

2024^H Summer Program



WHEN? June 17 to August 30

WHERE? 1503, 15/F, Lee Garden Two,
28 Yun Ping Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

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Visit us at www.theopenclassroom.com.hk



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Message from The Open Classroom



Dear Parents,

We are pleased to introduce the wide variety of carefully curated courses in our summer program this year.

The Open Classroom was founded with a mission to equip students with the knowledge and skills to **apply classroom learning into real world context**, empowering them to make a difference in their community. Our learning institution provides a **supportive, interactive environment** for children and teenagers to develop writing, presentation, critical thinking and creative skills through curricula designed and taught by passionate teachers.

We have run electives and public speaking programs for schools and organizations in Hong Kong including **Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Big Bang Academy** and **Pods Kindergarten**.

This summer, make the most of the holidays with our signature academic workshops, and new courses designed to expand children's awareness of the world they live in and its rich history.

With our goal of supporting the educational journeys of all our students, we hope to provide a fruitful yet fun experience together.

— The Open Classroom



The Open Classroom Team

The Open Classroom Team's **international educational backgrounds** converge to build the foundations of our curriculum, combining the strengths of both local and Western education practices into **a comprehensive learning experience** for our students.



Agnes Kong – Co-Founder and Head Teacher

- B.A in Economics, Yale University (summa cum laude and phi beta kappa)
- MBA, Harvard Business School; PGDE (Early Childhood Education) from HKU
- 15+ years in curriculum design, mentorship, teaching, and school advisory services
- Specializes in standardized test preparation and youth leadership development; has placed 100+ students in top U.S. boarding schools and colleges

Annabel Lau – Senior English Teacher

- Joined The Open Classroom in 2017
- Born and raised in the UK; A* in English Language and English Literature GCSEs
- Graduated from Newcastle University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Studied child development and was a teaching assistant at a UK primary school
- Holder of Trinity College London CertTESOL, equivalent of the CELTA

Alexia Pierson – Senior English Teacher

- Joined The Open Classroom in 2018
- Attended international schools in Canada, France and Japan
- Achieved full marks in OIB English Literature written and oral exams
- Graduated from the University of Exeter with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature
- Studied TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)

“The Open Classroom offers a **rich curriculum** that does not only promote academic excellence, but also encourages youth to **make an impact beyond the classroom**. We have set out to create educational programs we wish we had along the way – courses designed to **broaden horizons, support character development** and **cultivate a growth mindset** while equipping students with essential knowledge and skills to excel in school and life.”

Meet Our Summer Teachers!

This year, we are delighted to be joined by **two passionate summer facilitators** who are eager to further The Open Classroom's mission and impart valuable knowledge to support the educational journeys of our students.



Donna Jalosjos

Donna is a rising third-year student at the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania, concentrating in Environmental and Social Governance with a Minor in Real Estate and Urban Development. She has 4 years of speech and debate experience particularly in Policy Debate, qualifying to nationals for each of those years and making it to the top 10 in her final two years. She has helped coach numerous high school students as an assistant debate coach, mentoring students on their research and public speaking skills.

At the University of Pennsylvania, she was nominated for a Teaching Assistant position for Wharton's *Business Communication for Impact* course. Aside from public speaking and debate, she is also highly involved in the Performing Arts. She performs with the University of Pennsylvania Glee Club, serving on the Board of Governors, and she also sings in her own Acapella Group on campus. In her free time, she enjoys visiting cafes and doing karaoke!

Dora Lin

Dora is a rising sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Political Science and Gender Studies with a minor in Law and Society. She graduated from The Loomis Chaffee School, where she was a student representative on the Student Council, served on the Disciplinary Committee, and was debate team captain as well as debate club president. In her four years of debate experience, she has been ranked top 5 in the Connecticut Debate Association's statewide tournaments and was a finalist for the state championship.



She also gained a lot of experience in teaching English, having taught Middle School Taiwanese children English via Zoom and produced entertaining videos to help Elementary and Middle School students in China learn and speak English. At Penn, Dora continues her interest in teaching and higher education on the Admissions Dean's Advisory Board. As an Advising Fellow for Matriculate, she mentors high school students individually on the admissions process for colleges, providing mock interviews and feedback on personal essays.

Ms. Donna and Ms. Dora look forward to meeting The Open Classroom's students!

Meet the Professional



‘Meet the Professional’ Course (G1-8)








Combining career exploration and social awareness, students will achieve the following learning goals:

1. General Knowledge: Through meeting and interviewing an industry veteran, students can explore a profession in-depth and the required skills, learning topical knowledge related to that profession.

2. Writing: Students will learn and apply vocabulary related to the profession in their final outputs, which will be closely related to the week’s topic. In that way, they can learn to write with relevance and context.







3. Speaking: By preparing for interviews with industry experts, students will practise critical thinking and interview skills. They will also present their work to peers through jigsaw learning and/or deliver formal presentations to the class.

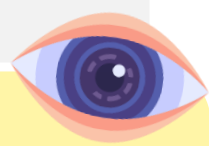
4. Other Skills: Critical thinking, collaboration, entrepreneurship, work ethics, and greater social awareness.

