

# The Church of Christ in China Heep Woh College



## Newsletter November 2023

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When you know the **TRUTH**, the **TRUTH** will set you free.

### Introduction

Upon the full resumption of school activities after the pandemic, our students are given lots of opportunities to develop their personal strengths and explore themselves in different aspects. Highlights of the year include interviews with honorable guests, the significant musical "Lights Up!" and the Visual Art Taipei study tour. We are also delighted to have invited our alumni to share with us their career experiences, ways to cope with challenges and school life in Heep Woh College.

## A Message to Graduates from Professor Alan K.L. Chan



On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the annual Speech Day was held to congratulate the graduating class of 2022-2023 on their completion of secondary education and their achievements. As our guest of honour, Professor Alan K.L. Chan, who is the Provost and J.S. Lee Professor of Chinese Culture in The Chinese University of Hong Kong, has delivered some words of wisdom to our graduates. We were glad to have had an interview with him.

Professor Chan is an avid researcher of Chinese philosophy and religion. Firstly, his interest in these subjects were aroused by his eagerness to learn about Chinese cultural traditions. Contrary to what some people might believe, he believed that Chinese philosophy and religion were not merely fossilized traditions of no relevance. Therefore, it is crucial that we study how they might contribute meaningfully to important issues that the society is confronting.

Before pursuing his higher education in Canada, Professor Chan completed his secondary education in Hong Kong. Nurtured by good teachers as well as getting support from his family and friends, his secondary education has laid solid foundations for his subsequent overseas studies. In Professor Chan's experience, gaining international exposure should not be equated with pursuing a degree overseas. "If you are interested in tertiary education, choosing a good university is still the most important consideration," stated Professor Chan. Local universities have high standards, providing opportunities for students to study in the Mainland or overseas. Nevertheless, whether opportunities studying abroad should be pursued depends on individual interests. In terms of development and personal growth, gaining international exposure is essential.



Looking at his own students and reflecting on his experiences, he finds that increased self-confidence is almost invariably observed in those who have gone overseas.

In Professor Chan's career, new challenges always present themselves. For instance, returning from Canada to Singapore required some adjustments. "It is important to like what you do. A job is not simply a means of livelihood," he noted. One wants to be in a profession which they enjoy. Therefore, as long as we keep our standards high and complete every task without taking shortcuts, we will certainly overcome all types of challenges or obstacles.



Professor Chan valued Hong Kong as a welcoming and inclusive society. It was his conviction that being bilingual, Hong Kong students had in their hands a key competitive advantage. Learning a new language not only concerns speaking, but also provides students with an experience through which they can come to a deeper understanding of the cultures of our future partners. 'Students have to be increasingly agile and collaborate with people with different backgrounds and traditions,' Professor Chan stated. Maintaining intellectual openness and a sense of inclusiveness, we could learn from our partners and collaborators. Therefore, we are encouraged to equip ourselves with cross-cultural sensitivity in order to flourish in a digital and global knowledge-based economy.

Before concluding the interview, Professor Chan gave Heep Woh students a couple of reminders to help us navigate our academic journeys and prepare for our future careers. 'Stay positive and be kind. Don't let anyone tell you that you are not good enough or it is too difficult to realise your dreams and aspirations,' he remarked. By having confidence and faith in ourselves, Professor Chan believes that we can have a promising future.

On behalf of Heep Woh students and teachers, we are thankful to have this golden opportunity of interviewing Professor Chan and hope we can follow his words and thrive.



Back (From left to right): Chik Pui Yee, Chan Pak Hei, Kwan Chun Him and Guan Yuk In Angela  
Front (From left to right): Professor Alan K.L. Chan and Principal, Dr. Chu Kai Wing



# Visual Arts Taipei Study Tour

**Mr. Wan Ka Ming**

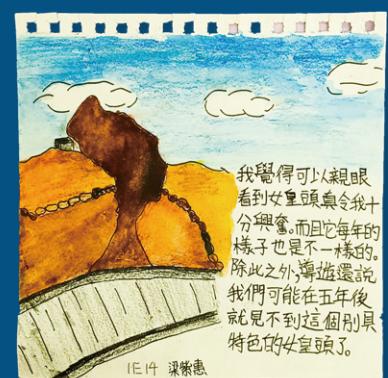
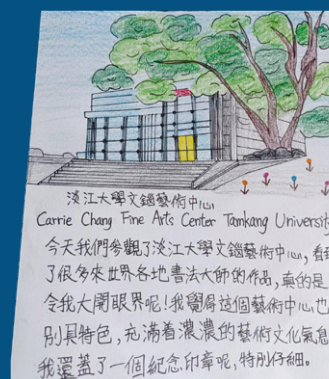
**Panel Head of Visual Arts Department**



The Visual Arts Department organized its study tour from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023. This time, twenty-two students and two teachers from the school embarked on an art journey to Taipei. Students had the opportunity to experience flying sky

lanterns. Students could get to know the people there, and enjoyed local food. It was our second time organizing a study tour to Taipei which provided an excellent chance for students to visit Tamkang University, which is the oldest private institution of tertiary education in Taiwan, as well as to meet the professionals there. Furthermore, students were introduced to education opportunities available in Taiwan.

