

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School celebrates students' attainment of the 2012 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School students have again achieved excellent results in their 2012 IGCSE examinations. Our cohort of 78 students attained a total of 403 A or A* grades. Our students' outstanding achievements demonstrate the success of our commitment to a broad curriculum and a holistic education, as we encourage our learners to develop a diverse range of interest and skills that they truly love. The CKY community is also extremely delighted that five of our students were awarded the 2012 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards. This award honors the success of learners who have demonstrated academic excellence in IGCSE Examinations. The awards are also a testament to the enormous effort of both pupils and teachers across the two years of preparation for the IGCSE examinations:

Angus Fong - Top Mark in Hong Kong (English Literature)
Adrian Ho - Top Mark in Hong Kong (Geography)
Martin Chan - High Achievement (Computer Studies)
Natalie Ser - High Achievement (Drama)
Natalie Ip - High Achievement (Physical Education)

*High Achievement Awards represent the highest mark achieved in Hong Kong in subjects which are not so widely taken.

Dr. Lau, our Head Principal, had an interview with these outstanding students on 1st February 2013. Students' sharing and reflections have provided some insight into the elements of their success.



Adrian Ho

After I was informed that I had come top in Hong Kong for Geography in the 2012 IGCSE, I was both honoured and surprised. It is a great privilege to have this reward and it serves as a recognition of my hard work in those two years of the IGCSE course. It would also certainly motivate me to aim higher in my upcoming IB examinations, albeit IB is a very tough and extremely demanding curriculum.

Geography is not a very difficult subject as it does not involve complicated mathematics and formulae while language does not play a vital role in it, as long as the written English is understandable. To score well in the Geography exam, mere studying of textbooks and teachers' notes is definitely not sufficient. Students who aim for A* or the top honour should always try their very best to enrich their general knowledge as much and as diverse as possible. Intensive and in-depth studying of various atlases and news (past and current) would serve them well.



Also, as teachers always emphasize, it is crucial to have enough examination 'feel' by doing all past papers available. No matter how well you understand Geography, if you lack the exam techniques, it would not get you very far, especially for Paper 2 which is a skill paper. In addition to that, teachers'

constructive criticism should be treated as motivation, not pressure, with motivation being an essential element of learning.

Finally, I would like to thank my Geography teacher, Mr Bell, who not only taught me a lot of valuable knowledge but more importantly sparked my interest in Geography.

Angus Fong

English Literature is a subject that requires proficiency in two different realms of knowledge - reason and artistry. This is one of the reasons I enjoyed the course so much. I always consider myself a student who is more proficient in more reason based subjects such as Mathematics, Science, etc., so this result in English Literature gave me quite a surprise.

I think that the fundamental to success in IGCSE English Literature is, before anything else, to be familiar with the reading materials. That is the most important because no matter in what detail one can analyze a piece of text, one must first have a thorough equipment with all aspects of the text. That is why I chose to repeatedly read my materials throughout the course. When faced with any ambiguous or challenging aspects, I made myself understand 100% before I moved on with my reading.

In addition, I think that having the determination to take risks is extremely important when it comes to exams. Before the exam I knew that conformity would not get me the top marks. In English Literature, knowledge is something fundamental, but after that, what truly distinguishes a top tier answer from a good answer is the interpretation of a work. Therefore, I chose to answer the question in such a way that there was some very personal interpretation of the text. This does not mean a completely emotional commentary, but rather, a line of reasoning that appeals to me when I read the text. For instance, one question was about 'how sympathy is created' for a particular character from a text. I could answer by listing every single incident when the author creates sympathy for this character and explain the significance of these, or I could answer by dividing my answer into different sections, each focusing on something particular about the character herself, and then supporting each section with evidence from the text. I chose to answer with the second approach. This meant that I could divide my answer with ideas that I then supported with evidence from the text. This is a risky approach as I had to interpret the text with my own ideas. But this means that I personally input something different into the answer.



All in all, I did not answer the exam paper in a conservative manner, but rather in a radical manner. As I exited the exam room I already knew that either I would get a very high score or the examiner would simply disagree with my interpretation and give me a mediocre score. Who knows what would happen? I think that the

risk was worth taking because unlike other subjects there is no definite answer to questions in English Literature and one's interpretation of a work - if explained in enough breadth and depth - would gain more marks than a mere conjecture of the author's intention while writing the work.

Martin Chan

Looking back to the hard work over IGCSE Computer Studies, I realize that apart from personal commitment and completing piles of past papers, working collaboratively with peers is how you can make the most out of this course knowing you have got limited time and professional computer knowledge. This new way of working resulted particularly well while we were struggling with our coursework, which was the making of a website and database for customer feedback. Two years ago, we knew nothing about Computer Science, it was impossible for us to build a usable website and database just by reading through the manual. At the beginning we all panicked and things were not working out. Our teacher recommended us to stay after school so we could help each other out and stay focused. Our teacher also stayed after school every day for two weeks giving us advice on any technical difficulties and at the same time getting us treats to keep us going strong after a whole school day. After a month of struggle, we finally got a taste of victory. No matter what result we received at the end, all of us enjoyed working things out together like a team and I would definitely consider it as one of those exciting memories at CKY.



Natalie Ip

Firstly, I would like to thank the school and the teachers for their support. Without the school providing excellent facilities, and the teachers answering every doubt we had, I would not have been able to complete the exams with confidence. The reason why I chose Physical Education (PE) is because I am interested in knowing more about the human anatomy, to enhance my knowledge learnt from biology. A lot of people would perhaps be confused: what can you possibly learn in PE? In IGCSE, PE is separated into two different areas, theory and practical. In practical, we had to choose four of our best sports, and be graded on them. You can consistently improve your grading throughout the two years; therefore I think it is absolutely necessary to show sportsmanship: to continuously practice your skills, improve your fitness, and aim to achieve a better grade. In the theory section, we learnt theoretical knowledge of what affect an individual's performance, such as the human body structure, family status, society's influence. Because our knowledge will be tested in a written test, I think the crucial skill we had to master was how to structure our answers. I personally favor practicing past paper, as I believe it has strongly raised my examination skills. Overall, I have enjoyed the whole course, for PE had provided me with a chance to take a break from the other subjects, and I would recommend any fellow classmates to study it.

