



THE OPEN  
CLASSROOM

# 2025 SUMMER PROGRAM

## WHEN

June 16 to August 29, 2025

## WHERE

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

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# Message from The Open Classroom



**Dear Parents,**

We are pleased to be bringing back a 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)

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“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 the Professional

# ‘Meet the Professional’ Course (G1-8)

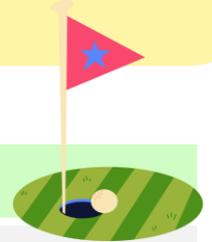
Combining career exploration and social awareness, students will achieve the following learning goals:

**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
<p><b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27</p> <p><b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18</p>	<p>Meet the Golf Academy Founder</p>	<p>Step into the world of elite kids’ golf mastery and entrepreneurial vision! Students have an extraordinary opportunity to meet <b>Dr. Eric Poon, the founder of ePGA Academy and a World Top 50 Golf Coach (U.S. Kids Golf)</b>. They will discover how he transformed his passion for the sport into a thriving business, redefining the landscape of golf coaching as well as a pathway for kids to pursue sport while balancing academic excellence.</p> <p>Students will not only gain <b>invaluable insights into the fusion of sports and entrepreneurship</b> but will also experience <b>world-class coaching at Bay247 Golf Simulators</b> (bay-247.com) under Dr. Poon’s expert guidance. This goes beyond technique—it’s an exploration of sportsmanship, etiquette, and golf as a universal language that bridges cultures and builds connections across the globe.</p> <p><i>The field trip to Bay247 is tentatively scheduled for Jun at 24 2:30-4:30pm and Jul 15 at 1:30-3:30pm. It includes 2 hours of professional coaching and access to premium facilities. All equipment will be provided.</i></p>
<p><b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4</p>	<p>Meet Dialogue in the Dark</p>	<p>Learn about the challenges faced by visually impaired people in Hong Kong with this eye-opening module. Visit <b>Dialogue in the Dark, a groundbreaking social enterprise dedicated to promoting empathy and social inclusion of the visually impaired</b>. This unique experience invites students to step into a world without sight, embarking on journey in the dark with mobility canes followed by a <b>sharing session led by visually impaired guides</b>.</p> <p>The final output involves students <b>collaborating to design creative solutions</b> to help address and overcome challenges faced by the visually impaired community.</p> <p><i>The field trip will take place at 9-11 am on Jul 1.</i></p>



# ‘Meet the Professional’ Course (G1-8)

Weeks	Module	Summary
<p><b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11</p> <p><b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8</p>	<p>Meet the Owner of PICKLE.READY</p> 	<p>Connect with <b>PICKLE.READY court owner and certified pickleball coach, Hins Leung</b>. Also working in the counseling field, having graduated with a major in Psychology, he became interested in the sport after seeing its <b>power to unite people</b>. This rapidly growing sport is a dynamic blend of fun, fitness, and community engagement. Students will gain insights into <b>launching and managing a successful sports facility</b>, why pickleball is capturing the hearts of players of all ages, and how it’s reshaping the modern sports landscape.</p> <p>Students can try their hand at pickleball under the <b>guidance of professional coaches</b>. As output, they will produce a comprehensive piece of sports literature that explores the history, dynamics, and future of pickleball.</p> <p><i>The field trip is tentatively scheduled for Jul 8 at 3:30-5:30pm and Aug 5 at 3:30-5:30pm. It includes 2 hours of professional coaching and use of the court and its facilities. All equipment will be provided.</i></p>
<p><b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11</p> <p><b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18</p>	<p>Meet the Café Owner</p> 	<p>Join us for an exciting opportunity to meet <b>Ms. Iris Tung, owner of Café Liffée in Wan Chai</b>, to learn about her inspiring journey of starting a healthy eating restaurant and the creative process behind her recipes. During the field trip, students will gain <b>firsthand experience in customer service by shadowing a barista</b>, learning how to prepare drinks, and understanding the café environment.</p> <p>They even have the opportunity to serve real customers and collaborate with peers to create a business plan for their own restaurant, applying knowledge gained in our classes, including the <b>5Ps (Product, Price, Place, Promotion, People)</b>.</p> <p><i>Field trip tentatively scheduled for Jul 9 and Jul 16 at 3:30-5:30pm.</i></p>
<p><b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25</p>	<p>Meet the Rabbit House</p> 	<p>Students will have the opportunity to meet with <b>passionate animal welfare advocate and Director of the HK Rabbit Society (HKRS – hkrabbit.org)</b>, the only animal welfare group in HK dedicated to promoting rabbit adoption and caring for abandoned rabbits. Founded in 2003, HKRS provides abandoned rabbits with new homes and aims to educate the public on proper care as pet owners.</p> <p>Tour the rabbit shelter to explore the fundamental operations of the charity, such as how rabbits are taken in, daily tasks involved in rabbit care, as well as how they help to find forever homes for countless rabbits. Gain <b>specialized knowledge about rabbit care and pet management</b> through talks presented by the staff before creating brochures to educate the public on proper pet care and considerations before adopting a pet. Students will develop their <b>persuasive non-fiction writing skills</b> and gain animal specific knowledge, while contributing to the important work of animal rescue and adoption.</p> <p><i>The field trip is scheduled to take place on Jul 22 at the HKRS’s adoption center in Mong Kok at 3:30-5:30pm.</i></p>

