



starlet

WAH YAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG AUTHORIZED SCHOOL MAGAZINE



*This is the dear school where we learn how to treasure,
and keep for a lifetime all that's noble and true*

1920s

In 1921, the College moved to 2 Robinson Road with 300 students. It then became the first Grant-In-Aid school founded and managed by a Chinese. However, there was a closure and subsequent reopening of Wah Yan due to the Canton-Hong Kong strike. A hostel was opened in 1927. That same year, the first Irish Jesuit priest, Fr. John Neary came to Wah Yan and taught Religious Studies. The next year, the 15th Hong Kong Scout Troop was formed. The Troop has won the Carlton Trophy for 10 times.

In 1924, a branch school was opened on Portland Street, Kowloon. Two years later, it moved to Nelson Street and would subsequently become Wah Yan College, Kowloon. In 1929, the number of boys reached 800, marking the College the largest school in Hong Kong.



1940s

Another branch school opened at Austin Road, Kowloon. Due to the invasion of Japanese troops, the College was closed on 9 December 1941, and was turned into living quarters for refugees. Fr. Gallagher and Fr. McAsey were interned. During the Japanese occupation, the College managed to continue running under the leadership of Fr. Bourke, albeit under the name of “Wah Yan Chung Hok”. Our College was formally reopened on 8 September 1945 after the Japanese surrender. Later that year, Wah Yan Middle School was re-established as the Chinese stream of the school. The Wah Yan Dramatic Society, consisting mainly of alumni from both Wah Yan College, Kowloon and Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, was officially founded and produced the Chinese folk play “*The Thrice Promised Bride*”. A night school and an afternoon school of Wah Yan Middle School opened until their eventual closure in 1952.



1970s-80s

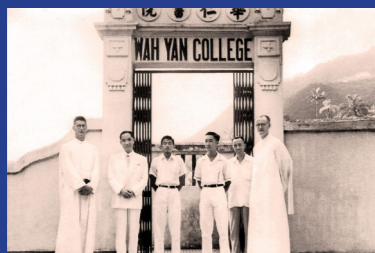
In the early 1970s, the school song, composed by Sister Carmelia and Fr. P. McGovern, was adopted. In 1971, the Jesuits began to manage the Pun U District Association Hong Kong (PUDAHK) Primary School, with PUDAHK remaining as the school’s sponsoring body. Located at Shiu Fai Terrace, the primary school was renamed Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School, and became our College’s feeder primary school.

The streaming into Arts and Science began in Form 4 in 1986. On 12 April 1987, the Gordon Wu Hall, located north of the main building was opened. In the same year, Wah Yan achieved its first “10 A’s” in the HKCEE examinations.



1919

From our founding days to the present, we have been upholding our mission for more than a century. The Wah Yan story is one of adaptation and growth. Wah Yan College, Hong Kong was founded by Mr. Tsui Yan Sau Peter on 16 December 1919, with only 4 students on the first day of school. The campus, located at 60 Hollywood Road, now houses the Kung-Lee sugar cane juice store. The Chinese character “Wah” represents the Guangdong district “Ng Wah” while “Yan” is taken from the middle name of Mr. Tsui.



1930s

In 1932, the school was transferred to the Society of Jesus after a long series of negotiations between the original administration and the Jesuit fathers. The transfer was completed on 31 December, with Rev. Fr. R.W. Gallagher, S.J., appointed as the first Jesuit Rector headmaster. The school was also given a new name within the Jesuit order: College of Christ the King. The Jesuits taught at the College and introduced a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum, setting high academic standards and emphasising moral and spiritual development, elements that have since become foundational to Wah Yan’s identity.

In 1933, the College published the first yearbook, *The Star*, building upon this tangible legacy of ours, recording school life, collecting fine pieces and celebrating student achievements. A house system was introduced the following later, creating brotherhood and fostering a strong sense of belonging within the College. Houses have been named after prominent saints of the Society of Jesus. However, the current setting of four houses [Loyola (White), Kostka (Blue), Xavier (Green), and Berchmans (Red)] has only been in use since the mid-1990s.



1950s-60s

Throughout the post-war era, Wah Yan expanded its academic and extracurricular options, consistently producing Straight ‘A’ students and establishing itself as a beacon of excellence. In 1950, the Prefect’s Board was established and the first head prefect was appointed, acting as role models and leading by example. The year after, the classes were renamed as “forms”: Class 1 became Form 6, Class 2 became Form 5, and so on. Class 7 and Class 8 were renamed Primary 6 and 5 respectively.

