

Wanchai District Headmasters' Conference

Feedback on the Proposed Academic Structure

We agree in principle of the new academic structure but have reservations on the many suggestions on how it should be implemented. They are reflected in the following:

1. It is a matter of justice that the new academic reform should not affect the employment of the existing teaching staff or cause any kind of redundancy of teachers. The EMB should tolerate their presence.
2. We feel conditions to support change rather than timing of change is important.
3. It is anticipated that all EMI schools will result in having surplus teachers. This pressure may be released if EMI schools should be granted parity of treatment like CMI schools with the extra two teachers.
4. With the new system, the schools in Wan Chai District will be seriously affected. The result of a survey from schools in the district shows that the estimated loss of teachers is as follows (calculated at F1 – F3 1.7 and F4 – F6 1.9). There may be 92 redundancy in the 19 secondary schools in Wanchai.

Our Concerns

A. Concern on New Academic Structure

The new academic structure and the curriculum reform should be dealt with separately, and the education revamp should be carried out in stages.

B. Concern on Curriculum Reform

1. More electives should be provided to diversify the curriculum. Hence, we propose the curriculum to be changed to the following:
English + Chinese + Mathematics + 3x or 4x (Liberal Studies as an elective/non-core subject)
2. There should be only 30 students in a class for School-based Assessment and 20 for Liberal Studies classes in order to make teaching and learning more effective.
3. It will do well if the time spent on Liberal Studies be distributed back to the 3 core subjects so that we can truly train students who are bi-lingual to be able to think at least logically. We support the new recommendation of allocating 12.5% of total lesson time to Liberal Studies instead of the original 15%.
4. The English level of students will surely be lowered because of the immersion of Syllabus A and Syllabus B. We suggest that both English and Chinese subjects should have an extra component like Mathematics and this component can include the culture and literature of both of these subjects for the better students.