



Lilium

Tradition since 1923

Issue 1 July 2017



Principal's Message

As the Principal of Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School, I'm glad to witness the birth of Lilium, the school's English magazine. It is undeniable that learning English is an important medium of communications around the globe. Hong Kong's global financial centre status very much relies on our ability to communicate with people from all around the world. It's therefore important to develop students' interest, to promote life-long English learning and to uncover fun in learning English.

Though Tack Ching is a CMI school, we have always been reiterating the essence of English language in the school. We have been working in collaboration with teachers and students to create an English-rich environment on campus, in the hope of increasing English exposure and enhancing language development.

Through the inception of Lilium, you will feel the English learning momentum in Tack Ching both from regular school activities and external events. Morning assembly sharing, drama appreciation, inter-school debating competitions, Hong Kong Schools English Speech Festival and overseas study tours are just a few on the endless list. These valuable learning experiences would undoubtedly strengthen our girls' confidence in using the language, sowing the seeds of passion for new challenges.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Editorial team for giving life to this beautiful collage and I'm sure the coming issues of Lilium will bring you surprise after surprise.

HUI Yin Shan



A rewarding experience of joining a Public Speaking Programme

Khan Ruqiyah Manahil (4A)

During the winter holidays of 2016, I got nominated by my teacher and attended a course organized by CUHK called The Presentation Secrets: Effective Public Speaking and Presentation Skills.

The course is designed for gifted learners who wish to further develop their confidence in public speaking. It aims in particular to raise participants' awareness of the processes of preparing and delivering an effective speech in English. Topics include basic features of spoken English, public speaking and rhetoric, audience analysis, means of persuasion, quality visual aids, and question-and-answer skills. Participants had plenty of opportunities to practise drafting and presenting their own speeches, and to receive feedback from the instructor and their peers. I have definitely benefited a lot from the course.

From the course, I've learned mostly about Presentation skills like chunking, intonation, methods of persuasion, lots of useful rhetorical strategies and developing confidence through interacting with other classmates. Throughout the course, I had so much fun and gained so much knowledge that I'll never forget. Looking back, I am glad that I joined this course because the things I've learned and experienced are so valuable that they are priceless.

CUHK Gifted Programme



Before the course, I was so worried because I knew nobody from the course. They were all from different schools and were complete strangers to me. But then, I kept encouraging and telling myself that I should make good use of the 4 last days of the year 2016 and I did. I went to the University all alone to an unfamiliar place with the strangers in the class. What I was so surprised about was that we all became good friends in just an hour as if we were long old buddies who haven't met for a long time. We all united together and had so much fun answering the questions that the instructor asked. We had such a wonderful time having lunch together and I can never forget that chilly day when we ate the hot buns which warmed us up.



I have got to say I have learned so much from the course. The course time was from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the first two days and we were fully engaged in the course. I was completely focused on my presentation and I really had fulfilled outcomes. I fully realized my potential and I made my best effort to do everything. Honestly speaking, I was utterly surprised to know that my ability can go so far.



There are a few things that I will never forget. The instructor had us deliver an impromptu presentation which we all had never heard of. But we still tried our very best to do it and the results were unexpectedly good. We could all speak very well and the instructor was very pleased. Even we were pleased with our own performance.



On the last day of the programme, we all had to work in pairs and give a 15-minute presentation on any topic. We only had one day of preparation, so my partner and I eventually stayed up all night, just to prepare the script and visual aids for the presentation. We really made all our effort to complete the task as we didn't want to have any regrets. During the presentation, we both tried to use every strategy and skill we had learned from the course. I was really glad that I literally didn't feel nervous at all, which was really unusual to me. Instead, we had so much interaction with the audience that it made me feel completely relaxed to give a presentation. We all shared our laughter and jokes during our presentation. Even the instructor giggled because of our jokes while he should be judging our performance seriously.

At last, it was time for our results. The best grade is A, then A-, after that B+ and so on. The instructor explained to us that A and A- were something very hard to get and even some University students couldn't get it so B+ was a very good mark. The instructor then distributed the results to us and we unfolded the mysterious paper to see the grade, B+ for our hard work. I stared at the grade I earned for a long time. Not because I was disappointed, but because I hadn't had high expectations for myself in the first place and I had made it this far. I was extremely happy to see my result.



I understood that we should never underestimate our own ability and should venture beyond for loads of opportunities to improve ourselves anytime we can. Also, never stand back from any great opportunities standing in front of you because it will be a great loss. If opportunities come, go for them and grab them. You'll thank yourself forever.

Background Information of the instructor:

Eddy Li — Mr. Li received his initial teacher education from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Upon earning his dual degrees in English Studies and English Language Education, he was awarded the Chevening Scholarship by the UK government for his master's degree in Inclusive and Special Education at the University of Cambridge, from where he is currently reading his doctorate under the full sponsorship of the Jardine Foundation (as the first doctoral Jardine Scholar from Hong Kong since 1988). Mr. Li has extensive teaching experience in Hong Kong. Prior to his lecturership at the English Language Teaching Unit of CUHK from 2012 to 2015, he was a teacher of English Language and English Literature at Diocesan Boys' School.



Highlights of the P.6 Visit Day – A Sweet Taste of Success



had to throw balls at the right animals they had picked in the previous game. After playing the appealing game, participants could get the lavish prizes.

Members of the English Society put all their time and effort to the preparation for the game stall and their effort was rewarded with the warm sweet smile from every participant.

Overall, it was a glittering experience. Everyone was enjoying the sweet taste of success. After all, happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.

Bibi Sumna (5A)



This year's P6 Secondary School Life Experience Day was a great success. A lot of visitors came to the magnificent game booth of the English Society on 1st December 2016.

The game booth of the English Society was enchanting. Although the game was easy to play, it was attractive and engaging to the Primary 6 students. The game stall was designed with bright coloured garlands, appealing to the adorable kids from primary schools.

To play the game, the children had to pick out 10 animal cards from the box filled with shredded crinkled paper. If they could name the animals, they would get appetizing lollipops.

Next, they would play the board game, in which they

It is never too late to learn English



Since English has become the most widely used language in the world, it is inevitable for us to enhance our English. Not for others, it is for the sake of our own future. I really felt surprised and touched when I saw my slogan being put up on campus. I hope that the slogan I designed can bring out the important message of learning English as well as change students' attitude towards learning English, so that Tack Ching girls can be more eager to immerse themselves in the English atmosphere and eventually enjoy the process of learning English. As the saying goes, "One is never too old to learn." Speaking English fluently does depend on your endeavor to achieve your goals.

Lee Ka Ki Karen (4A)

– Winner of English Slogan Competition

Words from the Chairladies

Two words to describe my experience as Chairlady of the English Society: Roller Coaster - from making public announcements to preparing for the Primary Six Day, it had been a challenging and exciting process. The lessons I learned and the opportunities I was granted will forever be irreplaceable. After taking up the role of the chairlady, I was doubtful about my own ability and the worst case scenarios of ruining everything crossed my mind uncountable times. It was the encouragement and guidance from Ms. Chung, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Ying who helped me believe in myself and in everything I was doing.

As the Chairperson, I learnt about leadership, I learnt to listen, I learnt to share my vision, I learnt not to give up easily, I learnt so much more than the mere words themselves can express.

"Speak English fluently, Change your destiny" is our slogan of this year. Our aim is to let the Tack Ching girls know that learning English is fun and make them understand that in order to communicate and achieve professional success, not only do they have to learn English but they also have to be confident enough to apply it to their daily lives. Yet, as a saying goes "A goal is not obtained overnight. It comes in installments; you get a little bit today, and a little bit tomorrow until the whole package is given out". That is the same case with us. We are still far from reaching our goal but I am delighted and proud to say that we are one step closer than we were yesterday.



Finally, I would like to thank every member of our team, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Ying, our coach, Kevin and especially Ms. Chung for believing in us. Thank you for all the extra effort you made to help us grow, and the challenges you encouraged us to face to help us become who we are. We will always be grateful to you for your support and kindness. Thank You!

Mohammad Shamsa Bibi (5A)

To an outsider, being the Chairlady or vice-Chairlady of the English Society is a piece of cake. However, it's quite the contrary, especially when you are a F.5 student and totally inexperienced.



Despite all the challenges, I wouldn't ever regret joining the English Society. The outcome of it all was beyond my expectations. I learnt to take responsibility,

and the importance of team work and leadership.

There were times when we didn't know how to finish a task in hand and for that we had our teachers' professional help. This school year has been the most hectic, yet the most productive year of my school life. The responsibility of being the vice-Chairperson of the English Society showed when we all had to prepare for the P.6 visit day as a team.

Of course, our teachers had helped us brainstorm the ideas together and implement our plan. We were to work on our own as a team. Organizing games and planning every little detail of our tasks took quite a bit of our time but the outcome of it was worthwhile.

Speaking on the behalf of myself, I dare to say the taste of success outweighs the hardships and it is a success.

Ayesha (5A)

Interview with Kevin Yeung, the coach of the English Society 2016-2017 Law degree — Tough but surmountable



Your future is in your hands. Perhaps learning English seems to be a difficult job for most of us, especially when it is not our mother tongue but it is an inevitably useful tool in our daily lives. You can master English as well! For the first issue of Lilium, we are so proud to have an interview with our coach of the English Society — Kevin Yeung, to share with us his journey of learning English. He is now a Year 2 student, studying law in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In the following interview, Kevin has shared with us some useful tips and advice about learning English and we hope that you can get some inspiration from what he shares.

