

Academy Of Innovation (Confucius Hall)

Newsletter I

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1. Principal's Sharing

21st October, 2024

Dear parents and students,

The 2024-2025 academic year begins in September, while our school's endeavors indeed commenced in August. During this period, academic departments met to discuss instructional plans for the new year. Concurrently, we orchestrated orientation programs for new students, hosted welcome days, and conducted induction sessions for our new teachers. Additionally, our school has introduced a comprehensive 48-hour adaptation program designed specifically for newly arrived students. The program includes modules focused on familiarizing students with the local environment, introducing them to Cantonese language basics, and enhancing their English language skills.

It is with great pleasure that I share our first piece of jubilant news: amidst the citywide student recruitment landscape, our school has achieved remarkable success. Most transfer students gained admission only after passing a rigorous written examination. Additionally, we take immense pride in announcing that over half of our Form 6 students who applied through JUPAS have secured university placements, with four of our exemplary students receiving priority admissions.

In a testament to our students' creative prowess, Chen Chak-hei, Lou Jiaqi, Tse Ka-wing, and Li Sze-wai participated in the "Digi-Science" Video Production Competition for Hong Kong Secondary Schools. Their entry, which ingeniously transcended temporal boundaries to introduce financial literacy concepts with a hue of levity, advanced to the finals. On July 2nd, their creation garnered high acclaim from the judging panel, ultimately winning the first runner-up, coupled with prizes such as trophies and monetary rewards. I must confess, I too had the pleasure of making a cameo appearance in their production.

On July 5th, our school hall played host to the award ceremony for the "History Everywhere" project,



organized by Centre of National History Education (Hong Kong). The event was graced by the esteemed Professor Ting Sun-pao from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who delivered an enlightening lecture to an audience of several hundred attendees.

July 8th marked a day of cultural exchange as we welcomed a delegation of 50 teachers and students from our sister school, Huancui Middle School. The delegation was hosted with great enthusiasm by our students who had previously participated in an exchange program. Huancui Middle School is a prestigious institution in Weihai with roots as an international school catering primarily to Japanese and Korean students. On that day, they showcased their talents through calligraphy and musical performances in the hall. Post-performances, we all went to the South China Athletic Association for a bowling expedition – a novel experience for many of our Huancui guests, who reveled in the activity. Meanwhile, I engaged in discussions with Principal Jiang of Huancui regarding the intricacies of our next exchange. For lunch, we went to the South China Restaurant, where I took special care to introduce our guests to quintessential Hong Kong delicacies such as roast goose and dim sum. Our visitors were particularly enamored with the roast goose, a culinary delight previously unknown to them in Weihai. As we bid our farewells, Huancui extended a reciprocal invitation for us to visit Weihai, an offer we plan to honor before the Chinese New Year.

On July 11th, representatives from the Guangdong People's Publishing House paid a visit to interview me. It appears that our school's emphasis on Confucianism education has attracted significant attention from mainland educational circles. This marks the second instance of media coverage focusing on our unique educational approach. It is my fervent hope that our students will embody the moral sensibilities of Confucianism, acting with benevolence and maintaining a clear conscience in all their endeavors.

Despite torrential rain on August 17th, our Orientation Day saw an impressive turnout of over 300 parents and students, surpassing our concerns over the downpour. Post-event, numerous parents eagerly sought insights from Mr. Chan Shu-chun and myself regarding various aspects of our school.

As September heralded the commencement of the academic year, Mr. Chan Shu-chun and I stood at the school entrance, warmly greeting students as they returned with beaming smiles. Our educational philosophy prioritizes moral development over academic pursuits, adhering to the principle that "when one has energy to spare from self-cultivation, one should then pursue academic studies." We consider kindness and courtesy towards others as fundamental expectations for our students. In our Confucian studies class, I elucidated the concept of "A man cannot but be strong and resolute, for his burden is heavy and his course is long." This emphasizes that individuals who are educated or hold special positions in society must continuously strive for self-improvement and cultivate a strong moral sense. The "heavy burden" refers to the constant pursuit of the highest good and influencing others positively, while the "long course" implies that this journey continues until one's last breath. Through this, students grasp the determination and effort required in the Confucian pursuit.

