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English Journal

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Preface
Whereas many English teachers detest marking students’ writings as it is tedious and time consuming, I regard it as one of the most enjoyable tasks of an English teacher. If teachers focus too much on students’ grammatical errors, they dampen both students’ interest in writing and their own interest in marking. Even though our students may not employ perfect language, they remain adequate writers due to their creativity. When you read this collection of our students’ works, you might not see sophisticate use of language but I guarantee that you will find stories with a surprising ending, poems filled with love for teachers and creative writings illustrated with lovely pictures. Get yourself a cup of coffee, turn to page one and start your pleasant odyssey.

Sebastian, Siu Hoi Leung
Articles

‘Didn’t Know How to Lose’

He’s a Father

WHAT CAN I SAY?

...
Don’t Take Drugs!

Sylar, Kwok Siu Man (4C)

Recently, two popular singers were caught taking drugs in Japan. They were accused of smuggling drugs by the police. It reflected that the problem of drugs taking in Hong Kong is serious. Teenagers should be aware of the disadvantages of taking drugs.

To begin with, taking drugs will have negative influences on our own health. Drugs can attack our nerves system. Besides, it affects the function of kidney adversely. Drug addicts need to go to the washroom frequently. One of the advertisements on T.V. claim that drug addicts need to get off the bus every fifteen minutes to go to the toilet. The harmful chemical destroyer -liver is also “attacked” by drugs too. If our liver fails to “destroy” the harmful chemicals, they should be stored in liver. As a result, drug addicts are physically weak.

The impact of drugs taking is beyond personal level. The problem of taking drugs always brings out the problem of criminals. In order to get money to buy drugs, addicts will commit crimes such as stealing, drug selling and murdering, which make the society unstable. Moreover, the triad society will get stronger when drug addicts buy drugs from them. Consequently, the peace of the society will be upset.

Thirdly, if someone takes drugs, he will usually borrow money from friends. They keep borrowing until his trust bank is broke. A drug addict will lose all his friends.

Last but not least, if there is a drug addict in a family, the family will be broken. Drug addicts may steal money from parents whereas parents complain about their child’s misbehaviour. On the other hand, if parents take drugs, their children will learn from them. Hence, whoever takes drugs, the whole family suffer.

As we understand how harmful taking drugs is, we should bear in mind: “Don’t take drugs. Be a healthy person!”
An Ideal Eco-Friendly School

Sabina, Dong Wing Long (4C)

Nowadays, many people talk about 3Rs, that is, reduce, reuse and recycle. There is so much rubbish that can still be useful. Rubbish causes a lot of pollution, like air pollution and water pollution. These kinds of pollution will affect our health. For example, pollution may lead to heart disease and lung disease. To avoid these things happening, an ideal eco-friendly school can help.

Concerning the design of the school, I think we should use glass as walls instead of bricks because glass is transparent. Sunlight can penetrate directly into the classroom and so we can use less electricity. The school should also install a solar-energy board because it is reusable and it can change sunlight to energy.

In the school, using paper should be discouraged and so the problem of logging is reduced. The school could adopt electronic books. Besides, handing in homework or taking notes can all be done with the computer. But there is a problem. Can all students afford a computer? The government should subsidize those poor students.

To keep our school environment green, we can plant more flowers or grass around our school campus. It not only makes the environment beautiful, but also keeps the air fresh.

Hopefully, my ideal eco-friendly school can be built all around Hong Kong so that every student can learn green!
Close to the Police Force

York, Wong Yuk Hong (5C)

“You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so but what you say may be put into writing and given in evidence” Do you recognize this sentence? No doubt that you could hear this sentence commonly when you are watching an English television programme, which is about the police. Nonetheless, do you know the work of the real police? Of course you do not need to commit a crime in order to communicate with the policemen. Yet I think the Hong Kong Police Force should organize some activities for the public to get closer to them.

I recommend throwing parties during the holiday or weekend which allow citizens to have contacts with the policemen. They should invite students from different schools who are interested in the Hong Kong Police Force. During the parties, the police could have informal chats with students. They could also initiate some games such as role playing, which would let them understand the duties of the real police. Besides playing the game, the police also could share their stories with students so as to let them know the interesting things that might happen to a policeman.

The internet is an ideal way to let the citizens of Hong Kong know more about the police in Hong Kong. Surfing the Internet website is an integral part of daily life for most Hong-Kongers. The Police Force could create a website that allows citizens to communicate with them. The website could also contain help to update the news of activities organized by the Police Force. Moreover, it would be better if the police could put some videos on the website, which are clips of the policeman in action.

A harmonious society can be a result of the cooperation between the police and the citizens. Hopefully, mutual understanding between the two parties could eventually be achieved.
Extra Class- University Entrance Exam Preparation

Tsang Tsz Ho (6A)

The issue of whether the school has decided to offer extra classes in one of two major areas has aroused wide concern in students. These students’ views are varied. Some students claim that the school should offer music, painting and dance classes which help students in Whole Person Education. On the contrary, many others hold their opinion that offering university entrance exam preparation can increase the percentage of students entering the university. Considering both sides of arguments, I am of the opinion that offering university entrance exam preparation classes. The reasons are mainly as follows.

There are four major reasons of this choice. First and foremost, offering university entrance exam preparation classes can increase the choices of students entering the university. Many Form 7 students in our school are trying their best to enter the university; however, they do not know the skills of the exam clearly. If they want to enter universities, they need to get better results in university entrance exam. Therefore, preparation classes can help students to learn the skills required for the exam, thus entering a better university.