Weeks	Module	Summary
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 10: Aug 19-23	Meet the Photographer 	 <p>Explore different forms of photography and how light plays the pivotal role in setting the ambience. Students have an opportunity to go on a field trip to snap some photos of traditional Hong Kong sites with Ms. Michelle Kwock, an award-winning landscape photographer.</p> <p>Learn about her journey in photography and the inspiration behind her work, as well as receive real-time feedback on photo-taking skills! Produce a brochure and opening presentation on a thematic photo set of your choice.</p>
 Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Meet the Sports Product Inventor 	<p>Learn about the process of product design from conceptualization to creating a prototype and taking it to manufacturing. Interview Mr. Adrian Li, inventor of a patented snowboard product RideEasy and owner of LGN Gym.</p> <p>Learn about his career in sports, his entrepreneurship journeys and the RideEasy product, as well as knowledge on health and nutrition. The written output will range from designing a training program for a client to writing and presenting a business plan on a sports product.</p> 
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 6: Jul 22-26	Meet the Editor 	<p>From the news we consume to the stories we tell our friends, curated content is a huge part of our daily lives. Spotting and crafting eye-catching content are key skills in many professions, and you will see what happens behind the scenes of a published story – from the pitch to the final copy.</p> <p>Meet and interview Ms. Adele Wong, the founding editor of lifestyle news platform The Loop HK and book publisher Man Mo Media. She will share the inner workings of the media industry while giving helpful tips on crafting articles. Produce a lifestyle article with potential to be published on The Loop HK!</p> 

'Meet the Professional' Course (G1-8)



Weeks	Module	Summary
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16	Meet the Café Owner 	Learn about the considerations in starting an F&B business , including the 5Ps (Product, Price, Place, Promotion, People). Have a chance to visit Café Liffée in Wan Chai and interview its owner, Ms. Iris Tung , to learn about her journey in starting a restaurant, inspirations behind her recipes, and even healthy eating tips. Students will also experience first-hand what it's like serving customers at a café! Outputs will range from a recipe or menu design to a business plan on starting their own restaurants!
 Week 5: Jul 15-19	Meet Dialogue in the Dark* 	Learn about the challenges faced by visually impaired people in Hong Kong. Visit Dialogue in the Dark , a social enterprise promoting empathy and social inclusion of the visually impaired, experiencing a journey in the dark with mobility canes followed by a sharing session led by visually impaired guides . The written output will range from a reflection of the field trip to designing creative solutions to help the visually impaired overcome challenges faced in their lives. <i>*For this module, there will be an additional \$150 charged for the entrance fee. The field trip will take place at 9-11am on July 16.</i>
Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Meet Dark Green Planet** 	Gain a unique perspective on climate change and our environment. Explore Dark Green Planet , an innovative tour of interactive exhibits created by Dialogue in the Dark x V'air and led by visually impaired guides who will teach us about hidden dimensions to sustainability and conservation . Students will reflect on their thoughts on the experience, and both their existing and newly-gained knowledge of the environment, producing outputs that bring these together. <i>**For this module, there will be an additional \$180 charged for the entrance fee. The field trip will take place at 9-11am on July 30.</i>
 Week 8: Aug 5-9	Meet the Ophthalmologist 	Out of our five senses, sight is consistently ranked as the most valued. But how much do you know about your eyes and their health? This module offers a rare chance to meet with an ophthalmologist (eye doctor) and take a peek into their clinic during off-hours. Dr. Leonard Yuen will share his knowledge on eye anatomy, its function, common eye conditions and, most importantly, the recipe for healthy eyes! The written output will be an informative write-up on the experience, detailing what has been learnt and insights after the visit. A thank you letter would be lovely too!



Tuition per Module: \$3,950 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)

Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11am; 2-3:30pm*

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Please note that the day and time of the field trips are **fixed and **may differ** from the usual class time, ranging from 1.5 to 2 hours in duration. We will notify parents of the exact day and time of field trips once enrollment is confirmed. Please make your own arrangements to **meet and pick up from field trip sites** on field trip days.*

Writing Courses



Writing Workshop (G1-5)

Our signature writing workshop is a comprehensive course that combines vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar/conventions, and essential writing techniques for each grade level.



Weeks	Genre	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 11: Aug 26-30	Letter Writing	Write a postcard about your travels	Write a letter to express your opinion/feelings	Explore tones when writing emails	Write a letter to a person in history	Write an epistolary story (in letter form)
Week 2: Jun 24-28	Picture & Writing Prompts	Tell a story from fun, imaginative pictures	Develop stories using WH questions	Embellish your picture-based story with details	Use creative prompts to build a detailed story	Use a photo to write a descriptive essay
Week 3: Jul 1-5	Mystery & Thriller	Create and write about your own monster	Develop an eerie story full of mystery	Create a mystery with a villain	Imagine being a student at a magic school	End your story with a thrilling cliffhanger
Week 4: Jul 8-12	Adventure	Write about an exciting journey	Go on a quest of exploration	Write a journal entry about a memorable trip	Create an adventure with a conflict to tackle	Embark on a challenging adventure
Week 5: Jul 15-19	Science Fiction & Fantasy	All about your imaginary friend	Create a science fiction story with space and aliens	Create your own sci-fi world	Begin your own sci-fi novel	Tell a story about life in a dystopian world
Week 6: Jul 22-26	Myths & Epic Tales	Create your own mystical character	Create a myth about a city and a god or goddess	Build your own creation myth	Craft a mythical tale of rivalry	Create an epic tale inspired by Greek mythology
Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Art of Persuasion	Write a "Why I should..." letter	Write a letter to persuade a person you know	"Best _____ of the Year Award" nomination letter	Write a letter to persuade your school principal	Write an essay based on an unusual prompt
Week 8: Aug 5-9	Comics & Films	Write a story with comic-style illustrations	Introduce your own comic character	Create your own superhero with a backstory	Develop a story inspired by movies	Are superheroes helpful or harmful?
Week 9: Aug 12-16	A Day in the Life	Imagine yourself as a unique animal	Write a story inspired by 'The Magic Finger'	Put yourself in the shoes of a famous person	Bring an inanimate object to life	Take on the perspective of a character
Week 10: Aug 19-23	Poetry	Craft a poem with rhymes	Use rhyme to introduce a character	Explore the techniques of limericks	Incorporate personification into poetry	Delve into various styles of poetry

