

# G.T. Newsletter

G. T. (Ellen Yeung) College - Secondary Section

ISSUE 3 January 2020



Dr. Raymond TAM  
Principal

## Principal's Talk: What We Believe about Ourselves Matter!

To most people, December is a time for being together and sharing, and January is for new year resolutions or setting challenges. For GT kids, sparking innovation and embarking upon new projects are part and parcel of manifesting the GT curriculum and leading a fulfilling GT life. There seems nothing out of the ordinary.

People might wonder why GT and GT kids are always on the move and trying to challenge themselves via learning as in our iGEM 2019 competition or via living as in our annual Australia one-month Immersion Program. Being the Principal, I may offer a more objective and holistic view on the competition and exchanges. What has been the drive behind the GTers taking up challenges? Well, I reckon that it is our shared school spirit (SSS) of pushing the boundary of a learner's limits and exploring the breadth and depth of the subject in its real-life dynamics. Sonia Gandhi, an Indian politician, resonates this kind of learning at GT: "Together we can face any challenges as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky." This kind of satisfaction and fulfilment in learning and excelling does not come at no price. There are explorations in our togetherness, setbacks, patience, courage, determination, and teamwork.

Christmas comes but once a year! So is every learning experience and every team member! Don't believe that you will always have the opportunity to "overreach with them." Your eyesight, mindset, and way of life can be totally different, as an American comedian comments, once you can "find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." It is not hard to predict that the iGEM team and the exchange tour members will all have a high degree of self-enhancement via this kind of global-mindedness experience. Keep up! GTers, we are proud of your daring adventures. Trust T.S. Eliot's observation, "If you aren't in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?"

## Principal's Trip to The Greater Bay Education Forum (22-24 November, 2019)

### Let's Change the World through the Science Education for Our Students

The study of science has been a core component in the development and prosperity of most western countries. To China, science even plays a pivotal role of "building the nation" in the recent decades. To nurture the future leaders in their studies of science, I attended a three-day education forum during 22-24 November, 2019. In the forum, I presented a paper about nurturing remarkable scientists in four aspects:

- (1) raising the ability of students in the domain and study of science;
- (2) raising the interests of students in the learning of science;
- (3) advocating science education via cross-discipline and beyond classroom learning;
- (4) promoting science education via Dewey's concept of thoughtful thinking and learning by doing.



Principal Tam  
An educator in action



Standing up for "change" in the opening ceremony of the Greater Bay Education Forum

**2019粵港澳大灣區中小學校長論壇：**  
大灣區中小學校長與人工智慧和“未來學校”發展

**科學教育：學習無疆界**  
Science Education: Learning beyond the Classroom

優才(楊殷有娉)書院校長  
譚國偉博士

日期: 2019年11月22日-24日  
時間: 09:40am-05:30pm  
地點: 廣東省深圳市龍華區

Dr Tam's presentation: Science education—  
Learning beyond the classroom

## iGEM 2019 Competition and Education Trip in Boston



GT team taking a group photo before the iGEM competition in Hynes Convention Center, Boston

Six G9 to G11 students from the GT iGEM team participated in the iGEM 2019 Giant Jamboree which was held from 31 October to 4 November 2019 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA. There were 350 collegiate and high school teams from 42 countries who gathered together to showcase their innovations and celebrate their work and accomplishments with global peers of the synthetic biology community. We are honored that our team is the first individual Hong Kong high school team to a GOLD medal.

In our project entitled "Plasteriase – Mutating a Bacterial PET-degrading Enzyme," we used a protein engineering approach to create PETase mutants which were found to exhibit a higher enzyme activity than original PETase. It opens up the possibility for more efficient degradation of PET plastic waste in industrial processes.

There are eleven G9 to G11 students in the GT iGEM team who have been working on the project for more than a year. Thanks to all the team members' hard work and dedication throughout the process!

Dr. Christine Yu  
P.I.C. of the GT iGEM team  
Department Head of Science and Mathematics



iGEM 2019 taking a group photo "Great Expectation"



iGEM team members embarking on their dream project



GT iGEM team exchanging views with a judge



GT iGEM team members preparing to give an oral presentation



Students playing seesaw to experience forces of balance at the Museum of Science, Boston



The team posing in front of Harvard University



The team taking the Boston Harbor Cruise, a historic sightseeing cruise

## The Shaw Prize Lecture in Life Science and Medicine 2019



Dr. Christine Yu and GT students taking a photo with Professor Mary-Claire King

On 26 September 2019, 18 G8–G11 students from elective class “Biology is fun - Biotechnology” attended the Shaw Prize Lecture in Life Science and Medicine 2019 at CUHK. An inspiring lecture was delivered by Shaw Laureate in Life Science and Medicine 2019, Prof. Maria Jasin, a Professor at Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences from the Cornell University, USA. During the lecture, Prof. Jasin summarized her ground-breaking work for the discovery that a double strand break is the critical step in gene editing studies. She also discussed her groundwork for genome modification by site specific endonuclease which lays the foundation in the gene therapy approach.

