



Student-oriented school life

WHEN we speak of a student-oriented school, it is easy to reduce the phrase to mere buzzwords, something we print on banners. But to me, as a principal, it is an actionable promise.

Undeniably, we have rules and boundaries. Structure forms the skeleton of an orderly school. However, the heart of our school beats for a different purpose. Before we set a policy, we ask ourselves a simple question: *"If I were a student, how would I feel?"* We look at school life through their eyes. That is the core of our philosophy.

This is why, alongside the traditional Parents' Day, when we invite parents to see the academic journey of their children, we also have something I treasure deeply: **Student Day**. This is not a day of reports or grades, but a day of listening. On Student Day, every student sits with their class teacher and speaks freely – about their goals, dreams, worries, friendships, family life, hobbies, and even the idols they admire. It is an inviolable space which we hold for our students. We open the door for our students to share their inner worlds, because we know that personal support and growth are just as vital as academic progress.

Let me be honest, I cannot say that studies are not our main concern. They are. We work tirelessly to rouse motivation, to equip students with study skills, and to instil habits of error analysis and perseverance. However, we also believe in a fundamental truth – that there must be a balance. All work and no play induce burnout rather than building character. Thus, we have woven celebration into our academic rhythm.

Before examinations, we remain focused, persistent, and emphasise effort. The moment the last paper is submitted, our school is transformed. In past years, we have had the **HYC Yummy Day**, where teachers, parents, and alumni prepared a special lunch – abalone with chicken, cinnamon bread & corn, noodles and even beloved snacks from our tuck shop. The campus buzzed with laughter as students and teachers shared food in a relaxed, joyful mood. Then came the **HYC Fun Day** and **HYC Game Day**, where our school became a theme park of different zones, filled with both traditional and new group games including 'What time is it, Mr Wolf?' and 'Escape the Room'. What made those days magical were not the games, but the sight of students and teachers playing alongside one another, sharing joy.

That is what it means to be student-oriented. It is not about making school easy, rather it is about making school meaningful – where every student is seen, heard, and encouraged to become the best version of themselves. Together, we are building a home for dreams.



About the principal

MS Lam Ming-yan, the principal of Po Leung Kuk Ho Yuk Ching (1984) College is more than a dedicated educator – she champions effort as much as achievement. Believing every student needs to be seen, heard, and encouraged, she nurtures growth through process, not just outcomes, inspiring each student to become their best self.

Answers



P3 Worksheet

A. Synonym match 1. b; 2. d; 3. a; 4. c; 5. e

B. Phrase match 1. d; 2. e; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c



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