

Mr. Lau giving his speech

# Annual Speech Day

This year, our Annual Speech Day was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. We were honoured to have Mr. Mr. LAU Lai-chiu, JP, Director of Lands, Lands Department, and his wife to be our guest of honor.

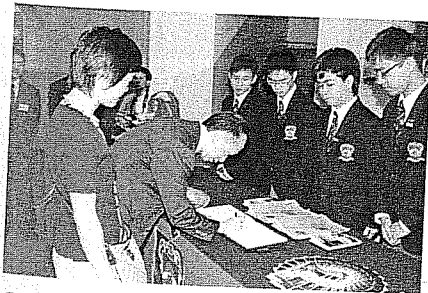
With the solemn National Anthem of our motherland, the ceremony commenced with our Principal, Mr. Ho Yue-shun delivering his school report. He started by introducing our guests of honoured, followed by the highlights of some of the school's achievement and the new projects afterwards. At the end of his speech, he went on to express his gratitude to the King's College Old Boys' Association and the King's College Parents Teachers Association for their enormous support in the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King's College.

After the principal's report, the ceremony continued with the presentation of prizes and scholarships by M.r and Mrs. Lau. Mr. Lau then gave an inspiring address to the school. In his speech, he recalled his past memories in King's College, where he acquired a lot of skills that are essential requirements in his subsequent career development. He also emphasized the sense of belongings to the school and to Hong Kong, which all Kingsians should have. His enlightening speech won a big round of applause of all students and guests.

The ceremony concluded with music performance by the school Harmonica Ensemble and the Chinese Orchestra, followed by the proud and loud rendition of the school song.



Music performance by our Harmonica Band



Guests arriving at King's College



Commencement of the Annual Speech Day



Our Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Lau Lai-Chiu, JP, and his wife

# Annual Speech Day, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006

## Principal's Report

Mr. and Mrs. LAU, Mr. LAM, Mrs. SO, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls:

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to our annual Speech Day.

Our Guest of Honour, Mr. Patrick LAU, Director of Lands, studied the matriculation course in our School from 1967 to 1969 before crossing the Bonham Road to further his pursuit of knowledge with the University of Hong Kong. Not surprisingly, we find praises like reliable, hard-working, conscientious, polite, co-operative, cheerful, and pleasing in personality, etc. in his record. He was Chairman of the Debating Society, Vice-chairman of the Stamp Club, a Class Monitor, a Student Librarian, and a member of the History Society, Geography Society and Chess Club. I am sure the breadth of interest he cultivated during the period with us must have profoundly influenced his character so he can shoulder the immense responsibilities he is facing now.

Upon graduation with an Honours degree in Social Sciences from HKU in 1972, Mr. LAU joined the Hong Kong Government as a civil servant. The early part of his career was largely related to work in the field of trade and industrial policies, bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, and local government administration. Mr. LAU was Deputy Head of the Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR from 2001 to 2002 and Deputy Secretary for Planning and Lands from 1997 to 2001. Since May 2002, Mr. LAU has been Director of the Lands Department. He is also an ex-officio member of the Housing Authority, the Town Planning Board, the Supervisory Board of the Hong Kong Housing Society and a non-executive Director of the Board of the Urban Renewal Authority.

Last year we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of our School. Eighty years sound like eternity, yet it was just yesterday when we looked back through time. We are now sitting in the same building that was built in 1926, and it has developed tremendously since then. It was the efforts of the people working here and the students who have studied here that made 'King's College' a name respected all over the world. To quote the words of Mr. Gilbert Mo, a renowned graduate of ours, "people kept a record somewhere. Our deeds either add points or get points deducted from it. The prestige of the School reflects the aggregate of these points." Cautiously we thus heed our steps. Proudly we look at our achievements.

Students celebrated the 80th Anniversary with gathered strengths and good external examination results. In last year's HKCEE, we surpassed the year before by 0.2 grades. On the average, each student scored 3.5 distinctions or credits. In spite of the difficulty of climbing new heights when one is already in a high position, students achieved positive added-values in the majority of subjects, including the core three, i.e. English, Chinese and Mathematics, and the best six. Even when many of our top students had been admitted into the top universities through the Early Admission Scheme, similar positive added-values could be found for the A-level results. David LEE of Secondary 5 obtained nine distinctions last year and a boy in the Sixth Form, Mr. TAM Ka-lun, gained a scholarship for four years to study at the Harvard University. You can find a fuller list of academic accomplishments our students attained in our School Magazine, and it can only be described as extensive. I have to congratulate the graduates, the students and teachers for up keeping the academic standard of our School and wish them continued success in their future.

Our students celebrated the 80th Anniversary with all-round achievements. We may have been too humble in the past to talk about our successes. To tell some of the good results that might have escaped even our own students, Mr. WONG Ka-yu of S6, was Champion at the 2006 National Youth Handball Summer Camp organized by the PRC General Administration of Sport of China. Mr. LEUNG Hei-lok of S3 ranked second in the Gyeonggi category of the World Hwarang Taekwondo Championship 2005. Mr. CHIU Ho-fai of S7 was individual champion in the Boys A Grade Squash Tournament organized by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation while Mr. CHAN Chun-lam of S2 gained the Second Runner-up place in the division of the Hong Kong Junior Open Squash Tournament for boys under 13. Our Chess Team was Champion in the 19th Hong Kong Secondary Schools Chinese Chess Tournament. Mr. TONG Ho-man of S6 was Champion in the senior secondary schools Chinese Chess division of the 31st National Youth Xue Yi Competitions, where another Kingsian, Mr. NG Wai-ho of S7, was second runner-up. During this 80th year, our Basketball Team, Volleyball Team, Handball Team and Table-tennis Team were all in Division One. Our Badminton Team and Swimming Team, though in Division Two, were third runner-up in the HONG KONG SCHOOL SPORTS FEDERATION competitions.

