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Message from the principal

In addition to academic pursuit, developing students’ talents on various aspects like languages, art, physical education is always our objective. Apart from that, in order to widen students’ horizons locally and globally, international exchange programmes and study trips are organised to equip them with opportunities to have different encounters and learn the cultures accordingly.

Hon Wah In Blossom, a record of our students’ colourful campus life, provides a good opportunity for them not only to express their views on different issues and reflect on experiences, but to sharpen their writing skills as well. Hope you enjoy reading it. Your valuable feedback will help our students make greater progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the English teachers and students for their contribution in making this publication a success.

Kiwan Wong Bum
I am an astronomy enthusiast. When I was a kid I liked to look up to the sky in the night and feel the magic of the stars shining above. Later on when I grew up, I started using a telescope to do stargazing. Many people think that stargazing is fun because they think that the stars will be very beautiful and spectacular as they seem in some books or news. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as they think.

First, the telescope is very heavy. Imagine you have to take it to the country park where there are many mosquitoes surrounding you. And then you have to spend about half an hour to adapt to darkness, in order to see the stars. You set the telescope and look through it. If it is a cloudy night, you can just tidy up all your stuff and go back home. Hong Kong’s light pollution is very serious and it is often cloudy. However, if you have enough patience you will try to go stargazing all the time.

The universe fascinates me. The gravity of neutron stars is very strong. For example, a human standing on it can weigh 1 000 000 tons. I also like studying scientific theories such as worm-holes, M theory, gravitational singularity etc. When I talk about the universe with friends, I always gain happiness and hope to reach further. Astronomy is a subject that has the most unsolved mysteries. We do not know what happened before the Big Bang. We also do not know if the universe can curl up and where we will be in that case. We even do not know if there is “another me” standing there and sharing ideas with you.

Now I am the Publication Director of Hong Kong Joint School Astronomy. I am responsible for writing articles and publishing. I have also been on the staff of Middle-school student Astronomical Training Program. But now I am a Secondary 5 student who has lots of homework to complete and many tutorials to attend. I am up to my neck in work.

Sometimes I want to give up. However, a friend told me, “God trusts you, so He chooses you.” Yes, so I need to carry on. I love astronomy and no matter how hard life is I have to persist, because it is worthwhile. I sacrifice more entertainment time to balance study and review. I think I can gain more than I give out, and the profit may not be material gain only.
Practice Makes Perfect
S3C Chow Pik Wan, Ronnie

I entered my first drawing class when I was young. Undoubtedly, my family supports me to keep on going. To be honest, I am mad about drawing. My ideas are roused by moods. I feel relaxed when I am drawing.

Shapes and colours can hold my attention and concentration, and captivate my interest.

I always get nervous before a competition. I am glad I have the opportunity to enter competitions. I enjoy the stimulation of drawing. Training seems to be the real competition. During the training, there are many factors to think of, for example, improving my drawing techniques, and time control. Luckily, a noticeable improvement is achieved in the training.

I finally achieved success. I scored the highest mark in the competition. I firmly believe in practice. If it had not been for my training, I could not have succeeded.

Not only do I derive great satisfaction from drawing, but I also feel relaxed. Through drawing, I can find meaning in life because I express myself very well. Without it, I would have no confidence.

An Archer’s Story
S2A Ho Ka Wing, Rain

Every time I learn something new, I soon lose interest. But archery has changed me.

One day in my primary school, our teacher brought me and my classmates to learn archery. The trainer told us to approach him if anyone had interest in joining the archery group. Suddenly, the trainer invited me to have a try. It was my first time to take up the bow and arrow. I felt very scared. I encouraged myself to do the best and luckily I shot into the blue circle. I felt very excited and started to have interest in it.

During the training, I paid attention, concentrated hard, took the practice seriously and worked hard. I improved gradually and became more interested in it.

My teacher encouraged me to join a competition although I am only a secondary 2 student. I got the second prize in that competition. I was really proud of myself. But I still face many challenges, for example, my biceps are not strong enough to carry my bow.

At last, I thank my teachers who teach and encourage me during the training and helped me to win the prize.
I started my secondary schooling in Hon Wah College last year and have joined various extracurricular activities in school. I am quite happy to participate in so many activities at school because I have met a lot of friends from different backgrounds. I also developed interpersonal skills.

Initially I wanted to join art classes as my extracurricular activity, but was unable to participate. Instead, I joined the marching band and it has become one of my favorite activities at school. In the beginning, I was not good at playing music and did not have many friends in the band. Despite my early struggles, my music teacher, Miss Wong, encouraged me to make new friends and practise hard. Last December the band practised very hard for competitions. I play the French horn and it is difficult to play, especially when blowing air into it. After the competition, my hard work made me feel accomplished as a band member and team player. I love Thursdays because I get to have a good time with my teammates.

I wish to continue being in the marching band next year and hope more students can join this school activity.
Last week, all Secondary One students went to the Whampao Military Academy to have some training. On Thursday, I woke up early and went to school at 7:30 a.m. At about 12 p.m. we arrived at the camp. At the camp, we had strict rules to follow: we were not allowed to talk any time we liked or run wild. We would be punished if we did not obey the rules.

The most unforgettable day was the first day. When we got to the camp, the soldier told us not to talk in the camp. However, we did not listen to him. Therefore, we were punished standing for twenty minutes. While we were standing, we had to remain silent and stand still. After that day, my legs became sore.

After the camp, I do not want to go to military camp again because it was really harsh. However, I have learned one thing – team work. It is very important in our lives. If we do not cooperate with others, we cannot finish a task. I hope I can be a good team player when I grow up.

My classmates and I went to the Whampao Military Academy. It was a very unforgettable experience for me. We went there on Thursday and came back on Sunday.

We learned a lot of useful things at the camp. For example, we learnt how to make our beds, wash our clothes etc. We also played games. My favourite activity was the war game. I got shot two times. We also got on a tank and went through an obstacle course.

The soldier who was taking care of us was the nicest in the camp. He allowed us to rest when we were tired. But one day, someone sat on his perfectly made blanket; he was not happy and punished us.

After the camp, I felt exhausted and I hope I will never go there again.
This week my classmates and I went to Whampao military camp for three days. I was excited before going. I arrived at school at about 7 am. Then, I had a little chat with my friends. After half an hour, we all went on a bus. However, I found that I forgot to buy snacks! At that time, I was disappointed because I had not eaten breakfast in the morning. I was hungry all the way to China. Finally, we arrived at the military camp. We had lunch immediately after we arrived. Although the food there was cold and fair, it tasted better than the food from the school canteen. Then, we put our luggage in our bedrooms. Our bedroom was big. There were more than ten beds. After that, we were trained like soldiers. We learnt the commands such as ‘attention’, ‘rest’, ‘salute’ and some martial arts. We were exhausted.

On the second day, we woke up at about 6:20 am. Then, we had a tasty breakfast. After that, we practised marching and martial arts. We were tired. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., we had a nap, which was refreshing. Finally, my dad came to the camp on the last day to see my performance. After the performance, he praised my performance. I was happy because I learnt a lot of skills in this camp. I was tired too because I did many exercises.
I was thrilled to interview tourists because I’ve never done anything quite like this before.

We had a few weeks’ time to prepare for the interviews. My groupmates and I thought of many ideas for our new business and for the interview. It didn’t take us long to prepare the interview questions because Mr. Siu gave us many ideas during our English class. We decided that it would be appropriate if we opened a souvenir shop because there would be many tourists in Stanley. We also drew a picture of our shop, so that it would be more convenient when asking tourists for their opinions about the interior design.

Arriving at Stanley made us a bit anxious about the interview, because we were afraid that we could not do well in our interviews. We started panicking whilst interviewing the tourists. Still, we conquered our fear and successfully interviewed a great number of tourists. We were really proud that we made it. Most of the interviewees gave really useful information and opinions for our shop which were included in our presentation later on.

Preparing for our presentation was a bit tough at first because a lot of classmates didn’t want to participate in the preparation work. As a result, a few of us worked harder than others, but we did eventually get the work done. We all stayed up a bit late for the presentation, but it was worth it. We got a satisfying mark for our project and we’re really pleased about that.

The part I enjoyed the most was interviewing the tourists, because it was not only an interview, but we also chatted with them, which was very delightful. The part I enjoyed least was making the PowerPoint. Since my computer isn’t compatible with windows and Microsoft software, I couldn’t make the PowerPoint myself. Instead, I had to type it in a note form and send it to my group mates and let them make it into a PowerPoint. It took me around two hours to finish typing it, which was a bit stressful, but it was worthwhile.

To conclude, I’m really thankful that our school provided us this learning opportunity. I’ve learnt that team work is really crucial. If we don’t have good team work, we won’t be able to cooperate during the interviews and presentation. I’ve also learnt that working hard really pays off; we worked really hard for our project, and we got a great result.
Before doing the Stanley Project, I had no idea how to start a business in Stanley. After a long discussion with my groupmates, opening a dessert shop seemed to be possible and fun. Starting from this point, we needed to think about the location and how to ask questions from tourists to sharpen our ideas.

We found the tourists nice and easy to talk to. They gave us a lot of valuable ideas for our dessert shop. To me, this was the most enjoyable part in the whole project. I was also impressed by our team spirit because we were all involved in the interview. Although the division of labour was a bit unfair, I still think that the whole experience was rewarding.

We needed to give a presentation after gathering ideas from the tourists. It was time-consuming to prepare the PowerPoint slides. However, I have learnt that we feel more confident if we have good preparation before the presentation.

Since October, my team members Ivan, Brian, Jack and I have been working on an English project, called ‘Start a business in Stanley’. We planned to open a British restaurant in Stanley Plaza, which is a shopping mall many tourists love visiting.

We learnt to design some interview questions before we spent a day in Stanley. I not only felt nervous, but also a bit apprehensive, since it was the first time I was going to interview someone in English.

We came across lots of difficulties during the interview. For example, not many tourists wanted to be interviewed; perhaps they were busy. Also, sometimes I couldn’t get what they said because they spoke too fast. The biggest problem was that we were not confident enough to carry out the interviews. Luckily, we were encouraged by some tourists. Finally, the interviews were successful. After the interviews, we did the PowerPoint presentation together. However, my team members did not work collaboratively all the time because sometimes they were not serious and naughty. It took a long time to finish the PowerPoint slides.

All in all, I felt very content and satisfied after the Project because I enjoy learning new things, especially those that we cannot experience inside the classroom. I also appreciate the assistance and encouragement of my English teacher, and the effort of my groupmates.
Study Tour to Canada
(13th July – 27th July)

Students from S1 – S4 had a 15-day journey to Vancouver, Canada, to meet people of different cultures and backgrounds.

Before departure, the students attended a workshop aimed at enhancing their communication skills and language ability for communicating with Canadians. They were motivated students who also googled places of interest and emailed their host families before they left Hong Kong.

From meeting hospitable and kind Canadians, staying with local people in homestays, enjoying authentic and aromatic western food, experiencing both dynamic and tranquil parks and beaches to going to must-visit attractions like museums, a rainforest, the night market, and parliament, students were able to immerse themselves in Canadian culture to the fullest. They also spent a few days attending language lessons at a local high school and paid a visit to world-class universities - The University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, which further helped them with their English learning and setting long-term matriculation goals.

The students also learnt to be reflective learners. Not only did they write diary entries recounting and reflecting on their experiences, they also prepared speeches and video clips sharing their memories and experiences with their fellow schoolmates. The study tour was definitely a fabulous experience for all of them!

Although the Vancouver English Learning and Cultural Exchange Study Tour lasted for 14 days only, it helped improve my English and I can know more things outside Hong Kong, such as another country’s history.

In Vancouver, my favorite place is the Gas Town, because there are many shops and there is a steam clock. Every fifteen minutes, the steam clock will strike. I remember we went to a big shopping mall called Metro Town. It has more than 400 shops, but there is nothing I need. In the school, our English teacher was Asian. This is my first time to see an Asian teacher in Canada. Although I thought I did not buy many things, my suitcase was already full.

