

South China Morning Post

It's a walk in the park

This week, we asked our readers: if there were no adults in Hong Kong for a day, what would you do? Here are our favourite answers ...

Compiled by Lucy Christie | May 20, 2016



Brotherly love

All I can do is stay at home and look after my baby sister. Boring, right? I agree. But, without my mother and father, it is my responsibility to take care of my little sister. I just cannot leave her alone.

Ho Lok-hang, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

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Jenna Ko, 17, PLK Ma Kam Ming College

To survive each month, a family of four in Hong Kong needs HK\$20,000 because the expenditure in our daily life is very high. Children are also forced to attend tutorial classes to improve their academic performance, so HK\$20,000 is a basic necessity.

Tam Yu-ting, 17, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

A family of four needs HK\$18,000: HK\$9,000 for rent, HK\$3,000 for meals, and HK\$6,000 for other uses. That's the minimum. Leung Chun-ying said that HK\$9,000 is enough for a single parent family to survive in Hong Kong. Is that reasonable? Maybe it was just a joke because it is very "funny".

Tang Chi Man, 17, PLK Ma Kam Ming College

It seems to me that a family of four in Hong Kong does not need a single dollar to survive. As you may know, Hong Kong is a hilly city. It would be a great idea for Hongkongers to live in the hills or mountains. They can hunt and farm for themselves. The best part is that they can have a firsthand experience of Man vs Wild. Hongkongers love watching this American reality show.

Lo Tin Chiu, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Many people think that living in Hong Kong is very difficult since it's so expensive. But surviving in Hong Kong is very cheap even for a family of four! You and your family members just need to rob a bank and wait for the police to arrest you. Then, you can survive in Hong Kong for free ... in jail.

King Lam, PLK Ma Kam Ming Secondary School

Hongkongers know that it costs HK\$40 million to raise a child. Divide that by 12 months a year for 20 years, that's HK\$10,000 a month. That's already HK\$20,000 a month if you have two kids.

South China Morning Post

Talking Points: how much does it cost for a family of four each month in HK?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Sam Gusway | May 11, 2016



Expenses in Hong Kong can really add up.
Photo: AFP

Wong Tsun-ho, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

A family does not need a dollar to survive. As we all know, people in jail do not need to pay for a place to sleep and three main meals. Therefore, the least amount of money that a family of four need should be zero. However, I don't think any normal person will try that.

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South China Morning Post

Talking Points: How can we make education cheaper?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Sam Gusway | April 20, 2016



Darren Leung Yat-long, 16, PLK Ma Kam Ming College

We can make education cheaper by sponsoring Hong Kong students' textbooks and extracurricular activities. As we all know, Hong Kong already has a 12-year free education policy and students in Hong Kong are not required to pay tuition fees in most of the schools. Therefore, the only things we have to pay for are the textbooks and extracurricular activities, so sponsoring these would make education cheaper.

South China Morning Post

Talking Points: Are men and women equal in Hong Kong?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Sam Gusway | March 17, 2016

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Kok Tsz-fung, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Women in Hong Kong are treated a lot better than men. Consider the law of sexual assault which only includes men assaulting women. Women will not be charged for breaking the law as no law even exists. In society, people often see women as the group who need men's protection. They blame the men who treat their girlfriends poorly, while men will just stay quiet and tolerate their girlfriends in the opposite case. To conclude, equality does not exist and it never will.

Tam Yu-ting, 17, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Women in Hong Kong aren't treated equally. A lot of jobs still require women to wear dresses and make-up, and that is unfair. Why do women need to wear make-up at work and men don't? Does wearing a dress and make-up make women work better and faster?

Writing a letter telling a friend about your trip

By 1A Anthony Tsang

Dear Paul,

Yo! Ho! Here is a greeting from Rome. We're having a great time in Rome. Now, my family and I are at the Diocleziano Hotel to have dinner. It offers many kinds of great and delicious Italian food, like 'spaghetti alla carbonara' which is baked with spaghetti. Also, 'coda alla vaccinara' is a cow tail that is put into grape wine and is roasted with chillies. I like them very much. Since it is Christmas, we also eat turkey. It is so delicious.

You might want to know what tourist attractions I visited yesterday. Now, I'm going to tell you about some of them. Yesterday morning, we went to the National Roman Museum. There were many beautiful paintings, mosaics and sculptures of the Roman age like 'Tiber Apollo' and 'Via Labicana Augustus'. We took many photos of those beautiful sculptures. I know you like art and especially sculptures, so I went shopping and bought some sculptures for you.

Now, look at the photo on the right. Do you know where we were in this photo? Am I fighting with my elder brother? No, I'm not. This is a photo that my father took in Roman Colosseo. We are pretending to be some Kung Fu stars and going to fight with each other. My mother was in the washroom, so she was not in this photo. Roman Colosseo was built about two thousand years ago. It is round-shaped. In the ancient times, the Roman emperor used the place to host gladiatorial shows called venation. The people who were condemned to death would be sent into the arena. After that, beasts like rhinoceros and leopards tore them to pieces. It was cruel! Luckily, this activity was cancelled in 23 AD.

This trip is so meaningful to me because when we visited the National Roman Museum, we could see many different paintings and sculptures. Those artworks perfectly showed how beautiful the Roman Renaissance was. When we visited the Colosseo, we were so surprised and wondered how the ancient people built the Colosseo with about 40 kg of rocks.

I think you're also having a great time. Next time, please send letters to me and tell me everything you did on your holiday.

Yours,
Anthony

Green Festival

By 1B Ko Ho Yiu

There are many festivals in the world. I think the most meaningful festival is the Green Festival. The Green Festival is a festival for some countries in the world. It is held in March.

First, I would like to talk about the meaning of the Green Festival. During the Green Festival, there is a vibrant, dynamic marketplace where companies and organizations showcase their green products and services, and where people come to learn how to live a healthier, more sustainable life.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the festive activities for the Green Festival. There are talks about environmental protection and games booths about environmental knowledge in Victoria Park. People can plant trees, watch parades and exchange second-hand things. People should use public transport, turn off lights and air-conditioners to protect the earth. These activities can help people learn more about environmental protection.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about the festive symbols of the Green Festival. The theme is 3Rs – reuse, reduce and recycle. Recycling bins, green clothes, plants and vegetables are festive symbols of the Green Festival. In addition, there is festive food for the Green Festival. Vegetables and organic food are the healthy foods that are promoted in the Green Festival.

Last but not least, I would like to talk about the feelings of people. People will feel that this festival is meaningful because they can learn more about environmental protection and take actions to save the earth. People will feel interested as they can learn more about natural energy.

The Green Festival is a meaningful festival. I recommend it as it can promote tree planting, environmental protection, as well as how to live a healthier and more sustainable life.

South China Morning Post

What's the most embarrassing text you've ever sent?

We've all done it before: hit "send" and then realise it isn't the person that text was meant to go to, or that you missed a really, really bad typo. At least we're not alone

Compiled by Lucy Christie | March 11, 2016

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An accidental valentine

One day, my friend messaged me asking what my favourite animal was. After a few seconds, I replied that I love the cat. Suddenly, I realised that I sent the message to a different classmate – and the most embarrassing thing is that her name is Cat.

Wong Tsun-ho, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Silly me in the WC

One day, I messaged my friend to tell her that I had stomachache and I wanted to go to the bathroom. However, due to my careless mistake, I accidentally sent it to my class group chat! Oh My Gosh! It was so embarrassing!!!

Kelly Wong Hiu-laam, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kim Ming College

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What's your weapon of choice for a zombie apocalypse?

Compiled by Lucy Christie | March 04, 2016

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Death by Bieber

My weapon of choice to deal with zombies would be a speaker blasting Justin Bieber's songs. Why? The zombies would be scared away by this infamous person's songs – although some would actually dance to the beat (since I believe they still have consciousness even they're zombies). Plus, this "weapon" is extremely peaceful; since it causes no harm, it also ensures your safety as well.

Cheung Yu-shing, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Camo is my ammo

The best offence is a good defence, so I would choose a "zombie coat" as my weapon, and camouflage myself as a zombie. If they thought I was already a zombie, they wouldn't bother attacking me!