Our achievements in music are always dazzling. It is well-known that our Harmonica Band has a position in the world arena. I have to thank the conductor Mr. KUAN Man-ho for his dedicated efforts in building up the team. But it came so naturally as he is a Kingsian himself. We scored three championships, one prize for first runner-up and one for second runner-up at the World Harmonica Festival held in October 2005 in Germany. Isn't it fascinating that a secondary school can play such an important role in producing new generations of outstanding musicians in the world? Last year, our Treble Choir was invited to perform in St. John's Cathedral in a thanksgiving mass to celebrate the birthday of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who is of the same age as our School. Our choir members brought glory to the School with their angelic voices. So, when I said that friends would regret not coming to our Anniversary Celebration Concert on 4 July, I was not joking. On that night, we showed vividly what we meant by "Affirming old traditions, Climbing new heights".

Last year, the School joined hands with the Parents Teachers Association and the Old Boys Association in staging a variety of celebration activities. Again, you can find detailed descriptions of them in our School Magazine. They were to glorify our College. I have to put on record the contributions of Madam Manna YU, our ex-PTA Chairperson, who played outstandingly the part of a caring mother to make things happen. Our Old Boys were resourceful planners with wonderful ideas and a long list of alumni who might be able to help. We were indeed lucky that not all the ideas we talked about actually materialized. That would have definitely been too tiresome for everybody. As for the School, it played the part of a backstage manager to tie up loose ends. Staying out of the limelight, our teachers backed up all the functions. We should be grateful to them as they were what Master LU Xun called "孺子牛" in nurturing youngsters with their milk but claiming no credits. They made decorations for the Public Lectures; worked at counters at the Grand Banquet; prepared for the Home-coming, etc., to make sure that nothing would go wrong. Like I said earlier, teachers' strong affiliation to the School has always been a reason for it to shine throughout the years.

Teachers are concerned about building a bright future for the School. I reported last year that a group of five very brave teachers took up the Herculean task of investigating the opportunities and threats for our School in going DSS, as proposed by a graduate member of the School

Management Committee two years ago. Their work was painstaking. Their report had been submitted to the SMC in April as scheduled. The matter is awaiting further development and I have nothing more to report at present.

To conclude my report, I would like to tell you about two incidents. In time, these will be stories for the coming generations to tell. During our 80th Anniversary Open Day, I met an old man, Mr. YEUNG Kai-shu, and his son sitting on a bench overlooking our garden. We talked for some time and his spirits were high then. He was a graduate of 1934 after completing Class 12. Unfortunately, Mr. YEUNG passed away in September, suffering a sudden illness. His son Dr. YEUNG wrote to us to donate a scholarship, saying that his late father had always spoken fondly of the School and was very proud to be awarded a prize in English at his graduation ceremony. The new scholarship will go to a student helping to promote English education in the School. I am touched to note how the School has the magic to call back long lasting feelings of old and generate new momentum for the young.

About two weeks ago, we had this year's Games Day. A graduate, Mr. CHONG Sui-yun, came back to play basketball. He is now in S7 but studying in another school. The new school selected him as a Deputy Head Prefect. When we met, he said proudly, "I have not let King's College down." He never knew what an impact his words made on me! What if we all do the same and not let down King's College; isn't this how "Old King's College will live forever"?

Ladies and Gentlemen, the best is yet to come. Thank you.

# Athletics Meet



Our Guest-of-Honour

On seeing the stream of young spectators flooding into Wan Chai Sports Ground, the average passerby might have assumed they were flocking to a momentous festival. In reality, he would have been witnessing the congregation of Kingsians for our Annual Athletics Meet, which is indisputably one of the highlights of the school year.

We gather to support our respective houses, our ears assailed by the deafening cheering of the crowd, our morale boosted by the exhortations of the House Captains, and have the sense of participating in an event that cements our sense of belonging to both our school and our house.

As usual, before the official opening of the event, we witnessed the annual rituals of the house members doing last their minute practices, student officials bustling busily about the enclosure, and athletes warming up at every corner of the stadium. Then, with the rousing rendition of the school song still echoing in our ears, we watched the first event set the competition in motion.

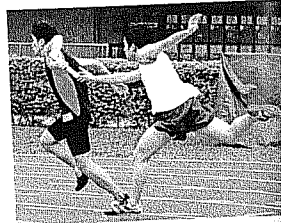
This was a year in which the houses were quite evenly matched. Only occasionally did one or two athletes dominate events, hence the closely fought competitions created great suspense, allowing as they did dramatic recoveries roared on by the cheering crowds. And yet cheers of appreciation were also reserved for the ones who had tried their best and came in far behind, as we know that it would be impossible for our house to achieve success without their spirit of endeavour.

Passing on the torch from one generation to the next has always been the secret of our school's success, as can be observed in the inclusion in the four times one hundred meter relay of a team made up of members of our Old Boys Association. Every year that I have attended the Athletics Meet, on seeing the Old Boys participate in this event, I have realized what gratitude they must feel towards their alma mater, and have sensed a strong surge of King's spirit in my heart.

At the conclusion of the event, an old boy of high achievement delivered a speech, as is the tradition. Listening to those words of wisdom, I wondered which of us would achieve his eminence and one day become the guest of honour, when all of us have grown up.



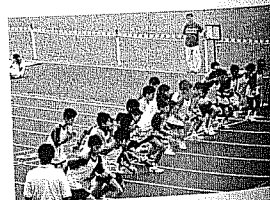
Participant of the high jump event



Competitors cooperating in the track event



Contestants competing for the 100 metres hurdle medals



The start of a track event



Winning their medals

2007-08

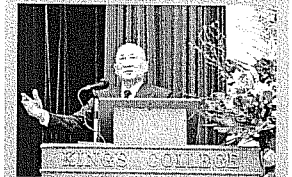
# Annual Speech Day

This year, our Annual Speech Day was held on 7th December, 2007. All of us took pride in having Mr. Sung Sheung-hong, eminent graduate of our school, and his wife as our Guests of Honour.

