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2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards
Presentation

From left) Professor Wei Slay, president of HKUST; Ho Lik-ho, principal of Pui Ching Middle School; Lam Ho-fung, a teacher at the school; and Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Tsz-yan at this year's HLMA awards ceremony. Photo: CYH

Maths award-winner talks about discovering the 'true beauty of subject'

Chan Tsz-hin developed a love for mathematics at a young age. However, it wasn't until he entered secondary school that he began to see the true beauty of the subject.

"After I moved to secondary school, I discovered that mathematics is not only addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but it also requires deep comprehension of proof. The proving processes and results are beautiful and amazing," he said.

It's his love of maths that helped the Pui Ching Middle School student win the Gold Award in the 2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards (HLMA).

Tsz-hin, who is now studying mathematics at Imperial College London in Britain, won with his research project titled "On Non-Torsion Solutions of Homogeneous Linear Systems over Rings".

The 2021 HLMA, co-organised by Hang Lung Properties Limited and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), requires participants to conduct a research project on a chosen topic in mathematics and write a report that discusses their methodology, research and results.

Selected finalists participate in a round of oral defence, where they give brief

presentations on their research project before the winners are chosen. A HK\$1 million prize will be shared between all awardees, including the three winners and five honourable mentions, as well as their teachers and schools.

While students can work in groups of up to five members, all the 2021 awardees, except for two of the honourable mentions, were solo participants.

This year's other winners include Luo On-ki, also from Pui Ching Middle School, who won silver, and Lai Wai-lok, who took home the bronze. An honourable mention, Chui Tsz-fung, 13, became the youngest solo participant to receive an award in the competition's 17-year history.

Tsz-fung was inspired to improve upon a proof he saw in a YouTube video from his favourite creator, 3Blue1Brown. His HLMA project was called "On the Basel Problem: Generalizations to Other Power Series".

Outside the HLMA, in 2021, Tsz-fung became the first Diocesan Boys' School (DBS) student to ever win a gold medal in the Hong Kong - International Mathematical Olympiad. "He is definitely one of the brightest [students] I've ever met," said Chan Long-kin, a mathematics teacher at DBS and Tsz-fung's supervisor for the HLMA.

**Junior reporter
Clara Ki Lu**



Chan Ho-fung, 13, received an honourable mention.
Photo: Reporter

January 7, 2022 (Online)

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Hang Lung Mathematics Awards winners talk about their love of the subject and not being intimidated

The academic competition requires participants to conduct a research project on a chosen topic in maths and present their findings

This year, one 13-year-old former Diocesan Boys' School student became the youngest solo award winner in the competition's history

by Clara Ki Lu | Published: 15:00pm, 7 Jan, 2022

Clara Ki Lu
JUNIOR REPORTER

Clara Lu is an incoming student at Georgetown University. In 2016, she founded her non-profit Read For All (RFA), in hopes of better serving students in Hong Kong. She and her team distribute free books to read.

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(From right to left) Professor Wei Shyy, president of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Principal Ho Lik-ko of Pui Ching Middle School; teacher Lee Ho-fung of Pui Ching Middle School, and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam pose at this year's Hang Lung Mathematics Awards ceremony. Gold Award winner Chan Tsz-hin is now studying in Britain, but was able to attend virtually. Photo: CWH

Chan Tsz-hin developed a love for mathematics at a young age. However, it wasn't until he advanced in his studies that he began to see the true beauty of the subject.

"After I moved to secondary school, I discovered that mathematics is not only addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but it also requires deep comprehension of proofs. The proving processes and results are beautiful and amazing," he said.

It's this love of maths that helped this Pui Ching Middle School student win the Gold Award in the 2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards (HLMA).

Pui Ching Middle School wins big at the 2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards

The 2021 HLMA, co-organised by Hang Lung Properties Limited and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, requires participants to conduct a research project on a chosen topic in mathematics and write a report that discusses their methodology, research and results.

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While students can work in groups of up to five members, all the 2021 awardees, except for two of the honourable mentions, were solo participants. This year's other winners include Luo On-ki, also from Pui Ching Middle School, who won silver, and Lai Wai-lok, who took home the bronze. An honourable mention, Chui Tsz-fung, 13, became the youngest solo participant to receive an award in the competition's 17-year history.



Chui Tsz-fung, 13, became the youngest solo participant to receive an award in the competition's 17-year history when he was given an honourable mention. Photo: Handout

Tsz-hin, who is now studying mathematics at Imperial College London in Britain, won with his research project titled *On Non-Torsion Solutions of Homogeneous Linear Systems over Rings*.

The young honourable mention, Tsz-fung, was inspired to improve upon a proof he saw in a YouTube video from his favourite creator, 3Blue1Brown. His HLMA project was called *On the Basel Problem: Generalizations to Other Power Series*.

"The proof [of the Basel Problem in the video] was not very rigorous, so I decided to write an improved, more rigorous proof," said the former Diocesan Boys' School (DBS) student.

The 13-year-old said he was not intimidated by the older students.

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"I have taken part in other maths competitions, and I was often very young in those. So I have adapted [to] the pressure," he explained.

Outside the HLMA, in 2021 Tsz-fung became the first DBS student to ever win a gold medal in the Hong Kong – International Mathematical Olympiad.

"He is definitely one of the brightest [students] I've ever met," said Chan Long-tin, a mathematics teacher at DBS and Tsz-fung's supervisor for the HLMA.



A photo of the winning teams of the 2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards with The Hon. Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr. Ronnie C. Chan, Chair; Mr. Adriel Chan, Vice Chair; and Mr. Weber Lo, Chief Executive Officer of Hang Lung Properties; Professor Wei Shyy, President; Professor Yang Wang, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Professor Andrew Cohen, Lam Woo Foundation Professor, Director of HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study and Acting Dean of Science of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; and members of 2021 Hang Lung Mathematics Awards Scientific Committee, Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Screening Panel. Photo: CWH

Writing a 20-page report was incredibly demanding for the Secondary One student, Chan explained, and there was also the challenge of presenting his work in his second language.

But the teacher was dedicated to fostering his student's abilities.

Since Tsz-fung moved to Britain while the competition was still in progress, Chan would often stay up until midnight to help him with the project.

"[These students] are doing things I could not do at their age," Chan said.