

Be the change  you wish to see



Though the fairy may seem small, her single spark of spirit can create enormous ripples across the sea—reviving and rejuvenating the flowers and plants around it. Through vibrant colors, blooming flowers, and sweeping waves, this artwork expresses hope and the transformative power of the change we bring.

We don't have to wait for the perfect moment or environment. Instead, we must first believe in our own strength to make a difference. By stepping out of our comfort zones, trying new things, and embracing challenges, we can spread positive energy in everyday life. For example, we can begin by offering a helping hand to others and giving our best to what we do.

You can surely be the change you wish to see—and the results may be far greater than anything you could ever imagine.

Sybil Leung & Kara Ng S6



Editors' Messages

Charlie Tam



I am truly honored to be the Chief Editor of Clover this year. It has been an extraordinary eye-opening experience for me over these months of trial and error, with a few blunders but lots of laughter.

When Ms Leung persuaded me to become the Chief Editor of Clover, I was afraid at first. Being the leader of a publishing team sounded like a hefty responsibility, and I didn't know how to assign tasks to everyone. Fortunately, all of my team members have been willing to cooperate and lend a helping hand to meet deadlines, and with Ms Leung and Mr Middleton giving us their unwavering support, it was clear that we are all in this together as a team!

Clover is a meaningful magazine which broadens students' horizons and introduces them to a vast array of activities, just like a review of the year! It showcases the creativity and passion of our students through different English activities such as our Movie Appreciation, themed reflection and our highlight this year, Arts in Action. Writing about these events allowed me to gain valuable insight and enrich my creative skills.

Looking back at the precious takeaways from writing Clover, aside from sharpening my writing skills, it also taught me how vital communication and teamwork can be. I used to be quite timid, so taking the initiative to send messages in the group was challenging. With my teacher advisor and members by my side, I gradually became more confident, which made me realize how to become the change I wish to see, just like our EAC slogan. Although mistakes like typos and misunderstandings may happen, I learnt that mistakes aren't failures, but stepping stones for growth. Every little misstep made us more determined and committed to finish this publication.

Being a part of the Clover team was truly an exceptional experience for me, and I'd like to give a big thank you to our editorial team for their dedication and hard work! I hope you all enjoy this latest edition of Clover Magazine as much as we enjoyed creating it, and that it inspires you to be the change you wish to see. Happy reading!



Jamie Lo



When I first joined the Clover team, I was uncertain about what lay ahead. Ms Leung assigned me to a role she felt was a suitable fit, and looking back, I realize it was the perfect starting point for this journey.



Beyond the editorial desk, participating in various EAC activities—such as movie appreciation sessions and English board games—has been a truly transformative experience. These interactive moments significantly boosted my appreciation for the language, allowing me to sharpen my writing and speaking skills in a fun and natural setting. It was through these experiences that I truly fell in love with English, discovering that it is not merely a subject to be studied but a vibrant tool for connection.

This role has constantly pushed me to step out of my comfort zone, refining both my language proficiency and my editorial judgment. I have come to learn that leadership is as much about listening as it is about directing, and I am incredibly proud of the quality we have maintained together.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to my fellow editors and committee members. Your creativity and dedication are the heartbeat of this publication. To our readers, thank you for your steadfast support and for allowing Clover to be a part of your school life.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to Ms Leung and Mr Middleton for their unwavering guidance and the immense trust they placed in me by selecting me for such a rewarding role. They recognized a spark in me that I had not yet seen in myself, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Chief Editor.



I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Principal's Message



Dear Students, Teachers, and Friends of the Pooi To Family,

With another remarkable academic year coming to an end, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared. This year, our school community has been anchored by a powerful dual compass: "Driven by Innovation, Guided by Values." In a rapidly changing world filled with technological advancements, our focus has not just been on moving forward, but on ensuring we move forward with love, integrity, purity and perseverance.

Innovation pushes us to think outside the box, to challenge the status quo, and to discover creative solutions to complex problems. However, true innovation is hollow without a moral anchor. As young women of character, your achievements are magnified when they are rooted in the core values we cherish. You have proven that progress and principle go hand in hand.

This beautiful synergy is perfectly mirrored in our English Activities Committee (EAC) theme this year: "Be the change you wish to see." Transformation does not happen by chance; it happens by choice. It begins with a single voice, a unique perspective, and the courage to take the first step.

Throughout the year, I have been deeply inspired by how you have embodied this call to action. Whether you were articulating powerful arguments in the Debate Team, captivating audiences in the Speech Festival, diving into new worlds through Battle of the Books, mastering communication in Toastmasters, or sharing authentic stories in Time to Talk, you have used the power of language to make a difference. In every rehearsal for our annual musical and every collaborative project, you didn't just participate—you actively shaped our school culture, proving that you are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the changemakers of today.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated Clover editorial team. Your hard work, creativity, and commitment have beautifully captured the vibrant spirit of our school, turning these pages into a testament to our students' growth and vision.

As you embark on a well-deserved summer break, I challenge you to carry these themes into the wider world. Keep exploring, keep creating, and remember that you possess the power to shape a brighter future.

Wishing you all a safe, refreshing, and joyful summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming you back for another inspiring year ahead!

Warm regards,

Ms Constance Cheung
Principal

Be the change you wish to see! Be the change you wish to see!

Kowloon Walled City

➔ From a Lawless Labyrinth to Living History

What is the first thing you think of when someone mentions 'Kowloon City'? For me, it must be the iconic Kowloon Walled City, the chaotic maze of concrete towers, narrow alleys and twisting staircases, all covered in darkness.

Built as an imperial Chinese military fort, the walled city became an enclave of the Qing dynasty in 1898, when the New Territories were leased to the United Kingdom. Due to disagreements with the British authorities and political instability within China around the time, it was left as a politically grey area. By the mid-20th century, refugees and squatters flooded in. With no government willing to take responsibility, the Walled City rapidly evolved into a vertical lawless slum.

At its peak, around 30,000 to 40,000 people lived within just 2.7 hectares—making it the most densely populated place on the planet. Alleyways were so claustrophobic that residents had to squeeze their way through, and water dripped constantly wherever they walked, with a damp, musky scent throughout the complex. Furthermore, the heat was stifling and there was little to no ventilation.

Despite the darkness, life thrived. Since there was no regulatory authority, small businesses operated freely. Noodle factories produced daily meals, and unlicensed medical and dental clinics faithfully served the community's needs. Rooftops became playgrounds, gardens, and escape routes. Rent was cheap, and neighbors often looked out for one another. In its own way, the Walled City was a functioning society, different from the rest of HK.

Inevitably, given the dense population and very little governance, the city gained a fearsome reputation for crime, with the Triads controlling gambling, drugs, and prostitution. Police often avoided entering, and to outsiders it seemed like a place of danger and despair. However, for many of the residents, daily life was surprisingly ordinary. They went to work, attended school, and celebrated festivals just like everyone else. Ironically, the Triads made sure they kept peace within the walls and made it their job to maintain order.

By the 1980s, Kowloon Walled City had become a symbol of urban chaos. The Hong Kong government finally decided to demolish it, and between 1993 and 1994, the entire city was torn down. In its place, the Kowloon Walled City Park was built as a peaceful garden filled with trees, ponds, and pavilions, designed to honor the site's history while erasing its darker reputation.

Did you know that the park is currently hosting the 'Kowloon Walled City: A Cinematic Journey' exhibition? It's a showcase that brilliantly brings the city back to life. Featuring immersive movie sets from the award-winning film 'Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In', visitors can explore a replica barber shop, a fishball factory, and

experience the roaring sound of low-flying aircraft. For those who are interested in the history and culture behind the demolished city, feel free to visit and travel back in time to feel the atmosphere of the Kowloon Walled City.

