



16 November 2009

Dear students,

We are now more than two months into the new academic year. I hope you have settled down with the studies.

We all come across many different challenges as we travel along our life's journey. We might have troubles in our studies, at home with our families, or in our personal relationships. It is the attitude with which we face these difficulties that makes all the difference.

Some may choose to confront these challenges and seek help from family, friends and teachers when needed. They then overcome these problems and move on to lead rewarding lives.

Some may try to escape, sometimes by turning to the distraction of drugs and other harmful substances. Some may take drugs out of curiosity or because of peer pressure. Whatever the reason, drugs hurt both your body and the hearts of your family and friends. To students who already take drugs, I urge you to stop now before you lose your precious health and youth.

We don't have to fight our battles in life alone. There is always someone around to offer help. The Government and secondary schools in Tai Po District will implement the "Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing" in December this year. Today we will issue the protocol of the scheme and consent letters to students and parents

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in Tai Po. The only aim of this voluntary scheme is to help students resist the temptation of drugs.

Some of you might understandably ask: “I am not taking drugs, so why should I be tested?” Participating in the scheme might cause some minor inconvenience, but there is a positive perspective. The drug testing scheme will engender a “Say NO to drugs!” culture on campuses, and this is vital to helping your fellow students resist drugs. For those who have tried drugs or have become addicted, the scheme will offer them a chance to reflect and, more important, give them the necessary help to pull them back on the right path.

I like this quotation: “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.” I hope all of you will encourage and support one another. As long as you don’t give up, stay true to your real character, and find strength in one another, you will overcome any challenges that may come your way.

You have my best wishes for academic success and a fulfilling life.

Yours faithfully,



(Donald Tsang)
Chief Executive