



Preface

We have a dream - our students will develop a passion for English language that will remain with them for all the years to come. For this reason, we stimulate their critical thinking, equip them with the knowledge of literacy and open up opportunities for them to confidently bring their skills to a higher level. Hence, we are proud to present another wonderful opportunity - VOICES to our students and YOU.

VOICES is a collection of students' writing, of course, but it is also a platform for students to demonstrate their analytical mind and creativity in the literary world. It has been most rewarding for us to see the students' devotion to VOICES, though we have to apologize that we cannot publish all the well-written pieces as space is limited. It is our hope that all the aspirations they have expressed with us all these years will come to fruition. For now, let's simply hear their voices in VOICES.

- Editorial Board



Why I love Private Kitchens?

Hong Kong is a 'Food Paradise'. There is a wide variety of local and international restaurants and eateries in every corner of many streets. We can easily taste even fusion dishes in the territory. However, recently I have found that I have fallen in love with the specialties offered by the private kitchens.

First of all, food at private kitchens tastes like mom's home-made dishes. They are delicious and special. Since Hong Kong is a fast-paced society, it is not easy to consume healthy food. Private kitchens offer better choices and with a tailor-made menu. All the food is hand-made fresh, which is healthier than the mass-produced food served at local food-chains. Although it is more expensive, it is more appealing and tasty.

Moreover, private kitchens provide a spacious and cozy area for a gathering of family and friends. Once you enter, you can feel the relaxing ambience. You can chat with your beloved ones and enjoy a scrumptious meal at the same time. Since the table is reserved in advance, you are guaranteed to have your meal undisturbed. No one is rushing you to finish your food. You can enjoy every single bite of the food and every sip of your drink as well! It is all worth it!

In addition to all of that, guests are free to chat with the chef. You can choose to talk to the chef if you want to, provided that they are not busy at that moment. I always seize the chance to ask the chef for their own recommendations and signature dishes. As a guest, you feel honoured to patronize the private kitchen as you are well-served by not only the waiters but the chef as well.

In conclusion, my visits to the private kitchens are always memorable. Birthday gatherings and family reunions held at various private kitchens have all been unforgettable, so do not hesitate anymore, book your table at a private kitchen today!

S5 Ho Sze Man Sharon



A day trip on Lamma Island

I had a joyful weekend with my family last week because we travelled to Lamma Island together! In fact, it was my first visit to this island. In the morning, we took the ferry from Central to Lamma Island. I felt very dizzy on the ferry ride because it was windy and the waves made the boat rock back and forth. Fortunately, we arrived at Lamma Island within a half an hour. After getting off the ferry, I felt much better.

After the ferry ride, we went to try different kinds of local food only found on Lamma Island. For example, we tried egg puffs, fish balls and sweet soup. The food was cheap but very tasty. Next, we went hiking and saw the fascinating scenery from the top of the mountain. Of course, we took a lot of beautiful photos. Our next activity involved cycling along the beach. Eventually, my mum and dad took a rest on the beach while I went swimming in the sea.

At dinner time, we had seafood in a popular restaurant along the coast. We tried different kinds of seafood and roast chicken. They were all delicious! Before returning home, we sat on stones and watched the moon and the stars near the pier. It was so peaceful and comfortable. I really had a great time and I hope that I can travel to Lamma Island again soon with my friends!

S1 Lau Chun Yin

Should smartphones be allowed in classrooms?

Affirmative

Smartphones should be allowed in classrooms. They are so convenient that they allow us to look up important information very quickly through dictionary and encyclopedia apps. In this way, we can efficiently gain more knowledge about a variety of subjects. Also, smartphones can be used as a self-learning tool by utilizing eBooks and information videos. Smartphones are certainly a powerful learning tool.



S4 Sunny Hong

Smartphones are fabulous when we do research. They offer instant access not only to the websites worldwide but also a variety of research databases and up-to-date information. As students, we are all under a lot of pressure to process information, as well as demonstrate applied knowledge at any moment. Therefore, we should value having continuous access to information by using smartphones even in classrooms. Otherwise, we risk falling behind our classmates.



