

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

Press Release

**THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR GIFTED EDUCATION (HKAGE)
EXTENDS ITS PROVISION FOR THE GIFTED COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG**

- **HKAGE launches its expanded free Student Programs for 2008-9**
 - **HKAGE enrolls its youngest student**
 - **HKAGE demonstrates its commitment to working with existing organisations in its Student Orientation Day**
- Student enrolment to the HKAGE 2008-9 programs up by 36% on 2007-8
 - new programs for student members
 - Youngest student admitted at age 10 years
 - Student Orientation Day on 13th December 2008 - an exercise in collaboration

36% Increase in Numbers of Students Enrolled in the HKAGE

HKAGE is delighted to announce there has been a 36% increase this year (2008-9) in the number of students nominated for its free programs compared with the numbers enrolled in the “*Support Measures of the Exceptionally Gifted*” in 2007/08. Due to the increase in demand for these programs the nomination period was extended by two weeks to give time for more schools to participate. The school nomination period this year started in mid September and finished at the end of October.

To ensure objective assessments are made of the candidates applying for these programs the HKAGE has formed a Professional External Selection Board* which interviews nominees and makes an assessment of their suitability. The Board finished its task last week and the results were sent to schools last Friday (28th November, 2008). Students can be nominated for programs from four domains: Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Leadership and programs for these will start in December.

New Student Programs on Personal Growth and Social Development

It has always been the HKAGE’s intention to increase the number and range of student programs in due course, but with the extraordinary increase in demand for these HKAGE has decided to bring its plans forwards to this current academic year. The Student Programs and Services Division of the HKAGE has increased the number of gifted programs by 15% for this year.

Under the auspices of EDB, a number of student programs have been successfully piloted and developed in recent years. From September 2008 the HKAGE has taken over the planning of these and it is the intention that most of these will run again this year (For details, please visit our website: www.hkage.org.hk).

The development of new programs will include: personal growth, social development, critical thinking and study skills. Over the coming months there will also be further planning developments in the Leadership program and the Humanities courses will be broadened to include more subjects and issues. In addition to these regular programs, the HKAGE will organise a series of student seminars

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on different aspects of giftedness to cater for the diversified of the need of the gifted student community.

Youngest student at age of 10 admitted in the HKAGE

With the increased demand from students has come a widening of the age range also. The HKAGE is very much aware that a student's chronological age may not tally with his or her intellectual age and so it has made special provision for those candidates who fall outside the "normal" age criterion.

The HKAGE has received a number of these *special cases* nominated by schools and this year the youngest ones are 10 years old. Special cases such as these have been interviewed by the Selection Board and carefully assessed to see whether the programs offered are suitable for them. The Board has taken into consideration each student's particular type of giftedness, their intellectual and emotional maturity, and comments and recommendations from their school.

In addition, the HKAGE also recognizes that there is a minority of students who, though gifted, have a learning difficulty – these are said to be twice exceptional students – and who are often left out of the identification process. Consequently, the HKAGE is planning additional special arrangements for these young students so that they do not miss out on the opportunities offered in Hong Kong.

Student Program Orientation Day - 13 December 2008- a collaborative approach

The first orientation day organized by the Academy will be on 13 December 2008, which is two months earlier than usual. All student members have already received an invitation letter via their schools. With the limited seating capacity of the Lecture Theatre in Kowloon Tong Educational Services Centre, the Orientation Day has been arranged in two sessions: one for students taking the humanities and mathematics programs, and one for those taking the sciences and leadership programs. In line with its stated objective of working in collaboration with other organisations the HKAGE has invited past participants in the programs and their parents to share their experiences with the new student intake. Consequently, the Hong Kong Federation of Exceptionally Gifted (HKFEG) and the Parent Association of Exceptionally Gifted (PAEG) will be taking part. In addition, HKAGE's own chartered Educational Psychologist will provide an educationalist's perspective on the planned gifted programs.

*The Professional External Selection Board consists of (listed in arbitrary order):

Prof CHENG, Shiu Yuen	Dean of Science, HKUST
Ms CHENG, Veon	Chairperson, Parent Association for the Exceptionally Gifted
Ms CHOW, Jessie	Educational Pyschologist, the HKAGE
Mr LAU, Hor Keung	Principal, Sha Tin Methodist College
Ms WONG, Kit Lin	Principal, Baptist Lui Ming Choi Primary School
Dr WONG, Pui Ling Linda	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, HKBU
Ms YEUNG, Ching Han	Principal, HKMLC Queen Maud Secondary School
Dr. YUEN, Man Tak	Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, HKU

2 December 2008