ESF 英基 DISCOVERY COLLEGE 智新書院

視界

SHI JIE 2018

SPRING

FOCUS ON

The Arts

To look out into the world
The Magazine of Discovery College

Grow. Discover. Dream.

Grow. Discover. Dream.

Recital Evening 2018

視界
SHI JIE MAGAZINE

Fast facts

SPRING 2018

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The Importance of an Education in and Through The Arts

At a time when schools around the world face budget cuts and tough decisions about core curriculum, education in The Arts is often first up on the chopping block of programmes to be cut. We are fortunate at Discovery College to be able to offer a full and robust programme in The Arts within a community that appreciates its value in our curriculum.

According to a report by the Rand Corporation, a visual arts education 'can connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new ways of seeing,' creating the foundation to form social and community bonds. This observation entirely reflects the Discovery College Vision of **Grow. Discover. Dream.** This is why from PYP all the way through to Diploma, students are not only exposed to Visual Art, Drama and Music within the curriculum, but also provided with opportunities outside of class to develop and display their talents. The end results of an education in and through The Arts is clearly evident in the creativity, collaboration, confidence and poise of our students, starting at a very early age.

Our Drama productions are great opportunities for students to gain experience on stage and/or in a technical capacity. There is really no other experience that compares to that of being a part of a theatre production where collaboration, problem solving, accountability and sometimes non-verbal communication are key. Through DC's choirs, bands, and ensembles (not to mention our Secondary musicals), students have a forum for musical self-expression and performance in front of an audience, building poise and confidence. Even beyond creativity, our Visual Arts programme teaches skills of perseverance and patience, as well as learning how to receive constructive feedback.

Given the current trend toward an emphasis on Science, Math, Technology and Engineering (STEM), we wanted to take some time in this issue of Shi Jie to highlight The Arts, and acknowledge that aside from their intrinsic value, they also promote a wide range of skills essential to both academic and life success.

Mark Beach
Principal

Young Performers Evening 2018

Focus on The Arts

Who are the creative people behind DC's Arts programme?

Paul McCracken
Drama

- Studied to be a drama teacher in Cardiff, Wales
- Still performs regularly as an actor, singer and a DJ
- Held the school record of most detentions in a year at school. (More proud than not of that record)
- Never broke a bone playing rugby for 20 years but has cracked 5 ribs playing 5-a-side football in the past 5 years

Frank Donnoli
Drama

- Loves playing music in a band setting
- Enjoys writing children's books
- BEd Creative Arts (Secondary) Melbourne University
- Post Graduate in Organisational Change and Development

Fiona Kennedy-Altoft
Visual Art

- Practising artist and has exhibited in most places in the world, including Hong Kong
- Won the Queensland Excellence in Teaching Award at Parliament House in 2012
- Always knew she wanted to teach
- If she's not painting she makes jewellery, does printmaking, photography and ceramics. She always has to be doing something creative.
- Graduated from Queensland University of Technology and Australian Catholic University
- Find her on Instagram at fionakennedyaltoft

Suby Nunez
Visual Art

- Both parents are artists – mum is a painter & dad is a sculptor
- Loves visual arts and aspires to continue her visual arts education

Vanessa Viirret
Film

- Loves dark, gritty, gruesome novels, films and TV series
- Worked as a veterinary nurse, check-out 'chick' and bartender before becoming a teacher.
- Graduated from University of Melbourne with an Arts degree focusing on Literature and Film Studies

Sharon McMahon
Visual Art

- Practising Artist. Has exhibited in various galleries in Scotland.
- Currently developing new paintings and ceramics based on life in Hong Kong
- Graduated from Glasgow School of Art BA (Hons) PGCE Secondary Art Teaching and TESOL Strathclyde University

Dion Kay
Visual Art

- Loves to draw and 3D model
- Passionate about travel and art, especially when combined
- Graduate of University of South Australia BEd Art & Design

Chris McLeay
Music

- Front-man for a children's music band called Ta-Da!!!
- Started playing his first instrument, the bass, when he was 24
- Loves going to concerts
- Best gig he's seen was The Dirty Three at Meredith Music Festival

Dionne Lashley
Music

- City-dwelling island girl
- Her glory days included intimate solo soirées in Barbados and epic symphonic works at Carnegie Hall
- Now mostly a shower-singer and nursery rhyme boss
- Graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton NJ with BMus in Music Education

Dilan Abeynarayana
Drama

- Garage musician - drums, guitar, triangle
- Junior member of the DC Drama Department
- From Sydney, Australia

Danielle Veilleux
Drama

- Actor, Director, Teacher, Wife and Mother
- Loves set design, home renovations and building doll-houses
- Graduate of Central School of Speech and Drama, London, UK
- Can't sing to save her life!