Some students proclaim that music, painting and dance classes allow students to learn more things so that they have alternatives to choose in the future. However, they are missing some points. In fact, a student who has studied in university can get a better job in Hong Kong. Do you know what the average salary of a form five student in Hong Kong is? It is just about $5000. On the contrary, a university student can get about $12,000 HKD as their average salary. Therefore, students have their own choices if they can enter university, thus, preparation classes can totally help them to do this.

Thirdly, offering university entrance exam preparation classes can help the school to raise its school-banding. As I have mentioned before, the classes can increase the percentage of students entering the university. When the percentage of students who enter universities increases every year, then banding of our school is likely to be raised. Therefore, the university entrance exam preparation classes not only can help to upgrade the banding of our school, but it also encourages more students to study in our school.

Last but not least, offering university entrance exam preparation classes can help students to set a personal goal. In fact, some Form 6 students in our school do not have a clear goal in mind. Some of them think that entering universities in Hong Kong is a piece of cake. They do not know the real condition of the educational system in Hong Kong. According to a survey, only about 20,000 of students in Form 7 can enter universities. It means that only one in every five Form 7 students can enter university. Therefore having preparation classes can help students to set personal goals clearly.

To sum up, I think that there are four reasons for our school to offer university entrance exam preparation class. First, the classes can increase the number of students entering the university. Second, students will have a better future if they can receive university education. Third, our school banding will be upgraded. At last, the classes can help students to set their personal goals clearly. I hope the school would take these reasons into consideration.
Are Tutorial Schools Superior?

Phoebe Tang (7A)

It is a frequently heard statement that the growing popularity and availability of tutorial schools has rendered traditional secondary schools and teachers obsolete. The tips about examinations from tutorial schools have no doubt changed the way people absorb knowledge. In spite of the useful tips and strategies, it is true that the teaching methods of tutorial schools have their limitations and drawbacks. Thus, one shouldn’t predict the demise of traditional secondary schools and teachers. Their value can’t be denied.

People are currently under the impression that the tutorial schools offer the latest and most effective examination skills or tips which could help students’ academic learning. However, we shouldn’t overlook the fact that tutorial schools’ teaching only helps students achieve a short-term success. When the public examinations are over, their skills and tips will be useless. In contrast, the traditional secondary schools and teachers aim to provide a life-long learning for their students. Their mission is not only to teach examination skills and tactics, but create an interest in studying. For instance, the schools will promote reading scheme to lead students read a wider range of extra books including travel guides anthology and fictions etc, in order to expand their area of expertise. Besides, they may stimulate students’ motivation to study by providing film appreciation programmes which students will regard more interesting and attractive. Thus, the students are able to absorb a variety of knowledge in a long-term basis that can be applied in daily life, and not merely restricted to examinations.

It is true that students should acquire more skills and tips for examinations which are useful in examinations such as the answering techniques. However, it may hinder the development of students because they may pay efforts to examine the skills and search for tips while spending less time to achieve their goals in other aspects such as participation in extra-curricular activities. It can cause severe hindrance in developing correct and positive attitude towards life. On the other hand, the traditional schools and teachers help students develop their individual potential fully by encouraging students to join different school clubs like music club, dancing club, and the Red Cross. All of these help build up their potential talents. There are also lots of competitions that give students opportunities to display and realise their talents. Therefore, through the encouragement of traditional schools, they may be able to attain a more all-rounded development. Thus, traditional schools and teachers play an integral role in our learning.
Another irresistible allure of the traditional schools and teachers is that the schools are free due to the nine-year free education. Even some traditional schools may charge school fees. It is still far cheaper than the tutorial schools’ fee. But for the traditional schools and teachers, those who can’t afford the expensive tutorial fees would lose opportunities to learn. And even if they can afford it, it increases the financial burden of the family. Traditional secondary schools have a great coverage for students while the tutorial schools could only cover the students who could pay the expensive tutorial fees. Therefore, the former one will still be the most practical medium to promote knowledge and education in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, traditional schools and teachers play an essential role in education. They are affordable and durable. All in all, the tutorial schools can never take the place of our beloved traditional schools and teachers.
An Unforgettable Trip

Ikumi Lao (2B)

I went to Thailand with my family on my last holiday. The weather was fine. First, we went to the Grand Palace in Bangkok. It was amazing.

Then we visited the elephant camps in Chiang Mai. I felt very excited. My favorite part of the trip was our visit to the Diamond Beach in Koh Samet. The environment was relaxing. The scenery was beautiful. We stayed there for three days. The sunset was amazing. The next day, we did lots of activities such as swimming, sunbathing, water-skiing and surfing.

We liked the food there especially the Thai Papaya salad, Pad Thai and Thai fresh juice. We also went to Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok to buy clothes, necklaces and drawings. We enjoyed our holiday very much.
Letters
Cheung Yuk King (2B)

To: Sarah@hotmail.com

Title: The Peak

Dear Sarah,

Hello, It's been a while since I heard from you the last time. How are you doing lately? I went to The Peak last Sunday. The weather was fine. I went there by the peak tram at the bottom of The Peak. The Peak tram was fast.

First, I went to the Peak Gallery. I also went shopping. Everything was beautiful but expensive. I was bored. My favourite part of the trip was our visit to the terrace. The scenery was beautiful. I watched the beautiful scenery with a paid telescope.

I also went to Peak Tower. The scenery was wonderful. I bought souvenirs for my friends. Then I visited some theme entertainment sites like “Piso of the Dragon”, “Dark Ride”, “Peak Explorer” motion ride. They were wonderful. I visited the “Ripley’s Believe it or Not!”, “Odditorium” and the “Madame Tussauds”. They were interesting and exciting.

At night, I went to the Peak Gallery and ate in a nice restaurant. It was yummy but expensive. Then I went to Terrace and experienced the world-famous scenery of Hong Kong at night.

I was excited about the trip.

