

CityU College of Business School Outreach Programme Student Ambassadors (L-R): Jeanette Shum King Tung, Edmund Ho Wing Chun and Iris Ho Tsai Ying.



CityU students share experience

Choosing a course and picking where to study are decisions that secondary students face when also preparing for the HKDSE. It is a stressful time, but they can turn to friends, family and teachers for advice and ideas. Those are the people they know best and who are most likely to understand or discern particular strengths, weaknesses, interests and ambitions. As a result, they can offer helpful and practical insights. But even so, students should also get other perspectives and tap into other useful sources of information.

One such source is the College of Business School Outreach Programme at City University of Hong Kong (CityU). It has been operating since 2016/17 and, so far, has trained more than 160 undergraduates to share their experiences of further education with those still in secondary school. Each student ambassador receives compulsory training from well-known experts in public speaking. The instruction covers communication, storytelling and presentation skills.

"Secondary schools want to prepare their students for higher education with the help of relevant information and recent experience," explained Professor Wang Wei-quan, Associate Dean (Undergraduate) at CityU's College of Business. "We have given some structure to the process by helping schools find speakers and get in touch with alumni through our programme."

The speaking engagements can be formal or informal events, but tailored to meet

the needs of the school. And while CityU provides assistance in contacting the alma maters of their student ambassadors about arranging a speaker, very often an alumnus will make the first move by volunteering to help.

Iris Ho Tsai-ying, a Year 3 BBA student taking a major in Finance, has found the programme let her give something back to the college and her former school.

"When I was preparing for the HKDSE, I was a bit frightened about what would happen next," Ho says. "I didn't have many resources or people to seek guidance from. That's why I signed up for the School Outreach Programme, so I can help secondary pupils who may now be in that position."

One student in the Form 3 group Jeanette Shum King-tung has been advising was quite anxious about her future and how to choose a course.

"After discussing things, she felt better able to make a decision and was more determined to achieve her goals," says Shum, a Year 3 BBA Finance major. The group was also keen to hear about her time in Europe as an exchange student in Lille, France.

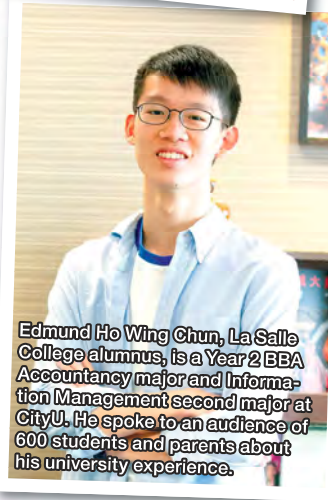
Part of the advice given by Edmund Ho Wing-chun, a Year 2 BBA Accountancy and Information Management double major, is to study global trends.

"Moving away from traditional thinking can help us see the bigger picture," Ho says. He also stresses to secondary students the importance of finding their own interests and talking to parents, friends, teachers and alumni because diverse views can help with the decision-making process.

This year, the College of Business student ambassadors have visited a total of 48 secondary schools, including Baptist Liu Ming Choi Secondary School, Clementi Secondary School, Jockey Club TI-I College, Maryknoll Convent School, Pui Ching Middle School, Raimondi College, Sha Tin Government Secondary School, St. Francis Xavier's College, St. Mark's School, Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School and Wah Yan College Hong Kong.



Jeanette Shum King Tung, St. Clare's Girls' School alumnus, is a Year 3 BBA Finance major at CityU. The secondary students were curious to learn about her time in France on exchange.



Edmund Ho Wing Chun, La Salle College alumnus, is a Year 2 BBA Accountancy major and Information Management second major at CityU. He spoke to an audience of 600 students and parents about his university experience.



Iris Ho Tsai Ying, St. Mary's Canossian College alumnus, is a Year 3 BBA Finance major at CityU. She never expected that students from her former high school would be interested in hearing about her experiences at university.