

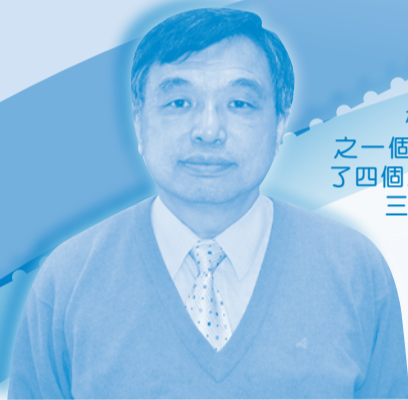


序言

本年編輯組加入了新老師成員，全力擴充了版面內容，首先是訪問訓導主任簡士明老師，相信同學一定有興趣了解一下這位亦剛亦柔的訓導主任的內心世界了；另外，我們訪問了本年學生會，他們來向今年的候選內閣〈承諾〉，〈承諾〉是歷年候選內閣中年級最低的，究竟有甚麼特質能令同學們青睞呢？至於英文版面，同樣是豐富多姿的內容，有請各位讀者，不吝給予意見！

我們的訓導主任——簡士明老師 ——鐵漢也有柔情的一面

邱嘉幸·江恩能



三十年，相等於一棵茁壯的大樹，相等於一個壯年的人，相等於三分之一個世紀；我們的荔天，就有一个人創下了四個三十年——當老師三十年，當訓導老師三十年，帶領足球校隊三十年，從沒告假三十年。引用一句俗話，「人生有多少個十年？」我們的訓導主任——簡士明老師，就把人生最珍貴的三十年，貢獻給荔天。

為什麼做教師？答案出乎意料——「好玩。」當時就讀浸會大學中文系的簡老師，經過一次實習老師

的經驗，覺得教師是一份有趣的工作，於是畢業後就當上了教師。「貪玩」的簡老師笑言，當時沒想過當老師會成為他的終身職業，甚至對母親表示只會「玩幾年」；最後，「幾年」變成「三十幾年」。他坦言，與年青人一起自己亦感覺年輕，認為老師是一份以生命影響生命的有意義工作，於是，在荔天開始了他的教學生涯。

在從前體罰的年代，學生犯錯就會捱打，簡老師笑言當年的老師是「行刑機器」，他也曾體罰學生，但總是適可而止。簡老師反對以體罰教育學生，因為他認為，「打」不能令學生知錯，「教育」最重要的是「溝通」，「拿住藤條可以怎麼溝通？」來到現今，對學生的訓導方式也從體罰，變成勸勉的談話。

不說不知道，原來女生不用接受體罰的洗禮，看來幾十年前的社會的確不太平等。

問及最令他難忘的訓導的工作之一，他笑言，創校早期的荔天，曾經有學生在校門鬼祟地打算逃學，他與其他訓導老師要跑出去追回學生。

隨著年代的轉變，簡老師見證香港青少年趨勢的轉變，例如從前的學生喜愛流連球場、網吧和遊樂場，現在的學生可能更愛留在家裡「打機」。

近年，透過「關愛校園」、「啟發潛能教育」等計劃，荔天學生的品格大大提高，見證這一轉變的簡老師說，這都應歸功於一眾老師的努力，以及歷屆校長帶領下的成果。

一般人以為當上訓導老師，總是板起臉斥責同學的不是，難以與同學建立良好關係，但一入職就當上訓導老師的簡老師就不認同這個說法。「雖然會有部分學生對老師頂撞，但我從沒因此而感到挫折，因為學生事後也會知錯。」簡老師說。

最近，荔天足球隊奪得葵青區校際足球賽冠軍，帶領足球隊的簡老師表示，得獎固然興奮，但最重要是從訓練和比賽中學習成長、團隊精神，就算失敗，也要從失敗中學習，學會輸得起。帶領足球隊三十年，簡老師與歷年的足球隊成員都建立深厚的師生關係，偶與已畢業足球隊成員相聚，時常會提起在荔天足球隊生活的一點一滴。「足球隊成員唔係一班「波牛」，有成員一樣入到大學，既玩得又讀得。」簡老師欣慰地說。