Students not only admired the great architecture of the National Palace Museum but also learned more about history. In addition, we visited Yehliu Geopark, which allowed us to have a better look of the beauty of natural scenery. A number of rock formations have been given imaginative names based on their shapes. The best known is the "Queen's Head", which is an iconic image in Taiwan.



Students are believed to have a wonderful time immersing themselves in the atmosphere of art appreciation and have a deeper understanding of different cultures in Taipei.







# "Lights Up!"

## Musical Shines

### *Bright as a Resounding Success*


Mr. Tai Tze Tik  
Director of the Musical



✦ In a stunning display of talent, creativity, and unity, our school proudly hosted the original school musical "Lights Up!" 《隆重燈場》 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, leaving audiences in awe and earning accolades as a resounding success.

The journey of "Lights Up!" embarked upon a year-long journey of dedication and determination. Every note, every line, and every step were meticulously crafted by our talented alumni, dedicated teachers, and passionate students. This remarkable journey of "Lights Up!" began with an exclusive internal performance, offering the school's students a tantalizing glimpse of the captivating experience ahead. This prelude set the stage for what was to come, building excitement and anticipation among both the performers and the school community.





On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July, we welcomed the public to join us for two spectacular performances. Within the walls of our school hall, a magical world of melody and emotion unfolded. This original Cantonese musical brought together captivating acting, breathtaking singing, and mesmerizing dance performances, resulting in an unforgettable experience for all in attendance.

The musical's success extended beyond mere entertainment. It acted as a bridge for cultural exchange and strengthened camaraderie among educational institutions. This unity was a true reflection of how alumni, teachers, and students could come together, highlighting the arts' capacity to create lasting bonds.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations for the tremendous success of "Lights Up!" and sincerely look forward to more such remarkable performances in the future. This musical will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on all who witnessed it, and it serves as a shining example of what can be accomplished through teamwork, creativity, and unwavering determination.





# An enlightening sharing from Mrs. Chan Wong Lai Fun



From left to right: Chik Pui Yee, Chan Pak Hei, Principal Dr. Chu Kai Wing, Mrs. Chan Wong Lai Fun, Kwan Chun Him and Guan Yuk In Angela

Mrs. Chan Wong Lai Fun, who is our alumnus, is the former Chief Executive of S.K.H. St. Christopher's Home. We are glad to interview her and learn from her spirit, thereby preparing for the upcoming school year.

Born and bred in a grassroot family, Mrs. Chan is content to have studied in Heep Woh College. Some precious memories from her time in our school were indelibly imprinted on her mind. 'I had been a member of the school choir for five years and joined numerous competitions,' Mrs. Chan recalled. Not only did these competitions sharpen her singing techniques, but they also trained her to be more audacious, enabling her to be confident. Being a Christian, Mrs. Chan was also able to strengthen her faith in God through religious study in school. She learnt to be grateful towards events that happened in life. 'This attitude is more vital than academic performance,' she remarked. Mrs. Chan's positive outlook on life cultivated in Heep Woh has definitely laid the foundation for her career.

Mrs. Chan found her work as a social worker to be rewarding, prompting her to continue helping others with fervency for over 40 years. 'I see hope in youngsters because of our work and we have altered many children's destiny,' Mrs. Chan highlighted. Being able to reach out to people in need and help them exploit their full potential, she thought that her work was really meaningful. Not only did Mrs. Chan take care of children at her work, but she was also

obliged to manage a team of staff. Being a chief executive of St. Christopher's Home, she was fulfilled to have built a pleasant relationship with her colleagues, who shared the same code of ethics with her. Under the concerted effort of her and her team, both the living condition of the children and the working environment of her staff members have improved.

The Covid-19 pandemic was a significant challenge for all walks of life, and a social worker was no exception. 'Keeping over 200 children in care and protecting them from catching the virus were very nerve-racking,' Mrs. Chan remarked. During that time, the organization received limited resources and support from the government. Worse still, her colleagues were unable to send the ill children to hospitals because the hospitals were already at capacity. Despite all the constraints, she and her colleagues surmounted the difficulty by teamwork and unity. This predicament also inspired her to initiate more back-up plans so as to cope with future emergencies and provide children with a more healthy environment.

