



Photo taken by Ms. Laura Hill

Looking Ahead: The New Academic Year Unfolds

By Kurtis Ho, Caitlin Tsai, Co-editors-in-Chief

Following an ephemeral 2 months of Summer Break, the SISHK SecDP section kicked off its new academic year on August 17 with Orientation Day for newly promoted S1 and DP1 students, while the remaining students returned for the first day of school the following day. In these two days, a series of fun activities and events were hosted by the SISHK staff, serving to help friends catch up with each other and recalibrate students to classroom routines.

S1 & DP1 Orientation Day

Stepping foot into a brand new campus is never easy, yet our S1 students adapted flawlessly to their new environment during their Orientation Day. Through campus tours, location hunts, and icebreaking activities, our S1 students familiarised themselves with their new classrooms, classmates, and Form Teachers. Many S1s appeared to enjoy the Airdrop Challenge at the Plaza, hosted by the Student Council as part of their S1 Buddy Program initiative to help S1s acclimatise to secondary school life.

Concurrently, the DP1 students enjoyed their DP1 Orientation Day, an introduction to the IBDP programme alongside their year heads, mentors, and mentor-mentee groups. Although they underwent similar bonding activities and icebreakers, students noted that the highlight of the day was undoubtedly the packing of goodie bags for the elderly, a prologue to their 18 month long CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) programme.

First Day of School

Alas, the school atmosphere could never be complete with the bulk of its students absent.

The day that followed marked the first day of school, where the S2, S3, S4, and DP2 cohort filed into the school doors, which reinvigorated the campus with its usual bustling vitality. Filled with excitement, students repositioned themselves into their homerooms and exchanged greetings with teachers, some new, some old, and set their goals for the upcoming school year. For the S4 and DP2 cohort who will be finishing their IGCSE and IBDP programmes respectively this year, it is certainly a time for them to “lock in” and strive for excellence.

IGCSE results

However, the thrill of a fresh school year quickly shifted into tension as the DP1 cohort nervously awaited their IGCSE results. Having poured blood, sweat, and tears into completing their IGCSE exams last June, it is no surprise that the Auditorium’s air was thick with tension as teachers and students anticipated.

Fortunately, it would come to light that the students’ efforts had paid off, as SISHK celebrated a 100% pass rate, with 74.3% of grades being distinction grades (A* or A), and 45.7% of grades being the highest order of A*. The Academic Excellence Award was bestowed upon the 46 students who obtained 8 distinction grades and above, which took up an impressive 51.1% of the entire cohort.

New staff and students

Ultimately, those who deserve the most praise are definitely the ones who flourished in a completely foreign setting, bombarded with unfamiliar faces and unfamiliar classrooms. As SISHK takes pride in welcoming talented students and teachers into its community, it is

no doubt that our newcomers, although coming from all walks of life, all showed the same valiance and courage in the new school year. The Student Press had the honour of interviewing two of our newcomers: English Teacher Ms Millie Mitchell, and Samantha Lau from DP1.

How have your first weeks at SISHK been?

Ms Mitchell: It’s been really nice, everyone’s been so very friendly, and the students are brilliant. It’s a very warm environment.

Samantha: The people here are so enthusiastic, and everyone has been really friendly and outgoing, which has been great.

What surprised you the most coming to SISHK?

Ms Mitchell: I think what surprised me is how independent people are here, which I think is a really, really good thing. It’s nice to have that kind of flexibility in lessons, and it definitely has impressed me that people take responsibility for their learning. You don’t expect to be spoon fed, so that’s good.

Samantha: People are a lot more enthusiastic to answer questions, compared to my old school, and maybe it’s because I’m a new student, but I think people are really friendly and outgoing, which is great.

What are you most excited for this year?

Ms Mitchell: I’m excited to complete this whole year, and feel more at home with the routines, getting to that point where it feels really familiar. I’m also looking forward to getting involved in more and more extracurricular activities and joining the WOW trips.

Samantha: I’m curious about what Winter Ball looks like, because I’ve never been to one before, and I’m looking forward to becoming closer to the friends I’ve made, and meeting more people.

Looking forward

As we step into the upcoming school year, the Student Press hopes to remind us of our current school theme: “Inspire... and be inspired. Be a better you!”

Let us celebrate when we witness the achievements of our peers. Let us be motivated to aim high, and reach for the stars. Let us come together, and build a school community that empowers every individual to reach their highest potential.

