



## *Sharing from teacher*

### **Practical Accounting for SMEs**

#### **Embracing learning, enhancing confidence**



**Mr. Lai Siu Tim**  
Teacher  
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals –  
C. Y. Ma Memorial College

Established in 1994, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – C. Y. Ma Memorial College is the seventeenth college run by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. Through its well-designed curriculum and professional team of teachers, the college aims to uplift students' learning interests and nurtures them to be socially responsible by working hand-in-hand with education reforms, suiting the ever-changing needs of the knowledge-based society.

The college introduced two Applied Learning (ApL) courses in 2004: Western Cuisine and Fashion and Image Design. In 2008, Practical Accounting for SMEs was introduced. "Although we have provided commercial subjects and Principles of Accounts for some time, we realized that most companies in Hong Kong nowadays use accounting software, such as MYOB. To give students a better taste of the business world, we decided to run the Practical Accounting for SMEs course," explains Lai Siu Tim, the college's subject head of accounting.

This ApL course employs interactive learning and teaching. Students learn MYOB software and its related accounting concepts; there are also other activities such as group discussions, competitions and site visits to accounting firms, getting the students involved so as to increase their interest. "I have noticed that students on this course are more motivated and more confident. This helps with their learning of other subjects as well," says Mr. Lai. Also students benefit from the synergies of taking both the ApL course and Principles of Accounts. "Comparatively speaking, students who take both subjects perform better than those who don't," Mr. Lai adds.



Activity-based learning enhances learning interests.



Mr. Lai Siu Tim agrees with the direction of Applied Learning development.

Every Saturday morning, Mr. Lai will sit in the ApL lesson partly for his own continuous development and partly to help out with discipline management. He hopes to take up part of the Practical Accounting for SMEs teaching duties in the future.

Mr. Lai firmly believes that ApL courses are on the right track since they spark the interest of students who are not so motivated by the traditional ways of learning theory through application and activity-based learning. “ApL courses can also broaden students’ horizons, giving them a taste of different scopes of business and their operation models so as to prepare them better for their future studies or career advancement.”