

# Starfish

Lai King Catholic Secondary School  
English Newsletter (2019-2020)

Address: 1 Lai King Hill Road, Lai King Estate, Kwai Chung, N.T. Website: www.lkcss.edu.hk Tel: 2744 1610 Fax: 2744 9134



## Singapore Study Tour

The Singapore Study Tour Briefing Session was held on 2nd Jan, 2020. Parents of the participants were also invited to join the briefing session. The presentation was given by the manager of Leisurely Tours Travel Agency, Mr. Eric Liu, who was also our tour escort. In his presentation, he introduced some useful information about Singapore, for instance, the climate, the geographic landscape and the Singaporean culture. The briefing session also covered some information about the itinerary and a brief introduction about each tourist spot. Our students were so excited about the tour while looking at the pictures in the slideshow.



From left: Miss Christine Zheng, Miss Joanne Yu, Miss Allison, Miss Ivy Yu and Miss Jenny Shu

All the participants received a tour book. The book contained important information of the tour like the flight and accommodation info, the itinerary and some travel tips. What's more, there were different tasks for each tourist spot, like filling in a fun fact sheet about Singapore's history, drawing the Merlions, designing a mascot for Hong Kong and writing reflections on their Pandan Chiffon Cake Baking Class, etc. Students had to complete all the tasks throughout the tour.



Briefing session before departure



## Sightseeing

Some of the iconic sightseeing places we visited were Gardens by the Bay, Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, St Andrew's Cathedral, Little India and Haji Lane.

Gardens by the Bay was by far the most breathtakingly beautiful attraction that both teachers and students enjoyed. Inside we were able to see two famous attractions: the Cloud Forest and the Flower Dome which literally took our breath away. There was something truly magical about it when you walked in and saw all of the plants and flowers. There, you really felt like you were in a different world and time had stopped. Students had to find certain plants and flowers based on the riddles given in their tour books and then answer some questions about the plants, for example, how cacti defend themselves from predators.



Gardens by the Bay Singapore

## Adventuring

For adventuring, students visited the Discovery Centre to learn about Singaporean culture and the green development which helps combat global warming. Students played The Luge and Skyline at Universal Studios. The most exciting part was the Running Man Game which took place on Orchard Road in which the Yellow Team ultimately won.

## Running Man

Running Man is a popular game that has been globalized and played by many celebrities on TV. Participants are placed into groups and they need to finish 9 missions in 70 minutes. Each group has to complete a compulsory task (starting mission) before it can move on to the other missions. All group members have to complete the tasks at the same time together and the group which can finish the most missions with the highest accuracy will be the winner. However, if any members cannot reach the ending point on time, the whole team will be disqualified. For our Running Man Game, missions were ranged from collecting arcade tickets from Fat Cat Arcade to going to the Orchard Library and finding a sports book and taking a photo of a student pretending to be a newscaster.



The Luge



Group Photo at The Sultan Mosque



## The STEM Airplane Competition

On the rooftop of the Marina Barrage building, which overlooks the Marina Bay, our students engaged in the STEM airplane competition. Before the competition began, our students carefully weighed their styrofoam airplanes, testing different launching angles and directions, removing or adjusting components of their planes in the hope that resistance could be altered when considering how the wind speed, wind direction and other factors might affect the loci or tracks of their airplanes. The competition was divided into different rounds. Students competed to fly their airplanes to the farthest distance and have their planes reach the closest distance to a designated point. Everyone had great fun in the process of trial and error.



## Pandan Cake DIY Workshop

Students in groups of four were given instructions to bake Pandan Cakes. They had to measure the ingredients and follow the directions carefully to ensure their cakes would inflate and would not collapse. The biggest challenge in making Pandan Cakes is that the colour will be off or the cake will collapse. Luckily, none of our students had this problem! Students were able to take their cakes home to share amongst their friends and families.



