

# Thrive at E-Smart

February 2018

## From the Headmaster's Desk

"There is no doctrine called extremism. When tyrants speak of extremists, they just mean people who are not in the mainstream—as the tyrants themselves are defining that mainstream at that particular moment. Dissidents of the twentieth century, whether they were resisting fascism or communism, were called extremists. Modern authoritarian regimes, such as Russia, use laws on extremism to punish those who criticize their policies. In this way the notion of extremism comes to mean virtually everything except what is, in fact, extreme: tyranny."

— Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*

Dear parents,

This has been a frigid winter, and the current political climate of Hong Kong is equally off-putting. Many of my friends are feeling disturbed or even distressed by the recent political events but I saw them coming more than two years ago.

Straying from the initial promise of a high degree of autonomy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in both the Sino-British Declaration and the Basic Law, the Chinese Government made a new interpretation of its 'overall jurisdiction' over Hong Kong by issuing a white paper in June 2014. Since then, we have witnessed the gradual depletion of our institutions, especially the judiciary, leading to the disqualification of four popularly elected legislative councilors, the conviction of young activists who haven't sought their own interests but desired for a just and fair society, and most recently the barring of some candidates from standing for the upcoming Legislative Council By-Elections.

Indeed, our political naivety might have led many of us to believe that we could have a truly popularly elected Chief Executive and a fully elected Legislature after the handover in 1997. But let's face it; China has always been a one-party state since 1949, which is a symbol of totalitarian rule. Its economic miracle over the last 30 years has brought about extraordinary infrastructural developments but minimal, if any, political change. Ascension to political leadership hinges on one's family background, personal ties and allegiance to the Communist Party, and it is simply human nature for those in power to maintain the political status quo by silencing critics. Probably in these leaders' minds, they have been extremely tolerant of the 'noises' in Hong Kong, and it is more than overdue to play a strong hand, more so when Hong Kong's economic significance has been slowly eclipsed by other major cities in China.

We can therefore only expect the worse to come, but as Timothy Snyder has reminded us, we can take heed of the twenty lessons from history in which numerous atrocities commissioned by tyrannical leaders such as the murder of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust from 1941 to 1945 could have been avoided. To protect ourselves and others, we should not obey in advance, defend institutions, beware the one-party state, take responsibility for the face of the world, remember professional ethics, be wary of paramilitaries, be reflective if we must be armed, stand out, be kind to our language, believe in truth, investigate, make eye contact and small talk, practice corporeal politics, establish a private life, contribute to good causes, learn from peers in other countries, listen for dangerous words, be calm when the unthinkable arrives, be a patriot, and be as courageous as we can.

Particularly, we must not choose to simply believe what the authorities and mainstream media try hard to stuff into our minds. For example, do we really have to develop the country parks for housing when there are so many undeveloped Brownfield Sites in the New Territories? Are there really no better alternatives to the Joint Checkpoint for the high-speed rail link to Guangzhou in West Kowloon? Why are we not able to provide better social security for our senior citizens when the Government has almost 1 trillion (\$1,000,000,000,000) in reserves? Should we build many more public hospitals rather than the high-speed rail and the HongKong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge? Do your own investigation, study different sources of information and arrive at your own conclusions. Better still, share your observations and insights with a group of like-minded friends.

In the words of Timothy Snyder, "It is your ability to discern facts that makes you an individual, and our collective trust in common knowledge that makes us a society."

Be discerning! Happy Chinese New Year!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

## Stars of the Month

CEPS Thur 3:30-4:30  
GWF4B Sat 4:00-5:00  
GWF4A Sat 9:00-10:00  
GWF6B Wed 6:30-7:30  
GWF6B Thur 4:30-5:30  
GWF6A Tues 6:30-7:30  
GWF9B Sat 2:00-3:00  
IEKKB Wed 2:30-3:30  
IEKKB Thur 9:30-10:30  
IEK2B Sat 11:00-12:00  
IEK4B Sat 10:00-11:00  
IEK4A Sat 1:00-2:00  
IEK6B Sat 9:00-10:00  
IEK6A Sat 12:00-1:00  
IEK8B Sat 12:00-1:00  
PG24M(V) Thur 11:30-12:30  
PTWR Tues 2:30-3:30  
PTWR Wed 5:30-6:30  
PTWE2 Sat 10:00-11:00  
WTE1 Sat 11:00-12:00  
WTE1 Tues 5:30-6:30  
WTE1 Wed 4:30-5:30  
WTE2B Tues 5:30-6:30  
WTE2B Sat 11:00-12:00  
WTE2B Wed 4:30-5:30  
WTE4B Sat 3:00-4:00  
WTE4A Tues 4:30-5:30  
WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00  
WTE4A Sat 4:00-5:00  
WTE6A Tues 5:30-6:30  
CEPS Thur 3:30-4:30  
GWF4B Sat 4:00-5:00  
GWF4A Sat 9:00-10:00  
GWF6B Wed 6:30-7:30  
GWF6B Thur 4:30-5:30