Matt Davis
Music

- Plays percussion (anything you hit, scrape or shake)
- Recently released album with local Ska band The Red Stripes
- Graduate of Elder Conservatorium of Music - University of Adelaide
- Loves music, surfing and travelling

Kate Saunders
Visual Art

- Loves all things ceramics
- Recorder Captain of her Primary School
- Graduate of Monash University, Australia, BA Primary Education

Carla Acepcion
Drama

- Has been part of DC and every DC production since 2008
- Specialises in lighting and stage management - originally inspired by 'The Festival of the Lion King' at HK Disneyland
- Dream job: Production manager for a Broadway/ West End musical

Mei Yang
Visual Art

- Ceramic and Mixed Media Artist
- Believes choice of medium is important to present the concept
- Graduate of Hong Kong Baptist University, BA Visual Arts

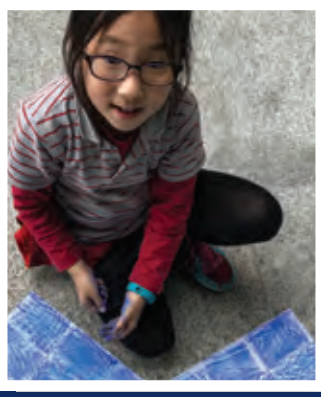
Before the 1960s the approach to The Arts in learning was very much appreciation or observation-based where students would, for instance, go into an art gallery to look at paintings or take a trip to listen to an orchestra or see a play. The current approach is that the students are at the very centre of the learning. They're the ones making music and performing drama pieces. They're hands-on in the art room creating artwork. With this, the focus of the IB Arts curriculum at Discovery College is on giving students ownership of the creative process, examples of which are celebrated on the following pages.

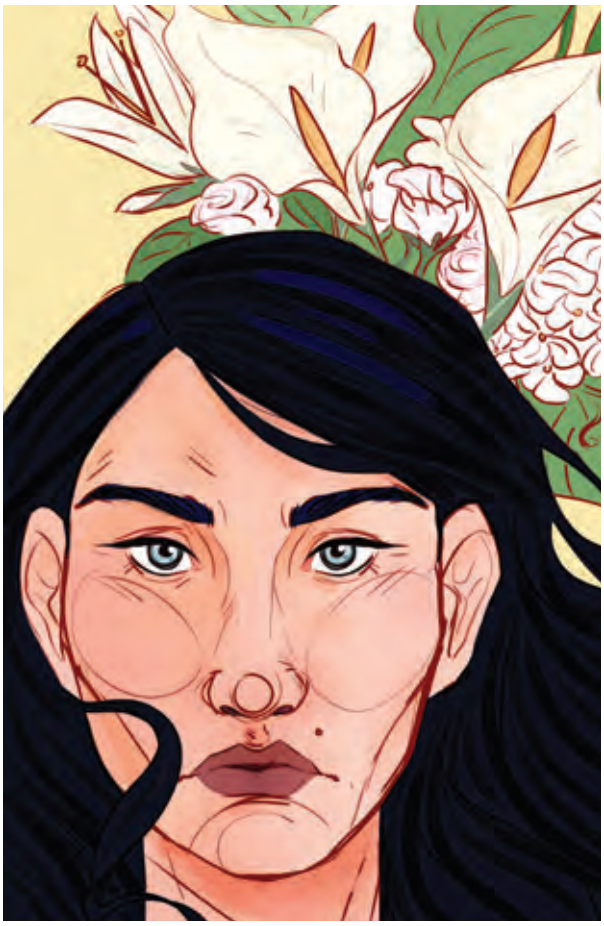
Visual Art

The Visual Arts course at Discovery College encompasses Year 1-11 after which students can choose to move on to study Visual Arts in Diploma. Through diverse and interesting tasks with a variety of media we encourage students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries from PYP to DP. The course is thought-provoking, in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and let's not forget usually having fun while they are doing it.

We encourage our students across the years to play, explore and experiment to build both their confidence and knowledge. We think art plays an important part in how our students express themselves and learn to communicate both visually and verbally.

Now with an ever-increasing need for students to be critical thinkers, the skills they are learning in Visual Art cross over into multiple vocations in life. Our art students have such a plethora of professions to choose from. Imagine having the opportunity to choose your career around your passion for art.





Music

The Music programme at Discovery College is all about students enjoying, understanding and appreciating a range of music. Music students in PYP, MYP and DP enjoy opportunities to perform, create, explore and listen to music. The department's goal is to enable every student to discover their musical potential and provide them with opportunities to express themselves through this important art form. Let's face it we all listen to and love music.

In the PYP, students get opportunities to experience music naturally by first playing music and then learning to understand and ultimately create their own music. The focus is not on developing an understanding of music theory, but developing their ear, and understanding concepts such as rhythm and musical structures. They enjoy opportunities to sing, play instruments, improvise and move to music.

In the MYP and DP students address the concepts of music and music making. They get opportunities to explore the cultural significance and context of music as well as plenty of opportunities to perform or create music or both. Some examples are looking at programme music, inquiry into significant styles or artists such as Reggae and The Beatles, Classical and Romantic periods as well as a range of music technology experiences.

Throughout the year music students have a number of opportunities to perform at concerts such as the Young Performers Evening, Recital Evening, the Annual Concert and more relaxed environments such as Busker's Corner. There are a range of ensemble opportunities for students wishing to extend and hone their skills on their instrument or voice. We offer primary and secondary choirs and vocal groups as well as the Chamber Orchestra and Stage Band. These Ensembles perform at regular events throughout the school year.

Music is a great opportunity for students to develop essential life skills such as collaboration, communication, resilience, confidence and commitment. Students engage in activities that challenge them to think critically, problem solve, think creatively and reflect. The Discovery College Music Department aims to provide a rich, and most importantly, an enjoyable experience for all learners.