In 1954, construction for a new campus at Mount Parish, Wan Chai started. Wah Yan College, Hong Kong moved to 281 Queen’s Road East on 27 September, 1955. The campus was formally opened by Sir Alexander Grantham, then Governor of Hong Kong. Covering an area of about 20,000 square feet, it was designed by the late Professor Gordon Brown, Founder of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong.

In 1964, the school magazine “*Starlet*” was established. “*Starlet*” mainly communicated campus news and matters concerning the College to students. The *Starlet* Editorial Board usually publishes two issues each year – one in each term. In 1966, the Student Association was established, serving as a bridge between the College and our students. In 1968, the Red Cross Cadet Unit 34 was formed. It had secured first place in the annual drill competition for an impressive 11 years since 2003.



2000s

In 2001, the first Wah Yan Family Day was held at the College on 7 January, 2001. Over 2,000 students and alumni took part. The School Development Project Phases I & II were finished in April 2005.

The Hong Kong and Kowloon Colleges jointly celebrated their 85th and 80th anniversaries respectively. Over 2,000 Fathers, teachers and students attended the Joint Thanksgiving Mass at Wah Yan College, Kowloon on 15 November, and the Grand Reunion Dinner was held on the same day. The Wah Yan One Family Foundation was also established.

The Wu Jieh Yee Library of Wah Yan College, Hong Kong was opened in 2005 with the opening of its new annexe. The library has over 10,000 books and offers printing and computer services.

In 2006, Sir TSANG Yam-kuen, Donald, alumnus and then Chief Executive of Hong Kong, officiated at the opening ceremony of the New Annex on 21 January. The Jesuit Jubilee Thanksgiving Mass was held on 7 April at Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

Fr. Stephen Chow, S.J. was appointed as the College Supervisor in 2007. The Wah Yan Dramatic Society celebrated its 60th anniversary and presented scenes from Cantonese Opera in English on 7 February at the Cultural Centre. On 7 October, over 2,500 participants attended the Wah Yan One Family Walkathon from Wah Yan College, Kowloon to Wah Yan College, Hong Kong.



1990s

On 8 May, 1992, a landslide occurred on the slope overlooking Kennedy Road due to heavy rainfall. Causing six classrooms to collapse, they were later demolished. In the same year, three Wahyanites achieved “10 A’s” in the HKCEE examinations.

Our school celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1994. Lord Patten, then Governor of Hong Kong, officiated at the opening ceremony of the Open Day. The Dinner was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with more than 1000 guests participating.

Mr. Tam Siu Ping, George was appointed the new Principal in 1995, becoming the first Chinese principal since the Jesuit takeover. The College welcomed its first exchange student from Italy a year later.

The 80th Anniversary celebrations and the re-opening of the demolished classrooms took place in 1998. All rooms were equipped with air-conditioning, and cultural exchange programmes with Mainland China were initiated. The following year, the College began developing its IT infrastructure.

2010-20s

In 2013, Mr Tam Siu Ping, George retired as Principal in August and Dr. So Ying Lun took office as the 15th Principal in October the same year. The next year, Phase III of the School Development Project, including the Francis H.B. Wong Building, a new multi-purpose School Hall, a covered playground, 3 classrooms with a roof garden, and the Wu Jieh Yee Building.

In 2015, the first ever Jesuit Education Forum was held at the College. The two Wah Yan Colleges jointly organized it as one of the key celebratory programmes of the Anniversary Year. The Anniversary Year concluded with a Homecoming Concert held at the Hong Kong Coliseum, attended by an audience of over 7000.

In 2019, Dr. So Ying Lun retired as Principal in August and Dr. Davis Chan took office as the 16th Principal. The College celebrated its centenary that year. The College also produced its first musical drama, “*Legacy*” as a kick-off to the celebration. Unfortunately, due to various unfavorable circumstances in Hong Kong, other celebratory events had to be either cancelled or postponed.

In 2020, to respond to society’s needs during the COVID pandemic, both Wah Yan Colleges initiated a medical face mask donation campaign in late January. Eventually, the College succeeded in collecting more than 20,000 medical masks from students, parents, and alumni, and donating them to those in need. Academically, Samson Hung attained 5** in all seven subjects in the HKDSE, becoming our latest “Straight-A Student” (commonly called 狀元 in Chinese), which was the best result the school has achieved since the beginning of the HKDSE era. Our alumnus, as well as former Supervisor of Wah Yan College, Hong Kong and Kowloon, Cardinal Stephen CHOW Sau-yan, S.J. was appointed Bishop of Hong Kong on 17 May 2021.

My dear students, parents, alumni, and members of the Wah Yan community, First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the student editors and Teacher Advisors of the Starlet Editorial Board. Their initiative in publishing this 105th Anniversary Special Edition has created a wonderful and lasting record of our celebrations.

