

Our School Honored with the Student of the Year Award: Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment

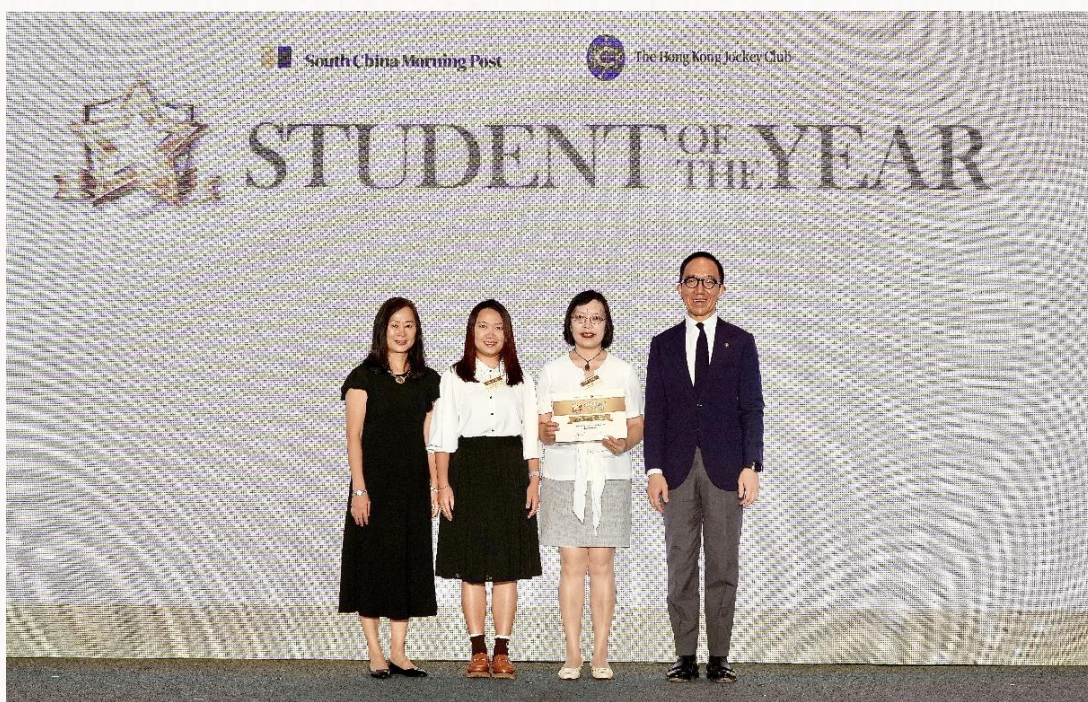
Organised by the South China Morning Post, solely sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club, and supported by the Education Bureau, the Student of the Year Awards is Hong Kong's most prestigious secondary school event of the year.

This year, the theme of the awards is centred on “Empowering Collective Impact” – a notion emphasizing the profound importance of fostering a strong sense of community, as well as the critical role of the collective in empowering those around us to achieve success.

Our School won this year's “Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment” in recognition of its comprehensive, high-quality whole-person education, unwavering determination, and unwavering commitment to providing students with a nurturing environment.

Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr. Chan Kwok-ki, attended and delivered a speech at the Student of the Year Awards 2023/24 Presentation Ceremony. Our Principal, Dr. Lau Sui Yee, and the STEAM Committee Chairperson, Ms. Leung Hoi Yan Wendy, received the Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment from Dr. Gabriel Leung, Executive Director of Charities and Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club, and Ms. Tammy Tam, Editor-in-Chief of the South China Morning Post.

This prestigious award is a testament to our school's dedication to creating a supportive and enriching environment that empowers our students to reach their full potential. We are proud of this achievement and will continue to strive for excellence in providing our students with a holistic education.