Charlie Tam 4B



SCMP & CHANEL



Charlie Tam 4B & Mavis Nip 4A

Empowerment through Reading



On 8 December 2025, the 'Empower through Reading' programme was held to show students how reading can be a lifelong tool for growth and leadership. Supported by CHANEL and organized by the South China Morning Post (SCMP), the event featured Olympic swimmer Siobhan Haughey, education leader Joanna Hotung, and Emily from the SCMP who was the host. Together, they shared their insights on how books cultivate creativity and empathy, followed by a session on a book called *Quiet*, and then a hands-on AI workshop.

Most people have no idea that Siobhan Haughey is such a big bookworm, and we were really shocked when she mentioned that thrillers are her favorite genre. She explained that she loves major plot twists that she cannot see coming, and the excitement of a good story always gives her a pleasant surprise.

Besides thrillers, she also enjoys reading books about love and life. She talked about a novel called *Everything I Know About Love*, where the character realizes that love must start from oneself before all other kinds of relationships. This book really resonated with Haughey and spoke to her deeply about love and connection.



Listening to the speakers made us realize how personal reading is for everyone. Siobhan found self-love in books when she was younger, while Joanna Hotung read for comfort and to embrace her naturally quiet personality. Their stories showed us how books help us accept who we are.

The AI workshop at the end was also thought-provoking, allowing students to use technology to analyze text while also exploring the limitations of AI compared to human emotion.

Many people wonder why we should bother reading when AI can just summarize a book in seconds. However, hearing Siobhan's and Joanna's insights further solidified our understanding that while AI can summarize books, it cannot replicate the real feelings of empathy and imagination that true reading provides.

Through their speeches, we learnt that reading allows us to explore different aspects of our identity and interests. It is rooted in joy, curiosity, and the unique human experience. Reading isn't just a waste of time! It also nurtures our creativity and problem-solving skills. The most important takeaway for us was: "Read what you love, not because of pressure or to impress others." The value of reading is more than mere education. In the end, it is all about connection, inspiration, and most importantly, happiness.

This meaningful event serves as a reminder to read for personal joy rather than external pressure, showing that literature should not be a chore, but a meaningful way to nurture creativity and connect with the world.

LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH SPORT

Discover the Joy of Pickleball

Originally created in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington, pickleball has grown into a global sensation. Its simple rules and accessibility make it a sport that anyone can enjoy, regardless of age or skill level.

In March, 18 of our students had the exciting opportunity to try their hand at pickleball, a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. With paddles in hand and guidance from experienced coaches, the students stepped onto the court, ready to learn and play. What they discovered was a game full of strategy, precision, and an endless amount of fun.

The session started with an introduction to the basics of pickleball. The coach explained the rules, demonstrated key techniques, and encouraged the students to focus on precision rather than power. The students quickly got the hang of it and were soon immersed in fast-paced rallies, clever strategies, and a lot of laughter.

The pickleball session wasn't just about learning the rules or practicing techniques—it was about experiencing the thrill of the game. The students worked together, cheered each other on, and discovered the importance of precision and strategy.

For our students, this introduction to pickleball was more than just an activity; it was a chance to try something new, step out of their comfort zones, and bond with their peers. By the end of the session, they were all smiles, eagerly discussing their favorite moments and planning to play again.

Here's what some of the students and teachers had to say about their pickleball experience:

Amber 1A

I learned how to play pickle ball. This is a new sport for me, I haven't played it before. It's fun and I think when I play with my classmates I feel very happy.

Shirlyn 1B

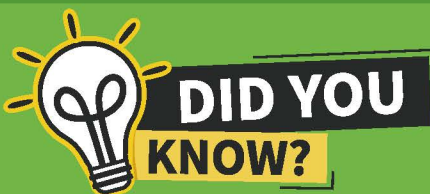
I really enjoyed this experience at the pickleball court. This class not only taught us the basics of pickleball, it taught us teamwork and how to play the game with happiness.

Rainie 1B

I learnt that cooperation is very important, and also learnt not to give up easily once you fail at something.

Ms Tracy Leung

Playing pickleball was incredibly fun! The coach emphasized that precision, not power, is the key to success in the game. This insight helped me focus on control and accuracy, which made the experience even more enjoyable. It's a fantastic sport that combines strategy and skill, and I can't wait to play again!



For those unfamiliar with pickleball, here's a quick rundown of some of the key terms the students learned:

- **Spin:** Adding spin to the ball makes it harder for opponents to return. The students enjoyed experimenting with spin shots to keep their opponents guessing.
- **Dink:** A dink is a soft shot that lands just over the net in the opponent's kitchen. It's a clever tactic used to force opponents into awkward positions.
- **Kitchen:** The kitchen, also called the non-volley zone, is a seven-foot area on both sides of the net. Players cannot hit volleys while standing in this zone. It adds a layer of strategy by preventing players from crowding the net.
- **Volley:** A volley happens when a player hits the ball in the air before it bounces. However, volleys are not allowed if you're standing in the "kitchen."
- **Serve:** Every rally begins with a serve, where the ball is hit underhand across the net into the opponent's service area. A good serve can set the tone for the entire rally.

Movie Appreciation

The Pursuit Of Happyness

A Look Back: Finding Inspiration in The Pursuit of Happyness

Looking back at the highlights of last year, Term 1 featured a truly memorable movie appreciation session with our students, centered around the powerful film *The Pursuit of Happyness*. This engaging and thought-provoking screening opened up profound conversations across our classrooms regarding resilience, emotional growth, the strength of family bonds, and the raw, brutal realities of life.

To deepen their engagement with the film's core messages, we invited students to channel their inner critics, sharing their personal insights through written movie critiques and deep-dive character analyses.



What the students said

Watching the Pursuit of Happiness really ignited sparks of inspiration in me. I was moved to tears by the scene where Chris Gardner and his son are forced to sleep in a subway bathroom. Despite the despair, Chris refuses to act like a victim. Instead, he turns their dire reality into a game to shield his son's innocence. His determination to persevere through all the hardship not only for himself but also his son tells me that selfless paternal love is truly powerful.

This movie is also a stark reminder that the journey of life to joy is often a crooked path of pain and desperate pursuit. For me, as a student striving to achieve academic excellence, I often found myself losing hope to failure. The movie echoes an element in our school motto, 'perseverance'. In the film, Chris struggled against poverty as he tried to secure a stable life with his son, overcoming countless hurdles but eventually reaching the destination of happiness and a good quality life. It was a long way indeed, and he did all this through perseverance. I realized that true happiness isn't a destiny one simply arrives at, but something that is actively pursued, often through immense pain, and the key to it is perseverance. I will not let poor grades knock me down, instead I will persevere onwards.

Joyce Ho 5A

"The Pursuit of Happyness," revolves around the story of Chris Gardner, a man who embodies the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. The relationship between Chris and his son, Christopher, plays a pivotal role in the movie, highlighting the role of fatherhood and the extent to which a father will go to give his child a better life. The movie is also a commentary on the structure of society that leads to the perpetuation of poverty and inequality, allowing me to think about the reality of happiness and how it can be achieved. The performance by Will Smith in the movie is phenomenal, adding to the reality of the movie and the struggles that Chris faces in his pursuit of happiness. The movie is a powerful exploration of human connection, the pursuit of success and the drive to face all odds.

Ella Chow 4D



The film *The Pursuit of Happiness* taught me that happiness is not a destination but the courage to persist through relentless challenges, holding onto hope and dignity even in the most desperate of situations. The scene that touched me the most is when Chris and his young son are forced to spend the night in a subway station bathroom. Chris cradles his sleeping son, using his foot to bar the door while silent tears stream down his face. I saw the crushing weight of his struggle as a provider, yet also the immense, protective strength of his parental love.

My favourite character is undoubtedly Chris Gardner. His determination, cleverness, and, above all, his profound dedication to his son make him an inspiring role model. He is not a perfect man, but his bravery is absolute.

Caitlyn 4D

Watching *The Pursuit of Happiness* was an inspiring experience. The film taught me that no matter how hard life gets, we should never give up on our dreams. The main character, Chris Gardner, faces many difficulties—he becomes homeless, struggles to support his young son, and faces rejection after rejection, but he keeps trying. I learned that perseverance and hard work are very important if we want to achieve our goals.

