Dear teachers and students,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome all of you to the official opening of the school year. I am particularly happy to welcome our F.6 students who are transfer from other schools. We all look very much forward to working with you in the coming years.

I can’t even begin to describe how important it is for you to take advantage of and exploit the facilities and resources offered by our College. To a certain extent you could say learning at this school is learning to succeed and to define a field or an area to pursue at universities or other post-secondary institutions or as your future career. As you’ll soon discover, the knowledge to acquire is vast. It is to be found in the many different classes you are going to attend, in the piles of books accessible to you in our library, in the labs that accompany most science subjects, in the assemblies we arrange in many Friday afternoons, in the wide array of OLE activities we make available for you, and in the interaction with your teachers and fellow students and with our many alumni and invited guest speakers.

As much as all of this represents endless possibilities and endless series of combination, it only points to your potential, really. What is ‘potential’? Your potential is something that is not yet realized, something that can become real given your determination and perseverance to unleash it. Does it sound a little abstract? Let me explain it to you: There are lots of things you can do and achieve in this school but your achievement is, to a large degree, defined by yourselves. The curriculum is not unchallenging, the tests and exams are not easy, and your teachers are not undemanding. It makes a certain sense; after all we are a senior secondary college preparing you for tertiary education. So, don’t lean back in class and laze around; you will soon fall behind. Set a good timetable, plan your studies and revision, feed your hunger for knowledge by exploring the many resources around you, start to shape your future and you will live and grow. It’s as simple as that. And yet so demanding. Welcome to KTC! Welcome to an academically-inclined senior secondary college!

Studying at KTC is not like ‘going to school’ in the ordinary sense of that phrase. You are from now on enrolled in a senior secondary school, meaning that you are no longer ‘pupils’. As students, studying is, more than anything else, having the right
attitude; it is about being inquisitive, curious, interrogative, and self-reflexive. So as KTC students you are expected to engage in a long learning process during which you will develop academic competencies in the various subjects you are taking, a set of study skills and life skills useful for your future, a critical and self-reflexive mindset to deal with your life in a constantly changing society, and during which you will begin to define your own interests and your own career goals.

The school year 2014-15 is going to be a real challenge both for the school and for you. Our DSE results in some of the subjects are improving, but there is still room for improvement in many other subjects, especially the 4 core subjects. In view of this, as I introduced in the Closing Ceremony back in July, we are going to launch new measures and initiatives aimed at reinforcing the academic foundation of our students in the 4 core subjects. Our committed teaching staff, who have always been working hard for the school, are going to work even harder this year. For one thing, they are going to give up some of their time after school to give extra lessons to you. In fact, I myself will also help to teach some remedial Chinese classes after school too. And for those of you who are more capable, we will continue to organize special Saturday classes to help you to unlock your full academic potential and to do even better in your DSE exams.

With a total of some 600 students KTC is a relatively small college, but don’t be mistaken, despite our small student population, we can be a strong community, one where teachers and students share the same dream and vision.

I wish you all a fantastic and productive school year!

1 September, 2014