
Principal's Report

Ms. Christine FANG, Mr. CHAN Chek-biu, Mr. Jacky WONG, Mr. TAM Koon-che, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls.

Welcome to our Annual Speech Day.

We are greatly honoured to have Miss FANG as our Guest of Honour today. This is a day to be remembered, for as far as I know, the School has not invited a lady Guest of Honour for the Speech Day before.

Ms. FANG studied from lower six and upper six here from 1975 to 1977. According to our records, she passed the Advanced Level Examination with flying colours and gained a place to study Social Work at the University of Hong Kong. Our late Principal, Mr. MADAN, described her as 'intellectually oriented, outstandingly analytical and able to plan work efficiently.' Mr. MADAN wrote, '... she will continue to do well, especially in situations where she needs to encourage others and to act responsibly.' So, sitting before us is the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), an umbrella organization of over 350 non-governmental organizations that provide 90% of the social welfare services in Hong Kong.

Ms. FANG started her social work career as a community worker working with marginalized communities and then became a lecturer in social work at the Hong Kong Polytechnic School of Applied Social Studies. Prior to joining HKCSS, she was the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Red Cross, accumulating rich experience in both local and international welfare sectors. Needless to say, she incessantly contributes tremendously to society as a member of a variety of government and non-government advisory committees such as the Commission on Strategic Development, Manpower Development Committee, Sustainable Development Council, Hong Kong Press Council, Centre for Civil Society and Governance of the University of Hong Kong, China Association of Social Workers, etc. We shall be hearing her words of wisdom later in the day.

Last academic year began with a major event – the External School Review. It was a full-scale examination of the operation of the school since a Quality Assurance

Inspection around the year 2000. Let me read you some concluding remarks from the ESR report. *“King’s College has a long and distinguished history, of which its staff and students are proud. Its mission is to develop, through a balanced education, the full potential of its students so that they become well-rounded adults. The school is well organized and administered and policies are clearly set and understood. Curriculum adaptation and changes in teaching approaches are underway to prepare for the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure. Self-evaluation structures and practices are developing so as to inform planning for school improvement. Teachers are knowledgeable and show concern for their students who, in turn, are eager to learn and work hard in their studies. Students are well supported, both in their academic work and in daily school life and their behavior is very good. Relationships between teachers and students are harmonious and the school culture is positive, with a strong sense of belonging. Parents and alumni strongly support the school and hold it in high esteem.”*

There are areas for improvement. We are grateful that the ESR Team pointed out the need to establish an even stronger link between self-evaluation and planning. While affirming our efforts in promoting a student-centred approach in pedagogy, it cautioned on how changes have to be sustainable. It noted the imbalance in performance of our students in the arts and the science subjects and remarked that *‘a strong and sustained commitment will be needed to change the present culture’*. Moreover, it suggested that as a priority issue, the School should establish a policy to promote the use of English across all aspects of school life beyond formal interchanges in lessons.

While we may not agree totally to all their remarks, we noted that some echoed our own observations and concerns. We have set up a team to consider follow-up actions this year. No matter how good an ESR team is, a couple of days is naturally inadequate to know about all facets of our School. We know of issues holding up our development that we would rather keep to ourselves. There are also structural difficulties that cannot be changed overnight. At the request of our School Management Committee, we did an in-depth study of the arts vs. science performance issue. We found that the competitive nature of subject selection pushed the academically less able students to the arts stream, which in fact called for more proficiency in the use of English. We shall pay special attention to such a factor in designing our choice of subject mechanism in the future, especially for the new senior secondary academic structure.

As a school administrator working at the front-line, I would judge an organization by its possession of a forward moving momentum; whether there is a harmonious atmosphere among its stakeholders as they work for a unified goal and whether it is

serious about its future. King's College does not score full marks in any of these aspects. However, I can see a more than satisfactory rating in all. I am proud that my colleagues proposed an innovative, practicable, broad and balanced suggestion to meet the new 3+3 curriculum reform. Their Columbian courage in venturing into areas to be explored signified a praiseworthy commitment and devotion. Our other strategic decision to embrace the education reform is a whole-school approach in pedagogical transformation, emphasizing learning rather than teaching. However, while knowing that without advancement in this respect we would not be able to unleash the potential of our students, I can only report here that we have taken a small step forward up till now.

During last year, life went on as usual only with a more fully-packed timetable. There seemed to be an endless amount of work for teachers and I must record my appreciation of those working whole-heartedly for the students and the School. We had reasonably good results in public examinations as usual. The average number of credits and distinctions was maintained at around four point five per student in the Certificate of Education Examination. Mr. TONG Yu-tai, scoring nine distinctions, was awarded the Government Scholarship for being one of the top students in that examination. In fact, we have no shortage of prize winners both academically and in other aspects. Details can be found in our School Magazine or the Profile in your hand. I would like to mention in particular a Mr. CHOW Him-wo of S4 last year. He obtained a bronze medal in the 4th International Junior Science Olympiad. He told me that he had never come first in class and did not know why he was chosen to participate in the international event. When his teacher nominated him, he dedicatedly followed a course run by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and obtained the admirable reward. I am sure that we have loads of talents among us. They will be somebody if a suitable opportunity is given them.

Before I end my report, I have to congratulate the graduates on having gone through a happy period of their life in our School and the prize winners for their achievements. But beware; somebody is trying to overtake you. I have to thank the parents for their understanding and unfailing support. The school owes much of its success to you. Last year, an alumnus Mr. SUNG Sheung-hong donated a million dollars to the School to promote creative education. This year, we have four new scholarships from our alumni: two donated by the 1957 graduates to the most deserving students promoting the languages and two donated by Mr. Pato LEUNG in memory of his mother, valued at \$5000 each, to the students excelling in both Chinese and English at the same time. Our alumni have set an excellent example for students in this hall. I am sure that some years later, you will come back to pay your tribute to the School.

I still have a long list of persons to thank: the School Management Committee, the EDB, the clerical staff, the laboratory staff, the workmen, etc. We are all part of a great team. Lastly, I must mention the tremendous contributions of my assistant principals Mrs. CHO Heidi and Mrs. KWAN CHEUNG Chau-wan. They were unmistakably forgiving in working with me and should have been principals judging from their superb performances. Mrs. KWAN retired in September 2008. We wish her the best of health in the future. With the change in school management personnel in these few years, there is an urgent need for our middle managers to get themselves equipped to take up higher positions.

Thank you.