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NANYANG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

01 / 2021

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**GENERATION
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与黄敏敏副校长的访谈

Interview with Vice-Principal Ms Agnes Ng Mien Mien

郭婷萱 Kirstin Kwok Ning Xuan (S310)

陶姿璇 Haw Zi Xuan (S310)



What is a significant memory or experience you have had in NYGH?

您能分享在南洋女中印象最深刻的记忆或经验吗？

My different interactions with students are unique and memorable. Small things like how one of my form classes would always start the day with a loud and bright “Good morning!” which really lightened everyone’s mood and brightened up the day. Other teachers also shared that this class always persevered with positivity because they always started lessons with happy greetings. I was very happy about another of my form classes who seldom talked about their marks but would try their best in every task assigned, just to get the most joy out of it. My students’ positive learning attitude taught me what it means to be a teacher and a lifelong learner. Interacting with my students is an unforgettable memory.

Our school’s Singapore Quality Award (SQA) journey was also a precious memory for me. During that time, colleagues had to work closely together to articulate what made NYGH so unique. The process made me understand more clearly what NYGH really stood for and its significance to teachers, students and Singapore.

对我而言，最特别的回忆就是与不同学生的交流。比如：级任班同学简单的一句“老师早安”也能给大家带来不少正能量，让我们以愉悦的心情迎接新的一天。而且，我也曾经教过一个不常把考试分数挂在嘴边的级任班，对她们而言，学习并非得为考试服务，她们更享受的是学习过程中的乐趣。她们积极的学习态度深深地感染了我，让我明白了怎样才是真正的老师，怎样才是真正的终身学习精神。

令我印象最深刻的就是参加新加坡素质奖评选的经历。那时候，老师们都发挥团队精神，紧密地合作，把南中最独特的一面呈现给大家。通过与评选委员会的面谈过程，我更深层地领悟到了南中这所学校对于南中师生和新加坡社会的价值。

What particular word/ phrase would you use to describe the school?

您会用哪个字（或者词语）来形容南洋女中的师生？

There are two words - “established” and “humility”. Our school has been around for 104 years, and we’ve been through a lot as a school, trying out a variety of things to keep up with the rapidly changing times. In spite of all the challenges we have faced, we are clear about what we cannot compromise and our mission as an educational institution. Thus we are indeed a very established institution. At the same time, we are also mindful that we cannot become complacent. Hence the word “humility” - the humility to continue learning and striving for a better future.

我应该会用这两个词语——“久负盛誉”和“虚心进取”。南洋女中拥有104年悠久的校史，在这段期间，我们经历了许多波折，也做出了许多新的尝试。尽管遇到了种种困难，我们始终秉持着办校的教育理念，这是值得我们骄傲的。同时，我们必须时刻保持虚心进取的心态，才能做到终身学习，携手打造一个更美好的未来。

What do you think about the use of smart devices for educational purposes?

您对在教学过程中使用智能设备有何看法？

Smart devices are essential for learning, and since the emergence of Covid-19, it has become especially clear. In fact, they have now become an essential tool for Home Based Learning (HBL). In this regard, NYGH has an advantage since we started 1:1 technology in teaching and learning way back in 2011. Our preparedness allowed for a smooth learning process during the circuit breaker period, although an extended HBL period was itself a new experience for all of us and we had to grapple with many considerations. Devices empower students to learn more effectively; facts are at your fingertips and research is easily accessible. Furthermore, the devices allow students to co-create knowledge more efficiently. However, it is important to note that learning is not all about “me and technology”. Students still require real-life experiences, connection with people, and connection with nature. Many of us learn best through hands-on activities. Students also need a variety of interactions and experiences to clarify their values and to build their moral compass. Thus, I think we need a good balance.

智能设备在很大程度上能促进学习成效，在疫情期间，其功用更为显著。其实，现在它更成了居家学习必不可少的工具。在这方面，南中占有一定的优势，因为我们从2011年起就开始使用个人智能设备实施一对一科技辅助教学。这使我们得以在阻断措施期间顺利进行居家学习，尽管后来居家学习时间的延长给我们带来更多新的挑战，智能产品让学生更有效地学习，事实信息随手可得、科研资料也近在咫尺。但是，学习并不能完全由科技主导。学生还是需要累积实际的生活经验、学会与别人相处、多接触大自然、以及培养动手实践的能力。智能产品固然重要，但我们也不能忽略价值观的培养。同时，我们需要取得一个平衡，因为学生也需要多元的互动和体验以树立正面的价值观。

What are your hopes for NYGH?

