

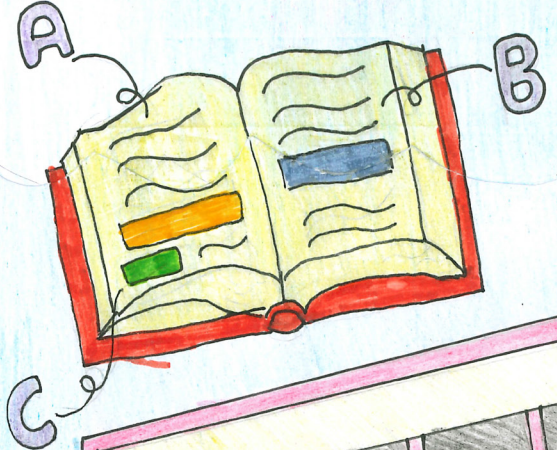
Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School

Tradition
since 1923

Our Voice

2020-2021

Cover by:
3D Lam Hoi Kei



Principal's message

This year is a tough year. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken the entire world by surprise. School was suspended. Lessons were shifted from traditional classrooms to online platforms. School activities, such as Sports Day, singing contest and school picnic were cancelled. Education has all of a sudden changed dramatically. However, learning does not stop at the gates of Tack Ching. Our students have now become more familiar with digital tools, which allow them to gain wonderful virtual learning opportunities.



I really appreciate that our students try hard to adapt to the new learning mode and seize every chance to improve themselves during these unprecedented and unpredictable times. Through participation in the online mode of various activities and competitions, our students are able to realize their potentials. Congratulations to those who have made remarkable achievements in competitions, particularly online debating matches and the Speak Up-Act Out! radio drama competition.

From the beautiful snapshots, I can see our students' smiles behind their masks! They undoubtedly have gotten a lot of enjoyment out of learning English. From their fantastic artwork, I can see their creativity, which can also be tapped into via e-learning. So, let's attend to our students' thoughts about what they have gained from the fulfilling learning experiences. I am convinced that with resilience, positivity and enthusiasm, our students will embrace the next school year with optimism and will be able to face any challenges ahead.

HUI Yin Shan



'Speak Up-Act Out!'

Radio Drama Competition 2021

In March, four creative students wrote a script for a radio drama and performed it, complete with sound effects, in two weeks! The girls did a fantastic job, winning the third-place trophy! See pictures of their performance of "Wanna hear a joke?"

I was honoured to participate in the SU-AO! On Air! Radio Drama Competition with my group mates. The key to this competition was using sound effects and our imagination to write a script about the topic "Laugh". The other participants performed so well that I became nervous. When I was about to give up, my teachers and group mates showed their support. Grinning amiably, my teachers clapped to encourage me. When the judges announced the winners, our group won third place. I was on cloud nine! I have learnt a lot from the experience. I was able to improve my collaborative skill and learnt to face an audience bravely and confidently.

5B Bibi Sunbal



Participants

4A Tam Pui Yi

5A Khan Khadijah

5B Bibi Sunbal

5D Mohammad Faria Arshad



It was my first time participating in the SU-AO! On Air! Radio Drama Competition and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I had to play a dumb man who kept laughing inappropriately. That was a big challenge for me. During the training, I learnt how to create various sound effects and to regulate my tone to convey emotions. A big thanks to our teachers who always stood by us.

5A Khan Khadijah



Acting as a character has always been one of my greatest strengths. However, this year the drama competition was a radio drama. When I first learnt about the topic "Laugh", I didn't know what to do. I wasn't sure about what to talk about. Fortunately, I had supportive teachers who were there for the rescue! They helped us with ideas. A big shout-out to my teachers and teammates.

5D Mohammad Faria Arshad



English Debate Team

This year's debate team is six-members strong. They come from Forms 2 to 5. In spite of interrupted school days and competitions forced to be conducted online, the team managed to overcome all the challenges to achieve many successes. Here's their record:

Term 1		
	Result	Recognition
Round 1	Won	Best Speaker: Eimann Altaf
Round 2	Won	Best Speaker: Imaan Qadeer
Term 1 Finals	Runner-up	Best Speaker: Eimaan Altaf
Term 2		
Round 1	Won	Best Speaker: Tang Tsz Yan
Round 2	Won	Best Speaker: Tang Tsz Yan

How did the debaters prepare? They sparred in heated exchanges of arguments.



My first argument is that compulsory charity work benefits students. Contrary to many who believe that charity work hinders students' education ...

Let me rebut the Affirmative's argument. How could our opponent make the claim that the compulsory charity work is beneficial to students? They have enough difficulties coping with the workload at school ...



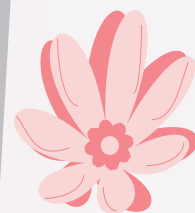
The Negative side seems to have forgotten that doing charity work is a form of education. The students will develop life skills. They will learn to collaborate and handle people with different personalities. They will understand cultural differences and people who have different needs. Therefore, the motion must stand.