S4 Bobby Mak

Smartphones are an important communication tool. They allow parents to keep in contact with their children easily at all times. Some parents may work or travel overseas, so they need to be able to make sure their children are safe at different times. In some cases, they even need to make plans or meeting arrangements with their children. I believe that parents will appreciate it if their children are allowed to use smartphones in school.



S5 Yuki Lee

Negative

Once smartphones are allowed into classrooms, there is no guarantee that they will be used properly. How can anyone pay attention to what teachers are saying if they are constantly distracted by messages that have absolutely nothing to do with the topic being taught? I am sure nobody can multitask when it comes to learning. Students should focus on their lessons and on completing the tasks assigned by their teachers but not their phones.



S3 Oscar Lee

Allowing smartphones into classrooms is to offer bullies another outlet for their attacks on other students. With a phone in hand, they may take photos or shoot short videos showing their classmates in embarrassing situations, or they may edit videos of otherwise innocent actions done by their classmates and spread them quickly through instant messaging applications. I can't even start to imagine the damage it can cause to the victims of such bullies. Classrooms should be a safe place for all learners and therefore smartphones should not be allowed in classrooms.



S3 Ashley Lau

Smartphones can be used to cheat in tests and exams. Some naughty students may use their smartphones to look up answers on the internet. Take Maths as an example. They can easily access google or any other search engine to look up answers to the questions. Some even ask someone to text them answers. Why pay attention in class or do your homework and revisions when you can just go online and find all the answers there? As you can see, smartphones are just disruptive and therefore should not be allowed in classrooms.



S3 Cherry Lee



A one-day trip with my cousin

I have a cousin called Jack. He was born and raised in Canada. In the coming summer vacation, Jack will come to Hong Kong for one week. He told me that he was excited about this trip. He wanted to learn more about Hong Kong heritage and he was also interested in Chinese culture.

Therefore, I decided to plan a one-day trip for Jack. The aim of this trip is to let Jack know more about Hong Kong's traditional culture. First, we will enjoy our breakfast at a 'Cha Chaan Teng', a common place for Hong Kongers to have breakfast. Of course, I will recommend Jack try the Hong Kong style 'milk tea', as I am sure it tastes much better than the Western tea or coffee.

Then, we will visit Wong Tai Sin Temple, a beautiful complex located in a busy residential area. It is a place where worshippers pray for good fortune through offerings, seek divine guidance and consult fortune tellers. By visiting the temple, we can learn more about the intriguing stories of Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

After visiting the traditional temple, we will have a barbecue lunch at Sai Kung Country Park. We can have a taste of Hong Kong style barbecue and enjoy the natural scenery at the same time. Then we will join a hiking tour to the world famous Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. It is a good chance for us to explore the wonderful prehistoric landscape.

After all the hiking, I am sure Jack will be starving, so we will have a hot pot dinner at home with my parents. Father will buy some seafood, fish balls and fresh vegetables from our local wet market. It is interesting that people in Hong Kong like having hot pot all through the year, no matter whether it is summer or winter. I am sure Jack will like Chinese hot pot.

Hong Kong is an amazing travel destination. I hope Jack will learn more about our culture and thoroughly enjoy his stay in this hustle and bustle city.

S1 Cheng Chun Ho, Andy

Home Sweet Home

Home is all I have ever called this place
Praise is unanimous here from children to adults
Nothing compares to the safety I feel
Walking around with the breeze in my face

We may not have the most space or best air
But we are still one of the best cities around
No one can deny the fact that we're great
Gather here and enjoy an unforgettable travelling experience

I see views beyond the imagination of others
Scenes of beauty worthy of being world class
Memories created here will last forever
Come on everybody, say cheers and raise your glass

Hong Kong will always be my true home
Of course I will perpetually love my birthplace
My heart will forever be at home here
Every memory I have will never fade away

S2 Kermit Chau

Summer part-time job?

In my opinion, Secondary 3 students should not get a summer part-time job in order to gain work experience since the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages.

