



# Deputy Head Newsletter

November 2009

Persistence is certainly a word that comes to mind as I reflect on the first half of this term and to the future. Persistence is determination, diligence and perseverance. To persist takes courage.

As a school we aim to persistently improve. A number of foundation stones have been laid that have helped to establish a positive academic and social culture in the school and bring our community together. These include;

- The introduction of the new Vertical House System (VHS) which has certainly seen both staff and students work together to bridge communication gaps and provide opportunities to work together to achieve specific goals. Indeed the House System has an explicit link to its charter that **'every student matters every moment of the day'**.
- Staff professional development which is essential to maintaining a reputation as a centre of excellence in education. Many staff have attended a range of PYP, MYP and IB Diploma Professional Development courses in Shanghai, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong since the beginning of the academic year. On 18 September all staff attended the Whole School Professional Development Day at the GZ campus. This commitment to Professional Development ensures that all students receive the best of instruction in the classrooms
- The school has been visited by numerous universities over the past month running information sessions to all Y11 & 12 students. This allows our senior students to familiarize themselves with the opportunities available to them, admissions policies and importantly the drive needed to succeed at their studies.
- Our first inter-school basketball match against QSI Donguan. This event brought out and revealed the spirit of the school. The Utahloy Zeng Cheng 'Dragons' played with persistence, courage and determination. While the team narrowly lost by one point in the final seconds it was a victory for our school due to the display of 'never give up' and a united voice of support.
- The Parent Teacher day was very successful and it was a pleasure to meet the parent body. I have received very positive feedback from the greater school community about our vision for pastoral care and excellence in the delivery of our academic program.

Finally, I would also like to welcome the many new students and their families who have joined us over the term. Indeed we have over fifty new students, many of whom are boarders.

Ben Hinves  
Deputy Head of School  
Head of Secondary