

## **Ties**

The last time that I spoke at assembly I told you that we are giving the College a present to mark its 160th anniversary, namely a large clock on Bonham Road. In return the College will be giving you a present, namely a new tie. The College has traditionally produced a distinctive tie to mark major anniversaries. These ties are given to each student as a souvenir.

We have a collection of ties in the College archives from each major anniversary. The ties are all a little different with a variety of stripes, badges, wording and designs. The Alumni Association even produced a bow tie, like those worn by the Chief Executive, in honour of the 150th anniversary. This year's tie you will be pleased to hear is not a bow tie but a regular tie. The design features 2 emblems; one the College badge and the other the 160th anniversary logo. There will be the normal stripes with the additional red stripe for Prefects. I'm grateful to Miss Lee and her team, as well as to the Vice Principals, for their hard work in coming up with the final design after considering many variations. I hope that you will like the 160th anniversary souvenir tie.

Last week I was in Canada visiting the alumni in Toronto and Vancouver. Both cities have large and active alumni branches. Over 100 members in these cities meet regularly and in the case of some old boys have done so for a great many years. Indeed, the Ontario Branch based in Toronto has been holding meetings for the past 40 years since its foundation in 1971. The majority of the alumni in the Ontario and Vancouver branches migrated to Canada in the mid-1960s and mid-1990s due to political uncertainty at the time in Hong Kong. They made Canada their home and have lived long and rewarding lives in their newly adopted country.

A number present at the meetings last week wore their old College ties. Some had the original tie that did not have any stripes but rather a simple pattern of small College badges. In fact it has been said to me on many occasions that the old tie is nicer than the current tie. It was evident during the course of my meetings last week that the Canadian alumni are still very proud of their College. They also have a strong resolve to keep those ties, not only those that they wear around their necks but also those that are worn on their hearts.

The Canadian old boys would like to help our College and are keen to

establish a legacy. This involves supporting our school in whatever way they can. I had an opportunity to suggest a range of ideas and am confident that we shall be hearing more from our alumni in Toronto and Vancouver in due course. I did ask them to welcome any recent alumnus who arrives in Canada in the future, be that to attend school or university or to take up a job. The strength of our College is that former students are not forgotten and should not feel lonely and isolated when moving overseas.

I'm sure that all our overseas alumni in Canada, USA, United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore and many other places will continue to assist their alma mater in many different ways. Many will be returning to Hong Kong for the 160th Anniversary Celebration Dinner to be held on Sunday 11 December at the Convention and Exhibition Centre. This will be a grand event with up to 200 tables and 2400 guests and the Canadian old boys will be well represented. A number of graduating classes have already booked their tables with one class reserving 7 tables. Particularly active this year is the graduating Form 5 class of 1961 which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. They have a number of activities organised to mark this great occasion including a trip to the mainland. However, it is the Anniversary Dinner that will be the pinnacle of their celebrations.

This year's Form 7 and Form 6 students will be the latest groups to graduate. The classes of 2012, the double cohort year graduates, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2062. At this point the College will be 210 years old and members of the classes of 2012 will be fast approaching 70 years of age. I would hope that this year's graduating students will display the same enthusiasm for their College in 50 years time as I experienced last week in Toronto and Vancouver. To hear these old boys sing the College Song with such pride and passion is always a moving experience. It is also a clear reminder that St. Paul's College is indeed a special place in the lives of its current and former students.

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