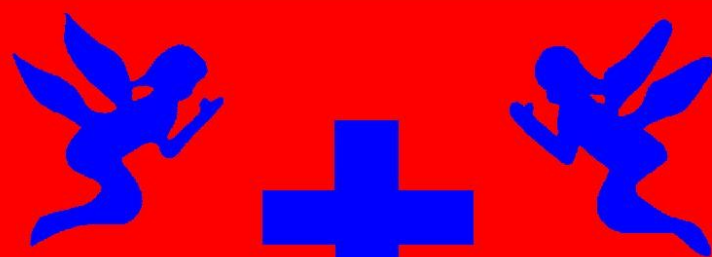


學中誠心



Spiritu et veritate

Foreword

It is our great pleasure to present you with this year's Pride in Our Words. This annual publication aims to showcase the great talent FLSS students possess – a good mastery of English, the ability to write with beauty, and most importantly, the confidence in communicating with others in the second language, of which many students are fearful. The efforts all the intelligent writers have put in are precious and they deserve our applause. By reading all the excellent works, you will not only learn to express yourselves in English better; also you will gain insights and inspirations in our everyday life.

To make this publication successful, we would like to acknowledge the people who have given us immense support throughout the production. First of all, we would like to thank all the brilliant writers for their terrific works. Without their active involvement, the production of Pride in Our Words could not be made possible. Secondly, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our English teachers, who have made much contribution to this publication by giving us professional advice and guidance. Credit is also given to the members of the English Society, who offered great help in publishing this book. Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our Principal, Mr Simon Chan, for his continuous efforts in cultivating the English environment in our school and also his sincere support in the publication of this book.

Finally, we would like to dedicate this book to all of you, our dear schoolmates. We sincerely hope that you will savour every piece of writing in the book and you will take pride in being a student in FLSS, a vibrant school filled with countless young talents.

Editor:	<i>Mr Lester Sze</i> <i>Ms Janice Li</i> <i>Ms Serena Suen</i> <i>Ms Tracy Law</i> <i>Ms Winning Wong</i> <i>All English Society committee members</i>
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My perfect future

1A Lee Hiu Yee, Eva

In 2022, I am going to be a successful kindergarten teacher! I will teach in a kindergarten in Tai Po. I will make my little students happy and everyone will get good results. I will find a good, clever, handsome, cheerful and muscular husband. Also, I will have a son and a daughter with good and charming personalities, clever minds, smart appearances, generous and lovely character. I will live in a big and beautiful house and adopt many rabbits, dogs and cats, etc.

Hong Kong will become a peaceful, fair, safe, competitive and remarkable city. The Chief Executive will be elected by us. Hong Kong people will live happily in a harmonious and healthy environment. And people in the world will live in a peaceful and lovely way without war, flood, natural or human disasters.

I hope my sweet dreams will continue for the rest of my life and my future generations.

My New Year's resolution

1B Yeung Yin Shan, Mary

I am writing an action plan because I want to be successful, like my favourite idol, Aaron Yan.

My first resolution is to study hard and never give up. I will review the things I have learnt and prepare the lesson before class every day. I will also do my homework conscientiously. Even if I think the homework is so difficult, I won't give up.

My second resolution is to sing well. I like singing very much. I can sing all the time. However, I think my voice isn't good enough, so I will practise more and hopefully one day my voice can become more beautiful. I hope I can sing like Aaron Yan!

My last resolution is to do more exercise. My family always think that I am fat and unhealthy because I seldom do exercise. Health is the most important thing to us. If I do not have a healthy body, I cannot do anything. Therefore, I will do exercise three times a week this year.

I will work hard to achieve these goals.

A letter of reply to Cindy

1C Lai Ka Wing, Phoebe

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you are really enjoying your new school.

I want to tell you about my school. It is called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. It is very big. There are 40 students in my class. We have a library. There are many books. Unlike your school, we also have a gymnasium in the hall. There is a new Science Lab. The school's canteen is my favourite place. It is because we can do a lot of things there, like eating snacks and chatting with our schoolmates.

There are a lot of clubs and extra-curricular activities at my school. There are Swimming Club, Mathematics Club, English Club, Chinese Club, Football Club, Music Club... I want to join the Swimming Club. There is no swimming pool in our school, so I hope our school can build a swimming pool for us so that students can practise swimming easily.

It's great to hear from you. I hope you enjoy the rest of the term.

Love,
Phoebe

A letter of reply to Cindy

1C Lau Kong Lung, Lucky

Hi Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you are really enjoying your new school!

I want to tell you about my school. It's called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. There are 40 students in my class. We don't have any laptop computers but we have a desktop computer inside our classroom. There is a library, an Art Room and a Music Room, too.

There's also a gymnasium in the new hall but there isn't any athletics track. There's no swimming pool, because building a swimming pool would cost a lot. There are a lot of clubs and extra-curricular activities at my school. I've joined the Hong Kong Red Cross. My favourite place is the classroom of 5A because when we are having our marching training under the sun, it is so comfortable for us to enjoy the cool air in their classroom!

It's great to hear from you. I hope you enjoy the rest of the term!

Love,
Lucky

A letter of reply to Cindy

1D Lee Lok Yan, Melody

28th October, 2011

Hi Cindy,

How are you doing? Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you are really enjoying your new school!

I want to tell you about my school. It's called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. The location is very convenient for me. It is only a fifteen-minute walk from my home. There are four blocks at my school.

There are 39 students in my class. We have two class teachers. They are Miss Wong and Mr. Chan. There is a library and a computer room. There is also a Home Economics Room next to the Computer Room. I go to the Computer Room once a week. I have never been to the Home Economics Room because I do not have Home Economics lessons.

There are two assembly halls, two music rooms and two playgrounds. One playground is on the ground floor and the other one is on the first floor. I go there when I have P.E. lessons. There is an Art Room in Block C, which is my favourite place because I like drawing very much. There are a lot of clubs and extra-curricular activities at my school. We have Choir, Art Club and Swimming Club. I like joining extra-curricular activities such as drawing, playing table-tennis and swimming. I'm thinking of joining the Home Economics Club. I can't wait to learn how to cook some yummy food for my family.

It is great to hear from you. I hope you enjoy the rest of the term. I look forward to hearing from you.

Love,
Melody

My goal in the 2nd term

1D Wu Long Ching, Rachel

My goal in the 2nd term is to get a rank of top 8. I will work incredibly hard to get ideal marks. I am going to revise each subject after school and do more exercises. If I have anything I don't understand, I am going to ask the teachers immediately.

Even if I can't get good marks, I will always do my best to succeed. I will not disappoint my family or friends. I hope I will get the English subject prize at the end of the term.

I will spend double of my time studying my weaker subjects, such as Chinese, Mathematics and also History and Culture.

I will arrange my study time better. I am going to concentrate on my work and in all the lessons.

I am going to study so hard that I want my Overage Average Score to be over 74. I will not have any subjects failed.

I also want to get a good rank so everyone would be proud of me.

Acrostic poem

1D Wu Long Ching, Rachel

Rock 'n' roll is my style,

And it makes my life worthwhile.

Cheer and screaming out aloud,

How can I not be proud?

Enough now of all this play,

Let's do it again some other day!

Working hard that is me,

University's my goal, can't you see?

Acrostic poem

1D Lau Hiu To, Victoria

Vegetables are my favourite food.

I think I'm kind.

Cheerful is my character.

Timid is not my trait.

Optimism is also my particularity.

Rejoice is always on my face.

Independence is my weakness.

Avril Lavigne is my favourite singer.

Lau Hiu To is my name.

An apple is my favourite fruit.

University is my dream.

My Fantastic Chinese New Year

1D Wong Chi Ching, Diana

In Chinese New Year, I visited my grandfather who lives in Fanling Village. He gave me a red packet when I had said some greeting phrases to him. I opened the red packet in a sneaky manner and I found \$500 dollars in it! I felt very surprised and thought that I would certainly have good luck this year.

I walked across a path to my home. Everywhere was covered by the sound of firecrackers. Children carried smiling faces and played happily. The feeling was warm and a traditional Chinese New Year picture was produced in my mind.

In the evening, I had dinner with my friends in a Chinese restaurant. We tasted many tradition foods, such as Chinese cake, sweet dumplings, etc. Afterwards, we enjoyed the fireworks display. It was very colorful and we took many photos. All of these remained in my memory.

A letter of reply to Cindy

1E Chan Ka Ching, Kelly

27th October, 2011

Hi Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you are really enjoying your new school!

I want to tell you about my school. It's called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. There are many trees and flowers around the school. And I like them very much. There are 40 students in my class. We don't have laptop computers. There are a library, an Art Room, two assembly halls, a Computer Lab and a canteen. There's also a gymnasium. We can play basketball and badminton there. However, my school doesn't have a swimming pool. The Science Lab is my favourite place because I like doing different kinds of experiments. It's just next to the Art Room. It's very big.

There are lots of clubs to join. We have Computer Club, Drama Club, Badminton Club, etc. I can't wait to learn how to play the badminton.

Take care,
Kelly

The Importance of MTR in Hong Kong

2A Lee Ka Man, Carmen

I think MTR is a good form of transport in Hong Kong. Many people like traveling by MTR, like going shopping, going to work, or going to school. Although we can go to many places by the MTR, we still have to take a minibus or bus in some remote areas. Even though many people choose to travel by MTR, the problem of overcrowding is still under control because the waiting time of the MTR is short. It takes only 2 to 3 minutes for us to reach our destination. Also, MTR trains don't produce toxic gases, because they are run by electricity. They are environmentally friendly. I am a regular of the MTR too; I take it on the way home every day.

In comparison, bus isn't a really good form of transport. When we travel by bus to work or school, the waiting time is too long and we always have to wait in a long queue. During the rush hours, there are sometimes traffic jams or accidents on the road, so we cannot reach our destination on time. Maybe it will make us late.

To conclude, I think MTR is a good form of transport. Buses aren't a good form of transport.

EIFFEL TOWER

2B Tsang Tseuk Wing, Bonnie

Eiffel Tower

Is the symbol of modern Paris?

French are proud of you

Find your lover on the top of the tower

Experienced hundred years of hardships

Like an upside-down Y

The French called it “Iron Lady”

Oh Eiffel Tower, you’re a miracle

What a unique design

Everyone appreciates you

Romance of Paris

On the Cable car

2B Tsang Tseuk Wing, Bonnie

Take the cable car

Like a bird flying in the sky

Listen to my heartbeat

So fast

We are like the things sitting in a box

Looking at the blue sky

Let us be a little bird

Flying in the sky together

A Dream job

2B Lam Hing Yi, Christina

Everyone has their own dream job. I also have mine. I want to be a psychologist in future because I want to know what people have in their minds. Being a psychologist, I also know how to control my emotions easily and know different kinds of mental illnesses.

However, being a psychologist, I have many responsibilities. I need to read a lot of books about psychology. Although it is quite boring, I still need to do so. I need to learn how to develop my logical thinking. I must read more novels about crime so as to train my logical thinking. Also, I need to observe the emotions of people. It is my favourite thing. Many of my classmates can change their emotions from anger to happiness in less than a minute. After learning their exam results, some boys can change their emotions from excitement to depression. It's so fun to explore their mood swing.

If I work as a psychologist, I can help people to solve their emotional problems. If I can help them, I am confident that I can gain job satisfaction. Also, I can know more about myself and develop a better relationship with my friends.

I will work hard, and I hope one day, my dream will come true.

On the bus

2B Lam Ka Yan, Yumiko

Commute to work, try to get on a bus.
It is efficient and also economic for us.
After work, it's crowded,
Full of homesick people, looking at the clouds.
It's comfortable and they are tired.
That's right, it's time to get relaxed.
The bus arrives.
Welcome back home.