回首這三十載教學生涯，簡老師思索了良久，用一句話作總結：「已盡力而為啦！」

同事感言

與簡老師共事的老師們是怎樣看這位前輩的呢？大學校友源碧賢老師、好友唐炳賢老師，以及後輩蘇智霖老師，向我們分享他們眼中的簡老師。

唐炳賢老師：「對簡sir的第一印象是嚴肅，但相處後發現他其實很平易近人，常被同事取笑外剛內柔。簡sir除了擅於足球，也涉攬汽車，被同事譽為『荔景車神』，一有同事的汽車遇上問題，都會向簡老師求救——我都被他救過。我最想對簡sir說，唔好咁快走，荔景需要你！祝簡sir身體健康，未來三十年都不用請病假。」

源碧賢老師：「我和簡sir是大學校友，雖然不同學系，但簡sir在學會中是活躍分子，很積極主動對同學伸出援手，所以是校內的知名人士。及後又同年進入荔天，因為他樂於提攜後輩、熱心助人，常常扮演領導、帶領角色，所以視他為『大哥哥』。最令我印象深刻的是簡老師的一絲不苟，即使學生有微小的錯音、錯字，也會即時糾正。」

蘇智霖老師：「簡sir是一個很開明、很易溝通的好前輩。他很樂意教導後輩，又總是給予我們百分之百的信任，使我很有信心去完成我的工作。在此我想對簡sir說，多謝簡sir！」

後記

在荔天，說起「訓導」就必定想起簡士明老師，簡sir的威嚴形象早已深入每個荔天人的心。在訪問簡sir之前，我們對訓導老師很有距離感，但經過訪問之後，才發現學生與訓導老師也能夠有說有笑。在訪問的過程中，簡sir談及學生的蛻變對他來說就是最好的禮物，小記請簡sir講出這些同學的故事，但簡sir三緘其口，不願透露學生的私隱。如此保護學生的老師，令小記對簡sir又添一份尊敬。

學生感言

5E班彭敬曦：「我是足球隊成員，最初以為簡sir只是一個嚴肅的訓導老師，但相處後發現他其實很風趣，是一個與我們亦師亦友的領袖。在球場上，他會為我們的失誤而緊張整嘶，有時糊塗地喊錯我們的名字，惹得我們哄堂大笑。簡sir很關心我們，像我腿傷時簡sir主動走來慰問我。」

7A班鄺群芳：「與簡sir不算相熟，但難忘中五會考放榜當天面對成績時徬徨之際，簡sir主動上前幫助，為我分析出路，很多謝簡sir當日的出手靈助。」

校園消息

2010-09-21 參加扶輪敬老迎月盆菜宴



2010-10-05 邀請林超榮
幽默思想法講座



2010-10-09
參加Goal青人生工作坊



2010-09-26 扶少團探訪廣州麻瘋村



2010-10-18
觀賞理財教育互動劇場



2010-10-08至10 開平交流團



2010-10-30 邱嘉幸同學出席
明報校園記者計劃畢業禮



2010-09-25 榮獲國際奧
林匹克機械人競賽香港區
選拔賽高中組常規賽亞軍



2010-11-20 參加工工大學
時裝設計比賽工作坊



2010-09-28
舉行公益金便服日



2010-12-28至30 武漢高鐵之旅



2010-11-26 校本支援
——中文大學觀課團



2011-01-24 5間友校到訪
——英文分享會



2011-02-20
葵青藝術多元展



葵青區校際足球賽
——冠軍



學生會專訪——Promise承諾

王睿智

眾所周知，Promise是中四同學成功當選執政內閣的先例；相信大家對此內閣亦感到好奇。因此，小記特邀學生會主席，兩位副主席接受專訪，好讓同學更加了解此內閣。

許：許芷晴 杜：杜肇謙 陳：陳盛康

小記：你們當初為什麼會計劃參選學生會？

許：其實我們起初無什麼所謂鴻圖大計，只是數位同學坐在一起談論，在一番討論後，發現大家也有意參選學生會，認為這是一個嘗試—到底有否可能由中四同學組成的內閣當選學生會呢？也就此組成內閣，希望嘗試一下。