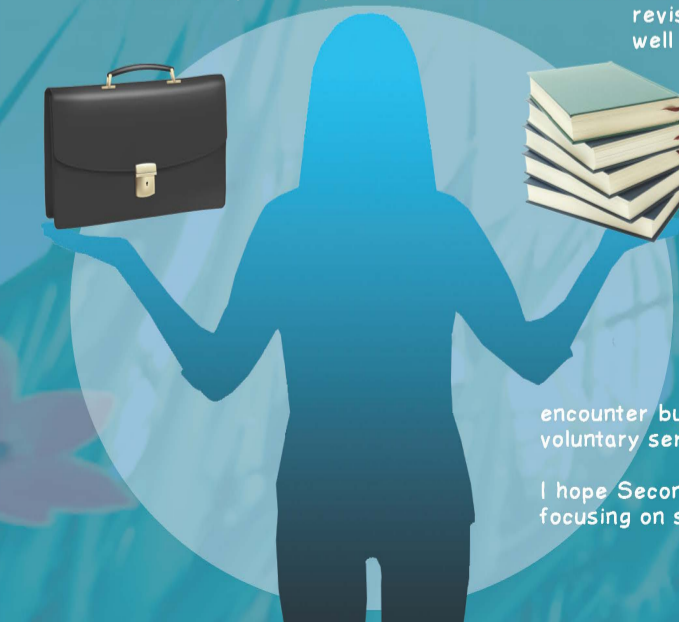
First, since students have to go to school every day, the summer holiday is the ideal time for them to relax and refresh their body and mind. If they have to work part-time during the summer holiday, their energy may be used up and they will feel tired. Most part-time jobs require employees to work for several hours till midnight or beyond, so it is impossible for students to spare time for their revision or summer assignments. As a result, they are unable to prepare themselves well for the senior secondary curriculum.

Undoubtedly, Secondary 3 students are not mature enough to deal with interpersonal issues. They can't judge things from different perspectives. In addition, they can't easily deal with difficulties in the workplace as they lack related knowledge. The employers are never as friendly as teachers or parents. Students will be scolded if they make even minor mistakes. Therefore, working at a young age will only add to students' stress, which acutely affects their daily lives.

Some may argue that taking up a summer job allows students to gain some important working experience. It is claimed that the experience gained from a summer job can give them the benefits when they are looking for a full-time position in the future. However, Secondary 3 students are still too young to enter the workplace. It is easy for them to fall into workplace traps and encounter bullying. If they want to gain some real-life experience, I suggest they join the voluntary service which is organized by some charity groups.

I hope Secondary 3 students will think twice before taking up any part-time job. All in all, focusing on studies is our fundamental responsibility.

S3 Lee Shing Him Oscar



A visit to a Star Wars Planet

One day, I was invited to a Star Wars Planet, Tatooine, to join the celebration of New Year by the Tatooine's people who have been living in this planet for a long time. When I arrived at the planet, I saw a lot of New Year decorations. To symbolize happiness and good luck in the New Year, the Chinese put up red couplets around their homes. However, Tatooiners like using orange flowers for decorations. They believed that 'oranges' give them the power of the sun.

Then, I had New Year dinner with the Tatooiners. Their New Year food is also very special. Tatooine's local food includes various types of legumes, herbs and dried fruits. I thought they had a weird taste. During dinner, they sang many folk songs, and explained to me that was the tradition of their New Year celebration. The songs were the blessings to their family and friends.

After dinner, they took me to the beach. They said, 'We will have a firework display later tonight.' I was surprised to know that they also like to have fireworks at New Year. It was my first time to watch a firework display at the beach. It was fabulous. The patterns of the firework display were different shapes of planets in the universe.

Finally, they gave me a gift before I left. They said it was a tradition for them to prepare a souvenir for their guests. It was a bag of seeds. I wondered if the seeds can grow healthily on Planet Earth. I had also prepared something for them. It was a postcard of Hong Kong. After a simple farewell ceremony, I rode on my little rocket and flew back to my home town.

