

Foreword

In our first editorial meeting on 5 July 2016, we all gathered in Room 234 in wild anticipation of the making of a work that would bridge generations of LTPSS-ers — the stories of those who have settled, unravelled by those who have just fled the nest, read by those who are still in the cradle.

Among the Stars presents 9 fascinating narratives of the stories of our LTPSS alumni-cum-interviewees who now steadily tread on their career paths. This collection is a vivid transcription of their unwavering passions, life philosophies, views on success, and hardships encountered. Some had a dream since their tender age and managed to water it into realisation with persistence and planning. Some were at sea, wandering in search until fate showed them what they like best doing. Each and every tale began at the same starting point which we shall all find familiar, but branched off in ways that may be least expected.

For our current LTPSS-ers to make the most out of this collection, I have just to believe that among the winding narratives of our alumni's life, fellow students can spot the glitters of wisdom, life attitudes, or random quotes to their inspiration. While words necessarily fail reality, I do enthusiastically recommend our LTPSS-ers to imagine: How did our alumni find out their life goals? What decisions did they make and why? What obstacles must they have gone through to settle on the career paths they are on today? What marked and led to the turning points in their life? Dwelling on these questions may open up a wealth of new understanding.

Our editorial team have been assiduous in our efforts at interviewing, drafting, and proofreading, all the while snowed under with work from our full-time study in university. My wholehearted thanks to Miss Joanna Lee, who set this ambitious collection in motion, Mr KK Siu, whose artistic designs added much colour to this collection, and Mr Alan Cheng, for his inspiring advice. Finally, it is truly our greatest honour to have our alumni-cum-interviewees contributing these stories, without which this collection would never have been possible.

Felix Lo ■
Editor and Writer of *Among the Stars*



Felix Lo graduated from Law Ting Pong Secondary School in 2013 and just completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in English with first class honours in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is set to further his study by undertaking a Master of Philosophy degree in Gender Studies in the University of Cambridge in the coming year.



Whatever you are, be a good one:

Tony Kam ■

Michelle Kuan

You may see Mr Tony Kam every day during assemblies, recesses or when you have your computer classes. Do you find any similarity between you and Mr Kam? Yes, for sure he is a teacher in LTPSS, but can you believe he is also among the first batch of students of our school?

Back in the day when Mr Kam was still a student, he was obsessed with playing computer games. To play computer games well, some basic computer knowledge is essential, such as setting up computers and changing command. And that is where Mr Kam started to know more about computers.

Back then, Internet was not as widely accessible as nowadays. Every time when Mr Kam successfully connected to the Internet, he always found a lot of interesting things to browse, for instance, some online publications that people shared, and this triggered his curiosity about computer programming and IT. He continued his study in Computer Science and worked as an IT coordinator in LTPSS as his first job. Later on, he was encouraged by the school to try to step

into the education field, becoming the teacher that you now bump into every day in the campus.

Teaching both the junior and senior form syllabi, Mr Kam is well-informed about the concerns and difficulties students usually face. "Teachers are only facilitators of your learning. Be independent and critical. You should be the one who takes charge of your study. Be an active learner and prepare well before you ask your teachers." He said. To students who are struggling to find their path or the right discipline of study in the future, he suggested that they should choose according to their interest, ability and career prospect. "If you are confused about your future, why don't you give everything a try first? No matter how it ends, it will be an extraordinary experience."

Looking back, he remembered that his Form 1 class teacher, Miss Chan Yin Hing, had left a sentence for them to reflect upon. "Be a useful person." Mr Kam's own interpretation of being 'useful' is to become a person who cares about society and brings positive energy to people around him, for example by spreading encouraging messages in social networking websites. Mr Kam also welcomes students to talk to him if they encounter any difficulties.

So, what does "a useful person" mean to you? Being useful and successful does not mean we have to become a doctor, a lawyer or someone powerful to change the world. We can all change the world in our own ways. "When you are trying to find an answer for this question, think of a person who inspires you, who you want to meet and who you want to learn from, and this is the type of person that you should be."



Tony Kam



- 1991: Studied in LTPSS
- 1996: Graduated in LTPSS
- 2001: Worked as IT coordinator in LTPSS
- 2011: Started teaching in LTPSS



An Unscripted Journey:
Pak Yuk Man ■
Felix Lo

At 2:00 a.m., many were already enveloped in sweet slumber after a long day of work. Pak fixed his gaze on the purple yam-flavoured floral designs that crowned the cake, his hands steady and precise. As he added the finishing touch to his work, he stood back and beamed with complacency. Time was just right for him to head home.

Days as such are not from a distant past. A couple of years ago, Pak was still studying his Master of Music in Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA). Every day, he offered piano tutorials in the afternoon and shared tips on dessert-making at night. Only during the unsocial hours did he have time to work on developing his own dessert recipes and experimenting with ingredients and flavours. For a very long time, every day was an exact duplicate of the above – Einsteinian night labour, interspersed with occasional 15-minute power naps, sleeping duration compressed into a 4-hour paralysis on bed.

‘You have to make good use of the 24 hours every day. When you’re still young, you need to keep pushing your limits and topping up your value,’ said Pak, reflecting on his hard times. To Pak, the age of thirty marked a defining point in life: before thirty, one is supposed to roam freely around and absorb experience like a sponge; after thirty, life hardens into a mass of cement; it requires a structure, a form, a shape so that one could build upon it to reach further heights.

In this day and age, one professional specialty would suffice to win applause, but Pak has more than one ace up his sleeve. As his primary career, Pak is now a pianist who offers solo performances, holds concerts, and teaches playing the piano. Apart from music, he also likes to share food recipes and the joy of making desserts. A blogger on making desserts and the author of a dessert cookbook, Pak always shares ideas about dessert making and takes up freelance jobs sometimes to design desserts for local restaurants and cafés. Alongside these two lines of career, Pak also works freelance as a ‘LEGO-ist’ who builds LEGO designs for events or multi-media productions.