Should student be given homework?

2C Tang Tsz Ying

I don't think students may study or remember all the things that they have learnt from the school if they don't have any extra exercises after school. Therefore, I agree that students should be given homework.

Every day, students can learn a lot of things and gain knowledge from school. If you ask them to remember all of the subjects immediately without an extra exercise, it is absolutely impossible. Revision through doing homework can consolidate the knowledge that they have learnt from school. So, I think that homework is important to students.

Besides, teachers can know the progress of their students through checking their homework. Can the students learn well? Do they study hard or not? Teachers can know all these through checking their homework. If students do not have homework to do, teachers can never know how much students learn.

So, I think homework is needed for students. However, I think teachers sometimes give too much homework to their students. Just like my sister, she has six to seven pieces of homework a day. Every day, she does her homework till late at night. She almost goes bananas.

All in all, I think that homework is very important to students. They can consolidate their knowledge that they have learned from school by doing homework. But I think it should not be a large amount, because students also need their own private time. If students are given too much homework, they will not have enough time to spend on the other things, even on study and revision. I think students should only be given three to four pieces of homework a day as at the same time, it doesn't do any good if they do not have any homework at all. Finally, I agree that students should be given homework but not too much.

Solid waste problem in Hong Kong

2D Chu Kit Lam, Cecily

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the environmental problems in Hong Kong.

The solid waste problem is very serious in Hong Kong. Everyone throws away 136 kg rubbish a day. The three landfills in Hong Kong will be full by 2015. We will have no more space left for the rubbish then. So, what can the government do to lessen the problem? Enacting stricter environmental law? Or looking for more landfills?

The other problem is the problem concerning environmental hygiene. Rubbish can attract rats and cockroaches. It affects the quality of our living environment. In fact, a clean environment can keep us from getting sick, and can also build up a better image of Hong Kong.

As a world class city in Asia, Hong Kong should not be like that. It's time to teach people how to keep the environment clean. We can do something to achieve this goal; for example, we can organize a "Clean up Day". We can clean up some areas in Hong Kong. Also, we can donate some electric equipment to some poor countries. To create a clean and healthy city, we need the support of everyone in the society.

Yours faithfully,
Cecily Chu

A Story about a retired Chinese teacher

2D Siu Sin Yee, Laura

Mr. Leung was a Chinese teacher. He had taught in a secondary school in Tung Chung for over 30 years. He is now 65 years old and has to retire because of the government policy.

Before retirement, he was very hard working and he always taught his students patiently and shared his insights with his boys and girls.

But now, he has nothing to do in his daily life. He goes to a restaurant every morning for breakfast and reads two newspapers in order to spend his time. In the afternoon, he goes to market to buy food with his wife. At night, he watches the TV with his son and daughter. He often thinks that he is useless. He thinks he is still strong and healthy. He can still teach his students.

Therefore, he feels very unhappy because he cannot teach. So he calls all his retired friends to protest on 1st July in the Government's Headquarter to tell the government they can still be excellent teachers.

A Story about a retired Chinese teacher

2D Liu Oi Ming, Monica

I was a Chinese teacher, I have taught in a secondary school in Tung Chung for over 30 years. I loved the children, teachers and the principal as they all treated me very well. I remember 30 years ago, I felt so unhappy, because the children were naughty. They screamed a lot and they didn't listen to me. I shouted at them, but they didn't listen to me.

When I went back into the staff room, the principal asked me what happened. I told her about the naughty children. She taught me how to deal with them, and she also shared her experience with me. The next day, I used my whole new teaching style to teach my children, and I became more patient day by day. Finally, I succeeded!

But unluckily, the government asked me to retire because they didn't allow teachers of 65 years old. I wanted to keep teaching because I was still very healthy and I really loved teaching. Being a teacher in the past 30 years, I learnt lots of things. I learnt how to be patient, how to look after students and the most important thing is, how to love them.

Do you like keeping pets? Why or why not?

2E Chan Ho Yin, Qintina

I really liked keeping pets before. But now, I do not.

When I was 7 years old, I had two tortoises. They were called Toto and Coco. Toto's shell had a small white spot, so I could recognize them easily. I always fed them meat and vegetables. One day, we moved to a new home. But when I wanted to find them, they disappeared. I was very upset for a long time.

A year later, we had seven new pets, the seven goldfish. They were the prize I won from a game. I gave them fish food every day. But they never ate it. They died very soon and I was upset again.

These are my two experiences of keeping pets. They all made me feel very bad. Actually, I really like animals. But maybe I just don't know how to look after them. When I grow up, I will learn more skills about keeping pets.

A letter of advice to Gordon

2E Lam Ka Nam, Sara

Dear Gordon,

How are you? I know that you are always late for school. You should get rid of your bad habit. Let me give you some advice to deal with your problem.

You can buy an alarm clock. It can remind you to get up. Now, I also have one. I've always been late before I started using a clock to wake myself up. And now, I am the person who goes to school the earliest in the class.

But you should not only rely on the alarm clock. You ought to go to bed early. If you do that, you will have good spirit and can wake up spontaneously.

I am a helpful girl. You can go to school with me, the earliest person going to school in the class. If you really go to school with me, I will wake you up by call, and hopefully, you will not be late for school.

You should always remind yourself that you don't want to be late. I believe that you can do it! But if you do not want to get rid of this bad habit, you will see the disadvantages.

Love,
Sara

Be an honest person

2E Tse Ka Ching, Grace

One day, my sister and I went out for dinner. When the lift came, we went into it. While I was listening to the music, suddenly, my sister screamed in the lift. She screamed because she found a \$1000 note on the ground! She felt so excited that she wanted to put it into her bag. I stopped her and pointed to the closed circuit television. I told her that if the security guard reported this to the police, she would be in trouble. Besides, it was wrong to take the money that did not belong to her. I advised her, "We should take it to the police. If no one takes it back, the money will belong to us three months later. Therefore we can really own this money at last." My sister agreed with me and we took it to the police finally.

Three months later, when we were shopping, the police phoned us. They told us to take the money as there wasn't anyone claiming the money. My sister felt very happy and she also praised me for my honesty. We took the money in a right way at last.

All in all, we've both learnt that it is not right to pocket things not belonging to us. It is not honest. We should be an honest person, Then everyone will respect you.

My favourite idol

2E Yu Sin Ying, Kelly

Just a normal guy
Usher finds him to be a singer
Selena Gomez loves him so much
Teenagers all love him
I have about 700 photos of him
'Never Say Never' describes what he did in the past

Bieber loves all his fans
I love his cute smile
Even watch his videos on YouTube
But he doesn't like Hong Kong
Ever be my lover
Really forever be his Bieber

Natural Disaster

2E Ho Sze Ming, Terrence

When I woke up in the morning, I switched on TV and then I knew that Typhoon Signal No.8 was hoisted. I was very happy. I looked at the clock and it was six o'clock. Since I didn't have to go to school, I decided to go outside and feel the strong wind.

When I first stepped out of the door, the wind was stronger than I thought. I tried to open my umbrella but it was in vain. So I ran to the nearest MTR station. I decided to go to Tsim Sha Tsui to see the Victoria Harbour. When I arrived at the Avenue of Stars there wasn't any people. I was very surprised. I went closer to see the Victoria Harbour but then a big wave splashed onto my face suddenly and I got all wet. After that, I decided to go into a shopping mall like other people did. After a while, I wanted to go to the Peak, but I found that the Star Ferry was not in service, so I had to take the MTR.

After thirty minutes, I arrived at the Peak Tram station. I was very surprised that it was still open. As the Peak Tram went up the hill, I saw the buildings were all covered with fog.

At the Peak, It was windier. I couldn't stand still on the ground. As I was about to take a one thousand dollar banknote out of my wallet, the wind blew it down the hill. I lost my money, so I cried.

After an hour, the wind got even stronger. The streets were all very quiet. Some tree branches were on the ground. Visitors and tourists were all hiding in the mall. Standing next to me was a tourist. He wanted to get to the airport immediately. But I didn't know how to help him.

When I was about to take the tram back home, I walked to the tram station. However, I found that there was a notice on the entrance which said "Not in service". At that moment, I was shocked. I had no alternative but could only walk down the hill. When I arrived at the MTR station, I found another notice which said that "The rain has drained the rails. Trains are out of service." So I had to wait for almost another two hours. When the Typhoon Signal No.8 was changed to Typhoon Signal No.3, the train service resumed.

However, the train was very slow and I needed a lot of patience. Two hours later, I finally reached Fanling. I thought I was taking a plane. Such a long journey!

I went back home and it was five o'clock. I was a little bit sad because of the one thousand dollar note.

My favourite place in Hong Kong

2E Ho Sze Ming, Terrence

Modern things are everywhere

Ovens, cameras find it there

New or old products, just bring your friends and come along

Girls or boys, you will love it in Hong Kong

Keep on shopping and you will find surprising things

On the bridges, in the malls, hear people sing

Karaoke in Mong Kok, sing to be the king.

A personal letter to Miss Wong

2E Kwok Pui Yan, Esther

Dear Miss Wong,

How are you? Now, I want to tell you something about me.

I think I am adventurous, because I like new things. I am kind, because when someone or my classmates need help, I will help him or her. I'm a quiet person. I hate noisy place. I can sit all day and do not say anything. But I am impatient. I hate waiting for my friends for a long time. If someone is late, I'll be very angry.

I like dancing very much. "Practice makes perfect". So I practice dancing every day. I love reading fictions very much too. And my favorite fiction is "*Twilight*". I like watching TV because I can know more news about the whole world. I love eating ice-cream.

I hate people who are dishonest and like telling lies. I hate selfish person. I don't like eating fish, but I don't why. I only hate it. I hate studying History and Culture, because it's so difficult.

My three aims in the semester are as follows: first is to become the first in my class in exams; because when I was in F.1, I only came the second in my class. My second aim is that I hope I can get good academic results in my exam. I know I can do better. My third aim is making more new friends and teachers can know more about me.

Cheers,
Esther

New York

3A Chu Wai Yan, Dorothy

The reason why I chose New York City to be the writing topic is that I like this city and I think New York City is a place that the tourists must travel to.

New York City is a centre for fashion, entertainment, culture, and international finance, so I think New York City is like the cartoon character – Doraemon’s bag, where there is everything that one would like to find.

New York City is the most famous city in the United States and in the world. There are a lot of extraordinary museums, galleries, and performance venues. These make New York City become one of the most famous centres for culture and entertainment in the States.

Besides, New York City has a lot of tourist attractions that attract a large number of tourists to go there every year, for example, Times Square and Madison Square Garden, Central Park, Broad way, Wall street, the Statue of the Liberty, and the Empire State Building. Besides the tourist attractions, New York City is also famous for its flavorsome cuisines, such as New York cheese cake, apple pie, pizza and Buffalo wings.

However, like all other major cities in the world, New York City has some social problems. For instance, the subway in the city is very awful, it is very dirty inside and sometimes mice may appear in the train compartment. And I think that may give a bad image to the tourists. Moreover, thefts are rather rampant. A lot of the local people and people living in poverty steal the people or tourists’ personal belongings on the street. And this situation is very serious. So, I think the American government needs to be concerned about this problem.

I have been to the city once only. I have a good impression on this city. Although the subway is very awful, the local food and the tourist attractions are superb. Among all the attractions, Wall Street makes me feel most amazed, because I think the buildings there are spectacular and the place is full of financial atmosphere. It is quite different from Hong Kong. I will surely recommend tourists to go to New York.

