

PREFACE

The 2016/17 Hong Kong Budding Poets Award, organised by The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education and supported by Gifted Education Section, Education Bureau, culminated in the Prize-giving ceremony on 26 May 2017 with awards going to 51 finalists out of 1035 entries. My hearty congratulations go to all participants and the finalists. A note of thanks is also given to all adjudicators and especially to HSMC colleagues who took part in the event by holding 6 workshops, adjudicating and providing logistics support, etc. Their involvement is a clear vindication of HSMC's engagement with our community needs.

Poetry writing, be it Chinese or English, should be promoted early in our schools, as it is not only an intellectual exercise but also a device for tapping our students' imaginative potential, helping develop their literate and literary mind at school. Confucius held poetry in high regard, as he considered poetry to be imaginative, observant, sociable and expressive. These are all important attributes to our students at school and in society. He once said that without learning poetry, one could not become articulate. Writing poetry involves not just the ability to use language well and the ability to imagine in a school setting as well as outside of it; it also involves reading and writing skills as well as insights in relation to future life. Equipped with a literate/literary mind through poetry writing, students can carve out their 'dragons' in the quest for new horizons of possibilities.

I cannot iterate more the importance of inculcating this training in our schools, and I look forward to the 2017/18 Hong Kong Budding Poets Award, and that HSMC's colleagues of the English Department will be a part of it.

Professor Thomas Y. T. Luk
Head of Department of English and
Dean of School of Humanities and Social Science
Hang Seng Management College