The scene that touched me the most was when Chris and his son had to spend the night in a public toilet in a subway station. Chris locked the door, laid down on the floor with his son, and cried silently while holding him. It was heartbreaking to see a father trying so hard to protect his child, even when he had nothing. That moment showed me how strong a parent's love can be.

My favourite character is Chris Gardner because he never gives up. Even when life is unfair to him, he stays positive and works hard to build a better future for his son. The most memorable part for me was the ending, when Chris finally gets a secure job and tears of happiness roll down his face. It reminded me that good things can happen if we never stop believing in ourselves and keep going.

Anabel 4D



Reading to Learn

Last semester, I was given the privilege of attending a talk by the award-winning Australian novelist, Jessica Au. As both an avid reader and a wannabe author constantly searching for sparks of inspiration, I walked in with anticipation hoping to learn some master skills in writing, but walked out with something much more profound: a completely new way of seeing the blurred line between our lives and our stories.

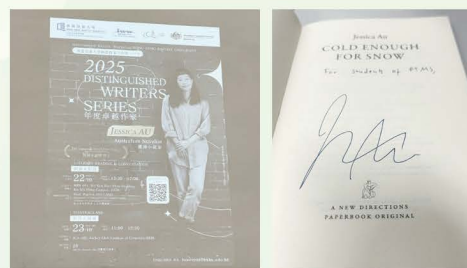
Au, whose mother is from Malaysia, father from China and herself born in Australia, spoke about her novel, *Cold Enough for Snow*. The book follows a journey of an unnamed mother and her daughter in Tokyo, Japan. What really ignited astonishment in me was Au's deliberate choice of setting. She intentionally set the story in Japan, a place her own mother had never visited, to "remove it from reality". This single decision was, in my view, a revolutionary act on Au's part. In a literary world obsessed with authentic representation, she was using fiction not to project her life, but to create a stage where a new emotional truth could unfold. This distance, she explained, allowed for a role reversal: the well-travelled daughter plans the trip, takes control, and guides the mother, creating a delicate and powerful dynamic. This exploration of their relationship delves into themes of nostalgia, memory, and what Au called "liminal spaces". It's a novel that probes into the gaps, between generations, between countries, between the literal and the emotional.

As someone who often feels that nothing worth writing about has ever happened to me, this was such a huge revelation. I used to admire authors writing from grand adventures or dramatic traumas. However, I found Au's philosophy quieter and more empowering. She collected even the faintest textures of everyday life, like a shared meal, a walk through a gallery, and a miscommunication on a train platform, and infused them with significance. "Writing puts experience into power," Au said. It's the act of transforming a memory into a narrative, and shaping it with your own philosophy, that ultimately turns life into literature. Au described her work as "semi-life writing", where the mother in the book is both versions of herself and her own mother. The truth doesn't always exist as facts, sometimes you can catch it peeking from the emotional aspect, something you can feel by heart and soul.

This very idea bled into the most challenging part of the talk for me. When asked whether her book was fiction or non-fiction, Au just smiled and said, "Sometimes books are not always fiction or non-fiction, it's a fluid relationship." As an avid reader, I have always craved certainty, I want to know the boundaries, I'm in need of a concrete ground and anchor to the plot and ideas. But Au's response invited me to sit with the ambiguity, to appreciate what she called "mysteries without solutions." Her words echoed perfectly when a student asked if the mother in the book is actually in Japan with the daughter, or if the daughter is alone, simply imagining her presence. Au's answer was that both can be true, and there is never one correct reading. My personal takeaway is that reading and writing are both entirely objective, there aren't and shouldn't be thresholds for what is depicted as 'truth', you solely explore and get inspired in your own way.

This liberating idea stayed with me. For my own writing, it means that I don't need to provide all the answers, I can create a space for a question to live and breathe, and trust the reader to find their own meaning in the vast sea of concepts. Even her use of religion and its language in her writing, she explained, serves this purpose of lifting a personal story onto a more mythic, philosophical level. Using the exquisite, almost ancient language of a text like the Bible makes readers think in a more self-conscious and questioning way.

Listening to Jessica Au's talk felt like opening a whole new gate to literature appreciation and creation. I'm now driven to dive into my own seemingly ordinary life for material, to blend reality into fiction, and to embrace that power of the unresolved. As a budding young author, I've often been paralysed by the fear of getting things "wrong". Now, I'm starting to understand that the most honest writing might just be the kind that exists in that fluid space between fact and fiction, where every mystery is a gift, not a problem to be solved.



English Activities Committee

At the heart of the English Activities Committee is a simple goal: making language learning come alive for our students. By creating an energetic and supportive environment, we work hard to help everyone discover the joy of English while naturally building their skills.

This year's calendar was packed with events centered around creativity, collaboration, and discovery. Whether collaborating in interactive sessions or rising to the occasion in fun competitions, students found plenty of opportunities to step out of their comfort zones and shine.

Inside this feature, you'll find personal insights from our wonderful chairladies as they look back on the year, alongside a showcase of our favorite highlights. Join us as we celebrate the amazing milestones and vibrant projects from the past year!



Board Games

With our newly renovated Language Arts Studio ready for action, students have been diving into a variety of board games—learning, laughing, and practicing English in a completely natural setting!



Movie & TV Appreciation

What do *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Wicked: For Good*, and *Wednesday* all have in common? They were the stars of our lunchtime appreciation events! Bringing students together in the Auditorium and the Language Arts Studio, these screenings offered a perfect midday break filled with inspiration and entertainment.



S1 Information Day

Packed with exciting prizes and competitive leaderboards, S1 Information Day was an absolute blast! We loved sharing a variety of interactive English games with our visiting primary school students and their families, making language learning both fun and memorable.



Reading Promotion

Our Reading Promotion Team made a massive impact this year! Between hosting book fairs, organizing teacher sharings, and putting together student book recommendations, they've kept our community thoroughly inspired.

Don't forget their ultimate motto: "Go Read the Book!"



Eng X LAC Fair

This year, the English, Mathematics, Science, and ICT departments joined forces for our annual Language across the Curriculum (LAC) fair. Together, we created a vibrant, interdisciplinary experience designed to promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative language activities.



EMCEE Activities

Our EMCEE team has been indispensable this year. Whether anchoring high-energy spirit days like the Swimming Gala and Sports Day, or smoothly hosting formal occasions like Arts in Action, these confident student leaders provided a trusted and professional voice for every major event.





EAC Chairladies

At the beginning of this year, I never imagined how much I would grow, not only in my abilities, but also in my mindset. Through my journey as the Chairlady of the English Activities Committee, I gradually came to embrace a simple yet powerful belief “Be the change you wish to see.” Rather than waiting for opportunities, I learned that meaningful growth begins when we choose to step forward.

Some of my most memorable experiences arose from moments when I felt completely unprepared. One such moment was being an emcee for Arts in Action without a script. At first, it felt overwhelming, as if I had been thrown into the spotlight with nothing to hold on to. Yet in that instant, I realised there was no room for hesitation. I had to trust my instincts, think on my feet, and take control of the stage. As I spoke, adjusted, and responded to each unfolding moment, my fear gradually transformed into determination. By the end, I was no longer simply trying to get through the event, instead I was commanding it. In that moment, I discovered that true confidence is not the absence of fear, but the courage to rise above it and perform anyway.

This mindset extended to other roles I took on throughout the year. As an announcer on Sports Day, I began to understand the responsibility that comes with using one’s voice. Effective communication requires not only clarity, but also preparation and awareness of the audience. Through these experiences, I realised that even seemingly small roles can have a meaningful impact when approached with dedication.

Beyond the stage, I was also actively involved in organising events such as the LAC Fair. Managing different groups of students and coordinating multiple tasks was initially challenging. However, over time, I learned to take initiative, solve problems proactively, and support my team. These experiences reshaped my understanding of leadership, it is not about control, but about creating direction and fostering collaboration.

