

MS ADA WONG:

I would first like to apologise for the English speaking guests here, because since this is a school in Hong Kong I would like to speak in Cantonese. We have just started school on 1st September. We have had two fully packed months and I would like to share with you some of the experiences we gained in those two months and during the action, the process.

Who are we? Of course, five years ago at the initial stage of establishing such a college, we hoped that we could find different pathways for different sorts of educational systems. The thinking was quite similar but for those in Singapore I hope our students will be able to become crazy about art and culture. "Crazy" is a rather difficult word to describe. We hope they can have imagination, have compassion, be tolerant but at the same time well-disciplined and they are people with lots of vision.

In the last two months, as a matter of fact, we started our practical exercise after five years preparation and we are still working in a temporary school site because the actual school will be completed in May next year. On one particular story I just recall -- I will show you some of the induction week. Children will have to attend maths and Chinese classes. Students wore T-shirts and designed their own T-shirts. And they can spray their own design on to the their T-shirts. We have also invited a number of creativity people to the school. Liu Chin Law is one of them.

The old school, of course, is quite colourless. We even encourage the students to paint the classrooms and you can see from here these are some of the designs they have painted onto the windows of their classrooms. The classroom is named Van Gogh. In other words, they painted Van Gogh and Van Gogh's production onto those windows and classrooms.

Of course, we have also created a number of professionally oriented curriculum. As you can see from here, students attending classes and very often we were not just confined

to the campus, and the teachers would take their students out to, say, programs like defending Star Ferry Pier and students created their own work during such an exercise.

For the daily work, they start classes at 8.20 in the morning but in the afternoons of Tuesday and Thursdays the day would be attending creativity induction courses, and apart from those courses students again would be attending classes for at least five subjects for the general certificate.

Also sometimes they are also specially arranged activities, for instance you can see here the list of particular students, just stay on practising his own drum. There was an Halloween party and that is special, and the students they acted as DJs as well and the last week we staged our own diverse fashion show, and some students attended at the fashion design work and then they created various clothing with the tri-colour plastic bags and also we encourage specific education through music and drama. Last week there was a drama named 'War', rehearsed and performed and arranged by the students of the school.

For the parents we organised the first parents' session in October, and quite surprisingly the parents told us they had witnessed vast changes in their own children, because in the past they were reluctant to go to school. Now they are quite different. They ask what we have done with their children.

According to our observation our campuses are quite open. We are operating under an extremely free environment. We allow students to identify their own spaces for development. Such in a short span of time we encourage students to find their own niche, so they created their own names for the various performances. Of course, all of these are their own creations.

Perhaps let me pause for a while and ask myself a question. What are the actual results? Perhaps upon reflection our ideals, our vision, and also some practical issues, and our ideas as follow, we hope that the school can become one of

the major colleges in creativity education for the entire Asia Pacific region. We hope it could become a cradle for the training of personnel, an interactive platform and also a fully integrated school with the community, and again foresee for form 4, 5, 6 and 7, and we hope that the students would further their education for Associate Degree courses in either Hong Kong and become prominent figures in the creativity field in Hong Kong or China or in Asia.

Before we started the curriculum we have liaised with the various tertiary institutions like Academy for Performing Arts to allow them to have a greater understanding or in-depth understanding of our school and to become the consultants of our school. This is again is one way of paving the path of growth for our students. This is the sort of picture we have painted for the future and we have also created curriculum media performance, design and communication and also environmental and special design.

Another idea is that we believe while the so-called curriculum, I believe should be a course curriculum and course of program and it should also lay a good foundation for their future profession. Of course, the curriculum was designed by professional people as well as artists from the appreciation, to the skill, to the basic information they are all incorporated in the curriculum. Of course, again this is only our ideal and, of course, we hope we are prepared that to operate under the current system of education.

Students will still have to face the Secondary School Certificate examination so this is the sort of courses we have designed for the students. There appears to be a line in between. I believe this is the challenge we are facing and how we are going to break through such a line, how are we going to ensure that all the certificate subjects like China history, Chinese literature, and how they can become part of the creativity education. We have been operation in 60 days and we are still trying to explore for the universities our ideal, and so various activity, I believe that the certificate

curriculum would be injected with our ideas.

Another idea is that we hope that every student can find himself a mentor with a professional relationship and could last a lifelong time.

Of course, again, we taking our students out to all sorts of places, and I have to use two more minutes. I believe we have found a good way, good teachers, good team and this is really one of the blessing for Hong Kong that we have been able to find such good teachers and good mentors and we have good students as well.

Of course, 12 out of those 60 unfortunately have left us, and two more human stories one minute each, so that I can show you the places of pleasure. Meanwhile, are the portrait directors of the school, and also the Director of Creativity Education, Cheung Wah, and the without them the school would not be able to survive. We all know to run a totally alternative school is extremely difficult. You have to fight all the time. If some officials are telling you "no" then Cheung Wah would tell them "No we insist". I would like to tell you that as Director of the Creative Education I believe firstly, is quite fierce, quite insistent, quite stern and you know how we are going to penalise students at school, if a student is having a nap during a lesson, then the maid will take the student away from the classroom and take him to another classroom and show him a film, and ask him to write a comment of 500 words after that. So this is one way of penalising the students.

Another story for the students who have left us, I believe one of them actually reminds me of the young long hair. The first day when we asked him to hand in the summer vacation exercise, and he wrote something about the Japanese AV firm, and there are other students started to complain and writing complaints on the wall, and he was rebellious but he was a very good writer, good guitarist and very good in music exposure but unfortunately he committed too many offences and

unfortunately he has to leave us.

I believe after the 60 days, the question is whether we should rethink about the school again. The school is actually hard work and lots of people involved in their school work. They work together for education and, of course, we have to abide ourselves by the educational system in Hong Kong. How are we going to amalgamate learning and education to become creative? I believe we are still on the way of finding a reply.

Then, I believe for Singapore and Tapai and Haja as well they choose to stand outside the system. The question is whether we should stay inside or outside. We are talking about integration and we are talking about how we are going to integrate with the mainstream educational system. Again, the question is about alternative education. I would like the student example that I quoted who left us, are we saying that we should define another alternative school to accommodate students like this particular one.

Thank you, very much.