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WAH YAN COLLEGE, KOWLOON

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### A Jesuit Secondary School

22 May 2020

Dear educators, Wahyanites and companions,

This is not a welcome back message in the most ordinary sense, as, after all, who could have imagined a break in the Lunar New Year would stretch to Easter and beyond, and is only ending about one and a half months before the school year draws to a close? Despite the fact that during the four-month class suspension period, students and teachers still meet on various virtual platforms, nothing compares to the warmth of human connection that can only be realised through face-to-face interactions.

On behalf of Wah Yan College, Kowloon, I take great pleasure in welcoming you all back – with your physical presence on this very campus, which has always remained safe and poised, like a Shangri-La, for over half a century at 56 Waterloo Road. Your presence will surely revitalize the campus, making it sprightly and scintillating.

The school year of 2019-20 is an eventful one. It is a year that Wah Yan College, Kowloon embraces the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary while witnessing class suspension twice, one in each term; it is also a year that, perhaps, the city and the world are embroiled in a paradigm shift in different aspects. The anniversary events have, to all intents and purposes, either been cancelled or postponed, leaving us with a myriad of indelible stories that we can tell for our whole life. In this anniversary year of historical significance, Wahyanites do not celebrate for the sake of celebrations, but, more importantly, we celebrate our core values of “service, companionship, renewal”.

Amid the pause mandated by the pandemic, we have managed to take a great leap in eLearning and self-directed learning. Throughout the stillness and silence imposed by the lockdown in most parts of the world, we are able to listen to our heart more clearly. As such, we are very glad to learn that, during this difficult time, our staff and students launched a Face Mask Donation Campaign for the poor and the neglected, igniting our passion for service amid such a daunting hiatus. Our students also took the initiative in producing face shields with 3D printing technology for donation to the needy. What is impressive is not the production of face shields per se, but is that our students care to put the knowledge and skills they acquire through teachers and self-directed learning into practice to support a good cause, living up to the spirit of “Men for and with Others”.

Sometimes, we need a pause to renew ourselves; sometimes, it takes silence to truly hear – to hear

our calling to serve and be good companions. When facing ambivalence and unpredictability, we learn that we cannot take things for granted and we should be grateful for what we possess. Amid a volatile situation, we learn that we have to keep our faith and live out the spirit of Magis, doing better for the greater glory of God and weathering the storm.

During this difficult time, while our students have impressed us with their competence, commitment, compassion and conscience, what is equally impressive is the professionalism and commitment displayed by our educators. They have never failed in rendering their time and support for various educational initiatives we champion. I feel proud of the team and the contributions they have made all along.

Wahyanites, please enjoy the remaining days of the school year, wearing your long-missed school uniform and meeting your long-time-no-see friends on this dear campus. We are all awaiting class resumption with bated breath and let us welcome it in a positive manner and in high spirits.

I look forward to seeing your happy faces, even with your masks on.

Yours faithfully,



Warren Chung  
Principal

