

BEYOND Grit



港青基信書院
YMCA OF HONG KONG CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

*"Great people
are not defined by
their success, but their
ability to rise from failures
and adversities."*

Ruvarashe Shoko 4H
Deputy Editor in Chief



Vision

We envision our school as a learning community where quality education, based on Christian beliefs and values, are offered in a joyful and stimulating setting.

We believe that the foundation of this learning community and the quality education process is based on the partnership among teachers, parents and students.

We are determined to develop our school based on the CARES principles where:

CURIOSITY

We stimulate lifelong learners who are curious and investigative.

ASPIRATION

We inspire learners to humbly strive for excellence in all that they do, be intellectually ambitious, determined and focused.

RESILIENCE

We encourage learners to take risks, persist when situations are challenging and reflect on both successes and failures.

ENTERPRISE

We foster the development of creativity, flexibility of mind and the ability to use initiative, think critically and make good judgements.

SERVICE

We develop empathic, self-assured, empowered leaders who contributed positively to their community both as individuals and as part of an effective team.

Core Values

Build a Community that Cares
Serve One Another in Love
Respect Ourselves and Others
Be Responsible
Act with Integrity

Mission

Foreword

Welcome to the YHKCC 2020-2021

Yearbook!

Looking back on the progress we made in the span of 2020-2021, it has been a challenging year but also an amazing year full of learning opportunities. All of us were pushed out of our comfort zones to embrace changes. The number of physical school days was drastically reduced due to the COVID-19 school suspension with most events cancelled and online learning becoming an indispensable part of school life. We learnt to adapt to new norms and realities from physical to virtual, from paperwork to online submission, from physical acquaintance to Zoom meets and greets. All these enabled us to grow stronger, get closer and even develop a valuable characteristic, "resilience". I am grateful that students, teachers, administrative staff and janitors were fully capable of adapting to and even thriving on changes, striving for excellence. I am delighted to share with you the efforts, perseverance and achievements of students over the course of the year.

The theme of this Yearbook "Resilience" spotlights an important character trait we have equipped ourselves with this year. It would be easy to focus on negative feelings of heartbreak, frustration and depression but we do have an effective tool to get rid of these. Resilience and Gratitude allow us to shift our focus and see things with appreciation and adaptability. I am thrilled to see our students grow with healthy well-being and flourish amid adversity. They put in their best efforts to struggle and attain exceptional achievements. I am also impressed that they never laid aside community service in view of the pandemic. They were fully dedicated to finding ways to make a contribution. A further round of applause should be given to all the athletes. They used discipline to strengthen their spirits in spite of the coaching and training suspension. Making effort, taking discipline and embracing changes with an optimistic mindset are all steps towards maintaining resilience and excellence.

Wholehearted thanks to the teachers and the Yearbook Team for their great endeavour in compiling this meaningful yearbook during this unprecedented school year. I highly appreciate the perseverance and resilience demonstrated by our students and the concerted efforts and unconditioned caring of teachers, maintaining their spirits to navigate hand-in-hand with students confidently amid the obstacles, giving students strong support and determination to truly go "beyond grit". Last but not least, sincerest gratitude should be given to parents who have given unfailing support and trust to us.

I challenge everyone to look for opportunities that come with changes and take a positive approach to embrace changes with open arms.

I wish you a marvellous reading experience. May the Lord be with you and your family always.

Thank you

Mr Dion Chen
Principal

Contents

The School Community

- 6 School Management Committee
- 7 Message from the School Supervisor
- 8 Principal's Report
- 20 Message from the Yearbook Team

What's Happening?