# ‘Meet the Professional’ Course (G1-8)

Weeks	Module	Summary
<p><b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1</p> <p><b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22</p>	<p>Meet the Architect</p> 	<p>Join us for an inspiring session with <b>Ms. Judith Tse, founder of Bldg Bloc Ltd</b>, to learn about her work as an architect and her journey from attending Parsons School of Design and Columbia Graduate School of Architecture to starting her own interior design firm. Learn about the transformative projects that have defined her career, including designing for the Diane von Fürstenberg headquarters in New York City. This is a unique opportunity for students to gain <b>invaluable insights into the world of architecture, from initial concept to final design.</b></p> <p>As final output, students will <b>collaborate on a live project</b> related to one of Judith’s real-life clients, applying topical knowledge learnt to create meaningful designs.</p> <p><i>Field trip tentatively scheduled for Jul 31 and Aug 20 to visit architect’s office in Central.</i></p>
<p><b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8</p>	<p>Meet the Tea Bar Owner</p> 	<p>Meet <b>Ms. Nana Chan, the innovative owner of Plantation Tea Bar, a contemporary Chinese tea bar redefining how we experience tea.</b> Passionate about sustainability, she sources her teas from small family farms, ensuring <b>quality and environmental responsibility.</b> Nana started her tea journey with teakha, a tea café and bakery, in Sheung Wan in 2012, revolutionizing tea from something that belonged to the older generation to something that can be enjoyed by the younger generation. Plantation Teas was founded in 2017 primarily as an online space, followed by the Tea Bar in 2023.</p> <p>During the field trip, students will learn all about this timeless beverage, including how to brew a proper cuppa, as well as the nuances of tea etiquette and traditions.</p> <p><i>Field trip tentatively scheduled for Aug 6 to visit Plantation Tea Bar.</i></p>
<p><b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15</p>	<p>Meet the Children’s Book Illustrator &amp; Community Map Artist</p> 	<p>Students will meet with <b>renowned children’s picture book illustrator and community map artist Maoshan Connie.</b> Graduating with a Master’s degree in Children’s Literature from the University of Cambridge, she has participated in both local and international exhibitions, with her most recent solo exhibition being “A special spring exhibition at Museum of Picture Book Art: This is where Maoshan Connie began her journey” at Hachi &amp; Seizo Tashima Museum of Picture Book Art in Japan. She has published several books, including <i>Deserve</i> (2020), <i>Pilipolo Clay Bath</i> (2021) and <i>Sea Cat Sea Fog</i> (2023).</p> <p>Engage in a <b>hands-on workshop on illustration techniques, exploring the neighbourhood of Wan Chai Blue House.</b> Students create and present stories based on selected illustrations, <b>emphasizing Hong Kong heritage and animal rescue</b> – two causes Connie is passionate about. This module promises an enriching experience, blending artistic expression with a commitment to important causes.</p> <p><i>The field trip is scheduled to take place on Aug 12 at 3:30-5:30pm at Wan Chai Blue House/Liffee Café.</i></p>

**Tuition:** \$4,450 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday) | **Class Duration:** 1.5 hr/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 once confirmed** 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
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20  <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	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)
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27	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
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4	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
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11	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
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18	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
<b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25	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
<b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	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
<b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	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?
<b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	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
<b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	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
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20 <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	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
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27	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
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4	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
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11	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
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18	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
<b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25	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
<b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	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
<b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	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
<b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	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
<b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	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%.)

