

Pride In Our Words 2014~2015
Yanling Lutheran Secondary School



Foreword

No doubt writing is a miraculous journey of expression and discovery. Here, we have the greatest pleasure to share with you these moving, inspiring and thought-provoking journeys of the young writers in FLSS. ***Pride in Our Words*** is a collection representing the best of our students' writings. This annual publication has always been a place for aspiring writers to showcase their excellent works, revealing the ways in which our young minds perceive the world. Nothing is comparable to seeing how these eager learners express themselves freely, confidently and beautifully with a good mastery of English.

To make this publication successful, we would like to acknowledge the people who have given us immense support. First of all, we would like to thank all the brilliant writers for their extraordinary works. The publication of ***Pride in our words*** could not be made possible without their efforts in producing and refining their great works. Secondly, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our English teachers, who have contributed a lot in this publication by giving us professional advice and guidance. Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our Principal, Mr. Mak, for his invaluable support in the production of this book.

The most important of all, we would love to dedicate this book to all of you, our dear schoolmates. We sincerely hope that this book can bring you a sense of pride in being a member in FLSS, a family full of talents and aspirations.

Let's enjoy these amazing journeys!

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*Winners of
2014-2015
Writing
Competition*

S1 Writing Competition

Champion: 1B Lai Jing Young, Kiran

The “Anywhere” Door

It’s just a wooden door.
You put it on the floor.
Looks ordinary and pink
But you only need to think,
Where you want to go.
Open the door, Hey Presto!

You’ll see a brilliant light,
Become an amazing sight.
Could be the surprising Naica Mine,
The giant crystals in it shine.
Could be the incredible Mendenhall ice cave,
A sapphire heaven for the brave.

No need for a Google Map to find a place,
The door can take you around the world, or even into the space.
If you’ve over slept for school,
You still won’t break a single rule.
Just step thro’ the door to avoid any doom,
Cos you’ll find yourself in the classroom!

Such an astonishing, awesome door,
Who could ask for anything more.
Such a fabulous, fantastic gadget,
But don’t make it a habit.
It gets you anywhere, so how can I refuse,
The magic door is what I’ll always choose!

S1 Writing Competition

1st Runner-up: 1A Leung Maxine

Memory Bread

One day, when I arrived home, I went upstairs straight to my room. As I stopped walking I saw Doraemon sitting on the wooden floor giggling about something. So I walked towards him, I sat close to him and asked him, “What are you giggling at?” Doraemon did not reply me, so I followed his eyes which were staring at an object. I saw three gadgets on the wooden floor. They were The “Anywhere” Door, Taker-copter and the Memory Bread, Doraemon said, “Since you are a special child, I want to give you one of my gadgets, but you have to choose wisely. If you choose it wrong, you will regret what you have chosen, because I will not let you choose again.”

I did not say a single word; all I did was thinking what to choose because I want all three gadgets. While I was thinking so hard I just shouted, “This is a difficult decision to make!” Then I took a deep breath and I closed my eyes to calm myself down, then I grabbed a piece of paper and a pencil to write down the consequences if I used these three gadgets. Doraemon waited and waited, he smiled at me and said, “It’s really a tough decision, right?” I did not say anything, I just kept writing and thinking. On my paper, I wrote the “Anywhere” Door can make you go to school time, and can take you “Anywhere” you want immediately. It would not close itself, it just stayed there and kept opening for you. The bad thing is if you forgot where the door is you will never go back home. Also, there might be animals or other people who enter the door and mess up your things at home. The Taker-copter can also take you wherever you want to go, but it has to read your thought, and the battery supply only lasts eight hours. The bad thing is you need to find Doraemon to charge it, if you cannot control your mind, the Taker-copter will take you somewhere else. Besides, you can only use the Taker-copter for eight hours. The Memory Bread can help you remember anything, you just write what you want to remember on the bread then

eat it. In a few seconds you will remember everything and you will do fine in tests, exams, script and many more. The bad thing is you cannot go anywhere you want, it's just a piece of bread. Also, if you have a test tomorrow and you eat too full, you have to eat the Memory Bread at midnight. You have to write what you want to remember or you may forget having the bread. When I finished writing all the consequences, all I did was to take another deep breath, Doraemon smiled at me and said, "It looks like someone knows what to pick already," I just closed my eyes and smiled and slowly opened my eyes and stared at Doraemon and asked, "Guess what I have chosen?"

Doraemon answered sarcastically, "You chose all of them." I replied, "No, not all of them, just only one and I will not regret." "I hope so you chose the right present for yourself, then what is it?" asked Doraemon.

Finally, I chose the Memory Bread. I caught Doraemon off guard because not many people will choose the Memory Bread except for the lazy students or the actors. I gave the paper to Doraemon, and waited for his response. When he finished reading the paper, he gave me the Memory Bread and asked me why I picked this. My response was that I needed to go to school and I wanted my grade to be good and I did not need to use the Taker-copter or the "Anywhere" Door, I think the "Anywhere" Door and the Taker-copter are for old people to use. Because old people will leave the world and they might not have a chance to go anywhere around the world, so it is a good opportunity to let them go wherever they want to go. Doraemon was proud of me of what I said, so he hugged me.

S1 Writing Competition

2nd Runner-up: 1C Pang Nga Tao

A Speech

Good morning principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates,

Today, I want to talk about my choice on Doraemon gadgets. Doraemon has a lot of gadgets (e.g. Take-copter, The ‘Anywhere’ Door, Memory Bread, etc.) If I have a choice, I will choose the ‘Anywhere’ Door.

The ‘Anywhere’ Door can help you visit all your dream destinations! If Doraemon gives me this amazing gadget, I can visit all fantastic places in this world. Frances, the USA, Malaysia, Japan, Africa, you name it. If I wake up late for school, I can use this gadget to go to school as fast as I can so I will not be late. It is really convenient. This gadget can save me a lot of time and troubles.

If you choose the Take-copter, you can fly in the sky but it can be dangerous at the same time. If you choose Memory Bread, you can get good marks in the exam but you cannot learn anything. Studying hard and paying attention in the lessons are students’ responsibilities. We cannot simply memorize the notes for exams.

After listening to my sharing, what will you choose? Thank you for your attention.

S2 *Writing Competition*

Champion: 2A Ansell Patrick Michael

Memory Bread

Doraemon came to me. He gave me a gift.

Inside a box, 'twas just what I wished.

“Anki-Pan” is one name; Memory Bread the other.

What mysteries it holds, you all may wonder.

Is there something to remember? Important things to memorize?

Then use the Memory Bread, and you'll surely be mesmerized.

Memory bread is convenient. It's quite easy to use.

Just put it on the data, which you don't want to lose.

Then eat the bread for breakfast. Anytime will do.

What you ate will stay with you for your whole life. It's true!

S2 *Writing Competition*

1st Runner-up: 2C Tam Yuet Yi, Juliett

The Hero that saved Doraemon's voice by the 'Anywhere Door'

Doraemon 'Now, may I present, Juliett Tam, the extraordinary girl who saved my voice, and all of my beloved fans,' I proudly walked up the stage along with the "Anywhere Door" on my hand. The audience clapped. They screamed like I was a star. I smiled as if I was having the most gorgeous time of my life. And, of course, at that time, I was.

It was my birthday. I invited Doraemon to my party. We played games, ate cakes and sang karaoke. Soon enough, it was the time they gave me presents. I was so excited. I had wonderful things from my friends. Yet, the most unforgettable thing was when Doraemon pulled out the "Anywhere Door" from his pocket, and said it was my birthday gift. I was very happy. Excited to play with it, Doraemon suddenly fainted on the floor.

I quickly called the ambulance and Doraemon was sent to the hospital. After he had some sleep, I asked him how he felt. He tried to talk, but I couldn't hear a sound. His voice was gone! I was so depressed. I asked him how I could help. He wrote it on a piece of paper, saying that there must be something wrong with Lam Po-chuen – his voice actor. That meant I needed to get to the past and saw what had happened.

I started to think of a way to get me to the past. Suddenly, I remembered the "Anywhere Door". I rushed back home as fast as I could.

I got back home, and ran to the door and said 'take me to Lam Po-chuen's home one day

ago'. The door started to shake. It twisted and turned. A few seconds later, it stopped. I opened the door, and I walked in. I was in Lam Po-chuen's house! I quickly searched where he was, and I saw him in his bed, feeling sick. I talked to him and asked him what I could do to save him. He said he was sick because of diabetes. Sadly, diabetes couldn't be cured nowadays. So I decided to go to the future to find the right cure and save him.

I said to the Door "Take me to a hospital 30 years later!' The door started to shake. It twisted and turned. I walked in the door, and went to a hospital 30 years later. I ran to a doctor, begging him for medicine. I finally got it, and went back to Lam Po-chuen's house. He was very sick, sicker than he was before. His face was pale; his lips were grey. I quickly gave him the medicine and a cup of water. He took the medicine and slowly he got better. I was so glad for what I saw, and I saved Doraemon's voice! I quickly told the Door to go back to the hospital that Doraemon was in. I went back and he was as fine as before. Lam Po-chuen also came and he said I would be awarded!

Now, I proudly walked up the stage with the Anywhere Door on my hand. The audience cheered. They cheered.

And I was enjoying the most gorgeous time of my life!

S2 *Writing Competition*

2nd Runner-up: 2D Ma Man Hei

A Letter to Doraemon

I walked in a crowded but quiet place. I found a seat which no one was sitting in and then I took out my revision notes.

‘Oh no! It is so annoying! There are so many things to remember!’ I said.

Why do I feel annoyed? It’s because this week is exam week! I feel nervous because I am weak at some subjects, like Chinese Language and History and Culture. I have so many things to remember for these two subjects.

‘Ok, I know I need to relax at this moment. It will be my birthday soon. It is my birthday two days later. Let me think about what gift I will get this year...um...a watch? A new school bag? Or a new pet?’ I think.

‘Bling!’ Suddenly a terrible blue thing appeared on my book.

‘Hey you! I am Doraemon, I am from the future. I know it is your birthday two days later. So I want to give you a gift for your birthday! What do you want?’ the terrible blue thing said.

‘Oh! I see... I find it hard to remember things about Chinese and History. What should I do?’ I asked.

‘I can help you! Just wait for a minute...’ Doraemon said. ‘Ta-da! I finally found it! Oh, what a messy bag it is!’ He shouted.

‘What is it?’ I asked.

‘It is “Memory bread”! This bag of bread can help you, I think...’

‘How I can use it? Just eat it? Or I need to do something with it?’

‘First, place a piece of bread against your notes, your books, and anything else that you

want to remember.’ Doraemon replied.

‘And then eat it?’

‘Yes, of course you can eat it for your breakfast. You will remember things easily after that.’

‘Thanks for your help Doraemon! May I kiss you once? Please!’ I said.

‘What? No, no, no! You are very disgusting! Get far away from me! Your yucky, silly person!’ Doraemon cried, and then disappeared.

At the end, I got all my exams passed. Now I have to write a thanksgiving letter to Doraemon.

‘Flat B, 14/F, Moon Terrace, Japan.’

Champion: 3B Yuen Tsz Ki

What if dreams come true?

Hi, everyone. Today I am going to tell all of you a crazy story. Come with me and join the adventure, will you?

Juliet and I are great sisters. We are of the same kind – the outgoing type of girls. However, we don't have much freedom. "Camping is dangerous; travelling is expensive; shopping is useless." These ideas are like blood which circulates in our parents' body – they just control us for no reason!

Last week, Juliet and I were stuck at home again. "It's Chinese New Year, but both of us are stuck at this tiny apartment, what a sorrowful thing it is!" Juliet shouted. "Time flies like an arrow. We should check out the flower market and play those exciting firecrackers rather than sit right here. I wish I could have the Anywhere Door." I cried.

Maybe you are wondering what an 'Anywhere Door' is, I would be very glad to tell you guys about this charming machine. If you tell the major door your dream destination, it will make sure you land at the right location.

'What if our dream comes true?' Juliet thought.

'Ding Dong,' an envelope mail appeared on the floor after we opened the door.

'Mummy, is that yours?'

'NO, I never order stuff from the Internet.' My mom replied to me without any eye contact while she was washing her dishes as usual.

Both Juliet and I had some strange feeling about to explore. 'Maybe it is our New Year gift from our cousin, open it!' I said.

'Oh my god, who sent us this kind of New Year gift? Close it and sent it back,' I said.

'Can magic be real? Let me just cast a spell.' Juliet said so when I was closing the door.

“You mean this weird door could be the ‘Anywhere Door’? Wait, there is a card on the handle.” I told Juliet.

“It says Doraemon will make your dream come true!” Juliet shouted with the loudest voice she had.

We opened the door together. Holding our hands, we jumped into it together.

The next moment when we opened our eyes wide, we were in a totally different place, but no longer Hong Kong. It was still an apartment but the size was doubled. Everything seemed much bigger.

Suddenly, I saw a giant coming through a huge window. Every step of the giant took was like an earthquake. ‘Wait! We’ve arrived to another world.’ Both of us shouted.

We finally got what we had always desired for, something unique, something new.

The host of the apartment was a giant who was called Nick. He was not as strong as he looked like but he was the nicest giant I knew.

Nick told us we were not in another world, but just a very far planet. Unpredictable adventures are the best thing ever for teens like us. Nick’s wife got long red hair; Juliet and I loved to swing on it. We spent ten days on the Giant Planet. Exploration was great fun, but finally we felt the unrest deep in our hearts. We knew it’s time to ask our lovely Anywhere Door for a favour again.

Then we got in the Anywhere Door. Guess what? This time we’re not heading to an alien destination, but our dear homeland. Yes, the tiny apartment! We’d never thought that the best place we wanted deeply in our heart, was H.O.M.E!

People get lost sometimes. It’s a great journey for us to realize how we should treasure the most precious thing we own, family. No matter where you have been, there’s somewhere you are meant to stay.

Home, the final destination of our Anywhere Door.

S3 *Writing Competition*

1st Runner-up: 3B Wong Wai Ying

Memory Bread

'Doraemon! Doraemon!' A long plaintive wail emanated from me. I broke the door violently. I hugged Doraemon's leg and begged him for memory bread because there would be an examination tomorrow and I hadn't done any revision! Doraemon took out the memory bread and said, unwillingly, 'this is the last time that I give you this.'

Afterwards, I thanked him wholeheartedly. I pressed the memory bread on the textbook gently. I expected that I would get the highest marks in the exam. After a while, I took up the memory bread and checked whether the knowledge was copied. As what I had expected, neat and tidy sentences appeared in my sight. I had a little bite of the memory bread in carefully. I found that it tasted like sponge. It's tasteless! It tasted a bit strange and I couldn't describe it precisely. Then, I closed my eyes to memorize the details of exam without any notes successfully. I had full confidence in my exam then. I believed that I would be the number 1 in the exam. However, things did not turn out as I had wished.....

The next day came. It was sunny but rain was on its way. The strong winds of spring became a gentle breeze. I looked out from the window to the school and recalled the memory strenuously. Unexpectedly, a violent ache appeared from my little tummy. I cover my tummy with my hands. I could feel sweat streaming down my face. I ran as fast as possible to the toilet. Passers-by gazed at me, wondering what was on my mind. I was conscious about that, but I couldn't care anymore. After vomiting, my mind went back. I couldn't memorize the details of exam!

'The memory bread that I gave you was contaminated! You can't get anything without any efforts! You deserve it!' a familiar voice spoke in my brain. I lowered my head, feeling awkward. 'I'm sorry,' I said.

S3 *Writing Competition*

2nd Runner-up: 3B Au Hoi Hei

Memory Bread

Before the examination week,

My brain becomes extremely weak.

My desk is full of books,

And I don't even want to have a look.

If Doraemon gave me a gadget, I would take memory bread,

That would give me a perfect rest.

Reciting the title and the author of an artwork drives me crazy,

If I had this bread, I would be happy to become lazy.

I would save time and just immerse in my favorite formula of chemical compounds,

The result of exams could still make me excited, just like getting a million pounds.

My teacher would wonder how I had prepared for the exam,

I would proudly say I'd only gone playing and shopping with Sam.

Champion: 4A Lo Pui Sang

Special ways to deal with exams

“We are going to have a History examination on the coming Friday. Please get ready for that.” Mr Chan, our History teacher reminded us before leaving the classroom.

“There are only two days left for revision. How am I able to memorize all incidents happened from 1800 to 1950 in only two days? Are you worried about the exam?” Mandy asked anxiously.

“Alex, have you prepared for the exam yet? Are you going to take the exam without any preparation?” Judy asked.

“I did not and am not going to do any preparation for the History exam. I have special ways to cope with the exam.” I replied calmly.

Normally, I am supposed to feel nervous about the exam, especially when there were only two days left. However, this time I’m sure I can remember all the details. Last week, a robot cat named Doraemon suddenly came to my house and claimed that it was a robot cat which was able to provide magic weapons and gadgets. I didn't believe that at first and I thought the robot cat was just a prank. Not until last Monday did I start to believe it when it gave me a piece of bread. It said that the bread could help me memorize everything in a short time. I ate the bread that morning and then started reading an encyclopedia. Surprisingly, I could remember and read aloud all the facts written on the book without opening it. I assumed it was because of the bread.

The day after that day, Doraemon left our house. It wrote a letter to us, thanking us for the help and support provided. It also put down a bag of bread and from what it mentioned in the letter, it is the memory bread. “Great! Then I will only need to spend an hour revising

for the History exam with the help of the bread” I thought to myself. Therefore, I spent most of the time on playing rather than doing revision.

In the blink of an eye, it’s Friday already. This morning I woke up an hour earlier so as to prepare for the exam. I left my bed and ran to the kitchen to look for the bread at once. When I took the bread out of the bag, I spotted a part of the bread had turned green. I stared at the bread closely and noticed that it went mouldy! With no alternative ways to pass the exam, I had to eat the loaf of bread even though it had mouldered. I started looking at the textbook and things seemed to turn out quite alright. I could remember every single detail after skimming the page.

During the assembly, I could feel ache in my stomach, and sometimes there’s even stomach cramps. When the invigilator announced the start of the exam, I started to feel nausea. I rushed to the washroom immediately and threw up. Just when I stepped out of the washroom, I wanted to vomit again. So, I stayed in the washroom for a couple more minutes until I didn’t feel nauseous. When I walked into the examination room, I realized there’s only fifteen minutes left for answering questions. I rushed back to my seat and continued answering. Yet I didn’t seem to know what happened in the past two hundred years. What happened in the First World War? Which country won? Who was the president? Questions floated in my brain but I had no answer for all these questions! I left most of the questions blank and I started to feel nervous.

“Hey Alex, the History exam was so easy that I think I could get an A this time!” Judy exclaimed.

“I left almost all the answers blank. I feel so devastated.”

“This is the way you cope with the exam?” Judy replied.

“I didn’t expect this to happen. Perhaps I should really work hard and study well.”

S4 Writing Competition

1st Runner-up: 4B Lin Hei Tung

The Anywhere Door

My name is Rachel. If you see my face, you may think that I am pretty kind-hearted and generous. Actually, you can't imagine how selfish I was in the past. For instance, I hated donating money, I hated sharing my snacks with others and I hated lending money to others.

However, I have changed totally because I have undergone something amazing.....

One day, I went back home after school. Suddenly, I discovered that my room was shining, and I saw a door which was pink in my room. I was deeply surprised and startled! Also, I saw a sheet of paper on it. It read "This is Anywhere Door. You can go anywhere twice through this door. Enjoy!"

I was really excited and happy about this message. I couldn't believe that. I couldn't help laughing! With this door, I could then go to my dream destination, like Finland and Chile. I could admire the aurora and visit Easter Island! Hahaha!

I decided to pack my luggage for a wonderful trip.....

When I was shopping in the shopping centre, a woman bumped into me suddenly. Before I asked her to apologize, she grabbed my hand and requested, "Please! Please help me! I need to go to North Korea and save my husband!" "What?" I was completely confused of what she was talking about.

She kept talking and repeating her request to me. I couldn't stop her so I invited her to chat with me in a cafe.

After that, I finally knew her situation. Her husband was summoned to be a soldier for the battle. She requested me for the “Anywhere Door” to North Korea, although I didn’t know why she knew I have the door. However, I wasn't going to help her anyway because I only had two opportunities. Therefore, I refused.

When I went back home, I saw a piece of news about the battle in North Korea. The TV showed clips of severely injured soldiers. Some of them were weeping. It was also reported that the war claimed many lives. At that moment, I felt sympathetic about them and their families. I asked myself, “How can I help them?” Immediately, I recalled the woman’s request! I knew it’s a chance for me to help her and rescue her husband.

Maybe I would be frustrated. Maybe I would lose the chances of travelling to my dream places. Maybe it's simply a wrong decision. Nevertheless, I didn't and I wouldn’t regret! I just hoped the couple could see each other again.

Therefore, I found the woman and I generously gave her the “Anywhere Door”.

Now, I am going to my dream destination. Why? Because this couple invited me to visit them! This lesson teaches me not to be selfish as there may be something more surprising to come afterwards.

S4 Writing Competition

2nd Runner-up: 4C Lee Ho Man, Joseph

Imagination

After watching an episode of the famous Japanese cartoon Doraemon an hour before, I was starting to ponder over the question, “If that robot cat gave me one of his gadgets, which one would I like to choose as a present?” I was immediately thinking of the “Anywhere door” and I guessed that I would probably choose it. However, a minute later, I refuted this idea and decided to select the “Take-copter” due to several reasons and factors. Let me explain more about it.

First of all, this gadget is convenient. The span of this spinning machine is about the size of an adult’s palm and the weight of it is as light as a well-grown Florida orange. The gadget is very portable and it won’t give additional weight to my bag at all. Also, due to its small and simple design, it won’t occupy too much space in my bag. Therefore, I can bring it with me anywhere without any consideration in advance. What’s more is that it is easy to use. I can simply attach the bottom of it to my head and use my brain to control it to aviate and gravitate. The portable design and simple usage are ideal for a technology fanatic like me.

Secondly, the versatility of the gadget is great as well. No matter what career you are in, the “Take-copter” will suit your individual needs. For instance, the police officers can use it for chasing the thieves, whereas workers can use it to do some maintenance work outside buildings. For me as a busy businessman, it speeds up my journey and saves my commuting time. Besides, I can also stop worrying about the traffic jam and any accident during the journey. Apart from going to work, I can also use it for travelling to other countries as I don’t have to pay all those fees, such as plane ticket fee, different kinds of taxes and so on. The speed of the “Take-copter” is over 80 Km/h and it can carry about 200

kilograms of things. That means a traveler who has plenty of luggage can use it as well. It allows travelers to arrive at the destination as quickly as a leopard runs.

However, you may ask me why I don't choose the "Anywhere door" as I am a travel lover. The reason is that we can learn how to cope with problems during the journey. In fact, during the journey, there are many unexpected incidents, such as turbulences, microbursts, storms and so on, which might be inevitable and we have to face them anyway. As the Chinese proverb goes, "by every experience, a person increases his knowledge". The "Anywhere Door" seems to be perfect by bringing us straight to our destination and we do not have to face any difficulty. Yet, youngsters should not be given this door because the youngsters may then take everything for granted and has a misconception that we can make an omelette without breaking eggs. However, the "Take-copter" can avoid this kind of problems and let the youth experience more.

Nevertheless, I can't deny that the gadget has a drawback which is the limited battery power lasting for 8 hours only. Yet a simple recharging or a battery replacement can solve the problem.

From the versatile functions and convenience to the excellent life inspiration, this gadget is definitely my prime selection. Sadly, this is just an imagination. I hope in the future, the technology will make my dream come true.

What gadget would you like to choose? The "Anywhere door" or the "Take-copter"?

Discuss with your friends. Enjoy!

Champion: 5D Lam Ka Yan

Such a Dream in childhood

Doraemon is the first animation I have ever watched. His fantastic adventure stories are still going on and being enjoyed by the new generation nowadays. Definitely, Doraemon is not only in our memory, but also an ever-lasting friend bringing us happiness and companion, listening to our troubles, understanding our confusion and inspiring us to do better.

Just like most people, I would love to imagine possessing this amazing robot cat or one of his gadgets. When I was a child, I used to believe that the Memory Bread could rescue me from the trick of dictation. It would be much more relaxing to tackle the tests and get remarkable results by simply copying the content with the magical bread and then eating it up. With the benefits and convenience of this bread, I could throw away the textbooks and get more time for fun. However, this seemingly wonderful dream was broken when I grew up. I recognize that this spoon-feeding strategy is pointless in today's education system, in which we are expected to understand, express and analyze. Even if I used the bread to deal with the mini-dictations at school, this shortcut for dictations would probably bring detrimental effects to my understanding of knowledge and do harm to my preparation for the DSE.

When I became a little bit more sensible, I started to murmur about the limited time in life. I found it was quite annoying to queue for bus and crowd into the train during busy time. Why couldn't I have an 'Anywhere' Door? I began to dream about having one, as I could travel anywhere I liked and avoid being late again on the way to school. It's for sure that

my life would experience an enormous change. From then on, I could even be the first person to explore the world without spending any money and wasting time on the boring transportation. What a great success and huge sense of satisfaction it would be! Time would no longer be a limitation to my adventures.