Chan Ming-wai, 17, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Milk Tea—a Local Drink in Hong Kong

By 1C Oscar Chiu

Hong Kong is a food paradise. There are different types of food in Hong Kong. What is your favourite local cuisine? In this article, I am going to recommend to you a special drink called Hong Kong-style milk tea.

For the appearance, Hong Kong-style milk tea looks like other milk tea, which is brown in color. It is made with black tea and milk. In Hong Kong, we can find milk tea in cha chaan teng. We can find milk tea in restaurants and dai pai dong as well. The taste of milk tea is creamy and rich, so it tastes good.

Why is milk tea special? It is because after drinking milk tea, you will feel more energetic. You will not feel tired. In fact, there are different types of milk tea, for example, cold milk tea and silk stocking milk tea. They are both very yummy. Hong Kong people always eat sandwiches or egg tarts with Hong Kong-style milk tea at breakfast for a "good morning".

In short, Hong Kong-style milk tea is a popular drink among the local people. I like it very much too. I highly recommend you try this drink when you visit Hong Kong.

Local Delicacies in Hong Kong- Egg Tarts

By 1D Mandy Chan

There are a wide range of delicious local snacks. For instance, there are pineapple buns, wife cakes, egg puffs, stinky tofu, sticky rice puddings. My favourite one is egg tarts. Let me tell you how wonderful egg tarts are.

First of all, egg tarts is a local snack for local people. It is available in all bakeries and it is not very expensive so anyone can afford to buy it. I always buy it when I am hungry. It costs only \$3 each.

Secondly, it is a convenient food. It is convenient to buy egg tarts since they can be commonly found in Hong Kong. The shape of an egg tart is like a hat and the size is comparable to the fist of a young child. Therefore, it is handy to eat. You can take it everywhere.

Third, it is expensive and lovely. The pastry of the tart is round and crunchy while the filling inside is smooth like silk and soft like eggs. Even our last governor Chris Patten is in love with egg tarts. He will order some whenever he comes to Hong Kong. I think you will like it, too!

Last but not least, you don't need to feel embarrassed to use your body language to buy egg tarts. Be brave and try it! You won't regret it! You should go to the bakery to buy egg tarts. It will be cleaner and more hygienic.

South China Morning Post

Talking Points: Are there any countries Hong Kong should NOT do business with?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Sam Gusway | March 02, 2016

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Darren Leung Yat-long, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Hong Kong should not do business with chaotic countries in the Middle East and Africa. There are many countries which are caught up in civil wars or other types of violence. Take the Israeli–Palestinian conflict for instance. Border disputes between the Israelis and Palestinians have led to violence, which has affected social stability and caused hardships to people. This situation is not good for trade and business, so Hong Kong should avoid countries like Israel and Palestine.

Cheung Yu-shing, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

I believe Hong Kong should not do business with the mainland. We are wasting our money buying “Made-in-China” goods because most of them are fakes and their quality is poor. It's not simply about not doing business with Beijing – it's also about protecting the safety of Hongkongers and even our reputation. Besides, doing business with the mainland means more parallel traders will be flocking to Hong Kong, clogging our transport system and leading to a shortage of goods here. This would cause even more tension between Hong Kong and Beijing, so I would rather not do business with China, even though it's a powerful country.

South China Morning Post

You want me to do WHAT?! Check out the worst advice our readers have received

Compiled by Lucy Christie | February 26, 2016

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It's mightier than the sword

My writing is poor, so I tried to get some advice from my classmates. I asked them: "How can I write a good article?"

They said: "Use your pen." Okay. That's the "best" method I have ever heard.

Ho Wai-chun, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming Collage

Pillow talk

One night, when I couldn't get to sleep, I asked my sister for advice to help me drift off. She had no idea what should I do. Minutes later, after I had finally fallen asleep, she came and woke me up, and said: "Why don't you take some sleeping pills?" Thanks a lot, Sister.

Ng Chun-ming, 17, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Chalk it up to silliness

When I was in Form One, I got some chalk on my shirt. I wiped with a tissue but it didn't quite get it all off. My classmate suggested I clean it off with the blackboard eraser. Of course, it just got even MORE chalk on my shirt!

Ng Cheuk-hei, 16, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Writing a letter telling a friend about your trip

By 1D Eva Mak

Dear Chris,

Hello! It's been a while since I wrote to you last time. How have you been? I am on holiday now!

I went to Seoul, which is the capital of South Korea, as well as Jeju Island with my friends at Christmas holidays. I love this place as there are many beautiful beaches. What's more, Jeju Island is also called Korea Hawaii. Therefore, you can imagine how blue the sky is and how fine the sand can be! Apart from the beaches, I also tried a wide range of seafood in Jeju Island such as carbs, lobsters, seafood soup and sashimi. They are just unbelievably delicious!

Next, I went to Myeongdong, which is a very famous shopping area in Seoul, I did a lot of shopping in the district and tried different kinds of seafood such as chicken, ginseng soup, kimchi, bibimbap and fried chicken. The fruit is equally tasty so I also bought a vast amount of citrus fruit because it is the most popular souvenir in Myeongdong.

What makes this trip especially interesting is the visit to Lotte World. It is a record-breaking theme park as it is one of the world's largest indoor theme parks! There were many exciting rides and I had a good time there.

Finally, I had so much fun with my friends and, more importantly, I learnt a lot of Korean culture. This is such an unforgettable trip. I am looking forward to another trip in the coming summer holidays. Do you want to join us?

Yours,
Eva

Should Students Wear School Uniforms?

By 2A Cheung King Wan

There is no denying that fashion has already been an important part of human life, especially for teenagers. Some think that the school uniform is acting as an obstacle which stops adolescents from showing their fashion sense while some think that it is important for students to wear school uniforms. In this essay, I will discuss the pros and cons of having a school uniform.

One of the advantages is that uniforms can eradicate the discrimination between the rich students and the poor students. When all students wear the same clothing, it is hard to distinguish whether they are the underprivileged or not. In this case, students will accept others easily. Hence, school uniforms can reduce discrimination cases in schools.

Another argument in favor of having a school uniform is that school uniform helps to develop a sense of belonging among students. Every school uniform has a school badge on it. When students are wearing their school uniforms, it means that they are representing their schools. This would surely help build up the school spirit by showing the unity. Therefore, school uniforms help to develop a sense of belonging among students.

It seems like there are some advantages for students having school uniform. However, there indeed also some disadvantages for students having school uniform.

One of opposing views is that school uniform takes away students' opportunity to show their individuality and self-expression. As teenagers are rebellious, wearing their own style of outfits can be a way to show their independence. They want to get caught up on fashion trends so they will choose to wear their own clothing, not only for going out, but also for attending school. But the reality is that students now have to wear clothes of the same design. Thus, it is obvious that school uniforms suppress one's individuality and self-expression.

South China Morning Post

Talking Points: After graduation, will you work in Hong Kong?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Sam Gusway | February 24, 2016

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Benedict Chow, 15, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College



Despite being a Hongkonger, I would say no. Why? Because I am unhappy with the situation in Hong Kong. I think the Mong Kok riot and other protests were sparked by the government's inability to solve the city's problems. The people don't trust the government which does not want to take responsibility for its mistakes. I would rather work in another country to gain an "international vision" and develop my career.

South China Morning Post

Talking Points: What makes you a Hongkonger?

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Compiled by Susan Ramsay | February 17, 2016



Anita So Yuen-tin, 15, PLK Ma Kam Ming College



This is a meaningful question. I strongly believe that having the freedom of speech makes me a Hongkonger. In Hong Kong, everyone can live as they wish. According to the Basic Law, no one should criticise others for their religion or their political beliefs. Because of this, Hong Kong is one of the most open-minded and liberal cities, and one in which I am proud to reside.

Another opposing view is that it is uncomfortable for students to wear school uniform. Boys need to wear a tie around their necks. They also need to wear belts. It is absolutely inconvenient for students to move around. Students may be annoyed by this. Therefore, we can see that students may feel uncomfortable when wearing school uniforms.

From the above, we can see that there are both advantages and disadvantages of having a school uniform. In my opinion, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages since students should be given the autonomy to choose their clothing every day. Thus, I think that students should not have a school uniform.