If the way Pak juggles with multiple jobs already makes one gasp in disbelief, how these interests-turned-professions came into being will drop even more jaws. At the age of six, Pak already started to learn playing the piano. However, as a spontaneous learner, Pak took a strong disliking to the structured, goal-oriented, and institutionalised learning experiences in piano classes. Soon, what he first found to be liberating and enjoyable in music immediately turned into a gulag of tests, exams and grades. As he progressed to Form 1 in LTPSS, he soon decided to sever ties with the piano.

On completing the Junior Form, Pak left to study in Rockwell College, Ireland, as a second-former. Playing the piano then was no longer a pursuit of musical achievements to him, but rather an outlet for emotional expression. One day in his final year before taking the Senior Certificate (the school-leaving examination in Ireland), Pak was killing time by playing the piano in the music room. By mere serendipity, a substitute teacher for music lessons passed by outside the music room, and was instantly arrested to the ebullient melodies in Pak’s piano rendition. She told him viscerally, ‘You deserve more than this. You should make a career out of it.’

Pak was of course delighted to receive such lavish compliments, but he didn’t give this option any serious thought afterwards. That was until that teacher secretly enrolled him on the admission examination to Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and ‘forced’ him to go to the audition. Thinking that it is no harm trying, Pak decided to give it a go. Much to his surprise, he didn’t just pass the examination, but he also earned admission to the Diploma in Music (which is equal to a foundational year before the commencement of a bachelor’s degree programme) in RIAM. As Pak grew up, he had always understood that he had no talent in the matters of letters and pen, so being a pianist wasn’t far from being the ideal option. Therefore, Pak took the offer and set out on this

one-year journey to reexplore and rediscover his interests in the piano. In the process, he gradually reconnected to this old friend and grew more determined to embark on a pianist career sail. After he finished the diploma programme, he remained in RIAM to study the Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance under the gentle guidance of John O’Conor, a world-renowned Irish pianist and pedagogue as well as former director of the RIAM.

While Pak sailed steadily towards being a pianist in RIAM, it was also during this time that his love for cooking budded. Throughout his high school life in Ireland, Pak had to live independently and cook for himself. That was when he started dabbling in the affairs of the kitchen. After he got into RIAM, Pak was always on the lookout for part time jobs and finally found a private tuition job on playing the piano. Unexpectedly, Pak wasn’t only paid in cash – the grandma of a student offered to teach him the basics of Irish / British cuisine in exchange for a reduced tuition fee. Pak gladly took her up on the deal, ushering a wider range of cooking skills into his repertoire.

Upon graduation, Pak returned to Hong Kong and worked as an apprentice in a local patisserie shop until he was later admitted to the Master of Music in Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA) in 2013. In these two years’ time, Pak’s career went onto a highspeed express railway, as he multi-tasked at studying, teaching, and taking up freelance jobs of dessert designs. Mid-way through the programme, Pak was invited by a publisher to write a book on making desserts. In 2015, the same year he graduated from HKAPA, he published “Cake” Away the Oven: 42 Bake-free Desserts (CAKE走焗爐 — 42道免焗甜品). Media spotlight on all fronts began to converge on him.

‘I like the idea of building everything from scratch. There is an unparalleled sense of accomplishment when it’s finally done,’ Pak gesticulated widely, describing what he



finds to be the greatest joy in dessert-making, playing the piano, and assembling the LEGO. ‘Thinking back, I believe that my days in LTPSS gave me quite some inspiration.’ At the beginning of the second millennium, the carpentry and domestic science classes were still available in LTPSS and they allowed Pak to gain valuable practical skills, which lay the groundwork for his future endeavours in dessert-making. In retrospect, Pak describes that he also enjoyed the carpentry classes tremendously. The actual physical labour involved in building a wooden cart, the brain-racking tasks of envisaging and planning, and learning about the elaborate mechanics – they all fascinated him so much that at one point in life he was caught in the agony of indecision between architecture and music.

Another great lesson he had learned in LTPSS that influenced his future pursuits immensely is to take a job seriously and be responsible. As the pianist in the choir and the ‘Cats’ musical, Pak had plenty of opportunities for performance. Through these experiences, Pak grew to understand that he acted as a crucial cog in the group and his performance could make or mar the show. In order not to ‘screw up’, he had to exert himself.

Speaking of success, Pak believes that success is always not in the present. ‘Success is when you look back at the endpoint of life, think about what you have accomplished, and have little regret.’ To live on this motto, Pak is still working hard now to cross off items on his bucket list. LEGO designs, French pastry, and the piano – in all these things where his genuine interests lie, he has done excellently, so what’s next? Pak smiled, ‘I’ve always wanted to study flight engineering and become a cadet pilot. I’ve applied for a cadet pilot programme before through Cathay Pacific and Dragonair. Just as I made my way to the second round of interviews, I got admitted to HKAPA, so I went with the latter. I probably may train to be a cadet pilot sometime later. Having my hands full now.’

Pak also advised current LTPSS-ers to make the most of their free time to prepare for future opportunities. ‘We are living in an age of information boom, and many resources are available for us. We should keep exploring different options to fathom out what we truly want and polish our skills and abilities at the same time. Opportunities are everywhere. Never say never.’