Love,

Cheung Yuk King
Zachary, Au Yeung Kim Fei (4C)

Dear Kevin,

Hey, buddy! Long time no see! How’re you? I’ve been busy with my endless tests and exams. It’s been a year since I last wrote to you. How have you been lately? Recently I’ve been to the Hong Kong Comics Festival with my friends. I know you’re interested in comics and so let me tell you more about it.

There were so many people going to the festival that we had to queue for almost 3 hours to get into the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. As I was walking here and there in the designated area, I stumbled on a booth selling my favourite comic series and its souvenirs. I spent all my savings there!

I saw parents accompanying their sons and daughters to this festival. The scene was very heart warming. Moreover, it made me recall my childhood when my Dad and Mum were with me everywhere. I wish I were a child again!

Hey, guess what my favourite comics series is? It’s Sailor Moon. I was attracted by the lovely characters in the cartoon. It was the first comic series in which the female characters fought against evil. It exerted much influence on me!

Well, I think reading comics is not a bad thing. It can be an entertaining way of education. However, if youngsters indulge in comics and novels, they will lack exercise and group activities. As you are addicted to it, I think it’s time for you to read fewer comic books and more textbooks. Do you think you can do so?

I hope all is well with your family and please give my regards to your parents.

Best wishes,

Chris

Cheung Yuk King
Abigail, Chan Pui Yi (4C)

Dear Kevin,

What’s up? What did you do last week? I went to the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre as the Hong Kong Comics Festival was held there. It was awesome! Have you been to the Comics Festival?

The fair was wonderful! There’re many kinds of books. For instance, there were adult comics, novel, romance and popular literature. Shockingly the top list was adult comics. However, I think it has a bad influence on teenagers. And it’s too indecent for teenagers.

I’ve bought some souvenirs for you. I hope you’ll love them. It’s some popular literature and comics. Some of them come with free gifts such as weapons. I think it’ll fascinate you. I bought not only comics but also some character’s models for you. The models are pretty and delicate.

In Hong Kong, not only teenagers but adults also indulge in comics. I think some comics are indecent and pornographic. So, we shouldn’t overly indulge in indecent comics. Fortunately in Hong Kong, we’ve legal control of indecent and obscene publications. Hong Kong government should set up moral standards for them. Do you have any ideas how to stop teenagers overly indulging in comics? I think if parents forbid them to read, it will make them more rebellious. Don’t you think so?

Can you share with me what comic hero or characters you like? Tell me more about your school life as well!

Gotta go as I need to go on reading the comic book I bought from the exhibition.

Best wishes,

Chris

P.S. I miss you. Come back to Hong Kong early!
Kevin, Hui King Hei (4C)

Dear Kevin,

How’re you? Haven’t seen you for a long time. Is everything fine? I know you’re a fan of comics and therefore I’ve some news for you.

The Hong Kong Comics Festival was held in the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre last week. It’s a big function that is held once a year. My classmates Ray and I went there last week. We were shocked when we got there. The queue was as long as a train and it took us half an hour to get the tickets.

The exhibition hall was divided into two sections --- comics and popular literature. We first went to the comics section because we were more interested in it. Many kinds of goods were shown into my eyes when I reached there. I first found the Death Note stand. It’s one of my favourite comics. I already have a set in my home. Even adults love Death Note. I strongly recommend you to read it. Then we went to the next stall. Many romantic comics could be found there. However we did not stay long though there were lots of girls who looked for romance. Then, there were some novel stands. They attracted me because they got some special gimmicks. If you buy goods up to $300, you can have a picture with the author. Ray bought it immediately and he left with a happy face.

I also bought something there. Have you heard about the sky-fire gun before? It’s the weapon of Gary, who is he main character in the comic book “The King”. I was deeply attracted by it when I first laid my eyes on it. However, it cost me an arm and a leg! I’ll send you some pictures of the gun later. Besides this, I bought your favourite --- Magic Girl. You can get it when you come to Hong Kong next time.

Keep contact and good luck! Hope all is well with your family and please give my regards to your parents.

Love,

Chris
Lily, Tsoi Kai Lee (4C)

Dear Kevin,

Hi Kevin! I haven’t received your letter for quite a long time. I’m afraid you’ve forgotten me. But anyway, let’s talk about your favourite thing --- comics.

I went to the Hong Kong Comics Festival with my classmates. It was held last week. The venue of it was Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre. (Do you remember where it is? But I think you’ve forgotten because you haven’t visited Hong Kong for a long time.)

Talking of comics, I haven’t read comics for many months. In my memory, you indulged in comics. Are you also as crazy as you were before? Can you guess what I bought at the festival? Besides comics, I bought many spin-offs such as toys. Also I bought a souvenir for you. Hope you’ll like it.

Do you remember what cartoon character I like the best? It is Detective Conan! I still like him a lot. I always read these comic books. In the festival, there were a lots of Conan’s products. I bought many even though some were expensive.

By the way, many people complain that youngsters get worse if they read nothing but comics. I don’t agree with them! I think most parents misunderstand their children. Healthy comic books will make teenagers be more creative. Don’t you think so? But lots of parents don’t understand it. They always just blame their children for reading comics.

Is there any comic fair in the United States? Have you ever been to one? Please let me know more about it!

I have to leave now. Write to me as soon as possible.

Regards,

Chris
Letters of complaint

Aggie, Deng Suzhen (5C)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Complaints about Hong Kong Computer Exhibition

I am writing to complain about the Hong Kong Computer Exhibition that was held last weekend.

My first complaint is about admittance to the exhibition. My friend and I both had complimentary tickets to the exhibition. However, when we arrived, we found that we needed to redeem the admission tickets. We had to stand in a very long queue outside the venue. While we were waiting, we got wet as cars rushed by and splashed water on us.

