



The Magazine of Discovery College

# 視界

SHI JIE - Autumn 2018  
TO LOOK OUT INTO THE WORLD



DISCOVERY COLLEGE  
智新書院

FOCUS ON

# LIVING OUR VISION

With Privilege Comes Responsibility

Grow. Discover. Dream.



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a red short-sleeved shirt and black shorts, is captured in a dynamic pose. She is leaning forward, with her hands flat on a blue and purple padded bench, appearing to be in the middle of a handstand or a similar athletic maneuver. Her hair is blowing in the air, suggesting movement. The background is a blurred gym setting with a white wall and a dark blue wall. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent pink and purple geometric shape in the bottom left corner.

**Grow. Discover. Dream.**

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SHI JIE MAGAZINE

## Fast facts

AUTUMN 2018

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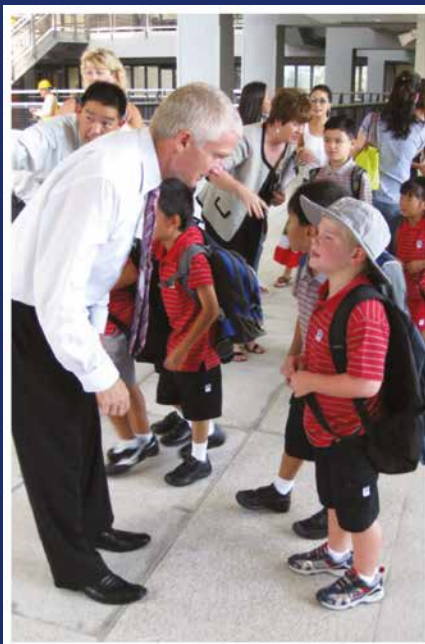
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Grow. Discover. Dream.

13 August 2018 marked the 10th "first day of school" for Discovery College. Pictured above is Year 13 student, Brendan Tighe, who was also greeted by Principal, Mark Beach on his first day of Year 3 in 2008. As we continue to move into the future it is wonderful to reflect on how, like Brendan, the College has grown over these past 10 years.

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# With privilege comes responsibility

Dare to make a difference for yourself, DREAM

Ten years ago when the first students walked through the entrance to Discovery College, I got to experience something not many Principals get to experience, a completely new beginning. A new school, new facilities, nervous and eager students, staff and parents ready to embark on a journey together. One of our first tasks as a school was to develop our Vision Statement, a statement unique to our school that would guide us in future years. The Vision was not determined by the College Leadership Team, but was collaboratively developed with input by all the stakeholders in our community including students, parents, staff and the School Council. It was a Vision we developed together. Grow. Discover. Dream. Since that time and as it should, our

Vision has helped to define us as a school. It is inherently a part of everyone who is part of DC. Enclosed in the envelope with this magazine you will have received Discovery College's new Guiding Statements booklet.

As you read through the pages of this edition of Shi Jie you will see how we, as a school community, are living our Vision every day at Discovery College. With this we also wanted to take a moment to give special acknowledgement to our crew of staff who often go unrecognised for their major contribution to the school; our cleaners, security guards, site staff and the ICT team. These unsung heroes came to the rescue after Mangkhut swept through Hong





WITH PRIVILEGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY

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Kong leaving behind a path of destruction. The College experienced some pretty severe water intrusion in many of the classrooms along with a whole heap of debris being scattered throughout our campus, but by the time students returned to school, there was very little evidence left behind from the storm due to the dedication of these staff members to getting things cleaned up. A group of parents and staff turned up to clean the foreshore, which had been inundated by seawater. Another example of our Vision in action.

As we move toward the end of term and near the holiday season, I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to attend our Christmas Concert on Friday 7 December.

*Grow. Discover. Dream.*

As you read in later pages, this event was born from our Annual Plan target of “Living our Vision - With Privilege Comes Responsibility”. With performances from all year levels and staff, as well as games and food organised by senior students and parents, it is sure to be a joyful community event. All proceeds will go to benefit two charities selected by Primary and Secondary.

**Mark Beach**  
Principal





**Grow.**

Be passionate about being the



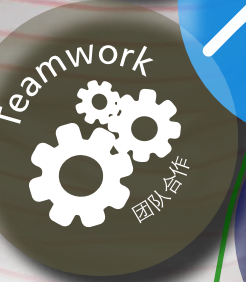


the best we can be.