Debating on Zoom is a team effort!



The Term I first runner-up team with their advisors. From left (front) Mr Au, Tang Tsz Yan, Imaan Qadeer, Lai Hoi Ying, Mr Wu, (back) Chu Tsz Ching, Hafsa Aruj and Eimaan Altaf.



2E Aruj Hafsa

I decided to join the debate team because I thought it could help me to be more confident of my English language skills, and I can learn to think more deeply about ideas. I enjoy it the most when we sit and work on ideas for the competitions.

The most memorable moment for me was being a speaker for the first time. We won and the team took a picture together. That was my first time winning! I still don't believe we did it.

3C Imaan Qadeer

I joined the debate team because I have always been interested in it. I enjoy it the most when we gather up to discuss arguments. Once you get the hang of it, it's so much fun. We get to exchange our ideas and gain more knowledge. My most memorable moment was when I won the Best Speaker award. It was a jaw-droppingly memorable experience. Also, through debating, I have learnt not to belittle myself and speak my mind without fear.

5A Lai Hoi Ying

Before joining the debate team, I was timid when I spoke English because I was scared of making mistakes.

Fortunately, after debate training, I can now speak confidently when I face a large audience and have even become the host of an event. I want to express my sincere appreciation to our coaches. Being a debater is a valuable experience. I would recommend debating to everyone.

5A Tang Tsz Yan

When I was in S3, I decided to join the debate team and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have gained confidence and a lot of good friends from the team. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed and torn between dealing with studying and debate training, but my perseverance and hard work have allowed me to reap indescribable rewards.

5D Eimaan Altaf

From gaining knowledge to learning how to analyse information from different perspectives, being a part of the debate team has taught me all of that. Debating isn't only about using the English language but is also about enhancing ways to communicate your creative ideas and critical opinions effectively with your friends and teachers. This challenges us intellectually. Sadly, this is my last year on the debate team!

RTHK Teen Time

Four S5 girls were invited to talk to DJ Alison Hau on RTHK Teen Time through a Zoom meeting. The girls shared about technological gadgets they can't live without.

Alison: Hello and welcome to tonight's Open Space. We are joined by students from Tack Ching Girls' Secondary School. Hey everyone!

All students: Hello!

Alison: We are going to talk about artificial intelligence, the use of smartphones, basically everything that helps us get through the year of 2020. Who would like to start first?

Yan: I would like to start first. I think artificial intelligence for me is something out of reach. But when I pay attention to things around me, I find that it appears in our life today. For example, now I use voice-to-text. I use it a lot when I type my assignment. It's very useful.

Alison: Yes, it saves a lot of typing.



We do the recording in the newly furnished and well-equipped MMLC Room.

"Through practising with my classmates, I learn that we need to have good communication with my teachers and teammates. It's exciting as I have never joined any radio show before! I believe this great experience helps me boost my confidence."

5D Yusra-Aruj

"The whole experience was priceless. I was very impressed with my group's hard work. Since it's a radio show, we need to sound easy-on-the-ear. I got a lot of inspirations from my classmates who helped me improve.

I had an unforgettable time with my groupmates and I am particularly grateful to my teachers."

5B Bibi Sunbal

"I have made new friends through this activity. Although we come from different classes, we cooperated and always give one another encouragement. I can feel the team spirit.

5A Lai Hoi Ying

I realized that it's important to learn how to improvise. We needed to respond to Alison's questions immediately. I felt quite nervous but she was very nice as she always encouraged us."

5A Tang Tsz Yan

Scan the QR code to listen to the broadcast.



Fai Chun Design Competition: Make your own Fai Chun

Chinese New Year is a time for family and friends to get together. Although COVID-19 may have made it harder for us to meet face-to-face, being apart does not mean we are getting distanced. On the contrary, we should use this opportunity to remember, share, and express our wishes to the ones we love. As such, this year, a Fai Chun in English design competition was held before the Chinese New Year.

Both junior and senior form students submitted their masterpieces. 6 winners were selected by our English teachers and the winners were presented with a prize and a certificate. Kudos to all the talented artists!

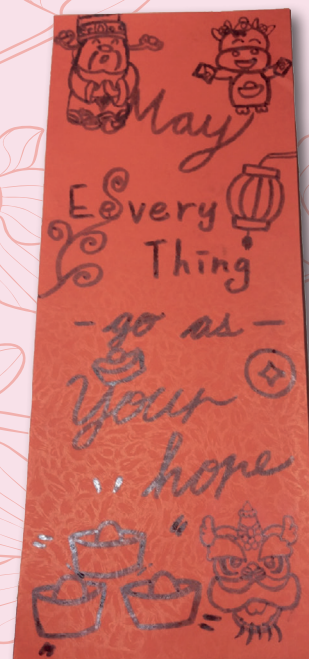
Champion	IC Yu Yin Lok
First runner-up	IE Fan Sze Man
Second runner-up	5C Wong Wing Yan
Merit	3E Lau Shuk Kwan
	3E Li Nga Yin
	3E Wong Hei Tung Bonni



