



2020 SUMMER PROGRAM

WHEN? June 22 to August 28, 2020

WHO? Students aged 3 to 18

WHERE? 14/F, East Exchange Tower (PCCW Building), 38-40
Leighton Road, Causeway Bay

HOW? Contact us at 2541-1336 or info@theopenclassroom.com.hk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. ACADEMIC COURSES

PAGE

PRESENTATION 3

PUBLIC SPEAKING 4

HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS 5

WRITING WORKSHOP..... 6-7

VOCAB, READING COMP & GRAMMAR BOOSTER 8-9

LITERARY ANALYSIS 10

PRIVATE TUTORING 11

B. COURSES FOR APPLICATION PURPOSES

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ENTRANCE PREP13

U.S. BOARDING SCHOOL : ESSAY WRITING & INTERVIEW TRAINING14

U.S. COLLEGE APPLICATION : PERSONAL STATEMENT.....15

PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP with FOUNDER.....16-17

PRESENTATION COURSE | K2-G2

Presentation skills – taught at an early age – can build confidence in young learners.

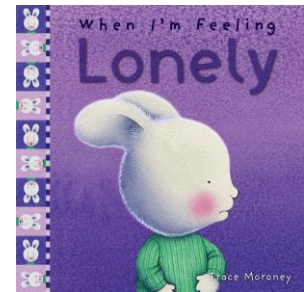
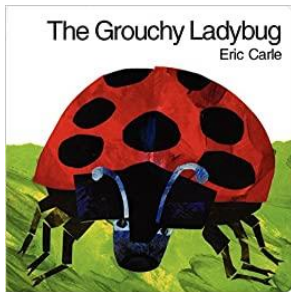
Featuring books of well-known authors, classes under this course involve reading imaginative stories and completing interactive exercises inspired by them.

K2-K3

In this course, K2-K3 students engage in interactive oral games, developing their vocabulary and logic skills. Activities include self-presentation, show-and-tell, role-play and picture descriptions.

Featured authors and example titles:

- Oliver Jeffers – How to Catch a Star, The Way Back Home
- Eric Carle – The Grouchy Ladybug, The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Trace Moroney – When I'm Feeling Lonely, The Things I Love About Family

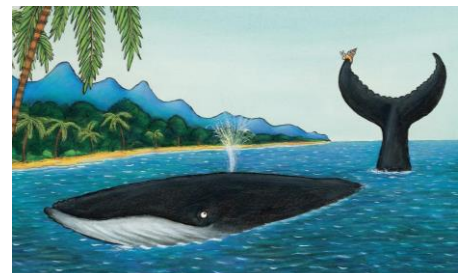


G1-G2

In this course, G1-G2 students will develop public speaking skills and techniques to deliver organized presentations. Focus areas include how to capture the audience's attention in a speech opening, addressing the audience to keep them interested, and body language 101.

Featured authors and example titles:

- Roald Dahl – The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me, The Magic Finger
- Julia Donaldson – The Snail and the Whale, The Gruffalo
- The Berenstains – The Berenstain Bears Learn About Strangers, Get in a Fight



To prevent overlap, returning students will be assigned brand new authors and titles not yet explored in previous summers with us!

PUBLIC SPEAKING | G3-8

Mastering the skills of effective communication could be the most important tool to having a successful high school, college and career experience.

Using weekly themes, students will be taken through engaging topics that provide many opportunities for practice and personal guidance.



WEEK	GENRE
3 Jul 6	<p>Persuasive Speech – Convince your Audience</p> <p>Combine written and spoken techniques including strong arguments, rhetorical questions and effective intonation to sway the minds of your audience into agreeing with your solid stance.</p>
4 Jul 13	<p>Impromptu Speech – Give an Impressive Speech on the Spot</p> <p>This fun workshop is fast-paced and offers plenty of practice. Learn how to think on your feet, quickly organize information through humorous prompts and off-the-cuff topics.</p>
5 Jul 20	<p>Inspirational Speech – Share your Personal Journey</p> <p>Reflect on your achievements and the obstacles faced along the way to inspire your audience. Share your experience with them and show the life lesson learned from it.</p>
6 Jul 27	<p>Ted Talk – Deliver an Effective Presentation</p> <p>How can you be concise and compelling in your delivery? Learn tricks to keep your audience engaged and give a talk on a subject you are passionate about.</p>
7 Aug 3	<p>Appreciation Speech – Give Thanks to an Important Figure</p> <p>Who has impacted your life? Touch the hearts of your audience by showing your gratitude and how this person has inspired, supported and/or influenced you.</p>
8 Aug 10	<p>Storytelling – Engage the Audience with More Than Words</p> <p>Telling a story is not all about the words! Learn and practice how to incorporate tone of voice, body language and actions into stories for captivating delivery.</p>
9 Aug 17	<p>Shark Tank – Perfect your Elevator Pitch</p> <p>Learn how to summarize key ideas in the time span of an elevator ride! Acting as entrepreneurs, students learn how to be persuasive and present key information in limited time.</p>
10 Aug 24	<p>Speech about Yourself – Self-Introduction & Reflections</p> <p>Flustered at an interview? Tongue-tied during class presentation? This course can help you speak eloquently about yourself, retell personal stories, present opinions and reflections on the spot.</p>

HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS | G5-10

Explore some of the most important revolutions of human history!

Each week covers a historical revolution – its causes, timeline, key figures and consequences.

Students will study, dissect and actively discuss specially curated primary sources.

WEEK	REVOLUTION	COURSE SUMMARY
7 Aug 3	French Revolution	The French Revolution was a highly significant event in modern European history. The course will cover causes, events and people like the radical Maximilien de Robespierre and the Reign of Terror to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.
8 Aug 10	American Revolution	The Revolutionary War was a revolt of the American colonies against Great Britain, resulting in the rebels fighting a war for their independence and the U.S. Declaration of Independence. This course will study the causes, events, people and outcomes of the American Revolution.
9 Aug 17	Industrial Revolution	The Industrial Revolution transformed the societies of Europe and America from rural agrarian societies into industrialized, urban ones. This course will review the history and impact of the industrial revolution, including the impacts on the environment and working conditions of labour.
10 Aug 24	Russian Revolution	The Russian Revolution marked the end of the Romanov dynasty and Russian Imperialism. The Bolsheviks seized power through radical and violent revolution. This course will analyze the history of the Russian Revolution and students will study communist ideology, violent revolution, the civil war in Russia and the rise of Joseph Stalin.



WRITING WORKSHOP | G1-5

WEEK	GENRE	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5
1 Jun 22	Picture & Writing Prompts	Tell a story from fun & imaginative pictures	Use your imagination to build descriptive and detailed stories	Embellish your story with details	Respond to a mix of creative prompts – music, art piece, a sentence	The realistic encounter based on a news photo
2 Jun 29	Letter Writing	Travel postcards	An unexpected letter	Send an email to _____	Write to a person in history	Raise an issue with the Chief Executive
3 Jul 6	Mystery & Thriller	Is there a monster under my bed?	How to write spooky stories	Create your own monster	Encounter the supernatural world	End your story with a cliffhanger
4 Jul 13	Adventure	An exciting journey with a cartoon character	Exploration in the forest / desert / ocean	Treasure hunting!	The quest of a superhero	Join the adventure of a movie character
5 Jul 20	Science Fiction & Fantasy	All about my imaginary friend	The aliens are invading!	Create my own sci-fi world	If I were an alien arriving on Earth for the first time...	You have been taken prisoner to an unknown world
6 Jul 27	Greek Gods, Myths & Epic Tales	Create your own mystical character	The Greek god/goddess of _____	Build my own creation myth	Craft your own Greek god/goddess of special talent	Create your own epic tale
7 Aug 3	Art of Persuasion	Why I should get an iPad	Three reasons you should buy me a _____	"Best ____ of the Year Award" nomination letter	Persuade your principal to invite _____ to the school	Be convincing with silly persuasive prompts
8 Aug 10	Films & Scripts	Diary of a _____ kid	Build Your Own Comic	Create your own superhero & villain	Build a cast for the your movie!	Complex characters that are both evil and good
9 Aug 17	A day in the life of...	Your favourite animal	The magic finger	A famous person	A favourite toy	A fictional character
10 Aug 24	Poetry	Have fun with rhymes	Riddles	Silly limericks	Funny poems	Descriptive Poems