# What are your character strengths?







## Finding your own super powers

Wednesday 10 October marked DC's first Character Strengths Day, where we recognised and celebrated 'what is right' in each individual and in us as a community. This approach also enabled us to consider who we are when we are at our best and what would change about our lives if we brought the best of ourselves to each situation.

Current research highlights the importance of character strengths for everyone. In education there are specific benefits for students including: increased academic achievement, improved mental health and greater pro-social behaviours.

Character Strengths Day was an opportunity for students and staff to be involved in many activities to both celebrate their own and others' strengths and to learn more about the importance and application of character strengths. It was an exciting day for our community to celebrate and identify the strengths seen in ourselves and other.



After a heart-warming request by the Year 1 students to the Year 13 students asking them to sing together at the Christmas Concert, the two year levels got together to start preparing for their performance. The Year 1 classrooms were filled with music and excitement as the students coloured pictures to help remind them of the lyrics to Gayla Peevey's, 1953 song "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas", written by John Rox. The Christmas Concert will be held at Discovery College on the evening of Friday 7 December.



Y1 & Y13 want a

**hippopotamus**  
for Christmas



# Grow.

Y1 & Y13 WANT A HIPPOPOTAMUS FOR CHRISTMAS

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# DC MUN

## Conference



Delegates entered school on the morning of Saturday 27 October, clad in their best business attire with coffee and speeches in hand, anticipating the start to an intense weekend of lively discussion, debate and decision-making. This marked the very first time Discovery College has hosted other schools through the organisation of a Model United Nations conference. Entirely student-run, the Secretariat comprised of Year 13 students Marcell Merenyi, Nicole Woo, Emma Loeffler, Faizaan Adtani and Kriti Dwivedi, who coordinated logistics with the help of fellow club members. The team was even able to secure an event sponsor, the Harvey Law Group. The weekend consisted of fiery discussion in four committees - Security Council, World Health Organisation,



Human Rights Council and General Assembly. These four groups targeted issues with a high level of candour and professionalism. The conference was the perfect opportunity for students to engage in global matters, while taking stances they may not necessarily agree with. The 90 delegates who ranged in experience, walked away on the last day with fond memories and new friends. For many, particularly the chairs of the conference, this was their final hoorah - the closing chapter of their MUN journey. For others, this was only the beginning. The Secretariat hopes for this event to set a precedent for many DC-hosted conferences to come, and to seeing more students joining the delegates currently representing Discovery College.



“ Looking up  
Lookin up for them blue skies  
Give me love  
Just enough to last a lifetime  
Give me the sunrise  
Set me free  
I’m Healing ”

– Lyrics from Healing Blue  
Skies, written and composed  
by Aeden Reyes

Grow.



# This Too Shall Pass

The 2018 DC Secondary production of *This Too Shall Pass* was a poignant, funny and striking piece of theatre, filled entirely with student voice. Students created original scenes, poems, movement pieces and even an original song to express their thoughts on what is it to be a teenager. The full range of secondary ages were represented on stage and behind the scenes. With students from every year group contributing their ideas, the issues raised were shocking confrontations about body image, social structures, academic anxiety, gender exploration and love. The moments of humour and the uplifting song of hope left the audiences feeling as if they had experienced both the challenges and the triumphs of the cast and crew.



# Visible Wellbeing with Lea Waters

On 20 & 21 September, Discovery College teachers and many support staff participated in a two-day workshop. DC had the privilege of hosting Professor Lea Waters, renowned for her work in positive education and regarded as the world's leading expert in Visible Wellbeing. Lea's visit was only made possible through our role as a lead school for several local schools in a wellbeing project managed through the Chinese University of Hong Kong and funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The staff were joined by representatives from the local schools as well as a teacher from DBIS. Lea's work with staff included strategies of identifying and supporting strengths and building wellbeing in students and adults across the school and community. This two-year project will continue through to the end of the 2019-20 academic year and include opportunities for Lea to address parents and our wider community.



Grow.



VISIBLE WELLBEING

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# Discover

Find wonder in the world around you





ound us.