Lau Josiah  
Wong Yu Sze, Sisi  
Lam Hau Yan, Melody  
Sui Man Ho, Matthew  
Wong Pak Kiu, Jan  
Li Karen  
Cheung Ka Ching, Loraine  
Chan Lok Ka, Rosalind  
Chan Wan Yin, Queenie  
Wong Hui Tong, Nigel  
Chan Hiu Wai, Reginia  
Liu Man Long, Terry  
Hsu Si Lok, Hercules  
Chan Angus  
Chak Kai Hin, Colin  
Cheng Shun Yuen, Kasper  
Mo Ching Man, Alice  
Fan Sum Yuet, Selena  
Liu Tung Tung, Raina  
Hau Yuet Tung, Jessica  
Tsui Sze Nga, Grace  
Lau Deborah Cheuk Yin  
Wong Hui Ching, Karina  
Lee Cheuk Wing, Sireen  
Lau David Cheuk Wai  
Yee Cheuk Lam, Shannon  
Tsang Yik Lam, Iden  
Chu Wing Nam, Emma  
Yung Lok Yan, Laetitia  
Lau Yam Man, Smith  
Lau Josiah  
Wong Yu Sze, Sisi  
Lam Hau Yan, Melody  
Sui Man Ho, Matthew  
Wong Pak Kiu, Jan

## Progress Report and End of Term Survey

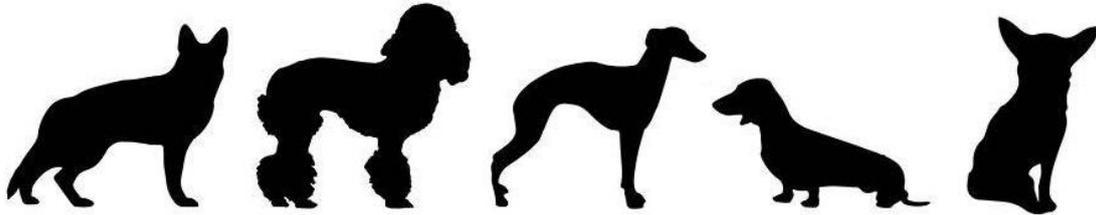
We have distributed the end of term survey along with the student progress report. Please complete and send it back to us.

# STUDENTS' PAGE

February 2018

This year Chinese New Year is in February. It will be the Year of the Dog. There are many different kinds of dogs in the world. Look at the pictures below. Can you guess the names of these different kinds of dogs? Match them!

—Mr. Boa



Poodle    Dachshund    Chihuahua    German Shepherd    Greyhound

## WRITER OF THE MONTH

### My Grandpa

My grandpa had a strong body. He was a little bit fat. He had grey hair and he was a healthy, old person.

My grandpa always scolded my dad because he thought in his mind he was always correct. He was also very serious. One time, my baby sister, Eunice, said, “So much poo poo, underpants...” and these kinds of things; and Grandpa said he was not going to hear funny things anymore.

My grandpa was good at relaxing. He liked drinking a drink which was only for grown-ups. He relaxed on the sofa and ate his favourite food.

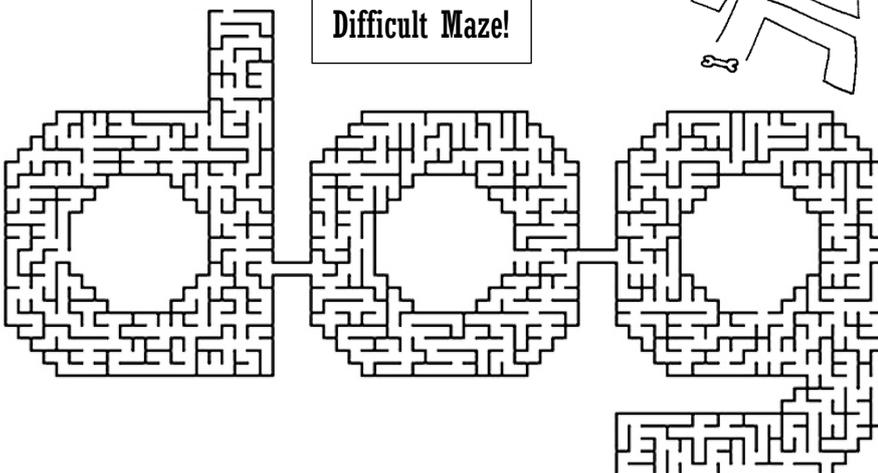
—Janice So (WTE-4B)

**OTHER WRITERS OF THE MONTH:** *Nic Leung (WTE-8B), Taylor Chau (WTE-2B), Elva Hui (WTE-1), Ho Jing Fan (WTE-6A)*

### Easy Maze!



### Difficult Maze!



**DOG WORD SEARCH!** Find the word *dog*.

D G O O D D O D G O O D D O  
 O D O O G G G D O D G O G G  
 O G O G D O O D G O O D D D  
 D G D O O O G G O O G D G O  
 O G D G O G D G O G G O G D  
 D D D G D D O D O O G D O O  
 O D G O G G D O O G G O O D