After going to Vancouver, I think I have learnt more English, and bought some gifts, such as some food, a cup and a tea set. I think the trip is worth the value. In Canada, there are so many nice places, such as the Suspension Bridge, Gas Town and Metro Town. So, when I grow up, I may think of living in Canada because it is one of the top countries in the world although the morning is a little bit cold.
I am glad I had the opportunity to go on a study tour to Vancouver. Although it was a bit cold in the morning, I enjoyed staying there a lot.

My fellow schoolmates and I stayed with local people in homestays. I was very excited to meet a friendly host family. My host mum, Hermie, prepared delicious food for me and shared a lot about the local culture. We became friends after the trip!

In the daytime, we had some language lessons at Bodwell High School, a local high school. Each lesson took longer than that at Hon Wah, but I didn’t feel bored because sometimes we spent part of the lessons having fun activities like playing football and Frisbees! I also enjoyed the debating and drama activities which raised my confidence greatly.

Apart from studying, we visited some famous attractions like Victoria and Whistler. I particularly loved the Butchart Gardens, which is in Victoria on Vancouver Island and is a national historic site. It is an attractive place for flower lovers and there are over a million visitors each year. It shows different kinds of flowers from countries like Japan and Italy. It was a lovely place to visit.

During this 15-day trip in Vancouver, I learnt about the differences between Vancouver and Hong Kong. The first difference that comes to my mind is that Vancouver is a really environmentally-friendly place. There is no air-conditioning on Vancouver school buses – I felt extremely hot, but I guess the local students are used to it. Also, I am impressed with the household recycling system there. The local people have developed an awareness of minimising waste. They even have a few bins at home for all sorts of recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

After joining this study tour, I improved my spoken English a lot and also gained more confidence in talking to strangers.

Finally, I am very thankful to my mum and teachers for giving me the chance to pay a visit to this wonderful place. I highly recommend you all to join a study tour.
Unique Places even for locals

There are unique places in Hong Kong that excite even the locals. They bring about not only a unique travel experience, but also an insight into local people’s lives. Let’s go on a local tour guided by our students.

S4B Wu Yue Ling, Flora

There is a very interesting area in Hong Kong, the Fo Tan industrial area. It is a hybrid industrial town, which allows the coexistence of factories and artists’ studios. Let me tell you about the history of the Fo Tan industrial area. In the 1960s, you could find this area packed with factories. Due to the decline of the manufacturing industry and the relocation of many local factories to Mainland China, there were a lot of empty warehouses left.

In 2001, a group of fine art students decided to set up a studio in the area as a starting point for their careers in art because of the low rental of these warehouses. Since then, many local artists have set up studios there. It has become one of the very important cultural spots in Hong Kong. For art-lovers, you will be fascinated by the creativity of local artists. You may visit art galleries and exhibitions there. After visiting the studios, you may take a rest in one of the many coffee shops in the area. These coffee shops have become meeting places for artists and youngsters. Make sure you take your camera with you. The industrial buildings and factories are one of a kind in Hong Kong.

S4B Tong Pui Kwan, Amy

I highly recommend all of you to go on an adventure in The Chungking Mansions, which is an infamous melting pot of underground activities. There are rumors about illicit activities such as prostitution, drug trading and black market phone smuggling there.

The Chungking Mansions is so mysterious that even the locals will feel excited about paying a visit there. Well, if you are brave enough, I would dare you to stay one night at one of the backpacker hostels in the Mansions which is actually a large hotel and apartment complex along Nathan Road with nearly 2,000 guest-rooms accommodating nearly 4,000 people every night. It is one of the busiest areas in the city.

For those who don’t like to stay there, you may still take a walk in the Mansions. You may get fascinated by the crowds you see. You may meet Chinese couriers, African merchants, and backpackers of all nationalities. People of different races mix and mingle there. You may also shop for cheap South Asian food and have a meal in one of the many specialist curry restaurants there.
Revitalization of old buildings benefits our community

S3A Wong Pun Hei, Hazen

Hong Kong is a metropolis with rich history. People in different periods had their unique stories in this tiny place. Old buildings built at those periods carried the memories of people who spent their time there. However, to make way for the development of the city, many of the buildings were demolished and those precious memories vanished as a result. To preserve the history of Hong Kong, some old buildings were renovated and put to a different use.

The first building I am going to introduce is YHA Mei Ho House. It is not only a hostel but also a museum displaying the history of Hong Kong’s Public Housing. In 1953, the fire in Shek Kip Mei caused nearly 58,000 people homeless. In order to provide long term housing to the large number of fire victims, the government built the resettlement blocks including Mei Ho House on the site of the fire.

The building also displays the residents’ living environments in 1954. In Mei Ho House, doors of all flats faced the long open corridors. The residents had to share kitchens and toilets. Cooking and line drying clothes in the corridor were common sights. Though the living conditions were poor, people had more opportunities to interact with each other, thus strengthening the bonds between neighbours. The close ties between neighbours were still cherished by people of old generations.

The second place I want to talk about is Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, which is a conversion from the former Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate. JCCAC is a multi-disciplinary arts village and arts centre. It provides space for creative work, to help nurture young talents and to promote arts and culture in general. It provides studio facilities for the arts community and a relaxing environment for the public to experience arts and culture. Visitors are welcome to stroll around freely during opening hours to discover for themselves the creative spirit of the place.

The last place I am going to talk about is the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences. It was established in 1996 showcasing the historical development of medical sciences in Hong Kong. The museum is a place for the community to know more about health and diseases, including current developments and future challenge of medical sciences in Hong Kong. The museum was originally the firstpurpose-built medical laboratory in Hong Kong. Over the years, the institute played an important role in the development of Hong Kong’s medical service. Besides its contribution to Hong Kong, the building’s design is a typical example of the blend of Chinese and Western Culture. Although it was mainly built in western design, the use of Chinese roof tiles showed its deference to the local culture.

A glimpse of the lives and traditions of local people

S3A Kwan Ho Yan, Kannis

Hong Kong is a cosmopolitan famous for its high-rise buildings and grand shopping malls but the daily lives and traditions of ordinary citizens are also attractive.

The first place to introduce is Chun Yeung Market. Hong Kong’s multitude of wet markets are windows into a vivid and timeless world of food shopping that refuses to be replaced by modern supermarkets. Among all the wet markets in the city, none offers as grand an entrance as the Chun Yeung Market. Take an eastbound tram heading towards the North Point tram terminus and, without warning, you’ll swing off the broad King’s Road onto a narrow street which is lined on either side with buzzy stalls selling fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and seafood. Experience the sights and sounds of old-school market business in full swing.

Next I will talk about the Canal Road Flyover. It is an important road in between the areas of Causeway Bay and Wan Chai. Canal Road Flyover was built in the 1970s for the Cross-Harbour Tunnel. It is also called Ngo Keng Kiu by the locals. The place is special for its villain hitting practice carried out by the old ladies under the flyover. Do you know what villain hitting is? It is a practice in which personal enemies are cursed by beating pieces of paper representing them. This is a way for people to vent out their anger at the person they hate. Whether the villain is going to have bad luck or not is uncertain but the scene of hitting the villain and the language they use for cursing are surely novel and interesting to foreigners and even locals. This practice is especially popular during Jingzhe (typically in March).
Places of historical and cultural value in the urban area

S3A Chan Pui Ming, Candice

Although Hong Kong is a modern international city with the dazzling night view and grand shopping malls, behind the façade of glitz and glamour, the city’s past and tradition are also fascinating.

Firstly, let us put the spotlight on the Tin Hau Temple in Causeway Bay. Surrounded by high-rise buildings and bustling business areas, Tin Hau Temple is unusual in the sense that this traditional temple is in stark contrast to the modern buildings nearby. Rarely in the world is such kind of temple located at the city centre. This Tin Hau Temple was originally built in 18th century by a Hakka family after they saw the statue of the goddess of the sea near the shore. They put up a shelter for the statue and a proper temple was erected at the same site in the 19th century.

Inside the temple, there are items of interest: granite altars and wooden stands which are typical in the 19th century temples and useful for studying the artwork of those days. In fact, there are only a few similar items left in Hong Kong. Apart from its historical value, Tin Hau Temple is also a place to get the blessing from Tin Hau if there are some wishes you want to fulfil or you pray for the safety of your friends or relatives on sea journey.

Another unusual place in the urban area is Pottinger Street in Central, Hong Kong Island. It is listed as a Grade I historical building. This street connects Hollywood Road and Connaught Road Central at the foot of the hill. Since the street is quite steep, it was paved with concave stones blanket so as to make it convenient for pedestrians to walk up and down, especially during the rainy days when the road is slippery. Since it is covered with stones, local people call it ‘Stone Street’. The street was named after the first Governor of Hong Kong, Pottinger. If you are interested in Hong Kong drama, this street is certainly one of the most familiar places for you. Many well-known Hong Kong movies, such as Infernal Affairs and October Siege, were shot there. The street is also a good viewing spots of photography. The surrounding old buildings and the street make a perfect scene of Hong Kong’s past.

Taking a 45-minute ferry ride from Central, we come to Cheung Chau, one of the popular outlying islands in Hong Kong. Our destination, Cheung Po Tsai Cave, is located there. Cheung Po Tsai was a local pirate. He hid his treasure in Cheung Chau. During the 19th century, piracy was rampant in Guangdong coastal areas. Cheung Po Tsai was one of the most famous pirates at that time. He had a fleet of 50,000 people and 600 ships. He amassed a fortune in piracy. To keep his wealth safe, he stored some of his wealth, including gold and jewellery, in an elusive seaside cave in Cheung Chau. Of course, there is no more treasure inside these days. The cave is dark and slippery with winding passages, so a torch is required for lighting if you want to explore the cave. It is fun to imagine the scene of pirates hiding inside. In the evening, you can even enjoy the beautiful sunset on the horizon looking from the cave.

S3A Lou Chun Yui, Myron

Today, I would like to show you the so-called Sai Ying Pun Haunted House. The building is now called the Sai Ying Pun Community Complex, which looks like the archetypal haunted house: eerie yellow lights shining on giant stone arches, casting long shadows on dark, empty verandahs. This is a place with a lot of spooky tales to tell and a long history.

The House was built in 1892 as quarters for European nurses. Later, the complex became a place where heads were rolled and the demented screamed to their deaths. According to urban myth, the building was seized by the Japanese troops in World War II and they used it as an execution hall. It was converted into a mental asylum after the war, abandoned in 1961 and has been badly scarred by two fires. Over the years, there have been repeated sightings of devilish figures in traditional Chinese costume bursting into flames on the second floor of this haunted place. Headless ghosts have also reportedly been seen running down the corridors in the middle of the night. Sometimes, groups of fearless young people come to the house out of curiosity and excitement but they often run out of the house with many nightmarish experiences.
Voluntary Work Teaches
S4A Lai Cheuk Lam

These days, many students only focus on their studies and forget to care about our society. I think people should do more voluntary work, which may help us to learn more things that will be useful for us and society in the future.

I have joined YMCA to visit the homeless people in Sham Shui Po with my schoolmates. We went there to deliver the lunchboxes that were donated by a restaurant, clothes that keep them warm and some biscuits for them to eat.

I witnessed the place where those homeless people sleep and how they live, and also learned the good and bad things they have faced. You may ask why they don’t sleep in the basketball and football court. It is because the government has ordered that the football and the basketball courts have to be locked at night, including the toilets inside which are supposed to be used by the public freely. No one care about them except some non-government organizations and some kind people. Most of the homeless are: the unemployed, the old people who don’t want to be the burden of their family and the Vietnamese who were not accepted by their government after the war.

There are many people who are really in need and there are a lot that we can’t help. Hope that the government and more people will do volunteer work to take care of those homeless people and support them. This volunteering experience has helped me a lot, like making more new friends and knowing more about our society.

In the Easter holiday, I went to Kunming to cycle for raising fund. Although this trip was difficult and hard for me, I finally finished it. I’ve made many new friends and I enjoyed this trip very much. We also helped the local people to build the water cellar for storing water. While we were visiting the local people, I’ve seen many beautiful views and the houses of them. If such a trip is going to be held again next year, I am certain to join it.

