

# Ying Wa Girls' School

## Annual Report 2015-2016

The five-year School Development Plan for 2012-2017 “*Space for Transformation*” has been running smoothly and generating encouraging results. We have entered the penultimate year in the 5-year cycle and the major focus this year was *Building on Strengths*. With the smooth transition of principalship and the Senior Management Team, the School benefitted from the strong and solid foundation laid by our previous principal to move ahead, and the results were promising.

### Evaluation of the various programmes

#### **1. To build on our strength to help diverse learners**

##### 1.1 Nurturing students' ability to appreciate individual differences

- 15 S4 students joined the “Health in Mind Programme”. Through workshops at Kwai Chung Hospital, they developed a positive attitude for interacting with patients suffering from mental illness, and learned how to listen, accept, respect, and care for them patiently.
- A games booth and two voluntary services for their rehabilitated friends were held. At assembly, students shared the insights they had gained from the experience with the whole school.

##### 1.2 Tackling learners' diversity

- Split-class teaching continued for core subjects in the junior forms to help students with diverse entry competences to catch up.
- Remedial classes in Chinese, English and Mathematics were also run in S1, S2, S5 and S6 to help students with lower academic performance to improve.
- A more co-ordinated approach was adopted to support our students with Special Education Needs (SEN) and also the Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) students. A special taskforce was formed to formulate plans for these SEN and NCS students to integrate better into mainstream education.

##### 1.3 Help high achievers to stretch their potential

- Different programmes and school teams were organised for students with higher academic ability, including Toastmasters Leadership Programme, English Debate Team, Mathematics Team, Computer Programming Team, and Physics Team. Outstanding results were obtained in local and international competitions.
- Students with exceptional sporting talents participated in international competitions, including the Asian Cycling Competition in Japan, Schools Interport Basketball Competition in Macau, Hong Kong Basketball Jing Ying Basketball Competition in Taiwan and the 1st National Youth Football Games in China.

##### 1.4 Sharing vision / rationale with students and parents about split-class arrangement and other programmes.

- The split-class arrangement was introduced to S1 parents at two briefing sessions by the SMT on 26 September 2015 and 27 February 2016.
- Parents' concern on the fairness of having different versions of the standardized test for different split classes was addressed directly.

##### 1.5 Learning good practices from departments in our school and other schools

- Subject Panels and Committee Heads shared their good practices in meetings.
- A questionnaire was sent out to staff asking for their views and suggestions on possible ways for handling learner diversity. The Academic Committee would continue to look into the various suggestions and follow up with appropriate measures in the coming year.
- Good practices in career and life planning by other schools were being explored.

## 1.6 Enhancing and enriching career and life planning activities

- A framework of benchmarks showing life planning accomplishments for different forms had been set up.
- The Careers Committee collaborated with more than 5 subject panels and student support groups on life planning activities.
- A Careers Expo was held on 16 January 2016 with keynote speeches on getting to know different career paths and interviewing skills, followed by parallel sessions on various professions in different rooms. 35 alumnae and 182 students attended the function. A number of outside guests with diverse expertise also volunteered their time to share with our students.
- A small scale life planning programme for S1 and S2 was tried out successfully with the support of Careers Teachers and Class Teachers to help students to discover and explore their interests and abilities so as to plan better for their lives and careers.

## 2. To continue to seek opportunities to serve our community

### 2.1 Learning Ambassadors Programme

- More learning ambassadors were recruited, as compared with last year, to help more students to tackle problems with their studies positively.
- Ambassadors displayed passion and discipline in motivating their junior form schoolmates to improve in various subjects.

### 2.2 S2 Volunteer Training Programme

- Jointly organised by YWGS and Sham Shui Po YWCA, the service programme was completed successfully on 12 March 2016. All S2 students participated in this. Half of them visited the elderly while the other half visited low income families. Not only did students have the chance to learn to care for others in theory, but they also had the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and serve others in real life situations.

### 2.3 333 Learning Companion Leadership Programme

- The programme recruited students from S3 to serve as “learning tutors” to primary school students in Sham Shui Po.
- Our students not only boosted their confidence when the children in their care made progress, but they also fulfilled their desire to serve the community through this mutually beneficial initiative.

