

ECF SAINT TOO CANAAN COLLEGE OUR FIRST CLUB SUN HUNG KAI SCALLYWAG FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

by Camellia Poon



▲ Students from ECF Saint Too Canaan College give the thumbs up, enjoying the time in their first sailing session

The mission and aims of this programme is to provide under-represented youth in Hong Kong with proper sail training, a path to sailing certification and mentorship for personal development, Sun Hung Kai & Co. Foundation has partnered with Hebe Haven Yacht Club (HHYC) and worked closely to help more students benefit from the programmes that they have been offering all these years. On a glorious day, with autumn breeze, nine students accompanied by the Principal, Assistant Principal, together with two teachers from ECF Saint Too Canaan College, were the first local school children in Hong Kong to kick off their Hong Kong Sailing Federation Level 1 and 2 certification programmes upon their arrival at HHYC.



▲ Assistant Principal Mr Lee (Left) & Principal Ms Tsui (Right) interviewed at HHYC

A long time ago, back in 2009, ECF Saint Too Canaan College started organising Sailing Taster Programmes for students. As shared by Ms Tsui, the Principal of ECF Saint Too Canaan College, one of the NET teachers Ms Kylie had a great passion for watersports and under tremendous encouragement from the school, initiated a Sailing Taster Day every summer for Form 1 to Form 5 students. This helped them become relaxed while experiencing an activity on the water. The current NET teacher, Ms Rose, also a veteran sailor, carefully selected nine students to join the Level 1 and 2 certification programmes, having it pushed forward after close collaboration with HHYC and most importantly supported by the generous subsidies given by Sun Hung Kai & Co. Foundation. The school proactively allows its students to develop diverse fields of interest, get connected with society and broaden their horizons. One example is where teachers organise various Interest Clubs in the school and, thus, instil good values and ethos in students; and one interest that best demonstrates these learnings is sailing.

According to Principal Tsui, nowadays, students should be learning positive attributes in schools, such as team spirit, adversity quotient, and critical thinking. Moreover, students should also be acquiring these qualities through real-life experiences. Sailing covers

these qualities since it is not only about tackling uncertainties on the sea but also understanding the dramatically changing weather conditions. Young sailors get trained to overcome all kinds of difficulties through HHYC's Scallywag Programme. In return, their self-confidence and abilities are boosted, so they are able to face future hardships in life.

Assistant Principal Mr Lee added that this programme offers extra authentic English exposure to students in the school. Due to the large percentage of English-speaking members and sailing lovers here at HHYC, the Club provides a very good platform for students to communicate and interact with each other in English, as well as enhancing students' self-confidence.

The programme received overwhelming feedback when it was first launched—those who wanted to enrol needed to be interviewed. The foremost criterion to determine whether a particular student could 'get admitted' was their reason for joining. Next, would be their physical fitness, since sailing demands quite a lot of physical strength. Last, but certainly not least, it would be ideal if students had joined sailing taster courses prior to joining the programme.

聖道迦南書院成首間接受新鴻基 SCALLYWAG 資助本地學校 為學生開展航海課程



▲ Students concentrating in their theory lesson prior to sailing on the water

為了讓更多年青人能藉著學習帆船而成長，新鴻基 (SCALLYWAG) 慈善基金多年來一直與白沙灣遊艇會緊密合作，透過帆船課程，務求令更多學生受惠。位於觀塘基督教中國佈道會聖道迦南書院作為全港首間參與其中的本地中學，在一個風和日麗、秋高氣爽的日子，九位書院的學生連同校長、助理校長以及兩位老師，浩浩蕩蕩來到白沙灣遊艇會，展開他們的帆船第一、二級證書課程。

徐校長表示早在 2009 年，迦南已開始為學生舉行帆船體驗日。當年其中一名 NET 老師 Ms Kylie 對帆船充滿熱誠，在學校鼓勵下，每年暑假，Ms Kylie 都會為中一至中五學生舉辦帆船體驗日，讓學生可以放鬆心情，並體驗帆船這項運動。而現任的 NET 老師 Ms Rose，亦是位具有多年航海經驗的帆船愛好者，在她和白沙灣遊艇會的穿針引線下，迦南得到新鴻基 (SCALLYWAG) 慈善基金的資助，在校內選出九位同學參加帆船第一、二級證書課程。學校積極地讓學生培養多元的興趣，鼓勵學生多接觸社會，擴闊視野。例如老師根據自己專長開辦興趣學會，從而向學生灌輸正確的價值觀及

培養良好的品格——帆船課程，正是個好例子。

徐校長認為學生應學習一些正面的特質，例如團體合作精神、面對逆境時的態度以及批判思考能力。然而，這些做人的品格性情亦應該透過生活體驗而獲得。參與帆船證書課程，能讓學生來到真實的場景，因為海上的環境變化不定，天氣亦瞬息萬變，所以同學在海上要面對不同的困難。學校期望學生能在實戰中增強自信，同時提升他們面對逆境的能力。而這些能力都是學生在將來的人生中會用到的。

李助教補充，白沙灣遊艇會的會員及當中的帆船愛好者，有不少為外籍人士。這為聖道迦南書院的學生提供了一個珍貴的學習平台，讓學生能放膽嘗試與外籍人士溝通，以增加自信和提升英語會話能力。

此課程推出時，學生反應非常熱烈，要進行面試甄選同學。在取錄上，學生參加活動的原因是最重要的考慮。其次是體能，因為帆船運動始終需要一定體能，學生的身體質素很重要。最後，若學生之前曾參加暑期帆船體驗日，則更為理想。

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For enquiries, please contact the HHYC Sailing Centre at sailing@hhyc.org.hk or 2719 0926
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