Voluntary Work Teaches
S4B Tam Wing Ching, Joanna

Have you ever got a chance to visit the homeless? If yes, it will be an unforgettable experience to do such a meaningful voluntary work.

I had such an experience once. Visiting those who have no home, sleeping outside using cardboard boxes, I could absolutely feel their loneliness. We gave away lunch boxes and chatted with them. I looked at their eyes, realising that I’m actually a blessed girl. I am glad that these people get the attention from society. There are more and more volunteers caring about them.

I believe that they would be joyful if someone chats with them and listens to them. While they were enjoying eating the food we gave them, we listened attentively to their sharing. Some of them were open-minded enough to share their life experiences with us and felt pleased to be given lunch boxes. But some of them pushed us away. They thought that we were just pitying them. But in fact, we were not. We helped not because they were pathetic. We acted because we were trying to let them feel our care.

I think that life is amazing! Besides enjoying happiness, we also need to deal with the obstacles which we face.
Good morning, Fellow students. I am Michelle Ng, a form five student who joined our school outdoor trip visiting Fujian in March this year. I am very pleased to join you today and share with you guys my experiences about this trip.

Our school organized us a five-day trip from March 23 to March 27 visiting Fujian. It aims at enriching our individual learning experiences which forms part of the DSE assessment. About 120 Secondary 5 students of our school participated in this trip. Three teachers including Miss Li, Mr. Yim and Miss Wong joined our class. During the five-day trip, we visited many famous cities including Zhongzhou, Xiamen and Gulangyu in Fujian. Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight some of the scenic spots that impressed me most.

On the first day, we arrived at Xiamen and visited The Central Volcano Park of Zhongzhou, which was officially opened in 2003. This was the first time I visited geopark of such kind in China. This geopark showcases the important geological themes of igneous rocks and sedimentary rocks that are formed naturally after volcano eruption. It really enriches my first-hand encounter of the wealth of global natural resources. I was very delighted to see these unique geographical features of rock formation and witnessed the significant scope of geo-heritage. There are a lot of plantations in the Park. Some lovers choose to plant a tree there to serve as testimony of their love accompanying them to experience joy and sorrow, ups and downs in their life. The trees grow to be a plantation and they witness the development of the Park.

On the second day, we visited Fujian Dadi Earth Building Group, which was built in the Ching Dynasty. Spanning an area of 9,300 square metres, The Dadi Tulou Cluster is comprised of 12 different units. I was impressed by the exquisite wooden sculptures found at the Tulou which is a masterpiece of oriental culture. In each unit, there are 12 different decorated wooden sculptures on the doors of entrances, on the windows, window lattices, beam frame and door arch. These exquisite wooden sculptures are carved with characters of dragon, phoenix, peach for longevity and male lion. They are of very high artistic value.

Eryi Lou is the biggest round house unit in the Cluster and I saw exquisite relieve with grass and dragon at Eryi Lou. The Museum of Fujian Dadi Earth Building is a comprehensive showcase of the history and specific features of these Tulou. Some Chinese tribes have lived in these round houses generations after generations. It is interesting to learn more about the oriental culture during our visit. Some farmers are selling their handmade traditional rice cakes at the TuLou. They use a wooden hammer to hit and soften the layers of the rice cake.

During the trip, I also visited Xiamen, which is a famous tourist city in Fujian province. We visited The Gangqin Bowuguan (Piano Museum), which is located on Xiamen’s sister island Gulangyu. The museum houses approximately 200 pianos, collected from all corners of the globe by piano enthusiasts and Gulangyu native residents, Hu Youyl. It also showcases some of the British, French, German, Austrian, American and Australian-made pianos which were made a century ago.

Our school arranged us to visit a secondary school at Xiamen where we met other secondary students who are of our age. I made acquaintance with a 17-year-old boy who studies at that school. He told me that all his fellow students work hard for the college entrance examinations.

Although the trip only lasted for a few days, I found the trip very educational. It has broadened my horizons and enriched my understanding of oriental culture. I like Xiamen and am attracted by its seascape, natural scenery, fresh air and a clean environment.

Next year, you will also participate in similar outdoor trip organized by our school to China or other places. I would suggest that you should study the itinerary in advance so that you will have a thorough understanding of the places you are going to visit. Bring a good camera and a video camera with you. You need to grasp the limited time to take some good shots and write some brief notes on the visiting places. The teachers will give both English and Chinese assignments so as to refresh your memory on the visits. Remember to communicate well with your teammates and share the workload evenly for doing group projects.

With good preparation and enthusiasm, I am sure you will fully enjoy your outdoor trip next year when you get promoted to Secondary 5. Thank you very much.
We have been to Fujian in March and it is an honour to have such a valuable opportunity to share my experience with you. There are many different ways that we can acquire knowledge. Joining a study trip is one of the best ways to learn.

We spent five days in Fujian. We were given this opportunity to take a glimpse of the local culture and visit some historic buildings. Throughout the five days, we have been to Tu Lou, which is the symbol of the defensive tower in the past. Also, we visited Chi Mei Secondary School. We were invited to join some lessons with the local students. The school is extremely big. There are big gardens and ponds in the school. It is like the universities in Hong Kong. Most of us were amazed by the environment there.

It was definitely a rewarding experience for us. We could spend more time with our classmates and deepen the bonding with each other. It also offered an opportunity to learn to be more independent. More importantly, we were given a chance to know about the learning environment in mainland China. Students in China are very determined and hardworking. They work very hard in order to get good results. We got to know that we have to be more industrious and serious about our learning so as to increase our competitiveness.

Next year, you will participate in a study trip like this. Remember to bring some jackets or jumpers to keep yourself warm. The weather could be unstable. Notebook is certainly required so that you can jot notes. You will need to bring a camera to capture every lovely moment in the trip. Get enough sleep. Then you will feel refreshed throughout the trip.
Hi, everyone. I am Lucas from 5A. I would like to talk about my haunting experience of visiting and studying in Japan.

From the 15th to 21st of February, I spent nine days with some teachers and students who have joined the Jenesy 2.0 in Japan. During the trip, we went to three different cities, including the modern Tokyo, the graceful Nagasaki and the appealing Osaka.

In the first few days of the trip, we did a myriad of sightseeing and visits in Tokyo. For instance, we went to the Tokyo University of Art and listened to a talk by a professor. After listening to the talk, some college students also chatted with us and took us around the school campus. Besides, we also spent a day in the Tokyo National Museum, which is the country’s largest museum that specializes in traditional Japanese art. By spending a few days in these places, we got a valuable opportunity to experience the cutting-edge high technologies and products “made in Japan”, as well as the chance to deepen our understanding of Japan’s strengths, cultures, attractions, and values through communicating with local experts and students.

After the intriguing time spent in Tokyo, we then moved to Nagasaki, which has one of the world’s best nightscape and the home to distinguished resorts where one can make the most of the rich natural scenery and subtropical beaches. There were numerous attractions in Nagasaki, and out of those attractions, I loved the Kujuku-Shima most. Not only are there beautiful brick houses and canals, but also a world-class sea view, which is just amazing! 208 tiny islands are clustered together in this National Park. The sparkling ocean also contains treasure such as pearls and oysters. Riding on the boat and visiting the unique aquarium Umikirara, we got a closer look at the amazing sea creatures populating the waters around the island.

Surrounded by stunning ocean and mountain scenery, Nagasaki Prefecture has always been blessed with natural beauty. In addition to this, Asian and European influences have intermingled with local cuisine to create the unique WaKaRan (Japanese-Chinese-Western) gourmet culture. There are a lot of tasty fusion goodies, such as Sasebo Burger, Castella and Champon.

At the end of the trip, we studied in a local high school and lived with the host family for two days in Osaka. It was a memorable memory as I met a lot of new friends there. They all had different characteristics, for instance, some are generous, some are playful, and some are outgoing. Moreover, the teachers there are also grossly erudite. Not only did they teach us some principles and attitude to cope with our life, they also taught us how to cook and do calligraphy. I was just shocked by realizing how knowledgeable those teachers were! It was a great fun to study with the Japan students. I was really reluctant to say goodbye by the time we left the school. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the time I spent with my homestay family members. The opportunity to stay with a Japanese host family is the perfect way to immerse myself in the culture, and practice at “home” what I learned at school that day. In those two days, we cooked together; chatted with each other and they even took me to visit the famous attractions of Nagasaki.

This trip brought me so much ever-lasting memories, and under no circumstance will I forget any of them. After this trip, I have learnt to be more independent; I met some foreign new friends and most importantly, this trip has broadened my horizons. The trip to Japan is the best trip I have ever had.
The outbreak of Ebola has surely drawn the attention of humans. According to World Health Organization, almost five thousand people have been reported death among the total number of around fourteen thousand victims. With these astonishing fatalities in such a short period, Ebola is recognised as the most threatening and the deadliest virus in the current decades.

What makes Ebola deadly is its ability to disable the immune system in our body. It blocks the messengers in the blood to notify the immune system, so the immune system remains unaware of the virus in our body. The virus then can attack our body with no obstacles. No alert, no defense. No defense, death for sure.

Fortunately, the spread of Ebola is not that easy. Only through contact with body fluids or wounds will one contract Ebola. So there are certain ways to block the spread of Ebola. People should avoid traveling to those heavily infected countries. The reason is that once you step into those countries, you will have a chance to be infected unconsciously. Those who have recently been to high-risk countries should be segregated at home or hospital to prevent them from infecting the communities. Everyone is vulnerable in front of Ebola until vaccines are produced. Alertness cannot be lost. Otherwise, a large-scale catastrophic event could arise.

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**Abuse of domestic helpers**

S6C Wong Yui San, Nicholas

In Hong Kong, there are many domestic helpers working for Hong Kong families and most of their work is to take care of children. Though they have long working hours, some people still treat them like slaves and they do overtime work for little money.

This kind of unfair treatment might cause serious problems to their families. Domestic helpers could treat the elderly or children badly while their employers leave the house for work. Some of the domestic helpers even use violence to express their anger.

To solve this problem, we need to make people understand that domestic helpers are workers, not slaves. By setting up laws, we could control people’s unreasonable behavior to domestic helpers and stop unfair treatment. I suggest Hong Kong people or families try to have more conversations with their domestic helpers to maintain good relationships with them.

**An Ebola Apocalypse?**

S5A Wong Kai Yin, Kyle

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If I study abroad, I will stay with a host family because I can know more about their life. I can also learn more things about the country. For example, if I study in the UK, I think my host family will take me to go to some famous places there. Also, I can chat with some nice people in the neighborhood and that will certainly improve my language skills.

If I study abroad, I will stay in a dormitory.

When I live in the dormitory, I can meet more friends and talk with them. We are of the same age, so we have more interesting topics to talk about such as fashion, idols, food and clothes. The life is freer than living with a host family. We can study together to improve our marks. If your roommate's academic performance is better than yours, you can study with her and regard her as your role model and that will make you study better too.

Besides, you can do your favourite thing if you stay in a dormitory. Nobody will stop you doing anything. You will be happier. In my opinion, happiness is more important, so I choose to stay in a dormitory.

Today, I would like to talk about how failure leads to success. When I was in Form 4, I always got low marks in my English tests. No one could help me improve my results. I was very upset. But I did not want to give up. I re-read every single piece of my exam paper again and hoped that I could find out what mistakes I have made. I found that one of my commonly made mistakes was spelling. After that, I spent half an hour spelling English words every day. In the end, in my latest English test, I got good results. I was very happy and I know that if you want to succeed, you should not be afraid of failure. Instead, you should do something to overcome it.

I have read a newspaper article written by Dr Judy Tsui about failure. She said that we should think ‘failure’ is good. Both Confucius and Socrates believed that we should not be afraid to fail. It can let us cultivate our creativity and new ideas.

