

Exploring the Future: Students Attend Annual University Fair

By Amber Lien, Grade 10

On September 4th and October 9th, Hong Wen International School brought energy and excitement to the campus as tons of high school students gathered to explore their higher education options. The event, organized by the counseling department, was aimed to help students not feel so overwhelmed when facing so many choices globally.

As more than 20 universities sent their representatives, set up booths, printed posters and put on smiles to welcome students to talk with them and discover what truly fits their interests and goals.

Many students took the opportunity to ask about programs, admission requirements, and scholarships. The booths offered brochures, souvenirs, and even interactive activities to help students get a feel for each university's culture.

"I really enjoyed speaking with the representatives," said Grade 10 Student Evangeline Chen. "I've been unsure about what to study, but hearing about different majors, such as international relations and data science gave me new ideas."



As an anonymous student provided their opinion, "I think we should look for more than just schools in the UK as they don't provide as much scholarship to Taiwanese students." This comment reflects a concern shared by several attendees — the unequal access to scholarships and financial aid across different countries and universities



Many students expressed frustration that while some institutions offer generous funding and support to international applicants, others seem to favor local or regional students.

Financial barriers remain as a huge challenge to us international students looking for the opportunity to study abroad. "Sometimes it feels unfair as we all study so hard, but it still ends up depending on where we came from or what our family can afford," said by a Grade 10 Student.

With both positive and negative opinions provided by students, it's sure to say that it got students thinking more about their future pathways. The events ended with students having a clearer idea of what they want to study and created motivation for the following semesters and exams waiting for us to face with determination and hope for success. 🍀





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THE HwIS-Per

Be Curious, Be Brave, Be HwIS

HwIS Halloween

By Yuan-Yuan Hung, Grade 10

The Halloween activity this year was one of the best events I've ever participated in. The whole HwIS building was covered with spooky and scary decorations. We all enjoyed the half-day events, such as the scavenger hunt, haunted house, and talent show activities. As a Student Council event coordinator, we decorated the stairway to look like a spider nest and turned the hallway into a crime scene. It took a lot of effort, but working together as a group and seeing the final result was a truly rewarding experience.

The part I was most looking forward to was the Haunted House. The theme was an abandoned church. We spent time after school decorating by hand, using fake candles, hands, legs, and books to create a terrifying atmosphere. Even though I already knew what was inside, I still got scared by the NPC ghost while trying to solve the challenges.

Other activities, such as the Scavenger Hunt, Costume Show, and Talent Show, were also popular during Halloween. For the scavenger hunt, we hid prizes around the building so students could participate in something other than the haunted house. In the Costume Show, students didn't just dress up — they brought their characters to life. There were funny, scary, and creative performances that showed how much effort and imagination everyone put into their costumes. The Talent Show was full of energy, with students performing songs and playing instruments. I participated with my friends by playing the piano while they sang or played other instruments. It was an amazing experience to perform on stage in front of an audience.

Participating in the Halloween activities, especially the decorations and performances, was an unforgettable experience. I can't wait to join again and make next year's celebration even more exciting! 🍀



Our School's Moon Festival BBQ



By Lucas Liu, Grade 10

This year, our school celebrated the Moon Festival with a special BBQ activity at noon on the school field. The whole school joined the event, and each grade had its own tent where students cooked, ate, and enjoyed time together. The weather was bright and sunny, and everyone was excited to take part in this meaningful and fun activity.

The highlight of the event was the participation of our international teachers, who brought their own BBQ styles from their home countries Italy, America, and India. Each of them shared a bit of their culture through food, turning the BBQ into a global food experience. The American teachers grilled juicy hamburgers and classic hot dogs, filling the air with the familiar smell of smoky meat. The Italian teachers prepared marinated chicken and vegetables brushed with olive oil and herbs, giving off a delicious Mediterranean aroma. The Indian teachers cooked flavorful tandoori chicken and spicy kebabs, which quickly became a favorite among students.

Students moved between the tents, tasting food from each culture and talking with the teachers about their cooking traditions. It was a fun way to learn about different cuisines while celebrating the Moon Festival's theme of togetherness. Everyone enjoyed discovering new flavors and comparing which BBQ style they liked most.

Each grade worked as a team to manage their tent. Some students grilled food, others prepared drinks, and some helped serve classmates and teachers. The teamwork made the event even more enjoyable, and laughter could be heard everywhere across the field.

After lunch, students relaxed, chatted, and played simple games together. Even though the noon sun was strong, everyone stayed cheerful and full of energy. Before heading back to class, all grades helped clean up their areas, showing great cooperation and responsibility.



The Moon Festival BBQ turned out to be a perfect mix of culture, friendship, and fun. It reminded everyone that food can connect people from different places and that sharing traditions makes our school community stronger and more united. 🌕



The First Real Lesson of the Year



By Mr. Laszlo Kecsed

When I greeted the class with, *"Hello, are you OK?"* I was met with a few mumbled, half-hearted "I'm OKs." The responses felt automatic, empty. There was no real spark of connection.

I stopped and told them plainly that we couldn't do anything meaningful together until we established a sense of honesty and mutual respect. If they couldn't speak to me truthfully — and if I couldn't do the same with them — then all the academic work wouldn't matter.

What followed was an open and emotional discussion. I asked them why it felt so hard to speak up. Little by little, they began to open up. Some said they were afraid of interrupting a teacher or saying the wrong thing. Others talked about how, in Taiwan, being respectful often means staying quiet. A few even said they believed it was the teacher's job to stay positive and energetic all the time — that students feed off that energy.

I explained that I value dialogue and sincerity more than politeness or surface-level positivity. I told them that it's okay not to be cheerful all the time - what matters is being authentic. I also reminded them that emotional energy is a shared responsibility. It isn't fair or healthy to expect one person - the teacher - to carry the mood of the whole class.

I asked everyone to write about how they see themselves - both as learners and as people. I did the same, writing about how I saw them and myself. Some students admitted their fears and insecurities. We reflected on how easy it is to compare teachers or classmates and how hurtful that can be. When we compare (*"Why can't you be more like ___?"*) we erase what makes people unique.

By the end of class, students were beginning to realize that respect isn't about silence; it's about presence. And learning isn't just about absorbing information; it's about trust.

It was an emotionally demanding session, but it felt right. We didn't cover much "content," but we built something more important: a foundation for genuine communication. The room felt different as they left - more human. I think that was the first real lesson of the year. 🌱

