

## Extract of Principal's Speech at the Blessing and Opening Ceremony of the New School Complex of WYHK (20<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2014)

"...Mr Nicholas Tsui has produced virtual tours of this complex and everyone who clicked on link responded with a simple "wow!" – they were all very impressed!

Today, you will be able to conduct a real life tour of this complex... You will see firsthand what it means to have over 3,000 sq.m. of additional space with excellent facilities. If you were impressed by the virtual tour, then I am sure you will be even more impressed by the physical one.

### **But is that all you will see in the tour?**

I don't think so!

I think you will also see "**gratitude**". This complex is constructed solely through donations by past students, parents and friends of Wah Yan. They have done so out of their great appreciation and sincere gratitude for what Jesuit Fathers and Wah Yan teachers have done for them.

You will also see "**love**" - love for this school and love for present as well as future Wahyanites who will benefit greatly from the selfless sacrifice of all benefactors who have contributed money, expertise and hard work to turn this project into reality.

You will see the "**Wah Yan Spirit**"! But what is the Wah Yan Spirit? Fr Callaghan, the first Jesuit Principal has said in the first issue of The Star that "The spirit of a school, like the spirit of a family or the spirit of a nation, is hard to analyse or to define." When I was asked by the Starlet in my first interview by the school newspaper what the "Wah Yan Spirit" was, I was equally vague - I said that it was something for each Wahyanite to reflect on, to define and to redefine over his lifetime. The answer will evolve as he matures.

But perhaps both Fr Callaghan and I were wrong. The Wah Yan Spirit is not that abstract. Just look at this building complex - aren't this a concrete representation of the Wah Yan Spirit, right here in front of us? It is built with the generous support of different generations of Wahyanites that goes from classes of the 2010s, 2000s, back to classes of the 90s, 80s, 70s, 60s, 50s, 40s and even the 30s! One very important factor that has motivated them to contribute is the fond memories they have had with Wah Yan in their school days. Now that the complex is built, it will in turn be a place when many more fond memories will be formed in the minds and hearts of numerous future generations of Wahyanites, who will use this complex on a daily basis for years before they graduate. So through this building complex the memories of Wahyanites past, present and future are united as one - and this "unity among Wahyanites" is the Wah Yan Spirit.

What else would you see?

You will also see "**high expectations**" - expectations on teachers and staff to carry on the fine tradition of Jesuit education which has inspired and touched so many

generations of Wahyanites, so much so that they have come back years after their graduation to help their *alma mater*

AND

expectations on current and future Wahyanites that they should, like their Si Hing before them, continue to strive for excellence so as to be worthy of this building complex, this excellent gift.

Yes, this building is a multi-purpose complex with 3,585 sq.m. of additional floor space and excellent facilities.

But it is also:

- A monument of **gratitude**
- A declaration of **love**
- A concrete representation of the **Wah Yan Spirit** that unites generations of Wahyanites past, present and future
- A sign of the unfailing **trust** in our educational workers' commitment to carry on the excellent tradition of Jesuit Education, and
- An embodiment of high **hopes** on all future Wahyanites to continue to strive to be competent, compassionate, committed, spiritual and ethical leaders in service.

It is both **an excellent set of facilities for use in education AND an excellent education in itself!**

So, once again, to all benefactors who have contributed so much to this project, may I say on behalf of the school, that we shall not forget your act of love and sacrifice and shall repay this huge debt by doing our utmost in providing our students with the best education possible.”