“ I enjoyed seeing people talk and be passionate about their job. I hope I will be as passionate when I get a job.”

– Year 10 student

Discover.





# Future Focus

The second annual Discovery College Career Fair was held on 19 September 2018. Parents from a diverse range of career fields volunteered to give advice and information regarding the nature of their work, ranging from Architecture to Technology, Sports to Finance and many, many more. The Career Fair was held in conjunction with the 2018 University Fair, where DC hosted over 125 Hong Kong and overseas universities delivering information to students and parents from DC, DBIS and YMCA schools. Both events were organised by the DC Higher Education Office.

“I appreciated getting first-hand information from the parents. It allowed me to learn relevant information rather than just reading online.”

– Year 11 student

FUTURE FOCUS

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Discover.





# Camping can be in tents

Each autumn our Primary students from Years 3-6 head off to camp for their Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) experiences. The EOTC programme is an important part of life at Discovery College. Through participation in camps, students get the chance to gain confidence and self-esteem through taking on challenges and achieving success. Personal qualities such as increased initiative, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance and commitment are also enhanced. While each year level experiences a different camp, the vital skills gained from the camp experiences are much the same, however, increasing in scope and challenge as the students get older.

This year, due to Typhoon Yutu, the Year 4 and Year 6 Camps were cut a day short. Both years still managed to have a whole lot of fun during their camp experiences and on the Friday back in Discovery Bay, with students and staff showing character strengths of leadership, humour, love of learning, perseverance and perspective when it came to the unexpected change in camp plans.

CAMPING CAN BE IN TENTS

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# Come Learn With Us

Discovery College hosts several parent education sessions throughout the year which aim to:

- Inform parents of the different aspects of the PYP, MYP, DP and CP
- Equip parents with relevant and current strategies to support learning at home
- Identify and address needs that arise from the parent community
- Strengthen relationships and communication between the school and home
- Equip parents with strategies to further support and strengthen family wellbeing

On 14 September, over 100 Year 1 and 2 parents attended a session that focused on "How do young learners develop and how can we support their growth?" Led by Primary VP, Jason Boon, the interactive session kicked off with a game of "get to know you" bingo. Then parents and workshop leaders looked at understanding key features of child development, building learning experiences, positive ways to support learning at home as well as growing independence and agency.





“

“

It was a great session to understand the stages of growth my children have and will be going through. The information on how to support them through the changes was spot on and very helpful.”  
– Year 1 Parent

COME LEARN WITH US

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A young woman with dark hair, wearing a red V-neck shirt, is smiling and looking towards the right side of the frame. She appears to be in a social setting, possibly a classroom or a workshop, as there are other people and a table visible in the background. The lighting is warm and indoor. A green triangle graphic is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the woman's shoulder.

