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## Letter — Itinerary for a friend who'll visit Hong Kong for 3 days

By Zhong Pui Shan (F.1A)

Hi Simon,

How is everything with you?

I know that you will visit Hong Kong for 3 days over the coming Christmas holiday, so I have planned an itinerary for you. I hope you like it.

On the first day, I suggest you go to Disneyland. There are a lot of recreational facilities. It has eight theme areas. You can do many things such as shopping and eating. There is also a cruise. Many cartoon characters will perform, and I think you will have fun there. The transport is really convenient now, so you don't need to worry about it. It is on Lantau Island. You can buy some souvenirs as well. There are souvenirs like toys, key rings, decorations, etc. I'm sure you will have a good day.

On the second day, I suggest you visit Victoria Harbour. The view is spectacular. On the opposite side of Victoria Harbour are skyscrapers. They are well-designed. The harbour itself was named after Queen Victoria. This place is known as one of the top three night-skylines in the world. The view is breathtaking.

On the third day, you can go to Golden Bauhinia Square. It was set up to commemorate the reunification of Hong Kong and China. The flag is raised at 8 o'clock every morning. The bauhinia flower symbolizes Hong Kong's prosperity. You can learn a lot about the history of Hong Kong.

Well, I'd love to hear what you think. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours,

Sanny

## Leaflet — Stargazing Camp

By Chen Xiayun (F.1B)

### Stargazing Camp

**Date:** 21 Mar – 22 Mar

**Venue:** Tai Hang Tun (Clearwater Bay Country Park)

**Meeting place and time:** 10 a.m. on 31 Mar, School Hall

#### Day 1

Campers will meet at 10 a.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> March in the school hall and set off together. Camp guides will introduce themselves and the destination to campers. There will be a mouth-watering barbecue lunch. A lot of food will be provided such as sausages, chicken wings, different skewers etc.

After lunch, camp guides will lead us to play hide-and-seek and then on a treasure hunt. When you are searching for the treasure, you can explore and enjoy the picturesque scenery and discover many wild animals and learn more about animals and plants.

In the evening, campers will find an open place to set up their things and tents. Then, we will go to the bonfire party. We will play some interesting games and do group activities to make our bond stronger. After the party, there will be a stargazing session. You can see the stars through a telescope (telescopes will be provided). You can also lie on the ground to enjoy the starry night and learn some astronomy knowledge from our camp guides.

## Day 2

In the morning, there will be some water activities to play. You can go canoeing with your friends and find a place to fish. After eating seafood for lunch, you can choose one of the following activities to join in the afternoon:

Orienteering competition (bring your smartphone and a compass)

Sandcastle competition

Light painting workshop

If you win the competition, prizes will be given.

Campers will take the bus at 4:30pm back to school after the activities and take a group photo.

Don't miss the chance to join this memorable stargazing camp! You can learn many things by being in the wild. You can also enjoy fresh air there.

Sign up at [www.stargazing.ead.hk](http://www.stargazing.ead.hk) before 15 Mar.

Find out more information about the camp at [www.discoverhongkong.com](http://www.discoverhongkong.com) search Tai Hang Tun.

## Red bean pudding

Red bean pudding is a popular kind of traditional snack in Hong Kong. I love it very much. It is made with red beans, rice flour, sugar and wheat starch. These are common ingredients but mixing them together can give you a big surprise. I love having this dessert in street stalls.

What makes red bean pudding so unique? I think it is because of the special look. Red bean pudding is also called “small bowl pudding” in Chinese. Small bowls are used when steaming so that the puddings are cooked evenly, which makes the taste and texture special. Also, two wooden sticks are used to take the snack out from the bowl. This makes it look like a huge lollipop with red beans.

Try red bean pudding! It is very cheap, only HK \$6 or \$7, but it tastes good. I think red bean pudding is simply incredible.

## Food Review — Egg Custard Tarts

By Liu Zi Yu (F.1D)

### Egg Custard Tarts

The egg custard tart is a well-loved dessert in Hong Kong. I always go to Café Paradise in Tsim Sha Tsui to have a snack after school.

The milky egg tarts are soft and crispy in taste, with rich insides and a creamy egg flavour. Egg tarts were introduced into Hong Kong restaurants in the 1950s and have become Hong Kongers' favourite delicacy. I had it when I was in kindergarten. Combined with some egg yolk and whipping cream, they simply add some white sugar for a sweet taste, perfect for anyone to enjoy.

As a dessert lover, I also love to put some of my favourite fruits into the mixture to add more colour and flavour to the egg tarts. The best thing about it is that you can create different tastes as you want. However, it is always better if it is served within 10 minutes of tasting, whilst still warm and fragrant from the oven.

Try the egg custard tarts at Café Paradise. It costs just HK \$15 each. They are really not expensive and are just so delicious and satisfying.

I strongly recommend anyone looking for a traditional dessert in Hong Kong to experience the sheer pleasure of egg custard tarts.

## Picture story — Joe and Buddy

By Wong Hei Man (F.1E)

### Buddy Meets His Match

It was a cold night. The wind was howling, and the rain was pouring down mercilessly. Joe was passing the park, holding his umbrella. He saw a stray dog there. 'Poor dog,' he thought, 'I should bring it home.' So, he carefully held it in his arms and went home with his new friend—Buddy.

The next day, Joe took Buddy to the dog park to have a walk. Suddenly Buddy saw a beautiful girl dog. 'I want to know her! Her fur looks so soft!' thought Buddy. He tried to dash over to the cute little dog, even though it was on leash. 'Stop, Buddy! What's the matter? Don't run so fast! There are cars out there!' shouted Joe. Buddy didn't stop at all. He kept tugging Joe. 'Stop!' yelled Joe, gradually getting more and more frustrated with his new friend.

Later, when Joe was preparing for dinner, Buddy sneaked into the kitchen and took away a sausage. 'Hey! Put down the sausage! It's mine!' You got yours in your bowl!' he yelled. Buddy, again, didn't listen to him. He was angry at Joe for not letting him talk to the girl dog that afternoon. Joe had no idea what to do. He just became more and more disappointed at Buddy's behaviour and decided to seek help.

Next day, Joe went to the Pet Training Centre. He let them know about Buddy's situation. "Buddy has been restless and naughty since I brought him home. I don't know why, so I decided to bring him here. I hope you can help me," sighed Joe.

“No problem. Our professional team will take care of it. If you are ready, we can start the training now!” responded the pet expert. Joe nodded and prayed everything would be fine.

In the first lesson, Buddy was very rebellious. ‘Why should I be trained? I am so angry at Joe!’ thought Buddy. However, he gradually got used to the training programme. ‘It’s easy,’ Buddy thought... ‘I only have to run, jump and walk according to the instructions.’

Two weeks later, the training ended. Buddy passed. Joe wanted to make sure Buddy could follow instructions, so he took him to the dog park again. Everything went well until the girl dog came. This time, it wasn’t alone—its owner was with it. She was a really pretty woman in a silky red dress. She was so glamorous that Joe got sparkles in his eyes. Buddy and Joe both looked so calm on the outside, but everyone knew they had butterflies in their stomachs. And, what about the results of Buddy’s training programme, you ask...? Who cares now! Joe couldn’t keep his eyes off the lady. Buddy was also stunned. They fell in love with their goddesses, but that’s a story for another day.

## **Blog Entry — A memorable travel experience**

By Ng Tsz Yu (F.2A)

### **Fun-filled travelling experience to Italy**

Posted 10:41 p.m. 7 September

#### My motivation

My friend and I have always heard that Italy is famous for its historical and archaeological sites from long ago. A few months ago, we planned to travel somewhere to relieve the stress of studying, and we decided to go to Italy.

