



BEACONS OF LIGHT

Stories of Excellence

Spring 2026



We Made

WONDERS

with LOVE

Foreword

There is nothing more rewarding for us as teachers and educators than seeing our students truly walk the talk. From their very first day at WFJLPS, our children are guided by six core values that form the foundation of their character – Care, Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, Commitment, and Perseverance. These values come alive not merely through words, but through daily choices – when our students strive to understand them, embody them, and live them out again and again.

The stories of five remarkable students featured in this year's Beacons of Light beautifully illustrate how these values shine in action. Their journeys remind us that character and attitude often matter just as much as medals, marks, or awards.

Through our Classroom Jobs for Everyone programme, every student learns from a young age that responsibility is both a privilege and a lesson in balance. **Clovia**, our Head Prefect, exemplifies this balance with grace – leading with fairness, patience, and compassion. Her ability to listen, guide, and empathise with others reflects a deep understanding of what true respect means.

Valerie also radiates care and respect in her daily life. She reaches out to classmates who may feel lonely or overlooked, bringing warmth and encouragement wherever she goes. In every group project or leadership role – whether as class monitor or house leader – she listens, cooperates, and uplifts others, showing us how kindness and teamwork create space for everyone to grow.

Our students' stories speak of unwavering commitment – to family, school, and community. **Vienna**, who has trained in tennis since childhood and now represents Hong Kong with pride, continues to live out our school's values beyond the court. Balancing rigorous training with her studies, she shows that true excellence is rooted in gratitude, discipline, and humility.

Hannah demonstrates the same steadfast spirit. In both her academic and swimming pursuits, she listens carefully to her parents, coaches, and teachers, turning their support into motivation. Every practice, every lesson becomes part of her journey toward becoming her best self.

And **Matthew** reminds us that responsibility begins with self-awareness. By setting personal reading goals, managing his time wisely, and seeking help when needed, he shows how perseverance transforms challenges into stepping stones. He meets obstacles not with avoidance, but with curiosity and courage.

Together, these students show us that character education extends far beyond the classroom. It unfolds in every corner of school life – in quiet reading spaces, on the sports field, through acts of service, and in friendships that lift others up.

May their stories remind every WFJLPS student that when we care deeply, act with integrity, and persevere with joy, we light the way for others. Let us continue to build a community where each person can grow, contribute, and flourish – a true beacon of light for all.



Ms. Victoria K.S. Poon
Principal
W F Joseph Lee Primary School



Matthew Lo

Success Comes from Perseverance

Matthew Lo, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Academic Award, 1st in Form and Outstanding Learner Award, credits his success to persistence and self-discipline. "You can't give up halfway," said Matthew. "When I face difficulties in learning, I always look for ways to solve them—whether that's searching online or asking my family or teachers. You can't run away just because something is hard."

Outstanding Academic Award 1st in Form

Outstanding Learner Award

Reading teaches one how to learn

As a book lover, **Matthew** sets clear weekly reading goals for himself: "Three Chinese books and three English books a week," he shared. "Reading helps me improve my learning ability continuously." His favourite book? *Atomic Habits* by James Clear. "It teaches people how to learn through small, consistent changes—it's been very useful for me."

Matthew's parents have played a significant role in shaping his attitude toward learning. "They never scolded or punished me," he said. "Even when I made mistakes, they reasoned with me and helped me learn from them. My mom especially deserves credit. She's an English teacher and has always read with me patiently. That made reading my biggest interest."



Learning is about equipping yourself for a better future

"My parents taught me from an early age that learning is about equipping yourself for a better future," **Matthew** said. "When I run into obstacles, my mom always reminds me not to give up easily. She tells me that failure isn't scary—what matters is learning from it."

Matthew also expressed deep gratitude to his teachers. "Many of them patiently explained things I didn't understand, even during their free time. They also taught me a lot about life." He credited his school's **Character Building Programmes** for instilling values like integrity, responsibility, respect, and perseverance from a young age.

In particular, **Matthew** is deeply thankful to his class teacher, **Ms. Ng**, who provided thoughtful encouragement and guidance throughout his journey. "When I doubted myself before exams, she would always reassure me that with enough preparation and effort, anything is possible—as long as I believed in myself," he said. "Her words helped me regain confidence and face academic challenges head-on."