Champion IC Yu Yin Lok



First runner-up IE Fan Sze Man



Second runner-up 5C Wong Wing Yan



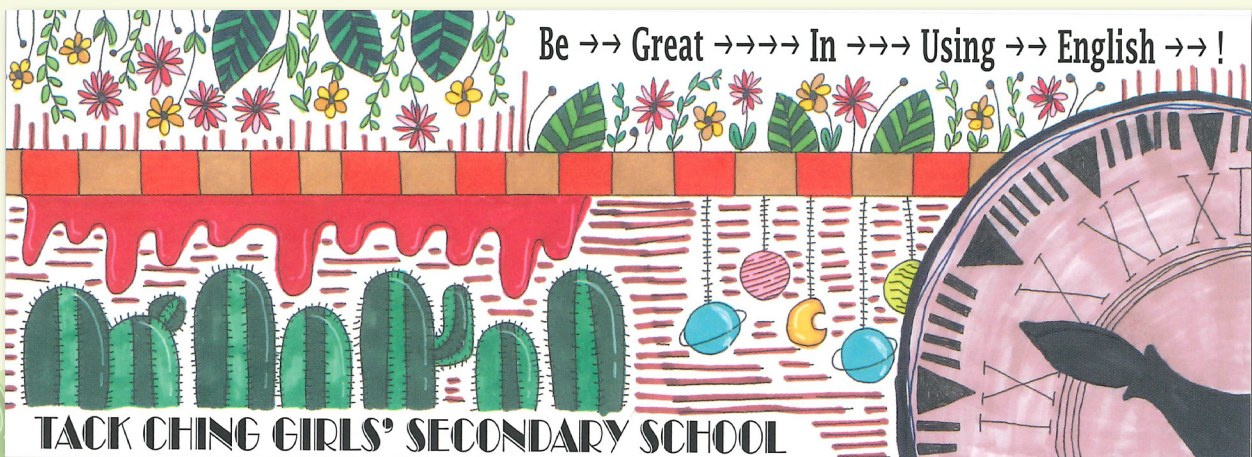
Slogan and Bookmark Design Competition

The aims of the Slogan and Bookmark Design Competition are to arouse students' interest in learning English, to enable them to use the English language and art to create authentic advertising materials, and to enable students to appreciate the use of succinct language. The theme of the competition this year is 'English is the key to a great future'.

Here are the students' masterpieces and some of their reflections:

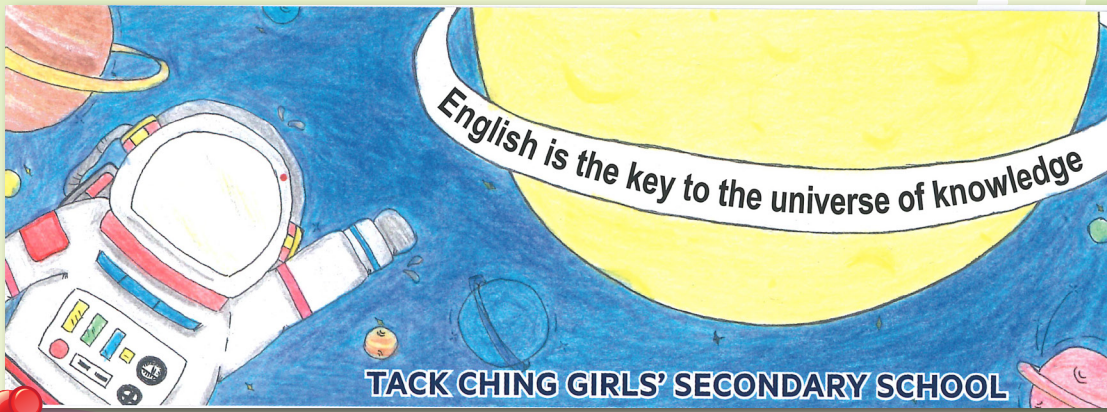


The Champion
3E Lee Arisa Kaka



1st Runner-up
4A Britany Suen Hiu Ching

I felt delighted after the results were released. I have never thought that I could receive the prize again. I am so surprised!
4A Britany Suen



