

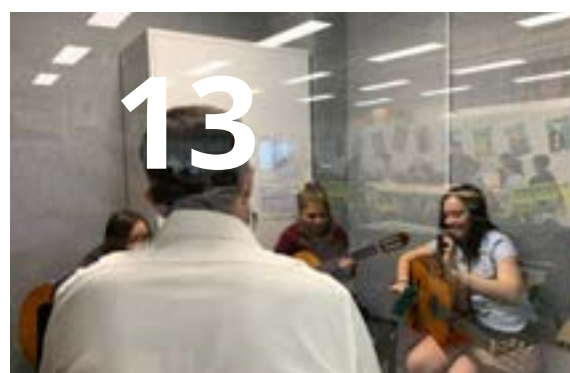
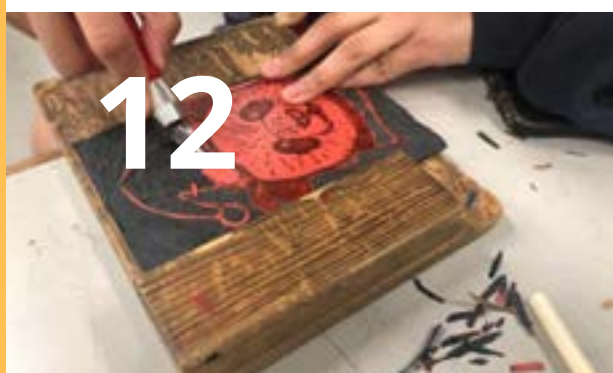
# ELEMENTAL

ISSUE 1, JAN 2020

ISLAND FUTURES • MEDIA TEAM



# CONTENTS



- 02 Foreword
- 03 Fashion Forward
- 06 Sweet Indulgence
- 09 Theatre Works
- 12 Art In Action
- 13 Now That's What I Call Music
- 15 Run Your Own Business
- 17 New Elements Courses



**Above:** Student in Fashion Forward Elements. **Photograph by** Sarita Long 11D.

# FOREWORD

The Elemental magazine has been painstakingly put together by our team consisting of student designers, writers and photographers. The purpose of this magazine is to help you find courses you might be interested in, whether it's been something you were considering, or something unexpected - don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone from time to time! A huge thank you goes out to Mr Nason, Ms Hill and every member of the student team who helped make this a reality - this would not be possible without all your hard work. We hope you enjoy this first edition of Elemental!

Best,  
Grace & Noor,  
Co-Editors of Elemental

## **Designers:**

Yanisha Chung, 11F  
Louise Spencer, 11E  
Hans Yang, 10W  
Grace Zheng, 11F



**Above:** Student in Fashion Forward Elements.  
**Photograph by** Sarita Long 11D.



# FASHION FORWARD

**The course for futuristic fashion.**

The Elements Fashion Forward course is a course focused on looking at the fast fashion industry and its impact upon the modern world as well as our responsibility as consumers. It looks at possible solutions and takes a creative and engaging twist on reusing clothing through multiple projects looking at old clothing, flipping it into a new design.

*“The course helps you develop your creativity and innovation. It also helps you understand sustainability in fashion and the impact you make as a consumer whilst building up a base for textiles and promoting recycling.”*

**-Candice Lee 10R**

Usually the end goal of the course is to produce 2 smaller, “upcycled” pieces and one planned out, larger piece. The course allows students to dive into the issues currently facing the fashion industry, looking at how it makes an impact on the environment - often inviting guests from NGOs and charity organisations. The first few weeks aside from this also consist of students experimenting and using clothes, draping them in silhouettes that

aren't conventional and go against the intended purpose of the piece; for example, turning trousers into a shirt. All this is to contribute to their learning and changing their perspective on fashion as well as how they can design sustainably. The last outcome is the final piece, usually made from a combination of spare fabric found around the textiles room and old clothes - this piece is meant to be more about functionality and wearability instead of experimentation. Course teacher, Mrs. Tait said: "The students develop their citizenship through developing a broader understanding of the impact that fast fashion is having on our environment and how they as future consumers can make changes while building up their practical skills and increasing their knowledge of textiles through up-cycling".

### **Is this course for me?**

Someone who would enjoy this course is someone willing to develop or begin with their textiles skills and has a passion for creativity or is simply looking to learn more about fashion. You should also have some interest in sustainability and how fashion impacts you and the environment. This course is available for Y10s and Y11s.



# CAPTURING YOUR SWEET INDULGENCE

## Perfect for those with a sweet tooth.

Just as the name of the course suggests, Sweet Indulgence sees students making a variety of desserts ranging from confectioneries, biscuits, cakes, puff pastries, choux desserts, pie, to even truffle based delicacies. Students spend their time working in pairs, working on a different dessert recipe every week. Other than cooking, they've also looked at the business aspect of cooking with marketing plans, including Instagram promotions, posters, websites, and even the price of ingredients required for each recipe. Last but not least, they also chose a piece of dessert for the school's recipe book. Every book is different and contains the recipes chosen by the students that semester. Students from the photography course 'Through The Eye of the Lens' lead by Mr Burrough then came and took photographs of each individual with their final piece.