WRITING WORKSHOP | G6-10+

WEEK	GENRE	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10+
1 Jun 22	Picture & Writing Prompts	Perspectives of different characters at an event, i.e. dinner party, accident, race etc.	Delve into the minds of characters	Writing inspired by a creative source i.e. artwork, music, dance	Convey feelings and reflections from dramatic photos i.e. war zone, famine, refugee camps	The story behind a powerful photo
2 Jun 29	Letter Writing	To someone in your life you wish to thank	A moving letter to a friend or family member	How do you market yourself for a coveted role in school?	An open letter in response to a piece of current events	Persuade a superior to agree to a difficult request
3 Jul 6	Mystery & Thriller	How to build suspense into your story?	Tales with a twist	Psychological thriller that plays tricks with your mind	Horror stories of extraterrestrial beings	Thrillers with multi-layered & complex characters
4 Jul 13	Adventure	An unexpected encounter	Expedition with a famous explorer	Adventure gone wrong	Life after death	The ordeal of losing everything
5 Jul 20	Science Fiction & Fantasy	Enter the world of Artemis Fowl – the popular teenage criminal mastermind	Design your Hunger Games universe	Utopian & Dystopian Worlds	Back to the future	Alternate societies and governments
6 Jul 27	Greek Gods, Myths & Epic Tales	Tales that define characters and complex relationships	Battle between Gods	Symbolism in Greek myths	Create a moral inspired myth	Myths and its historical impact
7 Aug 3	Art of Persuasion	As the class president, propose a change	Deliver a speech to seek _____	Take a stand in a recent controversial issue	Debate on social issues that affect you	Reflect on philosophical concepts: Agree or disagree?
8 Aug 10	Films & Scripts	My short drama	Introduce a new antagonist	Be a film critic and review a movie	The backstory of your favourite character	Compose a Hollywood script!
9 Aug 17	A day in the life of...	Your alter ego / nemesis	A celebrity or someone famous	One of the world leaders	Your idol	An unfortunate character
10 Aug 24	Poetry	Literary Devices in Poetry	Symbolism & Imagery	Poems on life experiences and reflection	Ballads	Modern poetry and its significance

VOCAB, READING COMP & GRAMMAR BOOSTER | G1-5

Join our 5-day intensive booster for expanding word banks, reading conscientiously and refining grammar conventions!

Be challenged to apply your knowledge against time restraints in mock tests.

VOCABULARY

- Lower: 10-15 words per day, practice spelling and sentence building
- Upper: 20-30 words per day and reinforce through application and analogies

READING COMPREHENSION

- Lower: Fill in the blanks, multiple choice, true or false, and full sentences
- Upper: Read for details and think critically beyond the text in order to predict, infer, relate and draw sensible conclusions

GRAMMAR

- Lower: Build foundations in punctuation, tenses, syntax, capitalization and subject-verb agreement
- Upper: Refine your skills in mixed tenses, run-on sentences, conditionals, phrasal verbs and figurative language

MOCK TESTS

- Reinforce concepts and practice performing under time pressure, preparing them for school assessments



VOCAB, READING COMP & GRAMMAR BOOSTER | G6-8

Introducing our 5-day intensive booster for higher levels incorporating middle level SSAT and ISEE-style exercises and mock tests.

SYNONYMS

- Learn unfamiliar words of the same meaning
- Practice recognizing synonyms under time restraints using process of elimination

ANALOGIES

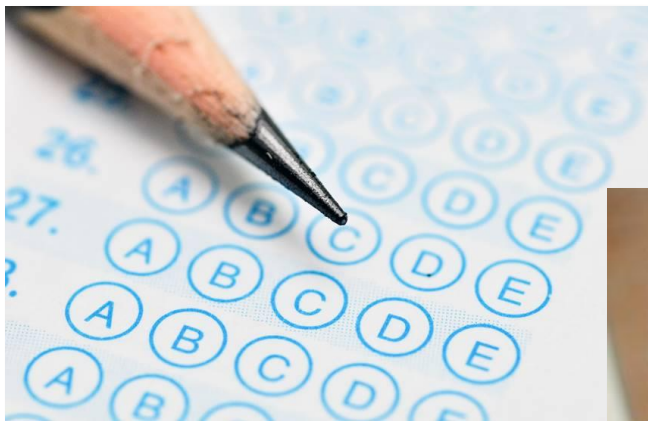
- Use fast thinking and logic to identify the relationships between words
- Apply these skills in test-like situations

CRITICAL READING

- Practice essential reading techniques for detail and for gist
- Be challenged by timed reading passages and comprehension questions

MOCK TESTS

- Prepare for standardized testing and school assessments with SSAT and ISEE-style mock tests within time limits



LITERARY ANALYSIS | G6-11

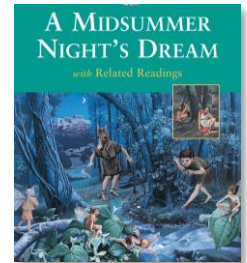
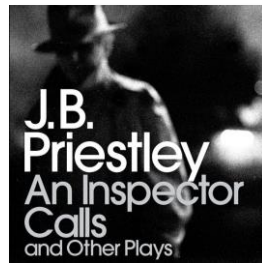
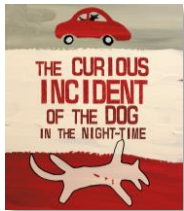
Want to get a head start on books you will read in the next school year?

