



Confucius Hall Secondary School

Newsletter I

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1. Principal's Sharing

8th December 2022

Dear parents and students,

Due to the pandemic, the holidays last summer had been reduced to a mere two weeks. Teachers basically had little rest as they had to prepare for lessons, organize school activities and events, deal with student issues, and liaise with external organizations for the new academic year 2022-2023. I hereby reiterate my gratitude to all the teachers who devote wholeheartedly to educating our students.

To share our first good news, our students earned excellent DSE results. One of our students, Chen Jing-qi, went to her dream school—The University of Hong Kong; while Lai Jonah, with a high mark of 34, was accepted by University of Bath to study architecture, one of the toughest programs to get in globally. Embracing the good news, Lai's father sent us a genuine and rather touching thank you letter (attached herein). In this cohort of graduates, over 18% have been accepted by degree programs from institutes across mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. I'd like to wish all our graduates a bright future and great success in developing the career of their dreams.

It is known that primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong are facing a problem of structural decline in student intakes. In the past couple of years, we had nearly 20,000 students less and the turnover rate of teachers had never been this serious. Due to this, the EDB has had discussion with all the principals in our district to devise a development plan. As this is happening, I would like to express my utmost thanks to the unfailing support of all parents. Even in situation as poor as this, in the start of this new academic year, not only did our headcount of new students not drop, but it also literally multiplied. In a survey conducted by Education Bureau (EDB), over 95% of our parents and students reflected that they were fond of our school, admin staff and teachers, etc., which can be said to be very rare among secondary schools in Hong Kong. For this, I thank the parents for their trust.

弘揚儒學 立己立人

The second good news: our school applied for funding for the school premises maintenance twice and was awarded a funding of over HK\$15 million. The maintenance has already been filed for tendering. It clearly shows that EDB has great confidence in the future development of our school. I believe, in the coming two or three years, we will have new and modernized campus to show before us.

The third good news, which was briefly mentioned in our last exchange, comes gleefully from the completion of the newly established technological center funded by Quality Education Fund—Innovation Hub, which is now equipped with top-notch and the latest facilities. The grand opening was held on 16 Sept and attended by scores of students, and together with the junior form students, they share the anticipation and excitement of the launch of the STEM courses, such as drones and robots design, etc. in junior forms. Besides, the smart teaching whiteboards have also been installed, and despite the high cost, are welcomed by our teachers. In addition, we have been proactively liaising with universities and tertiary institutions for collaborative opportunities and have recently signed a memorandum with Lingnan University to pave the path for the future development of technology.

To cater for the needs of the Newly Arrived Children (NAC), we conducted an Induction Programme, with contents including:

1. a seminar on multiple pathways for further education
2. Cantonese classes
3. everyday English and pronunciation
4. a programme on learning about the local community

On 1 Sept, the first day of school, students paid tribute and bow with their hands together to the teachers. On the same day, our social workers gave a talk on “My Little Fortunes: A Small Talk on Positive Psychology” to encourage students to appreciate their surroundings and enjoy campus life. The school organized a vast array of activities and encouraged students to learn and participate in extra-curricular activities, for example, I met the S5 and S6 students in their own classrooms to encourage them in person, and some of them individually to discuss their career or study pursuit.

One of the major events in September was the 27th Teacher Commendation Scheme, in which Ms Lui Mei-tak and Mr Lam Kwok-ming were extolled. Besides, other activities include the “Music for the Millions Concerts” conducted by the Music Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department; “Inclusion Workshop” conducted by our school social workers to teach our junior form students on how to handle peer conflicts; and Brainful Programme-cum-Excellent Student Award Presentation Ceremony organized by Go With Youth Limited, in which five of our students were awarded the Lenovo tablets—Smart Tab M.

October was one of the most eventful months. We organized the Jockey Club ICH + Innovative Heritage Education Programme for S1 to S3 students. Instructors visited our school to teach courses on galvanized iron and dough figurine crafting, etc.; “S1 Mentorship Programme”, in which training was provided for the 24 mentors selected from S2 to S6. Also, the Student Union (SU) election was conducted

on 13 Oct. The only cabinet, Kirin, received a majority vote in the election.

