

Small class, big plans

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Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Not every principal has to brave the feeling of being a minority on their first day of work.

But that's exactly how Louisa Lo Wing-kum felt this September when she stepped up to the post of principal at Raimondi College in Mid-Levels.

The traditionally boys' school with a 55-year history began admitting girls in 2008.

But five years on, 90 percent of students are still boys because few parents are aware the school is now co-educational.

"At first, I did feel pressure but then I reminded myself: 'I'm the mother of a Raimondian - I've got this!'" Lo jokes.

Before joining Raimondi, Lo was the principal of Lai King Catholic Secondary School in Kwai Chung for 11 years. She also continues to serve as the chairwoman of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Schools Council, which manages 26 local Catholic schools.

Lo decided on a change of scenery, hoping to further improve the quality of education that the college, her son's alma mater, has to offer. "Quality education is about using limited resources wisely to expand students' academic and non-academic potential," she says.

Small-class teaching is Lo's next big dream for Raimondi. The college's privately run feeder primary school, Raimondi College Primary Section, used to be right next door.

But it has now relocated to Wan Chai, leaving vacated school premises with 30 extra classrooms for the college. It has more than double its number of classrooms, from 27 to 57.

The next step is to hire more teachers, with the help of funds raised from alumni.

Lo says: "We plan to hire three teachers every year for three years. That way, we can add an extra class to every incoming Form One cohort for the next three years and reduce the class size in junior high from 35 students to 27."