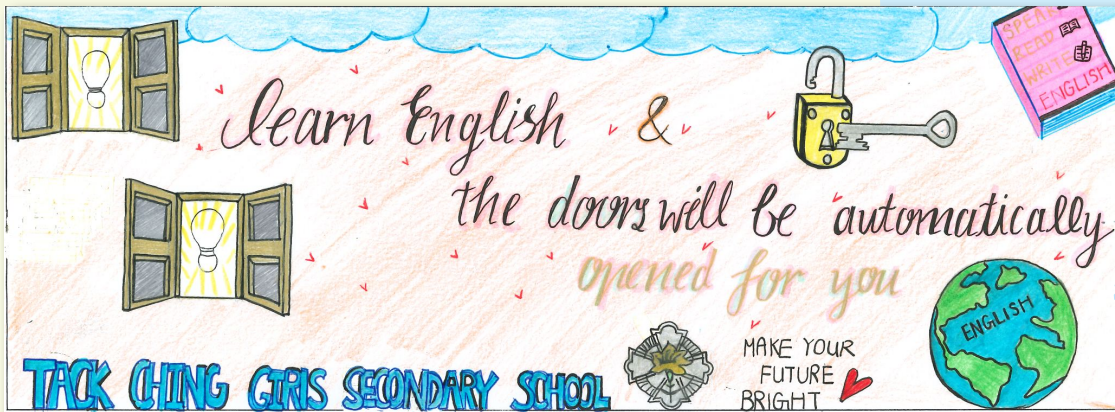
2nd Runner-up
4B Zhu Hiu Ching

Thank you for giving me the honour. I am really shocked! I can unleash my potential through this competition. I am so happy about that! Thank you!

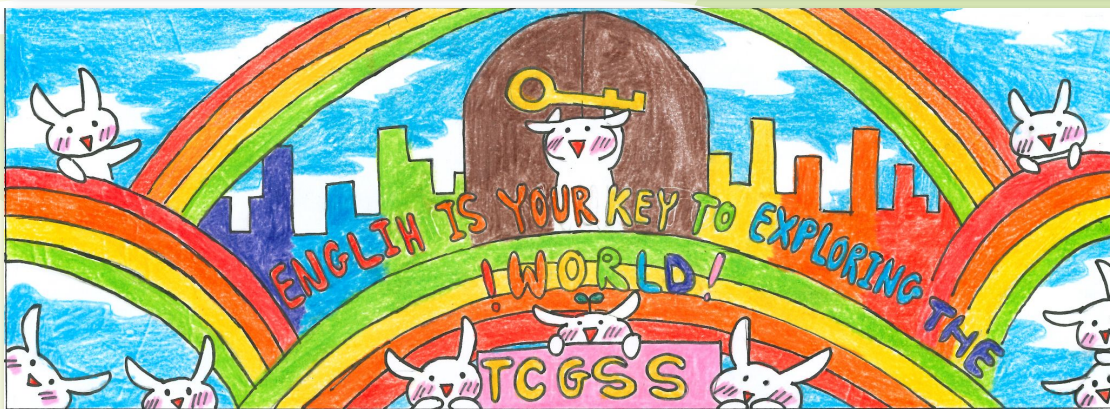
4B Zhu Hiu Ching

I feel really grateful for this competition because it allows me to share the message of the importance of English. It is also a good chance for me to see other works on the Internet. I learnt a lot from them.

3E Naaz Bisma



Merit
3E Naaz Bisma



Merit
2C Tong Wing Ki Noelle



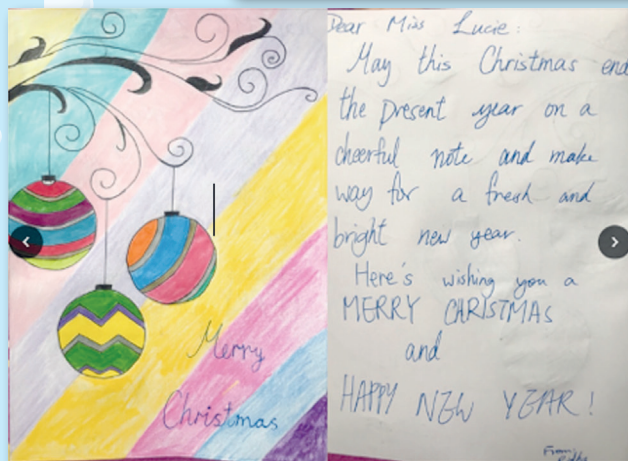
Merit
3E Ho Hoi Ching Celine

Christmas Card Design Competition

This year, many students used their artistic talents and voices to celebrate the Christmas season. They designed traditional Christmas cards and wrote holiday messages to a friend. Here are our top 5 cards:



3D Lam Hoi Kei
Overall Winner!



2C Nadeem Ridha
Highly commended



2D Samavia
Highly commended



5D Tang Tsz Ching
Highly commended



3C Wong Sin Kwan
Highly commended

Other selected entries ...

