Latest Trends and Challenges in Organising and Evaluating Co-curricular/ Life-wide Learning Activities in Secondary School Education

Dr. Anissa L. K. Chan, MH, JP was appointed the Principal of St. Paul’s Co-educational College and the Supervisor of St. Paul’s Co-educational College Primary School in September 2004. Dr. Chan serves the public and education sector in various capacities. She is presently convenor of the Task Force on Setting Up a Principals’ Institute and member of the following groups: Education and Publicity Subcommittee of Council for Sustainable Development, Audit Panel of Quality Assurance Committee of the University Grants Council, Court of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council, Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Antiquities Advisory Board and Prisoners’ Education Trust Fund Committee.

Dr. Chan was formerly the Principal of SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School for 11 years. She was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council, Secondary School Places Allocation Committee and the Council of Central and Western District School Heads. She also served as member of the following groups: Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications, Working Group on the Review of Secondary School Places Allocation System and Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools of the Education Commission, Education Commission, and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority.

Building on the school’s vision and core values, and drawing reference from the latest trends in educational philosophy, a Personal, Moral and Social Framework (PMS) was developed to guide the design, development and implementation of co-curricular activities in SPCC. This PMS framework embraces a holistic conception of the personal development of each of our students. It aims to nurture them to become a Confident Individual, a Life Long Learner and a Responsible Global Citizen.

In the design of student activities under this framework, as a Round Square school, we have embodied the six pillars or precepts, Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service, that can be summed up in the word, IDEALS. This is done through international exchanges, project work, community service and adventure. Experiential learning with self-reflection and real, hands-on practical challenge is embedded in many of our co-curricular activities.

The challenge arising from the implementation of the PMS Framework and organisation of co-curricular activities through a whole school approach is multi-faceted. It includes building a shared understanding, knowledge and use of the framework by the whole school community; the integration of co-curricular activities and programmes with other parts of the school curriculum and learning; the inclusion of a teacher’s competency framework with reference to their roles and responsibilities; the use of appropriate evaluation methods and the transferability and sustainability of a student’s learning.