

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRINCIPAL

All TYTCians, may I draw your attention to our two major concerns under the 3-year School Development Plan. This is the second year of the plan, so F.2 – 6 students may be familiar with that. 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.
- (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.

Although time is limited, today I would still like to spend some time sharing with you one of our School Major Concerns, which is related to fostering students’ sense of **GRATITUDE**. (感恩)

What is gratitude? It’s the quality of being thankful to the people who have helped us in different situations. We should be ready to show appreciation for and to return kindness. Why is it so important to us? Gratitude helps people refocus on what they own instead of what they lack. Gratitude nurtures our emotional well-being, strengthens relationships, and lays the foundation for success. As you explore gratitude in-depth, you’ll discover that it is not merely a fleeting emotion that comes and goes but a powerful tool that can revolutionize your life completely.

A famous local educator Ryan Lau once said, ‘**Nothing can be born from the earth**’. Let me put it in our context, TYT’s reputation, wonderful school life, academic and ECA achievements, were brought about by hard work of our principals, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, alumni and you, our current students. We should bear in mind that **we cannot take what we have for granted**. However, you may ask, ‘how can I have this thankful mind?’ One of the fundamental qualities found in a grateful person is **humility**. In other words, to show gratitude, you should be **HUMBLE**. (謙遜)

Being humble means you consider yourself as having no privilege that makes you better than others. A humble person is not proud and does not believe that they are superior to other people. Now, look at your classmates sitting around you. Can you say confidently that ‘you are the best’? I am your Principal, but I never think in this way.

In different aspects, different people excel differently. I am sure that everyone here in the hall is smarter than me in some aspects. For example, in the area of posting a story in IG, I am sure I am a loser. In terms of playing internet games, running 3000m race and following fashion trends,etc., I think I am not the best. With humility you can recognize your own strengths and the strengths of others. Proud people are wrapped up in themselves. They think too much of themselves and little of others. If people or circumstances don’t please or suit them, they will lose hope easily and complain a lot instead.

In short, with a humble and grateful heart, you can always feel your life full of **love** and **hope**. However, if you are arrogant or inconsiderate to others, you will only grumble a lot!

Another question arises: How can you apply the above in your daily life? Here’s how I did it myself:

I owe Mr. Cheung Ka Pong a lot as he offered me to teach Physics in TYT 26 years ago. Last year, he nominated me as his successor for the post of Principal and that’s why I can have the chance to stand here and share with you today. He is definitely a very good role model for me to follow. He established an excellent administrative system in TYT. His contribution to TYT is undoubtedly invaluable. In the past decades, Mr. Cheung, together with all the stakeholders, have built a TYT paradise. How can I show my gratitude towards Mr. Cheung and the past TYTCians humbly? A few words usually come to my mind and I would like to express my thankfulness here:

“Our school has been founded for over 35 years, and on behalf of all I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Principal Cheung for building a solid foundation for PLKTYTC. In face of the unforeseeable challenges ahead, I cordially hope all the stakeholders, including myself and all teaching staff, fellow students and their parents, alumni and all the supporters of TYT, could treasure the past with a grateful heart and embrace the future with confident humility.”

All TYTCians, let me share our new 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」

Besides the positive value of showing gratitude in our major concern, I would also like to share a big, powerful attribute with you, **LOVE**. Many years ago, I visited a very famous Band 1 Secondary School. The motto of the school impressed me very much. It said **“LOVE to LEARN & LEARN to LOVE”**.

For an educational institute, learning is the most important, so we all expect you to love learning. However, in the sea of knowledge, **LOVE** is the most important virtue for students to learn. With love, we can solve all the problems. Love is very broad, tricky and complex, and it takes a lifetime to understand it. Today I'll just focus on how to learn to **‘LOVE YOURSELF’**.

Loving yourself means you know how to appreciate yourself so that it can support your physical, psychological and spiritual growth. Regardless of your race, physique and economic status, learning to love yourself should go hand in hand with your self-worth, self-esteem, and happiness.

- If you love yourself, you won't do something to let yourself or the ones who love you down.
- If you love yourself, you won't let yourself lie on the sofa and glue yourself to the screen of your mobile phone for the whole day.
- If you love yourself, you won't let yourself or anyone hurt your body and mind.
- If you love yourself, you will try to understand yourself.
- If you love yourself, you will find your interests and do something you like.
- If you love yourself, you will have the motivation and energy to do anything.

There are many practical ways to learn how to love yourself and I will discuss with you in the future. Today I just want all of you to do one thing in your daily life. Every day, spare some time, maybe in the morning, in the recess, during your shower or before going to bed, put down your mobile phone, and try to talk with yourself. Try to start a dialogue with your higher self. Try to ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the 3 things which make you happy today?
- How did you spend your recess or lunch time today with your best friends?
- What do you want to thank yourself for today?
- Which lesson did you enjoy most today?
- Who did you a favor today?

I hope all of you can enjoy your time with yourself every day. Right after this assembly, I will talk with myself in my office. I will ask myself similar questions too. Enjoy your me-time every day.

Last but not least, may I wish you all a fruitful and meaningful school year. Treasure everything with a grateful heart and embrace the future with confident humility.

- Form 1 students, I hope you can enjoy exploring your secondary school life and making new friends here.
- Form 2 to 3 students, I hope you can continue to enjoy your wonderful school life.
- Form 4 and 5 students, thank you for taking up leading roles of our wonderful school life and hope you enjoy the process.
- Form 6 students, please enjoy your last year here and I hope that all of you could attain excellent results in your public examination. I hope all of you, on this date next year, will be enjoying your university life.

Thank you!

Lau Tsz, Principal