On 13 Oct, the Health Committee of Medical Society, HKUSU hosted a talk on “Learning about Winter Flu and Covid-19”. Six medical students came to our school to show us how virus is spread, how vaccination is done, and how to wash our hands the right way. On 14 Oct, the delegate from Hong Kong Arts Development Council visited our school and met with our school management to observe our school’s implementation and progress of the funded projects, including the Artist-in-Residence Drama Performance and Art Therapy Workshop for S1 to S3. In the art workshop, students learnt to engage their five senses in producing expressive drawings. On 22 Oct, 15 parents and students attended the screening event of Warriors of Future and, together, celebrated the birthday of the Hong Kong movie star, Mr Louis Koo Tin-lok. On 24 Oct, in collaboration with the Caritas “Soil” Programme, we conducted a questionnaire entitled “The Danger of Sex in the Cyber World” and invited selected students to join small group activities with an aim to help them establish a positive image and healthy habits. On 27 Oct, we organized the annual ECA festival and conducted classes involving zen tangle and mandala drawing, African drums, a cappella, magic tricks, bridge games, chess and board games, volunteering, cooking, etc. On the other hand, the history department arranged a field trip for Chinese students from S4 to visit the Jamia Mosque in the Central Western district to learn about the Islamic culture. On 28 Oct, Chinese students from senior forms attended a legal talk—Meeting with Barrister Jason, Tang Long-yin. Mr Tang utilized fun, everyday examples to explain the banal legislation and the Basic Law, as well as shared his experience both as a student and as a lawyer to outline the legal sector. On 29 Oct, 11 teams of students contested in the two-day underwater robot competition. On the same day, a team of ten students joined the Cybersecurity Hackathon jointly organized by Esperanza and ThriveDx.

On 3 Nov, Mingpao featured an article on our STEM developmental strategies. Mr Chan Choi-hei hosted a talk on ethnic inclusiveness for our senior students. Our school social workers and South Island School cooperatively organized an anti-drug workshop called “How to Resist Negative Peer Pressure”, to educate students the harmful effects of drugs and how to resist negative peer pressure. As the first school working in partnership with Hong Kong Rugby Union, we were fortunate to get free rugby tickets for our students to a guided tour of the Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Rugby Sevens. At the stadium, we encountered Dr Choi Yuk-lin, the Secretary for Education, with whom we took pictures and enjoyed the exciting matches. On 7 Nov, The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education and Confucius Hall worked together to release a collaborative plan. A delegate from the Academy paid a visit to our Innovation Hub and watched a drone performance. On 8 Nov, the ventilation system of the entire school was installed.

With regards support to non-Chinese speaking (NAC) students, we organized various activities including, on 9 Sept, an initiative by Coolminds (Mind HK and KELY Support Group) to dispel the myth of mental health, promote self-care, encourage students to act as “guardian angels” for their peers, and introduce channels for seeking help and support; on 16 Sept, Hong Kong Children and Youth Services conducted a talk called “Say NO to drugs—the Myth of Marijuana” for our junior students. On 12 and 26 Oct, the same organization set up a series of interest groups for our NCS students from S4 to help them

explore their strengths and interests and plan their careers; on 28 Oct, a legal talk entitled “A Meeting with Barrister Lai Ming” was conducted for our NCS students from senior forms to raise their legal awareness. The sharing allowed students to learn about the legal industry.

In the past three years, due to long school suspension, some of our students showed signs of emotional issues. During that time, I encouraged class teachers to stay in touch with parents and students, inform them of our school’s latest development and strategies, and feel free to seek help from the school should they need it. Shifting between half-day to full-day school, with over 90% of our students had two or more doses of vaccination; therefore, we could finally resume full-day school in accordance with EDB’s guideline. In the past few years, I received a good number of calls from parents, commending our teachers for their care to the students. As I often say to our teachers, treat our students as our children (or nephews or nieces), care for them, and trust that they can do well.

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 Congratulations to CHAU TSZ TUNG(6B), who won the 1st Runner-up in the Junior Division (Koryo) of the 2nd Junior Cup (2022) organized by the Hong Kong Wu Taekwondo Association on 23 October.

3.2 ESPERANZA X ThriveDX “Cybersecurity Hackathon”

During October, a total of 10 Secondary 4 students from our school participated in the "Cybersecurity Hackathon" co-organized by ESPERANZA and ThriveDX. All participating students of our school successfully completed the hackathon and received a certificate for completing the competition. Among them, Tambo Eurygale Nasam (4A) and Pawanpreet-Kaur-Pawar (4A) ranked 11th and 12th among many players respectively.

