

九龍華仁書院

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**A Jesuit Secondary School**

27 January 2021

Dear educators, parents and Wahyanites,

### **Take Care, Keep Calm, Stay Healthy**

It has been 57 days since face-to-face classes were suspended again on 2 December 2020, amid a surge in COVID-19 infections. How are you? The vast and green campus at 56 Waterloo Road looks bleak and desolate without your presence; every day only one sixth of the total number of students may come back, making the campus just a shadow of itself, without your joyous smiles and youthful exuberance.

Having fought the pandemic blues for over a year's time, we have stretched ourselves to the limit. Much as we long for a placid life, we are still constantly dazzled, if not churned up, by different challenges. The recent lockdowns for mandatory testing for COVID-19, first in the Jordan area and next the Yau Ma Tei area, both in our neighbourhood, have probably taken most residents there by surprise. Some of you live in those areas and you must have been experiencing deep hardship. I empathize with you, and so do our alumni. In addition to the usual financial and emotional support, alumni of Class '67 and I have worked together to set up a one-off scholarship, Professor James Tong Scholarship, for offering financial assistance to Wahyanites who show resilience in adversity despite family financial difficulties due to the pandemic. You are welcome to apply for the scholarship via class teachers.

Since our inception in 1924, Wah Yan College, Kowloon has been standing strong on our home turf for almost a century, caring, nurturing, and accompanying generations of Wahyanites who grow up in the same neighborhood through thick and thin. At this particularly difficult moment, we want to accompany you and your families through this trying year with staunch support that you can always rely on; one day you can also be men for and with others, helping the needy ones at large. At Wah Yan, we care and we stand by you; Emmanuel, God is with us.

Diseases, like fake news and rumours, are everywhere and amid a fast-changing and volatile situation, we have to keep calm and stay positive as every cloud has a silver lining. Don't panic! What seems to be a threat may turn out to be a blessing in disguise, just like our big leap in self-directed learning and eLearning, thanks to online learning due to the suspension of face-to-face classes.



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Throughout the challenging times, we have also learnt gratitude, companionship and resilience. We should be grateful and not take things for granted- every day, we breathe freely but for those who are infected with the novel coronavirus, they may have to pay thousands of dollars each day to rely on ventilators for breathing. We should be grateful for what we have instead of lamenting what we don't have. In uncertainty, we support one another, treasuring our companionship and brotherhood, and together, we shall conquer. Even during the lockdown, you may be alone but you are never lonely as we care for one another. Amid volatility, we show the world we can do it! Wahyanites, in adversity, we grow – and grow stronger. Together, we fight what is worth fighting for, and against. Stand strong, stand tall, as we always do.

Please stay healthy and be vigilant against infectious diseases in light of a recent spike in COVID-19 infections in the neighbourhood. The best way to protect ourselves from diseases is by observing social distancing and good personal hygiene such as wearing masks at all times, washing hands frequently or cleaning hands with 70% alcohol-based sanitizer, avoiding crowd gatherings and cooperating in anti-pandemic arrangements.

I will always keep you in the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

God, give me grace to accept with Serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.

Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen

Wish you a robust and bountiful Year of the Ox.

Yours faithfully,



Warren CHUNG

Principal

