

Educational trips to mainland China for Hong Kong secondary school pupils' new core subject 'eye-opening', youngsters say

- One pupil says trip brought her closer to the country and emphasised influence of national development on her daily life
- Education Bureau says it will cut the number of whistle-stop one day tours and increase the amount of longer ones after canvassing opinions



Senior pupils from Shun Tak Fraternal Association Tam Pak Yu College visit the Aifeike Aviation Popularisation of Science Education Base. Photo: Handout

Hong Kong secondary school pupils who joined compulsory mainland study tours for a new core subject of citizenship and social development said the trips were an “eye-opening” experience that brought them closer to the country.

Yolanda Ko Ching-yan, 17, a Form Six pupil at Shun Tak Fraternal Association Tam Pak Yu College, said her two-day trip was eye-opening, particularly a visit to the Aifeike Aviation Popularisation of Science Education Base in Zhuhai.

“It’s my first time trying to understand the country’s aviation development and I know the country is so strong in this aspect. The things I have seen can’t be found in books, they can only be found on this trip,” she said.

“I now know my motherland is in such advanced development, and I really feel proud of my country and the people making this [aviation accomplishment] happen.”

Ko said she would “definitely” go back to the mainland if she were to start a business in the future, adding authorities there offered preferential policies for Hongkongers in some areas.

Extracted from *South China Morning Post*, 12 September 2023