He also fondly recalled his two Primary Four class teachers, **Ms. Leung** and **Mr. Hugo**. "They taught me how to approach problems from different angles," he explained. "They were kind, approachable, and always connected well with us students. Even now, we still keep in close contact."



Deal with pressure: Take a deep breath!

Matthew recounted how opportunities at school helped him grow in confidence—especially being a student emcee at school events starting from Primary 1. "Those experiences helped me speak fluently and confidently in front of crowds," he said. To deal with nerves, Matthew uses a simple trick: "I take a deep breath and tell myself, 'I can do this!'"

He also recalled a disappointing Primary 5 Chinese test. "I felt so frustrated. But after encouragement from my parents and teachers, I reflected, worked harder, and improved a lot after that."

Disciplined and self-driven, **Matthew** says he never needs reminders to finish homework or revise: "Time is precious. I want to spend it learning and doing meaningful things—not wasting it."

"Opportunities are for those who are prepared," he said. "You never know when they'll come. But if you're ready, you won't miss them."



Teacher's Messages

Miss Ng Chau Kuen

Matthew's receipt of the Outstanding Learner Award recognises his exceptional commitment to academic excellence. While his outstanding grades are impressive, what truly distinguishes him is his exemplary learning attitude. His disciplined approach includes methodical lesson preparation, thorough review sessions, and persistent inquiry until complete mastery is achieved - demonstrating the essence of true scholarship.



His intellectual curiosity extends beyond classroom boundaries. In scientific exploration, he employs rigorous analysis and experimental verification. His self-directed learning shines in programming, where he proactively acquires new skills through online platforms while generously mentoring classmates.

Most impressive is Matthew's intellectual humility. Despite his accomplishments, he maintains an insatiable thirst for knowledge. His meticulously organised notebooks, enhanced with insightful annotations and independent research, testify to his scholarly diligence. By combining academic rigor with a willingness to share knowledge, he represents the ideal lifelong learner.

This honour appropriately acknowledges not only Matthew's accumulated knowledge, but his distinctive learning methodology - characterised by boundless curiosity, steadfast perseverance, and a generous spirit that elevates both his own development and that of his learning community.

Every Small Act of Kindness Counts

For Clovia To, kindness, empathy, and strong interpersonal relationships are cornerstones of life. "My parents always taught me to be kind and honest, and always to consider others' feelings," she said. That teaching has stayed with her and guided her every day at school.

Clovia To

Character Award



As Head Prefect, Clovia carries the responsibility of maintaining discipline. But for her, enforcing rules isn't about punishment—it's about care. "I always try to give my classmates more chances. I don't mark names easily," she explained. "My class teacher used to give me many chances when I made mistakes, and I've learned to pass that same patience to others."

Even in tense moments, she handles situations with calm and compassion. "Even though I'm the head prefect, I don't believe in scolding others," she said. "When I see a classmate running, I'll think—maybe they just forgot. I'll gently remind them to walk safely."

Her care for others extends beyond her prefect duties. Clovia recalled comforting a classmate who was crying and helping another who felt sick. "I handed them tissues and informed the teacher. These may seem like small things, but I believe we shouldn't ignore small acts of kindness," she said. "If we turn a blind eye when others are upset or unwell, it can make them feel even worse."



Keep learning, stay consistent, and manage your time well.

To Clovia, success is about setting clear goals, staying positive, and never giving up. "Keep learning, stay consistent, and manage your time well," she said. "And most importantly, don't be afraid to fail—learn from it."

She draws particular strength from the word "try". A recent trip to Taiwan left a lasting impression. "There was a very thrilling ride. At first, I was terrified and didn't want to try," she admitted. "But with my mother's encouragement, I gave it a go. That moment taught me that trying is the only way to know what you're capable of."



Trying is everything

Her personal motto reflects her character: be empathetic, be kind, and don't give up because of setbacks. "Trying is everything," she said with a smile.

Clovia is not only a role model for her peers but a reminder that authentic leadership is rooted in empathy and a willingness to see others with compassion. Her actions may be quiet, but the impact she leaves counts.

