

From Zero To Third: First-timers succeed at Speak Up – Act Out

Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)

Presenter: Mr Matt Ussher, NET & students

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Disclaimer

To enhance the teaching content, teachers can exercise their professional judgment and consult relevant scholarly work when adopting the learning and teaching resources prepared by educators and other teachers. In support of the implementation of the English Language Education KLA Curriculum, teachers can also select appropriate parts of the resources for classroom learning or extended learning based on pedagogical consideration and the learning needs of students.

About us:
Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)



A PRI & SEC SCHOOL
LOCATED IN TUNG
CHUNG



27 CLASSES IN SEC
SECTION



A WIDE RANGE OF
CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

Objectives for today:

In this session, you will be able to:



experience the journey of taking a beginner group to their first competition.



observe students' and teachers' growth and development through the experience.

Major Concerns of the School

Promote values education and foster self discipline, creativity, and courage in students

Stimulate students to explore their values by thought-provoking situational conflicts and challenges

Reasons for joining

To explore English in a fun
and engaging way

To encourage students and
build their confidence in using
English

To enhance and embrace
creativity and expression

To provide an authentic learning
experience away from the
routine of classroom learning

Part 1 – The Competition

Speak Up Act Out (SUAO) is a drama competition.

Groups of 4 – 6 students compete against other schools.

All schools in the same session are given the stimulus 2 weeks before the competition day.

Each school is then given a different verb to include in their drama in a way they see fit.

Our drama stimuli were ‘Amah Rock’ and ‘despair’.

Part 2 – The Students

Recruitment was slow!

People dropped out last minute.

Members joined late too!

Yet we formed a great working bond early, and combined well together.

Recruitment...

Spoke to a few students that commonly attend English Corner and started planting the seeds of a fun group activity 😊

Encouraged those students to spread the word and invite their friends

Made school wide announcement to spread the opportunity far and wide

This can be tough, but be persistent!

Part 3 – The Process

We had a couple of sessions of fun activities with the awesome SUA0 handbook, which made the students feel at ease and set us off to a good start.

I made use of more drama games to help students understand the use of body language and facial expressions.

We played around with role playing for the first time and explored the use of space and sounds.

Students were split into teams of two, and I had them devise a basic story, including characters, setting, theme – first creation experience.

The students have wonderful imaginations – let them flow!

Part 3 – The Process (Continue)

Competition prep time!

Had the students create a variety of stories in teams and then vote on the parts from each story that they liked

Honed in on a story that included the theme and the word of inspiration

Decided on characters, and chose parts

Happened fairly organically and was student driven

Had the students build the script

Practice began!

Characters.



Setting.



Background.

2nd try to solve

rising action²

rising action¹

falling action

resolution

1st try to solve the problem but it doesn't work.

Amah rock
despair

Menu Exit Share List

Select Pen Eraser Clean All Ruler Shape Partition Table Mind map Sticky-Notes Preview Grid Undo Redo

Add Previous 1/1 Page number Next

Life isn't about
finding yourself.

To sit in the shade
on a fine day and
look upon verdure.

family → visiting HK → someone falls → call emergency
rain
Scared.

long ago → lost → injured → no signal
+
Maha + farmer

Couple
Hus/Wif

magical → lion found
guy
→ fixes ini

My Role in the Process

Merely to guide most of the time

A little bit of sheparding to keep on task!

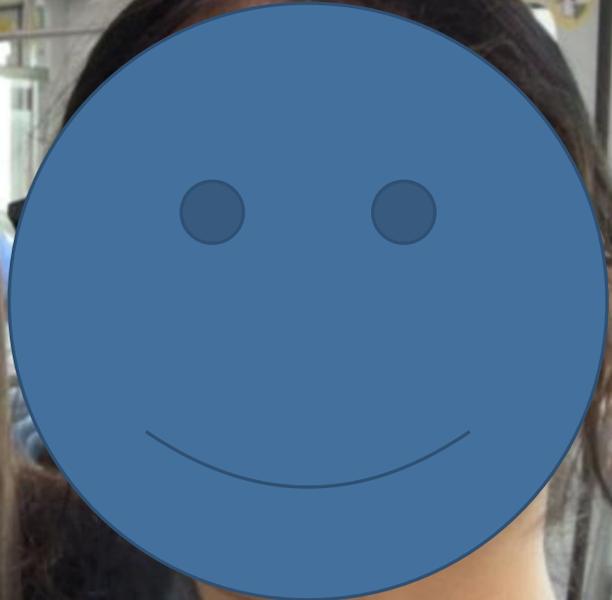
Questioning and refining: how they are going to show parts of their story, how they emphasise the setting with body language, or portray characters, etc.