#### City of water

Our first stop on the trip was Venice, the enchanting city of water. We tried the pizza there. It was mouth-watering and aromatic. We confirmed that the reputed Italian pizza was truly delicious. One funny thing happened that day. When I was talking to my friend, I accidentally fell into the Grand Canal! Lucky that I can swim.

#### The eternal city

We went to Rome the next day. It seamlessly blends old world wonders and modern delights together! We visited the Colosseum, the icon of Rome. I was struck by the strong renaissance style there! I couldn’t imagine how people could build such stunning architecture back then without the modern tools we have now.

Italy is such a memorable place. I still remember all the little details of the trip. It was undoubtedly the trip of a lifetime.

By Wong Yee Yau (F.2B)

**Korea: a fun trip**

Posted 8:52 p.m. 8 September

Experience of visiting Korea

I have talked about Korea in the past here. I traveled to Korea with my parents last time and posted a photo of us together in my travel album. This time, I went to Korea with Mum and Dad again, and we had a lot of fun.

Gyeongbokgung Palace

Once we arrived, we could not wait to go to the Gyeongbokgung Palace. It is a traditional Korean building. It looks historic. We went there wearing a hanbok, the traditional Korean clothing. The hanbok was very beautiful and fancy. I felt like a princess. I took a few photos with my parents.

Lotte World

The next day, I had so much fun when we went to Lotte World. I rode a roller coaster which was very fast and exciting. When I rode the roller coaster, I kept screaming. I think it is good for young people to play there. I hope I can go there again, maybe with my friends next time.

Namdaemun Market

The part I was most looking forward to in the whole trip was Namdaemun Market, because there was a lot of yummy food. I was impressed that I ate raw octopus there. I still remember the octopus moving in my mouth. I get goosebumps every time I think about it. I never want to eat it again.

Seoul Tower

Before we headed back home, we went to Seoul Tower. When I stood on the observation deck, I could get a panoramic view of Seoul and the view was very beautiful. At night, there was a fireworks show above the tower. The show was wonderful, and I wanted to appreciate it one more time. What a treat!

I had such a fun time in Korea this time. I will definitely go back!

By Leung Hong Kiu (F.2C)

### **A Green Christmas Party for Us All**

Hello everyone, as Christmas is coming soon, have you thought about how you can celebrate Christmas in an eco-friendly way? Last year, my class organized a green Christmas party, and it was a great success! In case you're wondering how to plan a green Christmas party, I have some tips to share with you.

Here are some tips for you all. Instead of buying new gifts, we opted for a 'white elephant' exchange, which means using recycled items for our gift exchange. Not only did this help reduce waste, but it also made our gifts unique and special. Last year, we all prepared Christmas gifts that were recycled items for our classmates in our gift exchange. Also, we all said "No" to plastic cutlery and brought our own food containers to pack leftover food in. Many of our friends also wrapped presents in reused materials. In this small way, we can help protect the environment.

With our help, the total waste we produced in our party was reduced by 2 kg. I hope you will enjoy the green Christmas party in your class. Take action now! Save the Earth together!

By Ng Pak Yui (F.2D)

### **A guide for the users of Paxton**

#### **Background**

Paxton is a domestic servant robot which was invented by the members of the Young Inventors Club. It has a cute appearance with a lovely face and body. The price of Paxton is \$20,000.

#### **Functions of Paxton**

Floor cleaning: Paxton integrates automatic cleaning technology and humanized intelligent design. It uses methods such as brushing, vacuuming, and mopping the floor to absorb ground debris into its own garbage storage box to complete floor cleaning.

Elderly care: Paxton can remind the elderly to take medicine. In addition to basic care, health data of elders, such as blood pressure measurement, will be stored in Paxton's database. If there is anything abnormal, Paxton will remind the family members to pay attention to the condition of the elders!

#### **Safety rules when operating Paxton**

Paxton is not a toy. Don't sit or stand on it. When Paxton is working, please take care of your children and pets.

Don't use Paxton to clean up anything that is burning.



### **Rationale for designing Paxton**

The components of Paxton are very similar to human beings. In addition, it has a movable body structure, a motor-like mechanism, a power source, and a computer “brain” that controls all these elements.

Paxton can assist families to clean the floor and take care of the elderly, so as to assist human beings in their work and daily life and improve people’s happiness in life. It is an excellent assistant to families.

### **Email of complaint —**

#### **Writing an email to complain to an online retailer**

By Chen Yan Wai, Esther (F.2E)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to complain about some problems concerning my purchase and request for follow-up actions regarding the matter. I bought a pair of black Droid Ears X-100 Blue headphones from your company on 15th April. I received them last week, but they were nothing like what I had expected.

First of all, instead of the black design, a pair of pink headphones were delivered. What annoyed me most is that your company has charged us for two pairs of headphones instead of one when my father paid for the headphones by credit card. I was disappointed, so I wanted to send them back immediately. However, I encountered a problem again.

When I was browsing the website to find out how to return the headphones, I found that return postage to the US is needed. I felt really angry because it was not reasonable. Although this experience is unfortunate, it will cost almost half the cost of the headphones if I pay the return postage, so I gave the headphones to my little sister.

Unfortunately, my sister talked with me sadly the next day because the battery ran out in 15 minutes of usage, but it was stated on your website that the headphones possess a 10-hour battery life.

I request a full refund and payment of the return shipping costs. I have no choice but to post on social media about this experience to organize a boycott if a timely and satisfactory response is not received. I can be reached at [ericlee@gamil.com](mailto:ericlee@gamil.com) or on 1234 5678.

Yours faithfully,  
Eric Lee

## Letter to the Editor — The benefits and drawbacks of e-wallets

By Yuen Sheung Chun, Savian (F.3A)

Dear Editor,

The use of e-wallets has become increasingly popular with the advancement of technology. I am writing to express my views on whether society should become cashless or not.

First of all, being cashless is obviously convenient. With just one mobile phone, you can buy anything you want – from steam buns on the street to electronic gadgets that cost thousands of dollars. Just scan the QR code, and you can transfer money to the merchants in a blink of an eye without using cash. There is no doubt that e-wallets are super convenient.

Apart from the aforementioned benefit, e-wallets are also secure. No one will ever steal money from your physical wallet since there is no cash in your wallet. E-wallets are less likely to have security issues and are encrypted. If there is a security problem, the technicians can fix it as soon as they appear. Also, there would not be any fake money as there is no way to make any. We can rest assured that e-wallets are very safe.

However, every coin has two sides. There is no doubt that e-wallets do bring numerous benefits to us, but not everything is perfect. If society becomes completely cashless, it would not be without some problems.

One of the issues of being cashless is that it is inconvenient for underprivileged people. Most of us have a smartphone, so e-wallets are convenient for us. But how about the elderly, children and the poor? These kinds of people often do not have a bank account or a smartphone. E-wallets nowadays like Alipay only operate with an electronic device. Some of them such as Tap & Go even require you to link your bank account to use it properly. Furthermore, you have to be 18 years old to use most of the e-wallets, which means children cannot use them. It is clear that being cashless is inconvenient for underprivileged people. To make it more convenient, the government should give financial support to the poor to buy a mobile phone. We can spend our efforts on teaching the elderly how to use e-wallets.

Another problem is that users may lose control of how much they are spending. Since you can pay by only clicking a few buttons, some people may lose track and spend too much. Some people do not check their transaction history, so they will not notice how much they have spent. But that is impossible for physical wallets as we can see the cash and physically keep track of how much we have spent, meaning, it is less likely that one would overspend. To avoid overspending, it is suggested that a function could be added to e-wallet application in which you could set a budget limit monthly, so people would not overspend. There can also be notifications alarming the users for the amount of money they have spent .