Credit to her parents, teachers and friends.

She gives much credit to the people who shaped her character. "My parents, teachers, and friends have had a deep impact on my growth. My parents taught me to be honest and kind and gave me the confidence to face challenges," she said. "My teachers didn't just teach me facts—they taught me how to think and solve problems. My friends supported me and helped me understand the value of teamwork."

School has also given Clovia the space to grow. "My teachers always encouraged me to try, even when I wasn't doing well. And my school environment is full of love and support, both from teachers and classmates," she added.

One memory she cherishes is her first relay race at the school sports day. "We didn't win the championship, but I was so proud," she recalled. "It was the first time I experienced what it meant to trust your teammates and work together to overcome challenges. It showed me the importance of effort and team spirit."



Teacher's Messages

Miss Yu Ka Yan

Clovia is a shining example of integrity, compassion, and perseverance in our school community. Her unwavering commitment to excellence in both character and academics sets her apart as a role model for her peers. Clovia consistently demonstrates care and respect—whether comforting a classmate in distress or patiently assisting younger students with reading as a "Reading Ambassador." Her empathy and kindness create a ripple effect, fostering a supportive environment for all.



What truly defines Clovia is her responsibility and leadership. As a monitress, she proactively addressed challenges, such as resolving conflicts among peers or ensuring classroom rules were upheld with fairness. Her perseverance shines through her dedication to tasks; for instance, she overcame technical difficulties while designing a class poster, showcasing her problem-solving grit.

Clovia's humility and collaborative spirit make her a beacon of our school values. She is not just an outstanding student but a future leader who inspires others through actions. It is an honour to nominate her for this well-deserved award.

Hannah Lee

Success comes from perseverance and continuous self-improvement

For Hannah Lee, success is not defined by medals alone—it's about growth, resilience, and becoming a better version of herself every day.

"Success comes from perseverance and continuous self-improvement," Hannah reflects. "In every swimming training, I give my all, striving to improve both mentally and technically."

Athlete of the Year

My teammates' support changed my mindset. I began to see how important team spirit is.

Hannah joined the school swimming team in Primary 5, and the experience transformed her. "At first, I didn't even know how to jump from the platform," she recalls. "I stood there nervously, and when I finally jumped, the water splashed everywhere." But instead of laughter or judgment, her teammates offered encouragement. "Their support changed my mindset. I began to see how important team spirit is."

With time and coaching, Hannah overcame her fears. Her early swimming techniques were rough, and her timings fell short of competition standards. "I used to think I'd never get any results," she says, but her coach saw her potential. "When I was feeling down, he gave me one-on-one guidance. He helped me unlock my strengths."

The impact was significant. Within a year, Hannah improved her timing by over ten seconds. From winning no medals in her first interschool competition, she went on to take home **two silvers and a gold** this year. "I'm truly grateful to my coach. His patience and guidance helped me break through."



My parents have always cared for me, encouraging me through every challenge.

Family support also played a vital role. "My parents have always cared for me, encouraging me through every challenge. That gave me the confidence to keep going and become a better version of myself."

At home, her parents formed a tag team—her father supporting her in sports-related activities and her mother guiding her academically. "They always encourage me to take part in different activities and have taught me how to set goals. Their support has made me more confident in chasing my dreams."

Yet, Hannah's transformation wasn't limited to the pool. In the classroom, one teacher made a profound impact on her personal growth—her Chinese teacher, Ms. Leung. "Back then, I lacked confidence. I was like an invisible student—too afraid to speak up." Noticing this, Ms. Leung would seek her out during recesses, gently encouraging her to ask questions and speak up in class.



"Because of her, I became more outspoken and cheerful," Hannah says. "She helped me discover the richness of the Chinese language. I fell in love with the subject and wanted to keep learning endlessly." That spark of inspiration has shaped her future goals. Hannah now dreams of becoming a teacher herself. "Passing on knowledge to the next generation is meaningful. Watching them grow would be such a fulfilling journey."

