Mr Hui, Dr Lam, Professor Yeung, Professor Au, Distinguished Guests, Parents, Teachers and Students,

On this special occasion, I would like to share with you our past accomplishments and future goals. Rome was not built in one day, neither was it easy to maintain the healthy development of a school as well as all-round attainment of our students. Thanks to the deep commitment towards education of our School Supervisor, Dr Lam, Lam Tai Fai College has sprouted up strongly and healthily in these years. Besides, we owe a lot of thanks to our School Managers and the Lam Tai Fai Charitable Foundation for their unwavering support.

Having taken up the principalship in Lam Tai Fai College since September 2004, I share the vision and mission of our School Sponsoring Body (SSB) in providing an all-round quality education to students. The school values the rich traditions in nurturing wholesome personal growth and the intellectual development of youths, while preparing them to meet the challenges of the future. Apart from upholding the school’s vision, we also try to identify the qualities and virtues we would like our students to possess when they leave school. The seven core values of LTFC students --- ‘Perseverance, Excellence, Respect, Foresight, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Creativity and Talent --- were thus introduced to our S5 graduates today in 2004, setting the direction for their character building.

For the past five years, we have been striving hard to explore learning opportunities for our students to grow and excel as a ‘PERFECT’ generation of the 21st Century. To turn our vision into reality, the Student All-round Development Coordinating Committee was set up to coordinate the work of various units, like Form-based Pastoral Care, Guidance, Discipline, Careers, Personal Growth & Healthy Lifestyle, Co-curricular and Moral & Civic Education in adopting a holistic approach to provide pastoral care for our students and ensuring that students are able to benefit from an all-round education. The ‘Mission Accomplished Passport’ and ‘My Attainment Profile’ (MAP) Schemes were set up for our junior and senior forms who are encouraged to take an active part in enjoying the wide range of intellectual, aesthetic, sporting, cultural and social opportunities as well as essential and life-wide learning experiences offered by the School-based Extended Curriculum of the school.

Knowing that it is important to equip our students with lifelong learning abilities to face the third millennium, the importance of languages can never be emphasized enough. As language competency is no doubt an important asset, we have placed great emphasis on increasing our students’ competitive edge. It has always been the school’s prime priority to provide a language-rich environment for our students by attaching great importance to English and Putonghua. Since 2004, the school has strived to provide a congenial environment for language learning. Apart from incorporating Language Arts, Drama & Poetry into our formal and informal curriculum, the school has tailor-made a ‘Language Across the Curriculum’ learning programme for our S1 students. The bridging programme and the EMI Learning Kit has proved to be a great success in helping students to adapt to the use of English as a medium of instruction in LTFC. Plenty of opportunities were afforded in order to enable our students to acquire maximum exposure to both, in addition to Cantonese, and they are at ease with all three when they graduate.

I’m happy to report that commendation for our students’ academic and non-academic performance is particularly encouraging. Students’ performance in most of the 2009 HKCEE and HKALE subjects were above or on a par with the territory average. The whole-person approach in student development is well-received by parents. I am glad to say that there is no single vacancy in Form One and no place to be filled in after Stage One, Secondary Six Admission. Having a deeply-felt view on the education we provide,
we also place equal emphasis on students’ further education and careers. An Undergraduate Scholarship for Further Study in Universities granting an amount equivalent to a first year tuition fee of a local university has been awarded to 7 students with outstanding academic attainment. In this respect, I am delighted to report that in these years quite a few of our graduates were nominated by the universities where they were furthering their education to the Dean’s List and Honour Roll. It is even more encouraging to note that around 90% of our S5 graduates further their studies and among them one-third went overseas while more than 70% of our S7 graduates were admitted to the tertiary institutions, local and overseas. The examples cited clearly demonstrate our success in preparing students for lifelong learning.

In our school, learning transcends the boundaries of academic subjects and examinations. Students are encouraged to take part in a comprehensive range of student-focused, skills-based and capacity-building learning activities both in and out of classroom. Curriculum integration of the essential elements and experiences of the Focus Learning Areas, cross-curricular project-based learning, reading to learn, co-curricular activities and Life Education develop generic skills, promote life-wide learning opportunities and cultivate multiple intelligences among students. School life has been really vibrant and participation in school activities has always been so active. More importantly, our school’s learning activities are diversified enough to enable our students of mixed abilities to give full play to their potentials. Our students have achieved a reasonably high degree of balanced attainment in all the four Focus Learning Areas, i.e. Sports Education, Creative Fashion Design, Innovative Technology and Health Education, with individual students excelling in each area. Our effort is further affirmed by the blossoming of budding talents and promising elites in a good range of areas. What we aim at is both quantity and quality, the prizes to be presented later will give a vivid reflection of the given task of the school has fulfilled.

Facing the diverse needs of current education reforms, the SSB responds generously to further incentives to encourage quality school culture. A self-financed School Extension Project with the building of a new Learning & Activity Complex started as early as 2007. Having a vision for the future, the SSB brings to our students more opportunities and experiences that are novice, diversified and beneficial. My hearty thanks should go to Dr Lam and the School Management Committee (SMC) for their unreserved dedication and unfailing commitment in boosting the drive towards the provision of a conducive learning environment.

Close partnership between the family and the school is a key to our students’ success. With the setting up of the Parent-Teacher Association early this year and the Parent Manager Election later this month, it is hoped that stronger ties could be forged.

To look back at our brief school history, we are proud to say that the SMC, Principal, staff, parents and students, both past and present, all share a vision for the school in the provision of high quality learning environment and facilities that enable all students to fulfill their personal and academic potential.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the SMC for their astute leadership in providing us with a clear vision and mission, our committed and diligent teachers and staff in working towards the betterment of the students, and our supportive parents in entrusting us with their beloved children’s education. Thanks should also be given to all versatile students of LTFC for their unsparing effort in attaining the best performance in both academic and non-academic aspects. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the support of the government, the officers of Education Bureau and Sha Tin District Office, Sha Tin District Council, for their invaluable advice and support towards our school development.

Finally, may I wish the graduates a bright future and our guests good health and prosperity. Thank you very much.