Writing Workshop (G6-10)



Weeks	Genre	G6	G7	G8	G9-10
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 11: Aug 26-30	Letter Writing	Write a letter of appreciation to your favourite author	Write a formal letter of advice	Write an application letter for a program	Write an open letter to raise awareness about a chosen issue
Week 2: Jun 24-28	Picture & Writing Prompts	Write a descriptive essay based on a dinner party photo	Delve into the minds of characters	Convey feelings based on dramatic photos	Conduct research and write a response piece about a famous photo
Week 3: Jul 1-5	Mystery & Thriller	Develop a mysterious story full of suspense	Explore tales with unexpected twists	Write a complex psychological thriller	Delve into the conventions of gothic literature
Week 4: Jul 8-12	Adventure	Create the ultimate adventure story with danger	Build an adventure and character relationships	Surprise the reader with an unexpected ending	Develop an exciting adventure with a near-death experience
Week 5: Jul 15-19	Science Fiction & Fantasy	Set a story in a world with supernatural elements	Create a <i>Hunger Games</i> -inspired universe	Explore utopian vs. dystopian worlds	Build a story about travelling back or forward in time
Week 6: Jul 22-26	Myths & Epic Tales	Create a myth with a meaningful moral	Craft a dramatic epic tale inspired by Greek mythology	Explore symbolism in Greek mythology	Powerfully teach a lesson to a character in your own myth
Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Art of Persuasion	Address an issue as the class president	Build arguments on controversial issues	Take a stance on a social issue affecting youths	Deep dive into ongoing issues in society and propose a change
Week 8: Aug 5-9	Comics & Films	Introduce a new superhero and their origin	Introduce a new 3D antagonist	Create a complex conflict for a superhero	Act as a film critic and review a movie
Week 9: Aug 12-16	A Day in the Life	Become your alter-ego or nemesis	Write the biography of a famous figure	Conduct in-depth research for a biography	Explore the lives of historical figures
Week 10: Aug 19-23	Poetry	Explore and use various poetic devices	Delve into reflective poems and symbolism	Write thematic poems on experiences and reflections	Analyse and write ballads and sonnets

Tuition per Week: Foundation (G1-4): \$4,450 | Enrichment (G5-8): \$4,850 | Advancement (G9-10): \$5,050

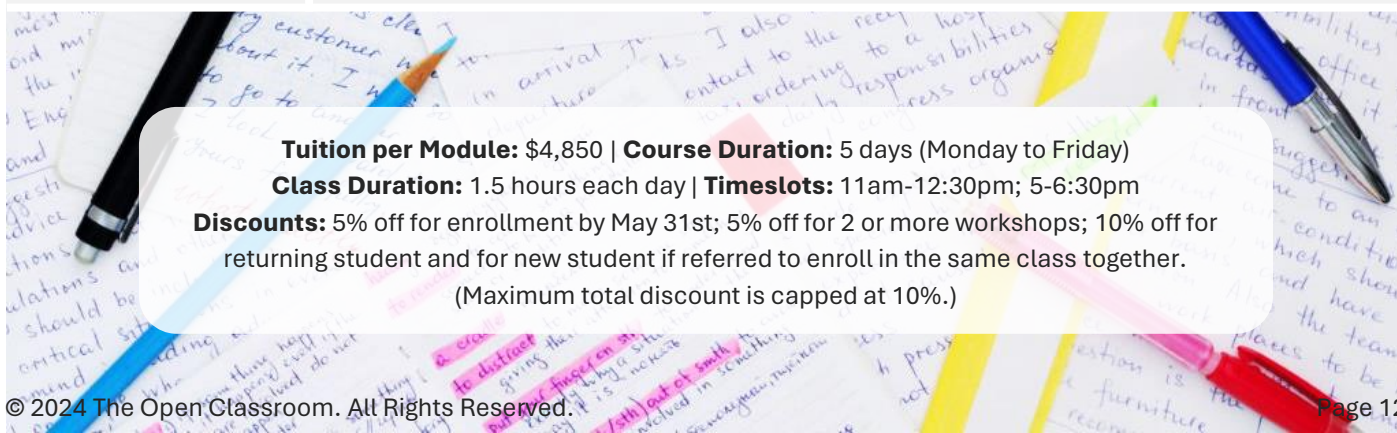
Course Duration: 5 days (Mon to Fri) | **Class Duration:** 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11am; 2-3:30pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Formal Writing & Communications (G6-12)

In middle school, high school and beyond, it is essential to be able to write and communicate with an appropriate formal tone. In this course, produce well-structured written outputs using the **PEA/PETAL format** and explore the conventions of communication in **professional settings**, preparing yourself for the future that awaits.

