



**SSGCAA Executive Committee (2019-2020)**

Front row (from left to right): Loretta Ng, Madeline Kwok (Vice-President), Wendy Chau (President), Monique Yu, Bobby Poon;  
 Back row (from left to right): Rosalyn Woo, Joyce Lau, Elaine So, Maggie Tsui, Fiona So, Carmen Wong, Phoebe Leung and Moby Hon  
 Absent: Elaine Kan

## Message from the President

### Once a St. Stephenie, forever a St. Stephenie

I am very honoured to be able to serve the school as president of the SSGC Alumnae Association. As one of the oldest girls' secondary schools in Hong Kong, our Alma Mater has nurtured generations of students and instilled in them high moral values.

Selfless, dedicated, responsible, enthusiastic, positive, caring and humble are just a few outstanding traits of St. Stephenies, which of course can also be found among members of our executive committee. The 2019-2020 executive committee consists of St. Stephenies with different expertise and across different generations; the commitment and passion found in each of them has enabled the Association to grow year after year.

I have been serving the Association for the last 10 years and we have always been meeting face-to-face monthly, but this year, meeting face-to-face has been impossible. Just like all other organisations around the world, we have embraced technology to stay in touch with our members. We have also been thinking outside the box as we design programmes for our members, hoping to keep everyone's spirits up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last but not the least, I would like to give special thanks to our advisors for their guidance and ongoing support, and to our immediate past president, Ms. Carmen Wong for her excellent work.

We look forward to your continuous support and I can't wait to see you at our next event, whether we will be meeting virtually or in person.

In Faith Go Forward,  
 Wendy Chau  
 Class of 1996  
 SSGCAA President

## Online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

*Ever since the government's announcement of class suspension in early February, SSGC girls have resorted to online learning at home where they watch lesson videos and attend live-streamed classes. In an interview with the AA Newsletter, Ms Liza Lam, Vice Principal of SSGC, talks about the adjustments the school has since made to ensure a quality learning environment amid the COVID-19 pandemic.*