My next complaint concerns the poor service of the counter. We were shocked to find that the counter for redeeming complimentary tickets was closed. Therefore, we had to pay for the tickets. When I wanted to use my credit card to pay for the tickets, the ticket seller told me that they accepted cash payment only. I think that is very inconvenient and feel extremely annoyed about it.

The poor standard of the café also disappointed me. When I wanted to order food in the exhibition’s café, I found most of the food was sold out and the only choices left were noodles and soup. When I asked the waiter to clean the table, he ignored me and kept chatting with the waitress. What good attitude they had! No doubt, I had to clean it by myself. What an unpleasant experience it was!

Accordingly, I expect to receive a full refund on my tickets and a written apology. If I do not receive a satisfactory reply by the end of this weekend, I will report this matter to the relevant authority. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong
Angela, Ning Wing Yin (5C)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Complaints about Hong Kong Computer Exhibition

I am writing to complain about the Hong Kong Computer Exhibition that was held last weekend.

My first complaint concerns the admittance to the exhibition. Both my friend and I had complimentary tickets to the exhibition, but when we arrived, we found that we had to redeem the tickets. While lining up for the admission tickets outside the venue, we all got drenched as cars rushed by and splashed water on us. The ticket box should have been located at an indoor area!

The service at the counter was far from satisfactory. It was amazing that even though the queue was as long as the Great Wall, only a counter which was for cash payment was in service. All the other counters were closed, including the counter for redeeming complimentary tickets. In other words, people who had the complimentary tickets could not redeem the tickets and they had to pay for the admission fee as well.

The final thing that made me dissatisfied was the restaurant. Though the tables were full of residue from other food, the waiter and the waitress were still chatting happily and did not do what they should have done. Don’t you want to tell me that this is your ‘professional’ service? The supply of food was unexpectedly limited. Only noodles and soups were available! All the foods were sold out by 11.30 a.m.. Of course, I pointed out this situation to the manager, but he ignored me.

I have totally lost confidence in this exhibition. I insist that you look into the matter and give me a written apology. Besides, please do take actions and response to my complaints. Otherwise, I cannot but take this matter to the relevant department. Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong
Mandy, Chan Shuk Ching (5C)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Complaints about Hong Kong Computer Exhibition

I am writing to complain about the Hong Kong Computer Exhibition, which was held last weekend.

My major complaint concerns the admittance to the exhibition. Having the complimentary tickets to the exhibition should mean we could enter the exhibition directly. However, we found that we had to redeem the tickets first but the queue was outside the venue. As we all had to line up close to the road, cars rushed by and splashed water on us! We looked as if we had gotten drenched in a rainstorm.

Secondly, I want to complain about the service at the counter. Even though there were thousands of visitors, almost all counters were closed. Therefore, the queue was extremely long. Because of this, I had to line up for about two hours. It wasted too much time to redeem the complimentary tickets. Why didn’t they open more counters for this service?

Finally, I am writing to say how unhappy I was with the service of the restaurant. Most of the food had been sold out so we had few or no choices. Moreover, the service of the waiters and waitresses were unsatisfactory. They did not clean the tables because they were too busy chatting. They talked as if they were having a talk show. What was worse was that I complained to the manager about these things but he ignored me. What terrible attitudes they had!

Accordingly, I expect to receive financial compensation or at least a written letter of apology from your manager. If I do not hear from you within seven days, I shall publicize this matter to the mass media.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong
Daisy, Ng Fung Nog (5C)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Re: Complaints about Hong Kong Computer Exhibition

I am writing to complain about the Hong Kong Computer Exhibition that was held last weekend.

My main complaint is about admittance to the exhibition. Having complimentary tickets to the exhibition, my friend and I believed that we could enter the exhibition hall quickly. We were shocked to find out that we had to stand in a very long queue outside the venue in order to redeem the tickets. Unfortunately, we got wet as cars rushed by and splashed water on us.

My next complaint concerns the poor counter service. The exhibition was so popular that many people wanted to pay a visit. Therefore, the box office was crowded. However, we found that only one counter opened and it was for cash payment only. It ended up being a very long queue. We could only get into the exhibition hall after three hours!

The restaurant at the exhibition centre was far from satisfactory. I went to the restaurant for meals with my friends at noon. The choices of food was very limited. We could hardly find a table for lunch. We found that the tables were not cleaned. The staff was chatting as if they were having a business meeting.

In addition to the “appalling” service, the air conditioning was not cold enough. It was extremely hot as if we were under the sun!

I am really disappointed to have has such an awful experience in your computer exhibition. I hope you will take these complaints very seriously. I expect to receive an apology. If I do not hear from you within seven days, I shall disclose this to the mass meida.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong
Letters of advice

Chan Lai Yan (5C)

Dear Terrence,

Thanks for asking for my help. I understand you have some worries but being your best friend, I will help you. And I hope you find my suggestions useful.

In order to solve the problem about how to make friends, I suggest that you should bring some souvenirs to your new classmates. It’s showing you are a friendly and generous person. For these souvenirs are made in Hong Kong, you might communicate with them and discuss the cultural differences between Hong Kong and their home country. Furthermore, if you are shy, you’ll lose a lot of chances to make new friends. That’s my experience in the last summer camp. The most important rule is to be brave and not to be afraid of making mistakes!

Next, it’s about the language problem. If I were you, I’d search more information about Canada before going to the camp. In addition, don’t forget to bring an electronic dictionary so that you can look up words in the dictionary. I think it’s very convenient and useful when you come across some new English words. How about a traditional dictionary? It is slower in searching the meaning and heavier in size than an electronic dictionary?

In short, you must prepare yourself well. Then you will spend a wonderful summer in the Canada camp.

I’m sure you’ll have a meaningful experience.

