

Starfish

Lai King Catholic Secondary School
English Newsletter (2016-2017)

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Our Regular English Activities

English Corner

The English Corner is open during lunchtime and a variety of activities have been conducted, such as weekly debate for upper form students, homework help, IELTS Speaking exam preparation, DSE writing as well as English drama. Students enjoyed finding Ms. Allison to try these activities and students particularly enjoyed the English drama Club activity – being able to learn how to express themselves using their body language, tone and voice in English.



English Drama Team

All students were welcome to join the English Drama Club to learn the skills of self-expression through music, role-play and acting. Students learned crucial drama skills, such as voice projection, improvisation, intonation and tone as well as being able to become comfortable with their English. All these can be brought back to their daily oral English.

Our team has participated in two Drama Competitions in 2016-2017, one held on 22nd March 2017 which included 'Speak Up! Act Out!', organized by the EDB, where students did improv acting for four minutes on the topic of a randomly chosen country. On the day of the competition, we were given 'Australia' to perform. The adjudicators as well as the audience found our performance to be hilarious and we won the award for 'Best Teamwork.' An adjudicator also complimented our team and said that if there were an award for 'Funniest Line,' it would have been given to us.

We also participated in the annual Catholic Diocesan Talent Show on May 6th 2017, where we performed a scene from a musical act titled 'High School Musical'. Students performed the song 'We're All in This Together,' to promote acceptance of everyone regardless of appearance and differences.

Special thanks to English Drama Club Members:

- 2A Chan Wai Kit Vivian
- 2A Natividad Angelica Rubianes
- 2A Lo Lai Ka Natalie
- 2A Tsang Tuen Yuen Amy
- 2C Liu Wing Yan Choco
- 2C Tsang Yu Lam
- 3D Leung Tsz Ho Jeremy
- 3D Lai Ho Ming Leslie
- 4D Pak Chi Yiu Frisk
- 4B Cheung Hiu Tung Coby



Debate Team

This year our school participated in the Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition against other secondary schools in Hong Kong. We formed two teams from two Form 5 classes, 5C and 5E. The teams competed in this joint school competition very successfully. Debate topics are current hot issues, ranging from 'Tiger Parenting is Beneficial to Teenagers' to 'A Fine should be imposed for Using Handheld Devices While Walking'. These helped students learn more about social issues and to stay up-to-date with the changing world. Debate is a great way to improve students' interpersonal and speaking skills in a challenging, yet fun way!

Debate Members:

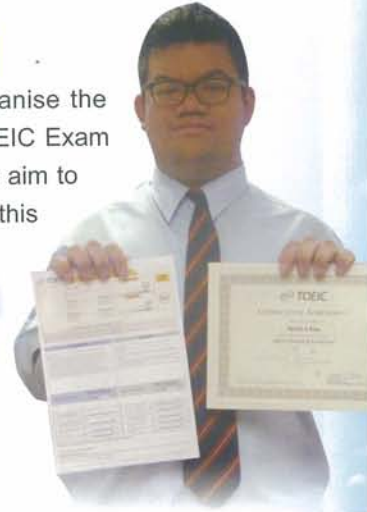
1. 5E Man Tin Yau Oscar
2. 5E Wong Wing Ki Kiki
3. 5E Chow Chuen Ho Felix
4. 5E Cheung Kwok Fu Hugo
5. 5E Poon Wai Him WinNick
6. 5E Gilbert Hui
7. 5C Teoh Yee Cheng Michelle



Our Special Highlights:

2016 TOEIC Exam, an International Examination

In December 2016, our school was invited by Smart Education, which is the sole agent to organise the international TOEIC Exam in Hong Kong, to conduct the exam for all of our S6 students. The TOEIC Exam is an international examination that serves as a criteria to qualify students to enter universities. We aim to provide a pre-public exam experience to boost students' confidence to prepare for their DSE. In this exam, 6B Justin Chan did exceptionally well to obtain 980 points out of the total of 990 points.



German NET, AIESEC

Ms Phuong, who came from Germany, visited our school on 26th-27th April 2017. She shared with us her German customs and culture. Wearing her traditional German costume, she also taught our students to make German craftwork. Besides, she brought the local German snacks, Kit Kat and HARIBO Goldbear candies, to share with our students. Many students flocked to the New Wing to meet Ms Phuong.



