

香港資優教育學院
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education
Press Release

**HKAGE ANNOUNCES TO LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS ITS DEVELOPMENT
BLUEPRINT, SCHOOL NOMINATION PROCEDURE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENT
CONSULTATION CENTRE**

Introduction to HKAGE & School Nomination Sharing Session 08/09

The School Nomination Sharing Session 2008/09 entitled 'Your Gifts Our Future', together with an introduction to the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE), held on 30 September 2008, was attended by almost 100 educators and social workers from local secondary schools.

In his welcoming address, Dr. Stephen Tommis, the Executive Director of HKAGE, outlined the directions and future plans of HKAGE, and highlighted the emphasis to provide high-quality services and maintaining good partnerships with four main stakeholders including students, teachers, parents and researchers. Mr. Abraham Tang, Associate Director (Student Programmes and Services), indicated that a quality assurance system would be adopted to evaluate the programmes, and HKAGE aimed to organise more courses in the humanities and leadership domains. He also added that the matching of students with appropriate programmes was of immense importance and HKAGE might consider other selection/enrolment schemes such as Membership and Credit System to benefit more students in the near future.

The Option of Nomination by School Social Workers

Mr. Tang introduced the 'School Nomination Pilot Scheme 2008-09: Working with Social Workers'. In this scheme, the social worker, in addition to teachers, could nominate students for HKAGE programmes. Schools are invited to participate in this pilot scheme. Earlier in September, HKAGE had collected 120 schools' opinions on the Scheme. Schools and social workers have already shown their initial support for the Scheme. Social workers who join the Scheme will nominate students for HKAGE membership next spring. If it works well, the Scheme will officially be implemented in schools in the academic year of 2009. Through this scheme, it is hoped that more gifted students will be identified and nurtured. HKAGE has been meeting the representatives of social workers to understand their concerns and is planning to hold seminars to facilitate their understanding of gifted students.

Cross-sector Coordination for Better Development of Gifted Students

Mr. Yeung Ting-pong, a teacher of SKH Li Fook Hing Secondary School, was invited to share his experience in identifying and nurturing gifted students. He suggested possible ways for schools to launch gifted programmes to more effectively meet the needs of gifted students. Ms Li Wing Sze, Supervisor of Y.W.C.A., also shared her experience. She stated that the cooperation between teachers and social workers would better support gifted students' development.

Eight Students for Each School Nomination

HKAGE has started accepting nominations of students by all local secondary schools as well as international schools from 16 September. The deadline is 13 October. Each school can nominate eight students and schools can apply for extra nominations of individual junior students who show

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very outstanding potentials and performance in leadership, mathematics, sciences and humanities. Please refer to the nomination information posted on the Academy's website at <http://www.hkage.org.hk> or call 3698 3498 or 3498 3494 for more information.

HKAGE Established the Parent Consultation Centre at the end of September

Parents of gifted children are often confronted with difficulties in parenting due to their children's different cognitive and affective characteristics and needs. Parents play a huge role in nurturing the development of their gifted children. Support from the Academy for parents will impact positively on their role in supporting the development of their own gifted children.

HKAGE understands and recognises the critical role that parents play in child development and has therefore established the Parent Consultation Centre to help local parents meet the needs of their gifted children by providing them with parenting knowledge and skills.

HKAGE has now officially established the Parent Consultation Centre

The Parent Consultation Centre aims to provide services through two different channels:

- A **free** phone and email helpline answering parents' questions and manned by a trained Education Adviser. The Helpline provides information and advice.
- face-to-face consultation with parents (and where appropriate the child) whose needs are complex and who would benefit from a personal meeting.

The Helpline service is now available. Parents of gifted children in the school system, who would like to find out more information concerning our Academy as well as gifted education, can now call the Helpline. Parents who face issues or problems parenting a gifted child are also welcome to seek advice from our Education Adviser.

Contact Details

Direct Helpline number: 3698 3947

Email Address: consultation@hkage.org.hk

Operating hours:

Monday to Friday: 11.00a.m. – 12.30p.m., and 2.30p.m. – 4.30p.m.
(closed on public holidays)

Monday, 6th October, 2008