Best,
Miranda
Jill Deng (5C)

Dear Terrence,

I’m so sorry to hear that you are worried about how to make friends in the summer school in Australia and you may not understand what the teachers are saying. But I think you shouldn’t worry too much. Just take it easy and I’ll help you to overcome your problems.

Theoretically, it’s difficult to get used to studying abroad and it’s hard for you to make friends with foreigners. So, if I were you, I’d bring some souvenirs to my classmates, such as some local food or local handicraft of Hong Kong. As many foreigners are interested in Chinese culture, it will leave a good impression to them if you bring them some souvenirs. Interpersonal relationship is very important, right? Maybe you can make friends with Cantonese speakers whose English is fluent as a first step. But remember that you can’t just keep talking to them in Cantonese. Speak English! The more English you speak, the better you will be!

Since you’re afraid that you don’t understand what the teachers say, perhaps you can take a video of the lessons, but you should ask for permission. If you are not allowed to do so, you can ask the teacher to speak slower. But you have to balance others' feeling and interest at the same time. Therefore, preparing yourself well is the most effective way. For instance, you can listen to some English songs and read English newspapers. It’s easy to handle it if you put your heart in. You know, where there is a will, there is a way!

If people don’t understand you, you can use your body language! Don’t forget that smiles not only can show your kindness and politeness, but also help your classmates to get on well with you easily. Just try your best!

I hope my suggestions can help you to solve the problems and everything will be fine! Write soon and tell me how things are getting on!

Best wishes,
Miranda
Kristi, Li Ka Sin (5C)

Dear Terrence,

Thanks for asking for my help. I’m sorry to hear about your problem. Yet, don’t worry! As your best friend, I’ll help you to tackle the problem.

I faced a similar problem before as I had a summer course in Australia. At that time, I was the same as you and I was always afraid I couldn’t get used to my new class and classmates. Because of this, I shared the local culture with them. It can be a good topic to start a conversation. I think it would be effective. Therefore, you can do what I did and share the culture of Hong Kong with your new classmates.

Alternatively, another means for you to make friends is you can either ask your friends out or join some school clubs. For instance, you can ask them to go shopping and visit curiosities of the country. If you are too shy to invite them, you can join the activities organized by the school club, which will give you more opportunities to make friends.

The other problem is you’re afraid you do not understand what the teachers say and your classmates won’t understand you. So why don’t you watch more English television programmes? I think this is a good idea to solve your language problem. And watching English shows not only helps you overcome your communication problem, but also gives you a topic to discuss with your classmates. Besides, you can read the English newspaper or listen to English songs to learn English as well.

If you really don’t know what your teachers are saying, just let your teachers know about this. You could request the teacher to speak more slowly or you could write down the parts you don’t understand and ask your teachers after the lesson.

I hope my suggestions can help you to solve the problem. Remember, I’ll support you! So, do write when you arrive Australia.

Best wishes,
Miranda Wong
Chan Hiu Ching (6A)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to put forth my suggestions on the improvements of Hong Kong educational system. The Hong Kong educational system has long been a controversial issue, I suggest the Education Bureau provide a variety of valued subjects, to introduce a small class teaching and to implement a mother -tongue teaching.

First of all, it is advisable for the Education Bureau to provide a variety range of subjects into the curriculum, such as Liberal Studies. Hong Kong students have long been regarded as the “Book-Worms” and studied in a particular curriculum decided by the Education Bureau, it solely focuses on the academic domain where students can hardly develop their logical and independent thinking.

What I mean is the Education Bureau should introduce the thought- provoking subjects such as Liberal Studies into the curriculum. To study different social issues such as sex education, Basic Law or environmental issues, etc. students need to form groups, discuss the current issues with their classmates and present their ideas in front of the class. Take one of the subjects, Sex Education as example. The latest data released by the government department showed the percentage of under-age sex surge to the highest – 10% compared to the 2007 data. It definitely showed the students are naive and ignorant about sex. It is necessary for schools and teachers to educate the students about the positive value of sex, including the consequences of sex such as sexually-transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies, different types of contraceptive methods such as using condoms and morning-after pills. In that way, students are equipped with knowledge about sex and be able to bear the responsibility of it. The problem of under age sex can therefore be under control.

Notwithstanding this, the Education Bureau may make a remarkable change on the size of class by introducing small class teaching. At present, there are almost 40 students in a class. Both students and teachers feel hard under this circumstance. For teachers, it is difficult for them to allocate the resources to students widely and efficiently. And the most important thing is that teachers are lack of time to take care of the needs of students, both academically or psychologically. On the other side, students may feel difficult to voice out their opinions and raise their questions in class. By implementing a small-class teaching, teachers may have more time to prepare for teaching materials and relatively more time to communicate with students and get a close understanding to them. While at the same time, students will be more concentrated in class and get a better communication with their classmates through discussions. In this way, both students and teachers can benefit from the small-class teaching.

Furthermore, the Education Bureau should make an elastic arrangement on the teaching language. Schools should be given a choice to decide whether their teaching language is English or Chinese depending on the ability of their students. In order to strive a balance between the teaching languages and teaching qualities, Education Bureau may require those schools to choose Chinese as their core language and provide an extra English courses for their students. At the same time, Education Bureau may allocate more resources to these kinds of schools. e.g. providing an additional NET. Teacher to the school. In this way, schools may consolidate the students’ foundation in English.

To conclude, every coin has two-sides. The Education Bureau should tackle the problem without delays and to implement comprehensive measures to Hong Kong Educational Systems. In this way, students may fulfill their potentials and alleviate the teachers’ workload, thus reaching a win-win situation.