Agatha Trunchbull's Childhood

By 2B Bobo Leung

The story happened when Agatha was 12 years old. At that time, she was artless, kind-hearted and honest. She liked to help others. Agatha had very long curly hair when she was in the 8th grade. She liked to eat snacks and chocolate, so she was very fat. Her brother didn't let her eat chocolate and took away all the snacks at home. This made Agatha hate him. At school, she helped a lot of people. For example, she helped Victoria to clean the classroom because Ann was a student on duty too, but she left the school. Agatha was so honest. She told this to the class teacher. It made a lot of students dislike her. She was being bullied at school.

One day, Agatha was doing her homework in the classroom. Some troublemakers in the class cut her hair. Agatha was so inconsolable that she told this to the class teacher. The troublemakers went to tell their 'boss', Ann. After lunch, Ann started to carry out her crafty scheme. When all the classmates went to play, she stole May's new bracelet and put it in Agatha's school bag. She wanted to take revenge on Agatha. She also threatened Victoria to help her achieve her crafty scheme, because she knew that Victoria was Kyle's admirer. If Victoria rejected her, she will tell it to Kyle.

May couldn't find her bracelet, so she told it to the class teacher. The teacher asked some classmates. Ann said that she saw Victoria and Agatha in the classroom when all the people went to play. Victoria was so afraid that she passed the buck to Agatha. She framed Agatha as a thief. Agatha asked for help from Kyle and her classmates, but no one testified for her. She was punished by the teacher because the teacher found the bracelet in her school bag. The teacher told her parents about it. Agatha was so hopeless and distressed.

South China Morning Post

How to cure hiccups - anytime, anywhere

From drinking nine sips of water to hanging upside down, you fearless contributors came up with weird hiccup remedies

Compiled by Lucy Christie | January 29, 2016

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Scared silly

I've heard that getting a scare is the best cure for hiccups. This is assuming you can find a friend to scare you. This is a good method to solve the problem.

Ho Wai-chun, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

South China Morning Post

Money on the street - what would you do?

This week, we asked our readers, if you found HK\$10,000 on the street, what would you do? Here are our favourite answers ...

Compiled by Lucy Christie | November 20, 2015



9 Kind investment

I would use the money to help others, for instance, poor people and the homeless. Millions of people are dying of hunger around the world. I really hope that I could use the money to help them. It is more blessed to give than to receive!

Ng Tsz-wai, 15, Po Leung Kuk Ma Kam Ming College

Agatha was so indignant because no one trusted her. When she got back home, her parents scolded her loudly. Magnus didn't trust her and didn't talk with her. It made Agatha hate her family so much. She cut her long hair and never talked with her brother, Magnus.

Agatha started to learn playing hammer throw to protect herself so that she will have enough strength to punish the people who bully her. She started to hate children because she thinks all children are evil. They are liars. She also hates her family because no one trusted her when she has been wronged. Agatha will never go to help others anymore.

Everyone said that Agatha was an evil person but who would understand that she actually had a very terrible childhood?

My Role Model

By 2C Joey Li

The 27th July of 2014 is the date I won the "Best Leading Actress" in an acting competition.

When I was 6 years old, my mother told me that if I wanted to be successful, I needed to study hard and earned a lot of money. However, I asked her if I could be an actress in the future. Her answers made me feel disappointed. She said, 'Being an actress? If you can't be famous, you will not earn much money. Therefore, just study well and don't think about acting.' When I heard my mother's answers, I just gave up my dream and went to study.

I remember that when I was in Primary 3, my father took me to watch a film called *Harry Potter*. My father told me a lot of things about the actress who is called Emma Watson. Although I didn't know anything about her, such as how much money she earned, what achievements she made, I knew that she was very hard-working. When the film-maker told the three main actors of *Harry Potter* to write some opinions about their characters, the other two actors had just written 2 pages to the film-maker but Emma Watson had written 17 pages about the character. I thought that is why her acting was good in that film.

From then on, I decided that I needed to learn how to act so I joined the Drama Club. However, when my mum knew that, she was very angry and shouted at me, "Act? Drama Club? Your average marks were just 86. Then you decide to play and give up studying?" I understood that my mother cared about me, so I told her, "I do love acting because of Emma Watson. She works hard and is famous. I just want to learn the acting skills from her, and I will study hard. When I grow up, I want to go to America to study and try to learn more acting skills. Emma Watson is a smart and hard-working person. She is my role model. So...please let me join the Drama Club."

When my mother heard that, she just smiled and said that a smart person thinks perseverance is more important than anything else.

Emma Watson is smart and beautiful, and she is my role model.

Finally, Hong Kong offers a variety of leisure activities for teenagers. We can have fun and gain different knowledge through visiting amusement parks. For example, teenagers can learn more about nature in Wetland Park so as to enjoy the maximum benefit through visiting different museums, like learning the history or culture of different countries. In addition, teens can spend their time on different types of entertainment. For example, they can go to sports centers to improve their physical health. These recreational facilities can help teens to develop their full potential.

All in all, Hong Kong is a city which is suitable for teenagers to live and develop their full potential. Teens in Hong Kong have obvious advantages over other teens in developed countries, and we have a lot of joy because we live in Hong Kong. Thank you.

The joys of being a teenager in Hong Kong

By 6F Chan Yee Ki

Good morning everyone. I am Vivian Chan. At the beginning of my speech, I want to ask you a question. Have you ever thought about this - if you were born in Africa, what would happen to you? In fact, living in Hong Kong is truly a blessing. We have good education, material comfort and a variety of entertainments.

First of all, we have good education in Hong Kong. It is commonly considered that the education system in Hong Kong is good. Every child in Hong Kong can enjoy free education for 12 years. In Hong Kong, there is no gender discrimination in education, so we all can enjoy the equality of education. Boys and girls can go to school to learn at various stages of their development. Conversely, many girls in undeveloped and developing countries cannot receive education in mainstream schools. We need to be thankful because the status of girls in Hong Kong is on a par with that of boys. Moreover, Hong Kong has many universities and tertiary institutions that provide lots of academic programmes for teens, the future pillars of our society.

The second thing I want to talk about is comfort and convenience in Hong Kong. We have a high quality of life here. We get tap water easily everywhere. Also, the electricity is stable here. In some developing countries, the supply of electricity is limited because of poor technology. Furthermore, Hong Kong has many high-technology products which are common in society. For instance, our daily life is full of computers and smartphones. I guess you cannot imagine how life is if we live without high technology. Also, we have a convenient transportation system, so we can travel to any places in Hong Kong within a short time. High-technology not only brings us more convenience but also gives us a better life. Living in a comfortable and convenient city, teens can devote their time to pursuing their dreams.

Write a letter to the editor discussing the causes of a pollution problem in Hong Kong and suggesting solutions

By 2C Terry Chung

3rd February, 2016

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the Plastic Shopping Bag Levy Scheme. I have three pieces of advice to solve the excessive use of plastic shopping bags in Hong Kong.

The excessive use of plastic shopping bags is aggravating. As people do not bring their own shopping bag, they have to buy a plastic shopping bag to contain their things. Therefore, I hope to raise the public concern and stop people from using too many plastic shopping bags. In this letter, I will discuss the causes of the excessive use of plastic shopping bags, and then suggest ways to solve it.

Firstly, I oppose the use of plastic shopping bags. I think it is insufficient for the government to charge \$0.5 for each plastic shopping bag. This is because everyone can afford this, so no one will care about that \$0.5. To solve that, I suggest the government should charge \$5 for each plastic shopping bag. If they do not care, the government can charge more for each shopping plastic bag, like Hawaii, since 2012 they do not give out plastic shopping bags at all.

Secondly, I think it is unfair to kill marine species because of our excessive use of plastic shopping bags. When we send the plastic bags to the landfills, plastic bags will be blown to the sea and marine species get killed.

Finally, I think we should not use more plastic shopping bags. The government can produce fewer plastic shopping bags. Therefore, we do not use more plastic bags. Because of this reason, people will bring their own shopping bags.

In conclusion, the three environmental policies aforementioned are definitely not effective in solving Hong Kong's environmental problems. The government should not spend any more time discussing these three policies. Instead, we should work on how to encourage shoppers to bring their own bags.

Yours faithfully,
Terry Chung
Terry Chung

By 2D Hon Cheuk Yan

Dear Editor,

I am writing to support the levy on plastic shopping bags.

Firstly, I want to tell you about the habit of using plastic bags before and after the implementation of the scheme. People used a lot of plastic bags when shopping before the implementation of the scheme. After the implementation of the scheme, people now use their own bags when shopping and reuse old plastic bags again.