Grow. Discover. Dream.

Drama

The Drama department at Discovery College prides itself on providing a wide range of theatrical experience for students from PYP to DB to take part in, both in and outside the classroom. Each year group, starting in Year 7, participates in workshops from invited professionals specialising in anything from stage-fighting, to masks, to using your voice effectively on stage. There are productions for Primary, lower Secondary, as well as a larger whole Secondary production, and also curricular performances for Years 9 and above, including exam performance pieces for Years 12 & 13. It's worth noting that DP Theatre is significantly growing next year, from 5 to 12 students.

Students are active participants in the Year 7 Drama and Post-16 ESF Drama Conferences. Drama also takes students further afield with a Year 12 Theatre trip planned to Vietnam next year. Within Hong Kong, students attend Drama festivals and weekend Theatre workshops as often as possible, with students from all years who choose to participate. Students are encouraged to audition and engage in the wide variety of theatre productions around our city.

This year, many Drama students took advantage of the opportunity to see performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival. The whole of Year 10 went to see a rehearsal of 'Whipped Cream' by the American Ballet Theatre, and Year 11 saw the award-winning production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime', after having a workshop about the play at school.

Drama is not only about a performance on stage, but includes behind the scenes aspects as well. DC Drama has started an after-school club called "Stage Managers Galore" to manage the rooms, props, costumes and spaces used for drama, as well as run lights and sounds at performances. This group is led by two student Drama captains.

Year 9 Duologue Performance

Secondary Production of Nightfall

Primary Production of The Wizard of Oz

Primary students particularly enjoyed taking part in a full production with The Wizard of Oz which included lighting, sets, costumes, music, dance, make-up, and countless hours of rehearsal.

Drama can also be an excellent tool for community engagement. For example, Year 11s have been working on a project taking original productions to ESF sister school, Jockey Club Sarah Roe school, where students have a range of complex learning needs. Through collaboration between schools, students learn that Drama is a tool to teach with and learn through, regardless of age and ability.

The most obvious outcomes of teaching Drama to students may be the creativity and confidence it builds, but the collaborative, technical and problem-solving skills that are gained in a Theatre education are certainly of equal importance. Parents often comment about the support they see between Discovery College students during performances, which may stem from the fact that all students are expected to participate fully. This positive environment has led to visible growth and maturity in all of the students when performing on stage.

Lower Secondary Production
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

Vanessa Viirrett

DP Film Studies

Vanessa Viirret found her passion for film in the same kind of way you see in art-house movies - a group of artsy university types spending their free time watching films and discussing their meanings (you can imagine a crowded coffee house and a black beret if you wish). Vanessa was studying Film as part of her Arts degree at the University of Melbourne and was later able to draw upon this passion and experience to become a teacher of Media Studies and has loved it ever since.

This is Vanessa's first year here at Discovery College where she teaches English and heads the growing DP Film Studies programme. "Film Studies offers a really nice combination of creativity and analysis," says Vanessa, "so there is room for all types of students in the programme." Of course, it helps if you have a natural love for films. Vanessa finds that students who like to watch films in their own time tend to have a natural aptitude for the theoretical side of the programme. "Many of the students start the course having done very little practical work and they develop a lot of skills along the way, which is a lot of fun," says Vanessa. Vanessa adds that a film student needs to be a collaborator since so much of the course involves working as part of a group.

Hailing from Melbourne, Australia, Vanessa looks forward to settling in Hong Kong for a while. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with friends and family, running (although she admits running is pretty challenging with all the hills around Discovery Bay), watching films and addictive TV series and planning what trips to embark on now that she lives so much closer to the rest of the world.

Vanessa aspires to raise the profile of Film Studies at DC so students are aware of the many skills gained through the programme. Her passion for teaching Film and engaging with students was evident in her introduction to the 2018 IB Film Studies Screening, a culmination and celebration of two years of work for her students. "Film studies is rewarding to teach because you get to watch these really special relationships develop between students who might otherwise have very little to do with each other," Vanessa said. "It's kind of like a real life 'The Breakfast Club' playing out in my own classroom, except that they're too young to even get that reference and they try to avoid watching films that were made before the year 2000."