### 2.4 Interact Club Service Programmes

- Service projects were jointly held with other schools for the benefit of ethnic minority residents, especially the elderly.
- Happy Grannies Service Days were held throughout the year.
- A joint schools activity with Little Green Feet Parent-Child Reading Club was held on 19 December 2015, with South Asian children as beneficiaries.
- In the coming summer, students will go to Cambodia with their counterparts from Ying Wa College to run a service programme for orphans. A service project for the benefit of children from low income families will be held locally too.

### 2.5 Red Cross Service Project

- A 5-day service programme jointly designed with Hong Kong Christian Service this year was tailor-made for Red Cross members to serve minority groups and also people with hearing impairment.

### 2.6 Brainstorm Service Programme

- The Mathematics Department initiated a year-long “Brainstorm Programme”, with the aim to promote fun in learning and volunteering. 73 students were selected from Mathematics Team, Guidance Team and Interact Club to be trained as assistants who would teach others to play board games that cultivate strategic thinking.
- At the Kick-off Ceremony on 13 October 2015, teachers introduced the rationale and the schedule of activities. To share the joy of playing educational games, volunteers visited S1 classrooms and a home for the elderly.
- The highlight was a competition at school on 3 February 2016 to rekindle the interest in board games.

### **3. To understand and appreciate heritage and raise social awareness**

#### 3.1 Liberal Studies Lessons

- Representatives from CEDAR Fund came to talk about human trafficking and refugees in each of the S5 and S6 classes.

#### 3.2 Global Exposure Programmes

- The Civic Education Committee organized a two-day study tour (15-16 November 2015) for 24 S3-S5 students with the aim to better understand Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary activities in Guangzhou. With the privilege of having Dr Joseph Ting as their guide, both students and teachers had the opportunity to visit different historical sites. At the end of the tour, students were encouraged to share their observations and reflect on what they had learnt. This would be followed by another trip between 23 and 27 June 2016 to visit Shandong.
- With the support of UNICEF Hong Kong and the joint efforts of the Civic Education Committee and the Interact Club, a school-based UNICEF Club was established at the beginning of this school year. Club members were encouraged and empowered to organize different programmes promoting global citizenship and the rights of children.
- Our school was invited by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to play host to visiting Korean secondary school students on 26 February 2016.

#### 3.3 History and Heritage Education

- With the preservation of the Heritage Block in the new campus, the School Archive Team continued to explore ways to preserve our tangible and intangible cultural heritage for future generations. The team would also continue to plan for opportunities to provide our students with a deeper understanding of our heritage.

### **4. To continue building our new campus and prepare for our move back**

#### 4.1 Discussing Furniture and Equipment needs

- The design and sourcing of Public Address System, Security System, Broadcast System, Hall and classroom AV system have been progressing well.

#### 4.2 Monitoring the quality of the Redevelopment Project

- The School Redevelopment Building Sub-committee held monthly meetings to monitor the construction of the new campus, including the detailed designs. Particular attention was paid to the design of the School Hall and the Auditorium.

#### 4.3 Building on our strengths and support from various stakeholders over the years

- Overseas Alumnae Chapters have been established in five places around the world, namely USA, Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Taiwan.
- For the first time in Ying Wa's history, the Alumnae Association published an online newsletter with special focus on overseas alumnae. Two issues were published, one in September 2015 and the other in February 2016.
- With the joint efforts of alumnae, parents, teachers and students, a Spring Bazaar was held for members of the Ying Wa family and friends on 19 March 2016. The fun-filled event was styled like a carnival and served as our major fundraising initiative in 2016. It raised nearly 2 million dollars for the School Redevelopment Project.

#### 4.4 Providing new life-education opportunities

- The "Life is a Marathon" programme continued to cultivate resilience and a positive attitude in our students.
- Each of the S4 classes put up a drama during assembly in the hall on the theme "Building on Strengths". It gave students the chance to foster class spirit, boost their confidence in performing in English and inspire their schoolmates with a positive attitude.