



For over 55 years Island School students have been changing Hong Kong society

Each generation of Islanders have looked beyond themselves, to identify what contribution they can make. **Ida and Hannah, Class of 2020**, explain how their service project changed their lives and those of the people they partnered with.

Hannah: "Ida and I lead teams that produced the Year Book and the school's creative magazine Imaginings. We learnt a lot from this experience and we didn't want the process to end with the distribution of the publications. In October 2018 we came up with the idea of a community publication."

Ida: "Since Island School's move to Sha Tin, we have formed positive relationships with those around us.

The school has engaged in several community partnerships including: creative writing projects and community visits to elderly, but we felt that these weren't as well-known as they should be and we wanted to celebrate them, through a community publication.

But the idea of simply showcasing our community partnerships in a publication, quickly grew. We realized we could do more than create a magazine that celebrates the school's various community outreach events, we could also provide creative opportunities for those that don't have them."

Right: Ida and Hannah, Class of 2020

Hannah: "Collaborating with our neighbouring school, Ng Yuk Secondary at Tai Wai, we started hosting workshops that offered students opportunities to create - in what we hoped were supportive and engaging environments.

We hosted Blackout Poetry, Mexican Food Cooking and Easter Egg Decorat-

ing workshops, and a friendly Basketball Competition - just for fun."

Ida: "Our Mexican Food Cooking session was especially successful. Ng Yuk Secondary School, does not have kitchen facilities and Food Technology is not part of their school curriculum. For many of them, it was their first time cooking and



Above: Cooking and poetry workshops ah, Class of 2020

some students told us that they recreated the meal for their families at home. This was the moment when we witnessed firsthand the impact of our project; providing students with the resources and support to explore new interests."

"We realized that Island School could and should become a hub for creativity in the community."

Hannah: "Our Basketball Competition was also a great experience - we saw our schools overcoming language barriers and differences coming together to support and cheer for one another.

We realized that Island School could and should become a hub for creativity in our community if we extended our project further. The team that has taken over from us

is planning an Open Day, where younger children, aged 9-11, and their parents can visit our campuses to be creative!

Visitors from the surrounding community will be able to join in soft toy making, baking, poetry, and storytelling workshops. The teams aim for this event is not only to encourage creativity through the provision of opportunities, but also to breakdown any barriers or possible perceived differences."

Ida: "Another one of our aims was to promote our community library. This is a library separate from our school library, open for the local community but we noticed that it isn't used too much. We want visitors to see the library as a great resource and not something foreign or unfamiliar."

Hannah: "In our final year of school we handed over the project to the next team. But we feel that we can confidently say our workshops were successful, as evident in the sheer numbers that signed up and the fun and

enjoyment that we saw as the students relished in the process of creative expression.

Ida: "One teacher, in particular Ms Teri Eves, helped us significantly. She helped us to develop our ideas, find solutions to our problems, and she has even ran some of the workshops. Ms Eves and this project has changed mine and Hannah's life - now we can manage a budget, present concepts, talk to local councilors, and we became more confident in unfamiliar situations.

Hannah: "Our project is a simple model that can be easily replicated at other locations and schools but the team running it needs support to ensure its longevity."

If you would like to support projects like this, please let us know.

Contact:
Vicky Hill, Communications Manager:
Vicky.Hill@online.island.edu.hk