Introducing our New Exco Team

This year, Student Press aims to empower student voice, spotlight campus events, and foster an informed community, delivering regular newsletters through school email and collaborations with the SISHK Corporate Communications Team.

One of the major differences in this upcoming year include our new newsletter framework, where we aim to release small bulletins on an event-based frequency, and have a consolidated newsletter released every 3 months. We are looking forward to recruiting new members this year, and sign-ups will be sent out soon, so we urge anyone with a passion for writing and media to join!

Teacher-in-charge

Ms Hill: I am genuinely proud to be the Teacher in Charge of Student Press, not least because it was founded by students and brought to life by their passion for writing, their curiosity about the world, and their determination to share student perspectives. Every year brings new highlights, and I have no doubt that this year will be no exception. We are delighted to welcome a completely new and wonderfully talented Exco team, who already have a clear vision and a host of exciting ideas for evolving our publications. There is something very special about seeing students turn ideas into articles, conversations into stories, and passing thoughts into polished pieces of writing. As for my dream of selling ice cream one day, that remains on hold for now — but with enough excellent student journalism to enjoy, I am coping remarkably well.

Executive Members

Ruiwen Wang: My name is Ruiwen Wang, a Secondary 2 student. I am delighted to serve as an executive member for The Student Press this academic year, and I look forward to helping organise our publications and events. I have prior experience in debating and formal essay-writing, alongside a long-standing passion for literature across different forms. Having learned about journalism, I feel inspired to explore this style of writing and discover what it has to offer. I hope to apply my existing strengths to support the Student Press in every capacity, while gaining insight into the many moving parts behind producing our work. Most importantly, I wish to help build a more connected school community: by sharing campus updates and celebrating the accomplishments of different student groups through our newsletter.

Alex Lim: My name is Alex Lim, I'm in S4-5. I am delighted to serve as an executive member for The Student Press this academic year, and I look forward to helping organise our publications and events. Ever since I was a little kid, I have always had a deep passion for writing, and I love finding creative ways to express new ideas. I hope to showcase my creativity and existing skills to support the Student Press in every capacity. My goal for this year is to manage the logistics behind the many events we would be running this year. Most importantly, I wish to help build a more connected school community by sharing updates and celebrating the accomplishments of individuals around the world.

Co-editors-in-Chief

Kurtis Ho: Hi everyone! My name is Kurtis from DP1-3, and I am super honoured to carry the flame of Student Press for this Academic Year, alongside Caitlin and Mia. As Co-editor-in-Chief, I will endeavour to produce timely and engaging newsletters for you all! Apart from the Student Press, I love expressing myself through football and playing Minecraft – and I relish in watching YouTube, anime, or doomscrolling on Instagram. Anyhow, I look forward to working with more and more like-minded people through Student Press!

Caitlin Tsai: Hi! I'm Caitlin from DP1-1, and I am thrilled to be co-leading Student Press this year alongside Kurtis and Mia. Beyond schoolwork, I love listening to and playing music, and taking full advantage of any remaining time to take a fat nap. This year, I hope for us to share timely, meaningful coverage with our school community, helping to keep us connected, informed, and inspired. I'm really looking forward to working with everyone!

Mia Jin: I'm Mia Jin from S4-4, one of the Co-editor-in-Chief for Student Press. Outside the classroom, my main interests revolve around arts through painting, photography, and filmmaking. Personally, as an animal lover and cat owner, I've always been drawn to biology, especially marine life. As for this new academic year, I am excited to watch Student Press push creative boundaries and remain a trusted, vital voice for our school community.



Credits

Co-editors-in-chief: Kurtis Ho, Caitlin Tsai, Mia Jin

Executive Member: Ruiwen Wang, Alex Lim

Teacher-in-charge: Ms Laura Hill



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Editor's Note:

Here is a sneak peak of our very first small bulletin following the long break, and we will be opening sign-ups for new members very soon, so do keep an eye out for our upcoming presentations and recruitment form! We are looking for anyone with a passion for writing, design, and want their voices to be heard in our school community, and look forward to working with everyone!

So, we would love to hear from you! If you have any feedback, inquiries, story ideas, or if you are interested in being featured in the next issue of the Student Press newsletter, please reach out to us at studentpress@apps.singapore.edu.hk! For the latest updates as well as article highlights, please follow our Instagram account [@sishk_sp](https://www.instagram.com/sishk_sp)!