

Fanling Lutheran Secondary School

Engage

Vol.2

Beauty

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Timeless Beauty

No matter how gorgeous we are, we age and our outer beauty will vanish eventually. It is only our inner beauty that can stand the test of the time and that is why the following people in history are still regarded as icons of beautiful women.



Mother Teresa

“Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning.
Love has to be put into action, and that action is service .”

– *Mother Teresa*

Mother Teresa dedicated herself entirely to helping the the poor, sick, orphaned and dying, including people who are infected by AIDS. She was there to look after people who nobody else was prepared to look after. In 1952, she opened her first home for the dying, which allowed people to die with dignity. Even though some people have criticised the lack of proper medical attention, and their refusal to give painkillers, her intention was to pass love to everyone and to demonstrate that anyone, literally anyone, ought to be loved or cared for, even the poor, sick, orphaned and dying.

In 1979, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace.”

She did not attend the ceremonial banquet herself but asked that the \$192,000 fund be given to the poor.

In later years, while continuing running homes for the underprivileged and the neglected, she also became active in western developed countries because she said even though the West was materially prosperous, there was often a spiritual poverty.

Mother Teresa died in 1997, more than two decades ago, but her legacy remains. She is still regarded as a living saint who offered a great example and inspiration to the world.

Princess Diana

"I knew what my job was;
it was to go out and meet
the people and love them."

– *Princess Diana*

Diana was and is still beloved by the world not just because of her gorgeous look, but also her huge heart. Despite her difficult times, such as having suffered from depression and having difficulties in her marriage, Diana still remained genuine and loving. It is no exaggeration to say that she was the epitome of selflessness. She was not only a wonderful mother to two beautiful boys, and often reached out to the sick and poor. During a time when many were ignorant about AIDS, believing that the disease could be contacted by touch alone, Diana was often seen hugging AIDS-inflicted children. This amazed the world and her ground-breaking actions in fact helped remove stigma against AIDS.

Apart from helping people with AIDS, she devoted herself to campaigns for banning landmines. In 1997, she visited mine fields in Angola to inspect the clearing of landmines. Her efforts and involvement indeed made the ban on landmines possible.

She was also an icon in the Royal Family not only because her stories were often covered by the press but her hands-on approach to charity work also helped change people's perception towards the Royals, who are not necessarily remote but down-to-earth.

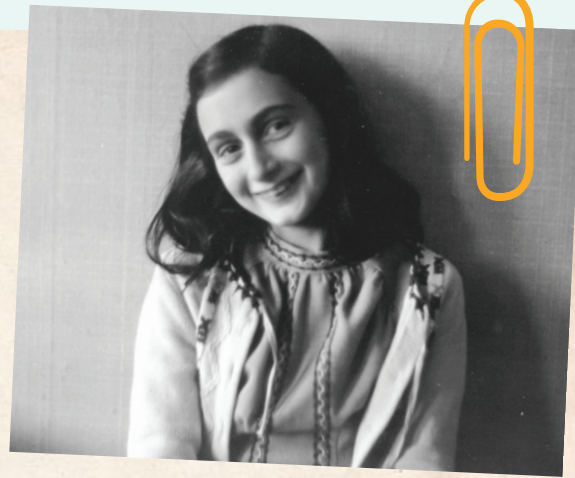


Anne Frank

Anne Frank is remembered today for her courage and hope in the midst of a senseless war. Despite her dire situation, she always believed in the best of people. She would not have known how much influence she had on millions of people as she died when she was 15. However, her diary has offered everyone a clear understanding of how brutal wars are and how ruthless discrimination can be.

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany. He and his government—known as the Nazis—were prejudiced against people who were Jewish. They told people not to shop in stores owned by Jews and passed laws that made life very difficult for the Jews. Around this time, Anne and her family moved to Amsterdam to avoid being harassed because of their religion. Unfortunately, they were not safe for too long because the Germans invaded Holland in 1940 and began persecuting the Jews. Many were killed by the Nazis and others were sent to concentration camps, which were in fact prisons where some Jews and others were forced to work under horrible conditions. Millions of people died at the camps.