杜：四閣的確是我們嘗試參選的其中一個原因，也是我們的榜樣。

陳：也要多謝學校給予機會，讓新高中學制的中四同學嘗試參選學生會；亦感謝上年四閣的參選，他們創造了中四同學參選的先例，令我們有信心去嘗試。



左起：內務副主席杜肇謙、主席許芷晴、外務副主席陳盛康

小記：你們當初為什麼會選擇Promise承諾作為閣名及宗旨？為什麼會如此有信心呢？

許：因為剛剛我們踏入了學校第四個年頭，經歷了三次的學生會選舉，初初也被花多撩亂的政綱所吸引，但後來卻發現，真正做到的不算多，因此我們希望以承諾作為閣名及宗旨，表明我們說得出，就能做到。



杜：而我們有信心的原因，是因為我們每一個政策也經過長時間的討論，認為是可行的才會做出承諾。

陳：因此我們的宗旨就是，承擔責任、諾言必行。

小記：在你們成功當選後，有什麼感想？

許：其實由一開始我們一群F.4的學生要組成一個內閣，參選學生會的消息傳出後，外界一直都對我們不看好的。在成功當選那一刻，真的有點兒驚喜，但我們知道，成功當選只是一個開端，接踵而來的就是更多的挑戰，因此我們始終抱著希望做好本份的態度，令同學感到：你們的選票，沒有投錯。

杜：在成功當選後，我們內閣的成員也非常期待新的挑戰，因為我們很有信心能盡力做好。

陳：我認為在成功當選一刻，真的百感交雜，既緊張，又興奮。雖然事前大家都不看好我們，但我們的努力最終也被同學們肯定了。

小記：你們是中四同學成功當選執政內閣的先例，是否有特別感到壓力？

許：壓力是一定有的，但我們抱著盡力做好，便問心無愧。

杜：如會長所說，壓力是一定有的；我們也曾為叮飯服務—我們沒有足夠時間去叮飯而感到迷惘，擔心；但至今，我們仍能安穩渡過一個學期，證明只要用心去做，問題便能迎刃而解。

陳：雖然有壓力，但壓力，就是我們的原動力，壓力可以推動我們將事情做得更好，不斷努力，不敢鬆懈。雖然我們只是中四的學生，比較低年級，但我們抱著此態度，便問心無愧了。

小記：你們至今已為同學服務一個學期，有否曾遇到一些難題呢？

許：當然有，在一開始接觸學生會時比較混亂，因我們不太熟悉學生會內實際的運作；當然，在摸熟之後問題也就解決了。

杜：其實我們每一天最重點的服務，當然有叮飯服務；在我們剛剛接手學生會時，我們已經知道我們沒有空堂為同學叮飯，因此在初時感到十分困難，後來，我們得到其他朋輩的意見後，就採用了在小息叮飯，放入保溫箱的方法，來改善叮飯服務的問題，令同學對我們感到信心。

陳：在外務方面也有一定困難，例如與香港學生會總會聯絡方面，因為他們沒有一個固定的辦事處，所以較難聯絡，只能處於被動狀態。另外，我認為舉行班際活動亦為一大困難，因為我們較少與高年級聯絡，所以較難上手。

小記：現在處於新舊制交替其間，新制的Form4，Form5同學需要一些其他學習經歷（OLE）活動來豐富學生學習概覽。你們有否對此感到困難、迷惘？

許：其實我們以學生會的身份來策劃一些OLE活動是比較困難的。OLE活動的人數需求通常是不少的，而且大多是出外參觀，聽講座等，大多都要經由學校的審批才能成功策劃，因此亦感到有點迷惘。

杜：其實策劃OLE活動是非常困難的，我們在暑假期間已經開始到處尋找相關的資料，但後來我們發現，很多的OLE活動都有一個共通點—手續非常繁複，令我們感到迷惘，是否應該幫我們的同學舉辦這些OLE活動呢？幸而，我們最終也能成功落實舉行一至兩個的OLE活動，幫助新高中學制的同學。

陳：在OLE方面，我們實在要感謝各位老師的幫助、意見，老師的意見在很大程度上幫了我們一把。

小記：可否為我們的同學說一番鼓勵說話呢？

許：我們希望同學能像我們Promise一樣——勇於嘗試，面對挑戰。凡事不要太執著，只要盡力，就能奪得佳績。最後，祝同學學業進步。

後記：

「盡力做好，問心無愧」

在訪問完畢後，我確能感受到Promise的熱誠了——他們致力為同學服務，即使他們不清楚舊學制AL的運作，沒有空堂去叮飯……面對種種困難，他們也會盡力相議出解決方法，為同學服務。

