

# *A Moment of Pride*

We, the English department are very proud to share that our student Yueng Siu Hong-Steven (5C) has yet again made us very proud. His recent writing titled "Reading is an attitude" was selected as a star writing and was published in Young Post on 10 March 2014. It made us, the teachers, very proud when a student outperforms and receives such recognition.

## Star letter

### ■ Reading is an attitude

For students facing the DSE, reading seems to be a common weakness. I believe that this problem is related to Hong Kong's education style. Most subjects emphasise memorising facts, but students are not encouraged to read. Ironically, DSE requires advanced reading skills, be it in Chinese or English. But where are we supposed to learn those skills?

You have to understand what you read. Many tutorial centres emphasise a strategy that involves increasing reading speed, but this is a mechanical process that doesn't really sharpen your problem-solving skills. Reading is not about how many books you can read, but what you gain in your thinking skills from doing it.

The only way to become a competent reader is to learn to love to read. We must think critically while reading, and that will help us develop a better understanding of the text. It's not a strategy; it's an attitude and a habit that can be developed based on your interest.

**Steven Yeung Siu-hong, Wai Kiu College**

### ■ From the Editor

Thank you for your letter, Steven. You've hit the nail on the head. The skill of reading starts with the love of reading, and if you don't have that love by the time you first enrol in school, it's hard to develop it. It's an attitude that is formed at home; if Mum or Dad loves to read, you probably picked it up from them. That's why parents are encouraged to read to their children from early on.

But if you were not fortunate enough to have parents who read, there are still ways to develop that love. One is to start by reading about topics you like, and then branch out. Another might be to get friends to read the same book so that you can discuss it together. The exchange of ideas and opinions is a good first step towards evaluating what you read and developing critical-thinking skills.

**Ken, sub-editor**