Last but not least, Mrs. Chan encouraged students to develop their talents and enjoy their school life. 'Other than studying, Heep Woh provides students with lots of opportunities to learn through its plentiful extracurricular activities,' she added. By realizing our flair, it is believed that we can seize the day and live a splendid life.





# Alumni Sharing: Moving from Secondary School to University

Students in Heep Woh College are motivated to strive for excellence and pursue their dreams. They are equipped with different branches of knowledge and skills in preparation for their university education and future career. We are proud to invite some graduates from the previous academic year to share their experience in achieving their excellent performance.

## Cheung Ming Hung (6E, 2022-2023)

### Studying Dentistry

I studied dentistry as I was always intoxicated by the sophisticated human body and longing to help others with my knowledge.

### How to 'level-up' in the DSE game

'Practice makes perfect and do past papers.' That's what every teacher would tell us whenever you asked for a means to improve. But how? Just do it, and that's it? Surely it's not. It's necessary to understand why your answers are correct or incorrect. Analyze all questions that are not granted full marks or clumsily answered. We should acknowledge that a 'correct answer' doesn't mean getting full marks if some of the keywords are missing. Delving yourself into the marking scheme to ensure that you can get every mark you deserve.



### A helpful hand from Heep Woh

Gone are the days when I was studying at Heep Woh, I am so grateful for being a Heep Woh student. Teachers here are always willing to help students in need by answering questions and providing personal suggestions. Teachers are dedicated to teaching and provide abundant resources and exercise to us for preparing our DSE, which have been surly of great assistance throughout my study journey.

## Wu Hoi Ching (6E, 2022-2023)

It has been some time since I was admitted to the Artificial Intelligence - Systems & Technologies (AISTN) programme at CUHK.

I chose AIST as my major due to my enduring fascination with computer-related subjects. Witnessing the unprecedented impact of ChatGPT on society inspired me to delve deeper into artificial intelligence. CUHK's AIST programme aims to equip students with the capability of designing and implementing AI systems. I firmly believe that this programme aligns perfectly with my interests and will prepare me for my future career.

During my preparation for the HKDSE, I learned the importance of identifying one's weaknesses and not merely memorizing correct answers but understanding why they are logical and reasonable. Then generalizing the answers and integrating them into common sense is what makes me improve.



I am thankful to Heep Woh College for the all-around support. The teachers were always willing to provide learning resources and give academic support without any hesitation. The interactive classes made the learning atmosphere more enjoyable. Moreover, the helpful counseling on tertiary education helped erase much of my confusion.

All in all, my precious experiences at Heep Woh College paved the way to my success and led me to my preferred discipline at CUHK.



### Shi Kwing Ho (6C, 2022-2023)

I have chosen the Bachelor of Finance in Asset Management and Private Banking BFin(AMPB) at the University of Hong Kong. The curriculum covers the management of money for institutions and individuals in different asset classes and the provision of advice and services in private banking. It cultivates my personal interest in the area and prepares for my future career.



While talking about how to study effectively, reviewing what I have learnt every day after school and filtering out key points are the first step. Then, memorize the extracted materials by reading several times and doing practices like past papers. When I have questions, I take the

initiative to ask teachers after thinking hard for a long time. Everything I don't understand is worthy of thinking and studying and it sharpens my problem-solving skills. Meanwhile, I also take enough rest mainly by sleeping and keep myself happy and optimistic by moderate entertainment and sports.

Heep Woh College has provided me with a harmonious learning environment that allows me to work hard, play hard and study hard with friends. Teachers are responsible for helping us with academic problems and also life-planning. Although I sometimes might be frustrated, I still enjoy the joyful and caring atmosphere studying in this school.

### Ko Hasel (6E, 2022-2023)

Currently, I am studying Occupational Therapy at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. I started having the dream of being an occupational therapist when something happened to my grandma during the JUPAS period.

At that time, I was always wondering if I could make a difference for her, and alleviate the medical sufferings in Hong Kong. I hope that I can help not only my grandma, but also other people with disabilities in the society by deploying the medical, psychological and social science knowledge learnt in the course.

Studying constitutes a great part of my secondary school life and I feel motivated to share my learning experience.

First off, planning is part and parcel of my study process. I usually draw a timetable, allocating time every day. It's now or never, so I do take the exams seriously and fight for my dream. The most important point is to distance myself from distractions



like electronic devices so that I can concentrate on what I need to study that day.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Apart from preparing for HKDSE, taking up leadership positions in different clubs and joining different extracurricular activities help me take a break amid the hectic schedule. I am glad that the school not only provides me with academic guidance but also various opportunities to develop my potential and explore my interests.

Therefore, being in Heep Woh is my honor, pleasure and the spice of life.