With the solemn National Anthem of our motherland, the ceremony commenced with our Principal, Mr. Ho Yue-shun, delivering his school report. After introducing our Guests of Honour, he talked briefly about our students' encouraging improvements in last year's Certificate of Education Examination, and some school programmes designed to help students with their whole-person development, including the preparation for the New Senior Secondary Curriculum. At the end of his speech, he congratulated the graduates and prize-winners, and expressed his gratitude to the Parents Teachers Association and teachers for their unflinching commitment in maintaining the school's reputation and prestige.

The Principal's report was then followed with the presentation of prizes and scholarships by the Guests of Honour. The exemplary accomplishments of these prize winners are bound to encourage their schoolmates to emulate them. After that, Mr. Sung addressed the school, sharing with us the remarkable and thought-provoking experiences of his life. His enlightening speech won a big round of applause from all the students and guests.

The ceremony continued with the music performance of our Harmonica Ensemble and Orchestra. With Mr. Sung's inspiring speech still in mind, our graduates and fellow schoolmates sang the school song loudly and proudly to mark the conclusion of the ceremony, and the beginning of the many challenging years that lie ahead.



Music Performance by our Chinese Orchestra

# Principal's Report

Mr. and Mrs. SUNG, Mr. CHAN, Mrs. SO, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls.

I take much pleasure in introducing to you Mr. SUNG, our honourable guest today. He is unique to our College, being the most senior alumnus we have ever met. He entered the College in 1927, the second year after the College was founded. In his days, the school system began with Class Eight. Students were promoted yearly to Class One when they would compete for places at the University of Hong Kong. There was only one University then. Mr. SUNG did not reach Class One as he was handpicked by the principal to sit the matriculation examination one year earlier together with three other students. He successfully entered HKU to study mechanical engineering in 1933, making history as being among the first batch of students to enter university from this College.

Mr. SUNG keeps a low profile though his contributions to society are immense. It is always a pleasure to talk with him, to hear about his experience and opinions on life through his intelligent words. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Welding and he must be proud to have been elected a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineering on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1954 when he was only thirty seven years old. He was probably the first person in Hong Kong to acquire such a title. The Dean of the Engineering Faculty, who was the Professor of Mechanical Engineering when Mr. SUNG studied at HKU, was only an Associate Member. He joined the Standard Research Institute as an Associate in April 1971, The Conference Board as an Associate Member in November 1977 and the Pacific Basin Economic Council as a member in January 1983. All these organizations are considered the top associations on world business and economics affairs, which only a few Hong Kong residents have been invited to join. In 2003, Mr. SUNG was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Mr. SUNG served also on a lot of Boards, Committees and Councils of the Hong Kong Government. The Industry Advisory Board, the Vocational Training Council Committee on Technical Education, The Advisory Council on the Environment, The Trade and Industry Advisory Board are some examples. He was a Council Member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce for nearly fifteen years and acted as Chairman of the Industrial Committee, the Middle East Committee, the Intellectual Properties Committee, etc. Furthermore, he was the President of the Rotary Club, HK and served on the Rotary International for many years. In 1982, he received the Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. SUNG has another long and impressive list of community services of which I shall only highlight a few. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a past Chairman of the VTC Training Council, a past Chairman of the Management Committee of the Factory for the Blind, a Vice-President of the United Bible Society, etc. Most important of all, he has been the Chairman and Superintendent of the Pentecostal Mission, Hong Kong and Kowloon, since 1958. We all admire his good health, clear-headedness and success. He attributes them to his religion. We shall listen to his words of wisdom later in the day.

The eighty-first year of the School has been a peaceful one. After the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration programmes to which all staff members contributed their talents and loyalty, we have come back to a more routine school life. In the past Speech Days, I seldom began my report with academic achievements as this is only one of the important areas that we are concerned about and do not want to give more emphasis to it than it deserves. Nevertheless, I would like to make an exception this year - partly because we have very encouraging improvement in the Certificate of Education Examinations, and students and teachers will not forgive me if I do not give priority to them, and partly because I want to share with you one of my reflections. Compared with the previous year, we had a huge jump in the number of distinctions and credits scored. The mean figure per student rose to 4.85, which is certainly high enough to boost the morale of all teachers and students. Let me first congratulate them on their efforts and accomplishments, not forgetting the parents who have given their children staunch support and unconditional encouragement.

What made the difference between this year and the past? We know that our S1 intake is relatively stable. Last year, our admirable teachers tried their best to help students just like they did in any other year. While there were no syllabuses for English Language and Chinese Language, the good results came not just from them. By looking at the characteristics of the students again, I can think of one answer: their attitude! This group of students has determination to succeed. We were glad to see that not all of them were committed to their studies and they had positive influence on one another. Their hard work began even earlier than in S4. Even the weaker ones, they had even faced more difficulties; they might be logging on to the computer, they might have had more moments of despair; they might have given up! This is an incredibly important lesson for us and I am thankful for it. With confidence and perseverance, success is only a kilometer away.

I mentioned on many occasions that life in King's College is never dull. Students continued to excel at the colourful activities they joined. The glories they brought can be found in our School Magazine, the booklet in your hand or on our Homepage. Please pardon me for not repeating them here. Nevertheless, I would like to record my appreciation of the excellent work of the Student Union in bringing joy and unity among staff and students, bringing a soft but refreshing breeze amid the intensity of academic pursuits. The hearty laughter or a concerted sigh of disappointment in the playground when a goal was missed in the Staff Vs Students soccer matches; the deafening cheers and jeers inside the School Hall when some teachers sang Christmas carols; the expectant eyes and cunning smiles of the students when some lady teachers gave creative cooking demonstrations in the covered playground; the serious endeavour to overcome physical awkwardness when practicing a group dance for the Singing Contest; all added up to a world of harmony within our red brick walls, tightly knitting our souls together under the symbolic Fig Tree. Ladies and gentlemen, this is how the King's spirit is built.

