

# The Principal's Report 2020-2021

It has been a tough school year amid the global pandemic, lockdowns, and social unrest. Inevitably, one might just feel lost at times. Instead of being reactive, we could however choose to be proactive to unexpected changes, and take it as a way to equip ourselves to become a better person, and in turn, a better school.

My deepest appreciation goes to my dedicated team who have demonstrated so well how one can be creatively responsive in face of change and uncertainty. Having to move most of the teaching online during the year, we have experimented and found a new paradigm shift in education. And it has proved to be workable. Students were engaged and adapted well to the virtual learning environment. We were taught a precious lesson: learning never ends; we simply need to get ready anytime, anywhere – to learn, unlearn and relearn.



We held the 120<sup>th</sup> School Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 17 October 2020 at the Silcocks Hall. We were so honoured to have invited our beloved Rev. Lee Ching Chee to give a sermon at the service. Quoting Revelation 21:5 “Behold, I make all things new”, Rev. Lee encouraged us to always look up to Him especially in times of change and uncertainty.

Two special publications were released this year in time to celebrate

the School's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. *Space for Transformation – the Redevelopment Years* captured the precious moments of this important chapter of Ying Wa's history. *A New Horizon*, the anniversary school magazine, keeps a print collection of our memorable school life in the last five years. These written records manifested the concerted efforts and unyielding devotion of the Ying Wa family and held testimony to God's blessings to Ying Wa.



COVID has taught us not to take anyone or anything for granted. We must instead treasure our time with family and friends. Resonating our school motto *Redeeming the Time*, let us cherish every opportunity in life.

Below I will gladly share with you the wonderful blessings of the Lord in the past school year.





### **The Incorporated Management Committee**

My gratitude goes to all IMC managers who have faithfully given so generously their time, advice and support, especially when it has not been an easy sail.

We welcomed several new colleagues in September 2020. Rev. Kam Siu Wan assumed the post of School Sponsoring Body (SSB) Manager to fill the vacancy left by retiring member Ms Chan Yin Hung Kuby. The position as Alternate SSB Manager that she left was then taken up by Mr Yuen Hoi Fat. Formerly Honorary Manager, Ms Uson Chung, has become one of our Alumni Managers. Ms So Ho Wai, also a Ying Wa alumna, was invited to join us in the capacity of Honorary Manager.

By the end of August, we will bid farewell to several incumbent members. Mr Cheng Kwun Kit Allan has resigned from his position as an SSB Manager. Ms Tse Shuk Chun (Teacher Manager), Mr Ng Wing Wo (Alternate Teacher Manager), Ms Lam Ching Karrie (Parent Manager) and Mr Wong Sai Kay Ricky (Alternate Parent Manager) will leave us at the end of their two-year terms.

We thanked them all for their contribution, in particular, their participation in our collective decisions in response to numerous challenges over the past year.

### **Staff**

There were altogether 106 on the staff roll, with 75 teachers (including the Principal), 3 Laboratory Technicians, 2 Technical Support Staff, 1 Project Coordinator, 1 School Sports Promotion Coordinator, 1 Campus Management Assistant, 1 Executive Officer, 6 Clerical Staff, 15 Janitors and 1 Technician.

#### New Appointments

During the year, we have welcomed the following members to our staff team.

#### *Teaching Staff*

Mrs Adamson, Francessa Alexandra

*Postgraduate Certificate in Education, University of Sunderland*

*Master of Science, The University of Edinburgh*

*Bachelor of Arts, University College London*

Miss Chu Wing Ching

*Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education in Language Education, HKU*

Miss Leung Yik Chong Josephine

*Postgraduate Diploma in Education, CUHK*

*Bachelor of Science, CUHK*

Mr Tsui Chun Yi

*Postgraduate Diploma in Education, HKU*

*Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, HKU*

*Master of Science in Mathematics, CUHK*

*Bachelor of Laws, HKU*





### *Non-teaching Staff*

Mr Perry Wong (School Sports Promotion Coordinator, resigned in March 2021)

Ms Tsang Wai Ying (School Sports Promotion Coordinator, since April 2021)

Ms Li Wai Lai (Janitor)

Ms Wu Pik Lan (Janitor)

Ms Li Pui Lim (Janitor)

Mr Yau Chung Leung (Janitor)

### Farewell

At the end of the school year, we will bid farewell to a number of staff, among them some of our long-serving teachers.

