



To : Parents and Students (Y10 -Y12) planning for U.S. Higher Education

From : Patrick Campbell
Head of Careers & Higher Education

Date : **Monday, 5^h October, 2015**

Dear Parents and Students

**US Higher Education – PSAT/NMSQT registration
Wednesday 28th October 2.30 – 5.30 p.m.**

I would like to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me as the Head of Careers and Higher Education. Making the right choice can be a difficult process and I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support. Parents, you are invited to initiate contact by email or phone or to stop by my desk at various parents' evenings. Students, you are welcome to come and see me at any time in room 231A during break most times and to attend our university guest visits and HE meetings.

The attached letter provides important information for all students in Years 10-12, who are considering further study in the USA. The PSAT provides valuable experience for students in their freshman (Y10) and sophomore (Year 11) years, as we recommend that students take it once in either of these years.

Additionally, it provides very valuable comparative and statistical information for students in their junior (Year 12) year. We strongly encourage all Year 12 students considering further study in the USA to take the PSAT and to use these scores as well as additional advice and support services which the College Board offers alongside of this test.

The purpose of this letter is to invite students planning to study in the U.S.A. to our **PSAT/NMSQT test administration** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test / National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test) which will take place on Wednesday 28th October from 2.30 through to approximately 5.30 p.m. This is an important test for all students who plan to attend university in America as it is preliminary preparation for the very important SAT tests. The SAT test scores are one of the factors colleges and universities consider in gauging students' abilities and in selecting students for admission. For American citizens who are in their second last year of high school, (i.e. their Junior Year) it is also the first step in being considered for a National Merit Scholarship.

The results of this test will be posted to the school and should arrive near the end of Term 1. When these do arrive, I will have a meeting with students to hand back their test booklet, give them their results sheet and explain to them what their results mean to them as they consider preparing for applying to universities in the United States.

The test fee of HK \$210.00 is collected by the school and will cover the administration of the test and follow up analysis. We have found this package beneficial as the results analysis report can be used to gauge comparative strengths and weaknesses between our students and those in America.



I would like to emphasise that this test is entirely optional. However, please do note that it is very good preparation for the important SAT tests which every student applying to American universities will need to take. It is very similar to the new SAT and is made up of multiple-choice questions in four main sections – Reading / Writing and Language / Maths (without calculator) / Maths (with calculator).

If you wish to participate in this test you need to fill in and return the reply slip below with payment on or before **Friday 9th October**, which is just prior to our CAS Week and Mid-Term break.

The important details to be aware of are:

- **Wednesday 28th October 2.30 – 5.30 p.m.** Short and informal information meeting at the end of the test where parents and students will be introduced to the U.S. Higher Education preparation programme at the school and where you will have a chance to ask questions.
- **Equipment needed.** Please also ensure that students are ready for the test when they attend, by bringing at least 3 sharpened 2B pencils and a calculator, with fresh or backup batteries (which will need to be set to 'test mode').
- **Test fee payable.** This is HK \$210.00 with cheques made payable to Sha Tin College.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the test or any other HE related matter, please feel free to me by email or by visiting the Careers/HE office.

Kind regards,

Patrick Campbell
Head of Careers & Higher Education
Sha Tin College

-----detach and return to Careers Room Office (231A) on or before Friday 9th Oct.-----

- My son/daughter will be **taking the PSAT/NMSQT** on Wednesday 28th October at Sha Tin College from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. I have enclosed the fee of HK\$210.00. (Please make cheques payable to Sha Tin College)

Student's Name: _____

Year / Form: _____ Date of birth (day/month/year) : _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

- I/We will attend the introductory **meeting for parents** after the test on 28th October.

Please return this form and payment to Mr Campbell or Ms Cheng in the Careers Room Office (231A) by 9th Oct.

Please note that if there is a high demand, that preference will be given to Year 12 students, for whom the practice test and feedback are more crucially important, given their application timeline.

