

2/9/2024 Principal's Speech for the Opening Ceremony

Mr. Lau Tsz Chung

Good morning, everyone! Welcome back! A special shout-out to our amazing teachers, social workers, and, of course, my fellow students!

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with updates on the renovation works I promised during the closing ceremony in July.

Firstly, I am pleased to announce that the tiles in this school hall under your chairs, as well as the flooring of the rear staircase, have been completely replaced. Additionally, the lockers for Forms 4 to 6 have been relocated to the base rooms, allowing greater convenience for you to store and access your belongings.

To align with our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy, all classrooms for Forms 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been equipped with Smart Blackboards. This enhancement will significantly improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our IT-related lessons.

Lastly, I would like to mention my own working place, which has not been renovated since the establishment of our school over 35 years ago. As it is still under construction, currently I am working in Vice Principal Room 1, previously occupied by Mr. Tang. I welcome all of you to visit me at any time; I'd be delighted to talk and share ideas with you.

Let us take a moment to applaud for the dedicated technicians, janitors, and the teachers-in-charge for their hard work. Their efforts this summer have been instrumental in creating a conducive learning environment.

Now, a question to you all: What did you do during the summer holiday?

As we gather to inaugurate a new academic year, I would like to remind you of the reading goals I set for you in the last closing ceremony. Were you able to meet them? Allow me to share my own experiences over the holiday.

Instead of travelling abroad, I stayed in Hong Kong, captivated by the thrilling Olympics Games broadcast on television. Naturally, I also dedicated time to reading. I chose books that are particularly special, written by two talented Hong Kong students who won the '校園作家大招募計劃 2023 / 24' competition organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. One of these books, titled 火花, was authored by Wong Wing Yin from 4A. This noteworthy work was launched at the recent Hong Kong Book Fair. Let us congratulate Wing Yin on this achievement! I have purchased ten copies of 火花, which will be available for borrowing in our library. I

encourage you all to read it and share your thoughts and experiences with one another.

In addition to Wing Yin's success, I am happy to announce that our school's teams, including the Debating, Dance, Robotics, and Quiz teams, have excelled this summer, securing numerous championships. Some of our talented students even earned the opportunity to represent the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in international competitions. We take great pride in their accomplishments.

Furthermore, our F.4 and 5 students have also done a meaningful job. I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who participated in the Po Leung Kuk Flag Day on August 14th and endured the heat for a noble cause. Your commitment to volunteer work reflects our school's enduring tradition, and I hope you feel a deep sense of fulfilment from your contributions. Always remember that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Next, it's time to update you about our latest HKDSE Examination results.

Our students achieved outstanding results in the HKDSE Examination 2024, especially in English and Chinese Languages. As a result, the percentage of students obtaining 332A or above, which is the minimum requirement of entering JUPAS university in HK, was 92%. The best individual results went to Li Tsz Ho, who obtained 5 (5**) and 2 (5*), 4 students obtained results of 2 (5**) or above, and they all were granted the HKDSEE Outstanding Achievement Scholarships by Po Leung Kuk. Moreover, Tsz Ho was the top scorer among all Po Leung Kuk Affiliated Secondary School.

Among them, six high-flyers were admitted by the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK and HKU and the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU. In addition, this year, a total of 28 candidates have enrolled in bachelor's degrees related to health care, including Pharmacy, Radiotherapy, Physiotherapy, and Nursing. What's more, 94.6% of our F.6 graduates were successfully admitted to local universities and tertiary institutes through JUPAS. Among them, 57.5% enrolled in the big 4 universities, namely HKU, CUHK, HKUST and PolyU.

All your seniors' outstanding results indicated not only their hard work, but also the great effort of our teachers who equip them for the public examination. Let's salute our dedicated teachers.

TYTCians, as we gather here embracing the spirit of renewal and hope, I want to take this opportunity to show you the major concerns under the 3-year School Development Plan. This is the last year of the plan, so F.2-6 students may be familiar with it. F.1 students, please listen attentively.

