



An Interview with Principal Tsang : A Commitment to Service

by Cheung Pui Sze (5B), Law Chui Shan (4B) and Lai Ho Lam (4A)



Mr. Tsang Kee Kung is retiring at the end of this school year after 28 years at the school as principal. Throughout the years, Principal Tsang has shown a strong commitment to encourage students to improve their academic performance and broaden their horizons. We were honoured to have an opportunity to interview him on 10th July, 2014.

We first asked Principal Tsang what the school was like 28 years ago and how it had changed.

When I first came, the school was overcrowded with more than 1200 students in 30 classes, but now it is more spacious with a new annex. I still remember there were hardly any tall trees or plants in the school premises as there are now. Instead of

having big staff rooms where teachers teaching the same subject can sit together, there were many small staff rooms. It was really difficult for teachers at that time to communicate with each other efficiently. The new arrangement has indeed facilitated collaboration. What's more, the walls of our school have been painted with different colors and the concrete playground has

been replaced by a weatherproof one. The former Student Activity Centre, which located in Rm. 202, 203 and 204, has now been moved to the covered playground and those rooms were reallocated as classrooms again."

When we asked about the most memorable moment Principal Tsang could remember, he said that when he came to school in 1986, he was very young, being only 30 years old. It was challenging for him as he was new but needed to work with more than 50 teachers, 20 non-teaching staff and 1200 students. Luckily, with one year of hard work, he was able to understand the strength of each teaching staff member and worked well with them to boost students' academic results.

Another memorable incident was the preparation for our school's 20th anniversary. Instead of arranging a common Open Day, he launched a whole-school community service project in Kwai Tsing district. All



The entire school gathers for a photograph with our supervisor, Mr. Tong and Principal Tsang at the year-end cum prize-giving ceremony.



Teachers gave a special surprise to Principal Tsang by singing the song "Be true" to him at the Singing Contest in December, 2013.

teachers and students were involved in different venues including Cheung Ching Estate, Maritime Square, Kwai Chung hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital on the same day, and they all said it was a meaningful event.

Principal Tsang also shared one of the challenges in school administration. The New Senior Secondary Academic Structure makes timetabling a daunting task since he wanted to provide a broad but balanced student programme with sufficient choices. The option to drop subjects for students appeared in secondary five. It required extra manpower to monitor students during their free periods. Unfortunately, many students wasted their valuable time in the free periods by chatting and sleeping. He stressed that students should treasure the extra free periods to complete the assignments or do revision. In his words: "Make good use of the free periods. Study hard and look for significant improvement in the rest of the subjects."

We are delighted that Principal Tsang told us some of his unforgettable experiences of participating in civic education and voluntary work. Among all the committees in which he has been involved, he found two of them to be the most meaningful. The first one is being a Hong Kong Art Development Councillor, contributing ideas for the government consideration



Principal Tsang is observing and encouraging students to interact in the English morning assembly. The English morning assembly is conducted for each form once each cycle in the school hall.

in implementing different artistic and cultural events or campaigns to improve citizens' quality of life. His relationship with these artistic bodies and performing troops, enabled him to offer students access to the theatre, such as the famous opera "La Boheme" with tailor-made "Chinese subtitles" and monologues

in Cantonese between scenes in April, and the Chinese ethnic dancing show in March. The second one is as a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Members



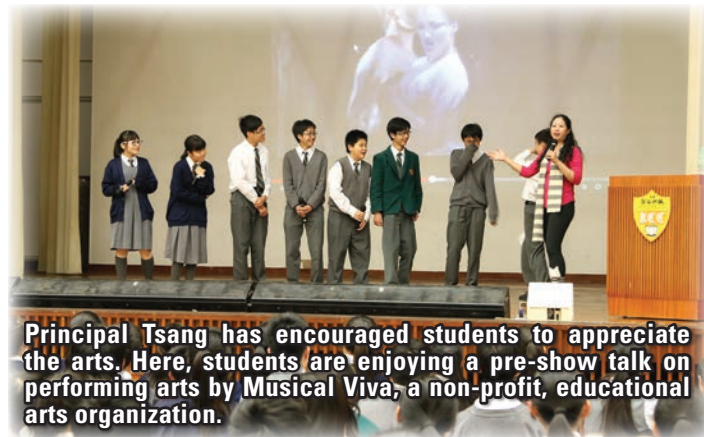
All staff convivially celebrated Principal Tsang's birthday in the Staff Common Room during lunch time on 16th January, 2014.

needed to examine every aspect of the stamp from choosing the appropriate theme, the initial design concept to the final release of the stamps. "It takes about two years in advance to produce a set of stamps." He admitted it was a difficult task because he had to consider many perspectives before putting forward his arguments when evaluating the different proposals about the design of the stamps. Yet, he learnt a lot from the expressive design and the different printing techniques to the birth of a stamp.

