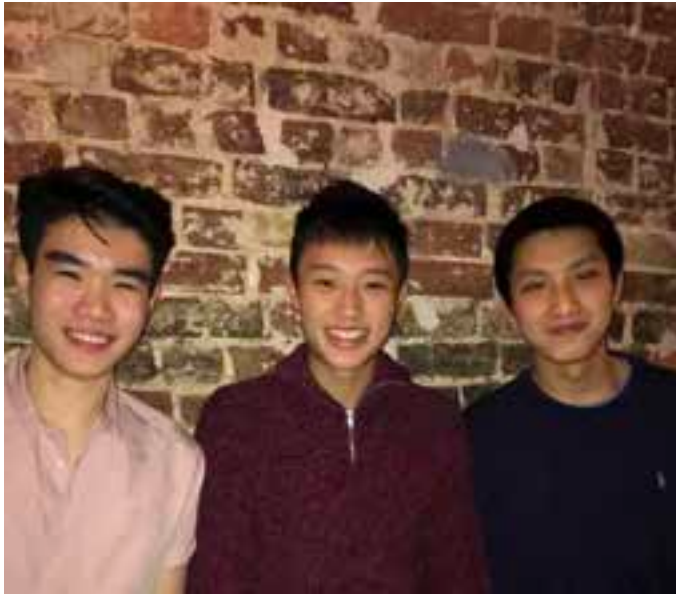
- Jose Wong, Year 12



Alumni and Community

RCHK Reconnects in London!

At the beginning of this year on Friday 19 January 2018, about 20 RCHK alumni gathered at the elegant Liman Restaurant in London. Dr. Harry Brown was in attendance as everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of delicious Mediterranean and Turkish cuisine, and it was a great opportunity for everyone to mix and mingle with familiar faces again.





Patrick Yau

Class of 2017



I am currently a first year studying Economics at University of California (UC) Davis. It is the quintessential "college town." The city itself has a population of 70,000 and over half are students of UC Davis, so it is not uncommon to bump into familiar faces around downtown.

The smell of cows, the sea of bikes and 35,000 students seemed overwhelming to begin with, but with a bit of warming up, Davis became my second home. I slowly found myself immersed in the "typical" American college lifestyle of attending basketball games, frat parties and learning how to throw an American football. However, Davis has also provided a unique experience and opened my eyes to much more than what I had anticipated. The farmers' market, the live bands playing downtown, the odd eggheads, the turkeys wandering across campus and its diversity makes Davis one of a kind. These are the reasons why I have grown to love the campus so much.

Throughout my time in RCHK, I have always been surrounded by familiar faces and a familiar environment. During the start of freshman year, I found myself somewhat uncomfortable speaking to many new faces at once and making new friends at orientation. However, through experiences such as attending parties, class study sessions and fraternity rush has allowed me to meet college entrepreneurs, top-ranked Dota players, and aspiring Olympians. Thus, I found that college really is a time to "put yourself out there".



Alumni and Community

Kristy Tong

Class of 2016



Bonjour RCHK! I am currently studying Bachelors of social sciences at Sciences Po Paris Campus Dijon. Growing up, I have always been intrigued by the intricacy of human nature and our extraordinary world, so intuitively I plunged into the fields of natural sciences and studied our physical world. To further explore my aspirations, I decided to take on social sciences in university, in order to understand the world from a more holistic perspective.

Very frankly speaking, the transition was not easy. It took me more than just courage to settle out of my comfort zone, with the most prominent obstacle being the sudden switch of dominant language from English to French. Even though I had some basic knowledge of the language, being surrounded by native speakers every day was very intimidating and I quickly became very conscious whenever I had to speak in French. The photos of the canal with the swans and the arc are both from Dijon!

To ease the transition, I had the opportunity to take the anglophone programme, in which I completed my first semester credits in predominantly English and slowly transitioned into taking most of the classes in French in the second semester. In addition, I have six hours of French language class every week. Despite the constant academic push throughout the year, I wasn't able to visualise my language progression until the second

semester. I realised that the language learning progress not only it takes time and effort, but also the courage to practice and make mistakes.

Stepping out of my comfort zone and plunging into the field of social sciences, I was able to catch a glimpse from a fresh perspective of our world through the lenses of historians, sociologists, economists, politicians, and of course, the French education system.

Out of the academic arena, I had many opportunities to join associations and student-led projects and initiatives. With the geographical specialisation of Central and Eastern Europe of my campus, I had the opportunity to discover the hidden gems of Eastern Europe. Just recently in April 2018, along with a team of 21 students from my campus, we went to Kiev and Lviv in Ukraine to pursue our student-led project "UArt", which aims to raise awareness about the ongoing Ukrainian border conflict through the expression of Ukrainian Street Art. The photo of me with a classmate is from this trip in front of a mural symbolising Ukraine gaining independence and cutting ties with Russia. Not only it was a great opportunity for cultural exploration, but it was also interesting to be able to interview the street artists and local Ukrainians on their thoughts and opinions. In June, I will be returning to Kiev and Vinnitsa as a student volunteer to assist English language learning in local schools under the organisation of GoGlobal.

To the current Year 13s, do not fear because more greatness awaits you all beyond the walls of RCHK! Don't hesitate to leave your comfort zone from time to time, because only by pushing yourself into new areas will you be able to expand your horizons even beyond your wildest dreams and perhaps even find and define yourself authentically. Pick up a new language, acquaint distant cultures, volunteer somewhere exotic, backpack across a foreign continent...the only limit is your imagination. Best of luck and be brave!



The Big Picture: Book Week