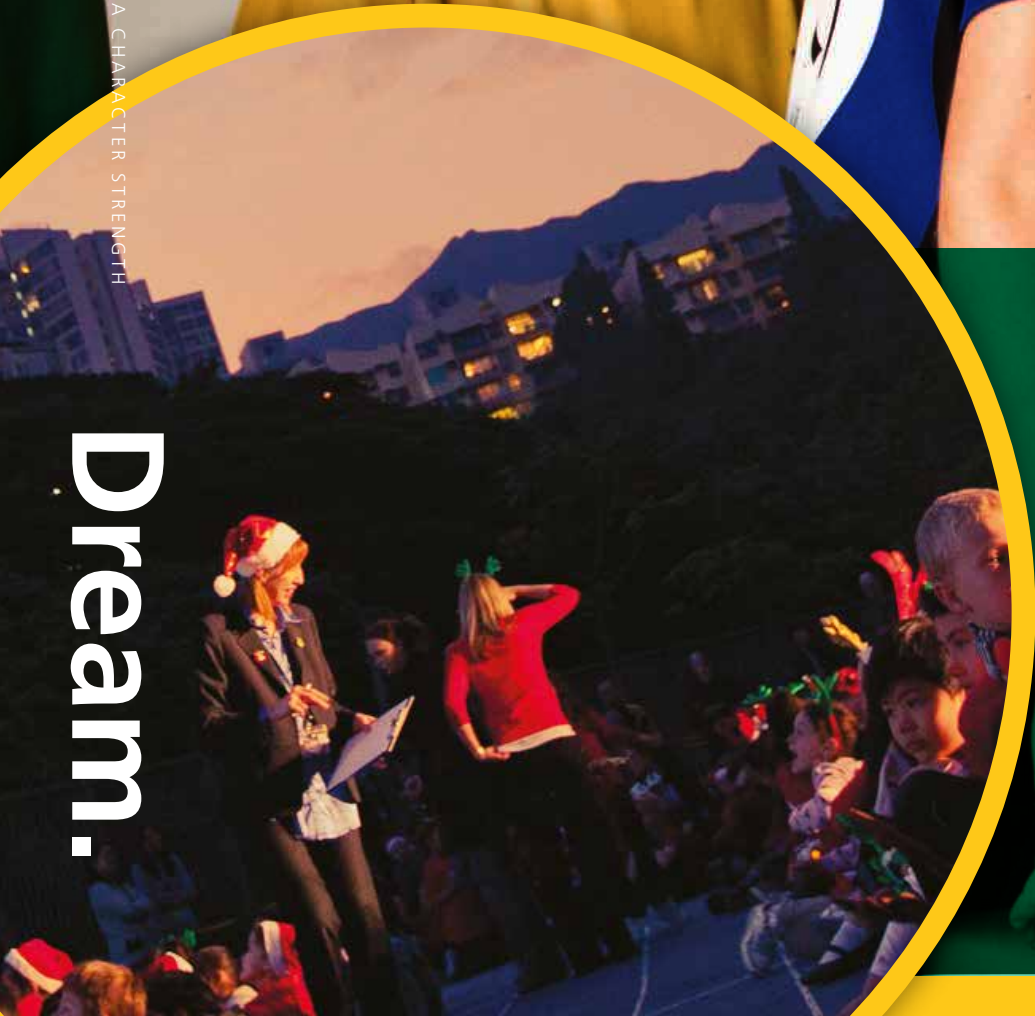
# Dream.

Dare to make a difference  
for yourself, humanity  
and our planet.









Dream.





A young boy in a Santa hat and a girl with glasses singing into a microphone.

# Christmas Concert

7 December 2018

## Is **cuteness** a character strength?

As part of the build up to the Christmas Concert, five very brave Year 2 students used their character strengths of attitude, perseverance, kindness, bravery and most of all CUTENESS to stand up in front of an audience full of Year 12 students to ask them to sing with them as part of a collaborative performance at the Christmas Concert in December. After a long, "Awwwww..." from the audience, the question was met with an enthusiastic, "YES!" The five small, but mighty students then led the Year 12s in singing their chosen song, Santa Claus is Coming to Town.



# What does it mean to be a DC student?

## Grow

The Discovery College Vision Statement, **Grow. Discover.**

**Dream.** encourages certain behaviours and actions that help make us into better people.

**Grow.** Be passionate about being the best we can be.

**Discover.** Find wonder in the world around us.

**Dream.** Dare to make a difference for yourself, humanity and our planet.

In 2017, the Student Council was asked to do a review of DC's Vision Statement. They collected student voice around "What does it mean to be a DC Student?" The Student Council received some really powerful responses that described the sorts of attributes a DC student should have. However, it was clear that some student behaviour did not reflect these positive

## Discover

attributes, in particular around the DB community and toward some of the College's support staff.

Following that, the Student Council embarked on a project to highlight the behaviours that students said aligned with our Vision Statement. A series of videos (Grow. Discover. Dream.), posters, comic strips and stuffed toys were introduced to reinforce what it means to be a DC student.

This year that target has been included in our annual plan under the heading of "Living our Vision". This challenges all members of the Discovery College community to reflect on the statement, "With privilege comes responsibility", and to take action around that.



Dream.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DC STUDENT?

*Dream*

What Does Respect Look Like?



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“ We just really wanted to thank you... Lila loved, loved, absolutely loved the trip. Thanks to the two “amazing and really fun” teachers that took care of the kids.

All our coming holidays will HAVE to be in Vietnam now because we HAVE to visit these school kids from now on, as much as possible. We loved hearing all the stories.