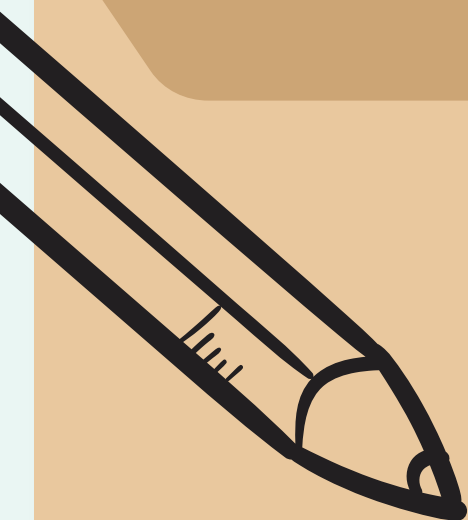
Otto Frank, Anne's father, was afraid that something terrible would happen so he decided to build a secret room in the attic of his business warehouse. Anne and her family were forced to hide there. All the while, Anne wrote in her diary.



She captured the details of her days in hiding and studied those around her. A part of her diary included short stories and part of a novel. Anne explored her feelings and thoughts in the pages of her diary. As she wrote, she realized that she wanted to be an author when she grew up and that her experiences in hiding would make a great novel.

Tragically, she did not live to see this dream come true. Someone let the authorities know about their hiding place and they were all arrested in August 1945. Anne and her sister were sent to a concentration camp where they both died.

Although she was only fifteen years old when she died, Anne Frank has been able to touch the lives of millions of people with her powerful writing. Her diary has been translated into more than 30 different languages and sold millions of copies since it was first published.





Audrey Hepburn

"The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. True beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It's the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows, and the beauty of a woman only grows with passing years."

– *Audrey Hepburn*

Audrey Hepburn was petite and gorgeous - a fashion icon and a talented actress. She is also known for her dedication to UNICEF in her later years. Her involvement in charity work was attributed to the suffering she had endured in her youth and to repay the people who brought aid to her community at the end of World War II. She went to Africa, South America, and Asia to help the impoverished people.

In 1988 she was appointed a UNICEF Special Ambassador. She said, "I can testify to what UNICEF means to children, because I was among those who received food and medical relief right after World War II." Her first field mission involved a visit to an orphanage in Ethiopia. She later said, "My first big mission for UNICEF in Ethiopia was just to attract attention, before it was too late, to conditions which threatened the whole country. My role was to inform the world, to make sure that the people of Ethiopia were not forgotten."

She then continued with her efforts to help the disadvantaged in Somalia where she was affected deeply due to the drought and civil war there, causing millions of people starving to death and she was particularly shocked by the endless gravestones there. After returning from Somalia in 1992, Hepburn was diagnosed with cancer of the appendix, which spread to her colon and stomach. She died in 1993 in Switzerland.

Face off:

Should companies be banned from photoshop-ping images of models in ads?

YES

For sure. Photo editing of shots of models in any advertising materials ought to be banned because it presents a twisted standard of beauty, poses huge influence on viewers and are disrespectful to models themselves.

First, photoshopping of images is essentially a fraud. On fashion and beauty magazines, images of female stars and models featured in any pages are so heavily photoshopped that they look as if an artificial being – their porcelain skins are poreless; their skins glow so brightly that light basically reflects from their skins; their eyes are unnaturally big; and all their facial features are flawless. Men are no exception. Their facial features are more prominent, so are their muscles all over their body. These fake images in fact help set a beauty standard that no one can achieve. Therefore, to normalize people's perception towards beauty and present a more realistic view of what beauty in fact is, it is sensible to prohibit companies from photoshopping images of models.

Given the twisted aesthetic standards set for men and women, viewers of these fraudulent images are also badly influenced. For example, impressionable youngsters may believe that they are not as gorgeous as those models on fashion magazines and they might try every means to conform to the beauty standards, e.g. through undergoing plastic surgery, splurging parents' hard-earned money on cosmetic and skincare products, and going on rigid diet so that they could look leaner. This is without doubts unwholesome and this trend should be put to a halt. In fact, research and surveys have repeatedly pointed out that youngsters and adults nowadays alike feel less confident about themselves because they are often bombarded by perfect images of others on a daily basis on both traditional media and social media. Hence,



to avert the situation where people's self-worth keeps being eroded by fake representation of beauty, photoshopping of models ought to be outlawed.

