



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

45, Sycamore Street, Taikoktsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

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<http://www.sfxc.edu.hk>

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Dear Parents,

At the beginning of this year, we were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and all classes had been suspended. During class suspension, students sustained learning at home through different modes. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for the commendable efforts in facilitating the students' learning at home. I hope they will return to school to learn with their peers on campus with high spirits and keen attitudes.

In the past year, due to various reasons, quite a number of students have participated in the social movement, causing concerns and distress. But even some students are convicted, the consensus of all schools in Hong Kong is that we will never give up on each and every student. We will continue to teach all students based on the Mission and Vision of each school. If necessary, we will make good use of the Community Support Service Scheme (https://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_young/sub_seryouthrisk/id_cssscheme), run by the Social Welfare Department through non-governmental organisations, which provides counselling services for our teenagers under the assistance of experienced and professional counsellors.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) passed the Law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (the National Security Law) on 30 June. While the school will provide students with a clear elucidation on the issue, we are also looking forward to your co-operation. The Education Bureau will also promote education on national security, and adopt multi-pronged measures on curriculum, teaching resources and teachers' professional training to facilitate students' understanding of the legislative background, content, importance and meaning of the National Security Law, raising their national security and law-abiding senses.

The school is a community of learning. It should not become a venue for promoting political ideologies or expressing political stances or demands. Parents are urged to join our efforts to dissuade students from engaging in dangerous or unlawful activities. Thus, under the National Security Law, our school will not allow students to join class boycotts, chant slogans, form human chains and post slogans, or sing songs carrying political messages on the school campus. Students, while wearing school uniform, should avoid participating in activities not organised by or on behalf of the school and are not allowed to participate in political activities outside the school. As by doing so, they would mislead others into believing that the stance advocated by these activities is shared by the school. It has happened before that some groups bearing the name of the school were formed to promote the groups' political stances, and even called on teachers and students to support a certain political demand through signature or other forms of activities. Should such organisations invite students to participate in their activities in the future, parents should remind students first seek school's advice if the activities are recognised by the school before considering whether to join.

If students are found initiating, organising or conducting political activities, especially those of high risks or suspected to be unlawful, no matter whether it is carried out on campus or by students in uniform, the school will immediately advise them to stop doing so. If individual students fail to comply with the school rules after repeated persuasion, we will take appropriate disciplinary actions and provide counselling as a follow-up measure to help them develop positive values. I count on you to remind your children once again that they should always put personal safety as top priority



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and cherish the love and care of the family. To avoid making regrettable mistakes, students need to exercise vigilance and independent thinking against misinformation and provocation online, and abide by law.

Your attention is also drawn to the fact that the National Anthem Ordinance took effect on 12 June 2020, while the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance has been in force since 1 July 1997. By adhering to the Catholic social teaching, we will continue with our endeavours to nurture students to become good nationals and citizens, teach them to act positively and responsibly, and foster their sense of national identity, which includes being knowledgeable of and showing respect for the national flag, the national anthem and the national emblem.

Despite all the challenges in the past year, our parents and students have remained positive and persevering. I trust that we will, as always, collaborate closely to equip students with the ability to discern right from wrong, foster among them positive values and attitudes, and enable them to learn in a peaceful and orderly environment under professional guidance.

Best Regards,

IU Kwong Chi
Principal