

Opening Address by Our Principal, Ms Tang Wai Chun, Agnes
Student Union & School Prefect Inauguration Ceremony
on 16th October, 2013

Distinguished Guests, fellow teachers and students,

I would like to express my heartfelt compliment on the excellent behavior and the mature performance of the student voters in the Student Union Election on 4th October, 2013. What I mean “maturity” concerns the judgment of student voters depending on their understanding and observation of the short list of participating cabinets without being manipulated by authoritative directives, which is distant from the faked and meretricious democratic system in a “small-circle election”. I take pride in those students who can cherish their suffrage right and do not cast invalid ballots intentionally. They can take the impartial role in considering the platforms of different cabinets thoroughly and deliberately by attending the Student Union Forum on 3rd October 2013. This has shown that our students have fully exercised their civic responsibility to the fullest.

The legitimacy and recognition of the Student Union is closely connected to the majority votes of the student population, which relies heavily on humanistic quality, sensibility and understanding of the students towards the meaning of democracy. In order to foster our students to develop a sense of passion for democracy and a sense of mission to safeguard its mechanism, no doubt does the school play a crucial role in setting the vision to nurture our SC Gawers to be discreet and prudent voters. We deeply believe that each of you should understand the function of each of the votes and you have to exercise your right to vote carefully and wisely. In our school context, it is crystal clear that your votes are conducive to the betterment of campus life quality subsequently.

Owing to our establishment of democratic campus, all our students have the equal rights to vote and to be elected and all our juniors and seniors have reached the maturity level to take part in the process of voting. Now, I would like to talk about the reasons for the Senior Secondary students (Form Four and Five) forming cabinets and participating in an election. I am sure that the responses should be ranging from serving schoolmates, uniting all schoolmates to form a big community, bridging the gap between the school and the students, reflecting the opinions of the students to the school, seeking welfare benefits for the schoolmates to organizing whole-school activities. All the abovementioned reasons are valid and reasonable. In fact, I would like to emphasize that the Student Union should not be confined to the nature of organizing school activities and providing welfare for the schoolmates solely. It is my aspiration that all Executive Committee members of the Student Union should set a good model in terms of behavior and interpersonal relationships for others to follow. You should place the interest of the school at the top priority instead of your

self-interest. In other words, all the committee members of the Student Union and the school prefects of various departments should weigh the importance of collective interest more than the individual one. What is more, each student leader should be working hard to possess the following personal qualities to be visionary, knowledgeable, experienced, self-conscious, fair and just, impartial, moral, courageous and self-sacrificing. My fellow schoolmates, are you well-prepared for being the student leaders?

In addition to this, before you have decided to take part in the election, you must try your utmost to get well-prepared and strive for a success at the end. At the same time, you also have to prepare for the worst --- losing in the election. There is a Confucius saying that respect is the foundation of all keen competitions between decent and educated competitors.

It is the time for us to enter another stage of school life. As for the elected cabinet, I sincerely hope that you have to put all your words into practice and actualize your promises to meet the needs of the schoolmates. For the other 2 cabinets which had performed equally well, you have to understand that it is the choice made by the majority of student voters. You are advised to show respect for, provide constructive feedback and opinions for, and should work in collaboration with the new Student Union for the well-being of our schoolmates and our school. So this Inauguration Ceremony marks the unity of the our newly elected Student Union, student leaders and prefects from all departments for the well-being of the school community of S. C. Gaw. Thank you very much.