Our heritage is the bedrock upon which we build our future. Wah Yan’s story began in 1919 with our founder, **Mr. Peter Tsui**, who established the College to provide a quality English-medium education to underserved Chinese boys. The school quickly grew and in 1922 became the first Grant-in-Aid school founded by a Chinese individual.

A transformative chapter began in **1926** when Bishop Henry Valtorta invited the Irish Jesuits to establish a high-class secondary school, envisioning an institution that would nurture influential, Catholic-educated Chinese leaders. This vision became a reality in **1932** as the Society of Jesus assumed administration of the College, introducing the foundational pillars of the Wah Yan identity: a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum, high academic standards, and a deep emphasis on moral and spiritual development.

This spirit of perseverance saw the College through the hardships of war and led to its relocation to our current **Mount Parish campus in 1955**.

Throughout the post-war era, Wah Yan cemented its reputation as a beacon of excellence, producing numerous straight-A students in the HKCEE era and celebrating our first full top scorer in the 2020 HKDSE. Our mission also expanded in 1971 when the Jesuits assumed responsibility for the Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School, extending our educational philosophy to younger students.

For over a century, we have been committed to the formation of the whole person—cura personalis—nurturing young men to be leaders of conscience, competence, compassion, and commitment. Our legacy is measured not in buildings or accolades, but in the lives of generations of Wahyanites who have internalized the call to pursue the Magis—the “more, better, and greater”—and to live as “Men for and with Others.”

This legacy is vibrantly alive in our past students. A highlight of our anniversary was learning from distinguished graduates in public service, law, medicine, and spiritual guidance. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to Mr. Donald TSANG Yam-kuen, Professor Anthony CHEUNG Bing Leung, Mr. Paul LAM Ting Kwok, Mr. Godfrey LAM Wan Ho, Cardinal Stephen CHOW, S.J., and Dr. David FANG Jin Sheng. Their stories provided our students with an invaluable connection to the giants on whose shoulders they stand, and we thank them for embodying the Wah Yan spirit.

Inspired by this heritage, a year-long collaborative discernment process has forged **Mission H³**, our strategic blueprint for the next century, anchored in three pillars:

- **Heritage (承傳):** Upholding our traditions while being bold and creative for the future.
- **Hope (希望):** Providing space for students’ discernment and fostering hope.
- **Humanity (華仁):** Creating the conditions for profound human formation.

To translate this vision into action, our plan prioritizes **Advancing Teaching & Learning** through the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm, **Enhancing School Administration** to better support our teachers, and **Upgrading Facilities** to create modern learning environments.

Work to upgrade our facilities is already underway. Following a successful North American fundraising tour, the **PSA Sports Spectacular** (27 September 2025), and the **PTA Wah Yan Walkathon 2025 - Stride with Hope in Heritage** (26 October 2025), I am thrilled to report that we have surpassed our HKD 20 million goal. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our alumni, parents, students, and friends of Wah Yan, we have raised **HKD 22 million** after a year of dedicated effort. With additional donations still arriving, we remain deeply grateful for the powerful support you have shown us throughout this journey.

Our focus this academic year is developing the next School Development Plan, which will be the detailed roadmap for implementing Mission H³. We undertake this vital work with confidence, knowing we are supported by our global Wahyanite family. Together, let us step boldly into our second century, guided by heritage, hope, and humanity. May God bless you and keep you as we journey forward.

Dr. Davis Chan
Principal





From Wah Yan to Public Service

The Hon Donald TSANG, GBM

By 4Y Jasper Yung & 4Y Colin Leung

Having served as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from 2005 to 2012, the Hon. Donald TSANG Yam-kuen, GBM (Class of 1964), is widely respected for a lifetime devoted to public service. Reflecting on his alma mater, Mr. Tsang speaks with deep gratitude about how the school profoundly shaped both his character and values.

Recollections of WYHK

Looking back on his years at WYHK, Mr. Tsang recalls with affection the Jesuit Fathers and teachers who guided him as a student. “I have always admired their devotion,” he reflects, noting that many served the school for decades, some well beyond retirement. The Irish Jesuit Fathers, in particular, devoted their lives not only to Wah Yan but also to the education of Hong Kong’s youth as a whole.

He fondly remembers teachers who were strict yet inspiring, as well as those who conveyed their passion for teaching in unique ways. Among the many Fathers who left a deep impression on him was Fr. Barrett. He was a polished and courteous priest who once called him to the Principal’s Office — not to reprimand, but to express concern about an injury he had sustained. Another was Fr. Grogan, who quietly observed students running down the slope and assigned detention, conveying discipline through calm authority and care. Fr. McCarthy, meanwhile, taught him to write English with precision and clarity—an invaluable skill that would later serve him well in public life. Reflecting on these experiences, Mr. Tsang observes that Wah Yan’s Fathers and teachers were more than instructors, they were mentors who instilled values as deeply as they imparted knowledge.