I think family and friends can help everyone to achieve success more easily. Parents are in a better position to influence students. They can explain to them that failure is not bad because it can help you to reflect on yourself and learn to do better next time. Friends are as close to us as our parents when we learn and work together to achieve success.

Failure is not a bad and scary thing. We should learn how to live and cope with it and do better than before. Failure is not the end but the beginning to success.
I have read an article titled TV show Nowhere Girls is nasty name-calling dressed up as entertainment and have gained great insights. So I would like to say a few words about how such reality shows affect teenagers.

Those damaging and thoroughly disgusting TV shows are not only making us use the standards of our misplaced values to stigmatise people, but also leading to another phenomenon – more and more puppy loves. This is no longer just about gender discrimination. It has led to a big social problem already. The uncultured values are affecting our next generation and causing some terrible misunderstandings. Thus, some girls think that women should be beautiful and glamorous, meanwhile judging their happiness by whether their marriage is successful and considering the “leftover women” as the losers in life. Hence, a mass of teenagers, especially girls, want to find their lovers as soon as possible. In consequence, a lot of tragedies happen. So many young people suffer losses, coming to grief, being deeply hurt by their misplaced emotions. So such monstrous TV show can even destroy a generation, distorting a part of human nature.

Actually, the “leftover women” are also winners though in other ways. Getting married is not the only way that human beings can gain happiness.

All kinds of people need respect and everyone has self-esteem. How stupid do we have to be when we think makeovers, working with fitness trainers and (life coaches) (? are the answer to leading “better lives”?

Hi Peggy, Maggie and Kitty,

How are you? I’d love to invite all of you to do some voluntary work at the weekend. Here come some details of the volunteering activity.

The voluntary work is about visiting the elderly. It is held by Sham Shui Po Charity this weekend in Sham Shui Po. It aims to help the elderly who are unable to cook and live alone. We will prepare some lunchboxes and help them do housework. If you want to know more about this activity, you can go to the official website of this organisation: www.shamshuipo-charity.com.

I find this activity too good to miss. Volunteering brings a lot of benefits. First of all, we can meet people from all walks of life. Therefore, it is a golden opportunity for us to improve our communication skills and broaden our horizons. Moreover, we can gain work experience from it. It can enhance our resume. We can build our self-esteem and confidence as well. Furthermore, we need to be more patient when visiting the elderly. They do things slowly and they can’t hear clearly. We probably have to repeat what we say for a few times. Another benefit I can think of is when cooking lunch for them, we can learn how to prepare yummy food. Nowadays, cooking seems not easy for many teenagers – we are no exceptions!

All in all, we gain many benefits from doing voluntary work (and I can still think of many more)! I hope you can join it.

I’m looking forward to your reply.

Best,
Kiana Wong
Monitoring children online – benefits and drawbacks

Koo Ka Kam, Karen

Have you read the news that a teenage boy beat his parents because he was monitored by his parents on Facebook? A recent survey indicated that 80% of the parents interviewed had monitored their kids online. It is debatable whether parents should do this. In the following, some arguments for and against this behaviour will be revealed.

There are numerous advantages of monitoring children on the Internet. The first good point is that parents can know more about them. When teenagers enter puberty, they are emotionally confused. However, it is important for parents to observe their children. It is undeniable that the teens spend a great deal of time on social networks such as Facebook. Their parents, therefore, rely on the online channel to understand more about the youth. Apart from understanding more about youngsters, parents can also protect teenagers online. Nowadays, online crimes are very popular and teenagers may fall victim to these crimes if they are not supervised. If parents do not monitor them, teens may face danger and meet bad guys on the information highway. Thus, hardly can we deny that there is a need to check on the social networking accounts of young people from time to time.

Although there are merits of monitoring children online, there are some shortcomings which should be considered.

The first shortcoming is that the supervision will lead to worsening parent-child relationships. Teens may feel depressed, frustrated and heartbroken to know that parents observe them without letting them know. They will feel that their parents do not respect them. As a result, they may have arguments with parents, which inevitably destroy family relationships.

Additionally, parents may hinder the development of interpersonal relationships of teenagers. If young people find it uncomfortable to chat on social networking websites, they will prefer not to do so. In this way, they may not be able to make any friends via this channel. Consequently, they cannot enlarge their social circle through communicating with other people online.

To conclude, monitoring children online has provided a platform for parents to understand and protect their kids in the virtual world. Nevertheless, it may destroy parent-child relationships and hinder the social development of teenagers. In my opinion, parents should make it clear to themselves and their children why they want to monitor their children online before doing so.

“Smartphone” is a Popular Culture

Yu Ming Yang

Smartphones have become an essential part of a modern culture. Last week, I met up with some of my old friends from primary school. We had not seen each other for a long time. But while we were talking, most of us were busy with our smartphones. They were so interested in playing games with their mobile phones. They only stopped occasionally to show others their highest scores.

Let’s take a look around our lives. When we get on a bus or take an MTR train, everyone has a smartphone in their hands. They always put their heads down and never stop playing. Hong Kong teenagers become modern technology junkies. That’s the “smartphone culture”.

Although we know that smartphones are useful, we cannot use them in better ways. Why? Now, many surveys conducted by different organisations show that most Hong Kong teenagers send text messages on smartphones because that is faster than having a face-to-face interaction. It can also help them avoid the nervousness when talking with other people. Besides, those online games attract teenagers everywhere. That can explain why the mobile phone usage among Hong Kong teenagers is so high.

However, every coin has two sides. We can use smartphone in better ways like watching educational videos and getting the latest news. That can improve the quality of teenagers’ lives and help them to know more about the development of technology.

All in all, we must find a way to balance smartphone usage and personal addiction. That is self-discipline. Create rules for ourselves when we play with a smartphone. That’s a very important rule for everyone. We cannot resist the influence of modern technology. But we must respect our lifestyles.
One of my favourite places in the school is the playground. We have PE lessons there. There are a covered playground and an open-air playground. If it’s rainy or it’s too hot outside, we will have the PE lessons at the covered playground. There are also a basketball court, a tuck shop and a volleyball court in the playground. The playground is much bigger than that in my primary school. The boys play basketball all the time after lunch. About the tuck shop, the food is cheaper than what I had at my primary school. I don’t always go there though – there’re too many people queuing.

Another favourite place is my classroom. This is the place where my classmates and I have most of the lessons. I love to be with many classmates, but it is just too crowded. There’re 8 columns, and each row has 5 to 6 students. For those who sit at the back of the classroom, it would be quite far away from the board.

Although no primary classmates come to this school with me, I have met a new friend here called Gian. She is a nice person.

Henry’s profile

Henry is 12 years old. We are in the same class. We have known each other since primary school.

Henry is sociable because he has many good friends. He also likes making new friends. He is helpful too because he always helps me with my homework and helps other classmates.

Henry is sporty because he does many kinds of sports and he always plays basketball after lunch. But there is one negative thing about him. He is selfish because he doesn’t share snacks with others.

Hon Wah College is a wonderful school. There are three places that I like very much.

You should not miss a great place – the rooftop garden. There are lots of plants and flowers. If we are the member of the Gardening Group, we must go there every Tuesday. We can learn more about different kinds of flowers, plants and herbs.

The library is also a great place to visit. When we have to do a project, we should go to the library. There are a lot of books. We can search the information we need. Also, the library is on the first floor, so it’s easy to go there.

Science laboratory is for students to do experiments. It’s on the sixth floor. We can see some apparatus such as test tube, beaker and dropper, and learn how to use them. When we have double Science lessons, we can go to the laboratory to do experiments!
There is a price war between newcomers in Hong Kong’s taxi-hailing app market. It is said that it will give every passenger a HK $20 rebate. This rebate will have no limitation on travelling distance or time. The rebate can be collected through banks or directly at the centres in various spots.

This app may be good news to passengers in that the waiting time could be shortened by pairing up taxis and passengers through GPS.

Yet, I object to the idea of making this app common. It is because there are many taxis in Hong Kong which charge passengers the standard price. If there are too many rebate taxis with discounts, it may decrease the competitiveness of those drivers with no rebate offered and their income may be affected. I think this is unfair to the drivers who are not following the new trend.

I suggest that the government should regulate the market of the rebate apps through legislation. If the taxis with rebates drive the standard-charged taxis out of the market, the drivers of the standard-charged taxis will lose their jobs due to a decline in the number of passengers. Also, the service may become worse. With less charged for each passenger, some taxi drivers may not be willing to offer the same quality of service as before. This may then tarnish the image of taxis or transport of Hong Kong in tourists’ perception. Therefore, the government should act quickly to regulate the taxi industry.

On one hand, it is said using emoji helps an effective communication. On the other hand, some said the writing abilities are affected. Let’s talk about the growing importance of emoji in our life.

A lot of people are using emoji now because emoji can help others understand our feelings more easily. The yellow faces express many different kinds of feelings, for example, happy, sad, terror, angry etc. So that’s why people are using more and more emoji now.

Most people think emoji are much easier and quicker to use. We only need to choose them on the screen. The emoji are pictures and there is no need to type words. Also, people can combine words and emoji together so as to better communicate their messages. It seems that emoji have become part of the language.

Some people claim that if you always use emoji, you will become less skilful in expressing yourselves in words. But I think the use of emoji can help people communicate better although it may affect one’s writing abilities.

Today, I’m going to share some tips on a healthy lifestyle. It’s important to have a regular lifestyle, a balanced diet and stable emotions.

First, I suggest that we should do some exercise. We should do it at least 2 to 3 times a week and for around 30 minutes each time. We can do some sport that we are interested in, such as soccer, badminton, baseball and so on. Doing regular exercise can help you have a strong body and stay in a good mood.

Second, you ought to drink 8 glasses of water a day. If our body lacks water, we will feel very uncomfortable. But we shouldn’t drink too much because we may feel ill, so just drink what you need. Also, the adults must not drink too much alcohol because it may hurt their liver.

Finally, if we have any emotional problems, such as feeling anxious and depressed, we should try to talk with our friends, parents and teachers. In a serious case, we may have to see a psychiatrist.

I hope these tips are helpful to all of you!
What is the best role for a role model? Let us re-consider what the most important qualities a role model should have and how that role model can change your life completely. To begin with, the definition of role model in Wikipedia is: a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people. Here comes the question: why do people want to imitate them? They must have done something great so they are worth our respect. Or they may have some achievements, for example, winning the Nobel Prize in Literature or helping to build new schools in developing countries. From my perspective, a role model should have a lot of virtues such as being passionate, warm-hearted, and intelligent. They should have the unique abilities to inspire people as well as to overcome obstacles.

As we know, a role model usually plays many roles. Take Bill Gates as an example. He’s not only the richest person in the world, but also the co-founder of Microsoft. He has also set up a charity foundation called “Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation” to provide scholarship for poor students. Another example is Lee Ka Shing, the richest person in Hong Kong. He has now become a successful entrepreneur. To make better use of his wealth, he made contributions to society by donating billions of dollars to charitable organizations and universities. One of his biggest donations was his donation to the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong. These two examples show that billionaire, entrepreneur and philanthropist are just three of many possible roles that a role model can be. So, that is the question: what is the best role for a role model?

My experience in this year’s summer course gives me the answer. Even though the course was over a few months ago, I will never forget all the precious memories I got from the course because those memories give me a lot of inspirations. In August, I went to Beijing to join a summer course which was organized by the Harvard Association for US-China Relations. We stayed in a high school for 8 days and took lessons which were conducted by students from Harvard University. I chose a lesson named ‘Reflecting on your past and shaping your future’. It sounds interesting, doesn’t it? Every one of us wrote down for ourselves both the self-promoting narrative and self-degrading narrative. We shared them among the classmates. Jim Chan, one of the lecturers, was the first to come out to share his narratives with us. He told us he was the president of student council, but he never felt connected to his fellow students. Also, despite being a rising star at Harvard, he couldn’t help out in his family restaurant any more. That struck a chord in my heart because of my similar experience in the student council. Due to the heavy workload from studies and the student council, I had little time to spend with my friends and family. Not only did I feel sorry for them, I also felt regret because I would have had more wonderful and pleasant moments with them if I had put my friends and family in higher priorities in my personal life.