Old 6A, New 3A

3A Chung Tsz Fung, Evan

‘Oh! Our new classroom is bigger than the old one. It is a new start for us,’ Danny said. Unluckily, the 3A students didn’t know a horrible story had happened in this haunted classroom before they moved in.

They were having English lesson. Mr. B asked the students to write a composition. The topic is a horror story. While Mr. B was reading aloud a model work that his previous class had done, Sally saw a crying teenage boy at the corner of the classroom. It made Sally frightened, since she did not know who he was. All of a sudden, the boy disappeared.

At night, Sally felt confused. Therefore, she asked her classmates to go to school with her. They all wanted to find out the reason why Sally had seen the boy that morning. They walked and walked, a noise came from their classroom. ‘We are all alone. Come and play with us!’ someone cried.

Sally, Danny, Sandy and Peter ran into their classroom, but they did not know that they were in grave danger. When they arrived, they felt shocked. There were words written with blood on the wall and the floor was full of blood too. Suddenly, they heard someone lock the door. They couldn’t leave. They were trapped in the classroom. And all of a sudden, the projector was turned on automatically and a video was played. The video was a murder in 6A classroom.

Sally remembered that the victims in the video were 6A students. Oh! 6A wanted 3A to stay with them. ‘No, don’t kill us!’ Four of them were panic-stricken. Meanwhile, they found that the teenage boy Sally had seen in the classroom was standing behind them. When they turned around, they saw the crying boy from 6A and his classmates face-to-face.

Sally, Danny, Sandy and Peter wanted to run away, but they couldn’t. The door was locked! ‘What is going on?’ Sally shouted.

‘We can help you,’ the 6A said. ‘Come and follow us, please stay with us!’ They started to cry and they remembered that the happy memories they had had. A ray of shiny light suddenly came out from nowhere. Sally, Danny, Sandy and Peter started to disappear with the light.

The next morning, when the other 3A students came back to school, they found that Sally, Danny, Sandy and Peter had all disappeared. On their desks, there was a message ‘We will be missing you and we hope we will be missed.’

From then on, this classroom was locked by the school. No one could enter this room. It is the classroom for old 6A, new 3A - C211.

I met a ghost!

3A Ng Cheuk Yan

It was my own experience and it happened in my village.

When I was ten years old, I heard a story from an old man. He said, "a family was killed by an unknown man in a big house and there are four ghosts now. After I heard the story, I said to that man, 'I am not going to believe you unless I see the ghost myself.' Then I went away. I told this story to my friends. My friends suggested having an adventure. So we went on this ghost-hunting adventure to the haunted house one night.

At that night, three of my friends and I took part in the adventure .We went there at 2:00a.m. First, we looked around on the ground floor and there was nothing .Then we went to the first floor. One of my friends said he wanted to have a rest, so we went to room to have a break. When I opened the door, suddenly there was a big noise "PANG!!". We looked around the floor and found that an old clock of the house suddenly dropped from the wall. When I looked back to the room, I saw a girl with long hair and her face was full of blood. I didn't know what to do at that time, but I shouted "GHOST!!" All of my friends looked at it with a shocked face. After a second, we ran away. We ran back to ground floor and I thought it was the end, but that wasn't. The ghost suddenly came close to me and I just turned back and ran away with my friends and got out of the haunted house.

At last, we called the police. The police didn't trust us and laughed at us. After a few days, I wanted to find that old man who had told me the story but I couldn't. My grandmother told that man was the one who was killed in that house!

Advantages and disadvantages of going to tutorial schools

3A Pun Ka Ki, Celia

Good morning everybody.

Today, I'm going to talk about attending tutorial schools. There are some good points and bad points of tutorial schools.

Let me talk about the advantages. First, attending tutorial schools can help us finish homework. It is because when we encounter some difficulties in our study, we can ask the teachers in tutorial schools and they will help us to solve the difficulties. Also, we may get higher marks as tutorial schools can help us do revision. What's more, attending tutorial schools allows us to make new friends as there are students from other schools and we can make friends with them.

Next, I want to talk about the drawbacks. Attending tutorials schools may make us feel tired. Since we have gone to school for many hours, if we go to tutorial schools, we will feel even more tired. Attending tutorial schools may waste time and money too because there are some people who are lazy to study. They don't want to study. Therefore, attending tutorial schools can't help them and it is a waste of time and money for them. So, it is not necessary that attending tutorial schools may help students get good marks. Another reason for this is that there are many students in tutorial schools and the teacher cannot pay much attention to each student.

In my opinion, if you really want to improve your study, attending tutorial schools is a good choice, but you should not forget to do revision by yourself. However, if you are lazy to do revision on your own, attending tutorial schools can't help you a lot.

I hope my advice can help you. Thank you for listening.

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Mother Teresa

3B Chow Sze Nga, Shannon

Name: Mother Teresa
Date of birth: 26 August 1910
Place of birth: Üsküb , Kosovo Vilayet , Ottoman Empire

As a child, she was the youngest child in her family. Her father died in 1919 when she was eight years old. When she was 12 years old, she was convinced that she should commit herself to a religious life. She thought that she would like to be a nun as she wanted to help people. She felt that her future career was to help the poor.

As for her school life, she studied in St. Teresa's school. Her classmates were neither helpful nor kind. In her school life, she witnessed how the life of the rich and poor in India differed. She felt very unhappy.

When she was 20 years old, she took her first religious vows as a nun on 24 May 1931. She then became a nun. Her job was to help the poor people, who rarely received help from others because they were so dirty. Out of her kindness and care, she promised that she would help as many people as she could. She helped the people who got sick in the streets.

Since she always took care of sick people, many volunteers around the world thought she was a very caring person. So, she got four awards. First, she got the most respected figures of top ten most respected women in the world. Then, she got a Nobel Peace Prize for her work and achievements. After that, she got various religious awards. Finally, she got a Nobel Prize in Asia.

Mother Teresa is a role model for everyone. She could change the world because she always helped people and she didn't give up her job. She was very hard-working and committed. Because of this, many people changed their attitudes towards poor people and decided to help them. People in need no longer feel helpless.

Inner beauty is better than plastic surgery

3B Man Hin Kei, Emily

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article entitled GOING UNDER THE KNIFE FOR FASHION dated 21 February, 2012. Here I would like to point out my personal views. I totally disagree with people who are very crazy about seeking a “perfect” body.

I think it is unnecessary to change our style. If you really like your idol, you can gain insights from their style but not taking the risk of having a surgery and copying directly his or her look. The article mentioned that ‘modifying our body is a sign of disrespect to you parents.’ I totally agree with it, as all of us are unique. We should have our own style and respect ourselves.

Furthermore, another reason why so many people decide to have plastic surgery is out of curiosity. They want to have a new style, a new appearance. Also, there is peer influence. If they see their friends try it, they will also want to have a go. The low price stated on advertisements is also attractive, but they can also be misleading.

Some may think that after the surgery, you would be full of confidence and lots of people would praise that you are extremely pretty. However, the alterations on your body are not real, are they? The praise you will receive is not the real praise. Also, don’t forget that there are lots of potential dangers. One may get seriously injured or some life-long damages if there is one single mistake made during the surgery.

Finally, I would like to point out that inner beauty is more important than our appearance. If you have a great heart, you are already the prettiest person in the world.

Yours faithfully,
Emily

Acrostic Poem – Lunar New Year

3B Man Hin Kei, Emily

Let's clean up our messy home
Use bleaching agents to sweep the floor
New pajamas and shoes,
And pomelo leaves are used to take a bath
Rubbish and bad luck go away!

Neighbors come and bless you
Everything goes as you hope
Wishing your prosperity.

Yummy chocolate, watermelon seeds and turnip cakes
Enjoy amusing dragon dance
And visit relatives
Red packets – where are you?

Say No to Smoking

3B Lai Ka Ying, Tracy

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article *Too Many Teenagers have Bad Habits* dated March 13, 2012. I totally agree with the writer that too many teenagers have bad habits. One of the most worrying habits is smoking. In this letter, I would like to point out the root of this problem, and suggest some solutions to deal with it.

We all know that peer pressure can be very influential in teenagers' life. If their friends smoke, they will choose to smoke too because they think smoking looks cool and shows that they are grown-ups. As teenagers care about what others think about them, they would use smoking as a means to maintain their friendship and fit in a group. As a result, smoking will become their bad habit and it will be difficult for teenagers to kick it away.

As this problem is so serious, I would like to give suggestions to help teenagers lead a healthy life. One effective way is that schools and communities can organize some extra-curricular activities. For example, we can organize courses such as dancing class or cooking class. If teenagers enjoy the courses and do well in them, they will have a sense of achievement. They will not be affected by their bad friends and come under the bad influence so easily.

Furthermore, social workers are of great importance. They can organize some workshops to promote positive values. For those teenage smokers, the social workers can let them know that smoking is bad for their health by chatting more with them. With more understanding, they can help those teenagers quit smoking.

I hope all teenagers can enjoy good health and their teenage life by saying 'NO' to smoking.

Yours faithfully,
Lai Ka Ying

Summer Show Proposal

3B Lam Ho Fung, Hovey

To: The Principal
Date: 10th March ,2012
Programme : Fun Fun Summer Show
Proposed performance date: 1st August,2012
Prepared by: School Union

Introduction

School Union would like to organize a summer show for the sake of the well-being of the students. First of all, we believe most students of our school will have worked hard in the final examination. We propose to organize a summer show to let students relax and entertain them after the examination.

Secondly, the summer show can help develop students' skills of performing arts. The performers can learn how to express themselves through performing distinctly and confidently. They can also learn the skills from the professional performers.

Activities

1.A magic show:

We suggest organizing a magic show. This will be the first show of the day. It is an activity which provides a channel for some students who are good at playing magic tricks to perform onstage. The performers should prepare their own instruments for performing. Also, we would like to invite the famous magician-----Lau Him to perform and teach our students.

This activity can let the students learn some funny tricks and have a novel experience. It can help cultivate a healthy hobby for the students as well.

2.A singing performance:

We suggest organizing a singing show. It is performed by the choir and the orchestra. It is the second show of the day. We would like to ask the school choir and orchestra to prepare for the show.

This activity can help the students to know more about the school's musical lineup, and the music can relax their mood.

3.A Show Time for all:

We suggest organizing a freestyle show. It is the third show of the day. It allows every student who is interested in performing their talents to perform anything onstage. If the performer can attract and entertain the students, s/he can have more time to perform.

This activity can encourage the students to show their special talents if they can perform a great show. Also, it must be surprising and entertaining.

Costs

The singing and music show and the freestyle show are performed by the students. Therefore, we do not need to buy anything to prepare for those shows.

The magic show includes the invitation of the famous magician, but he offered to perform in our school free-of-charge. Therefore, we do not need to pay any fee to him. But, we suggest giving him a souvenir as our compliment. We need about \$100 to buy the souvenirs.

Conclusion

We arrange three shows on that day to relax and entertain the students. We also hope those shows can encourage the students to perform onstage.

Didier Drogba

3B Lo Shun Kwan, Johnson

On 18th July 1979, an amazing footballer was born in Africa. His name is Didier Drogba. He was born in a rich family there, so he had a good childhood. However, many civil wars happened in Africa at that time, so his family moved to France when he was five. Knowing that he himself may have talents in playing football, he joined some football teams in France, and he used to be a defender when he was young. However, in his football career, he won his fame by being a center forward player. He then became a great 'shooter' in his team. After many matches he played, he became a very famous footballer in the world, and a great team 'Chelsea FC' signed him in, made him a part of a glorious team.

