

# Fostering Inclusion: An Experiential Learning Journey with Visually Impaired Students

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## Introduction

The experiential learning course titled “Social Development and Engagement,” designed to enhance students’ social awareness through service learning in Hong Kong. In collaboration with Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired, the course provides students with a unique opportunity to engage with visually impaired individuals, fostering empathy and understanding of their needs.

## Course Objectives

1. recognize the value of social responsibility and cultural diversity
2. plan, organize and conduct small-scale volunteer project in collaboration with community organizations
3. demonstrate empathy for people in need and reflect on their roles and responsibilities as a responsible citizen
4. demonstrate skills of observation, and reflection as well as analyze social issues in Hong Kong

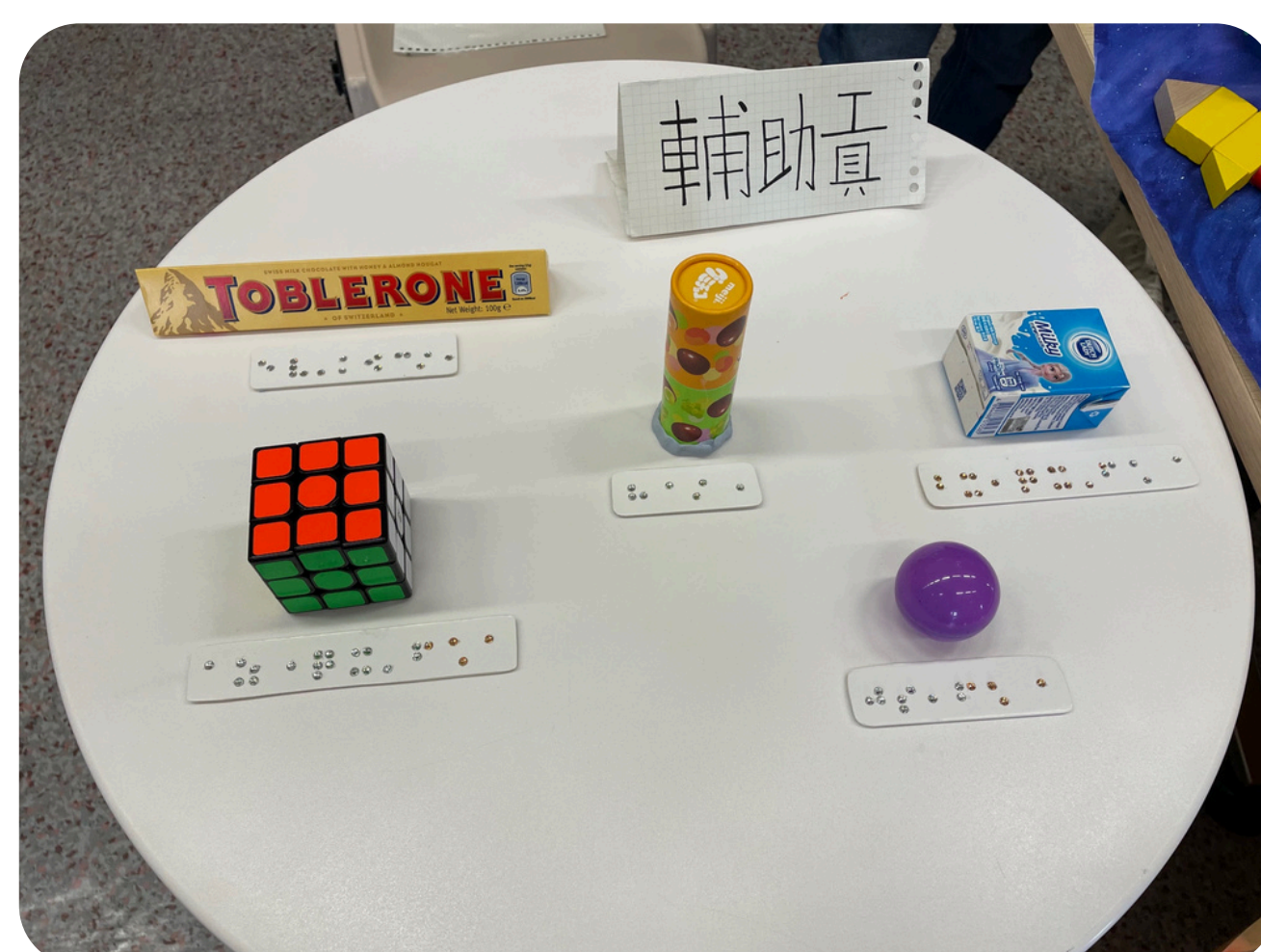
## Ebenezer School Visit

Students participated in an informative briefing on the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals in Hong Kong. This session covered essential topics, including their specific needs, available facilities, and innovative applications that assist in the daily routine. Following this, students had lunch while wearing eye masks to simulate the difficulties faced by visually impaired individuals during mealtimes. This immersive experience encouraged students to reflect on the daily challenges encountered by those with visual impairments.



## Math Fun Day

During their visit to Ebenezer School, students learned Braille and used it to create interactive math games specifically designed for their Ebenezer peers. The collaboration fostered creativity and inclusivity, resulting in a fun-filled day that both groups thoroughly enjoyed, strengthening bonds and promoting mutual learning.



## Student Sharing

「從心光學校的小朋友中，我學懂珍惜現在所擁有的東西，包括人和事，而且也不要嫌棄別人的不足，因為每個人背後有屬於自己的辛酸，只是我們不知道。」

“I lost some rest time due to designing the game, but I gained great satisfaction from seeing the students actively participating in it. Taking the initiative to provide assistance to students has also helped me step out of my comfort zone as an introvert.”

“I got a chance to connect with a student at Ebenezer School. She shared her daily life with me, including her hobbies and the challenges she faces. As part of our society, instead of holding bias towards visually impaired people, we should strive to learn more about them.”

“This experience taught me to treat visually impaired individuals with love and care, like friends. Caregivers at Ebenezer School show gentleness and humor rather than excessive protection, giving students space to think and grow personally.”

「記得小朋友握著我的手時，我能感受到他們很用力，很怕被人拋低。他們雖然有視障的問題，但與普通小朋友沒有分別，一樣需要別人的愛。」

## Conclusion

This course provided students with a rare and meaningful opportunity to connect with the visually impaired community. Through immersive activities, game design, and personal interactions, students stepped out of their comfort zones, developed empathy, and gained valuable insights into inclusivity and social responsibility. This transformative experience encouraged mutual learning, challenged biases, and inspired students to approach others with love, care, and respect.