A: AA Newsletter team

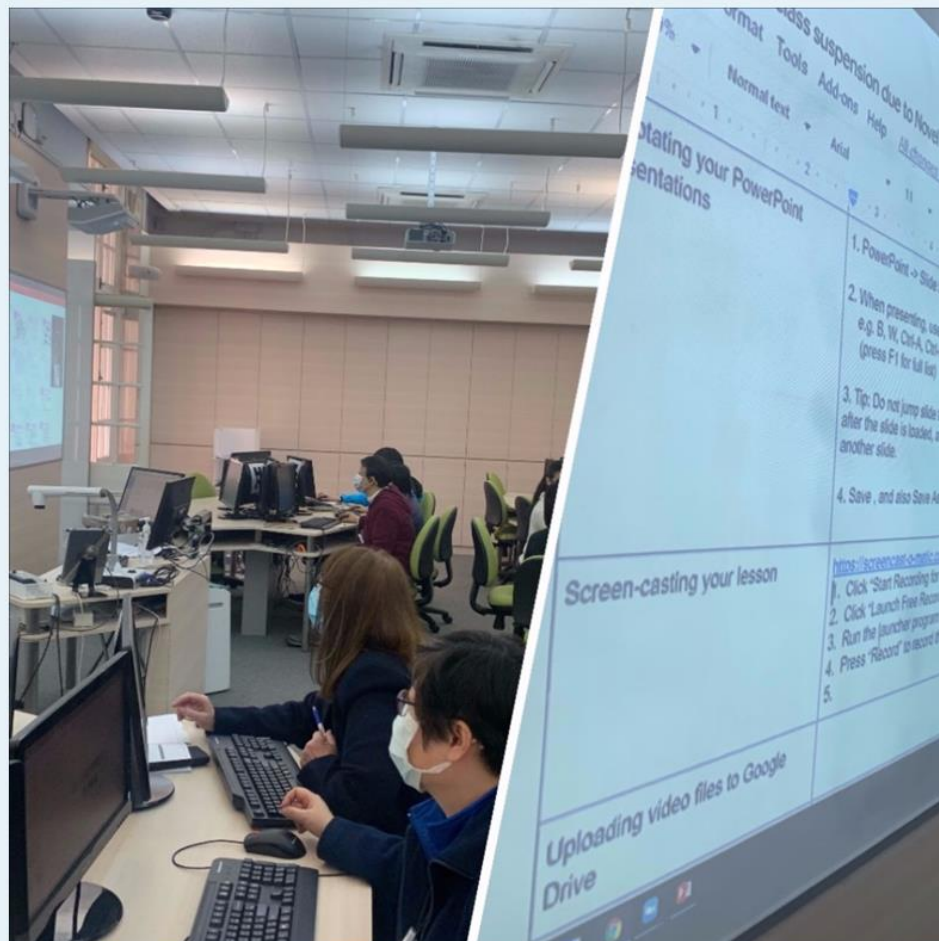
L: Ms Lam

### **A: In what ways does the school support teachers and students in online learning?**

L: During the first few weeks of February, our teachers uploaded lesson videos and assigned homework through existing platforms such as the school intranet, the eclass app and Google Classroom. Teachers have also opened different means of communication to be in touch with students. At the same time, the school's Academic Committee and Timetabling Team have worked together and modified the teaching schedules and let students know what they would be learning each week.

To support teachers who are not familiar with online teaching, the school's eLearning Team and Information Technology Team offered both school-based and department-based training in how to create lesson videos for flipped classrooms and conduct live-streamed classes. During the training, some teachers shared their online teaching experiences, e.g. strategies to bring in more interactive learning and increase students' engagement, and 'classroom' management in online lessons. Our teachers have been most dedicated and are very quick learners. Soon, they were able to operate real-time learning platforms, maintain the order of online classrooms and find ways to minimise security risks. Such exchange of ideas is on-going during this period to update and upgrade teachers' online teaching knowledge and skills.

However, if we were to conduct live-streamed classes for all students, we would have to find out if they had the IT infrastructure needed for online learning at home. We have since lent iPads to some of our students and assisted students in need of access to WiFi or higher-speed internet service at home. We started conducting live-streamed classes for all SSGC students at the beginning of March.



SSGC teachers undergoing professional development in online teaching

#### **A: What does the daily timetable look like?**

L: School starts at 9.30 am and ends shortly after 3 pm, with lunchtime in between. Classes are 40 minutes each to avoid a long period of screen time and allow students to have rest between lessons, and there is a break after every class. We manage to cover most subjects in real-time teaching. Our girls have been adapting and learning very well. We are also delighted that after school tutorials in which recent SSGC graduates help current students with their homework have continued over the internet.

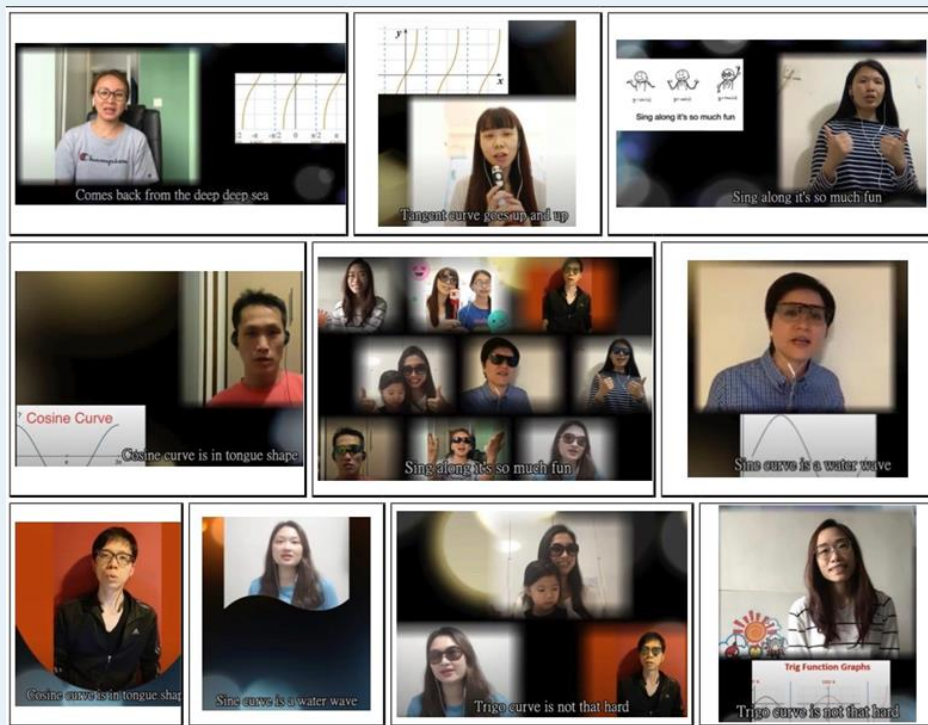
#### **A: What has been done to help students learn more effectively?**