In conclusion, I strongly believe that being cashless can bring us numerous benefits. We can enjoy the benefits of e-wallets when we control how much we spend and avoid overspending. I think that the government should join forces with e-wallet companies, so the underprivileged people can benefit as well.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

## Letter of Advice to a Troubled Student

By Tang Wing (F.3B)

Dear Mandy,

How are you? Thank you for your letter. I am very sorry to hear about your problems. I fully understand your feeling. I hope I can come up with some advice that can resolve your troubles.

You mentioned that you don't have time for hobbies. It seems to me that it is an issue about time management. I understand you very well regarding this issue. After all, teenagers start to know more about themselves at this stage and discover what they like to do. But they are also very busy with their studies and actually under a lot of pressure. So, if you want to control your time and change your learning mode, I suggest you try the Pomodoro Technique. This method is to use a timer to set 25 minutes aside as the time for focus and then a rest period of 5 minutes. I have also been using this method. It really helps me to save more time and allows me to continue to develop my hobbies. I highly recommend it!

Second, you also said that you want some suggestions for weight control. Girls are always concerned about their weight, which is normal. However, the way to lose weight must be correct and you must not simply eat less or even skip meals. You can eat less oily and sweet foods. Resist temptations from food. Eat more fruit and vegetables,, sleep more and do more exercise. Combining these small changes, you can be healthy and easily reach the weight you want.

Finally, the issue of communicating with parents is something that requires the most patience, which is also part of growth. Sometimes parents are strict because they don't want us to go astray or misbehave. For example, you can give them your action plan. For example, if you can reach a certain target, say getting over 80 out of 100 marks in exams, you are free to be in charge of your own schedule. Most importantly, we need to understand this is just the way parents educate their children. Neither children nor parents are at fault. As long as the education method is properly adjusted, clear communication can be achieved.

I hope this advice is valuable. If you have any problems again, you can come to me for advice. I am more than willing to help you.

Regards,

Chris

## Two-sided argumentative essay — Waste Charging

By Chan Tsun Yin (F.3C)

### Should the waste charging scheme be implemented in Hong Kong?

In recent years, the waste problem has been one of the main concerns in Hong Kong, frustrating every stakeholder and threatening the sustainable development of the city. According to a recent survey conducted, the average solid waste per person in Hong Kong is 1.33 kg per day and the amount of waste sent to landfills is 9,600 tonnes per day. It is estimated that the landfills are overflowing by the end of the decade. Some environmental groups suggest introducing the waste charging scheme. This sparks a heated debate among the public. In this essay, I will explore the pros and cons of waste charging in depth.

On the plus side, the first argument for waste charging is that it is a fair system to correct our wasteful behaviour. As people are doing a lot of harm to the environment, they need to shoulder their responsibilities and pay for the amount of waste they have created. It is also fair in the way that this measure serves not only a compensation for the harm done to the environment, but also an educational reminder to arouse people's awareness of environmental protection. It assists people to forgo their wasteful lifestyle to create a world of fewer carbon footprints.

Another argument in favour of waste charging is that it helps people develop an eco-friendly habit in the long term. With the waste charging scheme, people tend to try all the ways to reduce the amount of their waste through more upcycling and recycling of unwanted materials. As a result, there will be more recyclables and upcycled things. Otherwise they will just end up in landfills. An eco-friendly habit is an ultimate goal of

implementing the waste charging scheme. We can be saved from any environmental crises and our world can go on developing with sustainability in various possibilities.

However, there are some drawbacks of the waste charging scheme. One of the drawbacks is that it surely incurs illegal dumping of waste. Making use of the loopholes of the scheme, people will try to avoid paying for the amount of waste they have created. They may dump their waste somewhere else out of sight, instead of where they live. This will lead to poor environmental hygiene. It is an undesirable outcome. Therefore, to plug any loopholes of the scheme, the government needs to set aside a large budget for effective enforcement. More problems are brought along with the implementation of the scheme.

Another drawback of the scheme is that it affects the livelihood of low-income families. The disadvantaged are just living from hand to mouth. The waste charge, even in a small proportion, does matter to the poor. It really poses a financial burden on them. Do we dare to see the plight of the poor? Their hardship can lead to social unrest, threatening the harmony of the society as a whole. Those policy-makers have to think twice before introducing the waste charging scheme.

All in all, it can be clearly seen that the waste charging scheme does create a vision of sustainable development, but there are more problems and public opposition that follow. Personally, I believe it is not an appropriate moment to initiate the waste charging scheme when the Hong Kong economy is reviving during the 6th wave of COVID-19. Waste charging can be carried out later when most drawbacks are resolved by more alternatives.

## Letter to the Editor — Benefits and drawbacks of e-wallets

By Lee Hon Ming, Vincent (F.3D)

Dear Editor,

As a regular of your column, I am writing to express my views on the issue of e-wallets. Nowadays, e-wallets have become popular with the development of technology. Therefore, the issue of whether Hong Kong should become a cashless society has triggered a heated debate.

The first reason why I support the comprehensive use of e-wallets is that in the 21st century, almost everyone pays with e-wallets. Electronic payment is the use of advanced technology to efficiently complete information transmission. So, the wallet can be even more convenient with a smartphone, and shoppers can simply transfer money and make payments to the shops directly. For example, shops only need to scan the QR code in the shopper's WeChat Pay account and they can collect money. Since we do not need to pay by cash, it saves our time and is super convenient.

Another reason why I support the comprehensive use of e-wallets is that, in this day and age, everyone uses an e-wallet. It will be convenient and more efficient. It is convenient when you go to another country to buy things, too. For example, you just need to use WeChat pay and Alipay to pay money. Moreover, you do not need to exchange foreign currency, so it is time and cost efficient.

Although e-wallets have several useful benefits, they also have some drawbacks.

One of the disadvantages of becoming a cashless society is that e-wallets are inconvenient for children and old people. Some people prefer using physical money. For example, children and elderly people, because the elderly are worried about security risks. Children do not know how to use it. To solve the problem, the government should upload a video to teach the elderly how to use the e-wallet. The government also needs to keep some cash-only charging places, because some poor people cannot afford mobile phones.

Another disadvantage of becoming a cashless society is that somebody may hack your phone, and then all your money will be lost. A hacker may use your account details to trick a seller and shop online. Carrying our money in a physical wallet or purse is less risky than using our phone to pay for other things. We must set a strong password in our application.

In conclusion, e-wallet will replace cash payment in the future because it is more convenient and efficient. Eventually, a cash payment will become obsolete.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

## Two-sided argumentative essay — Waste Charging

By Lau Cheuk Ki (F.3E)

### Should waste charging be introduced in Hong Kong?

Waste problem has always been one of the important issues in Hong Kong. In response to this problem, the Hong Kong government has been searching for a feasible solution. One of the solutions is to introduce a waste charging system. The waste charging system means that the government collects waste disposal fees from citizens to encourage them to reduce waste production and increases waste recycling rates. However, this issue has caused some controversies. In this essay, I am going to explore the two-sided debate on whether Hong Kong should introduce a waste charging system.

The very first argument in favour of a waste charging system is that it can encourage residents to produce less waste. When the government charges citizens for waste disposal, citizens will pay more attention to the amount of waste they produce and think about recycling or upcycling strategies to deal with their waste. According to some past experience, after the introduction of waste charging systems in many countries, the amount of waste has been greatly reduced and the recycling and the upcycling rates have significantly improved. If Hong Kong introduces a waste charging system, it will help reduce the amount of waste and the negative impacts on the environment, thus improving the sustainability of the world.

