

# D S C O U R S E

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## DISTED College Champions Creativity at Excite Hackathon 2024

Empowering  
Youth in Graphic  
and 3D Design



DISTED College played a pivotal role in developing young talent in graphic and 3D design during the Excite Hackathon 2024, leading to student successes in the competition.

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### Remarks from the President

Events like the Excite Hackathon are crucial in nurturing our youth's creative and intellectual growth in the context of an increasingly digital and interconnected world. DISTED College is deeply committed to equipping students with the skills and competencies they need to thrive in this environment. This hackathon is not just a competition; it's an immersive learning experience where young minds engage in hands-on activities, developing their abilities in graphic and 3D design.

Such events play a vital role in fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving—essential skills in today's ever-changing technological landscape. For DISTED, participating in and supporting these initiatives perfectly aligns with our goals to promote innovation and creativity as cornerstones of education. By mentoring these bright students, we are helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow, ensuring they are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to society. We take pride in being a catalyst for their success and look forward to continuing our role in empowering the next generation of innovators.

Prof. Dr.  
Vikneswaran Nair  
President



Cover  
 Story

## DISTED College Champions Creativity at Excite Hackathon 2024: Empowering Youth in Graphic and 3D Design



DISTED College demonstrated its commitment to nurturing the next generation of creative talent by training school students in graphic and 3D design during the Excite Hackathon 2024. Organised by Penang Math Platform (PMP) and sponsored by Flex, this dynamic event featured 12 hours of intensive lessons, culminating in an exciting Grand Final Competition at the STEM Showcase held at Han Chiang High School on August 23, 2024.

The college's dedication was evident through the expert guidance provided by its trainers. Mr. Zaki bin Zakaria, an instructor from DISTED, mentored students from SMK Bandar Baru Perda in 3D Design and SMK Convent Butterworth in Graphic Design. Meanwhile, Mr. Luqman Aliff Abdul Rashid, another instructor from DISTED, guided students from Phor Tay High School in 3D Design and SMK Bayan Lepas in Graphic Design.

The competition brought together talented Form 3 and Form 4 students from various schools, showcasing the skill and dedication of both the students and their mentors. SMK Convent Butterworth's efforts in graphic design earned them a well-deserved second place in the Grand Finals, while Phor Tay High School's innovation in 3D design secured them a commendable third place.

DISTED College's involvement in the Excite Hackathon 2024 highlights its unwavering commitment to fostering creativity and innovation among the youth. By equipping these young minds with the tools and knowledge they need to excel, DISTED continues to play a vital role in shaping the future of design and technology in the region.

Seethai Subramaniam  
 Head, School of Computing and Engineering



Mr. Zaki Zakaria (Left) with the winning school



## Empowering Youth: Addressing Sexual Harassment at Convent Butterworth Girls High School

On the 8th of August 2024, the School of Psychology had the opportunity to engage with students from Convent Butterworth Girls High School on the vital topic of sexual harassment. The talk aimed to educate the students on recognising various forms of harassment and empower them to take action if they or someone they know is affected. We began by exploring what respect means and discussed how seemingly harmless jokes or comments can cross a line, making someone feel uncomfortable or unsafe. The importance of consent was emphasised—not just in saying 'no,' but in respecting boundaries and ensuring mutual agreement. We also encouraged students to be upstanders, speaking up when they witness harassment. The students were highly engaged, asking insightful questions and showing a strong commitment to understanding the issue. We reinforced that sexual harassment is never the victim's fault and provided resources for support.

Indra Sellappan

Rehabilitation Psychologist, Lecturer, School of Psychology



## Draw the Line: Understanding Drug Awareness and Prevention

On 19th August 2024, DISTED College hosted a talk titled "Draw the Line: An Introductory Guide to Drug Awareness and Prevention," conducted by Dr. Tan Khang Lyn from Osel Clinic. The talk aimed to educate students on the dangers of drug misuse, the impact of drug abuse, and alternative stress management methods. Dr. Tan, an MBBS graduate from the University of Malaya and a certified BLS and ALS provider, is dedicated to making high-quality medical care accessible to all through his work at Osel Clinic and as a Community Doctor with Osel Group.

Tan Jia Huey

Office, Student Experience



Dr. Tan Khang Lyn facilitating the session



## Principles of Green Chemistry: A Pathway to Sustainable Innovation in Chemical Research

Environmental concerns have driven innovation in chemical research, with chemists now focused on developing sustainable products and processes that minimize pollution and conserve resources. To support this goal, twelve principles of green chemistry have been established. These principles emphasize preventing waste, maximizing atom economy, and designing chemicals with minimal toxicity. They also advocate for using safer solvents, increasing energy efficiency, employing renewable feedstocks, and reducing unnecessary derivatization. Additionally, the principles highlight the importance of catalytic reactions, designing for product degradation, and using real-time analysis to prevent hazardous substances. Lastly, they stress designing chemicals and their forms to reduce the risk of accidents. These principles are taught to Foundation in Science and Cambridge A-Level students at DISTED College, providing them with a foundation in sustainable chemical practices.



Dr Loo Ai Yin  
Senior Lecturer, School  
of Pre-University Studies

## DISTED Students Uplift Penang Autism Centre

The School of Business and Hospitality students embarked on a meaningful journey to support the Penang Autism Centre. Driven by compassion, they dedicated their time to improving the center's environment by sweeping the compound, mopping floors, and cleaning the toilets, creating a welcoming atmosphere for the residents. To further their impact, the students organised fundraising events, including a Car Boot Sale on June 8, 2024, at DISTED, where they sold stationery. They also used social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook to reach a wider audience and

baked cookies to raise additional funds. The money collected was used to purchase essential goods requested by the centre. This experience taught the students the importance of empathy and social responsibility, showing them the value of using their education and resources to make a positive difference in society. It was a journey that left a lasting impact on both the students and the centre.

Adznida Md Daud  
Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



## DISTED Badminton Club Tournament 2024 A Showcase of

# Skill | and | Excitement



The DISTED Badminton Club held a successful tournament on 14 and 16 August 2024, with 22 participants, including students, alumni, and staff. The tournament kicked off with Women's and Men's Singles matches. Jethro Ng secured gold in the Men's Singles, while Van Wei Yi and Lin Chan KaiXian earned silver and bronze. In the Women's Singles, all participants were staff, with Thiresvinie winning gold, followed by Jessica Ang (silver) and Teoh Ker Hsin (bronze). The final day featured the doubles categories, with Chan Xian Hong and Ooi Tse Han winning the Mixed Doubles. Thiresvinie and Nur Aisya Najwa Amerrudin won the Women's Doubles. The Men's Doubles category saw intense competition, with Saw Keat Loon and Baiju taking gold. The tournament fostered a sense of community, bringing together students, alumni, and staff in a friendly and competitive environment. It not only showcased their badminton skills but also strengthened bonds between participants, creating a spirit of camaraderie and teamwork across different groups at DISTED College.

Kaitlyn Khoo  
Student Editor, DISTED Discourse (Student of Cambridge A-Level)



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article

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