## Immersing in the Fun of “Shiok” Singapore

Do you know what “chope” means? How about “shiook”? Do you know the difference between “kopi” and “kopi-o”? “Chope” means to reserve a place especially by placing a packet of tissue paper on a table at a food centre. “Shiok” means extremely awesome. “Kopi” is coffee while “kopi-o” is coffee with sugar. At the Singapore Discovery Centre, our students learnt about Singlish, the interesting hybrid of the nation’s official language, English, and local languages and dialects by listening to a rap song.

## The Multicultural Nation

“Apa kabar?” Our students heard Singaporeans greeting each other in Malay. In fact, English, Mandarin, Malay, and Tamil are the four main languages spoken in Singapore as there are many different ethnic groups in the country. Besides, our students spoke with local people in the Running Man activity on Orchard Road and visited the Sultan Mosque to learn about the Muslim religion.

*“From my perspective, this trip has given me a lot of precious experience and it is not just an ordinary study tour. This trip has made me learn about the importance of team spirit. On the other hand, there are also numerous chances for me to practise daily conversation using English. In Hong Kong, most of the people we meet in our daily life do not speak English as their mother tongue.”*

**2A Lei Hon Lek**





"We visited different spots in Singapore during the 4-day study tour. My favourite attraction and experience in Singapore is the "Skyline Luge" at Sentosa. When we were controlling the luge to move down the slope, we had to discharge our car steadily by adjusting the pressure on the handle. That was challenging! I would like to join more English study tours in the future because through this tour I have become braver and more confident in speaking English."



2B Cheung Jayden



### Local Eating and Cooking

Do you know who the Peranakans are? Our students have learned about the culture of these descendants of early Chinese settlers in the Malay Peninsula by trying out a Nyonya meal. We also dined at the characteristic food centres and tried the renowned Chicken Rice and baked cakes with the exotic ingredient, pandan.



"Through our trip to Singapore, I've learnt a lot. First and foremost, it is the importance of teamwork. One good example was the Running Man activity on Orchard Road. In the activity, we were divided into different groups. We all had the same goal, which was to complete all the missions assigned to us as quickly and accurately as we could. Other than teamwork, I have also learnt how to better communicate with others in English since the majority of people we met in Singapore spoke English fluently. Last but not least, I have learnt about the importance of being independent. All in all, I have gained a lot of valuable experience from the Singapore English Study Tour. If you want to improve your English and learn more about another country and its culture, this tour is definitely recommended!"

5A Ling Chun Hei

## 71<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival



Speech Festival winners and English teachers



This year, more students were willing to take part in different kinds of entries in the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. This shows that our students are getting more confident to showcase their talents in English in various forms. Despite the cancellation of some events due to the social events, our school still managed to have 5 winners out of 27 entries this year. Without doubt, our students and teachers had been working hard to strive for such excellent results. We thank all English teachers for their dedication and congratulate all winners on their achievements.

**71<sup>st</sup> Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival Winners**

Award	Class	Name	Teacher Trainer
1st	6A	Wong Ming Sik	Miss Cindy Lee
3rd	5A	Tse Chak Wang	Miss Ivy Yu
3rd	5A	Tung Chin Nga	Miss Vivian Kwan
3rd	5B	Lam Cheuk Yin	Miss Ivy Yu
3rd	2B	Siu Hei Tung	Miss Jenny Shu



6A Wong Ming Sik, Adjudicator and Miss Cindy Lee

# New Zealand Study Tour 2019

This year's New Zealand Study Tour lasted for 21 days from 24th July to 13th August 2019.

Our students went to St. Catherine's College in Wellington. They followed the same timetable as the local students. During the daytime, they went to school and after school, students stayed with a local host family, with whom they had a lot of opportunities to speak English.

## Activities at school and outside school hours

In school, each exchange student was assigned a buddy, a local New Zealand student, who looked after her needs during weekday school hours. The New Zealand buddies helped our students with their studies, acquainted them with the school environment, guided them and provided assistance whenever necessary during the school hours.

Our students attended the same lessons like their buddies most of the time, except for a few special lessons such as ESL (English as a Second Language) lessons, which were tailor-made for non-native English speakers to accommodate their English standard. During the ESL lessons, our students learned about the history, culture and customs of New Zealand as well as other practical life survival skills. They also enjoyed themselves in special Home Economics lessons, making famous local cookies – New Zealand Cookies. They even learnt some local dances during their PE lessons!