K: Kevin G: Ginny A: Amy T: Tiffany

Q1. How did you choose your elective subjects when you were studying S.3?

K: I chose them in pure interest: I studied Biology, Chemistry, Literature in English and extra Maths. I mean you have to face your chosen subjects for three whole years so it's better for you to actually like the subjects. I wouldn't worry too much about choosing particularly Science, Business or Arts subjects unless you have a very determined career goal, because it's often not a mandatory elective when you choose universities. You should also get advice from the seniors as they can tell you first-hand what you actually need to study.

Q2. How did you cultivate your interest in learning English while you were in secondary school?

K: Definitely ECAs. In secondary school, I joined quite a few external English activities and competitions. To be frank, I was bored by the textbooks and wasn't very satisfied with the routine exercises we had to do (not that it's not important!). I took up acting, script writing, debating, mock trials and Model United Nations. I met a lot of interesting people from other schools at these events and I think it really broadened my reach and understanding of how I should use English.

G: How about reading books? Do you like reading?

K: I read a lot of extra books. The way they are written really shows English in its most vivid sense. Twilight, The Hunger Games and Harry Potter were still popular books when I was in school.

Q3. Did you face any difficulty in the DSE Exam and how did you deal with it?

K: I think the greatest difficulty was lack of motivation. It's really tempting to slack off, thinking you know everything or simply not being bothered to revise. Studying should be fun, but the way we crammed in knowledge for exams was quite tedious.

A: Okay! That's a common situation for most students, then how did you deal with it?



K: It's really important to have a bunch of friends to revise with you - it makes revision less unbearable and it creates a healthy distraction from the boring books. You will need your friends' support more than you realize it.

Q4. Many people think that law is an unattainable subject. What do you have to do to study it?

K: Well I think on the JUPAS list there are far more unattainable subjects than law! What I study in LLB is the basics in every aspect of law - crime, contracts, family law etc. There is also a substantial practical component named 'mooting' - that is you dress up and learn to argue in courts like (but not quite) the barristers you see in TVB dramas. There are really a lot of books to read... I would say every week you are expected to read 20 pages of judgments or essays. Bear in mind, these articles are often written in a convoluted way that really takes time to digest. The degree is tough, but nothing unsurmountable.

Q5. What are your suggestions or advice for those students who want to study law at University?

K: First of all, you really have to master the English language. More than 90% of the materials we study (or the law of Hong Kong in general) are in English, so you really have to be comfortable working in the language, especially in expressing yourself.

T: How about being curious all the time, like keep asking questions?

K: Absolutely! You should also develop a habit of asking questions - being shy will not get you anywhere and often the brightest students are those who are the most vocal, because they're not afraid to ask questions and admit they do not know something. I think secondary school is the best place for

you to develop your skills under the guidance of the teachers and supportive schoolmates. And of course, the cliché: study hard - because eventually whether or not you make it into law school depends on your DSE results. It's tempting to lose track in lofty ambitions and forget the basics.

Q6. What do you think about Tack Ching Girls?

K: Attentive, funny, and willing to learn. I had the chance to work with a very bright bunch of girls in the English enhancement program and I found it very enjoyable. We went through some advanced materials - poems, Shakespearean language, debates, creative writing etc. and I could see the girls' hard work. Keep up the good work and you'll go miles.

Wan Hiu Lam Amy (5A), Tsoi Kai Ting Tiffany (5A),
Mak Tsz Ting Ginny (5A)





Discovering the Unique Vitality of Tack Ching Girls through the Annual Fun Fair

Written by: Yu Wing Sum Wincy (4A), Li Po Lam Esther (4A)

“Are you guys ready? Welcome to Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School!” All the audience and our students were in an excited mood! It was the school's annual fun fair on 1st December 2016. Our schoolmates had prepared for this event for three months. They were showing everybody the Tack Ching spirit - never afraid of challenges and living up to high self-expectations.

“Before the P.6 students visited our school, I was quite worried that the primary students didn't know how to interact with us in English,” said Shamsa, the Chairlady of the English Society. It was observed that at the beginning of the event, some P.6 students seemed to be too shy to talk with the ambassadors of the English Society, even in Chinese. Also, a lot of primary students seemed to have difficulties playing the stall games prepared by the English ambassadors as they didn't know the English names of the animals shown on the foam board. The helpers tried their best to explain the rules and interact with the primary guests, even though they were also anxious about the responses. Soon, they managed to communicate and play games with the students actively and they seemed to enjoy them a lot during the whole process. Some English ambassadors even taught the Primary students how to pronounce the animal names. After a while, the P.6 students were no longer shy, and became more confident to talk with the Tack Ching girls. Shamsa felt surprised by the P.6 students' reaction, which encouraged her to engage even more in the activities.

When you were playing the games at English Society's stall, you could hear some familiar English songs. At the same moment, our school band was performing the famous songs of Against the Current, a popular music band from America. Do you know how long they prepared for their performance? Before the concert, you could hear the melody from the music room on almost every school day for many weeks. They sacrificed their leisure time just for that day. “We always do the best preparation for tomorrow just for the best performance of today,” said the leading singer, Crystal. Undoubtedly, their concert went smoothly, and they received a huge round of applause. It's all because of their endless preparation and high self-expectation.

At the end of the fun fair, all of the P.6 students left with smiling faces. Moreover, you could also hear some students saying that they wanted to have a taste of school life in Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School because they really appreciated the Tack Ching spirit, and they would never forget this memorable and unforgettable day!





Learning journey

encouraged them to think out of the box and show that the story can be developed in such a different way. The teachers hope that students can understand that learning English can also take place outside the classroom, through different fun learning experiences.

As one of the participants and finalists of the story writing competition who was awarded the free movie ticket, I could tell all of us did enjoy this learning experience and we had so much fun. Before the movie started, we were all excited with anticipation, until we heard the theme song. As the film went on, I heard endless laughter and sometimes, I did hear some of us sobbing. No matter what, all of us did appreciate such an experience. One of the students even said 'I am extremely lucky to have joined this writing competition!'

All the participants have learned something valuable from this experience. I'm glad that our school has been providing lots of opportunities to encourage students to learn English. A slight change of learning attitude can make a very positive outcome.



Embark on an English-learning journey: starting from "Good People, Good Deeds"

Written by: Yu Wing Sum Wincy (4A)

In early January, Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School organized an internal story writing competition. In order to inspire students to turn their creative ideas into words, a writing workshop was held. Some of the important writing skills, such as development of plot, setting and characters etc were covered in the workshop, and the participants all found it very useful, as what they learned could be used to create their stories and also strengthen their writing skills.

This writing competition provided students with a valuable learning platform to communicate with their readers through their unique and creative stories. The theme of the competition "Good People, Good Deeds" helps raise students' awareness of good deeds done around them. It is believed that students' imaginations can be stretched, and most importantly, through this competition, positive energy can be further infused to promote care, mutual help and solidarity in the community. Even small good deeds show great love, which is warm and full of happiness.

To further encourage participation, the top 20 finalists from junior and senior divisions were awarded free tickets to the latest English movie of "Beauty and the Beast" on 17th March, 2017. The story of "Beauty and the Beast" is not just a simple love story between a village girl and a prince, but it highlights the significance of doing good deeds. Since the story is used as the reader for all the S1 students, students are familiar with it and it has further



A writing workshop was held in January to help students turn their creative ideas into words.

Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School and St. Stephen's Church College debate about the best way to bring up teenagers in Hong Kong.

Written by: Li Po-lam Esther



IS TIGER PARENTING THE BEST APPROACH FOR BRINGING UP TEENAGERS IN HONG KONG?

Tiger parenting, a newly coined term by Yale law professor Amy Chua in her memoir *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, as the best approach for bringing up children in Hong Kong was up for debate on 15th March 2017, when Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School and St. Stephen's Church College met in the first round (Division Two) of Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition.

Speaking for the motion "THBT tiger parenting is the best approach for the teenagers in Hong Kong", the team from St. Stephen's Church College believed that tiger parenting should be adopted in a highly competitive city like Hong Kong, saying that tiger parents will pave the way for their children's future success and they do everything for their children out of love. They also said that tiger parenting is effective to stop teenagers from risky behaviours, such as drug taking, binge drinking, online addiction etc.

The team from Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School countered by saying that the unreasonable expectation of academic success will stand in a way of teenagers' personal development, family relationships and the future development of Hong Kong.

They said that tiger parenting causes irreparable harm to teenagers' personal development. Tiger parents prioritize schoolwork above anything else and only allow children to participate in activities in order to potentially win awards for better future prospects. Because of parents' unlimited expectation and children's limited capacity, children often need to struggle from their failures and be pushed to fulfill another expectation from their parents.

"Tiger parents set enormously high and unreasonable expectations for their kids but when their kids fail at these, the child will consider themselves as a loser.



The staggering figures of rising teen suicides in recent years have already aroused the public's awareness that teenagers face different sorts of problems such as study pressure, low self-esteem, family problems etc.," Tack Ching's Form Five student, Mohammad Shamsa Bibi said.