Yours faithfully,

C. Wong
Letters to the editor

Candies, Lam Ni Fong (5B)

Taxing the use of plastic bags

Dear Editor,

I am writing to comment on the idea that “Taxation on plastic bags is an effective way to reduce pollution in Hong Kong”. The Government suggests that we should pay fifty cents for each plastic bag. However, such a measure will bring an extra financial burden to people when they go shopping in supermarkets or convenience stores. According to a recent survey in Hong Kong, a lot of people, especially those from lower income families, oppose the idea to impose a tax on plastic bags. Notwithstanding, in my opinion, I completely agree that the Hong Kong Government should implement this measure.

To begin with, I think this policy could change the ingrained habit of Hong Kongers who are now using plastic bags more than they actually need to. Whereas wealthy people will still use plastic bags, as they do not care about the extra cost, most Hong Kong people will stop asking for it as every cent means a lot to them. As a result, the total consumption of plastic bags in the city will be reduced. In addition, it could stop people from misusing the bags as well.

Secondly, plastic bags are sent to landfill sites when we don’t use them again. However, most plastic bags are not biodegradable. As a result, landfill site workers will still need to burn them. Through research we know that burning plastic bags will release some toxic gases, which are harmful to human beings. So taxing plastic bags is a good way to reduce pollution.

Finally, taxation on plastic bags can increase the revenue of the Government. Even better, the money can be used for other plans, such as charities related to conservation or education.

In conclusion, taxation on plastic bags brings lots of benefits. However, it is not the perfect policy to reduce pollution in Hong Kong. For instance, it will increase the burden of the poor. So I think that the Hong Kong Government should think of other good ways to tackle the problem of pollution. Lastly, I hope this letter will encourage Hong Kong citizens to bring their own bags.

Chris Wong
Daisy, Ng Fung Nog (5C)

Dear Editor,

I am writing to discuss if the government should give money to people who lose their job and are unemployed or not. In my opinion, I do not think the government should give money to those people.

Admittedly, to give money to the unemployed is the most immediate and effective way to help them. However I do not think that it is a good method for solving this problem in the long run. If people know that they could get money from the government when they lost their job, they will rely on the government and lack incentive to look for a job. They just lost their job, not their working ability. So the government should encourage them to look for a new job and offer more employment opportunities to them.

Besides, maybe it is unfair to the people who are working. Why can those people get money without any efforts? Another problem is that people may lie to the government to get the money though the fact is that they are still working. In addition, the government need to spend extra resources on administration. In accordance with above reasons, I do not think the government should give money to those people.

There are many ways to help the people who lose their job. For example, the government should hold more courses about vocational training for them. I believe it can help them a lot as it equips them with skills.

In conclusion, the government should give those people a hand. Instead of giving money to them, the government should increase their working ability.

Chris Wong
Letters to Students

Zoe, Chung (7A)

Volunteers Needed
Dear senior students,

Perhaps everyone of us desires a delicious unhealthy diet rather than a tasteless healthy diet. Health is conspicuously ignored. People even unfeelingly add contaminated chemicals into food. For instance, a scandal of China is divulged that the infant formula is found to contain melamine which causes kidney failure. So it is necessary, if not indispensable, to raise people’s awareness of the significance of having a healthy diet.

Our school is going to organize an exhibition called ‘Diet and Health’. It is suggested that a badge competition and slogan competition should be held. The most extraordinary badge will be made as souvenirs distributed to students on the exhibition day whereas the best slogan will be printed on posters and leaflets for the exhibition. Therefore, we need to recruit students to be the judges of the two competitions.

On the day of exhibition, we will perform a drama to students in a bid to incite their interests and awareness of the topic. It becomes substantial to have you to be the wonderful actors.

Needless to mention, learning is vital for all students as we all want to become wise and knowledgeable persons. Being a volunteer of the exhibition will bring you a lot of practical working experience. You will understand how to organize and prepare all exhibitions. You may also realize the ways to tackle difficulties when being a volunteer. So, be one of us!

As organizing activities requires the cooperation of people, it is the communication skills that you can learn from being a volunteer of the campaign. It makes you understand the importance of teamwork and you can also make more friends too.

It is understandable that senior students are always under a lot of pressure. Doing the voluntary work, you may gain plenty of happiness, and it helps to alleviate your pressure as well.

So, do not hesitate! Come and join us now!
Interested parties can contact Chris Wong of 6A at lunchtime or after school.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wong
Chairperson of the Health Club
Creative Writings
If I were a bird
by
Mandy, Chan Shuk Ching (5C)

If I were a bird, I could sing beautiful songs on the trees. There would be no need for me to attend boring lectures. What a relaxing life it would be!

If I were a bird, I would fly to every corner of the world. First, I would fly to the Great Wall to visit the greatest project of Chinese. Then, I would fly to Egypt to see the pyramids and find out its mystery. Moreover, I would fly to many other places to enrich my knowledge.

How I wish I were a bird!
If I were an Eagle

by

Blanden, Ning Man Shing (5C)

If I were an eagle, I could fly in the sky. I could fly over the mountain and fly over the sea.

There would be no need for me to study. Therefore, there would be no need to get up early.

I would be the King of Sky. It would be an interesting experience to fly. I think it would be great. I could travel around the world if I were an eagle. I would have enough energy and so I wouldn’t have to pay for planes.

It would be a nice experience to feed on fish in the sea. I think they would be tasty. I could try seafood and there would be no need to cook.

If I were an eagle, I could wander from place to place and I could touch the sky. What a wonderful adventure it would be!
If I were a traveller

By

Silence, Li Hao (5C)

I want to visit a lot of places because there are lots of beautiful sceneries in the world. If I were a traveller, I would visit China first.