L: Apart from posting up lesson videos to our girls before each class to help them prepare for the real-time lesson, we have asked them to keep a weekly learning record on Google Form to let us know how much time they spend on each subject and how they find the teaching material. This is to help us monitor and evaluate the teaching material and progress.

We also hope to encourage our students to take more initiative in learning and be a self-directed learner. Indeed, this requires students to take responsibility in learning, and they have been very good at keeping up with schoolwork. They are also very excited and happy to see their friends and teachers again. And when students express their feelings about the pandemic, their class teachers would always follow up with a call to see how they are doing. Our teachers also reach out to those who may need more support, both academically and emotionally.

Since the beginning of April, we have moved morning Assembly and Form Periods online. During these weekly sessions, students and their form teachers meet online and catch up. Activities have been held during the virtual Form Periods to help our students cope with the school suspension more positively. During Assembly, we also have 'the principal's talk' as well as homily by our School Chaplain; we even held the Easter service online.





Teachers from the Mathematics Department have created an incredible music video to help students enjoy the subject and learn more. Thank you!

#### A: What are some of the blessings you have seen during this period?

L: I am thrilled that both our teachers and students are so adaptable and keen to learn. They appreciate the opportunity to learn new things. I, for one, have learnt so much over the past few months. It is also encouraging to see teachers from different departments exchanging online teaching tips with one another, and students are also developing resilience to adapt to the changes.

At the same time, our student leaders of the Students' Association (SA) have remained active during the stay-at-home period, organising a host of activities to lift the spirits of their peers. Not only have they arranged teachers and students to send support messages and videos to DSE students, but they have also hosted online birthday parties and invited their peers to express their gratitude to health professionals in Hong Kong.

Another example of an activity organised by SA to boost the spirit of their schoolmates is the online version of 'St. Stephen's Got Talent'. We are all very excited to see the videos produced by both students and teachers showcasing their talents and interests. Through these initiatives, we hope our student leaders remain positive and become more resilient in a difficult time like this.





**A: How can alumnae support online learning at SSGC?**

L: It would be great if we could have more resources to support online teaching and learning, e.g. electronic devices. Many teachers have found using e-tablets like iPad a very effective way of teaching as we can respond to students right away.

Another device we like to use is wireless stylus pens like the Apple Pencil, e.g. in Maths and Science lessons, teachers find it easier to write out the working steps of a Maths problem, formulae and equations, and draw objects and graphs lines with the Apple Pencil. These two devices allow teachers to annotate and move objects and diagrams. They also make the marking of assignments easier and more efficient, as teachers can write comments on the screen of the e-tablets with the stylus pen and send instant feedback to their students.

**A: Is there anything you would like to say to St. Stephenies?**

L: In Faith Go Forward! Stay positive and be supportive of one another. And as St. Stephenies, we should take care of ourselves and also care about the community. Stay healthy and strong!

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## Stay Connected

We miss seeing your lovely faces! Do keep in touch and check out our posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) when you have a minute. We have uploaded two videos showing stretching exercises to do at home. Check them out on our [website](#) as you get ready for the summer!

**WORKOUT AT HOME SERIES - 1**

**FULL BODY STRETCHING**

**5 mins**  
**15 moves**  
**20s each**

**DOWNLOAD FULL VIDEO AT:**  
[www.ssgcaa.org.hk](http://www.ssgcaa.org.hk)

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