

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)
IS TO
PILOT ITS FIRST PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

Working in partnership with the Hong Kong Association for Science and Math Education (HKASME) the HKAGE is to extend its provision for students by piloting a Mathematics Programme aimed specifically at the brightest primary school students in Hong Kong. This is the first time that a local Association has collaborated with the Academy to roll out a territory-wide programme.

This Programme is based on the tried and tested work of Dr Benny HON of the Mathematics Department of City University Hong Kong, who has a particular interest in making adequate provision in the curriculum for young able mathematicians. Some of the key features of this programme include:

- **Free entry** to the course if selected by the primary school
- A strong emphasis on **active learning** whereby students are on task for most of the time
- A **problem-solving approach** that requires careful evaluation of the feasibility of potential solutions
- Many **open-ended tasks** that will stretch even the most able mathematicians

The HKAGE plans to run the pilot programme at **Lock Tao Secondary** School in Shatin where several feeder primaries will be invited to take part over the Easter holidays. From there it is planned to extend the programme to seven other Regional Education Districts over the summer 2009, to include:

- Christian Alliance S W Chan Memorial College
- SMK MCF Ma Ko Pan Memorial College
- Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School
- CCC Kei Long College
- SKH St Mary's Church Mok Hing Yiu College
- HKFEW Wong Cho Bau Secondary School
- China Holiness Church Living Spirit College

Using the established model of selected secondary schools hosting the event for local primary schools (as with the Joint Primary School Mathematics Competition) it is hoped to be able to make provision in all 18 Regional Education Districts and extend this free service to more than 2100 young students in 2010.

To mark this development there will a brief **Signing Ceremony** of the Memorandum of Understanding between the HKAGE and the HKASME in **Rm E303 at Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, on Wednesday 25 March at 4:30 pm.**

The press is invited to this ceremony.

Of this recent expansion in its services the Executive Director of the HKAGE, **Dr Stephen Tommis**, says *"though it has been our remit to develop programmes for students in the 10-18 age range we have had many requests to extend provision to the younger ages and this pilot is part of our response to meeting those needs. I should like to record our thanks for the generous support*

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afforded by Mr CK Wan and his team at the HKASME who have made this joint venture possible. We look forward to welcoming Hong Kong's most able young mathematicians in a programme that will offer challenge, stimulating problem-solving and a fun learning experience".

Mr CK Wan, from HKASME, adds *"We hope that this ambitious and wide-reaching programme will appeal to many able primary mathematicians and that it will provide the model for other organizations to work with the HKAGE for the benefit of Hong Kong students"*.

Background

The HKAGE was set up in 2008 to supplement the work of EDB in the provision for gifted students, their parents and the training of local teachers. To this end, the HKAGE has established 4 frontline divisions (with a fifth one, Research, to be created in the coming years):

- Student Programmes and Services
- Parent Support – which includes a Consultation Centre
- Teacher Professional Development
- Research
- Corporate Services

VISION

In its vision statement the HKAGE aims to become a world-class institution of its kind with an effective framework for strategic planning and delivery of appropriate programmes to encourage and nurture exceptionally gifted students and to provide support to their teachers and parents as well as other researchers and related organizations within the Hong Kong SAR.

MISSION

To secure appropriate learning and development opportunities for gifted students, initially aged 10 to 18 years, to enable them to realize their potential in a wide range of learning domains including leadership, creativity and inter-personal skills, and to cater for their social and emotional needs as well as their sense of commitment to the local community;

To mobilize and steer the interest and effort of parents, teachers, academics and business and community leaders with a view to creating a conducive and enriching learning environment for all gifted students;

To facilitate the professional development of teachers in the identification and support of gifted students within the school context;

To develop, through partnership with like-minded organizations, both locally and in other countries, a knowledge hub for furthering research on gifted education and the exchange of ideas and best practice.

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END OF PRESS RELEASE

P. 2 of 2

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