Another argument for waste charging is that it is fair in two ways. Firstly, it is based on the user-pays principle. Individual households are charged for how much waste they produce. The lesser they produce, the lower the charges they have to pay. Secondly, the damage done to the

environment is compensated for in monetary terms. With waste charging, people will be more aware of the reduction of unwanted things. In the long term, individuals will develop fewer wasteful habits. Hence, the waste charging system can serve as an effective reminder, educating individuals to become less wasteful.

A coin has two sides. One of the arguments against waste charging system is that it affects low-income households. They just earn enough to maintain their basic necessities. Therefore, even small charges can be a significant proportion of their total monthly income. Their standard of living will surely be adversely affected. As a result, the wealth gap will be widened between the rich and the poor. For the rich, the waste charge does not have a significant impact on them and they will just live the way they are used to. Their wasteful behaviour can not be curbed. This renders waste charging ineffective in reducing the amount of waste as a total. Instead, it makes the poor suffer.

The second argument opposing the waste charging system is that it leads to illegal waste dumping. To avoid waste charging, some people choose to dump their rubbish in inappropriate places, such as hidden corners or country parks. This evasive behaviour can cause environmental pollution. It poses a threat to public hygiene. In addition, if the government fails to effectively enforce the waste charging system, it will lead to unfairness and social unrest.

In brief, there are both the pros and the cons of introducing the waste charging system in Hong Kong. I find myself in favour of implementing the system as it can achieve the overall reduction of waste and reduce the burden on our landfills. The government should devise a comprehensive plan to implement the system effectively. A second thought should be given to the low-income households and the disadvantaged groups. With concerted efforts of the government and individuals, a sustainable development of the city can be achieved.

By Lai Hiu Wing (F.4A)

### **Beyond the Textbook: Why Reading is a Must-Have Habit**

Gone are the days when reading was the only form of entertainment; now, there are many different ways to pass the time and unwind by interacting with media. However, reading remains an essential habit that all students should cultivate. In today's digital age, there are many distractions that can compete for your attention, but taking the time to read can offer a range of benefits that help you to succeed academically, improve your mental health, and promote personal growth.

One of the most significant benefits of reading is that it can improve your academic performance. For instance, when you read widely, you can gain new knowledge, brush up your vocabulary, and develop critical thinking skills that can be applied to your assignments and examinations. If you are studying a subject like history, reading books written by different historians can give you a broader perspective on the topic and help you to identify different viewpoints. Similarly, if you are studying science, reading books from different scientific fields can help you understand how they relate to one another and how scientific discoveries impact our daily lives. Clearly, by exploring different genres and perspectives, students can gain a broader understanding of their subject matter and develop a more nuanced perspective on the world around them.

In addition to improving your academic performance, seldom do we realise that taking the time to read can have a positive impact on our mental health and well-being. Studies have shown that reading can help to reduce stress and anxiety by providing an escape from the stresses of daily life. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed by schoolwork, taking some time to read a book can be a great way to clear your mind and recharge your

batteries. Additionally, reading can help to improve your empathy and emotional intelligence, which are important skills for building healthy relationships with others. Therefore, it is indisputable that reading plays a vital role in leading a blissful life.

To encourage you to read widely, there are many different places where you can find reading materials. Your school library is an excellent resource that offers an array of physical and digital resources, including books, magazines, newspapers, and e-books. Additionally, creating comfortable and inviting reading spaces, such as quiet corners or reading nooks, can help to promote a love of reading. You can also explore online resources such as discussion forums or book clubs that provide opportunities to connect with others who share your interests and engage in thoughtful discussions about the books you are reading. Finally, audiobooks can be a great way to incorporate reading into your busy schedule, as you can listen while you are commuting to school or doing chores around the house.

In conclusion, reading is a valuable habit that all students should develop. By taking the time to read widely, you can improve your academic performance, promote your mental health, and foster personal growth. So, whether you prefer physical books, e-books, or audiobooks, find a format that works for you and start exploring the world of reading today!

## Proposal — Sportswear

By Kan Wing Yin (F.4B)

Dear Manager,

I am writing to propose some ways to promote our new line of sportswear targeting teenagers in Hong Kong.

First of all, we can use social media to promote our products to the youth. It is because this young generation love sharing their lives on Instagram or Facebook. Also, since they like browsing websites, social media becomes a good channel to promote our products. So, in my opinion, creating an official account on social media is the first step to open our door to the world.

Secondly, we can collaborate with some idols or celebrities who are popular in these few years. For example, some famous basketball players such as Yiu Ming could be hired for the advertisement. It is because according to a study conducted by the University of Hong Kong, those companies which hire celebrities as the spokesperson can boost the sales of their products. So, we need to make this marketing strategy effective and viable.

Lastly, designing a logo or a catchy slogan for our company will help our publicity too. It is because the catchphrase or eye-catching logo will draw people's attention and also have a positive association with our products.

In conclusion, it is sincerely hoped that the above proposed marketing strategies will help boost our sales. I hope you will kindly consider our proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong



**Speech —**

**How doing sports helps students to become well-rounded individuals**

By Tang Tsun Long (F.4C)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

I am Chris Wong, a sports reporter for an online magazine. I am delighted to join you all today and am very honoured to have this chance to share how “Sport and exercise help students become well-rounded individuals”.

First of all, let me tell you about the benefits of doing sports. The first explanation of how sport and exercise help students become well-rounded individuals is because sports can help us handle our stress better. We can learn about sportsmanship too, like how to treat others well in matches. For instance, we can learn how to be fair and polite in games. This can help us become a better individual in life.

The second benefit of sports is we can learn how to work together as a team. In my view, sports can help us broaden our social circle. It is because sports can promote team spirit and remove barriers, so we can make a lot of friends inside and outside school and build our social network to help us at work or at school. I find it great to do sports because of the above reasons, don't you feel the same?

In addition, sports can improve our blood circulation, help us burn calories and maintain a healthy body weight. Through doing sports, children can improve blood circulation and their general health. Doing sports has a lot of benefits which are good for us. As such, please don't hesitate to exercise more if you have time. If we have a healthy body, we will have the energy we need to carry out tasks we have to complete every day. This is good for our studies at school.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my gratitude to all who have put in their effort in promoting sports at school. Boys and girls, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. Why don't you take this great opportunity to start this great habit of doing sports today? This can surely help us become better individuals.

May I wish you all an enjoyable day. Thank you.

## One-sided argumentative essay — Doubling the number of priority seats on public transport

By Chan Chi Yip (F.4D)

### Should the Hong Kong Government double the existing number of priority seats?

Nowadays, priority seats can be seen everywhere on public transport. The purpose of setting priority seats is a friendly and caring gesture to help those in need, such as the elderly, pregnant women and those with injuries. In view of the increasing needs of the seats, the government proposes to double the number of priority seats. In this essay, I will explain why I am against this proposal.

One of the powerful justifications is that doubling the number of the existing priority seats can bring about discrimination and unfairness. An increase in the number of priority seats means a decrease in the number of regular seats. The trade-off can lead to struggles between the normal and the disabled passengers, resulting in more friction and conflicts over the issue of the person who should be entitled to priority seats. Some may argue that the disabled are those disadvantaged passengers and giving them a helping hand is a morally friendly act of kindness. Why should the normal passengers struggle with the disabled ones over the question of fairness? In reality, there are always cases of people arguing over who should sit on priority seats. The doubling of the number of priority seats may aggravate the situation, instead of meeting the increasing demand of priority seats. Another question is there is no evidence that the increasing demand for priority seats has been doubled. So, is it necessary to “double” the existing number of priority seats? The conflicts and disputes are posing a threat to the harmony of the society.