Weeks	Module
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 6: Jul 22-26 Week 11: Aug 26-30	<p>Argumentative Essays on Social Issues</p> <p>Take a stance and develop supporting arguments on various societal issues such as wealth inequality, healthcare accessibility, and the digital divide. Gathering evidence, follow the PEA/PETAL format to powerfully deliver your opinion.</p>
Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	<p>Business & Professional Communications</p> <p>Learn how to communicate effectively! Improve visual presentations, attempt pitching activities, practise writing professional emails for a teacher or boss, respond to challenging questions on the spot, and review speaker's etiquette.</p>
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 8: Aug 5-9	<p>Reflective Essays on Personal Experiences</p> <p>How have your past experiences helped to shape you into the person you are today? Identifying themes like perseverance and failure, produce an essay that demonstrates your ability to reflect and connect the past to the present and the future.</p>
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16	<p>Research Papers on Environmental Issues</p> <p>The negative impacts of human activities on the environment are numerous and far-reaching. Conduct in-depth research on actions and their consequences, bringing together your findings and your own analyses into a research paper.</p>
Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 10: Aug 19-23	<p>Response Essays on Global News Articles</p> <p>Put your critical thinking skills to work in this module! Closely read news articles from around the world and form your own responses to them, incorporating your own interpretations, opinions and existing knowledge of the topics.</p>



Tuition per Module: \$4,850 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)
Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 5-6:30pm
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together.
 (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Building a Narrative Course (G5-12)

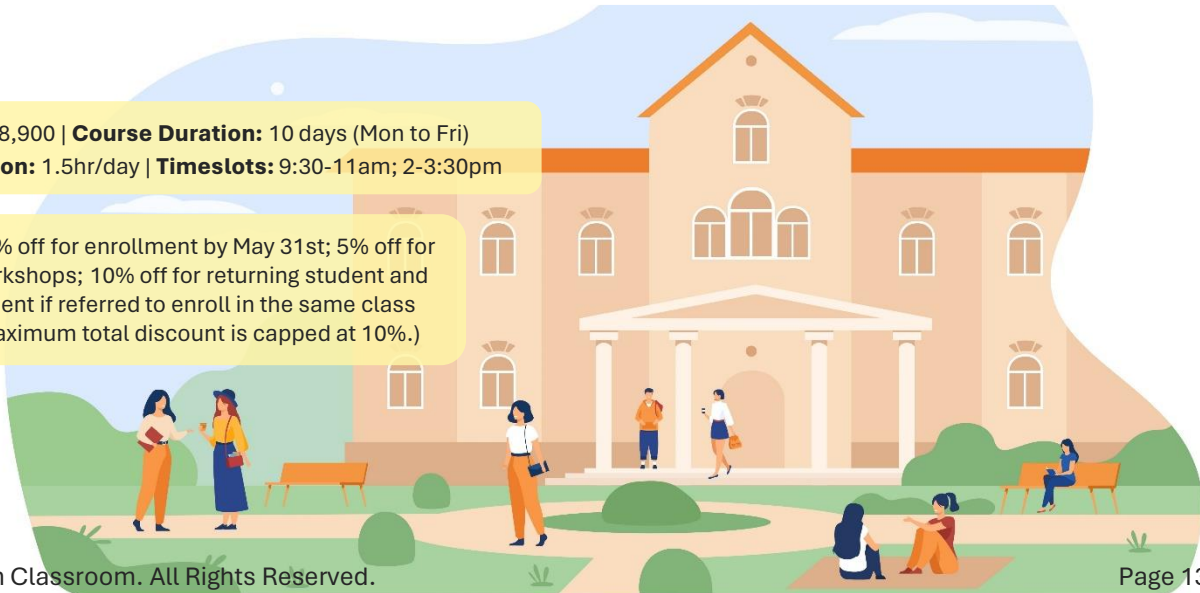
Applications to schools often require a personal essay that speaks to the character, interests, passions, and life experiences of the applicant. A strong narrative/personal statement can mean the difference between admission or rejection. In this 2-week crash course, students will learn how to brainstorm, plan, and write **an application-ready personal statement** for themselves.

(The course material will cater to G5-8 students applying for international/boarding schools and G9-12 students preparing for university applications.)

Sessions	Focus	Summary
Weeks 2-3: Jun 24-28 Jul 1-5 Weeks 4-5: Jul 8-12 Jul 15-19 Week 6-7: Jul 22-26 Jul 29-Aug 2	1st Week: Brainstorming & Story Mapping	In this week, students will learn the basics of planning to write personal statements including brainstorming topic ideas, identity and story mapping, and building story outlines.
Weeks 8-9: Aug 5-9 Aug 12-16 Weeks 10-11: Aug 19-23 Aug 26-30		2nd Week: Drafting & Editing
		This week will have students take the skills they have learned and put them to use in drafting strong personal statements. Students will practise and develop writing strategies, step into the mind of admissions officers, and finally produce their narrative.
		G5-8: Students will practise their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing and drafting strategies, and write their narrative using boarding/international school prompts.
		G9-12: Students will reinforce their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing skills, and write their narrative using university prompts.

Tuition: \$8,900 | **Course Duration:** 10 days (Mon to Fri)
Class Duration: 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11am; 2-3:30pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)



Reading Courses



Weekly Book Club (G1-5)

Reading doesn't have to take a backseat in the summer! Each week, students will study and discuss a book selected by our teachers. Together, we will explore the personalities of characters, identify the messages of stories, and examine the styles of authors.

By the end of each week, produce a **book review** that combines analysis and personal opinions.

Weeks	Lower Primary (G1-3)	Upper Primary (G4-5)
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 6: Jul 22-26 Week 11: Aug 26-30	'Magic Tree House: Mummies in the Morning' by Mary Pope Osborne	'The Little Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl	'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 8: Aug 5-9	'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White	'Holes' by Louis Sachar
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16	'The BFG' by Roald Dahl	'Matilda' by Roald Dahl
Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 10: Aug 19-23	'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett	'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis



Tuition per Week: \$4,450 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)

Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 3:30-5pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Please note that students are required to read the book of their enrolled week **before the first class**, ensuring that they will understand the course content.