# Creative Writing Festival Prep (G1-6)

**Creative Writing Festival**, co-organized by Hotung Mills Education Foundation and The English-Speaking Union Hong Kong, is back for 2025! Since 2023, The Open Classroom has been guiding **young writers aged 5 to 12** to brainstorm and develop their entries, resulting in awards from the judging panel. Participants who achieve Distinction and above even have the chance of **their writing being published!**

With this one-week course, students leave with a final output that can be submitted.  
We also offer additional private 1:1 sessions tailored for individual students!



**2023:** DBSPD student (Grade 1) won First Runner-Up in Story Writing (6 years old)  
**2024:** SPCCPS student (Grade 2) won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Story Writing (7 years old)



## This Year's Theme

### A World of Wonder

Travel beyond the everyday and open the door to magic, mystery, and the extraordinary – where anything is possible. From enchanted forests to hidden corners of the city, from secret passageways to talking animals, imagine new places, discover surprises in familiar ones, and create stories full of adventure, curiosity, and delight.

## Our Process

### Brainstorming

We begin by assisting students on brainstorming ideas for their own stories, following the given title and story starter for their respective age group. We use mind maps and discussion to draw out their creativity.

### Outlining

Students are then tasked with organising the main events of their story in a logical order, from beginning to end. This clear outline helps them to stay on track during the drafting process.

### Drafting

During this stage, students follow their outlines to write the initial rough draft of their stories. They are reminded to include interesting details and strong vocabulary to engage the reader.

### Revising

Teachers provide corrections and suggestions for improvement, guiding students to use more powerful wording and sophisticated techniques, such as similes and sensory imagery. Students rewrite their drafts.

**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%.)

# 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 with **practical applications**, preparing yourself for the future that awaits.

Weeks	Module
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20 <b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18 <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	<p align="center"><b>Argumentative Essays on Social Issues</b></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>
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27 <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25 <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	<p align="center"><b>Reflective Essays on Personal Experiences</b></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>
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4 <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1 <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	<p align="center"><b>Response Essays on Global News Articles</b></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>
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11 <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	<p align="center"><b>Research Papers on Environmental Issues</b></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>