However, let's think about it deeper. There are still many hidden risks in using Doraemon's seemingly almighty gadgets. With the further advancement in our daily life, not only humans will become lazier and lose incentive for exploring and experiencing life, they will also miss out how wonderful the nature is. Once you get the Memory Bread, it will be less likely for you to burn the midnight oil and pay your own effort to test yourself. Once you get the Take-coper, it will be less likely for you to walk on feet and feel the soil. Once you get the 'Anywhere Door', it will be less likely for you to pay attention to the passersby on the streets or enjoy the views on the journey. It would be humans' disaster to neglect the invaluable beauties in our life. The creation of 'Doraemon' aims to advocate a positive attitude but not create "super" people who only rely on those gadgets.

If I were able to own one of the gadgets, I would choose nothing because I have already got so much to learn and experience. I am satisfied with my life.

1st Runner-up: SE Tang Tsz Ying

Anywhere in our memories

‘Doraemon’ may be the most popular cartoon in this century. Anyone who has ever watched this cartoon may have imagined Doraemon coming to their house or owning one of his gadgets. If one day, Doraemon brought me one of his three famous gadgets (the ‘Anywhere’ Door, Take-copter, Memory Bread) as a gift, I would choose the ‘Anywhere’ Door for sure.

Why would I choose the ‘Anywhere’ Door but not the other two gadgets? First, I would like to point out the weaknesses of the other two gadgets compared with the ‘Anywhere’ Door.

1. The ‘Take-copter’. It’s a powerful gadget which can give us ‘wings’ and allow us to fly to anywhere we want on the earth. But, it is also a dangerous gadget as it has a limited power supply which only lasts for 8 hours. What if I were flying with my Take-copter high in the sky and it suddenly went out of electrical energy? What if I flew onto the top of the Himalayas and it was out of energy and I couldn’t get back down to the ground? Not everywhere on the earth has an electrical charger or a power plug. It would be inconvenient for its limited power.
2. The ‘Memory Bread’. It may be the best food in the world for lazy students, especially before quizzes and exams. Just press the bread onto the top of the textbooks and eat it, and you have the simplest way to get high marks without paying any effort. But try to think about it, we students nowadays have to study at least six subjects for six years, how many textbooks do we have to study? If we have to memorize all of the contents, how many million slices of bread would we have to eat? Doraemon didn’t promise to offer an unlimited amount of Memory Bread but only one piece or some pieces. Even you had an unlimited amount of Memory Bread, do you really think that the ‘No pain all gain’ attitude is good for your entire life? The only effect of it is to encourage you to become a lazy loser.

Now, let's talk about why I would choose the 'Anywhere' Door rather than the other two gadgets. The most attractive advantage of it is its 'infinite' nature. Unlimited times and duration of use allow you to go anywhere and anytime you want. You can go to the Mars to do the first 'Mars walk'. You can open the door of the White House and say 'Hi' to Obama's family. You can also visit the little mermaid's palace to have a nice dinner with her. I could then roam freely through 'the world of imagination'.

The 'Anywhere' Door is the key to open the unknown world. If I got the door, I would travel around the world, seeing different amazing creatures. I would take photos with the Loch Ness Monster and post it on Instagram to make my friends jealous. I would kiss the deep-sea kissing fish and wait for seven seconds till it forgets our kiss to kiss it again. I would ask Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to be the chief witnesses of my wedding ceremony. I would ask the Fairy Godmother of Sleeping Beauty to bless my child.

But for the place I want to go the most, it must be 'Paradise'. I would like to visit my dear God, my dear grandpa who has been living at God's garden since I was four. I can barely remember his face and his voice now. I would love to ask him to bring me to the park we used to spend our afternoon at, and play the swing till I fell asleep at his shoulder. How joyful it must be! Oh! No, no, grandpa is too old, and I'm no longer a child. I'd better bring him to see the flowers, watch the birds fly and listen to the songs of nature till he fell asleep in my arms, just like what he had done for me.

The amazement of Doraemon's gadgets is that they break the frame of our imagination so that we can travel high upon the sky and deep down in the sea. It is a place for us to find our happiest, prettiest memories. If I could have one of Doraemon's amazing gadgets, I would definitely choose the 'Anywhere' Door to go anywhere. Anywhere in our memories. Anywhere in our heart. There, we would find the warmest smile.

S5 *Writing Competition*

2nd Runner-up: SD Lam Hing Yi, Lily

A Small Gadget, a Huge Change

Doraemon's gadgets have long been a huge attraction for me since I was very small. I could make lots of changes to my life and the world using these wonderful magical tools. If I could only choose one of his gadgets as his present to me, the "Anywhere Door" would be my first choice as I know how to make wise use of it and harness its unlimited power.

Hong Kong is a small place crowded with millions of people. There are not many places for local people to relax or travel. Instead, there are far too many shopping malls with many stores targeting on mainland visitors. Moreover, with the high inflation and price index here, buying commodities could be a huge burden to me, let alone buying a flat. As a result, I always want to travel and stay in other places far from Hong Kong so as to save money, release my pressure and recharge myself. However, given the high price of the air tickets and the time needed for a long voyage, it's hard for me to achieve this so far. With the "Anywhere Door", it would be easy for me to escape to places different from Hong Kong for relaxation during holidays or even at weekends. I could go shopping and visit tourist spots without seeing lots of parallel-traders and parvenus with unacceptable behavior whenever I want. I could even rent a flat, live in another place but study in Hong Kong, so that I could have a better quality of life without losing my social circle here.

Apart from helping me to fulfill my material life, it could also help me to acquire inner beauty. Living in a small place like Hong Kong and keeping in touch with Hongkongers only, it's hard for me to know the world and understand exactly who I am. With the

“Anywhere Door”, I can travel all around the world and meet people living under different cultures and having different stories and personalities. I would be more open-minded and more tolerant as I could know the differences in the world. Moreover, through visiting places and meeting people, I can know how big the world is and how tiny I am. I won’t be self-centered but be modest and try my best to be stronger.

Most importantly, I could use the “Anywhere Door” to help people in need. For those living in wars and suffering from starvation, I would link the door from war-torn areas to the mountainous areas of China, letting them find food or grow plants by themselves and earn their own living. Admittedly, their lives might still be rough as they might not be able to find proper places to live and food to eat, but I believe it would be better than worrying about the bombs and their safety all day long. It’s also the best way for me to save as many lives as I could.

With the rapid development of technology, the “Anywhere Door” may well exist in the future. Though I do not have the door now, I can still try my best to use alternative ways to achieve my goals. I am sure I can make changes to my life and also to the world.

*Winners of
2014-2015
Young Poet
Competition*

S1 Young Poet Competition

Champion: 1B Lai Jing Young

Tai Mei Tuk

Tai Mei Tuk, a fun and awesome place.

All kinds of activities to do.

I love cycling, flying kites and hiking there.

My family and I always have barbeques.

Endless enjoyment to eat in different restaurants.

Interesting creatures in the sea.

The magnificent Pat Sin Leng is a wonderful site.

Under the umbrellas, people eat fishballs and noodles.

Kayaking while watching the beautiful sunset,

Is a perfect end to an amazing day.

S1 Young Poet Competition

First Runner-up: 1D Ng Sin Yi

Kowloon

Kowloon, the Chinese characters represent “Nine Dragons”,

Old citizens know it refers to eight mountains and a Chinese emperor,

West Kowloon will be famous for the Art culture,

Land on a new vibrant cultural district,

Oh, it is energetic.

One of the world’s largest cultural quarters, West Kowloon Cultural District is coming.

None of us want to miss it.

S1 Young Poet Competition

2nd Runner-up: 1A Leung Maxine

Yuen Long

Yuen Long is a place in Hong Kong

Unbelievable things will happen when you get along

Eat and drink then sing a song

New friends are getting along.

Looking at the people playing ping pong

Open your eyes and think of a folk song

Now go to places and travel along

Going to have lots of challenges that may go wrong.

S2 Young Poet Competition

Champion: 2E Yip Hau Wing

Hong Kong is my Home

Hello, everyone!

Of all places in the world,

Nowhere is as beautiful as *Hong Kong*.

Grab my hand and let's explore it!

Kung Fu Master Bruce Lee's home,

Out of this world and so well-known. With

Numerous cultures and colonial heritages,

'Gorgeous' and 'modern' could best describe Hong Kong's image.

I love my home and so do you

Smiling faces to welcome you too.

Magnificent museums and Chinese temples.

Yummy dim sum and seafood specials.

Have fun in Disneyland and Ocean Park

Original souvenirs and electronics parks

Markets, shopping mall and exquisite boutiques

Enchanting Hong Kong as where I live.

S2 Young Poet Competition

First Runner-up: 2B Choi Fung Yu

Disneyland Resort

Disneyland Resort! What a marvelous place!

I cross Sleeping Beauty's castle at night.

Splendid, glorious and magnificent, as you can imagine.

Never be depressed because this is one of the places children like.

Everything is miraculous and magical.

Yelling and shouting, you can hear anywhere.

Long and beautiful trains go around the Disneyland.

A lot of tourists from different countries.

Never be satisfied because you don't have enough time.

Despite the fact that you always go there.

Ridiculous Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Every time I see them, I always laugh.

See, Tiger Lily is over there.

Oh! It is time to go home.

Ride on the train, far from there.

Trust me, you will like it because Disneyland is our wonderful memory.

S2 Young Poet Competition

2nd Runner-up: 2D Lopes Jennifer Antonia

Hong Kong

Having many happy memories here- Hong Kong

On the top of the Peak, I can watch the amazing views

Near the ground, I still can find some traditional stalls

Generations change the environment.

Kowloon, Tsim Sha Tsui, Causeway Bay become a shopping paradise

Octopus cards help you go everywhere

Never stop the economy from growing, and it's

Going to be the best city in the world.

S3 Young Poet Competition

Champion: 3B Yeung Wing Tung

Nathan Road

Nathan Road is the showcase of the city's iconic, neon advertising signs.

A completely different side of Hong Kong

The whole street is blanketed by glowing lights

Has been located there since its completion in 1996.

At its intersection with Austin Road

Nathan Road also is the main thoroughfare in Kowloon

Robinson Road was the original name

Originally named after the 13th Hong Kong Governor

A name that is now rarely used

Do you want to walk around this awesome place with me?

S3 Young Poet Competition

First Runner-up: 3B Liu Chun But

Mongkok

Mongkok, a crowded district

On the street, magicians play tricks.

Nice music is played

Give rounds of loud applause to the performers.

Keep going on, there are some snack shops

On the bar, I see fishballs and siumai are being cooked

Kids are queuing with mouthwatering looks.

Isn't it fabulous?

Silence and bustling can be felt at the same place.

Grab your time and walk around

Realize all the spots which are unique.

Each place must fascinate you

And you may find fun there.

Treasure the time when you're in Mong Kok.

S3 Young Poet Competition

2nd Runner-up: 3B Chiu Hing Man

Ping Che

Ping Che, the retrospect of my childhood

I lived in there with fresh wind, dazzling sun and typical tranquility.

No noise, no bustle.

God has made this place for us.

Chairs under the sunshine, dogs' barking – I feel like I'm back to my

Home sweet home.

Endless jovial memories are still in my heart.

Other Masterpieces

About me

Hi, I'm Ho Yuen Ching Grace. I'm tall and I have long hair. My friends call me BB. I live in Shenzhen, but I study at Fanling Lutheran Secondary School.

My favourite subject is History because it is an interesting subject. It helps me learn more about Chinese history.

Likes and dislikes

I enjoy eating out. I love going to Japanese restaurants because I love eating sushi and salmon! I usually eat out three or four times a week. My favourite food is chocolate because chocolate is so sweet, I love eating sweet things very much!

I don't like to stay at home because it is so boring!

Favourite person

My favourite person is Long Long because he plays the piano and I love the piano. He is my idol. He has won a lot of awards! He is my super idol.

A Personal Letter

1A Lee Sin Yung

24 October 2014

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.

We have many facilities at my school, some are new and some are old. There are two halls, the small one is Hall A and the large one is Hall D. We have a big library in Block C; we have a Science lab, a computer lab and a music room too. My classroom is in Block A. There is a volleyball court between Block A and Block B. We have a big flower garden in front of the office in Block A; there is a car park too. There are basketball courts and a handball court next to the lawns.

My favorite place in school is the library because I like reading very much and I always do my homework in the library after school.

I have joined the badminton team and other athletic teams. I like doing sports. I have been practicing badminton for a long time. That's my new school life.

Love,

Judy

A Dog Called Baggio

There was a robbery in Shatin. Three robbers ran into the jewelry shop to steal different types of jewelry, such as rings, jade, pearl, to name but a few. The robbers were holding a gun and a knife. They were pointing them at the shop owner and the staff. The staff were so scared that they put their hands up and did not move. The owner gave the robbers a box of rings as requested by the robbers.

Then the police arrived at the scene, but they were too late because the robbers had used another door to escape. The police asked the shop owner what had happened. The shop owner said, "I saw three people with stockings on their heads come into our shop holding guns and knives." They yelled at us to give them the jewelry so I did. Then, they ran out from the back exit.

A police dog Baggio was called to look for the missing jewelry. Baggio used its sense of smell to sniff for the jewelry. Once Baggio got the sense of smell, it ran as fast as it could to find the robbers. Baggio ran back to the shop, it barked at the police and led them to the robber's house.

Finally, they found the robbers and put them in jail. Baggio and the police both received an award. The next day there was a news article in the newspaper and on TV. Baggio the police dog was becoming famous.

A Trip to Sai Kung

1B Chong Hei Wan

What an unlucky day!

It was a Sunday. I went to Sai Kung with my friend, David Kwan. When we arrived at the bus-stop, the weather was fine. We had waited for the bus for an hour and finally it came. But it was crowded, so we angrily got on the bus.

It took us two hours to get to Sai Kung. There were not many people there when we arrived. We sat under a tree. David asked, “Are you ready?” I picked up two barbecue forks and said, “Of course!” We had a nice lunch. We ate a lot of meat. I was thinking about how much weight I needed to lose in the next few weeks.

In the afternoon, we went to the beach. After we put on our swimming suits, I was sunbathing and David went swimming. Suddenly I remembered that he couldn’t swim! I shouted and I saw David drowning. I jumped into the sea immediately and swam as fast as I could. Finally, I saved him.

After that, it began raining cats and dogs. We ran quickly, but David slipped on the floor. He landed on his face and was hurt. I began to laugh uncontrollably, but I slipped too, and fell into a hole. There was a lot of trash. It was very painful. After we went to the hospital, the Doctor told me I broke my leg.

A Letter to Cindy

1B Lai Jing Young

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you're enjoying your new school!

Let me tell you about my school. My class is huge! There are 41 students in my class. My school is really green there are plants everywhere. Also, the flowers are amazingly beautiful. We have a big library. There are tons of books and the variety of books is so large. I can spend a whole day there without getting bored. I don't understand why it is always empty when I go there. In addition, there is a building called Gloria House, which is really grand. We can have lunch, play board games, and chat with friends there during lunchtime. The science labs are wonderful too. They are very modern. There are different apparatus and equipment. We can do all kinds of experiments there. But my favourite place is still the library, the seats are comfortable and the environment is quiet for me to enjoy my books.

There are a lot of extra-curricular activities in my school. We have the English Drama Club, the Sketching Club, and the Robotics Club. I want to join the Robotics Club because I can work in a team and we can use our imagination to build all kinds of robots. Unfortunately, I was not chosen. But the Sketching Club is also interesting. I can learn a lot of sketching skills and then draw beautiful pictures.

This is my school. I think it is extremely amazing and wonderful. What do you think about it? Please tell me your thoughts.

Best wishes,

Kiran

A Trip to Sai Kung

1B Man Yat Sing

One fine Sunday, David and I went to Sai Kung. I woke up earlier than usual. I went to a bus stop near my home. The weather was nice. The queue at the bus-stop was so long and some people jumped the queue. The bus was very crowded, so I needed to wait for another bus.

When I arrived in Sai Kung, David was already there. The sunlight was too strong, so we chose a place under a tree to barbecue. We ate chicken wings and pork chops. We also grilled sausages.

In the afternoon we put on our swimming suits and went to the beach. I jumped into the sea. After that, we played ball games. I won the game. I was over the moon. Then, we had a sunbath on the beach. It was so hot that I felt I was an egg on a pan. Then, we built a sandcastle. We were very happy.

While we were playing happily on the beach, the weather changed suddenly. It started to rain. It rained cats and dogs. We hurried home.

When we got back home, we both caught a cold and had a fever. We did not go to school for two days.

What a bad day!

A Letter to Cindy

1B Yin Hei Man

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you're enjoying your new school!

I want to tell you about my school. There is a very big library in my school. It is really a comfortable place for us to do revision and homework. There is a big hall for us to have morning assemblies. It is very modern too. It can also be a basketball court or a badminton court. In Block C, there is a science lab, which is very modern as well. It is comfortable and a good place for us to learn. There are many other places in my school. But I like the art room, mostly because I like drawing very much. I enjoy the art lessons. There are many tools for me to use to draw different kinds of pictures.

There are also a lot of clubs for us to join such as the Drama Club. It offers chances to students who like acting to be actors and actresses. The students in the Drama Club can act very well. There is also the Social Service Club. This club helps a lot of people who are in need. Members of this club make other people happy. I have joined the Art Club. This is very interesting because I have learned a lot of things about drawing in the club. The teacher is funny and teaches us in different interesting ways.

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

Love,

Georgia

A Dog Called Baggio

One day, at about 11:00a.m., in Tai Po there was a robbery. Robbers robbed a jewelry shop and its owner. All the jewelry was stolen by the robbers and the owner of the jewelry shop got hurt by one of them.

But a dog called Baggio knew everything about it because he saw the robbery. When the robbers were about to leave, the dog ran and caught the head robber. He bit his leg so he could not move. The other robbers were shocked and put down the jewelry and tried to run away. But Baggio chased and caught them. He pulled them down by jumping on their backs in the street. People nearby immediately called the police.

In fact, Baggio was a brave dog and he was also a police dog. Baggio and his Police trainer received an award of bravery. Baggio the dog was proud of it.

About me

Hello, my name is Lala Pang. I am not tall, but I am not short. I guess you can say I am of medium height, but my hair is long and I wear it in a ponytail. I don't need to wear glasses. I can see things clearly. I am studying at Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. I feel happy here. I am hard-working in my new school.

Favourite things

I enjoy playing volleyball. I love playing this sport. I usually play it for four hours at school. I also like drawing. I feel relaxed when I draw. I don't like playing computer games. I don't know why the boys like playing computer games. My computer is very slow so I use mobile phone instead of my computer.

Favourite people

My favourite people are a group of singers. Their band name is F (x). They are a Korean singing group. Their songs rock and give me a lot of power. My favourite person is my mum. She helps me when I have problems. I am sorry for her because I haven't helped her with her housework. However, I will do everything by myself and she will not worry about me.

24 October 2014

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. My school is called Fanling Lutheran Secondary School. It is very big! We have two halls - Hall “A” and Hall “D”. There are some basketball courts. I also play basketball there. My favourite place is the canteen. I can practice archery in the canteen and I always have lunch there.

In our school, Hall “A” is near Block “A” and Hall “D” is near Block “C”. The volleyball court is between Blocks “A” and “B”.

There are many clubs and extra-curricular activities in my school. I am on the archery team. I really like archery and I hope I can join the school team! We have a great deal of music courses, many classmates have joined them.

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

Love,

Jacky

A Reply Letter to Daniel

1D Lai Wing Hei Kathy

Hi Daniel,

I received your letter yesterday and I know you are feeling empty because you can't make friends in your school. Don't worry! I am going to teach you how to make friends and recommend to you some extra-curricular activities.

My new school life is wonderful because I have joined many extra-curricular activities and made many new friends. I suggest that you join extra-curricular activities too. For example, you can join the basketball team. I know that you are very tall, so you should make good use of your height.

Most importantly, you can learn how to communicate and cooperate with others, so you can make friends and then you will not feel empty. Also, I think that you can talk to your classmates actively and politely. Don't be shy! Be confident! I know you can be very talkative.

I will support you. I am sure that you will have a wonderful school life!

With love,

Johnny

2014 is the 50th anniversary of FLSS. It is my honour to celebrate it with happiness.

As a student of FLSS, I have some expectations for my study. I hope that I can concentrate and write down some notes in the lessons. Also, I hope to increase my interest of studying English and Chinese so as to improve my language abilities. In addition, I would like to broaden my horizon by studying different subjects.

For the facility of FLSS, I hope that FLSS can build an indoor swimming pool so that students can swim after school.

It is good for students to release their stress. I also hope that FLSS could create a positive learning atmosphere. For example, students would answer the teacher's questions actively and they would love to read after the lessons.

I am honoured to be a student of FLSS and I am happy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of FLSS.

29th November 2014

Dear Jerry,

How are you recently? I am going to tell you that I witnessed a crime on the MTR last Saturday afternoon. It is very exciting for me that I can't forget it.

Last Saturday, I went to Mong Kok by the MTR. When the train arrived at the Tsim Sha Tsui station, a middle-aged woman got on the train holding four heavy shopping bags. She found a seat near the door and dropped her shopping bags at her feet. Then, she fell asleep.

After a while, a tall and strong man got on the train at Jordan station. He stood near the woman and kept staring at her shopping bags suspiciously. When the train's doors opened at Yau Ma Tei station the man grabbed the woman's shopping bags and ran away. The woman was hit by the shopping bags and woke up instantly. As she tried to chase him the train doors closed. Luckily, the train did not move so she could call the police for help.

Finally, the policeman came and arrested the man on the platform at Yau Ma Tei station.

The woman got her shopping bags back. She was happy. It was the first time I witnessed the whole process of a crime. I felt so excited. How about you? Have you encountered any exciting things? Please write back soon.

With love,
Chris

My expectation for school has five thoughts.

For school, I expect it will provide us with a happy, active and progressive learning environment. It can build up a community in which students and teachers are respectful. It will help us have a lifelong learning.

For teachers, I expect they will help us develop a healthy personality with love and care. Also, they will focus, encourage and help us solve the difficulties of learning.

For others, I expect my school can organize more extra-curricular activities so that we can have a balanced development of ability and behavior.

I hope we can wear casual clothes to school instead of school uniform. And, it can organize a subject for housekeeping because I am interested in it.

At last, I am glad to be a part of the 50th celebration of FLSS.

28th November 2014

Dear Jerry,

How are you lately? I am busy for preparing my midterm exam at Christmas. Last Saturday afternoon I saw an exciting incident when I took the MTR to Mong Kok.

When the MTR arrived at the Tsim Sha Tsui station, a woman got on and dropped her shopping bags on the ground. She closed her eyes for a rest. Then, a man got on at Jordan station. I saw him staring at the woman's shopping bags.

When the MTR arrived at Yau Ma Tei station, the man grabbed the woman's shopping bags and ran out of the train. The woman shouted for help and someone called the police for her.

Very soon, three policemen came and caught the thief on the platform. They used handcuffs to arrest him and found the shopping bags. The woman left the scene and went to the police station for further assistance.

After that the MTR resumed to normal, and I continued my journey to Mong Kok. I felt very excited when I saw the whole process of the arrest. Have you seen this before, Jerry? Please write soon.

Best wishes,

Chris

I was 24 years old when I became a hawker. I am proud of being a hawker. I decided to become a hawker because I could be my own boss and created many happy memories.

I sold ice-cream, popsicles, and drinks, such as Cola, Sprite, Fanta and Iced Tea. I usually worked in Mong Kok because there were many people and I could earn lots of money. I liked my job very much. I think being a hawker was exciting and it made me feel happy. While I was selling, I could talk to my customers. I always told them jokes and they would say, ‘You are a funny hawker!’ So I think being a hawker was rewarding.

One of my unforgettable experiences was the difficulties I faced on how to pay a heavy fine if I ever got one. One day, a woman bought some drinks and other things, but she forgot to take them with her after she had paid. So I ran after her and gave her back the things she bought. Though I was a hawker; I believed honesty was very important in my job.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to my sales presentation. My name is Angel Choy.

Today, I am going to talk about a very practical product. It is a Diary Book, but not the ordinary one that you have. The name of my product is: **“MY DIARY”**.

First, as you can see, there is a cat on the cover. It is very cute, right? Unlike the diary provided by our school, the background colour is not camouflaged as green. Rather, it is multi-coloured! This diary is definitely different from similar products because it has notes in it! The longest note is as long as a finger. The notes' theme is about food. It tells us many different things about all kinds of food. The pages of the diary are always pink, orange, and yellow. We have chosen these three colours because they are warm colours. When you see this diary book, you will feel happy and when you buy it, you will be even happier.

This product has many functions. The last 10 pages are blank, so you can draw something about your life, your moods or even jot down some notes. It is a very practical book with different functions. Don't miss the chance! Buy it now, or else you will regret it!

The price of the diary is \$18. If you buy two, you can enjoy a discount of 20% off!

Start noting your life now!

Thank you for listening.

I was 25 years old when I became a hawker. I decided to become a hawker because I could have a flexible work and I liked to eat and make sushi. I wanted to create my own style of sushi for everybody.

I usually worked in Central because I thought people in Central would try and accept the new things easily. I felt my sushi could help them release their stress from their work because it tasted so good.

