A Milestone in Science and Education: Our School Celebrates Alumnus Dr Lai Ka-ying's Space Endeavour

As our school joyfully marks the 50th anniversary of its founding, we have received thrilling news that has brought great jubilation across the campus: alumnus Dr Lai Ka-ying has been selected for the Shenzhou-23 manned spaceflight mission. She became the first female payload specialist astronaut from Hong Kong—and the first from within the country—to take part in the mission. On 24 May, she successfully launched into space to carry out her assigned responsibilities.

To celebrate this historic milestone, our school has organised a series of congratulatory and space-education activities. These programmes aim to inspire students to pursue their dreams while highlighting our school's long-term commitment to STEAM education and our strong achievements in cultivating scientific and research talent.

During her time at our school, Dr Lai demonstrated outstanding academic ability and determination. Recalling her early days, retired Head of Computer Literacy & ICT Ms Lam Ching Wah Annie—Dr Lai's teacher—said that she was always curious about knowledge and stood out for her logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Those qualities, Ms Lam noted, reflect the core competencies needed to become an astronaut. She added that Dr. Lai's accomplishment was a meaningful highlight of her decades-long teaching career, and served as a reminder of the "subtle yet far-reaching" influence of education.

Principal Dr Lau Sui Yee said Dr Lai's success has brought tremendous encouragement to the entire school community and set an inspiring example for young people in Hong Kong—to "build from Hong Kong, serve the nation, and look to the world." Taking this opportunity, our school rolled out a set of themed activities to help students gain a closer understanding of China's space technology and to appreciate the pivotal role Hong Kong plays in national missions and space exploration. The celebratory and educational activities include:

1) A Star-Chart of Wishes: Teachers and Students Build a Space Dream Together

To extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Lai, our school held a Shenzhou-23 launch viewing celebration on 28 May at lunchtime. Teachers and students were encouraged to cheer for Dr Lai and rally support for the nation's space mission, witnessing a historic moment for Hong Kong talent reaching for space.

On the same day, our school also organised a campaign entitled “Building Aerospace Dreams, Writing Together with Heart”. A large space-themed wishing wall—donated by a designer alumnus—was set up in the main lobby. Teachers and students wrote their messages on star-shaped cards, which were then assembled together to create a “Star-Chart of Good Intentions,” collectively celebrating Dr Lai and passing on the spirit of perseverance shared by the school’s community.

2) The Torch Is Passed On: Space Education Begins Anew

After the morning flag-raising ceremony and the playing of the national anthem on 29 May, our school took the opportunity to deepen students’ understanding through a speech under the national flag and a presentation on the history of China’s space technology.

In addition, teachers’ professional development days scheduled for June will include a visit to the Hong Kong Space Museum, where participants will watch China’s first space-filmed full-dome movie "Shenzhou 13 - Space Travel". The film offers viewers a closer look at the work and everyday life aboard the Tiangong space station, deepening appreciation of the effort required to build and maintain China’s space endeavours.

Principal Lau said our school will use Dr Lai’s achievement as a fresh starting point—continuing to strengthen STEAM education and space-themed outreach. Students will be encouraged to recognise and embrace national technological development, with young people urged to enter cutting-edge fields including astronautics, bioengineering, and artificial intelligence, thereby cultivating more innovation-driven talent with a strong sense of nationhood and an international outlook.

3) STEAM’s Hard-Won Results: Deep, Sustained Development in Space Education

Dr Lai Ka-ying’s remarkable journey is a testament to our school’s long-standing efforts to foster curiosity and scientific literacy. In recent years, our school has consistently achieved strong outcomes in space and aviation education as well as research-related training. Examples include:

Key Achievements in Space and Aviation Education

- Simulated aircraft featured in our school’s STEAM SPACE, allowing students to experience simulated piloting while integrating learning in physics, mathematics, and aviation technology.
- Students won the overall championship at Aerosim 2024, an inter-school aviation tournament in Hong Kong, earning the chance of free flight training in Australia.

- Secondary Two students were selected for "Young Astronaut Experience Camp 2026," with participants set to receive aerospace training and visit national space facilities in Beijing.
- A space seed-planting programme was launched and an on-campus greenhouse for space plants was established. Our school team earned Silver and Bronze awards in an aerospace seed-breeding competition.

Ongoing Recognition in Local and International Competitions

- Awards including Top Ten STEAM Schools at the 7th Greater Bay Area STEAM Excellence Awards and an Excellent Award for STEAM Schools at the Hong Kong Youth Science & Technology Innovation Competition.
- In the *South China Morning Post* "Outstanding Students" election, students won the championship in the Science and Mathematics categories, while our school received a Special Award for The Most Nurturing Environment.
- Our school's team won gold awards for three consecutive years at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition, building our reputation on the international research stage.

Continuous Upgrading of Curriculum and Facilities

- STEAM courses from Secondary One to Secondary Two connect to creative invention, coding, and 3D printing to strengthen hands-on practice.
- Our school has introduced 5G intelligent weather instruments and an aquaponics system, while also offering robotics programming and drone-related courses through STEAM learning—equipping students with practical research skills.

Dr Lai's journey to space is a source of pride for young people in Hong Kong, and a real-world demonstration of our school's education philosophy. Looking ahead, our school will remain committed to its mission—nurturing students with care and forward-looking insight—so that more young people dare to chase their dreams and explore boldly, shining brightly amid the nation's wider development.