Where Memories and Friendships Took Root

The campus itself remains vivid in Mr. Tsang’s memory. He recalls the iconic brick-built chapel, the chemistry lab, and classrooms offering sweeping sea views. Yet it was the communal spaces that resonated most deeply — the manicured lawn and the fields where friendships were formed and strengthened. “We shared everything, from drinks to simple joys,” he recalls warmly.

He also remembers his involvement in the Music Society, where Fr. Ryan introduced him to classical music, and the Debating Society, which trained him to organise his thoughts and articulate ideas with clarity and confidence.

Anchor of Values

The distinctive environment of Wah Yan played a vital role in shaping Mr. Tsang’s moral compass and sense of right and wrong. Social service, equality, fairness, and respect were among the core values instilled in him. Foremost among them, he emphasises, is humility — especially difficult, yet essential, when one holds a



position of authority. “It is perhaps the hardest value to learn, and even harder to keep as you grow older,” he reflects.

Rooted in the Jesuit tradition, Wah Yan taught him that noble ends can never justify immoral means. No matter how worthy the goal, it must never be pursued through improper actions. This conviction guided him throughout his career in public service. Even while serving in government, he would at times seek the counsel of the Fathers when faced with difficult decisions.

To Mr. Tsang, meaningful work —work that benefits others— lies at the heart of a fulfilled life. True success, he believes, is not defined by status or material reward, but by one’s contribution to the community. This belief remains firmly anchored in the values he first learned at Wah Yan.



Everlasting Ties

More than six decades on, Mr. Tsang and his classmates still meet regularly—a testament to friendships formed in youth and strengthened over time, and one of Wah Yan’s greatest gifts. His message to Wahyanites today is heartfelt: “Cherish your years at Wah Yan. Cherish your classmates, for they may become your strongest pillars in life.”

*“Cherish your years at Wah Yan.
Cherish your classmates, for they
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in life.”*



Upholding Justice in Society: A Conversation with Secretary Paul LAM

By 3W Marcus Chan & 3W Sirius Cheng

From his early career as a Senior Counsel in private practice to his present role as Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, GBS, SC, JP, has devoted decades of service to upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong. Over the years, he has held numerous public positions, including Chairman of the Consumer Council, Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Board and Chairman of the ICAC Operations Review Committee. His professional journey reflects a steadfast commitment to justice, public service, and the common good.

Those Were the Days

When reflecting on his school years at Wah Yan, Mr Lam does not point to a single defining moment. Instead, he recalls a collection of small, ordinary experiences which, when woven together, formed some of the most meaningful memories of his life. Organising joint-school activities, studying with classmates, walking up the familiar slope, and queuing for meals in the old canteen all left quiet but lasting impressions, shaping his sense of belonging to the school community.



Central to these memories are the Jesuit Fathers who guided him during his formative years. Mr Lam speaks with warmth and respect of Fathers such as Fr Barrett, Fr O' Rourke, and Fr Baptista, each of whom possessed a distinct personality and teaching style. Despite their differences in temperament, they were united by a deep sense of dedication and professionalism. Beyond academic instruction, they led by example, embodying integrity, humility, and a spirit of service in their daily lives.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

The lessons Mr Lam remembers most vividly were not confined to textbooks or classrooms. As a Scout, he once climbed to the top of the chapel with his Scout leader, an experience that remains etched in his memory and reflects the spirit of trust and exploration encouraged at Wah Yan. In a different yet equally meaningful way, time spent in the laboratory left a lasting impression, where hands-on experiments, including dissecting ox eyes, opened new ways of learning beyond the written page.

Beyond Scouting, Mr Lam actively participated in a wide range of student societies, including the Students' Association, Social Service Community, and his role as a Prefect. Experiences such as the variety show *The Vault*, visits to boat dwellers in Aberdeen, and outreach programmes to orphanages remain especially

vivid in his memory, not only for their impact but for what they represented. Organised and led by students themselves, these activities allowed him and his peers to step beyond the school gates, engage directly with society, and learn the value of service through lived experience.

Wahyanites and Inclusiveness

When asked what makes Wahyanites distinctive, Mr Lam finds it difficult to offer a single definition. What he observes instead is a shared spirit marked by diversity, inclusiveness, and generosity. In his experience, Wah Yan never imposed a single mould for success. Students were not pushed to excel in one narrow direction. Rather, each individual was encouraged to recognise and develop his own strengths.