English Society Activities:

English Society

On 11th October 2016, the English Society held its first meeting. Our NET, Ms. Allison brought a popular American snack 'Rise Crispy Treats' and her homemade American snack 'Chocolate Bacon', which is a combination of sweet, salty and savoury flavors, to share with students. All the students enjoyed the strange but delicious treats. After a short briefing of our recent news and the upcoming English Society activities, our NET did a short presentation on different American music genres from pop, punk to heavy metal. Students enjoyed being exposed to other iconic American singers besides the popular ones they have already known. Some even asked for the song names and singers to follow up!



Chairperson
5C Michelle Teoh Yee Cheng

Committee members
5B Lai Yuen San 5B Mo Yuen Ching
4E Tang Tsz Ching



Song Dedication

This year, before the Christmas holiday, the English Society conducted the Song Dedication Day during lunchtime on 7th December 2016. Students and teachers dedicated songs and wrote sweet messages to each other to let them know that they were being thought of and to offer words of praise and gratitude. This year's songs were, *Alan Walker—Faded*, *Sia—Elastic Heart*, *Fifth Harmony—Where are you now* and *Justin Bieber—What do you mean*. Students showed lots of enthusiasm to say thankful words to their teachers and friends spreading love and cheer.

First Term Academic Week

In the first term, the Academic Week was held on 30th November 2016. The English Society hosted a fun English game, LAC Bingo, where students had to listen and try to get BINGO to win a prize. Students got very competitive and really enjoyed the friendly competition. English Ambassadors read out the LAC words and students ticked three words across or horizontally in order to win.



Yoga Course

On 3rd January 2017, right before the exam, the NET teacher hosted a yoga session to help students de-stress and mentally clear their heads before the exam. Students were taught how to meditate, clear their mind and release all of their mental and physical pressure through yoga poses, such as downward dog, camel, chair poses and vinyasas. Students had fun trying the challenging yet invigorating poses and were able to sweat out some of their pressure!



English Karaoke Wednesdays

During lunchtime, once a month on Wednesdays, students gathered in Rm 312 to participate in English Karaoke. Students chose a variety of songs from Justin Bieber to Paramore, working and mastering their fluency and intonation of English. Ms. Allison was also persuaded by students to sing some of her band songs.

Book and Movie Review

On 3rd March 2017, in the school library, our NET introduced and recommended her favorite books that were turned into movies in order to promote literacy and encourage more students to read as a way of improving their English. Most of her recommendations were based on Science Fiction or Dystopia (anti-perfect world societies) books such as *The Hunger Games*, *The Giver*, *The Maze Runner* and *The Host*. *The Fault in Our Stars* was also recommended for students who prefer more realistic stories and the positive message that 'love conquers all.'



Student Achievements and School Events

68th Hong Kong Speech Festival in 2016

Our students are active to join the speech festival every year. This year we had 37 entries of Solo Verse Speaking and a Choral Speaking entry led by Ms. Josephine Yau for all her 1D students. A total of 37 students from S.1-S.6 and the whole class of 1D participated in the 68th Speech Festival. We are proud to announce that we had 3 Champions, 5 Second Places and 3 Third Places and many certificates of merits for our students this year. For some events, we had students getting the Champion and the Second Place in the same competition and Second and Third Place in the same competition. Thanks to our professional and devoted English Teachers for training our students and helping them build up confidence in spoken English.



All Winners



All Champions



Miss Ivy Yu and her winner students



Miss Joanne Yu and her winner student



Miss Cindy Lee and her winner student



Miss Christine Zheng and her winner students

2016 Speech Festival Winners (Solo Verse Speaking)

		English Name	Teacher Trainer
1A	1st	Lo Chung Wan	ZJ
1C	1st	Chen Ka Hei	YL
2B	1st	Pang Wai Man	YU
1B	2nd	Chung Yan Hei	ZJ
2A	2nd	Chan Wai Kit	YU
2A	2nd	Tse Chak Wang	YU
3A	2nd	Wong Ming Sik	LP
6B	2nd	Yip Wing Kiu	LP
3A	3rd	Chan Sum Yuet	LP
5C	3rd	Michelle Teoh Yee Cheng	YU
6A	3rd	Chow Hiu Tung	LP