– Audrey and Robbert

#### PICTURED

Year 11 Discovery College students teach an English class at Phu Luong Primary School located approximately 15km Southeast of Hue City, Vietnam. The school was selected by the Secondary students as a shared recipient the proceeds of this year's Christmas Concert.



05 tháng 11 năm 2018

# Living our Vision

No Boundaries offers all students in Years 10-12 a range of experiential service activities. It provides them with an opportunity to be involved in a number of challenging and meaningful learning experiences, through which leadership skills, an awareness of self and others, and exposure to different perspectives are developed. These experiences offer students unique exposure to other cultures and communities, aiming to deepen their understanding of others.

Discovery College Year 11 students had a remarkable three days at Phu Luong Primary School where they taught students English, Music and Sports. The students spent time building relationships where language was not a barrier. Very soon the Phu Luong students were using colours, identifying parts of the body and counting in English. DC students returned to Hong Kong committed to continuing with English lessons over Skype, using the Vietnamese curriculum to help the Phu Luong students develop their language skills.

Our Year 11s also sanded and painted the school to help with its maintenance, including designing and painting a mural, which clearly showed the connections between DC, Phu Luong and the NGO Hearts of Hue.

Students thoroughly engaged in all activities and formed lasting memories with the Phu Luong children. We believe that through the experience of serving, our students will mature to become ethical leaders and imbibe values of giving back to society. We hope our DC students will graduate with these values, taking them into global and multi national organisations where they will become champions of corporate, social responsibility.

**5 ĐIỀU BẮC HỒ DẠY**

1. Yêu Tổ quốc, yêu đồng bào
2. Học tập tốt, lao động tốt
3. Đoàn kết tốt, kỷ luật tốt
4. Giữ gìn vệ sinh thật tốt
5. Khiêm tốn, thật thà, dũng cảm

LIVING OUR VISION

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# Joy of Giving





# Dream.

Box of Hope is an annual charity project prior to Christmas, aimed at providing useful/educational gifts to underprivileged children in Hong Kong & Asia. Boxes are decorated and donated by Hong Kong school children and local organisations.

This year, Discovery College Primary students and families topped last year's record-setting collection of 555 boxes, with a spectacular 626 Boxes of Hope. Together as a community, we have made 626 children's lives that little bit brighter. While this is a giving project for our children, the sense of kindness and caring that comes through this is very evident on the faces of the students who donate.

JOY OF GIVING

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# Jonny Tate

CAS/ Community Engagement Coordinator



Jonny Tate stepped into the role of DC Community Engagement/CAS Coordinator in August 2018. Prior to then Jonny supported our previous CE/CAS Coordinator with a number of service projects and initiatives. Jonny's background in service makes him an ideal role model and practitioner in this area.

Jonny's visit 11 years ago to some of the poorest communities in central Cambodia, awakened a huge realisation of the need for Cambodian communities to have access to clean water. This compelled Jonny to do something to help. In 2012, along with some colleagues, Jonny set up HOPE

International Development Agency HK. HOPE's mission is to improve community infrastructure, including access to clean water, and provide education, vocational training and sustainable agriculture practices to support self-sufficiency.

Earlier this year, Jonny visited a rural village in southern Ethiopia to attend a handover ceremony for a water project supported by donors in Hong Kong. Before completion of the project, the women and daughters of the village would have to walk over 7km over rough mountainous terrain to access clean water, which meant that very few of the girls were receiving an education. Now over 1,500 villagers have access to clean water for the first time in their lives. This has transformed the lives of the villages and not one child in the village has perished from any water borne disease since the installation. A visit to Nepal in December 2018 will focus on repairing sanitary infrastructure damaged in the 2015 earthquake.



Jonny is married to Fiona and has two children, Jack who is 4 years old and Alexandra who is 2.





# Nerida Kiprotich

Year 1 Teacher



STAFF PROFILE

As you enter the Year 1 classroom of Nerida Kiprotich, you can't help but feel a sense of energy and positivity. A big feature of the classroom is the Character Strengths wall where students are encouraged to share experiences and moments where they displayed or witnessed a particular Character Strength. The community feeling in the classroom comes from Nerida's passion and dedication to positive education as a parent and throughout her career as a teacher.