In our new 10-day course, our teachers will assist students with exploring key themes, analyzing characters and their relationships, and understanding underlying meanings of iconic plots. Each 10-day course focuses on a single piece of literature.

TITLES INCLUDE:

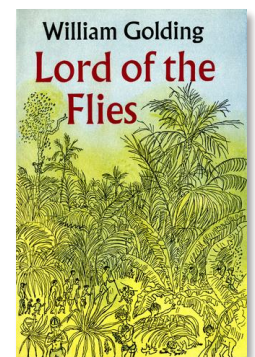
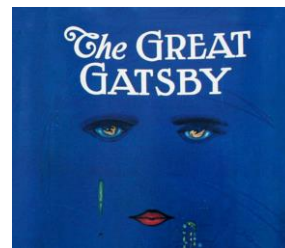
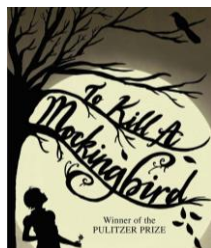
STAGE PLAYS

- Macbeth; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Romeo and Juliet
- An Inspector Calls; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



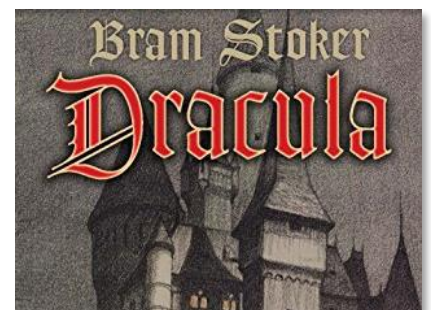
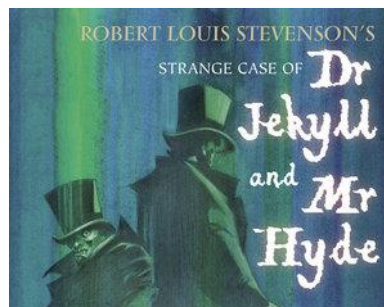
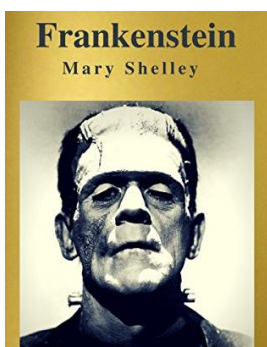
CLASSIC NOVELS

- Lord of the Flies; Animal Farm; The Giver
- Pride and Prejudice; Great Expectations; The Great Gatsby
- To Kill a Mockingbird; Of Mice and Men; The Outsiders



GOTHIC LITERATURE

- Frankenstein; Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; Dracula



Texts not listed here may also be requested.

This is a more customized course for max. 3 students in each class.

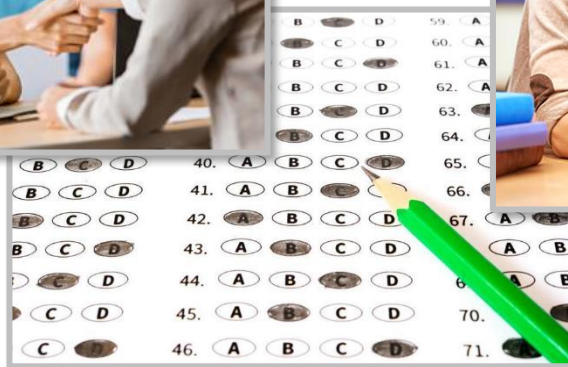
Students who opt to take this course will be required to do assigned reading.

PRIVATE TUTORING

I successfully got into Choate Rosemary Hall! This would never have happened had I not taken the SSAT private classes offered at The Open Classroom. Prior to taking the class, my vocabulary was sub-par and my initial SSAT score was unsatisfactory. The class educated me on testing strategies, writing techniques and vocabulary. These all came in useful in my final SSAT test. I am grateful to the instructors.

