

21st September, 2012

**Address by our Principal, Ms Tang Wai Chun, Agnes at
2012-13 Major Areas of Concern & Student Ambassador Kick-off Ceremony
—‘My Pledge to Act’ : To Set Our Goals towards a Fruitful Life
2012-13 學校關注事項及學生大使計劃啟動禮校長致辭
——《我的行動承諾》：訂目標邁向豐盛人生**

Good afternoon fellow teachers and students,

At the beginning of the new academic year, I would like to invite all of you to join me in the Kick-off Ceremony of 2012/13 School Major Areas of Concern and in the territory-wide campaign ‘Pledge-taking Ceremony’ of EDB’s Student Ambassador Project – To Set Our Goals Towards a Fruitful Life (in Chinese 學生大使我的行動承諾——訂目標邁向豐盛人生). The kick-off ceremony and the pledge aimed at encouraging our students to be aware of our roles at personal and social levels, to set goals and lead a fruitful and fulfilling life—At school: to be a self-directed, self-disciplined and compassionate learner—As student ambassadors: to be active, brilliant and caring 跳躍生命.

Have you ever spent time thinking about your goals? Is Jeremy Lin 林書豪 (the basketball genius of the US NBA) your idol? Lin had in fact set his goals when he was young. Lin sent his résumé and a DVD of highlights of his high-school basketball career to all the Ivy League schools 常春藤盟校. None of them offered athletic scholarships to him at that time.

It was not until 2005 when Harvard assistant coach Bill Holden saw that Lin was 6 feet 3 inches (1.91 m), which fitted the physical attributes he was seeking, and he had a 4.2 grade point average in high school, which also reached Harvard’s academic standards. After rounds of screening tests, UCLA 加州大學洛杉磯分校 finally offered Lin the opportunity to play in the basketball court. Without perseverance and determination as well as a spirit of ‘Never Give Up’, how could Lin have shone and got recruited in the professional basketball team?

This year, our school’s education theme is “Be self-directed, self-disciplined and compassionate” which shares the same ethos with the pledge “Be an Active Learner and Lead a Fulfilling Life”. Goal setting is important signposting for excellence. However, how to get this done has something to do with your commitment which is the first positive attitude our school stresses for this school year. Another value is having self-discipline. I repeat, they are the twins to promote a meaningful and fruitful life.

How well-equipped are you in facing challenges and obstacles? Firstly, perseverance determines the outcome. It can be guaranteed that there must be obstacles before reaching for your goals. On the way to the finishing line, there may be some unexpected occurrences that may undermine your morale. They can be your health, family or emotional problems. No matter what they are, you may find yourself stumped by these and lose your vigour. At such moments, in order to take charge of your life and realize your goals, you should work persistently and bravely for whatever you aim at.

Secondly, you should learn how to prioritize things. Sorting out the priorities is a self-management skill you will need to learn if you want to be an efficient and effective learner and above all, to be successful. You do not have to do each and every job in one go. The key here is to choose the most important ones.

What substances can be included in your goals? Have you thought about that? On top of getting Level 5, 5* or 5** in (HKDSE) academic achievements, I do think that you can consider the following, your family relationships and the society. This is related to one of the foci of our school in this year — be compassionate (loving and caring).

Many of you have no problems in maintaining good relationships with friends and classmates. On Facebook, I can see your happy faces and laughter. All of you do enjoy the moments you spend with your friends. However, have you spent some time with your parents, talking to them and telling them your grievances and happiness?

Another thing students should do is to show interest in current affairs. What overwhelms the minds of Hong Kong people is probably the protest and hunger strikes put up by the secondary school students to oppose the implementation of Subject of Moral & National Education outside the Government headquarters. As young persons in the 21st century, all of you should show concern and understand what is happening in society. Other incidents like the Sino-Japanese conflicts over Diaoyu Islands 釣魚島, the scandal of Mr Paul Chan 陳茂波 (our new Secretary for Development Bureau) and the grievances of the NT residents over the government proposal of developing the North-eastern part of the New Territories 新界東北發展 are equally important.

Nothing can stop us if we keep our faith and work hard. If you have faith in reason, you will never be afraid of being brainwashed 洗腦. Set your goals, be committed to your tasks, be persevering and sort out your priorities. These are strategies you can count on all the way to having a fulfilling and fruitful life.

Thank you.