Over the weekends, our students were arranged to visit some famous tourist attractions and beautiful sceneries to further explore the New Zealand landscape.



Our students with their host family



Our students with other exchange students





From the New Zealand Study Tour, I have learnt about the culture of New Zealand inside and outside of the classroom. I have also learnt how to communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds. During the trip, my confidence in speaking English has improved a lot. I have made two new local friends, Oriana and Olive. They are friendly and helped me a lot. We still keep in touch with each other through Instagram. During the Study Tour, we even had Maori lessons. The teacher taught us about Maori culture. In the lessons, we did some Maori painting and sang some Maori songs. Also, we had a Maori dancing lesson! I recommend you all to join the study tour. In this tour, you can learn about the culture of New Zealand and make many local friends. Moreover, you can sharpen your English skills and broaden your horizons. I think Waihi Bay is a place that you must go when you are in New Zealand. There are lots of beautiful and stunning views and you can see many seals sleeping on the stones there."



### 3A Chen Sze Wing Winne



Denise with another exchange student

"It was my first time to visit New Zealand. I was impressed by the nice weather and fresh air. New Zealand is a really nice place for people to visit. This NZ study tour has helped me improve my English communication skills significantly. Also, it has boosted my self-confidence because I am not shy anymore when talking with other local people. I have made some local friends in New Zealand. They are Molly and Antonina. We have lots of common topics to talk about every day. For example, we all love a TV show on Netflix called Stranger Things so much. We are still keeping in touch with each other through Instagram. P.S: I think you must go to Victoria Mountain where you can see the panoramic view of Wellington. The view is very beautiful, especially the sunset!"

### 3C Lau Denise Ying Ting



## Young Post Talk

While you are reading the interesting reports and stories in the English newspaper Young Post, have you ever thought about how a newspaper is made?

On 23rd September, 2019, all Secondary Five students had a great opportunity to attend an inspiring English-speaking talk given by Mr. Jamie Lam, Production Editor at Young Post, South China Morning Post.

Mr. Lam first described the process of making a newspaper and the different roles of the Young Post team members, namely the reporters, designers, editors and sub-editors. He further explained how Young Post was dealing with a transition to an online newspaper as many readers read news using their own mobile devices. Lastly, all of us were encouraged to express our ideas by writing to its different sections such as *Top 10*, *Talking Points* and *Best Friends Forever*. If you want to have the chance to report on events, you can join Junior Reporter Club too.



Students enjoying the talk given by Mr. Lam



Principal Lau presenting souvenirs to Mr. Lam

"Writing to Young Post gives me more insight into the world of literature and the enjoyment of writing. Writing can be easy, but writing in depth and with character is a lot more challenging. Therefore, research is very important, which is the root of all writings. This is especially true for reporters and journalists. From articles to reports or even stories, it's fundamental to have research incorporated. Creativity may strike whilst you keep digging. :)"

### 5A Natividad Angelica Rubianes





# RTHK Teen Time



Miss Joanne Yu, Miss Alyson Hau and our students

Our school was invited by the Education Bureau to participate in the "Teen Time" radio programme this year.

"Teen Time" is an RTHK Radio 3 program designed to promote the learning and use of English among secondary school students in a stimulating and interesting manner. It consists of regular features of interest to young people, such as popular songs and music as well as interviews with international artists and local teenagers.

On 9th December 2019 after school, our student representatives Choi Cheuk Hang, Natividad Angelica Rubianes, Tse Chak Wang and Yu Kwan Lok arrived punctually at the RTHK studio in Kowloon Tong to meet the host, Ms Alyson Hau.



From left to right: Yu Kwan Lok (5A), Tse Chak Wang (5A), Choi Cheuk Hang (5A), Natividad Angelica Rubianes (5A)



Students in a studio

They took part in an enjoyable recording session to share their opinions in English on a topic of their choice: The Trolley Problem. Imagine there was an unstoppable train going towards a junction which led to two different ends. At one end, there was one person being strapped onto the side track while at the other end, five persons were being strapped onto the main track. You had to decide which way the train would go.