您对南中有哪些期许？

This is a school with a rich heritage, therefore I hope that the rich heritage can continue and generations of Nanyang girls possess a great sense of belonging and pride as a Nanyang girl. I believe any educator will hope for the best for their students. I hope we can continue with our mission to produce students who are upright and enjoy lifelong learning, are curious and always keeping up with the times, and eager to make a difference.

南洋女中是一所历史悠久的学校，希望这种丰富多彩的传统文化能延续下去。在学生方面，我希望各届南中毕业生都会对母校有深沉的归属感，并以母校为荣。在教师方面，我相信每位教师都会希望自己的学生能发光发热，因此我希望我们能继续履行我们的教育使命：培养品学兼优、终身学习、好奇心强、与时俱进、为社会积极贡献的学生。



Could you share with us some hobbies you engage in?

您有哪一些兴趣和爱好？

I like painting. I have been doing it since kindergarten. I took art all the way to A levels, and I think art is a subject that gave me balance in my school life. I did not take up art as a career, but I still continue with this hobby and paint when I am free. I also teach my nieces some basic painting techniques. Interacting with them about art is something I enjoy very much. Even talking about the artists and what we can learn from them are very interesting experiences for me.

我非常热爱绘画。我从幼儿园就开始学习绘画了，升上初级学院后还修读了美术。我认为画画能帮助我调剂学业繁重的校园生活。如今，虽然我不是画家，但我还是会抽空画画。我也会教我外甥女一些基本的绘画技巧。我很享受做这些。此外，我也热衷于探索不同画风以及我们能从这些画家身上得到的启示。这给我带来了很大的乐趣。

If you could use a metaphor to describe your educational philosophy, what would it be?

如果把教学理念比喻成一样东西，您会把它比喻成什么？

As the saying goes, “an apple a day keeps the doctor away”. Metaphorically, educators play the role of an apple to keep the students healthy. What I am talking about here is not just the students’ physical health, but also their mental and emotional health. My purpose is very clear: I would like to develop and protect students’ physical, emotional and mental health, just like an apple.

作为一名教育工作者，我的首要任务是帮助学生保持身心健康，因为学生唯有快乐成长才能有效学习。俗话说：“一日一苹果，医生远离我”，对我来说，我们就像这颗苹果，帮助学生保持健康。这里的健康指的不仅仅是学生的身体健康，也包括心理和情感的健康。我的使命非常清楚：我愿像一颗苹果一样，用心发展和保护学生的身心健康。



Back To School 2021!

The official school year was ushered in on a different note this year: we went digital in welcoming everyone back. This was achieved with a close eye on Safe Management Measures.

Here are some photographs of the school activities.





BACK TO SCHOOL



南洋春节庆祝会

Chinese New Year Celebrations

傅萱 Fu Xuan (408)

李婕 Lee Jie (408)

2021年春节的到来，也迎来了一年一度的南中春节庆祝会。今年虽然受到疫情的影响，表演的形式将以线上呈现，但依然精彩不减，惊喜连连！今年的表演不像往年是现场表演，而是以预录视频展现在大家眼前。不再拘泥于传统形式，今年的演出更精彩，更有新意，在传统和创新之间擦出激烈的火花！



精彩的表演，引人注目



今年春节的精彩表演节目包括各项课程辅助活动（CCA）以及个人学生团体的表演，节目如下：

- 华乐团和弦乐合奏队的中四同学为我们带来的熟悉新年歌曲演奏
- 合唱团演唱传统新年歌曲《大地回春》，《恭喜大家过新年》
- 古筝团演奏《敦煌唐人街舞》和 流行电视剧插曲《繁华》
- 华族舞蹈带来仙气飘飘的《云之南》
- 艺术体操炫酷的翻滚表演《We own the night》
- 武术队费尽九牛二虎之力演出的武术表演
- 剧坊同学精心准备的幽默相声
- 舞龙醒狮团给我们带来新年必不可少的舞龙表演！
- 科技与资讯学会别出心裁制作的动画视频《细水长流》
- 富有节奏感的双人舞《迎春花》
- 蓝色气球精心为了新年而改编的音乐视频《明天会更好》