ID Zhang Oi Ki	3C Chan Hoi Lam	3E Huang Tsz Ching
IE Fan Sze Man	3C Lai Lok Ching	3E Lau Pei Yue
IE Ghale Suhanni	3C Lam Fong Yuen	3E Lau Shuk Kwan
IE Yeung Tsz Ki	3C Xu Sze Hang	3E Li Nga Yin
2B Chan Wing Yan	3D Chan Wai Yan	3E Li Ying Ying
2C Chan Yat Laam	3D Wong Hi Lan	3E Wong Hei Tung
2E Leung Pui Sze	3D Yu Lok Yiu	3E Wong Shu Ting
2E Tsang Wai Yiu	3E Fung Wing Yi	3E Yung Tak Yu
2E Yang Suying	3E Ho Wai Laam	



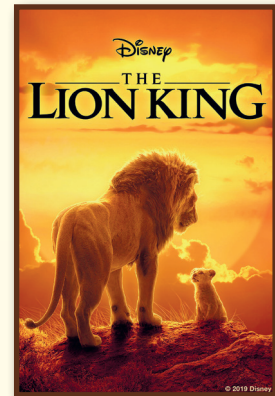
Miss Lucie's Film Club

Films and TV programs were reviewed by our students for the Film Club. Read about their recommendations:



The Lion King is one of the best movies I have ever watched! It's about a king's newborn son, Simba, trying to fulfill his royal destiny on the plains of Africa. With the help of a curious pair of friends, Simba had to figure out how to take what was rightfully his. This movie is my favourite because it teaches us that hope, love and friendship can strengthen us when we are weak.

2C Nadeem Ridha



My favorite film this year is *Aladdin*. It is a live-action adaptation of Disney's 1992 animated film based on *One Thousand and One Nights*.

The movie is about Aladdin who meets Princess Jasmine, and falls in love with her.

Why do I like this movie? It's because Jasmine inspires me to never give up and to fight for my rights. I think this is really important for all of us to learn to never stay silent. Life is difficult so we should speak up for our rights and do the best to make it easier!

3E Naaz Bisma



Up is a Disney cartoon made in 2009. This film is produced by the director of *Monsters Inc.*

It is about a 78-year-old man called Carl Fredricksen and an 8-year-old boy called Russell. They went on an adventure in a flying house. Carl did it because of his wife's last wish. Russell did it to win a merit badge.

It was my favourite movie because it was very moving. When I read what Carl's wife wrote - "Thanks for the adventure. Now go have one of your own", I cried. You can watch this film at any age and get different feelings.

3E Fung Oi Lam





Beauty and the Beast stars Emma Watson and Dan Stevens. It has been my favourite film because of the theme song — *Beauty and the Beast*. You should listen to it!

This film is about a prince who was turned into a Beast by an angry old woman. If the Beast did not find a girl who truly loved him before the last rose petal fell, then he would remain a beast.

Belle is a beautiful and kind-hearted girl. Belle lived in a castle with the Beast and developed feelings for him in time.

Later, the last rose petal fell. When the Beast was dying, Belle told him what was in her heart. Her love saved the Beast. From then on, they lived happily together.

The film *Beauty and the Beast* teaches us that inner beauty is real beauty. Belle has a pretty face and a kind heart. She is witty and brave. I want to learn from her and be a kind-hearted and caring person.



3E Hau Hei Man

This TV show, *911* on Fox, is my recent favourite. Every episode is very thrilling and wonderful. It is never boring. I also learnt what firefighting operations are about! So, that's why this is my favourite TV show.

3E Li Shan Yu



Sherlock has two characters, Sherlock Holmes and Watson. Their personalities are very different, but they both like to take risks and seek excitement.

In the second episode of the second season, Sherlock Holmes accepted a commission to find out who killed his client's father. He finally figured out that it was a biological and chemical weapons plan. It was really interesting.

3E Li Nga Yin



Our students love K-Dramas. Here are some of their favourites:

K-Drama!

True Beauty is about a girl, Lim Joo-kyung, who was not pretty at first. Everyone bullied her in middle school so she decided to change schools. Then, she started watching tutorials online to learn how to do make-up and look pretty. When she went to high school she was a completely new person. She became gorgeous. Then, she met Lee Shuho. They made a cute couple. I really recommend this show!

3C Qadeer Imaan



A Love So Beautiful is cute and light. The story is pretty simple and easy to follow but, at times, predictable. I like the main actors because of their love for each other. The love story was sweet, with some pretty adorable moments.

My overall rating for this Korean drama is 8 out of 10. This drama is cute but it's unoriginal.

3D Lam Hoi Kei



At Eighteen follows the story of eighteen-year-old Choi Joon-woo (Ong Seong-wu), whose teenage life was difficult and he had many problems in school. Forced to transfer for a violation he did not even commit, he went to a new high school and decided to stay quiet like a nobody. Later on, he had to face emotional conflicts and prejudice. Finally, he found his first love at the age of 18.

3C Qadeer Imaan



MI Young Writers Award 2021

MI Young Writers Award 2021 (MIYWA) is an annual competition organized by Magazines International (Asia) Limited with the aim to foster and recognize excellence in English writing by providing students with the opportunity to develop their expressive talents and creativity. Many of our students joined this competition and here is a masterpiece from a senior form student.

5A Khan Khadijah

What is the impact of this global epidemic on you? Any lesson learned?