Without doubt, it was a brilliant eye-opening opportunity for all participants. They could nurture their interest in learning English through authentic communication while airing their views.

*"It is my pleasure to be one of the participants of Teen Time. It is really amazing to hear my voice on the radio, so I find this experience unforgettable and meaningful. As it was my first time to record a radio program, I was quite nervous. Yet, I have learnt a lot from this experience. Besides focusing on exams and books, it is important to improve my daily English speaking skills."*

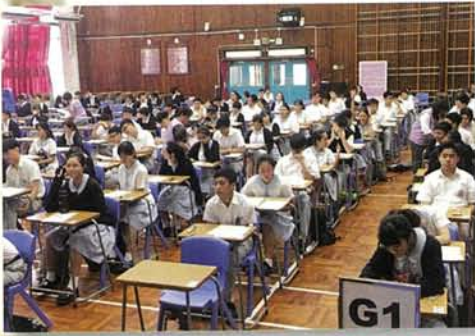
**5A Yu Kwan Lok**



is for welcome



## S5 &amp; S6 TOEIC



Students getting ready for the TOEIC

S6 TOEIC High Achievers  
6B Tang Ho Ha and 6A Yau Cheuk Hei

From left to right: Principal Lau, Ling Chun Hei (5A), Angelica (5A), Tse Chak Wang (5A)

TOEIC, an international test of English language proficiency for non-native speakers to measure their workplace English skills, was conducted by Smart Education to our S5 and S6 students on 25th October, 2019.

All participating students will receive a reply slip to evaluate their performance and a certificate to recognize their English proficiency. The TOEIC results have also provided reference for subject teachers to finetune their teaching materials and motivated students to continue improving their English. As an assessment for learning, TOEIC not only enables our students to verify their current level of English proficiency, but also provides a chance for them to set their learning goals and monitor their own progress in learning English. This will help students better prepare for the coming HKDSE English Language exam.

This year, two S6 students, 6A Yau Cheuk Hei and 6B Tang Ho Ha got outstanding results (860 – 990 points) and they both received the Gold Certificate. Besides, ten S6 students obtained 730 – 855 points (out of 990 points) and they were presented with the Blue Certificate. Meanwhile, three S5 students achieved extraordinarily satisfactory results and they were 5A Tse Chak Wang (965 points), 5A Natividad Angelica Rubianes (935 points) and 5A Ling Chun Hei (905 points).

A result analysis meeting, joined by all S5 and S6 teachers as well as two TOEIC consultants, was held on 16th December, 2019 to evaluate our students' TOEIC exam performance. Meaningful feedback about the students' strengths and weaknesses in the Reading and Listening papers has been given to our school to boost our students' English proficiency. It is hoped that all LKCSS students can effectively improve their English language skills and become more comfortable and confident in using English.



S.5 and S.6 English teachers meeting with TOEIC consultants

## Sharing from 5A Tse Chak Wang, who scored 965 out of 990 points in TOEIC!

### Benefits:

TOEIC not only helped me realize my deficiency in English, but also diagnosed the skills I lack, for instance, skimming skills. Besides, taking the TOEIC test has helped me better prepare myself when facing next year's HKDSE, which will be a much more grueling assessment.

### Exam tips:

Firstly, if you're not sure of the answer to a specific question, choose the closest answer first. It's not wise to overspend time on just one question. Instead, you should quickly move on to the next one. Revisit that question again only when you have time left. Secondly and very importantly, you need a good rest before the day of the test or else you can't really stay focused throughout the assessment.

### Expectations and my preparation:

I was aiming at getting 980 marks or above. To prepare for the listening part, I always tuned in to BBC Radio to familiarize myself with some general accents. For the Reading Paper, to be frank, I didn't specifically prepare for it as I have been practising English reading on a daily basis like watching foreign videos, sending messages in English and so on. Whenever I do reading practice, I scan all the questions first before reading the passage and this strategy has helped me a great deal when attempting the Reading Paper.

I do hope my sharing will be useful to you. Wish you all a giant leap in English!