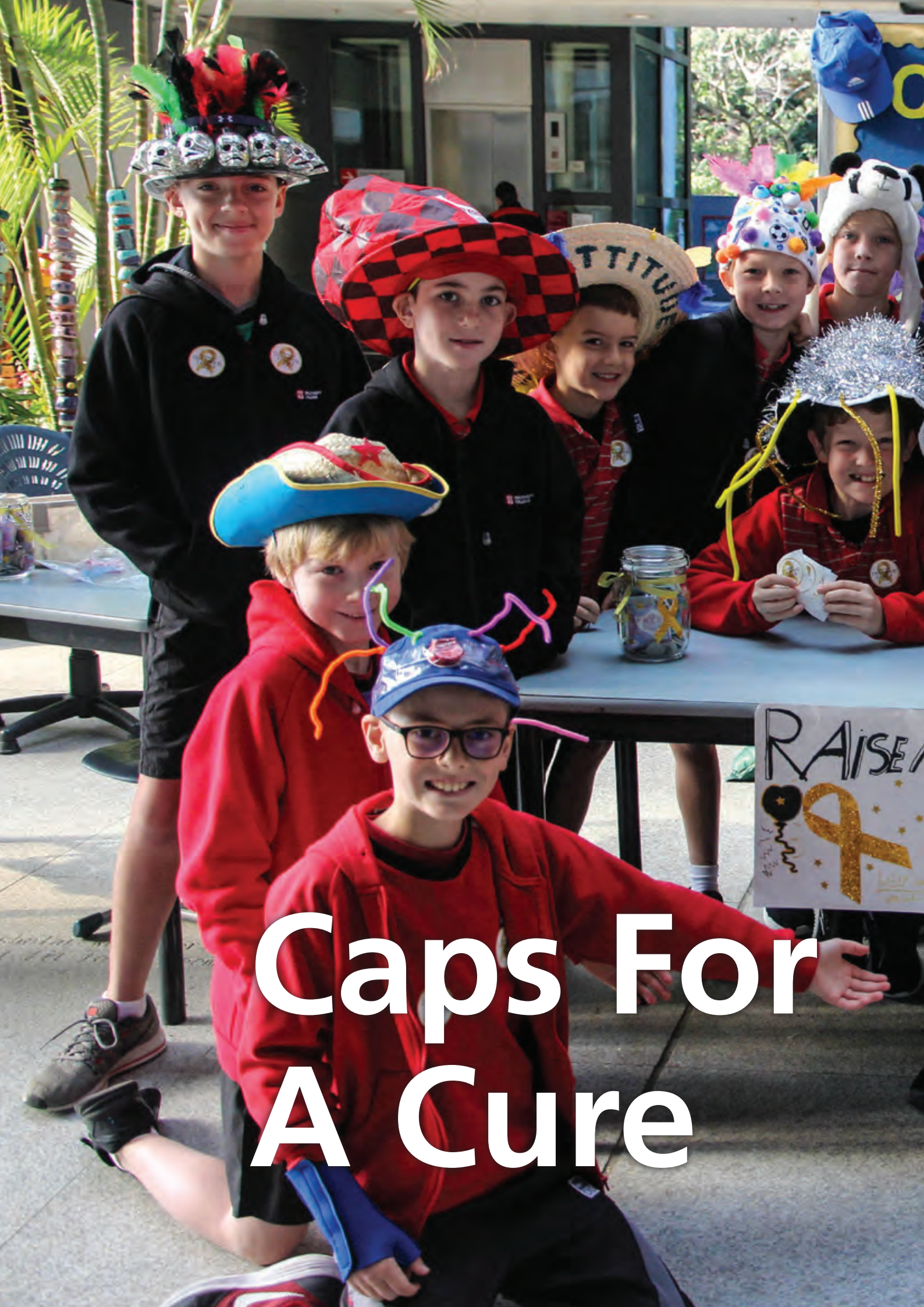
Jackie Lai

Music Technician

Steve Jobs, the pioneer of digital music said, "the only way to do great work is to love what you do." DC's new Music Technician, Jackie Lai, embodies this quote. Having just joined us on the first day of Term 3, 2018, Jackie's passion is evident for the technical side of music. He strives for perfection and finds great satisfaction when his sound system works flawlessly, making a successful event.

Jackie's degree in Hotel Management from City University of Hong Kong was far from where his passion lies, but fulfilled his family's wishes to pursue a more mainstream career. It was during his studies that Jackie landed a part-time job at a production house where he was able to develop his audio engineering skills. His duties involved him in setting up music and audio systems for events in restaurants, hotel wedding functions and mini concerts for Hong Kong singers such as Gigi Leung and Kay Tse. Before becoming a Music Technician, Jackie worked for two years as a salesperson selling audio equipment where he became quite an audio expert.

Looking forward to working in the school environment, Jackie displays great enthusiasm when interacting and educating students about the technical side of music. In his leisure time, he likes to play bass and a bit of guitar. He plays in a church band and had recently set up a band with his friends.



Caps For A Cure

On 9 March, an enthusiastic group of Year 5 students organised an incredibly successful event called 'Caps For A Cure', to create an awareness of childhood cancer.

The concept behind 'Caps For A Cure' was based around the fact that many children going through cancer treatment, often lose their hair and wear hats for warmth and support. During 'Caps for a Cure' day, students were encouraged to wear a crazy hat (or a simple baseball cap), donate $10 and show brave kids around the world they support them and they care.

Thanks to the extremely generous support of the DC school community, 'Caps For A Cure' raised over $17,000. All of the proceeds were donated to Children's Cancer Foundation in Hong Kong, St. Baldrick's International partner.

The students, teachers and staff were very grateful to everyone who participated and kindly donated. Luke Inkin summed up the day perfectly by saying, "It felt good to have classmates, best friends, and especially my school support children that are affected by cancer. It was a fun day and even better, because we were making a difference. For once, I wasn't shy and it helped me feel brave to stand out, because I had cancer."

Mob Mentality

Year 9 took the 2018 Book Week to a whole new level with their group costume based on the novel by William Golding, Lord of the Flies. The group of school age students-turned-savage, lead by Year 9 Dean, Annette Garnett, embodied the characters they've been reading about in English. The Lord of the Flies unit in Year 9 is interdisciplinary between English and Music. Throughout the term , students have been creating short films based on key scenes from the book, where they have learned more civilised skills such as sound, cinematography and video editing skills.

