

## **School Commencement**

### **Speech to all on 1<sup>st</sup> September 5, 2025**

Good morning, my dear students and teachers. I am Mr. Ho.

Welcome back to the big family of PLHKS!

I am truly delighted to see all of you gathered here this morning. Some of you look refreshed, some a little sleepy, and some very excited. That is all fine—because today marks the beginning of a brand-new chapter.

Time flies, and happy moments fly even faster. Our summer vacation seems to have passed in the blink of an eye—we all wish it could have lasted a little longer!

I hope you used the time well: maybe reading a good book, traveling, playing sports, learning something new, or simply enjoying rest. Even small moments—like sharing a meal with your parents or laughing with friends—can give us strength.

Now, it is time to leave behind the relaxation of summer and embrace the challenges and opportunities of a new school year. Think of it as boarding a ship together: We will face new storms, but also discover new treasures.

My first question for you is: Have you noticed anything new about our school? We have proudly made the following additions and changes:

- New windows in special rooms (4/F, 5/F)
- Upgraded lights and electricity (2/F)
- New Counselling Centre (2/F)
- New toilets (1/F)
- Renovated covered playground with wonderful air-conditioning
- New LED wall & new chairs in the hall
- NEW S1 students!

All these improvements make our school a more comfortable and supportive learning environment. They are the results of the hard work of our teachers and staff. Let's give them a big round of applause!

We hope that you will see our school as your second home, and our staff as your extended family. Though remember—a family not only enjoys their home, but they also take care of it. They clean it, maintain it, and respect it. As members of PLHKS, let's try to treasure these facilities and to use them responsibly.

At the beginning of the school year, I would like to share with you our school's major concerns, i.e., our focus for development. From 2025/26 to 2027/28, our school will go into another development cycle. Within this cycle, we've identified 2 major concerns we should address to better meet the needs of our students.

**1 Enhancing students' well-being through physical, mental, social, and spiritual health education**  
透過身、心、社、靈健康教育，提升學生的幸福感

**2 Nurturing effective learners with strong learning strategies**  
運用有效的學習策略，培育學生成為高效學習者

Regarding Major Concern 1, this is sadly a major concern not only in our school, but also throughout Hong Kong, and it's even affecting the world. Our school has always been committed to catering towards the needs of our students, as seen from the launching of the PERMA Day event, which we run every year, along with other stress-releasing programs. This year, we will continue working hard in this direction, to raise the overall well-being of our students.

Regarding Major Concern 2, with this, we hope to address a core issue of many students: *learning*. Our goal is to introduce students to more effective learning strategies, namely, *note-taking skills and pre-lesson task completion*, to help students strengthen their knowledge base through self-learning initiatives. With the right strategies, plus a good attitude and habits, you can learn more effectively.

This year's theme is:

“With HOPE, WE Persevere” (存盼望，堅守信念)

You may notice the sequence:

- 2023/24: “With Love, We Can”
- 2024/25: “With Faith, We Dream”
- 2025/26: “With Hope, We Persevere”

Why hope? Because love and faith give us the foundation, but hope is the fuel that keeps us moving forward.

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” — Isaiah 40:31*

When things get tough—exams, friendships, or uncertainties—remember this: hope gives us the strength to persevere.

As you know, the External School Review, or ESR, was conducted in late May of the last school year. Recently, we received the final report, and I am pleased to share that the overall findings are very encouraging. I would like to highlight a few key points for you:

1. The school's self-evaluation is well recognized. In particular, the review team noted that our evaluation was thorough and effective, especially in relation to our two major areas of concern, both of which were found to directly address the needs of our students.
2. Arts education, including drama, has been commended. These programs are seen to greatly nurture students' creativity and broaden their horizons. In addition, our STEAM curriculum has been singled out for praise, reflecting our ongoing commitment to innovation and cross-disciplinary learning.
3. A strong culture of care is evident in our school. Teachers are described as genuinely concerned for their students, and the teacher-student relationship is characterized as warm, supportive, and harmonious.
4. Parents have expressed a very positive view of the school. They recognize our emphasis on holistic development and appreciate the good communication that exists between parents and the school. The PTA in particular was acknowledged for its important role in building bridges and strengthening the partnership between families and the school.
5. And how about you, our students? The ESR team specifically highlighted that PLHKS students are able to speak both Chinese and English fluently and with confidence. You were described as polite, cheerful, and considerate, with senior students taking the initiative to care for and support their juniors. Academically, you perform well in public examinations, and beyond the

classroom, you are actively involved in both school-based and extracurricular activities—achievements which have earned you numerous awards and recognition.

Once again, these positive outcomes are not the result of just one person or one group; they are the fruits of the hard work and dedication of our students, our teachers, and every single member of our big PLHKS family. So, shall we give everyone a big hand?

And if you would like to read the full report in detail, it is now available on the school's website.

At the beginning of a new school year, challenges may arise for some of our schoolmates. If you ever feel uncertain, tired, or discouraged, remember that you can always seek help from God, who loves every one of us unconditionally.

And in addition, never hesitate to reach out to your teachers or close friends. Their timely support can guide you through the darkest times and help bring you back into the light.

Now, may I invite everyone to bow your heads and join me in prayer to God?

*Dear Heavenly Father, our Almighty God, we thank YOU for Your unfailing love and for being our constant source of help and strength.*

*The Apostle Paul once said in the Bible, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."*

*Lord, help us to lay down the burdens of the past and, by relying on YOU, march forward with confidence into the future.*

*With your love and strength, we do not need to be afraid. Grant us courage to seek help when we need it, and send us angels—teachers, friends, and companions—to walk with us and help us overcome our difficulties.*

*We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen!*