



Cheung Chau is a common field trip destination for schools but its unique culture has made it a good place to learn Liberal Studies, writes Jessica Fan.

HEUNG Chau's rugged geography has made it an ideal case study for subjects such as geography or biology, but because of interesting culture, Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre has offered a guided tour for secondary school students to carry out research and learn things related to Liberal Studies.

A class of Form Three students from Salesians of Don Bosco Ng Siu Mui Secondary School joined the Liberal Studies tour organised by the Centre in late February. They studied food culture on the island and found out how globalisation has affected it.

Alan Cheung Tsz-san is one of the students who joined the trip, and he cited an example of what he learned: "Fast food chain McDonald's has to adapt to local culture by offering vegetarian burgers during the Bun Festival on Cheung Chau, restaurants on the island have to offer vegetarian food during that period."

Globalisation is one of the modules in the Liberal Studies curriculum. Teachers from the Caritas Centre asked students to think about how tourism, a trend of globalisation, affects food offered by restaurants on Cheung Chau.

The whole Liberal Studies trip lasted a day, from 9am to 4pm. Students first learnt about the definition of

globalisation, carried out field research, analysed data and finally did a presentation on what they learned.

Students gathered in a group of five to visit restaurants on Cheung Chau, such as the Cheung Kee Noodleplace and U Can Cook Café. They observed the menu, design of the shops and even waiters' uniforms in order to explain how tourism changes local culture.

Another Form Three student, Shi Yu-qiang, said: "I only focused on international issues related to the globalisation module before coming to this trip, but I understand we can also see the relationship between globalisation and Hong Kong culture."

Course coordinator from the Caritas Centre, Chris Chung Chi-yuen, said that the field trip strengthened students' research skills and their ability to analyse information. "I don't expect students to learn many topics in the six-hour-course, but the trip is sure to help them apply research skills learnt in class on a field site."

Field Studies Centre

Liberal Studies of the New Senior Syllabus emphasises independent enquiry study. Students are encouraged to take the initiative to learn on their own, but how? The field trip organised by schools is a good opportunity to learn how to study on their own.

Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre has started offering guided tours for Liberal Studies since September 2009. Their courses cover issues like history, food culture and conservation of heritage on Cheung Chau, and these topics are linked with modules such as Hong Kong Today and Globalisation of Liberal Studies. Apart from Liberal Studies tours, the Centre also gives courses on Geography and Biology. There are facilities like solar energy bicycles and sea-turtle corners on the campus.



Vocabulary

field trip (n) 田野考察
rugged (adj) 高低不平的

observed (v) 觀察
coordinator (n) 統籌

initiative (n) 主動
conservation (n) 保育