希望大家喜欢今年精彩的表演，也感谢同学们积极地观看演出，为朋友们加油打气！在此也感谢南洋影音协会为我们制作这个表演视频！



舞龙舞狮，喜气洋洋



每年春节庆祝会，当然少不了振奋人心的舞龙舞狮表演！平时，同学们都会在现场观看南中舞狮团所呈现的精彩表演，以及点睛的仪式。今年，虽然我们不能在广场聚集，但我们过节的兴致丝毫未减，醒狮团的同学们还亲自来到了各个班级的课室献上新年的祝福呢！舞龙舞狮表演为校园各处增添生机，威风凛凛的醒狮精神抖擞，营造出热闹喜庆的新年气氛。

除此以外，也有老师扮演成财神爷，到处分发糖果！这对同学们来说的确是一次新鲜的体验，也是一次难得和舞龙舞狮近距离接触的机会！



团结一致，布置课室

每年的新春课室布置比赛是南中深受学生欢迎的活动之一，对每一位南中学生来说意义非凡。每一个班级都会绞尽脑汁，想出最有创意的装饰设计，并特意抽出时间给课室换上新装。整个构思过程虽然不容易，但是促进了同学之间的友谊，也让同学们有机会赢得非常丰富的奖品。

今年，除了往年的年级前三名奖项以外，我们也增设了额外的奖项：创意环保奖、最佳主题奖和网络人气奖。增设创意环保奖的目的是为了鼓励同学们多环保，在利用环保物品布置课室的同时，也为我们的地球尽一份力。另外，为了奖励那些能突出比赛主题（“牛”和“团结”）的班级，我们也设置了最佳主题奖。最后，我们今年最精彩的奖项当然就是新增的网络人气奖了！今年，一共有25个班级上载了他们录制的宣传视频，视频介绍了课室布置的细节，好让全校师生都能一睹课室内的新年装饰。师生们也非常踊跃地投选出他们最喜爱的班级，不到几天时间，就有500多人参与了首次投选活动，好精彩啊！



挥春活动，写下祝福

今年悬挂在钟楼外的春联是由华文部的陈茵思老师创作的。上联为：勤牛耕稼栽稻禾曲躬舞风雨。下联为：喜鹊报春育桃李盛放催栋梁。上联的意思就是勉励我们在日常生活中对待工作要勤劳努力，懂得谦逊。虽然过去的一年充满了挑战，但我们依然应该以正面积极的态度面对大环境所给予的挑战。最后，下联也重申了学校的使命——即：培养莘莘学子，使之成为国家未来的人才。

除了校外的春联，我们全体师生也一起写了属于自己的春联，写下自己对于新的一年愿望。挥春是南中别有意义的一个活动，也将会一直传承下去！



礼篮包装，回馈社会



一年一度的春节礼篮包装活动又来了！礼篮包装活动让同学们在庆祝新年的同时也有机会回馈社会，协助弱势群体。今年，全体师生在品德与道德教育课上参与了礼篮包装活动。各班同学都从家中带来各种食品，并一起合作包装礼篮。老师们则会在礼篮包装完毕后将这些礼篮送往各个慈善机构，受惠的慈善机构包括 Lion Befrienders, 以及 TOUCH Centre for Independent Living 等等。

2021年春节礼篮包装活动是一个富有意义的活动。虽然疫情肆虐，但温情永存！希望大家在庆祝新年的同时多多回馈社会！



欲了解更多南洋春节庆祝会详情，请浏览：
<https://sites.google.com/nygh.edu.sg/nyghcny2021>

SECONDARY ONE ORIENTATION (S00)

The Student Councillors were at the helm of the Secondary One Orientation Programme and this year they had to work around Safe Management Measures. They share their experience here.



ORIENTATION

What did you do differently to accommodate Covid-19's challenge to your presentation and conduct of the Orientation Programme?

