

Kwun Tong Government Secondary School

Collaboration in Arts Education: From Seeds to Blossoms



Cast, production crew, trainers and guests at the Variety Show

Mission of Our School

Our School-Based Arts Education Program, which upholds the principles of “Equal Learning Opportunities” (ELO) and “Sustainable Development”, has been introduced to develop students’ aesthetic sensitivity and cultivate their lifelong interest in the arts with a whole school approach. The ultimate goal is to promote art and culture in both our school and our community.

Introduction of Our School-Based Arts Education Curriculum: G.P.S.

Different departments joined hands to promote aesthetic education with careful cross-curricular planning based on G.P.S., which means Group learning, Preparation work and Skills enhancement. The aim of the cross-curricular collaboration is to unleash students’ creativity and potential, build up their effective communication and enable them to gain pleasure and satisfaction from the art-making process. At the end of the project, students put on a collage drama titled *I am (not) a Superstar*, which integrated different forms of art as shown in the table below.

Department	Form of Art	Teacher-in-charge
Visual Arts	Fashion Design and Fashion Show	Miss Chan Hoi Yi, Cassandra
Music Technology and Living	Chinese and Western Orchestra Dressmaking and Sewing	Miss Yuen Kar Yee, Ida
Drama Club	Devised Theatre	Mr Shung Wing Chung, Alex



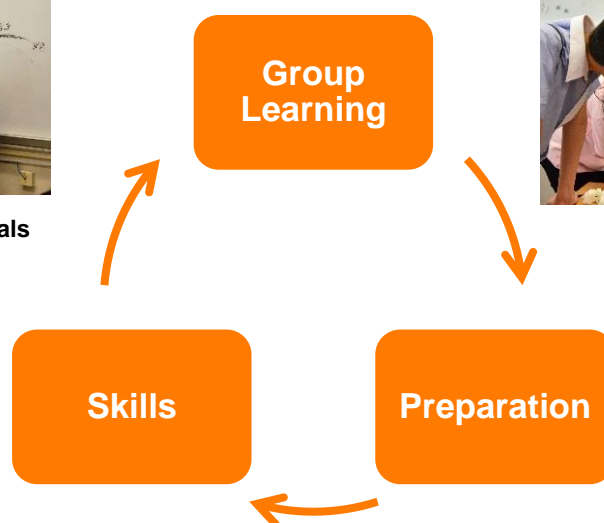
Workshops with professionals



Make-up trials



Chinese and Western Orchestra



Dancing practice

A. Group Learning

Our students were organised into groups to facilitate a constructive learning experience. They had to express their own opinions while making sense of other groupmates' ideas in the Visual Arts and Technology and Living lessons. Coupled with the training and guidance from the professional tutors of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, students maximized their potential in the art creation process. For example, in order to draft their own unique group design, the first step was to utilise online fashion resources or fashion magazines for inspiration. Then, students had to discuss the theme and mood of the haute couture based on fashion theories learned in their Visual Arts lessons. It was followed by systematic division of labour among groupmates, like selecting student models, discussing and choosing the appropriate fabrics and textiles, taking body measurements, assembling garments and making outfits in Technology and Living lessons.

B. Preparation Work

Preparation work of the production crews was the key to the successful cross-curricular collaboration among the Visual Arts Department, Technology and Living Department, the Chinese and Western Orchestra and the Drama Club. The song 'My Neighbour Totoro' was adapted as a common thread to the collage drama in the KTGSS 35th Anniversary Variety Show. More importantly, intensive training and rehearsals with over 250 members were conducted so as to prepare them well for their performance.

C. Skills Enhancement

The Devised Theatre featured performers' contributions because the script originated from the collective work by the Drama Club members. They brainstormed and then decided on what expressive skills to apply to the Devised Theatre, such as voice, movement, facial expression and gesture. In the collage drama, different creative skills were fully stretched, including costume design, make-up and hair-styling, catwalk modelling, choreography, pop-dance, choir singing, playing different musical instruments and lighting and sound engineering. It was truly an integrated art performance!

Manifestation of the Collaboration in Arts Education: KTGSS 35th Anniversary Variety Show

Our teachers sowed the seeds of the drama collage through cross-curricular collaboration. The KTGSS 35th Anniversary Variety Show was a golden opportunity for students to showcase their talents and bloom. The collage drama in which 'Dream' was the pivotal theme was indeed a marvelous piece of group work, synchronizing the Fashion Show with the Chinese and Western Orchestra and the Devised Theatre. It was an impressive performance which filled the school hall with applause.

Production Crews' Reflections



I am grateful to my school for providing this Other Learning Experience for us. The process of designing a dress from scratch, sewing different fabrics together, putting on the hand-made dress, turning into a catwalk model and walking on the runway was unforgettable.

4A Mok Ka Yan, Catwalk Model of the Fashion Show



Combining different art elements into a collage drama was a brand new experience for me. As a conductor of the Chinese and Western Orchestra, it was an honour to be part of the performance. Now, I have more confidence in my own ability in directing a music performance.

6A Lui Po Yan, Conductor of the Chinese and Western Orchestra



Starting from zero, we all played a part in the collaboration of the Devised Theatre. I'm so glad to have made our voice heard, our talents exhibited and our original performance put on stage!

6A Ng Ching Yuet, Leading Dancer of the Devised Theatre

Way Forward

Clear teaching and learning objectives have been put into play to enable sustainable development in Arts Education. This academic year, a school-based cross-curricular project has been launched and an outreach program to primary schools (Kowloon Bay St. John The Baptist Catholic Primary School and Jordon Valley St. Joseph Catholic Primary School) has been implemented to ensure a rippling effect on the promotion of arts education.



An outreach programme to primary schools