Tack Ching attacked their opponents by listing short term and long term negative influences on both the parent-child relationship and the future development of Hong Kong. They backed up their position on the negative side by pointing out that academic success is not everything that teenagers should pursue, as future leaders shouldn't only excel academically but in an all-round way, such as strengthening their life skills, leadership skills and building character.

They also said statistics indicated that children raised by tiger parenting have generally worse grades than children with a supportive parenting style and do not develop the necessary social skills to breeze through life with minimal difficulty.

St. Stephen's Church College said that teenagers grow maturity out of tough love. The team further proved it by referring to one of the speakers' personal experience as a tiger cub. Yet, they failed to address the point of what kind of future generation Hong Kong really needs and they didn't draw a complete conclusion of the team case, which eventually led to their defeat.

Two adjudicators reached a unanimous decision that Tack Ching should be given the edge. They praised both teams for their effort to research and find relevant examples to support their arguments, but advised that students should be aware of better time management and how to attack the opponents with strong rebuttals.

The first speaker for Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School, Mohammad Shamsa Bibi and the second speaker for St. Stephen's Church College were named the best speakers of the event.





The Helena May Heritage Tour

On 21st November 2016, twenty S5 students, accompanied by their English teachers, visited the Helena May on Garden Road in Central. Four volunteer British and local guides led the students on an interactive heritage tour of the building and gardens. The highlight of the visit was the traditional English afternoon tea that students were treated to, with table etiquette being taught to them beforehand. The outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and a valuable experience to learn about heritage and conservation, to better students' cultural awareness and authentic use of English.

Let's see some of the information and reflections written by the participants below:

It was established in 1916 by Lady Helena May, the wife of the Governor, Sir Henry May, with the aim of promoting the welfare of women and girls in Hong Kong. Mak Ka Yee 5A (16)

I feel the building's design is very elegant. Luk Sze Man 5B (18)

I think I am so lucky that I can go to the Helena May with the teachers. When I saw the building, I thought it had a lot of history and it is so noble, like a castle. I learnt that this building is a declared monument in Hong Kong. Shin Hiu Tung 5A (21)

I think it's unique because buildings like this are rare in Hong Kong and its design combines the Chinese and Western cultures. Mak Ka Yee 5A (16)

That day, when we arrived at the Helena May, there were four tour guides waiting for us. Then they told us about the place. European women came to Hong Kong after the world war. The wife of Governor May wanted to build a place for them to stay. Nowadays, it has grown into an international women's organization. Ho Tsz Ching 5B (6)

We met some English people and we chatted together. It was nice! I could improve my English skills. I enjoyed chatting with my guide so I would like to join the activity next time. Li Ching Yi 5C (15)

I went to the library and there were many books there. It looked like the one in the Harry Potter films. I loved the library very much because I could read many books there. Chan Hei Ching 5B (1)

The place that impressed me the most was the library. In there we saw a little adorable cat and I could feed it. Ho Tsz Ching 5B (6)

The librarian was a lot of fun and she told us about the girls who fell in love at the balls and what they had to do in the ballroom dances. Cheung Ho Kwan 5A (7)

I could imagine myself there then and the atmosphere. Lam Man Wa 5B (8)

In the course of the visit, we went to the garden. There are a lot of plants there and we could chat with friends sitting in the garden. The Peak tram track is very close to the garden, so we could see the tram working. Ng Tsz Hei 5B (21)

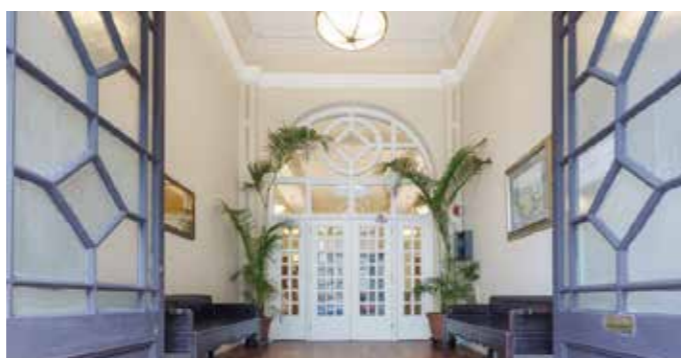
The high tea was very yummy and abundant. There was a lot of food such as sandwiches biscuits, chocolate cakes and orange juice. I am very grateful to the people there. Lo Tsz Kiu 5B (16)

Before eating, the volunteers taught us table manners such as how to open our napkins first and put them on our laps. Also we passed the plate of biscuits around and then ate slowly. We tried biscuits of various flavours, some ham and cucumber sandwiches and three types of cakes including cheesecake. It was very tasty. Mak Ka Yee 5A (16)

I felt so grateful and glad to visit the Helena May; through that I learnt more skills, how to be more elegant and it improved my English, and I know more about the history there. If I had the chance to go again, I think I would go there. Siu Hoi Yan 5C (22)

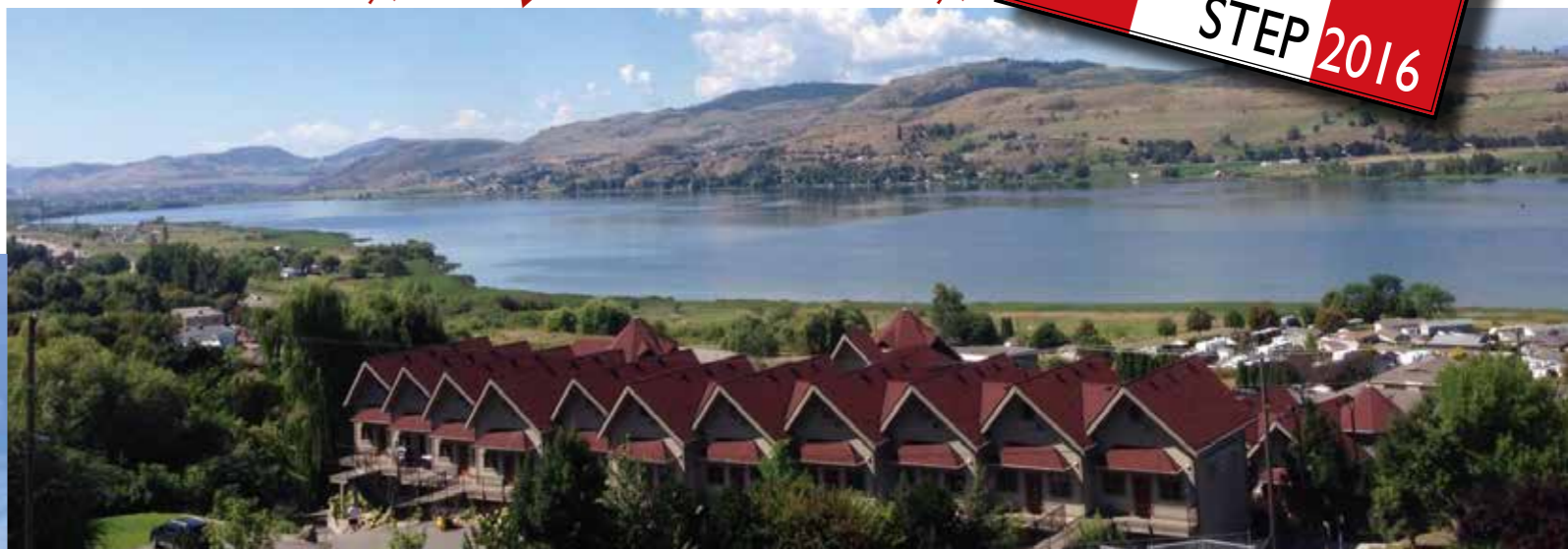
I felt very honoured to go to such a building of historical value. Chan Yu Ting 5C (4)

The feeling about participating in this meaningful activity is I feel I benefited a lot. I got a deeper understanding of the heritage of Hong Kong and I enjoyed the nice treat. It is with heartfelt thanks to the members who had put in great effort to this activity! :) Ho Tsz Ching 5B (6)



STEP 2016 : Canada Culture and English Summer Camp

STEP 2016



Two S.1 students and one S.2 student from our school participated in “STEP 2016: Canada Culture and English Summer Camp” organized by Canada-China Culture and Education Association Ltd from 23rd July to 6th August, 2016. They had the opportunity to experience Canadian culture and live with the homestay families in Kamloops. They were very proactive in learning English as well as participating in the outdoor activities like kayaking, horseback riding, and U-pick. They all showed great team spirit. It was surely an eye-opening learning experience for the students.

This year, our school will also take part in the same summer camp. The organization was invited to give us a briefing session on the camp on 10th March 2017. Responses from both students and parents were overwhelming and all the applicants were invited to attend an interview. Finally, six S.3 students who were responsible, enthusiastic to learn and prepared to face challenges were selected to participate in the camp. From 29th July to 12th August, 2017, they will have a chance to broaden their horizons in Canada. We hope that they will enjoy the trip and look forward to hearing what they have to share after they come back to Hong Kong.

It's always rewarding to know more about students' precious learning experiences. The 3 participants of STEP 2016: Canada Culture and English Summer Camp were invited to share with us their overseas travelling experiences.