Guided by the belief “With great power comes great responsibility,” I came to see that leadership is built through actions rather than titles. I have also come to realise that change is not something distant, but something we create through our daily choices, our willingness to act, and our courage to step beyond our comfort zones.

I encourage you to take that first step, even when it feels uncertain. Dare to speak up, step forward, and embrace every challenge that comes your way. Growth does not happen when we wait, it happens when we act. Do not wait for the perfect moment, because the perfect moment is the one you choose to create. Trust in your potential, believe in your voice, and have the courage to make a difference, because one day, it will be your actions, your choices, and your courage that inspire others. So go forward, and be the change you wish to see. After all, the most meaningful change begins with you.



English has always been my greatest passion. When I was younger, I used to binge-watch TED Talks, utterly mesmerized by the charisma and confidence of the speakers. Back then, as a shy and quiet kid, I often wondered if I could ever be like them.

Joining the English Activity Committee (EAC) in Form One changed everything. Over the years, I have grown immensely, gaining opportunities and memories that have truly shaped me into a better learner and leader.

This past year has been nothing short of transformative, and I am beyond grateful to have served as your Chairlady. Leading such a large, dynamic group of students and representing our massive team was a first for me. I would be lying if I said I was never daunted by the responsibility. However, I chose to embrace this valuable opportunity, taking a leap of faith to serve our community and discover a better version of myself. Throughout this journey, I have truly learned to embody the spirit of our slogan: "Be the change you wish to see."

One of the definitive highlights of this year was commentating for Sports Day and the Swimming Gala. Coordinating with fellow student helpers, shuffling through result sheets, and juggling multiple tasks under such high-pressure conditions taught me the true value of seamless communication. We poured our hearts into ensuring our peers had the best experience possible. During the relay races, we had the chance to showcase our clear pronunciation, enthusiasm, and language proficiency as live sports commentators! While challenges were inevitable, the experience taught me how to step up, carry the weight of leadership, and remain calm under pressure. Seeing the crowd hyped up and watching bright smiles spread across the audience made every bit of hard work worth it.

Of course, serving as an emcee for our highly anticipated annual event, Arts in Action, will forever remain one of my fondest memories. Public speaking did not come naturally to me, but I have always aspired to be like those who radiate confidence on stage. Motivated by this dream, I practiced for countless hours, constantly pushing myself and believing in my potential. The moment I stepped into the spotlight, the nerves melted away; I genuinely enjoyed the stage and delivered a smooth, lively performance. That was the moment it clicked—I knew I had made it.

Nobody is born with a talent that requires zero effort, and I am no exception. But with dedication and the right mindset, I firmly believe that we can all achieve great things, realize our potential, and be the change we wish to see.

So, what are you waiting for? Take that first step. You, too, can become the person you want to be—if only you dare to try and embrace the challenges ahead.



Ariel Chan 4B

There is a saying that goes 'If you never try, you never will know.'

This is exactly how I felt when I was offered the post of Chairlady of the English Activities Committee this year. Even though I have been in the EAC since Form One as a member of the Battle of the Books Team, becoming chairlady this year was truly a first for me, as I never imagined myself to be serving my teammates in this position. However, as I stepped into the role, I truly learnt so much, from my teachers and fellow chairladies alike.

I am beyond thankful for being able to be chairlady of the EAC this year, as it has greatly helped me grow not just in the English Language, but also as a person. This year, our motto is 'Be the change you wish to see', and I truly believe that is true, as change always starts with ourselves.

Across this academic year, my most memorable moments as a Chairlady are undoubtedly being an announcer for Sports Day and the Swimming Gala. While inevitably there were communication issues and scheduling conflicts when giving instructions to students and announcing prize presentations, we were able to pull it off in the end by staying calm and working together as a team. Another unforgettable activity the EAC hosted was Board Game Mondays in the LAS, where I was able to play fun board games with fellow EAC members while communicating in English, which helped me sharpen communication skills while having fun at the same time!

The best way to learn English is to have fun and enjoy it. If you limit yourself to reciting grammar rules and constantly doing exercises, it might bore you pretty quickly. However, if you enjoy the process naturally such as watching movies with English subtitles and using English in your daily life with friends, your English skills will quickly improve without you noticing as you enjoy the process of learning!

This year, the most important thing I learnt from being Chairlady is responsibility. As this was my first year as a senior form student, juggling this role along with studies was a struggle, but I learnt not to run from responsibilities and instead embrace them, as some lessons can only be learnt through experience.

I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me this year as it truly means so much to me, and I encourage every one of you to take the opportunities in front of you, and embrace this chance to learn and grow. Once again, if you never try, you will never know.



Clara Wong 4A

Peter Pan the Musical



What the cast thought

Over the past this year, being part of Peter Pan the Musical has been a magical journey. At first, I was nervous, afraid of forgetting my lines or missing a step. However, as we practised and grew together, I learned to believe in myself, just like Peter believes in flying. I discovered that making mistakes is okay—what matters is trying again and helping my friends. After each show, I felt so proud and happy, not because everything was perfect, but because we never gave up. Peter Pan taught me to be brave, kind, and to always keep a little bit of wonder in my heart.



When I was first given the role of Smee, I admit that I underestimated its importance. I didn't change my mind until the first rehearsal, when I finally got a better idea of what the role is truly about: a clumsy, brainless, middle-aged man who blindly follows his captain. The challenge was on—how was I going to express that with the limited lines I was given?

Here comes the fun part of being in a musical! Though supporting roles are often called “side characters,” you cannot just view yourself as an extra and step aside on stage. A spark from only the main characters will never be enough for a whole show; it takes the entire cast joining in and shining together to make the production an incredible success! That's why I constantly considered what else I could do to improve my performance and portray my character in the best possible way. After all, the key to a successful supporting character and a brilliant show is to chase the spotlight together!

Smee - Tyanna Wong 3B



Peter Pan (Matinee) - Twinkle Tung 3B

The relationship between Peter and Wendy perfectly showed how fleeting and temporary everything in life is. Even though the show is over, we shouldn't just let these memories fade away. We had so much fun together as a cast during rehearsals, so we should celebrate that we got to experience them and take comfort in the fact that we were part of something so special.

Peter Pan (Evening) - Sabrina Chin 3A



Playing Captain Hook this year has been a truly unforgettable experience. Hook carries a mix of pride, humor, and hidden regret—qualities I found very challenging to portray. But with my teammates and teachers’ warm encouragement, I learned to make her both fearsome and funny.

Rehearsals pushed me to my limits, improved my vocal projection and physical expression more than ever. Most importantly, I finally understood what it means to fully enjoy my role and still feel completely in control.

Looking back, my passion kept me going through every difficult scene, hoping to bring the audience a version of Hook they'd never forget. Every drop of sweat was worth it!

Captain Hook (Evening Cast) - Cherie Lee 4B

I am truly honored to have been chosen to play Wendy this year. She is such a special character to me. At first, I found her subtle emotions and personality quite elusive and difficult to grasp. However, thanks to the patient guidance of my teachers, I gradually learned how to embody her spirit and truly connect with the role.

Although the rehearsals were incredibly demanding, every moment was worth it. I have gained so many new skill—especially in my acting—but more importantly, I’ve discovered how to truly enjoy the stage. I am grateful for my ‘never-give-up’ attitude; it pushed me to keep learning so that I could give the audience a performance they could enjoy. I am so happy to have had the chance to shine brightly under the spotlight.



Wendy (Evening Cast) - Yoyo Kwan 4A

When I was told I would be performing with puppets, I was terrified—this was a completely new experience and a real challenge for me. My first attempt wasn’t ideal, but thanks to the guidance of several teachers and the support from my classmates, I was able to perform successfully.

The puppets felt like an extension of my own body. The process was filled with both tears and laughter, and it was exactly that mix that pushed me to keep surpassing myself. Just like Tinker Bell, this journey gave me the courage to face challenges, the confidence to step forward, and the magic to not be afraid to try something new.