Coordinator: Mr. Ng Tat Ming

3.3 **APTMA Asia Pacific “Halloween Wonderland” coloring/painting contest 2022**

The "Halloween Wonderland" Coloring/Drawing Contest 2022" was held to allow students who are passionate about art to express their creativity and compete in open groups according to their age levels. Five students from our school participated in the competition and won one championship, two gold prizes, one bronze prize and merit award in the Junior Junior Junior and Junior Senior categories of coloring and electronic drawing respectively. The winners included Minsha (1A), Prashanna (1B), LO LOK FUNG (3B), CHEUNG SUM YAU (4A), and Kripa (6A).

Coordinator: Ms Lau Tsz Lok

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 **Tuition Fees for S1 to S6 Students**

- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 monthly) for S.1 students
- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 monthly) for S.2 students
- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 monthly) for S.3 students
- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 monthly) for S.4 students
- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 monthly) for S.5 students
- HK\$5160 annually in ten installments (HK\$516 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 2022 to June 2023 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 **Grant for Tertiary Institutes**

The school has established the Higher Institutes Scholarship Scheme to provide support to alumni struggling financially to finish their tertiary studies. For those who wish to apply, please note that the deadline is 31st December (of the year in which the applicant sits for the HKDSE)

with a quota of two applicants. Details of the scheme have been updated and uploaded to the school website. Parents can also download the form from the website. The completed form together with all necessary documents should be submitted to the school to be assessed and approved by the “Higher Institute Scholarship Scheme” Committee.

4.5 **Policies for Handling of Students’ Cell Phones 2022-23**

- 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.6 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 **Arrangements for school social workers in schools**

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 2022-2023 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine by Department of Health

Department of Health will arrange for students to receive the quadrivalent inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine at 2:00 p.m. on 20th December, 2022. 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 **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.

4.12 **CUHK Jockey Club AI for the Future Project**

Our school continues to be selected as a peer school in this academic year, with the purpose of promoting outstanding information and communication technology inventions and artificial intelligence applications. Our school has purchased 40 sets of "artificial intelligence programming mechanical vehicles" in the last school year, allowing junior high school students to experience the artificial intelligence courses developed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Coordinator: Mr. Ng Tat Ming

4.13 Inter-House Singing Contest & Christmas Party

The Inter-House Singing Contest & Christmas Party is scheduled for 21st December (Wed) with details below:

Time	Programme Rundown
08:15	Rolling
08:15 – 08:30	Class teacher period
08:30 – 10:30	Inter-House Singing Contest

4.14 59th Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation Day

The 56th Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation Day is scheduled for 21st January 2022(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
3:30 pm	Welcoming Guest of Honor and Other Guests (Hall) 主禮人及嘉賓進場(禮堂)
3:35 – 3:40 pm	Playing of National Anthem 奏國歌
3:40 – 3:45 pm	Welcoming Speech from Supervisor 校監致歡迎辭
3:45 – 4:00 pm	School Affairs Report by Principal 校長報告校務
4:00 – 4:20 pm	Awards Presentation from Honorable Guest 嘉賓頒發獎項
4:20 – 4:35 pm	Speech from Honorable Guest 主禮嘉賓致辭
4:35 – 4:40 pm	Speech from Student Representative 學生代表致辭
4:40 – 4:45 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
4:45 – 4:55 pm	Student Performance 學生表演
4:55 – 5:00 pm	Singing School Song 唱孔聖頌
5:00 pm	Recession 主禮人及嘉賓離場
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Tea Party

4.15 Chinese Cultural Week

To enhance students' awareness and interest in Chinese culture, the Chinese Department will hold a Chinese Culture Week from 31 January to 6 February, details are as follows,

Date	Time	Content	Venue	Remark
31 Jan	2 nd to 4 th Lesson	Chinese face changing play	Hall	All students
1 Feb	Lunch period	International Food Carnival & Booth Games	Courtyard (tuck shop)	All students and teachers are welcome
1 to 2 Feb	Whole Day	Book Fair	TBD	All students
3 Feb	Chinese lessons	Chinese Cultural Knowledge Competition	Classroom	All students
8 Mar	7 th to 10 th Lesson	Chinese opera	Westkwoon Xi-Qu center	For F1 to F4 only

4.15 Joyful Fruit Day 2023

The School has joined the “*Joyful Fruit Day 2023*” 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 January and March. Further details will be announced at the morning assemblies. Students are encourage to actively participate in these events.