Referring back to the summer course, after sharing his personal experiences, he went on to encourage all students in that lesson to share their stories. I thought they would have nothing bad to say because of their backgrounds and outstanding achievements. But the truth was that everyone just looked better from the outside. Some of them had abandoned their families in pursuit of better learning opportunities in another city. They felt lonely sometimes as I did. Some of them had no genuine friends to talk with in spite of having remarkable academic achievements. Learning from their sharing, I began to accept myself. As a result, I have become more optimistic than before. I always feel happy in my daily life. Whenever challenges arise, I have more strength to cope with them. Even though Jim isn’t as rich as Bill Gates or anyone famous, at least he is able to inspire me through his personal experiences. His valuable experiences enable me to take a new perspective in my life. In my opinion, among many possible roles for a role model, the best role is the role to stimulate others to reflect on their lives.

In conclusion, every one of you sitting here wants to find a role model for yourself. The truth is that everyone has different role model and different thought. We can’t set a role model for all but at least we can find a role model who inspires us.
Have you ever heard about Mr Chan Shui Lam and Mr Tong Bun Chan? In a morning assembly, Ms Lee, our school executive director, shared the deeds of our Philippines alumni, Chan Shui Lam and Tong Bun Chan with us.

The Alumni Association of Hon Wah College (Philippines branch) has been set up for twenty eight years. Mr. Chan is the newly elected chairperson and Mr. Tong the secretary general of the Association.

Ms Lee introduced that Mr. Chan made a big decision when he first went to the Philippines to start his business. Although he owns a very big business in the Philippines, he spends much time serving the alumni there. Perseverance and a strong spirit of devotion are the special qualities that we can find in him. Carrying on ‘Hon Wah Spirit’ is always his belief. His gratitude towards Hon Wah always pushes him to work for the alumni and he believes that his team is competent in doing so. We have learnt a lot from him. Having a clear belief is a light that shows our way to future achievement. No one knows what will happen in the next moment. Catch hold of opportunities. Work hard. The ‘never-give-up’ spirit is always on our alumni’s mind, which pushes them to go ahead. As students in the 21st century, we have to take Mr. Chan as an example. Perseverance is the key to success.

Mr Tong Bun Chan is another great man who is worth our praise. He has been the secretary general of the Association for more than twenty years. What he has done will win your heart. His dedication and hard work have made tremendous contribution to the growth of the Association. On one hand, he needs to handle his own company, and on the other, he has to squeeze time to maintain contact with the alumni in different parts of the Philippines. He has helped the chairpersons to run the Association effectively and smoothly for years. If we were in his position, we might not be as selfless as him. Most of us would be indolent in performing our duties.

What touches us most is his motivation to work and mostly beyond his duty. For Mr. Tong, it is more than 20 years.

We are impressed that the members of the Alumni Association, regardless of their age or where they are, are trying their very best to work for the benefits of the school and the Association. Though they have no blood tie, they are dear to each other like families. Their good friendship inspires us to reflect from life. Now we face keen competitions. We are competing on performance, academic results, sports and so on. Maybe our relations are not so good or we don’t treasure our friendship while we are studying under the same roof. However, after we graduate and start working, we will find that the kind of friendship we built in school is our strong support. If we can, why not spare more time cultivate good communication with our friends now. The mutual support and assistance will accompany us to establish a better future.
In these few days, an increase in the minimum wage is a hot topic; however, I don’t agree that we should increase the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) again. I think it is better for the market to decide how much a person should earn and the minimum wage is already enough.

First of all, increasing the statutory minimum wage again will only lead us into a deeper hole. A few years ago, the Hong Kong government passed a bill to set up the SMW, which created a serious problem for small-scale and medium-scale companies, and had a great impact on our service industry. It was obvious that after setting up the law, the employers had to increase the workers’ wage to meet the minimum wage. This caused the increase in the cost of production and therefore, products became more expensive. This brought forth the vicious circle: the wages of the workers increased, which led to an increase in the cost of production and process of delivery and finally, living standard will lower. Then people will demand an increase in minimum wage, to meet up with the rising prices in the market. What a never ending loop!

Secondly, increasing the Statutory Minimum Wage will decrease productiveness of the workers. If there is a statutory minimum wage in place and the minimum wage is increasing each year, people will become less productive. Take the British auto industry in the late 20th century as an example. Since there was a SMW in place and it was increasing each year, the workers at the car factory began to protest and demand a higher wage, which hindered the production and caused many plants to shut down due to the lack of labour. Furthermore, because of the continuous protest for higher minimum wages, the companies decided to abandon the British market and move their production plants elsewhere. For example, Mini Cooper, a British icon in the car industry, and Rolls Royce were sold to the Germans. This resulted in the breakdown of the British auto industry which caused serious unemployment. Therefore, I think that the government should not increase the SMW because it may make the foreign companies stop investing in Hong Kong.

Thirdly, the increase in the Statutory Minimum Wage will weaken people’s will to work harder. If the minimum wage is supposed to increase every few years, some of the workers such as those who wash dishes in the eateries may think why they need to do such kind of hard work if the security guards are also getting the same increase in the pay as they do. This will cause an imbalance in Hong Kong’s labour market, in one sector there is an excess of workers while in the other sector employers can’t find anyone to fill up the posts.

All in all, I don’t agree that the government should increase the Statutory Minimum Wage.

Recently, there has been concern about a new proposal to raise the Statutory Minimum Wage in Hong Kong. The aim of the Minimum Wage is to ensure everybody receives a fair rate of pay. The labour in Hong Kong cannot maintain their daily lives with an acute wages. The government should raise the minimum wage as soon as possible.

Nowadays, minimum wages are not enough for the grassroots. Owing to the rocketing inflation rate, the price level keeps going up. The quality of life has been declining in the past decades. Minimum wage is a legal way to help the grassroots who are suffering. If the grassroot get the salary they deserve, it will narrow the gap between the rich and poor. Furthermore, the productivity will increase, which is mutually beneficial to the employees and employers. Building up a strong relationship can strengthen their team spirit with better aspiration.

Some people may complain that it is a big burden for many employers. Eventually, the labour may lose their jobs and worsen the circumstances. Therefore, employers should oppose the Minimum Wage proposal. The government can offer subsidy to employers when they have financial burden. Subsidy can be used in various ways to lower the production cost and increase the wages.

Letting labourers share the economic result is also an aim of the Minimum Wage. The government should not only help the rich, but also focus on the lower class. The proposal ought to be exercised for the sake of society. The increase of Statutory Minimum Wage can bring harmony and equality to our society.
If I were Andrea Sachs, I would choose to lead a balanced life. I think a balanced life is more important than my career. I won’t feel happy if I only have a high salary and a successful career because I don’t have any time to enjoy my life. My career will occupy all my time. At the end of the movie, Andrea Sachs broke up with her boyfriend because of her job. Her career seriously affected her life. She had to serve her boss whenever her boss phoned her. She was so occupied by her job that she couldn’t celebrate her boyfriend’s birthday with him. He was angry about that and their relation turned sour. Later, she re-prioritized her life. She put her boyfriend above her job. In the end, she quit her job.

Undoubtedly, the shop exerts a positive impact on society. To begin with, it improves the relationships among neighbours as most people like to gather and chat there. Secondly, it promotes green lifestyle as it encourages people to donate and buy the old/second-hand stuff for the sake of environmental conservation. Furthermore, not only does it alleviate the severity of material waste, but it also reminds citizens to cherish what they possess.

However, it is undeniable that without capital support and profits, this kind of shop is hard to survive in the competitive market. The soaring property rent and inflation may kill them out very soon. They can only rely on charity donations and persuade the landlords to support their action by not charging them any rent. You can derive joy from giving others a helping hand and bringing happiness to them by only giving something you no longer need to them. It is a form of happiness that you can’t get from buying extravagant items. As the saying goes, “kill two birds with one stone”. Not only can you gain happiness, you can also help others.

Lesson learned from the film ‘The Devil Wears Prada’
S3A Cheng Hong Ting, Aaron

If I were Andrea Sachs, I would choose to lead a balanced life. I think a balanced life is more important than my career. I won’t feel happy if I only have a high salary and a successful career because I don’t have any time to enjoy my life. My career will occupy all my time. At the end of the movie, Andrea Sachs broke up with her boyfriend because of her job. Her career seriously affected her life. She had to serve her boss whenever her boss phoned her. She was so occupied by her job that she couldn’t celebrate her boyfriend’s birthday with him. He was angry about that and their relation turned sour. Later, she re-prioritized her life. She put her boyfriend above her job. In the end, she quit her job.

The movie teaches us a valuable lesson. The message is clear that you will lose a lot of important things in your life if you work too hard. Some sacrifice their health while others sacrifice their family and friends. Many successful people deeply regret this because money cannot buy happiness and joyful moments with family and friends. Learning from the examples of Andrea and other successful people, I would choose leading a balanced life with my family and health as my top priorities.
A musical always brings me the impression of being superior. It can be the symbol of a culture. Different musicals, such as Les Misérables, Cats and West Side Story are performed in the theatres in London and New York. When I was a Secondary 1 student, I joined a study tour to the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, I didn’t have a chance to watch any musicals or operas there. But now, there are many opportunities for me to watch some of them in Hong Kong.

Last Saturday, I watched a famous musical performance called ‘Mamma Mia’ at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. The story talks about a girl called Sophie who is the daughter of Donna. She wants her father to walk her down the aisle during the wedding ceremony but she does not know who her father is. Do you know why? This is because one day she discovers her mother’s old diary and finds entries which describe intimate dates with three men: Sam, Harry and Bill. Sophie believes one of these men is her father and she sends each an invitation to her wedding, writing in the name of her mother. Then many unbelievable things happen before the ceremony.

In my opinion, it is a story full of love, youth and adventures. I can improve my vocabulary and broaden my scope of knowledge. But apart from that, there is something more meaningful. In the story, although Sophie cannot find out who her dad is in the end, she realizes that it is more important to chase her dream of having a round-the-world tour with her boyfriend Sky than getting married to him. This inspires me to find out what my dream is and then pursue it. A dream can motivate us to achieve our goal. For example, if you want to become a doctor, you have to know the basic requirements of studying medicine in universities. So you will plan what you should do to realize your dream. Then you will work hard to prepare yourself well. And finally, your dream will come true.
School Life

Sports star’s sharing

Alumni’s sharing

Award for Excellent Class Teacher & Subject Teacher
Meet the Parents

Volunteering
Gardening
Our gym

English Wednesday - Forum
If I were able to introduce a new facility to my school, what would it be? It would be fantastic to have an outdoor laboratory. When we are doing experiments, we usually do them inside the school labs. Since the school labs are not big enough for us to do some large-scale experiments, such as water rockets or experiments that involve explosions, so, an outdoor lab is needed.

Just like a green house, plants can absorb sunlight to process photosynthesis. The lab could also install solar panels in order to collect solar power.

If we can have lessons outdoors or if we can be away from the ordinary labs, it might increase our interest in science subjects.

If I were able to introduce a new facility to my school, I would like to have a pantry in our classroom. Students could bring their own snacks for recess, meals for lunch and then put them into the refrigerators. There would also be a microwave in the pantry so they wouldn’t have to worry about their meals for lunch.

The pantry is also a place for students to rest during recess. Girls would like to chat and share secrets together. There would be also a first-aid-kit in the pantry. If students get hurt, teachers can take the students to the pantry and let him / her take a rest.

I think the pantry would benefit students and create a relaxing learning environment.
Do you know what we can learn from Home Economics?

Home Economics is a field of formal study including such topics as consumer education, home furnishing, cleaning, handicrafts, sewing, clothing and textiles, cooking, nutrition, food preservation, hygiene, child development, managing money, and family relationships. This subject teaches students how to run a family properly.

It is a practical subject about our daily lives. Firstly, we can share the burden of the household chores. Parents are busy with their work and they feel tired after working for long hours. Therefore, we can share their burden to a certain extent. They can put more focus on their work instead of worrying about us.