COVID-19, I am sure everyone knows about this global epidemic. The world is suffering from it, and many people's lives are changing. Students like me are greatly affected since schools are suspended, exams are postponed, activities are cancelled, and socializing with friends is banned. Living in such an unprecedented situation can be difficult for young people. As a secondary student, I think it is really tough for me mentally, physically and socially.

For senior secondary students in Hong Kong, they have to face the HK Diploma of Secondary Education public exam, which is the university entrance examination. Unfortunately, the exam was postponed, which exerts great stress on candidates. They are apt to feel more helpless and anxious about their future study plans.

During the pandemic, many student activities are restricted. Social distancing restrains students from doing physical exercise, such as walking or running. Furthermore, these restrictions make students sedentary at home for a long period of time. Besides physical health, there are other effects due to this inactivity, such as family pressure and personal stress affecting their mental health.

This pandemic has also posed challenges to many families financially. Many people lost their jobs, leading to financial problems. Many of them even have to reduce what they spend. As a result, parents fail to earn enough money to take care of them and the children have to suffer the consequences. It is common to find that one parent has to quit his/her job to take care of their child at home and support them while they are having online classes. For example, my mother has to sit beside my younger sister while she has Zoom classes. In the meantime, she has to take the responsibility of the teacher to teach her. The environment at home always distracts her. Frankly speaking, it also affects my studies during online classes, as I am disturbed and distracted from this. Also, the lack of technical resources is another problem for many people, including me. Before the pandemic, I did not need to use laptops or iPad to learn most of the time, but now my sisters and I all need an electronic device to learn. This is definitely a financial burden to my parents.

Social interaction has also been reduced and gets restricted because of the pandemic. People are afraid of the virus, so they have fewer gatherings and limit their outings in order to maintain social distance. Families, especially those who have the elderly, are more alert because the old people are more vulnerable to the virus. I cannot hang out with my friends and family like usual. Going on picnics or even just going out together as a whole family or dining out has already become something unique and rare. I cannot enjoy those moments like having fun we used to have in school. Now looking back, I now realize how precious every moment in life is. We can never take anything for granted.

People have become more and more vigilant and take a lot of precautions in order to protect themselves from the virus. Simply going out and returning home has become very different. When we go out, we have to wear a mask and the hand sanitizer has become a daily essential. When I return home, sanitizing everything, including clothes, bags, and shopping, has become my new daily routine. Who would have thought that this will be our life now? It is so hard to believe how we used to live one year ago.

Life takes us in different directions. That's why it is important to live in the moment without thinking of the past or the future. Many people have lost their lives during the virus, which has taught me to live every moment with gratitude. Maybe life is a lesson, allowing me to learn every day, so why not stay positive?

Book Report Competition

Book Report Competition is an annual activity organised by the English Department. The aim is to promote students' interest in learning English through reading and widening their perspectives. Many pieces of good work were submitted and the following students received awards. Congratulations!

Junior Form

Champion	3C Qadeer Imaan
1st runner-up	2C Nadeem Ridha
2nd runner-up	2E Chan Kei Ching Kacy

Senior Form

Champion	5D Eimaan Altaf
1st runner-up	4A To Wing Kiu
2nd runner-up	4A Yu Xin Tong

Junior Form

Champion

3C Qadeer Imaan *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Harry Potter is about to start his second year at Hogwarts. The main characters are Harry Potter – a young wizard who can speak Parseltongue and is mistaken for the heir of Slytherin; Ron Weasley – Harry's best friend who steals his father's flying car to get to Hogwarts; and Hermione Granger – Harry's other, and Gilderoy Lockhart – the new Defense against the Dark Art teacher and a self-obsessed lunatic.

I enjoyed this book because it is packed with action, fantasy and creativity. My favourite part was when Harry Potter was pulled into a diary and made to witness the expulsion of his friend, Hagrid, when he was at Hogwarts 50 years ago. Not many people have read this series but I would recommend it to anyone who loves fantasy stories.

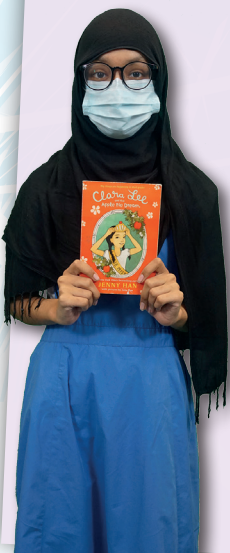


First runner-up

2C Nadeem Ridha

Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream

The story starts with the main character, Clara Lee, who is in third grade only, dreaming of winning the Little Miss Apple Pie Pageant. Sometimes her luck affects her hope for her dream. Will her dream come true? Her friends laugh at her. They think her dream is nothing but an imagination which will never come true. This makes her struggle to realize her dream. I love Clara Lee! I love her passion for her dream, her personality and her sense of humour. I think I can relate to her. I also have a dream which I want to fulfill in the future and Clara's passion inspires me!