It was such an amazing experience. I hope my Tatooine friends can come to Hong Kong to celebrate Chinese New Year with me.

S3 Leung Fung Ying Penny

My Weekend Activities

Last Saturday morning, I watched a movie called The Avengers with my friends. It was a fantastic and exciting movie because we felt very interested in the story and the characters, such as Iron Man, Captain America, The Hulk, and Thor. After seeing the film, we went to have lunch at McDonald's.

After that, I went to Tai O to spend the afternoon with my family. We took the bus from Tung Chung MTR station. When we arrived, our cousins were already there. My brother and I enjoyed playing on the beach with our little cousins. Soon it was dinner time. We tried different kinds of seafood, such as shrimp and lobsters. The food was fresh and so yummy! Thankfully, the weather was warm and pleasant.

On Sunday, I visited my grandmother with my parents. Although my grandmother is 85 years old, she is still healthy, fit, and energetic. She played Mahjong with us for two hours! She also cooked a delicious lunch for us. I love spending time with her because she is always kind to our family members and she tells us many stories about her childhood.

I really enjoy spending time with all of my family and friends. So, hopefully, we will watch another great movie together and then go somewhere exciting next weekend!

S1 Sing Lok Tung

Asian Stars Grab Westerners' Hearts

Have you ever noticed that Asian stars are attracted eyes not only in Hong Kong but also in the world? More and more western people admire Asian stars such as Jacky Chan, GEM, Fan Bingbing, Sung Hoon, etc. What is the underlying cause of this phenomenon? Why are Asian stars gaining popularity in Western countries?

There are a multitude of factors giving rise to this phenomenon, with globalization being a salient one. Easy travelling makes it convenient for Asian stars to attend a wide variety of ceremonies, such as the Oscars, in the world. They are photographed by the media and shown on TV immediately on those occasions. This helps effectively raise Westerners' awareness of Asian stars. There are many examples of Asian stars gaining popularity through this method and Fan Bingbing is one of them.

Another main cause of the increasing popularity of Asian stars is the emergence of social networking sites and mass media. Without a shadow of a doubt, they provide some platforms for the stars to interact with their fans from different countries and even keep in close touch with them easily. Uploading their selfies and statuses is the most ubiquitous way to take advantage of the Internet to the fullest. Moreover, a wide range of reality shows produced by Western television stations have been inviting Asian stars to be their guests and show up on their shows,

which provide these artists opportunities to expose themselves to Western audience.

Last but not least, the brilliant talent and attractive appearance of Asian stars are of paramount importance when it comes to the show business. To take K-pop stars as an example, they have their own abilities in different aspects. Some of them are good at composing songs and writing lyrics while the others excel at singing and dancing. Without doubt, their hard work has made them successful in the West.

To conclude, I am looking forward to the promising future of Asian stars at global level. And above all, I am proud of being a member of the Asian fan base of these multi-talented artists.

S6 Cheng Ka Man

School Fun Day

Dear Diary

Today, our school's Social Services Club invited a group of kindergarten students to the Fun Day at our school. As a member of the club, I did a lot of work today.

Everything was ready at ten o'clock. At about half past ten, the students arrived at the school entrance. When I saw their coach, I was very excited. When the students got off the coach, I introduced myself and our school to them. Then, I took them to the school hall.

At eleven o'clock, we started playing a variety of games. For example, we had the spoon race and the sack race. I encouraged the students to do their best. The hall was filled with laughter. Suddenly, a little boy fell down on the stage. He was a brave child. He didn't cry. He kept going instead of giving up. Although he didn't get any prize, he was not disappointed. He told us that he would do a better job next time. It was still a wonderful race, anyway.

At about half past twelve, it was time for lunch. We

provided lunch for every student. They said the food was scrumptious. We chatted with each other while we were enjoying our lunch. The students were so well-behaved that the lunch went smoothly.

After lunch, some students fed the ducks in the pond while some went pony riding. A group of students played Ring Toss. One girl used all her strength to throw some rings onto the bottles in order to get a prize. They all had great fun. Seeing the broad smile on their face, we all felt encouraged.