Customized to your needs, we offer classes for all ages:

- Standardized tests including IGCSE, SAT, TOEFL, IELTS, ISEE, SSAT and ACT
- School entrance exams & interviews (primary 1 interview, school transfer, boarding school and college)
- Academic tutoring in English, math, history, personal statement, IB and AP subjects
- Public speaking skills for Speech Festival and school projects



Hebe (Yew Chung and alumni of our 2014 YLOT program) took private interview classes and was successfully accepted into Li Po Chun United World College after three competitive rounds of interview.



**COURSES THAT SUPPORT
STUDENTS' APPLICATION TO:
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS
U.S. BOARDING SCHOOLS
U.S. COLLEGES**



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ENTRANCE PREP

This 2-week course specifically prepares local school students for international schools. It is customized for 1-3 students in each class, targeting their desired schools.



ENGLISH PREP

Get ready for entrance exams with timed writing practice, reading comprehension training, synonyms and analogies.

Mock tests are included to apply techniques and simulate real entrance exams.

INTERVIEW PREP

In addition to English prep, this course will get you ready for your international school interviews.

Learn to present yourself confidently and respond with detailed answers, making a positive first impression.

- **Timed Writing:** Practice writing under strict time limits by using varied prompts, effective time management, organization skills and your own imagination
- **Reading Comprehension:** Learn to read critically and quickly at the same time! Practice inferring from different texts and figuring out word definitions based on context
- **Mock Tests:** Put to use the techniques learned and practiced in class to gain an insight into your progress
- **Interview Preparation:** Learn the do's and don'ts of an interview; Recognize how to be presentable and respond beyond simply answering questions; Seize the opportunity to give your best first impression!

U.S. BOARDING SCHOOL ESSAY WRITING & INTERVIEW TRAINING



ESSAY WRITING

- Essay writing is possibly the most daunting and time-consuming part of the application process. Don't wait till the last minute. Start early as good writing requires practice and continual refinement.
- Get a head start with this course by learning how to craft compelling answers and memorable essays. Teacher will share well-written application essays accepted to top-tier boarding schools and focus on three types of writing:

PART I

Short answers – Concise and effective answers that show off your best self

Leadership/Community – Learn how to tackle the inevitable topic of every application. Write with purpose and enhance your application by adding meaning and personal values to your profile.

- Produce outputs based on selective and popular application questions from Hotchkiss, Choate, Andover and schools of your choice
- Receive personalised feedback with proofreading and critique on each draft

PART II

Personal essay – Let your character shine through! Be honest, be reflective, and use this opportunity to demonstrate your integrity, insight and maturity.

INTERVIEW TRAINING

- What are some of the commonly asked questions? What do interviewers look for? Review tips and practice skills that will better prepare you for interviews
- Be challenged to think on your feet, learn to organize ideas in order to come up with coherent and thoughtful answers
- Mock interviews conducted by experienced interviewer, Ms. Agnes Kong

* As a continuation to this course, we also offer personalized school admissions consulting services.

U.S. COLLEGE APPLICATION PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP



College admissions are more competitive than ever. Use your application essay, which carries significant weight, as an opportunity to stand out!

Whether you are in the brainstorming stage or drafting process, this course will teach you how to produce memorable and powerful essays that distinguish you from the crowd.

- Dissect accepted Ivy League long and short essays, review fundamentals of personal statement writing and learn to express traits that will make you an attractive candidate
- Learn how to select a topic, develop ideas, edit for content and style and avoid common pitfalls that weaken your chances of admission
- One-on-one time with expert writers to proofread, critique and revise drafts
- Leave the program with a strong foundational personal statement essay or two short essays
- As a continuation to this course, we also offer personalized school admissions consulting service

“ Prior to my time with Agnes and her team, I was completely lost. While I had my topic for my personal statement in mind, my essay lacked depth and was simply all over the place.

Agnes helped me with my essay on content revisions and then paired me with a mentor who attends Columbia University, the school I plan to apply Early Decision for...They were there every step of the way and helped me reconfigure my thoughts in a way that would convey them more concisely. By the end of our fourth session my personal statement was complete. My personal statement was truly the one piece of my application that tied my entire story and profile together. Without this strong part of my application I believe that I would not have been admitted to the school of my dreams.

~ Grade 12 student (attending Columbia)



PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP with Founder

We offer bespoke and comprehensive scope of advisory service for US boarding school and college placement. Each student will work directly with our founder, Agnes, for both private test prep classes (SSAT/ISEE/ACT/SAT), application essays and interview training. Limited spaces offered during the year.