I want to tell you about the purpose of the levy on shopping plastic bags. The purpose is to encourage more people to use fewer plastic bags. Using a lot of plastic bags is bad for the environment. Plastic bags will go to the landfill at the end. The landfill will become full quickly. The plastic bags will produce toxic. This toxic liquid will pollute the river, sea and the ground water.

Thirdly, I want to tell you about the effectiveness of the scheme. Some people really use fewer plastic bags but some people are willing to pay money to buy plastic bags. I think the government should teach people about environmental protection, build more recycling bins and use biodegradable shopping bags.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas

Thomas

Not only can students develop their potential, but they can also gain valuable experiences. For example, they have a myriad of chances to compete with others through inter-school competitions. They can set a goal for themselves and strive for the best performance. They can definitely acquire hand-on experiences. Even if they cannot win the championship of the competition, they can improve themselves and try to conquer the next competition. Take my brother as an example, he has engaged in the basketball training for a few years. What he learned most is self-discipline and perseverance. Since he had to wake up at five o'clock in the morning every day to receive training, he learnt to put a persistent effort in the area he endeavoured to shine. What is more, he had to maintain a balanced diet so he seldom ate unhealthy snacks. Despite the strenuous training, he learnt a lot from the activities. As a result, I believe that it is conducive to one's mental and physical development through involving in extra-curricular activities.

However, a coin has two sides. A series of adverse impacts will also arise if students overwhelm themselves with too many, say four to five, extra-curricular activities. This is especially the case for the senior students. They are usually stuck in the unrelenting homework, examination and unquenchable obligations. So if students are involved in too many extra-curricular activities, they are not capable of handling their studies well. They may miss the crucial part of the lesson or important instructions from teachers. This may eventually lead to poor examination results.

All in all, I believe that students should strike a delicate balance between academic studies and extra-curricular activities.

Joining extra-curricular activities

By 6E Whitney Ng

Currently, a considerable number of helicopter parents force their children who study in traditional secondary schools to participate in at least four to five extra-curricular activities. They intend to raise the competitiveness of their children so that their children can stand out among the crowd and become extraordinary. However, some secondary school students always grumble that their schedules are filled with a host of extra-curricular programs, ranging from piano lessons to basketball training, leaving them not much spare time to have a good rest. In light of this, I would like to discuss the boon and bane of joining extra – curricular activities.

First and foremost, talents of students can be nurtured in all-round development if they engage in extra-curricular activities. Owing to the existing exam-oriented education, students focus on academic studies while ignoring other aspects including social, physical, aesthetic and moral developments. In fact, through joining extracurricular activities, students are able to unleash their potential. For example, they would realize that they have strong enthusiasm in playing tennis. Therefore, students can be nurtured to be all-rounders if they join a multitude of extra-curricular activities. More importantly, they can gain recognition and a sense of achievement when they fully engage in the process. It is obvious that students can clearly tap on their potential and find out their strengths.

Pros and cons of using WhatsApp

By 3A Kathy Law King Chi

How much time do you spend using WhatsApp every day? A rapid development of communication has been seen nowadays. Not only in Hong Kong, WhatsApp is popular and commonly used all around the world since it is convenient for people to keep contact with others. There are some benefits of using WhatsApp while there are also some drawbacks. In this essay, I would like to discuss both the pros and cons of using WhatsApp.

To begin with, one advantage of using WhatsApp is that it can facilitate studies. By discussing with classmates, students will get the necessary information from their classmates immediately. It improves their studies. Thus, I find it favourable for students to talk about academic work by using WhatsApp.

In addition, an argument in favour of using WhatsApp is it can reduce working parents' worries. In this day and age, many parents have to work so as to earn a livelihood. Therefore, none of them could stay with their children to take care of them. As a result, it is understandable that working parents may worry about their children. However, the appearance of WhatsApp can help to get rid of this problem. As WhatsApp is an instantaneous messaging tool, people can send or receive messages as fast as they wish. Therefore regardless of time and distance, working parents can check on their children in a split second. As a result, it helps to reduce working parents' worries, which in turn raise their productivity.

From the above, we can see that there are a number of benefits of using WhatsApp. However, there are also some drawbacks.

One disadvantage is that it may harm people's social skills since people always communicate by using WhatsApp, but not face to face. They would miss out messages from body language and this would reduce their ability to use facial expressions. In extreme cases, people may forget how to communicate face to face with real persons sitting physically in front of them. Hence, it is unsuitable for people to use WhatsApp frequently.

Furthermore, another argument against using WhatsApp is that it makes people suffer from addiction. According to a recent survey, it shows that many people use WhatsApp more than six hours per day. Isn't it a horrible number? As a matter of fact, people spend lots of time using WhatsApp or staying up late to text. This will affect their resting time or sleep cycles. Because of affected sleep cycles, they will have poor memory, weight gain, mood swings and even addiction problem in extreme cases. Students who cannot control themselves on the use of WhatsApp may doze off in class and therefore fail in school. For workers, they will not focus on work or not engage in work-related activities. Therefore, I find it important for people to prevent addiction by controlling the time they spend on WhatsApp.

In conclusion, there are both advantages and disadvantages of using WhatsApp. However, I believe that, on balance, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages since people develop many harmful habits as a result of using WhatsApp uncontrollably.

Despite the fact that home office has provided numerous benefits to parents, some potential drawbacks may be overlooked. First and foremost, a home office is not a panacea. The manager of a company may confront even more difficulties monitoring staff's work progress. The fact that supervisors cannot monitor their progress directly because they cannot discuss any problems with their employees face-to-face, not to mention that some employees may even become unproductive.

One drawback we have to encounter is working at a home office probably poses a risk of leakage of data which causes an invasion of privacy. Most companies have to handle lots of private information like credit cards and passwords of clients. Handling such confidential information at home means the data has to be transferred through the Internet. Internet hackers may use this leak to sneak in the flow and obtain the private data which may cause a huge loss to the company.

To sum up, I believe working at home office is definitely a coin which has two sides. However, working at home, if implemented well, can bring a lot of advantages to both employees and employers.

The advantages and disadvantages of working at a home office

By 6D Jordan Lai

Setting up a home office has long been a hot topic in different kinds of industries. With the advanced development of telecommunications, staying at home to work has become possible. It seems so marvelous, however, if we stop and think about this popular practice, there are obviously various merits and drawbacks.

First of all, if we work at home, we can save the time spent on commuting back and forth to our workplace every day. Every hour can be better spent at home rather than getting stuck in traffic congestion on jam-packed buses. There is no doubt that the practice of working at home is certainly time-saving. On top of this appeal, working at a home office can provide numerous conveniences and unlimited personal freedom. For instance, with a home-based business, there are no bosses in your home, no dress code and no office politics. All you need is a personal digital device, self-discipline, and effective time-management skills. You can enjoy higher flexibility than working at an office and gain personal freedom.

One indisputable fact is that a traditional office adopts a relatively rigid work pattern, for example, a fixed lunch time. Employees have to follow the rules strictly with no flexibility. However, a leading company called Microsoft has created a successful home-based office which provides people with a gorgeous as well as interactive platform for working. This is especially useful for parents with school-aged children. Working parents, on most days, can choose to stay at home to work. They can have more spare time to look after their kids. Nowadays, one family in Hong Kong usually consists of 3 people which is commonly called a nuclear family. Therefore, home office can provide various kinds of merits such as efficiency and personal freedom which has long been desired for Hong Kong families. It is definitely a desirable choice for all working mums.

The advantages and disadvantages of joining reality shows

By 3B Iris Chung

In the world, there are many reality shows. Many people join reality shows, such as Americans Got Talent to show off their talent. In this essay, I will discuss both the pros and cons of joining reality shows.

To begin with, one advantage of joining reality shows is that contestants can train their guts. I know many people are scared of facing lots of people. It is a normal reaction. Because of this, it is suitable for them to join reality shows. Although they may lose in the competitions, they will have a personal breakthrough. Do you think this is good?

Apart from that, another benefit is that it gives a chance for people to show off their talent. I always watch YouTube videos. Many people recorded their singing, so joining reality show is a very good chance for them to show off, isn't it?

Even though there are a number of benefits of joining reality shows, there are also some drawbacks.

