

Self-introduction by Ms. Cecilia CHOW

Dear companions and members of the Wah Yan Community,

It is with great honour and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the next principal of Wah Yan College, Kowloon (WYK). This coming academic year 2022-2023 will mark my fifteenth at WYK. Being the principal of WYK is a very special vocation. I am humbled by the honour. I feel blessed to be able to continue working side by side with the Jesuit Fathers and the many extremely competent and committed Wah Yan companions, each of whom has devoted an important part of their lives to education and to this unique, vibrant, well-admired school with a fine and ever developing tradition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Warren CHUNG for his hard work and dedication during his term as Principal. He has led the school to new heights and has created a solid foundation for the future success of the school. I wish him well upon retirement from his principalship.

I started my teaching career some twenty years ago. Inspired by my parents and by my positive school experience, I became a biology teacher after graduating from HKU. My science education provided me with solid subject knowledge and an analytic mind. However, I believe that as a teacher, I am here not just to teach “biology” but “people”, each with their unique characters, backgrounds, hopes and tribulations. This is not just about tailoring our teaching of the subject but also the broader concern of caring for the development of the whole person. To be an educator who understands more deeply the developmental needs of students, I further studied for a Master’s Degree in Social Sciences (Marriage and Family Therapy). Being a mother of two young girls, I fully appreciate how the family plays an important role in our students’ growth.

In the fourteen years at WYK, I have been given the chance to serve in different capacities including Biology Panel Chair, Chair of Guidance Committee and Vice Principal overseeing Student Affairs, External Relationships, Religious Education and Campus Management. The school has gone through tremendous developments in these years, and being part of the team, I have grown from being admiring of to being deeply identified with WYK – its Jesuit vision to education, its traditions, its ethos, its community and its total dedication to our students’ flourishing as Men for and with Others. In this journey, I feel really blessed for being connected to the lives of hundreds of Wahyanites. The young men I taught and accompanied in my early years at WYK have already gone through university and are now contributing to society in different roles. Witnessing their transformation under the unique approach of Jesuit education is immensely fulfilling, heart-warming, and inspirational.

The pandemic has caused much disruption to relationships within our community. In this coming academic year, I would like to put special focus on reconnecting our students, teachers, families, and alumni. In particular for our students, a meaningful and solid connection is key to supporting students’ social-emotional growth as well as academic excellence. Inspired by St. Ignatius of Loyola and his Spiritual Exercises, we care for each of our students, and we

challenge every student to reflect on his learning experiences. Schools are not just bricks and mortar. Young boys come to Wah Yan to embark on a journey, and we are here to accompany them on this journey of discovery – about the world as well as themselves.

I am excited to serve the Wah Yan community in my new capacity and to build on the good work of our predecessors to nurture young men who seek the fullest development of their God-given talents to serve humanity. It is my sincere wish that they be imbued with the expected characteristics of the Jesuit student at graduation – intellectually competent, loving, open to life-long growth, spiritual and moral, and just.

I look forward to meeting you, listening to your inputs, and working closely with you for the educational mission of WYK and the thriving of the Wah Yan Community. Please pray for me and for our school.

Yours faithfully,

Cecilia Chow Tze Sze