Ms Ho Wai Yiu, head of the Chinese Department, will be retiring after 38 years of dedicated service for Ying Wa. Much respected and loved by her students, Ms Ho has been a pillar of strength to the Chinese Department, Academic Committee and the School Executive Committee. We will surely miss her wise and timely advice.

Ms Wong Siu To, our music panel head, has led Ying Wa to accomplish three musical productions during her 26 years with us. We thanked her notable contribution to the School Choirs and School Orchestra as advisor and conductor throughout the years, and her dedication to nurturing so many musical talents in the past many years..

Ms Kwong Ho Ka, deputy head of the English Department, will embark on a new journey of life after 16 years in Ying Wa. She has served in the School Goal Committee, the Learning Diversity Team and the Global Exposure Committee, and has been a caring Chief Advisor to the Student Association. With no doubt, Ms Kwong will be greatly missed by her colleagues and students.

Ms Rachel Luk will leave Ying Wa after her 7 years of service as a Geography teacher. We are grateful for her teaching and her help in the Careers Committee and various clubs.

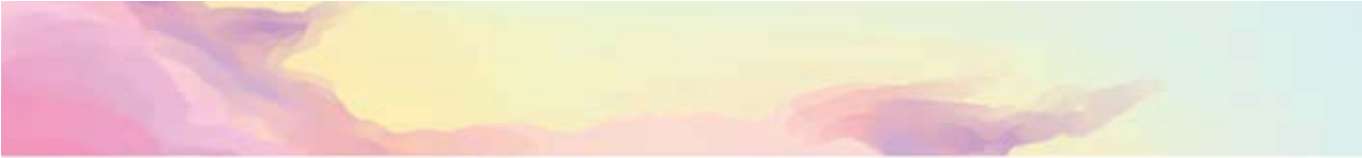
Other teachers departing at the end of the academic year included English teacher Mrs Francessa Adamson, Mathematics teacher Mr Tsui Chun Yi and Putonghua teacher Ms Yeung Yau Yan. While their time with us may not be very long, we owe them a big thank you for their devotion to teaching and sensitive care for our students.

On behalf of the school, may I wish them good health, happiness and fulfillment in their future endeavours.

### **Staff Development**

The Staff Development Committee organises regular training activities to support the professional development of colleagues. During the year, guest speakers from various professions came to share with us their practical knowledge to facilitate our care and support for the students. Former practicing senior counsel Professor Lam Sau Hong spoke about teachers' legal responsibilities. Mr Kenneth Chan, senior instructor of St. John Ambulance, gave us a basic course of first-aid. IMC manager and clinical psychologist Dr So Ho Wai enlightened us on the psychological issues teenagers face and how we could help them more effectively.





We congratulated the following teachers on their successful completion of in-service courses:

Miss Ho Pui Yi

- (1) Thematic Course on Supporting Students with SEN – Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development Needs (Focusing on the needs of students with ASD, AD/HD and EBD)(2020-2021) conducted by the Education University of Hong Kong
- (2) Basic Course on Career Guidance and Life Planning for Secondary School Teachers (2020-2021) conducted by the School of Professional and Continuing Education, HKU

Miss Ho Chung Sang

Human Biology and Organic Chemistry I conducted by the School of Professional and Continuing Education, HKU

### **Student Enrolment and Class Structure**

A total of 157 new students were admitted to Secondary 1 (S1) this year. The total school enrolment is 904 in the 30 classes from S1 to S6, five classes in each level.

### **School Goal of the Year**

We have just completed the latest School Development Plan (SDP), themed *Revisiting Our Past, Connecting the Future*. As a regular practice for each SDP, we conducted a stakeholders' survey upon its completion to help us reflect on areas that we have excelled and those that still need improvement.

The next SDP for 5 years will start the coming school term. *Enlighten, Empower, Embrace and Engage* will be the guiding themes. Under the new SDP, we will optimize the use of our new campus facilities. Next year, our new STEM Maker's Room and Mathematics Room will be open to facilitate learning.

With challenge come opportunities. In face of the lengthy suspension of classroom teaching, teachers have learnt to apply various interactive tools to engage students in Zoom classes. Similarly, students have learnt to upgrade their skills in online learning. While we do anticipate face-to-face lessons in the coming year, the whole school is prepared for contingencies that may arise.