By stepping out of the school to the community, he was able to gain exposure to experiences from all walks of life and diverse viewpoints that he could bring back those conducive to our school development. He expected, "I also hope Mr. Leung, my successor, will do so."

Due to his outstanding and dedicated community service in Kwai Tsing District, Principal Tsang was awarded the "Medal of Honour" by the Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa in 2004. Although his friends were proud of him, he deemed it not worth mentioning, as he never thought of any reward while committing himself to voluntary service. Yet, he told us that the

“Badge of Honour” he received by the former British Government in 1997 was memorable as it was awarded on 30th June, 1997, the day the United Kingdom handed sovereignty of Hong Kong back to China. “I really treasured the time talking to Prince Charles. I shook hands with him.” Apart from being the Chairman of the Kwai Ching Festival for many years, he was also elected to be the Chairman of the Association of Heads of Secondary Schools of Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Districts. He put forward many different plans so that all the principals in Tseun Wan and Kwai Tsing could work together in good team spirit. “I’m proud that they’re still using the strategies I proposed. What’s more, as we know each other, we can learn from different school experiences.”



Principal Tsang has encouraged students to appreciate the arts. Here, students are enjoying a pre-show talk on performing arts by Musical Viva, a non-profit, educational arts organization.

We asked how today’s students compared with those in the past. He said that he thought students in the past were hardworking. Without the distractions of the video games and computers, their main hobbies

were reading, so they tended to spend more time studying. However, students of the new digital generation are too busy playing computer games or on social media. He advised, “Cut them down. Manage your time wisely to acquire more knowledge. Strive for



Students are absolutely delighted that they are given opportunities to step out of the classroom to enjoy the Chinese ethnic dancing show conducted by the Hong Kong Dance Company on 17th March, 2014 and an Italian opera entitled “La Bohème” at the Kwai Tsing Theatre on 2nd April, 2014.

Principal Tsang has committed to not only cultivating our intellectual growth but also igniting our learning potential. We asked which event he conducted has the most significant impact on students, he smiled and asked us whether we heard about “Project Hope School”. Starting from 1995, he arranged for teachers and students to visit schools in poverty-stricken rural areas of China. “We were some of the pioneer schools in Hong Kong to join the project. It was an inspiring experience for students because they realized how lucky they were when they saw the hardworking mainland children had to walk from home to school every day for more than two hours and they were deprived of any books and stationery. Without any pen, they only could write words on the ground using twigs from trees.”

He added that in 2002 he introduced the Arts of Life programme for our senior form students. At that time, he was a committee member in Hong Kong Arts Development Council, so he was well aware of the need to extend students’ learning experience. “We were the first school to implement such a curriculum which coincided with what the OLE proposed by the Education Bureau later.”

excellence. I hope all of you can move up!”

Principal Tsang said that although he would miss the school, he wouldn’t really retire. “I’m still not old enough to retire. I can’t say that I’m energetic but I’ll still have ability to do something. I’ll move to another new job. I’ll do something new to me and Hong Kong. I won’t disclose it now but by the time you hear about it, it means I’m successful.”

We asked him if he had any special words for our readers. This is what he said: “First of all, study hard, carefully and thoroughly. Secondly, think before you act. Never just blindly follow what others say. Finally yet importantly, always remember your nationality and be proud to say you’re Chinese.”



F.6 students feel grateful for Principal Tsang’s inspiring speech. They promise to strive for excellence in the upcoming HKDSE.

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We wish Principal Tsang all the best and hope he will continue to keep in close contact with the school.



Teachers, who look like ardent fans, are busy taking photos with Principal Tsang in the farewell dinner.