Literary Analysis Course (G6-12)

As an essential skill for English exams and coursework, including IGCSE and IB, literary analysis requires the ability to think critically and make logical interpretations of texts. In this course, students will scrutinise literature commonly studied in schools, resulting in **analytical essays** on themes, motifs and more.

The books in this course have been thoughtfully selected by our teachers to give students a head start in their literature studies at school.

Weeks	Middle School (G6-8)	High School (G9-12)
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 6: Jul 22-26 Week 11: Aug 26-30	'The Giver' by Lois Lowry	'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee
Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	'The Outsiders' by S. E. Hinton	'Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus' by Mary Shelley
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 8: Aug 5-9	'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding	'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16	'Animal Farm' by George Orwell	'1984' by George Orwell
Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 10: Aug 19-23	'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins	'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare



Tuition per Week: \$4,850 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)

Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11 am; 2-3:30pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Please note that students are required to read the book of their enrolled week **before the first class**, ensuring that they will understand the course content.

Vocab, Reading Comp & Grammar Booster (G1-5)

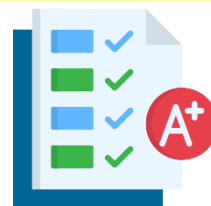


Join our 5-day intensive booster course for expanding word banks, reading conscientiously and refining grammar conventions! Every week, students will be challenged to apply the knowledge they have gained against time restraints in mock tests.

Area	Lower Levels	Upper Levels
Vocabulary	10-15 words per day; practise spelling and sentence building	20-30 words per day; reinforce through application and analogies
Reading Comprehension	Fill in the blanks, multiple choice, true or false, and full sentences	Read for details and think critically beyond the text to predict, infer, relate and draw sensible conclusions
Grammar	Build foundations in punctuation, tenses, syntax, capitalization and subject-verb agreement	Refine your skills in mixed tenses, run-on sentences, conditionals, phrasal verbs and figurative language
Mock Tests	Reinforce concepts and practise performing under time pressure, preparing students for school assessments	

Tuition: \$4,450 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday) | **Class Duration:** 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 3:30-5pm
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Verbal & Critical Reading Booster (G6-8)



For higher levels, join our 5-day intensive booster course that introduces students to middle level SSAT and ISEE-style exercises and mock tests as their first step towards taking the real tests.

Area	Content
Synonyms	Learn unfamiliar words of the same meaning; practise 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	Practise 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

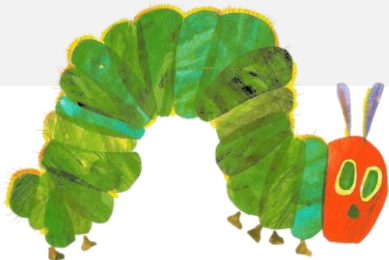




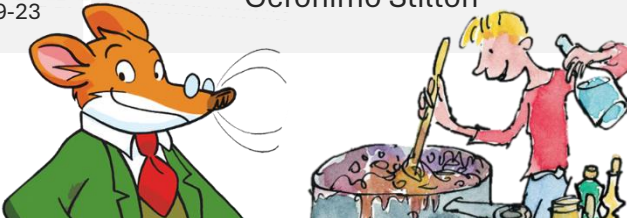
Tuition: \$4,850 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday) | **Class Duration:** 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 5-6:30pm
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Speaking Courses



Presentation Course (K2-3 & G1-2)

Presentation skills – taught at an early age – can build confidence in young learners. Featuring books of well-known authors and series, classes under this course involve reading **imaginative stories** and completing **interactive exercises** inspired by them.

K2-3 Level	Weeks	Authors/Book Series
<p>In this course, K2-3 students engage in interactive oral games, developing their vocabulary and logic skills. Activities include self-presentation, show-and-tell, role-play and picture descriptions.</p>	<p>Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 6: Jul 22-26 Week 11: Aug 26-30</p>	<p>Lauren Child</p>
	<p>Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2</p>	<p>Oxford Reading Tree</p>
	<p>Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 8: Aug 5-9</p>	<p>The Berenstain Bears</p>
	<p>Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16</p>	<p>Eric Carle</p>
	<p>Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 10: Aug 19-23</p>	<p>Oliver Jeffers</p>
		
G1-2 Level	Weeks	Authors/Book Series
<p>In this course, G1-2 students will develop public speaking skills to deliver presentations. Focus areas include engaging the audience, developing detail and incorporating body language.</p>	<p>Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 6: Jul 22-26 Week 11: Aug 26-30</p>	<p>Roald Dahl</p>
	<p>Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2</p>	<p>Magic Tree House</p>
	<p>Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 8: Aug 5-9</p>	<p>Curious George</p>
	<p>Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 9: Aug 12-16</p>	<p>Aesop's Fables</p>
	<p>Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 10: Aug 19-23</p>	<p>Geronimo Stilton</p>
		

Tuition per Week: \$4,450 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Mon to Fri) | **Class Duration:** 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11am; 3:30-5pm
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Public Speaking Course (G3-8)

Mastering the skills of **effective communication** could be the most important tool to having a successful high school, college and career experience. Following weekly themes, students will be taken through **engaging topics** that provide numerous opportunities for practice and personal guidance, resulting in a final speech/presentation.

