

Let your failure lead to your success

The 8th of July was a remarkable day to the graduates of True Light Girls' College and Kowloon True Light Middle School. The 2009-2010 joint school graduation ceremony of the two True Light schools was held in the Hong Kong Baptist University. This year, Professor Joseph Jao-yiu Sung, the vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was invited to be our guest of honour and give a speech to encourage our graduates.

Professor Sung shared his views on success and failure. He read a book, 'What I think I should learn when I was 20' when he was on a trip recently. In this book, he learnt three ways which can help people lead to success.

The first way is to think outside the box. He said that nowadays students are often hampered by the majority of the world but having an individual mind and being creative are of utmost importance. It is very important to think independently and from different perspectives. To do so, we need to widen our exposure and take the initiative to learn about the world.

The second way is to keep our eyes and ears open to the world. Things are changing every minute. What we have learnt can be totally different in seconds. We should try more and enjoy more when we are still young and energetic. When we get more experience, we become more mature and have a more in-depth understanding of what we are and what we actually want.

Thirdly, we should learn not to win, but to lose. Nowadays, teenagers find it hard to accept the truth that they are not the 'best' in society. Once they meet failure, they feel frustrated. They cannot work well with other people in society. However, they forget that no one is perfect in this world. As the saying goes, 'Failure is the mother of success'. We need to go through the experience of failures before we can succeed. Each failure is due to a mistake or a combination of mistakes. If we can learn from our mistakes, we will improve in whatever we are trying doing.

Although I was not among those who graduated this year, I have surely learnt enormously a lot from Professor Sung.