What I liked most about being a hawker was that I was free, and so I could create my own style of sushi. My sushi was star-shaped and I made different flavours. The food was packaged as a rainbow shape because I wanted my customers to be surprised. Being a hawker is fun, but one of the difficulties I faced was the weather. If the weather was too hot, the food would spoil easily. If the weather was too cold, nobody would buy anything from me.

The most unforgettable experience in my life, as a hawker, was something happened last summer. One of my regular customers ate my sushi. He then began to feel dizzy and collapsed on the street. The police and paramedics came and sent him to the hospital. The police came to question me. I was very worried. Luckily, the police informed me that the man had heart disease, so I was not liable to that. So I could go on with my job as a hawker.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this presentation. My name is Karlam Yip. I am the 'Fly Shoes' designer.

Today, I'm going to talk about 'Fly Shoes'. It will only take you a few minutes.

'Fly Shoes' is different from other similar products and is much lighter than other similar products. It shines at night. It comes in different colors, like blue, red, and green.....It is bright at night.

'Fly Shoes' has many benefits. It can fly for a while. It is everyone's dream. Now you can achieve it. 'Fly Shoes' can also change the way you walk and provide more comfort because inside 'Fly Shoes' the material is made of feathers.

Now if you buy the 'Fly Shoes', you can get the special offer. It is 15% off. So if you don't buy them now, you will regret it.

'I believe I can fly. Let's do it'.

Thank you for listening.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this sales presentation. My name is Joe. Today I am going to talk about a great mobile phone decoration. I'll not take you too much time.

It is a trendy product. It is a combination of a phone cover and a USB memory stick. They come together as one single gadget. If you buy one, you will not worry about losing your USB memory stick anymore. You can put it on your phone and you won't find it any heavier. It is as light as a feather. The material of the phone cover is as soft as soap. You can design the shape of the phone cover if you like. Why do you need it? Because it is very small. It will not make noise. You can bring it everywhere. The most important is it has 60 GB, which is a large memory capacity.

Now, we have some special offer. The original price is \$100. However, if you buy it today, you can enjoy a discount of 10% off. If you buy a second one, you will enjoy a further 50% discount. No matter how many you buy, you will always get my signature and guarantee. Do not wait. Grab this opportunity. Come and buy one. My slogan is 'Convenience Beyond Your Imagination.'

The Anywhere Door

Before going to sleep, I always read a number of comics, including the Old Master and Doraemon. One night, I was probably too tired to read. Suddenly, I heard wonderful music. I opened my eyes slowly and saw a door with a light color. Doraemon was coming out from the door!

He came from the 21st century. He brought three gadgets to me, including the Anywhere door, Take-copter and Memory Bread. Since I had a fear of heights, and I didn't like eating bread, I chose the Anywhere door. I asked him to use it to take me to the Great Wall in China. However, Doraemon said that it was midnight, and the Great Wall was quiet and cold. So, it was not suitable for anyone to go there. Then I asked him to take me to the Las Vegas in the USA. He said to me that the Anywhere door did not have enough energy to travel such a long distance. I got a little bit impatient and asked again, "Where can we go?" He suggested picking a place in Hong Kong, so I chose the Ocean Park.

I followed Doraemon to enter the Anywhere Door. While I was stepping into the door, which was dark, the magic happened in just a minute. "Wow, I'm really in the Ocean Park!"

Since it was early, there were no other visitors or staff in the Park. No one queued up in front of the rides so I did not remember how many times I rode the Pirate Ship and the exciting roller coasters. When I had my last ride in the roller coaster, I was thrown out of the car! "Boom!" I was afraid and I cried. I felt really painful...

When I opened my eyes, I had dropped to the floor from the bed. I didn't know whether it was real or everything was just a dream. I walked to the living room from my bedroom and I saw the Anywhere Door. Was it just a dream?

Good morning Miss Lam and my classmates. My name is Joseph. I'm going to have a sales presentation with you. Actually I want to persuade Miss Lam to buy her best friend a special birthday gift. So I'm going to talk about the super trainers, which we can buy in the sports centre. I believe after my presentation, Miss Lam will buy one pair for her best friend for her birthday.

Do you want to know the functions of these super trainers? Do you want to run faster and jump higher? If so, you should buy these super trainers. These trainers can make you run faster and jump higher. So, you can perform better on sports day. If you buy one pair for your friend, I'm sure she will like them because they'll make her look cool. They are only \$497. If you buy two pairs at a time, you can get a discount of 30% off. You can buy a pair for your friend and another for yourself.

The product has a unique function. You can put pens under the shoes in case you need it. What do you think? Do you want to buy this good product for your friend to celebrate her birthday? Buy them now, if you are her BEST friend!

Miss Lam, act fast! Thank you for listening.

Take-copter

Among all the interesting gadgets, Take-copter is what I love most. That's why I would choose it if Doraemon asked me to pick one as a present from all the gadgets that he has.

Since I was a child, I have always dreamt of flying in the sky and going wherever I want, with the breeze kissing my face and the clouds floating around me. What an amazing moment, isn't it?

As we all know, the traffic congestion in Hong Kong is very serious. In such a hustle and bustle city, time is as important as money. Therefore, I can save much time if I use the Take-copter as my daily transportation.

With the Take-copter, I can escape from the busy life and relax for a while.

So, I like the Take-copter very much.

The Younger Brother of Deformation

An orphan named Peter was adopted by a family whose members were not his relatives. They had a simple life and later, his parents adopted a girl who was older than him. They lived a happy life together.

Upon the first day of the campus life, he didn't know he was special. Many students laughed at him stupidly and teased him that he had no father or mother. This lasted for several years. He was sad, and even wanted to die...

After school, he went to the graveyard. He sat down under the tree and he saw many spider webs on the tree branches. "It's horrible!" he said. Since he concentrated so much on the trees, he almost forgot about the worries at school! Suddenly, something fell down from the tree. He was shocked. "What is it?" he screamed. It was a beautiful purple apple, named 'The Devil Nut'. He picked it up and started to eat it.

He went back home. "Mum, I'm back!" he said. "I will prepare dinner!" mom replied. After two days he felt his body was bloated. Another day had gone by, when he woke up from a dream, "I turned into a beast!" he screamed.

His dad and mom were scared of him and Peter couldn't control himself. He began to break things and many people tried to shoot him. He quickly ran back to the trees and at last, with the stars at night, he exhaled his last sigh.

A Letter to June

Dear June,

How're you? I want to write to you because I caught a pickpocket yesterday, and I'm really proud of myself for what I've done and I really want to tell you about it.

Yesterday, my friend Sabrina and I went to the cinema to watch the newest movie 'Into the Woods'. Since we didn't have lunch before, we bought a bagful of popcorn and shared it together. Later on, the movie started. The movie was very scary. Suddenly, Sabrina threw her popcorn to the ground without noticing. However, I didn't even pay attention to it because my eyes were attracted to the woman's handbag in front of my seat. As I watched another woman sitting next to her was reaching her hand into the handbag, as quickly as a blink, she took the wallet out of the handbag quietly.

At that moment, I was too afraid to speak. I have never witnessed something like this! So I decided to keep calm by going on watching the movie.

"The movie was fantastic!" said Sabrina and I nodded with a friendly smile on my face because I didn't pay too much attention to the movie after what I saw about the pickpocketing. Suddenly, I saw the woman, whose wallet was stolen, reporting to the cinema attendant about her missing wallet. Then, the cinema attendant called the police. Five minutes later, the police came. Meanwhile, I saw the pickpocket walked out of the cinema! I quickly ran to her and grabbed her hand tightly and shouted, "It's her! She was the one who stole your wallet!" Everyone stopped and looked at me. Sabrina thought that I went nuts and she tried to pretend she didn't know me. After I shouted, the wallet's owner ran over to me and looked at the pickpocket. She said, "I remembered now. You are the one sitting next to me!" Then the police ran to the pickpocket and arrested her and put her in handcuffs.

That was an unforgettable day! What do you think of what I've done? Write back soon!

Best wishes,
Julieta

Why some people prefer the MTR to buses

I prefer taking the MTR to buses. Why? It is because I believe the MTR has more benefits than buses.

The first one is about the punctuality. I am afraid of the buses being late. If they are late, I will be late for school as well. Therefore I like the MTR because it always arrives on time.

The second one is the MTR is more environmentally friendly. Since it does not pollute the air, it can help keep the world clean.

The third one is about the waiting time. The waiting time of MTR is normally shorter than buses. Sometimes we may take more than an hour to wait for a bus. On the contrary, the longest waiting time of MTR just takes about a few minutes or less. Therefore, it can help me save more time on travelling.

The final reason is that the MTR offers concessionary fares for students and the elderly. Since the MTR can offer such great benefits to the minority groups, it can help them to save money and buy something that they need.

The above are the four reasons why I prefer taking the MTR.

Uncle Lee's life

In 1968, the economy was not good. Uncle Lee found it hard to work in his job. So he found a temporary job in a fast food shop. After two years, he saved up enough money and bought a motorcycle and a freezer to start his own business.

Every morning and afternoon, he worked outside a school. There were a lot of school children who came to buy his snacks and ice-creams. They thought the snacks and ice-creams were cheaper and tastier than those in the fast food shops.

Uncle Lee felt happy because the children were happy with his food and so many of them queued up to buy his ice-creams. He liked his job but he disliked the tourists taking photos of him. He was also scared of children describing him as an ugly and dirty hawker to their parents and teachers.

After 20 years, he was getting old. Finally, he decided to retire. In fact, working was so much harder at that time. It wasn't like 20 years ago when he could work comfortably as he wished.

Although Uncle Lee has retired from his job, the children of the school always remember him because they miss his ice-cream. They wish they could eat his ice-cream again.

Dear Heartbroken Tracy,

Hi, Tracy! Thanks for writing me a letter and sharing your thoughts and worries with me. Let's discuss some solutions together! I'm sure they can help!

As we all know, drugs take lives away! You must keep distance with drugs. To be honest, your boyfriend is guilty as it is illegal for him to take drugs, let alone persuading you to do the same with him. You'd better leave him and tell him to stop taking those scary drugs. Again, drugs kill, not to mention that they harm your health and your future. If you still care about your loving parents, please leave him without hesitation and explore true happiness.

Tracy, you shouldn't "obey" your classmate, Peter who bullies you. It's necessary to stop him from hurting your body and your heart. What he has been doing to you is terribly wrong. You'd better tell your teacher about his wrongdoing. I was bullied when I was a kid, so I do understand how you feel. Also, you must be mature and strong so that those mean words of Peter's can't bring you down. You know your weight is actually fine and you are not obese at all! A confident person is the most beautiful, and you don't need to be skinny to look good and feel good. Why don't you learn to appreciate yourself? Just remember, we can't please everyone. Just be yourself!

It doesn't mean you are lonely when you are alone, because your family will always be with you. Family is important in our life. We should treasure it. They always care about us. I doubt if your boyfriend would care about you as your family does. My dear, every difficulty has a solution. There are always some ways to face it. However, we should never escape it.

"Life is like a box of chocolate, we never know what the next flavor is." Maybe, it will be happiness. Maybe it will be sadness. But it is still worthwhile, isn't it?

Love,

Dr. Green

Drinking Coffee in Class

Coffee is an important drink for many people as it can freshen us up. Imagine a good cup of hot coffee when you feel tired and sleepy. The refreshing smell itself can already give us a great boost. Although coffee is so good to us, should we be allowed drink it in class at school?

First, coffee appears to be good but it may not be beneficial to teenagers' health. Coffee can be bad for teens' physical health if we lose self-control and consume it excessively. Some of my classmates have at least 3 cups or cans of coffee per day as they stay up late at night and feel sleepy all the time in the lesson. Coffee does stunt your growth if you drink a lot as it contains lots of caffeine. It dehydrates your system because the caffeine takes the calcium out of your body. Plus, it also stains your teeth. Thus, students should be not encouraged to drink a lot of coffee especially in class.

Additionally, will drinking coffee affect others in classroom? Yes, of course. Coffee has a strong smell. If we drink it, the smell will drift to the whole classroom. All of the students may be attracted or distracted by the smell of it. It will affect other's attention and teacher's teaching. Also, don't forget that there may be some people who dislike the strong smell of coffee. It is somehow irresponsible to drink coffee in class.

In fact, we are not allowed to consume any other drinks excluding water in class. Though some students find this rule rigid in secondary schools, it can help to make our learning environment cleaner and more desirable. I believe a shot of fresh coffee does bring good to our life, yet we should enjoy it at the right place and with the right amount.

Good morning everybody! I am John, who went on the camping trip which lasted for three days. It was an absolutely amazing trip! Let me talk about the activities in these three days.

First, after our team had reached the mountain, we walked to a field and tried to set a tent there. The mountain was extremely high, and we could barely see the peak since it was foggy everywhere. Due to the heavy fog and insufficient time, we did not have any activities on the first day. All we did was cooking and sleeping in the tent. We got enough rest and energy for the next day.

Luckily, there wasn't any fog the next day, and the sky above was clear. The first activity was canoeing, and thus we went to a long river. We canoed around the sides of the river, and my instructor taught me how to raft correctly and safely. And then, the second activity was the one I looked forward to the most-- mountain climbing! We went to the valley of a very steep cliff and started to climb. Although I used all my strength, the hike to the peak was still a very exhausting one hour trip! Anyway, it was a very good experience for me!

At night, we went back to the field to play group games, and everyone was spinning, screaming, shouting, smiling as we played chess, dices and so on. After that, we found some wood around the field and we set it in the middle to start a campfire. Our partners started to talk about what we have learnt in the trip and we shared our stories and feelings about the trip. After the touching sharing, some naughty boys started singing crazily and our members started to head back to the tent immediately! After some time of this exciting running and screaming, teachers asked us to go back to our tents to have a good night sleep.

On the last day, we were grouped together to do the trip report. We found that we needed to have more self-confidence as we always said we couldn't. A member said the trip was amazing and he learnt a lot. Finally, we boarded the shuttle bus and went back to the school.

That is the end of my sharing! Thank you for listening!

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to complain about the service provided by your kindergarten, in which my little sister is studying. I am very disappointed about the service that she received.

Firstly, all the toilets in the kindergarten were especially unsanitary. A lot of flies flew around the toilet. It could spread diseases to any student who used the toilets. Then viruses could be spread to all the students or teachers. It was harmful for their health. Moreover, there was no air-conditioning inside any of the classrooms because all the air-conditioners were broken. Yet no maintenance work has been done so far to repair them. Under the hot summer weather, students couldn't focus on the lesson and they had to bear the high room temperature. Although you can see it as being "environmentally-friendly", it was not a good learning environment for students. At least, you should install some fans inside all the classrooms for ventilation. To conclude, I find the condition of the basic facilities in the kindergarten very unsatisfactory.

Secondly, there was physical punishment in the lesson, and it is a very serious problem. Teachers should never punish students physically. We all know that physical punishment is illegal in Hong Kong. It is harmful for all the students' personal growth. Actually, it is damaging the students who receive this kind of punishment in a physical and psychological way.

Finally, the teachers were not professional. I once found my little sister singing the English alphabet song and the lyric was all wrong. The order of some letters was reversed. Then I asked her who taught her that song. She answered me "my English teacher taught me." I was very shocked. It was a poor education experience for all the students. I even wonder if all the school teachers are qualified enough to teach.

I expect an inspection to the problems and a written response from you. Otherwise, I will complain to Hong Kong Education Bureau.

Yours faithfully

Kobi chiu

Kobi Chiu

Dear Heartbroken Tracy,

Thanks for telling me about the obstacles and dilemmas that you are facing. I'm sorry to know you have such a lot of things to worry about. I think the problems are difficult to face and solve, but I will try my best to give you some advice. I hope it helps.

First of all, I'm surprised that you have started dating as you are still very young, but I'm not going to judge. I just want you to think more deeply. The first thing you should be sure is, does your boyfriend really "love" you if he asks you to take drugs? If he did, would he argue about it with you and ignore you so easily? And do you actually "love" him that much? Are you willing to screw up your whole life just for him? If the answers are negative, I would suggest you think twice and make the right decision by saying a firm no to him and telling him how harmful this is to your relationship. You can also talk with your parents, and I am sure they will understand you and try their best to help you.

Apart from this, you can't just tolerate what has been happening to you! It's natural to feel stressed and upset if you are constantly teased by your classmate. To make things worse, he is now trying to abuse you physically and this is an actual threat to your personal safety. You have to stand up for yourself, Tracy! If I were you, I would talk to the bully seriously. If he doesn't change, I would talk to teachers. Don't feel bad about your weight! But nobody should tease you and call you names for any reason. It is a very mean and terrible to do.

My final word of advice — be confident and believe in yourself and respect yourself. Sharing your worries with others is really important as it can halve your problems and help you a lot. When you want to make a change to your life and make it better, you'd better listen to me.

Finally, I hope that my advice can help and that you're feeling better now. If you have other problems, feel free to write me. Good Luck!

Yours,

Dr Green

Good morning, everybody. Last week I went on a three-day camping trip with my friend and it was a lovely experience for me. Now, I'm going to talk about what I've done and seen on the trip.

Before the first day of the camping trip, my teammates and I prepared things for the trip. I remember that I said we should learn how to put up a tent together but they just ignored my words and went to play. They are so bad, aren't they? If they had listened, I would not have had to finish putting up the tent all by myself!

On the first day, we went hiking and reached the peak of the mountain. There was a big flower field which was very colourful and attractive. The scenery was amazing, but the hike itself was not as easy as you may think. We all felt exhausted afterwards. Then we went back to the camp and fell asleep quickly.

On the second day, we went fishing and canoeing. Fishing sounds like a hard job, doesn't it? If we don't practise enough, we can't catch fish easily. We spent three hours trying to catch, and we finally caught two. After taking a rest, we went canoeing. We must wear a life vest when we're playing activities in water. It's exciting and I played it for a long time! I went back to the camp and had some group games with my teammates. They told us some horror stories and I felt so scared all night long! It's no wonder that I couldn't have a good sleep that night!

On the last day, I went to pick some nuts, mushrooms and fruits on the mountains. We picked some apples and oranges too, and we felt that was the tastiest food in the world! However, if we eat some dirty food, we will be sick or poisoned. So, don't follow my bad example of picking wild fruits to eat! We then had a campfire at night and sang some songs together. It was unforgettable. If I had had more time, I would have stayed longer and tried more different kinds of activities.

This is the end of my speech, thank you for your attention.

Day one:

0930 ~ 1230

Hong Kong is a wonderful place with amazing natural scenery, but most tourists do not notice this beautiful side of it. Hence our first stop is Nam Sheng Wai for cycling. While cycling through the woods, we can see lots of beautiful creatures and plants, such as birds, flowers and more.

1300 ~ 1800

After cycling, we go to Lau Fau Shan for some delicious, flavoursome seafood, because it's near Nam Sheng Wai and the meal is reasonably priced. The staff will pick the seafood straight up from the water tanks immediately when you order. It's fresh and nice for us to have lunch in such a pleasant atmosphere.

1900 ~ 0000

After lunch and shopping at Lau Fau Shan, we will head back to my house for you to have a homestay experience. We will have a good night sleep and get ready for the next day.

Day two:

0930 ~ 1300

Our first destination is Mong Kok.

Mong Kok is a place where lots of teenagers gather. There are lots of things to try and see, such as street performances. Sometimes, there are teenage or adult performers with their guitar; playing and singing to the public! Also, there are a lot of fashionable items, local food, and more, so you can buy some souvenirs for your loved ones!

1400 ~ 2000

After shopping in Mong Kok, we leave our things in my car and head straight to Disneyland for the rest of our day! We all know that Disneyland is one of the theme parks in Hong Kong, and it's filled with love stories, fantasies, mysteries and fairytales! Although there are a lot of Disneyland parks around the world and most of them are almost the same since they are theme parks, I'm sure that it will still be an extraordinary trip because there are some special features you can find in the Hong Kong one. After you have a lot of fun there, you head back to London with lots of lovely memoirs.

Day one

9:30~11:30

We take the MTR to Tsim Sha Tsui station and walk around the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront.

The views are fabulous. It attracts many tourists to visit every year.

12:00~15:00

We have lunch in a Chinese restaurant, and we try many types of delicious cuisines, such as dim sum, desserts and Chinese tea. After having lunch, we go to the Space Museum.

We watch a 3D movie which is about rockets and astronauts. Then, we read the exhibition boards and play with the models to learn more about space.

17:00~20:30

We take the peak tram to the Peak. First, we go shopping and buy some souvenirs.

Then we have dinner in a western restaurant. At last, we enjoy the spectacular night views of Hong Kong.

Day two

10:00~12:30

We take the MTR to Mong Kok station, and start shopping in Mong Kok. We go to the 'Women Street Market' to buy some local souvenirs, like smartphone cases, clothes and snacks. It is famous for fish balls and egg custards.

12:50~16:30

We have lunch in a Hong Kong style cafe. We can try toast and noodles. People love to eat in Hong Kong style cafe because of its special food and drinks.

18:00~20:30

We take a bus to Sai Kung for its fresh seafood. We have dinner in a famous seafood restaurant, and order different kinds of seafood, like curry crab, fried shrimps, and steamed fish. They are full of flavors and that's why many people love them.

A Complaint Letter

3B Wong Wai Ying

Lovely Angel Kindergarten
Hong Kong
30 November, 2014

Dear Principal,

I am writing to complain about your kindergarten. As far as I know, the attention given to the kids has been inadequate. I am very disappointed with the education and learning environment you have offered.

Firstly, the toilets were filthy and smelly. There were plenty of flies surrounding the toilet. There was even dripping water. The environment was unhygienic and it must lead to the spreading of diseases. Your school needs to face the hygiene issues immediately.

Secondly, kids said that they could hardly concentrate on the lessons because of the high temperature. Although there was one air conditioner, it was not in use. Hence, they could not focus on studying on account of the broken conditioner and terrible facilities. You had better install several electric fans to provide kids with good ventilation. There will be a potential safety hazard when summer comes. Kids may get heatstroke.

Thirdly, some kids were given physical punishment. It was harmful and illegal. The kids were innocent and the teachers should not treat them with this extreme method. It might cause a bad psychological effect on the kids and it would become a very difficult situation to resolve in the future. I am very angry and outraged about this situation.

As expected, the teachers were not qualified to teach according to the feedbacks from kids. Also, your school did not provide the kids with good desks and chairs. They were forced to have lessons with poor postures. As a principal, how could you allow these things to occur in your kindergarten?

I expect a written apology and refund of tuition from your kindergarten. Otherwise I will have no choice but to make a complaint to the Hong Kong Education Bureau.

Yours sincerely,
Sherry Wong

Dear heartbroken Tracy,

Thanks for sharing your grief and difficulties with me. I'm sorry to hear that you have been bullied by Peter and there are some problems about your boyfriend and family. Stay strong! You will make it and I will try my best to help you!

First of all, let's talk about your boyfriend. You ought to think about this question -- if he really loves you, will he ask you to take drugs? The people who really love you will lead you to the right path. It was very fortunate that you know how to refuse something when it is inappropriate. If I were you, I would learn from this experience and concentrate on studies. Although it's natural for teenagers to be interested in opposite sex, our family and studies are more important for our future! You have to understand that your parents really love you and they just care about you.

I'm surprised that I've a friend called Peter too! He is very odd-looking and chubby! In the past, he bullied me a lot. He always laughed at my appearance! But we have become friends finally. So, I think I can give you more specific and useful suggestions!

I'm not sure why you are afraid he will harm you more after you tell your teacher about it. Did he laugh at your appearance, tease you and make fun of your abilities? If your answer is yes, that means we are just telling the truth to the teachers. You'd better keep a firm attitude as the bullies have no right at all to bully others. I think that you need to be courageous and have more confidence in yourself and your teachers. They must be able to help you solve this problem!

My final word of advice is – don't worry too much! I 'm sure you can solve all your problems with the help of your family and teachers. Well, I hope this helps. Try to cheer up! Please write to me and tell me how you get on!

Love,
Claudia

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry to hear you can't sleep well lately. I'm going to give you some advice and I hope the advice can help you.

First, I think you should have a good sleeping habit. Wake up and go to bed at a regular time every day. If you always sleep late, you must be tired.

Second, I think you should do more physical exercise. So, you will be tired at night and you can sleep well. If this advice doesn't help you to sleep well, why don't you try listening to some relaxing, soft music before going to bed? It can help you to calm your mind.

Lastly, I think you can have a cup of hot milk or chocolate before you go to bed. These hot drinks can help you to keep yourself warm. Also, keep your bedroom warm and dim. It can help you to prepare your mood to sleep. You asked me if you should take some sleeping pills as it can be dangerous if you always take it. I don't think you should.

I hope my advice will help. Don't worry too much. Do write back and let me know how thing turn out. Good luck!

Best wishes,

Chris

Dear Kate,

I'm sorry to hear that you suffer from insomnia and you will have a test soon. I know you are so tired because you can't sleep well. This is my advice.

First, you can try to drink a cup of warm milk or chocolate before you go to bed. It can help you to keep your body warm. If the body is warm, you will sleep well. I tried this before and it worked.

Second, you may also have a warm bath before you sleep. It makes your body warm too. But before you have a warm bath, you must have your dinner two hours earlier. If you don't have two hours, it's not good for your health. Do remember that!

Finally, you should not take sleeping pills because these pills are harmful to your health. You may rely on these pills too heavily, although the doctor told you to take them.