### **Language Learning**

Although the outbreak of COVID did affect students' learning routines, the Chinese enhancement classes and speaking practice tutorials for senior form students were conducted online.

Fresh graduates just starting university continued to support their S6 juniors by sharing their study skills and tips on examination. This year, they did so by putting their good advice in videos.

Junior secondary students participated in a writing programme run by the Literature and Culture Faculty of the Education University of Hong Kong. Participating students had the chance to be coached by writer Ms Leung Lee Chi on novel writing.



Annual Speech Day 2021



The English Department has run a number of events to create a language-rich environment to facilitate students' language learning.

The *Toastmaster International Youth Leadership Programme* enjoyed another year of success. Students gradually built up confidence and developed public speaking skills through the weekly meetings. This year, the contest was conducted online with undiminished enthusiasm.



In September, Dr Jed Kaplan, a member of the Royal Geographical Society, was invited to speak on his work *Climate and Civilization*. S5 students learned about the effects of climate on the earliest human civilization. Ms May Chow, founder of Little Bao and winner of Best Female Chef (2017), spoke to S4 and S5 classes about women empowerment.

Due to suspension of classroom teaching, debating competitions were conducted online in smaller scale. In April, S5 students enjoyed a morning of excitement and fun in an inter-class debating competition. Our debating team continued to participate in the Hong Kong Secondary School Debating Competitions to gain precious experience and garnered good results.

### Project-based Learning

The Self-Access Centre provides audio-visual materials to support teaching and learning. During the year, students have made good use of the centre's multimedia facilities for their publications and audio-visual productions.

The Project-based Learning Centre completed nine regular projects and introduced a new scheme that encouraged students to partake in Chinese Language-related competitions outside school.

### School Library

The Library continued to promote and arouse students' interest in reading and writing. Regular activities held included the annual *On-line Reading Award Scheme* and *Thematic Book Games*. *Book Crossing* and the *Kindle Borrowing Scheme* also continued.



## Examination Results

### Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination 2020

|  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| 1. No. of candidates   | : | 136            |
| No. of students awarded the minimum entrance requirement:<br>for local degree courses, <i>i.e.</i> Level 3 in Chinese and English,<br>Level 2 in Mathematics and Liberal Studies, and Level 2 in one of<br>the electives |   | 124<br>(91.2%) |
| Level (5**)  | : | 48             |
| Level (5* or 5)  | : | 306            |

|   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 2. Admission to tertiary institutes and other courses |  |               |
| Local tertiary and post-secondary institutions        |  | 82.5%         |
| Overseas studies                                      |  | 15.3%         |
| Retake HKDSE  |  | 1.5%          |
| Others  |  | 0.7%          |
| Total   |  | <u>100.0%</u> |

|                     |              |  |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| 3. Best result      |              |  |
| Name (class)        | <u>Level</u> | <u>Subjects</u>  |
| Cheng Tsz Ying (6E) | 5**          | English Language<br>Mathematics (Compulsory Part)<br>Liberal Studies<br>Business, Accounting and Financial<br>Studies (Accounting)<br>Information and Communication<br>Technology<br>Mathematics (Extended Part) |
|                     | 5*           | Chinese Language<br>Chemistry  |
| Zhang Wan Hei (6D)  | 5**          | Chinese Language<br>Mathematics (Compulsory Part)<br>Liberal Studies<br>Chemistry<br>Physics   |
|                     | 5*           | English Language<br>Biology<br>Mathematics (Extended Part)   |



Choy Man Pok (6B)

5\*\*

Chinese Language

English Language

Liberal Studies

History

5\*

Mathematics (Compulsory Part)

Business, Accounting and Financial  
Studies (Accounting)

Literature in English

### Religious Activities

The Thanksgiving Service this year was held in conjunction with the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Though only a limited audience was allowed on site, the Ying Wa community, including members of the IMC, alumnae, staff and students were present to grace the event. For the first time, the service was broadcast live on Facebook, enabling online attendance of many friends, both local and overseas.



Videos of religious services for Christmas, Founder's Day and Easter were launched on Youtube with the help of the Campus TV Team.