5. School Events

5.1	1 st to 13 th December	First Term Exam Week (F.1-F.5) / Pre-mock Exam (F.6)
5.2	21 st December	Inter-house Singing Contest & Christmas Party
5.3	5 th -12 th January	First Term Re-Examination
5.4	5 th January	Elective Subjects Selection Briefing Session
5.5	13 th January	Speech Day
5.6	15 th January	1 st Parents' Day
5.7	31 st January to 6 th February	Chinese Culture Week
5.8	20 th February to 3 rd March	S.6 Mock Examination
5.9	15 th -20 th February	Second Term Uniform Test
5.10	2 nd April	2 nd Parents' Day
5.11	17 th April	Summer Uniform Allowed
5.12	17 th -21 st March	English and multi-cultural Week
5.13	21 st March	Summer Uniform Required

6. School Holidays

6.1	22 nd December to 3 rd January	Christmas and New Year Holidays
6.2	1 st January	The first day of January
6.3	16 th January	The day following 1st Parents' Day
6.4	17 th -30 th January	Chinese New Year Holiday
6.5	14 th March	2 nd Teacher Development Day
6.6	3 rd -15 th April	Ching Ming Festival and Easter Holiday
6.7	1 st May	Labour Day
6.8	20 th May	The Birthday of Mencius
6.9	26 th May	The Birthday of Buddha

7. Appendix, letter from Prof. LAI Tsz Pang

Jonah Lai's Transformation and Leap

Confucius Hall Secondary School upholds the educational philosophy of "benevolence" as a model for all ages. I have known Principal Dr Yeung Wing Hon personally for several years. He is caring, displays relentless endeavours to teach children, and actively explores opportunities for overseas exchanges. Under his guidance over the past six years, the school has organised multiple overseas exchange activities including places such as the United States, Denmark, India, Japan, Harbin and others. The school even arranged for a German exchange student to stay with a Hong Kong host family. My son, Jonah, was fortunate enough to be a part of these events at a young age. These rich experiences have enhanced his cultural awareness and broadened his international perspective.

The school strongly supported students in pursuing their dreams, and teachers often work with students to plan their careers and cultivate their path of becoming top students. The school generously subsidises students to enrol in overseas summer courses, including the architecture summer course at an Ivy League college, Cornell University. These opportunities lay solid foundations for students to study abroad in the future.

During the raging epidemic, all the staff of the school united as one, adhered to their posts with professionalism, personally supervised, and strengthened the resilience and self-confidence of fellow students. Jonah was entrusted with prominent responsibilities as the president of the student union and the chief student. He developed the perseverance of self-improvement and the leadership skills of enthusiasm to help others. He was honoured to win the Hong Kong Island Outstanding Student Awards in 2021.

The school has created an excellent learning atmosphere to prepare students for the DSE exams. Jonah often commuted to school for many months for revision. Alongside one another, the students supported and encouraged each other. After the exams, Jonah's class teacher went hiking and camping with him and his classmates. They not only have a teacher-student relationship, but they are friends as well. They got to know each other and established a sincere friendship. No wonder Jonah said proudly from time to time: "Confucius Hall Secondary School gave me a warm home!"

Jonah attained 32 points in the current DSE examination and successfully enrolled in the Department of Architecture at the University of Bath, a top college in the UK, which allowed him to take a great leap forward in his ideal of goal to improve life and change the world with architecture! As a father, I cannot be more proud of his achievement, but this was only made possible by the principal's excellent leadership and vision.

Looking back, when Jonah initially entered Confucius Hall Secondary School, he was a young boy who was quiet, shy and lacked self-confidence. Over the past six years, I have witnessed his transformation and leap in Confucius Hall Secondary School, becoming a future leader willing to share, take responsibility, and dare to innovate. I am extremely grateful towards the school, especially to Principal Dr Yeung Wing Hon.

Prof. LAI Tsz Pang John

Professor, Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Keeley Visiting Fellow, Wadham College, University of Oxford

弘揚儒學 立己立人

Regards



Dr. Yeung Wing Hon
Principal
Confucius Hall Secondary School

-----**Reply Slip**-----

Date: 8th December, 2022

To: Confucius Hall Secondary School

I have read and understood the content of Newsletter I (2022-2023). I *agree / disagree** to provide my contact information.

(Please tick the as appropriate)

Provide mobile phone number for contact and receiving school information by SMSs	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
	Mobile Phone Number: _____
	Name of the Contact Person: _____

Name of student: _____

Class: _____ ()

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

**Please delete as appropriate*