Cross-institutional Collaboration Fosters Development of Gifted Education

City University of Hong Kong (CityU) joined hands with the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) to launch the "Talents, Aspiration and Excellence" (TAE) programme, which is a cross-institutional collaboration to foster gifted education development. In 2017, Prof. Samuel M.Y. Ho, Associate Provost (Institutional Initiatives), CityU, said the programme aimed to help gifted students who excel in certain subjects but do not have a clear picture on how to fulfill their potential in university education. For instance, gifted mathematics students would probably like to pursue higher level of Mathematics knowledge in university. However, they might not know exactly the extent of Mathematics knowledge that covered in the university education. Such circumstances might jeopardise the long-term development of the gifted students.

Prof. Ho said, "As an educator, I keep looking for ways to help gifted students further develop their talents in secondary school and in university. That's why I come up with the idea of cross-institutional collaboration. Through this initiative, we can offer the gifted students more information to help them make the right choice. CityU has richer educational resources and cutting-edge facilities. We provide a very ideal platform for gifted students to learn more about the knowledge requirements and prospects of different fields through the TA programme. This will facilitate the students to choose their university majors that best fit their talents, interests and strengths."

Provide More Choices
Around 30 HKAGE members attended "Introduction to Stop Motion Animation" and "3D Model for Revealing the Beauty of Mathematics" TA courses launched by CityU and the HKAGE, last summer. Instructors from CityU and the HKAGE incorporated affective education elements into the programmes, aiming to help participants bring out their potential and creativity as well as managing their emotions.

The first phase of the programme concluded already. The second phase has just kicked off, allowing students to spend more time on the Academic Project with the instructors. Prof. Benny C. H. Hon, Department of Mathematics, CityU, said Mathematics helps students understand the creative pattern of the universe. He added, "I hope students can see the wonders of mathematics in the course. Mathematics is artistic and splendid, and its beauty can be shown by a model made in the 3D printing laboratory. This exercise not only increases students' interest in Mathematics but also brings them a sense of satisfaction and motivates them to study advanced theories."

Mr Leung Hiu Ming, Eddie, Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Creative Media, CityU, said, "Animation is a media that delivers emotional experience. The creation process involves exploration of creativity, storytelling, visual arts & design, film and animation languages, craftsmanship and related production skills. It is a combination of science and art. I hope students can enjoy these diverse explorations. Animation production emphasises not only on creativity but also attentiveness to detail. Such skills can be applied to other subjects."

Way Forward
Prof. Ho added, "With the experience gained from the TAE pilot scheme held during last summer holidays, we plan to extend the programme duration to 4 months, from April to July in 2018. Besides, we will add another four courses, in addition to the existing two, including "Math and Games", "What's inside English？", "Solar Car Day Camp", and "Trading Workshop". We hope to work with the HKAGE and use our experience, especially those involving affective education, to develop an Open Source curriculum to facilitate further collaboration with other institutions in future to foster the development of gifted education in Hong Kong."

1. Left to right: Prof. Benny C. Hon, Department of Mathematics, CityU, Prof. Samuel M.Y. Ho, Associate Provost (Institutional Initiatives), CityU, and Mr Leung Hiu Ming, Eddie, Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Creative Media, CityU, hoped to provide more choices for gifted students through cross-institutional collaboration.
2. The printed model made by student who joined the 3D Model for Revealing the Beauty of Mathematics.
3. The participants found the 3D model interesting.
4. Animation is a creation process that involves exploration of creativity, storytelling, visual arts & design, film and animation languages, craftsmanship and related production skills.
5. Animation production emphasises not only on creativity but also attentiveness to detail. Such skills can be applied to other subjects.