



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, August 15, 1973

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STANDARDISATION OF TUITION FEES

More Students To Benefit From Fee Remission

The government has decided to introduce from January 1 next year the existing standard tuition fees into 39 fully aided secondary schools which are still charging pre-1965 fees.

At the same time the fee remission rates in the schools concerned will be increased by five per cent, thus enabling about 2,000 more pupils to apply for free places.

In the urban areas, the existing annual fee in government and other aided secondary schools is \$400 for Forms 1 to 5 and \$450 for Form 6. Fees in rural areas are half the urban fees.

The pre-1965 old standard rate of tuition fee is \$320 a year for Forms 1 to 5 and \$360 a year for Form 6 in urban aided secondary schools while the old rural standard annual tuition fee is \$160 and \$180 respectively.

An Education Department spokesman said today: "The government's decision to adjust the fees follows implementation in April 1973 of the Unified Code of Aid for Secondary Schools which was drawn up in consultation with the 63-member Subsidised Secondary Schools Council and the 22-member Grant Schools Council."

He pointed out that 34 urban and five rural aided secondary schools were involved as compared with 62 government and aided secondary schools where pupils were already paying the existing standard tuition fees.

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"In line with this change," the spokesman said, "the standard fee payable by pupils occupying five-year bought places in private secondary schools will also be adjusted from \$320 to \$400 in urban schools and \$160 to \$200 in rural schools."

He said the parents concerned were being given a term's notice regarding the regularisation of the fees as recommended by the 1965 White Paper on Education Policy.

The spokesman said that with the standardisation of tuition fees, the fee remission rates for needy pupils in the schools concerned would be increased from 40 to 45 per cent for Forms 1 to 5 and from 45 to 50 per cent for Form 6 to bring them into line with the rates existing in government and other aided secondary schools.

"With effect from January 1, 1974 the tuition fees for part-time evening courses at the Morrison Hill Technical Institute, the Evening School of Higher Chinese Studies and the Adult Education Centres will be increased slightly", the spokesman said.

The increases range from \$10 to \$40 annually. They are being revised following the payment of increased rates to lecturers.

But, the spokesman said, this would not affect fees already paid for the 1973/74 session of evening classes run by the Technical Institute.

The spokesman pointed out that the fees for some courses - rural literacy classes and general background education classes - remained unchanged.

"The groups which come together for practical background education in such activities as homecraft will find that there is no change in their fee either.

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"The community service courses at the adult education and recreation centres are not affected and remain free of all official charges," he said.

The following table gives a comparison of the existing and revised fees for the courses affected:

<u>Type of Course</u>	<u>Existing Annual Fee</u>	<u>Revised Annual Fee</u>
<u>Morrison Hill</u>		
<u>Technical Institute</u>		
Part-time		
Evening:		
Elementary	\$40	\$50
Intermediate	50	60
Senior	60	75
Advanced	70	100
<u>Evening Institute/Adult Education Centres</u>		
Middle School (Adults)	160	200
Secondary School (English and Chinese Sections)	160	200
Urban English Course (Elementary)	60	75
" " " (Intermediate)	75	95
" " " (Senior)	90	115
Rural " " (Elementary)	30	40
" " " (Intermediate)	40	50
Post-Primary Extension	70	80
Teachers' Courses	90	115
<u>Evening School of Higher Chinese Studies</u>		
3-year General Arts Course	400	425

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NO NEED TO RUSH FOR TAXI DRIVING LICENCES

The Transport Department today advised would-be taxi drivers that there was no need to rush in their applications for driving licences.

A spokesman stressed that there was no time limit for the acceptance of applications for taxi driving licences, and applicants should not waste time in waiting in long queues.

He gave the advice after large crowds appeared outside the licensing offices on both sides of the harbour today when applications resumed after a break of about 10 months.

In Kowloon, the queue at the Pui Ching Road licensing office extended all the way to the Good Dates Restaurant in Waterloo Road.

The crowd at the licensing offices on the Island was smaller, but some of the applicants climbed up the counter inside the office in an attempt to be served first. Three window panes at the counter were broken.

Police had to be called in before order was restored.

The Transport Department stopped accepting applications for taxi driving licences on October 23 last year because of the long waiting list.

Since then, additional premises have become available in Kowloon and the backlog was cleared earlier than expected.

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POPULATION INCREASES TO 4.16 MILLION

Hong Kong's estimated population at the end of June this year was 4,159,900 -- an increase of 55,660 over the December 1972 estimate, according to figures released today by the Census and Statistics Department.

This increase compares with 13,000 in the same period last year and was due mainly to the positive balance of migration in January-June when total arrivals exceeded departures by 28,400.

The total number of births for January-June this year was 37,346 -- an increase of 1,378 over the same period last year.

Total deaths recorded in the first half of this year numbered 10,077 -- 1,028 less than in the corresponding period last year.

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RURAL LAND SALE

Two lots of Crown land in the New Territories will be offered for sale by auction early next month.

Both lots are located at Silver Strand, Clear Water Bay Road, and are for private residential development.

One measures 17,400 square feet and has a building covenant of \$250,000. The other covers an area of 15,800 square feet. The building covenant is \$240,000.

The auction will be held at 2.30 p.m. on September 3 in the Sai Kung District Office, San Po Kong Government Offices, 692 Prince Edward Road, 1st floor, Kowloon.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from and sale plans inspected at the New Territories Administration, North Kowloon Magistracy, Tai Po Road, and at the district offices of Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po, Sai Kung and Islands, International Building 4th floor, 141 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

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WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A district children's choir has been formed in Wong Tai Sin as part of the promotion of cultural activities in the area.

The choir is made up of 100 boys and girls aged from seven to 11. It was formed as a joint effort by more than 25 cultural organisations in the district and is being sponsored by the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre.

"The aim is to promote healthy extra-curricular activities for children in the district and at the same time help them to develop their interest and talents in music," said Mr. Basil Leung, Warden of the Centre.

The choir has already given a half-hour performance in a children's programme on television.

Tomorrow (Thursday) the entire choir, together with some 45 committee members, volunteers, workers, and teachers, will be going on an outing to Tai Mong Tsai in the New Territories.

In the afternoon, they will visit Pelletier Hall, a residential school run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for adolescent girls with personality and behavioural problems, to give a performance which will be followed by a tea party.

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REST GARDEN FOR WONG TAI SIN

Residents in the densely populated areas of Wong Tai Sin and Chuk Yuen are to have a rest garden early next year.

The garden will be built on a 60,000-square-foot site at the slopes between Wong Tai Sin and Chuk Yuen and will have paved footpaths, park benches and flower beds.

There will also be a roller skating rink. All existing trees within the site will be preserved.

Work on the project, which will cost an estimated \$190,000, is expected to begin by mid-September and will take about three months to complete.

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FURTHER AWARD FOR SGT CHEUNG'S FAMILY

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has approved an award of \$13,100 to the surviving family members of Sergeant Cheung Tin-lam who was killed in yesterday's bank robbery in Sham Shui Po.

The money is being given to his mother, widow and three children.

A social worker from the Social Welfare Department visited the family this morning to offer other services which the department provides.

The department is also trying to find out whether the bystanders who were injured in the incident are also entitled to compensation.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.