

PROFILE

OUTLINE

Opening	
<p>This week a very special person is leaving our school community. After thirty years of service, three teaching awards and the praise of students past and present, history teacher Mr Lam is retiring. He takes with him fond memories of his time here and the respect of all his students.</p>	<p>Open in the present tense. Say who you are talking about, and what has made you want to talk about them, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Lam is leaving the school
Main Body	
<p>Mr Lam was late coming to teaching, having been a professional tennis player until he took up his post at Peak School in the early eighties. He left school at 16 to pursue his dream of being a sportsman. He won several local competitions but, in a career plagued by injury, he never made it big. “I loved tennis,” he recalls, “but by the time I was twenty four or twenty five I had realised that I wasn’t going to be able to make a career out of it. I couldn’t compete with the great American players who dominated that period. So I decided to become a teacher.”</p> <p>But the path to education was not smooth for Mr Lam. Having left school without excellent grades, he needed to take exams again and worked two part-time jobs to put himself through university, where he studied history. Despite the pressures of study and work, Mr Lam applied himself with such diligence that he finished his course in three years and graduated at the top of his class. “University was hard,” he remembers, “but I knew what I wanted to achieve. And I enjoyed my subject very much. For me it wasn’t a problem to work hard because I knew I needed to do it to become a teacher.”</p> <p>His arrival at Peak School in 1983 was not an easy transition, however. Some teachers were suspicious of him because he was almost thirty by the time he got his degree. But his subject knowledge and classroom management skills soon set him apart as one of the school’s finest teachers, and within two years he was promoted to head of department. Well respected by students and teachers alike, his lessons on the history of Hong Kong are now infamous and he has inspired more than a few students to take up the subject at university themselves. When he’s not in the classroom, he’s often seen helping out on the sports pitch or in the school’s frequent musical productions – his delightful tenor being a staple source of delight for audiences.</p>	<p>Summarise the main events of the person’s life. You could do this (although it is not <i>necessary</i>) in chronological order, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • he began in sports but decided to become a teacher after realising he couldn’t compete at the highest level • He worked hard at university but kept at it because he knew he needed the qualification • He arrived at Peak School in 1983 and despite some suspicion from other teachers, soon became very popular.
Close	
<p>So what’s next for Mr Lam? Well apart from spending more time with his wife and grandchildren, he’s decided to swap the chalkboard for the drawing board and has enrolled in an art class at his alma mater, HKU. “I’ve always wanted to paint properly,” he told me, “but I’ve never been taught how. But don’t worry, you’ll still be seeing me around Peak School – after all, I’ve got a role to play in this year’s musical!”</p> <p>Mr Lam will be much missed by all, but we wish him and his family all the best for the future.</p>	<p>Mention what will happen next in the person’s life and, if appropriate, give details of how they can be contacted / where they can be seen.</p>