26 COVID-19 Hybrid Learning



- 33 Student Council Election
- 36 Student Council 2020-21 Calypso
- 44 Singspiration
- 45 Tennis Tournament
- 46 Chinese Debate
- 47 Christian Fellowship

- 48 F.6 Team Building & Christmas Parade
- 50 JA Company
- 52 Cheerleading
- 54 Speech Festival 2020
- 55 I Jump Challenge
- 56 24 Hour Race

58 Celeste 2020 Fashion Show



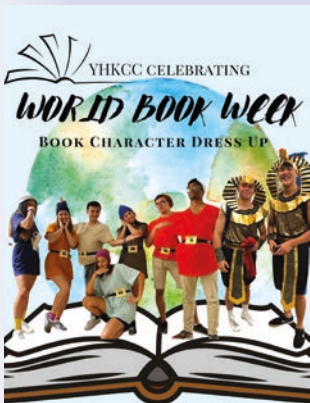
- 63 Music Contest
- 64 Music Society

67 Community Services



70 Science Activities – BioTech

71 World Book Week



75 Graduation Ceremony

76 Farewell to Mr Dion Chen

What's New?

- 84 Whole School Reading Lessons
- 90 Student Wellbeing Centre
- 91 Professional Development Programmes

92 STEAM Lab



93 Master Oogway Caring Team

What's Up?

94 Stories of resilience and hope from our alumni



What's Good?

- 112 Top 5 Songs, Movies and Fiction / Non-Fiction books for the year

What's That?

- 116 Masterpieces of Students

School Management Committee



Mr Patrick Yip
Chairman



Mr Benjamin Lam
Honorary Secretary



Mrs Sheila Chuang
Honorary Treasurer



Mr Peter Ho
School Supervisor



Ms Vivienne Fung
Chairman of Governance
Review Sub-committee



Mr Tony Ip
Chairman of
Building Sub-committee



Ms Lily Fong, SBS
School Manager



Ms Julia Ong
School Manager



Mr Alexander Kwan
School Manager



Mr Dave Lee
School Manager



Dr Andy Fung
School Manager



Mr Standy Chan
Parent Manager



Mr Dion Chen
Principal



Ms Diana Lo
Deputy Principal



Mr Jocelyn Gagnon
Teacher Manager

the Message from School Supervisor

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the YHKCC Yearbook for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

We will always remember this past year as the one in which our “normal” way of life was deeply affected by the COVID-19 virus. Who could have predicted a year ago that COVID-19 would continue to disrupt our lives today? Who could have imagined what our evolving “new normal” would eventually look like? The word “Zoom” is now firmly entrenched in our everyday vocabulary, but it was only just over a year ago that many of us first heard about this platform. I hope that we will also remember this year as the time when we were able to acquire and develop a new set of skills, whether it is the expanded capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, or the enhanced ability to overcome significant personal challenges, especially learning in a virtual environment, or the speed at which we are able to “bounce back” from disappointment or failure. These challenges have built up our resilience.



Resilience is one of the intellectual character dispositions in the YHKCC Learner Profile. It is the strength, sense of balance and humour to deal positively with mishap and failure; to recognize that everyone stumbles but that successful people deal better with this; to use difficulties as learning experiences and opportunities for a new direction. Resilience encompasses suffering and adversity, acceptance, strength and renewal. Resilience reveals our identity and fuels our growth.

The theme of the Yearbook is, appropriately enough, ‘Resilience & Hope’. God did not promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, nor sun without rain. But He did promise us strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light to guide our path. Pope Francis’ Christmas message to the people of Lebanon reminded them of the majestic Lebanon cedar which symbolizes steadfastness, stability and protection. Those who root deeply in God will be standing tall and bearing abundant fruit. Beyond grit is our hope and trust in God. So, I encourage you to put your faith in God, especially in these difficult times, and He will give you the strength to walk through the storm. *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31)*. He will always be there to support you and guide you. He is our hope for the future. And this Yearbook reminds us of that hope!

I hope that you will enjoy the new magazine-type format with profile stories, student sharing and feature articles. It is a beautiful mosaic and reflection of teaching and learning that has occurred during this unique year, and a poignant reminder of what can be achieved when we persevere through difficult times.

May God Bless You All.