Last year, we continued with our preparation for the New Senior Secondary curriculum. We established some principles in determining the subject combinations to be offered, including the requirement that students have to study subjects from at least two Key Learning Areas. We shall build on our present strength and give appropriate attention to the constraints on teacher availability. We shall let students explore their interests and know about the subjects before making their choices. Teachers were anxiously seeking training to know about new emphases and the latest assessment methodologies. At the same time, we anticipated problems in manpower planning, in teaching spaces, in starting the new curriculum one year earlier, etc. I am sure that our staff members will do their best to ensure a smooth transition. We shall also keep parents and students informed of our progress.

Coupled with NSS is a question of learning and teaching. We believe that without looking into pedagogy, the essence of the education reform can hardly be put into effect. Last year, we started collaborative teaching and some lesson studies. Teachers were grouped together to study how they could teach a topic well, with more student participation, more group interaction and more emphasis on high-level thinking. We are happy that all teachers participated actively and gave valuable suggestions on the lessons observed. We were taking a cautious step forward to test how deep the water is. Anyway, teachers have to experiment in order to convince themselves of the need to change and to know how changes can be effectively attained.

We had a tragedy last year. A S3 student fell off a rooftop and ended his life. The School was shocked to find out how deep some students could hide their feelings. On the day of the incident, we quickly started our Crisis Management mechanism and two hours after knowing about the incident, we had a full team of social workers working on stabilizing the emotions of the students. Students affected were identified and counselled. Follow-up actions continued for several weeks until the funeral of the deceased. Students were given opportunities to express their condolences. We identified two areas needing special attention: early detection and how to heal from uncontrollable behaviours associated with playing computer games. A series of seminars were staged for parents to learn more about the first issue and several camps were arranged for needy students to cater for the second concern. Activities were also organized for students to appreciate the beauty and positive values of life. I have to thank the Boys and Girls Association and our Parents Teachers Association for their immediate, thoughtful and professional support.

KCPTA is one of our unfaltering allies. Their adventure-based activity Best of the Best has helped many students to build up confidence throughout the years. Mrs. SO, the Chairlady, took the lead in joining the programme herself. She hiked steep hills to watch the first rays of sunlight with the students. She climbed high fences taller than herself. Her total devotion in nurturing future leaders is highly commendable. Last year, the programme was extended to parents. I joined their closing ceremony and was deeply impressed when parents shared how they witnessed growth in their children and how they learned to 'let go'.

Before ending my report, I must congratulate once again the graduates and prize winners for their achievements. I must record my gratitude to the teachers for their total commitment in keeping the School a prestigious and highly regarded one. I must record my gratitude to the clerical staff for taking good care of the school building and providing good support to the teachers. I must record my gratitude to the social workers for their patience and concern in caring for our students. I must record my gratitude to my Assistant Principals for their unfailing support and their exemplary leadership to make everything possible.

Last but not least, I must thank Mr. and Mrs. SUNG again for gracing this occasion with their presence. We must also thank Mr. SUNG for his generosity in donating a million dollars to the school to support promoting creativity among his junior schoolmates.

Thank you.

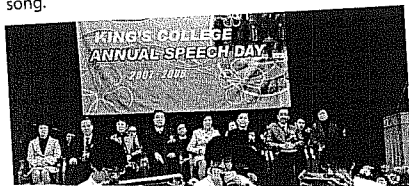
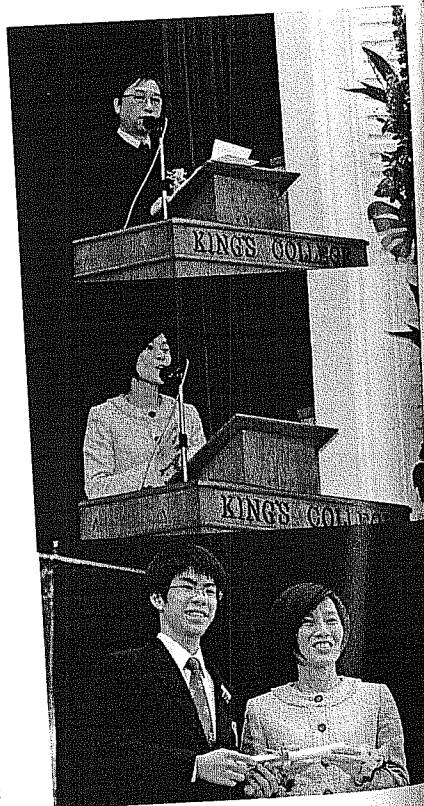
# Annual Speech Day

This year, our Annual Speech Day, which was scheduled a month later than usual, was held on 9th January 2009. We were honoured to have Ms. Christine Fang, JP, Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, as our guest of honour.

Following the solemn National Anthem of our motherland, our Principal, Mr. Ho Yue-shun delivered his report on the school year. He started by introducing our guest of honour, and went on to highlight the school's achievements during the year, and then outlined new projects that had been launched. At the end of the speech, he congratulated the graduates and prize-winners, and expressed his gratitude to the Parent Teacher Association, and to teachers for their unfailing commitment to maintaining the school's reputation and prestige.