S.2E (24) Yeung Ka Ki

I joined a Canada English Summer Camp last year. It was an unforgettable experience. As it was my first time to go abroad, I was very excited.

I attended the English lessons at Thompson Rivers University which is located in Kamloops. It is the most beautiful university I have ever seen. The classrooms are huge and the safe and friendly community makes it a perfect place to learn English. My English teacher was called Justin, who was very humorous. The lessons were not boring at all. I enjoyed his interesting lessons very much. Also, there were less than twenty students in the class, so I could have more interaction with Justin. I think that my English proficiency, especially speaking, has improved a lot. Besides this, I took part in different activities with my classmates who came from other schools. For example, we had barbecue and went kayaking. Through these group learning activities, team spirit was fostered. My classmates were nice and friendly. I was so happy that I could make many new friends. We still keep in touch now.

I had a great time in the summer camp. The camp has definitely brought me lots of exposure and life experiences that I will never be able to get from books. Therefore, I strongly recommend this camp to all of you because it is worth going to the other half of the globe to experience it. If you join this camp, you will have a truly enriching summer holiday.



S.2E (5) Chong Pui Pui

I joined a Canada camp during last summer holiday. I gained far more than I have expected.

Everyone I met during the camp was kind and nice. They gave me a lot of help. In the English lessons, teachers played English learning games with us. They introduced Canadian culture and even some special local food to us.

As well as this, I am so grateful that I have met a great host family, Shirley and Mike. In the two-week trip, they were extremely nice and friendly to me. I always felt looked after since they took care of me and my roommate twenty-four seven. They really made lots of effort to make us feel at home. For example, they prepared three delicious meals for us every day and arranged different weekend activities. Therefore, during my homestay in Kamloops, I did not get homesick because this family had given me the warmest hospitality. There was one thing that surprised me a lot. One morning when my roommate and I woke up as usual, we saw a birthday cake on the desk in our bedroom. It was my roommate's birthday on that day. It was so surprising. This gave me warm feeling. Later I found that the cake was made by Shirley herself. My roommate was so happy that she felt like crying. My host family always showed concern for us, so I was so grateful to them.

Thanks to everyone for helping me during this fantastic trip. It is definitely a trip that I will not forget.



S.3E (21) Sue Siu Wai

Last summer, I joined a Canada English Summer Camp with my schoolmates Kelly and Pui Pui. I would never have imagined that my exposure would increase that much throughout the tour.

First and foremost, I received warm hospitality from a nice host family. My host mom is called Jennifer Anderson. She lives alone and she has a cat called Olive. After the 12-hour long flight and additional four hours travelling, we arrived at Kamloops. Jennifer picked me up and took me to her home. The next day Jennifer took me to a beautiful place called Sun Peaks, where people went hiking and admired the beautiful views on the hill. When we were on the top of the hill, I felt so proud of myself. I could see the panoramic view of Kamloops. Jennifer liked to chat with me and she was a warm person to me. At the beginning, I was too shy to ask her for help. It was a challenging task for me to communicate with her because I was worried that my English was not good enough. However, Jennifer was patient and she always encouraged me to speak up. Now, I have become more confident in expressing myself in English.

We attended the English lessons at Thompson Rivers University. My class teachers were Justin and Kera. They

were nice and fun. They taught us a lot of new words and phrases. I enjoyed the lessons very much. I was fully immersed into an English environment. As a result, my English proficiency, especially listening and speaking skills, improved tremendously. What a great achievement I have made!

In the English class, I met a lot of new friends from other schools in Hong Kong. We got along with one another well. Every day after school, we had opportunities to join various types of activities. The most unforgettable activities were kayaking, water slide and horse riding because it is unlikely I could have a chance to experience them in Hong Kong.

Now I still keep in touch with my classmates, teachers and host family. Jennifer is so happy that I chat with her online from time to time because she knows that there is somebody who cares for her and is willing to keep in touch with her despite long distance. I also learnt to be more independent because I needed to take care of myself during the camp.

The summer camp is amazing. I wish I could participate in it once again. Thanks to the teachers and the school who have supported us to have such an eye-opening learning experience.

The 68th Hong Kong Schools English Speech Festival



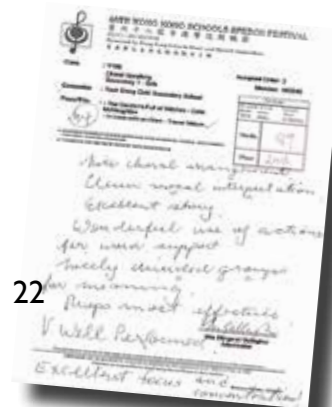
This year, our students' participation in the 68th Hong Kong Schools English Speech Festival is overwhelming and we are proud to see lots of students shining on stage, gaining much more confidence in their English learning journey. Their painstaking effort is well recognized and some of the prize winners have been invited to share their encouraging words with us.



First Runner-up of S1 Choral Speaking – Choral Speaking Team (1E)

The Choral Speaking Team works with an aim to enhance students' ability in learning and using English. It also provides an opportunity for students to learn English as a group where the pressure on individuals to perfect English speaking is removed. Through regular practice, knowledge and appreciation of English literature is encouraged. Members learn how to collaborate and cooperate with each other. An elevated level of self-confidence is noted as they are more willing to speak up in class. The team received the Second Place with 89 marks in the 68th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival.

Our Team performed the poem titled: In Love with an Alien, written by Trevor Millum. The poem is about a girl named Sue who falls in love with an alien.



Comment by Mrs Margaret Gallagher, the Adjudicator: Nice choral arrangement. Clever vocal interpretation. Excellent story. Wonderful use of actions for word support. Nicely divided groups for meaning. Props most effective. Very well performed. Excellent focus and concentration!

Words from the Choral Speaking participants:

Khan Bibi Alfisa (1E)

I have learned a lot of things in this competition, for example, speaking publicly with confidence. In the past, I was afraid to stand on stage facing many people, not to mention performing a poem. I have also learned about teamwork. I couldn't have done it all by myself. By joining the effort of everyone in the team, we won the competition together. When something went wrong in the team, teammates would take the initiative to render assistance in order to perfect our goal. I realize that being supportive is crucial in making a dream come true.

Khan Khadijah (1E)

To perform the poem, apart from varying our voice and acting the poem with actions, we also need to make use of some special props such as a rose and the alien hairbands. We also wore a pink t-shirt to symbolize love. We looked adorable and had great fun doing the poem.

The HK Schools Speech Festival was an incredible eye-opening experience for us. We met very strong opponents and we were intimidated, but Ms. Chan comforted us and encouraged us to believe in ourselves, and finally, we made it! The judge loved the arrangement of our performance because we visualized the story vividly in front of the eyes of our audience.



Winner of S4 Solo Verse Speaking – Komal Bibi (4E)

Looking back, I can proudly say my poem is the cutest and funniest poem I have ever read and encountered.

I remember standing in front of a mirror, practising every single day. Time fled, the competition date eventually arrived. Everyone wished me good luck. When I went on stage, I was trembling but I took a deep breath, gave a fake smile and started reading my poem joyfully. I kept all the advice I had received from my teachers and friends in my mind...

After reading my poem, I gave a big smile to the audience and breathed a sigh of relief.

It finally came to the most exciting yet nervous time – the delivery of adjudication and award presentation. I couldn't believe what I heard. My name was called by the adjudicator as I was the winner. I was overjoyed as my hard work really paid off.

I am really thankful to everyone who had helped me practise the poem and I have to say joining the Speech Festival really broadened my horizons!

Second Runner-up of S5-6 Dramatic Duologue – Yuen Cheuk Ying Cherry (5D) and Lai Ka Lok Christy (5D)

Where there is a will, there is a way.

I always give people an impression that I am an introverted student. Actually, I am not interested in joining any activities. Yet, due to the encouragement of my English teacher and my curiosity, I seized the chance and joined the dramatic duologue of the Speech Festival. At the beginning of the practice, my partner and I did face some problems of understanding the story and the pronunciation, but we kept on improving our performance, such as self-correcting through practice. To our surprise, we got the second runner-up! Through this drama competition, I learnt to be courageous and I found that where there is a will, there is a way. I was also very grateful of my classmates and teacher's support especially Ms. Kwok, who is always at my back. It is definitely an eye-opening experience that I will never forget!

Yuen Cheuk Ying Cherry (5D)

Aliza Yasmeen (1E)

We had been practising the poem since last September before the competition. Ms. Chan guided us patiently from the understanding of the content to saying every single word accurately, and we felt comfortable with the language and performed the poem in front of a lot of people in the end.

At first, we couldn't read the poem in one voice, but after the 3-month practice, we solved the problem – we finally recited the poem in unison. One day, Ms. Chan recorded videos of our performance. When we watched the playbacks, we giggled and joked about the students who did not pay attention during the practice. Then we learned from one another and corrected our mistakes. There was noticeable improvement with our pronunciation. The experience encouraged a habit of daily practice in myself and I want to improve my English.

On our competition day, we all felt very nervous. When the adjudicator announced our school name, we were all thrilled. It was unbelievable that we won the Second Place. We were proud to have won accolades for our school.

Practice makes perfect


I am interested in acting and drama. The dramatic duologue competition is a good way for me to fulfill my dream and build confidence in English. That's why I joined the competition. My character in the dramatic duologue was called Gemma, who is a motivated person. First of all, the difficulty we needed to face was our pronunciation. I still remember we practised with Ms. Kwok every week after school until the school closed.

