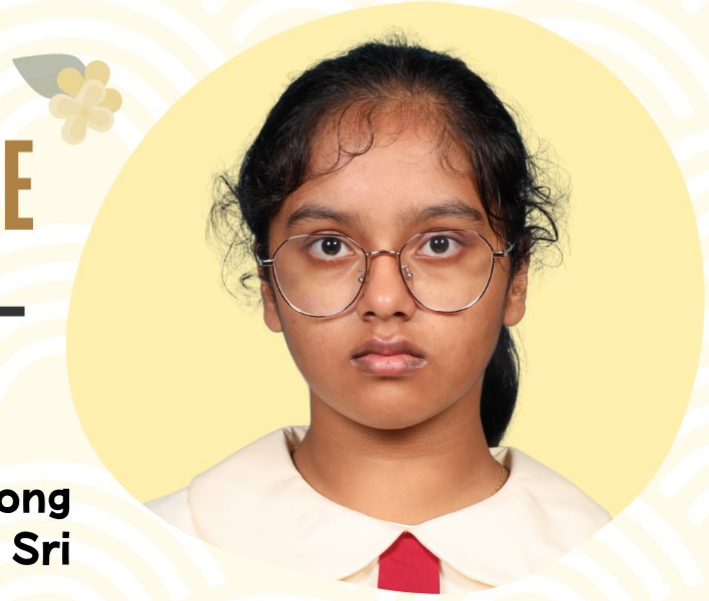


HONG KONG SCHOOLS MUSIC AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

76TH HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPEECH FESTIVAL 2024

2H ARTHANAYAKA S. MUDIYANSELAGE PRASHADIE GIRLS SOLO VERSE SPEAKING – FIRST PLACE



My name is Prashadie from 2H, a Hong Kong person with roots in the isle of Sri Lanka.

Participating in the speech festival was a thrilling new experience for me. Truth be told, since primary school I've dreamed of this opportunity! So it goes without saying that I took the solo verse speaking competition very seriously. I practiced vigorously at home, at school and on the way to school. Learning the poem in the bus, digging into its meaning while walking to school, meeting with the teachers for guidance and advice so I could improve, reciting the poem in the shower, imagining myself on stage – all required focus and perseverance.

Balancing schoolwork and competition preparation in the days leading up to the event was challenging. And my nerves did not help one bit! However, I channeled my energy and focus into it and went with the flow. I felt remarkably confident and composed during the competition itself. So I was able to perform as I had diligently practiced. Yet, I was immensely relieved when everything was over, and the Winner position that I got felt like a wonderful reward for my hard work.

This solo verse speaking competition gave me a fantastic opportunity to refine my public speaking skills and enhance my stage awareness. The judge's words were highly valuable, prompting me to reflect on my performance and to recognize areas for improvement that I've never thought of before. All in all, I'm deeply grateful for the chance to share my talents and for the solid support that I received. In the future, I will, without a doubt, continue to develop my skills and pursue new challenges.

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