One disadvantage is that you may receive some bad comments after your performance. At that time, you will be under pressure if you don't know how to face these messages. Then, you will cry all day.

Moreover, another argument against joining reality show is that you won't have your life. Why? It is because people will start to search your background on Facebook, YouTube or other websites. Also, when you go outside, some people may follow you and they know who you are. Don't you think they have no privacy and freedom?

In conclusion, there are both advantages and disadvantages of joining reality shows. Although some people think we have lots of pressure, it can help you fulfill your big dream. On balance, the advantages of joining reality shows outweigh its disadvantages. It is clear that it is good to join reality shows.

The pros and cons of watching reality shows

By 3C Wong Ming Lam

In this essay, I will examine both the advantages and disadvantages of joining and watching reality shows.

To begin with, one advantage of taking part in reality shows is that contestants can gain new knowledge and skills. Contestants can have a chance to develop their interests. They can learn communication skills. For example, the reality show *MTV* allow teenagers to be coached by established people in the fields. They can receive constructive criticism and encouragement.

In addition, another benefit is that contestants can become famous. For example, the winner of the reality show *The Apprentice* can get a contract to work with the manager of the company. Therefore, this is a good way to let teenagers work like the people they watch on television.

Although there are a number of benefits of joining and watching reality shows, there are also some drawbacks.

One disadvantage of watching reality shows is that some reality shows may pass on wrong values to teenagers. For example, contestants may think that it would be easy to become famous. It is worrying that teenagers waste their time to train for the reality shows and lose their time to study.

Furthermore, another argument against joining reality shows is that contestants may suffer from huge pressure. For example, the judges of the reality show *America's Got Talent* may give the contestants a lot of criticism and make the contestants think they are useless and feel stressed. As a result, the feelings of contestants may be hurt after joining reality shows.

In conclusion, there are both advantages and disadvantages of joining and watching reality shows. In my opinion, the advantages outweigh its disadvantages. I think contestants should fight for their dreams on reality shows. It is necessary for television stations to show educational programmes for people to learn good values in reality shows.

The Pros and Cons of Having a Home Office

By 6C Lau Po Man

Nowadays, there are more and more people in Hong Kong choosing to work at home. Advocates claim that having a home office allow employees to exercise flexibilities and help saving plenty of traffic time. Critics argue that it is rather easy for workers to lose motivation. In this essay, the benefits and drawbacks of having a home office will be explored here.

The first advantage that comes to my mind is that having a home office helps saving the expenditure in rent. With soaring property price in Hong Kong, there is no doubt that a large sum of profits is spent on rent and other related expenses. If we can minimize the cost by allowing employees to work at home. It definitely enhances the competitiveness of the companies.

Aside from rent, the traffic time spent on transportation can be saved. It is common that lots of people live in the New Territories such as Yuen Long or Fanling but they commute to the Hong Kong Island such as Central and Causeway Bay for work. They spend at least two or even three hours on transport travelling back and forth from work to home. Wouldn't they work more efficiently and effectively if they were given an extra two to three hours to work every day?

Given the above-mentioned advantages, working at home can be a double-edged sword. In the following paragraphs, we will look at the possible dangers of working at home.

In spite of having a more efficient work environment, it is easy for them to slip into slackness gradually. Imagine if you are allowed to work at home and your employer only contact you by phone once a week. This is such a pressure-free environment. Therefore it is hard to maintain your motivation. As a result, productivity will be reduced and workers may end up spending their time on some trivial matters. In other words, having a home office may turn things into an even worse situation.

All in all, I tend not to support working at home. Though having a home office is flexible and time-saving. Unless the employees are highly self-disciplined, one can easily lose work motivation and reduce productivity.

My school days

Being a journalist in my senior forms, I had a packed schedule. The school life of a senior was mainly surrounded by three devils: massive quantity of past papers, supplementary lessons and tutorial classes. Yet, not only did the news reporters fight with the submission deadlines, but we also had to attend numerous conferences and meetings as well as updating our work regularly. All these required one element that I lack the most – time.

We had general meetings discussing the details and topics to be included in the following month's magazine every Friday. Other than that, seniors were allowed to skip small meetings on school days and use online messengers to keep works on track. I used the time spared to work on my articles for the four weeks in a month. Every stage went smoothly, including brainstorming, gathering information, selecting and finally explaining. In this way, I was free to do my academic work at weekends. The school life was definitely weary, but also fruitful and self-contained. This experience was beneficial to my future career of journalism.

The importance of my job

Being indulged in this wide spectrum of ideas, beliefs and perspectives is a critical cornerstone of democracy as well as the freedom of speech. There are problems and conflicts with no absolute answer as the definitions of right or wrong depend on one's mentalities and perceptions. Yet when the issue collides with the reality and moral values, which one do we opt?

This is precisely the mission of a journalist to help the masses to work out their own stances by providing considerable facts on the same issue. Being surrounded by like-minded people can lead one to become self-centered and ignorant. The media is their eye of the public to enrich their minds with comprehensive knowledge and to understand the stances of different stakeholders. What is right? What is wrong? It is your call, after all.

How much time do you spend on WhatsApp every day? In Hong Kong, many people expressed concern that the use of WhatsApp has led to a decrease in people's face-to-face interaction while some believe that the use of WhatsApp makes communication easier. In this essay, I will discuss both the pros and cons of using WhatsApp.

To begin with, one advantage of using WhatsApp is that it is convenient and easy to chat with friends. There is no need to write a letter or make a phone call. Therefore, WhatsApp is convenient for people to have communication with each other.

In addition, an argument in favour of using WhatsApp is that it is easy to use. We can use the voice function of WhatsApp to send some messages. Also, we can send photos and videos too. In short, using WhatsApp is a convenient tool to share your life with your friends.

From the above, we can see that there are a number of benefits of using WhatsApp. However, there are also some drawbacks of using WhatsApp.

One disadvantage is that WhatsApp reduces the meeting chances with friends. Because of the convenience of using WhatsApp, people will choose to stay at home and are more reluctant to hang out with friends. Therefore, this greatly decreases the chance of face-to-face interaction. Furthermore, another argument against using WhatsApp is that students will spend less time on studying as there are so many fun things on online chatrooms.

In conclusion, there are both advantages and disadvantages of using WhatsApp. However, I believe that, on balance, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

The pros and cons of using WhatsApp

By 3D Lily Lee Tsz Ching

Have you used WhatsApp before? In Hong Kong, it is undeniable that we cannot live without smartphones in our modern life. However, recently, I have found it common that more and more people overuse their mobile phones for texting on WhatsApp. Therefore, in this essay, I would like to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of using WhatsApp.

First of all, one disadvantage of using WhatsApp is that it may affect people's sleep cycle. Some juveniles stay up late for texting, so they lack sleep. As a result, it is possible for people who lack sleep to nap in class. In brief, using WhatsApp may affect people's sleep cycles and even their daily lives.

On the second note, another significant argument against using WhatsApp is that it may disclose personal privacy. The company owning WhatsApp has already collected lots of information about people who have used WhatsApp. If a hacker steals these clients' information, it is terrible that our personal privacy will be disclosed. In short, it is not safe to use WhatsApp.

From the above, we can see that there are a number of cons of using WhatsApp. However, there are also some pros of using WhatsApp.

An advantage of using WhatsApp is that it allows instantaneous communication. People can transfer messages using mobile phones not in a face-to-face mode. Besides adolescents can discuss academics with classmates and learn something from each other by using WhatsApp. Therefore, I find it convenient for people to use WhatsApp to talk to each other.

In addition, another argument in favour of using WhatsApp is that the service of WhatsApp is completely free. For instance, people can easily send free messages to any parts of the world without being charged. People can also call others without paying a penny. Thus, we can enjoy the free chatting function of WhatsApp.

To sum up, there are both advantages and disadvantages of using WhatsApp. However, I believe that, on balance, the benefits outweigh the drawbacks as I think WhatsApp is a great application that provides many functions for people to chat online.

A feature article: Journalism

By 6B Paris Tsoi

The best part of my job

Having been aspired to devote myself to journalism, I feel that being appointed to this job is like a feather in my cap. Researching relevant materials, interviewing various individuals with diverse backgrounds or writing the actual article all granted me the chance to raise social awareness and social consciousness.