Although the competition was challenging, we still believed practice makes perfect. We had also prepared a lot of props, costumes and decorations for the dramatic duologue. I didn't think too much while we were performing, I just wanted to enjoy my show. I have learnt that no matter how many times you have failed, just stand up and keep trying, and you can prove how strong you are. This competition is truly a valuable experience and I will definitely join it again next year!

Lai Ka Lok Christy (5D)



List of award winners – 68th Hong Kong Schools English Speech Festival

Winner	Class	Score
4E KOMAL BIBI	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- What Teachers Wear in Bed!	88
First Runner Up		
Winner	Class S1 Choral Speaking- In Love with an Alien	Score 89
1E ALIZA YASMEEN	CHUNG YAN CHING LEUNG TSZ YING TANG TSZ YAN	
AREESHA MARIUM	FUNG WAI LING LIN CATHERINE CHUEN TSE YAN TUNG	
CHAN MAN YI	HO KA PO LUK MEI KEI WONG MEI HAN	
CHAN PUI LAM	KHAN BIBI ALFISA MENG BIYI YAU HOI CHING	
CHAN SUM YU	KHAN KHADIJAH POU TSZ CHING YIPTSZ YAN	
CHAN TSZ CHING	LAU YU TING TANG SHUN MAN ZHU YIN LE	
CHAN WING YI	LEE KA HEI	
CHEUNG LAI SHO	LEE MEI YAN	
CHEUNG LOK YIU	LEUNG KA KI	
CHIM CHING	LEUNG KYLIE	
CHOI YI MAN EVA	LEUNG ON YIU	
		
5A AYESHA BIBI SUMNA MOHAMMAD SHAMSA BIBI	S4-6 Public Speaking Team- Stress in the Modern World!- Are the social media fast becoming anti-social media?	85
Second Runner Up		
4B KHAN HAFSA	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Geography Lesson	86
5A LAM MEI CHI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation- Angela Topping	85
5D YUEN CHEUK YING LAI KA LOK	S5 to 6 Dramatic Duologue	84
Honours		
3E SUE SIU WAI	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	90
Merit		
3C AMNA KHAN	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	86
3C KHAN RUKAYAN	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	86
1B EIMAAN ALTAF	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	85
1E KHAN KHADIJAH	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- The Fear	85
3E WONG KA MAN	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	85
3F SANDHU HARSHPREET	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- The Colour Collector	85
4A WONG WAI TUNG BETTY	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	85
4B LAM LOK CHIN	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	85
1B BIBI SHAISTA	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1B IQRH ANZAL	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1C CHAN KAIYI	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1C LI LOK YIU	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1D LI YUEN LING	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1E ALIZA YASMEEN	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- The Fear	84
1E KHAN BIBI ALFISA	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
1E TSE YAN TUNG	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	84
2D BIBI MARYAM	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	84
2D CHAN HIU TAN ADA	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	84
2E LEE TSZ WING	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	84
3A LEE SUM WAI	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	84
3C LEUNG SUET YING	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	84
3D ASHRAF IQQRA	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- An Old Song Re-Sung	84
3E KWEI PUI CHI	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	84
4A KHAN RUQIYAH MANAHIL	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	84
4A MA TSZ WUN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	84
4A YU WING SUM	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	84
4B WONG HEI TING	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	84
4C CHAN KA YAN	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	84
5E PRATHIPRAT WAI MAN	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	84
1C WONG LEE MAN	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	83
1C WONG WING KI	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	83
1D CHEUNG YIN HA	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	83
1D LAI HOI YING	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	83
2C HO PUI YING	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Cleaning Machine	83
2D LAM IP	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	83
2D NG UEN YING	S2 Solo Verse Speaking	83
2E LIN HOI YAN VIVIAN	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	83
2E YEUNG WAI LAM	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	83
3D FU CHOI YAN	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- An Old Song Re-Sung	83
3D SO TSZ YAU	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- An Old Song Re-Sung	83
3E HO SZE MAN	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	83

Winner	Class	Score
4A AU HOI TING	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4A HUANG YANJUN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4A LEE KA KI	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4A TANG YU SZE	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4A TSUI CHING WEN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4A WONG CHAK TUNG	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	83
4B CHAN TSZ YI TERRY	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	83
5A CHAN TSZ CHING	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- Names	83
5A CHEUNG WING SZE	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5A FUNG NOK TUNG DORATHEE WESLA	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5B HO TSZ CHING TRACY	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5C CHAN YU TING	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- Names	83
5D JIANG ZHENG TONG	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5D HON HIU YI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5D LAM YIN YEE TIFFANY	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5E MA KAYAN	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
5D MAK TSZ TING TANG HO CHI	S5 to 6 Dramatic Duologue	83
5F CHIU WING KEI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	83
1C YOUNG MAN MING	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	82
1D CHIN YAN YING LEE HOI CHING	S1 & 2 Dramatic Duologue	82
1D NG YAM YU	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	82
1D NGUYEN BAO NHI KELLY	S1 Solo Verse Speaking- Waking Up	82
2A CHEUK WING LAM	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- The Modern Monster	82
2A HO MEI TING	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- The Modern Monster	82
2B SHAHID IRAM	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	82
2C LOU WING YEE	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Cleaning Machine	82
2C TSUI TSZ YAN	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Cleaning Machine	82
2E CHEA YAN YU	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Huff	82
3A LEUNG YAN TING	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- The Colour Collector	82
3B BIBI-SAMIA	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	82
4A CHAN CHING YAN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	82
4A CHAN CHUN TING	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	82
4A LAW TSZ SHAN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	82
4A WAN HOI LAM	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	82
4C CHEN JIAYI	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- What Teachers Wear in Bed!	82
5A CHAN KA KI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	82
5A CHENG CHEUK YING	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	82
5A WONG CHEUK YI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	82
5A BIBI SUMNA MOHAMMAD SHAMSA BIBI	S5 to 6 Dramatic Duologue	82
5C CHEN YING	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- Names	82
3E YUEN WING TUNG	S3 Solo Verse Speaking- What's my name?	81
4A CHAN YING TUNG	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	81
4A CHUNG KA LAM	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	81
4A HO ON YING	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	81
4A WONG LOK TING	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	81
4D LIN SIJING	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Geography Lesson	81
5A MAK KA YEE	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	81
5A WONG CHEUK YIN WAN HIU LAM	S5 to 6 Dramatic Duologue	81
5D MAK TSZ TING IP WING KI	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	81
5E KAN WAI HING	S5 to 6 Dramatic Duologue	81
5F PUN HIU TUNG	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	81
2B CHAN LOK LAM	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- The Modern Monster	80
2C HUANG WEIZI	S2 Solo Verse Speaking- Cleaning Machine	80
4A CHEUNG ELAINE	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	80
4A LING MANYUEN	S3 & 4 Public Speaking Solo	80
4B CHAU KA YUE	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	80
4C YIP WING SZE	S4 Solo Verse Speaking- Blake's Tyger	80
5B CHOW LAM NA	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- Names	80
5B NG WING LAM	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	80
5C CHUNG WING YAN	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	80
5F CHAN CHUI YEE	S5 Solo Verse Speaking- The New Generation	80

Other English Activities

English is in the air!

Morning Assembly Sharing

English assemblies fall on every Thursday. They start with a teacher's prayer and English announcements made by the English ambassadors, followed by students' sharing what they know or have learnt about, such as interesting facts, movie reviews, tips on health and studies, etc. Through this regular activity, students have been given lots of opportunities to practise speaking English to the school community and it arouses their interest in sharing something fun or serious with their peers.

In addition, S6 and S5 students are invited to deliver their speeches in groups during the Hall Assembly every Friday morning. Both the senior form presenters and junior form audience benefit from such regular practice, which increase their exposure to language. Topics have included Charles M. Schulz, St. Patrick's Day, how to avoid cosmetic surgery, etc.



English Room Activities

Extended speaking activities are designed for S1 and S3 students during lunchtime. To help our girls explore more opportunities to polish their speaking skills, lunchtime speaking practices conducted by Mrs. Smith, Ms. Carol Chung and Ms. Maggie Li are scheduled for S3 students every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursdays are reserved for S1 students to play some fun games with Mrs. Smith. Students demonstrate their eagerness to improve their English by interacting with their peers and teachers proactively in English.





S6 Inter-school Speaking Practice

This year, two inter-school speaking practices were organized for our S.6 girls. The first practice was scheduled in October 2016 with Wah Yan College Kowloon, while the second one was scheduled in November with Hong Kong & Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School, ELCHK Lutheran Secondary School and Kowloon Tong School. The feedback was positive from the participants as the sessions provided an opportunity for them to practise their speaking skills with other S6 students and they received very useful comments from different teachers.

Drama Appreciation

2 sessions of Drama Appreciation were scheduled for junior (S1-3) and senior (S4-5) form students in February and March 2017 respectively. The show selected for junior form students was Exciting English. It was an interactive show to help our students explore rhyme, simile, metaphors, idioms, creative writing, etc. through games and humour. As for senior form drama appreciation, we selected Joseph and his Dream Coat to let our students think about vengeance and forgiveness.