This is Nerida's third year at Discovery College, coming to us from Bradbury School. She has two children with her husband Thomas Kiprotich who are in Years 1 and 3. Thomas is a fixture around Discovery Bay, often seen running around the community as a professional marathoner who now coaches children and adults through his company, KipMovin.

In addition to her teaching, Nerida also has a passion for helping others that she shares with her husband. Thomas, who grew up in Kenya where running is a serious profession, spent his younger years running 5km to and from school or work in a pair of flip-flops. It wasn't until somebody gifted Thomas an over-sized pair of Reeboks that he had a proper pair of shoes. It was from the memory of this act of kindness that Nerida and Thomas started a charity to help provide shoes to Kenyan children and runners alike.

Through their registered charity KipGiving, Nerida and Thomas collect shoes that may be used, but are still in good condition, and send them to Kenya through a network they've established with Kenyan runners. They are working to be able to expand their ability to send the shoes through a partnership with Ethiopian Airlines, but in the meantime they rely on the kindness of others to deliver the donations.

If you would like to contribute to KipGiving either through the donation of gently used shoes or if you have a connection that would enable delivery to Kenya, you can find out more at the facebook page: [www.facebook.com/Kipgiving](http://www.facebook.com/Kipgiving). We are proud to have Nerida as colleague and teacher, as she is a wonderful example of how Discovery College strives to live our Vision every day.

*Grow. Discover. Dream.*



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# Sharing our Vision

On Thursday 25 October, ESF CEO Belinda Greer paid a visit to Discovery College to spend time with our Year 1 students and meet with a number of their parents. This visit was one of several Belinda is scheduled to make to the College throughout the year.

Dream.





# Where are they now?

## SILVA, DANA AND MIRA ZANDER

### Where do you live now?

We are currently living in Uppsala, Sweden, a city north of the capital Stockholm.

### What brought you there?

We were all born in Sweden, but due to our parents' work we have had the opportunity to live and study in New Zealand and Hong Kong. After studying at Discovery College our family moved back to Sweden. Dana did her final year at 'Kvarngårdesskolan' (Uppsala International School), with Mira attending the same bilingual school. Silva graduated from the IB diploma programme at Katedralskolan (founded in 1246!) in Uppsala as well as taking the Swedish 'Studentexamen'. During the graduation ceremony you wear a special 'student cap', which symbolises that you are now ready for university studies.

### What is the name of your new school(s)?

Silva is currently studying a one-year programme in Industrial Design at 'Konstskolan i Stockholm', managed by 'Folkuniversitet'. It offers higher level art and design programmes in preparation for university level education. Dana started the IB at Katedralskolan in Uppsala. She is currently doing the first year out of three. In Sweden the IB-diploma programme has an additional year to correspond to the Swedish education system. During this year Dana studies 12 different subjects, from which she can choose her higher level and standard level subjects for the IB diploma programme. Mira is studying a bilingual programme at 'Kvarngårdesskolan'. She has one year left to make the decision whether she will also aim for the IB Diploma Programme or for one of the many Swedish high school programmes.

### What are some differences between your school and DC?

Mira's school is situated in a residential area and consists of several rather flat buildings. Dana's and Silva's schools on the other hand are located in the denser parts of Uppsala and Stockholm respectively, and have multiple floors similar to Discovery College. Dana and Silva have to walk up and down the stairs every day, which Mira is happy to miss out on. Unlike Discovery College, the schools do not have space for extracurricular activities like a dance studio, wellness centre, pool, or larger theatre and all those fantastic facilities.

The students in Silva's school are teenagers and adults attending higher education studies, and only one of her courses is taught in English.

Dana and Mira however still have most of their classes in English, with tests and assignments just like at Discovery College. Silva is truly glad that she does not have to sit for exams this year but can focus on developing her industrial design portfolio, essential for applying to the prestigious university programmes in Industrial Design.

### What types of activities are you involved in?

Outside of home all three of us spend most of our free time dancing as we enjoy how it combines art, physical activity, and performance. We attend dance programmes which include ballet and pointe, jazz, contemporary, hip hop and tap dance. We are currently preparing for Christmas recitals where Dana will be in a dance production of Snow White, and Silva and Mira in Cinderella.



