

Chinese Foundation trio win award with device for dyslexia

A touch of genius

Little people can do big things, as three students from The Chinese Foundation Secondary School (CFSS) students proved.

Oscar Wu Tsz-yeung, Matthew Kwan

Ho-kwong and Marco Miu Kwan-ho, all 13, won Hong Kong's Roche Young Scientist Award on Saturday, defeating many older competitors. Their invention was a device to help dyslexic students to learn.

Dyslexia has many causes, and one of the most common is reduced visual and auditory sensitivity.

The group's winning project, called the Tactile Handwriting and Word Learning Kit for Dyslexic Students, included an invention based on the concept of changing the surface on which dyslexic learners practise writing.

The group designed a removable sandpaper mesh sheet which can be put on phone, tablet and computer screens to add extra texture. This added layer, and the ability to feel the letters

makes it easier for the user to recognise characters than when they just look at the words.

"One of my friends has dyslexia. I wanted to help him, so I started looking into the topic," Matthew said.

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The competition adjudicator, Professor Lai Ching-lung of the University of Hong Kong, said the device would be useful because there had not been a device for Chinese learners on the market. Lai praised the group for solving a rising problem in an economical way.

The judge panel also said the team deserved to win because they

had found an expert willing to try out their invention.

The three students won a trip to Switzerland to visit the headquarters of Roche Group, an international pharmaceutical company.

Eunice Yiu of St Paul's Convent School finished second with her organic mosquito repellents. Adrienne Lee Tze-yan, So Tsz-wing and Sze Lee-sze, also of St Paul's, came third with their carbon dioxide absorbing device.

Chris Lau

From left: Ho Tik-shun, Marco Miu, Matthew Kwan, Oscar Wu, Dr Chan Pik-ying