Pak Yuk Man

- 1999: Began studying in LTPSS
- 2002: Began studying in Rockwell College in Tipperary, Ireland
- 2006: Admitted to the Diploma in Music in Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM)
- 2007: Admitted to the Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance in RIAM
- 2012: Returned to Hong Kong and worked as an apprentice in local patisseries
- 2013 - 2015: Admitted to the Master of Music in Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA)
- 2015: Published a book on making desserts – “Cake” Away the Oven: 42 Bake-free Desserts (English translation)

A close-up portrait of Stanley Yeung, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a white bow tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the frame with a thoughtful expression. The background is a dark, neutral color.

Cadenced Composition in Its Own Right: Path to Cellist Career for Stanley Yeung ■

Felix Lo

While Stanley thoroughly enjoyed the educational atmosphere in the UK, not everything went smoothly and well. In Boston College, Music was then available as an elective for the A-Levels, but due to under-enrolment, the course was later euthanised. This came as a tremendous disappointment to Stanley, so he filed an appeal for the course's revival. The course was in the end reopened, but its quality proved disappointing. Always in search of excellence, Stanley made a bold call to drop the course and turned to The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), clinching the qualification of Music Theory Grade 8 in the end.

Up to that point, Stanley's road to success had been lined with obstacles, but every time he still managed to find a detour around the problem and headed to his destination unswervingly. However, little did he know that his odyssey had only just begun ...

After finishing his A-Levels, he was admitted with a sponsorship to the Royal College of Music (RCM) in London, which is the equivalent of Oxford and Cambridge for musical study. It was what he described to be a most humbling experience, 'I haven't seen the world out there before I got into the RCM. The people out there were crazy,' he said. Entering the Royal College of Music – a place where the greatest talents of music converge, where the cream of the top find themselves insufferably ordinary – Stanley felt overwhelmingly dwarfed. The aura of superiority faded, followed by a nagging sense of incompetence. What Stanley saw as the most important lesson learned in the RCM is that of identifying the value of oneself. 'The career advisor there once explained the concept of pyramid to the students there: being a member of the RCM, we are all virtually sitting at the top echelon of the hierarchy, but subtler stratification exists even within the top ranks, so where do you stand? You have to learn to position yourself.'

So Stanley struggled along in this long and tiring journey of fathoming out who he was in a sea of geniuses – What is his value? Where does he stand? But the vicissitudes of life leave little time for thought. Between his third and fourth year, a financial tsunami hit the world. As the global economy slumped to a standstill, his sponsorship, which was financed by a company, ceased, meaning that Stanley had to bear around HK\$300,000 to HK\$400,000 of tuition fee per year on his own. If Stanley were to quit, his first three years of study would have gone down to the drain. In the end, Stanley’s mother decided to sell her apartment to support Stanley’s study. One year later, Stanley finally graduated in one of the most prestigious academies of music in the world and returned to Hong Kong for work.

‘Those challenges in secondary school life are nothing compared to the tough times that follow,’ said Stanley, insisting that those five years spent in LTPSS are the happiest and the most carefree times of his life. ‘After I got into the RMC, I had to be very independent. Making ends meet. Buying groceries. Doing laundry on my own. Paying rents. All the seemingly trivial matters piled up and snowballed into a lot of pressure.’ The gravest challenge came, of course, after he graduated and started to work. ‘When you are studying, you have one and only one goal: study well, but after you have graduated, you have to find your own goal, your own path; otherwise, you will slip into a life of aimlessness. Also, in school, if you fail a test, fine, there’ll be a second chance. But at work, every assignment is an examination. Every moment is defining. There is no trying the second time.’

Speaking of his work in music education now, Stanley was quite frustrated about how music is increasingly underappreciated. ‘It is degenerating into an instrument of utility.’ His remark is directed at the growingly common phenomenon that parents force their children to learn playing musical instruments to up their chances of admission to local top schools. ‘Art cannot be forced; it must be spontaneous and intuitive. If children have to learn music against their will, everyone loses: teachers, parents, children. They all lose.’

One of the pressing questions at work is that Stanley will have to balance between earning money and upholding his principles. ‘I can’t make a living if I have to hold onto my lofty ideals, but there are lines that should not be crossed. I will not teach students to take shortcuts. They must respect music and learn the basics.’ For Stanley, there is bound to be overlap between interest and utility; the key is to find balance. Even turning his interest into professions will no doubt subject him to certain constraints and different forms of pressure, but those are the necessary trade-offs, and accepting that is part of making the compromise that leads one to balance in life.

At the height of his career, Stanley wouldn’t like to think of him as ‘successful’. ‘One moment of success doesn’t mean anything. Life is full of ups and downs.’ In Stanley’s life philosophy, success is never fully achievable, and we can only ever get close to success. ‘That’s why I said it’s important to have a sense of balance. Nothing is going to be perfect for life.’ The point at which we are the closest to success, Stanley suggests, is when we look back without regretting the decisions we made. Success is but a matter of perspective.

Exerting oneself, always finding balance in everything, and accepting the imperfections in life — that’s Stanley Yeung. Whether he is successful is not up to you to judge, but whether you’ll be successful is up to you to control. After all, it’s your life, your music, your melody. It’s up to you to experience it and compose it.

As the ending note of our chat, Stanley Yeung quoted from a line once said by our former principal as a word of advice for all LTPSS-ers. ‘Why do we need to study? Why do we need to study well? If you do, you choose jobs. If you don’t, jobs choose you.’

Stanley Yeung

2000:	Studied in LTPSS
2005:	Graduated in LTPSS, completed HKCEE Examinations and left for Boston College in the UK
2007:	Graduated from Boston College, admitted to the Royal College of Music (RMC)
2011:	Received his bachelor’s degree in the RMC
2012 - Present:	Work as a freelance musician, cellist and conductor

Knowledge Knows No Bounds

Chris Kwok

Felix Lo

Today marks an age in the academic world that embraces pluralistic and multidisciplinary inquiry, but not long ago, our education still mandated a strict division between Arts, Sciences, and Business subjects. Chris, now a teacher at a private secondary school, had his trying times making the right call for his elective subjects at the Form 3 watershed.