He was a big success in England. His name is heard by everybody in the world who loves football. He becomes a star and he has a successful life. Even though he lived happily in France before, he never forgets the time he had experienced in Ivory Coast. He felt really sad about the civil wars in Africa, so he started to deliver speeches about world peace in Africa, and donate money and food to people in need. He tried his best to stop the civil war in Africa. In 2009, the Champion of African Footballer of the Year was won by Drogba, but he decided not to attend the ceremony. Where did he go then? Actually, he was having a meeting on how to stop the civil war in Africa. In his eyes, peace is more important than any awards. Somebody requested him to be the president of Ivory Coast, but he refused. He just wanted to help Africans, rather than being the president.

Nowadays, he is still a player in 'Chelsea FC', and he also does a great job there. But his importance to the world is that he has helped Africans to stop civil war, and he has succeeded. He is really an amazing person!

A complaint about a kindergarten

3B Tam Hei Tung, Rachel

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Poor learning environment in your kindergarten

I am writing to complain about your kindergarten. My younger sister went to your kindergarten and I am very unhappy about the services it offers.

Firstly, the facilities of your school are very poor. The toilet is very dirty and disgusting because no one cleans them. Also, the toys that are provided by the school are already broken. All of the students cannot play the broken toys during their free time. And the air conditioners in the classrooms cannot be turned on. My younger sister told me that she felt very hot and dizzy during summer time in the classrooms.

What is more, the teachers gave students physical punishment when they failed the quizzes or dictations. It is very shocking. And I cannot imagine why they can beat students. It is an ill-treatment. And I think you must talk to those teachers.

Finally, there are not enough facilities in the whole school, such as desks, chairs, etc. Also, the lessons are too boring. My younger sister fell asleep in the classes. While they are very young, they need to have more interesting things to catch their attention. Maybe they can listen to some music, or teachers should use interesting ways to teach them.

I expect a written apology and a better learning environment for my younger sister and the other students. Otherwise I will have no choice but to make an official complaint to the Education Bureau.

Yours faithfully
Rachel Tam

Acrostic Poem - Pikachu

3B Tsoi Ka Ngo, Marco

Pink and green are not the one.
It's the yellow one in the middle with a giant thumb.
Kelvin or Ken is not my name.
Adorable and powerful is what I am.
Coconut and poke-ball is one of my favorites.
Humble plus handsome makes me the popular one.
U better know me 'cause I am PIKACHU.

Our appearance – a precious gift from God

3B Wong Yan Yan, Rebecca

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article entitled GOING UNDER THE KNIFE FOR FASHION dated 21stFebruary, 2012. After reading the article, I would like to share my views on this topic.

First of all, having plastic surgery is bad for our health. If somebody goes under the knife, many chemical substances will remain in his body. They will damage his body as they always exist in it. Michael Jackson is a good example to explain this. He took lots of cosmetic surgeries a long time ago. Later on, he could not leave the masks as his skin was damaged, and he needed to wear the clothes with long sleeves and trousers to cover it. Worse still, the surgery may also damage the organs, thus we should pay attention to the effects of it. Think about it, if you went to a shopping mall, in the street or everywhere you went, you'd see everyone having the same appearance, what would you feel? I would be embarrassed!

Also, going under the knife is not a wise choice. From my point of view, if someone goes under the knife, there will be lots of adverse psychological effects on him/her. They will worry that the colleagues and friends would discover it. He is also uncertain that he can bear the stress. In addition, he will be afraid the beauty will fade away one day. After all, these are potential risks. People living with prolonged stress will suffer from poor psychological and physical health.

All in all, I hope everyone, especially teenagers, knows that we should improve our inner beauty instead of appearance. Everyone has their own unique appearance, and it is one of the most precious gifts from god. So, why do we have to change it?

Yours faithfully,
Rebecca Wong

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

3B Cheng Ho Yuen, Edison

Name: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
Date of birth: 2 October 1869
Place of birth: Gujarat India

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who was born on 2 October 1869 in Gujarat India, was the pre-eminent political and ideological leader of Indian's Independence Movement. He was very important since he was the first person who fought for civil rights and freedom without violence. He called it ***Satyagraha***. Also he was active in protests to political and social progress.

Gandhi was born in a rich family. So, in his early life, he had the chance to study in University College London. After earning a degree in law in 1891 from the University College London, he went back to India. He organized people like farmers to fight against excessive land tax and discrimination. In 1921, he became the leader of the Indian National Congress. He led Indian nationwide campaigns for easing poverty, expanding women's rights, building religions and ethnic unity.

Sadly, on 30 January 1948, he was assassinated. Because of his importance, he was officially honored as the Father of the nation. His birthday – 2 October, is commemorated in India as “Gandhi Jayanti”, a national holiday and worldwide as the International Day of Non-violence. I think it points out how important he is.

Funnily enough, although Gandhi was nominated five times between 1937 and 1948, he never received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Should students have PE lessons?

3C Chan Yunn Kiu, Kaysi

In primary schools, secondary schools, international schools, students all have PE lessons. Everyone knows what PE stands for, i.e. Physical Education. We have PE lessons in order to have a healthy body, stronger physical and even mental health. That's why I agree that student should have PE lessons.

For students who don't play sports and exercise, PE lesson is the only chance that they do exercise. Many students hate doing exercise. They hate sweating, moving, and running. That's why they are so weak. What would happen if PE lessons were cancelled? It's easy to imagine. This is the first reason that makes me agree that students should have PE lessons.

Secondly, having PE lessons makes students have better physical and mental health. Different kinds of exercise can strengthen our muscles, flexibility and immune system. We can also learn the true meaning of "never give up" during PE lessons. These are the benefits we gain from PE lessons.

Finally, we can develop better relationship with others during PE lessons. We always work as a team while doing sports, like basketball, soccer, handball, volleyball, or even tennis and badminton. We build a strong, close relationship with our teammates. Also, we work together for the same goal, and we fight for it. During this process, we develop a healthy and harmonious relationship with others.

All in all, these are the reasons why I support my standpoint. I hope everyone has a healthy body and good mental health. Students should have PE lessons to have stronger body and healthier relationship.

A Complaint to Pizza House

4A Chow Kwan Fung, Bowie

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my strong dissatisfaction about the poor quality of Pizza House. On 5th June, I took my mother out for her birthday to Pizza House. However, my experience was extremely unpleasant, as the cook was unprofessional, the restaurant was not hygienic, the food was not up to standard and the manager was impolite.

My first complaint has to do with the conduct of the cook. When I arrived at the restaurant, I found that the smell of cigarette was very strong. We looked around and tried to find the origin of the smell. Finally, I noticed a cook was smoking in the kitchen. We felt really shocked. However, the most staggering thing was that the cook threw the cigarette butt on the floor. It was hard for us to accept the manner of the cook and to believe that the cook could prepare a good meal for us.

Another complaint is about the poor hygiene of the restaurant. There were lots of cockroaches. Some of them were crawling through the kitchen. Some of them were on the table and some of them were on the wall. They were really disgusting and caused us to lose our appetite. I could not put up with this unhygienic environment.

Equally disappointing was the appalling bad taste of the food. I ordered spaghetti and my mother ordered a pizza. However, those foods tasted bad. The spaghetti had already got cold when it was served and the pizza was tasteless. It was difficult for us to finish them all.

What made the matter worse was that the manager was rude and vulgar. When we expressed our dissatisfaction to the manager, he become angry and told us that our complaint was unreasonable. He was extremely rude to us and even spoke foul language. This made us feel insulted and discontented. In addition, the manager threatened us to leave. He also ordered us to pay all the money for the meal before we left. Therefore, how could we be satisfied with the attitude of the manager in the Pizza House?

I hope Pizza House will look into this matter and improve those problems that I have mentioned. Also, I do not recommend this restaurant to all of you and I strongly advise you not to go there to have a meal.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Shower Disaster

4A Kam Tin Yau, Kamty

It was 2'o clock in the morning. There had been a childhood rumour that creatures of the dark exist in the living room and I dared not exit my room. I had just finished watching a horror movie called "The Drowned Ghost" on the computer. It was about a boy who was drowned in the bathtub and wanted to seek revenge in its afterlife. I couldn't go to sleep, not because the movie had frightened me, as I had not taken a bath yet. Although the bathroom was just a few leaps away from my room, the corridor still gave me creeps. It seemed to be dark and endless. I pondered upon leaving my room for a shower. I'm such a timid person.

Finally I convinced myself to leave the room. I scurried to the toilet as fast as I could, switching on the lights immediately. I breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing the light. It made me feel safe. I started taking off my clothes and walked up to the bathtub. Weird enough, this action had a strange resemblance with the scenes of the movie. It was a creepy feeling. I felt naked, both physically and mentally. Turning on the tap, I settled myself in the relaxing water. It was so comfortable that it could put people to sleep, but I, stayed alert. Well, I was terrified.

Suddenly, there were footsteps from distance away. My heart thumped. I quickly wrapped a towel around myself. The footsteps were getting louder. I knew it! The monsters were here. The monsters did exist! Wait! Maybe it's the ghost that wanted to seek revenge. I had to be the next victim! My mind was in turmoil. My body was shaking. I dared not make a sound! 'This must be it', I told myself. I closed my eyes, as the knocks throbbed into my heart. The door clicked open. I didn't peep.

'What are you doing!' exclaimed a familiar feminine voice. It was my mother! Soon, there was a moment of embarrassment. I was wrapped in a towel, half naked, wet and squatted in a corner of the toilet. My mother and I stared into each other's eyes for a few seconds before bursting into laughter. We knew what had just happened!

This will be an experience for me to laugh at and to remember.

Advice for a desperate girl

4B Mo Chun San, Johnson

Dear Joom,

Hey, dude! Really sorry to hear that you're facing a series of problems, but don't worry! I'll keep you company and I've got countless solutions for you to tackle the problems at root.

To kick it off, if you want to be a pretty girl and appeal to Aka, there're three things you can do: putting on make-up, changing your hair style and being more feminine. Nowadays, putting on make-up is common among girls, so you'd better do this as well in order to be more "competitive" among other girls. Don't forget to change your hair style. I bet that an elegant hair style can attract most of the boys, if not all. Also, behaving like a lady is of vital importance since nobody can turn a blind eye to the inner-beauty of a person. Complete the above things and you will be stunning!

Another thing you should do is to ignore the guys who teased you. Believe me! They just envy you. Everyone has the right to be stunning. Thus, don't care about the critical voices. You are who you are!

Apart from that, people always say "you fall in love because you are curious about that person; you break up because you are bored with that person." Unfortunately, Aka isn't your soul mate; but fortunately, you know his true colors early: he seems to be such a dead piece of wood! So, get over him. "Ending is just another beginning." I'm sure your next lover will be much better than him.

Compared to Aka, Yae is more considerate, trustworthy and masculine. You can simply know that from his protection of you whenever you are in trouble. Frankly, his appearance isn't good enough, whereas his personality is the best in the world these days. What's more, he understands you a lot as you two have been friends for a long time. You're destined for him perfectly. Treasure him!

Hopefully, you'll find the above suggestions useful. Remember, there's a saying: "Tomorrow is another brand new day".

Yours,
Johnson

My Bio-poem

4B Wong Kit Sheung, Christy

Christy

Who is courteous, intelligent, and timid

Daughter of Monica and Henry Wong

Lovers of thinking, listening to music and reading

Who feels relaxed when shopping at malls,

embarrassed when talking with strange men,

and stressed when there is a lot of homework

Who fears disgusting cockroaches, noisy bees, and long-winded people

Who gives support, heed, and love to people around her

Who would like to see every animal be healthy,

all my friends are satisfied with their life,

and everyone is able to have their trusted friends or lovers

Born in Hong Kong, living in Fanling

Wong

A drama rehearsal that couldn't have been worse

4C Cheung Man Lok, Charles

8-3-2012

Oh! What a horrible rehearsal! Well, I am honored to be the director of the play, but I couldn't accept yesterday's rehearsal. Although 'A terrible night' was the theme of the play, I thought that all the actors and actresses couldn't give the audience any horrible feelings.