They left our school at three o'clock. Many students were reluctant to go. They told us that they were looking forward to the next event at our school.

It was an exhausting but enjoyable day today. It's time for bed now.

Good night, Diary!

S4 Ng Ching Ting



My Idol

My mother is my idol. Although she is not an intellectual person, she is always the best role model I have ever had.

I can still remember clearly that endless night when my parents got divorced. 'I'm not going to take the responsibility anymore!' My selfish father left us after spitting the hurtful statement, which is still engraved in my mind. Mum was deeply grieved, but she didn't even utter a word or cry in front of her three little kids.

I think I have to mention my 'siblings'. They are actually not my real sister or brother. I am the only biological child of my parents. When I was only a two-year-old kid, my mom's sister and her brother-in-law were involved in a car accident. They both passed away leaving behind their two babies. With that misfortune, my mom decided to adopt their kids without a doubt. She has treated them as her own children ever since. I have to admit that I wasn't willing to share mum's love with my so-called brother and sister. I was an immature child by then. Nevertheless I have learnt from mom that I have to be generous. I am glad that my siblings and I are now in a healthy relationship and get along well with each other. Moreover, Mom never speaks ill of father but tell us to forgive him. What a selfless mom!

In addition, Mom is the most assiduous person I know. Lacking higher education, she has to work three menial jobs to earn a living. She works 24/7 in order to pay our extra lessons. She is always kind and generous to us, but stingy to herself. Mom always tries her best to offer a better living for all of us!

Mom will definitely be my idol throughout my whole life. Whenever she runs into difficulties, she never gives up. I am so proud of her perseverance. Even though she is just an ordinary woman, she works hard and stays optimistic. Although she is imperfect, there are countless merits one can find in her. She will always be a great role model to me!

S5 Lee Sze Ting

Why You Should Read Every Day

Do you think it is important for young people to develop a habit of reading? Nowadays, the world is constantly evolving. We have to acquire knowledge from different aspects. Through reading, students can get inspirations, which is something that you can never get from online games or any other activities. Parents should encourage their children to read different types of books in order to enrich their minds and keep pace with the world.

Due to the advanced technological support, students can read even on their smartphones. There are different reading apps for people to download. Reading can take place any time or anywhere. Students today are so lucky that there is an abundance of resources to enhance their reading.

To foster a good reading habit, we could start from school. Going to the school library, pick a book you are interested in from the shelf and find a seat at a cozy corner. Also, make good use of the 'morning reading' time every morning. Choose some good articles recommended by teachers for leisure reading. Furthermore, spare some time for newspaper reading, which can update you with what is happening in the world. These are all good enough to help you develop your reading habit.

Now, it is time for us to put down our smartphone and grab some books to read. Let's explore the adventurous world in them. Sooner or later, you will find a different you there.

S4 Li Hoi Yan

Welcome Back to School

Aren't you all excited about the beginning of a new school year? Coming back to school means going home at the end of the day with a long list of homework. In the territory, it does not take much effort to notice that students are assigned a considerable amount of homework from their teachers on a daily basis. Some parents complain about this circumstance as they believe homework pushes their children a great deal. However, I believe that assigning homework to students on a daily basis is of utmost importance.

First, adolescents can recall what they have learned by doing homework. As a matter of fact, many students will forget what they have learnt in no time. Thus, if they have an assignment which they have to complete at the end of the day, they may sit in front of their table in a proper manner and start recalling what they have learnt on that day. In the long term, they will not forget the knowledge they have acquired as easily, since they do quality revision on a daily basis.

Secondly, doing homework is a chance for students to expand their knowledge. Learning is a slow process which should be taken one step at a time. As a result of spending lots of time on our studies, we may want

to give up if we fail. Because of this, finishing homework everyday can help us to ease this phenomenon. Whenever we successfully tackle a question, we will feel proud and pleased and this pushes us to go higher. If we can cope with the questions which arise from our homework, we will be keen to keep going, never giving up.