‘For the whole time I was brought up, I’d been being fed with the idea that science is the entrance ticket to a successful and promising life. Decent salary. Stable career. All that’s yours if you have science in your grasp.’ That idea embedded itself into Chris’s mind as a mantra repeatedly muttered by seniors, teachers, and even parents. Unconscious yet of how much (or little) interest he had for this subject, Chris entered the science stream upon promotion to the senior form.

That decision sealed the fate for the rest of his secondary school life. Upon acquaintance, Chris realised that numbers, algebras, and molecules were not where his heart lay. Yet, since he glided through the Hong Kong Certification of Education Examination (HKCEE) with a Grade C in Additional Mathematics and Grade B in other science subjects (rather satisfying grades), he decided to move along progressing into the Advanced Levels, but soon he started to regret.

‘The A-Levels curriculum was a far cry from the HKCEE. The content was far more intellectually demanding and sophisticated, and it was simply out of my depth. I had to spend every night ploughing through textbooks and doing drillings just to get a pass. That was entirely unanticipated.’ Now that Chris realised that he had neither the interest nor the talent in Science and Mathematics, he was growingly fed up with the subjects. At the same time, Chris got in touch with Chinese Language and Culture in the A-Level curriculum.

Inspired by what Miss Li Heung Heung taught him in Chinese Language and Culture class, Chris decided to take up China Studies in Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). China Studies is a multidisciplinary degree that requires a wide spectrum of skills and knowledge drawn from subjects such as Geography, Economics, History, Sociology and etc. The programme demands certain mathematical knowledge, as it partly touches on the economics, and against his expectations, much of what he formerly studied in HKCEE and HKALE



was applicable. On the other hand, writing skills and analytical skills are also indispensable to a China Studies student’s skill repertoire, as the programme often requires one to critique social phenomenon and policies. It then occurred to Chris that knowledge should also be pooled, merged, and synthesised whichever disciplines it belongs to. A good learner should not only specialise in a single field and remain shielded in that bubble without peering their head outside of it. ‘The breadth of your study determines the height of your intelligence,’ Chris remarked.

Alongside that realisation by Chris is a deepened understanding, or rather, re-understanding of China. ‘I had this thought during the HKCEE that I should study in university in Shanghai in the future, as I’ve got relatives over there, but I didn’t want my family to spend the extra money and to go to the mainland seemed to me ... um, “a step backwards” at that time.’ Admittedly, the mainland China was hardly an ideal choice to consider for academic study and tertiary education. The mainland was generally deemed as less academically prestigious and culturally nourished, but after Chris began doing China Studies, he opened his eyes to the economic strength and social developments in China. In retrospect, he thought it was ‘not that bad’ if he did go there back then, grinning as he spoke.

From a Science and Mathematics student to a China Studies major who specialises in the study of Chinese Economics, Chris was drifting from one stop to another. Growingly interested in the career of an academic under the influence of university education, Chris undertook an MPhil degree in Economics in HKBU

upon graduation (an MPhil is a mid-point between Master of Arts, which is a taught, elementary postgraduate course, and a PhD, which is an advanced degree for professional research and bridge to doctorate qualifications and professorship) to test himself out. 'I want to know where my limits are and if I can take the life of intensive research and advanced analysis.'

As Chris found out in the end, further doctoral study was not suitable to him, but his MPhil study also led him to an unexpected turn in his life. As an MPhil student, Chris was obliged to hold 2 to 3 tutorials per week for the undergraduate students in his department. Teaching university students is a tall order without doubt. Chris often prepared extensively for the tutorials, thinking of new ways to enliven the classroom and to help students absorb better. His hard work was greeted with positive feedback from students, and prompted him to see that he himself actually took great delight in sharing knowledge with others and witnessing the growth of students. Swiftly after he finished his MPhil degree, he embarked on a new journey to completing a Postgraduate Diploma of Education (PGDE) in The University of Hong Kong.

Teaching the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum now, Chris commented that the international system lent a greater focus to the evaluative and critical thinking abilities of students. Students will be assessed continuously on their ability to articulate their ideas fluently and critically, much unlike the current Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) which magnifies examination performance disproportionately as a barometer of academic excellence and is undermined by a rigid adherence to standard answers.

This rigidity of the HKDSE system is strangely reflected in the habits of Hong Kong students, who are often passive recipients of knowledge and used to having everything arranged for them. When asked to give a word for students in Hong Kong nowadays, Chris expressed his disappointment that few students live up to his motto of 'Work hard, play hard'. It is habitual for local students to slack off at working as well as playing. While working hard is immediately understood, playing hard can be a more elusive concept. Chris said with a half-serious and half-playful grin, 'If you are really interested in something, you should take it seriously. Develop your hobby. Build your skills. Devote yourself to it. Exert yourself.'



Chris Kwok

- 2001: Began studying in LTPSS
- 2008: Graduated from LTPSS
- 2011: Completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSSc) degree in China Studies (Economics) at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)
- 2013: Completed a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in Economics at HKBU
- 2014: Obtained the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) degree from the University of Hong Kong (HKU)
- 2015: Started working in Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School (PLKCKY)



Johnny Lui ■

To Lead, To Inspire
Janice Wang

Whenever you pass through the third floor corridor, can you recognise the LTPSS star — Johnny Lui Chun Ho? Now an Associate Product Controller at J.P. Morgan, Johnny Lui was the former School Head Prefect and the School Association President at LTPSS back in 2007. Living in this exam-oriented society with tremendous study pressure and self-expectation, how did he strike a balance between academic studies and extra-curricular activities?

