

# Maryknoll Convent School

## Secondary Section



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### Beginnings

In 1925 the Maryknoll Sisters began teaching 12 students in the convent parlour at 103 Austin Road. They taught classes in basic subjects. In the decades that followed, the number of students grew, and so did the teaching staff. After six years on Prince Edward Road, Maryknoll Convent School (MCS) moved to Boundary Street in 1937. World War II interrupted their teaching, but the Sisters resumed their work in 1945. In 1960 the Secondary Section relocated to 5 Ho Tung Road. The Primary Section remained on Boundary Street. From an initial class of 12 students and a few Sisters, the school (both



primary and secondary sections) has grown to a full capacity of 2000 students and a faculty of over 100.

From 2005 the Maryknoll Convent School Foundation Ltd.

comprising Maryknoll Sisters, former teachers and students assumed the sponsorship of the school.

MCS Secondary Section is a member of the Hong Kong Grant School Council and it is a school for girls.

### Vision

We envision our students to embrace the Maryknoll spirit signified by the school motto "Sola Nobilitus Virtus" (Virtue Alone Ennobles).

We envisage our students to be individuals with moral, ethical and religious values, intellectually competent, compassionate in serving others and capable of continuing self-development to meet the challenges in life and to contribute to society.

We see our students as informed and innovative, analytical and critical, responsible and adaptable, moral and ethical members of society.

### Creed and Values

We believe that each person is formed in God's image. We wish our students to know through Jesus Christ the hope and the meaning of life and to liberate their minds from ignorance and their hearts from prejudice.

We believe in the dignity of each student.

We believe that education is essential to a just society.

### Mission

We provide quality school education to develop the potential of our students to the full.

We inculcate basic skills for our students to grow as individuals and in a group, to be responsible citizens with an appreciation of Chinese culture and of the world around them.

We provide experiences for our students to develop healthily in a spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, aesthetical and social way.

We stimulate our students to develop initiative in learning and awareness of its relevance to themselves, to life and to others.

We instill in our students an awareness of the importance of trust and integrity and an appreciation for co-operative teamwork and respect for others.

We co-operate with teachers, parents and society to promote and maintain a safe, healthy and happy environment for quality education.

### Teaching Staff

There are over 60 full-time teachers at MCS Secondary Section. The majority of them are Chinese and hold at least a bachelor's degree. The teaching experience of our staff members ranges from one to thirty years.



### Curriculum and Classes

There is a unified curriculum from Form I to Form III, with a balance among language, arts, science, cultural subjects, religious studies and physical education. After Form III, students select subjects according to ability, interest and career aspirations.

From Forms I to V, there are twenty-five classes, numbering about 40 girls in each. In Forms VI and VII, there are 6 classes altogether, three at each level. Half of the students are in the Arts stream and the rest in the Science stream. Students are prepared to sit for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examinations and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examinations. Entry to local tertiary institutions is through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS).

With the exceptions of Chinese, Chinese History and Putonghua, all of the classes are taught in English. Though an English-medium school, MCS also seeks to build up the students' standard of Chinese, so that they can become truly bilingual.

### Activities

There are more than 40 clubs and school teams at MCS, all under the general auspices of the Student Association. There are academically oriented ones, such as the Science Club, those targeting special interests, such as the Photographic Club, and social service groups, such as the Interact Club. We believe that extra-curricular activities are important for an all-round education. They broaden students' minds and develop their leadership skills and inter-personal relationships.

### School Facilities

The secondary section of MCS has been operating in a single building of three storeys. The Jockey Club Wing with additional classrooms and other facilities was erected in 1995. There are 31 classrooms and laboratories for biology, chemistry, physics and junior science. In addition to a lecture room, a student canteen, a hall for assembly, a conference room, a prefects' room, a Student Association room and a prayer room, there are special rooms assigned to visual arts,



music, cookery, sewing and computer studies. In 2002 a Multi-Media Learning Centre was added for interactive learning of all subjects. There are outdoor and covered playgrounds. A swimming pool and a basketball court are shared with the primary school. The campus is attractively landscaped with lawns, trees, bushes and flowerbeds.

The Rogers Annex under the School Improvement Programme was opened for use in September 2004. Various aspects of learning are facilitated with the provision of more classrooms and rooms with



different functions, namely the Multi-Purpose Area, the Student Activity Centre, the extended Library, the Computer Assisted Learning Room, the Geography Room, the Careers Room, the Character Building Committee Room, the Guidance Activity Room and the Editorial Board Room.

### Graduates

Every year about 300 young women graduate from MCS. The vast majority of them will be continuing their education locally the following term in Form VI at MCS or at other institutions. A number of our outstanding Form VI students may be admitted to local universities under the Early Admission Scheme while some others will pursue their studies overseas. As adults MCS students have distinguished themselves in public service, business and the professions.

The MCS Former Students' Association and the MCS Educational Trust were founded in 1950 and 1992 respectively. They not only maintain close links with Maryknollers but contribute much by helping to raise funds and making donations to improve the learning opportunities and environment of their Alma Mater.

The Maryknoll Convent School Parent-Teacher Association was set up in June 2002. It enables parents and teachers to cooperate in upholding the mission and vision of the school and enhancing students' welfare.

The tradition launched in 1925 lives on in the spirit of every Maryknoller.