English Book Fair

The English book fair lasted for 2 days in March 2017. It attracted a lot of students to purchase their favourite read. Apart from being introduced to popular novels by their English teachers, our girls also accessed some skill books to help them brush up on their English.



Haiku: Dorothy

IE Jessica Chung

Dorothy is kind,
optimistic and lively,
and very helpful.

Haiku: Gaile

IE Cerise Chim

Gaile is my classmate.
She's a well-behaved student.
We all like her much!

Haiku: My Teacher

IE Aliza Yasmeen

Thank you for your care,
Thank you for your helping hand,
Best teacher of mine.

An Act of Kindness

IB Eimaan Altaf

Last week, I went out with my friends, Brooklyn, Jordan and Hazel to have lunch together. We ordered a lot of food but, couldn't finish it all. Ordering a lot of food is a common mistake that most of us living in an affluent city often make. We didn't feel right leaving the leftover food in the restaurant because we thought it would be a waste. Brooklyn and Jordan advised us to leave the leftover food as they thought it was unnecessary. But instead of wasting food, we decided to pack the leftover food and take it with us, so that we could have the rest of it later for another meal. While we were walking down the street to look for a taxi, Hazel and I saw a homeless man searching for food in a trash bin. He looked like he hadn't had food for the past few days; he looked really ill, unhappy and depressed. He had smoky grey hair, a wrinkled face, crooked fingers and his clothes were dusty and moth eaten. We felt really sad looking at the homeless man.

We all observed the homeless man for a good long five minutes then, we decided to give the homeless man the food that we packed from the restaurant earlier and some money. I hastily instructed Brooklyn and Hazel to go to the restaurant to get some utensils and tissue paper for the homeless man. While Jordan and I went over to the homeless man; Jordan handed out the food and I took out fifty dollars from my wallet. The homeless man looked up at us and gave us a smile. I said, "Here is some food and money for you. This is all we have." He smiled and replied to us, "Thank you. Thank you so much. I appreciate the food and money you guys have given to me." His voice was very weak and fragile yet his smile was pleasant. I could tell by the homeless man's facial expressions that he was on cloud nine. He took the food immediately, put the money in his pocket carefully and sat against the wall and was ready for the 'feast'. Then, my friends returned and gave the homeless man the utensils and tissue paper and a bottle of water. Hazel said, "I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers." I reckoned it was thoughtful of her to offer the homeless man a powerful wish. I could see the homeless man's amazement all across his weathered face. He enjoyed his meal with a big grin on his face.

After a while, we finally halted a taxi and he waved at us with a happy heart. We watched him getting smaller and smaller as we got further and further away. When we were in the taxi, Brooklyn was contemplating for some time. I waved my hand in front of him and he was suddenly aware of his surroundings. He said, "It felt good helping and making the homeless man smile. Thank you guys, I am grateful that you didn't leave the leftover food in the restaurant.

The homeless man's gratitude and happiness made my day." I said, "I agree, it gives people a noble gratifying feeling when you do good deeds. It was very heartwarming. Why do some people find it so hard to do a random act of kindness?" Jordan nodded and said, "I, personally, think that it is our duty to give a helping hand. It is up to us to spread more cheer in the world. If we do good deeds, we can help make a difference to people's lives. If we are good people, why can't we do good deeds? We can all do somebody a favour without thinking of a reward. Nobody becomes poor by giving." Then Hazel said, "We didn't just perform a good deed but, in fact we also made a homeless man joyful by offering him food and money and most importantly, showed our concern and care."

This invaluable experience gave my friends and me a message that we should be grateful and treasure everything we have while some homeless people may be struggling simply to have food.

My Plans for the Weekend

2D Lee Tsz Ching

Good morning, today I would like to share with you my plans for the weekend for my uncle and aunt who are coming to Hong Kong to do some shopping this weekend. First, I will talk about where we will shop. Then I will tell you about what we hope to buy. Finally, I will talk about what we will eat. In the morning, I will take my uncle and aunt to go for breakfast in Sham Shui Po. The dimsum is very yummy there, particularly the fried fishballs! Then, we will go to Ap Liu Street to buy some appliances, electronics and gadgets.

In the afternoon, we will go to Langham Place to watch a film and go to buy something like T-shirts, accessories and cosmetics. Next, we will go to Starbucks to eat cakes and drink coffee. Finally, we will go to 7-11 to buy some food and go to their hotel for a rest. I'm sure it will be an enjoyable holiday for us.

To sum up, the weekend of shopping will be fun. I hope you enjoyed my presentation. Thank you!

TWENTY CARATS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

3D Zoe So Tsz Yau

The sound of children's giggling woke Chantel up. She opened her eyes to see a pair of hazel brown eyes gratefully looking back at her. "Good morning!" Primrose yelled at Chantel. Primrose was one of the children whom Chantel adopted, "Who's ready for breakfast?" Chantel shouted to all the kids in the room. Her life was so different from the one she used to have.

Chantel woke up in her million dollar mansion. She moved to the edge of the bed and slipped her feet into cloud-like slippers and shuffled to the bathroom. Chantel went to the balcony and breathed in the fresh smell of the ocean, then she began her morning routine.

"Hello father." Chantel greeted her dad, "A good morning, it is." The old man looked up from his paper, "I'm about to meet some old chums, care to join?" Chantel smiled, "I'd love to, but I have other plans." The posh man took out a wallet from his suit pocket and pulled out a stack of bills. "I expect this will be enough?" "Much obliged, Father. Cheers."

Chantel was about to head out when she noticed a small note on her bed. She curiously opened it. The messy scribbling on the paper said:

"Chantel,
Go to the hotel your father owns. Bring four million dollars with you. Slip it under the door of 2010D. If you disobey your life

would be in danger. The choice is yours.

Anonymous”

“What rubbish.” Chantel thought. She crumpled the paper, then headed out.

Chantel stepped out of her Rolls-Royce that arrived at a mall. After seeing nothing to her liking, she decided to go. She looked around for her security guard, Diego, but he was nowhere to be found. Suddenly she felt someone come behind her, “DIEGO, WHERE’VE YOU BEEN? - ” She turned to see an unfamiliar hooded figure behind her. Before Chantel could speak, the figure covered her face with a cloth and Chantel drifted into unconsciousness.

When Chantel regained consciousness, she tried to move but couldn’t due to the ropes that secured her hands together. “You didn’t show up at the hotel by two.” Chantel turned to the direction of where the voice came from. A ferocious face smirked at her. “Anyway, let’s get to the point.” Something icy and metal touched Chantel’s temple. The kidnapper held up Chantel’s purse “There’s roughly a million in here so...” He took the money and shoved it in his pocket. The kidnapper’s eyes gleamed. “You’re no longer useful to me.” Chantel heard the sound of a gun loading and squeezed her eyes shut, waiting for the shot. At that moment, the door banged open. Chantel’s eyes opened to see Diego, along with some policemen. The men grabbed the kidnapper and cuffed him.

“The whole city is shaken up at the news of wealthy heiress, Chantel Choi, being held at gunpoint at a local hotel. But it is no wonder that the rich family is the target of robbers, as Chantel is always showing off her wealth on social media, including pictures of the twenty-carat diamond ring that she got for her 18th birthday...” The morning news droned on and Chantel switched off the television. The incident had opened her eyes. She vowed to herself that she would be more humble.

The next day, Chantel sold her birthday bling and donated the money to a charity. Then she decided to foster children from poor countries. She felt something in her heart that she had never felt before - the rewarding satisfaction of helping others. She then decided “Go big or go home” and proceeded to clear out more of her jewellery and adopted some more children. Because of her massive social media following, she’s influenced others to follow in her footsteps and do things that are beneficial to the needy. Chantel’s small acts grew into something that completely changed her life and her perspective on life as well. Her contribution has made her into a more giving and generous person. With everything Chantel did, she has made the world a better place. I think we can all take a page from her book and learn a thing or two.

(699 words)

An Email to my Uncle

3F Cheung Yuen Ling

From: joleung@friendshipmail.com
To: Jamescho@friendshipmail.com
Date: 30th November, 2016 at 12:30
Subject: Happy Birthday!

Hi there, Uncle!

It’s my 15th birthday tomorrow. Thank you very much for transferring to me HK\$1000 into my savings account as my birthday present.

Well, as for the \$1000, I plan to buy some items. First, I’m going to Muji to buy a stationery set which will cost me \$100. There’re so many types of stationery in the set, e.g. pencil, pen, ruler, eraser, a schedule book and also a note book.

Second, I’m going to buy a pair of shoes of my favourite brand – Nike. The type of shoes I’ll buy is Nike Air Max. This type of shoes is the brand’s patent. It’s popular globally. There are many different colours. They are comfortable and famous. Everyone loves them.

The last item I’m going to buy is my favourite idol Taylor Swift’s latest album. I’ve already waited for it for a long time and I can’t miss this chance.

After buying these three items, I will still have \$150 left., so I plan to go on a trip to Cheung Chau with my friend the day after my birthday. I want to try the local food on Cheung Chau though I have been there before. I want to taste the fried ice-cream which is famous there. The ice-cream is fried to a golden colour. Also I want to taste the big fish ball and the ‘tornado’ potato chips. They are fried and very crispy. You can also add some flavour powder according to personal taste.