Last but not least, even though photoshopping a model makes him/her even better-looking, this can be a complete disrespect towards the models involved. In fact, many non-Caucasian female megastars, such as Mariah Carey, Rihanna, Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez, Tyra Banks, etc. have voiced their outrage against their photos being 'whitewashed'. In other words, their skin tone is retouched to appear lighter. Even though viewers admire their looks more when their photos look even more appealing, these icons in the global stardom have in fact been upset because their genuine look has failed to be reflected truly to audiences. Hence, it can be seen that photoshopping one's photos can in fact be a blatant disregard for models' esteem.

Given all the repercussions of photoshopping, it goes without saying that it is high time companies were banned from retouching photos, which present beauty standards that are impossible to achieve, adversely affect one's self-worth and are a disrespect towards the models involved.

Face off:

Should companies be banned from photoshop-ping images of models in ads?

NO

Photoshop as well as many other photo editing software are cutting-edge technological innovations that have revolutionised the way beauty is defined. With these apps, things as well as people are more pleasant to look at because flaws of a photo shoot can be eradicated, brightness of an image can be adjusted and most importantly our incompetence in photography skills can be compensated. It makes no sense to prohibit this godsend because everyone loves beauty and it is ridiculous that the use of photo editing apps are restricted when literally everyone uses these apps on a daily basis.

The first argument why it is not sensible to stop companies from photoshopping images of models on ads is that it is against our human nature of the pursuit of beauty. To be perfectly honest, when given a choice of beauty and ugliness, who does not like beauty? Therefore, when photo editing apps can lend us a hand in augmenting the glamour of a photo of a model, why not embrace it? Although ideally photos ought to present what is captured truthfully, there are times when models' beauty is not captured perfectly enough because of glitches in the photo shoot, a weary face of a model, or maybe budding flesh on a model's body. That's where photoshop comes in handy, preserving the beauty of a model as well as the photo shoot. When photoshop is banned, how can one's beauty be portrayed to the fullest?

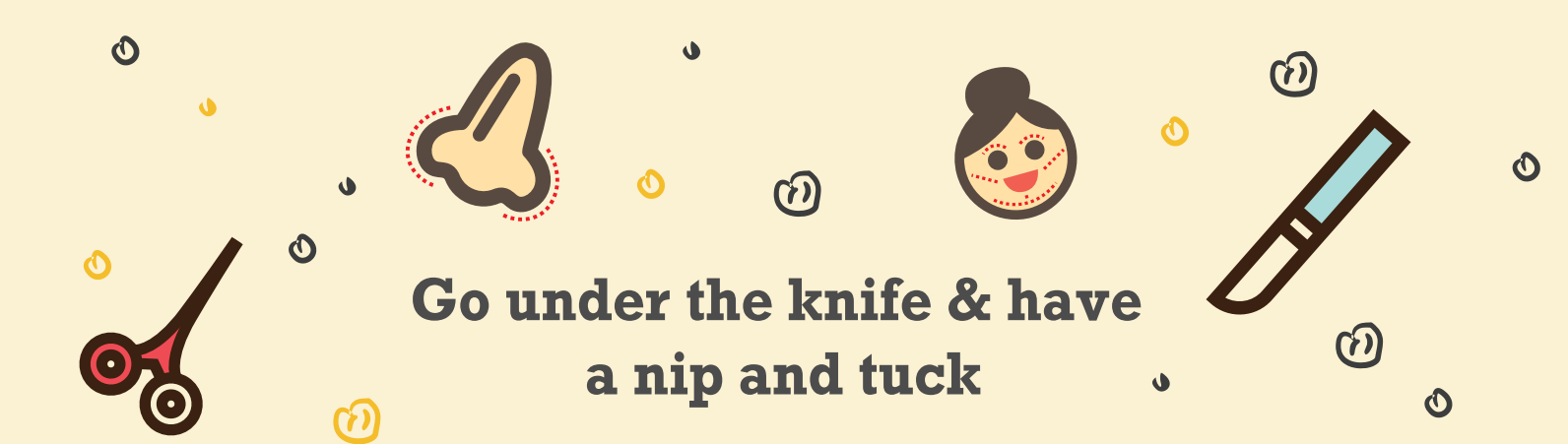
Besides, it is simply impractical to ban photoshop. With the advent of smartphones, photos have become an inseparable part of our lives. We take snapshots of ourselves or things around us as a way to record the bits and pieces of our everyday life. Because of this, camera apps as well as social media apps tend to build in filters to help users beautify their snapshots. Thus, when everyone is so used to retouching photos, not to mention seeing retouched photos, why is there a necessity to ban photo editing apps



in the advertising field? Also, photoshopping is a monumental business and has created thousands of jobs worldwide. A radical ban on photoshop will take away jobs of these professionals. Hence, it is unfeasible to impose a ban on photo editing apps.