2016 Speech Festival (Solo Verse Speaking) Certificates of Merit (32)

	English Name		
1A	So Wing Sze	2D	Yuan Hei Yi
1A	Chen Sze Wing Winne	2D	Sum Yuk Nga Ashley
1A	Yuen Lok Yan	2D	Tse Mei Kei
1A	Lo Chung Wan	3A	Cham Sum Yuet
1B	Chung Yan Hei	3A	Wong Ming Sik
1C	Chen Ka Hei	4A	Kwok Hoi Ying
2A	Tsang Yuen Yan	4E	Tang Tsz Ching
2A	Chan Wai Kit	4E	Yim Shong
2A	Tse Chak Wang	5C	Teoh Yee Cheng Michelle
2B	Pang Wai Man	5C	Liang Tsz Yin
2B	Woo Ka Man	5C	Lai Yi Lam
2B	Wong Pak Sze	5D	Mui Wun Wing
2C	Lee Cheuk Nam	5D	Leung Ka Hei
2C	Liu Wing Yan	6A	Chow Hui Tung
2C	Ng Ka Hing	6B	Yip Wing Kiu
2C	Tung Chin Nga	1D	Choral Speaking

2016 Speech Festival (Solo Verse Speaking) Certificates of Proficiency (3)

2B Cheng Hei Tung	2B Koo Ho Lun	5E Man Tin Yau
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Sports Day

Held on 20th and 21st February 2017 at the Tsing Yi Sports Ground, Sports Day was fun for all and the weather could not have been better! Many students participated in the sporting events while the rest of them offered support and enthusiastic cheers for their Houses. There were a variety of activities for everyone! Students were full of school spirit as well as their House pride and wore their House colors proudly, cheering on for their housemates who were competing. During the teacher-student race, many teachers ran alongside their students to show support and promote a healthy lifestyle, too! During halftime, each House put on a dance show for the cheerleading team competition. Each House choreographed and taught themselves the dance routine along with choosing the music to perform.



School Picnic

On 9th November 2016, we had our annual school picnic. Students were able to enjoy picnicking and barbecuing with their friends as well as taking a break from the busy school life to relax and cool down which was much needed! Students organized and coordinated with their BBQ groups what to bring, which showed good teamwork and some students even brought in homemade dishes to share with their classmates. A lot of students shared their barbecued food with their teachers to show their love and appreciation for them.



My Life as Copper

3A Chan Sum Yuet

The reasons why I can be used to make a copper wire

I can be used to make a copper wire because of my good electrical conductivity. I am useful. I can be an electrical wire, a part of headphones or some musical players. Since everybody needs me, I am commonly seen around the world. Everybody needs me in their daily life. I can help people to charge their phones, or help them turn on the television. If people live without me, they won't be able to access Wi-Fi, enjoy air-conditioned environment, and they will lose quite a lot of fun. See! I am so important!

My life as a copper wire

My life as a copper wire is so tiring. Being a copper wire in an electrical wire, I help people a lot. I work so hard. I work day and night. People always need electricity in their life; therefore, I need to work very hard. Sometimes, when I feel so tired to be an electrical wire, I even don't want to be a copper wire anymore. Nevertheless, I know that everybody needs me. I feel I am just like a hero. People can obtain happiness

through me. Also, I am not expensive at all and I am easy to get. However, being easy to get is also a bad thing at the same time. Since people can get me easily, they also throw me away easily.

If I were not copper but gold

If I were not copper but gold, I'd be a good treasure to be shown off by my owner. However, I would not be as functional. I could only be used to show off in front of others. Probably because of my value, people like me. They might even try to steal me. It's not safe at all. Therefore, being copper is safer!

Although my life is not luxurious and people do not always treasure me, these are not the things that I want. Therefore, if you asked me if I am happy to be a copper wire, I could answer you definitely – Yes, I am! Although I seem to be nothing, my life is meaningful. In my life, I have helped lots of people. All in all, I am very glad and very proud of being copper in these years. Today, it is the last day of my work. Some new copper wires are going to replace me. I am going to the recycling bin and start my new life soon! I hope people can appreciate our contribution in their daily life.

Sharing from our Past Student Making English Learning an Enjoyable Experience

The key to learning a language is to personalize the way you learn it. Like most of you, I was born in a Chinese speaking family and I struggled to learn English in my secondary school years. With my teachers' support and by personalizing my learning, I overcame the challenge. Here, please allow me to share some possible ways with you to learn English in an enjoyable and relaxing way.

Pop-culture: Movies, Songs, Drama, etc.