We can also widen our social circles and improve our friendships because of this common topic about home economics. We can cook with our parents and this can be a wonderful family activity.

Also, our confidence is enhanced when we successfully bake a cake or make a dress. It is warm and sweet when they receive the hand-made cake made by us. Being more health-conscious than our parents, we can cook more healthy food at home if we know how to cook. This helps to improve the health of all family members. Besides, it is said that money is the root of all evils. If we can learn how to manage money, that is good for our future. We are cultivated to be a trustworthy person accordingly.

Moreover, Home Economics can train us to be more independent. Nowadays parents usually employ domestic helpers to do the housework and take care of their children. Because of this, children lose the chances to learn to do housework such as washing dishes, cooking meals, etc. According to a recent survey conducted by the Education Department, in recent years, many secondary schools in Hong Kong have incorporated Home Economics into the curriculum again. With reference to the data, the number of junior high schools offering Home Economics classes in 2009 school year decreased from 340 to 325 but it rose to 341 in 2011 school year. In order to keep up with the times, Home Economics in some schools have been renamed Technology and Life. This shows that Home Economics is getting more and more important. Why should our school lag behind the others? We think Home economics should be added to the curriculum.

To go further, the future university life requires students to be independent and students need to manage themselves well. Cooking, simple sewing and ironing, all of which are indispensable, is not to mention the need to organize the future family. It is a must for us to study Home Economics.

Moreover, Home Economics can help students release stress from academic work, provide more opportunities for socializing and maximize learning efficiency. Hong Kong students have a tight curriculum, but it doesn’t mean that no time can be squeezed out for relaxation. Piles of books and lots of extra classes stress us out. Home Economics lets us take some time off to do things differently. Instead of just studying in the classroom and absorbing knowledge in a regular direction, the new subject allows us to capitalize on what we have learnt from classes and everyday lives. Our regular classes solely focus on knowledge acquisition while Home Economics is a practical subject. The way we learn alternately can prompt us to fully utilize our mind, maximize the efficiency of learning, and meanwhile diversify our scope of learning.

Somebody may argue that we can learn Home Economics from mums and maids. Surely, they can manage our families well but they may not be able to apply scientific knowledge on daily matters. For example, how to cook food in a healthier way? They may not have any knowledge for that. Teachers are surely able to show us the correct way and perhaps, we can share it with our mums and maids. Thus, it will raise their awareness of healthy diet as well. Besides, the proper use of electrical appliances and fire prevention are important for our safety. Please be noted that exposure to the electric shock and home fire are possibly fatal. To conclude, Home Economics is an indispensable subject for students. It not only strengthens the capability of self-management but also prevents disasters created by the misuse of electrical appliances. It also makes us all-rounded in the future.
If I became a famous singer, I would …….

S5C  Li Sik Yu

Being able to perform on the stage has always been my dream since I was 10 years old. Therefore, when I was in the teenage years, I wanted to be a star and hoped to get more performing experience on the stage. When someone told me about a contest called “Hong Kong’s got talent”, I felt very excited. My family gave me support too, so I entered the contest.

Since I won the contest, things have changed a lot. Before I became famous, I had never used any beauty products at all. Now, I have to use a lot of beauty products in order to show my most beautiful appearance to the audience. I used to play football anytime I want. But now I need to spend all my time rehearsing for my concerts. I rarely have time to spend with my friends and family. I think I have lost a lot of free time.

There are many things that I want to do. First, I want to travel to different countries. The first reason is that it would be fun to learn about different kinds of music from all over the world. The more varieties of music I would learn about, the more inspirations I would have to write songs. The second reason is that I hope to spend more time with my family too. It would be wonderful if I could travel with them all over the world.

As for my career, I would like to have my own concert to share my music with many music lovers. I am sure this would be the dream of many singers. To improve both my singing skills and dancing skills, I would like to further my studies in the Academy of Performing Arts. Besides developing my own career, I hope that I can help some new potential singers too with my knowledge about music. Throughout my career, I have got so much help from many senior singers. Without their help, I wouldn’t have been so successful today. Therefore, I would like to share my knowledge and experience with new singers.

Here are my tips to be a successful singer. Practice makes perfect. I practise both singing and posing on the stage every day. I practise how to answer questions properly in interviews too. Hard work is the real key to success. I hope you will be able to make your dream come true.

S5C  Choi Hei Wing, Roy

I have loved performing in front of people since I was five years old. I felt excited when I knew that “Hong Kong’s got talent” was going to hold an audition the next month. I joined it without hesitation. I am happy to have made that important decision. If I hadn’t made that decision, I would not have been a successful singer today.

Since I won the contest, a few big changes have happened in my life. Before I won the contest, I used to take the MTR when going out. Now I have to drive my own car because everyone recognizes me. I want to enjoy some privacy so I avoid using public transport. Also, I used to live in a flat on a public housing estate. Now, I live in a much more spacious, comfortable place with my family.

There is so much I want to do in the future. Firstly, I hope to release my first music album which would include a few music videos of mine. I want more people to know about me by listening to my music. Secondly, I think I will travel to Japan with my family because I spend little time with them due to my busy schedule. I hope to spend more time with them when my career starts to take off. Like all artists, I hope I will hold a concert of my own at the Hong Kong Coliseum next year.

The road to success is full of obstacles and challenges. However, as long as you are hardworking, you can go through all difficulties and succeed in the end. Because of this, I have gained respect and appreciation from others. Also, being willing to learn more, I hope to broaden my knowledge about music, learn to play different musical instruments and sharpen my singing techniques. I believe that, last but not least, a good network is beneficial for career development.
Welcome to my store!
S2C  Leung Wai Kei, Gigi

Do you want to shop in a special shopping center? Gigi Shopping Center, my store, is the most well-known shopping centre located in Causeway Bay. It opens from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Shoppers can reach there by bus and train. This shopping mall has lots of facilities like a modern ice-skating rink.

There is a wide selection of eateries and restaurants. For example, there are many bakeries, buffet restaurants and fast food stores. If you visit these shops, you can enjoy international cuisines.

There are also many promotional events in this shopping center. For instance, some boutiques offer great discount and even ‘buy one get one free’. Also, there are many performances. In festive seasons, these performances can make customers feel delighted, relaxed and thrilled.

Gigi Shopping Centre is suitable for people of all ages. Come and visit now!

Thank you for your advice, Mr Lee
S3C  Chan Kin Ting, Peggy

Dear Peggy,

You mentioned you have strict parents. This is a very common problem among secondary students. I think you should try to communicate with your parents. If I were you, I would ask my parents politely and tell them the activities are organised by school. Also, I know your parents never let you go out with friends. You should explain to your parents that you and your friends discuss homework.

In your letter, you also mentioned you are overweight. I suggest you should do more exercise such as basketball, badminton, football. Moreover, you should eat more vegetables and have a balanced diet.

I understand you are not having enough exercise. I suggest you should play sports with your friends. Try to look for the sports you feel interested in.

Best wishes,
Mr. Lee
It was a very cold night. My family and I didn’t go anywhere because it was too cold. We all chose to stay at our warm home and watch a horror movie together. We love horror movies very much because we think that it’s so exciting.

Suddenly someone was knocking the door when we were watching the movie. We were all scared by the sound. Dad went to open the door and there was an old man standing outside our house. He said he was a street sleeper. He wanted to spend the night in our house. My dad thought that it was really cold outside, and the old man was shivering. So, we let him sleep in our house for a night.

It was a great Sunday because I could sleep till the afternoon. There was no need for me to go to school. But unfortunately, the annoying police siren woke me up. I just wanted to close the window and keep sleeping. In front of my house, two policemen were talking with my father. I ran out immediately and wanted to know what happened. The police said that the street sleeper who slept in our house for one night said that we refused to move out of his house. What’s going on? How inconceivable! Oh my god! I have lived in this house for 18 years! How come my house belongs to the one who has just stayed here for one night?!! I was very angry and let the police check the house to prove that this house is my house! That man was just a street sleeper! It was totally a ridiculous joke! After the police had checked our house, they believed that the house belongs to us. So they caught the street sleeper. After this incidence, I would never accommodate anyone whom we don’t know in my house anymore.

Standing amidst the centre of Mong Kok, groups of amateurs of various aspects are showcasing their own talent to the pedestrians. Their shows, to name but a few, singing, dancing, playing magic, are not only gaining admiration from audience, but also fighting against the badly-dubbed name of Hong Kong – cultural dessert. Sadly but truly, as the living environment is so cramped in Hong Kong, their performances may only be described as noise and nuisance.

In fact, Sai Yeung Choi Street is a public property. The restriction undermined the right of citizens, which shattered our city’s core value – freedom into pieces. The street performers are amateurs and they have to work in day time. Hours after dusk is the only duration they can perform. If the opening hours of the streets are restricted or shortened, it is nothing but an end to this practice. They have no way to share their innovation, which is quite a pity for the street performers and the visitors.

Nevertheless, it is understandable for the Mong Kok residents to tolerate the unbearable noise blending the hustle and bustle of the city with the seemingly-annoying nuisance of the performance. I strongly believe that there are measures that can reach a win-win situation for the two parties.

Developing the West Kowloon Cultural Distinct, known as WKCD, can solve the horns of dilemma. Distant from the city centre and residential area, less disturbance is created. Meanwhile, performers can be freer to perform with lesser concern of strict restriction and complaints. Nonetheless, it is not convenient for both performers and the audience to reach there. The government plays a crucial role to plan the transportation.

If the suggestion is feasible and put into practice, it will be great for the government to make WKCD a tourist attraction, which is beneficial to all parties. Hong Kong will no longer be deemed as cultural dessert; performers can also express the talent without worries; and citizens or visitors can enjoy diverse forms of performances.
Mr Leung is our new English teacher. He teaches English and History in junior forms. Today, I would like to ask Mr Leung some questions.

1. Who is your idol?
I like Charles Guo because he has made contributions to the world. He invented optic fibre. This invention lays the foundation for the development of information technology.

2. Apart from his scientific achievement, what other achievements of his did you appreciate?
He became the principal of Chinese University. He nurtured a lot of young scientists. Not only did he lead them to acquire knowledge but also influence them by his positive attitude towards life.

3. I know that you love watching movies. Can you tell me what your favourite movies are?
One of my favourite movies is Shaolin Soccer. It is very funny. Stephen Chau and other actors show their humourous side. Their hilarious performances make me laugh all the time. Despite its light-hearted side, the movie conveys one meaningful message: life without dream is meaningless. This motto still influences me today. My dream becomes my life goal. With a clear life goal, my life becomes meaningful.

4. What is your favourite food?
Wonton noodles is my favourite food because it is juicy and yummy. Also, milk tea is my favourite drink because of its aroma, texture and most importantly, its stimulating effect. A cup of milk tea keeps me energetic and awake so I can work more efficiently.

In the previous decade, a singer from nowhere became a rising star and is now one of the top ten female singers in the world. Guess who? It’s Katy Perry! I know you guys have a lot of questions to ask her. Don’t worry! We are going to bring them up right now.

Q: How do you feel when you get into the rank of top ten singers in the world?
A: I feel absolutely delighted as I always dream of being a singer since I was 6 years old.

Q: How many awards have you got throughout these years?
A: Quite a lot, such as Special Achievement Award, Favorite Pop Female Artist, Top Digital Songs Artist, Women of the Year…….

Q: How do you influence your fans?
A: I inspire the young children to pursue their own dream and promote positive thinking.

Q: What do you think of yourself?
A: I think I am an ambitious and innovative person. My dream is to give pleasure to children all over the world and I will give them support with my positive spirit.

Q: Would you like to talk about your family?
A: My parents were strict and authoritative. We are Christians.

Q: Have you ever participated in any fund-raising activities or helped any charity organization?
A: Yes, of course. I embarked on my California Dreams Tour in 2011 in support of ‘teenage dream’ and the tickets of the show were sold out in 124 arenas around the globe so as to raise fund for charities like AIDS Life, Red Cross, etc. I also made donations to Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Q: Are there any happy moments in your singing career?
A: They are the moments my fans supported me and encouraged me.