It is true that some photo editing specialists go to great lengths to retouch photos and end up creating photos that distort realities, such as whitewashing non-Caucasian models. However, to stop this offensive acts from happening, these professionals can in fact exercise their judgement and refrain themselves from overdoing the retouching. Even if it happens that images of models get overly retouched in a way that offends people, viewers can sense this and backlashes will ensue. This has been how over-photoshopping is regulated in the real world and these tech professionals can then learn it the hard way eventually. Therefore it is unnecessary to restrict the use of photoshop as those professionals can exercise their judgement and self-restrain.

Overall, it is unreasonable, impractical and unnecessary to ban photoshop in the advertising field.



Go under the knife & have a nip and tuck

There are many factors contributing to the rise in popularity of cosmetic surgery. First of all, influenced by the media and Korean culture, teens have become more open-minded towards it. From the media, we know that many celebrities are suspected to have completed plastic surgery, which have obviously made them more gorgeous. Seeing the positive results of plastic surgery, some teens may be tempted to have a go. Also, it is commonly believed that all Korean people have plastic surgery. Because of the prevalence of plastic surgery in Korea, people in Hong Kong think it is acceptable to do so too.

Second, with the advancement of technology, plastic surgery is becoming more widespread and thus more affordable for the general public. We can see that on newspapers, tabloids and beauty magazines, one-off minor plastic surgery can cost as little as a few hundred dollars. Thus, the affordability of plastic surgery has also given rise to people's wider acceptance towards plastic surgery.

Third, teenagers may want to undergo plastic surgery because they want to have a better look and this boosts their self-esteem. Indeed, being bombarded with many gorgeous photos of influencers on social media, many teens feel the pressure to conform to the beauty standards and one way of doing so is to go under the knife.

However, teens should resist the temptations of undergoing plastic surgery for several reasons. First, teens are still at puberty and their facial features are still rapidly changing and there is no need for them to have a nip and tuck just because they want to be better-looking.

Second, teens tend not to be able to afford the price of the surgical procedures. Although it is shown on commercials that microsurgeries can cost as little as a few hundred dollars, the prices shown are merely the cost of one procedure. Usually, to obtain the best results, beauty parlours will persuade, if not coerce, clients, to have the whole treatment. Therefore, the cost of plastic surgery is not as little as imagined.

Third, even if teens can afford the costs of plastic surgery, they are not encouraged to do so because like any other surgeries, cosmetic surgery also involves risks and dangers. For example, if the tools for plastic surgery have not been properly sterilized and are used for multiple clients, they can spread diseases and viruses. Also, very often, after surgery, patients often experience inflammation and thus need to take antibiotics. Besides, there is a possibility that the surgery may fail, leading to disfigurement, along with other mental problems such as depression, lower self-esteem, etc. In the worst case scenario, plastic surgery can be fatal. In fact, although these cases seem extreme, they are not uncommon in both mainland China and South Korea, especially when the surgery is carried out by unlicensed and unskilled surgeons. Even in Hong Kong, a few years ago, a woman died during an operation of liposuction. All in all, plastic surgery involves risks, which may sometimes be irreversible, and teens should not be encouraged to have it.