An Unforgettable Exchange Trip To Shanghai

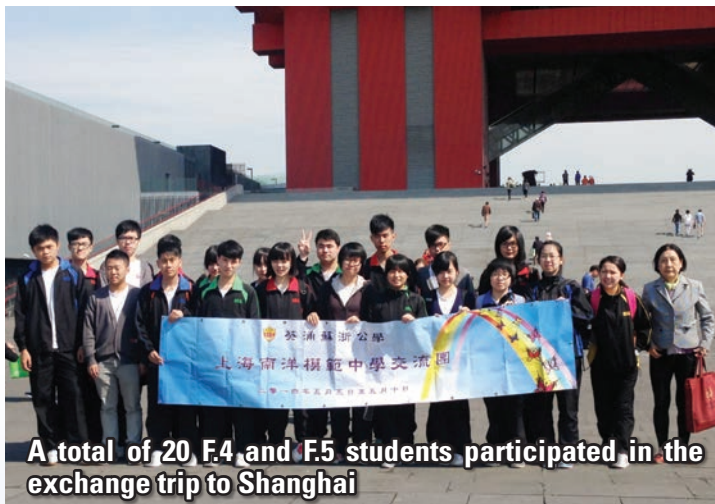
By Lai Ho Lam (4A), Lei Po Sze (5B),
Cheung Pui Sze (5B) and
Leung Bo Wan (5D)

Want to gain some inspiring experience?

Want to study in a different school?

Want to take a break and go travelling?

20 F.4 and F.5 students embarked on an exchange trip to Shanghai with their teachers, Miss Lo Mei Ching, Miss Jessica Chan, and Miss Tong on 5th to 10th May, 2014.



A total of 20 F.4 and F.5 students participated in the exchange trip to Shanghai

Have you ever dreamt of travelling or studying abroad? Several KCKC students recently had a valuable opportunity to visit our sister school, Shanghai Nanyang Model High School. As one of the most prestigious schools on the mainland, it is not only renowned for its excellent academic performance, but also outstanding achievements in art, music and sports.

Shanghai Nanyang Model High School's basketball team has won over 70 champions in Shanghai and five national basketball championships! Several

well-known athletes are graduates of the school, including the former Chinese men's national basketball team captain Zhang Dawei and the former Chinese women's national basketball captain Zhu Jinyun.

Their school's Symphony Orchestra has also won a variety of prestigious prizes. These include the national primary and secondary school art festival's first prize; the 15th Australian International Music Festival Gold Award; and the gold medal first place of the 35th International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna. The orchestra has also participated in the Shanghai World Expo, Taipei International Flora Exposition, and the 65th session of the Chicago World Music Festival exchange of performances. What a list of achievements!



Shanghai Nanyang Model High School Symphony Orchestra

In addition to Nanyang High School's notable achievements, students are also very sincere and hospitable to visitors. Our sister school welcomed us with a series of dynamic events, the first being a friendly basketball match. Then their dance team prepared three pop music songs to perform for the audience. We were very impressed by their performance, which really showed great team work. It was a shame that we did not prepare any dance routines, as it would have been a great collaboration! Nevertheless, we also did remarkably well. We prepared three songs, which



A friendly basketball match between students from KCKC and Shanghai Nanyang Model High School



A warm welcome from students and teachers from Shanghai Nanyang Model High School

Studying at Shanghai Nanyang Model High School was an invaluable experience even though it lasted for only three days. It was also the part that we treasured most, as rarely do we have the opportunity to interact with mainland students so closely. Each of us was paired with a local Shanghaiese student and we studied together in the same class, immersing ourselves in the Nanmo curriculum.

we had prepared long before this trip. As a group, we decided to sing one song from each language that we are familiar with, so that we could demonstrate our language skills. Our first song was a Mandarin song, which was performed with two singers and a ukulele. Although the delivery was simple, it was still able to lighten the mood because of the ukulele. There were even Nanyang students dancing to the song! Our second and third songs were 'Pride in Your Eyes' and 'Our Mother School'. These two songs were especially fun because of the actions that followed. There were many days when we had to practise under the boiling sun but this practice paid off, as our performances looked unified.

We joined the morning exercise and after-school activities, interacting closely with our counterparts. We were greatly impressed by their admirable learning ethos, as all of them are inspired youngsters with a passion for learning and an unyielding drive for excellence.

Certainly, the one-night homestay at our buddy's house was another unforgettable experience. As we, KCCCK students, parted ways and joined our buddy's family, we all had different experiences. The majority of us visited Sing Wong temple, a well-known tourist attraction, eating not only 'siu long bao', but also other local delicacies. Meanwhile, others went to various museums and some even went to sing karaoke. Regardless of the activity, our buddies ensured we had a memorable stay with them. We dined and chatted with the family members, and we even shared a bedroom.