The most satisfying thing is to discover the wonders and excitements in the citizens' eyes every time I enlightened them with peculiar, insightful and unfamiliar knowledgeable facts in my articles. Their genuine expressions have, silently yet effortlessly, recognized my toilsome work, constituted by tears and sweat.

The biggest challenge I have ever faced in my job

That a journalist must remain objective when presenting to the public is what I found the most challenging. Being an opinionative person, I yearned to share myriads of viewpoints with others. Still, when it came to the time to report facts, filtering information meticulously and checking the usage of every word are of paramount importance as we need to accommodate our readers' freedom when they navigate in the sea of data.

Once, I misused the word 'propaganda' and completely altered the whole meaning of the passage as the word carries a negative implication. Fortunately, the senior editor helped me to change it immediately before it got published. This incident indeed taught me to be more cautious when writing articles. With this being said though, staying unbiased did not come easy to me at first.

By 4A Caroline Lui

Besides, another argument against having home offices is that employees need a lot of self-discipline. Not everyone is an intent person. Under no stress and surveillance, we would be easily distracted. Particularly, it is easy for us to switch to surf the Internet or play mobile games. Furthermore, employees' attitude at work may become casual. This may affect the quality of our work.

To conclude, I am not denying that having a home office may have negative impacts on working. However, I strongly believe that having a home office helps us maintain a good work-life balance and it is important to our mental health. Moreover, our life is not only about work, but also about having fun and fulfilling our dreams. On balance, its pros outweigh its cons.

The Event

"Those dishes are mouth-watering. What a fantastic event!" said a student who grinned from ear to ear. I was truly delighted to hear the satisfying compliments but not the dissatisfying critique from my fellow schoolmates. We, the Student Union, just successfully held a charitable fair named "The Food Festival" on 12th March at the school hall. Our school hall used to be spacious. However, on that day, it was very crowded and packed with contestants. Even a small tiny little ant couldn't squeeze into the venue. A myriad of food counters were set up in the hall, and crowds of people lined up. They just wanted to have a taste of tempting food prepared by our peers whole-heartedly. Every student used their limited yet creative "marketing strategies" to attract more and more guests. Some boys put on the maid costumes, transforming themselves into women. How bold they were! Anyway, the Food Festival did provide a precious learning opportunity for students to unleash their potential and to perfect their presentation skills. This was not only a fundraising event but also an extra lesson for us.

Food to Enjoy

The hall was categorized into different sections. Personally, I love the bakery counter the most. Tarts, cookies, muffins, cupcakes were the best-sellers in the whole event. Everything was sold out very soon. There was no exaggeration to say that you wouldn't believe that foods were prepared by our schoolmates. They were extremely professional and perfect just like those you can buy in a real bakery. All I can say is they were appetizing, crunchy and scrumptious. Besides, the Italian counters were also popular with our schoolmates. Providing minestrone soup, risotto, spaghetti with meat sauce, cheesecakes and tiramisu, they made the event a great success. Everything was the same as those we can find in an Italian Restaurant with similar smell and tasty. Before the Food Festival was launched, I didn't expect to enjoy some high-class and delectable food, but they finally made my dream come true! How lucky I was!

Donation to Charity

All the money we've raised in the Food Festival will be donated to Po Leung Kuk in order to help the underprivileged and impoverished people in Hong Kong to improve their deplorable living conditions. As far as I know, even though Hong Kong is a cosmopolitan as well as a shopping paradise, poverty unfortunately still exists and has already become a mounting social concern. A large number of people are living in ridiculously small subdivided flats, and you can just put a simple bed without any spare area for you to walk around. Furthermore, the immigrants from mainland China and Southeast Asia always suffer from different forms of discrimination, including being under-paid at work. I wish the contribution could give them extra support to help them overcome all the hurdles in life. It is more blessed to give than to receive. I sincerely hope that our school will organize more meaningful activities to give a lending hand to people who need help all over the world.

More and more Hong Kong people prefer working from home. It seems like a great idea: working and spending time with family at the same time. Still, there are upsides and downsides of having a home office.

To begin with, the most obvious advantage of having a home office is that employees feel less stressed. Undoubtedly, commuting is one of the sources of tension. If we work at home, there is no need for us to commute with the crowd every day. The most important thing is that there is no boss who will supervise your work. Not being under surveillance, employees can work in a more relaxing environment in which stresses and strains of the job can be eased. Furthermore, not only can we dress casually but we can also have a break whenever we want if we work at home. Thus, it is less stressful for us to work at home.

In addition, people who work at home will have a better work-life balance. Since we do not need to go to the office, our work schedules are more flexible. When we work from home, we do not have to wait to leave the office if we finish our work early. After completing our work, we can do our personal affairs. For instance, we can go out with friends or family and attend some interest classes over weekdays. Moreover, it is easier to make time for exercise because of flexible working hours. As a result, having a home office can enable us to have more recreational time and maintain a good work-life balance.

However, every coin has two sides. The advantages of having home office cannot overshadow its downsides.

One advantage of working at home is that there will be a lack of cohesion in the workplace. When we work from home, we will not have a daily face-to-face connection with other colleagues. It is hard to maintain work morale and team spirit. It is also difficult for employees to collaborate with one another. For these reasons, having a home office will hurt the cohesion among workers in a company. All these may lead to a decrease in productivity.

By 4B Maggie Leung

What will happen if people drink too much lead-in water? Lead can enter human body through the digestive system, direct skin contact or even through breathing. Children, pregnant women and breastfeeding women are the most vulnerable to the problem caused by lead-in water. Absorption of a large amount of lead can lead to some serious damage to one's nervous system permanently. It may also affect one's reproduction ability and kidney function.

The problem of lead-in water has been disturbing Hong Kong for so long that it should have been solved. Here are some of the solutions that could reduce the effects of this problem.

First, residents of the buildings that are confirmed to have lead-in water in tap water can install a filter onto the faucet to filter out most of the heavy metal residue. The government should subsidise all these residents to help out. This method is simple yet effective. The government should also create a new department to keep checking the quality of the filters to make sure all of them are installed properly and promote the concept of filtering lead-in water.

Second, it is time to replace all the water pipes with the non-toxic one. The joint of the water pipes is the source of lead-in water. The only way to solve it is to remove it. The facilities of many aged housing estates are not up to date. The government can upgrade them together with the water pipes. This method may not be the most money-saving and time-efficient, but this can make sure all water is lead-free.

Finally, to prevent this kind of problem from happening, the government should enact safety regulations for the restriction of construction materials and warn companies that we should prioritize people's health as the most important aspect. Instead of solving the problem, preventing it from happening is always a better choice. If the construction companies in Hong Kong follow the law, nothing will go wrong.

To conclude, the main reason why lead-in water problem exists is that some Hong Kong people are a bit greedy and tricky. They think that no one will ever notice that they are using cheap materials. As it turns out, everyone starts taking care of a problem only when it is in their own backyard.

Recently, social networking websites like Facebook and Instagram have gone viral among students because they have such a huge base of broad coverage that students can always keep in touch with their friends who come from all corners of the world. However, students like to put their pictures and private information such as their addresses, school names and even their phone numbers on the Internet. What they do not know is that it can trigger numerous problems like identity theft, graphic violence, pornography, cyber bullying and so on.

Unfortunately, I was one of the victims concerned. Therefore, I hope to raise teenagers' concern about the use of social networking websites through sharing my unpleasant experience. Facebook is the most popular social networking website in the world. I can use it to enrich my social life and keep good interpersonal relationships with my friends. One day, a long-lost friend tried to contact me and wanted me to lend her some money. In an attempt to get my trust, this trickster acted just like my friend. She had my friend's picture and Facebook account. To my careflessness, I made a phone call to my friend to ask if she really needed money but she said she had not asked me at all and her Facebook account was stolen by someone. Therefore, I realized that it was a trick. After that, I told other common friends to be cautious about the trickster. From this experience, I learnt that we should not share too much information on the Internet and seek help from teachers when we encounter these problems.

Is Lead-in water affecting you in your daily life?

