

HOPE Updates – 2022 No.1

14th February 2022, Edited by : Daniel Zheng



Happy Chinese New Year of the Tiger, and enjoy the spring breeze the new season has to offer!

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2021 HOPE's most supportive partner awards go to.....

All our partner institutions have been very supportive to our students as well as to our business in the past challenging years. We are very grateful to all the support they offered to HOPE and every year, we present “the most supportive partner awards” to institutions who give us substantial help and support within the year in students recruitment event, staff training, institutional links and developing new programme,. The 2021 awards go to:

University of Leicester, University of Sheffield, Brockenhurst College and John Leggott College! Many Congratulations!



University of Leicester. The university gave us substantial support in developing and promoting teacher training programme for international schools in China. In particular, the School of Education successfully help HOPE to explore and open the China market for IPGCE and education related MA programme by distance learning.

University of Sheffield. The university offered great support to our recruitment events both online and face-to-face in international schools. In particular, university's China representative tried every effort to support our events to help HOPE to promote UG recruitment in local schools.

Brockenhurst College. The college provided valuable support to help HOPE organize in-country international summer camp; What's more, the college continued to support HOPE for the school link/sister school projects.

John Leggott College. The college offered great support to HOPE students: 1 got offer from Oxford for medicine, one accepted by UAL, one accepted by LLB at Bristol University. The college continued to support its sister school in China by active participating the online art and design contest and exhibition.



Sports company visit to coincide Beijing Winter Olympics

The 4th “top company visit”, part of HOPE’s career services to students, will focus on a top sports company, coinciding with Beijing Winter Olympics!

Juss Sports, a Shanghai based company who owns ATP Shanghai Masters, F1 Grand Prix Shanghai International Circuit, and Shanghai Sharks Basketball Club, will host the visit by HOPE students and parents on 26th February. On this visit, a tour of Qizhong Tennis Centre, home of Shanghai Master will be arranged, followed by presentation by the company at the media centre, and one-hour tennis practicing at the indoor court.



ATP Shanghai Master was a top annual tennis event in Shanghai before Covid, attracting Federer, Djokovic, Murray and Nadal to attend.



Magnolia-shaped Qizhong Tennis Centre, a landmark of Shanghai

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Thanks to Loughborough University and Wan Chen, a HOPE student and also a Loughborough alumna, the visit can be arranged for our sports and tennis fans. Wan Chen studied master programme in sports media at Loughborough a few years ago after having a bachelor degree at Shanghai University of Sport. She joined Juss Sport as soon as she came back to China.

We hope that HOPE can work with more of our partner universities including their career offices and alumni network to promote the universities in a more practical and creative way. At the same time, we hope that more students can benefit from the company visit for their future study as well as their career.



The main court where the Shanghai Master's finals were held.



Wan Chen (right), an alumna of Loughborough University, with Mr. Xue, Deputy Head of HOPE, at the photo point of the champion inside the court.

HOPE Parents Network (HPN) launched: to offer, to share and to enjoy

Believe or not, more than 30% of HOPE's new clients are recommended by previous clients and their parents, while more than 85% of the clients are still in contact with HOPE regardless where they are now!

Why do HOPE and its clients rely on each other so much? The reasons are quite simple: once HOPE's client, forever HOPE's client! Whenever there is any need for support from the students and parents, HOPE is there for them. What's more, HOPE is continuously exploring the new services demanded by clients before, during and after the students' overseas study. Naturally in return, HOPE receives clients' recognition as well as clients' referrals.



HOPE Parents meeting over an afternoon tea in Hangzhou

In order to even better serve our clients, HOPE launched HOPE Parents Network (HPN) before the Chinese New Year after a careful survey among the parents. What are surveyed include some 15 questions including: what the parents care most during their kids' overseas study, what services are essential, what is the best way to communicate and share information between HOPE and parents as well as school and parents, what parents need to improve together with their kids, what kind of parents' events preferred. Also, a board of HPN committee was set up with 10 parents' representatives from Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing.

