

I was the Captain of Priest House, and in S5 being the Vice-chairperson of the Student Fellowship. Joining these co-curricular activities, as you said, is a good opportunity to develop leadership skills and also provides a platform to co-operate with schoolmates and strengthen friendships. However, I actually struggled sometimes to find the time for CCA, academic study and leisure. Sometimes after the CCA meetings, it was already 7 or 8 pm. I just wanted to finish the homework and immediately go to bed and sleep. I also had less time for revision... Having said that they are definitely great memories :)

**H:** Talking about great memories, we cannot skip Learning Without Walls. At the end of each school year, each Pooikeinian joins a local or overseas study programme. I still remember the Backpacking in Okinawa trip in S5. We were only given a shoestring budget and had to walk for at least 4 hours each day in order to save the money to fill our tummy. It was certainly a tough experience but words can't explain the joy and challenges that we went through as a team.

**J:** Having learning experiences in another country is on another level. The favorite programme I joined is Seven Lessons of God in Seoul. Through backpacking and with limited resources, we had to go through checkpoints such as churches and museums, whilst taking care of our food and transportation needs on our own. As a result, we were offered a lot of chances to experience local culture, such as eating traditional Korean cuisine like Ginseng chicken soup, and even hitch-hiking – things which we can barely experience in Hong Kong. Although the journey was only seven days long, a connection with schoolmates in other forms was built, and it was a precious chance for me to get to know more friends at school.



◀ Feeling grateful on my speech day. Last picture of me wearing uniform in SPKC.

**H:** It has been great talking to you Jonathan. We share so many precious memories.

**J:** Yes. We certainly do. Great talking to you too Hermes. I wish you all the very best in the future.

**H:** You too! Let's be sure to stay in touch!

**J:** Haha...of course. As the school proudly taught us...

**H+J:** Once a Pooikeinian, always a **Pooikeinian!**



◀ Trophy from Hong Kong Secondary School Debating Competition, look at our smiley faces!

► Being the chairperson of Voluntary Power Club, I organised an activity to collect different second-hand goods for the refugees in Hong Kong. Meet other volunteers!



▲ Backpacking in Seoul during the LEWOWA period is an unforgettable trip in which I learned lessons that benefit me life-long.



▲ The Grand Final of Hong Kong Secondary School Debating Competition. Still remember we stayed until 9pm preparing for this competition. Hard work always pays off!

# Spkc

Stewards Pooi Kei College Newsletter

## INTERVIEW WITH OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

**H:** Hello Jonathan, I heard that you've been accepted into CUHK medicine. Congratulations!

**J:** Thanks! We are now in the same institution again. Congratulations on entering your desired programme at university too! Chinese Literature was always your aim when preparing for the DSE?

**H:** I didn't realize I wanted to study Chinese Literature so much until I visited CUHK in S6. Figuring out our interest is always a long journey.

**J:** Yes I agree. But I think it's okay to find out which path we want to take while we are



The gathering of the school fellowship committee. Hermes and Jonathan are enjoying the fellowship :)



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I am grateful that I managed to get into CUHK medical school, and I am thankful to SPKC for equipping me.

新生白袍典禮

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proceeding. Life is subject to many changes, as always. For instance, I really wanted to study M2, and eventually, I self-studied this subject, attempted in DSE and achieved my expected grade. However, I was struggling as the time for revision was really tight. Even if I have doubts about my decisions, somehow I try first, and see if I need to change my plans.

**H:** Always try first! That's my attitude too. You've been at the top for a long time, so I suppose you expected to get such a good result?

**J:** Not really. As I researched online for DSE suggested answers right after the exam, I had some ideas of how my marks would be, however, I didn't expect too much as I am afraid of disappointment. How about you?

**H:** I actually expected to get 20 marks or below in the worst-case scenario because I know the exam is full of uncertainties and I'm really not that smart. Ask Miss Stephanie Chung and you will know how many times she needed to explain before I really understood an Economics concept.

