

HONG KONG SCHOOLS MUSIC AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

76TH HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPEECH FESTIVAL 2024



1H OKORIE SAMUEL CHIGOZIE

BOYS SOLO VERSE SPEAKING – FIRST PLACE

My name is Samuel from 1H. I was born in Hong Kong but my family hails from Nigeria, in West Africa.

To prepare for the solo verse speaking competition, I practiced with my English teacher, Mr. Tsui, after school. I had lots to learn and it was tough because this was my first time to participate in such an event. Yet at the same time, I was excited by it. So I buckled myself up for the journey. Mr. Tsui's guidance was invaluable. He taught me when I needed to slow down as well as when to pick up the pace, how and when to change my tones of voice, and also stage presence, including which actions I should do to engage my audience and which to avoid.

On the day of the competition, I woke up early and wore my best tuxedo and pants. My dad didn't like the pants so we had a brief argument about them. In the end, he agreed that I wear what I had chosen. Then I ran out of the house to catch the minibus. I felt so nervous because, as I had mentioned, I had never done it before; second, I didn't know the route, and third, I was worried about being late. What I did at that moment was to take a deep breath and prayed for God's guidance, and that He would give me understanding and confidence to finish the job in the best possible way. My prayer was answered! Someone who was also going to the competition showed me the way and I arrived at the venue on time. Then when all the competitors had made their presentations of the poem, the adjudicator took to the stage to announce the top performers. Thankfully, I emerged as the Winner.

The greatest impact that this experience had on me was the valuable lessons I learned. This success motivates me to continue growing and strive for excellence. My advice to students of TPSY is: Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try new things. You might discover your hidden talents and abilities!

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."