

Welcome Remarks at the Honours Academy Fifth Cohort Inauguration Ceremony 2024-2025

8 October 2024

Auditorium, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Council Chairman Dr. the Honourable Moses Cheng, Honours Academy Fellows, dear guests, colleagues, students, and parents,

Good afternoon, and welcome to this very special occasion. It is such a joy to be standing here today, surrounded by so many of you, our dedicated Honours Academy community, our valued supporters, and most importantly, our talented students. Today, we gather not only to welcome the 5th cohort of the Honours Academy (HA) but also to celebrate the spirit of excellence, service, and leadership that has blossomed within this programme over the past few years.

To our new cohort of 18 students, congratulations! This marks the beginning of an extraordinary journey for each of you. You have worked hard to be here, and today you have become part of something truly special, a community that is committed to learning, growing, and serving together. You are about to embark on a path that will challenge you, inspire you, and most importantly, shape who you will become as future leaders.

Since its founding in 2020, HA has grown rapidly, and its impact is already felt far and wide. Today, we celebrate not just this new beginning, but also the remarkable achievements of our first two cohorts, who have already graduated and are trying to make a better world for all of us. These graduates, just like you, took their first steps in the HA with a desire to make a difference, and they continue to carry that spirit with them in everything they do.

One of the things that makes the HA so special is its emphasis on service leadership. Our students are not just learning for themselves; they are learning to give back. Since 2020, HA students have partnered with a local NGO to run Financial Literacy Enhancement Workshops for primary and secondary school students. Through creative board games and hands-on activities designed entirely by our own students, these workshops have empowered young learners and spread the message of financial responsibility in a fun, engaging way. And I am excited to announce that this project has grown so much that we are now exploring ways to share these games with

primary schools across Hong Kong. This is just one of many examples of how our students' hearts and minds are making a profound difference.

But their service doesn't stop there. Our HA students have also contributed tremendously to the life of our university. Whether it's emceeding university events, representing HSUHK in media appearances, or simply being ambassadors for the values we hold dear, they have been true champions for our university. Their passion and enthusiasm have enriched our community in many ways.

As we look ahead, I am especially excited about a new initiative we are launching this year: the introduction of our first batch of "Graduate Mentors". These mentors, alumni from our earlier cohorts, will forge a lasting bond with the HA, offering guidance and support to current HA students, even as they continue to grow in their own careers. It is heartening to see how their journeys will come full circle, as they share their experiences and help nurture the next generation of leaders.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of many people. To our Professional Fellows, Academic Fellows, teachers, staff, and parents, thank you. You have been there every step of the way, offering your wisdom, your care, and your encouragement. You have helped shape these remarkable young people, and today, we celebrate your contributions as well.

As we begin this new chapter, I would like to invite all of you, parents, teachers, mentors, and friends, to continue walking alongside us. Together, we will witness the growth of the Honours Academy and the bright futures of these young leaders. And to our new cohort, remember that this is just the beginning of a transformative journey. Embrace every opportunity. Learn from one another. And never forget the power of your heart to make this world a better place.

Thank you, and I wish you all the very best on this exciting journey ahead.