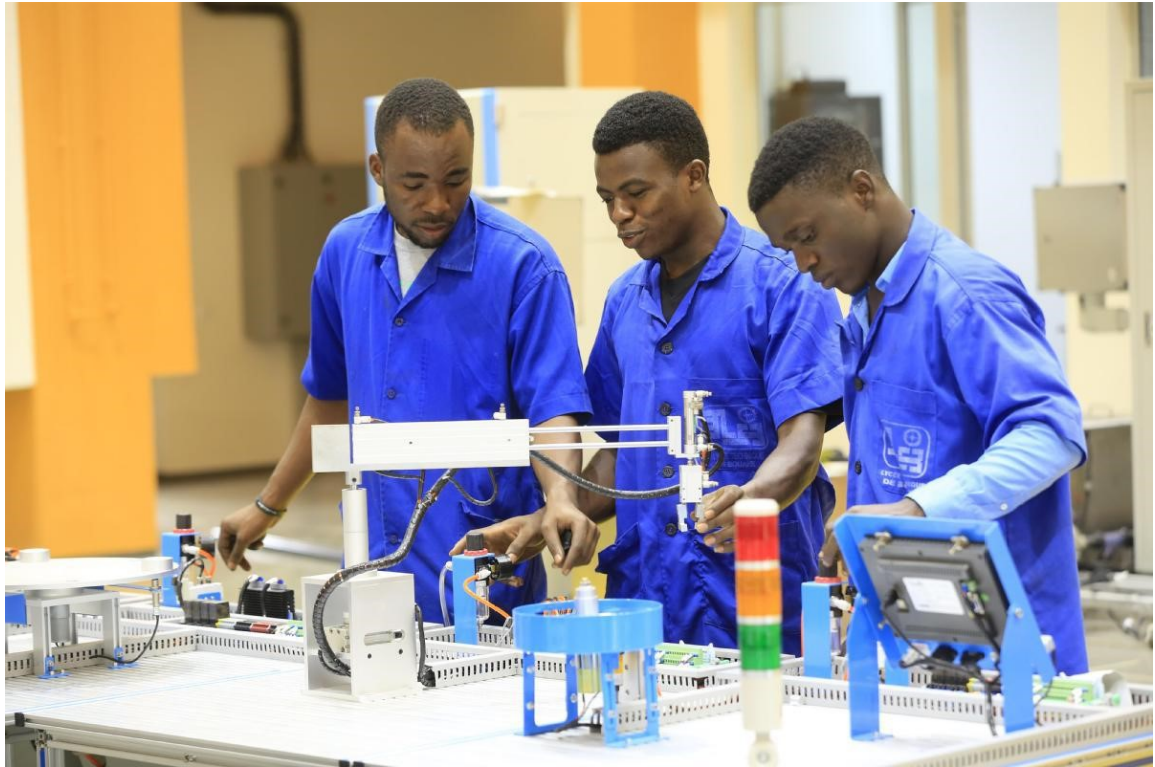


A consulting meeting with parents in Nanjing followed by an afternoon outing

“HPN will be a big “family” who is to offer its help, share its story of success and enjoy the resources each member has to offer”. Said Mr. Xue who shares a dual role as both the Deputy Head of HOPE and a parent whose daughter is studying LLB in the UK. “HOPE is to use all the resource inside and outside HPN to organize various events to support students' academic success, career development as well as parents' self-improvement”. Mr. Xue added.

China to further open up high-level education

Xinhua | Updated: 2022-02-09 10:09    



Students at the Luban Workshop founded by the Tianjin University of Technology in Côte d'Ivoire test new facilities at a laboratory.

BEIJING -- China will continue to advance the opening-up of its high-level education, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said in its key tasks for 2022 released Tuesday.

Efforts will be made to step up cooperation with other countries in the sector, such as advancing the high-quality development of the Education Action Plan for the Belt and Road Initiative and stepping up cooperation with ASEAN countries in vocational education and mutual recognition of academic qualifications, according to the ministry.

The country will also deepen reform of the system and mechanism for sending government-funded students to study abroad, develop internationally competitive

education for overseas students, and tighten regulations for the employment and management of foreign teachers, said the MOE.