此態度，確實值得嘉許。

Promise，你們的努力，我看見了。



全體照

活動訪問

台上的巨星——Hang Seng Band ——台上一分鐘 台下十年功

潘善婷

音樂由千萬個音符組織而成，每一個音符在每首歌中的角色都不可或缺，若從中抽出一個音符，整首歌就會變得不完整、變得有缺憾。表演音樂的演出者更能夠體會固中的道理，一場成功的演出背後付出的努力就是譜奏音樂的音符，付出多一分努力就能為觀眾更完美的音樂。他們——Hang Seng Band明白這個道理，所以觀眾們欣賞到的就是一場成功的音樂會。



台上一分鐘 台下十年功

Hang Seng Band 一場聖誕聯歡演出令人印象深刻難忘，在台上輝煌的時刻縱然令他們驕傲，但在台下遇到的困難和付出的努力亦令他們感觸良多。因成員是中五學生，在學業繁重的同時他們要積極籌備一場成功的演出絕不容易：練琴、排練、練歌甚至寫譜，他們都要一手包辦。他們能夠騰出的時間不多，更要面對資金不足的問題，的確令他們的排練愈加困難。在演出前的一星期，每天練習七小時已成習慣，為的只是在台上的一剎那。其實在演出前，成員們都很憂心演出會出問題：練習不足、沒有觀眾到場支持等，所以他們在演出前決定落力宣傳：自己印貼海報、租房練歌，其後更想到請求楊際澎老師作神秘嘉賓，成功為演出多加點綴。

觀眾的肯定 自我的肯定

樂隊成員之一的5A班鍾賀彤說：「很開心終於可以與其他人分享我們在音樂方面的成果和天分，雖然表演時有幾次失誤，但都繼續堅持！」作為在樂隊中的少數女將，鍾賀彤表示，「一般樂隊很少有女生參與，但我們證明了女生與男生一樣有能力「夾band」，只是在於付出多少時間練習。」



鍾賀彤



彭敬儀

歡呼聲很美，對於在台上的他們來說拍掌聲、歡叫聲全都是力量的泉源。對於觀眾們的熱烈支持，樂隊成員都無不感動，主唱彭敬儀表示：「其實沒想到他們（觀眾）會懂得跟著唱，感動得差點落淚。」其他成員則表示很投入這次的演出，很高興能夠得到觀眾們的支持和肯定，亦表示很希望會再有機會演出。他們表示，若再有機會，他們會付出更多的時間去練習。

要準備一次的演出絕不容易；在有限的時間、資源下準備一次表演更難，他們為只是單純的想與人分享自己喜愛的音樂，他們做到了，他們是成功的團隊；他們是台上的巨星。

校園新趣

學校是一個大家庭，同學們都希望能建立彼此之間深厚的友誼，近月，在午息和放學時，同學都相約一起玩「遊戲」，究竟是甚麼遊戲那麼吸引呢？

陳美婷

〈大富翁〉

大家都對大富翁有認識吧？大家都想一嚐成為大富翁的滋味，一張大型的道路棋盤板圖、點數骰、物業地契、遊戲紙幣、膠製小屋、機會卡與命運卡……這個大型遊戲，在學校玩道具很多，所以同學們都改用紙牌型的大富翁DEAL，玩得不亦樂乎。

這些遊戲可以訓練思維，說不定在學業上帶來幫助呢！



〈三國殺〉

這是種充滿豐富策略性的紙牌遊戲，以三國時代歷史人物為角色，各人有不同特技，對互相對陣時，十分緊張！



徵文比賽

本年荔訊徵稿活動已滿結束，在眾多的稿件中，我們挑選了下面的作品，請同學細心欣賞！

一個屬於永遠的晚上

3E 余琬瑩

新的房屋、新的傢具、新的電器……對我而言，「搬家」絕對不是一件值得高興的事。

還記得中二上學期以前居於一幢樓高二十層的大廈，那裡地方狹窄，但是有一個露台，可以俯瞰整個屋邨。

起初，我不喜歡那裡，認為地方很殘舊，跟我理想的居所相去甚遠。但經過多年後，我慢慢發現這裡不僅是一個充滿情味的地方，而且是我真正理想的安樂窩。

每逢喜慶節日，家家戶戶會一起到樓下的空地慶祝，不分你我地高聲暢談，氣氛相當融洽。除此之外，平日的生計大家都守望相助。隔壁的老婆婆沒有受過任何教育，不會認字，我便經常幫她解讀郵件。老婆婆很愛跟我聊天，只是她說話帶有鄉音，有時候我會聽不懂她在說甚麼，可是我倆的感情十分要好，猶如親人一樣。