“I was not satisfied with the result of my secondary school placement. I tried to transfer to other elite schools in my first year here,” he said. Nonetheless, the encouragement from teachers and endless opportunities from the school made him stay. “LTPSS gave me lots of once-in-a-lifetime chances. I didn’t want to miss them!”

Johnny attributed his success to his teachers’ help, especially that of our retired Assistant Principal Mr Mui and our retired School Principal Ms Siu. Before meeting Mr Mui in Form 2, Johnny still wanted to transfer to another school. It was Mr Mui who helped to build up Johnny’s confidence and sense of recognition:

“Are you interested in being the MC for the Opening Ceremony?”

Johnny seized this opportunity and was glad that someone recognised his ability. “I was surprised that Mr Mui chose me! But I messed up. It was a total failure. I skipped one of the items and stuttered a lot.” Johnny was really upset with this performance. What surprised him the most was that Mr Mui invited him to be the MC again. “I thought he would tell me off. But no, he didn’t. He encouraged me to be the MC again for the Closing Ceremony.” The trust from Mr Mui was a turning point to Johnny that made him want to stay in LTPSS.

Ms Siu, according to him, was another significant person in his secondary life who recognised his potential. Ms Siu recommended him to take up the role of Head Prefect when he was in Form 5. “Not everyone was satisfied since the role of Head Prefect was usually taken up by Form 6 students.” Despite being challenged and questioned by schoolmates, Johnny proved that he was the right person for the job. He participated in several leadership courses and activities in order to build up leadership and communication skills. This experience further equipped him with better adaptability and confidence.

Moreover, Johnny joined the Inter-school Competition with the theme “Making an Environmentally Friendly School” in which he needed to prepare proposals, project outlines, and models of schools. “We spent 7 to 8 months on this project.

It was the coolest design ever!” Although they did not win the competition, this memorable experience fostered their solidarity among themselves and sense of belonging to LTPSS.

His role in the Student Association (SA) also encouraged him to step out from the comfort zone and learn more about the real world. He organised numerous meaningful activities such as Reselling Books and Uniform and Famine Lunch that gave other students the chance to develop empathy for the under-privileged and understand the conundrums they are facing in the real world. “Admittedly, organising activities was no easy task. But I’ve always believed that SA could do MORE!” Johnny did not stop at leading his team in the SA, but he wanted to spread messages to his fellow-schoolmates. “Take the lead, and others will follow.”

Some of you might be curious about how Johnny managed to handle his school work and activities well. Here is some advice from Johnny:

1. Time Management

Johnny sets a timetable for himself and follows it strictly. “Burning the midnight oil is only for procrastinators.” Some of you may put a lot more time in the subject you love. Yet, Johnny suggested that you should allocate your time more evenly and avoid overlooking certain subjects in order to secure all the grades.

2. Multi-Tasking

In reality, it would be impossible for you to do one thing only at a time. You have many life roles to play: a student, a leader, or a son. You need to learn how to juggle with them tactfully.