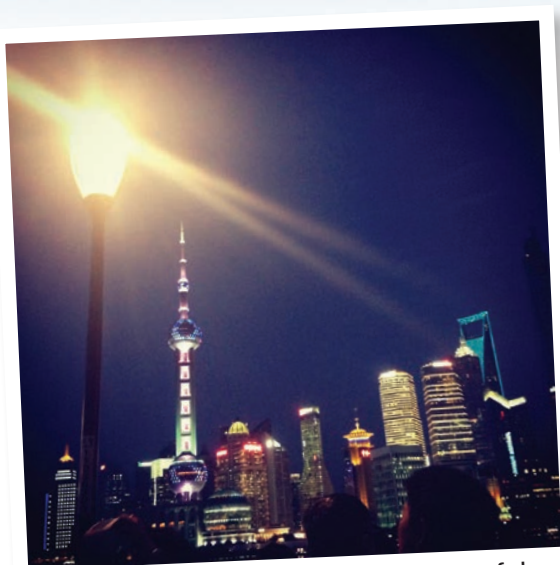


KCCCK students joining their Shanghaiese counterparts in intensive morning exercise



Just like students in Shanghai Nanyang Model High School, KCCCK students are having their self-study session right after dinner.

We all slept late that night, and actually some students even managed to stay up all night chatting. We shared many things, such as our typical school life and Hong Kong's unique lifestyle. This close encounter fostered our friendship. Back in Hong Kong, we continue to keep in contact via WeChat and email.



Shanghai at night: magnificent view of the historical Bund and the modern financial district. A contrast of the old and new.

Shanghai is a renowned international metropolis. Like Hong Kong, it displays the perfect blend of cultures, the modern and the traditional; the western and the oriental. We can see a lot of modern skyscrapers and old Shikumen, which together draw the skyline of the city. During our trip, we were fortunate enough to spend time exploring some of the popular attractions such as The Bund, the China Art Museum and Lu Xun museum where we took a lot of photos.



Mr. Gao Yi , Principal of Shanghai Nanyang Model High School, presenting a souvenir to our school



Mr. Tsang, our Principal, felt honored to dine with Mr. Gao Yi (the first person on the right), Principal of Shanghai Nanyang Model High School and the former vice principal, Mr.Li Xiong Hao (the second person on the right), the former principals, Mr. Zhang Maochang (the third person on the right) and Mr.Qian Yaobang (the first person on the left).

The exchange tour was really an eye-opening experience for many of us. First of all, it built a strong bond between us and students of our sister school. It gave us a taste of a different kind of school life in one of the top schools in Shanghai. Exploring a new city broadened our horizons when staying and exploring in a new city. We also strengthened our Mandarin skills, particularly our communication skills, through interacting with our Mainland buddies. More importantly, it ignited a love of learning and a strong desire to strive for excellence.



Participants bidding farewell to their buddies



Before the trip: Participants gathering at Hong Kong International Airport at 7:45 am on 5th May, 2014

Each participant was paired with a student in Shanghai Nanyang Model High School during the trip



After the trip: Participants departing from Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 4:00pm on 10th May, 2014



Anti-footbal Betting Campaign

Watch exciting ball games. Bend it like Beckham. Don't gamble away your future!



By gambling we lose both our time and treasure, two things most precious to the life of man.

**—Owen Feltham
(1602-1668; English essay writer)**

We are grateful that our school has arranged many valuable talks throughout the year. One such talk was an anti-football gambling awareness campaign, held on 28th May, 2014. The assembly began with a play performed by some F.3D students, which examined the various negative impacts of gambling on families. When family members learn that savings, property or belongings have been lost, it can make them feel scared, angry and betrayed. For instance, the wife in the story no longer wanted to be emotionally or physically close to her husband after finding out he was addicted to gambling. Although the man felt bitter remorse for what he did, his wife left him and took their son. The highlight of the talk was the show performed by Shiga Lin, a popular singer and actress, as well as a performance from local band Dear Jane. Everyone was thrilled to see their performance, and the school hall was filled with rapturous cheers and applause.



