

Last Assembly!

As this is the last assembly for some time, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate you on your efforts over the past six months. Of course, six months is a long time and there have been so many activities. However, there were two events in the past month that I would like to mention this morning.

The boys who assisted the teachers during the Form 1-5 Parents' Day on Saturday 15 February did a wonderful job. It was a very long day for all concerned but from my observation the planning was meticulous and carried out smoothly and efficiently. Many of the parents spoke to me about your politeness and helpfulness; from the boys working on the Welcome Table in the entrance lobby to the boys who managed proceedings both in the Hall and outside the classrooms. All along the chain the tasks were well executed. It is a credit to you that our parents have such a positive view that St. Paul's College boys can be relied on to do the job that is required and to do it with a smile on their faces.

The same can be said of the boys who helped out at the Form 1 Admission Interview last Saturday. Nearly 500 boys were interviewed over the course of the day. Naturally each of the Primary 6 boys experienced nerves leading up to their interviews but were put at ease somewhat by the encouragement given by our team of officials. Last Saturday was another long and tiring day for the teachers and the student helpers made a little easier with the knowledge that Monday would be a discretionary holiday. I am confident that we shall have another excellent group of boys joining the College this coming September. They will come to their first assembly excited and full of promise. It will be our responsibility as teachers and fellow schoolmates to help the new boys make the adjustment to life at SPC.

The Chaplain and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boys who came on to the stage over the past six months to make assembly time so successful and memorable. To the boys who played

music before and after an assembly; to those who played the organ or led the hymn singing; to the Bible readers; to the presenters of reports and to those who delivered special announcements, I give you my thanks. Don't underestimate their achievement. It is no easy task speaking in a second language to a gathering of over five hundred classmates and teachers. Yes, they were nervous and yes they would probably have preferred to have been sitting in the main body of the hall. But when asked there was no hesitation in saying 'yes'. I'm sure you would agree that the confidence of these boys improved considerably because they were given the opportunity to participate in assemblies.

I have had an opportunity to look at the Forms 1-5 results in the mid-year examinations. By and large, I congratulate you on your efforts. It is important that you think carefully about the mark you received in each subject. As a general rule, you ought to have scored over 60% in each subject. However, if you had the ability to achieve a much higher mark then 60% was not acceptable. You are the only person who can judge whether the marks you received were a true reflection of your efforts.

I must remind all boys in Forms 1-3 to look very carefully at their performance over the past six months in English, Chinese and Mathematics. These subjects are the building blocks for the future and must be given special attention. To the boys in Forms 4-5 it is time to reassess your progress to date and to make whatever readjustments are necessary. Time to the HKDSE is very short and you must act now if improvements are in order.

To Form 6 boys I wish you well in your final preparations for the public examination. By this stage in the school year you will have a clear understanding of what still needs to be done. This is a stressful time but you should gain strength from the support each of you has from teachers, classmates and parents. While examinations are a taken by an individual the past three years was founded on teamwork. Do not forget that your teachers, classmates and parents are key ingredients to your eventual success.

It is also important that I express my gratitude to the teaching staff, office staff and janitors for their hard work over the past six months. I do hope that every boy in this hall takes a few moments to thank their teachers for what they do for you, not only in the classroom but in the multitude of activities organised by the College.

Finally, I would like to thank you for maintaining an acceptable level of dress and appearance. We have high expectations of boys attending SPC and I make no apology for insisting that uniforms are worn correctly and that you behave in a manner befitting a student of St. Paul's College. You should not forget that for every boy who comes to our College there were many more who could not secure a place. Grasp the opportunity that has been given to you and take pride in being a student at SPC.

J.R. Kennard