

Opening Address by the Principal, Ms Agnes Tang  
at the School Re-opening Ceremony 2013-2014 on 2nd September, 2013.  
**An EMI School with a Burning Desire to Upgrade Hardware and Software to Nurture All-rounders**

Good Morning, Fellow Teachers, Boys and Girls,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you here, in particular the S1 newcomers who should be obsessed with different levels of anxieties, worries and uncertainties. Your fear ranges from the new learning environment, new faces of teachers and schoolmates, friendships to the curriculum. My fellow students, Don't panic, because I can assure you that all our professional, caring and concerning teachers will provide you with unlimited support. It is sure that you will be able to bridge to another stage of life with ease. Speaking of another leaf of life, I would like to take this opportunity to give some encouraging remarks to all S6 students. We all understand the challenges you are facing and you have been dedicated your time, effort and endeavor to your studies. What you are working in preparation for is the gateway to varsity which guarantees prosperous career path. My fellow S6 students, don't give up --- "No sweet without sweat".

Every year there are changes in the school personnel. Now I would like you to meet the new teachers. Please join me to greet them with applause.

1. Mr Leung Ping Yan, Francis --- Teacher of English Language and Liberal Studies;
2. Ms Cheung Pui Yi --- Teacher of Music and Integrated Humanities;
3. Ms Yeung Sze Ki, Kate --- Teacher of Liberal Studies; and
4. Mr Lee Tin Yau --- Teacher of Chinese Language

Now it is time to draw your attention to the overall results of the school in the second HKDSE. With our enthusiasm and commitment to hard work, the performance of our S6 students is auspicious and reassuring. Nearly 90% of our students have attained Level 2 or above in the public examination --- the overall percentage in the territory is 80%. What is more promising is that the overall passing percentage of our students in the core subjects (English Language, Chinese Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies) is tremendously higher than the one in the territory. Our students have worked very hard in other subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Chinese History and BAFS and their overall passing rate has exceeded the average Hong Kong standard. The amazing news is that the passing rate of Chemistry and Chinese History has reached 100%. Two of our students Lai Wing Yan and Kwong Chi Pui obtaining remarkable results in HKDSE 2013 were invited to join the Commendation Gathering for TW HKDSE Outstanding Students in the headquarter of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and received Certificates of Commendations. As for JUPAS admission, we can still keep the high percentage of tertiary education enrollment at the first round and it is so amazing to witness students of different abilities can pursue their studies in different institutions. It is crystal clear that persistence and perseverance are the stepping stones to success. Never belittle yourselves and you are all able to accomplish your goals sooner but not later.

Coupled with the escalating academic performance of our students, the all-round accomplishments of our students have inspired all our S. C. Gawers as well. On 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 in the School Closing Ceremony, I proudly announced that our students were awarded around 2900 prizes in well over 160 different types of competitions. But the story is never ending and our schoolmates have been keeping bringing good news and glory to our school during the summer vacation, i.e. just in July and August 2013.

- 1) Our Latin Dance Team got the first-ever Champions in Team Standard & Latin Formation Dance Competition for Hong Kong as well as over 200 international prizes in the 1st Perak International Open Dance Championships 2013 at Malaysia.
- 2) Our Latin Dance Team Members also achieved 12 prizes, including 2 Champions, 2 First Runners-up, 4 Second Runners-up in 2013 (Hong Kong) China National Ballroom and Latin Dance Championship, 3th Global



- Chinese Open Dance Championships and 8<sup>th</sup> Freedom Cup Asia Open Amateur Ranking H. K. Championships.
- 3) Our Chinese Dance Team got a Silver Award in the 5<sup>th</sup> H. K. Cup Arts Contest.
  - 4) Lam Sze Han and Lo Shuk Ting were awarded the Tung Wah Outstanding Students of the Year.
  - 5) 93 students got Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards for the Voluntary Service Scheme 2012-2013.
  - 6) Wong Man Yi and Kam Hiu Tung were given the Road Safety Patrol Scholarships.
  - 7) Lam Chung Ho was being selected as the Leadership Programme Trainee of the 'Hong Kong 200' Programme organized by the HK Federation of Youth Group.
  - 8) Our student Brian Lee Cheong Wai has received high commendation for his outstanding performance in the "Arts Xperience: Junior Volunteer Docent Training Scheme 2012-2013"
  - 9) Our graduate Lai Wai Hung obtained Honourable Commendation Award on his study in Humanities Associate (Visual Arts) and Lam Sze In obtained Honourable Commendation Award on her study in Aviation Services and Management High Diploma.

Actually, the enhancement of our students lies in the hard work of our experienced teachers as well as the improvements of our hardware and software of our school. All of these are attributed to our school efficacy and our development of multiple intelligences among students.

In the area of hardware development, in this academic year, all classrooms are well-equipped with E-whiteboards which can facilitate students' learning and promote interactive learning between teachers and students. The use of i-Pads can surely strengthen the communication and collaboration skills among students and nurture their information skills of surfing appropriate information for their work, which can ultimately reinforce the quality of project learning. That is the reason why our first major concern is related to "Strengthen Classroom Interactive Learning and Teaching to Achieve Effective Learning."

In terms of software improvement, research has demonstrated that the optimum age for language learning is during childhood and adolescence. In other words, this golden period is in your hands now and it is your privilege and responsibility to brush up your language proficiency to sharpen your competitive edge and pave the way for a better future. We have been working to sustain and optimize curriculum planning of inter-disciplinary subjects to enhance EMI teaching effectiveness and students' English language competence, which is our second School Major Concern. Throughout the whole academic year, we will be doing a series of English activities namely English Activities Days, Speaking Days, English Week and English movies to consolidate the use of English in daily life. As well, Life-Wide-English aims at increasing ample exposure to English in the community and day to day life. It is our ambition that our students continue getting as much of it as possible in classes and at school by creating a vivid language-rich environment. Through more participation in using English during recess and lunch time, our students will have more confidence in using the target language for communication. My fellow schoolmates, our English will never be good enough and there will always be room for enrichment. Let us work hand in hand to master our English Language.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." It means that apart from cramming knowledge into our minds, it is of great importance to be equipped with a variety of skills and to develop our values system to confront a wide range of temptations in the globe. So, our yearly theme of this year is Forgiveness, Appreciation and Thanksgiving and our third School Major Concern relates to establish multi-disciplinary platform to cultivate sense of belonging and nurture all-round potentials. By taking part in a wide range of large scale activities such as Homeroom Periods, Form Assembly, Morning Liberal Studies and Learning Summer, etc, our students will have experienced a sense of healthy lifestyle, resistance to adversities and improving interpersonal relationships.

In closing, I extend my best wishes to all the teachers and the students associated with the school. When I arrive at the school every day, I am reminded that S.C. Gaw Memorial College is heading towards its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. It is my sincere hope that our eminent involvements in every part of the school development will make the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary more fulfilling and meaningful.