

A special guest that HKU invited to the high table dinner, Jennifer Wong, said “Everyone has their own weaknesses and obstacles, but that doesn’t mean they don’t have the ability to succeed. It is your attitude that determines your future and beliefs towards your life.” Listening to Jennifer Wong’s inspiring life experience and dining with blindfolds has enlighten me the life of a blinded person, as I realized how challenging it was to orientate and navigate with the loss of sight and to face constant social unacceptance in our society.

Throughout this dinner, I’ve developed compassion for visually impaired people, and acknowledged that sympathy is not the only and most wanted element, but it is respect. People with vision impairment deserve the same respect as others without the loss of vision, and we shouldn’t tolerate or accept discrimination towards people with vision loss, but instead be motivated to stand up against and serve to help the ones in need. After our dinner, we had a Q and A session with Jennifer, and I’ve assimilated that although loss of vision does realistically create a lot of inconvenience in life, it doesn’t make the ones who experience that less capable. For example, they may be physically blind, but they’re not emotionally blind. They are able to connect and interact with people by using their heart to genuinely feel others’ emotions, and create a stronger bond with their community.

Moreover, other senses such as hearing and touch, are more sensitive due to vision impairment, which allows them to be more alert in situations. Therefore, I’ve learnt to embrace the importance of equality and respect between the ones that are and aren’t visually impaired, and understand that being visually loss is not necessarily a downside in life, but it just depends on your attitude towards it.

Furthermore, the dinner and visit at HKU St. John’s College was an eye opening experience. Dining with our peers, other schools’ students and HKU students has broaden our horizon, as we learnt more about each other’s culture and background, and was able to exchange some personal experience towards academics. Our alumnus also took us a tour at St John’s College, which allowed us to know more about the historical and traditional background of the architect and HKU students’ social life in their loving and closely-bonded community. To conclude, this experience was unique and humbling, and it has truly increased my interest in applying HKU for my Higher Education.

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