Chan Huen-yan (2014)
Medicine (MBChB) Programme Global Physician-Leadership Stream, CUHK

Kowloon City Outstanding Students Award 2014

From an early age, I have always had a philanthropic approach to life, especially in the field of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The curiosity began as I was four when I was told my own story of birth. During my painful birth: I was stuck in the birth canal and could not be delivered. The continuous loss of amniotic fluid suffocated me to the verge of death. In a flash, the surgeon injected anaesthetic into my mother’s body and decisively performed a Caesarean Section. I was deeply mesmerized by this miracle of life, especially the complexity and mightiness of the female reproductive system, which my mother had demonstrated in her quintessential motherhood during my birth. I would therefore like to assist every mother in her delivery. It is gratifying to see this intimate moment when she firstly encounters the anticipated baby who grows day by day. Being a naturally compassionate person, I find a medical career very rewarding.

To further my insight in the medical field, I actively participated in other co-curricular activities to further stimulate my persistent refinement in this respect. On a more practical level, my work as a first-aider with the St. John Ambulance Brigade Cadet in school has expanded my confidence in taking up responsibility for casualties. Through the guidance and interactions provided by my teachers, I discovered myself to be an eminently practical person. I am a perfectionist in that I will always pursue my very best in every assignment and project. Schedules and rules are also crucial for me as I consider good time management and discipline essential in one’s work and daily life. This personality enables me to finish my work in an effective and orderly way.

“All for one, one for All” is my school motto which I have steadfastly followed in. I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the school for not only shaping me in how to become a student academically, but also a better person. In the arduous way ahead, the guidance of my alma mater will remain the most precious asset I ever have and will ever possess.
Entering medical school is an important step in achieving my dream to be a medical doctor. I set up this goal when I was in Form 3. I firmly believe that being a doctor involves not merely helping your patients physically, but also healing them mentally, bringing them hope and inspiration. “Always aim for the Moon, even if you miss, you will land among the stars.” W. Clement Stone said. Don’t be afraid to chase your dreams, no matter how wild they may seem.
Time flies and the days of being a secondary student and wandering around Munsang seem like yesterday. I am already a university student now and I am grateful to be given the precious chance to study the HKU MBBS program that I have always aspired to. I must thank our principal and teachers for their guidance all these years that have made me who I am today. There are also a few words to share with my fellow schoolmates.

Enjoy your secondary school life and leave no regret. You are going to miss your friends when the DSE comes. So, be thankful and treasure every moment, as secondary life will not happen twice. The second thing is dare to dream. Doubtless, I am a successful example of transforming a dream into reality. Entering the University of HK School of Medicine seems too far to reach for many secondary students. Somehow it turns out to be a miracle. Try imagining, what would happen if I did not dare to put JS 6456 into my Jupas list? We have to display gumption in chasing dreams. As my medical preceptor says: “Always aim for the moon, even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.” Try and leave no regret.

Academic excellence and a heart willing to serve are two important qualities to become a good doctor. The academic knowledge that the teachers in Munsang College have imparted me with and my exposure in St. John Cadets will doubtless continue to help me in my medical studies and career path.
The DSE journey was long and bumpy. Hardship and failures constantly baffled me and shook my confidence. However, repeated trials told me that hard work does pay off. Therefore, bearing in mind that there must be light at the end of the tunnel, I kept struggling by trying my very best. Ultimately, I achieved my goal. Though the challenges were at times overwhelming and daunting, it was an invaluable experience which has transformed me into a stronger and more hard-working person. I have also learnt that without tasting the bitterness of hard work, I will not be able to enjoy the sweet fruit of success. I am glad that I have finally reached my destination with inspirations and new thoughts.
When I was in my senior secondary school years, I didn’t have a clear life goal yet, but I felt a compelling instinct to share my life with others. I am sure that happiness and the meaning of life can only be gained by giving first. By pursuing an education career, I hope my life can be fully appreciated by my own students in the future.

“Where words fail, music speaks.” Music allows me to see the world from different perspectives, listen to the many voices of society, and create dialogues on social issues that should not be limited to words.

For a long time, pursuing a music career seemed like an unreachable dream to me. As I approached the end of my secondary school life, pressure was mounting on me to pursue what are perceived as traditionally prestigious subjects such as law and medicine. With the understanding and support of my family, pursuing a career in music is no longer a dream, but a reachable goal through hard work and unwavering determination.
After I received my HKDSE results on July 14, I knew that I could choose many “good” subjects, such as medicine and actuarial science. However, I still chose to study Natural Science, a subject that is not endeared to many.

Because of the highly competitive nature of university places in Hong Kong, students not performing well in the examination are usually limited to choices with lower admission scores. What bothers me is that when a student performs well in a public examination, sometimes he will also limit his choices by only considering university programmes with high admission scores. If that is the case, what is the point of performing well in the examination if we are to limit our choices anyway? Is it only to get better-paid jobs? Does money really take such an important role in one’s life? In my opinion, personal interest should take first priority in considering my study path as long as I believe I have the ability to succeed in that field, no matter how success is defined. I believe that all fields have their career paths and personal interest, instead of money, should guide our way. I do not want to be rich but regret my choice of career. I chose Science because I like Science. That is it.

Chan Zhao-cong (2014)
International Research Enrichment, HKUST

Lai Boris JT (2014)
Bachelor of Engineering, HKU

“So what are you going to be in the future? A beggar?” This is one of the many responses I got when I revealed my JUPAS choice to my friends. Of course, I know they were just trying to tease me and therefore exaggerating the situation. However, such a comment reflects a prevailing view among people in Hong Kong: the ideal life is to study hard, choose a so called “better” subject (e.g. medicine/ law), get a well-paid job, earn a lot, earn more, earn even more... Before going too far, let’s come back and think again: is this the only path for us? Instead of the ultimate goal, I believe that being well-paid is only a means for us to pursue greater things in our life. Things like happiness and satisfaction should be our real life-long goals in contrast to sheer material enjoyment. If you look from this angle, it will be easy to understand my choice to study engineering in university. My area of interest was never on those “better” subjects. If I force myself into such a career path just to be more “successful” in other people’s eyes (which is, again, measured by how high the salary is), I will then be doing things that I have no interest in for the rest of my career. Can you imagine what that is going to be like? Therefore, I have decided to ignore the social “norm” and to study what I like, and at least for now, I haven’t regretted that at all.