We split the cohort into 4 groups according to their classes to minimise intermingling among different classes. From there, we rotated the schedule for different groups each day so that the classes would not clash. This way, not only were we able to focus on a smaller group of people for each activity, we were also able to improve on these activities for the next group!

Additionally, we allocated more facilitators to each class, allowing for more interactive small group bonding sessions, all with safe management in mind.

How did you negotiate the odd unexpected tangles?

As every class has a unique character and different reactions to the activities planned, facilitators had to adapt to the situation accordingly to make it more enjoyable for the Sec Ones although what we did was slightly different from the scheduled programme.

For example, facilitators had to adapt the rules of the game or come up with different games on the spot to engage the students better and we dug into our bag of tricks for this.

What was a highlight of the experience?

Every day of SOO was a highlight!!

Seeing the smiles on our fellow Sec One juniors really made our day! We were touched to see them start to open up by the end of the orientation. Day by day, they grew more comfortable with one another, and the once seemingly timid students became more outspoken.



Here, the councillors share their personal thoughts on the SOO:

SOO was a fun and enriching experience for me:) Within the 4 days, I learnt to plan, facilitate and adapt during discussions and games with a group of unfamiliar students. I'm really thankful for the support of our fellow Organising Team members, teachers, and our very own facilitators who mustered up the courage to lead SOO this year!

Chia Sin Jie S301

SOO was a completely new experience for me, and my first project this year! I really learnt a lot from this, how to facilitate, adapt, and communicate and all the work and planning that goes behind-the-scenes. Thank you to all the Organising Team members, teachers, facilitators and everyone who contributed to making SOO successful! :)”

Michelle Lai Yunqi S408

I really had fun during SOO! Through SOO, I learnt the importance of effective communication, such as ensuring the instructions given to facilitators are not ambiguous, and the proposals written are clear and concise.

I am grateful to the Organising Team, the teachers, the facilitators and the Sec 1s for making SOO so memorable! :P

Wu Pei En S303

I loved SOO!! This experience allowed me to grow alongside the fellow sec ones and learn a lot about planning, communication and adaptability. I would not trade this experience for another. Thank you Organising Team, thank you teachers, and thank

you fellow facilitators and sec ones ! :D

Yam Yen Yee S306

Dragon Boating

A highlight of the Secondary One LifeSkills camp is the long-held tradition of Dragon Boating. An apt activity for team bonding, this is an initiation into secondary school life. The Dragon Boating experience enables our young students to discover how, together with their classmates, they move out of their comfort zone and overcome what may appear at first as a challenging and daunting task. This experience establishes their embarkation on a journey of learning to meet new and unfamiliar situations with confidence.

Shen Xi Ran from S1-11 shares her thoughts on her experience below:

Like our seniors before us, all students in secondary one got to experience Dragon Boating with our classmates. To promote class spirit, we used markers to write our class on our hands and faces and we enjoyed the process of readying ourselves for the task of boating. After boarding the boats, we tried rowing and practised for a while. It was a treat to have also had the opportunity of spotting some otters nearby! We then had a race! My class, 1-11 rallied and put in our utmost and won! Dragon boating was exciting and it was fun to have had our principal and vice-principals row alongside us!



CCA Trials for Sec One Students

This year, the CCA trials were modified to Safe Management Measures. Looks like the cautious steps taken did not dampen the enthusiasm of the secondary one students setting out for CCA selections.

Secondary One students participated in try-outs in their Co-Curricular Activities selection process. Many took the opportunity of attempting several in the range of 31 activities offered by the school. Here are some photos from the trial week.







I attended trials for Modern and Chinese Dance, Badminton, Tennis, Artistic Gymnastics, Girl Guides, Debate and Wushu. Initially, I was a bundle of nerves, especially as I am someone who constantly overthinks. I was worried I would get rejected by all the CCAs I trialed for. However, in the end, I got into my dream CCA - Modern Dance and I was thrilled! Not only that, the trials enabled me to gain fulfilling experiences and I made some great friends. The trials though challenging gave me the opportunity to learn about other activities as much as to appreciate the choice available.

Abigail Chen Sihui S1-06



Wong Qi Wen (left) and Abigail Chen Sihui (right)

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN THE NEW NORMAL



Goh Han Pin (Mr Goh) 吴汉斌
Head, Infocomm & Educational Technology

Education will be better after the storm of Covid-19. In the design of learning experiences and digital systems, let us seize opportunities even in the most difficult of times and empower our staff and students to be ready not just for the textbooks of today but also for the world of tomorrow.