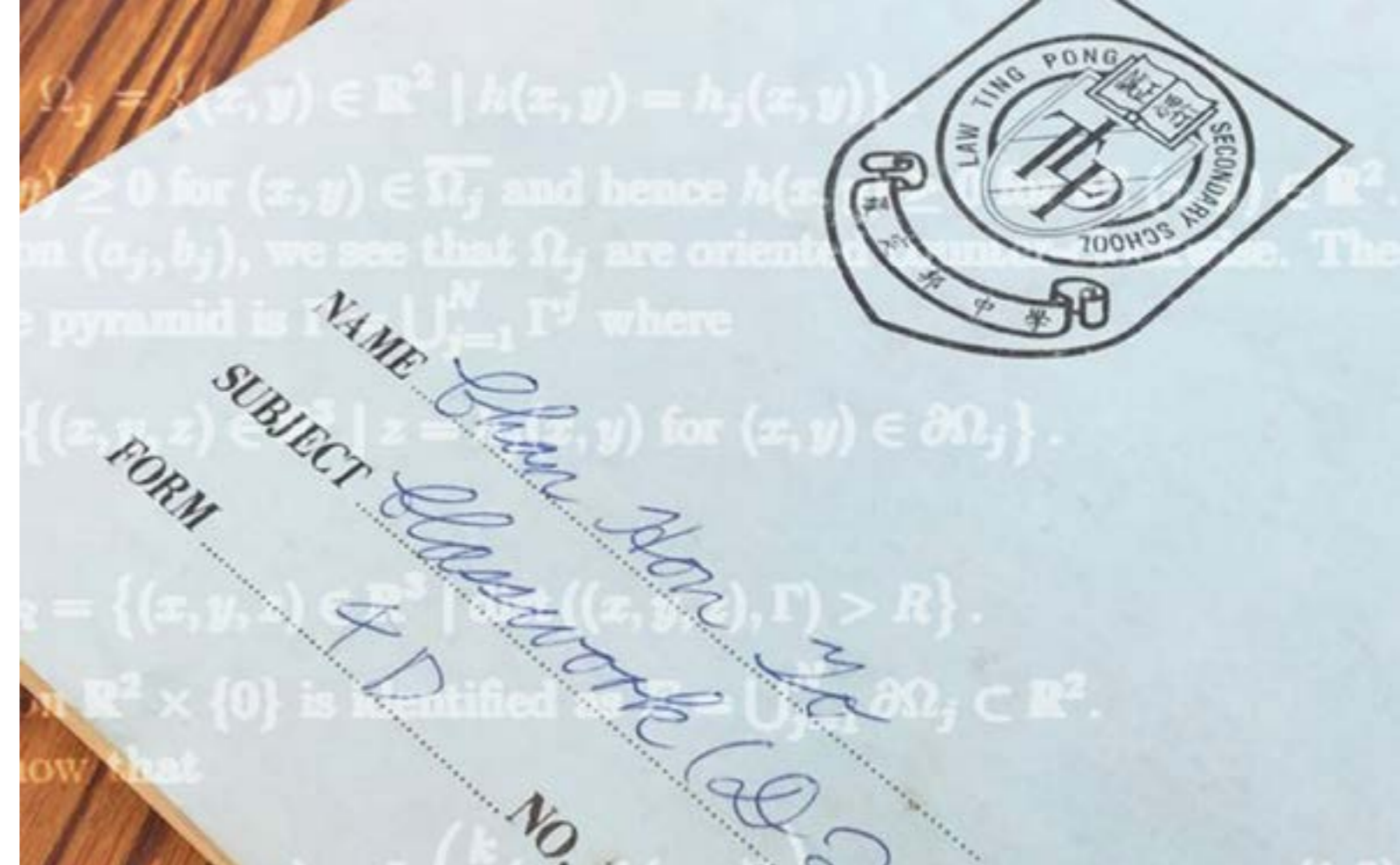
3. Adaptability and Personal Skills

As the world keeps changing, you need to be adaptable and hone personal skills to brace for the challenges. Johnny advised you to join more extra-curricular activities and meet people outside school in order to improve your leadership, communication and problem-solving strategies.



Johnny Lui

- 2001: Studied in LTPSS
- 2007: Graduated from LTPSS
- 2011: Received Bachelor of Science Degree in Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, major in Quantitative Finance and minor in Mathematics
- 2011 - 14: Worked in KPMG (Assistant Manager in Audit)
- 2014 - 15: Worked in EY (Senior in FSO Assurance)
- 2015 - Present: Worked in JP Morgan (Associate in Product Control, Finance)



From Numerical Characters to Personal Character:

Hardy Chan

Felix Lo

Cutting an unassuming figure in his sporty T-shirt, Hardy sits at the end of the long table, head slightly lowered, gazes drifting, lips pressing together a bit. Don’t take him as any ordinary Mathematics student you see skulking around in the basement of libraries – Hardy is now close to completing his PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Mathematics in the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada.

While Hardy discovered his remarkable talents for Mathematics in early years, he had no idea where he would end up in the future. Back then, Mathematics was something he knew he was good at, but that was all. He had never imagined carving his career out of it, or further pursuing his interests this far. Unlike many who decided their path early and had been paving way for years, Hardy was comfortable with floating in the stream and letting it carry him to wherever it goes.

‘I don’t think I knew enough of Maths to know whether I was in love with it,’ said Hardy, still and composed in his reflective voice. ‘Where the matters of career development are concerned, interest should override everything.’ As his forte, Mathematics emerged as an apparently ideal option for his future development, but Hardy didn’t want to settle

on a definite path hastily. Instead of listening to the voices of social expectations, he listened to the voice of his heart, one that is drowning in voices of others, difficult to find, but undeniable and true to himself. He waited. He explored.

Upon entry into the senior form, Hardy's interest in Mathematics grew with the increasing challenges this subject posed. It was not until then that he carefully considered Mathematics as his study option in university. Of course, questions of career paths and utility value quickly cropped up together with a bleak outlook of uncertainty. Unfazed and unafraid, Hardy chose Mathematics with the determined belief that he never had to find a way with it, but rather that the way would find him.

With this spirit and years of hard work, Hardy marched on in pursuit of his interest in Mathematics, now settling on a research specialty in Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) in his PhD thesis. 'It just happened, naturally.' Hardy grinned, with a calmness that seemed to trivialise all the hardships that led him up to this moment. 'There is no need to fret about anything. God will prepare us all.'

Looking back, Hardy realises that everything that happens, however trivial and irrelevant at first sight, seems to prepare him for the future. Back in his undergraduate study in The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Hardy developed a penchant for learning foreign languages, which did not have anything to do apparently with his academic specialty. However, later his knowledge of French, Spanish, German, and Italian all came in surprisingly handy when he came across mathematical articles in these languages, which he could now understand with the help of a dictionary. The sporadic dots in his life connected themselves in a Steve-Jobsian manner.

Some dots lurked on the map of his life, pointing likely pathways. Others prostrate out in the open, marking failure and frustration. In Form 4, when Hardy struggled to grasp Pure Mathematics after transiting from Additional Mathematics, his confidence hit a trough. The Mathematics courses at university level, after his early admission, was retrospectively as daunting as, in his words, 'a new language'. To Hardy, these brick walls are opportunities for breakthroughs, giving him a fuller picture of Mathematics and himself every time he tore them down.

Academic stature, however, isn't what Hardy now sees as the crowning achievement in life. 'In the past, success meant mathematical achievements to me. Now, it means helping others and being a person full of love.' One of the turning points for him was inspired by our former LTPSS teacher, Mr Alan Cheung Ying Kit. In his secondary senior form, Hardy was quite the school celebrity for his Mathematics talent, always badgered on by his classmates for solutions to academic problems. There was a time when a classmate asked Hardy about a Maths question. Hoping to show off his knowledge, Hardy did not only answer his question but also showed him a way to tackle other related advanced questions. This would have gone well if it were two minds of mathematical geniuses pouring their intelligence together, but unfortunately for that classmate of Hardy's, who even struggled to understand what he said, all this had gone too

far and intimidating. This didn't slip Mr Cheung's observation. One day, he talked to Hardy and offered him a quote from the Bible, 'Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

That line had a particularly lasting impression on Hardy's mind and prodded Hardy to start reflecting on his character. Under Mr Cheung's gentle guidance, Hardy was later introduced to Christianity, which he didn't think much about at first. Meeting his wife later, who is also a Christian, Hardy became devoted to his religious faith and worked on his character-building. Previously cocooned in a world of numbers, symbols, and equations, Hardy has grown to care more about human connections and good deeds – 'It is your character, not your achievements, after all, that consummates your life as a person.'