**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)

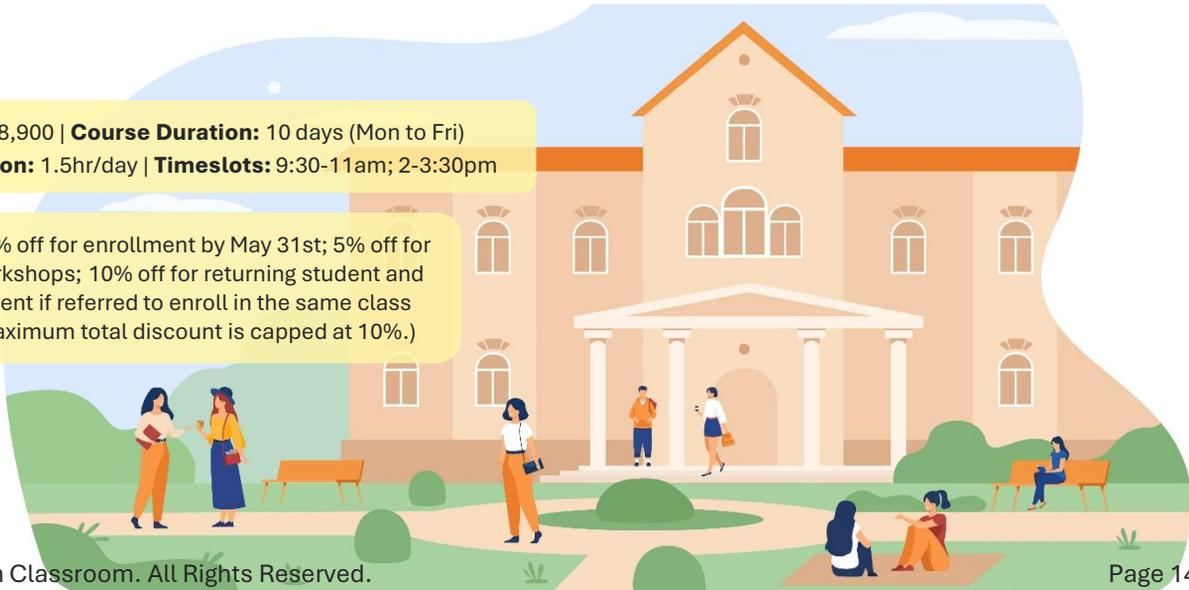
Applications to schools often require a personal essay that speaks to the character, interests, passions, and life experiences of the applicant. A strong narrative/personal statement can mean the difference between admission or rejection. In this 2-week crash course, students will learn how to brainstorm, 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	
<b>Weeks 2-3:</b> Jun 23-27 Jun 30-Jul 4	<b>1st Week:</b> 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.	
<b>Weeks 4-5:</b> Jul 7-11 Jul 14-18		<b>G5-8:</b> Students will brainstorm, map, and outline narrative ideas using boarding/international school applications, prompts, and sample essays as example material.	<b>G9-12:</b> Students will brainstorm, map, and outline narrative ideas using general university applications, supplemental essays, prompts, and sample essays as example material.
<b>Week 6-7:</b> Jul 21-25 Jul 28-Aug 1	<b>2nd Week:</b> 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.	
<b>Weeks 8-9:</b> Aug 4-8 Aug 11-15		<b>G5-8:</b> Students will practise their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing and drafting strategies, and write their narrative using boarding/ international school prompts.	<b>G9-12:</b> Students will reinforce their writing skills, learn and incorporate basic editing skills, and write their narrative using university prompts.
<b>Weeks 10-11:</b> Aug 18-22 Aug 25-29			

**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)
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20 <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25 <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	'Magic Tree House: Mummies in the Morning' by Mary Pope Osborne	'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27 <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl	'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4 <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White	'Holes' by Louis Sachar
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11 <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	'The BFG' by Roald Dahl	'Matilda' by Roald Dahl
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18 <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell	'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett



**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)
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20 <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25 <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	'The Giver' by Lois Lowry	'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27 <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	'The Outsiders' by S. E. Hinton	'Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus' by Mary Shelley
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4 <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding	'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11 <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	'Animal Farm' by George Orwell	'1984' by George Orwell
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18 <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	'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
<b>Vocabulary</b>	10-15 words per day; practise spelling and sentence building	20-30 words per day; reinforce through application and analogies
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	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
<b>Grammar</b>	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
<b>Mock Tests</b>	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
<b>Synonyms</b>	Learn unfamiliar words of the same meaning; practise recognizing synonyms under time restraints using process of elimination
<b>Analogies</b>	Use fast thinking and logic to identify the relationships between words; apply these skills in test-like situations
<b>Critical Reading</b>	Practise essential reading techniques for detail and for gist; be challenged by timed reading passages and comprehension questions
<b>Mock Tests</b>	Prepare for standardized testing and school assessments with SSAT and ISEE-style mock tests within time limits

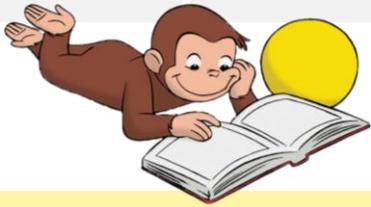
**Tuition:** \$4,850 | **Course Duration:** 5 days (Monday to Friday) | **Class Duration:** 1.5hr/day | **Timeslots:** 11am-12:30pm; 5-6:30pm  
**Discounts:** 5% off for enrollment by May 31st; 5% off for 2 or more workshops; 10% off for returning student and for new student if referred to enroll in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

The background is a light orange or beige color with a subtle, textured appearance. It features several thin, wavy, golden-brown lines that meander across the page. Scattered throughout are small, stylized starfish in red and white, and tiny white dots, giving it a nautical or beach-like feel.