At last, thanks again for your birthday present. It’s very kind of you and I really appreciate it.

Lots of love,
Jo

Saving the Sinking Hearts

4A Khan Ruqiyah Manahil

One day, John was walking to school along a spooky path. This place was sending chills down his spine. Nowhere else on earth had given him such feelings, not even the haunted alleys or the spooky alleyway where the most furious ghouls live. Yet, he still stood straight and gathered up the courage to pass through it and tried not to acknowledge the biggest and deepest fear inside his heart. His mind seemed to be so out of control that he once again recalled that horrible moment of his life. The memories of getting beaten up by a group of kids led by the ruthless and relentless boy, Eddie, seemed to flash back in front of him. It was the day when John got badly injured for no reason and no one came to support or stand up for him. He realized he was all alone and this alley is where the misfortune began.

John stopped thinking about it and proceeded to school, shivering while walking along the dark chilly alley. Finally, he reached his school. The school never made him feel any better. It never helped with his studies nor his social or family problems. For him, the school seemed hopeless. His life seemed hopeless. He himself seemed hopeless.

“Hey! Look who’s here!?” This voice snapped John out of his thoughts and he started to feel dreadful. ‘Oh no.....’ John mumbled, thinking that his day couldn’t be worse. The person who came to John looked quite familiar. Yes, he was John’s nightmare, Eddie.

He stretched his hand out and grabbed John’s scattered blonde hair.

‘So, let me guess, it’s the foolish freckled kiddo.’ Eddie teased him and the other kids laughed.

‘Am I correct?’ Eddie pulled his hair even harder as if it would come off anytime while stretching out a murderous smile.

‘Y..yes...’ John had no choice but to agree with him.

‘Ha ha ha. He admitted that he is stupid.’ Eddie’s words were like adding insult to injury.

Every time Eddie would use different ways to harass John, and that day wasn’t an exception.

‘Stop!’ a gentle but firm voice called out.

John was surprised that someone stood up for him, after all these years in this school and more so owing to the fact that the voice actually stopped Eddie. Eddie released John’s hair and stared at the coming person. John turned around to see who the mysterious person was, but all he saw was an ordinary boy standing there, and John couldn’t recall who this strange-faced teenager was.

‘Who is he? Why did he help me when we don’t even know each other? Why did Eddie listen to him?’ Questions were spinning in John’s head but he had no answers.

‘Hi, I’m Michael, Eddie’s childhood friend. It’s nice to meet you.’ His voice snapped John’s thinking and he didn’t know what to say.

‘Hi...I’m John...’ It was the first time someone had talked to him in this school in a friendly tone. Before this, talking to others was

only full of pain.

‘I would like to talk to Eddie, John.’ He asked John politely.

‘You don’t have to ask his permission! He’s just garbage walking around the school.’ Eddie was overwhelmed to see Michael but the first sentence came out of his mouth wasn’t welcoming him. Instead, he teased John.

‘Y...yes, you don’t... need to...’ John murmured.

‘That’s completely rude not asking one’s permission to excuse us, and harassing others is worse than that!’ Michael didn’t let John complete his sentence but he wanted to help both Eddie and John reconcile.

‘So, why are you here?’ Eddie ignored what Michael said. He completely had no intention of being friends with John. To him, John was just something he would make fun of and let the whole school know that he is the BOSS.

‘I came to see you my friend.’ Michael looked at John.

‘See me? I don’t believe that. You haven’t seen me for years so why today?’ He doubted what Michael said.

John was still standing there, listening to their conversation, not knowing if he should leave or not, without Eddie’s permission. He would be in a really bad shape if he left without his permission.

‘I came to see how my very and only best friend is doing. I’ve been thinking about him all the time, since the day I left. Unfortunately, I never got to have a chance to fly over to see you.’ Michael explained.

Eddie gazed at Michael for a really long time and it was an awkward silence. Obviously, he still didn’t believe what Michael said.

‘You are very different now, Eddie. I used to remember we played together as kids and now you seemed to have forgotten all the fun.’ Michael broke the silence and continued.

‘Fun? I AM having fun here. Beating and hurting is one of my favourite things to do here!’ Eddie corrected him.

‘Is that what you really think from the bottom of your heart? Remember how we were bullied when we used to play together? They used to get jealous of our friendship. You also promised yourself that you’d never bully anybody because you understood how the victims would feel.’ Michael recalled his past.

Eddie was surprised that Michael still remembered everything and he doubted that Michael never cared about their friendship. That’s also why Eddie turned bad and started bullying people as he felt betrayed by his best friend, Michael. He wanted everyone to be in pain just like him.

‘I’m sorry that I doubted you, Michael!’ Eddie blurted out. Then he felt extremely embarrassed because this was his first apology since Michael left. He wasn’t used to this kind of thing.

‘It’s Okay Eddie. It’s completely natural to doubt me because I was the one who left without saying a word. I’m the one who should apologize. I gave you so much pain over all these years. I’m sorry Eddie.’ Michael bowed to Eddie to show his most earnest and sincere apology.

Eddie held Michael’s shoulder and stopped him from saying anything further as he couldn’t take in too much as this would make him feel guilty. Michael stood straight and smiled at him. He also smiled back. The friendship between them was recovered. They both felt very satisfied.

John was still standing there as if he was a still tree. Standing straight but being confused; he didn’t understand why Eddie gave Michael an apology. But the following thing shocked him even more.

‘I’m sorry, John. All these years, I have given you so much pain. I didn’t mean to do so. Will you forgive me? Can we be friends?’ Eddie finally apologized to poor John but John couldn’t respond. He thought that he was dreaming but he wasn’t.

‘John? John?’ Michael called upon him to make sure he was fine.

John’s face looked pale. Everything just happened all of a sudden and he couldn’t accept it.

‘If this is not a joke... Then yes... I’ll forgive you.’ John gave Eddie a chance to show him his sincerity and to see if it really turned out that Michael had turned Eddie into a good person.

‘Yes! Come On! Let me buy you both something to eat!’ Eddie yelled in happiness and they walked towards the tuck shop shoulder to shoulder, laughing and giggling.

A Reply to a Complaint

4A Yu Wing Sum Wincy

Dear Mr. Chan,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to write this letter to us and express your grievances on how our service did not meet your expectation. We really appreciate your loyal support to our company.

In your letter, you mentioned you joined a tour from Hong Kong to Taiwan from 15th to 18th April (tour No. 2977H) and found the tour did not meet your expectation. This is disappointing to us. We are sorry to find out that our tour guide was not willing to introduce Taiwan and provide some knowledge about Taiwan, and at the same time, he was always in a foul mood and talked with a rude attitude. We apologize for the poor attitude of the tour guide. We have investigated the case and we found that he could not act more professionally because he was troubled by his family problems. We will terminate the tour guide’s contract because this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

You also mentioned that the tour was focusing on shopping instead of sightseeing, which was not meeting your standards, and the meal time was short. We apologise for the hectic schedule. Our aim of setting this schedule is to provide more chances and time for tourists to purchase more local souvenirs. We would also be flexible with scheduling the tour to avoid an imbalance of shopping and sightseeing time.

We have been working to our fullest to improve the services of our tour guides. Regarding this incident, and in order to further perfect our services, we will remind our tour guides to follow the staff requirement when they escort a tour. We would also provide more training courses for our tour guides on their presentation skills and communication skills.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this incident has caused and would like to offer cash coupons from our company to you. I hope you would not mind sending us a reply mail to enjoytravel@gmail.com, providing a postal address so that we can follow up the compensation for you.

I look forward to your reply and second visit to our travel agency. I hope you will be satisfied with our apology and service.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong
Senior Manager

Do smartphones do more harm than good to teenagers?

4A Lee Ka Ki Karen

Nowadays, the use of smartphones is widespread among teenagers. Almost everyone holds a smartphone in their hand. However, do smartphones do more harm than good to teenagers? I strongly agree with this as smartphones can pose a threat to teenagers physically and psychologically.

First of all, using smartphones increases the risk of health problems. When teenagers are too focused on their smartphones and use them frequently, they may easily get myopia. Most people do not seem to consider myopia as a disease and therefore do not pay too much attention to it. But the truth is, people with severe myopia have higher rates of suffering from macular degeneration and retinal detachment etc. than those people with normal-vision.

This can be attributed to several reasons and gluing their eyes to small smartphones is certainly one of them. Moreover, teenagers may

easily get neck problems if they maintain the 'head-down' position for too long. Teenagers may also lack physical exercise as they use up most of their time focusing on smartphones. In the long run, lack of exercise can also cause health problems like obesity. Therefore, it is clear that smartphones worsen teenagers' physical health.

Meanwhile, using smartphones can hinder teenagers' personal development. It is known that smartphones have become a new interactive mode in society. People can simply send an audio recording to others instead of traditional writing or face-to-face interaction. While doing face-to-face interaction, we can express ourselves with body language, tone and emotion etc. But the way smartphones are used to communicate obviously cannot achieve those. Therefore, smartphones do nothing good to improve teenagers' communication skills. Worse still, if teenagers rely too much on their smartphone's searching function, they can easily search answers from their smartphones instantly, without processing any critical thinking. They just copy the answers and the answers are not from them. In the long run, teenagers may lack original ideas. When the teenagers enter the work force, they may suffer because of low moral standards. As a result, using smartphones does nothing good but destroys teenagers' mental development.