**J:** True. My results proved the uncertainties of the exam as it differed a lot from my expected grade. Some subjects I scored higher than expected, for example, Maths and Chinese, which really made me realize that I should never limit my imagination of success, and not to be afraid to aim high. Of course, there were some subjects where I failed to reach my self-expectation, but I would say don't get tangled by any one failure. That was the best you could perform at that moment. Embrace the outcome with no regrets.

**H:** Yes! I'm totally on the same page. But apart from your efforts, are there any other factors that motivated you or assisted you in achieving success?

**J:** Teachers are one of the keys. The teachers in SPKC are helpful. They won't stand aside when they see you are yelling for rescue. The point is we need to take the initiative to seek advice from them. Apart from providing learning resources, they will guide you through the mist if you are struggling. I also found it useful to acknowledge and evaluate my past performances. How about you?

**H:** Of course the teachers are the main keys. I still remember the days I gave piles of extra work to Mr. Kan Ma after a long holiday and trillions of extra writings to Mr. Edmond Shiu. Now I am working as a tutor, I totally understand how heavy the workload can be. But they never had any



Praying before our inter-house cheering dance competition. Cast your worries on Jesus.



Who doesn't like athletic meet? Hermes and Jonathan are definitely having fun :)

complaints. Instead, they always returned my work promptly, and explained my mistakes in detail. Their dedicated efforts provided a crucial step for me to improve. In fact, I have to give credit to all my teachers!

**J:** Exactly! Teachers and students in SPKC are like friends. I'm so glad that after graduation, I still keep in contact with teachers like Mr. Neville Tang and Mr. Daniel Lau. Our rapport never ends, no matter at or away from school.

**J:** I believe that the studying environment and atmosphere yielded success as well. I formed study groups with my friends, and I remember how shocked I was when I realized they were far more diligent and hardworking than me. I realized I needed to push myself to work harder and follow their studying pace. Friends also supported me and helped me walk through the tough times, particularly during my times of great emotional stress.

**H:** Yes!!!! Self-motivation is so important. Study groups are one of the ways to self-motivate. I also formed various study groups with my classmates. Don't be shy, always be the first one



Our footsteps in LEWOWA

to ask your friends and they would be thrilled to join! I always miss the time studying with my friends in the library and how we went crazy, playing around when we were too stressed out.

**J:** Indeed! It's sad that because of the pandemic I couldn't experience the joy of studying with friends during the study leave period as you did. :( But anyway, studying at home for a long time made me realize that family support is also very very important. At least my family understands why I am working so hard, and also understands if I am tired or upset. I am so glad that they don't play loud music or TV series when I'm studying. Also, they take me to yum cha on Sunday mornings lol.

Another important point for my study success is my faith. I'm so glad that SPKC is filled with Christian values. Spiritual moments provided me great sessions to take pause from my hectic studying routine. I also really appreciated fellowship in which Christian schoolmates gather so that we can share our stress with one another. Through prayers, we can relieve our study stress and start over again.

**H:** Spiritual growth is the best thing that SPKC brought me. I met God in SPKC. He is always my greatest support. Understanding Christianity has helped me to reflect on the meaning of life since I was 12. SPKC provides

so much freedom for us to organize self initiated Christianity activities. Do you still remember the prayer meetings that we organized together?

**J:** Yes of course! Oh and by the way, some say that taking an important role in school is time-consuming, and causes an imbalance between school work and other roles in life. Do you regret being the house captain in S4?

**H:** Never! Houses are the place where seniors and juniors can bond strongly. Being a house captain makes me truly appreciate SPKC as a family. I always take my housemates as brothers and sisters. I did take up quite a lot of roles when I was in senior forms, like the captain of King House, Vice-chairperson of the debating team and Vice-chairperson of Student Fellowship, but I think they actually helped my academic performance, as I gained a wider exposure and time management skills. When you have six hours to study, you might want to relax, watch YouTube, or just chill and finally you might even forget your study. But when you only have one hour to study, you have to stay focused and work hard during that hour and that's actually more effective.

**J:** Wow you are so strong! I had similar CCA experiences. In S4



Through house activities, we know how to work as a team and get to know more friends among the school. (Photo taken from house drama competition back in 2018)



Miss the days wandering under this beautiful blue sky.