We have now initiated an **ICT, Data and Computer Science Curriculum** after an internal and external scan on the need to ride the wave of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) in transforming society and building knowledge. From the Sec 1 2021 cohort, all students will acquire the baseline computational thinking competencies to engage in research projects in Upper Sec, higher education and future careers. Some of you might become the next Silicon Valley *technopreneur* of tomorrow?

Blended Learning will soon become a regular feature of school life. Our school has been selected by MOE for Phase 1 of the nationwide **Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)**. From April 2021 onwards, students in all four levels will own a learning device to empower self-directed and collaborative learning anytime, anywhere.

Most of our teachers have been issued with a Windows-OS **touch-enabled device with stylus pen**, enhancing dynamic interactivity with students and activating the visual intelligence of our students. Remaining teachers who are active creators in iOS will have their MacBooks upgraded. Having more than one OS allows our school to be agile in harnessing the strengths from both systems.

As our national economy reopens in phases, our school is working tirelessly with MOE and NCS to complete the school-wide installation of the **secure wireless infrastructure** by mid-2021, while minimising disruptions to classroom teaching from the drilling and cabling works.

Exponential growths in data generated has ignited the necessity of **data analytics** to enhance evidence-based decision making. We will be constructing interactive dashboards to harness insights about the academic growth and holistic well-being patterns of our students over time. For example, we have partnered the PE department during the **#NYGHOutrunsCovid campaign** last August to gain a more nuanced understanding of the exercise habits of every class and CCA.

Have some cool ideas on how to redesign workflows and innovate solutions to current and anticipated issues? Please share your exciting ideas with us!

STRUCTURED IP CLASS

We congratulate Cai Peishan and Tay Zu Yun of Sec 412 Class of 2020 on their commendable results. Peishan is currently studying in Dunman High School, and taking a hybrid subject combination. Zu Yun is in Hwa Chong Institution with the PCME (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics) combination. Here, they share their thoughts on the road there.



Cai Peishan

What were the challenges you faced in the final year of your secondary education and how did you find the motivation to manage these challenges?

One of the major challenges I faced in Secondary 4 was preparedness. I questioned myself: why can't I achieve higher marks when I've already been trying so hard? By then, the preliminary examinations were around the corner, and I remember feeling so underprepared. I was afraid for the upcoming exams; at the same time, I felt so incredibly drained. I knew how disappointed I would be with myself if I didn't at least try, so I set my bars high and told myself to put in all the effort I could to achieve my goal. This fuelled my determination, and gave me the motivation and the crucial push to trudge on. My friends and teachers played a humongous role in my learning journey. Motivation didn't come easy — without their support, I would have crumbled under the stress and pressure, and would never have come so far. I found solace in the company of my friends, and my teachers were always willing to provide me with consultations to brush up on my foundation and right all my wrongs. They inspired me and provided me with more reasons to continue studying, further concretising my resolve to achieve my goal.

What advice would you give your juniors?

Time management and prioritisation of work comes down to our awareness of the importance and urgency of each task, as well as our discipline. One of the most important things that I completely stand by is self-care. Sleep is incredibly important, as it acts as a major fuel station for all of our actions. Besides proper nutrition that also plays a huge part in our energy levels, the deprivation of sleep can cause a lack of focus in class, and this can dangerously snowball into consequences greater than tiredness if it were to be left unfixed. Another crucial thing is to avoid using devices right before bed, as apps such as Instagram and Youtube can distract you from your much needed sleep. The unapologetic gratitude and care of oneself is something that many people struggle to have, and for others, an endeavour of a lifetime, but we could always start with small, simple steps.





Tay Zu Yun

What were the challenges you faced in the final year of your secondary education and how did you find the motivation to manage these challenges?