Beautiful adjectives beautify your language

Target vocabulary	Used to describe ...	Things	People
aesthetically pleasing	something that pleases the senses	✓	
appealing	something that is attractive or interesting	✓	
amazing	something or someone that surprises or impresses you	✓	✓
angelic	someone with a sacred type of beauty		✓
a beauty	a particularly perfect example of something (for things and people), mainly used by men		✓
breathtaking	something that takes the breath away and is often used to describe natural beauty	✓	
captivating	a type of beauty that surprises and holds you captive	✓	
charming	a pleasantly hypnotic aspect of a person that may have more to do with their behavior and/or presence		✓
dazzling	something or someone who blinds you with a bright and surprising light that confuses your vision	✓	✓
divine	a heavenly or sacred type beauty, similar to angelic	✓	✓

Target vocabulary	Used to describe ...	Things	People
drop-dead gorgeous	people who are so attractive that your heart stops beating		✓
eye-catching	something that grabs the eyes and attention from people	✓	
easy on the eyes	a type of beauty that makes it easy to look at that person		✓
enchanted (adj)	a beauty that has the power to casts a spell over you	✓	
glamorous	possess a magical charm	✓	✓
a head turner (n)	a person so beautiful that they cause people to turn their heads to look at them as they walk or drive past (often causing car accidents)		✓
heart-stopping	an extreme and surprising type of beauty that is said to stop the heart	✓	
hypnotic	somebody who is so attractive that they hypnotize you in a way that you lose control		✓
irresistible	a type of attraction or appeal that cannot be resisted	✓	✓
magnetic	an attractiveness or appeal that acquires the quality of a magnet, that lures, pulls you toward it.	✓	✓
magnificent	an impressive and extravagant type of beauty	✓	
spectacular	a type of beauty that is dramatic and impressive	✓	

An interview with Mr. Lau

Photo:

Reporters (from left to right):

4A Leung Shing Ming, Lester

4B Li Ho Yan, Thomas

4A Pavican Prakrit

Mr. Lau Chit Hang

4C Lam Yun Sang, Sunny

4A Tam Cheung Yan, Shojin



Q1

Which university did you graduate from?

I graduated from Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Q2

Why did you choose to be a teacher?

It was because I was influenced by my secondary school teacher who was passionate about teaching and I would like to share my knowledge with students as well as cultivate their social consciousness.

Q3

What did you study in university?

I studied Chinese History in University. But Liberal Studies gave me a chance to have more exposure on different kinds of social issues as well as to help develop students' critical thinking skills through in-depth discussions.

Q4

What was your first impression of FLSS students?

They are active in learning and willing to share opinions with classmates. But I think they have to put more efforts on writing long essays as well as to be more alert to social issues. I hope the students can keep their passion and strengthen their competitiveness in learning.

Q5

Is it difficult to teach Liberal Studies and Chinese History?

Yes, because teaching pedagogy of Liberal Study is different from traditional subjects, like Chinese History. It's not a content-based subject. It requires critical and independent thinking. However, I believe that both teaching and learning can be challenging. Teachers and students can collaborate and have more discussions in contemporary social issues.

An inspiring interview with Mr. Law

By: 5A Garry Tsui, 5A Billy Wu, 5A Jeff Cheung
5B Vincent Wong, 5E Tiffany Lee



Q1: What made you come to our school?

Umm, actually in around June and August, I was looking for a new job because I was not really satisfied with my previous school. I wasn't happy with its learning atmosphere. So I was eager to leave and find a better job. During that period of time, my professor from HKU whatsapped me and told me that there was a job vacancy from this school. At first, I wasn't really feeling good to come here because it's in Fanling and I live in Kowloon. However, after I looked up our school's website, I found out that our school's mission was to help students have holistic development, and I was extremely impressed by this because some schools especially the ones in Kowloon focus too much on academic excellence which is not enough for a student's growth. So the whole person development provided by this school was the main reason why I decided to come. Another important reason was the good impression I gained from my job interview, you know, during interviews, it's not just about the interviewers choosing the right interviewees, it's also about the interviewees' impression towards the interviewers. I found the interviewers (Nicole, Lester and the others) were really friendly, so knowing that I'd have nice colleagues really boosted my confidence in opting for this job.

Q2: What is your first impression on our school and students?

The first day I came here, I was with Lester and he showed me around the school. Along the way, I noticed that the students here were very respectful. When they saw Lester, they greeted him and smiled. I think that we shouldn't take students' friendliness for granted because not all students are respectful to their teachers and some might even be very indifferent to their teachers. I really felt that this school is very warm and filled with love. Our school is also filled with greenery and I really like being close to nature. So the abundance of greenery created great first impression towards our school.

Q3: What is your expectation for the students in FLSS?

