

## **Assembly 20 October 2008**

### **A web of information**

My first task when I arrive at my office each morning is to turn on the computer. I am immediately taken to the St. Paul's College homepage where I am reminded of the day's activities. The colourful and attractive layout of the SPC homepage also puts me in a good frame of mind for the day that lies ahead.

I wonder how many of you take the time to look at the College website or indeed if you have ever bothered to do so. The College website provides a wealth of information and is an important chronicle of what is happening in and around our school. I always start my tour of the website at the top of the homepage. The link to My Prayers provides me with the prayer for the day, designed for each day of the month by the Chaplain. Today's prayer is for the Most Reverend. Paul Kwong, Archbishop of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; for the Rt. Rev. Tsui, Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon; and for the Rt. Rev. Soo, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kowloon.. Last Thursday the prayer was for the newly elected Perfects and S.A. officials and for their preparation of the Sponsored Walk. The daily prayer ensures that we take the time to think about all the people in our College, to pray for their work and service, and to pray that they are given wisdom and guidance. The daily prayers also extend to the wider community in Hong Kong and around the world.

Next to My Prayers is the link to the Photo Gallery where 92 albums, containing over 5,600 images, have been posted since we started the new College website in November 2006. The ninety two albums in the Photo Gallery capture life in our school and express the numerous activities that have taken place. You might be interested to know that of the 5,600 images in those albums, the one that has been viewed the most often was taken during a visit by the girls from BPS in Causeway Bay; although I must apologise for the fact that I am also in that photograph.

A critical link at the top of the homepage will take you to the School Intranet. The latest addition to this section is the Homework for Forms 1, 2 and 3 that has been set each day. Of course, the Junior Boys will still need to write down their homework tasks at the conclusion of each lesson. However, the uploading of the homework tasks will help each of you to make better use of your time and ensure that all homework is completed on time and in the correct manner. Your learning must also involve your parents and the new Homework section on the web will enable them to monitor what is required and to better plan family activities around the work you need to do for school.

Another reason that I look at the website each morning is to make sure that I have not missed any important new activities or programmes. I was delighted last week to read that the Mathematics Society had published a Newsletter and I immediately congratulated the Chairman on such a fine initiative. I encourage each of you to read this Maths Society Newsletter. The material and examples are fresh and exciting, and presented in a

readable format that will appeal to both the novice Mathematician and those with greater flair for the subject.

The News section on the Homepage lists all the competitions in which our students have been successful. The list for the past month includes success for the Chinese History Project Team; the outstanding work of some of the boys in the Digital Creative Art course sponsored by the Lions Club; and the Swimming Team's win in Division 2 of the inter-school competition. Unless you take the time to look at the News section in the College website, it is all too easy to overlook an important happening in our school.

The daily notices are displayed on the plasma televisions around the school for you to read when you arrive in the morning. However, many of these notices are also available on the website for you to access from home. Recently, a number of boys signed up for the Japanese language course that is being held on Saturday mornings. We have teamed up with the University of Hong Kong to offer Japanese for Teenagers. I hope that this will be the start of a foreign language programme in our school that might be extended to include other European and Asian languages.

In conclusion, all of you should make a habit of referring to the College website each day. If you are a member of a musical group or a member of a sporting team or a member of the S.A. then you cannot afford not to look at the website. To ignore the College website will mean that you are left poorly informed and out of touch. The website has been developed and maintained for your use. You will find that your time at St. Paul's will be all the richer if you take the time to include the College website in your daily routine.