Academic achievement was respected, but so too were talents in sports, music, and service. Students were given the freedom to choose their paths, fostering self-knowledge and confidence. This environment of mutual respect allowed students to accept themselves and appreciate others. Social background made no difference. Within the school community, everyone stood on equal footing.

As a result, Mr Lam believes this inclusive culture nurtured Wahyanites with open minds and big hearts. Alumni, he observes, often demonstrate gratitude to society and a willingness to serve those in need. The Wah Yan spirit is lived out naturally through empathy, awareness of others' struggles, and a readiness to help.

Core Values in a Changing World

In an era shaped by rapid technological change, Mr Lam emphasises the importance of holding fast to core values. Principles such as diversity, respect, self-acceptance, and recognition of individual uniqueness do not diminish with time. On the contrary, they provide a steady moral foundation amid constant change. He firmly believes that everyone possesses unique gifts and that every person has inherent value.

To today's Wahyanites, his message is clear: treasure the traditions of the school, make good use of the opportunities available, enjoy school life, and step forward with courage to try new initiatives.

“Wah Yan never imposed a single mould for success.”



From Supervisor to Cardinal: Cardinal Stephen CHOW, S.J.

By 4W Ethan Kwong

Cardinal Stephen CHOW Sau-yan, S.J., the Cardinal of Hong Kong, is a leading figure in the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. For Wah Yan, however, he is remembered not only for his ecclesial leadership, but also as a former School Supervisor whose influence extended quietly yet deeply into the lives of students. Gentle in manner, thoughtful in speech and steadfast in faith, Cardinal Stephen has long exemplified the values at the heart of Jesuit education.

The Beauty of Wah Yan: Brotherhood and Belonging

For Cardinal Stephen, this culture of brotherhood held special personal significance. As a student living with epilepsy, he faced academic challenges and difficulties with concentration. Yet he was never isolated or marginalised. Instead, a number of his classmates consistently stood by him, offering steady support, companionship, and acceptance without judgement. Through these moments of vulnerability, he also encountered priests who accompanied him with compassion and further consolidated his faith.

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The Jesuit Fathers: Accompaniment and Formation

Cardinal Stephen speaks with deep respect and gratitude for the Jesuit Fathers who shaped his years at Wah Yan. Though each Father possessed a distinct temperament and personality, all shared a common commitment: to accompany students with genuine concern. No student, whether academically strong or weak, was ever looked down upon. Instead, the Fathers fostered an environment in which every student was encouraged to explore, to grow, and to recognise their own worth.

The school's strong support for student-led societies and a wide range of extracurricular activities reflected this philosophy in practice. As a Jesuit himself, Cardinal Stephen affirms that such opportunities lie at the core of Jesuit education. Respect for the individual, coupled with guidance that helps young people discern their gifts, defines its enduring strength. Academic results, while important, do not stand alone. Commitment, conscience, and compassion carry equal weight.

Among the Fathers who left lasting impressions on him were Fr. Brosnan, Fr. Foley, and Fr. McGaley. He recalls a retreat at Cheung Chau where Fr. McGaley, already in his late fifties, accompanied students into the narrow Cheung Po Tsai Cave without complaint. His willingness to share their experience, to listen attentively, and to offer counsel remains a powerful example of what true accompaniment looks like.

Freedom with Responsibility

Freedom is often cited as a defining feature of Wah Yan, but Cardinal Stephen explains Jesuit education does not promote absolute freedom without responsibility. Students were not free to skip classes or disengage from school life. Rather, they were entrusted with freedom within a framework of trust.

This approach allowed students to organise societies, pursue interests and learn through experience within the life of the school. Through such freedom, Cardinal Stephen took part in a wide range of activities, including the Red Cross, Judo, Social Service, Drama, and Catholic organizations. Each experience contributed to his personal growth, shaping both his character and his sense of vocation.

School as an Experimental Ground

Cardinal Stephen firmly believes that school should be a place of exploration. It is an environment in which young people are given the freedom to discover who they are and what they are capable of becoming. He observes that many students today are constrained by a fear of failure, shaped by a culture that prizes achievement above learning.

Failure, he insists, is not something to be avoided, but something to be understood and celebrated. School exists not only to teach success, but also to teach students how to fail well. He remarked, "Don't be afraid to make mistakes. The problem nowadays is that we are afraid to make mistakes, but this is precisely why school exists."

Fighting Spirit and Being Men for and with Others

Cardinal Stephen also speaks of the importance of cultivating a true fighting spirit. This, he explains, is not about outperforming others, but about striving to become better versions of oneself. "We can all be first in our own way," he says, envisioning a world shaped by cooperation rather than rivalry, where success is shared and progress becomes mutually enriching.