# 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><b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20  <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25  <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29</p>	<p>Lauren Child</p>
	<p><b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27  <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1</p>	<p>Oxford Reading Tree</p>
	<p><b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4  <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8</p>	<p>The Berenstain Bears</p>
	<p><b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11  <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15</p>	<p>Eric Carle</p>
	<p><b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18  <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22</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><b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20  <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25  <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29</p>	<p>Roald Dahl</p>
	<p><b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27  <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1</p>	<p>Magic Tree House</p>
	<p><b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4  <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8</p>	<p>Curious George</p>
	<p><b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11  <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15</p>	<p>Aesop's Fables</p>
	<p><b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18  <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22</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
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20 <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	<b>Speech About Yourself – Self-Introduction &amp; Reflections</b> 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.
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27 <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	<b>Appreciation Speech – Give Thanks to an Important Figure</b> 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.
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4 <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	<b>Persuasive Speech – Effectively Convince Your Audience</b> 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.
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11 <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	<b>TED Talk – Deliver a Powerful Message in a Presentation</b> 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.
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18 <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	<b>Impromptu Speech – Give an Impressive Speech on the Spot</b> 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.
<b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25	<b>Storytelling – Engage the Audience with More Than Words</b> 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

# Society & Current Events (G5-12)

Through **mixed media studies**, students will be exposed to and learn to navigate various **issues and current events in our society**, from advancements in technology to human conflict. They will study and discuss **news articles, photography, videos and relevant literary texts** in order to develop a broader understanding of each theme. By the end of each week, students will produce a final output demonstrating their knowledge and personal thoughts using **PEA/PETAL paragraphs**, as required in **IB and IGCSE**.

Weeks	Module	Summary
<b>Week 1:</b> Jun 16-20  <b>Week 6:</b> Jul 21-25  <b>Week 11:</b> Aug 25-29	Technology & Ethics	<p>With the rise of Artificial Intelligence in our everyday lives, where could the future of technology be headed? Explore both the advantages and disadvantages of <b>modern advancements in technology</b>, such as increased convenience and overreliance.</p> <p>Examples of media: <i>Ready Player One, The Matrix, Black Mirror</i></p>
<b>Week 2:</b> Jun 23-27  <b>Week 7:</b> Jul 28-Aug 1	Race & Identity	<p>Delve into the intricacies of race and its role in people's identities. How has racial discrimination <b>impacted lives historically and continued to this day</b>? In addition to past events, learn about more recent controversies related to race.</p> <p>Examples of media: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird, The Bluest Eye, Fresh Off the Boat</i></p>
<b>Week 3:</b> Jun 30-Jul 4  <b>Week 8:</b> Aug 4-8	Political Ideologies	<p>Explore the extremes of political ideologies, including the fears and predictions related to them, leading to <b>actions with lasting impacts today</b>. How can these ideologies be observed in modern politics, such as in the current trade war?</p> <p>Examples of media: <i>Animal Farm, The Hunger Games</i>, selected poetry</p>
<b>Week 4:</b> Jul 7-11  <b>Week 9:</b> Aug 11-15	Gender & Equality	<p>How has gender influenced and shaped lives through history? Explore various factors, including <b>gender role conformity and social discrimination</b>, to develop a deeper understanding of the ongoing fight for greater equality.</p> <p>Examples of media: <i>A Doll's House, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Hidden Figures</i></p>
<b>Week 5:</b> Jul 14-18  <b>Week 10:</b> Aug 18-22	Impacts of Colonialism	<p>Discover the impacts of both colonialism in the past and modern forms of colonialism on developing countries. How are we witnessing <b>economic and cultural imperialism</b> with our own eyes, sometimes without even knowing?</p> <p>Examples of media: <i>Heart of Darkness, Things Fall Apart, Long Walk to Freedom</i></p>

**Tuition per Module:** \$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%.)



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# **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)

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“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)

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“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)

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“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)

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“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)**

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“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)**

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“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)**

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“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)**