隨着時代的變遷，舊的事物就會被淘汰，一幢高二十層的大廈亦逃不過被清拆的命運。在搬家前一天的晚上，我心情悲傷，百感交雜，心裡有一種不能用文字表達的難過，而且當晚是聖誕節，更令我分外感慨。我獨個兒站在露台，看見一群人在大廈外報佳音，那一刻我不禁流淚。到了晚上十一時，熱鬧的街道變得冷清，人潮逐漸散去，但街燈仍然亮着，我依舊站在露台上，希望好好感受一下在那裡的最後一晚。微風拍打我的面頰，勾起了不少回憶，到了子夜十二時，我因太疲倦而入睡了。

現在，大家各散東西，居住的地區也不同，感情難免有所改變。「但願人長久，千里共嬋娟」，我深信大家總有再見的一天。

雖然新居不及從前，鄰居之間的談話也不多，大多是「一句起，兩句止」，遇上了也不一定會打招呼。但是經過搬家前一天晚上的反思，現在不論住在哪裡、不論該地方是否有人情味，我都要學會「珍惜」，珍惜每天、每個生活細節、以及任何事物，因為時間流失了就不會回來。

多走幾步——張宏艷

邱嘉幸

新聞主播是不少人憧憬的行業，但鏡頭背後、御下妝的主播工作真面目究竟是怎樣？〈再見女主播〉作者、前有線女主播張宏艷，在作家講座中向同學講述自己交織著「偶然」、「失敗」和「堅持」的主播生涯和人生經驗。

張宏艷笑言，自己進入新聞行業是一個「偶然」，不是因為什麼偉大志向，而是當時電視台聘請大量全職主播，而自己急著找工作就去面試，成為第一代全職主播。張宏艷藉此「偶然」告訴同學，成功不是都如別人所想這麼高不可攀，每一個人都能做到。

不過，擁有「偶然」的幸運，不代表她的人生就此一帆風順。

「我的人生充滿失敗。」張宏艷在講座開始時說，「但是，不做是0%，做就起碼有50%。」大學畢業後的張宏艷獲得三個到外國留學的獎學金取錄，但風光的背後，是經歷起碼七次申請的失敗。

面對挫折，張宏艷不是沒有軟弱的時候。任職主播時的張宏艷被委派尋找一位曾參與侵華的日本老兵做問，在處處碰壁、心灰意冷之際，突然想起一個故事。「有一個饑渴的人在荒漠之中掙扎求存，一心想爬到綠洲，但最終支持不住去世。後來人們發現，這名喪生者原來距離綠洲近在咫尺。」她頓時醒悟——「如果我的努力距離成功只有幾步，但我現在放棄，豈不是『不划算』？」這個哲理，讓張宏艷咬緊牙關，幾番尋覓，終於在友人的協助下找到該日本老兵作訪問，完成任務。張宏艷藉此勸勉同學，凡事都多走幾步，離成功就不遠了。

張宏艷笑言，自己的最大強項就是「厚臉皮」。放諸人生態度，就是不要害怕失敗，凡事都多走幾步，就算失敗，也起碼有努力過！



《再見女主播》書影



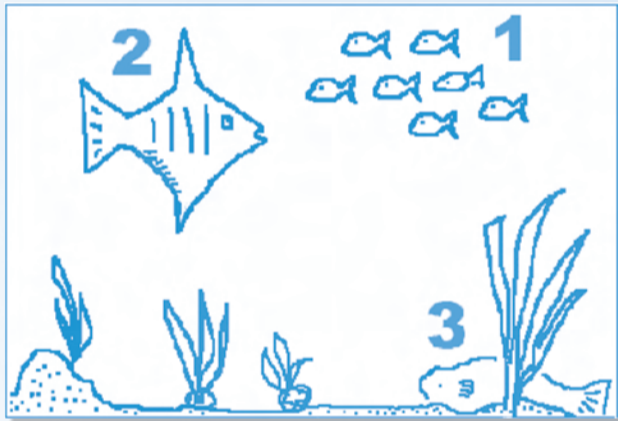
Personality tests

Do you want to gain a greater understanding of who you are? Take the simple but accurate personality tests below and find out more about yourself!