I lacked motivation to study. Despite knowing that I had to take a major exam at the end of the year, I found myself to be quite relaxed and I even fell behind on some of my homework, especially during the HBL period where we had to stay at home to study. This gave me countless distractions. However, once phase 2 started and we were allowed to study in public spaces such as cafes, I asked a friend to go to a cafe to study with me, in hopes of being able to study effectively with a friend. That day, I realised that I was much more productive when I studied with a friend. Closer to the O level examinations, what motivated me to keep pushing myself to the final goal was the realisation that my entire class was in this together and that we were very close to the 'finishing line'. I also managed to give myself some time off from studying for a day to do things that I enjoyed, in moderation, so that I found relief amidst the stress.

What advice would you give your juniors?

One piece of advice I can share is that one should consult subject teachers whenever faced with queries or doubts, though this may sometimes seem trivial. This will ensure the doubts are not carried over to other topics in the subject. When doubts start to pile up we end up feeling overwhelmed and lose interest and motivation to study. Another thing we can do is find out what study method works best for us and put it into practice. For instance, I absorb information best when the content is read out to me, so when memorising content for subjects such as geography and social studies, I like to type out the portion that I need to memorise into google translate and have it read it out to me. It would also be good to find a way to keep oneself off the phone when studying. I think even though most people acknowledge that our phones are a distraction, we don't really try to do anything about it, and I think this is partly because we feel that nothing we do will be able to keep this distraction from us. But then one should keep experimenting with the different ways of keeping focus on our tasks. Personally, what I do is that I take a time lapse of myself studying, because I find that not only do I find it satisfying to watch the time lapse videos after I'm done studying as it looks like I'm doing a lot of work, I also find that I barely stop the recording to look at other applications because I don't get notifications while taking a time lapse video.

南中举办第二届青少年双语模拟联合国

Bilingual Youth Model United Nations

学生通讯员：
傅萱
余佳璇

疫情之际，双语模联不忘初心



2021年1月5日至6日，南洋女中主办了第二届青少年双语模拟联合国，主题为“面向未来，引领变革：青年之声”。本届模联得到了各校的鼎力支持，吸引了19所本地中学，共145名学生参加。

面向未来，引领变革

模拟联合国，顾名思义就是模拟联合国大会的真实会议现场。本次模联的秘书长傅萱在致辞中声明，“双语模拟联合国富有意义。希望有朝一日，各位能维护世界和平，引领变革！”

两天会议中，代表们以中英双语展开辩论并且撰写决议草案。本届设5个议题，其中包括当今的热点议题防止传染病传播的有效措施。

南洋女中也请了两位高等学府学者（Mr Salim Mohamed Nasir 以及陈兴利博士）进行主题演讲。演讲内容紧扣两个议题：全球反恐措施及后疫情时代“一带一路”在亚细安的倡议。

今年模联也包括新闻团，负责访问代表并写新闻报道。来自国家初级学院（中学部）的潘紫怡（世界卫生组织印度代表）说：“新闻发布会非常有趣，增大了我们的代入感。”

标新立异，踏上双语之路

南洋女中举办的模拟联合国是本地首个双语模联。今年的大会嘉宾是通商中国主席，陈佩玲女士。她在闭幕典礼的致辞中向与会者强调了

掌握双语的重要性：“在极速全球化的背景下，新加坡人掌握好双语双文化，能巩固新加坡作为不同区域之间的经济和文化桥梁的地位。”

两天的辩论锻炼了代表们的双语沟通能力，开拓了他们的国际视野。来自华侨中学的林宗凯（亚细安加三柬埔寨代表）提到：“模联的价值在于为同学们的思想发展设定平台，让他们对各种课题展开积极的讨论。”

疫情之际，“疫”义非凡

受到疫情影响，今年模联的形式改由线上视讯进行。虽然线上会议的效果无法与面对面交流的实体会议相比，但筹委会秉着挑战自我的精神，尝试了不同的线上沟通平台。尽管会议形式有所改变，不变的是双语模联的初衷：为青少年提供一个使用双语、为世界问题发声的平台。

原联合国秘书长科菲·安南曾说：“联合国依靠世界上每个人的努力而存在，尤其是青年。这个世纪，不久就会是你们的。”在疫情之际，南中模联筹委会不忘初衷，成功主办了一场深具意义的双语模拟联合国大会，引领着各校青年走向未来。



青少年双语模拟联合国

SINGAPORE YOUTH FESTIVAL ARTS PRESENTATION (SYF)

The performing arts CCAs are eagerly anticipating and preparing to participate in the 2021 Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation in April. In the past year, they have transitioned from virtual CCA sessions to the resumption of dancing, acting, and music-making together in person - albeit in a “new normal” with safety precautions and social distancing measures in place.

