

# Developing Virtue Boys' School Online Graduation 2021

## 2021年培德中學男校線上畢業典禮

Written and translated by Shang Xian

尚賢文/譯

Developing Virtue Secondary School's (DVS) Boys' Division celebrated with a virtual graduation ceremony in honor of the Class of 2021 on June 4, 2021. This was the first online graduation event in the boys' school's history.

This year nine boys' students graduated: Myren Allen, Richard Shieh-Yan, Nuoyan Wang, William (BinYang) Wang, Sam (Pui Lam) Yap, Xin Hung Chan, Don (Yitong) Ma, Owen (Wei Cheng) Ooh, and Olivier Truong. They finished their last year and a half of high school on-line, which was very challenging for them.

Dharma Master Heng Shun was invited to speak to the graduates on behalf of all their teachers. In accordance with the current difficult state of affairs in the world, he used Mencius' famous words to encourage these graduates:

*When Heaven is about to confer a great responsibility on any person, it will first exercise his mind with suffering and his sinews and bones to hard work, expose his body to hunger, subject him to poverty, place obstacles in the path of his deeds, so as to stimulate his mind, strengthen his resolve, and improve wherever he lacks ability.*

Dharma Master Shun also mentioned how Venerable Master Hua, the school's founder, taught that we have to develop our vast, overflowing proper energy (Mencius called it "vast, overflowing energy") to be better able to help the world. This development occurs through doing good and righteous deeds. Venerable Master Hua equated this "vast, overflowing proper energy" with the Buddha-nature or the wisdom of the Buddha that all living beings possess.

Dr. Cheng Guan Koay, on behalf of teachers and parents, reminded the graduates that, "Life is a journey and along this journey you must make many decisions—some life-changing and some mundane. With regard to the mundane, I'm sure a few of us have the experience of visiting the same online site numerous times a day. Would you visit a physical store that many times? Even with a choice as mundane as making just a click of a button on an internet site, these subtle differences along the course of your life's journey can potentially be that of heaven and hell in the long run."

萬佛聖城培德中學男校於2021年6月4日舉行男校有史以來第一次線上畢業典禮。

今年男校高中部有九位畢業生：麥仁·艾倫、謝翔任、王諾巖、王彬陽、葉沛霖、陳信宏、馬一通、余偉誠、以及張國俊。

教師代表恒順法師應邀致辭，因應當前艱困的世局，順法師特別引用孟子名言來勉勵同學：

故天將降大任於是人也，必先苦其心志、勞其筋骨、餓其體膚、空乏其身、行拂亂其所為，所以動心忍性，增益其所不能。

順法師也談到本校創辦人宣公上人教我們要培養浩然正氣，亦即孟子所謂「浩然之氣」，才更有能力幫助世界。培養浩然正氣必須行善作義，上人將此浩然正氣等同於佛性，或眾生都具備的佛智。

郭清源博士既是家長代表，也是教師代表，他提醒畢業同學說：「在人生的旅程中，你們要作很多抉擇。有些抉擇足以改變一生，有些則是平凡普通的抉擇……我相信我們當中有些人會每天上同一個網站無數次，你會去一個實體商店那麼多次嗎？就是很普通的點擊網站這樣的動作，長此以往，就足以造成你的人生旅程可能是天堂與地獄之別。」

培德中學校友納庫拉·赫茲和2021年畢業學弟分享他的觀點：「身為校友，我們有機會以老師教給我們超越世俗的道理來服務眾生，並為眾生的利益而承受一些犧牲。」

DVBS Alumni Nakula Hertz shared some of his thoughts with the 2021 graduates, “As Developing Virtue alumni, it is our opportunity to serve with the transcendental principles passed down by our teachers, and to make some sacrifices for the benefit of all living beings.”

Some of the colleges that the graduating students will be attending include the University of Wisconsin (Madison), University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana), UC San Diego, UC Riverside, and Rochester Institute of Technology (New York). Their future majors in college include: robotics and manufacturing engineering technology, bio-engineering, computer science, computer engineering, chemical engineering, and social science.

They each gave a talk reflecting on their years at IGDVS. Myren Allen recounted each of his classmates’ qualities and used a song lyric to end his talk, “Though we still don’t know where we’re headed, the future that awaits looks interesting.”

In his speech, Xin Hong Chan said, “I’ve made so many amazing friends, gone through so many ups and downs and have come out as a stronger and better person than before.”

Owen (Weichung) Ooh mentioned, “I came to this school as a kid and hopefully I can say that I am leaving as a man.”

Don (Yitong) Ma mentioned, “Nearly half of our high school life was spent at home. My class still stayed in close contact. It is with this spirit that we were able to overcome many difficulties and graduate today.”

Oliver Troung said, “I’m very grateful for my parents’ support and for a DVBS teacher allowing me to stay with his family in the middle of the pandemic and helping me out when I was in need. I’m also grateful for all of our teachers for guiding me through getting into college.”

Sam Yap said, “We’ve spent many years practicing the Eight Core Virtues to become better people. We have accumulated blessings from participating in ceremonies such as Meal Offering and Evening Ceremony. All of these things have prepared us to move further on in our lives and do good things for other people.”

William Wang said, “At first, I thought the required courses of Virtue Studies, Ethics, and World Religions sounded dull, but I realize that these lay the foundation for the development of a moral grounding which is the most important component of one’s education.”

Richard Shieh-Yan said, “I would not even get near to where I’m today without all the inspiration and support from my peers and teachers. A pool of gratitude for you all for giving me an unforgettable chapter in DVBS.”

Nuoyan Wang concluded by saying, “My time here was very enjoyable and rewarding too. I hope the future generations of students also get the same high quality of experience here.” ❀

今年畢業同學分別獲得威斯康辛大學麥迪遜分校、伊利諾大學香檳-爾巴納分校、加州大學聖地牙哥分校、加州大學河濱分校、紐約羅徹斯特理工學院等校錄取。他們未來將分別主修機器人與製造工程科技、生物工程、電腦科學、電腦工程、化學工程以及社會科學等科系。

他們每人都發言回顧在培德中學的日子。麥仁·艾倫細數每位同學的特色，並以一首歌的歌詞結尾：「雖然我們並不知道以後的方向，但是擺在眼前的未來，仍然看來頗為有趣。」

陳信宏：「我結交了這麼多很棒的朋友，經歷這麼多起起伏伏，使我成為比以前更堅強、更好的人。」

余偉誠：「入學時我還是個小孩子，希望我可以說，離開學校的此刻，我已經像個男子漢大丈夫。」

馬一通：「我的高中生涯將近一半是在家中度過，我們這一班仍然緊密聯繫。正是這種精神讓我們得以克服許多難關，今天順利畢業。」

張國俊：「非常感謝父母親的支持，以及學校一位老師在疫情中，讓我住在他家，在我最需要的時候拉我一把。也很感謝所有老師指引我申請到大學。」

葉沛霖：「這些年來我們力行八德，成為更好的人。參加上供、晚課也累積了福報。這些都推動我們在人生道路上前進，並做好事幫助他人。」

王彬陽：「一開始我覺得必修倫理道德、世界宗教等課程聽起來很枯燥，但到現在才明白：培養道德基礎是教育中最重要的元素。」

謝翔任：「要不是同學和老師的啟發和支持，我不可能有今天的成果。非常非常感謝大家帶給我在培德中學男校難忘的篇章。」

王諾巖：「我在這裏的時光非常享受，收穫很多。希望以後的學生也能得到同樣高質量的經驗。」 ❀