After the principal's report, the ceremony continued with the presentation of prizes and scholarships by Ms. Fang. The exemplary accomplishments of the prize winners are bound to encourage their schoolmates to emulate them. After that, Ms. Fang gave an inspiring address to the school. In her speech, she recalled her memories of King's College, where she acquired a lot of skills that proved to be essential requirements for the development of her subsequent career. She also shared with us the remarkable and thought-provoking experiences of her life. Her enlightening speech won a big round of applause from all the students and guests.

The ceremony concluded with a music performance by the school Harmonica Ensemble, followed by a proud and loud rendition of the school song.



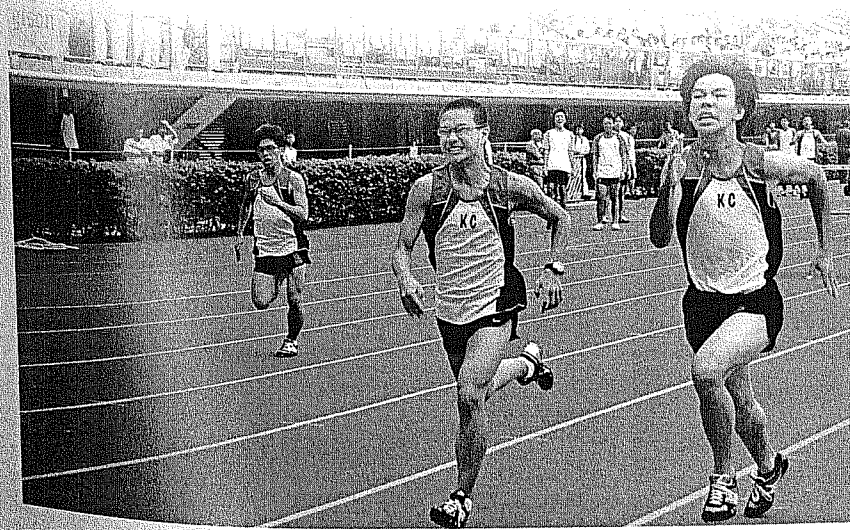
# Athletics Meet

To many students, the Athletics Meet is the day that offers them an opportunity to show off their sporting talents and win glory for their houses. Granted, it means more than that in King's College. Indeed, this is a very special chance for the athletes to display their sportsmanship, sense of belonging and unity, as well as their support for one another. This year, our schoolmates have written their own stories and demonstrated the true meaning of the Athletics Meet.

On 2nd October 2008 and 13th October 2008, the big family of King's College gathered at the Wan Chai Sports Ground early in the morning. The weather was fine and everything was as good as it could be. Thanks to the concerted effort and impeccable enthusiasm of the athletes, the officials and the teachers, the event ran smoothly over the two days.

Throughout the event of the year, the athletes competed with all their strength and determination. Although most of them might never be numbered among the winners, and some even stumbled and fell, they simply never gave up and tried their best to reach their goals. They truly set a good example, acting as role models demonstrating what real sportsmanship is all about, and thus they all won a huge round of applause from the spectators.

At the end of the event, loud cheers erupted when the prizes were presented to the winners by our Guest of Honour, Mr. Kuan Man-hou. As the event came to an end, we were all delighted to have witnessed a fair competition demonstrating the admirable commitment of all who took part. Finally, the enlightening speech given by Mr. Kuan Man-hou perfectly rounded off what had been yet another highly successful Athletics Meet.



## 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 form 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

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 the 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 wholeheartedly 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.

2009 - 2010

The Fig Tree King's College 2009-2010



# Interview with our Principal, **Mr. Ho**

Date : 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2010 (Monday)  
 Time : 3:45 p.m.  
 Venue : Principal Room in King's College  
 Reporters : Austin Hsu Lok-tim, Steven Chong Wai-leung,  
 Chow Him-wo, Benjamin Lui Man-hin,  
 Kelvin Cheng Ming-kwan

R: Reporters, H: Mr. Ho Yue-shun

R: You have been principal of King's College for more than ten years and are retiring soon. Are there any memories or anything that you will really miss?

H: I was transferred to King's College to be the Principal in September 1997 and I have stayed here for thirteen years. When you raised the question, what immediately came across my mind was the poem 《和子由澠池懷舊》 by Su Shi (蘇軾). One of the lines reads 「應似飛鴻踏雪泥」. Frankly speaking, I am not one of those sentimental people that have many memories to miss. Retirement from earning a salary is inevitable in life.

R: Being the head of King's College for more than a decade, did you come across anything that you found difficult to forget?

H: When you talk about 'unforgettable memories', there is nothing more than people in the school and things that happened here. In my 13-year in King's, I have come across students who are diligent and obedient. One loved the School so much as to wear the school uniform at his funeral. Nevertheless, we also have students who did things unworthy of being a member here - a few appeared even like rascals. I am sure that they will one day regret the wrongs they did.

We have some very responsible teachers in the school as well. They cared about the school's development. I remember spending time with some colleagues doing research as requested by the Education Department on whether or not the

school should change to operate under the Direct-subsidy Scheme (DSS). I appreciate the boldness of these teachers willing to take up the Herculean task and this methodical ways to surmount difficulties one by one. The report they submitted to the School Management Committee was highly praised for its quality.

Again, let me quote from Su Shi's same poem, 「往日崎嶇還記否，人生長路塞驢嘶」, life is a journey with burdens that I would rather look forward than backwards.

R: It is understandable that the job of the principal is strenuous. Despite this, there should have been some rewarding moments in your work. Can you share some of them with us?

H: You are repeating the same question again. It seems that you really want some answers! Well, things don't get finished in a day or two and many policies and events are still in progress. Besides, nothing in the world is perfect, so we are only doing our best.

Managing change is a challenging task here. In the era of elitist education, King's College had all the top students in Hong Kong. As the education policies change towards education for all, we are admitting students of a wider range of abilities and mindsets. Working out a system to climb new heights and motivating the less able ones at the same time is not easy, not to mention that we have now very self-centered students and over protective parents.