## Joint-school Oral Practice with HKCDSS and Lingnan Dr. Chung Wing Kwong Memorial Secondary School

In order to provide our students with an authentic and purposeful environment to enhance their English speaking proficiency, our school participated in two joint-school oral practices hosted by Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Secondary Schools and Lingnan Dr. Chung Wing Kwong Memorial Secondary School.

On 14th December 2019, 30 S.6 students from our school participated in a joint-school speaking practice at our school. Together with over a hundred students from 6 other Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Secondary Schools, our students were actively engaged in group discussions and individual responses in a setting very much resembling the HKDSE speaking exam. Practical comments from teachers were given to all participants. This activity provided students with a platform to sharpen their English speaking and communication skills.



Students in the preparation room

On 4th January 2020, over 40 S.6 students and 8 English teachers from our school had a chance to take part in another joint-school oral practice organized by Lingnan Dr. Chung Wing Kwong Memorial Secondary School. The event began with a sharing by Mrs. Helen Cheung on some speaking tips to help students better master their speaking exam. Participating students then underwent two rounds of group interaction and individual response. They were given prompt feedback from their assessing teachers.

Students thought these joint-school oral practices were a precious and rewarding experience as they offered them an authentic experience to speak English with students from other schools. The practices also provided an opportunity for students

to better understand their strengths and weaknesses and to improve themselves. Most of the participating students were eager to speak and showed appreciation of having the chance to receive valuable advice from the assessors. Many agreed that they have become more confident in speaking English in front of strangers in an exam setting.



Students waiting at the hall



Students conducting a group interaction session



Our teachers presenting souvenirs to Principal Kwong



# ZOOM sharing from Mr. Lam Hon Chak

## ZOOM in on the Great Things About ZOOM!

How's your life during the coronavirus outbreak? I bet most of you have been staying at home for the whole day, sitting next to the computer or killing time with your smartphone. I could never forget the dreadful feelings I experienced in February, when we were informed that school was suspended due to health concerns. We, both students and teachers, struggled to continue our learning journey on Google Classroom and other online platforms. Thanks to ZOOM, finally I am able to meet my students regularly and have more interactive lessons with them.

Since March, we have been having ZOOM lessons following the normal school timetable. I was extremely amazed and touched when my students logged into the virtual classroom on time, especially when my first lesson on the first day started early at 8:40 a.m. Indeed, more than 90% of my students were on time, and only some students who encountered technical problems were not able to join the lesson. Once again, I am grateful to have the opportunity to teach these motivated students.

I am no expert in IT, yet ZOOM is so user-friendly that it took no time for me to get used to teaching with it. The "sharescreen" function is always the most useful one. First of all, not all students have their textbooks at home, especially in the first few weeks of March. With ZOOM having the "sharescreen" function, I just needed to open an e-book and share the screen with my students, not to mention that it is truly convenient to check the answers in the textbooks. Besides, while I was teaching a grammar topic, I just had to click one button to show my students the prepared PowerPoint slides very clearly. What's more, the greatest thing about this function is that I can edit the slides spontaneously. Sometimes when I feel like students need more practice, especially after teaching a grammar item, I can immediately type some questions on a blank slide and ask my students to work on them.

Speaking about students answering my questions, I must admit that I was completely taken back by my students' active responses. Generally speaking, Hong Kong students have been criticized as passive and unwilling to participate in class. In fact, quite a lot of students have been willing to answer my questions in the ZOOM lessons, via the speaker or in the chat room. I am particularly gleeful to see some very quiet students try to answer my questions. I guess, perhaps these students have no stress at all because, instead of speaking up in front of all classmates in a normal classroom setting, they seem to be talking to themselves only, and therefore they are courageous enough to respond in the ZOOM lessons. In this sense, ZOOM provides a safe platform for introverted students to actively participate in the lessons, which they may not be brave enough to do in regular lessons.