Weeks	Module
Week 1: Jun 17-21 Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Speech About Yourself – Self-Introduction & Reflections Flustered at an interview? Tongue-tied during class presentation? This course can help you speak eloquently about yourself, retell personal stories, and present opinions and reflections on the spot.
Week 2: Jun 24-28 Week 8: Aug 5-9	Appreciation Speech – Give Thanks to an Important Figure Who has impacted your life? Touch the hearts of your audience by showing your sincere gratitude towards this person and how they have inspired, supported and/or influenced you with specific examples.
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 9: Aug 12-16	Persuasive Speech – Effectively Convince Your Audience Combine written and spoken techniques including strong arguments, rhetorical questions and effective intonation to present a produce you have designed, persuading potential customers or investors.
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 10: Aug 19-23	TED Talk – Deliver a Powerful Message in a Presentation 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, sharing a meaningful message that leaves an impression.
Week 5: Jul 15-19 Week 11: Aug 26-30	Impromptu Speech – Give an Impressive Speech on the Spot This workshop is fast-paced and offers plenty of practice for unexpected situations. Learn how to think on your feet and quickly organize information though various prompts and off-the-cuff topics.
Week 6: Jul 22-26	Storytelling – Engage the Audience with More Than Words Telling a story is not only about the content! Learn and practise how to incorporate tone of voice, body language and actions into stories for more captivating delivery. Reflect on life events to recount personal stories and use imagination to create fictional stories.

Tuition: \$4,850 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday) | **Class Duration:** 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 3:30-5pm
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)



Social Studies



Path to Humanity Course (G4-12)

Even before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, human rights have long been crucial for reducing inequalities and promoting human flourishing. This class will introduce students to the nuanced **history of human rights** both through analyzing the rights of **marginalized communities** like women and refugees and more ubiquitous themes like economic, social, and cultural rights. Through papers, debates, and mock trials, students will learn about human rights while developing critical thinking and writing skills.

Weeks	Module	Upper Primary (G4-5)	Middle School (G6-8)	High School (G9-12)
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 9: Aug 12-16	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	Learn about the United Nations and the committee that wrote the UDHR; discuss one article on the UDHR per day and write about what this right means to you.	Explore the background on UDHR and international court systems that help hold human rights violators accountable. Research and present an UDHR article to the class, including your interpretation and a case of the right at work.	Learn about the history and setting of the UDHR; discuss the background of the committee and frameworks of cultural relativism vs. universal human rights in the UDHR. Write an essay on whether human rights is a Western idea imposed on other countries.
Week 4: Jul 8-12 Week 10: Aug 19-23	Children's Rights	Learn about children's rights to education, healthcare, and protection of harm. Explore how these rights are applied differently for children around the world. Write an essay about which of these rights stood out to you and why.	Learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Write a letter to local politicians to raise awareness about an issue regarding children's rights, ranging from healthcare to sweatshops and education.	Select one legal case surrounding children's rights/setting a precedent that advances or hinders children's rights in that region; write a case brief using the Issue, Rule, Application, and Conclusion structure (IRAC).
Week 5: Jul 15-19	Women's Rights	Learn about feminist figures such as Susan B. Anthony and Malala Yousafzai; research and produce an educational poster with a biography of a female hero who has inspired you.	Learn about the wage gap and the glass ceiling in Hong Kong. Research a job (stay-at-home parent included!) and research how equitable the industry is for women in terms of representation and equal pay.	Select one legal case surrounding women's rights/setting a precedent that advances or hinders women's rights in that region; write a case brief using the Issue, Rule, Application, and Conclusion structure (IRAC).



Path to Humanity Course (G4-12)

Weeks	Module	Upper Primary (G4-5)	Middle School (G6-8)	High School (G9-12)
Week 6: Jul 22-26	Refugees' Rights	Read about stories of refugees with inspiring and fruitful lives. Learn about their stories and how UDHR's principles helped uplift them. Choose a refugee figure to present to the class.	Learn about refugees' rights and their struggles for citizenship in their respective host countries. Write a paper about the status quo of refugees from a certain country in their host country, focusing on violations and affirmations of their human rights.	Learn about the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent. Explore the difference between international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Write an informative essay on the extent to which refugees influence the lives of residents in their host country.
Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Environmental Rights	Learn about the idea of establishing the environment as an entity with rights. Explore laws that protect the environment and collaborate to make posters on countries with established environmental laws.	Learn about how climate change is violating human rights through displacement and lack of quality air/water. Research and write an informative essay on how an area's changing climate has impacted someone's rights.	Learn about environmental rights and the Inter-American Court Ruling on the La Oroya Case in Peru. Research and execute a mock trial for the case, with students in roles such as witnesses, attorneys, and jury.
Week 8: Aug 5-9	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) & Civil and Political Rights	Learn about ESCR and civil and political rights; analyze their differences on the ground. Write an essay on how ESCR is carried out in our daily lives and its importance.	Learn about ESCR and civil and political rights; analyze their differences in terms of origin and application. Write an argumentative paper on whether civil and political rights or ESCR should be prioritized by governments in promoting human rights.	Learn about ESCR and Civil and Political Rights; discuss the history of ESCR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Research and write an informative essay on how UDHR's right to work is violated in certain developing countries, actions/policies taken to address such issues, and their outcomes.

Tuition per Module: \$3,950 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)

Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 9:30-11am; 2-3:30pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)



Shaping Societies Course (G4-12)

What fuels change? In this course, we will explore the backbones of society and advocacy by **analyzing political ideologies** such as democracy, communism, and colonialism through an equitable lens. From generative AI's ethical implications to global migration and feminism, students will dive into debates and write critically about **social movements**. Using primary sources and case studies, students will expand their worldview while studying politics and activism throughout time.

