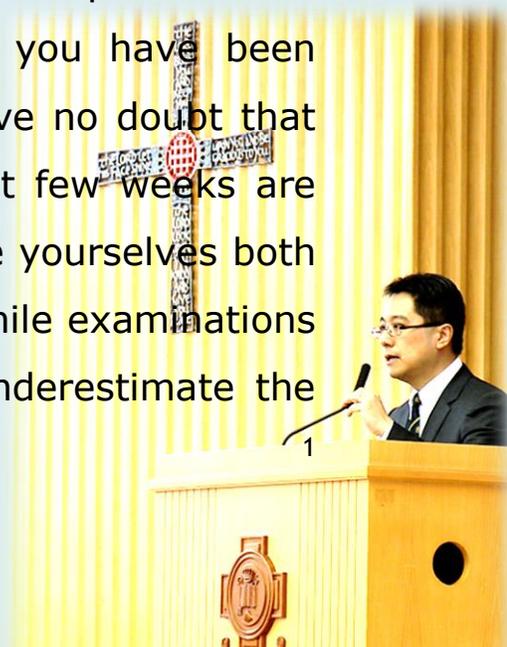


It seems only yesterday that I had my first assembly with you, telling you about the importance of cultivating good habits. It is hard to believe that already this is March and the last assembly of this academic year. Of course, we still have iAssembly that Father Philip will prepare for us and I am sure you will find inspiration and encouragement from the weekly message that he will give.

For the Form 6, it is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to you here because many of you have been with us for at least six years if not 12 years if you are from our Primary School. We have been together here at St. Paul's College for so long. We are going to miss you but we also know that now you are off and away, off to great places. In many ways, we walk with you hand in hand as you tread along this long road of learning. Now, you can take off and decide where you want to go. It must be exciting but somewhat scary.

Of course, you still have to go through the baptism of fire – your DSE examination. I trust that you have been putting your best foot forward and I have no doubt that you will give it your best shot. The next few weeks are going to be crucial to you as you prepare yourselves both physically and mentally for the exam. While examinations are always for the individual, do not underestimate the



importance of team work. The support, the company and the encouragement you get from your classmates and teachers can often help you to overcome what seems to be insurmountable challenges.

There are students who will do very well and there are those who may not. There are always surprises and disappointments in life. Success will certainly spur you on if you do not let it cloud your vision. Setbacks can be painful, but if you can hold on and persist, it will make you a better person. There is one thing that you have to remember though: do not measure your own value by the scores you get in one external exam. Life is a marathon race and it takes a lot of stamina and determination to finish the race. Like the story of the hare and tortoise in Aesop's Fables, only those who persist until the end will succeed.

When you are feeling unsure of yourselves, confused about the direction that you are taking, just trust that God has a plan for all of us. Patiently seek His will and when you are old enough to look back, you will realise that God has always been working with you to negotiate all the sharp turns along the winding road, charting a course that is the most suitable for you. "I lift my eyes to the mountain," the psalmist said in Psalm 121, "where does my help come



from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth". Psalm 121 finishes with this sentence - "*The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever.*" I really hope that you will learn to trust in God.

While you may think that you have come this far, let's not forget that there are many people who believe in you and they have put in a lot to help you make it this far. Your parents are, of course, among them. No matter how often you have fought or disagreed with your parents, they have spent a lot of their time, energy, attention and money towards your well-being. They certainly deserve a big "thank you." Learning to be grateful to the people who have crossed your path is something that will prove to be invaluable to you for the rest of your life. Learn to focus on what you have rather than what you lack and you will live a much happier life.

Finally, I hope you have learnt more than just English vocabulary, the French Revolution, or quadratic equations from your teachers. They have played a large part in shaping the person you are today and I hope you will also say thank you to your teachers before you leave school today. Before I finish, I would like to leave you with a prayer written by General MacArthur for his son and it goes like this.



"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

*"Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know Thee-and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.*

*Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail...*

*Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.*

*And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously.*

*Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength.*

*Then, I, his father, will dare to whisper, 'I have not lived in vain.'*"

Class of 2015, this is your day. We wish you all good luck and every success in the DSE exam.

Mr. Dennis Yuen

Acting Principal

06.03.2015