Language is a carrier of culture. Our mother tongue is acquired partially by the exposure to pop-culture. Similarly, pop-culture can play a crucial role in learning English. I would recommend checking out whichever kind of pop-culture you prefer but your teachers are also happy to suggest the kind of pop-culture suitable for your learning from their own recommendations and experience. In any case, the first trick is to turn on the subtitles or lyrics as you go through them. By doing so, you are improving listening and reading at the same time, which in turn benefits speaking and writing. The second trick is to watch the movies or listen to the songs more than once so that you can consolidate your memory. For the last tip, you are always encouraged to approach your teachers to find out what sort of pop-culture is the most relevant to the syllabus so that your self-learning is not detached from the school's syllabus and your chosen pop culture compliments your English learning.

Gaming: phone games, video games, PC games, etc.

Gaming can be part of your learning. Ironically, doing your homework is not different from gaming in a sense. Both

require you to follow instructions and the engage in certain tasks. The premise for effective learning through gaming is the strong linkage between the two. Here are a few tips for choosing the appropriate games for learning:

1. The game is in English;
2. You can and you will interact with other real players in English and
3. You like the game.

At the end of the article, I will share a list of games you may find amusing. However, I am obliged to point out that your school assignment is the priority. Although gaming has its merits, over indulgence is never a good idea.

Conclusion

Learning English takes not only your effort in class but also after class. It can be an enjoyable experience if you personalize the way you learn it. By and large, the essence is to match your interest and preference with the way you learn it. Good luck!

List of games (Free access, PC games):

- Runescape
- League of Legends
- Battlefield
- Minecraft

(Google the names and you will find them.)



Will Chan Wing Chiu
English Language and
Education (Year 3)
Hong Kong University of
Education

'My Amazing School Life'

1D Kwok Sin Yu, Vicky

Every day, we go to school as if we were involved in a storybook. Different fascinating stories happen everywhere at our school.

A few minutes before our lessons finish, we look at the watch, counting down the bell. 'Ring, ring...' We all know, 'it's recess time!' Crowds of schoolmates race to the tuck shop for snacks. Our favorite snack is instant noodles, so, it is always sold out. 'Splash,' a pack of noodles fell onto the floor. That schoolmate was so shocked that his jaw almost dropped. Fortunately, his friend shared his half pack of noodles with him. Our schoolmates are caring.

'Ring, Ring,' it's time to attend class. Our lessons are full of joy! The teachers not only teach us knowledge but also teach us a personal attitude towards life. They always share their own experience, and they teach us how to behave well. The teachers answer our questions patiently, which is great since our questions are sometimes stupid. I can see passion in our teachers.

The janitors in our school are caring. They always chat with us at recess. Moreover, they always give us encouragement. So, they are as kind as a friend. I believe that they are smart too, because they know how to repair broken desks and chairs.

Each of us is an important character in this storybook. We will act out our own character well.



'How to prepare for your exam?'



3A Tang Ho Ha

Exams are about to come. Have you done revision yet? Here are some tips for you to know about what you can do to prepare for exams, the things you should or should not do before and during the exams.

First of all, revising is the most important thing and needed for exams. Take me as an example. I'll set a study timetable for myself in order to have better time management. Please remember not to give yourself too much pressure though giving pressure to yourself may turn into motivation for you to work hard. Striking a balance between rest and study is also important. If you have enough sleep, you can pay attention in class and you are more energetic. As a result, you'll do your exams well and your academic results will turn better too!

When you have revised for a long period of time, you may feel bored and want to play. However, these are exactly the things that we shouldn't do while preparing for the exams! Do you know why? While you're spending such a long time on entertainment, this will procrastinate your time for studying, which may affect your exam results. On top of that, it is easy for us to get addicted to computer or any other electronic gadgets. Since the electronic gadgets offer a lot of interesting games to attract us, we sometimes can't get out of this addiction; hence, we'll do badly in the exams.

If you don't study, you may cheat because you don't know how to do the exams. Please be reminded that cheating violates the school rules and you may face punishments from your teachers. Besides that, if you don't study, this not only affects your exam results, but also disappoints your parents since they have expectations on you. After knowing the disadvantages of not studying, so why don't we study and get enough preparation for the exams?

As a student, I think learning is essential for teenagers since learning can help you behave well so that you can do things properly in the future or when you are working in the society. Still, most importantly, 'work hard, play hard'. Don't give yourself too much pressure and set an appropriate timetable for yourself to balance your study and rest. I hope these suggestions can help you with your studies.