I hope my advice can help you. Don't worry too much. If my advice can't help you, you should see a doctor. I hope you will overcome your insomnia soon. Please write back and let me know how things turn out. Take care.

Cheers,

Chris

A Letter of Advice

3C Liu Pak Shun

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your letter, I am sorry to hear about what you are facing, actually I had these problems before. I hope I can give you some useful advice to help you.

First, the most important thing, you mustn't take sleeping pills as it is harmful to your health and you may become addicted, it can also be dangerous if you take it overdose! I have seen a report from the newspaper saying a woman takes sleeping pills too often and eventually she cannot sleep normally without taking the pills.

Second, you can have a cup of hot milk or hot chocolate before you go to bed, it helps to keep yourself warm and something sweet can make you sleep better and more comfortable. You can also keep your bedroom warm and the lights dim. This will help you to prepare your mood to sleep. I suggest you do both as it will produce a better result.

Last but not least, you can listen to some relaxing music or any music that you like before going to bed, it helps to calm your mind after you have come through so many challenges in the day time. Remember, never think about your work or examination before going to bed or you will not have a good sleep!

I hope my advice will help. Don't worry too much as everything is going to be good. Do write back and let me know how things turn out. Good luck and God bless you!

With love,
Chris

Why did Kenji Goto die?

3D Yeung Hong Ping, Luis

Why are people fighting?

Why is the world not in peace?

Why do countries keep revenging,

While many innocents died in wars?

Why are they so cold-blooded?

Why are they so mad?

Why are they so violent?

Why could they chop people's head off, leaving theirs families sinking in the darkness?

Why can't countries stop it happening?

Why can't people have different faith?

Why?

And what can we do?

Nothing!

Dear Edith,

Hello, how are you? I have received your letter and I understand your situation. I'm sorry to hear about your problems. I know that insomnia is very puzzling. So, I will give you some suggestions.

First, if you want to sleep but can't, you can listen to some soft music before you sleep. Soft music can help you to relax yourself. If your body is not nervous, you can sleep very well.

The second way is take a hot bath before you sleep. Taking a hot bath can relax you too. A good quality sleep will give you a good spirit the next day. If your spirits are good your results on your tests will be good.

The third way is to read some boring books. Reading interesting books will make you wide awake. On the contrary, reading some boring books can make you sleepy. Like me, I don't like Maths or anything about Maths. If I read something about Maths, I can't find any excitement or interest, and I will feel very bored. So, I will fall asleep very quickly.

The above methods are quite effective. You can try them when you can't sleep. If the problem continues, I think you should take some sleeping pills. The effects of the sleeping pills can make you fall asleep immediately. However, it is not recommended for you to over-rely on them, because drugs will hurt your body. They may also make you have other diseases.

In a nutshell, you must relax yourself. You can't always think about your test. You must learn how to allocate your time. Then you can do well in your test and have a good sleep.

Love,
Chris

Dear Edith,

How are you? I'm sorry to hear that you cannot sleep well recently. I have some advice for you.

I think you are under the pressure because of having a test. You should relax yourself before sleeping. If you have some problems, you can talk to your friends or members of your family. I think they can help you to solve some of your problems.

Besides, I don't think you are suffering from insomnia. As the tests are coming, you should spend some time revising for your test. Before you go to bed, you can do something to make you sleep well, such as listen to some soft music, read some books which you like or take a hot bath.

Furthermore, if your sleeping problem still continues, you should see a doctor and the doctor will give you some professional advice.

I hope the above suggestions help you. Please drop me a line when you have time. If you have difficulties, do not hesitate to call me. I will always be there for you. Bye for now.

Best wishes,
Chris

Dear Joyce,

How are you? I'm sorry to hear your problem. I would like to give you some advice.

First, you mentioned that you don't have any friends at school. I don't think the main reason is your appearance. If I were you, I would try my best to talk with them. I would ask them why they don't want to play with me.

Second, if you don't like your hairstyle, you can talk to your mum. You can change your hairstyle by yourself. Don't be shy! If you don't talk with your mum, your friends will keep laughing at you.

Third, you mentioned that you are a bit overweight. If I were you, I would like to keep fit. I would eat healthy food and do more exercise. This can help you change your appearance.

Fourth, I think your personality stops you from communicating with the people. You can join some activities. This will help you meet the new friends. If you have some problems, you can talk with your family.

Finally, if you want to have more friends, you shouldn't mind your appearance. You should be strong. Don't think about some negative things, you should be more positive. I think you can borrow some books about communication. This can help you talk with your friends.

I think you can have many friends in the future. Don't mind how other people see you. Just do your best and be yourself. Don't give up. I hope my advice will help. Do write back and let me know how things turn out. Good luck.

Best wishes,
Jackson

Dear Manager,

I am writing to complain about the poor service and attitude of your employees. This evening, I had dinner with a friend in your restaurant. I felt I was ignored by the waiter.

First, the waiter, with short curly hair, ignored our requests. He was not happy to serve us. We did not think that we were treated with respect.

Second, your waiter did not know his job duties. While he was refilling our juice for us, he was chatting with another waiter. Since he was not paying attention, the glass was full and the juice spilled on to the table and my friend's shirt.

Third, when I told him that the food was not what I ordered, his facial expression was terrible. Moreover, while we were still having our food, he collected our dishes. Why was he so rude to us?

Overall this, it was the worst service I had ever had in my whole life. Then, he asked for tips when we paid the bill. Wasn't it ridiculous, as 10% had already been added to our bill for service!

I think you should look into this complaint and actions need to be taken. If no improvement is seen, I cannot help but write a letter to the press and put forward my complaint to the relevant governmental department. Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Sam Hui

Dear Edith,

How are you? I feel sympathetic about you suffering from insomnia. I have received your letter and thought about some suggestions for you to solve your sleeping problem.

Have you thought about the reasons for your sleeping problems? I think you're suffering from insomnia because you have some stress, for example, you must face your homework every day or else you may fail in your test. Let me give you some ideas about how to solve your sleeping problems.

First, take a hot bath before you go to sleep. The reason is taking a hot bath can make your body relaxed. If I were you, I would take a hot bath before you go to sleep. Not only can you make your body relaxed, but can also make you fall asleep easily. Why don't you try to take a hot bath before you go to sleep?

Second, I think listening to some soft music can improve your insomnia situation. You should listen to some soft music before you go to sleep. This can make you fall asleep easily. If I were you, I would take a hot bath before listening to the soft music.

Third, you should do some exercise to relax yourself. If I were you, I would do 30 to 40 minutes of exercise every day.

I hope the three ideas can help you improve your sleeping problems. Please feel free to let me know if there is any problem.

Best regards,
Chris

A Letter of Advice to Edith

3E Wong Wing Yan

Dear Edith,

How are you? I have received your letter yesterday and I understand your situation. I'm sorry to hear about that. I had insomnia before, so I can suggest some methods to you.

If I were you, I would work hard in morning because you will get tired after work and you can get a long sleep. You don't need to be worried about the tests. You should believe in yourself. You will pass all your tests and get good marks. If you are still worried about that, you should work hard on the subjects you are concerned about.

I got insomnia in F.4 because I failed my last test and I felt down. Every day, I worked so hard. I had much pressure. I couldn't sleep the whole night, but now I can sleep well because I can pass all my tests and I believe in myself. You should have self-confidence and everything will be fine.

Last but not least, you must not take any sleeping pill to help you sleep better. Although it makes you sleep well, it is not a long-term solution. After getting addicted to it, if you don't take it one day, you still can't sleep. It can't solve the problem and you will hurt your body.

Please drop me a line when you have time.

Best wishes,
Chris

Dear Joyce,

I'm sorry to hear your problems, especially that you don't have real friends in school. You should enjoy your school life with your friends. If I were you, I would join some groups that interest you. You can meet some new friends who have the same hobbies, interests and thoughts as you. Although your friends now don't have the same hobbies and thoughts as you, you can still be friends with them to eat lunch or talk together, so you will not feel lonely anymore.

Second, I want to talk to you about your weight problem. You should run every day for at least 30 minutes to make your muscles strong. Then, you should have a balanced and healthy diet for lunch and dinner, such as eating more vegetables. Surf the Internet to find out some ways to keep fit. So the people will not laugh at your appearance anymore. Just like me, you need to trust yourself that you can do it and no one will laugh at your appearance.

Last but not least, I want to talk about your hairstyle problem and give you some advice. You should take the initiative to tell your mum that you want to decide your hairstyle by yourself and tell her the reason. You'd better tell her you don't have friends in school because of your hairstyle. She may agree to your request. You can decide what hairstyle you want or can make your appearance look better. And you will get friends at school!

I hope my advice will help you and please drop me a line when you have time.

Best wishes,
Jackson

A Letter of Complaint

3E Wong Wing Yan Esther

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to complain about the attitude of your staff. I had dinner on 6th December at 6:00 p.m. in your restaurant. The staff was rude and impolite. They made me angry.

My first complaint is about your staff's lack of courtesy. We wanted to order but the waiter ignored our request. After waiting 5 minutes, he finally took our order. My friend ordered a bottle of juice. While the waiter was pouring the juice, he talked with another waiter and he spilled our drinks. It made us dirty. I am very angry about that.

My second complaint concerns the waiter ordering the wrong food, but he didn't apologize to us. He was very impolite and rude to us! Then, while we were having our dinner, the waiter collected the dish which we still had not finished. We paid money for it, but we couldn't finish it! It made me very angry. Your staff members are too rude!

My last complaint is about your staff, who asked for a tip. Your waiter was too rude and impolite so we didn't leave any tip and then your staff shouted at us! I have never met such a waiter who is so rude and impolite!

You should teach them how to be polite to customers. I don't want this to happen again. If you do not apologize for it, I am going to sue your company!

Yours faithfully,
Sam Hui

Ebola

Five thousand people in West Africa died of Ebola and more than ten thousand patients are suffering the painful symptoms at the moment.

The virus spreads as quickly as a leopard runs, mainly due to the underestimation of the western countries and the WHO (World Health organization). When a secret document had come to light, it revealed that the WHO didn't pay much attention to stop the spread of the disease in the beginning. Also, the leaders of the organization didn't realize that the virus had already spun out of control.

Besides, western countries didn't provide much financial assistance to aid the governments in the West African countries, which lack both finances and human resources. This has made the epidemic continue to get worse.

Worse still, the education in West African countries is inadequate. Most of the residents lack consciousness of hygiene. According to Time Magazine, the locals believed that the Ebola was a kind of magic and a cup of chocolate and sugar can help them feel better.

Therefore, the unreasonably poor policymaking, underestimation and education system were the factors that have worsened this plight.

I advise the WHO should develop more efficient policy and constantly update their news about the epidemic area. Also they should establish a communication link between the isolated West-African countries so as to control the virus better and help the patients. At the same time the western countries should provide more medicines such as Zmapp to help the suffering patients.

Additionally, they should provide financial support as the medicines and medical equipment are quite expensive. Moreover, this is beneficial for them to create and maintain their reputation.

Last but not least, as Ebola can only spread in certain ways, I think education is the most efficient way to stop the spread of this terrible disease.

I hope the Ebola epidemic will soon be under control.

Thanksgiving Challenge

4A *Krystal Lo*

Dear Lester,

Hello! It's me again! Is everything alright? I hope it is. I would like to share a challenge with you. Don't worry, it's not something harmful to you, and I'm pretty sure you are going to benefit from it. Few days ago I was scrolling down my Facebook newsfeed and something caught my eye. THANKSGIVING CHALLENGE. Originally the challenge should be taken at Thanksgiving, however, I reckon that appreciating what we have can be done whenever we want. We often neglect the things we possess and complain about what we do not have. Most of the time we take things for granted. Now, I would like to take this chance to be grateful for what we have.

The first thing came up to my mind was family. I'm raised by a single-parent family. My mother has been such a great mother that she has devoted most of her time to looking after me and my brother. She's a full-time housewife working in our home, which is extremely tough work. Not until I have done the housework last week did I realize how painful it is to sweep the floor and to do the dishes. Doing chores is tiring and boring, and I wonder how she can stand doing so many things. Also, I have to take this opportunity to thank my brother. Even though we aren't really close, I'm so influenced by him in learning English. He would speak some English phrases randomly, and sometimes he speaks English with me. It may sound strange to you but we have communicated like that before! I'm glad to have an English speaker at home!

Secondly, I would like to thank my friends. I'm really thankful for them. They are always there for me when I need them. When I was sad, they would send me quotes of happiness, do silly things to cheer me up, listen to my complaints, and lend me a shoulder to cry on. They were there when I needed help; they were there when I was in despair, they were there as a listener. I'm really thankful for that!

Lastly, I'm grateful I can receive education. There are still people who don't have any chances to receive an education in this world. There are people who want to study, yet they don't have the opportunity to study due to the lack of resources. I believe education makes life better, and there are people out there who are dying for the chance to study at school. Therefore, I should be pleased that I'm lucky enough to receive education.

These are the things that I'm grateful for. I hope you enjoy reading my letter. Now I would like to nominate you to do this Thanksgiving Challenge. Take this chance to do self-reflection, be thankful of all the things you own and most importantly, to cherish them.

Cheers,

Krystal

My Lovely Brother

If you ask me who the person I love the most, I will reply to you immediately, “It must be my brother Jacky!”

Although I’m 3 years older than him, we don’t have gaps between us. We have tacit understanding with each other and therefore, we know what we are trying to communicate each other without having to put them in words. Also, we have many things in common. For example, both of us love watching animation, so we often talk to each other and share our opinions about animation.

In my view he is a generous guy. When he finds something interesting, he will share with me. He once used most of his money to buy a delicate music box, which I wanted so much as my birthday present! I was so touched because of this. I think that’s one of the reasons why I love him so much!

Apart from this, he is as strange as me. Sometimes, he is positive and active. He is talkative – he can keep talking for long time. The longest record for him to talk non-stop was, without pausing, six (6) minutes! But sometimes he is quiet and offish, if he is like that, he will keep quiet and say nothing for long hours. If you ask him some questions, he won’t answer you, or just utter a word only.

He has many habits such as swimming and playing different kinds of sports. In this summer holiday, he went swimming twice or three times a week. As a result, he can swim very fast and he can swim the length of the pool with one breath only. It’s so cool, isn’t it? Also, he keeps playing sports regularly. Football, basketball and running are just a piece of cake for him. That makes him stronger and stronger. I think playing sports is good for his health because it can strengthen his muscles.

About the relationship between us, we get along very well with each other. When we experience some amazing and interesting things, we share our happiness with each other. When one of us feels unhappy and upset, we make each other happier. Although we may quarrel with each other every now and again, we can forgive each other and become partners again. In my opinion, that’s what a family is.

He is growing up and becoming taller and taller. I hope we can treat each other like the way we are now even when we become grown-ups. He is the most important person in my life.

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter. Sorry for not keeping in touch! I am sorry to hear about your problems. I can understand these may be hard for you. Don't worry! Let me give you some advice on how to solve the problems to make you feel better.

I understand fitting in a new school life would be difficult. You told me that you haven't made any friends until now. But you don't try to fit in with your classmates, do you? If I were you, I would take the initiative. Just let them know that you want to fit in to their social circle! Perhaps you should look for some common interests or topics. Take computer games, for example. I am sure that there will be classmates that have the same interest as you! It will be helpful if you participate in extra-curricular activities. It is easy for you to become more active. If I were you, I would share my experiences with my team-mates. Therefore, we can develop some simple relationship between ourselves. Anyway, you need to be more active. Make an all-out effort!

Since you have changed to a new school, you became more introverted. Therefore you rely on the computer or other electronic equipment for socialization. It's no wonder your parents scold you. How about thinking in your parents' position? They have expectations of you, they are concerned for you. Thus, they scold you. I think you should avoid spending too much time on the computer during your free time. Why don't you pay more attention to your school work? I guess your parents will let you spend your time on the computer when you have done everything properly. But remember, it is not wise to spend all your time on it.

Your parents said you're addicted to the virtual world. I would agree with that. You are hooked on playing computer games and checking your Facebook all the time! You told me that you feel good, as you can escape from reality and don't have to socialize with others. You must stop thinking in this way now! You shouldn't just spend your life sitting in front of the computer without any purpose. It's just a waste of time! Have you ever thought hanging out with friends instead of staying at home and facing the cold machine? I suggest you to go out for a walk. It's better for your health. I believe there will be no good effect in sitting at home all day long. Also, your short-sightedness will become more serious. Beside the health effect, you will find it hard to concentrate on your work. Online addiction will only cause your school behaviour to become worse and worse. This will make your parents feel disappointed in you. Use the same way I told you in the previous point. Only use your computer when you have finished all your work.

I hope that my advice is helpful! Please let me know how things turn out. Hope to hear from you soon!

Best wishes,

Chris

Letter of Advice

4B Lin Hei Tung

Dear Pat,

How are you? Thank you for your letter and I regret to hear about your problems. I know you must feel extremely helpless and puzzled, you don't know what to do now, do you? But please don't worry I'm going to give some advice to help you.

Your first problem is you haven't made any friends. You should make friends actively because I think a social circle is pretty important for everyone. Try to talk nicely and courageously! No one will approach you if you refuse them. Remember, don't be shy!

Then, the second difficulty is you like checking your Facebook page and playing computer games. If I were you, I'd cease to check Facebook and play on the computer. I had similar experiences and I was addicted to my phone. I just looked at my phone, even when I'm next to my friends. Once we didn't have any communication at lunch, I just paid attention to my phone. At last, my friends were angry and disappointed in me. Therefore, I found that it's not a wise action. My solution was to quit this terrible addiction with my phone and do other things.

So, why don't you log out of your Facebook account? You don't have to check it all day long. As a result, it's getting a little bit troublesome to log in again. Moreover, you'd better do something which is meaningful, and that you love to do, such as sports, reading and doing voluntary work in your leisure time. I believe that they will make you forget to check your Facebook and play computer games. In addition, perhaps you can set a new password which you don't know in your computer. And then you aren't able to use the computer!

Additionally, your parents scolded you whenever you play computer games or surf the Internet. In my opinion, if you change yourself and surf the Internet less than before, I am certain that they won't scold you as much. Moreover, you need to tell them that you surf the Internet not only for playing and checking media websites, but also to learn from the Internet. For example, you can see news of different countries. It is useful for teens from an educational standpoint.

Finally, don't be frustrated and anxious, just cheer up! Things will get better when you have an optimistic mind. And I hope my suggestions can help you to tackle your problems too. You can feel free to find me if you have difficulties again.

Love,
Chris

Letter of Complaint

4B Lin Hei Tung

28th November, 14

SammySung Electronics Company
Unit 09-12,10/F
Office Tower,
Langham Place,
Mong Kok
Kowloon

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to complain about the substandard SammySung product I bought, a new smartphone Note 400, at your Sheung Shui branch store on 25th November, 2014.

I have found a lot of problems with this product. First, I am dissatisfied as the monitor of the smartphone has cracks in it before I bought it. I cannot see the phone clearly and I am not able to do many things, such as play games, surf the Internet and watch movies. The most important thing is the cracks weren't made by me. It's really ugly and I cannot persuade myself that it is a new smartphone I've just bought very recently. This causes a considerable inconvenience to me.

Second, the smartphone cannot make any phone calls. After I press the numbers, I cannot call anyone. In my opinion, calling is the most significant function of a phone. If the simplest functions do not work, I think it is completely useless. I'm absolutely disappointed about your company and your product. My confidence level in your company has decreased.

Third, I am very doubtful about the quality of your employees. The salesperson at the store was extremely impolite and unprofessional. As a result, I returned it to the store on November 28th for a replacement. I remember your employee's name, Kelly Chan. I showed the defective smartphone to her and explained my reasons and the problems and that I wanted to have a replacement. Generally, employees will replace it immediately. However, she didn't and she just gave me a dirty look. Moreover, she didn't check my phone and simply said I cannot exchange or return it. Also, she asserted that the cracks in the phone were made by me. She thought the phone cannot make calls is my fault too. How ridiculous this was! I am pretty angry because of her snobby eyes and deplorable service.

I am requesting an exchange of the smartphone Note 400 within two weeks and a letter of apology. Enclosed is a copy of the receipt. I am looking forward to receiving a formal reply from your company. I will wait for two weeks before seeking help from Consumer Council. Please contact me at the above address or by phone at 82465048.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

Letter of Advice

4B Ng Man Him

Hello Pat,

How is it going? It's great to receive your letter. I'm sorry to hear your problems. In fact, I used to be addicted to the Internet too. I have to say it takes lot of time to get over, but I'm sure you can do it!

You said you haven't made any friends. For me, making friends isn't difficult, but you have to take the first step. Being confident is an important factor that helps you to make more friends. I advise you to join some extra-curricular activities to make more friends. It's easier to make friends who have the same interest. You guys may have the same topic to chat about. It's so much cooler than online chatting with some strangers. Also, I suggest you be nice and friendly to your classmates so that they are willing to be your friends.

I used to think that the virtual world is so much better than reality. I finally realized that it is a silly idea. When you have some lively friends, you will figure out that hanging out with friends is so much more fun. If I were you, I would go overseas, seeing fabulous scenery from difficult countries. I am sure that you will figure out the world is incredible. You will always look forward about your next journey. Moreover, you will be more positive to face the mysterious reality. Life's full of happiness and sadness. Maybe it's hard to overcome difficulties, but its life. Escape from the virtual world, you will find that God gives us a fulfilling life.

Finally, you said your parents always scold you. How about sitting down with your parents and tell them what you feel? Talk to them politely and hopefully they will have patience with you. Perhaps you should shorten your time about playing computer games step by step. When your parents see your result, they will feel pleasure and stop scolding you. It's a bit hard at the beginning. Jogging is a good idea to scatter your desire about playing computer games and surfing the Internet. I am sure you can receive fulfillment after you finish jogging.

This is the advice that I suggest. I hope this helps. It's not easy but I believe you can overcome the problems. The stunning world is waiting for you. Take it easy, Pat. Talk to you later, Bye!

Take Care,

Chris

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter, I'm worried about your recent situation. I'm eager to help you.

So, the first problem is you haven't made any friends at school. You may consider being more outgoing and taking initiative, it is a good idea for you to approach your classmates first and talk to them and maybe they would want to be friends with you. If I were you, I would join some extra-curricular activities that you like, so you could make friends who have same hobbies as you.

Then, the second problem is you often check your Facebook page and play computer games too much. I'm pretty sure you're addicted to them now. I suggest you control the time of using the computer, maybe each day you could spend two hours on it. It's wise to spend your time on something else, such as reading, drawing or playing instruments, since playing computer games for a long time is harmful to you. Also I think you should try something new, maybe swimming or skipping, you might fall in love with sports and spend more time doing it. Doing sports is always better than sitting in front of the computer.

Lastly, your last problem is you always get scolded by your parents, why don't you try to think from their angle? I'm sure your parents scolded you because they are worried about you. You know, you have spent too much time on your computer. You may consider spending more time with your parents. Show them that you are mature enough to take care of yourself, so they won't be worried about you all the time. If this still doesn't work, how about trying to have a talk with them? Tell them how you feel and talk to them about your problems.

I hope my advice can help you. Don't worry, things will surely get better! Please write again and tell me how you get on!

Best wishes,

Chris

Dear Pat,

Thanks for your letter, I'm sorry to hear about your problems. I know it's very sad if you can't make any friends at school, but if you keep checking your Facebook page and playing computer games and do nothing but sit in front of your computer, your problems will just keep going.

First, about your problem of 'no friends', I think you should get away from your computer, why don't you join some extra-curricular activities which can help you to make more friends? Especially some activities which need to work in groups, it will be really effective, but you have to remember to be active, no to be too cool to others.

Secondly, apart from the problem of not being able to make friends, your mind is an issue that you have to change too. As you feel really good to escape from reality and don't have to socialize with others, you should probably change your mind, because if you keep your mind like this, your social skills will be very bad. It may affect your performance in the future. It's a good idea to talk more with your classmates, so you can improve your social skills and make more friends at the same time!

Lastly, the last problem that you've got is about your parents 'scolding' you because you use the computer too much. If I were you, I would talk to my parents politely and promise them you will finish in a second. I think it's really not that good to be addicted to the virtual world, why don't you try to sit in the dining room and watch TV programs with your parents? It can show your parents you're not really addicted to the virtual world.

I hope my advice and suggestions will be useful for you, don't you worry so much about these problems, everything is going to be fine. Talk to you next time!

Cheers,

Chris

Dear Daisy,

I am very happy to receive your letter, but also very sorry to hear that you are facing such difficult problems. I can only give you some advice and hope it can help you.

Firstly, you mentioned that your parents are planning to get divorced as your mum said your dad has got another wife in Mainland China. You felt depressed but you felt shy to talk about this problem with them. I advise you not to be shy, take out your courage and try to talk with them to let them know how important they are in your heart.

Secondly, another problem you are facing is that you are running short of money, but you don't want to ask your parents for money as you don't want to add anymore burden to them. Because of this you want to work as a part-time model. However, you are just a student, and so, you really don't need much pocket money. If you really need some money, I think you can ask your parents for it after you have talked with your parents about the divorce problem.

The third problem you are facing is that you have started smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol to relax yourself. I really disagree with your action. These are two foolish choices to get relaxed. It will hurt your health and you may get addicted. Please get rid of this bad habit immediately!

