

九龍華仁書院

中國香港特別行政區

九龍窩打老道 56 號

電話: (852) 2384 1038

傳真: (852) 2770 5095



WAH YAN COLLEGE, KOWLOON

56 Waterloo Road, Kowloon,

Hong Kong S. A. R., CHINA

Telephone: (852) 2384 1038

Facsimile: (852) 2770 5095

A Jesuit Secondary School

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Dear educators, parents and Wahyanites,

Arrangements for the Early Summer Vacation (Special Vacation) (14 March – 22 April 2022)

As the city has recently faced a barrage of COVID-19 cases per day, 2022 is shaping to be another massive year for all, especially for students and educators. Only those with the most extraordinary imagination could have envisaged an early summer vacation in Spring- another testimony to the volatile and uncertain situation. All study and work plans have to be reshuffled, but Wahyanites, especially our S.6 students, take pride in being responsive and adaptive to changes and challenges, following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius. As Ignatian educators, we understand that Jesuit education is about transcendence and transformation across space and time.

In March and April, the school campus might be used as a COVID Testing Centre to facilitate the Compulsory Universal Testing Scheme. In this regard, the summer vacation will be brought forward, and the details of the arrangements are as follows (for details, please refer to the attached revised school calendar for the second term):

1) S.1 Discretionary Places Online Interviews

Against the backdrop of the unpredictable pandemic situation, S.1 Discretionary Places Interviews will be turned **online** and rescheduled for **12 March 2022** to assure the worrying parents. Although the deadlines for submitting the list of successful applicants to the Education Bureau (EDB) and notifying parents of successful applicants have been rescheduled for 3 and 4 May 2022, it is impossible to arrange the interviews after the early summer vacation, on 23 April, because the date clashes with the HKDSE English Language examination.

2) Early Summer Vacation

The early summer vacation stretches **from 14 March to 22 April 2022**, incorporating the Easter Holiday and Ching Ming Festival. During the special vacation, students should not come back to school.

3) eReading and Self-Directed Learning during the Early Summer Vacation

Students are strongly encouraged to read to learn during the early summer vacation to make it a fruitful holiday. The eRead Scheme was launched in November 2021 to cultivate students' reading interests and habits and facilitate cross-curricular reading. The school has subscribed to HKEdCity's 'e-Read Scheme', and more than 100 e-Books are provided for teachers and students. Teachers and students can enjoy unlimited access to the subscribed eBooks by downloading the 'EdBookShelf' App or logging on to the eRead Scheme website with their devices using their HKEdCity personal account. The individual login ID and password have been distributed to students via eClass mail ("e-Read Scheme HKEdcity eBook Personal Login Account" issued on 15 November 2021).

Reading is an interest that not only enriches your mind but also frees you from any troubles. I cannot agree more with a quote from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, one of the subscribed eBooks, "Within two minutes, or even less, he had forgotten all his troubles. Not because his troubles were one whit less heavy and bitter to him than a man's are to a man, but because a new and powerful interest bore them down and drove them out of his mind for the time- just as men's misfortunes are forgotten in the excitement of new enterprises." Indeed, reading can be as blissful as whistling.

Wah Yan provides whole-person development, and during the early summer vacation, some instrumental music classes and sports training will continue **online** to help students enjoy essential learning experiences.

4) Support for Students during the Early Summer Vacation

At Wah Yan, we provide *cura personalis* and care about our students. Our class teachers, guidance teachers, social workers and psychologists shall continue to provide support for students to assist them in coping with their emotions and pressure during the early summer vacation. Please feel free to solicit our educators' assistance.

5) Class Resumption and the Amended School Calendar for the Second Term

To ensure that the HKDSE core subject examinations proceed smoothly, class resumption for S.1-S.5 will be arranged as follows, **with the adoption of the whole-day 9-lesson timetable:**

From 25 to 29 April 2022: online classes only

From 3 May 2022 onwards: face-to-face class resumption

The last school day falls on 10 August 2022 to make up for the loss of active school days,

meeting the minimum requirement of having at least 190 active school days, considering that students have already lost a lot of face-to-face classes and learning experiences. The first school day of the 2022/23 school year will be 1 September 2022.

6) Uniform Test

The Uniform Test extends from 4 to 11 May 2022, and teachers will inform students of the scope of the uniform test before 14 March 2022. The Uniform Test enables students to understand their learning progress and lets teachers give feedback on students' areas for improvement for better learning.

As the pandemic rages through the community, the EDB strongly urges parents to race against time in the coming two to three months and arrange vaccination for eligible students as early as possible to protect themselves. A high vaccination rate will help construct a more effective protective barrier.

The pandemic teaches us an insightful lesson of “the Cannonball moment”. The virus itself is an allegory. Although the virus has mutated and persisted over the past two years, what has set us back initially would, eventually, make us stronger, and we do not only find a way to survive but to live well and roar back. In the end, those who have the ability to play a long game, calmly and wisely with faith, will carry the day.

At the beginning of the Lenten season, Bishop CHOW calls us "to love beyond ourselves through adversity" in this challenging time as the Bible says: *“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all.”* (Galatians 6:9-10).

Let us anchor values to our faith and do good anyway. I will keep all Ignatian educators, parents, Wahyanites, especially our S.6 students, and our families in my earnest prayers (Do It Anyway by Mother Teresa):

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind,

People may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful,
You will win some false friends and some true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,
People may cheat you.
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,
Someone could destroy overnight.
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
They may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
People will often forget tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
And it may never be enough.
Give the best you've got anyway.

You see,
**In the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.**

May God bless you with health, serenity, resilience and joy.

Yours faithfully,



Warren CHUNG

Principal

