

St. Paul's College
Report on the Use of Reading Grant
2023-2024 School Year

Part 1: Evaluation of reading resources and programs

E-Resources

The College continued to shift from physical to digital platforms to promote reading. The introduction of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) scheme in junior forms also helped the promotion of e-books among students, especially Form One students.

As in previous years, the College subscribed to 智爱中文平台 for the Chinese Department to help improve students' proficiency in reading in the Chinese language. As a school, we completed **57166** reading exercises in 2023-2024, a marked improvement from the previous two years. In 2022-2023, the whole school completed 59549 exercises and in 2021-2022, our students completed 53000 reading exercises.

The College continued to subscribe to WiseSearch by Wisers Information Limited and Britannica School by Encyclopædia Britannica (UK) Ltd. In 2023-2024, the WiseSearch database recorded 633 clicks, while Britannica School recorded 13929 hits. The College Library would continue to subscribe to and promote this resource in 2025-2025 for teaching and learning. The usage of the database would be closely monitored to determine the need to renew our subscription to this resource in the future. At present, it is clear that the database remains popular, relevant and useful for both teachers and students.

In 2023-2024, the College subscribed to 100 e-books through HKEdCity's eRead Scheme. The app, EdBookShelf, was installed in students' iPads to make access to the platform easier. The subscription was also made known to parents through an e-notice and through their Chinese teachers and form teachers. Besides subscribing to this scheme, the College also continued to use the e-library app Sora. There were 447 titles in a collection carefully curated by teachers of various subjects and accessible to all staff and students. Between September and June, the total number of checkouts was 2183 and the total number of holds was 690.

Besides procuring resources that would benefit students directly, the College also subscribed to SCMP for teachers in order to provide them with more relevant and updated resources they could use in their teaching. A total of 69 accounts were shared among different departments. Teachers teaching English, Economics, Integrated Humanities, and Citizenship and Social Development found these SCMP accounts particularly useful when looking for suitable reading materials to complement their subject textbooks.

Reading Activities

Apart from the e-reading platforms, books fairs, book club meetings as well as competitions and games were organised to encourage extensive reading and reading across the curriculum. The College also took part in the Reading For All Day on April 23, 2024, where all staff and students spent a lesson on reading a print book of their choice.

Seeing the popularity of the joint-school talks last year, the Chinese Department hosted another well-attended talk, 《長夜有聲——香港流行曲的唱與作》 by Professor Chu Yiu Wai, along with pop

singer Serrini Leung. The talk aimed to pique the interest in reading and language appreciation among students from over 10 secondary schools in the Central and Western district.

Part 2: Financial Report

	Item	Actual expenses (\$)
1.	<u>Web-based Reading Schemes and e-Resources:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 智愛中文平台 by iLearner of Nebularu Group Limited (\$20500) ● Subscription to Wisenews by Wisers Information Ltd. (\$18934) ● Subscription to Britannica School by Encyclopædia Britannica (UK) Ltd. (\$19800) ● 100 e-books on Hong Kong Education City (\$27360) ● Sora (\$31893.32) ● South China Morning Post (Teacher's accounts) (\$13000) 	\$99594.00
2.	<u>Activities to promote reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Books fair(s) (\$1558.4) ● Competitions, quizzes and games (English fanfiction: \$450; Book club meetings: \$) ● Reading For All Day (\$) ● Chinese talk (Guest speakers: \$22500) 	\$26858.40
	Total:	\$126452.40

*The College received \$76,064 from EDB for the promotion of reading grant 2023-2024. There was an expenditure of \$50,388.4 not covered by the Grant. The College deployed various existing grants flexibly to cover the additional expenses on reading promotion in 2023-2024.