The fourth problem you are facing is that your boyfriend doesn't love you anymore but you can't live without him. I can understand that you are feeling upset and hopeless but you should know that there are many people who love you. If you hurt yourself because of such a bad guy, they will feel heartbroken. Don't let your friends down. Try to accept the fact of relationship breakup and spend more time with your friends in order to forget the pain little by little.

All in all, although we don't know each other, I am still your friend. Maybe it is the best way to share your sadness with each me. I'm always here. I hope my suggestion can help you, everything will be OK, keep fighting!

Best wishes,
Agony Aunt

Dear Martin,

Hey, Martin. We haven't seen for a long time. I'm very happy to receive the letter from you, but at the same time very sorry to hear that you are facing two such difficult problems. I can understand your feeling and I hope you can face the difficulty calmly. Let me give you some advice.

You mentioned that you are running short of pocket money because your mum refused to give you enough. I want to advise you that you should understand why you are running short of pocket money. Maybe you are stuck living an extravagant lifestyle or spending a lot of money on unnecessary things. First of all, you'd better find the source of the problem. Secondly, you can have better financial management or find a part-time job.

You also mentioned that you want to find a part-time job, such as a waiter, chef, private tutor, etc. Although many young people work part-time, there are many benefits and drawbacks you cannot neglect. You can earn money and gain work experience by working part-time, but it can also waste your time and make you fall into employment traps easily. If you really want to do it, I suggest you to make sure you allocate enough time on your studies because you are still a full-time student now. You can write down a schedule in your note book every day to make sure that you won't forget it. Because you are a student, you can choose a job like private tutor. Not only can it help others, but it can also help you.

All in all, I hope my advice helps. If you have any other problem, you can ask me anytime.

Cheers,

Tim

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A complaint about a terrible dining experience

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction against the manager of the Lucky Choice Seafood Restaurant. To celebrate my friend's birthday, I took him to the restaurant for a meal last week, but the service at the restaurant was far from satisfactory.

In the first place, there was a bad smell in the whole restaurant, because the fish in the fish tank had been dead for several days, but the waiter didn't clean it! The bad smell filled the restaurant. It was simply unbearable!

In the second place, the chef was smoking while he was cooking! The cigarette ash dropped into the food and made the food unhygienic!

In the third place, the environment of the restaurant was terrible. Cockroaches and mice could be seen crawling everywhere! The unhygienic environment left a bad impression and made it hard for us to eat the food.

In the fourth place, the ordered food was revolting. It made us fall sick easily. How bad was the chef!

In the fifth place, the manner of the waiter was rude. He said to us loudly "If you don't like the food, get out!" It was discourteous to treat the customer in this way!

Such serious problems would tarnish Hong Kong's image of "Food Paradise" and impose detrimental effects on people's health. In my opinion, I think the waiter should clean the fish tank regularly to solve the problem of the bad smell. The restaurant should retrain the staff to maintain a good hygienic condition of the food. The restaurant should give us a new dish if we find the food unacceptable. Last but not least, the rude waiters should receive a retraining course to become more courteous when serving the customers.

I sincerely hope that you will take my complaints and suggestions seriously. If no satisfactory arrangement is made, I will hand the case over to the Consumer Council. I hope this will not be necessary.

Yours faithfully,

L.Tse

Dear Miss Wong,

Hello, Miss Wong. How are you? I'm very glad that I can send a letter to you. I am a new student from Shenzhen, my name is Sophia. In fact, my English name was "Zero" originally, but I think it was little strange, so I have changed it to "Sophia".

I am a person who always "thinks a lot". I have a complex personality and like to debate topics. I am polite, friendly and clever, but I can be very lazy and careless sometimes. I am very shy too. If teachers ask me some questions, I am always nervous. I also think I am good-tempered. If someone is willing to make friends with me, I will be very happy and consider her one of the most important parts in my heart. I like playing basketball and watching anime best. I hate bullying, playing computer games and insects that have many legs. Actually, I really don't know myself much sometimes.

My first goal is to get along with my classmates quickly. The second goal is to catch up with my classmates. It may be very hard, but I will try my best. The third goal is to adapt to the new school's life quickly. I felt very challenged the first school day because the timetable was very different compared with my previous mainland school.

Miss Wong, I hope can help me improve my English and become my friend. I'm also looking forward to sharing my feelings with you next time.

Yours truly,
Sophia

Teenage problems nowadays

Nowadays, the number of teens suffering from depression, low self-esteem or suicidal thoughts has increased drastically. Why do teenagers nowadays have so much stress? How can we solve their problems and make them happier?

Firstly, teens usually have pressure in studies. They may be lured by bad friends to turn to drugs to reduce pressure. Even worse, they may choose to give up studying and sell drugs in order to earn money. After all, teens may not be aware of the long term consequences of drug abuse and drug trafficking.

Secondly, it is common for teenagers to develop behavioral problems, such as talking back to parents and become addicted to the Internet. In addition, teenagers become rebellious early because they begin to think parents are not always correct. Besides, online games are popular among teenagers. They may use the computer or mobile phone for more than 6 hours a day. So Internet addiction is a major teenage behavioral problem now. There is little chance for them to communicate with people face-to-face. As a result, they cannot express themselves verbally, properly, and confidently.

Finally, there is an increasing number of teenager bullying cases. Bullying has become one of the worst teenage problems. Bullying can take the form of physical attacks, provocative instant messages, text messages, email and online messages. Sometimes, they do not know who to turn to for help. It can create long term miserable experiences in a teenagers' life. In extreme cases, the victim may develop mental illnesses or hurt themselves.

There are many solutions to solve teenage problems. Parents should communicate with teens more to understand their needs and concerns. I think it is the most crucial solution of all. A close and caring relationship is the key. Parents can try to convince teenagers to do healthy activities, such as playing sports or music. On the other hand, teenagers should be encouraged to get help from parents, teachers, counsellors, and friends when they are confronted with harassment or bullying.

I hope the government can help teens to grow up in a harmonious and caring environment. Every problem must have ways to solve it. Teens can live a better life if they do not give up.

Work pressure is needed to be reduced

Work pressure is a problem that most Hong Kong employees need to face every day. It is because they have long working hours. They need to complete a lot of work in a short period of time, which is very rushed for them. Also when they finish their work slowly or there is something wrong with it, they will be scolded by their manager or senior officers. Maybe they are having huge financial burden from their family and shoulder heavy responsibility to customers. These are some of the reasons why there is huge work pressure Hong Kong employees need to face.

Why do Hong Kong employees need to pay attention to work pressure? It is because if employees do not face it correctly, they may need to face huge damages to their life including mental health, physical health and social life. First, for mental health, if someone has too much work pressure, they will feel tired, upset and anxious. These may develop into mental diseases. Second, for physical health, because of work pressure, most employees lack exercise which leads to obesity and also heart-related diseases. Last, in social life, employees because of work pressure will have insufficient time to accompany family and friends. That is why employees need to face work pressure positively.

There are a lot of solutions for employees to face work pressure positively. First, for employee health they can quit their job. Second, for relaxing, they can join a trip or go travelling during national holidays. Third, for better treatment, they can complain to the Labor Department if the company mistreats its employees. Fourth, for physical health, they can develop some outdoor hobbies such as swimming, running, playing badminton, etc. to prevent obesity and heart disease. Lastly, for reducing working hour, employees should organize their work better such as implementing good time management.

There are some methods to reduce working hours, which can reduce employees work pressure. First, government can set the standard working hours, which is about 8-10 hours per day. Also there will be at least one day off per week for employees to have some time to relax. Second, employees should communicate to the employers about the overtime work so they can give longer deadlines to lessen the work pressure.

Work pressure is a huge problem for employees. We must use different ways to decrease it for a better life.

Dear Martin,

Hello! We have not talked for a long time. I read your letter and I feel sympathetic about your problems. I would like to give you some advice to solve the problems.

I also thought I had not enough money to use before. However, my mother taught me how to use money correctly. She said I wasted money on unnecessary stuff too. I bought too many clothes but I could not wear all of them. Therefore, you should think whether you have bought anything you don't need. Before you buy anything new, you should think whether it is necessary. If you do not waste your money on unnecessary stuff, you will be able to save a lot of money.

If I were you, I would not get a part-time job. I think this is not easy for a full-time student and it will adversely affect your studies. However, if you think carefully, getting a part-time job can allow you to earn more pocket money for yourself. You can save more money too. About your character, you are hard-working. I think you can go to McDonalds or the convenience store to get a part-time job. Although this job is hard, I think you can handle it. Before you get a part-time, you should ask your parents. Otherwise, they will be worried about you.

I hope my advice will help you solve your problems. If you want to get a part-time job, I will support you. Please drop me a line when you have time.

Yours,

Tim

A Letter of Complaint

4C Leung Kai Chung

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A complaint about a terrible dining experience

I am writing to complain about the problems your restaurant the Lucky Choice Seafood Restaurant. Last week, I took my friend to your restaurant for a meal and I thought your restaurant had a lot of terrible problems.

First of all, we ordered a fish for the dinner and then realized there would be a problem with the fish. We knew this because the restaurant smelled terrible and we saw a lot of dead fish in the fish tank. It made us sick and we all lost our appetite immediately.

When we were waiting for our food, we saw your chef smoking while he was cooking. The cigarette ash might have fallen onto the food, this would be very unhygienic. It could've affected our health or caused us to fall ill. I hope you take him to a retraining course for further training.

About your restaurant, there were a lot of rats and cockroaches. It was very unhygienic. It made me feel unsafe. I hope you can clean your restaurant more thoroughly.

At dinner, there was a lot of revolting food. It was the worst food I had ever eaten. It caused us to become and ill. Your restaurant must change to another chef.

When I criticized the food, the waiter was rude. He said 'If you don't like the food, you get out.' I thought to myself he must receive further training or his salary should be reduced as punishment.

I want your restaurant to apologize in the newspaper and tell people about your restaurant problems. If no action is taken, I will not go to your restaurant.

Yours faithfully,
L. Tse

Dear Miss Wong,

How are you? I can't imagine you will be my subject teacher again. In form four, a lot of friends go to other classes. My class has many classmates I don't know.

My personality is friendly, polite and helpful. In form three, if my classmates did not know how to do the difficult Mathematics homework, I would teach them if I could.

In form four, I have 3 aims. First, I hope I can be promoted to Form 5. I don't want to waste another year studying Form 4 again. I hope my English ability will be better than before because there are many subjects being taught in English, so I need to improve it. Third, I hope I will pass all my exams. If I want to complete these aims, I must do revision every day. If I have any problem, I must find the teachers or classmates and ask for help. Most importantly, I must be attentive in each lesson.

I like playing computer games and football because these are exciting and I can play with friends. I also like listening to the music because it is relaxing. I don't like reading as it is boring.

Drop me a line if you have time.

Best wishes,

Leung Kai Chung

Dear Daisy,

Thanks for your letter. I totally understand your problems. I can give you some advice.

First and foremost, your parents are planning to get divorced. Your dad has got another wife in Mainland China. I think you shouldn't be shy to talk about this problem. You should communicate with them. Also you can talk to teachers or someone you trust to help you to solve this problem.

Next, you mentioned that you are running short of money. You decided to work as a part-time model to earn money. However, you spend so much time at your job that you always fail to hand in your homework. It affects your school life and your results. As you mentioned you have already gotten a few warning letters. I think your parents will be disappointed in you. In addition, your boss asked you to take photos with your bikini on. I will suggest you quit your job before anything bad happens.

Then, you also mentioned that you have been addicted to drugs. This will cause you to run short of money and even more seriously cause health problems. I suggest you stop this habit immediately.

You mentioned that your boyfriend has been making a number of phone calls to a girl. I think your life is still hopeful. Don't be sad and time will help you to forget him. Your boyfriend is not mature enough. You are better than him. You also need to focus more on the studies. So, breaking up with him is the best solution.

I hope the above advice would help you. If you have further problems, feel free to write to me again.

Yours,
Aunt Agony

Dear Mr. Wong

I am writing to lodge a complaint against the swinging signs in the Mong Kok area, since the demolition and/or removal order was not complied with.

The first thing that concerns me is the problem of the deteriorated neon signs. According to the recent reports, there have been a number of cases about the deteriorated neon signs collapsing all around the city. Also, I have seen an accident happen in which a swinging sign fell from a building and caused traffic congestion in Mong Kok area. Therefore, it is very dangerous to ignore these swinging signs which are harmful to pedestrians. If the deteriorated neon signs fall down, it will hurt the people who are walking under them. Apart from this, the glass will shatter on the ground. It may cause the traffic congestion.

Another thing that I would like to complain is that the demolition and/or removal order was not followed. According to the report, a nightclub was order to remove the sign by your department in October of last year, but they ignored the order prompting a first warning issued in November. However, they still have not followed the order. It is illegal to disobey the order from you. So I think you should take some action to solve this problem, and give people a reasonable answer.

Lastly, I personally have some requests. First of all, the owners must demolish the signs immediately. The faster the owners can remove their signs, the sooner people can feel safe walking down the streets. The second thing is to enforce the law and take necessary legal action. I think you should take action and punish or warn the people who don't demolish their signs. Third, look into the issues and perhaps have the signs removed by your department. We should make sure the demolition and/or removal orders are executed, particularly if the signs are large and hang over roads.

Please take action and respond to my complaints. Otherwise, I will take the further steps to make sure something is done. Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong

Dear Martin,

How are you doing? Thanks for your letter. I know what you are worried about. I understand how you feel and I feel sympathetic about your situation. You say you haven't got enough money and you want to find a part-time job? Let me give you some advice and help you solve your problems.

First of all, you say you have some financial problems. You are running short of pocket money. You may try to think about why you don't have enough money to use. Maybe you always spend a lot of money on unnecessary stuff. I think you should think carefully when you buy things. Perhaps you can try to ask your parents for more pocket money. In addition, I suggest you should not have an extravagant lifestyle because it creates huge daily expenses. You ought to work a part-time job and have better financial management. Besides, it can help you save money, which you can put in the bank. It makes your financial position better. On the other hand, if you don't manage your money carefully, you will not have enough money to use.

Furthermore, I highly recommend you to get a part-time job, such as, waiter, salesperson, etc. Nowadays, many young people work part-time to earn money, but you must make sure you have good time management to prioritize your task at hand. Choose jobs with a flexible work schedule and make sure you allocate enough time on studies. Part-time jobs have both benefits and drawbacks. In terms of benefits, it can help you earn money. Moreover, you can earn work experience and find your interest. As for drawbacks, it will reduce your study time and affect academic results. Maybe you will even fall into employment traps. It is dangerous and risky.

I hope this advice can help you and solve your problem. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any problems. Keep in touch!

Yours,

Tim

Dear Miss Wong,

How are you doing? This is my first time to write a letter to you. Also, you were my English Lit teacher in form 3. You are no stranger to me, but maybe you do not know me well. Now, let me tell you something about myself.

First, I think I am a helpful student because I always help my classmates and teachers, who are in need. Also, I think I am a polite student. When I see the teachers, I will say 'good morning' and I will nod to them. Moreover, I always smile every day and I never feel unhappy. Sometimes, I will tell some jokes with my friends and make them laugh.

I am a sunny boy. I like to play sports with my friends. I like playing football the most because it is very exciting for me. I also play it with friends once a week. I have a lot of things that I like to do and I have some dislikes too. I do not like people who touch things in my bedroom because it makes chaos for me. I put a lot of efforts in to tidying up my room, so I hope nobody will mess up my things.

This coming semester, I have 3 aims. First, I will improve my English because I think my English is not good enough. I hope I can improve the different skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, of English. Secondly, I want to be ranked in the top thirty in the whole Form 4. This means my exam results must be great and I must put extra efforts in my revision and be very attentive in all lessons. Lastly, I hope I can be myself.

Drop me a line when you have time.

Best wishes,

Howard

A Letter to a friend

4D Ng Nga Ki

7 October 2014

Hi Michelle,

How are you doing? This time, I wanted to write a letter to share my happy summer holiday, my worries and what my future plan is in the coming three years with you.

In this long summer holiday, I joined a Gospel Summer Camp. This summer camp was very fun and heart-warming. I made a lot of friends there. We played games, cooked meals, had food and worshiped God together. We went to Stanley Beach, which is a very beautiful beach. But there were too many visitors and it made the beach very crowded. However, we still had a happy day in the busy Stanley beach. In this camp, I felt very happy and comfortable. I spent many days creating moving moment with my friends, so I had a happy and memorable holiday!

I have been worried about my studies recently. I have many new things that I've never learned before. I feel so nervous. But I'd like to try my best to learn English in the coming three years. I want to learn more new words, strengthen my grammar and improve my speaking and writing ability. So I should watch more English news and read more English books. I hope I can do better, and I will try to change my learning habits.

How about you? How was your summer holiday?

Love,
KiKi

Dear Depressed Daisy,

I am sorry to hear about your problem. Let me give some suggestions to you.

First and foremost, I want to talk about your parents' problem. I want to tell you a story about myself. When I was young, my parents wanted to get divorced also. I was just 9 years old at that time and I cried for a long time. I told them that I didn't want to leave either of them. They haven't lived together since then, but my father comes back home once a week. Hence, my mother takes care of me and I can see my father. I think you can try it.

In addition, you mentioned that you are running short of money, so you have decided to work as a part-time model to earn some pocket money. I think your job is an employment trap, because your boss asked you to take photos with your bikini on, I think it is unreasonable. You shouldn't agree to take those kinds of photos. Moreover, you should resign from that job. Don't work there, so that you can have enough time for your studies. When you have some improvement in your studies, you can help some primary students to take extra lessons, and then you can earn some pocket money.

Apart from that, you said that your boyfriend pressured you to smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol. Besides this you said you have tried ketamine and now you are addicted. Also, your boyfriend has been making a lot of phone calls to a girl. I think you should warn him. Furthermore, you should break up with him, no matter how much you love him, because if he really loved you, he wouldn't ask you to do those things! Breaking up with him is a sensible act. Please treasure your health and your life.

I hope the above advice would help you. If you have further problems, feel free to write me again. Take care, and wish you all the best.

Yours truly,
Agony Aunt

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: A complaint about a terrible dining experience

I am writing to complain about the unbearable service and the terrible food from your restaurant.

To start the ball rolling, I want to talk about your food, last week I ordered a fish to eat, but when I saw your fish tank, I saw a lot of dead fish, it was terrible! When I wanted to cancel my order, the fish was already coming. I could smell a strong foul stink and, I also saw some cigarette ashes on the fish. I looked around and saw your chef smoking, while he was cooking. I think you should get a retraining course for the cooks.

Moreover, I saw a lot of rats and cockroaches. Maybe I will call the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department if you do not take my complaints seriously.

Furthermore, I want to talk about your revolting food again, I think you should change to another chef because he is very bad and he seems irresponsible. How could the chef smoke while cooking? What a terrible thing!

Apart from that, I felt very irritated and disappointed with your staff's inconsiderate behavior. The rude waiters of your restaurant were very impolite, when I told them the problem with the food, they actually didn't care. I think you should consider reducing a small part of their salary as punishment. Otherwise, he will never be polite and courteous to his customers.

I hope that you will take my complaints seriously. If you do not sending me a letter of apology and give me some monetary compensation, I will write a letter to the Editor of South China Morning Post to unveil your disgraceful and unscrupulous behavior. Additionally, I will post some negative comments on the internet. I trust this will not be necessary. Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully,

L.Tse

Dream House Café

It is the best café. Your Dream House café.

If you feel any anxiety and are tired, or if you want to escape from the packed city, please come here. **‘Dream House Café’** welcomes you!

Our café provides many services. We have a big comfortable space. You can drink your coffee and listen to the best music. We have a beach next to the café. There are a lot of seats for you to choose from. You can enjoy the sound and the view of sea while you are drinking your coffee. If you want, you can swim in the sea or enjoy sun tanning.

Our cafe can also provide a variety of special coffees and snacks for you, such as toast, brownies, croissants, cappuccinos, mochaccinos, caramel macchiato, just to name a few. You can choose what you like to enjoy with your breakfast or lunch. If you want to come to ‘Dream House Cafe’, you can read the details below.

Place: Stanley Beach Lucky Road No.11(Shop)

Operating time: 9:00am-6:00pm

Website: www.dreamhousecafe.com.hk

Email: info@dreamhousecafe.com.hk

We accept reservations. If you want to make booking or you have any problems please call or contact our staff via email. We will respond your query within 24 hours.

Let's come here! Enjoy your life!

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A complaint about a terrible dining experience.

I am writing to complain about the poor service and poor food quality your restaurant provided recently. I took my friend to your restaurant for a birthday meal last week. I found the chef smoking and the manner of your staff member unacceptable. Also the environment was terrible and the food was revolting. I feel disappointed that the quality of dining was far from satisfactory.

First of all, the environment of your restaurant was terrible. There were many rats and cockroaches in the open area of your restaurant. It was very unhygienic. Bacteria are carried by them. Also the chef was smoking in the kitchen when he was preparing the food. The cigarette ash contaminated the food. The unhygienic environment made me feel uncomfortable.

Next, the food quality was extremely bad. The fish smelled deadly. The food in general was revolting and disgusting. I think the food quality was totally unacceptable.

When I told the waiter about the poor food quality, He shouted at us and said “If you don’t like the food –get out!” His attitude made me mad.

I was happy to know a new restaurant opened recently, but unfortunately it is horrible. Your waiter was rude. The food quality was bad and the environment was terrible. I sincerely hope that your staff can improve their attitude and your chef can improve your restaurant’s cleanliness and food quality. Otherwise, I think your business will decline very soon.

If you do not tackle these problems, I will forward my complaint to the relevant governmental department .I hope this will not be necessary. Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully,
L.Tse

Mother Tongue Education: Is it a policy of importance or redundancy?

Mother tongue is our first language. It is very important as it is the language a person has learned from birth or within the critical period, or that a person speaks the best. If we speak poor mother tongue, learning another language will be difficult for us. In the following, I would like to point out the pros and cons of teaching in mother tongue.

Many people believe that mother tongue teaching has positive effects on students' learning. To begin with, some people hold the belief that if we do not learn our mother tongue well, we will not be good at other languages. That is why it is essential to get sufficient exposure to the sophisticated use of our first language in classroom learning. Besides, most students prefer learning in mother tongue as they can save time from dealing with the alien vocabulary items when using a foreign language in class. This will make learning more enjoyable and effective. These are the positive impacts of mother-tongue teaching on the learning of Chinese and other subjects.

Though there are many benefits of mother tongue education, we should not overlook the drawbacks that students face with this language policy.

The most important point that we need to bear in mind is that success in a mother-tongue learning atmosphere does not mean instant success in Hong Kong society. We should understand that Hong Kong is an international city in which English serves as an essential tool in our workplace. If we learn subjects other than English in mother tongue, how can we get enough exposure to the use of English? We can hardly build up adequate vocabulary bank to communicate effectively in English after graduation, as we can now see in many graduates of CMI schools. Not only will this mother tongue teaching be detrimental to the students' learning of the English subject, but also bring harmful effects to the competitiveness of our whole society.

All in all, in Hong Kong, the medium of instruction has long been a controversy after the handover in 1997. It is without doubt that learning in mother tongue is more natural and manageable for most Hong Kong students, but we should never ever overlook the importance of having good English. That is why I believe schools, especially the CMI ones, should try their utmost to provide a rich English learning environment to their students.

My Journal Entries during the Umbrella Movement

Entry 1

(22/9/2014)

Today, I talked to my friend about the class boycott initiated by Hong Kong Federation of Students (HKFS). She said that she wouldn't join it because the purpose of it was to threaten the officials through suspension of studying. She doubted whether the government officials would feel pressured if students stopped studying for one day. I agreed with her and I also thought the effect of class suspension was not enough to push the government to give in.

Yet, I was quite moved by HKFS saying that students wouldn't stop learning even in the class suspension period. In this class boycott, students would learn more about what real democracy really is. It's a way to make students fight for real democracy.

Entry 2

(26/10/2014)

Hi! Fellows of the Umbrella Movement! I've turned up at Admiralty twice in support of the Umbrella Movement and it's the third time today. I have to say, people in Admiralty are so peaceful. How come people outside say that they are violent?

I am at the self-study room, Harcourt Road, Admiralty. And I met Mr. Yeung Suk Cheuk, a retired teacher of FLSS, outside the self-study room. It was very surprising! Although he didn't recognize me, it was still great and warm for me to meet an old, retired, lovely and humorous teacher there and see that he still looked fine and was participating in the Umbrella Movement, fighting for real democracy in Hong Kong.

I would like to comment on what Hong Kong police did here in Admiralty. As we know,

seven policemen took a man from a political party to a dark and covert corner to beat him up. I strongly oppose to this act and criticize those policemen for abusing their authority and hitting the protester. Actually, no matter what illegal activities a person has committed, under no circumstances should the police abuse their rights and harm an unarmed person. Not only should the head of the police suspend them and begin an investigation, but they should also be put behind bars.

In this case, it has shown how unfair, shameful and selfish the Hong Kong police are and how much they have changed.

The day after tomorrow, on 28 Oct, I will be here again to show solidarity to the unarmed protesters, who are indeed victims of the September 28th incident when the police shot 78 canisters of tear gas a month ago.

Entry 3

(29/10/2014)

Hi, here I am in Admiralty.