Tinker Bell - Agnes Tsang 4B





What the audience thought

When I was small, I wanted nothing more than to grow up quickly. Yet, standing on this side of adulthood, I often miss the unburdened simplicity of my childhood. Peter Pan masterfully captures this universal irony, reminding us that our rush toward maturity often costs us our sense of wonder. The performance was a brilliant exploration of that tension—a poignant realization that true maturity might just be the ability to reclaim our youthful imagination, rather than leaving it entirely behind.

Ms Tracy Leung



What a great pride we felt in witnessing such a remarkable performance by our talented cast! Peter Pan the Musical took us on a journey of imagination that echoes our childhood wish—to never grow up. This exceptional show reminds us to hold on to curiosity and faith, and to bravely pursue our dreams at every stage of life. Dreams won't come true simply because we wish—we also have to keep believing and keep going. I was especially moved by the song "Never Say Goodbye", which truly resonates with me for its message of not letting go, and not forgetting what we love and what we dream about.

Ms Percy Ho

As someone who has been enchanted by Peter Pan since childhood, I doubted if anything could recapture the magic of Neverland, but our students proved me wrong in the best possible way. Watching newcomers to the Musical Club step confidently into the spotlight alongside students who quietly grew from last year's supporting roles into this year's leads was genuinely moving. The chemistry between them was infectious, and witnessing them own the stage reminded me why I fell in love with this story in the first place: it's about believing you can achieve the impossible, which is exactly what these talented performers did.

Ms Raine Ng



Watching the Peter Pan Musical felt like stepping into a real-life Neverland. The energy of the cast made every scene feel alive. It was fun and exciting, but it also made me think about growing up. Peter Pan never wants to leave childhood, but we all have to grow eventually, it's human nature. The musical made me realize that even as we get older, we can still keep hope, imagination, and a little bit of magic in our hearts.

Chloe Chan 4D

The dream of staying a kid forever is not as perfect as Peter Pan thought. It would take away life's best experiences, trapping us in a boring routine, and damaging our mental health. Growing up is not just about taking on responsibilities, it is the beautiful journey of finding out who you are meant to be.

Evelyn Zhao 4B

While being young is fun, the greatest joys in life often come after growing up such as graduating from university, getting married and buying a house. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences not only give life purpose but also fulfil self-actualization. Peter Pan may have refused to grow up, but he also missed out on other potential adventures that life offers. Growing up is not something to fear but something to look forward to.

Sonia Tam 4A

Never growing up might sound fun, but it would trap us from making progress, and steal our independence. Growing up may bring challenges, but it also brings things far more valuable than eternal childhood.

Hailey Chan 4B



Synopsis

Peter Pan is a beloved and timeless classic that has captured the hearts of readers for generations. One quiet night in London, the Darling children, Wendy, John, and Michael, encounter a remarkable boy named Peter Pan. He has the extraordinary ability to fly and lives in a magical realm where no one ever grows up: Neverland.

Peter whisks the children away on an unforgettable journey. Together, they soar over London's glittering night sky, passing twinkling stars, sweeping rooftops, and the iconic Big Ben glowing softly in the moonlight.

In Neverland, the children are introduced to the mischievous Lost Boys and a host of fantastical characters, including Captain Hook, a comically menacing pirate. Amid thrilling adventures filled with danger, laughter, and excitement, the Darling children discover the importance of courage, teamwork, and the bittersweet beauty of growing up.



GOOD



School-Based Learning Activities

S1 Summer Drama Programme

Our incoming cohort participated in a dynamic summer bridging program designed to introduce them to theatrical arts. Working closely in teams guided by native English instructors, the students engaged in collaborative role-play exercises and interactive communication games. These activities not only sharpened their verbal skills but also allowed them to form meaningful connections with their peers. By providing an entertaining and fully supportive linguistic environment, the initiative successfully minimized the anxieties of transitioning to a secondary school environment while significantly elevating their comfort level when communicating in English.



S1 Well-Being Reading Series

During Friday's life-wide learning lessons, S1 students took part in a series of reading activities focused on well-being. They not only enjoyed reading in English, but also learned basic psychology concepts to help them better understand themselves and enhance their mental health.



S1 Words with Movements Drama & Poetry

Our S1 classes brought poetry to life in the thrilling preliminary round of the Words with Movement competition! Blending dramatic speaking, passionate acting, and creative costumes, every class delivered a spectacular theatrical performance. After a fierce and captivating internal battle, the top two classes were selected to represent our school at the prestigious Hong Kong Words with Movement competition organized by the Speech Festival, with 1A performing Cinderella and 1B performing The Three Pigs, both written by Roald Dahl.



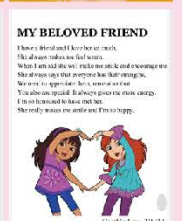
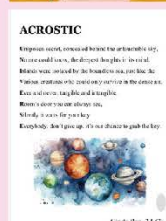
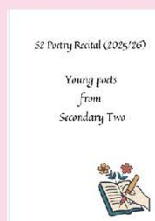
Check out our talented students shining on stage!

S2 Poetry

Our Secondary Two students took part in a dedicated poetry initiative featuring group choral performances and individual recitals. Through this collaborative effort, students delved into the emotional depth and rhythmic cadence of English verse, which significantly refined their delivery, accentuation, and tone, while also honing their ability to use a variety of literary devices. Beyond cultivating a stronger passion for literary works, the project offered students a supportive platform to showcase their artistic expression before an audience of their classmates.

All S2 students took part in the school's Poetry Programme throughout the year. Step by step, they transformed into little poets, crafting their own creative poems — ranging from acrostic poems to narrative stories told in verse.

To celebrate their growth, they later performed in our end-of-year In-Class Poetry Recital. With creativity and confidence, students brought their poems to life using intonation, word stress, voice projection, facial expressions, and body language — filling the classroom with a truly poetic vibe.





History Project

Integrating with their history studies, our Secondary Three students produced short video clips illustrating key milestones from both the First and Second World Wars. The assignment required them to investigate historical events, draft original scripts, and showcase their final mini-movie along with presentations in English. Consequently, this task strengthened their English proficiency while simultaneously enriching their knowledge of world history.



LaC Quiz Show

In May, the highly anticipated S3 LaC Quiz Show took place, filled with excitement and learning! Students showcased their impressive knowledge, tackling challenging questions in Maths, Science, and ICT. A big congratulations to the 3A students for emerging as the champions!



STEAM Project

To discover future career possibilities in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics, our Secondary Three students took part in a collaborative STEAM project organised by the English Department & Life Planning Team. Engaging in practical research and hands-on activities allowed them to learn about various STEAM fields while building crucial skills in teamwork, problem-solving, and effective English communication.



English Public Speaking Contest

Seizing the wonderful opportunity presented by our recent school exchange programme, we held a mini English public speaking contest with the boys from St. Francis Xavier's College. The theme—Gender Inequality—sparked meaningful conversations, providing students from our two single-sex schools a chance to learn more about the experiences and perspectives of the opposite sex. It was inspiring to see young voices tackle such an important topic with confidence and

empathy while sharpening their English public speaking skills!



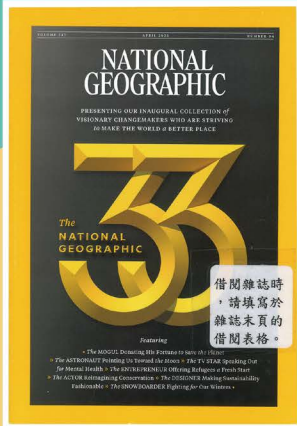
Joint School Oral Practice

Two English joint-school oral practices were organized in collaboration with Holy Family Canossian College, Ying Wa College, and Bishop Hall Jubilee School, taking place in November and May, respectively. These events served as an excellent platform for students to exchange ideas, enhance their speaking skills, and build confidence in preparation for their upcoming examinations. We sincerely thank all participating teachers and students for their enthusiastic involvement, which contributed to a highly productive and enriching academic experience!

