

roll call



Personal Dev Social Issues

King Ling College



There are many elderly people in Hong Kong who may feel alone or forgotten. In July,

some of my classmates and I took part in a voluntary programme set up by my school, which connects

students with people who live alone.

I felt a bit nervous when we were standing outside the home of our first host, but a friendly-looking woman opened the door and welcomed us in. We gave her the gifts we had brought and chatted happily with her. Before we knew it, the half an hour was up.



We found we had a lot to talk about with each other.

The visit helped me understand what life can be like for the elderly in Hong Kong. It was very meaningful and I hope I can make more visits like this one in the future.

Henry Chow Ka-hang, S. 1

Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School



We often see Western depictions of Asia in art, but what about the other way round? This summer, eight

students put together a documentary titled *Europe through Hong Kong Eyes*, comparing European cultures

to Hong Kong, and looking for comparisons between food, clothing, religion, greetings, and education.

The students – Pelmo Wangchuk Namgya, Margaret Fung, Daniel Ku, Peter Yam, Crystal Cheung, Vanessa Zhang, Peter Lau, and Kevin Mo – are



The students did a great job of directing and acting in the film

all members of our school's film club. They did a great job writing, directing, and acting in the film. If they're this good now, imagine what they'll be capable of in the future!

YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College



Students are always pushing boundaries and breaking new ground. One of our students, Garen

Arijun Gurung Regalado recently made history by achieving straight A's in 12 subjects (grade A* in 11 subjects and one grade A) in his IGCSE exams. This is the best in the school's history.

Every year, our school sees an improvement in our IGCSE results. This year marks a record, with 43 per cent of our students achieving grades A* to A, and 89 per cent achieving



Nearly half of our students achieved grades A* to A

grades A* to C, with a 100 per cent pass rate. Our students will no doubt continue to smash records as they grow, and become global citizens that we can be proud of.

Share your news!

Submit your school stories to happenings at yp@scmp.com. Please include your name, school, date of the event, contact number, and if possible, a high-resolution photograph with a caption. Write to us now.

Letters from the dorm

Start as you mean to go on



**April Xu Xiaoyi
Harvard Law School
United States**

It's the start of a new semester, and you're super excited to see your friends, right? What might be helpful, though, is to use this time, before your studies properly start, to work on your time-management skills and plan for the term ahead.

The great thing about the start of term is that you get to "shop" for courses; you go to all the classes you are interested in taking this semester, read through each syllabus, talk to the professors if necessary to figure out whether the course is right for you, and complete one piece of homework before reaching a final decision.



April takes the time at the end of each term to reflect on her achievements

Once you have finalised your course schedule, you should map out what your weekly schedule will be. Add any part-time jobs you might have lined up, and extracurricular activity meetings you will go to, but keep everything reasonably flexible in case things change. Something else that might be useful would be to make a note of what time your professors will be in their offices. I typically write out a personalised office hours schedule with all possible one-on-one sessions I could go to.

Something that I have done at this point before is to map out

all my key assignments (papers, presentations, midterms and finals). This has meant that I have been able to plan ahead for non-academic events.

Familiarise yourself with the syllabus from each course, and make a note of any questions you may have about it. Schedule some time with your professor to talk about them – it's better to clear up any confusion you have now, rather than later.

I recommend starting each assignment as early as possible throughout your semester. This allows you time to polish your work and potentially talk to your professors before it's due. Don't wait until your midterm exams to start revisiting old content. Make sure you understand all the material that's been given to you in class. Putting in a bit of time to review key concepts as you go along is

better than freaking out about things during exam season.

After doing your key assessments, take time to think about what you did well and what you didn't do well on. This doesn't just apply to your studies – do this for yourself, too! At the end of each term, I like to reflect on what I'm most proud of, how I think I've grown, and some of the moments I've most cherished.

Of course, everyone studies differently and these are just some reflections based on my personal experience. You'll find the way that works best for you. Best of luck with the new term!

“Birth Fund” on second child



Modern China

Three years ago, the mainland relaxed its old one-child policy and adopted the “universal two-child policy” (全面二孩政策), to try to fix the problem of the country's ageing population. However, the birth rate on the mainland has continued to go down.

Recently, an article in mainland newspaper *Xinhua Daily* discussed the idea of a “birth fund” for families who have a second child. According to the article, some experts suggest that all the citizens under the age of 40 should contribute to the “birth fund”.

Only after a family gives birth to a second child can they apply to use this fund, as well as receive more money from the state to help with the temporary loss of wages while the mother is on maternity leave. If the family does not have a second child, then they can only access this fund after they retire.

This proposal has created heated debate online, with many netizens unhappy about it. Some female

university students argue that whether a woman gives birth or not is her own decision, not the government's. “With this idea of ‘pushing women to give birth’, will Chinese women face a future like that in *The Handmaid's Tale*, where women are just reproductive tools?” asked Wu Shengrui, a student from Sun Yat-sen University.

The article also says that dual-income, child-free families should be made to pay social maintenance fees in the future.

“Developed countries give money to families to encourage reproduction, while our country wants to impose a tax. How ridiculous!” said student Ou Deyun, who conducted a study on global birth rates last year. “It is unfair on those people in their 80s who have experienced the eras of taxing on giving birth to more than a child, to one child, and to no child.”

Cindy Liang, Sun Yat-sen University