He cautions against defining success through constant comparison. Wah Yan, he emphasises, does not exist simply to produce top academic performers. Its mission is to form individuals who place their talents at the service of others. At the heart of Jesuit education lies the call to be men and women for and with others. To serve others is meaningful, but to stand alongside them, to share their realities, and to walk with them through difficulty demands deeper commitment. It is this spirit of presence and solidarity that truly distinguishes Wah Yan.

*"Don't be afraid to
make mistakes."*



Nurturing a Life of Faith and Service

Professor Anthony CHEUNG, GBS, JP

By 3W Sirius Cheng & 3K Jayden Kwok

A scholar, educator, and public servant, Professor Anthony CHEUNG Bing-leung, GBS, JP (Class of 1969), has devoted his life to education, policy, and social development. From leading the Hong Kong Institute of Education (now The Education University of Hong Kong), to serving as Secretary for Transport and Housing, his career has been shaped by a deep sense of responsibility and reflection. Looking back on his years at Wah Yan, Professor Cheung speaks not of achievements or titles, but of the people, faith, and values that quietly guided his journey and nurtured a lifelong commitment to serving both God and society.

Mentors Who Left a Lasting Impression

When asked about the people who influenced him most at Wah Yan, Professor Cheung immediately recalls Fr. Deignan, who served as the Prefect of Studies, overseeing both academic and disciplinary matters. He vividly remembers how students who arrived late for school would be required to see Fr. Deignan to obtain an excuse slip.

Yet, despite the authority implied by his position, Fr. Deignan was known for his kindness and approachability. He would often take the initiative to chat with students, showing genuine concern for their well-being. Professor Cheung remarks that Fr. Deignan was so compassionate that students did not want to break rules or disappoint him. Even after graduation, Professor Cheung and his classmates would occasionally share meals with him, reflecting the deep and enduring bonds between teachers and students at Wah Yan.

Faith Lived Through Service

Under Fr. Deignan's influence, Professor Cheung developed a strong passion for Catholicism and led a rich spiritual life during his school years. He served as an altar server, attending morning Mass daily. His responsibilities included assisting the Fathers in vesting and preparing the bread and wine for the Eucharist. Although this role required him to arrive at school early each morning, Professor Cheung remained deeply committed. He recalls feeling inspired by the spiritual atmosphere of Wah Yan, which nurtured both discipline and devotion.

During this period, the concept of liberation theology was gaining prominence globally. This theological movement emphasised engagement with social and worldly issues as an expression of Christian faith, rather than focusing solely on the afterlife. Professor Cheung found this idea meaningful and integrated it into his own spiritual journey at and beyond Wah Yan. Through service activities and his role as an altar server, he came to understand faith as a calling to serve both God and society.

Reflections and Regrets

When asked if there was anything he wished he had done differently during his secondary school years, Professor Cheung reflected thoughtfully before answering. He shared that he wished he had participated more actively in athletics. During his time at Wah Yan, he was deeply involved in the arts and even founded the school's Art Club, formerly known as the Da Vinci Club. However, he admitted that he devoted less attention to sports. Looking back, he feels that a more balanced involvement in both artistic and athletic pursuits would have made his school life even more fulfilling.

“A balanced education cultivates holistic thinking and adaptability, qualities that are essential in an ever-changing world.”



Words of Wisdom for Wahyanites

Professor Cheung also shared valuable advice for today's Wahyanites. He recalled that he studied in the science stream in his secondary years but switched to the humanities stream after Form 5 because his school certificate results were considered not good enough for the science stream. Initially discouraged by this change, he later realised that it was a blessing in disguise. “If I had not studied humanities subjects more deeply such as history and literature, I would not have broadened my horizons,” he reflected.

He, therefore, encouraged students to remain open to change, as its value often becomes clear only in hindsight. He also advised Wahyanites not to limit themselves to either science or the humanities, but to appreciate and learn from both. A balanced education cultivates holistic thinking and adaptability, qualities that are essential in an ever-changing world.





From Student Ambassador to Justice of Appeal: The Journey of the Hon Mr Justice Godfrey LAM

By 3W Marcus Chan & 3W Ivan Chung

From serving as a student ambassador and attaining outstanding results in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination to his present role as a Justice of Appeal, the Honourable Mr Justice Godfrey LAM Wan-ho has led a life characterised by quiet discipline and steady purpose. Looking back, he does not regard Wah Yan merely as a place of academic training, but as the environment in which his character was patiently formed.

His connection with Wah Yan began early. Encouraged by his mother and inspired by the example of his father, himself an alumnus, he joined Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School after spending a year at another school. Over thirteen formative years at Wah Yan, he came to recognise this decision as foundational.