Second runner-up

2E Chan Kei Ching Kacy *Matilda*

The main characters in this book are Matilda, Miss Honey and Miss Trunchbull. There are lots of fantastic and creative imaginations. My favourite character is Miss Honey because she is humble and warm-hearted.

This story is about Matilda who has the power that allows her to use her eyes to lift and break things. She protects the other children in the class from Miss Trunchbull and helps Miss Honey to get her mansion back. In the end, she defeated the kid-hating Miss Trunchbull.

My favourite part in the story is when Matilda poured the water all over Miss Trunchbull and she swallowed the newt that was in the water. It was hilarious. After reading this story, I learnt bravery, diligence and kindness from Matilda. I recommend this book to all of you.



Champion5D Eimaan Altaf *When Breath Becomes Air*

This book is mainly about Paul Kalanithi's life and his battle with lung cancer. In Paul's last year of residency as a medical student, he started losing weight and had back and chest pains. Paul went through a difficult phase because he didn't want to face death. It shows that Paul is a powerful and determined doctor.

This book gives me mixed feelings. It is a beautiful memoir. You can understand the author by the way he writes and talks about his family. I would recommend this book as it really shows what true courage is. I believe it is the best book. It is extremely eye-opening and touching.

First runner-up4A To Wing Kiu *Shrek*

This story is about an ogre, Shrek, falling in love with the princess who was locked away in a castle guarded by a dragon.

Shrek was an ogre with incomparable strength and bad temper, but he had a kind heart. After Shrek had saved Fiona, Donkey discovered that Fiona would turn into an ogre like Shrek when the sunset turned into sunrise. This was a spell a witch has cast on Fiona. The only way to dispel it was for her to be kissed by a true love.

After watching the film, I believe that everyone deserves to be loved, even an ogre. Inner beauty is more important than outer appearance. The characters judged Shrek because of his ugly appearance, but even as a monster, he had a kind heart. Being ugly should not be the reason why people treat him badly. Shrek loved Fiona because she has passion and a friendly manner. Hence you should not have self-doubt when someone judges you by your appearance. Remember love can overcome anything as long as you believe in it.

**Second runner-up**4A Yu Xin Tong *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Do you like chocolate? Do you want to own a chocolate factory?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is about running a chocolate factory. One day, Charlie and four other lucky kids got an opportunity to visit the largest chocolate factory in the world. Willy Wonka, the owner of the factory wanted to give Charlie the factory on the condition that Charlie could not live with his family since. Finally, Charlie made Wonka understand the value of family. Charlie was able to resist all kinds of temptations to become the heir of the factory. I think Charlie is very sensible which is hard to find in life.

The various arrangements of the factory are very interesting. There are chocolate waterfalls, lush gum meadows, brown syrup river and so on. Also, the workers are all dwarfs who love chocolate very much. The story interests me because it has many incredible twists which made me feel nervous and excited.

After reading this book, I learnt that we should abide by the rules so that we can gain the respect and trust of others. In reality, many people lose their principles and themselves. I would recommend this book because we should change our bad habits and face life with an optimistic and positive attitude.



Good People Good Deeds

English Writing Competition

The competition is an English story-writing competition for primary and secondary students. Many of our students joined it and here are the two of the best work from the senior form students. Let's read their inspiring stories!

Junior Champion



3E Naaz Bisma

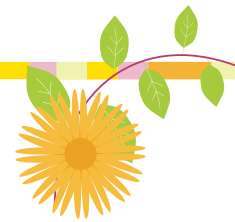
The good deed I learnt from my classmate

What are good deeds? I'm sure whenever you ask this question, many people will first think of giving seats to anyone in need, respecting people, donating money, and so on. We learn all these when we grow up, but I personally think there are more good deeds that we should learn and do. What makes it better is when you help others, it warms your heart and makes you feel good.

I remember in primary school, there was a student called Lily. She had really pale skin and long hair. She seemed quiet and sorrowful. Every recess, she avoided talking to anyone. It appeared as if she was having so much pressure. I wondered if it was study pressure, parental pressure or loneliness. I was curious and worried. Consequently, to unveil the mystery, I decided to talk to her.

One day during break time, I went to the front desk and sat next to Lily. I whispered into her ear, 'Hey... nice to meet you. My name is Bisma.' She turned to me, took a glance and laid back on the desk. It was the most embarrassing and awkward moment I had ever had, but at that moment, my only goal was to help her out and find out what happened. Therefore, I continued, 'I know you're not willing to talk to anyone; but believe me, I can help you. Are you ok?' She looked up and she was in streams of tears. She was choking, which robbed her of the ability to speak. 'I am being bullied... just because they are better looking, just because they have more, and just because they get better results,' she mumbled while crying. I got so emotional and handed her a tissue paper. Finally, we talked to our class teacher and reported everything to her. I was over the moon for helping her.

