

Brief Report of S5 CS Mainland Study Tour 2023-24 - Nansha & Qianhai

This year we chose a 2-day trip of Route 6, Study Tour on Economic Development of Nansha & Qianhai, 16th-17th Nov 2023. This is our second mainland study tour (MST) since the implementation of the CS curriculum. We visited Qianhai and Nansha to learn more about the economic development and conservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Guangzhou in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). 100 students (and 11 teachers) excitedly looked forward to having a pleasant trip. All eight class teachers were enlisted and CS teachers surely joined this trip.



It is a 2-day trip allowing more time for our students to have first-hand experience visiting sites of interest, for instance, we are also visiting a local school. It's hoped that our non-Chinese speaking students have eye-opening experiences in which they find the connection between their textbook & lesson knowledge and real-life experiences as learning takes place in various contexts.

Day 1	Day 2
School	Hotel
↓	↓
Heung Yuen Wai/ Liantang Port Border Checkpoint	ISA Wenhua Laiwan School (Guangzhou)
↓	↓
Qianhai International Conference Centre	Pearl Bay Development and Exhibition Centre (Nansha)
↓	↓
Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub	Guangzhou (South) High-Speed Railway Station
↓	↓
Cantonese Opera Museum (Guangzhou)	Hong Kong
↓	
Yongqingfang (Guangzhou)	
↓	
Hotel	



We gathered at the school hall by 7:45 am. Mr Lo, our Principal, gave us a short encouraging speech reminding students that they are ambassadors representing Hong Kong and hoping they would have a fruitful learning tour. Then we set off to go to the brand-new Heung Yuen Wai/Liantang Port border checkpoint to cross the border. This year, it was more smooth for students having visas to go through the mainland immigration counters but still some extra time was needed. An official from EDB actually accompanied us to oversee the cross-border procedure to ensure it was as smooth as possible.

Arriving at the Qianhai International Conference Centre, we went to the exhibition hall of the 40th Anniversary of Economic Reform and Opening-up. This reminded students the development of China since 1978. Afterwards, we visited the North District of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub. The site is newly developed. A young entrepreneur from Hong Kong warmly welcomed us and introduced the site to us.



At the exhibition hall of the 40th Anniversary of Economic Reform and Opening-up



Students are introduced to the Qianhai Shenzhen-HK Innovation & Entrepreneur Hub



At the North District of the Qianhai Shenzhen-HK Youth Innovation & Entrepreneur Hub

Halal meals were specially arranged for our students in order to minimise the hassle of meal arrangement for students of different cultures. Afterwards, we moved on to Guangzhou to visit the Cantonese Opera Museum and Yongqingfang, a site of urban renewal. Students learned about conservation of both intangible and tangible cultural heritage respectively. The Museum is located with Yongqingfang. After dinner, student reflection was conducted by group teacher before checking in at the hotel. Our S.5 students are young and energetic. Some of them stayed up late enjoying their time. We teachers had to look after them so that they stayed in room to take rest for the next day.



Halal menu – with cumin lamb, beef and lamb skewers in first meal



Ms Eryn and her Group 1 students going to enjoy the first meal (halal menu)



Ms Fu and her Group 5 students before having first meal (halal menu)



A scene inside the Cantonese Opera Museum



Yongqingfang, a site of urban renewal (old constructions are renovated for new modern uses), at dusk; a nice place for people to spend time leisurely



Browsing around and having fun at Yongqingfang



Having a treat at Yongqingfang



A nice Chinese garden with a stage for Cantonese Opera in the background

On the second day, we visited a local international school, ISA Wenhua Liwan School. They offered us a warm welcome. The Principal, teachers and their student ambassadors warmly welcomed us. We first had a campus tour to learn about their facilities. Next, we arrived at their huge theatre to attend the welcome speech by the Principal introducing their curriculum and students' achievement and our assistant Principal, Mr Kot, also introduced our school to them as an exchange. We exchanged gifts as well. Afterwards, a special talk on Chinese culture and development of China conducted in Cantonese was given by a specialist teacher. Some of our students showed feelings of admiration of such a large well-equipped school. After all, students have a brief idea what an international school in Guangzhou is like. We spent unexpectedly more time at school.



Our group at ISA Wenhua Liwan School on a sunny day



Exchanging gifts between Ms Wang and Mr Kot

After lunch, we skipped the Tin Hau Temple and directly went to the Pearl Bay Development and Exhibition Centre to learn about the development of Nansha since 1993 and the planning for the next decade. Nansha is at the centre of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). After that, our coaches went to the Guangzhou (South) High-Speed Rail Station to take the 17:46 train back to Hong Kong.



Students were introduced the development of Nansha since 1990's

The train station is new and huge with a number of platforms. The waiting area in the concourse is brand-new and clean.

It was our very first time for such a large group taking high-speed train. We had to be very cautious about the time. It was only 15 minutes before the departure of the train that passengers are allowed to get to the platform to board the train. However, students holding visas needed extra time to get through the gate. Time was really tight. Ultimately, all students and teachers boarded the train! But it took some time to check to make sure all students were on the train before teachers felt at ease.

Nevertheless, the high-speed train extensive network within China is renowned that its service is fast, quiet and safe. The journey from Guangzhou was really comfortable. Soon, we reached the terminus in West Kowloon. We also experienced the co-location arrangement of the Mainland and Hong Kong immigration checking points within one station as well as the transportation infrastructure with the GBA. Finally, it took some time to check that all students had gone through the immigration before letting them go home.

During the trip, two students were ill. Fortunately, one student recovered very quickly and one student, after taking pills, slowly felt better and better. Overall, the whole trip was smooth and enjoyable with the constant attention and incessant effort of teachers, tour guides and local guides.



Student reflection led by Mr Tse after dinner on first day



Student reflection led by Ms Wong after dinner on first day



Student reflection led by Mr Ko after dinner on first day



Student reflection led by Mr Haris after dinner on first day



Student reflection led by Ms Mak after dinner on first day



Mr Yu and Group 5 students before having the last meal



Mr Lo, Areeba, Prakriti & Abeeha