*From the talk, I learned more about the negative effects of betting on football. Most people who gamble are addicted to it and it adversely changes their personality and lifestyle. They are easily angered as they think their family members are annoying. Football betting is too risky to try. I won't do it, not even once.
I enjoyed the play, which conveyed an anti-football gambling message in a fun and exciting manner. The main character in the drama did not get his happy ending because of his excessive and problematic gambling. It's sad to find how so many people become victims of gambling. You deserve a fruitful life! Dear readers, never gamble! It is such a high price to pay!*

By Mak Pui Man (3D)

We felt surprised when we were invited to perform the play because we did not have any prior acting experience. Words could not express how nervous we were because we had to act before F.1-3 schoolmates, celebrities Shiga Lin and Dear Jane and our teachers. Nevertheless, we were very excited and did our best in the rehearsal. It was lucky that the performance was successful. We also felt overjoyed that we could shake hands with the great stars!

By Chueng Ka Chun, Chan Lai Tak, Cheung Ming Hong, Yu Chun Wai and Wong Cheuk Pam (3D)



The anti-gambling play by 3D students is entertaining.



Students are taking part actively in the Anti-football Betting Quiz



Students are enjoying an impressive show by Dear Jane.



Winners of the Quiz are jubilant to receive the photo postcards with the singers' autographs.



Fans are cheering loudly when Shiga Lin is on stage.



Are you a book fan? You don't seem content with book presentations in class. Try something new. Walk out of the classroom like one of our students in 4A.

Inter-School Reading Forum

By Lai Ho Lam (4A)



On 15th March, 2014, I joined the Inter-School Reading Forum organized by King Ling College in Tseung Kwan O. Students from different schools were invited to take part in this event in order to celebrate World Book Day, which aims to encourage reading habits, especially among the youth.

Students who were invited to this Reading Forum had to prepare a book review to present to other students. My English teacher, Ms Lo Yin Fun, gave me a book called "Anne Frank : The Diary of a Young Girl". When I started reading this book, I thought it was difficult

because it talked about the period between World Wars I and II. It took me a lot of time to understand the background information, but soon I fell in love with it.

I still remember on that day, I felt very nervous because it was the first time that I had to present a book review to students from different schools. When I walked onto the stage, my heart was beating fast and my hands were clammy. I tried to speak very loudly so that everyone thought I was not afraid. Finally, I did it and received a big round of applause from the audience.

It was not until I sat back on my seat that I was able to calm down. I really appreciated other students' performance. I was amazed by their English fluency with a good grasp of intonation and pronunciation. They all spoke with confidence and gave natural eye contact. I understand that 'Rome was not built in one day'. They must have undertaken a lot of daily practice. We need to make greater efforts to brush up on our English!



An excerpt from Lai Ho Lam's book presentation in the reading forum *Anne Frank - The Diary of a Young Girl*

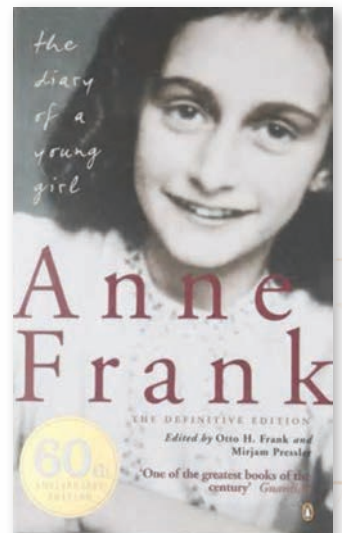
Summary of the book

This is a book written by Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who lived during a terrible time, the Holocaust. Anne's family lived in Holland before World War II started. Her family hid from the Nazis in an attic of an office, to avoid being sent to a concentration camp.

Anne Frank wrote about her school life, her friends and her parents before she was kept away from the outside world, and later her family and the neighbors who crowded their hiding place. At the same time, the political situation of Germany was unpredictable, since Hitler dominated the whole country and constantly threatened the Jews. During this rough time, there were many stories happening around her such as her relationship with Peter. When they were hiding, they fell in love and developed a special kind of friendship. Also, Anne sometimes had arguments with Peter's parents;

after all, it was such a small and crowded place that would drive anyone crazy.

A few months later, their nightmare came true. The Nazis followed a lead given by an informer and stormed into the little cell where Anne Frank's family was hiding. Anne Frank and her sister were sent to a concentration camp, but they were all separated into different parts of the camp. The moment they were separated was the last second they saw each other.