What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?

– William Golding, Lord of the Flies

Cobra Sports

Cobra Golf Wins Hong Kong Champs
The DC Cobras won the HK Junior Close Championship 2018 from Tuesday 3 April to Friday 6 April 2018.

Joonho Kim, Y8 won the HK Golf Association (HKGA) Order of Merit 2017 in the 13-14 age group Ryan Leung, Y9 won the 13-14 age group of the subject tournament by shooting 78-78-76. He came 3rd overall in the boys group.

Taichi Kho, Y13 won the subject tournament by 19 strokes, shooting 66-70-68. He won the 15-17 age group and the Overall Boys Champion. Taichi also won the HKGA Order of Merit 2017. This is the last major junior tournament for Taichi to play in HK before leaving for university.

U20 Cobra Boys Basketball Wins ISSFHK Division 2 Championships
On 6 February, the U20 Cobra Boys Basketball team went to YCIS to play their final game of the season at the ISSFHK Division 2 finals against YCIS. Coming off the back of an underwhelming performance at ACAMIS, this unprecedented championship was something that the entire squad was hungry for.

DC Cobras Dominate at ACAMIS Badminton
The DC Cobra Badminton team of eight players flew to Nanjing in April to compete in the intense and physically demanding ACAMIS Badminton tournament. Players played a minimum 20 games over the 2 1/2 day competition. With 23 teams from around Asia, teams were divided into three pools to play a round robin.

DC finished undefeated at the top of their pool and were placed in the Cup Pool competing against the two top teams from each pool. Other finishers played for the Shield, Bowl and Plate.

DC U12 Cobra Badminton Takes Gold
On Tuesday 24 April DC's U12 Girls Badminton team headed off to Singapore International School (SIS) for the finals having been placed number one following the competition.

In the semi-final, DC played SIS to record a convincing 3:0 win to go through to the final. In a nail-biting final against ISFA, the girls went from 2:0 down to claw back to a 3:2 win.

The team is made up of Chris Cheuk Yiu Ho (Captain), Wei Zi Liew, Minnie Lam, Jayaniee Saravanakugan, Angelina Lu and Coraline Lo.

The Race 2018

On Saturday 10 March, 516 budding athletes from 16 primary schools across Hong Kong descended on DC for The Race 2018 – a cross country running event in and around the school. With fantastic weather and a whole lot of parent support, runners gave it their all on the 1.6 to 3km course, which took them through the school and around Siena Park.

DC students were well represented with full teams entered into both the boys and girls races in most age groups. The DC teams took full advantage of the home location and had been training regularly on the course for a number of recent weeks. The hard work paid off, with team victories in the Under 8 girls race and both the U10 boys and girls races, along with a second place for the U9 boys team. The U8 girls were particularly impressive, with the whole team finishing within the top 7 places, led home by Alessia Smith in second place and Lily Trimingham in third. The girls produced the best ever overall team score in the short history of this event.

In the U11 boys, Kevin Thomson ran a perfectly controlled race, following the early leaders closely during the first lap and then hitting the front in the middle part of the race. Kevin eventually took the win by a considerable margin from his nearest competitor.

The whole event was the culmination of many weeks of hard work by the students and coaching team.

Cobra Equestrian

The DC Higher Level (14-16 years) Equestrian team earned third place out of 40 competing schools in the 2018 HKEF Inter-School Competition. It is a league that competes over several months, with heats leading up to the final which was held at Lo Wu Saddle Club on Saturday 21 April. Hannelore Beijerbergen van Henegouwen, Linn Wolmebrant and Olivia Fuller competed in both dressage and by jumping a 70-80cm jumping course.

... and ACTION

In April, Year 1 learners inquired into how stories are created and shared for a purpose. One of their favourite stories this year is 'Owl Babies' written by Martin Waddell. To celebrate their learning, students chose to perform for their families, sharing stories in a variety of ways including; acting, dancing and telling owl jokes. Their costume choice was inspired by another favourite character, Wally from Where's Wally.
Prior to the performances, Year 1s rehearsed sharing their stories for the show.

Engaging in CE

Year 10 students showed off the action they took to address a local issue at the Year 10 Community Engagement Expo in April. The project provided Year 10 students with an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through taking principled action. Students commenced work on their projects last October, where they investigated a chosen issue and then developed and implemented plans to address it. Student action included taking steps to create solar-powered charging stations at DC, experimenting with indoor plants to improve air quality and lunch time stress-release programmes. The challenge for students is to now continue their efforts as global citizens, knowing that the issues they were attempting to address require ongoing focus.

DC Goes K-Pop

Year 12 students Merideth Feehan and Sarah Rodrigues led an electrifying K-Pop performance at this year's Easter assembly. With tons of energy and big-time swagger, students who participated in the lunchtime student-led CCA wowed the crowd with their moves. Student-led CCAs have been a fantastic way for students to lead activities which they are passionate about and for students to learn from their peers.

DC GREEN COBRAS

Plastic bottles have already been removed from DC's cafés and cafeteria, as well as plastic straws. DC students are now tackling plastic cups as we strive to reduce cafeteria waste.