Q: What is your biggest regret in your life?
A: I really want to cry when I talk about this. I was in a harmonious relationship with my boyfriend in the past. However, when I started to have many tours all over the world, I was so busy that we didn’t have time for dinner together, dating and even chatting. Our relationship broke up when both of us had no time to meet.

Q: What is your future direction?
A: I hope I will bring joy to everybody and succeed in writing more wonderful songs.
Today I’m so lucky to invite Mr. Smith, a professor from Hong Kong University, to share with us some useful tips on how to do well in public speaking and job interviews. Being well-known in the field of public speaking, Mr. Smith has been the head judge in the Hong Kong Public Speaking Award for twenty years. His ideas on public speaking have inspired thousands of brilliant public speakers. His immense contribution to the field makes him one of the most authoritative figures in public speaking. Besides his achievements in public speaking, he is also a famous interview coach in Hong Kong. He has been the chief interview coach for a career centre for fifteen years. Many of his students have been highly commended by their employers for their excellent performances in job interviews. He is a regular speaker for the Career Forum organized by the Job Post as well. With his expertise in public speaking and interview coaching, I am sure we will get some useful ideas from Mr. Smith about how to improve our performances in public speaking and job interviews.

1. Hi, Mr. Smith. Would you tell us what is important in public speaking and job interviews?

In my opinion, the most important things in public speaking and interviews are body language and appearance. It will highly affect your performance and, of course, the result.

2. What is body language?

Most of us can tell what the person is going to talk about by their facial expressions. Body language is a method we use to express our feelings and attitude. It involves using visual cues rather than verbal language to convey messages. The eyes, gestures, and shrugs are typical examples of body language. Besides, body language serves the purpose of emphasizing certain words or statements.

3. I see. So how important is body language?

Body language makes communication more effective. On one hand, it is necessary to use body language to present your ideas. On the other hand, you also need to learn how to read the body language of the person you are talking to so as to see how they are responding to your ideas and opinions. For example, if you see somebody crossing their elbows, they may be disagreeing with you. In contrast, nodding represents agreement.

4. We should really put more effort on practicing our body language; otherwise, it may lead to misunderstanding. Apart from body language, why is appearance so important for our presentation?

Your appearance gives people their first impression on you. People tend to make a quick judgment when first meeting you. Your hair style, clothes style and accessories all matter. For example, messy hair plus dirty clothes will leave a bad impression of you on others. Visible tattoos may put off potential employers as tattoos suggest that you are frivolous or too playful about your career. Wearing too much jewellery or make-up can make the interviewers think that you are a vain, arrogant person who likes to show off. Therefore, please be careful about your appearance if you are going to have an interview or deliver a speech in public.

5. Thank you for your sharing. By the way, what should we do before and during an interview?

Carefully choose your clothes before an interview. First and foremost, you should wear the right attire to show that you are professional and will be a good representative of the company. It is safe to wear a suit. If you have problems getting the necessary outfit, borrow it from your families and friends. Secondly, some companies prefer their employees not to have dyed hair or eye-catching hairstyle. Usually, simple hair styles work well.

When you meet your interviewer, make sure you offer a greeting and introduce yourself, and if the interviewer extends their hand, make sure you shake it firmly. Your handshake needs to show that you are enthusiastic about being interviewed. Do not sit until you are offered a seat by the interviewers. Sit with your legs together and hands resting on your lap because that tells you are paying attention and not lounging about other things. Using hand gestures to emphasize your points and nodding when you agree with what the interviewer is saying can show that you are earnest and engaged in the conversation. The most important thing you should have during the whole conversation is your good attitude. Please remember to be polite and put on a smile the whole time because this means that you enjoy chatting with the interviewers.

6. These are really useful suggestions for job interviews. One last question, is it important to stay calm during interviews?

People feel nervous in interviews and this adversely affects their performance. It is therefore necessary to keep calm during interviews. There are many ways to do this. One way is to try tensing and then releasing the muscles bit by bit, starting from your feet upwards. You can also try some deep breathing exercises. Inhale for three seconds. Then exhale slowly for five seconds. Repeat this ten times and you will notice that you will feel relaxed. You should try you best not to look nervous in an interview, but neither should you look over-confident. It is because being over-confident sometimes mean you are arrogant and too ambitious.

Thank you, Mr. Smith, for spending the whole afternoon with us and giving lots of useful suggestions on how to perform well in interviews or speech delivery. I’m sure it will help everyone of us a lot.
It was early morning. Father woke up and found that his son was crying and the domestic helper was not at home.

F: Rachel, our helper is not at home. You should stay at home to take care of our children.
M: What? I can’t. I will be fired.
F: Same to me! Don’t you know we need money?
M: Of course, I know. But I can’t lose this job too.
F: Just take a day off! I earn money much more than you do! You’re their mother, so it’s your responsibility to take care of them.
M: It is unfair! You’re their father too. You also have the duty to look after them.
F: I don’t care! I’m leaving right away!
M: (crying)......
S: Mum, don’t cry. Let’s ask grandma to see if she can help.
M: Oh, thank you, Alice.
(Alice phoned her grandma at once.)
S: Grandma, we have some problems here. May you come here to help me look after Alex and Blake?
G: Oh! My sweetheart, I wanna help you. However, I have a medical appointment and I need to go to the hospital.
S: Alright, thank you, Grandma. Bye.
(Alice hang up.)

M: Alice and Blake! I’m sorry. But I think I’m gonna leave you guys alone.
S: It’s ok. I’ll take care of Blake. Don’t worry. Just go to work.
(Mum went to work.)

2 hours later
B: Alice, I’m starving. I wanna eat noodles. Please cook it for me
S: I’m busy! Blake, just do it by yourself!
(Alice didn’t want to cook for Blake. Therefore, Blake tried to cook it by himself. Blake accidentally poured the boiling water onto himself. He hurt himself.)
B: Ouch!
S: What happened?
B: So painful! Help me!
S: Oh! Wait here! Don’t move! Let me call Mrs Dabney.
(Alice immediately ran to find the neighbor, Mrs Dabney, for help.)
S: Mrs Dabney! Mrs Dabney! Are you there? My brother got hurt by the boiling water. I need your help now.
(They sent Blake to hospital and called their parents.)
M: I’m so sorry! It’s our responsibility to take good care of them.
**Version 2**

Father (Danny Ho)   (S5A) Ho Tsun Wai, Eric  
Mother (Erica Ng)   (S5C) Wu Tianjiao, Joy  
Sister (Nancy Ho)   (S5C) Chan Sum Yu, Samantha  
Brother (Nixon Ho)   (S5B) Wong Yat Cheung, Benson  
Social worker (Terry Cheung) (S5A) Tso Yim Man, Popi

**Script**

**DJ:** You’re now tuned to HK Radio. I’m Jacky. Today, we have a wonderful radio play. I hope you will enjoy it.

**Act 1**

**Narrator:** In the morning, Danny was reading newspaper at home and mother (Erica) was preparing breakfast.

**M:** Do you have time to go to Nancy’s parents-teacher meeting?
**F:** When is it?
**M:** Well……let me see…….. Ahhh ….on Saturday afternoon.
**F:** Oh! I have an important meeting with the manager that day
**M:** I’m also busy.
**F:** You’ve never taken part in the parent-teacher meeting before. I attend it all the time.
**M:** You go again. I will be fired if I’m absent from my work.
**F:** I cannot miss my meeting too.
**M:** Fine, whatever.

**Narrator:** Danny and Erica went to work and left their children at home.

**Act 2**

**Narrator:** At lunch time, Nixon was crying, and Nancy was worrying about that.

**B:** Nancy, I feel painful.
**S:** Don’t worry, I will call mum now.
**Narrator:** Both mother and father didn’t answer the phone.
**S:** Don’t worry. I will call Terry.
**Narrator:** After a few minutes, Terry arrived at Danny’s home to take care of Nixon and called the police about his parents leaving their children unattended at home. She then took him to the hospital.

**Act 3**

**Narrator:** In the hospital, the nurse asked Nancy if her parents were there because there were some documents for them to sign. Then, the social worker Terry called their parents.

**SW:** Hi, I am Terry, a social worker. I received a phone call from your daughter asking for help. I call you because your son is sick and he is in hospital now. I hope you can come here and I want to talk with you.
**F:** Ok, I am on my way now. I will be there soon.

**Narrator:** After around 10 minutes, father came to the hospital.

**Act 4**

**Narrator:** Father saw his son lying on a bed and spoke in a low voice to Terry. He moved near him to see what happened to him.

**SW:** A nurse came to see your son 5 minutes ago. She said he had no serious problem, but he needs to take a rest for a day and drink more water. You should say sorry to your son and take your responsibility.
**F:** Sorry my dear son, you’ve been in pain for a long time and I should take care of you. However, I am so busy at work that I have no time to look after your sister and you.
**B:** Don’t worry, dad, I can understand your situation and I feel better now. I can leave the hospital after taking a sleep for some time.

**Narrator:** After some time, Nixon’s mother and the police also arrived at the hospital. The police brought his father and mother to the police station and charged them for child negligence.
Everyone has the greatest strength when they are born. Only special people have special power. Do you know ME? My greatest strength is saving people. If someone hurts, I can use my power to save her and there is no need for her to take any medicine. I am also a teacher training people to control and exercise their super power (the greatest strength) in a super power school.

Nancy is my student. She possesses the power to enable her to travel to all places at her free will. She can control her strength easily and she is quite kind. So, I decide to teach her my strength. I think she can use my power and hers to save more people and help society. The first thing I taught her was that she firmly believed she could save people. That was a very difficult part to learn. But Nancy did not give up and tried her best to do this training. A year later, she could just hold the power for a while, but it was not enough to save a person or an animal. Then, whenever I met any students or teachers who got hurt, I would ask her to use the power to save them. If she failed, I would help her. This training could help her to take the initiative to save people.

Two years later, Nancy stood on the stage wearing her graduation gown and made her speech. She said, ‘I have learnt a lot of things in this school. I wish to thank the teacher who teaches me her strength to save people and help our society. Thank you so much, Miss Jessica!’ She ran down the stage and gave me a flower and said, ‘I will do my best to contribute to our society. You are my teacher forever!’ I cried as I knew I have made the right choice. She is the right person.
How cosplay changes my life
- the story of a cosplayer

S6A  Chang Matthew Hong Dian

To begin with, cosplay means the behavior of dressing up various colourful clothings so as to match the style of cartoons characters. For instance, I enjoy dressing as my favourite Manga character. After changing the image totally, the venue of cosplay festivals is the final destination for them.

From my point of view, after participating in cosplay festivals, not only did I enlarge my social circle, but also help me to explore the culture of Japan. I was a shy student who lacked confidence. I love making up myself like a celebrity and buying accessories in order to have a better appearance. One day, my friend Mary encouraged me to try to cosplay like my favourite comedy character. She said it would be an interesting memory for me. Undoubtedly, she was right, and I got addicted to it. Since I dressed up the first costume, I have started to pay attention to anything related to cosplay festival.

In cosplay festivals, I found that it is easier and more convenient for me to make friends. If there is a common interest among a group of people, there is no doubt that they will develop a strong relationship with each other. Take me as a typical example. Contrary to what I behaved in the past, now I always chat with my friends and hang out with them regularly. Moreover, I have more confidence and courage to interact with strangers. Thus, cosplay helps me to make improvement on my poor communication skills and low self-esteem. Now, I become an outgoing and sociable student.

You may say that it is dull and a waste of time to take part in the cosplay festival in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, I believe that it is a valuable opportunity for me to know more about the foreign culture. As I have to buy clothes from Japan, I can explore the Japanese culture. From the experience of purchasing on the Japanese website, I recognized the importance of respect. I have never felt such a strong sense of respect in society. As a result, it changed my personality as well. Having a better behavior will not only help me to make contribution to the community, but also enhance the moral standard.

