

1/9/2026 Principal's Speech for the Opening Ceremony

Mr. Lau Tsz Chung

Good morning, TYTCians! What a joy it is to welcome you all back for the new academic year — 2026/27 — here at TYT! To our dedicated teachers, caring social workers, and every one of my dear students, thank you for gathering here this morning. And of course, a very special welcome to our new Form 1 students, who are about to begin an exciting new chapter with us. Let's give them a big, warm round of applause as they officially join the TYT family today!

Before sharing what our TYTCians accomplished over the summer, let me first tell you what your Principal did during the holiday!

This summer, I watched Christopher Nolan's much-talked-about new film, "The Odyssey." Afterwards, I became curious about the original story, so I bought and read Homer's "The Odyssey" as well.

Watching a film is enjoyable, but reading offers something different. A film gives us the director's interpretation, while a book lets us slow down, imagine freely, and truly live inside Odysseus's ten-year journey home, at our own pace. Reading also trains patience, concentration, and critical thinking — qualities that matter even more in our fast-moving digital world.

So here is my challenge to all TYTCians this year: don't spend all your free time watching "reels" on IG or YouTube. Take time to read something "real" — a real book! A short video may entertain you for seconds, but a good book can shape your thinking for years. Whenever possible, put down your phone, pick up a book, and enter a new world through reading.

A healthy summer also means exercising the body. I continued running and swimming, and tried a new sport: pickleball — a paddle sport combining tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Easy to learn yet demanding in concentration, reactions, and teamwork, it's now one of the fastest-growing sports in the world.

I have a strong feeling it's about to become a new favourite here at TYT too — because we now have our very own pickleball court, at our covered playground!

Speaking of the pickleball court, let me update you on the renovation and improvement works I promised at our Closing Ceremony in July. Over the summer, a great deal of work took place across our campus to create a safer, more comfortable, and more inspiring learning environment. Besides the new pickleball court, we have also completed:

- new lockers for junior-form students, now relocated inside their classrooms,
- a new study corner in the Library, offering a welcoming space for reading and self-study,
- the renovated MMLC, creating a more effective learning environment,
- anti-slip floor tiles on the first floor, including Rooms 101–104, and the Home Economics Room.
- new cabinets in the Music Room for storing instruments and equipment,
- Room G05, now serving as both a student study room and our Chinese Cultural Room,
- new House Honours and Outstanding Students display boards, and new canteen tables in the covered playground,
- a newly renovated toilet on the second floor, and
- a new corridor in our TYTCians Humanities Gallery, presenting our forty-year history from 1987 to the present.

These improvements are not merely changes to classrooms, floors, and furniture. They reflect our commitment to a school environment where every TYTCian can learn effectively, develop new interests, build friendships, and feel proud to belong. I encourage you to make good use of these facilities — and, just as importantly, to take responsibility for keeping them clean and well cared for.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all the teachers, staff, and janitors who contributed to these projects over the summer. Their hard work has helped us begin this academic year in a safer, more attractive, better-equipped campus. Let us thank them with a warm round of applause!

Beyond our campus, our TYTCians also shone this summer. Some of our top students won the South China Morning Post Student of the Year Award and the Hok Yau Club's Outstanding Leader Award! Internationally, one student was crowned the Freestyle Champion at an international rope-skipping competition, while another earned the Second Prize at the National Youth Aerospace Innovation Competition.

Our Quiz Team continued its winning streak, taking the overall championship at the Constitution and Basic Law Inter-school Quiz Competition for the fourth year in a row — an incredible eighth titles in total! And our Robotics Team represented Hong Kong at the World Robot Olympiad International Competition in Korea this August, winning the First Place in one division and the Second Place in another — the finest result our school has ever achieved on the world stage!

We also gave students wonderful opportunities to broaden their horizons this summer. Our Chinese Literature students travelled to Taipei for an immersive study tour, including a large-scale literary walk through the city. Meanwhile, two Form 4 students were selected from hundreds of applicants to join a Science, Technology and Culture Exchange Tour to Korea.

Now, let's turn to academics. I am proud to share that our graduates achieved remarkable results in the 2026 HKDSE Examination, setting brand-new school records — especially in our language subjects. This year, 98.2% of candidates achieved Level 3 or above in English, and 100% achieved Level 3 or above in Chinese — a feat matched by perhaps only a handful of Hong Kong schools, and a new TYTC record! As a result, 98.2% also achieved 332A2 or above, meeting the minimum JUPAS requirement, while nine subjects recorded their highest-ever percentages of Level 5 or above in our history.

Individually, our top performer this year is Lee Sum Yi, whom many of you just saw on mass media. Lee Sum Yi achieved an extraordinary 6 subjects of 5** results and 1 5* subject, becoming our school's third HKDSE Top Scorer — following Chui Yi Nap in 2021 and Wong Wang Chi last year. What's more, nine students achieved 5** in two or more subjects, and all received the Po Leung Kuk HKDSE Outstanding Achievement Scholarship.

We were delighted to welcome back two Super Top Scorers, Wong Wang Chi and Lee Sum Yi, at this year's Form 1 Orientation Day Camp last week, where they shared TYT memories and study tips with our newest students, who admired them like celebrities!

