

# Principal's message (2016-17)

In this era, we talk a lot about achieving success both in terms of economic returns and getting famous. To be successful, we are brainwashed day by day that we should get a head start, meaning that we should fight for a place in a good kindergarten before we are 2 years old so as to ensure a secure entry to a famed university. It is not rare to see that the timetable of a toddler is fully packed with activities and learning even though it is only the age for learning how to walk. Of course we have heard about more ridiculous sayings about how early such preparation should be. Are these so-called success formulas?



Of course we all know that we live in a fast-changing world. It can be very difficult to imagine how learning to play the violin in your early childhood will be related to success for a life time. Instead, we believe that the magic is skills that can stand the test of time. 2016-17 school year is the time we start our new 3-year plan. We are determined to empower HCYers to be more responsible, self-actuating and lifelong learners. Doing this, we are going to redefine the role of teachers. There is a proverb saying "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime". This means we will focus on how students can learn more independently through various means. First, we want to develop a reading culture in school so that you will be able to broaden your horizon through reading. Secondly, we will equip you skills needed to take notes more effectively so that you can organise what you have learnt in a more systematic way. Thirdly, we will run programmes to train students to be more self-disciplined members and self-actuating leaders of the school. We hope these new focuses will help you get the skills to learn better.

The Olympic Games has just ended. I am very impressed with China's women volleyball team which obtained the third gold medal for this sport event. China had a shaky start as it was defeated by America, the Netherlands and Serbia in the preliminary round. However, it won the undefeated Brazilians in the quarterfinals. It continued with its climb to the podium when it beat the first-time top four contenders the Netherlands in the

semifinals, and Serbia in the gold medal match. Can you still say it is the advantage of getting a head start or perseverance to face adversity and team spirit. I guess you get the answer. The Olympic motto is "Faster, Higher and Stronger" in English. I would like to encourage you at the beginning of the term to set goals for yourselves. You should challenge yourselves to work faster, to grow taller by doing regular exercise and to become stronger in your academic pursuit.

Tse Yun Ming  
Principal