Friendship, Belonging, and Joy

What Judge Lam remembers most fondly from his school years are the friendships built through shared experiences. School life was active and engaging, offering students numerous opportunities to participate and contribute. He recalls the month-long Student Festival, during which extracurricular activities filled the school calendar. Beginning with a joint-school walkathon to raise funds and followed by events such as Gavotte, the school's music showcase, the Festival fostered a strong sense of belonging and collective joy.

He also remembers contributing behind the scenes by designing light boxes and stage settings during his junior secondary years. Another highlight was the Caritas Bazaar, where students worked collectively on booth design, games, and strategies to engage visitors. One year, they even created a simple mascot using feather dusters, adding humour and energy to the event. Through these shared efforts, friendships were strengthened, and school life became not only meaningful but deeply enjoyable.

A Culture of Care

Equally formative were the relationships he developed with Jesuit Fathers and teachers, whom he remembers not only for their teaching, but for the way they accompanied students with care and attentiveness. He was particularly struck by their strong sense of vocation and consistency.

He recalls Fr Daly, who continued teaching Reader with dedication even in his later years, as well as Fr McCarthy, whose enthusiasm for Mathematics was matched by his warm habit of greeting students in different languages. One piece of advice from Fr McCarthy stayed with him: it is better to fail than never to try. The remark encouraged him to take risks, to move beyond his comfort zone, and to approach challenges without fear of failure. Lay teachers also played an important role in shaping his

experience. Teachers such as Mrs Helen Lee and Mr Adrian Lee took time to understand their students, reinforcing the belief that every individual was known, valued, and respected within the school community.

Among all these memories, one moment remains particularly vivid. After achieving nine distinctions in the HKCEE, Judge Lam received praise from many quarters. Yet it was Fr Barrett's quiet remark that left the deepest impression. Seeing him in the corridor, Fr Barrett said, "Godfrey, remember this may be good for you, but it may also be bad for you." With time, Judge Lam came to understand this as an expression of the Ignatian spirit: the importance of remaining balanced in success and of discerning whether achievement truly leads one towards God.

The Jesuit Vision and a Life Oriented Towards Others

At the heart of Judge Lam's reflections is the Jesuit educational vision that gently shaped how he sees the world. Wah Yan, he believes, has never set out to prepare students for a single profession or predetermined outcome. Rather, grounded in the Jesuit tradition, it seeks to form individuals who are attentive to others and sensitive to the needs of society around them.

In contrast to an education system often defined by personal advancement, Jesuit education is guided by the principle of 'men for and with others'. Students are encouraged to look beyond their own interests and to consider how their abilities might be placed in the service of others. Whether through leadership roles, service activities, or simple acts of care in everyday life, they learn to use their talents with purpose and responsibility.

Looking back, Judge Lam reflects that an excessive focus on oneself can easily lead to comparison or insecurity. Turning one's attention outward, by contrast, brings clarity and direction. By learning to ask how one might help rather than how one might excel, he discovered a more grounded and humane way of living. This others-oriented outlook, first nurtured during his years at Wah Yan, continues to guide him in both life and public service. It is a conviction he holds quietly, and one he hopes future Wahyanites will come to embrace in their own time.

"By learning to ask how one might help rather than how one might excel, he discovered a more grounded and humane way of living."



The Formation Behind the Surgeon

Dr. David FANG

By Colin Leung 4Y & Matthew Zhang 3Y



A private orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. David Fang has devoted his professional life not only to clinical excellence, but also to the broader advancement of Hong Kong's medical system. Reflecting on the roots of his aspirations and values, he speaks with humility, attributing his development not to individual achievement, but to the enduring influence of his Jesuit education.

Memories That Endure

Dr. Fang recalls his years at Wah Yan as among the happiest of his life, memories that remain vivid decades later. Although many of the Jesuit Fathers who taught him have since passed away, he remains deeply grateful for the lives they devoted to education and service in Hong Kong. Spending long hours in their company, he came to know them not merely as teachers, but as mentors who invariably shaped his outlook and character.

Many of the Fathers, he recalls, engaged students in personal conversations, offering counsel that extended well beyond the classroom. Encouraged by the Fathers, Dr. Fang participated actively in the Speech Festival, earning multiple awards in solo verse speaking, including two of the grand prizes, achievements he acknowledges would not have been possible without their care and patience.

One Father Dr. Fang remembers with particular fondness is Fr. Foley, whom he describes as charismatic, almost “James Bond-like” in presence. On one occasion, Fr. Foley remarked, “David, I wish someone else would win the prize, not you. Different students deserve different awards.” The remark, though unexpected, spoke to a genuine concern for the growth of every student, not merely the most accomplished.