To give one example of change, you might have



2009-2010

Interviews

noticed that when we amended the discipline rules these years, we explained the new rules to students first and proactively sought their participation before implementation. This is an important step towards democracy. The last thing we wanted to do is to make all the decisions on things affecting the students while they do not even have a chance to express their opinions

R: Have you undertaken any special events or matters that you were proud of?

H: Come to think of it, we did put great effort to the maintenance of the school building. Over these 13 years, all parts of the school have undergone renovation and a new wing has been erected. I have to thank the Architectural Services Department for their cooperation. Certainly there are things that could have been done better. For instance, windows along the corridors of the new wing were designed to open outwards and posed threats to students. They are now replaced with sliding ones. Whenever the school knows of an area that can be improved, we will do something about it. The original red tiles covering the external walls of the new wing were changed to the present style as they fell off due to bad craftsmanship. However, I received senseless and ridiculous accusations on this for many years; some were even directed to the press.

When I first came, water leakage in the swimming pool was so serious that the pool water level dropped by several inches in a week. I casually mentioned it during an Architectural Services Department's visit. Out of my expectation, they agreed to overhaul the whole pool and re-build it beautifully. We never know when seeds sown will grow into tall trees. Do we?

But of all the renovation work, I am most pleased with the cleaning of the red bricks of the old campus to return them to their former glamour. This had not been done since the building was erected in 1926. Of course, the installation of air-conditioners in the School Hall is also worthy of mentioning as it was the result of incessant pleas and applications.

Here, I would like to use the opportunity to correct a misconception that the school used most of its resources for renovations. This is simply not true! The Architectural Services Department paid for nearly all of them. That is why we have to be patient and build a strong case for each of our suggestions in order

to impress upon them that the work proposed is absolutely necessary.

R: Have you ever felt regret for anything throughout your career?

H: Well, reality is different from a drama. Happy endings do not necessarily happen. Perhaps, the greatest regret in life is not failure, but in non-participation. Instead of only focusing on the results all the time, we should enjoy the process of solving our problems. For me, when I have to face a task or a problem, I set targets, work hard, strategize, hope for the best and prepare for the worst. You will never have everything going 'as planned'. It would also be too idealistic to expect everybody to have high moral standards and behave perfectly. Education is after all not as simple as baking bread. In fact, molding everyone to the same standard, even a high one, is a bad thing. I am sure that every Kingsian will learn to be a considerate and responsible person as they grow up.

R: It seems to us that you are still energetic and passionate as proven by your devotion to the school. Would you mind telling us what led to your decision to retire? Did you have to overcome any struggles or barriers in your mind before you came to the decision?

H: It is actually not too difficult to decide when your blood pressure goes up to 200, isn't it? Besides, I am over 59 years of age by September and have to retire when I reach 60 anyway. It is only a matter of one year. Last year when Mrs. Cho, our vice principal, retired, I already wanted to do so. But I didn't think it appropriate for the School to experience too great a change in the administrative level, so I decided to defer my retirement plan until this year.



The King's College 2009-2010  
The King's College 2009-2010  
The King's College 2009-2010  
The King's College 2009-2010  
The King's College 2009-2010

al,  
lo

ai-leung,  
n,

he Direct-  
oldness of  
clean task  
difficulties  
the School  
sed for its

oem, 「往  
a journey  
ward than

: principal  
have been  
c. Can you

n. It seems  
nings don't  
olicies and  
ing in the  
est.

ere. In the  
all the top  
on policies  
admitting  
I mindsets  
ights and  
me time is  
v very self-  
ents.  
ight have

2009-2010

Interviews

R: Switching from the current secondary school structure to the New Senior Secondary structure has given teachers immense stress. As a principal, what is your role in helping teachers to deal with their challenges?

H: All committed teachers will experience pressure. They come with the profession. There are, however, new stresses from three different dimensions.

First and foremost, our society has changed with new values developed in the younger generation that teachers have to rediscover or adapt to. Family structures become more complicated and technology has advanced. Secondly, the education system is changing rapidly on a grand scale in all respects. Teachers found that they are to follow new policies developed by people who are so far away from the frontline as to cast doubts on the policies. Some are frustrated, some are skeptical, and some even are dissatisfied with the proposed changes. A feeling of "they're not to reason why, they're but to do and die" adds negative emotions! Lastly, there is an accountability structure that comes from the commercial sector to haunt educators as if they are always the culprit for things gone wrong.

In the preparation for the NSS, since teachers know the curriculum and the relevant teaching approaches better than I do, I shall thus support them with resources and handle the related administrative work. The school employed a number of teacher assistants to help and we steered a course to improve pedagogy, which is an essential success criterion for the education reform. The school also ensured that the reform process is smooth and stakeholders' queries answered.

R: Some say that King's College students put too much emphasis on their academic performance, so they lack other learning experiences. Do you agree? If so, what do you think we should do in order to strike a balance between them?

H: No, the School encourages students to develop in any sector they prefer, provided that they can strike a balance between academic and non-academic pursuits. Our students have reasonably good performances at competitions in all aspects. A university professor told me in recent years that though some 'local prestigious schools' scored magnificently at the A-level examinations, their students were far inferior in organizing activities

when compared with those coming from the 'traditional prestigious schools' like us.

My concern about Kingsians, on the other hand, is on how to promote team spirit instead of putting too many emphases on individual achievements. We had a very good tradition of helping one another and winning glory as a group. Let us continue to encourage such virtues in the school.

R: While you have been the principal, you still have put much effort into promoting mathematics. What is the rationale behind this?

H: I taught mathematics for many years and had been active in the mathematics education field. This is an area that I am fond of and am good at. I started teaching a class last year because I wanted to do something I like before leaving the profession. The experience with the students has been rewarding.

