

Welcome Remarks at Honours Academy Graduation Celebration 2024

4 December 2024

Room N501, 5/F, Lo Hui Kit San Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Deans, Guests, Colleagues, HA Graduates and Students,

It is a true privilege for me to stand before you on this memorable occasion as we gather to celebrate the achievements of our HA graduates. Today, we are here to recognise and congratulate the 13 outstanding students from our first two cohorts who have successfully completed their journey with us at the Honours Academy. A journey not only of academic excellence but, more importantly, self-discovery of your values and potentials. And “Self-discovery” happens to be the theme of your Graduation Celebration this year. And self-discovery is of course not an end-product but an ongoing process.

Over the past few years, you have discovered not just your academic talents, but also your passions, values, and aspirations—the very things that will guide you beyond today to serve as a public servant leader making an impact on society and the world. Therefore, the theme “self-discovery” is such a fitting tribute to the transformative experiences you have all undergone. Self-discovery, self-adjustment and self-improvement are indeed a lifelong journey. Naturally, you will have ups and downs in your future journey, so this continuous learning process will build up your resilience and confidence in climbing up another mountain.

In the spirit of our cherished tradition here at HA, the organizing of this celebration is assisted by a dedicated team of the 3rd cohort of students who have worked tirelessly to create an unforgettable event for all of us. Their efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration and community, which are also key elements in our shared journey of self-discovery. We do not discover who we are in isolation; we discover ourselves in connection with others: through teamwork, support, and the bonds we build along the way.

I am also glad to learn that the newly renovated HA Commons is now open, exclusively for you, HA students. This vibrant space has been thoughtfully reimagined to foster collaboration, spark creativity, and build a strong sense of community. It will serve as a welcoming hub for fruitful discussions, productive study sessions, and memorable

social gatherings, enriching your journey as you continue to explore and define who you are, both here and beyond graduation.

As graduates of the Honours Academy, we encourage you to give back to your communities—both locally and globally. The world needs compassionate, innovative leaders like you who are not only willing to strive for their own career success but who are also committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Self-discovery teaches us that the more we understand ourselves, the more we can improve ourselves, and the more we can give to the world.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations to our HA Graduates of 2024. I wish each of you create values in your future endeavours and become a person of value. I look forward to the bright futures that lie ahead each of you, knowing that your journey of self-discovery, adjustment and improvement will continue to unfold.

Enjoy this special evening and I wish you all the very best in your exciting journey ahead!

Thank you!