After the arrest, Anne Frank still wrote in her diary about the situation of the camp. Children under the age of 15 were directly sent to the gas chamber. Anne had just turned 15 three months earlier so she didn't die yet. Anne and her sister were forced to strip naked to be disinfected, had her head shaved and were tattooed with an identifying number on their arms. Finally, they became slave labourers. The workplace was smelly and unhygienic, with little food or materials. Due to these chaotic conditions, diseases such as typhoid fever were rampant. The Concentration Camp had to be burnt in order to prevent disease. In the end, Anne and her sister both died from the spread of disease just a few days before the U.S Army came to set them free.

My reflection

What struck me most in her book was the horror of such a brutal cleansing of a race and how humans,



young and old, male and female, were humiliated, such as being forced to be naked and lining up to be sent to the gas chamber.

I appreciate Anne Frank very much because of her optimistic attitude and unyielding personality when she was faced with many adversities, such as the discomfort of being in hiding, the loneliness of being separated from her family and the brutality of authority. I was in total shock recently when I read about a Holocaust survivor, who shared what she witnessed in those dark times. She even showed the reporter a cloth made from human hair of those who died in the concentration camp.

I consider myself a pessimistic person, so when I fail any exam, I feel so terrible that I lose all confidence. After reading Anne Frank, I began to reflect on how I face my own difficulties and adversities. We should have a positive mindset every day and be more optimistic, so that we can tackle any problems effectively. If what I am faced with is bringing me down, I think of what Anne Frank encountered. There's no comparison.



The Secret Annex, where Anne Frank and her family hid, is in the back part of the building.

"Not being able to go outside upsets me more than I can say, and I'm terrified our hiding place will be discovered and that we'll be shot."

Anne Frank

An Interview with Miss Jessica Chan

By Law Chui Shan, Gloria (4B)



Miss Jessica Chan, one of our NETs, joined our school in July. She is the teacher of the English Summer Camp and English Saturday Camp for the junior form. Also, she is the drama teacher for all F.1 classes and the oral teacher of some senior groups.

Q: Hi, Miss Jessica. I heard that you've been living in Canada. What made you come to Hong Kong?

A: I came back to Hong Kong because my family has made the decision to move back. I wanted to stay with my family, so here I'm adjusting to the lifestyle of Hong Kong.

Q: I see. What's the difference in the learning style between Canadian students and Hong Kong students?

A: Canadian students are interactive and are often engaged in lots of group work. On the other hand, students in Hong Kong are a bit more passive, however, still eager to learn.

Q: Is this your first teaching job in Hong Kong? What have you been doing before joining our school?

A: Yeah, in an aided school. Previously, I taught in tutorial centers from playgroup to age 15.

Q: Well, you taught the junior form students in the summer English Camp and you're teaching some senior classes in their oral lesson. What is your impression of them?

A: I can tell the junior students are still very energetic and are just enjoying every bit of high school, whereas the senior students are starting to worry about the HKDSE and other exams. I'll say the seniors are a bit more anxious.

Q: That's true, so am I. You're also teaching F.1 students drama, what activities did you do with them? How do you find our F.1 students?

A: When I teach drama, I often emphasise the importance of eye contact, body movement, voice control, and stage position. Fortunately, form 1 students are all very bright, making every lesson a great experience.

Q: Oh, really? Do you have any tips for our students on how to improve their oral English in the HKDSE?

A: Certainly. Keep in mind that the HKDSE is a discussion, so do not make it a speech. When I say discussion, I mean it is a conversation where you have to respond to each other. So please do not only state your points but also reply to others!

Q: By the way, what are your hobbies or interests outside school?

A: My hobby is music. Personally, I love playing the piano and right now I'm actually starting to learn the guitar.

Q: Wow, thanks for your time.

A: You're welcome.



Gloria Law and Miss Jessica Chan taking a photo outside the Staff Room



*Have you ever dreamed that you could soar into the sky?
Have you ever considered seizing an opportunity to serve the needy?*

I Can Fly

by Chan Wing Lam (4A), Cheng Hok Sim (4B)
and Hui Pui Lam (4B)

Thanks to our teacher, Ms. Lui Wai King, we had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in Cathay Pacific Airways' "I Can Fly" programme. This worthwhile endeavour aims to nurture an enthusiasm for aviation as well as a spirit of social service in local teenagers. The latest "I Can Fly" programme is organised exclusively for 500 Form 4 or above less-advantaged students aged 15-21 in Hong Kong. The sixth "I Can Fly" runs from May until summer 2014. As a measure of the programme's popularity and success, about 3,200 students have already graduated from the programme since 2006.

