



Preparing for the *future*

Rita, Kou Sio Nga

Our world is changing rapidly. People's working lives are longer. The job market is becoming more and more competitive and jobs come and go easily. Being a secondary five student, I have been pondering over my future career. What am I going to do in the future? How can I thrive in a competitive job market?

I have had lots of dreams about my future since I was a little girl but I have no idea what is best for me. But last spring I was inspired by a movie – The King's Speech. A speech therapist has helped to change entirely the life of King George VI, who had a speech impediment and had to get over it. I am so impressed by the great work done by this speech therapist that I have decided to pursue my career in this area.

However, to become a speech therapist is far from easy. Besides a Master's degree in speech therapy, I need to have patience, determination and strong communication skills.

To prepare myself for this career, I must, first of all, improve my language ability. Chinese is my mother tongue, so I can speak fluent Cantonese and Putonghua. But I will also try my best to improve my English as it is an international language. I believe I will have an advantage over the others if I am multi-lingual and can communicate with patients of different nationalities.

More importantly, I must work hard and get good academic results to get into a university known for speech therapy. To meet the challenges of a fast-changing world, it is essential for us to equip ourselves with necessary life skills. My school has provided us with a good learning environment to acquire and develop problem-solving, time management, decision-making, communication, cross-cultural and critical thinking skills. I think I'd better master all these 21st century skills before studying in a university.

Last but not least, I believe the best way to prepare for the future is to be ready to change. A competitive and rapidly changing world is unavoidable and inevitable. We ought to change with the changing world. I am confident that with transferable skills and perseverance, we will be

able to thrive in an unpredictable future driven by globalization and technological advancements. We should commit ourselves to lifelong learning. Knowledge is power. As Benjamin Franklin has said, 'An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. Success always comes when preparedness meets opportunity.'



Comments :

The whole article is very organized and does a good job in highlighting the main subject with comments for reflection. However, it would be better if the writer could add a few practical examples to illustrate how to master the required skills.