

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

Factsheet

RESPONSE FROM STEVEN (April 2009)

I have read the "Letter from Helen" twice and I empathise with her. I felt rather lonely when I was young (especially in primary school but things got better in secondary and university education). I was not willing to associate with my peers deeply because I often thought they were mediocre that they only followed the crowd. I even thought they were 'non-gifted'. (I'm sorry to say that but that was what I thought about them. Frankly speaking, I had to compromise to socialise with my peers when I was in primary and secondary education. I was forced to agree to their 'nonsense' views.) My parents, teachers and relatives often said I was hyperactive and naughty. (It's true that I can never sit still. Well, I am talkative too. Lucky me, my parents love me very much. They have said until now that it was very challenging to take care of me when I was young.) I always ponder and challenge other people's views and that sometimes offends people. My academic results were not bad. I got the highest marks in the subjects I liked with A(01) in local public exams. On the contrary, I might fail those subjects I didn't like but I cared less. Under the local primary and secondary education system, the definition of an excellent student is that he has to attain good results in every subject. That's why I have never thought that I could be gifted (I am a Mensa member). My mother has said if there had been such services for the gifted, I would have had better personal development. (My life now is not bad. I have got a Master's degree and a good job. When I'm free, I will travel around the world and read lots of books. I have too many hobbies that I don't have much spare time. Sometimes I am over-excited and can't sleep well.) I hope you will work harder to provide appropriate assistance to gifted children and youngsters (their parents as well) in their personal development and help them get on the right track. Thank you!

(P.S. In the third paragraph of "Letter from Helen", she mentions that she has a wide range of interests and talents. To a certain extent, I am inferior to her. Though I like beautiful melodies and things, I do not have any talents in music and drawing. Besides, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my parents who gave birth to me. They let me have the opportunities to experience both good and bad times that I have learned to strive to make progress and be independent. Most importantly, I would like to sincerely thank them for tolerating my 'naughtiness'.)

If you think it is appropriate, you can place my mail under 'Letter from Helen' to let her know that there are people who empathise with her. It may show support for her and serve as a reference for other gifted people. However, if you publish my letter, please do not change the contents (except the typing mistakes, if any). I hope you can respect my true feelings and views. Thank you.

The views expressed in this letter are those of the author and may not reflect those of the HKAGE.