The ministry will support quality basic education resources on the mainland to run schools in Hong Kong, explore the integrated development of education across the Taiwan Straits, and consolidate the platform for educational exchange between the mainland and Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Efforts will also be made to promote the pilot construction of overseas Chinese schools and deepen cooperation with international organizations such as UNESCO, it added.

MOE calls for high quality education at 2022 National Education Conference

Source: www.moe.gov.cn, January 19, 2022

On January 16 and 17, the 2022 National Education Conference was held in Beijing, which underscored the need to get a deeper understanding of and put into practice the ideas proposed in the 19th National Congress of the CPC and the 19th CPC Central Committee. The conference also stressed the importance of improving the quality of education, accelerating the modernization of education, building a strong education system, and preparing students to become well-rounded individuals who are morally integral, intellectually knowledgeable, physically healthy, aesthetically sensible, hard-working and industrious.

It was stated at the conference that 2021 marked a milestone in the history of the CPC and the country. In this year, the education sector made remarkable accomplishments. For example, a series of campaigns were held to help people better understand and learn from the history of the CPC, the fundamental role of moral education was strengthened, great efforts were made to solve some of the biggest concerns of parents and students, and sufficient support were given to promote the quality of education.

In this new era, it is important to look at education with foresight from a brand new perspective and in a big picture. On one hand, we should be fully aware that education is a prerequisite for the country's prosperity. On the other hand, we should be clear that the education sector is now facing unprecedented challenges in the post-COVID period, that new demand is arising in the process of economic modernization, and that people are having higher expectations of education. A variety of problems still exist, which requires more efforts to produce qualified professionals, promote education equity, deepen education reforms and improve education quality.

In its next step, the education sector will continue to follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the leadership of the CPC, to create a positive and conducive learning environment and support students' well-rounded development. Efforts will be made to implement the "Double Reduction" policy to lessen students' unnecessary academic burden, expand the coverage of preschool education, provide more balanced and higher quality compulsory education, and encourage diversified development of senior high schools. Vocational education will be upgraded to better meet social needs. In terms of higher education, national strategies will be implemented to produce high-calibre professionals, innovative and frontier scientific research will be given increased emphasis, and a number of universities will be transformed into world-class education institutions. Endeavor will be made to improve the quality of the teaching workforce, and the top priority is to strengthen teacher ethics. Also, reforms will be implemented to refine the current evaluation systems and enhance digital transformation in education. More than 4% of GDP will be spent on education each year. Finally, the education sector will be further opened up to the world to utilize excellent global education resources and make China's voices better heard.

Attendees to the conference include representatives from the MOE, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC, local education authorities and universities. Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng gave a work report at the event, and representatives from local education authorities of 13 provinces/cities exchanged views and held a discussion.

MOE press conference to present progress in improving student management in five areas

Source: www.moe.gov.cn, December 24, 2021

On December 22, the MOE held a press conference to present progress that had been made in student management by primary and secondary schools across the country in 2021. The event was moderated by Xu Mei, spokeswoman and Director of the MOE's Information Office, and attended by Lv Yugang, Director-General of the Department of Basic Education under the MOE, Shen Jiliang, First-level Inspector at the Department for National Teaching Materials under the MOE, and Hao Fenglin, First-level Inspector at the Department of Physical, Health and Arts Education under the MOE.

The five areas of student management refer to homework, sleep, use of cellphones, extracurricular reading materials, and physical fitness. As part of the actions taken to ensure the effective implementation of the "Double Reduction" policy, the initiative to improve student management in these areas aims to promote students' healthy development in both intellectual and physical terms.

Lv introduced the remarkable achievements that had been made to date. He said that a student sleep monitoring system had been established in 98.7% of primary and secondary schools. 96.1% of primary schools met the requirement of ensuring that school did not begin before 8:20 am at the primary education level, and 97.4% of junior high schools fulfilled the requirement of ensuring the school start time no earlier than 8:00 am at the lower secondary education level. In compliance with requirements, schools in some particular regions had also adjusted the start of the school day to adapt to the differences between local and Beijing time. In addition, a survey with data collected from 77.14 million parents showed that the average period of sleep for 76.2% of students in the fall semester met or approached the requirement of "10 hours for primary school students and 9 hours for junior high school students", a proportion which is 36 percentage points higher than that in a similar survey at the end of 2020.