After the bell rang in the last lesson, I went to the hall and waited for the other performers. I felt very happy because I had been waiting for this precious moment for a long time. I started to tell them what was going on and what the story was about when all the performers entered the hall. But, they just chatted with each other and laughed loudly. What's wrong with them? It seemed that they really couldn't focus on the play.

When the rehearsal started, the performers went on the stage and got ready. First, some of the performers screamed at the backstage to produce the background effect. But, I could only hear a soft voice without any horrible feeling. After that, the main characters cried out 'Run away from here!', but they didn't show any body language and their acting skills were not good enough. Then, after the 15 NG takes, they performed a bit better than before. What was the problem? It was a waste of time. Moreover, when a girl who was acting as an appalling witch ran onto the stage, one of the main characters forgot to stay behind the stage and his foot was strongly stepped on by the girl. He was badly hurt! They shouted at each other and started to argue. What an unexpected conflict! Then I told them to calm down and relax themselves. At last, the bell rang and all the unacceptable things gradually stopped.

I felt extremely frustrated about the rehearsal. It was not as successful as I thought. The attitude of the actors, the performance of them and the unexpected conflicts were in my mind.

I must have some preparation before the next rehearsal. I will provide some drama videos for them so that they can understand more about the flow and learn from references to improve their acting skills. Furthermore, I will organize some lunch activities for them to join so that they can have more opportunities to establish a closer relationship. At last, I hope that all of them can be more cooperative in the next rehearsal. Charles, you can do it!

A frustrating drama rehearsal

4C Leung Wing Yi, Vincchi

8th March 2012

Today was a sunny day, but to me, it was a horrible day. This was my first time to be a director of the school drama, I felt very nervous before the rehearsal. So I did a lot of preparation. However, I still ended up with lots of frustration.

Today was the first rehearsal of our drama. We met at 4 o'clock after school. But unfortunately, the main character was late for the rehearsal, so everyone waited for her to start. I reminded her to be on time. But why didn't she listen to me? Besides, I needed to handle everything and it drove me crazy. I needed to test the sound effect and light effect. Everything was confusing. And all the actors and actresses kept asking me questions. Hey come on, I am not a superman. I couldn't do everything at the same time. Is there anyone who could help me? After we had settled down, we just had about two hours to practise.

Later, the main character and actors started to play. Everything proceeded smoothly. Although they forgot their lines and argued with me, I knew they just wanted to make the drama perfect.

Actually this was the first time for all of us to participate in the drama. So I think it was a good try for me. The performance of those actresses and actors was quite exquisite and I hope they could keep up their good work until the show time.

There are a few improvements I need to make in the next rehearsal. First, I should re-confirm the time with those actresses and actors, tell them to be on time as it is important for the whole process. Second, I must get those stage effects ready earlier in order to save time. Maybe I can invite some volunteers to help me. Will my classmate help me? Hope they do so. Lastly, I think I should have more my patience because I always yelled at the actresses and actors when they did something wrong. It would be better for me to explain their faults to them and teach them how to get it right.

Hope the next rehearsal will be perfect and I must sleep now because I feel really tired. Goodnight!

A letter to Jenny

4C Wong Pui Shan, Wendy

Dear Jenny,

You need to ensure that your friend Linda was not taking some kinds of illegal drugs indeed. I don't want to have any suspicion caused by misunderstanding. If she really did, we should take action immediately.

You said that she came from a broken family. Perhaps she lacks care. You have to show consideration for her and let her know she is not alone anymore. Furthermore, you should tell her mother about this serious problem and also tell her mother to comfort and care about Linda instead of blaming and scolding her. Otherwise, it will worsen their relationship and the circumstance. However, if the situation keeps getting worse, you can try to consult social workers. They're experts in solving this kind of problem.

You should speak with Linda more often, give her encouragement and strength to get through this. Having concern, Linda will be alright soon. In addition, one thing you must do is: explain to her how drugs are physiologically and psychologically harmful to her health. Moreover, drugs are addictive and they could ruin our life by just one try. Hope she will be fine again! Hopefully my advice can work!

Drop me a few lines when you have time.

Best wishes,
Chris.

Get Back the Freedom of a Vampire

4C Leung Wing Yi, Vincchi

Do you know who I am? Don't be surprised – I am a vampire.

My name is Ran. I live in Australia. And why did I become a vampire? It was because of my stepmother. She was a vampire and she had a heart of stone. She wanted to take over my family. So she bit my father and sister and they died. I am the only one who survived and not surprisingly, I became a vampire. I am 1250 years old now. In the vampire history, the age of 1250 is just an infant stage.

Let me tell you that being a vampire is not that good. First, we can't stay with our human lover forever. Because they are humans, their appearance will get older and older. But I don't, so I left them again and again. I felt really lonely.

The next problem is that we are not able to go out under the sun. Our skin will be on fire if we do so. I wish I could swim in the sea and play those exciting water sports, but I don't have the chance to try it. I feel very jealous of those bikini girls. I can just watch them through my home window. And my home was as dark as hell. No light, no warmth – because vampires don't need them.

On a Christmas Eve morning, a man knocked at my door. I was wearing my black jacket and opened the door. There was a salesman. I thought he was just an ordinary salesman that anyone would ignore, so I closed the door. But he stopped me, he asked, "Miss, are you a vampire?" I felt very shocked. This is the secret that no one knows. Then he showed me his vampire teeth. He was a vampire too. He took out a bottle from his bag and told me that it was a sun screen just for vampire. When we used it, we can get back the freedom of a vampire. So I bought it.

I applied the sun screen on my skin immediately. My skin became shiny. What I did next was shopping. Everyone likes shopping including me. "I'd better buy some colorful bikinis and dresses. I can buy yellow shirts, pink dresses and blue bikinis." I thought. I had never enjoyed my shopping in such a good weather. Also, I could have ice-cream and sit down in the café and enjoy my coffee. All these were fabulous. That's the life I had always dreamt about.

Later, I went to the beach, the place I love most. I put on my bikini and went down to the sea. Under the sun, the sea looked like the azure sky. I could feel the warmth from the sun and the taste of the seawater. Everything was wonderful. After swimming for a while, I went sunbathing. Being a vampire made me so pale, I needed to get tanned. That's really attractive.

That day was the Christmas Eve, so the beach was very crowded. But I met him-----Rufus. He invited me to swim and play water sports with him. We had a great time with each other. I think we fell in love with each other.

Time flew. The night came. We sat down on the beach and watched the bright moon. It was so romantic. That was the best Christmas Eve I had ever had.

After this memorable day, I lived with Rufus happily. Although he couldn't stay with me forever, I could still get a different future with that sun screen.

A treasured friend

4C Wong Hoi Yi, Vito

Have you ever imagined that you can make friend with Snow White? I guess not. However, I have already made friend with Snow White. Let me share the story with you!

One day, I was leaving the school library after my self-study. There was no one else. Most lights in the library were already off. The library was as dark as abyss. It was a little scary to me.

Suddenly, I felt that I kicked a hard object. I picked it up slowly and found that it was a book named “The secret of Snow White”. I opened it curiously.

There was a glare of light from the book. I threw the book away and covered my eyes immediately. A girl who was wearing a blue and yellow princess dress with a short black hair was sitting on the book after a few seconds.

I couldn't believe what had happened to me! Was she Snow White? The girl hastily pulled me away, although she didn't know the directions. She told me that she was escaping from the killer who had been manipulated by her stepmother, the queen. I had saved her by teleporting her to this world. Everything was like a dream! How unbelievable it was! I then invited her to live with me in my residence hall. She readily accepted.

We played everywhere on campus, garden, canteen... We had lots of fun there. Snow White told me that she was closer to me, and my world. She learned B-boy from me and we held many parties to other schoolmates. We found that Snow White was talented at dancing. Her dancing surprised all my friends!

Snow White lived as normal as an ordinary person here. No one discovered she was from the other world. We exchanged diary every night. Her diary had a red bow made from her scarf – it's Snow White's cute style. By reading each other's diaries, we could touch each other inner soul. We shared our ambitions with each other. Snow White wanted to be a conscientious princess as she could. We became very close friends very soon.

Time flew. Snow White always went out alone these days. She looked heavy-hearted. I was worried about her because she didn't tell me what was happening.

One night, Snow White wore her princess dress again. She told me that she had to leave. Her sixth-sense told her the killer had arrived this world already! She didn't want anyone to get hurt because of her. She tried to think of many methods to solve this predicament, but the best solution was to leave, because we didn't know what he was going to do! Maybe the killer would threaten us to disclose where Snow White was. He might even hurt us if we did not do so. She had no choice but to leave.

We went back to the library and opened the book again. A glare of light appeared again, I tried to open my eyes. I didn't want to lose my friend! But, I couldn't.

Finally, Snow White disappeared. But she gave me a lot of memories. I put the diary which had a red bow into my storage box. It's a treasure of my life, isn't it?

An unforgettable experience in Tom Li's life

4D Ho Ka Ching, Alice

Tom Li was a hard-working employee at Mr. Chang's trading company. He was always punctual and friendly towards his fellow workers. However, business started to decline during the SARS crisis. Mr. Chang asked Tom to get into his office one afternoon and told him the bad news.

Tom opened the door and saw his boss sitting there silently. He seemed to be very guilty. Then, his boss spoke out the miserable news that he was going to be laid off owing to the company's staggering business. Tom was shocked and disappointed. He had always been thinking that he was diligent and dedicated to the company whole-heartedly, but it turned out to be wasted effort. He then left the company.

He started to find jobs but the opportunities of interview he got were almost none, let alone getting a position. Tom used his savings for his daily life, such as paying for his accommodation, meal, electricity expenses, etc. And during the period of unemployment, he still had self-learning through the Internet and he got some valuable financial knowledge. However, his savings ran out quickly and he could not afford his rent anymore. Finally, he had to sleep on the street.

The harsh days came. He applied for subsidies from the government. Also, he had to fend for himself by picking up waste paper to maintain his life. He made a lot of endeavors on it. Every morning, he waited for restaurants dumping the waste. On cold days, he could only sleep in tattered clothes. One day, his friend came across him and lent him 1000 dollars after knowing his situation. He was grateful. He used the money to buy some stocks.

He held out his difficult life for almost 1 year. During the days, he sold his stock and bought new stocks whenever a time came. His capital started to snowball every time and finally he got a massive amount of money. He opened a trading company on his own and gained much profit. Many years later, Tom saw his friend who lent him money. Tom then smiled at him and said 'Thank you very much. Without you, my life would not have got back on track.' The friend smiled 'You are welcome. A friend should be this way.'

Tom was grateful for his unconditional aid. He understood that love of friendship could be so great and he got a best friend since that day.

A complaint to HK Travel

4D Wong Ching Yiu, Zephyr

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The complaint about the tour guide of the travel agency, Ah Zhen

I joined the Hong Kong tour which was escorted by Ah Zhen. Ah Zhen's words and deeds had made me feel ridiculous and humiliated. I thought that her attitude was bad! All of the tourist group members were annoyed and so I wrote this letter to complain about the tour guide, Ah Zhen.

In the first place, she changed the itinerary herself. Originally, we would not go to a watch shop but she just changed it herself! She had never asked any tourists for permission before she made this decision.