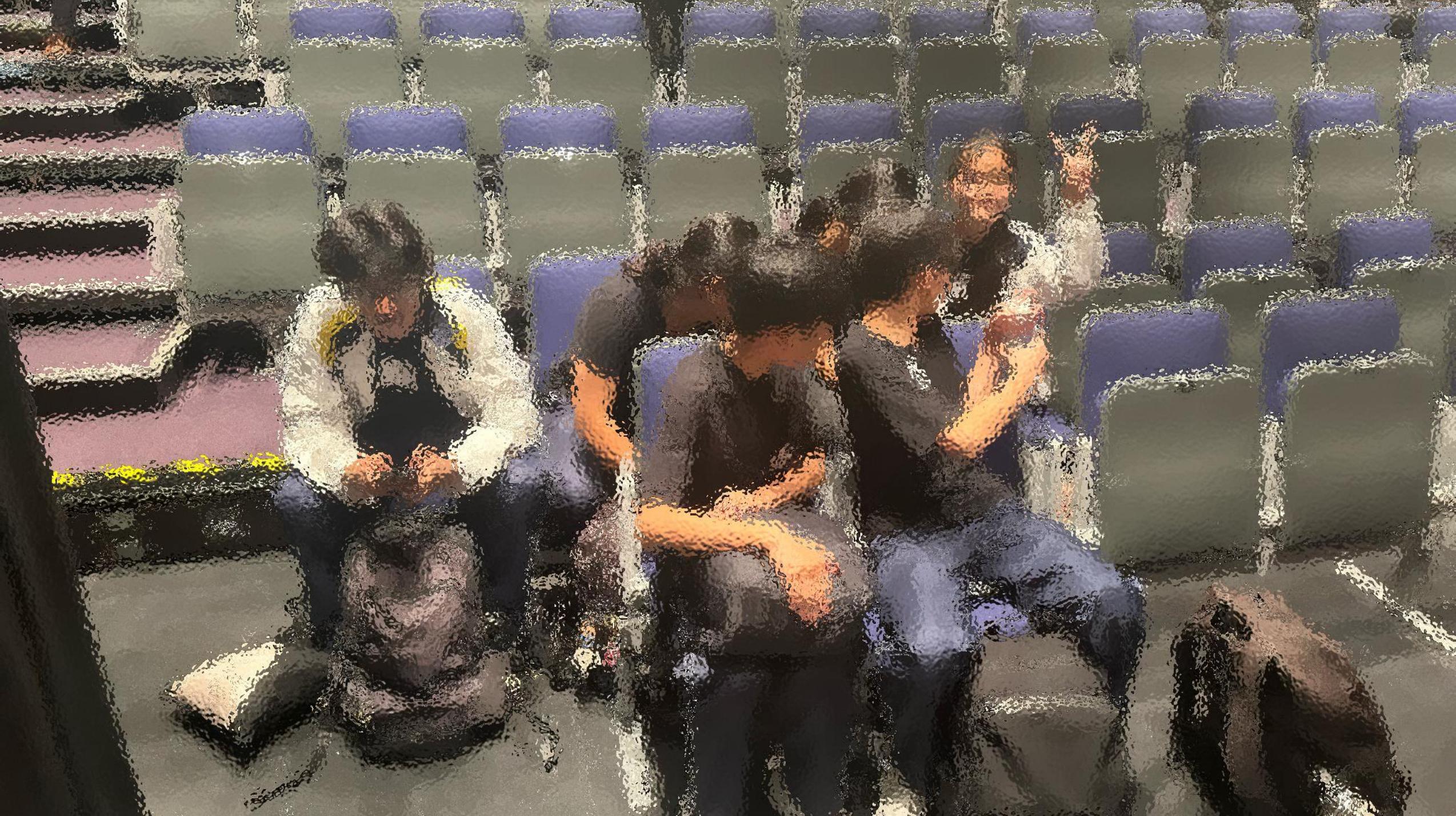
Time keeper and videographer

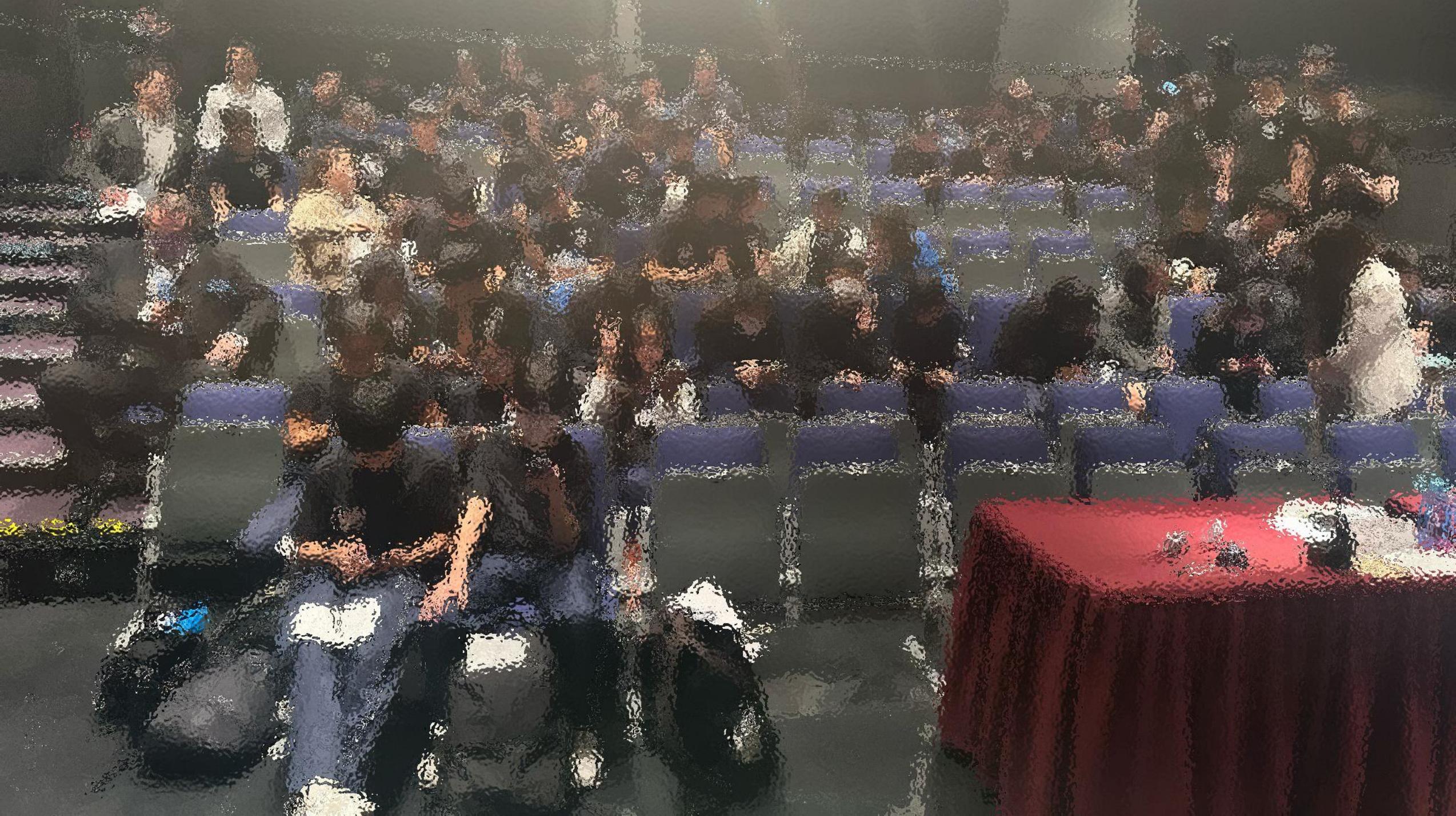
Tweaks and changes: student decisions – not mine



MARVEL









Outcomes

- We achieved 3rd place.
- It felt like a massive accomplishment.
- We were all beginners, both students and teacher.
- We experienced a real feeling of positivity at what we had achieved in such a short time.
- Everyone grew a lot through the event.



Students' Learning Outcomes

Students felt a greater sense of self confidence and belief.

They reinforced the knowledge that participating in a competition like this brought out the best of them.

The stage wasn't as scary as they thought it would be.

Performing in front of an audience was actually fun!

Teacher's takeaway

The process (while a little stressful) is well worth it.

Seeing the smiles at the end of the day was reward in itself.

Having the basis from the workshop day was a huge help.

Not setting high expectations allowed the students to just enjoy it.

Limiting and removing pressure, especially for a new group, was very important.

Future Plans



Definitely plan to join again!



Students know what it is all about, so the 2nd time will be a new journey.



Try to recruit new and younger members to join the team 😊



Incorporate more drama into everyday classes