

## *Thoughts from a teacher*

### **Applied Learning course – Practical Accounting for SMEs**

#### **Arousing an interest in learning**



#### **Mr. Chan Chi Keung**

Teacher

Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No. 2

Founded in 1982, Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No. 2 is a government-subsidized grammar college. The school treasures the uniqueness and value of its every student, endeavouring to nurture these young individuals to be responsible and confident and to appreciate their abilities. The school actively promotes technology education, aiming to broaden students' knowledge base and to promote originality and self-learning among students. It also puts a great deal of effort into designing a student-oriented curriculum and in delivering diversified teaching and learning activities.

Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No. 2 has run the Applied Learning (ApL) course – Practical Accounting for SMEs in collaboration with Caritas Community & Higher Education Service (Caritas) since the course was first launched by the HKIAAT in 2005. Chan Chi Keung, careers master of the school, thinks that ApL courses provide an opportunity for students who are less adaptable to traditional teaching methods to explore their learning interests, and to learn the operation models and entry requirements of different industries. ApL courses better prepares these students for further studies and career development.

Every year, more than 20 students participate in the ApL course “Practical Accounting for SMEs” on average. They learn accounting theories and skills via the MYOB accounting software, which is commonly used by small and medium enterprises. The course is highly interactive; teaching and learning activities include accounting workshops, group discussions, projects, presentations, career talks and firm visits. Through this variety of application-based teaching and learning activities, students gain a better understanding of abstract accounting theories. “If we can arouse students’ interests, they will be actively engaged in the learning process, thus promoting teaching and learning effectiveness”, says Mr. Chan.



Mr. Chan thinks that application-based learning can ignite students' learning interests.



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To implement the ApL course – Practical Accounting for SMEs, the school has maintained a close and effective communication with Caritas. They discuss the course delivery details before the course starts; these details include the teaching and learning activities, assessments, classroom facilities, and administration. Since the course is conducted at school, venue and facilities have to be well planned. The school also designates a teaching staff member to be an extra helping hand for the course, to ensure classroom discipline.

Mr. Chan thinks the launch of the ApL courses can help students understand the practical know-how of different industries, which can help them build up confidence and enhance their learning effectiveness. “If ApL courses are recognized by tertiary institutes, or even universities, in the future, this will provide more articulation pathways for students, which is highly valuable for their further studies.”