Test One: The Fish Tank

Imagine you were in the tank along with the fish. Which fish would you like to be the most?



This test reveals whether you can get along with your friends and family:

1. You enjoy being surrounded by lots of your relatives and friends. You can be over-possessive and sometimes this can hurt the people around you. Just learn to relax. You have lots of friends, so there's no need to cling to just a few. Share your natural happiness around, especially to your beloved ones.
2. You are strong, brave and decisive. You are good at management and leading. You'll take care of your family to the best of your abilities. When there is a problem, you'll face it with no fear. You are a true homely idol.
3. The needs and wants of your family members will lag far behind what your own needs and wants are. You'll be isolated from them, and live in your own little world. You should learn to care for your friends and family and listen to advice and criticisms.



Test Two: A Magic Present

Imagine a wizard appeared and offered you a present. What would you pick?

- A. sex transformation pill
- B. magic flying carpet
- C. immortality pill (which enables you to live forever)
- D. magic mirror (with which you can see the future)

This test reveals your spending style:

- A. You often spend a lot of money on building up your relationships. The person who is close to you ought to take good care of you.
- B. You enjoy many activities. You also like traveling. You don't want to give your money to others, preferring to spend just for yourself. You never think of lavishing your money on unnecessary stuff.
- C. You are good at getting things started, but not done. This is the same as your spending style. You rarely use your money. You try to save every single cent and love to see higher figures in your bank accounts.
- D. You like to know secrets about people. You are quite superstitious. Although you are very careful about spending your money, you often end up spending a lot of money on unnecessary stuff.

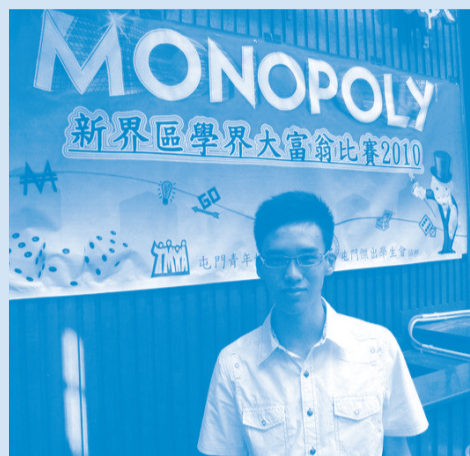
Students' works

Attending tutorial schools - not a must

7B Eric Chiu

In Hong Kong, taking courses in tutorial schools has already become a prevailing trend among students. It seems that those exam-focused learning centres can appeal to the hardworking boys and girls effectively. However, appreciating applause and disapproving voice about this talk of the town are both prevalent. So, are the impressionable minds wrongly misled or the critical brains wisely enlightened?

The ambition of the exam-oriented schools is mainly to teach candidates how to score high marks in examinations. Therefore, preparing well-organized notes, providing supplementary exercises as well as spending most of the class time explaining the essence of the exam syllabus are all in the training scheme. Thanks to the additional resource, the students are able to consolidate their own intellectual foundation, which eventually leads to brilliant and gratifying exam results. A tutorial centre is just like a helping hand bringing the youth to the marvellous and incredible paradise - university!



However, roses come with thorns. If the students do not chew the cud before attending tutorial lessons, they will be doomed to disappointment.

In such a stressful city, Hong Kong, the exam pressure has already reached the boiling point. Every year, over ten thousand students scramble for a relatively small number of quotas to be admitted to their dream university. What a horrible war! Under this sense of insecurity, many tend to seek help from tutors. There leaves a question worth considering: is the extra assistance really useful to those aspiring teenagers? In this sort of teaching classes, the number of participants is more than that in day school lessons. As a result, the strengths and weaknesses of each one can hardly be catered for specifically, so how can the students get great progress in studies?

Because of the bombardment of the advertisements characterized with excellent candidates' results in public examinations, students are easily influenced and take tutorial courses. As a result, the quality of tutors is overlooked. Some of them have little experience in teaching and some even lack the necessary qualifications for teaching! How can they compare with professional teachers in day schools? Isn't it irrational to pay a high fee per

month for a course of questionable quality? Not only will the naïve lose money, but, more importantly, time.