We also enjoy doing different sports, with Mira playing tennis and Silva doing fencing. We help out with cleaning and organising at the dance studio. Dana will do community work as a part of the IB Programme in CAS next year.

### What do you like best about living in your new city and how is it different from living in Hong Kong?

Cities in Sweden are much smaller and less populated, and most of the architecture is older. We like Hong Kong as well as Uppsala and Stockholm, but what we like best about being back in Sweden is that the seasons change. The weather creates a special mood for celebrating holiday festivities. Now as autumn gets colder and darker, we are hoping for lots of snow and ice for the Christmas holidays.





## RYAN LEE '17 AND TIMOTHY TAN '17

On 15 September, two DC Alums, Ryan Lee and Timothy Tan, who are currently doing their national service in Singapore, were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants, having gone through a gruelling 9-month officer cadet course.

Ryan is now an officer at 163 Squadron, RSAF (Republic of Singapore Air Force). Timothy is posted to the Artillery Institute as a trainer for field artillery officer cadets.

# Dream.



# Alumni update

## YAN YAU CHENG '18

Having just graduated from DC, I spent the summer representing Hong Kong at the International Math Olympiad and the International Olympiad of Metropolises, obtaining an honourable mention and a gold medal in the two competitions respectively.

I am now at the University of Cambridge in my first year studying Mathematics. Classes and supervisions at Cambridge have been intense but manageable. It is still a bit surreal that what was once my hobby and passion during my DC years have now become the sole subject I am studying.

One of the hardest challenges initially has been settling down to this new environment and meeting and making new friends. I arrived with the unrealistic expectation that I would find close friends like the ones I had at DC really quickly, but the fact that my DC friendships were the culmination of 10 years of bonding meant that it is simply impossible to build such strong friendships in such a short amount of time. I have since altered my expectations and have started to make new friendships at Cambridge, while still keeping in close contact with many friends from DC.

I've also started cooking, something I haven't done since Year 9 food tech. I've found that preparing my own meals is a good way to relax and de-stress for an hour every day. I'm still doing relatively basic dishes, but I do hope to get better as time goes on.



## EMMA YONG '15

I have just finished three years of a law degree at Exeter University and am currently studying the Legal Practising Course combined with a law masters in London as the next steps towards (hopefully) becoming a solicitor.

My time at university presented me with many new opportunities such as playing badminton, captaining a netball team and being able to travel around Europe a lot easier. Although I have taken so much out of my undergraduate degree and cannot wait to commence the next chapter in my life, the uncertainty of the future is daunting, and the bridge between academia and employment has been extremely challenging. I am currently working towards a career in the corporate, commercial and technological aspects of law. Alongside my academics, I am involved in a pro bono project that provides schools and prisons with legal advice sessions. I also enjoy exploring various fitness classes around London (with money I don't have).



## CAMERON SMITH '16

I graduated from Discovery College three years ago in the class of 2016, and am now in my third year of study at the University of Bristol. I study Chemistry on an MSci programme and will graduate in 2020. Alongside my academic pursuits, I play rugby for the University 1st XV, competing in the 2nd highest league in the UK. I am thoroughly enjoying my time in Bristol, and hope to pursue a career outside of the lab once I graduate.



Grow. Discover. Dream.





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PTA

# DCPTA



The PTA has had a fabulous and busy start to the school year. Our first event was a very successful and well attended coffee morning to welcome new parents. It was wonderful to greet our new families and explain how the PTA is a great way to be involved in their children's school journey.

In early October we hosted an entertaining and informative talk by Joe Leithhead, our Digital Literacies Coordinator, who described the most appropriate apps for school kids - a very topical subject, which prompted a lively discussion.

Last month we hosted our second White Dinner, where white-clad guests were treated to a delicious buffet dinner

in a beautiful setting, enjoyed a photo booth complete with props and danced the night away to live music.

The PTA has also supported a number of class parties, which have included everything from splash parties to spooktacular Halloween events, and even a hip hop party where the Year 1s showed off their best moves.

Preparations are well underway for next month's Christmas Concert, which will feature festive food and drink stalls and a Christmas market.

Finally a huge thank you, as ever, to our hard working committee and volunteers whose dedication and support make these events possible.



PTA

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Photo Credit: Colin Sim Photography





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PHOTOGRAPHY