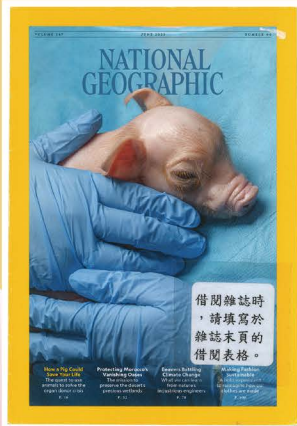


Cross-Curricular Activities

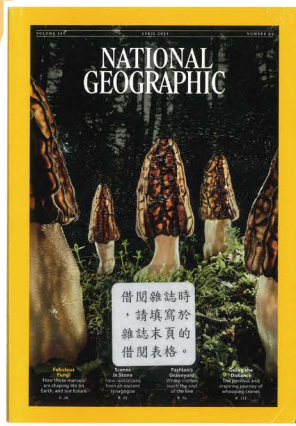
This year, the English and Geography Departments teamed up to host an exciting cover redesign competition. All S3 students were invited to reimagine a National Geographic magazine cover and compose a brief explanation of their creative concept. Below, we are proud to showcase the outstanding work of the top three students in the form.



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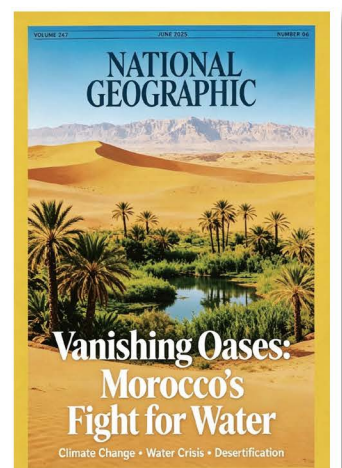


This story is about the disappearing oases of Morocco, which have sustained Berber communities for centuries but are now vanishing due to climate change, water overuse, and modern agricultural practices. The article explores how rising temperatures and prolonged droughts are depleting underground water sources, threatening not only the unique ecosystem of the oases but also the cultural heritage and livelihoods of the people who depend on them. It highlights the urgent need for sustainable water management and conservation efforts to prevent these desert lifelines from disappearing forever.

I chose this story because it beautifully illustrates the intersection of physical and human geography. The striking contrast between the harsh Sahara Desert and the lush green oases captured my imagination, and I wanted to understand how people adapt to such extreme environments. This topic resonates with me because it shows that geography is not just about landscapes—it is about the relationship between people and their environment, and how that relationship shapes cultures, traditions, and ways of life.

This story addresses the critical geographic issue of water scarcity and desertification in arid regions. It demonstrates how physical factors such as climate, location, and limited water resources directly impact human activities including agriculture, tourism, and settlement patterns. The article also examines the broader implications of global warming on vulnerable ecosystems, and how traditional knowledge and modern science can work together to protect these fragile environments from irreversible damage.

After reading this story, I realise how easy it is to take water for granted when you live in a place where it is always available. In Morocco's oases, water is not just a resource—it is the foundation of life, culture, and history. Losing an oasis means losing a home, a community, and centuries of tradition. This article has deepened my understanding of geography as a subject that connects people to the planet, and it has inspired me to be more conscious about environmental issues and the responsibility we all share to protect our world.



2nd Place

Lam Lily Helen 3B

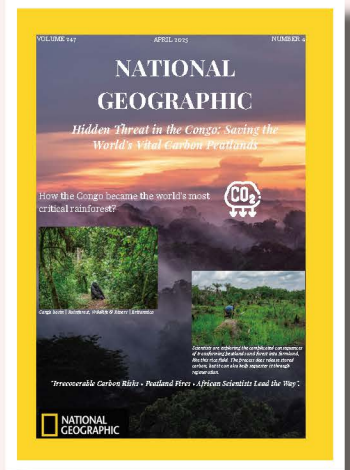
National Geographic Magazine Report

This story is about the Congo Basin's crucial role as one of Earth's most effective carbon sinks, thanks to its vast tropical rainforest and immense peatlands that store "irrecoverable carbon"—vast amounts that, once released through logging, agriculture, or wildfires, cannot be restored by 2050. The article reveals that the dense canopy absorbs more CO₂ than it emits, but threats such as shifting rainfall patterns (fewer rainy days, drier seasons), encroaching logging, and peatland fires (e.g., the 2016 burn covering 69,000 acres) risk turning this hidden powerhouse into a major climate threat. Research at sites like the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve, including flux towers, indicates steadier carbon storage than the Amazon's declining rates, yet overall absorption is trending downward. It spotlights emerging Congolese scientists working to monitor and protect this understudied region.

I chose this story because its maps and visuals powerfully illustrate the scale of the peatlands and impending threats. The purple gradients highlighting carbon density, protected areas, and fire scars make the abstract concept of "irrecoverable carbon" feel immediate and urgent. Furthermore, the human element—featuring local researchers revitalizing research stations—adds a sense of inspiration amid the warnings, making it far more engaging than typical climate journalism.

This piece effectively explores climate vulnerability in tropical peatland ecosystems, where geography directly intersects with global warming. The Congo Basin spans Central Africa, boasting unique waterlogged soils and dense forests that lock away massive amounts of carbon. However, deforestation and shifting precipitation patterns increase fire risks and carbon release, potentially amplifying worldwide greenhouse effects and harming critical biodiversity hotspots.

Reading this story made me realize that the Congo Basin is deeply overlooked in global climate efforts. While its protection could make a monumental difference, the threats against it appear to be accelerating. It heightens my awareness of how interconnected global ecosystems truly are and underscores the need for urgent, locally led conservation. Training Congolese scientists gives me hope, reminding us that effective solutions stem from local empowerment and science. Ultimately, it motivates stronger support for rainforest safeguards everywhere.



3rd Place

Amy Lin 3A

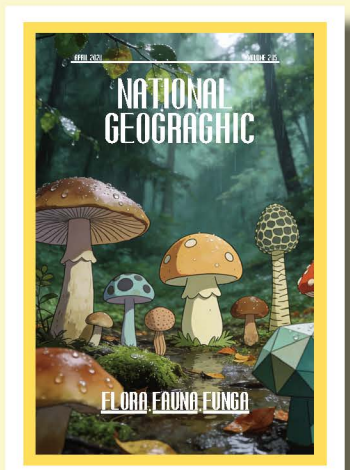
Geography Magazine Report

This article is about how fungi shapes geographical landscapes and ecosystems. The article talks about fungal networks that connect forests, influence soil formation, and help plants survive in harsh environments. This matters because fungi play a crucial role in carbon storage and maintaining global biodiversity.

I chose this article because it reveals a hidden world beneath the ground. The idea that fungi act as "nature's internet" fascinates me.

The article discusses fungal conservation as a forgotten geographic crisis. Despite their importance, fungi are excluded from most environmental protection laws and conservation funding. Habitat loss from deforestation and agriculture now threatens one-third of fungal species with extinction. This matters geographically because fungi prevent soil erosion, support plant life and capture billions of tons of carbon dioxide annually. Scientists warn that losing fungal networks would break ecosystems and cause climate change.

After reading the article, I realise that geography is heavily connected with our life, appearing in a variety of unexpected fields, and that protecting fungal habitats is crucial to fight climate change.



LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH PUBLIC SPEAKING

Serving as the Chairlady of the Toastmasters Club (TMC) carries great responsibility, but it is a role that brings me immense pride. My journey with the club began three years ago, ever since I was first invited to join by Mr Yeung.

Join Us

If you also hope to make a big change in yourself, I invite you to come and join TMC. Someday in the future, you will surely discover a better version of yourself!

A New Experience

TMC was a completely new experience for me. In each meeting, everyone takes on a different role, such as the Timer or the Ah-counter. The most challenging—yet rewarding—part is the Table Topics session. During this segment, the Table Topics Master provides a question based on the weekly theme, and you must speak for two minutes on the spot.