A month ago, the police shot 78 canisters of tear gas right here in Admiralty in order to clear the protesters out from the occupied area. Although the protestors dispersed because of the power of tear gas, they returned to the demonstration area for the sake of Hong Kong --- to fight for the real universal suffrage in Hong Kong. I am really proud of them, their persistence and being a Hongkonger.

Shame on the police who sprayed pepper spray and shot tear gas at unarmed students! I really doubt if they have already become tools for politics. Anyway, they have already been different from who they were and their righteous image in our mind. Here, I sincerely hope that they can do what a police officer really should do and don't get harassed by the irrational orders from their bosses or government officials. They should use their authority

under a legal, reasonable process with conscience.

I am not anti-police; nor do I want Hong Kong to be independent. But I just hope that no matter what the Hong Kong government and police do, it is based on the interests of Hongkongers.

To make Hong Kong democratic and an ideal city, I am here. Despite the dangers in Admiralty and my tiredness, I feel the urge to be involved in the Umbrella Movement to fight for real democracy in Hong Kong and speak out!

Entry 4

(19/11/2014)

These days, HKU is doing a research about whether Hong Kong people support the Umbrella Movement, compared with the last research about the same topic done in Oct. The number of supporters of the Umbrella Movement has decreased. Some experts suggested that the reasons for the reduction include people's pessimism, reaction from Beijing, as well as, the conflicts and accidents happened during the Umbrella Movement.

However, should we give up or should we keep chasing for democracy? If we give up, the things that contributed to the Umbrella Movement will be blown away. Also, at the beginning of the Umbrella Movement, we promised that we will insist on fighting for genuine universal suffrage until the government realizes our ambitions. So I don't think that we should break our promises. We should keep doing things we think are right and never give up.

I believe that if more and more people speak up, the government will eventually give us real democracy and nominating rights. But now, not only do more and more people ignore the Umbrella Movement, but also disapprove of it. Under these circumstances, how can Hongkongers get real democracy and rights for civic nomination?

Dear Editor,

In recent years, teenage pregnancy is on the rise in Hong Kong. Some people think teenagers can learn from this and understand more deeply the painstaking efforts of parents and parenting. Others take the view that teenagers are too young and they have limited experience, so they may not be able to bear this pressure. In my opinion, teenagers should not get pregnant prematurely.

To understand why there is such a worrying trend, we have to be aware of the fact that many teenagers under the age of 16 nowadays have premarital sex, leading to the rise of teenage pregnancy. Many teenagers having premarital sex because of inadequate sex education, and thus they do not know the negative effects of pregnancy. They only want to get their pleasure and satisfy their curiosity, so they have premarital sex without considering the consequences. Moreover, most teenagers are more open-minded. In some investigations, the result revealed that most teenagers accept a “One Night Stand” and premarital sex. Furthermore, the result found the average age of first sexual behavior is 16 years old. Thus it can be seen nowadays most teenagers are more open-minded, so they accept to have premarital sex, which can lead to increased occurrences of teenage pregnancy.

In addition, I will point out some negative impacts of teenage pregnancy. First, it will affect the health of the adolescent girls and their babies. In obstetric medicine, adolescent girl pregnancy is considered a high-risk pregnancy, which has induced hypertension, complications of pregnancy, uterine dysfunction, miscarriages and sluggish growth of the fetus in the uterus. Therefore, babies born to young mothers are prone to have more health problems.

Secondly, it will affect their psychological well-being. When a teenager winds up pregnant, they will suffer a great psychological impact. The ensuing problems can arise such as; stress, guilt and shame etc., none of which can be solved by only a young girl. At the same time, they are also struggling whether they want an abortion. Even after the baby is born,

the young girl may be faced with a sudden change like parental responsibilities and roles which are often very overwhelming. Besides the task of the pregnancy, there are too many mental tasks to deal with, and its success will profoundly affect the future of themselves and their babies.

Third, it will affect teenagers' social standing. When the young girl has decided to give birth to a child, she may endure poor living conditions, poor nutrition and health, unemployment, being out of school etc. This results in perhaps some vocational training rather than finishing academic studies, leading to inadequate economic conditions. Her impoverished life chances are higher than married mothers.

Lastly, I will give some suggestions to solve the problem of teenage pregnancy. First and foremost, young people should be provided with sex education by parents. Parents teach correct sexual knowledge to teenagers starting from primary school. Besides, schools could teach adolescents the concept of contraception. Pregnancy and parenting are very important events, and should not be taken lightly. Sexually active teenagers must learn methods of contraception, so the community health care or schools should be able to offer young people correct sex knowledge, especially on contraception. This can effectively reduce teenage pregnancy. Society should also have a correct and fair attitude towards unmarried pregnant teenagers and teenage parents. The government should provide case management services and encourage young parents to form a family, parenting education training group.

Teenagers are indeed the future of our society. Different stakeholders should really take up this responsibility but not turn a blind eye to this alarming trend.

Yours faithfully
Chris Wong

Should teenage do part-time jobs?

5B Yeung Nga Ki

Nowadays, a lot of teenagers under the age 16 have part-time jobs. For example, my friends and my brother take up part-time jobs in order to have more pocket money. I think teenagers could have part-time jobs because there are some benefits, but there are also some disadvantages if they cannot handle their jobs properly.

The first benefit is obviously money. For those teenagers who do not have money, maybe they want to buy something, or want to learn something so they need to have a part-time job and get the money to support their lives. Also, they don't want to use their parents' money, so a part-time job is very important to them.

Secondly, teenagers want to have some work experience. When they grow up, they will need to find jobs, so this is a great time to work part-time to have more work experience.

Thirdly, when the teenagers have a part-time job, they can develop their social skills and communication skills. Teenagers will be more polite towards people and it will in turn let them make more friends, so it can help them to find a job more easily when they grow up.

The above are three advantages of having part-time jobs, but I am going to show you the disadvantages.

First, teenagers have a lot of work to do. For example, they join a lot of tutorial courses, participate in extracurricular activities and go to school. They are very busy. If they have a part-time job, they will not have time to prepare their studies so it will adversely affect their academic work.

Second, some teenagers have no experience in having a part-time job. They will easily make some mistakes or do something wrong and it will be very troublesome for the company. The boss will fire them, so having a part-time job is not that easy.

Third, teenagers will suffer work pressure. In the company, they will be very busy or sometimes they will do something wrong, and the boss will scold them. That is why they will need to endure tremendous work pressure. Also, they may not know how to deal with problems at work and feel much stressed. It is a bad thing about having part-time jobs.

As we can see, doing part-time jobs can enrich teenagers' life, but there are also some potential problems that may harm those working teens. Here, I would like to offer some advice for the students who want to work part-time. First, they should focus on their academic work. They can have a part-time job on the weekend when they have more time. Also, they should have proper allocation of time. Teenagers will be very busy and they need to allocate their time in order not waste any time at work.

In conclusion, there are a lot of teenagers doing part-time jobs. There are both advantages and disadvantages. Personally, I think teenagers should have part-time jobs because they can make some money, gain experience and social skills to improve their lives. With good time management skills, I am sure they can gain huge benefits from their work experiences.

Online Shopping—a gift or a problem?

Adopting a traditional way of shopping, people go to the stores to buy what they want and need. However, online shopping is in vogue in every country due to the development of the Internet nowadays. Is this new mode of shopping a gift or a problem? Let us look into the pros and cons of this and you may find out the answer in the end of this essay.

To begin with, it is beyond dispute that online shopping is convenient for all of us. Thanks to the development of the Internet, you can do online shopping everywhere, such as at home, at a café or at your office, no longer will you need to go to the stores. This totally breaks the limits of time and space. What's more, it also saves you time and allow you to do other things, like taking a rest or meeting friends. In a bustling city like Hong Kong, people who live in the fast pace pursue efficiency and convenience. It is no wonder that online shopping has become so popular.

In addition, you can buy goods that are not sold in your country though online shopping. There is a wider variety of products on the Internet. People can do online shopping on both local and overseas websites. You can buy anything that is not available in stores in your country without going outside. My uncle bought a pair of Nike shoes from the official website in the UK and the shoes cannot be found in Hong Kong. I believe all of you have had the same experience. Making an online purchase is astonishing, isn't it?

So far, it seems that online shopping is flawless, but there are also drawbacks.

One disadvantage of online shopping is that online vendor may not be trustworthy. Customers usually don't know the vendors as well. It could be dangerous when you buy

merchandise from a stranger. The lamentable consequence you may suffer is that the money you have paid may be gone if you meet fraudulent online vendors. Unfortunately, I have tried it once and it wasn't successful. I wanted to buy clothes from a personal website and then I placed my order and paid for them. However, I never received the products. After 2 weeks, I finally found out that those goods had never been sent and I wasn't able to contact the vendor. So, you can see how dangerous online shopping can be!

Furthermore, customers may not get what they expect exactly. When shopping online, you cannot confirm the actual quality of the product. The quality, sizing and colour are the most important things when buying products. However, you cannot check the goods before you buy them. If there is some problem with your product, it is hard to claim. Even worse, the products may be broken during the delivery. With all these circumstances, customers cannot get what they want and it is totally wasting money.

All in all, online shopping is a mixed blessing. Although there are lurking risks, it does not mean that we have to stop shopping in this new mode. After all, it has lots of advantages. The most important thing is that we should be wise consumers and understand how to avoid the problems. For instance, we should shop on reputable sites and research a company if we are unfamiliar with it before purchasing any goods. If we make an online purchase carefully, then we won't be troubled.

From the 1st to 4th of October, I joined the Outward Bound training. I did many challenging things in these few days and improved both my physical and mental health.

To prepare for my training, I packed only few items such as some bathing products, four sets of clothes, etc. When comparing my bag with other participants' bag, mine was small and I wondered what they had brought along as I only used half of the things that I had packed after the activity.

On the first day, we were asked to cycle a long way to Ma On Shan. It was quite difficult for me as it's a holiday, when many cyclers were riding on the road. That night, we stayed at Ma On Shan Country Park and took rest at the pavilion. We were given a thin pad to place on the floor. It's too short for me to lie on, but that was not the main problem. The problem was visitors were barbecuing till 4:00 a.m., and then the elderly came for a morning walk at 5:00 a.m. It was so busy and none of the participants slept well.

The day after, we went to Shui Long Wo. We hiked up the hill in order to watch the sunset. The uphill hike was not exhausting, as my dad sometimes took me to go hiking too. But when we went down we nearly burst out crying because there were many loose rocks on the trails and this wasn't easy for junior hikers. One of our teammates even collapsed from tiredness several times. We were exhausted. After we settled at the campsite, our director cooked dinner for us. Our water had almost run out. We had to get water from the toilet and used iodine to purify it, but we ran into a serious problem; there was only a little water coming out from the tap!

The next day at about 10:00a.m., we got on a boat. We were exhausted as we had to pedal

non-stop in order to keep the boat moving. After the tiring boat ride, we landed and had lunch near Hung Sing Temple and some visitors took photos of the boat we were on. In our conversation, we found that they came from Shenzhen which is the hometown of one participant and they asked for his phone number as they wanted him to be their tour guide next time. It's quite unbelievable that I spoke more fluent Mandarin than the member from Shenzhen. After lunch, we went on pedaling. I wasn't sure where we landed that night. The only thing I knew was it rained quite heavily that night and the boat was totally wet. Two of us preferred to camp on the covered land, but the other three thought it's a rare chance to sleep on the boat so we finally spent our night on the drenched boat. It's quite interesting that my group mate wanted to get something from his bag and he asked the director to grab the bag for him, but the director carelessly threw his bag into the sea. Fortunately, inside it was just some ordinary stuff.

On the final day, we went back to the training school and jumped into the sea from a pier over 5 meters high with a life jacket on. That was quite a challenge for me as it took a lot of courage for me to jump into the sea. In the end, I succeeded. Before the trip was brought to a close, we received a certificate and some presents from our instructors. It was indeed a rewarding activity.

After this activity, I have built up a stronger body and I'm suntan as I always forgot to put on sunscreen. Besides, I feel that I'm more courageous to take on challenges now. Actually, it's not that easy for cancer survivors to reach missions and complete the tasks in these four days.

Dear Principal,

I am Chris Wong from 5C. I am going to share with you my views on whether detention is a suitable form of punishment. In my opinion, detention is an effective way to help students learn and mend their ways.

The objective of detention is to let students understand what they have done wrong and the importance of respecting the school rules and regulations. They need to stay after school and finish work given by their teachers or their own assignments. This is not only a great chance for them to correct themselves, but also an opportunity for them to improve their academic results.

To start with, the most obvious benefit of detention is that students will learn responsibility. There are rules and regulations at school that need to be respected. They need to finish what the teacher has given, they need to be on time to school, they should pay attention during class and work hard on studying etc. They will learn to be responsible during detention. Detention gives students a chance to reflect upon what they have done wrong and understand that they will receive punishment and bear the consequence if they behave inappropriately.

Secondly, students can learn time management through detention. In our school, every time students are late, they need to bring along their homework and stay in the hall to have lunch. They will lose the freedom of eating out and need to do revision there instead of doing whatever they want during lunch. They learn a lesson from detention so they will manage their time better and be punctual next time.

What is more, students can strengthen their memories of the things they have learnt. During detention, a suitable place is provided at a specific time for students to revise their

work. Though they are forced to have the detention, this is a great chance for them to improve their weak subjects. They can study in a quiet environment. It improves the concentration of the students, and he or she can learn in an effective way during detention.

Last but not least, students can gain more knowledge during detention. As punishment, a teacher will sit behind the student and look after him or her. Students must do some exercise or study their homework. When they have any problems with the work, they can ask the teacher immediately. Students are taught in a one-on-one way and the teacher can offer help instantly. Also, they can ask for more information about something they do not understand in class. This helps them learn more thoroughly and improves their academic results.

In conclusion, detention makes good improvements on students. Not only is it a good punishment, but also a great learning experience for students.

Should shark fin soup be banned in Hong Kong

Have you ever tried shark fin soup? Shark fin soup, which is popular in Chinese cuisine, is usually served at special occasions such as wedding and banquets. The Hong Kong government and Peninsula Hotels have announced a ban on shark fin soup. Shark Fin City Restaurant has changed its name to cater for the new trend of banning shark fin soup in society. Why do they have this change? The reasons are as follow.

Firstly, shark finning is brutal, inhumane and barbaric. Shark fin soup is made from a variety of shark fins. While the shark meat itself isn't worth very much money, its fins are sliced off and the still-living shark is tossed back overboard to drown or bleed to death as a result. The fins are processed by removing the skin and then drying them out completely. Many sharks die in agonising pain just because of their costly fins. People kill millions of sharks for an attractive amount of money. How would you feel if you were a shark dying in such a terrible situation?

Secondly, shark finning severely upsets the oceanic ecosystem. As we know, shark finning kills much more number of sharks than we can imagine. Shark population has been decimated. Tens of millions of sharks are slaughtered every year to satisfy the demand for shark fin soup. Sharks are getting smaller because they are not being given time to mature. Twenty species of sharks are listed as endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). In a few years many species of shark could become extinct if action is not taken immediately. The consequences of the decline in shark population on ocean are immense. The large shark species are “apex” predators, they are ecological stablisers. If you remove them from an ecosystem, the result is the same as removing the foundations from a building – total collapse.

Lastly, some people think that it is important to serve guests with shark fin soup to show respect. It is a tradition in Chinese communities. However, there are many more cuisines to make the guest feel respected with sincerity. For this bowl of soup, we pay a very hefty price. Once the ecosystem has been destroyed, it can't recover in a short period of time. There are plenty of other traditional foods that we can make to show our respect. Serving guests some well-prepared dishes is also a kind of respect too. If the guests understand the rationale of not serving shark fin soup, they will understand the situation and pleasantly accept it.

In conclusion, serving shark fin soup causes severe problems and there are different ways to show respect to our guests. Shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong. We all should stop eating shark fin soup from today, and spread this message to everyone in the coming days to protect our environment.

My insights into Hong Kong education system

What is education to you? Having a bunch of chemical terms and mathematic theories stuck in your brain, or something that stimulates your thinking and inspires you? Perhaps no one knows the answer, especially the Education Bureau.

You may wonder why I have made a strong judgment towards the Education Bureau. The reason is that I am one of the most suffered victims in Hong Kong's education system.

Structures and policies affect the atmosphere and forms of teaching at school. Nowadays, schools are putting so much pressure on students' performance that most of us are about to suffocate. In the past, we tended to have more time to rest and develop our hobbies and interests.

However, since the beginning of new senior secondary curriculum, the Bureau has changed a lot of policies. For example, there is a new subject called Liberal Studies, which is intended to sharpen students' critical thinking skills. Also, given 2 and a half years for preparation for the DSE, students have to spend more time on revising and tutorial centres have become the beneficiary of the policy.

To be pragmatic, students give up studying literature, history, music, art and PE even though they are their interests and devote themselves to preparing for the DSE, which very much determines a students' future.

I can foresee that in the future, Hong Kong will become a place without culture and spirit, and will only be filled with so-called elites, who may own a high qualification but know

nothing about the history of their homeland. They may speak fluent English but they know nothing about literature and the beauty of languages. What a ludicrous phenomenon in HK!

When I ask myself ‘what is the cause of this?’ Education system is the answer. Under British colonialism, Hong Kong had its golden era of art and culture. But now they are all gone.

An education system which partly satisfies officials of the bureau is a nightmare to the future of our place. We, including parents, and students, don’t care a bit about culture. Then what is the real meaning of education? It is just a tool for you to make money. To be frank, people who claim they are hardworking is in fact implying their pursuit for wealth – getting a beautiful certificate and a university seat; then you’ll have a good future.

Let’s not lie to ourselves. If in the prerequisite that learning is not interesting at all but to understand the rules of exams and get a good result, the ‘good future’ will never be close to ambitions, dreams and achievements, but a future that can make money and leads you to the path of wealth. Is this the kind of Hong Kong we want?

Mother-tongue education is about students using Chinese to study. The controversy is some people think that mother-tongue education is more suitable for students and it will be good for their future. Although Chinese is our Mother-tongue language, I do not support this policy. I am going to talk about my position and the opposing argument on this issue.

Chinese is our mother-tongue and we communicate with this language on a daily basis. It is easy for students to understand and absorb what they learn because of this. The benefit to students is the ability for them to express their thoughts and ideas effectively and analyze what they have done. Hence, Mother-tongue education can improve their communication and analysis of what they have done. If students can understand what teachers teach more easily and feel more relaxed, classroom teaching and learning will become more effective.

Though using Chinese as the medium of instruction does bring us some benefits, we cannot ignore the importance of learning English.

I believe it is hard to deny that English is more important than our mother-tongue Chinese because English is a main language used around the world. Lots of subjects are usually taught in English. If we just focus on Chinese, students will be scared of English. Therefore, learning English in our daily life and from other subjects is very important. If we teach in English, it can improve the English level of students. Mother-tongue education may be able to improve the results of students, but it cannot improve students' English level of, which is an essential communicative tool worldwide. If students fail in English, they will lose their chances in their future life. English is a way of life and many countries understand this. If a students' English has a higher level, it is an advantage for them to study overseas, go on trips or work overseas. Hence, we should give students more chances to gain exposure to good English by making it the medium of instruction in school.

All in all, mother-tongue education is beneficial to learning because Chinese is easier to use, but English is more important because it is good for their future, no matter on study or work. Parents may be worried about the language barrier, but if their children are going to use English for study, it will give them many more chances. If parents can teach or communicate with their children in English when they are young, they will adapt easier and have more chances in the future.

Should teenagers under the age of 18 be allowed to do part-time job?

Many people argue that teenagers under the age of 18 should be allowed to have part time jobs, but there are many factors to consider. There are both pros and cons on this issue. Let me start by talking about the pros of this topic.

First and foremost, nowadays many teenagers have a part time job while they are in school or on summer holiday as they want to earn more money to get what they want. Some of the others may also want to get more work experience. Having a part time job can also put your knowledge into practice, reinforce your understanding of the knowledge. Those advantages can usually make teenagers more mature, independent and develop a strong sense of responsibility. It is good for the growth of teenagers and they can learn how to make good use of interpersonal skills and learn to be well- organized. It is good for their future job interviews or communication with others.

Conversely, having a part time job can also cause a lot of problems. Teenagers may have difficulties in getting along with colleagues because conflicts may arise easily that they can't understand. Additionally, they will not have enough time to do revision, so they can't handle their studies. All this work pressure may affect their health. If they have a bad attitude at work or are unfamiliar with work procedures, it can create lots of stressful problems for them.

In short, having part time jobs has a lot of advantages, but also has numerous disadvantages. Teenagers can get lots of experience and it is good for their future, but I believe teenagers should not have a part time job under the age of 18 as the disadvantages outweigh the benefits. If they really want to gain work experience, I think they should have a part time job during holidays but not work while they are in school or studying.

Dear Pat,

Having a computer to do all students' schoolwork has been the hot talk of the town. In my opinion, however, it is not that vital for students.

First and foremost, the falling level of discipline in school is one of the reasons why I would not like to be a student at the 'school of the future'. If we insist on each student having a computer to finish schoolwork, they become unable to finish their schoolwork with their own 'self-discipline'.

Besides, they will rely on the advanced technology which will affect their academic achievement since they cannot concentrate on their studies but keep playing on their computer. Hence, it is not beneficial for them to use a computer.

Last but not least, using a computer to do their schoolwork will affect physical and mental health, since some schoolwork takes a very long time. In the long run, it will hurt their backbone and eyes.

However, some people like this idea because they think using a computer to do their schoolwork can avoid the problem of students forgetting to bring their homework back home. Also, most teaching will be provided by interactive learning software which can increase their learning motivation.

I sincerely hope that my ideas are useful for you. I would be very interested to hear what you think about the article on 'school of the future', so please write back as soon as you can.

Best wishes,
Chris Wong

Dear Editor,

Nowadays, it is not uncommon for teenagers to have premarital sex under the age of 16. This problem has always been on the lips of the town. Recently, it is getting more and more rampant for teenagers getting pregnant. Hence, I would like to describe the serious issue which cannot go unnoticed. In the following, I will explain my stance clearly with sound reasons and give some crystal clear solutions.

As far as I am concerned, the teenage pregnancy problem has aroused much social concern as many teens are influenced by peer pressure. The number of cases has increased sharply in recent years, with peer pressure and puberty being the main reasons. Without a doubt, teenagers are more rebellious and looking for excitement. Besides, so as to gain peer recognition, they are easy prey for peer pressure. Due to a lack of sex education, students have a misconception of premarital pregnancies, which is a significant contributing factor. Thus, this is a critical problem which will affect their mental and physical health.

Apart from the causes of the issue, I would like to look into some impacts. Some people claim that it is a better way for them to grow up. They will be responsible for what they did. Also, being more mature, they tend to have a better moral value and become more independent. However, the abovementioned benefits for the teenage pregnancy do not show the whole picture of this issue. Undoubtedly, the drawback far outweighs the benefits. As it is illegal for teenagers under the age of 16 to have sex, it may result in the imprisonment of the boy. Seriously, he will go to jail. Moreover, their immature behavior will ruin the life of the child because they are not mature enough to take care of the baby. Last but not least, it will hurt their mental and physical health permanently. To tackle the problems, I would like to provide three suggestions.

First and foremost, there should be more co-operations between the government and the school to educate students about correct concept of sex. I suggest the school hold some talks and seminars on safe sex and tell them the damage of unprotected sex. Apart from the talks and seminars, for non-government organizations, they can operate the shelters for teenagers and instill the right concept to them. Last but not least, for the teenagers, they should learn how to reject and prevent these problems.

All in all, we should not leave the problem unnoticed. In fact, it ought to be dealt with as soon as possible. It requires the cooperation between the government and society. Let's hold our hands and work for our future together.

I would like to hear from the other readers on this issue.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong
Chris Wong

Dear Diary,

Today I was not happy because I went home late. In the English lesson, I failed again the daily dictation. I had to stay afterschool to do re-dictation with my favourite teacher, Ms Tracy Law but it made me tired. When I finished it, the time was already five o'clock. It drove me crazy because I could not play online games with my friends.

When I arrived home, I felt extremely tired. When I opened the door of my bedroom, I found one of Doraemon's gadgets inside my room! I went closer to take a look. To my surprise, it was the "Anywhere Door"!

As its name tells, Anywhere Door can go anywhere. Just tell your destination and this magic door will do the trick. Whether it's the Machu Picchu or a planet that is 100,000 light years away from Earth, the Anywhere Door will make sure you land at the right location!

I am very happy because this gadget is very helpful and useful. When I use the Anywhere Door, I can go to school faster. I can go back home to play with my friends faster. It can, undoubtedly, change my lifestyle.

Hang on! Will I become lazy after having this handy gadget? I am already lazybones so I think it is not really suitable for me. I think I will give it to someone who really needs it. Maybe I will give it to Ms Law, as she needs it very much. She has lots of work to do, and this gadget can surely help her save time.

Tomorrow, I will give her the Anywhere Door. I'm sure she will love it very much. It can ease her work. The most important is-- I will gain many daily marks and have no more re-dictation for being such a considerate, loving and caring student!

Yesterday, six people were trapped for five hours in a Wan Chai office building when the electricity suddenly went off and they discovered that the five exits were locked. The fire services eventually rescued the six. The drama began at 11 am...

