

The All-Rounder

Chuen Yuen Newsletter

Winter Issue 2016-17

News for Students, by Students

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Readers,

In this issue, you can see what our students have been getting up to both inside the school (e.g. English Week) and outside (e.g. museum and bank visits, school BBQ). We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we've enjoyed making it. Happy 2017 everyone!

Our writers in this issue:

Vincent Ma (2D)
Jenny Fung (3A)
Ivania Lau (3A)
Iris Wong (4D)
Sarah Chan (5C)
Alice Ho (5D)
Gordon Wong (5E)
Rachel Law (5C)
Jimmy Mak (5A)
Kate Chau (6E)
To Man Hon (alumnus)

If you too are interested in submitting an article for the newsletter, feel free to contact Ms. Deng or Mr. Dunlea.



The Debate Team



This term CYC joined the *Hong Kong Secondary School Debating Competition* for the first time and were the champions in both divisions! There is a senior team of S4 students:

TSUI MAN LAM, Sam (4D)
KOO KIN YEE, Grace (4D)
WONG KA YEE, Kandy (4D)
WONG WUN WUN, Iris (4D)
CHOI HIU LAM, Cheryl (4D)



Iris said “This was the first time that I joined a debate competition so I felt pretty nervous at that time. I had to rebut the opponent’s comments and it is quite challenging. If the opponent does not mention the rebuttals we have prepared, we have to improvise immediately! The most unforgettable and scary moment was when I almost overran the time. Fortunately, I finished in the last second! All in all, I am exceedingly grateful that I have joined the debate team. And I did learn a lot from it.”



We also have a junior team. In term 1, on the team were:

- FUNG HAU YING, Jenny (3A)
- CHENG MAN HEI, Mason (3A)
- LAU SHUN YING, Ivania (3A)
- NG CHEUK YAN, Prisca (3A)
- WONG SIYA (2A)



Jenny said “In our final round of the debate competition, I had no idea how to rebut to their new points during the competition so I panicked. My speech was not fluent and completely messed up. Fortunately, our total mark was high and we won the debate. I will learn to be calm and not to panic. More importantly, I should read my speech with more passion in order to make it more convincing. Joining the debate team is definitely one of the most challenging things I've ever done, yet all the preparation was worth it. I was so glad that we won the 1st term competition.”



Ivania said “During the debate, we tried our best to listen to what our opponents said. We jotted down all notes quickly without a second’s break. I can tell you it is more difficult than doing our listening practice in *Performance Plus!* I saw our opponents’ hands were shaking as well. They must have been as anxious as us. Luckily we won the competition in the end. All our efforts were rewarded and we all felt thrilled. As the saying goes, you reap what you sow. In the second round of debate, the topic was about “pedestrian zones”. I will never forget when the first speaker of our opponents suddenly burst into tears as she couldn’t pronounce the word “pedestrian”! Suddenly, the chairlady of the debate replaced the first speaker and delivered her speech! Teamwork is extremely important in debating as are quick reaction times. Otherwise, you will lose. As they say, many hands make light work. When I was a primary student, I admired debaters because they are very smart and able to respond to everything. They are never speechless or lost for words. Now I am one of the debaters representing my school. This makes me feel so proud.”



My hobby is “sew” interesting

The Hong Kong Young Embroiderer Programme (HKYEP) is a free activity for teenagers to enjoy embroidery and I was delighted to be a participant. The programme I joined started in 2014. Even though we planned to finish a huge piece, we still haven't finished it yet!

Our teacher, Ms. Mimi Chan, was the first Chinese student in the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) in the United Kingdom. After completing many fantastic pieces, she was invited to become one of the embroiderers to make the custom-made lace on the wedding dress, veil and shoes for the royal wedding of Kate Middleton to Prince William!

She is leading us to make a 3D garden which is not only made by thread and cotton fabric, but also ribbon, wool and canvas. We embroidered some meadows, including flowers like roses, hydrangeas, poppies, etc.

In addition to embroidery skills, we have built up strong friendships. We needed to work together closely to complete the garden section as it requires lots of fine detail. We also need to be as patient as we can because it takes 1.5 hr to fill in a 2cm×3cm area! We often tell jokes and have tea breaks, so we can have an enjoyable Friday night. After all, why would we spend so much time and effort if we didn't enjoy ourselves?

By Kate Chau (6E)





Riddle Competition organisers



Tongue Twister Competition organisers



An exam in the playground? No, the riddle competition!



"52 ways to"...say thank you



Yuki (right) from 2A feels the pressure



Students try out "Who Am I?" by guessing a famous person



This mystery student wants to protect his privacy! ☺



The tongues of senior forms are getting twisted too!