Another benefit of doing homework is that teachers can ensure students understand the content taught. It is known that teaching a great number of students is a challenge, and teachers cannot take care of each and every one during a lesson. As a consequence, teachers can only keep track of a students' level of proficiency through their work. By doing so, teachers can help them learn in a more effective way.

Although assignments can help students improve their results, too much of it will result in acute situations such as mental health problems and lack of interest, to name but a few. Consequently, it is important to strike a balance between work and play. We should study hard now because we are laying the foundations of our future!

S6 Fung Hoi Yi Kay, Hui Yee Tung Christine



Another theme park?

Dear Editor,

According to Hong Kong Tourism Board, the number of mainland visitors coming to Hong Kong has been falling for 12 months due to keen competition from neighbouring Asian countries. Some people said that Hong Kong should build another theme park to attract more mainland visitors.

Those who are against the suggestion argue that it is a waste of money. My personal opinion is that those who oppose it have not considered the issue deeply. The suggestion is worth supporting.

Although the two theme parks we currently have in Hong Kong are already very popular, building a new one can still attract more visitors. Even though the mainland visitors might have already visited Ocean Park and Disneyland in Hong Kong, they may come again to visit the third one. This is a good way to lower the risk that the big spenders from the mainland become bored and start to travel to other destinations such as Japan, Singapore or South Korea instead. We have to keep this big group of frequent visitors because they live close to Hong Kong. If there is no new attraction, they are not likely to come again and go shopping here. So building a new park is a good way to help boost Hong Kong's economy.

Building a new theme park is obviously a brilliant idea since it targets mainly family groups. When the children show strong interest in going to the new theme park, the whole family has to visit Hong Kong. In this sense, the family travellers would become the majority. While comparing their spending in Hong Kong to single or couple travelers, the family groups could possibly spend more than double. It could be the triple or even more than that. Children are the 'real' potential big spenders behind the scene. If you realise how successful the toy business is, then you can imagine how eager the parents are willing to dig into their pockets for their own children.

Apart from Chinese mainland visitors, the new theme park could also attract new visitors from other countries. Those who live far away from Hong Kong might now become more willing to visit Hong Kong because they can visit 3 theme parks in one trip. What's more, the local Hong Kong people could have more job opportunities. I believe rivalry promotes greatness. If we have one more theme park, the other two parks would work harder to enhance their attractiveness. The entertainment field and the customer service provided would stay at a high standard too.

Obviously, building a new theme park brings more benefits than harm. Why not give it a go?

Yours faithfully,
Jack Kam

S5 Kam Tsz Chun

How do we keep a healthy lifestyle?

Obesity is a big problem for urban dwellers today. So what methods can we use to keep a healthy lifestyle? Let me tell you about it.

First, I think we can develop a habit of healthy eating. It would be better if we ate more vegetables and fruit every day. They are rich in vitamins and they do not contain any oil, which means we could reduce the level of cholesterol in our body. Having cereals for breakfast is a wise choice. They provide us with the energy we need for the day. We should eat less fried food, because it can cause heart disease.

Moreover, we should have regular mealtimes, because if we don't eat regularly, it can lead to indigestion problems. As for drinks, make sure we have at least eight glasses of water every day. We can also have some milk. Milk is high in calcium which is good for our bones. Having sufficient calcium can lower the risk of getting fragile bones when we get older.

Secondly, we should think about our exercise habits, because exercising can make us strong and healthy. It helps burn the extra fat that is stored in our body. In order to get moving, we can play team sports such as basketball or dodgeball. They are fun and exciting. Doing exercise with friends can give you more energy for the day. It is extremely good for us to have regular physical training. No matter how busy you are, try to exercise for at least thirty minutes a day.

Finally, we should pay attention to our sleeping habits. Sleeping is very important in our life. We should sleep at least 8 hours every night. If we get to bed late, we will feel tired the next day. We will also have a bad mood all the time. Therefore, it is necessary to set regular sleeping time for our mind and body to relax.

Keeping a healthy lifestyle is very easy. I hope that everyone can have a healthy life.

S2 Ng Wing Hei Yoyo