I'm Pat Chan, one of the six people trapped in the building. Some may think that being trapped in the building should have been an unpleasant and terrible experience. However, the accident I encountered was not such an experience. Conversely, it became an unforgettable and enjoyable experience, probably one of the best in my lifetime.

It was a rainy day. Clouds were everywhere, it looked as dark as nighttime even though it was only noon. I worked in the office with 5 other colleagues--- I didn't know their names as I seldom had the opportunity to chat with them. Working as an accountant was boring and lonely since it is an independent job. Moreover, you have to face tons of numbers all day long which undoubtedly effaces your incentive to talk. Despite all this, it is a well-paid job and I can endure all the loneliness and uninteresting qualities as a result.

Abruptly, all the lights went out and complete darkness rolled in. I was shocked at the moment and soon calmed myself down. "Don't worry! I guess there is a short circuit! Let's leave here through the fire exit and seek help!" I shouted. I was the only man in the office, so I knew I must be brave, or at least pretended to be brave.

However, the door was locked. I tried to beat and strike the door but failed. I shouted but there was no response. "It's thundering outside and my computer shut down before I saved my files... such an awful day!" A girl murmured. Her pessimism infected me and the fact that there were hundreds of things waiting for me to finish annoyed me a lot.

“Hey! How workaholic you are!” An old woman suddenly burst out laughing. “Why don’t we enjoy a day off now? The heavy workload in these days drives me crazy!” Her words hit me over the head. How long haven’t I enjoyed my holiday? How long haven’t I taken my mum and my wife out? These questions kept looping in my head. I was so regretful, honestly.

We talked a lot on that day, from our name and family to our dream and childhood. We might not have the same experience, but one thing is the same--- we all swapped our dream for livelihood. We were wealthy, but were we living in bliss?

Several hours later, we were eventually rescued, and this experience gave me the wake up call I needed. After this incident, I resigned my post immediately and planned to become a photographer, the job that I had hoped to try since I was very young. In spite of the unstable pay, I will surely live a fulfilling life with my wife. I was trapped in building, and caught by the bliss.

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my opinion regarding home schooling. I've learned that some parents would like to teach their children at home rather than sending them to school. For me, I definitely don't think that it is a good idea. Going to school is one of the most important parts in our life, no one should miss it.

When I saw the article, the first thing that came up in my mind was what kind of parents would rather keep their children at home instead of sending them to school? The only answer I've got is the kind who over-protects their children, and it's obvious that this isn't a good thing at all. Nowadays, many parents are so afraid that their children may make some bad friends who will lead them astray, and start smoking, skip school or even take drugs. But the question is, can keeping the children at home, and not letting them go to school, really prevent them from walking astray, or are the parents just taking away the chance of learning from their children? Parents cannot always protect their kids, there's something they must learn on their own, like how to refuse temptation. It's a very important lesson in our life and everyone should get to learn from mistakes.

Second, although parents are good at teaching, or no matter how remarkable their results were, they couldn't replace teachers. At school, we learn at least six subjects, languages, Math, some electives and so on. Every teacher is a professional of that subject, they are aware of the key point of teaching. No offense, but they clearly can teach better than parents. What's more, school will hold exams and tests for students, but home schooling won't. Exams aren't just about testing the ability of one-self, but also a lesson to students on how to shoulder great pressure. In exams, everyone is working hard to study, being

afraid of failing and getting punished from their parents. That's the motive of studying. If they fail, they may need to repeat. In the process, they become competitive, and learn how to do better under a hyper-pressure situation. But they can never learn it from home schooling.

Last but not least, school is not only teaching us logical thinking or textbook knowledge, but also communication skills. At school, we can get to know many different kinds of people, we need to learn how to get along with them, and that's what parents can't teach us. In a community, everyone is playing a different role, you can choose to be a leader or supporter, the ability of what we can do is born with us, but we won't know until we walk into the society. Growing up and leaving our parents, we could learn to be independent, but no one could detach from people. If we don't know how to get along well with people, our path will become even harder.

All in all, experiences are always the most valuable lessons in our life. We fail and learn, grow up from mistakes, and become a better person. Schools are not just a place to offer us studies; it also helps us to grow up. Home schooling can never replace school.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Should Shark fin soup be banned in Hong Kong?

Shark fin soup is made from a variety of shark fins, it is popular in Chinese cuisine and is usually served at special occasions such as weddings and banquets. In Hong Kong, people tend to support banning of shark fin soup, yet some famous restaurants like the Peninsula Hotel have banned it on their menus. The Hong Kong government has also banned shark fin soup at government sponsored events. In my opinion, shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong as soon as possible.

Firstly, shark finning is brutal, inhumane and barbaric. Shark finning is the practice of slicing off the shark's fins while the shark is still alive, since shark meat is of low economical value and takes up too much space, it is usually thrown back into the ocean where it can take days to die, leading to an agonizing death. Some sharks starve to death, others are slowly eaten by other fish or bleed to death. The reason behind their huge pain is the selfishness of people to satisfy our demand for a bowl of soup. The fins themselves are nevertheless tasteless.

Secondly, shark finning severely upsets the oceanic ecosystem. Sharks play a very important role in the oceans as they are on the top of the ocean food chain and act as top predators. The sharks keep the population of other fish healthy, they are ecological stabilizers. If they are gone, the system will breakdown. Along the US East Coast, large sharks have been virtually eliminated, as a result, the number of shellfish declines and the water quality has reduced because shellfish can filter the sea water. Furthermore, when the number of shellfish declines, other animals that have shellfish as their main diet will be likely lessened. Shark finning causes serious problems with the diversity in the ocean, so it is not only a threat to the oceanic ecosystem, but to all of us. Since most of the Earth's

surface is covered by water, and humans rely on the oceans for much of our food, we can't live without it.

Lastly, some people think that it is important to serve guests shark fin soup to show respect and wealth. It is a tradition in Chinese communities for thousands of years. However, there could be many other ways of celebrating and carrying on Chinese traditions and cultures. In Chinese culture, serving guests with luxury food is an act of generosity and also a symbol of status and face. There is no doubt that shark fin soup can represent that. But at the same time, there are many other types of luxury food that could replace it, such as Abalone, Fish maw, Sea cucumber, etc. Virtue is important in Chinese culture, so it is ironic that those who supposedly have a cultural interest in shark fin soup actually only display no concern for the conservation of sharks. They are ruining their virtue by showing no compassion. Back into the situation in Hong Kong, thanks to the history and the unique location, Hong Kong has become a melting pot of eastern and western cultures, thus, HongKongers do not have an ingrained idea of showing wealth by serving guests with shark fin soup usually. Therefore, banning shark fin soup in Hong Kong is feasible.

All in all, shark finning is barbaric and unacceptable, I strongly believe that shark fin soup should be banned in Hong Kong. Personally, we should stop eating shark fin soup immediately, and tell everyone around us the problems shark finning can cause. Let us suggest others stop eating shark fin soup from now on.

Happy Mothers' Day

5E Koo Nga Man

At young age, when I understood what Mothers' Day was, I started to prepare extraordinary presents for my mum. Even when I have already grown up, I will never stop making the warmest gifts for her as I enjoy making things for her on my own.

In my mind, my mother is a very considerate and amiable woman. Although I seldom see her because she works in another city, I can still feel how much she cares about me. She gives me a call once a week and asks me to tell her something about my life. I know that sometimes I am disobedient and slightly rebellious. She still teaches me patiently and rectifies my errors. I do appreciate her kindness and guidance.

So this time, I made a very special gift for her. It was a video clip about my inner monologues. She was touched and delighted to watch it. I appreciated and apologized to her since I was so sorry for those times I argued with her and became rebellious. However, all I would like to tell her is 'thank you for raising me and teaching me a lot. I will always love you and use my whole life to return the love.'

On this day I honor you, dear mother. I will try my best to make you feel proud of me.

Dear Diary,

Today I went home late as I was asked by my favourite teacher, Ms Tracy Law, to stay after school for doing re-dictation. I felt extremely tired when I arrived home. When I opened the door of my bedroom, I found one of Doraemon's gadgets inside the room! I went closer to take a look. To my surprise, it was the "Anywhere Door"! I carefully looked at the gadgets. It was just the same as the Doraemon's gadgets in the cartoon. I tried to check that. Then I said to it quietly, "I want to go to a prairie." I opened the door and tried to watch outside. "That's truly a prairie! There was real grass on the ground." I was afraid that I couldn't go back to the real world ever after. I then hastily went back home from the Anywhere Door.

"OK, fine. That's not real, easy, easy." I comforted myself. "OK. Let's try again." I started to talk to myself. "I want to go to an empty zone with nothing and nobody." I opened the door fast. I saw that was all white and there was nothing in the zone. I closed the door immediately. I was worried that I would be like "Full metal Alchemist". In that cartoon, the "Principle Door" would give the users knowledge but take away their limbs or other body parts. I do not want to exchange knowledge like that. That's indeed horrible!

"Ding dong!" The sound came from my home's door. My mum was back. I quickly thought about how I could cover that. When I was thinking, the Anywhere Door became smaller and smaller itself! I put that to my pocket like Doraemon. I opened my home's door to my mum and had dinner with her. I was worried that the Anywhere Door would suddenly jump out and frighten my mum.

After dinner, I went to my bedroom and took out the Anywhere door from my pocket like

Doraemon. “That’s enough!” I was afraid one day I would go to an unknown zone and I might die. “OK , I have an idea , I will go to the owner of the Anywhere Door. It a way to deal with this gadget.” Then, I thought, “I want to go to the owner of Anywhere Door.” I didn’t touch the door’s lock. The Anywhere Door was opened itself. It seemed something else was coming in.

“You used our gadget for 3 times,” The voice was like a machine. The voice continued to say. “Do you want to continue to rent this gadget or return it?” When I was so puzzled for what I had just seen, there came a machine which was about 129.3cm tall.

“It’s Doraemon! It is completely Doraemon!” The machine said “Doraemon? Do you want to rent a Doraemon? Do you want classic blue or special yellow? Which one do you want?” In that moment. I was wooden. I was very afraid those gadgets would destroy the Earth. “Which one do you want? Which one do you want? Which one do you want?” The machine kept asking me. “No , no , no. I don’t want to rent a Doraemon. And now I want to return this Anywhere Door!” I said. “Return Anywhere Door. Procedure—start.” The machine went back behind the door. The door was closed and Anywhere Door disappeared.

“Wow! I just returned that. It’s pretty scary!” I thought. I picked up my phone and read the Whatapp. Angus and Leo just sent messages to me, saying that they had found “Take-copter” and “Memory Bread” separately!

Oh, my goodness! I could just say good luck to them. It’s time to sleep. Good night!

Dear Peter,

Hi, Peter! Knowing that you are going for a job interview for the position of “Part-time Promoter”, I am happy to give you some suggestions. I hope they are helpful to you.

It will be easier to do preparations if you understand the requirements of the position. There is no doubt that you need to persuade customers to buy mobile phones. So, you have to be confident and convincing in order to sway the customer to buy a product. I totally believe you are always a confident person, so just be yourself in your interview. Apart from that, you may need to answer questions about the functions and technical problems of mobile phones from customers. As you studied computer studies in school, I bet you can answer the questions easily. However, your attitude is no less important than your knowledge and skills when serving your customers. Whatever the customers ask for, you need to be extremely polite and tolerant in order to make a good impression. What you need to do is to bear these good qualities in mind and show them during your interview.

Now that we have outlined the requirements of the position, let's prepare for the interview! Most importantly, I suggest that you should do some research on the company. I remember you mentioned in your letter that it was the *Apple Company*, so I think you can get abundant resources if you visit their official website. For instance, you should know the key selling points of every mobile phone of *Apple*, such as the high quality cameras and professional speakers. It is essential for you to recognize their functions and advantages like that. Plus, read the news about the target customers of *Apple* in the coming year. I remember they said that the youngsters will be their first priority to target. So you can think about how to promote a phone to youngsters. What I mean is you should pay attention to the tone and skills you use with youngsters. For this, I would suggest you to sell them with a relaxed tone or start off the conversation with the latest trend. I believe the

above are the most useful tips for you to prepare for your interview.

Moreover, there are still other preparations for the interview you should do, including your outfit. You should prepare to dress formally for the interview, which is preferred to be a black suit and tie, before the interview day. Also, you should find the route and transport you need to take to the interview. You have to make sure you can arrive 15 minutes earlier than the interview time. In addition, you are going to face a competitive group interview, so not only is confidence needed, but you also need a stronger tone to stand for your opinions. I suggest you to have some self-talk or mock discussions with your friends. Remember, practice makes perfect. And don't forget I am always here to help you with those tasks.

The preparation and performance during the interview are of the same importance for securing the job. Before the beginning of the group discussion, you should be polite to the employers and other job seekers because it can help to build a good image of yourself. Also eye contact and comfortable facial expression can show you are not too nervous but full of self-confidence. What's more? Remember not to be over aggressive during the interview. Just like what we did in school, it's just a discussion, not a debate or argument. If the question is relevant to your research, just show how adequate your preparation is. With all your good preparation and interview performance, I am sure you would be their first choice!

I certainly hope that my suggestions are useful for you. And don't be so nervous about it, you gonna perform perfectly during the interview. Feel free to contact me anytime and let me know how it goes.

Best wishes,

Chris

*I can't sleep.....*2nd March, 2014

Due to my recent performance in the English examination, I was chosen to join the Debating Club for an internal debate competition. I felt glad at first but then became doubtful of my capability of English.

Attending training courses which lasted about 3-4 weeks, I was required to go to school before 9am. This was sort of a preparation for the competition and for a lazy student like me actually it was really early. Girls and boys were separated during the lessons. We learned some basic skills of debate on the first day, such as projecting your voice loudly but not shouting, giving eye contact to audiences and looking at judges constantly. After learning these basic skills, we had a vote to select candidates from the girls' team. I didn't know whether it was a good or bad thing for me because I was selected to be the captain of the affirmative team. I thought that I wouldn't be a part of team at all, as there were girls who had higher proficiency than me. I was nervous at that moment. Eventually, I decided to get started and do my best at brainstorming ideas with my teammates.

We stayed very late at school after the voting in order to prepare for the competition. Feeling confused that I didn't know how to get started, we asked our English teachers for help. Then we took the advice and tried to jot down all of our points. As our topic was "Women Can Be Better Parents than Men", we thought there are many advantages on our side. Since I am the captain, my speech has become vital for the other teammates, as it was a guide for the other teammates. That's why I wrote my speech after the first discussion. After we set our scopes, organized all the points and made unbeatable rebuttals, we started to write a complete speech and practiced. We helped each other to correct the grammatical errors. We were a team sharing the same goal. The passion concealed my doubts. Even

though I believed that I was not good enough to win, being part of this team and its ability and effort, winning the game will not be such a hard thing to do. We practiced at lunchtime and after school. No matter how many quizzes I would have the next day, I insisted in staying at school and practicing with them.

Time flies, and it will be the show time tomorrow. I've planned to sleep early but I'm suffering from insomnia now. I flash back those memories during preparation time. We really worked as a group but not individuals. I've never imagined I could be one of them and stand in front of all the students to present my speech. It is a precious opportunity to participate in, as well as, together go through this hard time. I can hardly imagine the result of tomorrow's competition. If I lose, I will cry and be disappointed to myself. I'm a kind of person who easily cries.

But deep in my heart, I do understand that the result isn't important, but the experience is. We found ways to tackle problems during our discussion, practiced day and night, shared the same goal, let alone we tried our utmost to polish our scripts. Ultimately, we became friends. To win or lose does not matter anymore. It's time to go bed. I have nothing to lose. I'll do my best tomorrow and have no regrets. I will tell you what happens after tomorrow.

Goodnight, my dear diary.

Favorable Influence from South Korea

As South Korea is becoming a powerful country, interacting or doing business with other countries and cities is a widespread trend. As trading partners, Korea's culture is affecting others via various ways. Hong Kong is no exception. Therefore, I am going to explain how Korean culture bears favorably on Hong Kong's culture.

To start with, the entertainment industry of Korea changes the way performances are happening in Hong Kong. Korea's music scene is mainly formed with boy or girl bands, as its entertainment companies are willing to recruit young juveniles for a long period of training, like singing, dancing or beatbox, and then group them into a boy or girl band. Although Hong Kong's entertainment companies indeed do not have as much resources as Korean ones, they are trying to copy this kind of performing way – performing as a boy or girl band. There are more and more boys and girl bands in Hong Kong's music scene, such as “As One”, which is a group of 4 girls who mostly dance with to their singing.

Since the explosion of South Korean TV shows in Hong Kong, Hong Kongers have more opportunities to get in touch with Korean cuisine, culture, and music. More and more Korean restaurants are opening up in Hong Kong all the time. For example, many people now know Kimchi, which is South Korean's traditional food with a little bit spicy taste, always appears in Korean TV shows. What's more? Korean barbeque, kimchi soup and Samgyeopsal with vegetables are on the top of Hong Kongers' dining list. Watching Korean pop stars or actors and actresses savour this mouth-watering food on variety shows and TV episodes, Hong Kongers are attracted by this delicious cuisine. At a glimpse of Hong Kong's main streets, like Tsim Sha Tsui or Causeway Bay, it is not difficult to find Korean restaurants nowadays. There is even a “Korean street” in Tsim Sha Tsui, which

provides a wide range of Korean dining restaurants or Korean food stores. Hence, you can see the habit of dining of Hong Kongers has been changed. They are more willing to taste or make Korean cuisine by themselves.

Apart from the perspective of diet, the clothing styles of South Korea seem prevalent among Hong Kong youngsters. Teenagers like to duplicate the style of Koreans, like wearing slippers with horizontal stripe socks, high-rise shorts or trousers or trainers with various patterns of socks. The Korean clothing styles become a fashion trend in Hong Kong. Moreover, the cosmetics of Korea are popular among adults, especially skin care. Many think its cosmetics provide customers with a wide range of choices with high quality. Therefore, there are more online shops selling the products from South Korea, no matter clothes or cosmetics.

In my opinion, South Korea's culture bears favorably on Hong Kong's popular culture. For instance, the new form of performances by grouping singers into a team is inspired by South Korea. Some may say that it renders Hong Kong juveniles to chase pop stars, however, juveniles chasing pop stars is not a brand-new thing so we cannot blame the cultural import. Yet, I think it provides a stimulus to local entertainment companies to better the music scene. Moreover, since the import of Korean cuisine, it offers more choices to Hong Kongers, not only Japanese or European dishes. Hence, I do believe that South Korea's culture has positively influenced Hong Kong by offering us a wider spectrum of choices, enriching our cultural experiences.

The Key to Becoming a Poet

The Hong Kong Schools Poetry Festival not only granted me a certificate of merit, but also an unparalleled opportunity to take a deep look at English Poetry. The competition is comprised of poetry appreciation and an impromptu poem delivery. Invited by my English teacher to go for this competition, I agreed to give it a try without hesitation and with unquenchable passion. However, being a stubborn student completing tasks in an ossified way, what came to me was nothing but a nightmare.

Reading poems was my first strategy to prepare for this event. To appreciate poems, different perspectives should be considered. I read a myriad of intriguing and superb poets' masterpieces; Shakespeare, Lincoln and Bacon all vividly came to my life. Every day, my life was full of poetry books because I noted down and even recited their sayings. I copied "The world is your oyster" from Shakespeare as my self-motivation. I copied "I defend to the death your right to say it" from Voltaire to refer to Occupy Central. I also copied "Carpe Diem" to remind me of the utmost importance of invaluable time. Feeling self-satisfied and being arrogant, I proudly told my teacher that I was on the right track. However, I didn't realize my foolishness until I met with my English teacher.

"Peter, yes, you're superb because you've recited a number of poets' sayings. However, is that the meaning of poetry? No genuine experience is a taboo to a poet because the poet can't discover "the" special feeling. I use "the" here because it's irreplaceable and only belongs to you. Peter, forget about those sayings and ossified books; please take a glance at your life!" said my English teacher.

Putting down all books and notes, I started to observe the real world. My teacher suggested

that I watch the movie *Dead Poets Society*. I downloaded the movie and tried to get some insights. After watching the film, I realized how foolish I was, but was still delighted to realize that I found out the precise way to learn English Poetry.

I wrote down all the things that I observed in real life and injected my thoughts and feelings into my writings in a delicate notebook. It can be a tiny thing or a small anecdote, like debating with my teacher about whether pepper spray should be used on the occupants, or whether our society should tolerate proactive protestors. When pondering over this issue, a saying unintentionally popped up into my mind- “I may not agree what you say, but I defend to the death your right to say it” from Voltaire. At that instant, I genuinely understood Voltaire’s feeling and it’s all because of my observations and reflections about life. I realized the power of life and the true experience told by my teacher and I believe that’s why poets say, “Let’s play on life as an intriguing melody”.

Keeping this way of learning English poetry, I didn’t feel pressured at all. It’s not necessary to recite unlimited sayings and show off to adjudicators. During the poetry appreciation of the competition, I incorporated a number of daily life examples, which are fairly reader friendly, into my writing. In the next part, the impromptu poem performance, the scariest part, I was asked to create a poem regarding freedom of speech. I used Occupy Central as an illustration and a resonance for my audience. I invited them to imagine a situation without the right to speak out, without the right to be unfettered, and without the right to protect democracy. After showing them my poems, I heard nothing but applause from the audience.

In fact, learning English poetry is not just studying superb poets’ works, no matter how fantastic they are, but having authentic experiences are always the most important thing when learning English poetry. Although you can recite Shakespeare’s sayings without

stuttering, you may not have your own reflection so that you can't present something brilliant. Let me use the Dead Poets Society as the final illustration.

“Gentlemen, please stand on your desks. Come on, stand up, yes Neil, stand up; gentlemen, when you try another angle to perceive your life, everything is different. Like, when you stand up on your desk, you are like standing on a stage full of power. GRAB that feeling and taste it! ”

When you taste something on your own, you will be another poet because no one, including Shakespeare, can replace your thought.

So now, take a deep look at your life and be poetic!

My Days as an unpaid detective

Walking by the Peninsula Hotel with Helen, I was going to have a tea there to relieve my tiredness after hanging out. Suddenly, a shiny red sports car passed us. 'Mary, Look! It's your little brother driving there!' Helen said to me admirably.

I replied firmly, 'Are you kidding me? Looking for a job, he isn't capable to purchase such a luxurious car.' When the man got out of the car, I was really startled. Oh! How come?! It was truly my little brother. I was confused with 100 million question marks on my mind.

Did I have to tell mum and dad? Was it better to ask my little brother directly? Ouch, I didn't know what to do, my mind was filling up with crazy thoughts. After taking a deep breath, I decided I should find out what my brother was up to, secretly of course.

Therefore, I started to follow his tracks for the next several days with a timid and frightened heart. What's more? I wrote a report every day like a detective and analyzed the clues to find out whether people that he had met were relatives or not and guessed what they were doing as well. I discovered the people around him were all with brown dyed hair and tattoos. They looked around the street to see if there was anyone looking at them and then they exchanged a black backpack and money as well. I was astonished to discover my potential as a brilliant detective, but meanwhile worried about my brother, who appeared to be committing crimes. Besides which, I noticed that he returned home with that big black backpack at midnight these days after dad and mum had gone to bed.

I couldn't stop thinking and I made a bold assumption that my brother was a drug abuser. Last time I saw him at the corner of shopping mall, they must be exchanging drugs. Having

a glimpse around, he looked worried about being arrested by the police. With such big business deal, he of course has sufficient money to buy..... Stop! My little brother couldn't be that bad. I kept on thinking what was the reason and how could he afford that expensive sports car. I was refuting my own original thoughts. I decided I had to get into his room and take a look at this mysterious black backpack

When my brother went to the toilet, I broke into his room. I got the bag and opened it. What I could see were driving gloves, keys and a racing costume.

'What are you doing?' My little brother shouted at the door of his room. 'I, I.... I am looking for something that I have lost before.' I replied and had a sigh of relief.

I closed the door of his room and asked curiously ' Why do you have these things and your shiny red sports car? ' He would tell me the truth only if I promised to keep the secret and not to tell dad and mum. He told me in great detail that he was passionate about driving sports car. He stealthily joined a racing competition and received a sports car as a gift for becoming a champion, and he asked his friends to help him bring all the equipment.

After that, I went out the room with an evil smile, thinking back to the pictures that we asked each other not to spill the beans about in our childhood.

Dear Principal,

Proposal of the weekly reality TV show

It is amazing that our school now has a studio for the members of campus TV and we can enjoy more productions produced by them. Our school would also like to film and broadcast a weekly reality TV show on the school TV network for one term. Thus, I am writing to put forward my thoughts and ideas for a show.

First, I believe this reality TV show should be meaningful, fresh and related to our campus. I suggest allowing different forms of students to give a 30-minute lecture each week. We can start with form 6 students as they are the oldest in the school and are capable to handle and organize things well, which can be a good demonstration for the lower forms. Each week, there would be a group of 8 students, setting a theme on a specific subject. For instance, giving a lesson on Biology, they can make some models to introduce and explain the function and position of various organs. Schoolmates' planning, preparation, division of work and of course the day of lecture would be all filmed. To assist junior form students, who find it arduous to handle this project, one teacher would be offered as an advisor.