By 5E Don Kok

Besides, sharing too much information on the Internet can lead to two major problems, identity theft and graphic violence. Sometimes, you will have no idea about why your pictures can be shared on the Internet by someone you do not know. Also, people who were caught in a fraud currently were swindled by tricksters who acted like their friends and family. To solve these problems, you can tell your school teachers, report the case to the Office of the Privacy Commission for Personal Data or the website administrator to let them deal with the tricksters. In the meantime, you must delete your private information so as to stop the act. Using sophisticated passwords, like adding some numbers, special punctuation marks and making your passwords longer, can also help protect yourselves from falling victims to these problems. Do not forget to warn people who do graphic violence against you. You should delete those pictures and stop such behavior instantly.

Social networking websites are helpful to us. However, there are many cases which prove that a lack of awareness in using those websites can result in some serious problems. This is why we all need to be aware of the importance of protecting our privacy and not to post too much private information on the Internet.

Have you ever been suspicious about whether the water you have been drinking in your entire life is completely safe and perfectly non-toxic? You probably won't care about it as many people who are drinking it for decades are still alive. In fact, most Hong Kong people think exactly like this and they will regret ignoring it very soon.

The problems and evidence of lead-in water started to be disclosed in July, 2015 in Kai Ching Estate. According to the testing of heavy metal in the water from Kai Ching Estate, the lead content of the water exceeds the WHO standard by totally 2.8 times. What is the cause of this shocking news?

First of all, the reason for a great amount of lead existing in our tap water is that lead was used as a glue for the joints of the water pipes. The subcontractors use lead because the time required to melt and solidify lead is less than other metals. The less time for workers to finish the building project, the fewer wages the companies have to pay to the workers. Since the subcontractors view profits more important than Hong Kong people's health, they don't care if this will affect children's growth.

Another reason is that the regulation restricting subcontractors not to use cheap material for substitution is not rigid enough. Back in 2011, the pipes of some big construction projects were all followed by a guy named Mr Lam. He is the one who ordered the workers to use lead in the joints of water pipes.

However, this also shows a serious loophole in regulating this kind of problem. Someone should have banned the use of lead in the very first place when the plan for the construction was checked. If this problem had been discovered earlier, Mr Lam would not have had the permission to follow other projects.

Proposal for Computer Fair

By 4C Ho Tik Man

Policies I will put forward

I am not going to go into stating empty promises. If I were the president of Student Union, I would enhance our welfare. For example, we would provide more items of stationery, such as pencils, pens and discounts for purchasing a wide variety of books.

In addition, we shall enhance the communication between the students and the school. I would help our schoolmates to reflect their views on school policies to the school management team. We would distribute questionnaires to the schoolmates regularly throughout the term to collect your views and reflect them to the school.

Ask for vote

Despite the fact that I am not the brightest one, I will try my best to serve every schoolmate. As stated before, if I am elected to the President of the Student Union, I plan to do whatever it takes to complete my job satisfactorily. I sincerely hope that you all will have the confidence in my ability.

1. Introduction

As the committee members of the school Computer Club, we would like to propose an Annual Computer Fair. The event can be organized after the mid-year exam. The principal is greatly concerned about enhancing students' IT skills and computer knowledge. It provides an opportunity for students to unleash their creativity and apply their computer skills to practical projects.

2. Annual Computer Fair

2.1 Date, Time and Venue

As suggested by the principal, we would like to organise the Annual Computer Fair on Saturday, 5th March, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m. in the school hall. All students are welcome to join this Annual Computer Fair.

2.2 Activities

We would like to propose these activities - an exhibition, a quiz and a talk. For the exhibition, students will be required to present a project with the use of computers and 15 good works will be exhibited. The next activity is a quiz. The quiz can test students' computer knowledge and students will know more IT skills. There is also a talk given by our school teacher Mr. Lee. I think this talk can teach us IT skills.

2.3 Speaker

We will invite our teacher, Mr. Lee, to attend the talk. The topic of the talk will be 'How to enhance our IT skills and computer knowledge?'

2.4 Budget

An estimated \$500 is required to buy gifts for the winners of the quiz.

3. Person-in-Charge

The committee members of the Computer Club will be in charge of the event including recruiting volunteers, inviting speakers and promoting the event. The school has agreed to help maintaining order and discipline during the talk.

4. Conclusion

I believe that the proposed activities will be effective in enhancing students' IT knowledge. I hope that you will see the merits of our suggestions and allow all students to participate in the Computer Fair. If you agree to the proposal, I will ask the subcommittee of the Computer Club to develop a full plan, which we will present to you before we proceed.

Can real pets be replaced by virtual pets?

By 4D Eric Chung

Nowadays, virtual pets are very popular among teenagers and people who are busy at their work. Virtual pets are some apps that you can download online. You can keep pets that are not real on your phone. Players have to take care of the pets and play with them, but players can quit the game when they feel bored or are busy. In my opinion, I think there are many advantages of keeping virtual pets as they can replace real pets.

Firstly, I think virtual pets can replace real pets because it is very convenient for people to take care of virtual pets. We can just open the app and we can take care of the virtual pets anywhere and anytime. We can quit the game if we are bored or busy. Also, virtual pets will never die. Even we forget to take care of them for a few days, we can still play with them afterwards. It is much more convenient than keeping real pets.

Secondly, keeping a virtual pet can save more money than keeping a real pet. Because virtual pets are not real, we don't need to waste money to buy food and water for virtual pets. For the real pets, when they are sick, we have to bring them to see the vet. Very often, seeing a vet is more expensive than seeing a normal doctor. We can save a lot of money if we keep virtual pets rather than real pets.

Some people say that keeping a virtual pet is more boring than keeping a real pet because virtual pets cannot interact with their owners. However, I don't think so because we can take care of virtual pets. In addition, those apps often ask the players to complete some missions with the pets. The games usually have some updated new missions every day or every week. Therefore, we can challenge ourselves through these missions, and get some gifts to make our pets become more beautiful. As a result, we will not get bored with the game.

To sum up, I think keeping a virtual pet is more convenient, cheaper and we can have more fun when compared with keeping a real pet. These are the reasons why I think real pets can be replaced by virtual pets.

An Article for Running for Presidency of the SU

By 5D Hui Yuen Ying

Past experience

As a person with experience in organizing events and possessing leadership skills, I strongly believe that I am a suitable candidate to be the president of the Student Union. I was the Chairperson of the English Club from 2013 to 2015. From this post, I have acquired various qualities to be a leader, such as organizational skills and communication skills, to name just a few. As the Chairperson of the English Club, I organized different English activities for junior form students with my committee members. We ran Reading Café and English TV programmes throughout the school year. From these activities, I have learnt not only organizational skills but also communication skills. I firmly believe that these experiences equip me with the necessary skills to run for the post.

Important personal qualities

In order to run for the SU President, the candidate should possess leadership skills. To me, these leadership skills include being decisive and communicative.

Being decisive is important. It is because the president has to make lots of important decisions throughout the year. Hence, the more decisive he is, the more efficient the association is.

Another essential quality is being communicative. Since the Student Union is a team, the president needs to work with other members and students organizations. Therefore, it is important for him/ her to communicate with others effectively.

Since I possess these two personal qualities, I strongly believe that I am suitable for this post.

Is Hong Kong dying?

By 4E Lee Chun Hin

It is acknowledged that Hong Kong cinemas are one of the local cultures in Hong Kong. We should not let our local culture fade. Prior to 1970, watching movies in cinemas was a fashion. Therefore, visiting Hong Kong cinemas are our memories and history even though it is becoming less popular. Also, cinemas are places where we can enjoy and spend our time with our dear family during holiday. Since Hong Kong cinema is filled with meaning to Hong Kongers, we should continue the operation of cinemas in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong cinemas are declining in recent years, which is food for thought. We need to take this trend into consideration. Hong Kong cinemas are full of values to Hong Kong. It is worth operating cinemas. Also, we should put our minds together to solve the problem of declining cinema attendance.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Is Hong Kong dying? There has been a heated debate over the prospect of Hong Kong in the next few years. In 2015, the GDP of Hong Kong still managed to get a slight surge of around 2% compared with the year before. The Hong Kong government has asserted that the Hong Kong economy would be on the right track. However, things do not actually seem as promising as they seem.

To commence with, Hong Kong's economy has been worsening in recent years. One of the reasons is that there has been a sharp decrease in the number of visitors to Hong Kong. In view of the worsening economic performance of Mainland China, fewer tourists are willing to spend their money in Hong Kong. Also, the local hostile sentiments among Hong Kong citizens have discouraged the mainlanders from coming to Hong Kong. This has caused a chain effect on the other industries as well. In particular, the hotel industry and food catering services have suffered badly. This has awakened the awareness of Hong Kong people that we have long solely relied on the mainland tourists for our financial development.

