

**DREAM 夢想 --- Speech delivered by our Principal, Ms Tang Wai Chun, Agnes
at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Student Union Executive Committee 2011-2012**

Date: Monday, 22-11-2011

Dear fellow teachers and students,

Let me, first of all, extend my heartiest congratulations to the 2 cabinets (Unique & Glory) in this Student Union Election on 14th November, 2011. Win or Lose, this experience must be a memorable one to all of you, there is much to be gained. While for the Executive Committee of the Unique, the newly elected Student Union, it is not just a success in an election campaign, rather it marks the beginning of another phase of school life. On this occasion, I find the initials of the word 'DREAM' most meaningful and inspirational to our student leaders today. They tie in perfectly with the spirit and philosophy of our school and what we cherish. Let me share with you how I interpret this acronym. 'DREAM' has a much wider meaning than feelings or thoughts experienced during sleep.



D etermination	決心
R esponsibility	責任
E nthusiasm	熱誠
A ttitude	態度
M otivation	動力

As a famous saying of a renowned American Human Rights leader, Martin Luther King (馬丁路德金), goes, "I have a dream." If every one of us has a dream, how can we make our dreams come true. Is it possible to dream the impossible dream (夢想成真)?

The first letter 'D' means 'Determination'. The running race of life is not the same for everyone. For many, it is a race on a smooth track; for some, many hurdles have to be overcome before they can reach the destination. I was really impressed by the promotional clip of Mr So Wah Wai on the TV (蘇樺偉) tells us how determination and hard work have helped him overcome the many hurdles on his road to fulfilling his dream. Undeterred by the disability, he became an outstanding athlete and won numerous World Championships.

'R' stands for 'Responsibility'. It is because your life is not destined, you have the freedom to shape it. Do have the courage to face any challenges. Leading a proactive life is your responsibility. A person who believes in "nothing is impossible" is more likely to keep in thinking about possible solutions to solve problems. So don't just sit and wait for good fortune to knock at your door and don't regret for what you have missed. Helen Keller (海倫凱勒) once said, "When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us." Opportunity comes and goes. Very often, we are not aware that opportunity is right in front of us before we missed it. So it is our responsibility to get ourselves well equipped.

'E' represents 'Enthusiasm'. Numerous learning opportunities are awaiting us everywhere. Yet, the final success depends on how much every one of us makes an effort. Most important of all is to put our enthusiasm or effort together. President Harry Truman (杜魯門總統) of the United States of America once said, *"I found that the men and women who got to the top were those who did the jobs they had in hand with everything they had of boundless energy, enthusiastic effort and hard work"*. It implies that success comes from *"going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm or effort."* So reach for your peak, your goal and your dream!

'Attitude' is to count for our blessings and not to take things for granted. We need to develop the good practice of being appreciative and thankful. Many problems can be solved if we have a positive attitude in life. In most cases, the problem we have is not really a problem. According to the survey of the American Psychiatric Association (美國心理學會), people can be healthier, happier and more positive, if they assume an optimistic attitude towards life. Grateful attitude helps cultivating positive values, such as perseverance, commitment to society and nation, respect for others, and sense of belongings, etc. These values are the necessary ingredients for your future successes.

The final initial 'M' is 'Motivation'. It refers to all those things, which propel people forward and make them feel good about doing so. One of the keys to managing skills and making the most of people is to look for ways to develop the will to work well. In the words of the famous educationalist, John Biggs (約翰畢斯), *"Success only takes place when we are motivated."*

The last but not the least, I wish to share with you the heart-touching story of a Taiwanese painter, Hsieh K'un-shan (謝坤山). Mr Hsieh lost both his arms as well as his right leg from the knee down, and his right eye in accident, but he did not give up. Neither was he given to self-pity. Instead, he did his best to overcome the difficulty and study hard and became a great painter. He once said, *"I believe in destiny but also believe we can change destiny. The key to a fruitful life is cherishing what you have and share your good fortunes with others."* Miss Keller, Mr Hsieh and Mr So Wah Wai are indeed our role models, who I hope will inspire the same determination, responsibility, enthusiasm, positive attitude and motivation among our students (not only the Executive Committee of the Student Union), to enable you to face the challenges that lie ahead, make the impossible dream comes true and begin a most rewarding journey through life and achieve what you set out to achieve.

Finally, to all student leaders here today, I congratulate you on your achievements, and look forward to the day when SCGMC scale new heights with mature, dedicated and committed student leaders. Let me conclude by borrowing the words of John F. Kennedy:

"Ask not what Hong Kong can do for you, ask what you can do for Hong Kong."

Similarly, "Ask not what the School can do for you, ask what you can do for the School."

Agnes Tang
22nd November, 2011