



Sha Tin College News Update

18th January 2010



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A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year – I am very happy to report a smooth start to Term 2. The Year 11 mocks have gone well and our Year 13 mocks are scheduled a little later in February, so I wish all students good luck with their results.

You will soon receive a uniform survey from the PTA and I would encourage you to give us your thoughts and ideas about our school uniform.

Although Term 2 is a little shorter than our previous term, it is still very busy with various programmes and activities.

Best wishes,

**John Nixon MBE,
Principal – Sha Tin College**

Environmental Action Group Update: LSY Memorial School Sustainability Fair – Morag Brooks, Environmental Action Group Coordinator



Sha Tin College sent a team of students to LSY Memorial School in Sai Kung to take part in a Sustainability fair. The students from Year 12 put together a stall to promote awareness of green issues and raise awareness of the schools projects.

The highlight of the day was our participation in a game designed by Teng Hoi Organisation to illustrate how Cap and Trade programs work. The EAG has a group of students working on a Cap & Trade agreement to reduce electricity use at the College. We took on the parts of Brazil, the UK and Cambodia; the other countries were made up of teams from Renaissance College. The game involved trading with other countries and working with the

World Bank and the United Nations.

All students involved thoroughly enjoyed the day and the Cap & Trade EAG group is looking to play the game in school to raise awareness of their own project.

Explore Sai Kung

Keep an eye out in the forth coming issues of this magazine! The EAG News Group, have written an article about the College's efforts to keep the school environment as Green as possible. There will also be an article regarding the Sustainability Fair in the next issue.



Mathematics Competition News – Nigel Wilson, Head of Mathematics

The first competition for Term 2 is the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge (UKIMC), which will be held on 4 February. This one hour challenge is available to all students in Years 9-11, and places are filling up quickly. Students who wish to take part should give \$80 to either their Maths teacher or Mr Wilson. Past papers are available from the school bulletin or from your Maths teacher.

Later in February, we have the South East Asia Mathematics Competition (SEAMC), which is hosted in Hong Kong this year. Ms Adams is part of the committee organizing the competition, and Mr Sanda is training and supporting our school team. The competition takes place around Hong Kong during the weekend of February 26-28.

Good luck to our team of top mathematicians and their trainers:

Year 10 : Lilian Ma, Peggy Wu, Jack Chan, Aaron Tang
Year 11 : Paulo Costa, Edward He
Year 13 trainers : Jake Chan, Vincent Yu, Rudolf Chow

Finally, Maths week is coming soon at the start of March. Details to follow...

24 Hour Badminton Charity Event – Helen Adams, Middle School Mathematics Coordinator



47 students from Years 12 and 13 played badminton continuously for 24 hours from Friday 8 January until Saturday 9 January in order to raise money for the Po Leung Kuk orphanage. They raised over \$20,000 for this worthy cause. All participants enjoyed themselves despite minor injuries such as blisters and aching arms. They are to be congratulated on their achievement!

Many thanks to the teachers who supported the event and helped supervise: Mr N Hooper, Mr Farrow, Mr Cleary, Mr Harris, Mr Bell, Ms Dionise Chan.

Habitat for Humanity – Wendy Ho, CAS Coordinator



A group of Year 13 girls went to a Shaoguan in Guangzhou in December to work as volunteers for Habitat for Humanity on one of their building homes project. They worked alongside families in Maowu village in the rebuilding of their homes, the Maowu villagers previously lived in mud-brick or earthen walled houses which were vulnerable to floods and typhoons. It was a successful three days and where the girls were involved in some heavy

duty tasks such as moving bricks to the rooftops of a house, mixing cement and sand and transporting tiles for the villagers. Even though the tasks were small we were told that every little bit of help we gave would make it possible for some of the villagers to move into their new homes in time for the Chinese New Year.

The trip came about initially from the efforts of Ung Min Lee, Jenny Myrans and Jessica Beadman who raised funds from a CAS project event at school.

It was a valuable experience for all the girls in understanding the consequences of their work can make a difference a small community in rural China as well as realising how small actions they make can make an impact on an international level. We hope that we will continue to support Habitat for Humanity in their homes projects in the coming year.



Use of 'Soft' or Skills Balls During Break Times – Christine Rowlands, Vice Principal



We have discussed this, at length, and the consensus from the staff is that we don't want to ban play, but must protect everyone, including bystanders.

Students should have opportunities to actively play during break times, but this has sometimes been uncontrolled, resulting in injuries as evidenced by our Medical Officer. We agreed that football should be categorised in the same way as rugby, as it is potentially just as hazardous. We have tried various other measures with students to restrict their kicking and/or throwing balls at high speed, but these have met with non-compliance and the issue has not been taken seriously.



balls or equipment to school to use in the playground during break time.