It was incredibly intimidating at first, but through constant practice, I gradually saw great progress.



Finding My Voice

I can speak English much more fluently and naturally now. Most importantly, I am no longer afraid of the language; I actually enjoy speaking up in class. While I still feel nervous sometimes, I now believe in my heart that I am capable of doing it.

TMC has helped me improve my communication skills, public speaking, and leadership abilities. Above all, it has significantly built up my confidence.

The First Step

At the very beginning, I was just an ordinary student who was terrified of speaking in front of the class. My English was quite weak, and I could only barely pass my exams. However, I possessed a true desire to improve my proficiency.

My interest in the language was sparked by a fascination with western high school life after watching my first TV series on Netflix. Mr Yeung noticed my earnest desire to improve, and encouraged me to take the leap and join TMC.

**Chairlady of the Toastmasters Club -
Shirley Man 5D**



LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH DEBATING

Debating is far more than just winning trophies—it is a profound path toward personal growth, camaraderie, and discovering who you are. Under the mentorship of our teacher advisor, Ms Joanne Wong, our Debate Team members have elevated their English proficiency, analytical thinking, and confidence through a shared commitment to research and practice. Throughout the year, students from various grade levels came together as one to take on tough motions, support their peers, and push past their own limits. In the reflections that follow, Team Captain Tania Lee opens up about her individual journey: from mastering leadership and communication to building true confidence and finding fulfillment in advocacy.



Debate is not a solo sport. No matter how talented a single speaker might be, they cannot win alone. I truly learned this when our team transitioned to British Parliamentary debate - a fast-paced, interruption-heavy format.

At first, the British Parliamentary felt like learning an entirely new language. Unlike traditional formats, it demands sharp, impromptu thinking. Right in the middle of your speech, the opposing side can raise Points of Information (POIs), asking pointed questions that you must answer immediately. There is no time for discussion; it requires instant, on-your-feet responses.

To prepare, we ran intensive POI drills. One person would deliver their speech while the rest of the team fired off unexpected questions. Honestly, everyone struggled in the beginning. We lost our train of thought, stumbled over our lines, and our voices shook. However, after consistent training, we stopped freezing and started answering with genuine confidence.

As captain, I had to balance my own preparation with my teammates' needs. I needed to know our motions inside and out, while also ensuring everyone else's speeches were well-structured. This format forced us to rely on each other like never before. Through this process, I discovered that leadership requires more than just offering guidance; it demands clear, calm communication during the heat of competition.

Looking back, I realize that becoming a confident speaker isn't an overnight transformation. It is the result of late-night practices, countless mock debates, and teammates who simply refuse to give up. We may not have won every single round this year, but we learned invaluable lessons and lifted each other up. In the end, that camaraderie was our true victory.

Team Captain - Tania Lee 3A



TRIP



“Artspllosure” London Music and Art Tour – A Journey to Remember

The “Artspllosure” tour was not just an exploration of the arts; it was a celebration of culture, creativity and connection. 33 students and teachers embarked on an 11-day cultural adventure through the vibrant heart of the UK, exploring the best of London, Cambridge, Oxford, and Windsor last summer with Ms Vivian Yung, Ms Percy Ho and Ms Joanne Wong.

We were delighted to appreciate art which took centre stage at world-class venues such as the National Gallery, Tate Modern, the Serpentine Gallery, and the Victoria and Albert Museum, where everything from classical masterpieces to bold contemporary works are showcased. From enjoying West End shows to street art in Shoreditch to fossils in the Natural History Museum, every day was filled with wonder, learning, and inspiration. It was undoubtedly a trip of a lifetime. Let's see what everybody thought of it!



While there were many delightful memories from the London trip, the most memorable one was watching the musical-The Phantom of the Opera. It was my first time experiencing a musical in a theater. I was mesmerized by how spectacular the sounds and stage effects were. Besides the musical, this trip also helped me to become more outgoing. Initially, I was shy and did not dare to talk to people. However, this trip to London offered me plenty of opportunities to interact with people. I am now more confident in speaking with others. This Artspllosure trip is definitely a precious memory for me that I will cherish forever.

Suki Yan 4D

Artspllosure was a truly unforgettable experience. As it was my first time visiting London, I had the chance to try many things I had never experienced before. The most unforgettable moment of the trip was undoubtedly watching the musical The Phantom of the Opera. It was a fantastic performance, and I was moved by the beautiful voices of the actors. Throughout the trip, I learned a great deal about British arts and culture, such as classical music and paintings in museums. If I ever have the chance to return, I would love to explore more of the UK's vibrant art scene with my friends.

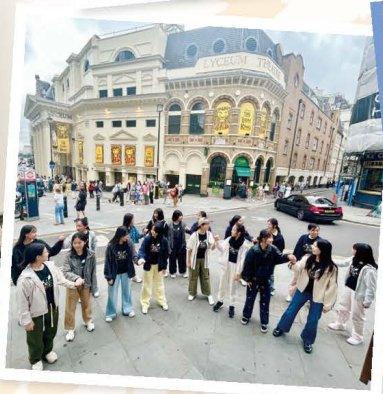
Kisha Wong 4A

During the “Artspllosure” study tour in London, we explored various art styles and the city's rich history. We also visited London's most iconic venue, the Royal Albert Hall, where I was impressed by the grand architecture. Venturing beyond London, we traveled to Oxford and Cambridge. A personal favorite was punting on the river in Cambridge; it allowed me to enjoy the city's beautiful views while sharing laughter and joy with my friends. Overall, this tour was a fantastic experience that encouraged me to explore diverse cultures outside Hong Kong and gave me the chance to create wonderful memories with my friends.

Gaily Wai 4D

This experience allowed me to truly explore the world and learn things that cannot be taught in a classroom! As a former member of a musical theater group, seeing The Phantom of the Opera live has always been a dream of mine. I still remember the sheer awe and shock I felt after the show; it was an experience that watching a video could never replicate. Additionally, visiting various museums was a pleasant experience that deepened my understanding of diverse cultures and art forms from around the world.

Amber Mak 5B



Artspllosure gave both students and teachers an invaluable opportunity to explore arts and culture in the UK. Through this immersive trip, students encountered a wide range of creative experiences, from classical and contemporary arts to music and architecture. One of my most memorable moments was seeing our students busk outside the theatre before watching *The Lion King*—an authentic demonstration of connection to local culture that added an extra layer of engagement and confidence. Overall, the trip was more than an arts visit; it celebrated creativity, culture, and confidence. It remains one of my best teaching memories ever!

Ms Percy Ho

The 11-day “Artspllosure” trip to London successfully immersed students in arts and culture through musicals, exhibitions, and interactive workshops. By engaging with expert commentary and visiting prestigious landmarks, students deepened their appreciation for various artistic disciplines, significantly enhancing their artistic literacy and global perspective. I found it incredibly rewarding to witness the students’ deep engagement and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing in this vibrant cultural journey alongside them.

Ms Joanne Wong



Proud Pool To Girls

Celebrating English Excellence

77th Hong Kong Speech Festival

Our students shone at the 77th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival, showcasing outstanding talent and dedication to earn top awards across multiple categories.



Welcome to our showcase of talent, passion, and eloquence! This page is dedicated to the brilliant students and outstanding teams who have soared to success in various English competitions this year. From masterful storytelling to powerful public speaking, join us in celebrating the dedication and triumphs of our proud award-winners!



Harvard Book Prize

We are delighted to share that our S5 students, Ailsa Leung, Ariel Chan and Amber Mak have been awarded this year's prestigious Harvard Book Prize. This award recognizes exceptional Hong Kong secondary school students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, strong personal character, and meaningful contributions to their school or community.

Time to talk Round 1

Each year, the S3 EXCEL classroom transforms into a stage as eight to ten teams select a meaningful song and deliver a dynamic, multimedia presentation exploring its core theme. Standing out in a highly competitive field, the trio of Ching Ching Chan, Amy Li, and Sabrina Chin ultimately captured the judges' hearts. Their captivating presentation on Aladdin's classic, "A Whole New World," powerfully encouraged their peers to dare to dream big, earning them a well-deserved victory.



