

Principal's message: Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back to all students and families for the start of the 2011-12 academic year. I trust that you had a wonderful summer break and looking forward to another exciting year at the College. To all new boys, I extend a special welcome. The Form 1 boys come to us from more than 50 primary schools across the Hong Kong SAR. I hope that they will soon settle into life on our campus and enjoy the many learning opportunities that will come their way.

This year is very special in two ways. It is our 160th Anniversary and many activities and functions will be held to celebrate the foundation of our College in 1851. It is also the 'double-cohort' year where, under the new secondary school (NSS) system that applies to schools across Hong Kong, Form 6 and Form 7 students will take the university entrance examinations in the same year. This will be the last year that the College will enroll Form 7 boys with only Forms 1 to 6 being offered from September 2012.

Due to the 'double-cohort' and a general drive to provide additional teaching resources, the number of teachers has increased significantly this year. Indeed, there are now 95 front-line teachers in the College with additional staff employed as Teaching Assistants in key departments. I extend a special greeting to our new members of staff and hope that they will get pleasure and professional satisfaction from teaching at St. Paul's College.

It has been an extremely busy summer for teachers and students on campus and overseas. The College offered 9 tours, as part of the Global Classroom Programme, to a wide variety of locations and covering a range of activities. The Geography tour was to Iceland; the English Language study tour to London; the Community Awareness Project was held at Qinghai, China; the Archery, Badminton and Ten-pin Bowling tours were held in Sabah, Malaysia; the Art tour was to Taiwan; and the Scouts participated in the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

The highlight of the summer, however, was the 160th Anniversary Music Tour to London and Cambridge. I had the privilege of listening to our wonderful choir of 60 voices and 10 Chinese instrumentalists at each of the venues. To say they were magnificent is an understatement. The performances at St. Paul's Cathedral (London) and Great St. Mary's (Cambridge) were particularly memorable.

The summer break was also used to upgrade the campus infrastructure. All exterior walls have been repainted accompanied by major renovation to the Pokfulam Road entrance, the Lower Playground, the Covered Playground, the Form 3 classrooms and two of the general purpose classrooms. The campus is looking refreshed and I know that the boys and staff will appreciate the learning and teaching environment.

I encourage families to stay in touch with all the news from St. Paul's. Please make the College website the default homepage on your computer! I look forward to a successful year across the full range of activities that makes St. Paul's College so special.

Dr. J.R. Kennard