In the next place, she forced us to buy from the watch shop. But actually we did not want to buy those watches, because we did not need them! Although we did not want to buy them, we still bought them under her coercion in the end. Lastly, her attitude and the quality of the service were abominable. After we had left the watch shop and got onto the sightseeing coach, she began to abuse us verbally. She compared the amount of consumption between another group and our group. I thought that she just lost her temper and released it on us and she made me feel that she had no professional ethics!

Ah Zhen's words and deeds reflected the quality of Hong Kong tour guides. I know that not every tour guide is like her but she still can tarnish the image of Hong Kong. Maybe overseas and Mainland China's tourists will think that many of our tour guides in Hong Kong are the same as Ah Zhen and they would not come to Hong Kong. Tourism is one of the major pillars of Hong Kong's economy. Thus, the reduction of number of tourists will be a huge damage to Hong Kong's economy.

We demand compensation for our monetary loss. We would like to have a full refund. We do not need any mental indemnification because nothing can compensate for it, even if Ah Zhen apologizes to us! Besides, we hope that you can penalize Ah Zhen. Either you can just send her a warning letter, reduce her salary or fire her. But I think it is the best if you can

terminate her license. We think your staff needs to have some retraining programs and you need to strengthen the monitoring system too.

However, if we know that you have taken no actions, we will report it to the newspaper and the Consumer Council. Then, everyone knows that Ah Zhen is one of your staff members and the reputation of your travel agency will be tarnished. We believe that there is no advantage to you if this incident becomes public.

Lastly, we hope that you can handle our demand as soon as possible. We are expecting you to give us a satisfactory answer.

Yours faithfully,
Zephyr Wong
Zephyr Wong

A Letter of Advice

4E Tse Man Wai, Christy

Dear Pat,

Glad to receive your letter. I am sorry to hear about your situations.

I really understand your mood about the lack of friends. It can be frustrating. You said that the virtual World would be a good place for you to build up connections with friends and it can satisfy your needs of meeting friends. But don't you know that the 'friendship' is not real? It can't help you improve your social skills and it will only affect your communication skills. Therefore, you need to re-think about what you should do to help yourself. I suggest you contact and befriend your classmates. Allow yourself to have the opportunities to discover whether they have similar hobbies as you and share your daily life with them. I think they will feel curious about you and this will be a good start.

Secondly, about your tension with your family, it is because they think you are hooked on to surfing the Internet and you don't care about your study. Remember, not to talk back to them or your relationship will become worse. They did it because they are really worried about your health and daily life. If I were you, I would try to communicate with them and ask for their opinions. If you can control your time on playing computer games and let them know the advantages about the Internet, I think they can understand you. Also, I would encourage you to spend more time to play outdoor activities with your parents, because I know your dad likes outdoor activities very much.

Actually, I don't agree with you that playing games is a good method to release your pressure. If you spend too much time on it, your health and schoolwork will suffer. Frankly, it is really wrong to escape from problems. You should face your problems bravely. At the same time, if you can balance your life well, it can help you release stress.

Finally, I think you should stop your addiction to the Internet and try to connect with classmates. Through joining different kinds of activities, you can enhance your social skills and remove your anxiety. The most important thing is improving the relationships between friends and parents. Why don't you try?

It's time to stop now and I have to join my extra-curricular activity. Drop me a few lines when you are free and tell me what is going on with you. Look forward to your reply.

Best wishes,
Chris

A letter of advice

4E Tang Yui Sze, Tess

Dear Pat,

Glad to receive your letter. How are things with you? I am sorry to hear that you haven't made any friends at your new school. But you have somehow misbehaved as you are always indulged in playing computer games.

I think the main cause is that you are addicted to checking your Facebook page and playing computer games. Do you know this is the main cause of not having any friends? The key here is to prioritize what's important to you. There are some methods that help you to make new friends.

First, you need to improve your communication skills. You may be more active in chatting with them and find out what hobbies they like, such as watching movies. You can invite them to go together. Also, I think you are interested in joining the Electronics Club. You can make friends with the members because they have the same hobby as you!

Now I am not saying that playing computer games and surfing the Internet are bad, but if you spend too much time playing them, your health, schoolwork and the relationship between you and your parents will be worsened. So, you'd better spend more time playing outdoors activities in the sunshine with your family and friends. (I know your dad likes flying kites very much) These can improve the relationship between your parents and friends. Also, it can help you escape from the virtual world. After all, the best solution is that you should learn to be more self-reliant and face your problems bravely.

I know that the new school life made you feel stressed and you find it hard to adapt yourself to the new study environment. But playing computer games is not a good method to reduce pressure. You should set a time limit to control your time spent on playing computer games. For example, you should stop playing computer games when you have already played for an hour.

Got to stop now- I have so much homework to do and I have to revise for my exam. Drop me a few lines when you have time and I hope my advice can help you.

Best wishes,
Chris

A Letter to the Editor: The Issue of Mandatory Drug Testing

5A Cheung Hiu Tung, Yuki

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinions about the issue of mandatory drug testing. It is astonishing that juvenile drug abuse has become acute in Hong Kong. To combat this problem, the Government proposes to implement mandatory drug testing in all secondary schools. It is said that the money, resources and time would be wasted if the Government adopts this policy. However, in my opinion, it is a direct and effective policy to address teenage drug abuse.

Carrying out mandatory drug testing in all secondary schools can serve as a strong deterrent to students. Students are afraid of being punished or labeled and thus, they will not try to take drugs. In addition, the drug users will be scared too because the school solemnly deals with the drug problem. Therefore, there is a great opportunity that the students who are taking drug will confess their mistakes and seek help from school. This is a practical and quick way to find students who need help to tackle their addiction. In fact, implementing mandatory drug testing can effectively deter secondary students from taking drugs.

Apart from the strong deterrent towards students, this is a proper way to help students who are addicted. We can locate the drug users in schools through adopting mandatory drug testing. After that, we can cater to their real needs, such as providing medical care or psychotherapy for them. Teachers and social workers will put their effort to help the drug users at school. Actually, they can provide the most appropriate methods to help the drug users. With no doubt, it is essential to let the students recognize that the aim of the drug testing is not to punish or humiliate them. The core purpose of it is to resolve drug users' addiction.

Despite the above-mentioned benefits, some still argue that mandatory drug testing is not efficient. Moreover, some people think that the money and resources could be better used elsewhere. Indeed, carrying out this drug testing will build up a huge expense. However, the health and future of teenage children are more important. They are invaluable. The Government should understand their needs and also address their problems proactively. Furthermore, when drug testing is widely implemented, the efficiency would undoubtedly be improved.

To conclude, it is a wise policy since implementing mandatory drug testing can serve as a strong deterrent to students and help them to tackle their addiction properly. Even though this testing will build up a huge expense, it is more important to solve the astonishing juvenile drug abuse. Therefore, it is beneficial to carry out mandatory drug testing in all secondary schools.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

A Letter to the Editor: Hong Kong- A City of Success?

5A Chung Chun Kit, Jacky

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article titled “*Catching the hot potato*” dated 23 February 2012 in South China Morning Post.

I totally agree with the statement “*the success of a city cannot be measured by its financial prowess alone; the well-being of its residents is also important*”. The GDP can only reflect the financial status of a city or a country; but the number can hardly show us the overall living standard and well-being of the residents. Sadly, Hong Kong is yet to be a “success” if we put different measurements into consideration.

One of the reasons is that the wealth gap is too huge in Hong Kong. For instance, one can see there are more and more luxurious houses being built in Hong Kong, while a huge amount of sub-divided units are still in desperate need among the poor. Most people who live in sub-divided units have no choice or way out since the rent of private flats is too high and the supply of public housing is too inadequate. Together with the ageing of population and the ever-increasing unemployment rate of youths, how can we still claim that Hong Kong is a city of success? These serious problems brought by uneven wealth distribution cannot be reflected or tackled by GDP. If the government does not take immediate and effective measures, discontent and social unrest will inevitably be resulted.

Our living environment is another main factor determining the well-being of our residents. As Hong Kong has become more and more developed, the overall purchasing power has increased steadily. The consumption rate per household has also increased at the same time. In this process, we produce more disposal waste and consume more energy. As 70% of Hong Kong’s electricity supply is produced by fossil fuel, air pollution problems are worsened. We all know that a clean and comfortable living environment is of crucial importance to one’s physical health, and it is a shame that many districts such as Mong Kok and Causeway Bay have very poor air quality due to heavy pollution. That is why if we should include environment in the measurement of our level of success, Hong Kong still has much room for improvement.

To conclude, to make Hong Kong a real “success” and “world-city”, we should not only focus on the economic development but also on the livelihood and living standard of all walks of life here. I do hope that the government can take a proactive role and try to address the problem as soon as possible so as to make life in Hong Kong enjoyable and fulfilling.

Yours faithfully,
Jacky Chan

Online Shopping ...?

5A Lee Ka Yui, Portia

Online shopping has become more and more popular in our society. This new trend which involves the use of Internet has brought us a totally different shopping experience. Online shopping can bring many advantages to the shoppers and is a better way to shop.

First, one major advantage is that online shopping is very convenient. By using the Internet, online shopping can be done at anywhere and anytime. For example, you can shop online when you are having lunch at a café or even when you're watching TV at home. This helps us save a lot of time because we don't need to walk around the shops and streets. With the time saved, more work or things can be done, like taking a rest or meeting friends. What's more, you can usually get a home delivery when you shop online, so you won't need to bring your things back home, a way to save time and energy.

Besides, a second advantage is that online shopping provides a variety of products. Due to the wide coverage of the Internet, tons of shopping websites can be found, for example eBay and Amazon. With these websites, no matter where the products are sold, local and overseas products can be obtained. I've once bought a CD which is only sold in Japan online. I still remember the overwhelming joy in my heart when I received the CD. I just can't thank online shopping more.

However, some people may say that the product description can be misleading. They argue that pirated or broken goods are given to the customers because the sellers may post a fake product description. However, customers can contact the customer service centre to clarify the information about the products on sale. This helps the customer verify the information and the customers can then choose to see if they will buy the item or not. Moreover, the customer can search for comments on other websites or forums to see if they really need that product.

Furthermore, some people may also argue that there are concerns about identity theft. They complain about the personal information they give to the websites is not protected properly and can be hacked which results in the loss of private data. In fact, this problem can be solved by using reputable websites because they are used by a lot of people. Another thing is that the customers can use websites which start with **https://** instead of **http://**.

Websites which start with **https://** indicate the information is being submitted through a secure server. Customers can feel much safer using these websites.

Online shopping is a new trend in our society. Not only is it convenient but also provides us with a wide range of products to choose. There are some criticisms too. But shoppers can protect themselves by paying more attention to the websites they use and the product information provided and enjoy online shopping as a better way to shop.

The Internet does more harm than good?

5C Pang Siu Man

The Internet is a very popular tool in this world which has many functions for the users. The usage of the Internet has many pros and cons. Now, I will illustrate my arguments in the following paragraphs.

First of all, the internet provides useful information for us. This is very convenient for us because we can reduce the time for the search of information in the library. The data from the Internet is updated frequently and continuously in order to provide new information to us. Furthermore, the Internet facilitates easy communication because the Internet has many communication media including MSN, Skype, Facebook, etc. Those media can help us keep contact with people easily as it is convenient to use. In the past, all of us sent letters to keep contact with each other, but that was too troublesome. With the use of the Internet, we can reconnect with long-lost friends who we have already been disconnected in our school life. On the internet, we can use Facebook to find our friends and share the information with each other.