From Wednesday, January 6, students began trialling a range of 'soft' or skills balls in the playgrounds at Long Break and Lunch time. We are disallowing students from bringing footballs or rugby balls from home or borrowing them from the PE Department for use. Those wanting to play in one of the central playground areas go to the 'white house' and sign out one of our soft balls. The reason for this is that for a considerable length of time the teachers and leadership team have been concerned about injuries to students and damage to property caused by fast, high and tough balls, sometimes kicked dangerously in very small, restricted spaces which are not designed for rugby or football.



We have informed students that we will conduct a survey after a 'trial or grace' period of approximately one month during which we will watch to see how the new arrangements work and how students abide by them. Please note, Basketball played in the undercover area only, and Netball, are not included in these arrangements.

We would be most grateful for your cooperation in discussing the rationale for this change with your child/children and for reminding them not to bring

P6 Teacher Visit on December 4 2009 – Christine Rowlands, Vice Principal



On December 4, 2009, P6 teachers from Sha Tin Junior School, Beacon Hill School and Kowloon Junior School, three of our feeder schools, visited the College to see their ex-students. The purpose of this visit was for these colleagues to spend time in a range of different types of classes; speak to the Year 7s during Tutor Time about learning, teaching and general experiences of secondary school life and then chat informally with students during morning break. We envisaged this would provide the teachers with useful feedback and the students themselves an opportunity to reflect upon how they found transition.

Additionally, the Year 7 Tutors, members of our Cross Phase Team, the Head of Middle School, Bryan Turner, the Head of Year 7, Neil Hooper and Deputy Head of Year, Jen Lederer and I met with the visitors to hear their observations. We all found this a very fruitful session, albeit too brief, and committed to dedicate more time to this in future. Sharing in this manner revealed valuable information. Amongst other things we heard about: expectations about, and levels of, homework; ease or difficulty of subjects; behaviour patterns, friendships and relationships in general and differences and similarities between rules and practices between the secondary and the junior schools. It was a marvellous opportunity for student voice. Additionally, we had a chance to catch up about some individual children who require some extra support.



In conclusion, this was an illuminating morning and one which we will develop further as we plan to include it in the diary for 2010. These photographs provide you with a glimpse of the event and show the enthusiastic welcome the Year 7 students extended to their previous teachers.

Geography Fieldtrips – Tony White, Head of Geography



At the end of last term both Years 7 and 8 were involved in Geography trips. The Year 8's have been studying Coasts and their trip took them to three contrasting beaches in Hong Kong. They carried out measurements, sketching and observations in order to test a number of hypotheses relating to the characteristics of the beaches, the vegetation types and the impact of human activity. The students had direct experience of the influence of waves and tides on shorelines, the adaptations of mangroves to their environment and the need to manage human activities carefully. They appreciated the beauty of Hoi Ha Wan and the taste of an ice cream at the end of the day!

The Year 7's went out to Bride's Pool and Wu Kau Tang to practise their newly acquired mapwork and navigational skills. They followed a route using map reading, grid references, compass directions and bearings. Fortunately the students were all very competent and no one got lost!

Whilst following the route the students carried out various tasks relating to the topic of the Water Cycle and Rivers, which they are currently studying. They hiked to the watershed and followed a tributary stream from its source, through the drainage basin, past waterfalls and meanders, until it entered the Plover Cove reservoir.



Maybe the students need to do this sort of activity more often, since one of them remarked at the end of the day, "That would have been a great fieldtrip Mr White, if it hadn't been for all the walking."

Key Dates for Your Diary

Events for the Spring Term	
19 January	Year 9 Parents' Consultation
27 January	Year 11 Parents' Consultation
5 February	School Early Closure Day
15 – 19 February	Chinese New Year Half Term Break
25 February	Year 7 Parents' Consultation
26 – 28 February	School Hosted South East Asian Mathematics Competition
11 March	Year 8 Parents' Consultation
13 March	School Hosted ICT Exhibition – Learning Without Frontiers
15 March	Spring Concert (7:00 pm)
17 March	IB Year 12 Drama Performance (6:00 pm)
19 March	IB Art Exhibition (3:30 pm to 5:30 pm)
26 March	Term Ends

ESL Sports – Safe, Fun, Effective Sport Classes for Children

Sport is one of the key areas that can shape children's minds and physical development. ESL presents a programme of activities at your school designed to encourage young people to become physically active; learn through fun; and improve their confidence and focus.



With this in mind we encourage children to start young, ensuring fundamental movement is learnt correctly in a safe and secure environment. Each sport has created its own athlete pathway to guide children's learning at an appropriate pace to their needs. It is important to us that children not only start but develop an interest and passion for sport that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Gymnastics
- Martial Arts
- Tennis

For more information on classes please visit our website: www.esf.org.hk or Tel: 2711 1280