

Ng Wah Catholic Secondary School  
2015 – 2016  
English Department  
English Writing Competition

**S3 to S4 Champion**

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**What I have learnt from my time at Ng Wah?**

What have I learnt from my time at Ng Wah? When I thought about this question, it took me some time to reflect on myself. If I am compared to my school, I am certainly younger than the school – because our school is now celebrating its Golden Jubilee, while I have only studied here for four years.

The school, to me, is like a mini society in which I have to work with others, compromise, and learn coping techniques to deal with daily life.

Let us be frank, secondary school and primary school is very different. The former offers a wider range of freedom, opportunities and choices; every student can try a range of activities. Our school motto – In Consilio Sapientia – reminds us to think before we do anything. Primary school, on the other hand, offers a narrow range of freedom, decides everything for us so that we do not have to worry much and everything is guided.

First of all, what I have learnt is that I have actually become more independent and self-disciplined. When I was at primary school, I knew nothing about independence or self-discipline partly because we were educated by non-academic staff.

We grew to being taken care of, school helped us to arrange everything, and we were forced to obey orders from the teachers. Now, I have to make decisions by myself and not rely on others unduly.

Since the school at which I am studying is a boys' school which can be tedious at times. But for me, I see it as an advantage: no females (except for teachers) are in the school so that there are no temptations or distractions for us concerning relationships and we can concentrate on our studies. However, some may see a single sex school as a disadvantage and strongly disagree with my point of view. It is just a matter of perspective.

On the other hand, I have learnt how to take responsibilities. As I have mentioned, the school gives us opportunities so everyone has the opportunity to develop leadership skills. I, for example, am a prefect and work in a group in class activities which makes me understand the importance of leadership skills. There are indeed the valuable techniques which everyone needs to learn about.

Being a prefect, I have to manage my fellow schoolmates and maintain class discipline, so I have a chance to practise my leadership skills. Working in a group gradually develops a sense of leadership. Everyone in the group has an obligation to motivate others to get on with the work and to discuss through plans. This is one of the precious techniques I have learnt from the school.

I have also learnt moral values, furthermore, during the religious class. In my opinion, morality especially benevolence, is extremely important, because in a society, this is the element which we lack. In the routine religious class, my classmates and I are taught with benevolence – we are taught to love each other and to live-and-let-live. In fact, teenagers are the pillars of a country, so having religious classes are one of the priceless things I have enjoyed in Ng Wah.

In conclusion, I have learnt countless things – not only academic, but also interpersonal skills and leadership skills – from the mini society of Ng Wah. Academically, I, with all my might, have to strive for the best scores in the impending open examination. As for interpersonal skills, I have to strive to create stability in a healthy circle of life.