The programme was kicked off by the Pledging Ceremony on 25th May, 2014, where we met all the participants, team members and leaders. We all made a pledge to hold onto our dreams to fly high and learn how to plan a social service activity to serve the community.

The visit to Cathay City offered us not only a great opportunity to explore the company, but also gain a deeper understanding of what it is like to be a pilot. We certainly obtained useful insight about a career in aviation. The tour to the Education Path, constructed inside the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) Headquarters and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (HAECO), provided us with invaluable information about aviation, aircraft engineering and maintenance procedures, as well as air traffic control operations.



Cathay City



Civil Aviation Department

What amazed us most was the ground school training that enabled us to learn about various aspects of the airline industry - from flight operations and inflight



services, to airport services and engineering - guided by Cathay Pacific pilots, flight attendants, engineers and other aviation professionals. It was really a great experience. We learnt about basic aviation knowledge, aerodynamics, meteorology, flight plans and aerodrome forecasts for flight

operations. The experienced flight attendants shared the attitude and aptitude required for remarkable inflight passenger service, while the engineers taught us about aeroplane engine design and maintenance, safety and reliability. Additionally, the air services team

briefed us on the extensive airport operations at Hong Kong International Airport.

The highlight of the programme is to design a social service activity. We are now collaborating with our teammates and are working hard to plan the scope of our activity, the target audiences and the budget. If we are lucky to be placed in the top 100 performers, we will be invited to join the overseas trip which offers new aviation-related learning opportunities, including undergoing flight training in Adelaide, Australia, or visiting the Airbus factory in Toulouse, France. There will be a graduation ceremony in August. We are looking forward to the day when we will all gather to celebrate and receive the awards.



Chan Wing Lam, Lau Choi Chu, Lo Ho Yan, Cheng Hok Sim and Hui Pui Lam participating in the Pledging Ceremony



At HAECO, we had the chance to take a close-up look at aircraft engines.



Each group will use its creativity and newly acquired knowledge to design a social service activity to help those in need.



Figuring out how to save enough money for travelling?
Know about working holiday programmes but not quite sure what they are?
Below is an article you must read.

Working Holiday Scheme

By Lei Ho Fung (5B)

The summer holiday is coming, but I know many of you are not excited. Do you like travelling? If yes, have you ever thought of a working holiday, an overseas holiday that can last between 1-2 years?

What is a working holiday?

Working holiday participants can gain valuable experience while living, working and travelling abroad for 1-2 years. During their working holiday, they can take up short term employment and short courses, such as a course in the local language.

Who can join?

Basically, young people aged 18-30 can join. In western countries, many university students take a gap year to go on their working holiday because it is a perfect way to travel on a budget and embrace new experiences, before returning to focus on their tertiary studies. This opportunity is now also available to Hong Kong students.

Why should I join?

Travelling miles away and experiencing the local culture is the dream of many teens, and perhaps yourself. Maybe you would like to broaden your horizons as well. **The experience you gain from a working holiday definitely helps enhance your self-confidence, adaptability and interpersonal skills.**

Also, you can improve your language skills, which is an investment in your future. During your stay abroad, you can also gain a better understanding of the cultural and social developments

in the host country. This will undoubtedly deepen your understanding of the world around you. Another bonus of participating in a working holiday is that you can also earn money to cover travelling expenses.



Where to visit?

Here are the nine countries available for Hong Kong passport holders: the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Canada, France, Germany and Ireland

Why don't you find out more? Check out: <http://whs.esdlife.com/>.



Agony Aunt



Tell me your dilemma and I will provide the remedy!

Dear Aunt Agony,

Hey, this is the first time I'm trying this advice thing. My problem is that my classmates always made fun of me as I only have an old-fashioned mobile phone, but I can't afford a smartphone. In order to have enough money, I tried to work at McDonald's, but my academic results are dropping. I really want to get an iphone because I don't want to lose my friends. Could you give me some advice?

Desperate Peter, F.3

Dear Peter,

I understand how bad you feel when being teased. There are a few different things you can do to deal with your problem, but as a first step start building up your self-esteem. You don't have to please your classmates if you don't want to. They all have a smartphone, but it doesn't mean you have to get one in order to be in the circle. Do you want to be a copycat? If not, why do you care what they say?