**Written by** Nicole Yuen, 10W **Photos by** Karen Orto, 11D and Kimberley Ng, 11N.

This course ties in with IB Food Technology, and shares similar aspects with the Home Cooking Skills course provided in Year 9. Other cooking courses include: Food Lovers' Guide to Culture, Lord's Kitchen and Scientist in the Kitchen. When asked about her favourite aspect of the course, Sweet Indulgence student, Ellie Chung 10W, said: "The fact that we get the chance to learn something new and to bring home a new skill."

Alysha Wells-Daswani, 11F said: "This course is definitely a change from normal classes. Baking has always been something I've been quite passionate about, but I've never had enough time to pursue it."

### **Is this course for me?**

Sweet Indulgence would be a good course for people looking to extend their culinary skills and for those who love desserts and want to know how to make them themselves. This would also be a good course for those who take food tech and enjoy it, and want to spend a bit more time developing this passion. This course is available to Y9s, Y10s and Y11s. However, due to its popularity it is not recommended for Y9s to choose this course as there is a high probability they will not be accepted.





**Above:** Desserts made by students.  
Photographs by Kimberley Ng 11N and Karen Orito 11D.



**Above:** Students rehearsing for their performance.  
**Photograph by** Alysha Wells-Daswani 11F.

# THEATRE WORKS

## **O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?**

Thus goes Juliet to her beloved Romeo in the legendary drama Romeo and Juliet. Decades after it would take the world by storm, lasting even to the present days of modern theatre. However, little did we know how behind the stage here in Island School, another group of people are hard at work, training to become shining performers of their own right.) Theatre works - an element course that focuses on all aspects of theatre, including Acting, Directing, Designing and Writing plays. During this course, students will make theatre based on a number of stimuli and the dramatic material will eventually build into a performance. "Skills developed depends entirely on the direction and skills students wish to take." explained Mr Coats, head teacher of the workshop.





This term the Theatre works team would be working on a children's theatre piece for an invited audience as the end goal and project of the course. When asked about what has been happening during these lessons this term, Mr Coats replied that: "A few keen and dedicated Theatre Works students that have been tirelessly working on the production of Ashputtel."

### **Is this course for me?**

Past students have said that through this course they have had a working understanding of the differences between Drama and other other performance forms; at the same time understanding different roles needed in an ensemble group like the director, designer, publicist, actor, backstage, technician, etc. Others

have also noted that this course benefitted them by helping them understand how to dramatize the text bound story, photo, news article or script through the acting, directing and performance or design elements of a piece of theatre as well as having an understanding of dramatic areas in IB Literature, IB Literature and Performance, IB theatre arts, and BTEC performing arts. This course is available for Y10s and Y11s.

*"This course has encouraged me to challenge myself, stepping out of my comfort zone and trying something totally different. Going from backstage to acting myself, it has been a memorable experience."*

**- Celina Shin, 11F**

# ART IN ACTION

## **A language without words.**

Art in Action uses various art forms to explore current events globally and locally, one particular art form being street art. Students work in small groups called 'installation' groups where they must decide on a specific problem that has risen in HK. As a group, they brainstorm ways they can use street art to express this problem. The students create their own stencils and spray paint them to convey the messages and issues in a perceptive manner for a wider audience.

## **Is this course for me?**

A key ability this course develops is creativity. For example, the students have to find a creative way to express the effects as they are not allowed to include words in their artwork. One student suggested that the Elements course is suitable for people who are passionate about local issues and can think of innovative ways to present them. She also said the class is great if you enjoy working as a team, recommending that you should take the course with a few friends so that you have people to fall back on. However, joining this course without friends also opens up a new doorway and gives you the chance to build new connections.



# NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC

## **Music, music, music!**

'Now That's What I call music' is a Wednesday's Elements course currently led by Mr Tudor in which it allows students to explore the discipline of music in its various forms. Students, regardless of their previous experience and exposure in the field of music, are given the opportunity to play different instruments and develop their musical ability. Unlike a lot of other Elements course available as of right now, this course has a solid practical elements of which instead of the usual 'sit here and listen' kind of lesson; students are given a chance to have a taste of what the field of music has to offer and to foster their interests in it. The emphasis of the course is, according to Mr Tudor, about the process of acquiring the skills rather than the outcome. Some students have also found this course to be a taster, encouraging them to explore the possibility of taking a music-related





course post-GCSE. Some of the opportunities available in the course include learning how to play ukulele, guitar or taking part in a drumming workshop in which a lot of students have found it to be particularly intriguing. Students also found this course to be quite relaxing, especially given the current timetable arrangement where Wednesday elements are placed after four academic periods and found this to be a window where they are able to 'chill out' and immerse themselves in the musical world.

A number of students were also given a chance to take a role in different musical performances both within the school and outside the school such as, among others, the impressive 'Stars in Their Eyes' show in November last year which has since

received overwhelmingly positive reviews from both parents and teachers. Mr Tudor, the teacher in charge of the course, said, 'NOW That's what I call is definitely one of the noisiest Elements on offer and it is very nice to see students being able to make concrete progress. The course not only embodies skills necessary to succeed in the future such as the ability to collaborate and be creative but also it is something in which students are able to experiment and discover their interests in.'