Mr. Peter Ho
School Supervisor

Principal's Report

Life is full of blessings. Despite the challenging year, we are blissful to have received a precious gift, bringing us great joy and brightening us up during the difficult time. A new YHKCC member, "Master Oogway" kicked off a fruitful year for us. On one special morning, he appeared on our running track and started his fantastic college life here. To welcome this special member, a naming contest was held with multiple innovative entries received. With the collaborative effort with the student leaders, the winning name "Master Oogway" was chosen. Students were in jubilant joy and formed a caring team to give tremendous love and care to him. However, nothing is perfect in life. Master Oogway waved goodbye to us and went on a new adventure on one particular morning following his jogging around the campus. Although we are all upset about his leave, I am grateful to have seen the care and love given to Master Oogway which is in line with the Core Values. We are proud of the blessing and wish Master Oogway a new, happy, adventurous life ahead.



With solidarity and determination of the YHKCC members, our school sustained a healthy and stable growth amid the year with high resilience when facing the new norms. We grew stronger, got closer, transforming into better people in an extraordinary school year. The first ever virtual online assembly on the first school day, virtual parents monthly meetings, face-to-face lessons suspension, resumption of half day physical lessons in phrases of junior and senior forms, timetable adjustment, special lunch and junior form afternoon practical lessons arrangement and so on were all the new realities we went through together guided by our strong Christian beliefs and our core values. I am truly grateful to see the limits we break through and how we realized the power of unity to hurdle obstacles.



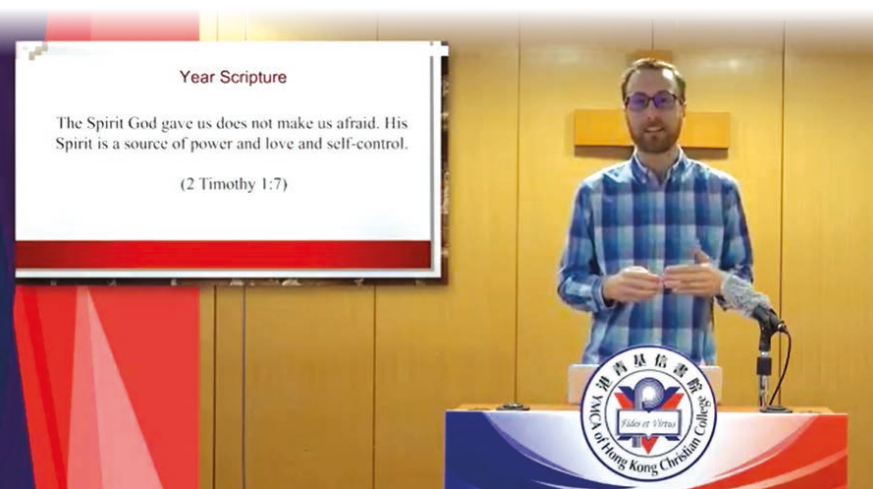
The COVID-19 pandemic has sent shockwaves around the world and it has also upended school life in Hong Kong, with extended school suspension for over four months. We are all striving hard to adapt to the new paradigm, eLearning and virtual interactions. However, all these cataclysmic changes may have caused a great deal of mental stress to us, particularly, students. To give students spiritual support amid the difficult time, we put extra care on the wellbeing of students through morning devotions since last academic year. The practice has extended to this academic year with more specialization on a daily basis. Guest speakers, teachers as well as alumni have been invited to share scriptures. The forms of devotions are of great variety, ranging from scripture reading, reflection and singing to interactive games. We are grateful to have the support of The Bridge Church and Hong Kong Young Life with their pastors inspiring us to achieve spiritual growth with deeper self-knowledge. All these enhance our ability to cope with lingering uncertainty and adversity, leading us to rewarding lives.

For the Hong Kong Stream, twelve subjects performed better than last year in terms of passing rate (level 2) and/or attaining level 4 or above. A number of subjects continuously performed better than the Hong Kong norm in their passing rates (level 2) and level 4 or above. These subjects include: Literature in English (100%), English Language (100%; HK – 80.3%; Level 4 or above – 76.3%), Mathematics (M1) (100%), Mathematics (M2) (100%), ICT (100%); Level 4 or above – 33.3%), Visual Arts (100%), Hindi (AS-level grade E or above: 100%; AS-level grade C or above: 100%), BAFS (Business Management) (92.3%), THS (91.7%), Liberal Studies (89.8%).