In line with the above justification, there is much controversy over the definition of who is eligible for the priority seat. The definition is ambiguous as people’s needs can be divided into two broad categories, both visible and invisible. For instance, a girl undergoing her menstruation period is suffering from a stomachache or a man is recovering from an organ operation. All these kinds of pain or suffering are invisible but they deserve to take a rest on a seat. In the actual situation, those with invisible needs choose to sit on regular seats. The doubling of the number of priority seats implies there will be fewer regular seats for those even with invisible needs, but they are not eligible to sit on priority seats. The four categories mentioned on priority seats are those with visible needs. As their needs are visible, they can usually be offered a seat, no matter it is the priority one or the regular one, on public transport. Thus, it is unnecessary to increase the existing number of priority seats as a move will just render conflicts over the trade-off.

Another argument is that the existing number of priority seats serves as a friendly reminder, arousing people’s awareness of offering seats to the needy. Some people may argue that doubling the existing number can better promote the seating-offering culture on public transport. As previously explained, it is unnecessary as consideration has been given to fairness and social harmony. In the real scenario in Hong Kong, the physically able passengers usually do not sit on priority seats, or they offer their seats to those with visible needs, no matter they are sitting on priority seats or not. The small ratio of the number of priority seats to that of regular seats is an appropriate and friendly reminder of offering a seat to the needy. Therefore, to strike a balance between the visible and the invisible needs, the number of priority seats is better to remain unchanged for the interests of the majority.

Viewed from different perspectives, there is every reason for me to oppose the proposal of doubling the number of priority seats as fairness and social harmony are valued above everything else. The present vibe in Hong Kong has been very favourable to nurturing a seat-offering culture. The present number of priority seats has been playing an adequately significant role in furthering the culture of kindness to the needy, contributing to a more caring society of fairness, where most passengers are self-disciplined and behave morally kind to others.

<b>One-sided argumentative essay — Doubling the number of priority seats on public transport</b>
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By Chung Chun Hei (F.4E)

**Should we double the number of priority seats?**

Priority seats on MTR trains and buses are introduced for people in need, such as the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with injuries. However, there have been people calling for more, and the government has recently proposed doubling the number of priority seats. While some people support this proposal, some argue that it is not a wise decision. In this essay, I will explain why I am against this proposal.

One of the main reasons why I am opposed to the proposal is that the lack of priority seats is a rare occurrence. It is not worthwhile to double the number of seats for rare cases. Currently, we have around two priority seats in each MTR train car and two to four on a bus. If you often travel by public transport, you will notice that those priority seats are seldom occupied. It proves that the number of priority seats is way more than the number of people in need who take public transport. Some people argue that there is a need to double the number of priority seats as they are sometimes occupied by people who have no special needs. However, even if we double the number of priority seats, the seats will still be taken by able-bodied people with no empathy. We can see that the issue is not caused by the lack of priority seats.

Another reason is that priority seats lead to conflicts among passengers, and more or less cause damage to the image of Hong Kong. Nowadays, you may find numerous videos taken on MTR trains or buses where people are blamed because they are not willing to give up their priority seats to someone in need. If we double the number of priority seats, the situation will only worsen. In my opinion, we should definitely give up our seats to someone in need. However, sometimes the judgement to the

people who do not give up their priority seats goes too far. Fair enough, they have made mistakes, but sometimes the situation turns to cyberbullying, and sometimes it becomes people judging who is more 'qualified' to have the seat. It is even more immoral for people online to take their unruly judgement. Meanwhile, the priority seats do nothing but create a target for them to attack. In an ideal world, people would give up their seats to people with more needs because of their willingness to do kind gestures, not because of the pressure from others. If it can be achieved, there will be no difference between a train with only normal seats and a train full of priority seats.

Some people may think doubling the number of priority seats can help people in need without affecting other passengers as the seats can always be occupied by anyone when there are no people in need. Isn't it a win-win situation in which everyone can benefit? It actually isn't. As mentioned above, people with real needs not being able to get their seats is supposed to be a rare occurrence. Also, people may be afraid to get criticized just because they do not want to give up their seats. When these two factors are combined, it is very possible for a train to be fully loaded with only empty priority seats. Doubling the number of priority seats will only be a waste of public resources.

In conclusion, we already have enough priority seats in public transport. Doubling the number of them can lead to more conflicts among passengers, which affects the image of the city. People may also be worried about getting criticized for not willing to give up their priority seats, resulting in a waste of public resources as no one wants to take the risk. Instead, the government should educate citizens about the importance of giving up seats to those in need, rather than doubling the number of seats, which makes no sense at all.

## Suggestion Form

By Chan Ho Yi (F.5A)

### What crimes should be focused on and why

I think the Group should pay heed to burglary. As an aftermath of the global economic downturn, the number of burglaries has sprung up. Chung Way Mansion is in peril, as it is short of property management. As a result, burglars could sneak into our building and snatch our personal property easily. Burglary, which accounts for 40% of the surging crime rate, is definitely a cause for concern. Moreover, a resident revealed that a burglar had even tried to steal her handbag from outside the window of her living room while she was working in the kitchen. Given the aforementioned incident in our building, on no account should the committee turn a deaf ear to that thorny problem.

### How such crime(s) can be prevented

I suggest hiring trustworthy security guards standing at the entrance, with a view to prevent strangers from coming in. In a bygone era, letting people in unchecked provided a golden chance for burglars and criminals to engage in criminal activities. By equipping our mansion with responsible security guards who would check visitors' identities and not allow suspicious new faces to enter the building, burglars would no longer have access to our mansion and thus be deprived of the chances to engage in burglary. So clearly, hiring security guards is indeed the panacea for deterring the crime of burglary.

Apart from this, it would be advisable to deliver anti-burglary workshops to our beloved residents. Through the workshops, residents would learn about what burglars usually do to commit crime and how to avoid falling victim to burglary. Therefore, residents would be on their guard when they encounter similar occasions and thus be more likely to protect their properties.

### Any other matters

The Group is always in need of enthusiastic volunteers to help handle various group affairs, such as sourcing reliable security companies and inviting people to deliver the anti-burglary talks. Therefore, putting up posters and distributing leaflets in the community could serve as effective measures to recruit members. The group primarily recruits resident volunteers as it would be safer. Residents who are willing to lend a helping hand can contact the Group. After attending a few training sessions, volunteers would join and fight against those disease-like crimes together.

By Li Ka Hei (F.5B)

### **E-payment – An Indispensable Tool in a Modern City**

With the accelerating advancement of technology in mobile applications nowadays, the popularity of e-payment via mobile phone has become very advanced, like Apple Pay, Google pay, Alipay etc. It seems people are used to enjoying the convenience brought by electronic payment services. Hence, in this article, I would like to point out the trend of these apps and also lay out some reasons for the rise in popularity of e-payment.

According to a survey done by the Consumer Council, the usage rate of electronic paying apps has increased from 0.7% to 89% in recent years. Indeed, mobile payment services have become ubiquitous. To explain this phenomenon, we could give several reasons why people love these tiny programs so much. For customers, making a payment by just scanning a QR code instead of counting coins is really convenient. Have you ever used payment apps like Wechat Pay or Alipay? Think about what it would be like if e-pay technology never appeared in human history. You would still have to buy earphones using stacks of cash. It is quite a hassle without an electronic payment method. Once we started using it, we could not go back to the times when we needed to carry coins and cash.

Another equally important reason for such a phenomenon is that e-wallets are not just convenient for customers, but they also bring different kinds of advantages to companies. For store owners, it is better to install an e-payment system than do it the old way. In the past, to keep the store and property secure, owners usually needed to hire a guard or send their money to banks to avoid loss caused by robbery. But now, they simply

just have to create an account for their e-wallet, and every single problem will be solved. Under these circumstances, obviously, the popularity of e-payment will increase and keep accelerating.