Our Major Concern 1 is ‘**To develop our students to be self-directed learners**’.

The 3 intended outcomes are:

- (a) The motivation for learning of students has been strengthened.
- (b) The essential self-directed learning skills of students have been developed.

To match with the above intended outcomes, F.1, 2, 4 & 5 students are required to bring their own devices to class if IT teaching is involved and the smart blackboards have been installed in their base rooms.

(c) Teachers’ knowledge and skills of promoting self-directed learning have been enhanced.

Our Major Concern 2 is ‘**To instill positive values in students**’

Again, we have 3 Intended outcomes, which are:

- (a) A purpose-driven attitude among students has been developed.
- (b) The resilience of students has been strengthened.
- (c) Students’ sense of gratitude has been fostered.

As time is limited, today I would only like to share with you one of our School Major Concerns, which is related to instilling positive values in students.

Last year, on this occasion, I emphasised three important values: gratitude, humility, and self-love. Perhaps the most crucial reminder was to ‘put down your mobile phones’. To our Form 2 to Form 6 students, do you recall that message?

Despite the rapidly changing world, the importance of having strong moral foundations can never be underrated. As educators, we have the unique privilege and responsibility to guide our students not only in academic pursuits but also personal development. This year, our commitment will centre around three core values: responsibility, perseverance, and respect for others.

Firstly, ‘**responsibility**’ is a cornerstone of character development. It is essential that our students understand the importance of being accountable for their actions, both in and out of the classroom. Whether it's submitting assignments on time, helping a classmate, or protecting the environment, every small action embodies the spirit of responsibility. We will encourage all of you to take initiative and own your choices, fostering a sense of independence that will serve you well in your future endeavours.

Secondly, we will emphasise ‘**perseverance**’. Life is a series of challenges, and it is through facing these challenges that we grow. We will instill in TYTCians’ minds that setbacks are not failures but opportunities for growth. Stories of individuals who have triumphed through tenacity are vital to our discussions in class. With every challenge you encounter - be it in sports, academics,

or personal life - we will remind you that persistence is key to achieving your goals.

Lastly, the value of **‘respect for others’** will be a fundamental theme in our school this year. We will cultivate an environment where every individual feels valued and appreciated. This involves listening to diverse opinions, showing empathy towards one another, and celebrating our differences. By engaging in acts of kindness, such as helping those in need or standing up against bullying, our students can create a culture of mutual respect that extends beyond the school walls. As we embark on this journey together, I encourage all of you - teachers and students - to embody these values in your daily lives. Let us work collaboratively to create a supportive environment where responsibility, perseverance, and respect flourish.

All TYTCians, let me remind and share you our school motto:

“Treasure the past with a grateful heart and embrace the future with confident humility.”

「感恩回首好時光 謙遜迎接新挑戰」

Last but not least, I am pleased to announce an important new initiative. To help alleviate study-related stress and promote good mental health, we will be organizing four "Cheering Days" this academic year, twice in each term. On these days, we will offer a variety of relaxing activities and programs designed to foster well-being. Additionally, all teachers are encouraged to dress casually, while students are invited to wear their PE uniform, allowing everyone to participate in these activities in a more comfortable manner. The four Cheering Days are scheduled on September 27, December 6, March 14, and May 9.

Finally, I wish you all a fruitful and meaningful school year. May you treasure every experience with a grateful heart and embrace the future with confident humility.

To our Form 1 students, I encourage you to fully immerse yourselves in the exploration of your secondary school life and to forge new friendships.

To the Form 2 and 3 students, I hope you'll continue to enjoy your remarkable journey that is your school life.

To our Form 4 and 5 students, thank you for stepping into leadership roles in TYT; may you find joy in all the roles of responsibility.

And to our Form 6 students, cherish your final year with us. I sincerely hope that each of you will achieve excellent results in your upcoming public examinations. As you reflect on this day next year, may you be enjoying the exciting life at university.

Thank you!