This would undoubtedly be a renowned TV show in which students would talk about and discuss after broadcasting the first episode. Since there is no editing of the show, the funny and hilarious anecdotes happening during the shows preparation and lecture would be shown. This will make students burst into laughter while watching. Moreover, in an attempt to enhance the interaction with audience, there would be voting and question and answer sessions. One question related to episode would be raised each time and students are welcome to answer the questions, as well as, choose their most favorable episodes by

sending emails to Campus TV through the schools' intranet system. Students who have got the right answers or selected their favourite episodes would be offered a chance to join the lucky draw session to win prizes. The reality TV shows which are funny and comedic would certainly draw the students, making them eager to watch the next episode.

Apart from bringing happiness to students, another reason for its popularity is that students would definitely learn a lot from the show. For students who participate in lecture, not only can they authentically gain extra knowledge, but their interest of learning can also be enhanced. As the topics are all chosen by 'little teachers', they may be in a better position to understand the interest of their peers. Take science subjects as an example; there are lots of phenomena happening around us in our daily life that we do not understand. What are the scientific theories behind them. Physics lessons arranged by 'little teachers' would apparently be useful for you. Moreover, students also find learning dull and boring, by taking part in the lectures and playing different games or doing experiments, they may find that learning is full of fun. As a result, their interest of learning can be enhanced.

Furthermore, there is a beneficial effect on students who hold the lectures that may attract them to join the lecturing part. Giving a lecture to schoolmates is a chance of a lifetime; students can develop their talents, such as leadership and creativity which are indispensable and helpful elements for any careers. And before the filming on the day of lecture, there would be a lot of preparation work which can surely train students' management skills, sense of responsibility, and communication skills. Students can also obtain a unique and memorable experience of giving lessons to schoolmates before their graduation, which can also help to keep their close relationship with their friends.

More importantly, methods should be utilized with a view to boost the popularity of the first episode. It is confirmed that current chief captain of sports team, as well as,

chairperson of Student Union would be invited as “little teachers” in the very first episode. As schoolmates often see our well-respected chairperson holding different conferences or helping all schoolmates to fight for welfare firmly or watching the agile sports captain running and training in the playground, it is a golden opportunity for students to know more about their talented idols- captain and chairperson. With six other humorous form six students, who always have fun ideas and crack jokes, this will undoubtedly be attractive to viewers.

It is believed that the proposed show can become a great hit among our students with the above promotions and publicity stunts. Both students who are involve in the filming or watching as the audience can obtain special memories and make a difference in their learning. As the aforementioned explains, I hope that this proposed idea will be adopted after careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong.

Victory never too far away

We all want victory in every game, but sometimes we inevitably have to face failure. To reclaim championship status, we should never be upset about losing a game, but recognize the problems that lead to the loss and try to fix them. Therefore, I am writing to point out the causes of the disappointing results of the inter-school team sport events, in order to pave the way to a better future in which we can rise and shine in every single game again.

The most vital problem of these disappointing results is the team members that lack experience. In a ball game there is no time for hesitation, every second counts so it could be a detriment to play the game if you think you will have hesitation. This is exactly what happens to our players during their games. You can see it with your own eyes, they were extremely nervous as their faces turned pale and their hands shaking. Some of them were way too nervous, even though they tried to act rough and tough they were scared to death that they would step out of the pitch. Not only did they perform badly in the competition, but they also wasted their training sessions they had gone through. Though, to my understanding, they are all talented players who only lack experience and self-assurance. Joining more competitions can definitely help them to have a better control of their emotion and get used to the atmosphere of competition. Also, they have to build up their confidence, so that they can play smoothly with skills they have practiced. This will help lead them a step closer to victory.

On the other hand, not being well-prepared is also another reason for these disappointing results in several team sports. It was no question that they were going to lose. The opponents had already started to warm-up and our school team members were still sitting on the chair, chatting with the spectators. What was more? Part of the members of a team

arrived at the pitch only ten minutes before game time. Not only could they lose the game, but this also puts their health at risk. Our bodies need time to get used to the game so we must exercise and stretch first, we are more likely to get hurt if our bodies are not well-prepared. Players should really arrive at the pitch an hour before the game starts to warm-up and stretch. Furthermore, the proper warm-ups can surely help them perform better, at the same time, increase their chances of winning.

Remember nothing is impossible, we may be losing those games, but we can stand in fame if we are brave enough to face the problems head on and tackle them. Winning isn't everything, though it sure feels good. It's the journey we take to get there that is important. These are why we should never be upset by results and enjoy every game. No matter the results, we earn people's admiration if we have tried our very best. All in all, I am looking forward to seeing our school team sports stand in the better results.

A Letter to My Dearest Friend

6A Yau Lo Mung

Dear Peter,

How is life going there? I miss Los Angeles and you guys so much. I'm feeling nostalgic right now. Melodious music, blue sky and spacious streets... Anyway, I haven't been back to Hong Kong for seven and a half years! Can't believe it, can you? I was totally astonished by the new Hong Kong in 2015, which is now so close to me, yet so far.

I guess I've told you that I chose to study in L.A. because of the suffocating population density in Hong Kong. I thought things would have improved in these seven years, but instead it has worsened! Walking along Nathan Road, I found myself like a single sardine packed in a cramped can. I had to be agile enough to avoid being touched by other pedestrians. Thanks to parallel traders, Hong Kong has become thousands of times more crowded in seven years! People speaking Mandarin, people grabbing luggage, people shopping for goods like cosmetic products, medicines, as well as, milk powder – were all jammed in the street. I swear if I had known what Hong Kong has become, I wouldn't have boarded the airplane. Peter, I miss you and my tranquil L.A.!

Another significant difference of Hong Kong from my memory is its alarming pollution problem. The exacerbating air pollution is really getting on my nerves. As you know, I have a really tormenting nasal problem that can grant me a day of never ending sneezing. Seven years ago, Hong Kong was at least habitable even though it couldn't be described as purified as the magical land of the Wizard of Oz. Yet, in seven years, it has become a hell! Because of the terrible air pollution, I feel like I'm being smothered when I'm out! I'm just flooded with mucus and struck by sneezing. Seven years ago, I felt very cozy living in Hong Kong, but now, I just feel like I'm living in a terrible pit of choking sorrow.

Another 'change' that has really devastated me is the disappearance of art. Seven years ago, Hong Kong was a concrete city; almost everything was about business. Taking a stroll on the street, you would hear 'money' on the lips of people's tongues. But there was still some space spared for art! I remember the time when people would enjoy busking on the Avenue of Stars. But these have seemingly vanished in seven years. Street performers aren't allowed to perform there only because the government believes they make no contributions to the society other than being a nuisance. Additionally, the rationales that street performances prohibit the development of businesses in Tsim Sha Tsui as the enormous crowds deter tourists' SHOPPING activities! What a fallacy! Right now Hong Kong truly deserves the title 'concrete city'. I used to smell the scent of flourishing art when I hung out seven years ago, but now, I can sniff nothing, but the stink of money!

Peter, I know I may sound like a fastidious cynic, but my astonishment and disappointment driven by the changes of Hong Kong in terms of environment, culture and society do make me glum. Hong Kong has become a stranger to me. I guess the sentiment is so overwhelming that I can compose a musical called 'Hong Kong: So Close Yet So Far'. Anyway, I miss you and L.A. I'll return soon, I promise!

Best,
Chris

Dear Shelly,

How are you doing? I haven't heard from you since you moved to Australia. Do you remember how we always said we would get rid of our overweight bodies together? Well, guess what, I finally did it. I was on 'Slim It', a reality TV show which helps people modify themselves and rebuild their self-esteem. It was not an easy journey, but I succeeded after all.

Four months ago, I joined this TV program because I was attracted by the advertisement claiming they could provide you a chance to be reborn. As you may not know, I've been putting a lot of weight lately because many problems have been happening and I chose eating to evade them. Anyway, it was a reality show which was about helping obese people to be healthy again. During the filming of the show, I had to live with five strangers in a flat for three months and had our lives filmed the whole time. Each week, they would provide different mentors who gave us motivation, provided a specially designed diet for us and an aerobic dance teacher trained us to modify ourselves through exercise. Not only did it provide physical guidance, it also provided psychological consultation on improving our self-esteem and problem-solving skills through a special course. None of which required money but we had to get assessments every weekend. If we failed the target we had to take an extra course to catch up.

I joined this show because I really wanted to change myself and I felt the need to change. My weight problems had gotten worse and worse because I felt eating was the only way to feel satisfied and I was always paranoid about things, so most of my friends left me. One day, I even got a warning from my doctor after my annual body check saying I might be at risk of being obese and could potentially have diabetes. You could say my life just hit rock

bottom at that moment. My friends and family weren't supportive and I got so depressed and ashamed of my own body. Ever since I saw the recruitment advertisement for Slim It, I knew I had to join because this was not the most ideal way to lead my life.

Although the training was harsh and demanding, it was worth it to have a healthy body. Our mentors were very strict and sometimes even mean. They would yell at you if you showed the slightest bit of giving up. But the worst part was getting filmed the whole time. I am not a fan of the camera and having all the cameras pointing at me was really uncomfortable. Also, it felt like it was invading my privacy because my every single move was filmed, and that includes going to the bathroom. The most unforgettable moment during the whole show was at the end of the first month. I failed the assessment miserably and I really wanted to give up. The mentors were furious and they yelled at me loudly, they even called me names. At the end of that day, the pressure was too much and I burst into tears, I felt embarrassed enough crying in front of everyone but they thought it's a valuable moment and that they'd film it.

But after that day, I started to see those cameras as a source of motivation rather than a nuisance because I didn't want the whole world to see me crying again. And later on in the show, I kept getting better and better, so much so, I even enjoyed having my success filmed and seen by the whole world. This show really helped me get through the darkest period of my life and I was transformed into a better person.

I am really satisfied with my body now and I wished you could be here to share my joys. The show aired its debut episode this week and I am sure you would have liked it. Write to you soon.

Best wishes,
Nicky

Good morning principal, teachers and students. I'm the president of the Creative Writing Society, Chris Wong. I'm honored to give you a speech about The Pleasure and Benefits of Writing Short Stories today. All of us here must have tried writing short stories, right? But most of them are given as tasks to complete, as homework to finish. Writing short stories tragically becomes a boring thing. However, do short stories really make you fall asleep? Or is it because we treat them as homework to be done? Hopefully the benefits of writing short stories can change your mind today.

First, writing short stories can improve our writing skills, hence we can better express what we want to say. When you start to write a story, you will try to find the best vocabularies, which can accurately describe the picture. They may be words to describe your brave character, the mysterious forest, or the cunning old lady. As you keep looking up words in the dictionary, one day you will find out that you can actually use different words to describe your thoughts, and then you can communicate with people using English more easily! I remember at the beginning when I first joined the Creative Writing Society, I tried so hard to finish my first story which was about a magic world, it was just so hard, but also so fun to have accomplished my first piece of work. After practices and practices till the eighth month after I had joined the society, my cousin in Canada who constantly mailed me said that my English had improved a lot! It was honestly the best praise I'd ever heard! Moreover, when you have better English writing skills, you can score a much higher grade than you used to.

Second, writing short stories is one of the best ways you can show your creativity. It's always the most exciting thing to do, to create a world, a character from your own mind! Writing can make your imaginations come true. Unlike drawing or painting, which take a

long time to practice and master, creating your character by writing only requires your pen, and your creativity! You can build the tallest building in the world which grows into the space, you can create a city under the sea with mermaids. If you are tired of following instructions from your parents and reciting information in textbooks, try writing your short story. There are no rules, no limits, no instructions and no penalties, you can build up your dream world out of your creativity and imagination, with just a pen!

Third, creating your own story is the happiest thing to do. When you have a tough day, you fail your quiz, you are punished by your teacher, and you forget to take your wallet, you can go home and get into your most wonderful world. Writing enables you to put down your unhappiness and your stress. You can fall into the world with all your best wishes and wonders. Nobody is going to criticize you, and you can stop thinking of all the bad things that happened to you, it might only work for a while, but after that, you will find joy from your story. Also, if you publish your work on the internet or anywhere else, there may be some people who are interested in your story as well, then you can taste the flavor of success. During the process of publishing and receiving feedback, your self-confidence is silently built up, you will believe in yourself more. Believe me, I'm your best example. I've published a finalized work on the internet and gained quite a number of readers.

There are infinite pleasures and benefits of writing short stories, and I cannot tell you all of them within a speech. You can be the one who writes short stories and tells others how wonderful it is. I look forward to seeing one day that you've experienced all the joys in writing short stories, and one day I can see your masterpiece. Thank you.

Let go of your prejudice

Mental illnesses have always been a taboo in traditional Chinese society. Most of the Chinese regard mental disorders as people being insane or maximizing the tiny tragedies that happen to them. The patients are isolated and discriminated against all the time, no matter hundred years before, or in the 21st century. I, myself, was not an exception either, not until when one of my friends was diagnosed to have depression.

Chris was a sparkling volleyball player; 183cm tall, tanned skin, contoured nose with a pair of charming brown eyes, even me, a boy, cannot deny that he is really attractive. Not only does he own all the desirable features everyone is looking for, he is also good at sports and studying. He can always solve complicated calculus and clear the doubts of the girls in class, making them fancy him even more. Alright, there's no wonder that your head is full of questions now, how come Chris, such perfection, is diagnosed to suffer from depression?

As I have mentioned, Chris is an outstanding person in all dimensions. That's probably why Chris had high expectations placed on him. His parents were very strict with him, they urged him to score top 3 in the entire form in every exam, and they never cared about his feeling- he was stressed. His teammates and his fans put a lot of stress on his invisibly too, they all adore him and expect him to score very high points in the competition, Chris enjoyed the applause, but he was also afraid to let them down. With all the expectations from parents, teammates, school mates, and teachers, Chris pushed himself to fulfill their expectations of him by forcing himself to work harder and harder. However, even superman loses his power in some circumstances. Chris finally cracked all hopes because of losing the final volleyball game.

The game was just one week before Chris's school exam. Chris needed to handle studying and the volleyball practice perfectly, so he only slept about 4 hours every night, squeezing time to practise from noon to evening and doing schoolwork at midnight. Eventually, his blood glucose level and blood pressure level were too low that he lost consciousness in the game. Without Chris, his team lost the game.

No one blamed Chris except himself. The coach and his teammates understood that he had already done his best for the team. But the disappointment and empathy from his friends and his fans intensified his remorse. He lost confidence in himself and finally lost

motivation to do anything. His grades dropped, he quitted the volleyball team, and no longer smiled at people around him, just like when Hercules lost his strength. He isolated himself, talking to no one and giving no response. He gave up the team and also his falling grades, I had never seen him not handing in homework on time before. A few months later, Chris was diagnosed to have depression, which had become the turning point which his parents, teachers, friends, schoolmates, and he determined was the time to alter this condition.

The first move was taken by his parents. They relinquished the highly pressured parenting style, and started to communicate and show concern to their son. Chris's parents had a long chat with him telling him that the grades were no longer important to them; all they wanted is him to be happy. His friends, including me, persuaded him to join the team again, and bravely face his past. After going back on the team and winning a game, Chris started to smile again. He also successfully struck a balance between study and sports by an improved schedule. With all the support from his friends, schoolmates, parents, and teachers, the old Chris was finally back.

Now that I have come across a real depression case, my biased preconceptions have radically changed. Since seeing what has happened to Chris, I have more ideas about how to deal with depression. The first thing is about how to prevent it. From Chris's case we can see that striking a balance in your life is of utmost importance, no matter between your study, social circle, hobbies or career, do not push yourself too far and force yourself to fulfill everyone's expectation, just try your best. Another way to fight depression is that you should tell others your feeling. If Chris told his parents his feelings earlier, his path would have been easier. Similarly, if someone is bothering your feeling too much, such as your parents or even a bully, your first step is to be honest and tell them how you feel and why you don't want them to continue. With these 2 little tips on fighting depression, I believe that we can all fight depression.

Even though our society might still be prejudice towards this issue, I believe with more understanding and acceptance, we can build a more harmonious society with joy and love.

Say no to long working hours

The management is glad to announce that the turnover of the company has been increasing in the recent months. The success would be a myth without all of the efforts and hard work made by our employees. Please note that your diligence is appreciated and that we are very grateful. However, we are not only concerned about profits, we also pay attention to the quality of life of our employees. Recently, there is an increasing number of employees leaving the office late. Management agrees that we have the responsibility to reconfirm to our employees our standpoint- we discourage this behavior. Leaving too late can lead to an array of problems, and we do not want to see any of our employees' quality of life sacrificed for work.

To start with, leaving too late is surely a detriment to your physical health. So if you leave we doubt that you have leisure time to rest or for your hobbies. Leaving at 10 pm or even later means employees cannot get sufficient rest, which is recommended by experts to be around 8 hours. With inadequate sleep, employee's health will suffer. Weakened immune system and increased risk of heart disease, insufficient sleeping hours is not an issue to be neglected. Moreover, sitting in the office for more than nine hours is undoubtedly harmful to your spine and blood circulation, employees might find their backs painful or feel dizzy easily. A low quality of physical health also strangles your work performance. Remember, a healthy body is the cornerstone for your success.

Another problem brought on by long working hours is that employees have less time to spend with their loved ones, which means the social life of employees is hampered. Working for such a long time, the first thing you want to do once you arrive home is sleep. Your spouses may blame you for not having time to communicate with them or your kids might gradually give up calling you when you are at the office working at night. Everyone

needs time to build and maintain relationship, so do you! Thus, do not let your social life be disrupted because of your work. Make sure you spend sufficient time with your family and friends, that's how you can release your pressure and share your success from work.

After reading the adverse impacts incited by long working hours, you might be having a conflict between work performance and your work-life balance. There are 2 suggestions made to improve the circumstances.

First of all, employees should pay attention to time management. At times, some employees work at the office until midnight or even overnight because they are fighting deadlines, rushing to finish their work on time. We understand that there is so much work to deal with, that you might have forgotten or are forced to do it at the last minute. However, good time-management skills are always the key to success. The more work you have in hand, the more important it is. You may try to allocate your work in different days, plan the time you need and the date you want it to finish in a schedule book, this way it would be easier for you to finish your work without fighting the clock.

Division of labor is another crucial element to help you to do your work better. The management is aware of the shortage of officers in certain departments, in order to increase work efficiency, we are going to hire more employees. It's obvious that the marketing department has too many duties, 2 new employees in the department are expected to start working before April. For other departments, we are considering to rearrange the roles of each employee, hoping that the work load of each of you can be lessened. If you have any comments, please feel free to let us know.

We'd love to see the company growing, but that is not an excuse for us to ignore your quality of life. Please be concerned with your own health, including physical and mental and social well-being. Let's work hard together for our company's growth and also for your wholesome development.

Is it a blessing or a curse to live in Hong Kong?

In recent years, a lot of people have been talking about whether Hong Kong is a good place for humans to live. To me, living in Hong Kong is a curse. I am a secondary six student who has lived in Hong Kong for the past 17 years. This place is having more problems now than before. The disadvantages of living here are more than the advantages. Problems appear without solutions, like the overcrowded population, housing problems, pollutions, ageing populations, to name but a few.

The most important point to note why living in Hong Kong is a curse is because of the limited job opportunities. In April 2014 to June 2014, the Labor force participation rate is only 60.9%. That reflects an alarming 39.1% people without any job. It can prove that Hong Kong does not have enough job opportunities for its citizens. Problems are particularly serious among the underprivileged. Poor people can hardly get a job in Hong Kong. Moreover, with the limited job vacancies, it creates widening gaps between the rich and the poor. It leads to a bigger problem that the poor are getting poorer and the richer are getting richer. Therefore, without a secured job, it is a curse to live in Hong Kong.

Another point that concerns me is the ageing population. Hong Kong's population for aged 65 or above is expected to surge from 900,000 now to 2.1 million in 2030. Then, it will reach a quarter of the total population. Dramatic increase in the elderly population creates pressure on our government and the society. More money is needed for the social welfare groups, hospitals and other elderly-related organizations. The money can only be gained from the taxes received from the small portion of tax payers in Hong Kong. After 17 years, am I expect to work for the 2.1 million elderly people? It is a terrible future for a 33 years old woman like me.

Yes, I cannot deny that Hong Kong has its advantages and competitiveness. Hong Kong has well established transportation systems. Hong Kong's transportation is convenient, efficient and well-connected. But, it is only restricted to Hong Kong. It does not connect well to the world, or even to China, our home country unless the Express Rail is built. The railway system is not a unique feature of a competitive city. Germany, a country renowned for its beer, is also known as the most developed country in traffic. Compared with Germany, Hong Kong is just a 'small potato', and it is still immature.

If we want to make Hong Kong an ideal place to live in, we just need to make sure of two things, more job opportunities and increased birth rate. The government should make sure that everyone has a job. To secure a job, the government may provide incentives for companies to hire more employees. Also, she can encourage people to study, learn more new knowledge so as to increase their competitiveness. The government should advise couples to give birth to more babies. Allowance and tax relaxation should be given to these couples to attract them. Only with these measures can Hong Kong turn over a new leaf to be a better place to live in.

A Diary Entry

6C Lee Sum Yu

11th August 2014

Dear Diary,

It's been a rough day. I swear I'll never ever let this happen again in my life!

Today, I was going on an interview which was about the Greece trip. If I succeed, I can go to Greece as an exchange student for a month! I prepared for a lot of days just for this interview. But now, I ruined it.

The interview started at 2:00 p.m. but I arrived an hour before. When I was going to register at the office, I found that I forgot my candidate form at home! Gosh... could I forget my brain too? I pleaded with the office so badly to re-write another one at that moment.

I sat down in the preparation room and there had been many interviewees waiting already. They had many notes and some were practicing their speaking skills. But me, I got a sheet of blank paper and a pencil case. What a distance between the heaven and hell. I felt so stressed and started to sweat; my hands were soaked. So I went outside the office for some fresh air. I was still feeling bad and couldn't stop deep breathing. After a while I returned inside and continued to wait. I waited for another 30 minutes. Then it's my turn to have the individual interview.

I knocked at the door and walk into the interview room without any invitation from the interviewer. It was rude, I realised that after the fact. Then I sat down in front of the table, but my legs were shaking, and the table did too. The interviewer said, "Calm down, tell me your name?" "Yes, me name..." Huh?! Me? This was the worst start ever! I covered my

mouth with my hands immediately. Then I continued, “Sorry, my name is...” This was embarrassing. However, the interviewer looked at me like I’m a poor kitty. It’s okay. After the individual interview, I forgot I still have the group interview part. I didn’t prepare for it!

In my group, my group mates seemed to be so aggressive like professional debaters. It was like I had already lost in this ‘debate’ at the beginning. At first, the organizer gave us little preparation time. Today, the topic is, “Why do you think you are more suitable than your group mates to go to Greece?” During the preparation time, everyone wrote like a machine, they’re so fast! Some of them kept staring at me! I really wanted to poke their eyes with my pen! When the discussion started, they communicated like it was a debate, and they used all my points. What scoundrels I thought to myself! Unfortunately, I couldn’t make a good response immediately. So I did a pretty bad performance.

I can’t believe... I was excited for SO LONG, but I performed SO BADLY! Maybe I should practice my communication skills more... Maybe I should check my belongings before I leave for interviews... Maybe I should practice more my communication skills... Maybe I should search for more information before I walk into the interview room... Maybe I should stare at my group mates’ notes too! Maybe... Maybe... Maybe...

Anyway, I feel so disappointed in myself. I really hope, they will have another activity like this in the future because I love the Greek culture SO BADLY!

The best part of my job

Interviewing people from all walks of life, ranging from political bigwig CY Leung to financial tycoon Lee Ka Shing, becomes my daily routine-their stories tell me the details of achieving accomplishments. But it is worth mentioning that the best part of my job would definitely be interviewing the underprivileged. For instance, interviewing a single-parent family, low-income groups and cage house residents can reveal the reality behind this world-class city to readers, but it can also raise awareness about underprivileged people.

The biggest challenge I have ever faced in my job

Prior to becoming a news reporter, I thought this job was piece of cake. Having a hit chat with celebrities and politicians with the use of a recorder and quoting them in the newspaper, right? I was dead wrong. The reality is that being a news reporter is 24/7 and lacks rest time. As an example, breaking news happens around mid-night almost every night, with some gangs having conflicts due to power inequality in Victoria Harbour. Our crew reached there and shot video by using overhead camera. That life-threatening situation was like being located in war-torn countries!

My school days

Memories of my campus life were all about overcoming dyslexia, which I had to withstand and endure. Having suffered from dyslexia, I was always struggling with piecing coherent sentences together and spelling words correctly. Not only did I receive detention class every day after school because of late submission of homework, but my class teachers also offered me remedial lessons to improve my language proficiency. I am so grateful that my dyslexia has become history. I would like to give thanks to those teachers who gave me the confidence and offered me a life lesson, determination leads to success.

Importance of critical thinking

Standing in the forefront to pursue the truth is a motto to every news reporter. It is of paramount importance to inculcate every citizen's critical thinking skill – especially teenagers – so that we can pursue the truth. It's unfortunate that teenagers these days are becoming increasingly complacent, lacking motivation and critical thinking. It is worrying that they will follow people's actions blindly, trust the fake news and cannot fit into this ever-changing society. Therefore, reading the newspaper can consolidate one's knowledge and enhance our critical thinking through reading thought-provoking editorials.