Finally, the Internet has a lot of games which can allow us to reduce our pressure and provide pleasure. In our daily life, we have a lot of pressure from schoolwork and family. However, the Internet provides us with easy ways to reduce our stress and anxiety.

The above arguments are about the pros of the Internet. Now, I will illustrate the cons in the following paragraphs.

In the first place, the Internet hinders the development of communication skills among kids and teenagers. Focusing on the Internet for too long, we may not have enough face-to-face communication, which makes it difficult for us to learn how to communicate effectively in real life situations. Apart from the problem about social skills involved in daily communication, teenagers nowadays are also often criticized for using the “Internet language” improperly. The shortened forms or symbols may be hard for people to comprehend in the real life. Sometimes the students even use the “Internet language” in their writing exercise. It will bring negative influence to their writing skills as well.

Last but not least, the Internet can be detrimental to the psychological development of teens and kids. As we all know, the Internet contains various indecent and obscene websites. Teens and kids may not have the ability to judge what is right and what is unethical. Some may get misled and gain wrong messages and values. More seriously, young people may be tempted to commit cyber-crimes, such as identity theft, cyber-sex, etc.

All in all, the Internet does have its pros and cons. The most important thing is that we should learn how to use it sensibly, and it will be a useful tool for our daily life and education.

A Debate Speech- China should abandon its one-child policy

5E Leung Chung Ho, Joe

Good afternoon, everyone. Today, our motion is “China should abandon its one-child policy”, and our team firmly believes that China should not abandon the one-child policy.

First, there are not enough resources such as oil, food or energy to satisfy the needs of humans in the world but those are essential in maintaining our life. As we all know, a lot of countries are supporting various Green projects for protecting our environment and promoting sustainable development. Yet, if China does not implement the one-child policy, the population will increase rapidly. And the allocation of resources will be made more difficult, which inevitably makes people further exploit natural resources. That is why the one-child policy should not be abandoned due to the scarcity of natural resources.

Secondly, according to Deng Xiaoping, the Father of Mainland China’s modernization drives, the first step towards boosting the country’s economy was to control the birth rate. A lower birth rate has helped millions of poor people achieve a better quality of life. It is no doubt that people’s standard of life is really important and it affects the country’s future and long-term prosperity influentially. Actually, with a higher and better living standard, the economy, policy-making, the culture of China can be better taken care of. It can also ensure the better development of China in the future.

Finally, the upbringing of the next generation can be greatly improved through the one-child policy because the population will decrease gradually. As the one-child policy can restrict the birth rate effectively, the families can surely focus on their single child. The families can then save more money to spend on their single child and the next generation can enjoy their childhood and get more education opportunities such as joining more activities or having private tutoring. It can help the youngsters develop their talent or capacity, which in turn ensures the nurturing of more talented and knowledgeable citizens. They can then be the pillars of society in the future. The prosperity of China can be built up consequently.

To sum up, in the interest of China’s future and long-term prosperity, our team does hold the strong belief that the one-child policy should not be abandoned. Thank you.

Advice for a friend who is going for an interview

6A Hung King Yeung, Horace

Dear Peter,

It's great news that you're going for an interview for a part-time job in a mobile phone company. I totally understand what you are nervous about and how challenging it will be. However, you should take it more relaxingly and treat it as a game. This attitude can surely help you perform better. Drawing from my experience, I can provide you some advice which may be helpful.

A comprehensive preparation is vital to perform well in an interview since it will help you become more confident and sharper and it also leaves a better impression to the interviewer. There are several important things you have to prepare well.

First, do deep and full research of the company. You have to be familiar with the background of the company; for example, the different models of mobile phone produced by the company, the market of these products and the conspicuous features of the brand. The interviewers will think positively of you if you know these well since a presentable mobile phone promoter has to be able to introduce the brand's products clearly and comprehensively.

Moreover, you have to show that you are passionate about mobile phones. So you should collect a wide range of mobile phone information, such as the latest models, the trend of the latest mobile phones and so on. Not only can it prove that you are suitable for this job, but you also make the interviewer believe that you will work hard and well.

Besides, you should prepare for some common questions in interviews such as "Why do you choose our company?" or "Why do you want to get this job?" You will perform better than those who haven't prepared for the questions as you will be able to produce a smoother and clearer response after you've done enough practice.

Furthermore, a good impression to the interviews will definitely increase your possibility to be chosen. To do so, you should wear neat and clean suit and tidy up your hair. A smart appearance is essential in an interview.

Apart from preparation, interview skills are also crucial. You have to show your capability among a group of interviewees in order to attract interviewers' attention. You should notice the following points. First of all, behave as politely as possible during the interview. When you are walking into the interview room, greet the interviewers and other applicants, or when answering the questions, you need to show your respect and be humble so that you can win the interviewers' trust. Otherwise, you may be regarded as an arrogant person and it is impossible that you will be chosen.

Moreover, express your ideas as clearly and logically as possible. It is significant to let the interviewers know that how befitting you are to the post since you are good at speaking. Furthermore, when you are required to answer a question, try to respond more specifically. Avoid speaking something muddled and empty. For example, to answer "Why do you like our company?" You can't just say "Because it's famous." More details have to be added to the answers. That will show your passion and impress the interviewers.

Last but not least, keep confident and smiling. The more confidence and nicer smiles you convey, the more likely you will succeed. Companies would not employ a person who looks unconfident, especially for a job which needs to face the public. Therefore, keep sitting straight and smiling to the people during the interview.

I hope all of the suggestions would help you with your interview. Looking forward to your good news!

Cheers,
Chris Wong

A chemistry lesson that went so wrong!

6A Kwan Hau Tung, Karen

I thought that day would have been another boring day at school – the boring lesson, boring Mr Chan with his boring Chemistry stuff. However, the day turned out to be surprising, so surprising that I would never forget.

‘Chemistry again!’ I grumbled to myself in the class. The chemistry lesson has always been a torture for me as I’m not interested in chemistry, not a bit. How could my classmates even listen to Mr Chan talking about the atomic stuff? The more I tried to listen to Mr Chan, the sleepier I felt. To stop myself from falling asleep, I drew on my textbook my favourite robot ‘Iron Man’. However, I could not resist the boredom and fell asleep.

‘The atomic radius of molecules ...’ The annoying voice woke me up from my sleep. I widened my eyes slowly, trying to get my consciousness back. I looked at Mr Chan to check whether he discovered that I had fallen asleep. ‘Wait! Who is standing next to the blackboard? Is that Iron Man?’ I thought, startled. I couldn’t believe my eyes and I was so shocked that I stood up from my chair.

‘Is there any problem, Chris?’ Iron Man spoke with a metallic voice. I didn’t know how to react and I shook my head with my eyes and mouth wide open. ‘That’s the voice in the Iron Man animation!’ I thought. ‘So... tell me the answer to this question!’ Iron man pointed at the blackboard and asked. I was so shocked that my brain was frozen! Suddenly, a laser gun came out of nowhere and Iron Man pointed the gun at me. ‘Answer the question in 5 seconds or else you will be shot. 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...’ I closed my eyes, not knowing what to do and waiting to be shot.

‘Hey, Chris! Wake up! Mr Chan is looking at you!’ my neighbour yelled at me. I opened my eyes again and said, ‘Shouldn’t I be dead after the shot?’ I looked up and found Mr Chan gazing at me. ‘Iron Man, when have you transformed back to Mr Chan?’

The class burst into laughter and I realized that the Iron Man thing was my illusion. ‘Mr Chan, sorry. I think I’ve just come back from Mars.’ I apologized. The class continued to laugh out loud, which made me feel I was really back to the reality.

I looked at the Iron Man with a gun which I had drawn. I found it scary and erased that right away. But ... how come I couldn’t remember I had drawn a gun on his hand?

Nuclear power is the best choice for our future

6B Chow Man Kwan, Mandy

Dear judges, the negative team, ladies and gentlemen,

I am here to express our strong agreement on the use of nuclear power. Our team, the proposing team, strongly believes that nuclear power is the best source of energy for the future. As we all know, we have to find a suitable source of energy to satisfy the increasing demand of electricity nowadays. However, both the fossil fuels and renewable sources are not a preferable choice, but only the nuclear power.

Before I start, let me point out the main fault that the negative team has made. It is not difficult to hear that the main argument of them is that nuclear power is dangerous; it may cause profound damages towards the environment if there is a leakage of power. However, I sincerely hope you consider that it is not a strong rationale. In the future, technology and technique will be more maturely developed, we can have better prevention and protection to avoid any accidents. As a result, there is no excuse for not using nuclear power in the future.

So what makes nuclear power so preferable to be used in the future? Firstly, it can help solve the problem of inadequate resources. Nowadays, fossil fuels are used to generate electricity in many countries, such as China. Unfortunately, the amount of fossil fuels is decreasing rapidly. Some experts predict that there may be the Third World War caused by countries asking for more fossil fuels. Coal and petroleum are examples of fossil fuels which are most likely to be used up within a few years. It is significant for us to find a better source of energy to replace them. Nuclear power is a good choice. We can get the needed elements, like uranium, from ores whose amount is still very high. That is why nuclear power is the best choice.

Secondly, nuclear power is very stable. We basically cannot live without electricity nowadays. Nuclear power can provide us long-lasting energy. Some people may think that renewable sources are much better because these will not be used up. Doubtlessly, it is true. However, such kind of resources like solar power, wind power is strongly dependent on the weather, location, etc. How can these kinds of energy provide us enough and stable electricity? On the other hand, electricity can be generated continuously in a nuclear plant. It is totally independent from the natural factors, which means that we can keep getting enough electricity to meet the high demand of energy in the future.

Thirdly, the energy density of nuclear power is very high. Only a small amount of elements is used to generate huge energy. For example, the amount of electricity generated by a few elements in the nuclear plant is equal to that by 1000 trucks of coal. It is obvious that nuclear power is highly preferable to undertake the responsibility of meeting the increasing demand of electricity. For the future, more electricity will be asked for as people are relying more on the electronic gadgets like mobile phone, iPod, etc. So nuclear power is the only choice to satisfy the demand in the future.

Fourthly, nuclear power will only cause minor pollution. Many people concern about the associated problems of pollution of using nuclear power. However, there is nearly no pollution caused by generating electricity in the nuclear plant. The emitted gaseous product will be filtered in the plant before it is removed to the air outside. The polluted particles will be collected in the column of nuclear plant, which makes the gases finally emitted clean and not harmful. This process cannot be seen in the coal and petroleum plants. People nowadays pay attention to environmental protection. We are trying to find the most environmentally-friendly source of energy to meet the demand, and this comparison between fossil fuels and nuclear power clearly shows that the latter is the better.

To conclude, although there are a few uncertainties that unsettle people to believe that nuclear power is safe, the numerous benefits of nuclear power obviously confirm that it is the only choice for us to meet the energy demand in the future. Ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely hope that all of you can see the indeterminate arguments of the negative team; and the importance of finding a reliable, stable and clean source of energy. I believe that you will find out that nuclear power is the best choice for the future.

Thank you.

Advice for a friend who is going for a job interview

6B Wong Yaxi, Annie

Dear Mary,

Thanks for your last letter. I'm sorry to hear that you're nervous about the coming job interview. Don't worry as I've had similar experience before. I'm sure I can help you.

As you mentioned in your last letter, you wanted to apply for 'Part-time Promoter' at a mobile phone company. It's an interesting job, isn't it? To get the job successfully, you should know more about the company and its products. For instance, is it a Hong Kong-based company or a global company? How many branches are there and where are they? As for the products, you must know the models of the mobile phones well. More importantly, focus on the latest ones that are fashionable, popular, and multifunctional. This is important as you might be asked to introduce it in the group interview. Too difficult? Too much information? Well, actually, you can obtain the information on the company's official website! It will tell you everything you need to know. Read the information on the website carefully and you'll become well-prepared for the interview. Remember 'Practice makes perfect' and I'll be delighted to be your audience.