From left to right, notes of university level Mathematics given by Mr Alan Cheung to Hardy, a physics book he forgot to return to the LTPSS library, which reminds him to thank Mr Tong Tat Ming for patience in teaching, then the last and the 104th exercise book for Mathematics he had during his time in LTPSS, and finally, the New Testament Bible, which Hardy sees as the light that illuminates his life path (taken at the CUHK)

Hardy Chan

2002:	Began studying in LTPSS
2004 - 2006:	Took part in Mathematics Olympiad competitions
2007:	Graduated in LTPSS
2010:	Received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics in The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
2013:	Completed his Masters of Philosophy studies (Mathematics), and became a research assistant in CUHK for one year
2014 - Present:	Doing his PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Mathematics in The University of British Columbia (UBC)

Frankie Mak ■

To become the one you want to

Michelle Kuan

2003: Studied in LTPSS
2010: Graduated in LTPSS
2014: Graduated from the University of Hong Kong, Bachelor of Education
2015: Started teaching in LTPSS

“Never forget why you started” Whenever you feel puzzled about yourself or feel like quitting, try to remember your passion, your belief and your dream that made you the person you are today. With this quote always in his mind, Mr Mak always keeps up his enthusiasm for becoming a teacher.

“While studying in LTPSS, I frequently participated in activities that allowed him to get in touch and communicate with others. Being the Head Prefect in year 2008-2009 is one of the examples.” Mr Mak loves to help people understand themselves and discover their strengths. Knowing himself well, he continued to pursue his goal of being a teacher. Therefore, after graduation in LTPSS, he studied Bachelor of Education at the University of Hong Kong, majoring in Liberal Studies and Geography. Throughout his university life, he actively involved himself in volunteer work, such as providing voluntary tutorial classes for primary school students, joining voluntary teaching programmes and service trips. These valuable volunteering experiences allow him to have a taste of how education works and inspire him to become the teacher he is today.

Mr Mak did face challenges. When he first entered the workplace, he discovered that studying is totally different from working. The theoretical concepts he has learnt from the books do not necessarily apply to reality. Yet he managed to adapt to the environment quickly and to learn from his teaching experiences and mistakes, eventually overcoming the difference between being a student and being a teacher. For instance, as a student he had to manage his time mainly for his studying progress, but as a teacher he has to organise his time for other focuses such as teaching progress, student

development and parents, all of which he overcame by prioritizing them according to their importance and his ability.

His friends and family have been really supportive. Whenever he is confused, he will talk to them and seek their advice. “The spectators see the chess game better than the players” These spectators are probably the ones who know you the most and can show your way out of the maze.

Mr Mak has three pieces of advice for us. First, set targets for ourselves and don’t easily give up. Second, think outside the box. When there is an issue for us to tackle, there must be more than one solution. We have to be flexible and think of our problem from different perspectives, which can sometimes yield a more efficient and effective solution. Third, have a good attitude. Our attitude affects the way we act. If we have a good attitude, we will see things more positively and others will be more willing to help, and eventually we are the ones who will benefit the most.

There are lots of ups and downs in our life journey, where we should always be grateful for the good times and learn from the hard ones. “The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is our attitude towards it. Always keep in mind that where there are difficulties, there are opportunities.”

Casey Lai

The More You Give, the More You Get
Janice Wang



Every year, students and teachers enjoy the energetic and exceptional performances by four cheerleading teams from different Houses on Sports Day. Did you recognize our See House captain, Casey Lai, right at the centre of the picture when See House won the 2009 Cheer-leading House Cup?

Now a professional Quantity Surveyor, she attributed her success to her secondary life at LTPSS and support from family and teachers. Have you ever imagined what is it like to be a House Captain? Of course, you could grab everyone's attention and shine on the stage, but have you ever thought about how much time and effort you needed to invest in the team? When your friends had lots of spare time for leisure activities, revision and relaxation, your time and effort would be devoted to cheer-leading teams. Staying late at school and sacrificing the time for studying and sleeping would be a daily routine. Although being the House Captain of See House requires a strong sense of responsibility, leadership and resilience, Casey still managed to lead the entire team to championship. The role of the House Captain equipped her with multi-tasking and problem-solving skills. During her time as a House Captain, Casey was heavily influenced by the quote, "All good things are difficult to achieve and bad things are very easy to get." Casey believed that there is no such thing as "overnight achievement" or "shortcut" to success. Instead, constant effort and determination are the prerequisite for success.

The experience in LTPSS has given Casey a courageous and determined character, which helped pave the way for her future career endeavours. However, being a Quantity Surveyor is no easy task. A Quantity Surveyor needs to know construction costs and contracts very well and excel in value determination and risk management for semi-finished projects that cost more than 10 billion Hong Kong dollars. Any inaccuracy in estimation would result in a serious dispute between the government and the construction companies. With the help from senior colleges and her own can-do attitude, she has now become more experienced in value determination. "Can you imagine the sense of satisfaction when you pass by the constructions that you somehow took part in? I felt like I have contributed to the development of Hong Kong!"

Do you often weigh the costs and benefits of every decision you make? There is no guarantee that the gains would outweigh the pains. But one thing remains certain, "The more we give, the more we get!"