Dr. Christine Yu  
Department Head of Science and Mathematics

## G9 Parents' Night for the Selection of Study Streams

G9 students and parents gathered for the selection of study streams in the senior secondary level on October 2019. In the beginning, Principal Dr. Tam made a welcome speech. After that, Mr. Anselm Kwok, Mr. Ryan Cheng, Mr. King Lau, Dr. Christine Yu, and Dr. Vincent Tam shared about how to choose study streams. After a break at the IB Forum, Dr. Vincent Tam and Mr. Anselm Kwok introduced the IBDP curriculum at GT College. Students and parents enjoyed the night and had a better understanding of the senior secondary curriculum. Thanks to all GT teachers for their wonderful sharing.



Principal Tam making the welcome speech



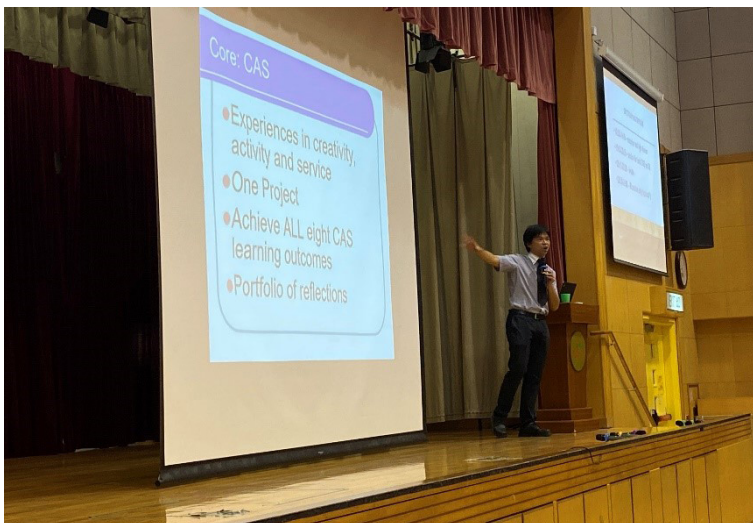
Dr. Vincent Tam illustrating the IBDP Curriculum at GT College



Mr. King Lau explaining the Arts Stream in the DSE



Dr. Christine Yu sharing the Science Stream in the DSE



Mr. Anselm Kwok pinpointing the suitability of the IBDP for different types of students



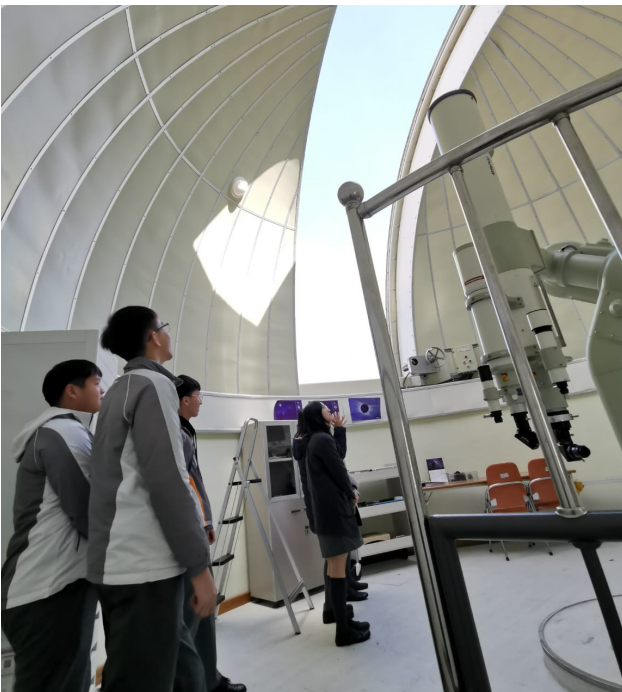
Mr. Benny Lai holding a Q&A session for the DSE

## G11 & G12 Exchange Tour to Korea Science Academy of KAIST



GT students feeling curious about demonstrations in the Busan Science Museum

In late November, eight students from G10 and G11 joined the exchange programme to Korea Science Academy of KAIST in Busan. They received a very warm welcome from their Korean counterparts and some of them spent their weekends in Seoul. During school days, students joined the school tour and were amazed by the advanced facilities there. They later learnt about Korean history and culture, including having Taekwondo lessons and wearing the traditional Korean costume—Hanbok. It was a new experience for them. Not only did they have lessons at school, but they also had a chance to visit the Busan Science Museum and the Sea Life Busan Aquarium. It was an eye-opening experience and students had a wonderful time there.