Since a job interview is usually serious and formal, I suggest you buy a suit so that you can dress smart that day. It will definitely impress others. The first impression you give others is very important. This is especially true for promoters. I still remember that in the first interview I had, I dressed casually. When I entered the interview room, all other applicants were wearing suits. I felt extremely embarrassed. I hope you won't make the same mistake I made and you won't encounter such kind of embarrassing situation. What is more, if you have no idea how to dress you up, go to the shops and see how their promoters look like. I bet the company expects applicants to look smart and tidy.

Now, after preparing for the job interview, we should think about what to do during the interview. Don't be confused. It's just like an oral test at school. Well, I can't deny that they are a bit different, but you should have the same attitude towards them. Do you still remember how we behave in an oral test? We tried our best to be active, logical, serious and communicate efficiently with others. Yes! Just apply all of those skills in your job interview and show your talents! Remember you are going to be a part-time promoter. You must be friendly to customers. So, you are supposed to be friendly to other applicants too. To do this,

you should be polite all the time. Well, I shouldn't mention this since you are always a polite and kind girl. I should not worry about it.

Apart from using the skills we've learnt in school, you should also remember to show your passion about this job. As I mentioned before, you should know as much as possible about the company. During the interview, you have to show them how much you know the company, how much you appreciate the job and how much you want to be part of them. However, don't recite all the information or else your presentation will become unnatural. When you have the group discussion, do communicate with others and convey a message to the interviewer that you are a suitable person. If I were you, I would also talk about my personal experience related to mobile phones, such as whether I have been using the company's mobile phone, how I feel about it, etc. Remember – give positive and genuine comments.

I think it's enough for your coming interview. I'm sure it will be a success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm always there to help you!

Best wishes,
Chris Wong

Urban development versus Conservation

7B Chan Cheuk Ling, Cherie

When walking on the street, you will not find it difficult to observe that those invaluable historical sites and interesting backstreets we could see in the past have been gradually disappearing. Some people suggest the government restore the historical buildings and backstreets in some areas such as Wan Chai and Sheung Wan, resembling what the government in Macau has been doing. Let's look in depth into the benefits and drawbacks of implementing this suggestion.

The reason why the government is not putting much effort in preserving these old buildings and backstreets is obvious. As we all know, Hong Kong is short of land to meet the rapid growth of population and economy. Thus, in the eyes of the government, there is no room for preserving these useless antiques. That's why the government would rather sell the land to the businessmen for commercial uses or build more public housing estates than restoring those buildings. On one hand, the government could use the revenue to provide better social welfare; on the other hand, the problem of overcrowding could be solved. This is certainly a win-win situation. To a certain extent, this policy is understandable.

Another concern for the government is the hidden danger of these old buildings. As these buildings have almost lasted for 50 years, they are tending to collapse. They undoubtedly pose a threat to the residents as well as the passers-by. Therefore, the government would rather demolish these buildings than restoring them.

It is clear that there are drawbacks in preserving these historical sites and backstreets. However, we cannot turn a deaf ear to the opposing sounds.

First, preserving these valuable buildings and backstreets is no doubt a good way to preserve our culture as well as the collective memory of Hong Kong people. Usually, the elderly would have strong feelings towards these buildings and streets as they can find their childhood and memory through these places. Destroying them would certainly upset many of the elderly in our society. In other words, knocking down these buildings is synonymous with stealing their invaluable memory away.

Another strong argument is that restoring these old buildings and backstreets can beautify our city, thereby boosting tourism. Admit it or not, tourists nowadays are not looking for

stereotyped attractions such as theme parks and shopping malls. Instead, they are more interested in exploring the history of Hong Kong. Therefore preserving these buildings and backstreets does benefit tourism in Hong Kong.

Apart from the aesthetic purpose, these buildings and backstreets are educational as well. If these buildings are knocked down, our next generation will not even have a chance to have a look at these meaningful treasures. As time goes by, all the building left in our city would be almost the same, isn't it pathetic?

Urban development and preservation of old buildings and backstreets is not necessarily mutually exclusive. It is, above all, the government's responsibility to think twice before taking any action.

Is sales tax the best dose?

7B Chan Ka Chun, Vincent

It has never been so economically stable in Hong Kong. It has been so quiet in the market that everyone feels pleasant in this period. Despite all that, some people with vision start worrying about this stability and ask whether it would last for long. They even forecast that the government would lack her stable revenue one day. For them, the implementation of sales tax in Hong Kong seems inevitable.

Surely, it is not a bad thing to get prepared for the future, yet sales tax is really not the solution we need.

It is undeniable that the inflation has been growing during these prosperous days. When we do make lots of profit, the inflation also makes us pay more as well. If sales tax is implemented, then the consequences would be obvious. With the fierce inflation, plus the additional taxes, the public's load would be heavier. Unfortunately, the worse is yet to come.

Due to the increase of the cost, the life of the low-income group will become gloomy. The poor will have to do anything necessary to fend for themselves. Some may have to commit crime for survival. Eventually, this situation will come to a critical point that the order of the society could no longer be sustained. Certainly, it is the last thing that Hong Kong people want.

Moreover, the implementation of sales tax will not solve the problem actually. With the increase of prices in the market, the consumers will have no doubt cutting their expenses; it will result in creating a less productive and gloomy market.

Most importantly, sales tax is not the only way to increase the income of the government. There are clearly plenty of methods to raise the revenue of the government. Lottery tax, wine tax and border tax are good alternatives which would easily provide income without affecting the life of the public. At least the negative effects to the public will be minimized.

In practice, the implantation of sales tax is not as simple as the government thinks. Many problems will arise when this scheme is implemented. How to mark the increased price? What would be the price of the products? In short, whether sales tax can solve the economic problems is questionable. The government should have a comprehensive review of this policy.

Fight against poverty- the government's job. Has it been done well?

7B Chui Tze Nga, Sherry

The gap between the rich and the poor is widening due to high inflation rates and housing costs, and there is little that we citizens can do about it. The government should step out as soon as possible to save the low-income group from the vicious circle of poverty.

There are many types of proposals, namely short-term and long-term ones. For the short term proposal, first, the government can give extra or even double allowances to the low-income group. To ensure everyone in this group receives extra allowances, the government should consider adding allowances in different aspects, including transport subsidy, social security welfare and old-age allowance. The money may not have to be a large sum, but at least enough to help them sustain their life until the long term policies are out against the cruel inflation rates.

Second, the government should also help those who live under the poverty line but are unfortunately missed by the safety net. For those people, the government should ensure organizations such as food banks which have enough finance resources to sustain and help these people. This proposal is again very short-term compared with other policies, but it is to ensure that those in poverty have a full stomach before they start working.

Third, the government can give out health vouchers to those who simply couldn't afford to pay to see the doctor when they are sick. There are a lot of people who are not willing to see the doctor because the costs are very high. If not treated properly, diseases can thrive and affect public health dramatically.

For long term policies, the government should increase the supply of public housing or even start up the Home Ownership Scheme again. This is because rent and housing costs start to become a heavy burden for the low-income group. They simply could not afford to buy a flat in a private estate or even rent a bigger flat. If the problem of housing is solved, then at least homeless people will have a dwelling place, which not only boosts their confidence in the government and the country, but also helps them release a heavy burden so that their money can be used to satisfy other needs.

Another long-term policy would be increasing financial resources to organizations and charity groups that target and help the low-income group with their problems. The government is very large, so large that it sometimes cannot see the problems that people from the low-income group are facing and potential problems that may surface. It is then the charity groups' responsibility to fix the problems the government has overlooked. This way, the need of everyone can be taken care of, and potential problems can also be treated beforehand. Also this policy would help improve the communication between citizens and the government, not only increasing understanding but also promoting harmony in society.

The third long-term policy would be to increase the minimum wage. Yes, there are many critics saying that minimum wage will increase the burden on employers and cause many small companies and shops to shut down. Alas, comparing between saving poverty and the closing down of a small number of shops, it is clear that poverty is a much more serious matter. To ensure that small companies have sufficient capital to keep on running, the government can lend money to these companies with a very low interest rate. This also helps save the middle class, and in return save the low-income group. Increasing the upper limit of loans helps companies, which in turn helps the employment. Employment is the thing to pull the low-income group up from the abyss. Increasing minimum wage has been very successful in other countries, including European countries. Minimum wage ensures the people have enough money to fend for themselves. After that, the government can reduce resources and allocate them to the economy and employment. In return, a better economy means increasing wage, creating a healthy cycle to the rich.

In conclusion, a healthy cycle is all Hong Kong needs to save poverty. This cycle is not hard for the government to perform, but most importantly, everyone should have a loving heart, because that is the essence for keeping up the cycle out of poverty.

Take action

7B Lui Hiu Dan, Yuki

We all know that the environmental problem has become more and more severe ‘globally’. Why do I have to emphasize the word ‘globally’? This is because it is no longer a problem found in certain countries, but all over the world. Famine and food waste are two extreme problems which appear at the same time in the world ironically. In such a flourishing city like Hong Kong, we are obviously facing the second problem – food waste.

I would not say that we are lucky enough not to come across the problem of famine but food waste, as these two problems should be considered as the same urgent level.

When it comes to Hong Kong, this problem is indeed not easy to be solved because of our custom, culture and the stubborn attitude. Everyone growing up here must have participated in a lot of banquets such as weddings, wedding anniversaries, and celebrations for new born babies and so forth. And you must be familiar with the menus as they are almost the same whenever you join the feast.

On top of the list, the most disputable dish must be the shark fin soup. Over the past few decades, shark fin soup has seemed to be a must item in any formal dinner, and have a magic power to make things elegant, decent in banquet course in Hong Kong, let alone in China. People might feel strange when they finish their dinner without the brilliant shark fin soup, there might probably be some question marks appearing in their mind and finally they might wonder if the banquet is worth paying and then leave the restaurant with a strong discontent.

To be honest, it is understood that people would like to make their feast as gorgeous as possible, not to mention that one of the characteristics of Chinese people is to show off. However, it doesn’t mean that it is reasonable to accept the trend of having the shark fin soup in banquets. It is obviously damaging those endangered species which is really a cruel way to express human’s ridiculous desire.

Apart from the above points of view about having shark fin soup as a course in banquets, now let us get back to the core of the food waste problem. I believe no matter the trend will keep going or not, it won’t affect the problem of food waste much as the main food waste is definitely from other courses, not the shark fin soup.

Once the problems emerge to the community, when asking for the solution, people may immediately think of the penalties. Yet, it is absolutely not an effective means to tackle problems as it can only soothe the surface of the problems. Therefore, in this case, to impose a fine for food waste is not workable either.

Then people may subsequently think of education. However, I do think the schools have done enough in this part. Since we were in kindergarten, we were told to cherish the food we have and to share with our friends. Also, we usually receive the messages from the media and the government reminding us not to waste food. So, we can't ascribe the failure to education.

Then you may ask why the food waste problem is still serious in Hong Kong? What else can we do? Just take it easy, as the message of 'saving food waste' is already in our minds and we all know that we have to do this. What we could do is to take real action and change some of our habits such as taking away the food left. Also, when you order the meal, you should ask for a smaller portion of rice in case that you know you cannot finish it. Sounds easy, right?

Next time when you leave the delicious food on the dish, think about the people suffering famine. To take or not to take, the decision is in your hands.