On the other hand, as I mentioned before, there are some potential advantages when you become a cosplayer. In my opinion, cosplay is a worthwhile experience for teenagers because young people can extend their social circle and enhance their social status through the participation in cosplay festival. Furthermore, teens should cherish the opportunity to explore and learn the most useful spirit and behavior of a foreign culture. It is also considered a chance for you to broaden the horizons. But, there is one thing that we have to bear in mind: academic results should be the first priority and do not let cosplay take over your life. Having a balanced life is essential.
A Note to Grandma
‘You are the best!’
S2C Chiu Yu Hang, Henry

You are the best person in my life; in other words, you are the most important person to me. Therefore, I have decided to send you this note telling you why you are my favourite person. When I was a baby, you took care of me all the time. When I cried, you would make some funny faces to comfort me. You, together with dad and mum, created happy childhood memories for me. I believe I would not have a memorable childhood without you.

I could always feel your love. One time I tumbled on a stone and my knee bled. You were even more worried than my parents and took me to hospital right away even though at that time I did not think my knee was really seriously hurt.

You are also generous. Remember once while I was running, I broke you favourite vase which was bought by grandpa. However, you not only didn’t punish me, but were also very worried about whether I was hurt by the heavy vase. Actually I wasn’t hurt. Indeed, I was touched by your care and at the same time felt so bad that you were not angry at all.

Another reason I found you the best person is because of an unpleasant experience. I understand that it surely is one of your unforgettable memories. One day, you received a strange call from a stranger who told you that I was kidnapped. The kidnapper ordered you to pay $50,000 in order to save me. Finally, it was found that that was a fraud, but you did give him $50,000. When you knew that that was a fraud, you did not care about the money, but felt relieved that I was safe!

I am also thrilled you always visit me. Though my home is far away from yours, you always come and chat with me. If I have an exam, you will bring some soup for me. I should go to your house instead as your legs are less stronger than before. I should not make you travel so far away from your house.

If I had to list all the other reasons why I love you, I would have to spend a year. You are the best person in my life. I admire you and I hope you will be healthier and healthier. Take care.
It was a boring Sunday. I stayed at home and played online games. In the beginning, this was great fun, but soon, I felt tired of playing them. These meaningless days kept repeating and repeating. I had done nothing meaningful in my life.

That day, I went out for a walk at a park. I saw a lot of children playing on a slide, swinging and running around inside the park happily. I kept walking and walking. Just then, I discovered a strange rectangular box that was placed at a road in the park. I felt curious and opened it carefully. How amazing! It was a time machine! I saw two buttons ‘Past’ and ‘Future’ on the top of the machine. I was wondering what would happen if I pressed them. I really wanted to know what my future would be. So, I pressed the ‘Future’ button. Suddenly, an intensive white light came out from the screen and my body transformed into the particles flowing inside the program.

After a while, I returned as an original state and fell down on the ground. I stood up and looked around where I was. I looked down at the floor. I realised that I was no longer standing on the rough surface. It was a quite smooth and shiny. The road was so clear that I could see my whole image. I felt like I was walking on a mirror. At that moment, there was a little puppy walking towards me. It looked like a normal dog. However, when it barked, it sounded like noises coming from the machine. The puppy went away after gazing at me for a minute.

Then, I walked slowly on and looked at every part of the surroundings attentively. I could still see a lot of people walking in the street. But the buildings were totally different from ours. Every building was made up of glass. The glass looked like very hard and strong that was not easily broken. The technology had improved greatly in the future. I felt surprised at that moment.

A little distance away, I saw someone giving leaflets to passers-by. I walked towards that person. Surprisingly, that person was me! I went in front of him and got the leaflet from his hands. He was surprised to see me. We shouted happily when we recognised each other. I asked him where he was working. My future ‘self’ told me that he was working for an organisation called International Union for Conservation of Nature. Their aim was to regulate the eco-system in nature. He said that he was responsible for searching information about nature and how to protect the environment such as preventing trees from any damage. Knowing how meaningful the job was, I felt proud of my future self.

It was time to return to the time machine and to say goodbye to my future self. After returning home, I started to consider about my future. I tried to think about what I could do to help myself.

Nature is the most wonderful thing on Earth. I needed to learn more about the environment from now on. For the sake of our bright future, it’s time to do something about it now!
One day after school, I found something funny on the way back home, but it was rubbish. It’s like something you’ll see during the 18th century. Things like these are all buried deep into soil or put into a little boutique shop. By the way, these shops are also closed down or demolished by developers. The rubbish looked like a telephone booth. I just ignored it, but it indeed gave me a deep impression.

On my way home, the telephone seemed to be following me. I was driven by my curiosity to take a look inside. As I opened the door, the doorbell rang. There was a small metal plate written: whoever sees this sign shall change the history and beyond what ‘humans’ can do … by Dr. Hynnkel.

Hoping to change my own exam results, I picked up the phone immediately without hesitation. I heard a sound which was like a siren from far away and slowly coming near your ear. It was a grating siren. Suddenly, a piece of metal dropped onto the ground out of nowhere. It was a kind of bombshell used in World War II. I felt that something exploded inside my head and I lost consciousness.

Before I woke up, I dreamt of my history teacher teaching me about World War II. Boom! A bang woke me up and I found myself lying in a mudflap. The telephone booth was gone, so were the houses and the street lamps. I got up and tried to look around the smoky place. Many pieces of bombshell were lying on the ground! At the farther end of the sodden ground, some people running towards me and pointing guns at me. One of the soldier yelled, ‘Another Yank, eh?’ There’s always beds reserved for you in the concentration camp. ‘Get up!’ I glanced nervously at the soldier’s arm, damn! If I wasn’t not in the middle of a drama, then I must be in the middle of the Nazi Germany. A Swastika, a buddhism-like cross, was attached to the uniform of the soldiers.

They took me to a tall building where a lot of people were imprisoned. Posters of Hitler were put up every corner of the building. ‘Hold it right there! What’s your name, chap?’ ‘Umm, Keith?’ All the soldiers gave a shocked expression on their faces. What!? I thought it was a common name at that time, wasn’t it? ‘Quick! Report to the Führer!’ Then, I was well-dressed and brought to a palace far away. The soldiers there were all heavily armed. I was led to a big door and a man stood beside it. He smiled at me and said, ‘Your Highness will be happy to hear the news from you.’ The man looked at the window. Opposite me, there were sculptures and paintings on the walls around the room. The man slowly turned to me, with tears inside his eyes, hugged me and said a lot of German that I could hardly understand. When I looked at him carefully, that was Hitler! He realised that I didn’t understand through my confused expression. He then translated his words into poor and ungrammatical English. He said he was sorry to put me in captivity, as it was the only way to keep me safe from the traitors inside the Nazis. He also said that he wouldn’t abandon me again and would give me everything that I wanted. After two weeks, I had already tried out all kinds of luxury activities and learnt to ride a horse. Hitler said that I would be a great successor. I had already got used to the noble lifestyle, but I still didn’t get to calling Hitler ‘Vater’ – ‘father’ in English.

One day, I slipped away from my mansion and walked on the street aimlessly. I walked into a ghetto. People
living there were mainly Jews. It seemed that people there didn’t really welcome me. You could tell from their eyes. Every newspaper was about my return and how Hitler’s army saved the people from the evil capitalist countries, although you must know that he lost in the end. An old man approached me, gave me a letter and then quickly ran away. The letter was from the doctor who wrote the metal plate in that time machine. He said that my presence in the post had changed the future: Hitler didn’t invade any countries, but enjoyed his family time with his ‘son’. The US President would soon discover the atomic bomb and destroy Germany soon. I had to leave or else my real father would die in the next battle. For God’s sake, I had never thought of that! I quickly went back to the wet ground that I was found in the first instance.

A game quickly flashed in my head, Alan Wake. I quickly took out my cell phone and turned on the flashlight towards him. He shouted like a vampire exposed in light and vanished. The phone signal was weak and intermittent. It was a private number and a man commanded, ‘Follow the light and you will be leaving soon!’ The phone signal disappeared. Suddenly, a large floating object covered the sun. A sign of an eye was put on the bottom of it. It was the Big Brother! Suddenly, a light ray came out from the dense cloud and shone at the far away cornfield. The soaring voice kept roaring inside my head. I ran towards the light and looked back – the houses behind me had been wiped out, so was my mansion. The faster I ran, the more booms came down.

When I almost reached a cornfield, a man was standing there. It was actually a pure black object that looked like a man. It roared, ‘Why rush? Your arrival has enabled us to create a new era of the Big Brother. You are not the only one who used the time machine, Karl. Russia may fall, but it will rise again.’ How could he know my real name?

At a distance, another time machine dropped from the sky. A man came out of it, and then dense smoke surrounded him. I couldn’t see him anymore. Suddenly, the phone rang, a man talked ‘It’s time to go, schoolboy. My tests are done!’ I fainted again.

I sneezed and my head banged onto the glass, an old man hosed me down with water. He shouted, ‘Stop touching it! When it is done, you people will be amazed!’ He was wearing a laboratory coat with a name card ‘Dr. Hymkel’ on his chest. I was amazed! I had come back!

The next day, the history lesson was lame and boring as usual. But I was the only one who wasn’t asleep. I was trying to learn ‘my’ history. The teacher said, ‘When the World War II was about to begin, there were rumours that Hitler’s mysterious son, Keith, had come back for around two weeks, but he disappeared when Germany was invaded. No official documents about this kid could be found …’ There are always things that cannot be explained, a freak of nature.

Until today, I am still wondering – does the man who was enjoying his noble life when I left, still exist, or has he disappeared?
I usually drive to the grocery store which is 10 minutes away. Now I am driving back home, with milk and my dinner. I live in an apartment complex. Just as I usually did, I parked the car, went in the lift and unlocked the front door.

Right in front of me was a cot. I did not remember buying a cot. I have no children. How could I have a cot? When I went up to investigate, I saw a baby inside, falling asleep. I was surprised. I never had a baby in my apartment before. What should I do?

On the baby there was a note that said, ‘Thank you for borrowing my baby.’ First of all, I did not borrow someone’s baby. Second, why would someone lend their baby to a stranger? Weird.

After all, I decided to take care of it. The milk I bought became the baby’s food. I tried to find if there was another note, but in vain. Over the weeks, I became attached to the baby even though I didn’t know where it came from.

By the time he could talk, he was already one year old. He kept saying ‘Joseph’ and ‘hospital’. So I named him Joseph. He is a joyful child. At first I did not know what he meant by those two words, but when I took him to the day care, we went past St. Joseph Hospital, which was quite big and clean. The hospital was a big brown building with three storeys. When he saw the hospital, he started to freak out, urging me to go in, because his mom was there.

I thought he was just dreaming and thinking that his mom was there. But every day, he would freak out when he went past the hospital. So I was interested to know what was going on.

When I went into the hospital, the hospital was quite busy. So I took a picture of Joseph and showed it to the nurse at the reception, and asked, ‘Did you have the mother of this child here before?’ The nurse looked hard. She tried to recognise the face.

‘I think so because I happened to be one of the nurses operating on her,’ said she. So I asked, ‘Do you happen to see her here?’

‘No, she was deceased three years ago. Her name was Claire. She stayed in room 439 before she died,’ she replied.

I went into room 439 and there was no one. But there was a piece of paper on the bed that wrote ‘To whomever who have borrowed my baby, Thank you. Read this to my son,’ I took the note and went home.

I read it to Joseph. ‘Hi my son, I haven’t named you yet because by the time I see you, I will be in a better place. Don’t worry! Mom is going to be with you always. I had cancer when I had you and the doctor could see that you were healthy. But the cancer cells somehow get your brain mutated, making you twice as smart as children of your age. I know I will die, so I send you to someone else for a new life. Thanks the parents who are reading this note to you. When I write the word ‘borrow’, it means I will take you back. When you grow older, we will reunite. Good bye for now, Son. I love you and will be with you always. By Claire.’

I told Joseph, ‘Don’t worry, your mommy will be watching you!’

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**Contributors**

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Mystery Baby

STA Yeung Justin
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