*'It's very different from the other courses that I have done and I've really enjoyed doing it. In particular, I really like the fact that it has a strong practical component.'*

**- Yanisha Chung, 11F**

# RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS

**For all the young, aspiring entrepreneurs.**

Run Your Own Business is a course where students run their own business. In this course students will encounter real challenges businesses face - such as tracking down missing shipments, haggling prices with customers and pitching their idea to investors. Students work in teams of 4-5 to formulate a business plan for a product of their choice. Each student takes on a role: CEO, Finance Director, Marketing Director, Product Director or Human Resources Director. Teams begin by examining other existing products on the market and surveying potential customers - this research will help them decide on the final look and price of their product. A 'Dragons Den' is hosted where students pitch their products to teachers with the best team receiving an investment from the 'Dragons'. Throughout the following weeks,



Written by Grace Zheng, 11F. Photos by Noor Rizvi, 11D and Ryan Yau.



they'll work on marketing their products to potential customers, producing logos, slogans, posters and even a webpage where people can place orders digitally.

Then comes the day of the Trade Fayre, where teams assemble their stalls and negotiate with customers.

Half of the final profits go towards charity whilst the remaining half are split evenly between team members.

### Is this course for me?

This course is great for students who want and are ready for a challenge. It helps you develop creativity, critical thinking and collaboration skills. Students should have a flexible mindset and be ready to adapt to sudden changes. You will also train your public speaking skills, practicing the art of persuasion as you try make a case for your product. Just like in a real life business, you will have to create budgets and negotiate with providers to maximize your profit. This course will help you develop practical skills you can use later on in life.

*"As the CEO of Soaplabs, this course has taught me a great deal about managing and working with other individuals. From delegating tasks to negotiating prices, our team has encountered many challenges but more importantly, we've learnt how to conquer them."*

**- Eileen Shin, 11.N**

# NEW ELEMENTS COURSES

Our world is changing rapidly. Technology and the inventions of humankind are becoming more and more advanced; work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fields is paving the way to our future. The young generation of today will be our next innovators and our next leaders. Island School has introduced five new Elements courses that aim at helping students develop these skills.

## LIVING STEM

### **Exploration into our environment.**

Living Stem uses project based learning that involves practical investigations. It aims to increase students' awareness of the latest scientific and technological innovations through independent learning, giving you the freedom to focus on your own research. Debates will be held on current affairs, such as vaccination and genetic modification. Students will also listen and evaluate TED talks, identifying 'Bad Science' using models and simulations and using data to make predictions relating to global issues. They will also be working collaboratively with others, within and across classes to solve problems.

## MECHANICAL STEM

### **Physics put into practice.**

This course involves project based learning featuring practical investigations e.g. Building your own wind turbines, examining the physics of football. There will be a school trip to Ocean Park to investigate the physics of roller coasters, and students will build up knowledge surrounding recent innovations in the field. Similar to living STEM, this course encourages independent learning and students will evaluate aspects of science using models and simulations. They will also be working within and across classes to solve problems. Both Mechanical Stem and Living Stem are not designed to prepare students for IB courses. If students wish to study the course in IB, they are advised to study the IGCSE course to supply them with the appropriate foundations to access the rigorous and challenging concepts in the IB syllabus. There is no overlap between these courses and the IGCSE courses.

# LEADERSHIP MATTERS

## **Building character and growing collaboration.**

Leadership Matters is an action research based course which enables students to turbo charge their leadership through building their understanding of the nature of leadership, developing a personal philosophy and exploring the behaviours and habits of exceptional leaders.

They will develop a toolkit of leadership strategies to use when leading projects and committees, and last but not least, they will use these skills to create a project that turns their learning into action. This course is available for Y10 and Y11 students only.

# SPEAKEASY

## **Your voice matters.**

SpeakEasy takes over from Brilliant Books as one of the three English Elements this year. It is a course designed to encourage students to speak their minds, loudly and clearly, expressively and creatively. From debate, to performance poetry, to dramatic reading, persuasive speeches, spoken word, sales pitches and, well, anything that requires the art of public speaking, the course will investigate how speakers can best engage with their intended audiences to achieve specific effects. The course will respond to the world around us, to find interesting topics to discuss, debate and deliver.

This course would be a great choice for students looking to develop the much-needed skills of public speaking and, as the course name suggests, for students to become more confident in these skills. Whether you are a budding Greta Thunberg or are just keen to feel a little more confident in your delivery. Students will be investigating the lost art of rhetoric as they engage in fun and creative tasks designed at instilling greater confidence in their vocal abilities. Students will be developing the key skills of communication and creativity, which are much needed in society today. Engaging and exciting, SpeakEasy will give students an opportunity to have their voices heard. This course is available for Y10 and Y11 students only.



[www.island.edu.hk](http://www.island.edu.hk)