Casey Lai

2004:	Studied in LTPSS
2011:	Graduated from LTPSS
2013:	Received Higher Diploma in Technology and Management (Surveying) at Polytechnic University
2017:	Received Bachelor of Surveying with Honors

Grace Cheung ■

Realizing My Dreams: Step by Step

Janice Wang

“Helping others is our biggest pleasure and fortune.” Becoming a beautiful flight attendant used to be her biggest dream, but deeply touched by the quote, she changed her mind.

Grace is currently studying Nursing at the University of Hong Kong. The journey to becoming a professional and experienced nurse is more demanding than she thought. Throughout her experiences in internships and practicums, however, she has come to realise that it is patience and meticulousness, not merely theories and concepts, that make a good nurse.

The biggest challenge for her is to cope with the shift. Apart from the irregular daily routine, a nurse must know every detail of the patients’ conditions thoroughly. “It’s our responsibility to take good care of them and make the right choices based on their body conditions.” The best part of being a nurse is that it makes her life “fruitful and meaningful”. “Whenever I see their lovely smiles and receive their warm appreciation, I feel like I am not living in vain as I am a useful member of the community.”

Realising your dreams is never an easy task. It takes an incalculable amount of time and effort. “There’s no such thing as an overnight success. Instead, we should work step by step, bit by bit, and move closer to our dreams!” Now, Grace’s short-term goal is that she will become more skillful and experienced in nursing within five years. She hopes to conquer her fear of death and become more confident about communicating and interacting with her patients. With this quote “Helping others is our biggest pleasure and fortune” in mind, she firmly believes that she will become a valuable member of society who brings joy and care to everyone in need.

Grace Cheung

2005: Studied in LTPSS
2012: Graduated from LTPSS
2012-Present: Studying Nursing in The University of Hong Kong



Yvette Lam

Life is a Great Canvas

Janice Wang

“My ultimate life goal is happiness.” Although it seems to be a very clichéd goal, it is much harder to achieve than we imagined.

When Yvette was a student at Law Ting Pong Secondary School, she realised that there was something more than studying. “I was not a big fan of studying ... I just couldn't feel the sense of satisfaction and excitement when I faced a pile of books and notes in front of my table!” Some of you may feel the same way, lost and confused about your future. In fact, it was her fervent conviction that studying is not the only path. She was deeply attracted by the wildness and eloquence of arts. It beautifies the entire world and makes the surroundings more vivid and colorful. Therefore, with the support from her family and visual arts teacher, Mr Siu, she decided to devote herself to the art world and share her creativity and aesthetic sensitivity.

After graduating from Law Ting Pong Secondary School, she studied graphic design. “The room I designed will become a manifestation of my artistic ideas!” Nevertheless, later she found that graphic designer was not her ultimate aspiration. “I want something livelier and more powerful!” Yvette hoped to have more freedom in her design and wanted to have closer interaction with customers. As a result, she chose to become a make-up artist, and created lots of make-up and body painting designs for cosplay, Halloween parties, weddings and other special events.

Now, Yvette has opened a studio for her make-up design career. She found the most rewarding part of her job was the reactions from her clients “Wow! This is amazing!”, “How did you do that?” or “Are you sure she is the girl I knew? She looks totally different!” She enjoys working and seeing their smiley and satisfied faces. “I hope ten years later, I could become a professional make-up artist in this industry, gain a reputation and be recognised by even my competitors!”

Happiness seems to be easily achievable. It is, however, no easy task to find long-term happiness and passion from working. “To be able to shine in a job I really enjoy doing is the greatest luck in my life.” To all the students, don't give up your talents at this stage! Although it might be difficult to pursue what you genuinely like, especially when it goes against social expectations, you have to be braver! Find a way to incorporate joy and career, and you can achieve the ultimate goal — happiness!

Yvette Lam

- 2010: Graduated in LTPSS
- 2013: Graduated in CBCC for Graphic Design, admitted to University of HUDDERSFIELD
- 2014: Received Bachelor of Arts with Honours
- 2016: Received ITEC level3 Diploma in Fashion, Theatre and Media Makeup
- 2016: Present Setup a studio and work as a freelance Makeup Artist

Winnie Lo

A close-up portrait of Winnie Lo, a young woman with long, dark brown hair and bangs. She is wearing a dark blue beret and a dark blue jacket. She has a gentle smile and is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

I Have Faith in Art

Eden San

“I have faith in Art. I love being imaginative and creative.”

Winnie is currently studying Graphic Communication Design in Central Saint Martins (University of the Arts, London). She spent two years doing her Higher Diploma in Visual Communication in the Hong Kong Design Institute where she learnt how to communicate and connect with people visually.

Winnie finds studying in LTPSS inspirational. “All of my best memories are in the Visual Arts room. It was where my dream of becoming a graphic designer budded.” Her teacher always encouraged her to think outside of the box, which is a skill that could not have been missed along her journey.

Her hard work and persistence gained her a scholarship from The Hong Kong Jockey Club in 2016. The Vocational Education Scholarship sponsored all her tertiary education expenses in London.

Winnie is now working with a curation group in college as a representative of Central Saint Martins in a community project (Camden Live Project) which aims to create a photo library of unique designs in order to help local charity organisations. She looks after a disabled group in Camden. These roles allow her to sculpt herself into the future designer she wants to be.

She hopes that one day, she can establish a design company in Hong Kong to provide entry-level opportunities for newcomers to make full use of their potential — “... because I know how hard it is to pursue your dream, and I want to make it easier for them.”

Winnie Lo

2008:	Studied in LTPSS
2014:	Graduated from LTPSS
2016:	Graduated from HKDI Higher Diploma of Visual Communication
2016:	Received Vocational Education Scholarship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club
2016 - Present:	Studying Graphic Communication Design in Central Saint Martins (University of Arts, London)

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