From October 4th to 6th, our school participated in the "Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong-Shenzhen Schools Innovation and Technology Showcase 2024" exhibition. This event featured displays from dozens of schools from both Shenzhen and Hong Kong, each showcasing their scientific research achievements. Our school's numerous technological innovations developed over recent years found a fitting platform for presentation. Given the national day celebrations, schools were invited to provide cultural performances. On October 5th, under the scorching midday sun, our Form 3 students Zhang Sui-yee, Li Ming-yan, and Wu Zhuo-lin delivered a mesmerizing performance on the guzheng and guqin. Initially, the audience consisted solely of myself and a few parents, which was somewhat disheartening. However, as the performance progressed, it began to draw a crowd, eventually attracting twenty to thirty spectators. This gradual accumulation of listeners is a testament to our students' musical prowess.

In the assembly preceding Confucius' birthday, I once again expounded on the life of Confucius to our students. I highlighted how Confucius, in an era marked by violence, propounded the revolutionary theory of "The benevolent love others," transcending the temporal and cognitive limitations of his time. Moreover, his audacity in proclaiming "When the Great Way prevails, the world is for all" within a feudal, imperial context was nothing short of extraordinary. It's worth noting that even until the fall of the Qing Dynasty, some Chinese still believed life without an emperor was inconceivable. Yet, 2,500 years prior, Confucius had already posited that a nation should not be the property of a single family. The "Li Yun" chapter has been recognized by some Western scholars as potentially the first declaration of human rights in human history, a claim not without merit. The contemporary philosophical luminary Mou Tsung-san once remarked that after perusing the classics of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Christianity, it was Confucius, above all others, whom he revered.

2. The Analects

- A. What the gentleman seeks, he seeks within himself; what the small man seeks, he seeks in others.
- B. The gentleman is ashamed when the words he utters outstrip his deeds.
- C. Someone who is aware every day of what he lacks, and every month does not forget what he has developed, can be called 'a lover of learning.'
- D. What passes away is, perhaps, like this. Day and night is never lets up.
- E. Only after it turns winter are we aware of the survival of the Pine and Cypress.
- F. Is benevolence really far away? No sooner do I desire it than it is here.

3. Good News

3.1 **29**th Teacher Commendation Scheme

Congratulations to Ms Lam Rong Ping and Ms Lau Tsz Lok who have been awarded the certificate of merit by the Committee on Respect Our Teachers Campaign under the 29th Teacher Commendation Scheme.

3.2 <u>Joint Schools Career Development Association (JSCDA) Career Planning School</u> <u>Ambassadors</u>

Congratulations to 4A Hayden Ma, who has completed the 3-month training and is now the School Ambassador of Joint Schools Career Development Association (JSCDA) to organize career development activities with teachers in the school.

Coordinator: Mr. Chan Hing Shing

3.3 <u>Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) Summer Study Tour</u> Experiential Program 2024

Congratulations to 4B Chen Yiu Ting, who completed the Summer Study Tour Experience Course organized by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and went to the Public Works Central Laboratory, Long Valley Ecological Park, Fanling North NDA Community Liaison Centre and the Footpath under the Island Eastern Corridor under the auspices of the CEDD, and completed the graduation ceremony and was awarded a certificate.

Coordinator: Mr. Chan Hing Shing

3.4 <u>Jockey Club Applause Creative Program Clap@JC Future Career Exploration Tour 2024</u>

6B Chen Chak Hei, Lau Wai and Wang Wing In, participated in the Smart Home Experience cum Worker Sharing Workshop and were awarded certificates.

Coordinator: Mr. Chan Hing Shing

4. School News

4.1 School SMS

To strengthen parent-school communication, the school will continue to send SMS messages to your mobile phones. We hope that parents can provide their mobile phone numbers for our future communication.

4.2 <u>Tuition Fees for S1 to S6 Students</u>

- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.1 students
- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.2 students
- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.3 students
- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.4 students
- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.5 students
- HK\$5,670 annually in ten installments (HK\$567 monthly) for S.6 students
- The adjustments of tuition fees are subject to students' admission to our school for the year.
- The tuition fees from October 2024 to June 2025 should be settled via direct debit from banks. The transaction is scheduled for the first working day of each month. The Direct Debit Authorization Form should be completed and returned to the Class Teacher for handling.



4.3 **Tuition Fee Grant**

In order to help students with financial burdens focus on their studies and join different activities, the school has established the Tuition Fee Grant to help students in need. This grant is open to application all year round. Students may obtain the application form at the General Office.

4.4 Collection of Students' Information for Participation in Activities or Competitions

The personal data collected or filled in by the school for students' application to participate in activities or competitions will only be used for the purpose of applying for the relevant activities or competitions, while the school will receive relevant supporting documents for verification purposes if necessary.