SOLD OUT! - In collaboration with the Student Council, the DC Green Cobras continued the drive to reduce cafeteria waste by selling reusable tumblers. In just five days the Green Cobras sold all 98 cups they had in stock, demonstrating the fantastic support from the DC community to reduce cafeteria waste. In partnership with Chartwells, from now on, customers who use a reusable cup when purchasing drinks from Chartwells will receive a $3 discount. Customers with reusable cups can also use a loyalty card where the 6th drink is FREE. We encourage you to help DC reduce waste by remembering to use your reusable cups.

Training Days

After four years of inspiring Wellness around the school, Terri Christman hands over the barbells to our new Wellness Coordinator, Tuomas Viirret. Our original group of students responsible for the original decision making around the Wellness Centre share their memories.

TALLA BUFFREY

I am currently in my third year at The University of Sussex studying English and Media. I have received offers for Master's programmes starting next year, so I'm just taking time now to decide where to go.

I remember sitting in one of the meeting rooms with the group and Mr Beach deciding on what colour theme to go with and feeling so totally inadequate for the job considering I was the least active of them all (no shame)! But it was such a great experience being involved and having a say on these things, and the Wellness Centre itself was far more accessible, inviting and welcoming than any gym or fitness centre I've come across since leaving DC.

SHINYA MIZUNO

I'm currently studying at City University of Hong Kong under the Economics and Finance Department. What I remember most about the Wellness Centre was the support and knowledge Terri Christman provided me in terms of my diet plans and workout routines. Regardless of the timing, whether it was before school or after, Mrs. Christman was always there to help.

ZACH KILBOURNE

A memory I'll never forget was being able to work collaboratively with students and staff to create an environment that everyone could feel comfortable and enjoy together. I'm currently working as an airline captain for Boutique Air in Atlanta, GA.

SIE ROSSITER

I live in Boston now working on the equity trading desk of an asset management firm till June. I graduated 4 May from Northeastern University where I majored in Economics and International Affairs.

I will never forget the excitement (and literal jumps of joy) all of us felt when what we had been working towards together for months (through surveying the students body on what they needed, interviewing various candidates for the coach role, scouting out other local gyms for inspiration on layout/style, budgeting...) finally became a reality.

I think the key to what made this project so successful was that we, as students, ultimately took the lead and made key decisions during the process. We genuinely felt as though the staff trusted our choices (such as allowing us to make the final call on who to bring on-board for the Wellness Coordinator position after we conducted those interviews). It was also successful because Mark and the staff demonstrated what it truly meant to be effective facilitators during the process and gave us the absolute freedom to be creative.

The Final Bell

After a week of theme dressing and senior pranks, the 2018 graduating class celebrated their last day of school on 19 April at a fun and sometimes emotional final assembly. It was the last time these students would sit shoulder to shoulder to laugh at the bad assembly puns and listen to fellow students perform. The Year 13s also handed over the reigns to the current Year 12s and wished them well on their final year at DC.

Primary Colours

On 26 April, Primary students enjoyed the day competing for their Houses at the Primary Spots Day. In what can only be described as perfect weather, the students rotated through six different sporting events including tug-of-war, sprints, hurdles, throwing, water relays and ball relays. There was a fantastic turn out of enthusiastic parents to cheer their children on and share this great event.

Keeping up with the Kardinians

DC's first exchange experience with Sister School Kardinia International College

Last year Discovery College established a Sister School partnership with Kardinia International College in Geelong, Victoria, Australia. This partnership has blossomed this year into an opportunity for Year 9 students to part take in an exchange where students from Kardinia visited Hong Kong for a week in March and DC students paid a reciprocal visit to Kardinia in May.

Billeted with homestay brothers and sisters, students on both half of the exchange visited popular landmarks, took part in cultural activities and experienced school as a typical student in their new environments.

Where Are They Now?

Mariana Coelho

Where do you live now?

My family and I now live in Cascais, Portugal. It is a wonderful coastal town about 20 minutes away from Lisbon. It gets extremely busy in the summer as many tourists come to visit and lots of activities and festivals are held.

What brought you there?

We had lived in Hong Kong for 10 years and we wanted a change of scenery. We chose to move to Portugal as it has some similarities to Brazil and it would allow my family and I to do certain things we weren't able to do before. Since arriving in Portugal, my brother and I have managed to improve our Portuguese as we now use the language a lot more.

Whenever my dad comes to Portugal, he gets to take time off and relax as he only works when he is in Hong Kong. My mum will soon be opening her photography studio for her business which is very exciting for the whole family.

Where do you go to school?