Apart from the transaction stakeholders, the government also benefits from digitalized payment processes. It effectively reduces the cost of printing cash. Besides, thanks to the contactless payment method, citizens have a lower risk of getting sick under the pandemic. Thus, it reduces medical pressure.

At the end of the day, we all know how harmful our attachment to cyberspace can be. However, every coin has two sides. Technology changes our lives a lot. It is time to think about what it can bring us to help improve our living quality in a modern city.

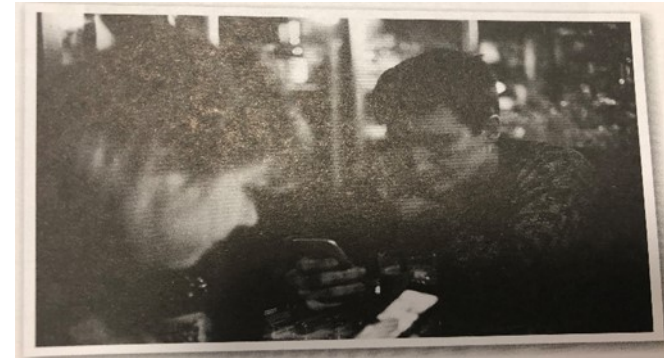
## Leaflet —

### Giving information and advice about two common problems

By Sun Chun Kit (F.5C)

#### Common teenage problems

Are you facing these two problems? Listen to our student counsellors' advice.

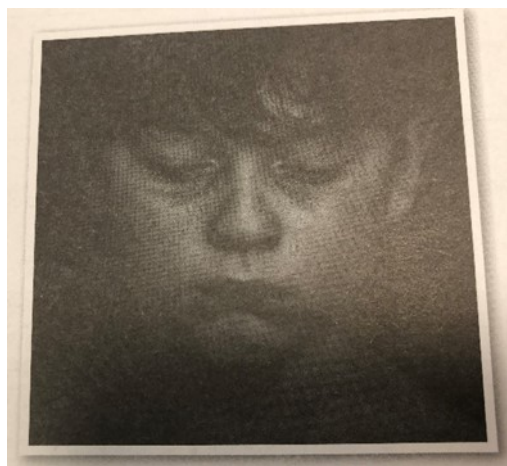


Two teenagers who are surfing the internet.

Teenagers are among the biggest users of social media. According to an interview conducted by a local university, 85% of teenagers spend above 5 hours on social media every day. This shows teens' reliance on social media. Teens spend time online instead of spending time in the real world. This phenomenon negatively affects teenagers. First and foremost, teens are in danger of losing their social skills in real life. The danger is that they will only know how to communicate on social media with friends online rather than in real life. Teens spending the majority of their time in cyberspace are at risk of disconnecting from other people and living in a virtual world.

To solve this problem, try to limit your daily online time. To do this, you

can try to turn off notifications on the phone. After that, the phone will never entice you to use social media. You can allow yourself 30 minutes to check a few things out and reply to messages. That can prevent you from missing out the important information. Then, with more time in the real world again, you can pick up a hobby, such as basketball or football. Once you have a favourite thing to do, you will not need to spend your leisure time on social media. When you have a hobby, you can also meet friends. That is a good way for you to expand your social life and help you discover valuable things in life, like friends. Instead of being addicted to mobile devices, why not have real life interactions with your friends?



A teen who faces academic pressure.

When teenagers become senior high school students, most of them will face academic pressure. Because of the HKDSE, teenagers have plenty of exams and homework. The pressure comes from not only exams and homework, but also their parents. Most parents have high expectations of their children. They both hope their children can have a good academic performance. It brings a lot of pressure to teens. That's why most teens have academic pressure. If teenagers struggle in studies, they will

suffer from depression. Once teens struggle in studies, they get low marks in exams. They will lose their self-esteem and think the sun will never come out. When they cannot handle the pressure, it may lead to depression.

To reduce academic pressure, teens need to study smarter. You can employ some different ways to study effectively. For example, the Pomodoro technique is a good and effective method. Once you study for 25 minutes, you can give 5 minutes of relaxation time to yourself to get yourself ready for the next 25 minutes of studies. When homework or exams drive you crazy, give yourself 5 minutes to relax. When you struggle in your studies, you can communicate with your teachers. They will share their experiences of studying with you. They will help you take a weight off your shoulders. If you still struggle, remember always have hope for the future. Today may be rainy but the sun will come out tomorrow and it will be a better day. If you overcome the pressure from HKDSE, you will enjoy a relaxing university life.

### **Emotional problems faced by teenagers nowadays**

#### **Addiction to social media**

Teenagers are among the biggest users of social media nowadays. Thanks to the advancement of technology and the internet, social media has become an indispensable part of teenagers' lives. With a sense of 'fulfillment' and 'exhilaration' brought by the virtual world, teenagers eventually get hooked on it. According to a research conducted in 2021, there has been a skyrocket in the number of social media users aged 13-18, with a 70% increment compared to 2018. However, the reliance on social media deters real interaction among teenagers. This also causes a drop in academic performance and deterioration in mental health. Therefore, it is a pressing issue to be dealt with.

To address this alarming issue, here's some advice to tackle the problem. For example, we could discover and explore delightful moments in real life instead of immersing ourselves in the virtual world. Once you start to discover previous things in life other than 'likes', 'comments' and 'subscribe', you will undoubtedly feel more connected with others. By doing so, you realize you can take full control of your life and make good use of your time to develop your interests and enjoy 'me' time more.

#### **Suffering from emotional pain**

When you are constantly feeling anxious, tense, hopeless, lost or even depressed, it is a clear sign that you are under enormous pressure. In this day and age, we are faced with different types of stressors, ranging from academic burdens, peer pressure, keen competition among students, to parental problems. For example, heavy schoolwork and endless tests and

quizzes all aggravate teenagers' stress levels. Needless to say, as a means of survival whilst they prioritize exam performance, students normally choose to hide their feelings and not confide in others. However, if these problems persist, it can lead to distress or psychological problems for youngsters.

To ameliorate the emotional pain of teenagers, many teenagers find it very helpful to seek help from professional counsellors. Furthermore, one should avoid self-blaming or self-harming. We might also be more optimistic. Positive self-talk is a conducive way to understand our feelings better. Also, young people may try to pick up a hobby and know more about their strengths and interests. Finally, balance is everything. In this way, your confidence and self-worth will be greatly boosted.



By Wan Chun Hei, Henry (F.5E)

### **The Rise of Mobile Payment Apps**

In this day and age, mobile payment apps have taken the world by storm. One of the earliest e-payment methods in Hong Kong is the Octopus Card. However, it has been replaced by mobile phone applications ranging from Alipay to WeChat Pay.

With the advancement of technology, more and more people have transitioned from carrying their physical wallets outside to carrying their e-wallets. Gone are the days when people had to carry bulky wallets everywhere they went. Instead, they simply take their phones with them now.

According to a report in 2022, Hong Kong had about 7.4 million residents, and about 6.8 million residents are internet users, which means 91% of residents use the web. Moreover, more than 90% of internet users in Hong Kong have smartphones. It can be seen that there is high internet usage in Hong Kong. So, why are more citizens transitioning to using digital wallets?

To understand why, there are a few reasons we must consider. Firstly, businesses and merchants want people to switch to online money-spending apps because digital payment can improve productivity. When payment is done digitally, transactions can be processed more quickly. By using mobile payment apps, the employee in front of the cash register won't have to give change and will only need to process the payment electronically using computers. It means there are fewer payment steps, and more payments can be made. As a result of having fewer steps, there will be faster processing time, which means more transactions, and ulti-

mately improved productivity for the business and merchants.