To her younger schoolmates, Hannah offers this heartfelt message: "Never give up". It's a motto she hears often from her coach and family, and it has become her guiding light. "Life is a long journey. If we give up without trying, we might miss so many opportunities. Even if the result isn't perfect, if we've tried our best, that's already a meaningful life. Not giving up is a mindset for success."

From an anxious beginner to a medal-winning swimmer and confident student leader, Hannah's story is one of quiet determination. With the loving guidance of her parents, the wisdom of her teachers, and the support of her teammates, she has discovered not only her strengths but also the joy of helping others unlock theirs.



Teacher's Messages

Miss Yu Ka Yan

Hannah Lee exemplifies the perfect blend of athletic excellence, leadership, and unwavering determination. As a star member of our school's swimming team, she has consistently brought glory to W F Joseph Lee Primary School, securing top honours in inter-district and inter-school competitions. Her discipline in training, coupled with her ability to remain calm under pressure, sets her apart as a true sportsmanship role model.



Beyond her individual achievements, Hannah shines as a team player. She mentors younger swimmers, shares strategies with peers, and uplifts team morale—even after challenging races. Her resilience was particularly evident when she overcame a shoulder injury last season, returning stronger to break her personal records.

Hannah's commitment extends beyond the pool. She balances rigorous training with academic excellence (ranking top 20 in her grade) and serves as a "Reading Ambassador," proving that true champions excel in all spheres. Her humility, perseverance, and team spirit make her a deserving recipient of this award.

Continuous learning is the key to growth

Valerie's (Hei-wun 晞瓏) name carries a special meaning—symbolising a precious jade and a sun that brings warmth. "I always hope to live up to my name," she shared. "I want to bring warmth and joy to those around me." True to this philosophy, Valerie often reaches out to classmates who seem isolated or have fewer friends, hoping they won't feel alone.

This compassion, combined with her remarkable discipline and all-around excellence, earned her the WFJLPS Student of the Year 2025.

Valerie Tse

Student of the Year

Leadership Award



For Valerie, time management is the key to her success. "I set both short-and long-term goals," she said. "And I check in regularly to adjust my plans." As a committed member of the school's swimming team, Valerie had to find the right balance between rigorous training, academic work, and extracurricular activities. Her strategy? "I create a daily to-do list and try to finish my homework during recess or breaks so I can revise and prepare for lessons at home," she explained.



Her proactive learning habits include daily revision, pre-reading for upcoming lessons, asking questions in class, and engaging in discussions. She believes in making detailed notes, staying curious, and trying different activities to unlock her potential. Outside the classroom, she's an avid reader, particularly fond of Roald Dahl's imaginative children's stories. "The creativity in those books helps me with writing ideas too."

Valerie is a multi-talented student with interests ranging from piano, Go, and painting to skipping rope and, of course, swimming. Her admiration goes to Hong Kong Olympic swimmer Siobhan Haughey, who excels both academically and athletically. "She's so persistent," Valerie said. "She inspires me to work hard and stay resilient."

Teachers used engaging and creative teaching methods that made us enjoy expressing ourselves.

Despite her long list of achievements, Valerie remains grounded and full of gratitude. She credits her teachers for their unwavering support, especially when she once considered quitting the swimming team due to academic pressure. "My class teachers and friends encouraged me not to give up," she recalled. "They helped me discover my true potential." She also appreciated the trust and opportunities given by her Primary 5 and 6 teachers, including organising debate activities that boosted her confidence and love for learning. "They used engaging and creative teaching methods that made us enjoy expressing ourselves," she added.

Her family plays a central role in her journey. "My parents always share their life stories with me, and we do many activities together," she said. Yet it's her grandmother who holds a particularly special place. "She's not just family—she's my best friend," Valerie beamed. "We talk about everything, play chess, travel, and even go to theme parks together. When I struggle academically, she helps me, too. I really want to thank her deeply."

Values education helped her learn empathy and cooperation

School life has left many lasting memories. Valerie especially enjoyed values education and group activities. "Teachers used fun ways to teach us about love, respect, responsibility, humility, and perseverance," she said. She believes group projects and class meetings helped her learn empathy and cooperation. "Even a kind word can brighten someone's day," she reflected.