STUDENT OF THE YEAR

SPECIAL AWARD FOR MOST
NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

2023

**Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu
Memorial College**

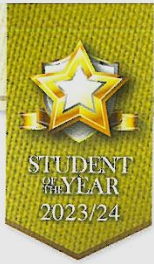
Catherine So
CEO, South China Morning Post

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges
CEO, The Hong Kong Jockey Club



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

2023/24



Special Awards and Empowering Collective Impact

At each stage of the judging process, it is up to the student themselves to impress through their own words, actions, academic results, and extracurricular interests. And in the end, it is the individual student who is honoured at the awards ceremony.

However, we all know that such success cannot develop in isolation. Behind every high-achieving student there is a strong support system that includes principals, teachers, mentors, coaches, administrators, guidance counsellors and more. In their own way, each of these professionals plays a crucial part in an individual student's school years, providing the means and impetus for them to reach higher and go further. And at the Student of the Year Awards, we want to take a moment to celebrate these unsung heroes.

Enter the Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment, which is presented each year to a school that has gone out of its way to offer that bit extra.

In line with this year's theme of "Empowering Collective Impact", all the schools nominated for this Special Award have displayed an unwavering commitment to elevating the importance of community in school and beyond.

This may be by making innovative use of their alumni network to help current students, through setting up specific schemes to foster the holistic development of their charges, or simply by going the extra mile to provide all-round academic and personal support.

What's more, the judges were asked to take due account of efforts made to foster links within the wider community, whether through volunteering, fundraising for charities, or other service-based projects. Such initiatives are an ideal platform for students to learn about some of society's more pressing problems, and to understand that by supporting their peers and neighbours, they have the power to drive change.

By highlighting the significance of the school community in fostering the growth and development of students, this award inspires a collective commitment to excellence and academic achievement. Overall, this Special Award serves as an ongoing reminder of the critical importance of the school body in nurturing our students and lifting them to success.



Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment

The winner of this year's Special Award for Most Nurturing Environment goes to Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial College. The school has shown an unwavering commitment to giving its students a first-class holistic education. Be it in the innovative expansion of its STEAM curricula, its exemplary student support programmes, or its active international and community engagement, these tireless efforts have yielded remarkable achievements for the school, leaving an indelible mark that resonates with the spirit of this award.

Of note here has to be the school's forward-thinking approach to STEAM, which begins as young as Form 1, and later includes a special focus on biotechnology for its older years, setting its students ahead of the curve. The school has even invested in a dedicated biotechnology laboratory for research and educational purposes. What's more, the school is home to a specialised International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) student team, which achieved a gold medal in the iGEM competition 2023, in addition to two award nominations in "Best Education Project Award" and "Best Sustainable Development Project Award". Their proposed project, centred upon antimicrobial black soldier fly ecoplaster, has since received both global and local acclaim.

Beyond academics, the school is committed to going the extra mile in providing support to its students. The establishment of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Scheme exemplifies this dedication, whereby older students act as mentors to help younger students. Additionally, the school has introduced a peer mediator team that works to help solve student conflicts; this was undoubtedly a key element of the school's success in the 7th Secondary School Peer Mediation Competition 2024. Overall, a fitting embodiment of the theme of this year's awards: empowering collective impact.

The school's Impart & Inherit Mentorship Programme continues the tradition of mentorship, this time connecting students with graduates. The school's cross-generational network of alumni from different disciplines, such as science, Chinese medicine, and Cantonese Opera, helps their students make informed career choices and opens up unique opportunities for professional experience.

Last but not least, the school must be commended for its engagement with the local and international communities. On a local level, the school's involvement manifests through volunteerism, including delivering gifts to the elderly and organising online performances. This ultimately culminated in their receipt of the Caring School Award for Volunteer 2023. On an international level, the school launched its Adventure. Collaboration. Education (A.C.E.) Programme in 2023, which aims at widening their students' horizons through collaborating with schools in different countries. Most recently, this has involved hosting students from Singapore for a week of lessons.