4.5 Use of Students' and Parents' Works, Photos and Videos

Schools or partner organizations may take photographs or videos in the course of organizing activities and learning processes. This will enable parents or the public to know more about the school through the school website, school publications, exhibitions or information from the partner organizations and encourage students to actively participate in the activities and learning process. If parents do not agree, they can write to the principal before 31st December to follow up.

4.6 **Policies for Handling of Students' Cell Phones 2024-25**

- Students are not allowed to bring cell phones to school
- Upon entering the school, all cell phones must be handed in to be kept by the school and returned by class teachers after school.
- Teachers should follow the procedure below in case students are found to have displayed, switched on, or used a cell phone on campus:
 - 1. The cell phone concerned will be confiscated and passed to the corresponding class teacher
 - 2. Students found displaying or using cell phones on campus, or that their cell phones ring during class or exams will be penalized according to the school rules
 - 3. Cell phones temporarily kept by the class teacher will only be returned upon receiving a guarantee letter from parents; however, parents may come to school in person to retrieve the students' cell phones from the class teacher.

Remarks:

As for the cell phones temporarily kept by the class teachers, in case of theft, natural or man-made disasters, etc. The school does not take any responsibilities or is not held liable for compensation.

4.6 **PE Uniform Rules in School**

Students are prohibited from wearing PE uniforms on days without PE lessons. Students violating the rule may be demanded to return home to get changed before they are allowed to enter the school.

4.7 **Lunch arrangements**

To keep junior form students safe from bad social influences, S.1 - S.2 students must stay at school for lunch. Parents please notice the following items:

- 1) Parents can let students bring their lunch to school using a thermos, or use heat-resistant glass lunch boxes to store food in the refrigerator and let school staff use the steamer to reheat it.
- 2) Parents can bring the lunch to school. Our staff will distribute the lunch boxes to the corresponding students.

Time for lunch collection: 12:15 p.m. - 12:35 p.m. (Please state clearly the student's name and class.)

4.8 <u>Arrangements for school social workers in schools</u>

Two social workers from the Hong Kong Children and Youth Services are stationed at the school to provide appropriate counselling to students.

| Social workers | Service date and time | Contact Number |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Ms. TAM On Wing | Every Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri | 2895 2023 |
| Ms. CHOI Ka Ip | Every Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri | 2895 1969 |

4.9 **Lockers**

We provide a locker for each student in the hope to cultivate their self-care ability and to reduce janitors' workload on afterschool cleaning routine. Students should keep their locker keys in a safe place. Parents are advised to keep one or two sets of the locker keys in case of loss. The Department of Students Affairs Management will no longer store a set of spare keys for students. Students will lose their right to use the lockers if they lose their keys, damage the lockers or violate the user guidelines.

4.10 **Health Education Information**

Arrangements of 2024-2025 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine by Department of Health

Department of Health will arrange for students to receive the quadrivalent inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine at 10:00 a.m. on 8th November, 2024. The list of participants will be posted on the classroom poster later for reference. Students are required to wear sports attire and bring their ID cards and needle cards (if applicable) on the day of the screening to facilitate verification of identity by medical staff.



4.11 Arrangements of Student Health Check by Department of Health

Department of Heath will arrange shuttle buses to pick up participants at school to Chai Wan Health Centre for body check by batches in November and December 2024. The examination date, departure time and participant list for each class will later be posted on the bulletin board in the classroom. On that day, students must wear the PE uniform and bring along their identity documents and immunization records (if appropriate) for verification of identity by medical staff. To ensure student's safety, the Department of Health will assign staff to stay on the bus to provide care for the students and the school will also assign staff to provide assistance at the health centre. Students should bring along the books needed for lessons held before and after the scheduled examination.

4.12 The Prevention of the Outbreak of Infectious Diseases

Due to the increasing numbers of the outbreak of infectious diseases like coronavirus, influenza, dengue fever, scarlet fever, hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD), chickenpox, enterovirus, etc., parents are recommended to closely communicate and co-operate with the school to remind students to observe their personal hygiene and keep the school campus clean in avoidance of the outbreak of the aforementioned infectious diseases.

4.13 **Joyful Fruit Day 2025**

The School has joined the "Joyful Fruit Day 2025" organized by the Department of Health (DH) and other organizations (go to http://school.eatsmart.gov.hk for details). The activity aims at enhancing school-parent collaboration and fostering a fruit-eating atmosphere on campus and at home. Parents should introduce their child to balanced diets with a daily consumption of at least two portions of fruits and three portions of vegetables, coupled with regular exercise to maintain good health. Besides, our Health Education Team has successfully applied for a subsidy of HK\$2,000 from the Hong Kong College of Cardiology, which will be used to hold a series of health education event between December and April. Further details will be announced at the morning assemblies. Students are encourage to actively participate in these events.