With regards to mobile phone management, 99.8% of schools strictly implemented the policy of limiting mobile phone use on campus and banning mobile phones in classrooms; and 91.8% of schools installed dedicated facilities for mobile phone storage. In most schools, necessary channels for emergency student-parent communication had been provided, and mobile phones were no longer used as a platform for assigning or submitting student homework.

Shen said that, by December 20, 99.9% of primary and secondary schools had taken measures to manage reading materials in their libraries, and 99.63% of schools eliminated a total of 5,000 books that fall into the negative list specified in the relevant national requirement.

Hao also noted that a positive trend was observed in the physical fitness of primary and secondary students in general. The proportion of students reaching good and excellent levels in physical evaluation rose to 33% from 26.5% in 2016, and the proportions of those suffering from overweight, obesity or myopia appeared to have dropped year on year.

China to enhance regulation of off-campus tutoring

Xinhua | Updated: 2022-02-09 10:03



A primary school student uses a tablet device to attend a class conducted by Xueersi Online School in February 2020.

BEIJING -- China will enhance its regulation of off-campus tutoring by stepping up legislation and enhancing supervision, said the Ministry of Education in its 2022 work plan.

According to the plan, posted on its official website on Tuesday, the ministry will conduct regular inspections on national holidays, at weekends, as well as in winter and summer vacations. Any off-campus tutoring activities featuring curriculum subjects during these periods will be shut down, said the ministry.

The ministry emphasized in the plans the necessity to advance legislation in regulating such tutoring activities.

It also noted that it will guide local education authorities to categorize off-campus tutoring institutions by subjects, and clarify supervision responsibilities, according to the plans.

International students team up for Olympic song

By ZOU SHUO | China Daily | Updated: 2022-02-10 09:21 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



[Screen grab/Music video "When the Ice is Shinning"]

More than 100 international students at Chinese universities from more than 50 countries have recorded a song, When the Ice is Shinning, to convey their best wishes for the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympics.

The five-minute bilingual song, in Chinese and English, was recorded separately by students from different cities and later mixed together.

The tune was composed by Shin Moon-sub, a South Korean student, with the Chinese lyrics written by Chinese student Zhang Haomiao and the English ones by Francisco Arriaga Gomez from Mexico. They are all studying at Shenzhen University and are members of the Study in China Cloud Chorus.

Part of the lyrics go:

Beijing is waiting for you all. Get united under this light.

Be a part of this brotherhood, sharing the spirit, competing together just as one.

Raise your glass, reach the stars, follow our dreams, it is in our hands.

Light the torch, so we can begin, memories to be made.

Shin said he has a special affinity with songs for the Olympics because the theme song Hand in Hand for the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul had warmed the hearts of many and was still highly relevant today.

He also liked the theme song for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, You and Me, which had a more soothing, warmer rhythm that touched people's hearts, he said.

Composing a song for the Beijing Winter Olympics was one of his major plans last year, and he wanted to bring warmth, courage and strength to people around the world who are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, he told People's Daily.

Shin started composing the song in March and asked for Zhang's help with its Chinese lyrics because his Chinese was not good enough.

The Olympics is a global sports event, so it is very fitting to have international students from all over the world record the song, he added.

Hannah Robinson, who is studying at Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Jilin province, and hails from the United States, said just like the Games' slogan "Together for a shared future", the Olympic Games represent humanity's yearning for peace and solidarity.

"Finishing this song with students from many countries has also made me feel the strength of solidarity," she said.

Eileen Gu's unique success not a textbook

By Berlin Fang | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-02-10 14:17 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



Ailing Eileen Gu of Team China poses for a photo with the trophy after placing first in the Women's Freeski Halfpipe competition at the Toyota US Grand Prix at Mammoth Mountain on Jan 8, 2022.