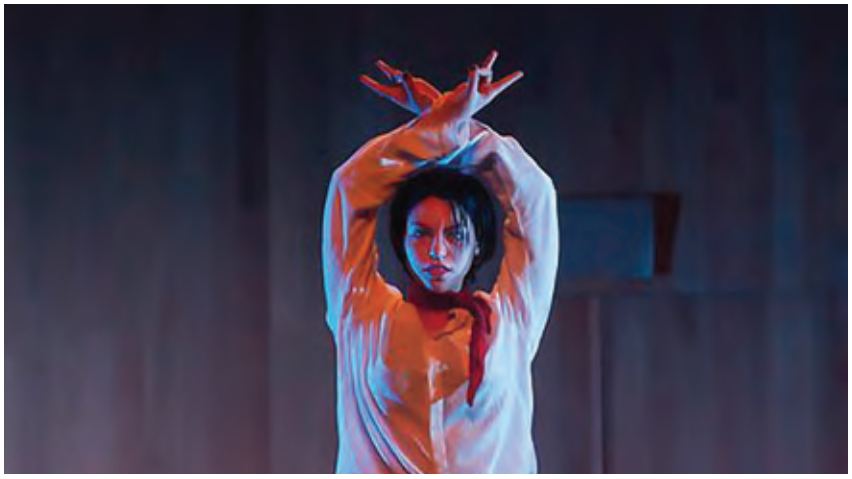
When we first arrived in Portugal, my brother and I went to a local school in our community called Amor de Deus. As it was all in Portuguese, we found it very hard to keep up with the classes. After a few months we moved to an international school called Santo Antonio which made us very happy as all our classes are in English. Also, since I was going into Year 12, having to take my exams in Portuguese would have been difficult as I am still improving my language skills.

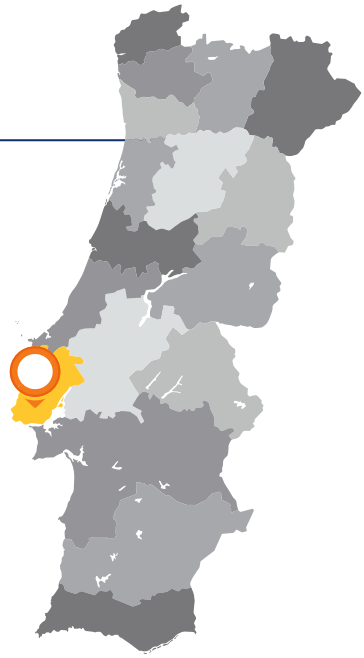
What are some differences between your school and Discovery College?

The main difference between my current school and Discovery College is that my school has around 180 students from Years 6 to 13, with only one class per year group. I enjoy this very much as I've had the opportunity to get to know many students across all year groups and make lots of new friends. Also, this is the first time my brother and I have been attending the same school in a long while.

What types of activities are you involved in?

In the last year I have taken up dance classes, scoring the highest scores in our class evaluations. I love dance so much as it is a way for me to de-stress and because nothing feels better than when I'm on stage performing with my friends. In school I have taken part in the girl's football team and participated in my first ever MUN.





I often go on motorcycle excursions with my dad and am in the process of getting my own driver's license so I can ride my own motorcycle beside him. Last November my dad and my mum went on a trip to Morocco with a motorcycle group, doing over 9,000 kilometres in 10 days. I hope to soon be able to do that too.

What do you like best about living in your new home?

The thing I like the most about living in Portugal is that there is very little pollution and I can see the stars almost every night, especially in winter. I like that we have a lot more living space as our apartment is a lot bigger that the one in Hong Kong. I also really enjoy the fact that we can drive for a few hours and end up somewhere completely different.

How is it different from living in Hong Kong?

Living here is completely different as the whole of Portugal has the same population as Hong Kong meaning it is not nearly as crowded. The scenery is very different from Hong Kong. Cascais has huge open spaces and is mostly a beach town. The culture is also very different and very European which took a while to get used to at first.

We hope that anyone who is thinking of visiting Europe will stop by Portugal and get to know the wonderful country it is.

2018 LONDON ALUMNI DINNER

Principal, Mark Beach had the opportunity on Saturday 20 January 2018 to catch up with many of the DC alumni at the annual London dinner. What started 4 years ago with 5 alumni, has grown to 37 participants this year, and included former Head of English, Flora Mather who came along to help co-host. The students spent much of the evening catching up on old times, asking about staff and finding out what has been happening at the school.

More than ever before, they talked about the impact DC has had on them and how much they miss the college, in particular the staff. Many of them spoke of bragging about DC to their new classmates at university.

Jolyon Blackwell '15

Over my last and final year at Falmouth University I have been involved with a few things. I'm proud to be Men's Captain for Kernow Ultimate which is the Falmouth & Exeter Unions (FXU) Ultimate Frisbee team. In addition to that, I'm secretary of the FXU Kernow Kestrels Touch Rugby Team which is only in its first year of being a society. Amazingly, as a new team, we placed third in the South West Regionals. I was also short-listed as most outstanding sports committee member which made me feel happy with the effort that I put in towards the societies that I am a part of.

As for my course, Sustainable Product Design, on 4 May I finally handed in my last piece of work. I had two projects. The first was in collaboration with St. Austell Brewery's Tribute Pale Ale brand. I was asked to create a product that 'enhanced the quality of user experience' following their new campaign tagline 'Quality Speaks for Itself'. My second project looked at well-being in the workplace wherever that may be, at home or at the office. I aimed to design a piece of furniture that was space saving and offered dual-functions for creatives that may like to paint, draw, type, and write.