The number of people going to exam-based teaching institutes is



skyrocketing year by year, so there are lots of video classes introduced with the end to fulfil the gigantic demand. In this situation, students have no choice but to acquire knowledge without interaction. When they encounter difficulties in studies, there is not a 'real' teacher who gives guidance to them. Besides, the class time of tutorial lessons is vitally limited compared with that in schools. Therefore, it is hard for instructors to clarify all the details of every topic. Under so many constrictions, to reinforce the knowledge base by taking those courses will only be pie in the sky.

The prime and original idea of education is to encourage all-round development. This aim is something which can just be attained in regular schools effectively and practically. Rarely are you able to learn how to play musical instruments or strengthen your running speed in tutorial centres, let alone ethical education. The extra lessons will occupy most of the time of adolescents after school, so the opportunities in stretching their talents will slump. It is beyond doubt that wholesome enrichment is greatly essential for the growth of youngsters. Here, what's the point for those students to support tutors?

As day schools already provide sufficient, and even more than enough, nutrients for students' advancement, never should tutorial courses be a must for our teenagers. It is hoped that the youth can make good use of their time and think twice before attending exam-focused extra classes.

Landfill expansion plan is not the best solution

4E Wilson Chan

Recently, whether the Tseung Kwan O landfill should be expanded into a country park has become a controversial issue. I hold the opinion that the park should be preserved, and the reasons are as follows.

To begin with, according to the concept of sustainable development advocated by the government, we have to satisfy our wants and desires without endangering the environment and only by doing so can our city be developed well. Yet, what our government is trying to do is entirely against this principle!

Besides, by shrinking the park for a nasty landfill, the government is depriving the residents in Tseung Kwan O of recreational space, and worse still, forcing them to live with the smell of garbage, which will seriously deteriorate their quality of life. Isn't it unfair to the residents?

Last but not least, I know it is a must to deal with the problem of waste disposal. Nevertheless, can expanding the landfill solve this problem once and for all? Definitely not! In fact, there are several ways to tackle this problem, for instance, by reducing the waste we produce or recycling. What I am trying to say is that we don't necessarily need more landfills due to the increase in the amount of garbage - especially when it affects the environment or involves the loss of recreation facilities!

All in all, expanding the landfill site is not the only way to solve the waste problem and citizens' quality of life should not be compromised when dealing with this matter. Therefore, such an unfeasible plan should be abandoned.

Learning English with no stress

'How do I improve my English?' It is definitely the most asked question in school and the ultimate answer, or let's say, THE TIP is 'Read more; Write more; Listen more; Speak more'. Of course the answer is always true but, here we have another question: How?

Undeniably, this forever young four skills training will surely do the best job, but under the New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure, is it possible for students to spend infinite time on the training? Nowadays, after students finish their whole day of school, many of them go to tutorial centers before dinner time and the only time they have left would be the 2 or 3 hours before bed. Even if the top students use it as the study time, it doesn't seem easy to have enough time to do revision on what they have learnt, not to mention the four 'hidden tracks' in English. Now we have made studying sound such a dilemma for students, however, it's far too soon to call it a dead end.

What if learning happens outside schools, tutorial centers or even books? If students learn English out of their 'formal study time', not only does it reduce their stress in learning, but it also makes English part of their daily lives. If you would like to give it a try, now we have a handy and inexpensive way for you: Learning through Pop music.

Many scholars would argue that learning through songs may limit students' learning to just the listening skill. However, to non-native speakers of English, it's certainly more than just that. When you listen to an English song, it is a really normal act to look for the lyrics and listen along or even sing along, and that

encourages reading and speaking to take place. It is also perfectly normal for you to want to know more about the singers or any information about the music you are interested in. What next? Surf the Internet if you want to know more! That's how we learn English subconsciously while using it as a tool for entertainment. As the Internet has become such a survival feature in our daily lives, it can really be a more powerful tool to learn English with than a bulky dictionary. As long as you are doing something you're interested in, you will not feel stressed to explore the world of English.

Now, let your mobile phone stay in your pocket and spend some time exploring the wonderful world of English while enjoying your favourite music!

3 little tips for students to learn through listening to music:

Get on YouTube. You don't have to take risk on downloading anything but use the officially legal website. It's free and you can have something to actually look at when you're enjoying the music.