With Eileen Gu winning the gold medal in the women's freestyle skiing big air competition at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, one of the factors that has drawn global attention is her education. Apart from skiing, the 18-year-old athlete has won admission to Stanford and has a successful career in modeling.

Eileen prompted the Chinese people into a déjà vu "tiger mom" moment. Tiger parents are known for strict discipline, high expectations, and a focus on excellence. "Tiger mom" Amy Chua's daughters have given violin recitals at the Carnegie Hall, with one going to Harvard and another to Yale. One of her daughters clerked for Justice Brett Kavanaugh of the US Supreme Court.

Now, many parents in China attribute Eileen Gu's success to her mom. But parents trying to turn their children into another Eileen Gu may be dismayed to find the

cut-and-paste function does not work in real life. Not to belittle the role of individual resolve and efforts, we should acknowledge that socioeconomic status and family resources play important roles in a person's development. We are not talking about Jack London who used sheer will power to blaze a trail with a pen and some paper. Sports take a lot more.

Having a child who plays tennis for the school's varsity team, I know how much sports can cost. Young athletes take private lessons, buy tennis shoes and rackets, entry fees to compete in tournaments, chipping in for snacks, all add up and become costly. In addition, rich families can afford to have a parent staying home to drive a child to sports events without having to worry about missing work and pay. No wonder rich school districts have better teams.

Yet all of these conditions are nothing compared with some other sports, say, freestyle skiing in half-pipe, slope-style or big air. Eileen was fortunate to have all the stars aligned in the direction of her success. Most of all she has a passion for skiing, an upbringing with a skier mom, and coaches who supported her.

For many Chinese parents, success stories like those of Eileen Gu, concert pianist Lang Lang, and Sophia and Louisa (children of Amy Chua) seem to suggest that pushing children to achieve success works. What they often fail to realize is that their parents have the financial, academic and social resources needed to ensure their children achieve success.

Lang Lang's parent is a musician. Amy Chua is a professor at Yale. Eileen Gu's mom Gu Yan attended Beijing University, earned her MBA at Stanford, is a skiing coach, and has a successful venture capital firm. Such parents can afford an elitist education for their children, and education which has both academic enrichment and extracurricular fulfillment.

But I don't mean to say the rest of the parents just need to lie flat and wallow in misery.

First, I encourage governments to focus on public education. If a family fails to provide the right conditions for their children to succeed achieving their goals, I hope the public education system can pick up. Let no potential Olympian stop dreaming due to their families' inability to pay for private lessons or practices. Governments, businesses and non-profit organizations, too, should do their bit to provide equitable educational opportunities for children.

Second, more universities should rethink the use of standardized tests as the main criterion for admission. To be sure, the pandemic is accelerating the demise of standardized tests as one of the many methods to assess applicants.

Those schools that have not done so should follow. Standardized test scores have come to increasingly depend on a family's riches. Tests like SAT and ACT used to measure a person's intelligence and aptitude, but obviously smart people have figured out "test-taking strategies" that rich families can take advantage of through expensive remedial instruction.

In a sense, the "double reduction" policy back in China, which refers to restrictions on school homework and private training, may play a role in easing the education inequality caused by differences of family backgrounds.

And third, I encourage fellow parents to be aware of reality. Eileen Gu is one in a million. Just do the best you can for your own children in whatever way you can. Not every child has to perform at the Carnegie Hall or compete in the Olympics to be a happy person.

Besides, success is really overrated in terms of living a fulfilling and impactful life. My son, who plays tennis, has taught me that the reason for playing tennis is learning to succeed without being mean or to fail without losing hope. There is a lot of fun hitting balls, chewing the fat with coaches and fellow players, and occasionally winning a game or two at school or in a tournament.

And my daughter, who plays the violin, has taught me the joy of service as she played with her high school band Revolution Strings for schools, churches, nursing homes and at weddings. They have found love and joy in sports and music. Their joy and love are all the satisfaction I need as a parent.

The author is a columnist based in Texas, US.