

# SJI wins excellence award

**SINGAPORE** – St. Joseph’s Institution (SJI) was one of only two schools in Singapore to receive the School Excellence Award (SEA) from Minister of Education (MOE), Dr Ng Eng Hen, at the 2009 Ministry of Education Work Plan Seminar.

The School Excellence Award recognises schools for their excellence in education processes and outcomes. It is the highest and most prestigious award in the MOE Masterplan of Awards framework since it was launched in 2004.

SJI’s principal Dr Koh Thiam Seng said that the award is “a milestone check” of the school’s direction in “quality learning experiences for all Josephians”, and that the school will “continue to explore new, effective and creative ways of enhancing the learning of our boys”.

One of the strategies used to improve the school’s standards was to identify early students “who require a little more support in their studies”, said Mrs Goh Poh Kenn, who is Deputy Principal (Curriculum).

Such students are given tailored programmes such as afternoon revisions to fit their learning styles. Attention is given to factors such as group size and study environment which helps make it more conducive for them to study, she added.

Based on the school values of faith, service and community, SJI’s school teachers see themselves as elder brothers and sisters, which makes it easier for students to approach them for support when needed.

The school recognises and respects the uniqueness of each student, and seeks to develop each one to their fullest potential by offering a wide variety of co-curricular activities aimed at equipping each student to meet the challenges of the future.

Genesius Chan, an old boy of the school, has been teaching in SJI since 1993. He remembers fondly his learning experiences as a student at SJI. He recalled, “Brother Henry O’Brien was my form teacher and taught me English Language and English Literature. More than just a teacher, he inspired us to care for each other like brothers. Now that I have returned to serve in my alma mater, I reach out to the Josephians placed in my care to always serve with zeal and build a fraternal community in which we carry out our mission as men for others.” □