

Assembly 14 September 2009

Students' Association (SA)

My topic at last Monday's assembly was 'Being a Prefect'. Today, I will talk about 'Being an SA Official'.

The Students' Association (SA) plays an important part in daily life here at St. Paul's. As I mentioned last week, the SA came into being in the early 1960s with the first President, Robert Lam, taking up office in 1963. In the early years, the Head Prefect was automatically appointed the SA President. It was not until nine years later, in 1972, that the first elected SA President, Nelson Lo, took up office.

Over the past 46 years, the SA has been responsible for the running of many of the activities in our College that help the school to fulfill one of its main aims: to develop well-rounded individuals. All students of St. Paul's are automatically members of the SA and many of you participate in the extraordinary large number of clubs and societies that are on offer.

The SA is student generated and student run with minimal involvement from teachers. Over the past few years there have been approximately 50 clubs and societies from which to choose, offering a menu of activities to suit all tastes and interests. The introduction of the OLE (other learning experiences) will only strengthen the place of the SA as all students must now participate in a variety of activities that embrace Service, Physical Activity and Creativity.

The Executive Council is the decision-making body of the Students' Association, and is in overall charge of its six departments. Those departments are:

1. The Affiliated Clubs Committee that helps all clubs in financial need and in other matters, such as club registration.
2. The Audit Committee that monitors the income and expenditure of the Students' Association.
3. The Programming Committee that is responsible for overall programmes, such as the Form One Day, the Sponsored Walk, and the Class Overall Championship.
4. The Public Relations Committee that is responsible for liaison with external bodies or other schools.
5. The Student Publication Council that is responsible for the publication of 'Wayfarer' (the College Magazine) and 'Scope' (the Student Newspaper).
6. The Welfare Committee that provides welfare services such as the lunch-box service, sale of used textbooks and the sale of school sweaters.

The SA is managed by an Executive Council, headed by the SA President. This year, for the first time in a number of years, there are two candidates standing for SA President and an election will soon be held, on the 22 September. The election provides an opportunity for each of you to cast your vote. The selection of a President is important

for he will need to display leadership of the Executive Council and set the direction for the SA in the year to come. It is not about image. The very real fact is that the SA President has a great deal of work that must be accomplished during his period of office.

I would ask each of you to support fully the work of the SA. The President and members of the Executive Council work tirelessly on your behalf. This is voluntary work and on occasions can have a negative effect on their academic progress.

At this assembly, I am sure you would want to join me in wishing all new SA Officials well for the year ahead.

J.R. Kennard