



Sha Tin College News



News Update from Sha Tin College

28 August, 2009



Dear Parents,

A message from the Principal

Further to my welcome letter of last week, I am writing to keep you updated on some important news here at Sha Tin College and have included messages from members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to brief you on the IB Diploma results; CIS / WASC accreditation and renovation work undertaken at the campus over the summer.

As we near the end of our first full week with the students in session I am happy to relay that I am extremely impressed by the students and staff at Sha Tin College and the harmonious and very supportive relationships that are clearly apparent. Although the beginning of term in any school is always very busy, I have greatly enjoyed meeting students from all year groups, getting to know the faculty, administration and support staff and teaching my Year 7 Geography group! Over time, there will be many opportunities for me to meet parents but I would like to draw your attention to the new parents' information evening – Thursday 3rd September at 7pm in the School Hall. This event is aimed at the parents of students who have recently joined our school in any year group. As well as an orientation session there will be an opportunity to talk with staff informally over refreshments.

I am aware that in our current technologically advanced age we are constantly bombarded by e-mails. I am working with the staff here at Sha Tin College to come up with a better way of communicating news to our school community and we are considering a regular newsletter with updates and information from all sections of the school to be sent out electronically. More details will follow soon.

Very best wishes,

John Nixon MBE

Principal – Sha Tin College





Student Guidance and Achievement Update

Although everyone in the school takes active responsibility for the welfare of students in their care and the academic and the pastoral are intrinsically related, there are specific people with leadership roles in the area of Guidance and Achievement.

We now have two Heads of Section, Margaret Ducie, the Head of Senior School, comprising Years 11, 12 and 13 and Bryan Turner, the Head of Middle School, leads Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. They team with the Heads and Deputy Heads of Year with whom they share new offices. There are some new people in these roles, too. [Details are attached for you.](#)

There are six Tutors in Years 7 – 11 and nine Tutors in Years 12 and 13. In Years 7 – 11, the letter allocated to each tutor group refers to the House group to which students belong. For example, 7A = 7 Armstrong. The Houses are named after famous explorers. In the Senior School, the students are mixed in tutor groups.

We have one Tutor Period session per day. Timings are between 11.40 and 12:00 for Years 7-9 and between 11.00 and 11.20 for Years 10-13. The Octopus system of electronic registering monitors attendance and lateness so this Tutor Period is for communication. i.e. the Daily Bulletin is read and the emphasis is not on administration duties, but on the relationship between the Tutors and students. There is also the opportunity for assemblies. We have assemblies led by the Principal, House assemblies and those in year or section groups.

Tutors are essential to the academic, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the students. We expect, and it is common practice, that Tutors remain with their tutor group for successive years, or as long as feasible, so that relationships and understandings are built between school and home, and so that those between the student and Tutor, can be consolidated. Please contact your child's Tutor by email or phone at any time.

New Staff

We have been extremely fortunate to welcome eight new teachers to the College this year. They have a diverse array of backgrounds and their cumulative experiences are considerable. They have been engaged in both the ESF Centre and our own school based induction programmes since early August so they have committed time and energy learning about the culture and practical operations of the school. Our priority with them all is to provide relevant and ongoing support for each individual. In addition to this, we want to profit from their expertise and talents for the sake of the students and our own enrichment.

Our photographer has just completed taking photographs of all teaching and support staff for our web site. We envisage this is one of the ways everyone in the community of Sha Tin College will be able to visually connect and you can put a name to a face!

Continuous Professional Development

On August 19, the entire teaching staff was delighted to welcome Mel Freeman, a P2 teacher from Sha Tin Junior School, as a guest presenter on Inquiry Based Learning. As Mel is an experienced Workshop Leader for the IBO, she was a logical choice to provide us with some both philosophical and concrete approaches. Aside from the remarkable responses that Mel clearly inspires in her own children, she shared examples of team teaching she has undertaken with Tim Ford, our Head of the Design and Technology/ICT Faculty. The positive attitudes, creative and critical thinking which she demonstrated emanate from Inquiry Based Learning were very persuasive. One of the conclusions we all agreed upon was that we must do more to harness existing potential to more closely align our two schools. It was a beneficial and enjoyable session.

Christine Rowlands
Vice Principal

IB Diploma Results



Sha Tin College is very pleased to announce the IB results achieved by our Year 13 students in May 2009.

We are delighted that the overall diploma pass rate increased this year to over 92 % with 129 students achieving the full IB diploma.

We have an open access policy where almost all students are encouraged to embark on the full diploma course of 3 higher level subjects, 3 standard level subjects and a core of Theory of Knowledge, a 4000 word Extended Essay and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS). This is an extremely demanding programme, and is recognized as such by universities worldwide. A small number of students opt to take the ESF diploma programme where this better suits their learning needs. At Sha Tin College these students take some IB certificates, an ICT course and they complete a personal project.

