

DSEJ summer English immersion camps

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Two consecutive six days DSEJ sponsored English summer camp were held during July for Macau secondary students. In the first week, 60 Form 1 to 3 students from 22 local schools enrolled for the camp, whilst in the second week, 60 Form 4 to 6 students from 23 schools enrolled. Last year, the English summer camp that was offered for Form 4 to 6 students was held successfully. This year, the English immersion camp was a successful expansion. These camps involved students in a highly interactive program conducted by experienced native English facilitators.

The program appreciated and stimulated the Multiple Intelligences of students; it also emphasized English oral communication in numerous circumstances.

Students tackled a variety of challenges individually, in small groups as well as larger groups. Activities were challenging, interactive and

often student-led. Highlights included interviewing tourists (in English) at the Leal Senado square, providing a presentation summarizing the survey conducted and conducting a "Variety Concert" where students performed in small groups. Comprehension, grammar and vocabulary activities were also carried out, they were highly proactive, interactive and promoted student cooperation and initiative. Alan, a Form 1 student who participated in the first camp, commented that "Usually in school, students do a lot of comprehension tests, grammar tests, any other kinds of tests except speaking. Although students can obtain very satisfactory results in English, they cannot speak very well."

In the evaluation, students were vocal in expressing their appreciation for the opportunities the camp provided. Cathy of Form 3 stated "The



English camp had encouraged me to be more confident when communicating with foreigners.” Whilst Iris of Form 2 expressed “We enjoyed ourselves in the preparation of the Variety Concert, we had also further strengthened our English skills.”

These camps again proved to be highly productive and enjoyable, many participants were eager to participate again next year, if possible.

