

PRESS RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY MR TANG GUAN SENG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(EDUCATION), AT THE 30TH ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF
TANJONG KATONG SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
ON SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 1986 AT 11.30 AM**

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here this morning to take part in your 30th Annual Speech Day and Prize Presentation Ceremony.

I find the history of your school interesting. When the school commenced classes in 1956, it seemed to have been thought of as a Trade School for boys who were not academically inclined. The image of the school has totally changed today. It has become one of the more popular secondary schools in Singapore. I congratulate the principals, past and present, the teachers and pupils who have contributed directly and indirectly to the success of the school.

I believe that the objectives and expectations of the school have been clearly spelt out in your Staff Manual and the Students' Handbook. Your school motto and the words of the school song should surely inspire all those who read them.

Your teaching staff has been fairly stable; many of your teachers have been former students of this school. They are committed to the school and have developed, over the years, an easy harmonious relationship between staff and pupils, which is conducive to effective learning.

A positive tone in schools is crucial for providing quality education. Our schools should strive to become the second home, not only for students, but also for the teachers. It is under such a favourable school climate

that principal, teachers and students can function efficiently and productively.

Education must be broad-based in the early stages of a child's education. Although your school is Science and technically biased, there is no justification for neglecting the humanities. Language, Literature and other subjects must still be properly emphasized.

Moreover, education is not merely confined to acquiring knowledge and participating in ECA. It is more than that. Learning and acquiring moral values is an important aspect of education. Through a sound all-round education, a child becomes refined in his character, is courteous, has a pleasing manner and shows concern for others. Therefore, you boys and girls, should take this golden opportunity of making use of the facilities provided by your school as you may not have this chance again.

You should maximise the use of resources available in the school. The library is one which is the centre of learning. It meets many educational needs. It is a place where you can seek information; it satisfies your curiosity, provides good literature and presents differing points of view on various topics. You pupils are lucky to have an enlarged air-conditioned library which is well-equipped. I believe the School Advisory Committee played a major role in making this possible.

Now, let me congratulate the prize-winners who will be receiving their prizes shortly for their outstanding performances. You are rewarded for your hard work and outstanding achievements and are indeed an inspiration to your fellow pupils.