On the other hand, it will be more convenient for customers. As there will be faster transactions and they will not receive any change, e-wallet users don't have to carry their wallets outside. It also means that people don't have to worry about having their wallet full of money stolen. With e-wallets, users will only need to scan a QR code to make payments.

Additionally, under the COVID-19 circumstances, people want to avoid touching banknotes and would much rather scan a QR code. Moreover, the government is giving out consumption vouchers, an activity trying to encourage people to use e-payment apps to boost the economy. All these will contribute to the rise of mobile payment apps.

Due to the convenience of e-wallets, it's no wonder that physical payments are being left behind. So, it seems it is really better to download a mobile payment e-wallet app today.

## Debate Speech — Should teenagers be encouraged to try fasting?

By Yan Tsz Chung, Jasmin (F.5E)

Good morning honourable adjudicators, principal, teachers, and my fellow schoolmates. Today, it is my honour to stand here and argue for the motion, ‘students should not be encouraged to try fasting’. Fasting is defined as abstaining from food intake by following a strict schedule which aims to lose weight in a short period of time. Our team strongly agrees with this motion on the following grounds.

To begin with, there is no doubt that fasting is not suitable for adolescents because it disrupts their physical growth. During periods of rapid growth, students need to ingest food with high nutritional value for their development. However, fasting obstructs the absorption of nutrients as students are eating less food. As a consequence, they may have problems like malnutrition. For example, if students do not intake adequate calcium, they are more likely to be vulnerable to bone-related diseases like rickets. Therefore, fasting is not recommended for teenagers who need nutrients for their development.

On the other hand, another reason why students should not attempt fasting is that it can affect their academic results. Students who attempt fasting would skip breakfast or restrict their food intake, some of them even do not eat for eight hours. In this way, students will always feel hungry, lack motivation, and do not have adequate energy to support daily life. For instance, if students feel hungry all the time, they will not have sufficient energy to concentrate in class, which also increases the likelihood of fatigue during classes. Moreover, this issue affects students’ studies and causes academic failure as well. Accordingly, students should not attempt fasting.

Some claim that fasting can lead to weight loss effectively in a short peri-

od of time. However, this is absolutely wrong. Unlike doing regular exercise and having a balanced diet, it is more likely for teenagers to develop eating disorders when they conduct fasting. As students who fast eat less than normal and think that all food would harm their body, they will lose their appetite to eat. As a result, they may develop eating disorders, such as anorexia, easily. A better way to lose weight is for adolescents to have fewer heavy meals, such as pizza and fast food. Apart from this, youngsters should also eliminate sugary beverages and exercise at least twice a week instead of attempting fasting. Thus, there are better methods than fasting to lose weight effectively.

Based on the above arguments, it is my firm belief that fasting is not a safe or effective way to manage weight for students. Hence, we strongly believe that the motion ‘students should not be encouraged to try fasting’ should stand. Thank you.

By Wu Hoi Na (F.6A)

### **The early days of Crow Crow Cha Chaan Teng**

Crow Crow Cha Chaan Teng has been a well-known institution in Hong Kong for half a century. When it first opened, its name was not ‘Cha Chaan Teng’, but ‘Café’. In the beginning, people could only taste a few western foods here, and the price was not that palatable. That’s why only a few diners could be seen there at that time. But soon this mediocre time passed courtesy of the changes made by this tiny, yet unknown café.

### **What Crow Crow Cha Chaan Teng is famous of**

About half a year after its opening, Crow Crow Café began to provide a wide range of affordable western-style foods and was officially renamed ‘Crow Crow Cha Chaan Teng’. Since then, its business has been booming. Pineapple buns, red bean fleecy and French toast have been its main specialties. Among these various delicacies, egg tarts are the most attractive to every diner. At first glance, you are already captivated by the appearance of its dainty golden egg yolk. Gently picking up a slightly hot egg tart that is just out of the oven and putting it into your mouth, you can first hear a clear, cracking sound made by its crispy skin, accompanied by its slight salty taste. That’s how it opens your taste buds. What follows is the influx of a great pile of sweetness that fills your throat with joy by the fragrance of the eggy juice, leaving you with an endless aftertaste. Every time you eat an egg tart, it is an unforgettable experience. This is why the term ‘egg tarts’ will surely pop up in every diner’s mind whenever Crow Crow Cha Chaan teng is spoken of.

### **Time for Crow Crow Cha Chaan Teng to close**

Unfortunately, due to the city’s sky-high rents and the change in youngsters’ tastebuds, this once brilliant cha chaan teng could not evade the destiny of fading out of people’s sight. Also facing the end of their busi-

nesses are many companies such as mom-and-pop stores, open-air dai pai dong food stalls, video outlets and so on. One day in the future, when you walk past it and look at the old and demolished green and white floor tiles, I wonder if you will still recall the memory of smelling the aromas emanating from its kitchen, hearing the sound of the TV inside and looking forward to the mouth-watering delicacies once offered by this iconic Cha Chaan Teng as if all these moments had suddenly come alive again.

By Cheung Yee Ching (F.6B)

### 1.1 Academic Life

Looking back into the past six years in my secondary school life, I can still recall the scenes vividly when I was fighting for myself. I deeply believe that English is a ‘big enemy’ to everyone, including me. English – is a subject that requires hard work. For me, English was undoubtedly difficult. I always made some grammatical mistakes in the past and my vocabulary bank was really small. However, I still strived to solve my problems in learning English. For example, I did not only listen to the BBC radio programs on my way to school, but I also noted down and memorized some new English words to expand my vocabulary bank. Absolutely, I encountered frustration along the way, but I didn’t choose to escape. Fortunately, my English teacher helped me a lot. She used some interesting teaching methods to teach me English. Finally, I have improved my English. Therefore, don’t give up when you face some problems.

### 1.2 Student Life

Being a student in 6C makes me not only proud, but also grateful. Time flies, my classmates are going to embark on a new adventure, but I am sure we will still accompany each other in spirit. Throwback to the time, I still miss the learning atmosphere of 6C, which was peaceful and caring. Before the exam, all of us stayed in the classroom to do revision together after school. If someone needed help, we helped him or her to keep on fighting. No one can judge our profound relationship. These ‘fighting’ memories are deeply rooted in my mind. I treasure and will remember the memories of my secondary life. Wish everyone can have a fantastic life.

By Cheung Sum Yu (F.6C)

Good morning judges, teachers and fellow students. The motion of today’s debate is ‘Advertising cold calls should be banned.’ Advertising cold calls means phone calls made to strangers to sell products and services. I am on the affirmative side because banning cold calls has many benefits.

One very important argument for my stance is that receiving cold calls is annoying, especially if you receive them at inconvenient times. Have you ever received cold calls when you are studying or working? The bell or notification on your phone distracts you from focusing on your work. My friends sometimes receive cold calls when they are studying. This affects their efficiency of revision. As a result, their academic results are affected.

Another point I would like to put forth is that receiving cold calls is so confusing to us and we cannot separate them from important calls. There is no denying that the phone numbers of cold calls are similar to the phone numbers of some government calls. The phone numbers of some of the cold calls and government calls both start with ‘3’. If people always receive cold calls with ‘3’ at the beginning, they may think it is a cold call and hang up. However, it may be a phone call from the government. As a result, they may miss important information or notifications. Once a wife did not answer a call from the hospital asking for her consent to perform an urgent surgery on her husband until the 18th call. This incident aroused a heated debate. Are you annoyed by the cold calls as well?