Weeks	Module	Upper Primary (G4-5)	Middle School (G6-8)	High School (G9-12)
Week 3: Jul 1-5 Week 10: Aug 19-23	What is Democracy?	Learn about democratic countries and their political systems. Research a key political leader (either in history or their current leader) and create a biographical poster.	Study revolutions in democratic countries and their political history. Research a revolution and present it to the class, analyzing its causes, process, and success or downfall.	Learn about and analyze the benefits and drawbacks of democracy in terms of welfare through analyzing cases of democratic countries. Have a debate on validity for freedom of speech to protect democracy.
Week 4: Jul 8-12	What is Communism?	Learn about communist countries and their political systems. Research a key political leader (either in history or their current leader) and create a biographical poster.	Study revolutions in democratic countries and their political history. Research a revolution and present it to the class, analyzing its causes, process, and success or downfall.	In relation to capitalism, analyze the benefits and drawbacks of communism in terms of welfare through analyzing cases of communist countries. Debate whether communism is a viable economic system in the modern world as opposed to capitalism.
Week 5: Jul 15-19	What is Colonialism?	Learn about countries that engaged in colonization. Research a key leader in such movements and create a biographical poster.	Learn about the history of colonization and different driving factors. Write an informative paper about how colonialism impacted the colonizing country and the occupied country.	Evaluate the different narratives of colonization through primary sources from colonized countries and colonizers. Write about the extent to which economic factors drove colonization as opposed to other motivations such as religion.



Shaping Societies Course (G4-12)

Weeks	Module	Upper Primary (G4-5)	Middle School (G6-8)	High School (G9-12)
Week 6: Jul 22-26	Technology & Society: Ethics & Impact	Learn how technological advances such as rockets and iPhones have changed the world. Present one of the technologies that caught your interest in and analyze how it has bettered/worsened quality of life.	Learn about the recent technological wave of generative AI and autonomous technology. Debate whether children should use ChatGPT, who should be responsible for accidents caused by self-driving cars, and generative AI's implications for jobs.	Learn about the recent technological wave toward generative AI and autonomous technology. Host a mock trial on the case of a Belgian man's death after conversations with AI to assess whether the company should be held liable.
Week 7: Jul 29-Aug 2	Feminism & Gender Equality Movement	Learn about what feminism is and give examples of feminist icons; talk about examples of gender stereotypes in students' experiences. Research and give a presentation on a feminist they selected.	Pick a country of their choice and learn about the history of women's rights there from lens such as suffrage, law, and pay gap. Write an essay on a protest/event targeting women's rights, documenting the progress toward equality or lack thereof since.	Dive into intersectionality and the feminist movement that originally excluded women of color and LGBTQ+ women. Produce an informative essay about an event in the feminist movement worldwide that was led by women of color or LGBTQ+ women.
Week 8: Aug 5-9	Racial Equality Movement: Antebellum Period & Civil War in the United States	Learn about the history and situation in antebellum America and diverse key figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Abraham Lincoln. Make a poster on an important figure or event at the beginning of the war, e.g. the Emancipation Proclamation.	Learn about the status of different marginalized groups (Asian American immigrants, enslaved people, women, etc.) and their daily lives in the North and South. Present how pre-war tensions influenced different groups and the discrimination they received during the tumultuous time.	Learn about the differing narratives between the South and the North (abolition v. states rights). Read letters from soldiers and President Lincoln's speeches to write a paper evaluating the main causes of the Civil War and the extent to which racism played a role.
Week 9: Aug 12-16	Global Migration Movement: Push & Pull Factors	Learn about the common reasons behind migration and why people choose to settle in their new countries. Identify either a famous refugee or a group of refugees, and write about the push and pull factors behind their choice to migrate.	Learn about push and pull factors behind migration, seeing how these apply to real life through mainstream migrant groups' trends. Present and theorize on reasons behind the migration patterns of a chosen migrant group.	Learn about and analyze the push and pull factors of migration. Conduct a case study of a hypothetical migrant and debate on which country they should migrate to based on the country's strengths and weaknesses as well as the migrant's goals.

Tuition per Module: \$3,950 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday)

Class Duration: 1.5 hours each day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 3:30-5pm

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in the same class together. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)



Tailored & Application Courses



Private Tutoring (All Ages)

Customized to your needs, we offer classes for all ages, for a range of areas:

Standardized tests including SAT, TOEFL, IELTS, SSAT, ISEE, ACT and SCAT

School entrance exams and interviews (Primary 1, school transfer, boarding school and college)

Academic tutoring in English, math, social studies, personal statement, IGCSE, IB and AP subjects

Public speaking skills and preparation for Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival and school projects

And more! Contact us directly to discuss a private tutoring plan for your child



“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.”

“My daughter took private lessons with The Open Classroom for four months before she attended the admission tests in three top international schools in Hong Kong last year. She passed the tests and got admitted to the school of our top choice. The teachers understand very well her strengths and areas for development. The results have been very satisfying. We are very grateful.”



International School & U.S. School Academic Prep. Course

Do you plan to apply for **international schools in Hong Kong** and/or **U.S. schools** in the next few years? Are you looking for a course that provides an overall academic boost? This comprehensive 12-class 1:1 course is designed for both purposes, preparing students for applications and improving their performance in academics.

Drawing on material from past papers (CAT4, SSAT, ISEE, MAP), the course targets 4 areas, identified as the most vital for school applications:

- 1. Math:** Focusing on more advanced topics tested in standardized exams, test taking strategies and questions found in CAT4 (e.g. numerical analogies and numerical series)
- 2. Verbal Reasoning:** Expanding vocabulary knowledge, and practising sentence completion, analogies, synonyms and reading comprehension (multiple choice and written answers)
- 3. Writing:** Developing expository, narrative, persuasive and timed writing skills, responding to prompts from past papers, and tackling creativity-based “continue the story” exercises
- 4. Interview & Presentation:** Responding to past years’ commonly asked questions from real school interviews, and building essential public speaking skills to strengthen overall presentation

“After taking this course, training in all the above areas, our student (Grade 7, St. Paul’s Co-educational College) took the admissions tests for Chinese International School and was successfully offered a place.”