Pastoral care for students continued with partner churches. Rev. Yu Chin Tung of the China Congregation Church Bridges Street taught Religious Education to all S2 classes. He is also advisor to the Senior Christian Fellowship. Ms Carina Siu of the North Point Methodist Church has been rendering support to both the senior and junior Christian Fellowships. Joining them were passionate alumnae Ms Chan Ching Yiu Yoyo and Ms Lee Ho Kiu Coco.

### Student Support

**The Guidance Committee** comprises a dedicated team of 9 teachers and 2 school social workers, assisted by external professionals that include an educational psychologist and a clinical psychologist.

Apart from providing individual care for students in need, this year's focused concern was to nurture personal resilience in students. Programmes were organised to help students develop bonding with significant persons such as family members, learn how to manage emotions and cultivate positivism.

Our buddy programme for S1 students was carried out online. Some students also participated in a programme of our neighbour, Hop Yat Church, in which social workers helped them reflect on their relationship with family and understand parents' behaviours.





During the Mental Health Week, 21 junior form students were recruited to the Small Angels Project to promote “5 Wells” in daily lives through various activities. Guest speakers from Rare Disease Hong Kong and TWGHs Lok Ching Community Mental Health Education and Promotion Service Centre were invited to come and share their inspiring stories of their recovery. The central message brought home was loud and clear: “Staying positive

and perseverant is crucial in face of adversities”.

**The Discipline Committee**, assisted by the Prefect Board, is responsible for monitoring school discipline. The objective set for this year was “strive for excellence”. Activities were collaborated with the Life Education Committee.



We continued to hold adjustment programmes for S1 newcomers to raise their sense of responsibility and understanding of individual’s role in building a caring school community.


For students in S1 to S4, educational programmes themed on anti-corruption and the harm of smoking were jointly held with ICAC and LEAP. Leadership training days in November and July were organised to equip the prefects for their mission of upholding the school ethos.

**The Careers Committee** helps students to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare for further studies and personal development and assists them in the application for scholarships and external study programmes. Careers interest tests are available for students to learn more about their personal aptitude. Careers Teachers offer individual guidance for S6 students to make their JUPAS choices.

A life planning approach is adopted to integrate our activities for different levels of students. Junior students get initial exposure through class-based workshops, talks and quiz whereas senior students attend careers conferences and workshops, and play socigames.

During the year, we have joined the government-funded *Youth Life Planning Activities* run by the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society (HKFWS), *The Junior Achievement Hong Kong* programs, and *The PolyU Job Shadowing Scheme*. Meanwhile, the Mentorship Programme partnered with the Alumnae Association continued in its 17<sup>th</sup> year. Students have the chance of gaining invaluable advice and personal experience through participation in these programmes.





**The Life Education Committee** launched the *Happy Cleaning* campaign again this year to maintain students' good habit of keeping the campus neat and tidy. The regular *Life is a Marathon* aims to inculcate positive thinking and resilience among students. A new school-wide programme, *Strive for Excellence*, was introduced, with the objective of bringing "respect", "responsibility" and "aiming high" to school life.

### Global Exposure

This year our partnership with CEDAR continued. Eye-opening activities were organised for students to sharpen their social and global awareness. Speakers from the Muslim community were invited to speak to S6 students on cultural traits and gender equality. Students also had the opportunity to listen to the story of hope and resilience by an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe. On another occasion, a Chinese speaker delivered an engaging talk about her school life on the mainland.



As Covid-19 remains a pandemic alert worldwide, all overseas study tours had to be suspended or cancelled. However, we were able to organise global exposure programmes locally using the government's Life-wide Learning Fund.

Some S3 students joined the courses offered by the EtonX from Eton College of the UK. Students around the world signed up the courses to learn from Eton's expertise in developing well-rounded, high-achieving students. Participants could also benefit from peer-learning experiences. The courses nurtured students' soft skills in communication, collaboration and decision-making.

### Civic and Moral Education

The Civic Education Committee continues its mission to enhance students' social awareness, and their national and global sense of identity with the joint effort of other departments and committees.

The three-year cycled Basic Law Education syllabus for junior forms entered its final year of implementation with satisfactory completion. During the year, national flag hoisting ceremonies were held twice, respectively in September 2020 and June 2021.

We also run activities to empower students to hone their leadership skills. Adopting a student-based approach, four S4 students teamed up to deliver a talk to examine *The Challenges of COVID-19 to Hong Kong, China and the globe*.