Turning to JUPAS: four top students were admitted to the Faculty of Medicine at CUHK, and sixteen graduates in total secured places in medicine-related programmes. Even more impressively, 96.5% of our Form 6 graduates were admitted to local universities through JUPAS, and 45% secured places at Hong Kong's "Big Two" — HKU and CUHK.

These outstanding results reflect not only our students' hard work and perseverance, but also the tireless dedication of the teachers who guided them. Once again, these achievements remind us that dedication, curiosity, and hard work can take our students anywhere they dream of going. Let's give a big round of applause for all our devoted teachers!

This year marks the second year of our three-year School Development Plan, spanning 2025/26 to 2027/28, guided by two major concerns.

Our first major concern remains focused on unleashing our students' full potential in this ever-changing 21st century. We will continue nurturing self-motivated, lifelong learners through flipped classrooms and project-based learning, continue our coding workshops and AI and information literacy programmes — now further strengthened by our AI Working Group — and continue implementing tiered teaching and learning strategies, so every student can strive towards their personal bests.

Let us now set aside talk of academic and extracurricular glory. In truth, the purpose of education can be summed up simply: to learn how to be a good person. This lies at the heart of our second major concern — helping every student develop positive values and grow into a well-rounded individual.

This is why I will devote much of today's speech to the importance of good character, because in this fast-changing century, the need for a firm moral foundation speaks for itself. This year, our promise to every student is to instil three core values: **Responsibility, Resilience, and Respect (3Rs)**.

Responsibility remains the foundation of personal growth and social harmony. We will continue encouraging students to take ownership of their actions — submitting homework on time, playing an active role in group projects, or taking part in community service — and create leadership opportunities such as organising school events and student-led initiatives.

Resilience allows us to adapt, recover, and keep moving forward when life brings setbacks. Through sports, competitions, and resilience-building programmes, we will keep guiding students to see challenges as opportunities to grow. Teachers will continue sharing inspiring stories through "Heart-to-Heart Sharing" sessions and classroom discussions, helping students build a positive mindset and greater self-confidence.

Respect remains the cornerstone of a harmonious school and society. We will continue nurturing empathy, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation, deepening students' understanding of who they are — proud citizens of Hong Kong, China and responsible citizens of the world — through National Education, our Sister School Scheme, and exchange initiatives.

As I told you at our Closing Ceremony last year, we will place even greater emphasis on volunteer service. It is much more than completing a required number of hours or adding another certificate to your portfolio; its true value cannot be measured by the time you spend or the recognition you receive.

When you serve others — visiting the elderly, tutoring a younger student, joining a beach clean-up, or supporting a charity event — you learn to notice needs beyond your own, develop empathy by seeing the world from another's perspective, and discover gratitude in recognising that much we take for granted is unavailable to others. Even a small act of time, knowledge, or care can make a meaningful difference.

Volunteer service also develops communication, teamwork, patience, and leadership. Most importantly, it teaches us that personal success is not only about what we achieve for ourselves, but also what we contribute to others' lives. True fulfilment comes not from receiving, but from giving.

Therefore, I encourage every TYTCian to approach volunteer service not as a task to complete, but as an opportunity to grow, connect with others, and contribute to society. Do not ask only, "What can I gain?" Ask also, "Whom can I help, and what difference can I make?"

Through meaningful service over six years at TYT, I hope every student will develop a caring heart, a strong sense of social responsibility, and a lifelong willingness to contribute to our community. This is how we put Responsibility, Resilience, and Respect into action — and how every TYTCian can grow into a responsible, compassionate citizen.

By focusing on these two major concerns, we hope to nurture TYTCians who are not only academically capable, but also compassionate, resilient, and forward-thinking — ready to embrace whatever the years ahead may bring.

Your physical and mental well-being remain at the heart of everything we do. That is why we will once again hold our four Cheering Days this year — on October 9, December 4, March 12, and May 7 — when students may wear PE uniforms and teachers may dress casually, as we enjoy relaxing activities together.

As we continue embracing technology in our classrooms, I also want to gently remind everyone about managing your screen time. As I say every year, mobile phones are wonderfully powerful tools, but overusing them can affect your focus, your mental health, and your relationships. So, whenever you can, choose to pick up a book, play a sport, or simply enjoy a face-to-face conversation with friends and family. Remember, your time is precious — don't let a screen control it. So, once again: put down your mobile phone.

Before I conclude, let's reflect once more on our school motto: **"Treasure the past with a grateful heart and embrace the future with confident humility."**

"Treasure the past with a grateful heart" reminds us to appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of those who came before us — our Principals, teachers, parents, and peers — who shaped the opportunities we enjoy today. "Embrace the future with confident humility" encourages us to face challenges with courage and determination, while remaining humble enough to keep learning and improving. Together, these values form the foundation for a meaningful and fulfilling life, both inside and outside the classroom.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every member of our TYT community. As we begin this new academic year together, I encourage each of you to seize every opportunity to learn, to grow, and to make a positive impact.

- To our new Form 1 students, welcome to the beginning of an incredible journey.
- To our Form 2 and 3 students, keep exploring your potential and building strong friendships.
- To our Form 4 and 5 students, take pride in your growing leadership roles and responsibilities.
- And to our Form 6 students, make the most of this final year, and aim for excellence in your public examinations.

Let us work together to make this a year of growth, achievement, and joy. Thank you all, and may 2026/27 be your brightest chapter yet!