Agnes has helped hundreds of students prepare for standardized tests, personal statements and school interviews. Her students are now studying in top boarding schools and universities including the Ivy Leagues. She continues to be a close mentor to a lot of her students, advising them on career opportunities beyond college. She gives regular talks in schools and is a part time lecturer at the Hong Kong Baptist University.

- Yale Undergrad (summa cum laude & phi beta kappa); Harvard Business School; PGDE from HKU
- Previously worked for Goldman Sachs, IFC World Bank, JPMorgan and Carlyle Group

“ Agnes has a legendary reputation for preparing students for boarding school. This reputation is well-deserved and I could not be happier with what she has provided my daughter in terms of tutoring, test preparation and mentoring. She came highly recommended and from day one I knew my daughter was in good hands. Agnes delivered big time: awesome SSAT test scores, improved grades and ultimately acceptances by top US schools. As pleased as I am with the results, Agnes’s methodology and process are the true benefits of working with her. My daughter’s approach to test taking and critical thinking improved. Her discipline and stamina increased and her overall study habits sharpened when I wasn’t sure they could be. Also, a mediocre math student was elevated to one who will take honors next year. Most importantly, Agnes’s own educational and professional backgrounds make her an invaluable mentor. Agnes undoubtedly expects her students to work very hard but she instils the confidence that success will come as a result. My daughter adores Agnes and my son is now working with her. I highly recommend her.
~ Parent of HKIS student, Grade 8 (attending Deerfield)

“ Agnes worked with my daughter throughout the boarding school application process, from SSAT preparation and then providing guidance on the application process and essays. Agnes’ depth of experience combined with her intellect and natural gifts as a teacher are a powerful combination. She became a trusted coach, collaborator and advisor throughout the process. Tests results were great, essays wonderful and admission gained to my daughter’s first choice school. Thank you, Agnes!
~ Parent of ISF student, Grade 8 (attending Taft)

PRIVATE CONSULTING SERVICE & TEST PREP by Founder

“ Agnes is an incredibly disciplined teacher who motivates a child to push him/herself to get to the next level. She is passionate about helping her students and tailors her lesson according to their needs. She helped raise our child’s scores dramatically and gain entrance to a top level U.S. boarding school - our child’s first choice! Agnes’s tuition, knowledge of the exam and insight into the boarding school application process helped us tremendously. If your child is willing to work, Agnes is the one who can help!

~ Parent of HKIS, Grade 8 (attending Cate)

“ In this tutoring industry, there are so many different teachers that excel in teaching SSAT but to find one suited for my daughter’s needs was very difficult until I found Agnes. Agnes was able to inspire my kid to find her drive in learning both for standardized tests and at school. Furthermore, this has also led to an increase in her confidence and pushed her to perform better. Through hours of tutoring, it is evident that her hard work has paid off with her huge increase in scores in all sections of the test. Agnes is a teacher who can not only teach top students, she’s able to open up students who may feel discouraged by grades and unmotivated and inspire them to strive for success. Although my daughter was admitted to her dream boarding school, she has continued with Agnes’ classes to continue improving her foundation in English and math to prepare her for high school.

~ Parent, ISF, Grade 8 (attending Taft in the fall)

“ I highly recommend Agnes to be the mentor for any student considering to apply for boarding school in the US. My son, and myself, benefited greatly from her in-depth knowledge of the admission requirements of the US schools. She has a keen sense in assessing a child’s strength and weakness relative to the targeted schools, and a well thought out strategy in preparing the overall portfolio for the student. Her help in preparing my son on his interviews, essays, and SSAT test are indispensable for my son to be accepted by his first choice school. Moreover, I believe that her work has helped prepare my son for the challenges he will face at the boarding school and even beyond.

~ Parent of HKIS, Grade 8 (attending Choate)

“ Working with Agnes was very efficient and concise. We started off making a list of potential schools, and she provided the help I needed (currents students in her network) to decide where I wanted to apply for early decision. I think I benefitted most from her help when we began crafting my personal statement. She helped me decide on a topic that would represent who I am but also helped me brainstorm ideas on how best to deliver my writing. We exchanged several drafts, during which I was able to skype with her and another mentor and they provided me with really helpful feedback. She is always very responsive and gives criticism that is clear and constructive. With her help, I have received admittance from Brown, Columbia, UPenn, Berkeley, NYU, and UNC.

~ Student, Grade 12, Groton