As Chinese, I must know about my homeland, China. China is a large ancient country. There are some interesting curiosities such as The Great Wall, The Forbidden City, Summer Palace and so on. So, I would visit these places to learn more about them if I were not a student but a traveller.

Then, I would visit Venice, a very famous city in Italy. It is a city of water. If I could go sailing in Venice, it would be both comfortable and romantic.

If I were a traveller, I would travel around the world. I would leave my footprints in China and Italy first.
If I were a rich man

By

Herman, Ho Ka Kin (5C)

If I were a rich man, I would build a dream ship. My dream ship must be the largest in the world and there would be lots of entertainment. I would invite my best friends to my ship for a tour around the world.

On the first floor of my dream ship, there would be the best restaurant which would provide diners with the most comfortable environment.

On the second floor, there would be the best Information Technology Centre, which would contain a lot of super computers and the best Internet network. We could surf the website very fast.

There would be a huge cinema on the third floor and we could watch films over there. In the cinema, it would show the latest films. On the same floor, there would be a huge basketball court where we could play basketball and exercise.

Furthermore, there would be a very big swimming pool on the deck. We would swim like a fish.

I wish I could build this dream ship!
Teachers

Appreciation Poems
Dear Miss Yau,

Miss Yau is extremely beautiful.
She is kind and wonderful.
You will learn a lot in her lessons.
A lady who is so elegant.
Use your time wisely is her slogan.

By: Aries, Chan Pui Yi (4C)

Dear Mr. Shay,

He is an adorable and knowledgeable man!
He is an energetic and enthusiastic adult!
He is a cheerful and helpful grown-up!
He is an active and attractive person!
He is a fascinating and hardworking human being!
And who is he?
It’s you, Mr. Shay!
Thank you very much for teaching us well.

By: Jill Deng (5C)

Dear Mr. Siu,

Disaster sometimes happens in our classroom.
Energetic students chat in most lessons.
Attention we pay in his lessons
Remain very silent
Maybe he is the best teacher
Relationship with us is excellent
See, his face is never red!
Indeed he helps us like our dad
Unconditional love makes us never be sad.

By: Cheung Shuk Yi (4C)
Teachers Appreciation Poems

Dear Mr. Sebastian Siu,

Sebastian Siu has short hair.
Energetic and never say “never”
Besides he is a little clever,
Always gives us pleasure.
Some students said he was a responsible teacher.
Today he gave us a useful lecture.
If you are taught by him in the future,
“A” in English will be no pressure.
No thumbs down will be the gesture!

By: Silence, Li Hao (5C)

Dear Miss Chan,

Miss Chan has multiple-intelligence.
She is famous for her diligence
Cheer up and make us be interested.
Her lessons make us feel excited
And you have also made us wise
No wonder you are an angel in our life!

By: Tang Yuen Yi (5C)

Dear Mr. Wong Wai-yip, Desmond,

Dedicate himself to teaching.
Enlighten us as to knowledge we are pursuing.
Seldom does he come down on anyone.
Most of the time he does justice to every one.
Only once have you been in his lesson,
None of us can deny
Desmond all students can rely.

By: Kelvin, Ho Ka Chun (7A)
An “Accident” on MTR

Aggie Deng (5C)

Last weekend, it was a beautiful sunny day with no sweltering sunshine. I really couldn’t find any excuse to stay at home. So, I went to the new shopping mall by the MTR with my best friend Chris. Actually, it was not necessary for us to take the subway because it just took us a 20-minute walk. But still as we were a bit lazy, we chose the more convenient way.

I looked around the compartment. Everyone looked relaxed and enjoyed the short journey, except the poor porter who stood next to us carrying piles of big boxes. He looked very tired and helpless. Poor young guy!

“Bang!” Suddenly, a loud sound was heard. At the same time, the lights went out. ‘Oh, my God! What happened? Chris, where are you, I can’t see anything,’ I screamed, ‘Oh, no! Don’t push me, ok?’ All the passengers in the compartment were horrified and terrified and all of them were screaming just like me. It was a mess.

After a few minutes, the lights were turned on again. The passengers stopped crying in fear. What we saw was that the boxes were thrown here and there and the porter lay on the ground. His face turned pale. His body was trembling. It seemed that he would faint sooner or later.

Some kind people reported to the police quickly and the ambulance men came at once and he was sent to the hospital.

“Well, don’t you think what has just happened was so amazing and it was just like watching a movie?”

“Cut, good take!” the director said. “Yah, we are shooting a movie!”
The Greatest Treasure

Health, Cheng Yun Hong (5C)

There was a full moon that night when a tribe had a ceremony in the forest. During the ceremony, they dug a hole in order to bury a treasure box for their sons. Unfortunately, they were all slaughtered that night by another tribe and so their sons never received the treasury.

After a decade, two good friends, Health and Wisdom went to the forest to have a barbecue. They took along their pet, Wealth, which was a lovely puppy. They enjoyed their food and sang around the fire. Then, they played the game hide and seek. When the dog tried to hide near a tree, it barked loudly. Health and Wisdom both stopped the game to see what had happened.

“Is there a treasure?” Health asked.

“I think so. Otherwise, Wealth would not bark like this!” Wisdom replied.

Both of them were thrilled because they thought they might have found a treasure. They dug a hole and found a big box.

“Oh! We’re rich!” Health screamed.

“We have to open the box first. You see, it’s locked!”, Wisdom said calmly.

They tried every means to unlock the box. After half an hour, they succeeded in doing so.

Opening the box, both of them were excited. They opened it slowly as if the treasure might escape! They were shocked to see what was inside the box was just a piece of paper.

“Isn’t it a piece of paper?” Health wondered.

“Abundant in your heart” Wisdom read the words on the paper loudly.

They got neither god coins nor jewellerys. Yet, instead of feeling disappointed, they were delighted since they learnt something valuable.