After reading this story of mine, do you get the point? Do you know what good deeds I want to share from this story? I want to spread a message to everyone out there that when you see someone who feels down, lonely, or even cries, the least you could do is to ask, 'Are you ok?' or talk to them. I hope that people can accept everyone around us for who they are. No one is perfect, and everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. We should learn not to judge or bully people. We should make this world full of love and peace by spreading kindness to each other.



Home is Where Memories Live

Moving homes was never my cup of tea. Unfortunately, we had to move a lot because of my dad's job. He was a construction worker who moved to live in places where houses needed to be torn down or demolished. It sometimes broke my heart seeing someone's house being torn down, and my heart shattered when I had to leave a place towards which I felt a sense of attachment.

This time we moved into an area where there were many young kids and radiated with all the youthful energy. Right next to our house, there was an old hut of worn-out wood, the paint faded and peeled off, the lawn unmowed for years, and the trees growing inside the house with its branches unpruned for a while. Just then, a frail and dumpy old lady came out of the door, which was so fragile that it would collapse if you pushed it a slight bit too hard.

The lady started shouting at us because we were making so much noise moving and dragging our belongings into the house. She was huffing and puffing, yelling at the top of her lungs. I was scared she might faint by the amount of force she exerted from anger. The following day was just like any ordinary day. She complained about every single thing. The fear of her grew in me and I would avoid her at all costs.

In the following days, I tried to make friends with the people in the neighborhood, and everyone was friendly and welcoming. They were all so kind and told me about all the hot spots in the vicinity. But I noticed that nobody was talking about the old lady next door. Perhaps they didn't bother.

Even though I tried to avoid her, she lived right next to us, and so I couldn't just pretend she didn't exist. However, my perspective changed when my dad told me her past as she just moved in. She was newlywed and was pregnant with a baby boy. She was a lively and bubbly young lady who everyone loved, but the day she gave birth to her baby changed everything. When her baby turned one, he came down with a terrible fever. It was past midnight and she couldn't get to the hospital without her husband's car. Her baby passed away in her arms while she tried to pat him to sleep, not knowing she was patting him to his demise. When her husband was on his way home, he lost his life in a serious car accident due to excessive blood loss. Her world collapsed before her eyes.

Listening to this tragic story brought me to endless tears. I wanted to help this old lady even if it meant being shouted at every time we met. So, the next day, I walked up to her house. She opened her door and stared at me, but her eyes warmed as soon as I showed her a tray of homemade cookies in my hands. She was taken aback. She quietly took the cookies and closed her door without uttering a single word. The next day, I walked to her house and gave her some smeraldo flowers, my favourite flower. She looked at the flowers and grinned but quickly resumed her normal poker face and slowly went back inside. Day by day, I would see a little glimpse of a young girl under her wrinkled skin. She took her time to open up to me, little by little. One day, she told me about her approaching birthday. I wanted to do something for her to make her happy.

I thought hard and an idea popped up as soon as I saw my dad. I told my dad my plan for the old lady. He agreed that it was a brilliant idea and he even offered to help me. I decided to repair her run-down house during the summer break with my friends in the neighborhood.

I didn't tell the old lady until it was her birthday when we all gathered outside of her house. She initially said no because she didn't want to bother us, but I insisted and wanted to do this for her from the bottom of my heart. She finally said yes.

We started from the inside and then outside. The old lady would bake us cookies, cupcakes, and even some delicious apple pies. After one month of hard work and constant labour, we finally finished it. We redid her whole house. At the sight of the house, she started sobbing. She said she was reminded of her time when she came into this house as a newlywed, and as a mother. She thanked us again and again.

Seeing her smile made my heart melt, and I was so happy that our hard work came to fruition. My dad later told me that if we had not repaired her house, the city officials would have had her home pulled down. He said I had just saved someone's house and, and more importantly, her treasurable memories.



Teacher Advisors

Ms. Funnecal Koo
Ms. Karen Chow
Ms. Lucie Goddard
Ms. Tracy Li
Mr. David Wu
Mr. Johnny Au

Contributors

1C Yu Yin Lok
1E Fan Sze Man
2C Nadeem Ridha
2C Tong Wing Ki Noelle
2D Samavia
2E Aruj Hafsa
2E Chan Kei Ching
3C Qadeer Imaan
3C Wong Stephanie Sin Kwan
3D Lam Hoi Kei
3E Fung Oi Lam Genevieve
3E Hau Hei Man
3E Ho Hoi Ching Celine
3E Lee Arisa Kaka
3E Li Nga Yin

3E Li Shan Yu
3E Naaz Bisma
4A Suen Hiu Ching Britany
4A To Wing Kiu
4A Yu Xin Tong
4B Zhu Hiu Ching
5A Khan Khadijah
5A Lai Hoi Ying
5A Tang Tsz Yan
5B Bibi Sunbal
5C Wong Wing Yan
5D Eimaan Altaf
5D Mohammad Faria Arshad
5D Tang Tsz Ching
5D Yusra-Aruj