Apart from that, cold calls can also be scams. UA, AIA and HSBC – these are some big and regular businesses. They put many advertisements on television and websites. But some scam syndicates make use of their reputation to make cold calls. They may introduce their services or products with big discounts to make them sound very attractive. Many people cannot distinguish between real businesses and fake ones. So they are deceived.

Some people may claim that cold calls are just matching the needs of people with offers from businesses. For example, if someone lacks money and receives a cold call about getting a loan, he can get help. However, I do not agree with that. Thanks to skyrocketing advances in technology and the Internet, we can easily find information about services and products. The information on the official websites of those companies is much more reliable than cold calls.

Overall speaking, it is clear that cold calls are annoying. They confuse us, so we cannot separate cold calls from important calls. Some may be phone scams. Therefore, I am strongly for the motion that 'Advertising cold calls should be banned.' Thank you!

## Debate Speech — Advertising cold calls

By Chan Hei Ting (F.6D)

Good morning judges, principal, teachers, and fellow students.

The motion of today is "Advertising cold calls should be banned." Cold calls are defined as a traditional form of marketing where a salesperson make phone calls to persuade prospects to buy their products. I am on the opposite side because there can be more job opportunities, be beneficial to call receivers, and be low-cost to advertisers.

To begin with, there is no doubt that there are more jobs created to make advertising calls. The entry requirement for cold calls is that individuals don't need a high education level to get this job. Anyone can do this job, ranging from freshmen to elderly people. Thanks to the job of cold calls, many people can solve their unemployment problem. Cold calls are a good experience for newcomers to the workforce. It is a great learning experience that helps newcomers learn how to communicate with each other. People with low skills and academic qualifications have few employment opportunities in a knowledge-based economy. However, they can be hired to make advertising calls.

In addition, cold calls can be beneficial to call recipients. Salespersons of cold calls offer different discounts and benefits to persuade recipients to buy their products. For example, they may offer discounts on products or services offered by companies. A cold call, which offers daily deals at a generous discount, has proven to be exceedingly popular among potential customers. These benefits, such as 'Buy one, get one free' and twenty percent discounts, constantly stimulate people's desire to buy goods and services. Therefore, cold calls benefit an array

of people, and they should not be banned.

Moreover, cold calls can be a cost-effective marketing strategy for advertisers, particularly when compared to hiring celebrities for endorsements. Cold calling is a simpler and cheaper way to sell products. All you need is just a phone. Numerous people can promote their products by making cold calls.

Some people criticize cold calls as being annoying. Most people do not enjoy unexpected phone calls and may find them intrusive. However, the fact is that cold calls can be avoided. Individuals can register their phone numbers with the Do-not-call Registrars by dialing the registration hotline at 1835000. The registration service is free of charge. Alternatively, individuals can use apps to block calls if they do not want to receive them.

In conclusion, it is clear that advertising cold calls provide significant benefits to both salespersons and potential customers. They offer valuable job opportunities and cost-effective marketing strategies while also providing attractive discounts and incentivizing purchases. Therefore, today's motion should not stand. I hope you would agree that cold calls should not be banned.

Thank you.

## Short Story — Pet bird in a cage

By Leung Ho Chuen, Matthew (F.6E)

### **The Bird Who Stopped the Third Atomic Bomb From Dropping**

Hello, everyone. This is Chris, a World War Two veteran. I am not a human. Instead, I am a sparrow. ‘How can a sparrow fight in the war?’, some of you may ask. Everyone please sit down since an astonishing story is about to begin.

One ordinary morning, I was woken up by a siren. The annoying sound came from every direction. I looked up as usual. A few warplanes flew above me and dropped a horrifying number of bombs onto the city of Osaka. A few seconds later, the sound of more explosions, symbolizing the death of more innocents, could be heard. Every day I opened my eyes, there was the probability of waking up in heaven. Looking at the trees outside the cage, I sighed. ‘What if I never escape from this prison and save my life?’ I thought, staring at the gate. ‘Wait... what?!’ I exclaimed.

The gate was not locked. ‘My time has come!’ I yelled, flapping my wings so hard that I was finally free after countless days and nights. What a miracle! However, questions were left behind in my mind. I climbed up in altitude and found that my owner’s house was next to ruins. Destroyed houses were everywhere. Following a river, I came to the coastline. Unlike a normal summer day where there was a considerable amount of sunshine, this day was foggy. There was no land on the other side of the ocean.

I dived down to check out a military outpost. Warplanes were constantly taking off and touching down. Warships pouring smoke were stationed at the port. Nevertheless, the most obvious thing I could notice was the fire

filling the empty space of the base.

I sat on a window frame. Through the glass, I saw several soldiers lying on the ground. There was no hope in their eyes. They did nothing but stare at the sky. Listening carefully, I realized that they kept mumbling the phrase 'the third atomic bomb'. 'What is that?' I asked myself. I stayed there for a while and soon headed towards the airport.

A group of pilots were ready to serve the country. Using my telescope-like eyes, I spotted someone familiar. Taking a closer look, I realized that he was my owner. I flew and rested on his shoulder without hesitation.

'How do you manage to get here?' He whispered with a smile. 'I thought I would never see you again. You know what? I am giving you a chance to leave and I'm glad that you have seized the opportunity!'

'Soldiers, follow the plan and eliminate all the enemies!' The officer demanded.

'I'm going to stop the atomic bomb from dropping, but that's very risky.' My owner continued. 'However, I can save tens of thousands of innocents. Most importantly, I can be famous! These reasons are persuading me to give it a shot.'

Knowing the risks of the operation, I yelled, 'No! You can't do it!' 'Oh, your songs are always good to hear! Thanks for the encouragement! Remember, you will become larger and larger if you are not afraid...' He climbed into the plane and left me outside of it. I could

do nothing but watch his plane take off.

I finally understood why the soldiers felt helpless. Atomic bombs were deadly weapons and could kill many civilians, including their acquaintances. How could they not feel miserable? At that moment, I knew that something must be done, though I might get killed by a propeller on the planes. But I knew I had to take part in stopping the bomb. After that, I could enjoy my retirement in the beauty of nature. I didn't desire to be famous, but lending a helping hand was what I knew I should do.

Following my owner's group of planes, I encountered a group of bombers. They were very huge, compared to me. As soon as they were spotted, a dogfight was inevitable. I tried to keep track of my owner's plane to see if he was alright. However, it was useless, since all the Japanese aircrafts vanished into thin air. I couldn't stop my tears from rolling down my cheeks.

It was time to take revenge. Heading towards the bottom of the aircraft, I was fearless. I was only a bird and so they had no reason to kill me. After a sprint, I arrived before the door opened. I spread my wings to the greatest extent and tried to create an obstacle. Having said that, it was outright pointless. In an instant, the magnificent bomb pushed me towards the ground.

I looked down. I thought I saw the ruins after the massive explosion brought by this third atomic bomb; I saw people's faces when they were suffering from the flames. 'I couldn't let this happen!' I screamed from my heart. All of a sudden, I felt a power coming from nowhere. It filled up my body. I couldn't stop myself from enlarging and gaining power to lift up the bomb. Soon, the bomb stopped dropping. I immediately transferred the bomb to the ocean. At this moment, I realized that I had succeeded.

Eventually, I returned to the forest. I would never forget that I had changed history – only two atomic bombs were dropped onto the Japanese soil.

With courage, you can achieve the impossible. That is the message brought to me by my owner. I will remember it until I die. But one more thing... please keep this a secret and do not tell anyone. As I've mentioned, I really don't want to be famous. The feeling of getting interviewed was like being imprisoned in a cage. Both have no freedom. Therefore, please let me enjoy the rest of my life.