Real friends will accept you as you are. They won't force you to have an iphone when you can't afford one. It's silly to take a part-time job in order to buy one to befriend your classmates. Don't you know that it's the reason why your academic results are dropping? You should spend time on your studies at weekends. Your parents will be very disappointed if they know what you're doing. Walk away from them and stop working at McDonald's.

It might be a good idea to talk to your class teacher if your naughty classmates keep talking about you. Know your strengths, what you want and what you're capable of. This self assurance can be helpful when dealing with verbal bullies.

Aunt Agony

Dear Aunt Agony,

In the first form test, I was doing pretty good and I cared what I was doing and I was happy so I did well in all subjects. Then my boyfriend and I broke up. I didn't do any revision because I was depressed. I couldn't get my mind off of him and by the time I realized I needed to get back on track it was too late. I got my report card today and it's bad. I failed all the subjects. They were the worst results I've ever got. I know my parents are going to be disappointed with me. What should I tell them?

Worried Wendy, F.4

Dear Wendy,

I'm sorry that you were upset by the break up with your boyfriend and you couldn't concentrate.

Instead of lying, you should tell your parents the truth.

Explain to them that you know that you made some bad choices and you won't let it happen again. Show them your determination by making a plan on how you can do better in the second term. Then stick to it.

Be focused and active in the lessons. Stay in the school library to do revision as you can always consult your teacher if you have any problems with the school work. I'm sure you can catch up with your studies very soon. Remember, the better you do in school, the more doors are open for you in your future!

Aunt Agony



Fun English Idioms

Idioms are used in all sorts of ways in the English language, and can make the most boring statement a lot more interesting! The following idioms are based on parts of the human body. Test your knowledge of English idioms with the questions below.

1. young blood

Meaning: If you say "young blood", you mean young people who have fresh, new ideas and lots of energy.



We think the company needs some young blood because

- a. all our staff are sick.
- b. our boss likes looking at young people.
- c. we need staff who know how young people think.

2. (your) hands are tied

Meaning: You can say your hands are tied if you're prevented from doing something that you'd normally have the power or the authority to do.

The guy in the bank who approves loans said his hands were tied and he

- a. can't untie them.
- b. would be happy to give us the loan.
- c. couldn't approve our loan.

3. (your) heart goes out to (someone)

Meaning: If your heart goes out to someone, you feel great sympathy for him or her.

The president said his heart went out to

- a. all the earthquake victims.
- b. all his old girlfriends.
- c. all the money he lost.

4. a bad hair day

Meaning: If you're having a bad hair day, everything seems to be going wrong for you.

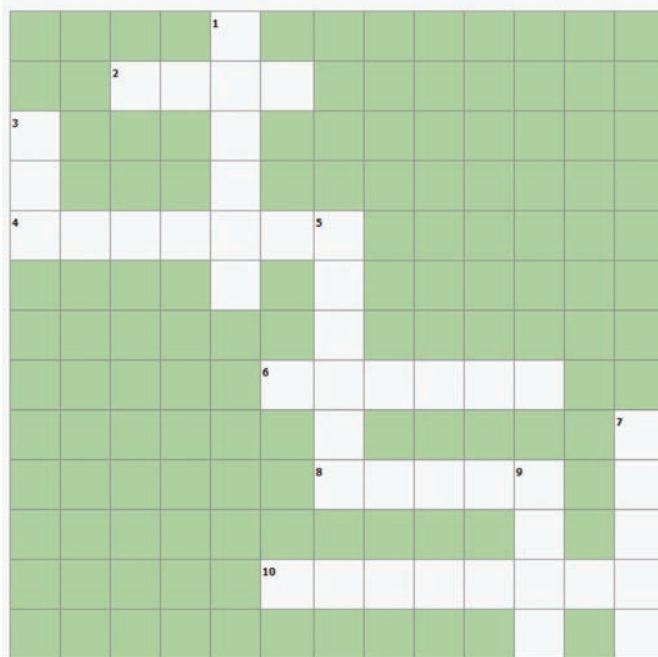
If you're having a bad hair day

- a. you've had a terrible haircut.
- b. nothing's going right for you.
- c. you don't care what people think about you.



THE WORLD CUP PUZZLE

Learn English through football.
Complete this fun crossword puzzle.
Take the challenge!



Across

- 2. round object you kick
- 4. another word for footballers
- 6. competition prize
- 8. item of clothing
- 10. name of the game

Down

- 1. number of players in a team
- 3. another word of trophy
- 5. football players wear these
- 7. everywhere on earth
- 9. group of players

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