Principal's Message

Finishing Well

Over the one-week break, I managed to watch a Korean movie titled "Marathon" which was about an autistic boy who loved both animals and running. For the boy to finish the race well, the coach advised the boy not to run too fast at the beginning but to pace himself. The advice fell on deaf ears until the coach brought in the analogy of the cheetah.

The cheetah is considered one of the fastest animals in the world. It can reach a speed of 80 to 120 km per hour in a short time to outrun its prey. However, the cheetah can only run up to 500 m at this speed. If a cheetah cannot catch its prey in its first dash, it will have to give up the chase and try again later. This is because the cheetah has an incredibly small heart which cannot pump enough oxygen to its body to sustain its efforts.

Mr Hodge, who has recently retired from ACS (Independent), has a saying, "Start Strong, Stay Steady and End Well." This phrase resonates with the students and is often and still quoted to remind and motivate the students.

Recently I have been attending a few sessions of a course on 'Finishing Well' in a church. The course focused on how to live a fruitful and fulfilling life in God in one's life journey. A few illustrious figures from the Bible were highlighted; Saul, David, Solomon and Paul were among the few who had started well but had very different endings.

In everything we do, there is an end point. Be it a completion of a project, or our students graduating to the next station in their lives or finishing one day's work, the injunction to finish well is applicable to us all. However, sometimes the going gets too tough or we get distracted.

The Bible reminds us to fix our eyes on Jesus on everything that we do or want to accomplish and exhorts us to stand firm in our faith. In 2 Timothy 4: 7, Paul says, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* May we indeed finish well in our life's journey and be found faithful to Him!

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