She also cherishes her leadership roles as class monitor and house leader. At sports day, she dressed up as Pikachu to cheer on her classmates. "Everyone was so happy taking photos together—it really lifted the atmosphere," she laughed.

No one achieves success without sweat and tears.

Like many, she has faced setbacks. There was a time her swimming performance declined, but thanks to her teacher's advice, she persevered and made a comeback. "No one achieves success without sweat and tears," she said. "It takes consistent effort."

With firm time management, team spirit, and a passion for growth, Valerie is always striving to improve. Her message to younger students? "Learn from the past, live in the present, and dream of the future. Continuous learning is the key to growth."



Teacher's Messages

Miss Cheung King Sin Sandy

Valerie stands as a shining example of distinction and diligence in our school community. With an unwavering commitment to her studies, she consistently achieves outstanding academic results and approaches every subject with a spirit of curiosity and a drive for perfection. Her meticulous attitude and pursuit of excellence are truly admirable, inspiring classmates to aim higher.

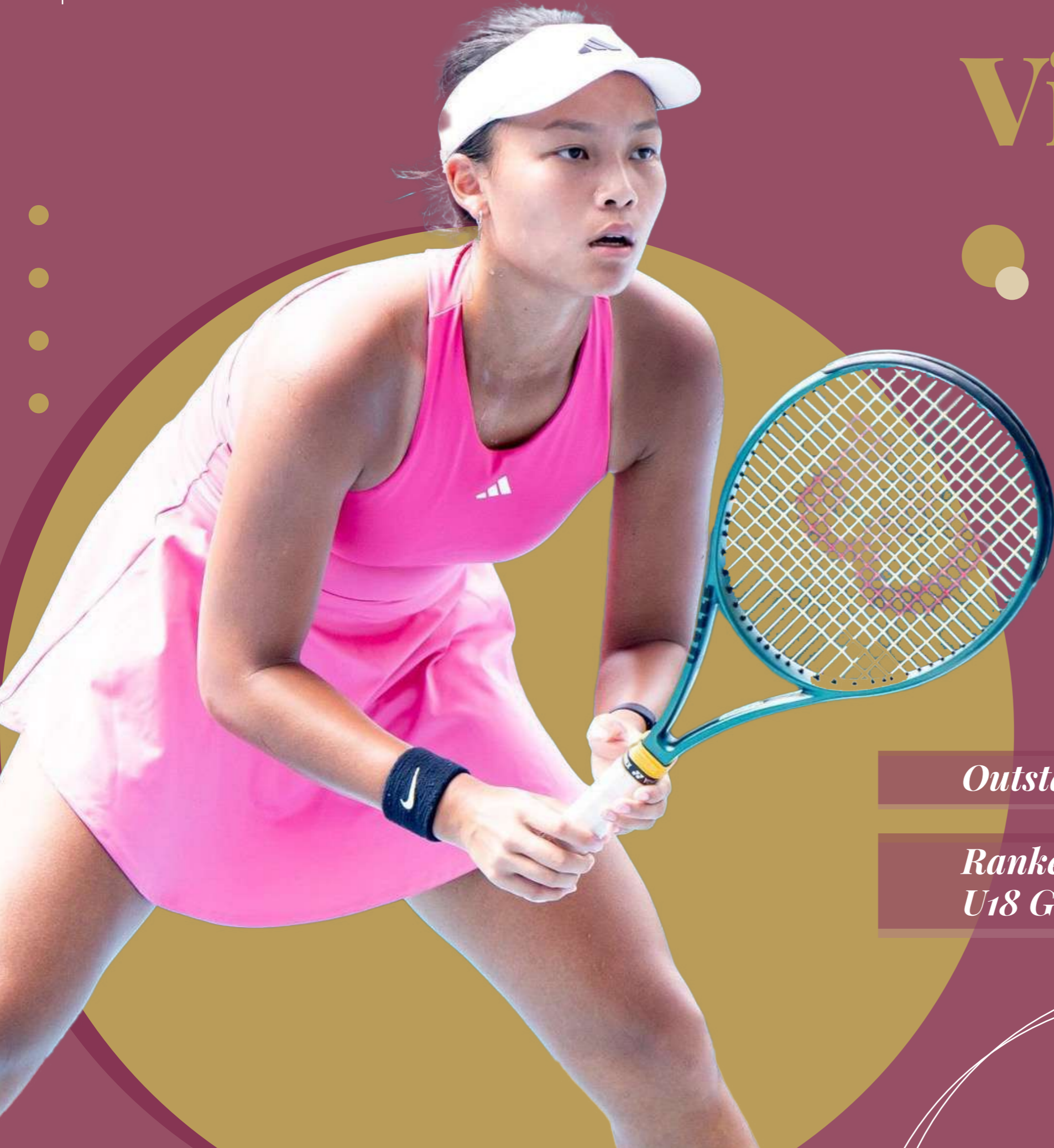
Beyond her academic achievements, Valerie excels as a key member of the school's go chess team, girls badminton team and swimming team, where her dedication and perseverance have earned her numerous medals in inter-school competitions. Her disciplined approach to training and her drive for continuous improvement is inspiring, setting a high standard for her peers.