S1 and S2 students are spectating or anxiously waiting for their turn



A Very Memorable School Event

What's your favourite school event? For me, it's definitely Picnic Day! However, even though this year's school barbeque was definitely unforgettable, it was also a painful experience for me...

When we first arrived at the spectacular country park, we were so amazed by how blue the sky was and thankful for the awesome weather. Most students were trying to make a fire for the barbeque, while some were taking selfies, and others were jogging around the park. With the help of Mr. Lam and our most capable group leader Prisca, our group was the very first group to set up the fire. We felt very proud of ourselves. We started the barbeque by grilling the savoury chicken wings. The chicken oil drizzled over the charcoal and the blazing fire was stunning.

Suddenly, I heard a buzzing sound and I immediately knew it was a bee. Bees have been my biggest fear ever since I got stung by a bee when I was little. I freaked out and ran as fast as I could. 'Ouch!' Yes, you guessed it right; I tripped over a brick. I was in so much pain that I couldn't even stand up on my own. My friends rushed over to see if I was okay. I sat on a bench and I suddenly couldn't hear anything and my sight was blurred. I was so scared that I might faint but after 10 seconds, everything went back on track. I could see all of my friends clearly and they were yelling my name loudly. My caring friends accompanied me to the toilet and helped me clean my dirty cardigan. They even grilled the food for me! I was so thankful to have such great friends. I felt much better after a while and I wasn't feeling sore anymore.

After enjoying our delicious meal, the whole class were separated into 2 groups and we played 'Running Man'. Basically, we needed to tear off the name cards stuck on our opponents' backs. The team which had the most name cards at the end was declared the winner. Our team was so strong that our opponents couldn't manage to beat us! Finally, we played dodgeball with Mr. Dunlea and Mr. Sin. We reassigned people into different teams after almost every round. Therefore, winning or losing didn't matter but it was my favourite part of the whole day.

This year's picnic day was literally the most unforgettable one ever. I've learnt to handle things calmly instead of naively. I've also developed precious friendships.

By Jenny Fung (3A)



Banking on a Future Career

I visited the HSBC Building in Central with my fellow classmates who also study Economics on 12th October. It was an unforgettable experience. During the visit, there was a group discussion section that

allowed us to interact with some bankers working in HSBC.

Our discussion mainly focused on the career aspect. We were lucky to have four bankers in our group. They work in the same department – commercial banking. It sounded funny to us when they described their jobs as a “detective”. In fact, they need to check the bank accounts and the trade record to prevent someone from laundering money. In addition, finding out the legislative loopholes to prevent some commercial crimes is one of their duties.

I believe some of you may be interested in becoming a banker. In the discussion, we also talked about the job requirements. Firstly, you should be sociable as most parts of the job require you to communicate with your clients. Secondly, you need to be well acquainted with the news, especially the business section, to show your general knowledge.

Thirdly, maintaining good interpersonal relationships is definitely crucial to a banker as you need to interact with many different people.

After getting some inspiration from the group discussion, are you eager to be a banker? If so, why not start today by equipping yourself with the above qualities?

By Ho Pui Ying, Alice (5D)



The Blade Runner

Camel Fung is a real-life “blade runner”. He was the Guest of Honour at this year’s Sports Day and is also the husband of a CYC alumna. His left leg was lost in a car accident in 1979 when he was a PE teacher. He was so down and depressed after the accident as he adored sport. He even had suicidal thoughts at that time. Fortunately, he was able to climb back up right from where he fell.

He thinks youngsters can learn from him about the spirit of not giving up in long-distance running because the ones who start first are not always those that win the race in the end. It is very important to keep this in mind when we are facing difficulties and sadness. He also suggested that when youngsters are facing difficulties, they should not be so negative. Instead, we’d better try to take it step by step.

By Gordon Wong & Rachel Law (S5)

“Deaf-initely” a worthwhile visit



Last week my 2D classmates and I went to the Kai Lung Lutheran School for the Deaf as part of this year's service learning programme. As the name suggests, the students at that school all have hearing problems.



Before the visit, I felt nervous because I had never had any contact with deaf people. When we arrived, we found the students there were wearing a small device on their ears, which was in fact a hearing aid. We were told not to touch their heads. We were divided into small groups and each group was in charge of a different activity.

Our first activity was to teach them origami. In this activity, I discovered that they were very creative and learnt very fast. We also taught them to draw. Actually, they were quite good at it. Then a student asked me how to draw Superman so I tried to teach him. But I didn't know how to draw it so I just drew a human figure. He said, 'That's not Superman! It's a human.' He was so disappointed that he almost cried! I was very embarrassed. So I asked my classmate to teach him. I felt very sorry.