Read on to hear from the performers about their SYF preparation journey, how each art form has responded to the revised guidelines, and their learning thus far:



As a Sec 2 student, I haven't had the opportunity to perform with choir yet so I don't know much about choir performances pre-covid. But I've found that all my batchmates, seniors and teachers in NYC are really supportive and I love choir! We did online practice with Google Meet, TikTok dance workouts and stretching, as well as bonding sessions. SYF preparation is an interesting experience as right now, many things are uncertain because of the guidelines changing often. Against all odds, choir is still flourishing and maintains its wonderful close-knit culture!

[Choir, Sec 2 member]



Choir has done a super good job at adapting to the pandemic by coming up with ways to learn songs independently and easily, sing together without actually singing together, and adapting to the changes in guidelines. We have recently been able to start singing again (in groups of five), and it gave us all the boost that we needed since we haven't been able to sing with others for a long time. We hadn't realised how much we had taken being able to sing together for granted until it was taken away from us.

[Choir, Sec 3 member]



It was heartwarming to see all our members come together and play their best despite the circumstances. I'm grateful that we were still able to conduct cca sessions online and bond with our section mates and share the passion for Band through our playing while looking forward to a chance to play together again as a whole band for SYF.

[Concert Band, Sec 4 Student Conductor]

The format of SYF this year is quite different as the band is now split into 3 small bands. These small bands mean that each instrument is more easily heard. Seeing the band improving and working together towards a common goal is something that I appreciate and cherish.

[Concert Band, Sec 4 Drum Major]

Learning dance moves from a screen as part of online CCA sessions had its limitations. There were many moves that could not be completed like they would have been in a dance studio. Nevertheless, we adapted, and tried our best to make use of this time to practise the basics that everyone could do at home and improve our flexibility and stamina.

[Chinese Dance, Sec 4 Vice President]

We have had to split our CCA into two SYF groups, with 44 members in each group instead of our usual 80-strong orchestra on stage together. Playing with so many other orchestra members back then was so magical. Without the full strength, our practice sessions now feel somewhat emptier. Also our wind players were not allowed to play in combined practice sessions until recently. Some of them were not too confident as they had not been a part of combined CCA sessions for many months. This year's SYF is an extremely unique one and all of us have learnt a lot from this experience.

[Chinese Orchestra, Sec 4 member]



During the circuit breaker period, String Ensemble had to conduct online CCA sessions via zoom. They were held in the form of sectionals and master classes. The online platform allowed us to improve our skills individually and learn many new techniques such as conducting. Definitely, we were faced with certain challenges such as not being able to work on ensembleship. Currently, our CCA sessions have resumed physically and we have been working on the SYF showcase held in April as well as some new pieces. I am extremely grateful to still be given the chance to practice together with my friends and enjoy making music again!

[String Ensemble, Sec 4 President]



We've had to change some of the ways we do things, but our CCA made the best out of it by moving many activities online, such as having interbatch bonding through zoom and watching live-streamed performances together!

Our current CCA sessions are held in two separate venues. As we remind each other to practise social distancing when we are doing our routines, we have learnt to be even more spatially aware.

This year, we are also unable to use our hands to touch the floor or do any floorwork. As a result, we are making use of tables and chairs found in our classrooms to create different levels and dimensions in our dance.

[Modern Dance, Sec 4 members]

The most different thing would definitely be the social distancing. We had to manoeuvre around the social distancing measures by restricting our movements and making sure we kept a distance from each other at all times. It's definitely a new way of acting for me because it is different from what I am so used to. However this has forced us to use our creativity to explore all kinds of acting!

[Theatre Club, Sec 3 member]

I feel that we have all learnt a lot from experimenting with new techniques and blockings!

[Theatre Club, Sec 3 member]

I found it hard to show face expressions with the mask covering most of my face. But I have learnt to express feelings using my eyes or even exaggerate my movements so as to express my feelings better.

[Theatre Club, Sec 3 member]