Faith, Dialogue, and Gentle Patience

Dr. Fang also speaks with particular regard for Fr. Deignan, whose guidance played an important role in his spiritual formation. During years of Catechism classes in preparation for baptism, Dr. Fang found himself wrestling with theological questions, especially doctrines such as papal infallibility. Rather than discouraging doubt, the Jesuit Fathers welcomed inquiry and open dialogue as part of an honest search for faith.



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At one point, Fr. Deignan said to him gently, “We excuse you. You are not ready to be baptised. Do not force yourself.” Though Dr. Fang had studied the Bible carefully, Fr. Deignan believed that faith must be freely chosen and inwardly resolved.

After leaving school, Dr. Fang continued attending Mass regularly. Four decades later, he returned to Fr. Deignan and expressed his wish to be baptised. Fr. Deignan replied simply, “I have waited for you for forty years.” For Dr. Fang, the exchange captured the patience, openness, and generosity that characterised Jesuit guidance at its best.

Love as the Foundation

Above all, Dr. Fang believes that the Jesuit Fathers shaped his life by demonstrating what love looks like when lived out consistently. Through their example, he learned the importance of sincerity, openness, honesty, compassion, and respect for others. These values were never presented as abstract ideals, but practised daily through attentiveness and care.

He is especially moved by the Jesuit principle of being “men for and with others.” This understanding of love has guided his approach to both life and profession, leading him to engage in various charitable endeavours and to become a strong advocate for the establishment of the Parent-Teacher Association at the time.

In a rapidly changing world increasingly shaped by technology and artificial intelligence, Dr. Fang believes that the moral of love remains supreme. He encourages Wahyanites to hold firmly to this foundation, to act with clarity and conscience, and to move forward with confidence. Guided by faith, discernment, and love, he remains optimistic about the future.



The 105th Anniversary Back to School Day cum Fun Fair

By Ray Chau 2Y & Xavier Ng 2Y

The 105th Anniversary Back to School day cum Fun Fair was an exceptional event. It was not an ordinary day, nor just a typical fun fair. It was important, whether to Wahyanites including students and alumni, teachers, and parents. Let's take a deep dive at how the event went.

The main goal of the event was to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Wah Yan. "Since many of our celebratory events during the 100th anniversary in 2019/20 were cancelled due to unfavourable circumstances back then, we sensed that the Wah Yan family was longing for a homecoming," said Mr. Karl Chan. Thus, the Back to School Day cum Fun Fair was organised, to make up for the cancellations and to provide a chance to reconnect with one another and with the school.

The Back to School Day took place in June 2024, and a huge success. It was mainly attended by alumni, many of whom participated and enjoyed communicating and catching up with each other. After years of social upheaval and physical lockdowns, companions who were once classmates reunited. Nostalgic memories of the good old days were shared, alumni and teachers recognised familiar faces, and friends from the past were joyfully reunited. Many left Wah Yan with smiles on their faces.

As for the Fun Fair, it was even better. Participation exceeded expectations with roughly 3000 visitors in attendance. Many students remarked that they had never seen the school so crowded. Nearly every single community, society and school team set up a booth. Long queues formed behind the tables and all souvenirs were sold out.

The musicians didn't disappoint, either. Students from the 1970s to the 2020s performed their best on stage at the 105th Anniversary Talent Time Special Edition. It was amazing to see Wah Yan performers from different eras gathering and showcasing their talents together.

Overall, it was a remarkable achievement made possible by everyone in the Wah Yan community. The most satisfying part was seeing Wahyanites of different generations return home to share a day filled with laughter, friendship and togetherness. The Wah Yan family has never been more united. Throughout the day, everyone cherished every moment and brought home lasting joy and wonderful memories and savoured every bit of the event, and took some delight and joy back home.





O Lord Jesus, be with me all through today to help me to live as I ought to live.

Be with me at my lessons, so that I may grow in knowledge and never give up any task, no matter how hard and difficult it is, until I have tried my best.

Be with me at my games, so that, whether I win or lose, I may play fair, and if I win I may not boast, and if I lose I may not make excuses.

Be with me in my pleasure, so that I may enjoy your gifts and never use them selfishly or to hurt others.

Be with me in my home, so that I may be kind and considerate, and that I may try to make the work of others easier and not harder.

Be with me in the streets, so that I may be a credit to my school and to those who love me and to myself.

Be with me in my disappointments and sufferings, so that I may have strength to overcome my problems and accept my pain with courage and cheerfulness.

Help me to be the kind of boy you want me to be.

This I ask for your love's sake. Amen.