R: King's College students are competitive in science and mathematics. What do you think can be done to enhance their performance in these areas?

H: Undoubtedly students in King's College are full of potential. I don't have many tips for them except for the following three suggestions. Firstly, students should not take solving a problem as the ultimate success. There are more lessons to learn from failures! Secondly, they should read more reference books, both for fun and for insights. Reference books usually give more in-depth explanations of mathematical theories and illustrate the relationship between different parts of the curricula. Lastly, they should not be bound by textbooks or a general curriculum to be studied by all students in Hong Kong. If you are a better student, you have the ability to move ahead of the others.

R: As the day of your retirement approaches. Do you have any final words of encouragement you would like to say to all the staff and students?

H: King's College is a great school. It is and has always been. It is a place where dreams can come true and hearts will be kept warm. To both staff and students, there is always a life for the School's tomorrow that you can play a part. So join hands and be a proud Kingsian. In return, let the School be proud because of you.

Goodbye.

The Fig Tree King's College 2009-2010

Ir M B Dat Tim Ven Rep

R: Y: F: i f c T r t in I c a e

2009-2010

# Speech Day



This year, our Annual Speech Day was scheduled on 18th December, 2009. We were honoured to have Mr. Ching Cheong and his wife, who was a distinguished old girl of our school, to be our guests of honour.

The event commenced with the solemn National Anthem of our motherland, followed by our Principal, Mr. Ho Yue-shun, who delivered his school report. After introducing our guests of honour, he went on highlighting the school's achievements during the year and outlined new projects that had been launched for the students under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum. He also congratulated the graduates and prize-winners, and expressed his gratitude to the Parent Teacher Association and teachers for their tremendous support during the year.

Following the principal's report, the ceremony continued with the presentation of prizes and scholarships by our guests of honour. The exemplary accomplishments of these prize winners are bound to encourage their schoolmates to emulate them. After that, Mr. Ching addressed the school. In his speech, not only did he share with us his remarkable experiences of his secondary school life, but he also encouraged us by giving us three pieces of advice. He suggested that we should always learn to be give thanks, learn to think optimistically, and learn to broaden our horizons. His inspiring speech drew a big round of applause from the audience.

The music performances by our School Harmonica Ensemble and String Quartet were a fascinating form of entertainment for our guests. The ceremony ended by our graduates and fellow schoolmates singing the school song in a sonorous and proud manner, which harkened the end of one academic year and the start of another challenging year!

The Fig Tree - King's College 2009-2010

W

six. Th  
includ  
secon  
were c  
adapt  
school

S  
D  
T.

Th  
all For  
the sch  
challen  
year. Or  
the stu  
for their

Th  
princip  
and it a  
After th  
kit, repr  
person  
also ren



2009-2010

# Principal's Report

Mr. and Mrs. CHING, Mr. LAM of KCOBA,  
Mr. WONG of KCPTA, Mr. HEUNG of EDB, Ladies  
and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls,

Good afternoon and welcome to our Annual Speech Day.

This Speech Day is special to me because it will be my last one serving as the Principal of the School. To make it more special, we are honoured to have Mr. and Mrs. CHING as our Guests of Honour. To many of us, Mr. CHING represents a conscience, signifying an unwavering devotion to meaningful causes. I am sure that he is so known among us that introduction is not really necessary. He entered the University of Hong Kong after graduation from St. Paul's College in 1970, a time during the Cultural Revolution when many youths were overwhelmed with a passion for national identity and socialistic ideology. You may not know that Mr. CHING was once a secondary school teacher. He got into trouble for bringing students to the China Week organized by the China Study Association under the HKU Student Union. After the incident, he left the teaching profession to work at Wen Wei Po for fifteen years, putting his heart and soul to exposing the world as he understood it to his readers at a relatively low salary, first as a reporter, and subsequently as the vice editorial manager. In 1989, after Wen Wei Po put up the courageous editorial detesting the actions of the Central People's Government in what someone referred to as the June Fourth Incident while others called it the Tiananmen Massacre, he left the newspaper to found Commentary, a magazine allowing more freehand in commenting on China. In 1996, he joined the Singapore Straits Times and became a China correspondent again. It was in the fated year of 2005 that he was arrested for being a spy, tried in camera and sentenced to prison for five years. Petitions for his release mounted and no friend of his would ever believe that he was a spy who disregarded the wellbeing of his mother country. Apparently, to be a dignified gentleman, it is not enough for one just to do the right things but one has to be able to put up with the smears, the humiliations and the dishonours thrown onto one's face.

While Mr. CHING is not an alumnus of our School, Mrs. CHING is. She graduated in the year 1972, then entered HKU and maintained a low profile. I heard that she has also served as a journalist. Let me quote her poem to CHING in 2007 when he was in jail to show that King's College students can write pretty well in Chinese. The last stanza reads:

*"On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October,*

十月二十二日

*You will be gone for exactly two and a half years;*

你走了剛好兩年半

*That night --- 那夜*

*A meteor shower will appear at Orion.*

獵戶座將有流星雨

*I shall shower hope across the entire sky."*

我把願望洒滿天

I wish them a happy life together after these testing years. We shall be hearing Mr. CHING's words of wisdom in just a moment.

Throughout history, there are numerous upright people who care more for the welfare of the populace than they care about themselves. To gain respect from others, one has to be learned, capable, determined, tactful, tolerant, honest, open, disciplined and self-conscious in conforming to a high moral standard. It is through education that people become upright. This is what King's College should strive to achieve.