Then another group arranged a sand painting activity. They drew some pictures on the cards and then they cut the pictures into pieces. Finally, they used sand to form the pictures. The students at Kai Lung were very interested in the activity. My classmate and I took care of a boy. He was very nice and smart. He smiled at us all the time. He always understood what we said, but when he talked to us in sign language, we did not know what he wanted to say. I gave the boy a greeting card designed by myself. He seemed to be very happy with it.

In the second half, the students at Kai Lung taught us some simple sign language such as 'hello' 'good morning' and 'goodbye'. I thought sign language was very hard and I couldn't remember the signs easily.

After the visit, I have a very different view of the disabled. Their creativity and learning ability was really impressive. We shouldn't discriminate against them or any other disabled people.



By Vincent Ma (2D)

An Interview with Jimmy Mak (5A)



Trying out a Scottish instrument

● **Where did you go?**

Last November, I joined a 9-day study trip to Scotland with 33 other students from 4 different HK schools. The trip was organized by The Scotland China Education Network (SCEN), which aims to promote China and the learning of Chinese in Scottish schools.

● **How was I selected for this free tour?**

The participants were chosen based on their voluntary service records and interview performance. I guess I was chosen because I was able to express my reflections on the charity work deeply. I am also talented in Chinese calligraphy.

● **What were my observations of Scottish people?**

The Scots have a very different lifestyle from us Hongkongers. They enjoy a slow-paced way of life and are brave to try new things. When we chatted, I found they were very open-minded and more willing to share their views in front of people they had just met!

● **How about the education system there?**

We visited two schools and I was particularly impressed by Glenalmond College, which is a traditional boarding school. The students only have classes in the morning, followed by a 4-hour break before dinner! They can spend this time on sports, revision or just resting. Any homework? I was so jealous to learn that they only spend about 30 minutes on homework each day. How lucky they are indeed! But of course, the students still have to sit the GCSE and A-level exams, which are stressful for them.

● **What are the buildings like?**

You are surrounded by beautiful ancient architecture such as castles. Most people live in towns but they're very small, only about the size of Kwai Chung Estate!



Musical performance at the Teenager Summit



Glenalmond College



Glenalmond Church



With a Scotsman!

Striking a Chord



I decided to learn to play the guitar five years ago. I know I've made the right choice. Let me tell you why.

I formed a band with Alex the drummer and Natalie the bass player when we were in Form 4. The NSS curriculum was demanding and we had to manage our time well between study and band practice. Fortunately, I could balance both. What's more, my family was supportive of my decision. Earlier this year, our band participated in Chuen Yuen's Got Talent 2016 and made our way to the final round!

Being in the band has added a lot of colour and joy to my secondary school life. If you love music, share it with others. Perform on stage if you have the opportunity. It helps you improve faster and you will finally realize how enjoyable performing is. Don't be afraid of making a fool of yourself. Go on - give it a try!

by Sarah Chan (5C)

Last but not least...

Hi everyone. I'm To Man Hon, a graduate of Chuen Yuen College in 2016, now studying engineering at the University of Hong Kong. Below are some tips and reminders regarding the 4 papers of English for the HKDSE:

Paper 1

- Decide which part (B1 or B2) to do beforehand; time yourself when doing past papers to see which part is more suitable for you
- Roughly estimate the time you need for reading the passages
- Read the whole article before answering the questions to give you a better understanding of the flow of the article as a whole
- Highlight people/characters that appear so that you're able to locate them quickly when they are mentioned in questions
- Write down the main idea of each paragraph in a few words (if possible) for easy reference later



Paper 2

- Decide which 2-3 topics (e.g. debate, social issues) you will more likely choose in part B **beforehand** (this depends on which themes you're interested in)
- Collect related vocabulary for your topics of interest, e.g. story writing: descriptive words; social issues: sophisticated phrases (but try to use them naturally!)
- Plan before you start writing, e.g. genre, tone, target readers, main points in each paragraph; avoid any irrelevant comments

Paper 3

- In part A, pay attention to and jot down detail even if it seems irrelevant (could be useful later on)
- To train listening skills, try doing A-level listening papers
- In part B, decide again which part to take **beforehand** (consider previous performance and ask your teacher for advice to help you make your decision)
- If you are confident about your tasks in part A, flick through the data file during the pauses in part A to save as much time as possible for the harder part B
 - Locate useful information for different tasks by, for example, using different coloured pens for separate tasks for easier reference later
 - Make sure you allocate your time properly in order to finish all 3 tasks (good time management is essential!)

Paper 4

- Try doing a one-minute response alone. Record yourself and then play it back. Did you make any common mistakes in your speech?
- Don't write complete sentences on your note card to prevent you from just reading aloud when speaking. Use point form instead

I hope the above reminders and suggestions will be a useful guide for your English study. Keep fighting! ☺