### Extra-curricular Activities

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Student Association (SA), *Metanoia*, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Inter-house Committee, *Polaris*, were inaugurated in October 2020. The cabinets pledged to serve their fellow schoolmates with a humble heart.

Amid lengthy class suspension due to COVID, students tapped their creative mind to keep their school life vibrant. The Christmas Variety Show, Farewell Assembly and

Global Day were held online. Fun-filled and meaningful, they enriched fellow schoolmates' other learning experiences and boosted everyone's sense of belonging. Deserving a special mention was the video clips put together to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inter-house Committee.

During the Thanksgiving Week in November, students took the opportunity to express gratitude to the school and the community. A total of HK\$289,074 was raised, of which HK\$261,000 was donated to 22 local charities. The remainder was allocated to the School Redevelopment Fund.

### Social and Charity Services

The Interact Club has recruited about 100 S3 to S6 interactors. This year, we organised training for student leaders and some S2 students, and held an online seminar to review services done in Sham Shui Po. In the coming summer, we will for the first time run an online service programme for an elderly house.



### The Parent-Teacher Association

Led by Chairperson Ms Christina Wu, the Executive Committee of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) continued to render support to the School. Assisted by a team of parent volunteers, they have contributed to the general affairs of the school such as daily assistance in the library, and other regular initiatives such as the School Uniform Collection and Donation and farewell lunch for S6 students.

In the *Fun-filled Family Activities Series* jointly hosted with the HKFWS, two talks were held for parents to understand more about their children and how they could interact better with one another. Mr Chung Kwok-sing, a senior trainer in family mediation, spoke about "Handling conflicts with our children". The Cyber Youth Support Team (HKI) from St. James' Settlement shed lights on young people's cell phone addictions. An interesting workshop on Enneagram helped parents learn something about personality types.

Annual Speech Day 2021



### The Alumnae Association

The Alumnae Association (AA) continued its mission to foster the spirit and heritage of Ying Wa under the leadership of chairperson Ms Chui Wai Shan Anita and the Council.

At the AGM held in March, a zero membership policy was adopted at the recommendation made by a task group set up by the Council to review the current membership and fee policy. The significant move aims at broadening the membership for graduates to maintain long-term connection with their alma mater.

This year, the spread of COVID-19 has almost brought any activities to a halt. We were however overjoyed to have kept in touch with our fellow graduates in cities across the globe including North Americas, US and Australia. They continued to support the production of our overseas edition of the AA Newsletter by contributing articles to share their latest news. Despite the social distancing and lock-down policies, overseas chapters managed to reach out to one another by holding online reunions.



### Fundraising Movie Gala : To My 19-year-old Self

Our special programme- the *Fundraising Movie Gala : To My 19-year-old Self* will be our highlight in the coming year. The premiere of the film featuring the personal growth a group of our students during their 6 years of secondary school life – from their time in the old Robinson Road campus to the decanting school in Sham Shui Po – will be held at the Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, on 1 December 2021.

At the helm of this special project is alumna Cheung Yuen Ting Mabel, award-winning cinematic director. The film will take the audience on to a journey of how the core values of Ying Wa are subtly woven into the intricate coming of age of these youngsters. It will be a genuine account documenting the voices of a generation of Hong Kong young people.



We will count on the indispensable support of our friends and alliances to make this event a success.





### Appreciation

In closing the report, I must take the opportunity here to thank many parties.

First, my gratitude goes to the School Development Officers of the Regional Education Office, namely Ms Chiang Lam, Ms Chan Hiu Ying and Ms Young Po Ki, for their professional advice and good counsel.

To all IMC members, my deep appreciation for their faithful support and guidance, in particular Supervisor Rev So and Moderator Professor Chiu.

I would like to make a special mention of Mr Cheng Kwun Kit Allan, who will exit from his position as IMC Manager. As Principal of Ying Wa College, our longstanding partner school, Mr Cheng has given both me and Ying Wa his unwavering support. May the Lord bless him and his family.

To the parents and alumnae, my humble gratitude for their steadfast trust in and selfless contribution to the School.

Last but not least, my unreserved appreciation to my colleagues and dear students for their patience and understanding. With faith and courage, we have together sailed through the stormy sea. In the days to come, we will continue to stay united in one heart and spirit in spite of any challenges that may lie ahead.