The classes within this course can be conducted both online and offline to facilitate students’ attendance. They will be taught by Ms. Agnes (co-founder and head teacher) and Ms. Annabel or Ms. Alexia, focusing on the different areas of the admission tests for international and U.S. schools.

If you already have specific schools in mind, the course content can be tailored based on previous years in order to best begin preparing your child for those schools’ entrance exams and interviews.

Tuition per Course: \$19,800 | **Course Duration:** 12 days | **Class Duration:** 2 hours each day
Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops.
(Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

U.S. Boarding School Application Intensive Course

Preparing to apply for boarding schools in the U.S.? This intensive 10-day course is designed to train students in writing impactful **application essays** and responding to common **interview questions** to leave an impression on your desired schools.



Essay Writing (2 Hours) – \$14,000/10 Days

- Essay writing is possibly the most daunting and time-consuming part of the application process. Don't wait until 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. The teacher will share well-written application essays accepted to top-tier boarding schools and focus on three types of writing:

Part I

Short Answers: Develop 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.

Part II

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

- Produce outputs based on selective and popular application questions from schools like Hotchkiss, Choate, Andover, and schools of your choice!
- Receive personalised feedback with proofreading and critique on each draft, guiding you towards improvement.

Interview Training (1 Hour) – \$8,600/10 Days

- What are some of the most commonly asked questions? What do interviewers look for in potential students? Review tips and practice skills that will better prepare you for interviews.
- Be challenged to think on your feet, and learn to organize ideas to brainstorm coherent and thoughtful answers.
- Attempt mock interviews and receive specific feedback on areas for improvement.
- As a continuation to this course, we also offer personalized school admissions consulting services.

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

U.S. College Application Personal Statement Workshop

College admissions are now 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 intensive 5-day course will teach you how to produce **memorable and powerful essays** that distinguish you from the crowd.



Content

- Dissect accepted Ivy League long and short essays, review the fundamentals of personal statement writing, and learn to express traits that will make you an attractive candidate.
- Learn how to select an appropriate topic, develop relevant ideas, edit for content and style, and avoid common pitfalls that weaken your chances of admission.
- Experience one-on-one time with expert writers to proofread, critique and revise drafts throughout the week.
- 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 services.

“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 planned 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 (accepted into Columbia University)

Tuition per Course: \$8,000 | **Course Duration:** 5 days | **Class Duration:** 2 hours each day

Discounts: 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops. (Maximum total discount is capped at 10%.)

Private Consulting Service & Test Prep. with Co-Founder

We offer a bespoke and comprehensive scope of advisory services for U.S. boarding school and college placement. Each student will work directly with The Open Classroom's co-founder, Ms. Agnes Kong, for **private test preparation classes** (SSAT/ISEE/ACT/SAT), **application essay writing** and **interview training**. Limited spaces are offered during the year.



Since starting her career in education, 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 many 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 Undergraduate (summa cum laude & phi beta kappa); Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School; PGDE from HKU
- Previously worked for Goldman Sachs, IFC World Bank, JPMorgan, Carlyle Group

Testimonials

“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)

“I highly recommend Agnes to be the mentor for any student considering to apply for boarding school in the U.S. 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 student, Grade 8 (attending Choate)

Private Consulting Service & Test Prep. with Co-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 student, 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 of ISF student, Grade 8 (accepted into Taft)

“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)

“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.”

— Groton student, Grade 12

Private Consulting Service & Test Prep. with Co-Founder

“Agnes expertly guided my eldest daughter through the extremely difficult U.S. university application process. Because of Agnes’ expert advice, my daughter was accepted to 8 out of the 10 schools she applied to and offered scholarships from 7 of these schools. We could not be happier with the results that Agnes helped my daughter achieve. Most importantly, Agnes pushes the students to present the best of themselves while still staying true to who they are. The difference between Agnes and the other consultants in Hong Kong is the one-on-one attention she gives to each of her clients. With Agnes’ guidance, my daughter wrote a beautiful and powerful personal essay which I think helped her get into some of the tougher schools. I highly recommend her as a consultant.”

— **Parent of French International School student, Year 13 (accepted into Harvard)**

“I have been tutoring with Agnes for over 5 years for the SSAT and SAT. Ever since my first lesson, I knew that Agnes was an amazing, kind tutor and mentor. I continued to study with Agnes in my junior and senior year for the SAT. Over the years, Agnes was not only a tutor but a mentor. She helped me stay motivated even when I was frustrated and wasn't seeing progress. She pushed me to keep trying hard and with Agnes my hard work paid off. Agnes is the absolute best and I am forever grateful for her guidance and support.”

— **Cate student (accepted into Yale Early Action)**

“It was six days before the Early Decision deadline. Desperate for some help on my college application essays, I approached Agnes for her help and sent in both my Common App and University supplement. Within five hours, she gave me helpful revision comments and paired me with a mentor Kerri, an English major from Yale, who further sent me extremely detailed feedback on my essays. From content to stylistic techniques, their suggestions transformed my originally sloppy essays to professional pieces of work and elevated them to a level I definitely couldn't have reached myself. Those essays ended up getting me into the University of Chicago, my dream school, and it's all thanks to the immense help I received from Agnes and her team of mentors.”

— **CIS student, Year 13 (accepted into Chicago Early Decision)**

“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 planned 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 (accepted into Columbia University)