Alumni Update

Alumni Update (continued)

TRA MY HICKIN '15

I'm now at Durham University, studying English Literature, preparing to graduate in a couple of weeks. I've really enjoyed my time at Durham, having made it my home through getting involved with the local community, from volunteering at a local radical bookstore – the People's Bookshop, to helping organise arts and music events for the public. During my time here, I've also become heavily involved with university life, from starting a Karaoke society, to founding a magazine – BLINK mag, and the Durham People of Colour Association (DPOCA). I'm very proud of having founded DPOCA, as previously there was no group at the university dedicated to dealing with racial harassment on and off campus, giving welfare to students of colour or cataloguing racial incidents. Alongside providing welfare, hosting talks and putting on cultural events, we brought national attention to racism at Durham University, with our members being featured in newspapers like the Guardian. My magazine is also dear to my heart, it is a multi-media publication for students of colour by students of colour. Our first issue 'Roots' is available in local bookstores, and we are currently working towards our second one, 'Food for Thought'. We also have a website – *www.blinkmagazine.co.uk* — please check us out!

DYLAN HELYER '14

I have been working on my senior collection at SCAD in Hong Kong over the last 12months. We just finished my photo shoot and I ship all of my work over to the US in the next few days.

My senior collection so far has given me the opportunity to collaborate and get sponsored by Swarovski. I had to submit my work alongside hundreds of other designers and was chosen for a sponsorship that consisted of 35,000hkd worth of Swarovski crystals to embellish my work. My collection is called Dream State and revolves around the conscious and unconscious experiences that affect the human dream.

As a group we are also hosting our own fashion show in Hong Kong on 8 June in Hong Kong.

NASTIA KOSACHEVSKAYA '16

"I'm currently in my second year of veterinary studies in Germany. The classes are in German (my third language) and while at first following lectures and practical exercises was quite tough, it is getting easier and easier every semester.

I had a major turn in my life after a farm internship where I witnessed animal abuse. I switched to a vegan, cruelty-free, lifestyle, and I try to live as ethically and environmentally-friendly as possible. When I graduate, I want to work in conservation and/or ecological sustainability organisations, but while I'm still studying I'm working towards this goal by raising awareness through social media as well as influencing others by person example. At the moment I am working with Wildlife Reserves Singapore as well as Hong Kong Jockey Club to improve sustainability and animal welfare respectively in these organisations.

I'm also part of a competitive swim team here in Hannover where I train three times a week.

GABRIELA PRZYGODZKI ESPINA '15

I'm currently in the last term of my final year at the University of York. Luckily, I don't have exams to study for but my dissertation of 10,000 words is due very soon. I'm writing about the Umbrella Movement in 2014 and how it has influenced activism in Hong Kong today. Amidst all the writing of my dissertation I've been preparing for Roses (an annual sporting tournament against Lancaster University) that is taking place in the coming week. It's been an honour to play rugby for the women's first team. This year, we won the Northern Conference Cup and have been promoted into a higher league, all without losing a single match. After graduation I will be returning to Hong Kong to find work and will be playing rugby for Hong Kong Football Club.

SAYA KAWANO '15

I am currently a double major in Dance and History, with an Educational Studies minor here at the University of California, Santa Barbara. As a third-year and soon entering my senior year (yikes), the things I believe that have encompassed my uni life the most is not only the hard work from taking a ridiculous amount of units per quarter, but building many stable friendships that I will bring into my post-graduation life. Life here at Santa Barbara is stunning as nothing can beat the beach and palm trees in sunny California. Being part of the dance department on campus has also allowed me to find my little family and home away from home. I'm so glad I chose UCSB as my university as I don't think I could've found a more perfect place to pursue my passion in dance, but also academically challenge myself to my limits. This summer, I got offered a full-ride scholarship to learn dance and education in New York City. I will be going there with a few other of my UCSB friends who also got the scholarship. There, I will be learning not only about dance as an art form but how we can use dance to educate the upcoming generation and use it as a social discourse to promote social movement.

DCPTA

PTA
DISCOVERY COLLEGE

The second term of the year was a busy one for the DCPTA, which organised a host of different events, offering something interesting for everyone.

We prepared and planted beautiful flowers to mark the Chinese New Year with the help of Mr Simon Ho. He showed us how to prepare the bulbs during an interactive workshop, which resulted in beautiful flowering narcissus in time for the New Year celebrations.

We assisted the library in organising many of the Book Week events, just one of several of the Discovery College Culture Festival activities that take place throughout the year.

We also organised a free screening of The Helper documentary. This movie drew in a full crowd wanting to learn more about the stories from Hong Kong's migrant domestic workers, the contribution they make to society and the separation from their loved ones. During this screening, attendees raised funds through a voluntary donation. The proceeds were donated to Enrich and PathFinders, two local non-profit organisations dedicated to assisting helpers in need.

During this second term, we listened to several experts during Parent Information Sessions. Mr Simon McCartney spoke passionately about his mountaineering and other adventures and Mr Peter Fenyves spoke of the intricacies of will writing. Both events were sponsored by Parsons White Wealth Management, Partner Practice of St. James's Place Wealth Management in DB and were well attended.

Finally, we made loads and loads of Easter baskets filled with chocolate donations for our annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Many of our students started their end of term holiday with a basked-filled with goodies, lovingly put together by our wonderful volunteer parents.

To all parents and DC staff who volunteer to assist in organising these events, we appreciate your hard work and support.

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