To be honest, as a teacher, I think I shouldn't expect too much from my students. Therefore, my expectations are simple. As long as my students pay attention in class and finish the work I assign to them, I'm already more than satisfied. I don't expect my students to get 5** in their DSE exams like some teachers do, all I hope is that they can learn stuff from me and be happy in my lessons.

Q4: Can you share something about your university life since many students out there aren't familiar with it?

So, yeah I've been in university for five years and the most exciting thing about it is the freedom. It's totally different from secondary school, you had to follow a fixed schedule every day. Yet in university, there are only two or three lessons a week, for example you could go to school on Monday and Friday, then relax and do your own things for the rest of the week. So I want to tell secondary students that even though school's tough and you're probably suffering right now, your hard work will pay off, and a laid-back and relaxing university life is waiting for you ahead.

Q5 : What's your goal in life?

My goal in life is very simple, it's just to enjoy what I do and do what I enjoy which is teaching. I enjoy teaching English because I think it's a really fascinating subject. A lot of people are learning English nowadays but most of them don't know the secrets of English, so I want to share my knowledge with them so that they can truly feel the beauty of English, for example, in form 5 classes, I'm teaching the SCHWA sound, the intonations, the stress etc.

Q6: So, here's a question regarding your roots, what motivated you to become a teacher?

Umm, one of the reasons is like what I mentioned previously...I find English a really interesting subject. Another reason I guess is when I was in secondary school, I went to tutorial centers and I think I learnt a lot in them, for example sentence structures, vocabulary umm...I don't know, I just want to share what I learned to others, especially my students. As for mentors, I can't think of any at the moment, so let's end it here.

Q7: What difficulties do you face when teaching? And how do you tackle them?

I think the main difficulty of teaching is umm...there's too much on my plate, too much to do because...you have to juggle teaching, preparation of lessons on one side. We also need to manage the marking, and it's a really stressful job because...I really want to prepare each lesson well cause umm...when you go to work every morning you just try to think whether you want to be a student in your own class, that's why I spend quite a lot of time on lesson preparation. But on the other hand, I have like around a hundred students to teach, so I also need to manage the markings umm...I still find it difficult but...I think I can just work on my time management and try to do things more efficiently. I also ask my colleagues for help to see if they have any interesting teaching ideas for inspiration. Apart from that, I also do a multitude of exercise like yoga, tennis etc...I also play the piano since these are all great ways for me to relieve stress.

Q8: What do you do in your spare time?

Like what I have mentioned, I do a lot of different activities. Since I'm quite a greedy person, I like to try out new things, like I play tennis, I play the piano. I also do yoga with my friends during weekends because stretching is great when you stay in your office all day long. It can relax your body and let you escape from the hustle and bustle of work. I've also tried kayaking recently and some other water sports cause I'm sort of a nature kind of person so I enjoy going out during weekends, also because I don't like being confined in the office for so long. At home, I like reading books because I think reading can take me into a different world, especially novels. I like reading how experienced writers write because they always use beautiful words that I can learn and it's quite amazing to see how they describe things, it's like everything just happens right in front of you so I enjoy reading a lot.



Special thanks to Lincoln Lui Sheung Fan for helping us take photos, we couldn't have done it without you!





An Interview with **Mr. Leung**

English Society reporters :

4A Therese Choi

4A Yoyo Yeung

4B Trany Chan

4A Nina Fong

Q : Did you learn anything studying overseas?



Life is full of challenges and it is never a smooth ride. I was shocked when I saw the results I got from the public examination. They were unexpectedly poor. Worse still, I didn't even score an A for Visual Arts, a subject I had fallen in love with since childhood.

With the help of my family and friends, I was admitted to a university overseas to study of Fine Arts. I felt extremely blessed.

There, I discovered that grades do not, and should not define a person. Education in the west focuses on personality growth and maturity besides academic results.

This was an important lesson for me and it formed a major part of my teaching motto after returning to my hometown and become a teacher myself.

Q : What impression has FLSS given you so far?



I'm now in the eighth year of my teaching career. FLSS is a big family with devoting teachers and lovely students. I couldn't expect more.

Q : Would you like to say a few words to the students?



In the days to come, I sincerely hope that I will be able to speak to, and more importantly grow with, each and every one of you in this family of FLSS.