With this in mind, the students achieved remarkable results at both ends of the ability range. 9 students, (7% of those who passed) achieved 40 points or more, out of a maximum of 45 with one student achieving a near perfect 44 point score. A further 12 students, whose entry level grades at GCSE suggested they were going to find the diploma programme very challenging, achieved the 24 point (or more) pass rate through a huge amount of hard work and we are all very proud of their achievements. One student with an average GCSE score of a D and a target grade of 21 achieved 29 points, an outstanding result.

The students who passed the diploma achieved a mean diploma score of 33 points and a mean subject score of 5.25, both improvements on last year. These compare impressively with the world wide averages of 30 points and 4.7 points achieved in May 2008 (the overall statistics for 2009 are yet to be published)

This year also saw a significant improvement in the Theory of knowledge and Extended essay scores. Candidates are awarded up to 3 "bonus" points on their overall diploma score for performance in these two areas. This year 86% of our candidates achieved 1 or more bonus points compared to a worldwide average of about 69%. Of this number 18% achieved the top 3 points compared to about 8% worldwide.

Some outstanding CAS projects were complete by this cohort of students, showing their commitment to self improvement beyond academic achievements and the commitment to the community and to those less fortunate communities globally. A knitting activity was led by students and took place during lunch times. The students learnt how to knit and crochet wool squares which were combined together to form large blankets. The blankets were later delivered to families living in poorer districts in Ulaan Bataar during a CAS week 2008 trip to Mongolia. Also, in aid of poor families in Mongolia and an orphanage, a group of students organized the "Filthy rich fashion show" to raise funds which were donated to several charities based in Ulaan Bataar. Nearly \$10,000 HKD was raised from the event along with bake sales. The successful completion of the CAS programme requires more than 150 hours of time outside of school and it is important to acknowledge the achievements of students in this central aspect of the diploma programme.

Nearly all the students have successfully gained places on higher education courses throughout the world; the most popular university destinations being U.K., Canada and Hong Kong. More detailed information on Higher Education final destinations will be available once the application process is complete.

I am sure that you will join with us in congratulating these students for their achievements.

We are eagerly anticipating our (I)GCSE results which are due in school on August 27th. Once we have analysed these we will publish details in due course.

Neil Hodgson
Vice Principal

CISWASC Accreditation



I am pleased to inform you that school has been awarded accreditation by both the Council for International Schools (CIS) and The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). As you are probably aware the accreditation was awarded after a thorough whole school evaluation, which involved staff, students, parents and members of the School Council and the PTA. The process took just over eighteen months to complete and culminated with a visit of specially trained team of teachers from around the world, who reviewed the school and the findings of the evaluation. The two awards are internationally recognized and they only awarded to schools which have met the many accreditation standards required. It is a honour and privilege for the school to have achieved accreditation. Congratulations to all those parents, students, staff, School Council and PTA members who participated in the evaluation process and helped us to attain accreditation.

The Visiting Team commended the school in many areas and clearly viewed the school very positively. It also made recommendations for enhancing the school and we will need to address these recommendations in the coming years, as part of the school development plan.

Further details regarding the CIS WASC report will be made available in the near future.

Geoff Lofthouse
Vice Principal

Provision of ICT for Students



It is great to be back at the College after my maternity leave. It has been a busy start to the school year but I am pleased to report that the timetable appears to be running fairly smoothly with only a few Year 10 and 12 Options left to sort out. Our ICT team have been working extremely hard over the summer break ensuring that the infrastructure is in place for our new teacher laptop program which began this term.

This year one of my main foci will be evaluating our current provision of ICT for students and creating a vision for ICT which will hopefully stand us in good stead for the future. More on this in the coming months.

Jo Letters
Vice Principal

Summer Works 2009



Although we had quite a few rainy days and two typhoons over the summer holiday, most of the scheduled summer works were completed. The consultant and the contractor appointed by the ESF managed to deliver the project by the second week of August which included the redecoration of Block 1, Hall Block and the re-modelling of ICT suite on 3/F in Block 3. The Covered Playground has also been re-surfaced and the external fencing and line marking in car park have also been re-painted. Apart from the above maintenance projects, the school has also continued the rolling programme of replacing carpets in classrooms and remodeling of departmental offices to suit the needs of the new school year. With the PTA's continuous and generous support, the seating outside the cafeteria and at the back yard have been replaced. Moreover, PTA also funds the replacement of old metal lockers with stainless steel lockers, shelter for the recycle bins and the re-modelling of the Career Centre on 3/F Block2.

Shwan Law
Business and Administration Manager

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