Visiting the Observatory at KSA



Nothing better than having fun in the Sea Life Busan Aquarium



Having a Taekwondo lesson



GTERS having a lecture about Korean culture and trying on the Hanbok

## G10 & G11 Exchange Tour to MWITS (26 Nov - 2 Dec 2019)

From 26 November to 2 December, G10 and G11 students had a wonderful exchange with Mahidol Wittayanusorn School (MWITS) in Thailand. They experienced the teaching and learning of MWITS through the immersion lessons of Thai language, Arts, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. They also explored the culture and history of Thailand through visiting the Grand Palace, Historical Museum of Thai, as well as an organic farm and centre of traditional Thai medicine.

Mr. Anselm Kwok  
Chaperone teacher



Learning the farming in Sampran Riverside



Knowing more about the traditional Thai medicine

The MWITS exchange tour was amazing. I have learnt many things such as Thai culture and Thai boxing. In the Chemistry lesson, I learnt a lot of new things. The most memorable experience was playing laser game and bouncing with our buddies. We had a lot of fun.

Gabrielle Hung 10A

This exchange program is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I have gained much from the Thai students who work brilliantly and diligently in science. Moreover, MWITS gave me lots of unforgettable memories. I am thankful that I can join this exchange program.

Audrey Hui 10C

This exchange is a real eye-opener. I have learnt more about Thai history, language, and food. We went to many places including the Grand Palace, an arts and craft workshop in which I could try farming and create some artwork there. This was a valuable experience for me, because all these cannot be learnt in textbooks. Because of this exchange, I made a lot of new friends. We had a lot of cultural exchange as well.

Jamie Lee 10B



Making the medicine bag

I am glad to have this opportunity to go to Thailand for an exchange. After visiting many local places and traditional museums, I have known Thai history and culture more than ever. In addition, this exchange program has polished my communication skills and expanded my social circle.

Angus Chi 10B

I'm so thankful for this trip. We have learnt lots of new things and all our buddies were very friendly. In the Rattanakos Exhibition Hall, we learnt about the history of Thailand. In the "Living in Thai Culture" art and craft workshops, I tried making toothpaste with natural ingredients for the first time. We had real bonding with our buddies.

May Ho 10B



Joining a local tour



Students taking a group photo after a Physics exploration

In the Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall, we learnt about the history of Thailand with the aid of animations. In the “Living in Thai Culture” art and craft workshops, I had a whole new experience. We had lots of fun. I would like to go back and visit MWITS students again.

Ariel Yiu 10C

I feel grateful for the opportunity to join this exchange program. Not only has this program broadened our horizons, but it has also provided us with a unique opportunity to explore Thai culture and lifestyle. During these six days, we had many first-time experience, such as going into a rice field barefoot, studying with local Thai students, and experiencing dorm life. Besides, we also had many excursions, such as visiting the Grand Palace and the exhibition hall, which are the best places for us to learn Thai culture and history.

Abby Wong 11D



Taking a photo in front of the Thai Palace

This exchange program has broadened my horizons by allowing me to explore more about Thai culture and their lifestyle, because the school took us to different unique places in Thailand. More than that, MWITS prepared a lesson for us to learn Thai. The most interesting word in Thai is “peng,” because it means “cheap” in Cantonese but it means “expensive” in Thai. We had made lots of unforgettable memories. Not only has this exchange program expanded my social networks, but it has also improved my communication skills.

Claire Chan 11E



Understanding the living environment of the traditional Thai people

## Review of Experience Day 2019



Principal Tam, Vice-principals Mr. Paul Chan and Mr. Benny Lai taking a group photo with all G6 students



Mr. Sunny Lui demonstrating a science activity

The Experience Day was held on 28 November 2019. It is an important event for GT G6 students. They enjoyed different activities prepared by the secondary section such as English sports, science, and visual arts. In the morning, they had various interesting lessons. In the afternoon, they had an inter-class competition in the school hall and enjoyed lunch with some G7 and G8 students. This event provided students with a joyful and friendly atmosphere to learn and play.



Mr. Ryan Cheng  
Admission Group

Students enjoying the sports competition

## The G7 Admission Briefing

The Admission Briefing was held on 2 November 2019. It was a great chance for non-GT parents and students to know more about GT College. On that day, parents gathered at our school hall and various information was given using different approaches such as presentation, sharing, and Q&A session.

Different features of our school were introduced to parents such as G7 integration, Talent Development, the International Exchange Program, and JUPAS Offer. Meanwhile, the children participated in experience lessons including English, Sports, Science, Chinese History, and Putonghua. Parents and students gave positive feedback throughout the function, earnestly asking our School Management Team questions. It was a meaningful and enjoyable day for all the parents and students.

Mr. Ryan Cheng  
Admission Group



GT parents sharing their experience about raising kids



Mr. Ryan Cheng explaining the rundown of the Admission Briefing



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