I would like to end this article with a slogan that many teachers have been emphasizing: "Suspending classes without suspending learning". With the help of ZOOM, I am confident to say that we are practising it rather than simply preaching the slogan. I do acknowledge there are shortcomings in ZOOM lessons, and of course online learning can never completely replace actual teaching in a real life setting. Still, I am thankful that all teachers and students in LKCSS have been putting tons of effort on ZOOM teaching and learning, and I sincerely hope that we can soon meet again in real life after weeks of exchange on a virtual platform.

## Students' sharing



*Thanks to the BYOD programme, each of us has an iPad and we can have lessons on ZOOM as if we were at school. Teachers are always friendly and helpful as they offer prompt assistance whenever we need help.*

**2B Cheung Jayden**

*I really like using ZOOM to learn because it is convenient and we can stay at home to have our lessons! It's just like homeschooling while we can still have facetime meetings with friends.*

**1D Lam Chung Ching**





# Other English Activities

## The English Society

During the ECA Clubs Promotion Fair held on 4th October, English Society Committee members enthusiastically promoted the club and explained the many benefits of joining to prospective members.

This year the English Society held its first meeting on 11th October 2019. A total of 49 new members attended the First English Society Meeting. In the meeting, students were paired up and they played a competitive game "How Many Can You Guess", in which students were given a category and had to come up with as many words and answers as they could in order to fit under the category. Students loved the games while enjoying American snacks and refreshments.

### English Activities Conducted in Term 1

Sept	Recruitment of Committee Members
Oct	ECA Clubs Promotion Fair
Oct	First English Society Meeting
Nov	Academic Week
Nov-Dec	Scary Short Story Writing Competition
Nov 30th & Dec 1st	School Open Day

One new English activity this year was the Scary Short Story Writing Competition held from November to December. All students were welcome to submit their original scary stories to our NET to see which ones would be the most spine-tingling. There were over eighty entries this year from Junior and Senior Divisions, with two winners from each division. Junior Division winners were 1C Qian Kin Ming and 2B Lok Hei Tung while Senior Division winners were 5C Chui Wan Fui and 5C Yu Ka Po. A prize-giving ceremony took place during a hall assembly.



Recruiting new English Society members at ECA Clubs Promotion Fair



First English Society Meeting



## Academic Week & School Open Day

Academic Week activities took place on 28th - 29th November during lunchtime. In total, there were two games, Categories and Guess That English Idiom. English Society members were in charge of preparing and carrying out the games with the English Society teachers as support. For Categories, students were given a sheet of paper with a topic (e.g. food, animals, verbs, nouns, movies, famous people, etc). Students would choose a random letter and then they had 1 minute to brainstorm as many words for each category as they could. After one minute, whoever wrote the most words was the winner.

As for the second game, Guess that English Idiom, students lined up, drew a piece of paper out of a box and looked for the corresponding English idiom. When they had decided on their answer, they would throw a bean bag at the English idiom picture and read the idiom aloud. One example is the idiom "Bring home the bacon", which means to earn money.



New English Corner on 2/F

## Read Out Loud Competition

Cheung Jayden from 2B has joined and won the Merit Award in the 14th Read Out Loud Competition (Junior Secondary Section) organized by the KEA Learning International. Competing against students from different secondary schools in Hong Kong and Macau, Jayden read a poem and shared his reflection on it. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the prohibition of group gatherings, the Semi-final and Final were held online via ZOOM. The competition was sponsored by the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR), SMART Education, the ETS TOEFL and ETS TOEIC.



Winners of the Scary Short Story Writing Competition from Junior Division: Qian Kin Ming (1C) and

Senior Division: Chui Wan Fui (5C) and Yu Ka Po (5C)



Teachers and helpers on School Open Day

## English Corner

This year, the English Corner has moved from the ground floor to the second floor with refurbished interior. The new English Corner is now equipped with kitchen appliances like a hot water kettle, a microwave oven and a coffee maker for students to feel more comfortable when they are taking part in different English activities in the room. We have also got a new computer and two couches for students to relax and hang out with their friends.

Students are welcome to come and talk with their NET and English teachers during lunchtime and after school. English Committee members are also there to help.



From left to right: Miss Jenny Shu, Jayden Cheung (2B), Principal Lau, Miss Joanne Yu