Keep a vocabulary book. Simply jot down words or expressions that you come across and that's how you 'save money' in your vocabulary bank.

Succumb to your preference. Melody is surely the kick in a song while lyrics are what help you learn better English. When you come across any songs that you're not really fond of either the melody or lyrics, never mind to just skip it for the next best thing because your interest is what helps you learn best here!

Pop Corner

The following singers are some incredible figures in the English music industry. YouTube or google them for a start to your new way of learning English!

Queens of Pop Divas

Name: Whitney Houston
Country: United States
First year of debut: 1977
Albums sold worldwide: 170 million
Famous for: Her powerful and soulful voice. According to Guinness World Records, she is the most awarded female artist of all time including 6 Grammy awards. Her songs are international singing contestants' favourites.
Master hits: I Will Always Love You, Greatest Love of All, You Give Good Love



Name: Mariah Carey
Country: United States
First year of debut: 1990
Albums sold worldwide: 200 million
Famous for: Her distinctive vocal ability including her five-octave range and whistle register (also known as the dolphin's pitch). She has the most number-one singles in the US among all female artists.



Name: Celine Dion
Country: Canada
First year of debut: 1981
Albums sold worldwide: 200 million
Famous for: Being one of the most influential voices in the world. Her theme song of the movie Titanic 'My Heart Will Go On' is one of the world's best-selling singles of all time.
Master hits: My Heart Will Go On, All By Myself, Because You Loved Me



Name: Madonna
Country: United States
First year of debut: 1979
Albums sold worldwide: 300 million
Famous for: being the world's most-selling recording female artist. Her image is considered most avant-garde compared with the other three divas and it often causes controversy and worldwide phenomenon.
Master hits: Material Girl, Vogue, Don't Cry for Me Argentina



Students' Voice: What is your plan in learning English in the coming year?

We have just entered another decade. Let's see how our students from different forms plan their learning of English in the coming year!

Emma, Ho Tung, Chung (5A)

English is an international language. It is also regarded as the first language of the world. Many people think that English is too difficult to learn and it is easy for them to feel frustrated while learning, and so, they just give it up.

I'm very lucky as English is one of my favourite subjects. Since I enjoy learning English, I am very willing to learn and I don't think it is a burden for me at all.

A few years ago, I learnt English just to deal with examinations. After reading a book called 'A Language Lover's Guide to English', it does inspire me. I really enjoy learning the language now. As you may want to read this book yourself, I am not going to tell you what it is about. I even consider learning English is one of my hobbies now.

By the way, I still have some weaknesses in English and I really want to get better and better. I am not good at reading and writing, so I have decided to read more newspapers and magazines. It is useful for me to learn my writing and reading skills. Since newspapers and magazines are not made for education purposes, they let me learn the sentence structures that people use in real life and it is something that I can't learn from school.

Now, let's talk more about speaking and listening skills. I think I am doing fine with the two skills but there is surely a lot of room for improvement. Perhaps I can also learn them from real-life resources. For example, I can look for the videos of my favourite band on YouTube. The more I listen to them talking and singing, the more I will be used to their accent and speaking skills. Moreover, by watching their videos, I can better my listening skills. What a great plan it is!

Maggie, Mei Ting, Chan (4B)

In the coming year, I have made up some plans for improving my English. First of all, I will spend more time to read English books, namely, novels. My goal is to finish one book per week. Next, I want to improve my face-to-face English communication skills. I will speak more with teachers and classmates in English. At the same time, I can also learn more vocabulary and better my listening skills. Then, I will use a book for writing book reports. Every time when I finish reading a book, I will write a report on it including my reflection. It can provide me with more opportunities to write in English. Furthermore, I will listen to English songs and read English newspapers to better my English. When I am doing all the above, I will make good use of the online dictionary to learn new vocabulary because it is very convenient. Last but not least, I will work hard on English Builder because I think there are a lot of interesting and useful stories. Join me and let's improve our English together!

Kitty, Lok Si, Ng (2A)

My plans for learning English in the coming year are to speak more English with my family and watch more English TV series or movies such as 'High School Musical'. I also want to listen to more English songs to train my listening skills. For speaking, I will pray more in English and read more English books. My grammar is not really good, so I plan to review the grammar items I learn every day after school. I will also spend more time on English Builder and take my English homework very seriously.

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