Sharing from student teachers

BA and BEd (Year 3) from Chinese University of Hong Kong

Miss Emily Cheung K. W.

I want to share my unforgettable experience in LKCSS and what I have learnt about being a teacher.

I have got the chance to observe some lessons and learn from the teachers here. After observing a few lessons, I even had a chance to teach. I really appreciate this arrangement and I think this is extremely helpful because I can first observe the teaching techniques from the teacher, and then apply what I have learnt. Therefore, I could apply what I have learnt and I felt secure because I knew how to teach properly.

Moreover, I find that teaching in a real classroom setting is so different from the theories I learnt in my university. This is a very meaningful experience for me to test whether the theories I have learnt from my courses can be applied in real classrooms.

LKCSS teachers are really supportive. They shared with us a lot of their experience about teaching and the ways to deal with students. This is the valuable information that I cannot learn from books. The things they shared with us are also interesting and I really found them useful.

In conclusion, I really enjoy the visit in LKCSS. The teachers are helpful and experienced, and students are nice, which made me enjoy the school attachment programme so much.



Miss Kelly Leung K. Y.

It was an exciting week for me to stay in LKCSS. The teachers here, especially my mentor Ms Josephine Yau, are very supportive and friendly. Although I am inexperienced and have lots of room for improvements, she did not hesitate to let me teach and try some marking tasks. She also shared a lot with me about classroom discipline. She didn't mind the trouble and gave me a lot of chances to try and observe her classes. I tried a lot of other things, such as supervising a quiz and doing make-up for the dance team, which I enjoyed so much. I had a more realistic and holistic view of the roles of a teacher and I am really thankful for the opportunities and support given to me. Thank you once again for the fruitful and valuable week during 12th-16th May 2017 and I hope I can be back someday.

Tips on English Learning from Teachers:

Ms. Allison, Our NET

Wrapping up my third year being the NET at LKCSS, I am happy to say that most of you have shown me how hardworking and dedicated you can be, not only to English language learning, but to all aspects of life. Secondary school is a tough time for anyone and being able to survive as well as thrive is important for the development into outstanding human beings. Many of you have found me for extra speaking practice as well as just wanting to practice your English skills and I appreciate that.

Remember to follow your heart and pursue your passions this summer, no matter how big or little they may seem. Don't let anyone hold you back, stop you or tell you that you cannot achieve—the first step is to believe in yourself!



Ms. Josephine Yau, our newest English teacher

It's been a fruitful and adventurous year teaching in LKCSS. I still recall my first time here as a student teacher years ago. At that time, I was already deeply affected by the students' energy, which filled me with passion and enthusiasm in education. I believe that almost everyone in Hong Kong knows being a language teacher is tough, but I never regret making this choice. Life is all about making choices. It is meaningless to look back and regret the choices you made but to live in the present and embrace your life. Stay passionate! CARPE DIEM!



Ms. Cindy Lee, our experienced teacher

English is not just a subject, but an authentic language. When we talk about language, it's not just about grammar. It involves culture, history and daily life. It's not difficult to learn English as long as you have English in your lives. Try to have something fun in English in your lives like watching western movies, listening to English songs, or even playing computer games with English instructions! Learning English can be fun and entertaining. Try out a method this summer.



6 English Proverbs to Improve Your English!

What Is a Proverb?

Proverbs are the traditional (historic) sayings of a country. They are short, clever sentences that usually offer life advice.

1. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

This is a proverb that teaches us it's not good to be jealous (to want what other people have) but to be thankful for what you have. It may seem like everyone around you has "greener grass," meaning nicer cars, better jobs, etc. but your neighbor probably thinks that you have greener grass too.

2. Don't judge a book by its cover.

Things are not always what they seem. This proverb teaches you not to make judgments about other people because of how they look or dress. A book with a boring or plain cover could have amazing content. The same is true with people.

3. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

This proverb is about having two opposite desires, and how it's impossible to get both. Its meaning is similar to the proverb, "You can't have the best of both worlds."

4. It is a piece of cake.

This proverb means something is so easy to do.

5. Practice makes perfect.

Everything is difficult when you are a beginner. But if you stick with it, and keep practising, you can master anything.

6. Where there's a will, there's a way.

This proverb is said to encourage people who want to give up. Sometimes, we face problems that seem impossible. But if you want it bad enough, nothing can stand in your way.