A 'good' man is more valuable than a 'man' who scores ten distinctions in exams. We aim at nurturing both but are ready to give up the latter for the former. That is why we continue to instill the need to care about the world into our students, to tell them the ways we can help maintain sustainable developments and to assist them to build up friendly habits towards the environment. A person should not be 'too bad' if he has a caring attitude. As always, we think highly of our students and expect them to become leaders of tomorrow. They have always been encouraged to participate in competitions, to meet with elites from other places and to test their strengths when opportunity arose. Senior form students are there to provide support to the junior schoolmates and those lagging behind. We believe that positive actions will yield positive results. Seeds sown today will become huge trees someday.

Interesting enough, my report will not sound like a School Report if I do not go into our list of achievements. I shall be brief as a comprehensive account has already been put in our School Magazine and the pamphlet in your hands. I am happy to tell you that our academic results were still enviable with some improvements at the Advanced Level Examinations. In the HKCEE, on average each of our students scored four distinctions or cre-

They can c  
and student  
in daily co  
a favourabl  
Chun-yin c  
Speaking C  
Kong Feder  
Union and  
our School  
excelled at  
Kong Cher  
Hong Kon  
Students S  
Programm  
and a whol  
Mathematic  
School Ma  
Western Di

Our st  
Hong Kon  
Convergen  
Students' A  
Contest an  
reverberate  
and Handb  
Wai-ki and  
the HKSSF  
and Swimm  
miss out th  
and studen  
team won.

We cel  
Orchestra  
world famo  
championsh  
Pacific Hai  
Ambulance  
We won als  
debates, de  
speech festi  
had visitors  
Secondary  
College. E  
English an  
junior form  
to launch  
Beijing Hu  
highlighted

Amid  
words of ca  
curriculum  
are on a re  
travelled. V

2009-2010

## Profile of the Year

They can certainly do much better. All members of staff and students made a pledge to use English more extensively in daily communication during the year to further foster a favourable English learning environment. Mr. TANG Chun-yin of class 6A won the Hong Kong English Public Speaking Contest 2009 jointly organized by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the English Speaking Union and the Standard Chartered Bank, showing that our School is not only strong at the science subjects. We excelled at the Hong Kong Physics Olympiad, the Hong Kong Chemistry Olympiad for Secondary Schools, the Hong Kong Mathematics Olympiad, the Hong Kong Students Science Project Competition, the Company Programme of the Hong Kong Junior Achievement and a whole lot of others. Besides, I have to thank our Mathematics Department for organizing the Joint Primary School Mathematics Competition for the Central and Western District.

Our students also took an active part in the Hong Kong Youth Summit 2009, the International Convergence Project by the Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Association, and of course, the internal Singing Contest and the Annual Ball. The cheers and cries still reverberated in my ears. In sports, our Badminton Team and Handball Team remained in Division One. Mr. LAM Wai-ki and Mr. LEUNG Chi-hang scored good results in the HKSSF Inter-school Cross Country Championships and Swimming Championships respectively. I shall not miss out the thrilling football tournament between staff and students. The result came as no surprise – our staff team won.

We celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our Chinese Orchestra with a stunning concert in November. Our world famous King's Harmonica Band members won five championships and two second runners-up in the 7th Asia-Pacific Harmonica Festival at Hangzhou. Our St. John Ambulance Brigade was named Regional Cadet of the year. We won also a great number of other awards in Xiangqi, debates, design competitions, writing competitions, the speech festival, the music festival, etc. During the year, we had visitors from the Yale University, the Beijing Ritang Secondary School and the Macau Sacred Heart Canossian College. Exchange students from HKU conducted English and Putonghua conversation sessions with our junior form students in a relaxed manner. We continued to launch exchange programmes with our sister school, Beijing Huiwen Middle School. The variety of activities highlighted our rich and colourful school life.

Amid the many successes, I would like to add a few words of caution for the years to come. Firstly, the new curriculum structure and NSS are something big. We are on a road that even our Generals at EDB have not travelled. While supporting the policy in a broad sense, we

have to be clear-headed about implementation details so as not to fall off the education track. Secondly, our society often uses wrong criteria for success. Measurements based upon wealth and fame can be misleading. It is tempting but inappropriate to rank the schools and their students according to the results obtained in public examinations. Lord Tennyson wrote a poem on the charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War: "Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die ...". Does this bear true testimony to the examination-oriented learning nowadays? To historians, the charge was stupid and nothing but a blunder. Thirdly, whether we like it or not, student diversity will continue to widen. Dual choices in the S1 discretionary places admission stage will intensify our difficulties. Students at both ends of the spectrum will suffer if teachers, or even schools, do not prepare themselves adequately. This is why we have taken a wise step towards improving on pedagogy issues in recent years. This is also why we have to build up students' confidence in climbing new heights. Fourthly, some of our middle managers must catch up to face the challenges ahead. How can we win a war if the commanders are just playing the role of soldiers?

To conclude my report, let me wish the graduates every success in their future and congratulate the prize winners on their deserved accomplishments. I have to thank all my colleagues for their cooperation and endurance. Their bad days are almost over. I have to thank parents and old boys for their support. Our 1959 graduates have recently proposed to donate a sum of money to support our science activities. I must also mention the invaluable contributions of my Assistant Principals. They righted my wrongs and are sure to make very competent principals if they choose to do so. Mrs. CHO retired in September this year. On behalf of the School, I wish her the best of health and a most enjoyable retirement life.

It is my honour and privilege to serve King's College for 13 years. I have watched the fig tree grow. Life is fair. There are good memories and bad ones. I have met very respectable people here together with some not worthy of mentioning. This is a great School with excellent students determined to contribute to the well-being of mankind. Some do their best for improvement. Some display a strong sense of belonging to the school. I know of one who loved the School so much as to request putting on the school uniform in his funeral. However, there are also incidents that happened here that should not have happened anywhere. I am sure that our respect for the School will increase as we grow older and I am starting to miss my days at King's now. Boys, your future is in your hands. King's College's future is in your hands.

Thank you.