Both of them understood what was written on the paper: “Abundant In Your Heart”. Money is not important. If you are satisfied with what you have in your life, you are abundant in your heart.
Speeches
Holiday - Winter Solstice

Good morning everyone, today I am going to talk about Winter Solstice.

Winter Solstice is an important day for us in Hong Kong.

It is pretty cold during Winter Solstice and it is on 22nd of December. It is a festival in many countries, including China. 22nd of December has the longest night of this year, so the festival is set on this day. People will have a big hotpot at home or have it in a restaurant. Family usually also get together to celebrate it.

The special food we eat at Winter Solstice is hotpot. People will put a pot on the stove, put in soup, meat, fish and vegetables, etc. Then they will turn on the fire and wait for it. People will eat hotpot together and they never eat it alone. Other countries may have this special food too, but they will put other food in the pot besides vegetables and fish. For example, people will put cheese and milk in it instead.

I enjoy this festival very much. I hope you will like it too.

Holiday - Winter Solstice

Good morning everybody. Today I am going to talk about Winter Solstice.

Winter Solstice is an important day for us in Hong Kong. This festival is on 22nd of December. Winter Solstice has the longest night of the year.

Winter Solstice is not only celebrated in Hong Kong but it is also celebrated in China and other countries. People will get together and have a big meal at home or in a restaurant. They are very happy. Therefore I like to celebrate the festival too.

At Winter Solstice people eat a lot of food. They will eat a hot pot with meat, fish and vegetables because they are the special food at Winter Solstice.

I think Winter Solstice is the best festival because at this time I do not feel lonely.
Holiday - Winter Solstice

Koson, He Jia Jun (1B)

Good morning everyone. The topic of my speech today is Winter Solstice.

Winter Solstice is an important day for us in Hong Kong. It is on 22nd of December. It is usually a cold day and is also the longest night of the year.

China and other countries always celebrate this festival. Family get together and have a big meal at home or in a restaurant. Some countries have a firework display at night. People often eat a hotpot with meat, fish and vegetables at Winter Solstice. However, my family eat cakes at this festival. The cake is sweet and is so big! My family and I all like eating it.

People are happy at Winter Solstice. However, some people are unhappy because they have to stay and sleep in the streets. They have no family. I think we should also remember them at this festival.
Mid-Autumn Festival

David, Fung Ho Ki (1A)

Good morning, everybody. Today I’m going to talk about Mid-Autumn Festival.

It is a festival only available in China. This festival is in August. People will go moon watching and guess riddles, and most children will carry and play with their lanterns in the park. People usually eat moon cakes during this festival. It is a special food in China. People will also eat fruit at the Mid-autumn Festival. Some people visit relatives and have a family dinner.

There is a story behind this festival. If anyone of you is interested, you can surf the websites and search for more information. You can also find books about it in the library.

This is the end of my presentation. Thank you very much.

Kary, Ip Oi Lam (1A)

Good morning, everybody. Today I’m going to talk about Mid-Autumn Festival.

Mid-Autumn Festival is fun. There is a story about it. One day, a man wanted to find a long-life medicine. His wife did not want him to get it, so the woman stole it and took it. After that, she flew to the moon. She is Chang-E. Is the story funny?

At Mid-Autumn Festival, we will have a family dinner. We usually stay at home and have dinner. After the dinner, we will go to the park and watch the moon, guess riddles and play lanterns. We will eat moon cakes and fruits too. Nowadays, there are many styles of moon cakes for you to choose, e.g., ice moon cakes, ice-cream moon cakes, etc. So, I like Mid-Autumn Festival most.

This is the end of my presentation. Thank you very much.
Webage about Paul

Steven, Huang Li Zhou (1A)

Welcome to this web page!

Introduction of Paul

Paul lives in Beijing. He lives there with his father, his mother and his sister. He is thirteen years old. He is also very short and thin. He has short hair because his mother cut it. He is very funny.

Paul’s family

There are three members in his family. Paul’s father is a doctor. He drives to work every day. Paul’s mother is a teacher. She teaches English and she goes to work on foot. Paul’s sister is a baby. She is three. She can speak Chinese and English. Paul is a student. He speaks English very well.

Paul’s hobbies

Paul likes listening to music because music can help him relaxed. He likes reading because it can help him to learn more things about the world. Paul’s favourite sports are playing basketball and ice-skating. He likes playing basketball because he wants to grow taller.

Paul’s favourite things

Paul has many favourite things. His favourite people are his father and his mother. His favourite food is beef and curry. Paul’s favourite pop stars are Benny and Steven because their songs are very catchy!

Paul’s dream and why

Paul’s dream is that he wants to be a policeman when he grows up. It is because he wants to help many people and make the city a better place to live in!
Alan, Leung Wai Lun (1A)

Welcome to this web page!

Introduction of Paul
Hi! I'll introduce my best friend Paul here. He is eleven years old. He is short and chubby. He has dark brown hair because his mother is American.

Paul’s family
Paul lives in a mansion in Kowloon Tong. His house is very big and beautiful. He lives with his mother, his father and his brothers. His father is a big company’s CEO whereas his mother is a doctor. Sometimes they go to Texas to visit Paul’s grandmother.

Paul’s hobbies
Paul’s hobbies are swimming and painting. He also likes acting and listening to music. He is in the Drama Club and the Art Club in school.

Paul’s favourite things
Paul’s favourite people are his mother and me. (He told me this!) His favourite food is chocolate and jelly. I like sweet food too. His favourite pop stars are Stephen Chow and John Travolta. He hates the horror film “Texas Chain Saw Massacre” because his grandmother lives in Texas.

Paul’s dream and why
Paul’s dream is to become a super star since he likes acting and he wants to be famous.
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