Admittedly, in the past decade, the influx of tourists has enabled our tourist industry to flourish and brought in a lot of revenue. Nevertheless, we cannot overlook the fact that overdeveloping the tourist industry to attract mainlanders would ignore or even forsake the overseas markets. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the tourist industry dwindles to a great extent when there is a drop in the number of mainland travellers. Therefore, it is recommended that we should devise measures to diminish our reliance on the mainland visitors. Instead, we should do more in attracting overseas tourists from America, Britain and Europe. From the above, it can be seen that the shrinking of tourism has a negative impact on Hong Kong.

The Decline of Hong Kong Cinema

By 5C Cheung Ting Yiu

Dear Editor,

In recent years, there are fewer and fewer people going to the cinema compared with the past. This trend is conspicuous in Hong Kong nowadays. Therefore, I am writing to explain why there has been a decline in cinema attendance and express my opinion on whether cinemas should continue to exist in Hong Kong.

Firstly, there has been a significant change in Hong Kong recently. When you turn on the TV, you may watch a number of films at home alone with your whole family. When you go shopping on the streets, you may notice that there are lots of DVD shops in Hong Kong. Therefore, people do not need to go to the cinema and can enjoy an exciting and interesting film at home. If people can watch films at home, they do not want to pay more than \$100 to go to cinemas and watch movies.

In addition to the fact that people can watch films easily, the poor qualities of Hong Kong films is also a major and serious factor that causes the trend. Recently, many people take the qualities of local movies with a grain of salt. People suspect that Hong Kong film makers produce local films in cooperation with Mainland China. Hong Kong film makers have to meet the yardstick of mainland to gain their support. However, Hong Kong people do not quite like this phenomenon. This is the reason why fewer people go to the cinemas and watch Hong Kong movies.

Having said that the development of Hong Kong movies go against the grain and cannot meet Hong Kongers' expectation, we should let cinemas continue to exist in Hong Kong.

What is more, the economic structure of Hong Kong is too simple. The six main industries of Hong Kong, including the tourist industry and financial industry, bring about 80% of GDP of Hong Kong. It turns out that the Hong Kong economy is substantially susceptible to the economic crisis in the world. The main six industries are linked to the world's economic performance. If the world economy deteriorates, Hong Kong will not be exempted from depression. In other words, should the world economy collapse, our economic performance and stability will follow its footsteps and thus collapse as well.

It is so self-evident that Hong Kong had better lower the proportion of those industries to 70% or lower. Otherwise, the reoccurrence of depression is a high possibility in the foreseeable future. Just take 2009 as an example. In 2008, the bankruptcy of Letman Brothers hit every country. This exacerbated the Hong Kong economy as the tourist industry was adversely affected. Above all, the simple economic structure of Hong Kong destabilises Hong Kong's economy.

All in all, Hong Kong is dying beyond a shadow of doubt. We had better ameliorate the unbalanced economic structure of Hong Kong and attempt to change the composition of the tourists to include those from other countries. Hong Kong must get back on the right track without delay. If we do not take action, we will encounter more trouble in the future. We might, in the end, sacrifice more and more things if we do not do something to rectify the situation now.

By 5A Chau Ka Lai

In the previous paragraph, the reasons and consequence of drink-driving have been discussed. In the following paragraph, suggestions will be made to combat this crime.

First, drivers can avoid consuming alcoholic drinks by finding a substitute. Apart from alcoholic drinks, there are still a range of options for them to choose, ranging from apple juice to fruit punch. Even if they are drunk, they can ask others for a ride or take a cab. From the legal perspective, the government should impose heavier penalties. Also, the government can set up sobriety checkpoints to conduct more random breath tests. This can allow the police to briefly stop vehicles at specific, highly visible locations to see if the driver is drunk. Police may stop all or a certain portion of drivers. Breath tests may be given if police have a reason to suspect that the driver is intoxicated.

If attempts are made to address the problem, there will be fewer cases of drink-driving. It is sincerely hoped that the government, drivers and other road users will make their best effort to eradicate the problem of drink-driving.

Yours faithfully,
Alan Chan

Dear Editor,

Recently, a proposal was put forth by a former government town planner, Sit Kwok Leung, aiming to ease traffic congestion by scrapping tram services. This has made everyone concerned. Debate has been stimulated all around the city. Are trams the major culprit of traffic jam? Is it by no means possible to maintain economic development with heritage conservation in mind? As a proponent of tram services, I would like to vocalize my point of view.

Before anything else, it is important to understand the roles that trams are playing in Hong Kong. What makes people furious is that it has eschewed the significance of trams. Young and inexperienced as I am, I have always recognized the values of this hundred-year-old transport to the locals. Trams are the testimony of Hong Kong's history, witnessing wax and wane of the city. Therefore, trams have become an important part of the collective memories of Hong Kongers. This is beyond doubt. What's more, a ride on trams costs only \$2. Thanks to the reasonable fare, trams have served as the most essential means of travelling to grassroots commuters living on Hong Kong Island. There are still many relying on its services in the present. Under no circumstances should we overlook the long-time contribution of trams. Apparently, sacrificing such remarkable transport for the sake of rapid urban development does not pay.

Besides, much space as trams have occupied on the roads, this should never be deemed as the sole root cause of traffic congestion. One contributing factor is the overloading problem of the transport network. With the growth of affluence in Hong Kong, city dwellers prefer buying and driving their own private cars instead of travelling in a jam-packed compartment. With more cars on the road, here comes a long queue of vehicles as demands outweigh the available road capacity.

Dear Editor,

As a faithful reader of your column, I would like to draw the public's attention to one growing phenomenon, drink-driving. Recent statistics have shown that drink-driving is on the increase in Hong Kong. In this letter, I would like to reveal the reasons of drink-driving, its disastrous consequences and give suggestions to prevent it.

In my view, people risk drink-driving after consuming alcoholic drinks because they are not aware they are drunk. They feel more confident after drinking and think they are capable of driving, even though they are not. Another reason why people risk drink-driving even after taking alcoholic drinks is that they are simply unable to make safe, responsible decisions after drinking too much and deal with complex problems. They think that they will not get caught and are ashamed to call someone to pick them up. Thus, they choose driving home in a drunk mood. The above-mentioned reasons explain why people still go behind the wheels after drinking.

The immediate effects of alcohol is the slow down of our response and reaction time. Drinking alcohol can affect our judgments and reasoning, slow down our reactions, upset our sense of balance and coordination and impair our vision and hearing. Ultimately we lose our concentration and feel drowsy. The consequences for drink-driving are severe and disastrous. Drivers who are convicted of drink-driving will result in a maximum jail sentence of 14 years in prison and a minimum of a two-year driving ban. The consequences of drink-driving can be damaging to your bright future. With a criminal record, you may have great difficulty in finding a job or seeking employment. Besides, you may have to bear increased insurance and loss of respect from family and friends.

Furthermore, traffic disturbances give rise to serious congestion on the road as well. Constructions and accidents block roads. Drivers need to slow down their cars, which leads to traffic jam again. As we can see, trams are not the only party to blame. Realizing the values of trams and the underlying causes of traffic congestion, certain measures ought to be carried out now to curb the problem without tarnishing the precious heritage.

The first approach is to build additional main roads in an attempt to alleviate the problems of insufficient capacity and unrestrained demands, thereby reducing the severity of traffic congestions. Moreover, it would be a good idea to make reference to Singapore's policy of launching an area licensing scheme which is effective in reducing the amount of private car drivers. Under the road-pricing scheme, drivers would be charged on priced roads. This encourages them to switch to public transport during non-peak hours, whereby we need not scrap the tram services to deter congestion problem. On the contrary, we would be able to improve traffic while preserving trams.

All in all, although it has always been known that the city's appetite for development makes heritage conservation difficult, it is of paramount importance for the government to strike a balance between economic development and heritage conservation. Only by introducing proper policies can we achieve a win-win situation and tackle the problem without hindering our sustainable development. I sincerely hope that authorities would see the values of trams and join hands with the government to ease traffic congestion as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Tiffany Chau