Finally, some teenagers may say that it is an electronic era and they have to keep up with the latest technological development. By using smartphones, they can also broaden their knowledge because there are no geographical boundaries anymore. However, they just neglect to consider the detrimental physical and psychological impact that smartphones might bring them. Travel is another way to discover the world. Why should we just stick to the small screen and think that is what the world looks like? In addition, teenagers may also think that using a mobile phone can reduce stress but they should know that the best way to relieve stress is to take a rest. While they are focusing on a smartphone, they are actually suffering and will become extremely tired.

Overall, it is clear that smartphones pose a threat to teenagers both physically and psychologically. Therefore, smartphones do more harm than good to teenagers.

My summer working as a volunteer at a social centre for the elderly

5A Ayesha

Why I volunteered to work there

Everybody needs something interesting to happen during their summer holidays. This year I decided to do something different by working as a volunteer at a social centre. Since I've never had the experience of helping elderly people, I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to join this social centre as they provide activities for elderly people in the community.

What the centre was like

I have volunteered a lot in the past and taken part in a lot of activities, but I have to admit, this was a totally different experience. The centre was so cosy and lively with happiness buzzing in the air, that it gave us all a rush of adrenaline to do something productive and spread joy. The scent of the place gave a homely feeling and everybody felt united, maybe not by blood but by hearts.

What I did as a volunteer

My duty was really simple yet fun. I sat with the elderly group, listened to their stories and also shared some of my experiences. I also did baking with them, which was total bliss.

Last but not the least, I went to supermarkets with them on a daily basis and helped them by carrying their shopping bags. Twice a week, all of the volunteers including myself, helped the elderly by cleaning their homes.

My experience as a volunteer

All I could say is, this summer has changed my life. I didn't know much about elderly people and their lives before, but after being a volunteer at the social centre, I know enough to say that they face way more difficulties than we do. Old and weak, yet they have to take care of themselves, their houses, financial problems and medical expenses. And even though their problems are as big as mountains, they still spread love and try seeing the beauty in this world. I will never forget this summer!

The Greatest Love of All

5A Tiffany Tsoi

8th December, 2016

Dear diary,

I have listened to a million songs with different themes, such as love, life, school life and family. There are many meaningful songs I really admire. But there is one which inspired me the most and I am sure you know the name of the song if you know me very well. Yes, you are correct, "The Greatest Love of All".

When I first listened to this song from the radio, I was moved. I knew the name of this song a long time ago, but I thought it is just an ordinary love song. However, the fact is "The Greatest love of all" is an inspiring and encouraging song.

This song is about not giving up and doing the things according to your principles. If you are not able to find a person who can fulfil your needs and you feel lost and alone, then you have to learn how to face problems alone. In our lives, we come across challenges every single day. If we are lucky, we may be able to get help from others. But what if no one is able to lend us a hand? We have to deal with the problem by ourselves and this is a skill that we must learn even though we always live in a greenhouse and protect our families. When we learn this skill, we can achieve what the lyrics of the song say, "I decided long ago, never to walk in anyone's shadow. If I failed, if I succeed, at least I did as what I believed". The result may be not the way we expected, but we tried our best, we stick to our principle and we feel proud of ourselves.

Another thing this song taught me is we need not be sad about others' teasing or insulting words. "No matter what they take from me, they can't take away my dignity." In this society, some people might be your rivals and they try their very best to exploit your rights and the things you deserve to have. But whatever they did and whatever they said, even if you lose everything, they cannot take your dignity and you will not feel hopeless. I think there is hope everywhere and it guides us to tackle all the challenges.

Finally, there is one more thing about this song that inspired me. "Learning to love yourself and it's the greatest love of all". Recently, there are numerous adolescent suicide cases and I feel sorry about such tragedy. I think all of us should learn to take good care of and love ourselves because our lives are a treasure. A more important point is our family, friends and teachers care and worry about us, so we should not do anything to upset them. They feel worried if we are sick or feel suicidal. Our family, especially our parents or carers, may blame themselves. Seize the day. Love our families. Love ourselves. In case I feel stressed or lose when dealing with a problem, I will stay proactive and positive. There is always a key to each lock!

Nuclear Power Plants – A Grave Danger to the World!

6D Chu Ka Man

Respected Chairperson, Worthy Opponents and My Dear Friends. Today's motion is 'We should shut down all nuclear power plants'. We the affirmative team believe that this statement is true. We believe that nuclear power poses a threat to our safety, to our health, to the environment and to the well-being of humans.

Today, nuclear power accounts for 17% of the world's electricity. Nuclear power is popular for developing countries because it provides huge amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel and it is clean energy. It seems that nuclear power is an excellent and perfect energy that can bring lots of benefits like better air quality or no air pollution and stable energy. It is good for our social and economic development.

But in fact, these benefits are short-term benefits. Actually, nuclear power is dangerous to the security of the world because it is technically impossible to build a nuclear power plant with 100% security. Moreover, it is not impossible that some reactors produce plutonium which can be used to make nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are a major threat to the world as they can cause large-scale devastation. Nuclear power plants, as well as nuclear waste, could be a preferred target for terrorist attacks.

In addition, nuclear power can pose a threat to people's health. Nuclear waste can cause cancer. As you all know, the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986, and the Japanese Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant accident in 2011 caused many people around the areas to die or have cancer after the accidents because of the radiation leaking from nuclear power plants.

Furthermore, nuclear power plants pose a threat to the environment. Nuclear power plants produce radioactive waste but radioactive waste cannot be disposed of. It can be very harmful to the environment. Besides, nuclear power needs lots of water to cool down the heat. And this hot water will be released into the ocean. It also destroys marine life.

Lastly, nuclear plants are expensive to build and maintain. The government may need a lot of money for maintenance.

In conclusion, I believe that nuclear power plants are detrimental to the well-being of humans. It is because nuclear power plants can bring a lot of disadvantages. Therefore, all nuclear power plants should be shut down.

Nuclear Power Plants should never be shut down

6A Chen Meixia

Respected Chairperson, Worthy opponents and My Dear Friends. Today's motion is that 'We should shut down all nuclear plants.' By definition, nuclear plants produce cleaner nuclear power and it's green and safe for the environment. Our team is firmly against the resolution. Our team will provide solid grounds to support our stand and so, the motion today should be considered valid.

We have got three very forceful arguments to be against today's motion.

First of all, nuclear power plants create less air pollution than fossil-fuel power plants. Uranium is a main ingredient in producing nuclear energy and it doesn't pollute our air and our atmosphere because uranium turns into oxygen when burned. So nuclear energy has the ability to produce electricity without greenhouse gas emissions. It's cleaner than many other forms of energy production. You have to bear in mind that nuclear power produces environmentally friendly power. Have you thought about if nuclear plants shut down, what result will be brought about? Many countries will rely heavily on fossil-fuel resources. Consequently, they will squander lots of coal or oil on producing electricity to maintain life. These fossil-fuel resources will produce greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that causes global warming. Moreover, they will cause acid rain and air pollution. People's health will be dealt a severe blow by the contaminated environment like damaging people's respiratory systems. There's really no point in shutting down the nuclear plants.

Apart from that, nuclear power plants provide huge amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel. There is much uranium found all over the world today. Therefore, many nuclear power plants have large quantities of the source. It's the best source of energy for countries without oil. The world's supply of oil is limited and will soon be exhausted. However, nuclear power could supply all the world's electricity for millions of years if fully developed. If we shut down all nuclear plants, could you imagine living in a world where there is a shortage of energy source? Many countries encounter the problem of source deprivation. Many companies which should be supported by source will go. The economy will be hard hit by the shortage of power. In the long run, people's quality of life will become lower and lower. Under no circumstances should the nuclear plants be shut down.

Furthermore, there is no power which can replace nuclear power. Maybe you think that if the nuclear plants shut down, hydro, wind, water energy or other renewable energy can replace nuclear power. But these renewable sources of energy depend on advanced technology. In addition, the cost of generating these forms of energy is very high in spite of producing small amounts of electricity. As the world exploits the source, these sources of renewable energy cannot produce large amounts of electricity to fulfil the world's need in the short term. Only nuclear power can do it because it provides huge amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel. Other forms of power cannot be a substitute for it.

Maybe you worry that the nuclear plants pose a threat to safety. For example, the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident in 1986 caused a huge loss of life. We think it's safe if properly supervised. We believe that most companies will try to plug the loopholes in building the nuclear power plants. They will encourage workers to be alert to manage the nuclear plant.

In conclusion, the validity of the motion 'We should not shut down all the nuclear plants.' is simply indisputable.





Teacher Advisors

Ms. Carol Chung
Mrs. Julie Smith
Ms. Kitty Chan
Ms. Funnecal Koo
Ms. Alice Kwok

Editorial Board

4A Khan Ruqiyah Manahil
4A Li Po Lam Esther
4A Lee Ka Ki
4A Yu Wing Sum
5A Ayesha
5A Bibi Sumna
5A Mohammad Shamsa Bibi
5A Tsoi Kai Ting Tiffany
5A Wan Hiu Lam
5D Mak Tsz Ting

