

SCED visits Wan Chai District

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, visited Wan Chai District today (July 9) to learn about the district's latest developments and needs. He called at a school and a co-working space, and met with members of Wan Chai District Council.

Mr Yau first visited Po Kok Primary School, where he was briefed by school representatives on the support measures for non-Chinese speaking students. He also watched a dance performance by students and viewed a demonstration of their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) projects.

He then toured WeWork and listened to various start-up entrepreneurs sharing details of their business vision. With co-working spaces set up all around the world, WeWork made its first appearance in Hong Kong in late 2016 and has now established three co-working space locations here.

Mr Yau said that Invest Hong Kong under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau organises events regularly to attract start-ups to establish a business presence in Hong Kong, as well as providing an investment matching platform for start-ups and investors. According to InvestHK's latest start-up survey, there are now over 2 200 start-ups operating in Hong Kong.

Before concluding the district visit, Mr Yau held a tea gathering with members of Wan Chai District Council to listen to their views on district matters relating to traffic, tourism, creative industries and more.

SED on textbooks for Liberal Studies

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, at a media session after officiating at the launch ceremony of "Phase II of the JC A-Connect: Jockey Club Autism Support Network" today (July 9):

Reporter: Mr Yeung, how would the Government follow up the move by the Liaison Office (Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) that publishers it owned indirectly deleted the phrase "separation of powers" in the textbooks (for Liberal Studies)?

Secretary for Education: As I said, this is not a book on the Recommended Textbook List. So there is no vetting procedure for this textbook. For

Liberal Studies, there is no preset textbook. It is up to schools and also teachers to find necessary information and to complement necessary information for teaching of the subject.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Introduction of green minibus service to serve East Dam of High Island Reservoir on July 22

The Transport Department (TD) today (July 9) announced that New Territories green minibus (GMB) route No. 9A, which will ply between Pak Tam Chung and the East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung, will be introduced on July 22 (Sunday). The route will operate from 3pm to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays at a frequency of 20 to 25 minutes and the fare will be \$11.30. The route will operate on a trial basis and will be reviewed after three months of operation.

The East Dam of High Island Reservoir is located within the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, which has been a popular tourist attraction for both local and overseas visitors. The TD believes that the above GMB service will assist them to visit the High Island Reservoir on Sundays and public holidays.

The TD will closely monitor the passenger demand of the above GMB service, and will suitably adjust the service if necessary.

Secondary One places allocation results to be released tomorrow

The Education Bureau today (July 9) reminded parents that the results for Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) 2018 will be announced tomorrow (July 10).

"A total of 49 554 students participated in the SSPA System for this allocation cycle," a spokesman for the bureau said. "Taking into account the total number of students allocated discretionary places and the first three choices through central allocation, the overall satisfaction rate is 89 per cent. Considering the number of students allocated discretionary places and

the first choices through central allocation, the satisfaction rate is 75 per cent."

The satisfaction rates for discretionary places and central allocation are:

* Among the students allocated through discretionary places, 64 per cent were allocated the first choices; and

* For students allocated through central allocation (including Part A for Unrestricted School Choices and Part B for Restricted School Choices), 82 per cent of students were allocated the first three choices while 59 per cent were allocated the first choices.

"At the discretionary places stage, the maximum discretionary places quota is 30 per cent for each secondary school, and students can apply to a maximum of two schools. At the central allocation stage, 10 per cent of the central allocation places are set aside for Unrestricted School Choices in Part A, and students can choose a maximum of three secondary schools from any school net. As for Part B Restricted School Choices, students can choose a maximum of 30 schools within their own school net," the spokesman said.

"We hope parents and students can accept the allocation results with a positive attitude. The learning effectiveness of students does not rest only on the schools to which they are allocated; it hinges more on whether students are prepared to do their best and to learn with a positive spirit. In this connection, it is important for parents to continue to support and encourage their children, rather than let their expectations become a burden on their children."

All Primary Six students participating in this year's SSPA System should return to their schools tomorrow to collect the Allocation Slips and Admission Slips.

The registration period will take place this Thursday and Friday (July 12 and 13). Students must report to the secondary schools allocated during the registration period. In case the students and their parents or guardians are not able to register with the allocated schools during the registration period, they should authorise in writing a representative to complete the registration procedure on their behalf. Failure to do so means they have chosen to give up the places allocated. A standard authorisation letter can be obtained from their primary schools.

If students or their parents have genuine difficulties in reporting to the allocated schools in person or through an authorised representative during the registration period, they should inform their allocated schools or the School Places Allocation Section of the Education Bureau before the end of the registration period so that alternative arrangements for registration can be made. Failure to do so means they have chosen to give up the places allocated.

If the tropical cyclone or rainstorm warning signal is issued on the day

for announcement of the allocation results or on the days for registration, all school heads and parents should pay attention to announcements on radio or television for special arrangements.

For enquiries about the allocation results, please call the Education Bureau's School Places Allocation Section on 2832 7740 or 2832 7700 during office hours.

"2018 Summer Fun Party – Elizabeth Dream Spaceship" to be held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium this weekend (with photos)

"2018 Summer Fun Party – Elizabeth Dream Spaceship", organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will be held this Saturday and Sunday (July 14 and 15) from 2.30pm to 5.30pm at Queen Elizabeth Stadium. Admission is free. Members of the public are welcome to join.

The carnival will feature different types of entertainment for public enjoyment. The musical "WOW!MUSIC" to be performed by more than 20 child actors will combine drama, song and dance, and tell a story of how these children pursue their dreams. Other highlights will include the puppet theatre show "Auntie C and the Stray Cats", a magic performance, a bubble show, a unicycling performance, a children's Cantonese opera performance, martial arts demonstrations and more.

The event will also present a variety of fun-filled free workshops, including ones on magic, drawing, making rockets with recycled materials, paper plane making and children's Cantonese opera. In addition, members of the public may take part in finger painting or experience the fun of interactive bubble games.

"2018 Summer Fun Party – Elizabeth Dream Spaceship" is a programme in support of the summer festival International Arts Carnival organised by the LCSD. For enquiries, please call 2591 1340 or visit the website at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/eo/territoryevents/summerfunseries/summer-fun-party2018.html.