As Yellow House Captain and class monitress, Valerie leads with integrity, empathy, and a strong sense of responsibility. She is always willing to help others, treats everyone with respect, and encourages her peers to strive for their best.

Valerie's journey reminds us that true success is built on hard work, humility, and a willingness to serve.

I hope her story will inspire all students, especially our younger learners, to follow her aspirations, pursue excellence, and contribute positively to our school community.





Vienna Lai

Explore your interests, and meet new friends

Currently ranked No. 1 in Hong Kong's U18 Girls Tennis category and a member of the Hong Kong Sports Institute, Vienna's achievements are the result of over a decade of training, beginning when she first picked up a tennis racket at the age of three.

Outstanding Alumni

Ranked No. 1 in Hong Kong's U18 Girls Tennis Category

Nurturing each student according to their strengths

"I've always loved tennis," Vienna said. "But to chase this dream, I needed a school that understood the importance of flexibility."

That school was W F Joseph Lee Primary School, where Vienna spent her formative years. Her mother chose the school specifically because of its reputation for nurturing each student according to their strengths. "We are both very grateful to my primary school. They gave me the support I needed to balance academics and sports."

Vienna recalls how the school accommodated her demanding schedule, especially when training on Hong Kong Island. "When my last class was something like self-study or an extracurricular activity, the school would let me leave early," she explained. "That gave me more time to rest and get ready for training."

By Primary 5 and 6, Vienna was competing in international tournaments. The school allowed her to take time off for these competitions. "They never made me choose between school and sports," she said. "When I missed classes for matches, I'd go back and ask the teachers what I missed. They were always willing to help me catch up."

Vienna also praised the school's emphasis on English. "A lot of our classes were conducted in English, and even students communicated in English. It helped me build a strong foundation."

That foundation served her well when she advanced to Diocesan Girls' School, one of Hong Kong's top English-medium secondary schools. "Because of my primary school's language environment, I didn't find the transition too difficult."



Psychology will help me understand how to stay calm and refocus.



a difference."

In September, Vienna will begin a new chapter—studying **psychology at the University of Hong Kong**. She believes her chosen field will directly benefit her as an athlete. "So much of performance is mental," she said. "Sometimes, when I don't do well in a match, I get scared or blame myself. Psychology will help me understand how to stay calm and refocus."

But her goals go beyond personal development. "Every athlete faces mental blocks," she added. "I hope to not only help myself, but also support other athletes in overcoming theirs. Psychology can really make

To her younger schoolmates, Vienna offers heartfelt advice: "Studying is important, but don't just bury yourself in books. Try different activities, explore your interests, and meet new friends. The wider your social circle, the smoother your path will be when you move on to secondary school or university."

Vienna's story is a testament to how a nurturing school environment—paired with a student's passion—can unlock remarkable achievements. "If I didn't have that early support," she said, "I wouldn't be where I am today."





W F Joseph Lee Primary School
和富慈善基金李宗德小學

Address: 9 Tin Fai Road, Tin Shui Wai

Tel: (852) 3401 4995

Fax: (852) 3401 4689

Website: <http://www.wfjpls.edu.hk>