The Final

Following an exhilarating opening round, two of our student teams advanced to The Final, an inter-school showcase organized by the EDB NET Section and CDI. Arriving at the EDB offices in Kowloon Tong, the electric atmosphere was undeniable. The competition was incredibly stiff, with 14 exceptional teams all vying to captivate the audience and steal the spotlight.

Our brilliant four-member squads rose to the challenge, spectacularly capturing two of the five available trophies! A massive congratulations goes to Bareerah Hameed, Tania Lee, Josephine Ng, and Jessica Lam, who secured 2nd Runner-Up with their creative presentation, "Starting Small and Dreaming Big." Inspired by the ripple effect, they used a dynamic mix of performance styles to keep the audience thoroughly entertained.

Claiming the 1st Runner-Up title was the powerhouse team of Sabrina Chin, Karina Chan, Kayla Aoki, and Tyanna Wong. Driven by their emphatic slogan, "Dream Big, Keep Climbing"—inspired by Miley Cyrus's hit song The Climb—they closed out the competition with an explosion of power and energy that drew massive cheers. The judges and spectators alike were deeply impressed by their commanding stage presence. Both teams did our school immensely proud, beautifully upholding the stellar standard of excellence that has become a hallmark of our students in this prestigious competition.

Battle of the Books

Get ready for the ultimate clash of literary minds! Battle of the Books isn't just about reading; it's a high-stakes, fast-paced academic showdown where pages turn into power. Our brilliant team of word-warriors dive headfirst into a thrilling list of diverse novels, mastering every plot twist, hidden detail, and character quirk. When tournament day arrives, it's an adrenaline-fueled race against the clock and rival schools to see who can recall facts and claim ultimate bragging rights. For these dedicated bookworms, reading is a team sport, strategy is key, and victory has never tasted sweeter!



On April 29th, our Language Arts Studio buzzed with excitement as we hosted the second annual PTMS Invitational Battle of the Books Competition. Following two fiercely contested semi-final rounds, Carmel Secondary School ultimately emerged victorious. We extend our heartiest congratulations to them for a well-deserved win!



The thrill continued on May 11th, when our talented 12-member team—consisting of dedicated S2 and S3 students—stepped up to compete in the EMI section of the prestigious Hong Kong Battle of the Books Competition. Their immense preparation paid off immediately as they dominated their semi-final, earning a coveted spot in the Grand Final on May 18th. Fueled by passion and determination, our word-warriors fought valiantly through 12 gruelling rounds of intense trivia. In a breathtakingly close finish, they claimed the title of 1st Runner-Up, missing the championship by a mere four points! We are incredibly proud of their phenomenal success and want to give a special shout-out to Avenla Leung, who took home the well-earned MVP Award for our team.

Hong Kong Story Slam

This year, the Hong Kong Story Slam, organized by Hong Kong Stories, drew a competitive field of 96 contestants representing 30 different schools across the city. Out of this talented crowd, Pooi To's very own Cherry Yeung achieved the remarkable feat of being selected for the Grand Final—a prestigious stage featuring just 10 elite student storytellers from various local and international schools. Cherry's moving narrative, which beautifully explored the complex dynamic of a teenager's relationship with her mother, deeply resonated with the panel and earned her a well-deserved Merit Award.



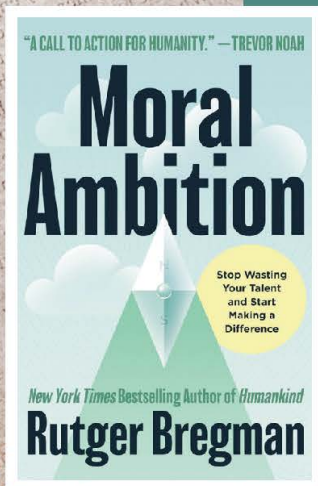
Short Essay Writing Competition for Hong Kong Secondary School Students

S4 students participated in a short essay writing competition organized by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on the theme of "Fables for the AI Era." Sonia Tam won Second Place with her rewritten version of The Three Little Pigs, while Pink Mau received a Merit Award.

S2 Choral Speaking



Book Recommendations



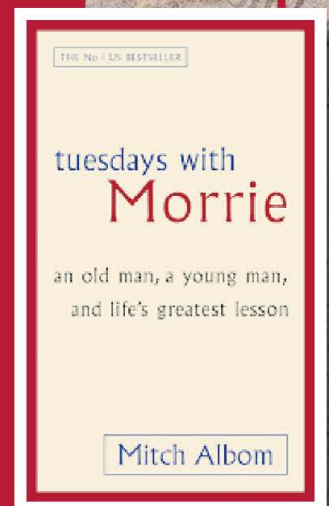
“Moral Ambition” is a powerful invitation to live this year’s school slogan. Rutger Bregman challenges the tired idea that ambition is about status, salary, or personal brand. Instead, he argues that the highest form of success is dedicating your talents to solving real problems and improving lives. Through vivid stories of activists, innovators, and ordinary people, Bregman shows how moral courage and practical action can reshape institutions, policies, and everyday choices. He doesn’t romanticize goodness; he treats it as a skill you can cultivate, with frameworks for choosing a cause, managing burnout, and turning idealism into concrete impact.

This book is perfect for anyone who feels the pull to do more but isn’t sure where to start. “Moral Ambition” will challenge your comfort zone, clarify your priorities, and leave you with a hopeful, realistic roadmap for aligning your career, time, and values with meaningful change.

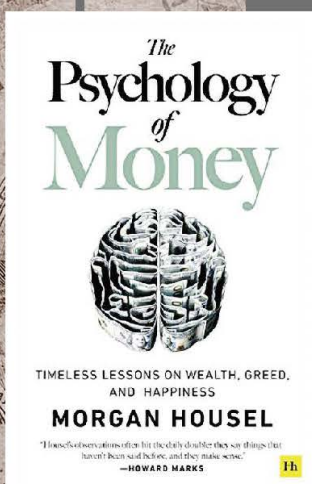
Ms Tracy Leung

Tuesdays with Morrie is a deeply moving memoir by Mitch Albom that chronicles his rediscovered relationship with Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor who is dying from ALS. Recognizing that his time is short, Morrie transforms his final months into a final “class” for Mitch, meeting every Tuesday to discuss life’s most meaningful complexities. Together, they explore profound universal themes including love, family, regret, forgiveness, and the inevitability of death. Through their honest conversations, the book offers a poignant plot that serves as a beautiful reminder of what truly matters when everything else is stripped away.

This extraordinary book, which has also been made into a movie, is a vital read for secondary school students because it provides an invaluable perspective on navigating the modern world with empathy and purpose. It challenges readers to look beyond superficial success and appreciate the power of human connection, guiding us through values. Remarkably famous, the memoir spent more than four years on the New York Times bestseller list and has been translated into over 45 languages, cementing its status as a timeless global phenomenon that continues to inspire millions worldwide.



Mr Martin Middleton



Have you ever wondered how the rich generate such wealth? Or have you ever imagined how to become a millionaire in the future? Morgan Housel’s “The Psychology of Money” uses short stories from different financially successful individuals, such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, and Steve Jobs, to illustrate how mindful habits and unpredictable luck shapes financial destinies.

As you turn the pages, you’ll discover that Housel doesn’t just focus on dollars and cents—he explores the human side of money: our emotions, behaviors, and the choices we make. He invites readers to reflect on their own financial journeys, making the lessons feel personal and relatable. The book gently reminds us that while we can’t control everything, the way we think and act with money can be transformative.

I cannot overstate the importance of self-investment in this generation. The skills we read about in this book are not just for our financial success, but more broadly, for approaching our daily lives with a different perspective. I hope that after reading this book, you will learn new aspects you can use in your daily life, and, hopefully, when you face a cloud of doubt, it will serve as a guide to new heights.

Mr Hugo Ko

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