

5 October 2009

The Return of Assembly

I am delighted that we are in a position to restart our daily Assembly after a break of two weeks due to the swine flu virus. I would like to extend my appreciation to each of you for your patience during this time and also for the way that you have maintained a high level of personal hygiene.

Over the last four weeks, eleven of you contracted the H1N1 virus. A large number of you had also taken a few days sick leave after suffering from influenza type symptoms. At one stage, 50-60 of you were absent on the same day because of a fever, a sore throat and a cough. Last Friday, that number had come down to under ten.

It is important that we remain vigilant and take every precaution against a return of the swine flu. I would encourage you to wash your hands thoroughly when you arrive at school in the morning and to do so again after lunch, particularly if you have left the school grounds. There is already evidence in Europe that a second wave of swine flu is emerging with the onset of the winter season. It is important that we are all aware of the need to maintain good hygiene as we enter the winter months in the weeks ahead.

This morning is the first opportunity I have had of congratulating Yu Ho Man, Horace, in Form 6C, on his election as the new President of the Students' Association. This is a fine achievement by Horace and his name will be added to the names of previous SA Presidents on the Honour Board at the back of the Hall. I also congratulate Ng Chi Fung, in Form 6C on his election as Vice President. To the losing candidates, I offer my condolences, but congratulate you on conducting a fine campaign. I am looking forward to working with our new student leaders over the course of this school year.

I hope that you are well rested after a busy period of celebration and festivity. Last Thursday, the National Day celebrations around the country provided an opportunity to celebrate the coming of age of a modern China that will take its place as a world leader in the 21st Century. On a more personal level, the Mid-Autumn Festival last Saturday allowed families across Hong Kong to gather, to view the moon, and to eat a moderate number of moon cakes. I am sure that you had an enjoyable weekend.

This morning, I am pleased to have sitting on stage with me the two student representatives who participated in the Union of Young Leaders programme: Ambrose Li of Form 5A and Joseph Tsang of Form 5F. Ambrose and Joseph would like to take this opportunity of sharing with us some of their experiences during this exciting activity. Please join me in welcoming Ambrose and Joseph.

J.R. Kennard