4.14 Inter-House Singing Contest & Christmas Party

The Inter-House Singing Contest & Christmas Party is scheduled for 20th December (Fri) with details below:

| Time | Programme Rundown |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 10:00 | Rolling |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Inter-House Singing Contest |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Class Reunion |

61st Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation Day 4.15

The 61st Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation Day is scheduled for 13th December 2024(Fri) at the school hall. I now cordially invite parents to attend the ceremony and to share the joy of your children. Please see below for the programme rundown:

| Time | Programme Rundown |
|----------------|---|
| 2:30 pm | Reception at Room 204 |
| 2:45 pm | Entering into school Hall 進入禮堂 |
| 3:00 pm | Welcoming Guest of Honor and Other Guests (Hall) 主禮人及嘉賓進場(禮堂) |
| 3:00 – 3:05 pm | Playing of National Anthem 奏國歌 |
| 3:05 – 3:15 pm | Welcoming Speech from Supervisor 校監致歡迎辭 |
| 3:15 – 3:30 pm | School Affairs Report by Principal 校長報告校務 |
| 3:30 – 4:00 pm | Awards Presentation from Honorable Guest 嘉賓頒發獎項 |
| 4:00 – 4:15 pm | Speech from Honorable Guest 主禮嘉賓致辭 |
| 4:15 – 4:20 pm | Speech from Student Representative 學生代表致辭 |
| 4:20 – 4:25 pm | Presenting Souvenirs from Principal to Honorable Guests and Performing Guests 校長向主禮嘉賓、表演嘉賓致送紀念品 |
| 4:25 – 4:35 pm | Student Performance 學生表演 |
| 4:35 – 4:40 pm | Singing School Song 唱孔聖頌 |
| 4:40 – 4:45 pm | Recession 主禮人及嘉賓離場 |
| 4:45 – 5:00 pm | Tea Party |

School Events 5.

| 5.1 | 14 th October | Election of Student Association |
|------|--|---|
| 5.2 | 23 rd October | Class photo taking (Pending) |
| 5.3 | 28 th October | Winter Uniform Allowed |
| 5.4 | 4 th -11 th November | Sport Days |
| 5.5 | 18 th November to 29 th November | First Term Exam Week (F.1-F.5) / |
| | | Pre-mock Exam (F.6) (see Annex) |
| 5.6 | 9 th December | Winter Uniform Required |
| 5.7 | 13 th December | Speech Day and prize giving ceremony |
| 5.8 | 20 th December | Inter-house Singing Contest & Christmas Party |
| 5.9 | 27 th -31 st January | S6 Tutorial Classes (see Annex) |
| 5.10 | 6 th -16 th January | First Term Re-Examination |
| 5.11 | 8 th January | Elective Subjects Selection Briefing Session |
| 5.12 | 10 th January | School Picnic |
| 5.13 | 12 th January | 1 st Parents' Day |
| 5.14 | 20 th -24 th January | Chinese Culture Week |
| 5.15 | 10 th -20 th February | S.6 Mock Examination |



School Holidays 6.

| 6.1 | 6 th November | The day following Sport Day |
|-----|--|---|
| 6.2 | 25 th December | 1 st Teacher Development Day |
| 6.3 | 23 rd December to | Christmas and New Year Holidays |
| | 1 st January | · |
| 6.4 | 1 st January | The first day of January |
| 6.5 | 13 th January | The day following Parents' Day |
| 6.6 | 27 th January to 8 th February | Lunar New Year Holiday |

Regards

Dr. Yeung Wing Hon

Principal

Academy Of Innovation (Confucius Hall)

| Reply Slip | | |
|---|--|--|
| To: Academy Of Innovation (Confucius Hall | Date: 21 st October, 2024 | |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | ewsletter I (2024-2025). I agree / disagree* to provide my | |
| (Please tick the □ as appropriate) | | |
| Provide mobile phone number for contact and receiving school information by SMSs | ☐ Agree Mobile Phone Number: Name of the Contact Person: | |
| | □ Disagree | |
| | | |
| Photographs of my child in school activities or public competitions are uploaded on the school website or | □ Agree | |
| published in the media. | □ Disagree | |
| | | |
| Name of student: | | |
| Class:(|) | |
| Signature of parent/guardian: | | |

*Please delete as appropriate