Form 6 GCE students experienced considerable challenges to their learning last academic year, including the worldwide cancellation of the GCE A-level examinations. Centre assessment grades were decided by subject teachers based on all available assessment evidence and sent to the examination boards in June 2020. The algorithm used to award grades resulted in many students initially receiving lower grades, but after review, students were eventually awarded the grades they deserved.

The final results were outstanding. An impressive 53% of all grades were A* or A and the passing rate was 100%. Even more remarkable is the fact that over 93% of the grades were in the A* to C range.

The top performers were Chockle Cheung (6H) who achieved five A-levels all at grade A*, Garen Regalado (6K) with four A*s and two As, and Nouman Khan (6H) who achieved four A*s. A total of 20 students achieved three or more GCE A-levels at grade A or higher.



Academic Achievements

A round of applause to the exceptional results brought about by the perseverance of students and the conscientiousness of teachers along with the efficient academic structure and timetable. I am pleased to report fruitful results in the public examinations for both local and international streams.

Congratulations to Andrew TILIJIA (6M) and Harneet KAUR (6M) who attained distinguished performance in the HKDSE as the top performers this year.

Principal's Report

These outstanding academic accomplishments earned offers from both local and overseas universities. Local destinations included the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST), The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University and Heng Seng University. Students also gained admission to Zhejiang University (China) and Soochow University (Taiwan).

Overseas, students were admitted to University College London (UK), Imperial College London (UK), University of Manchester (UK), University of Glasgow (UK), University of Exeter (UK), University of Nottingham (UK), University of Warwick (UK), University of Kent (UK), University of Essex (UK), University of Birmingham (UK), University of Toronto (Canada), McMaster University (Canada), University of Alberta (Canada), Simon Fraser University (Canada), Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Canada), Amsterdam University of Applied Science (The Netherlands), University of New South Wales (Australia) and University of Newcastle (Australia).

In addition, I am delighted that the IGCSE results set another school record: 60% of the grades were A* or A, 98% were in the A* – C range and the passing rate was 100%. Forty students achieved 5 or more IGCSEs at grade A (level 7) or better and there were many notable

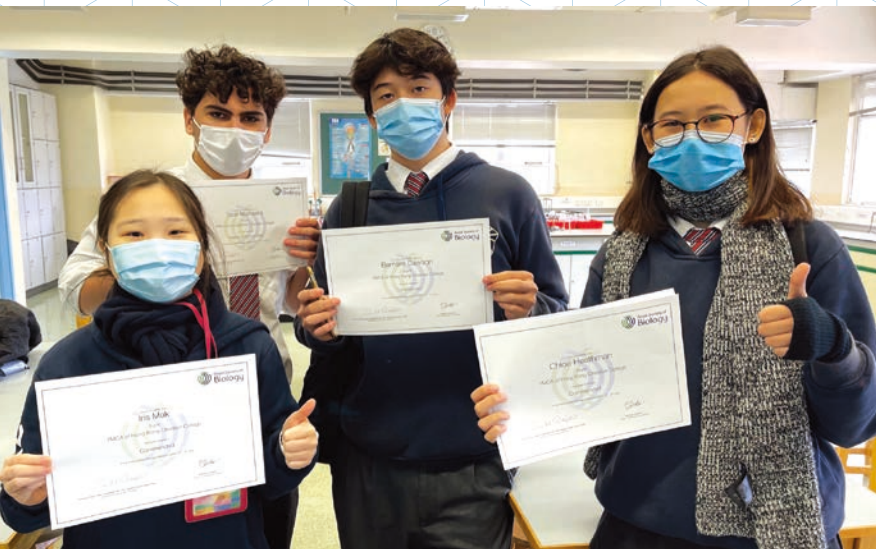
accomplishments. The top performers were Chan Yan Ho (4M), Noyonika Rajeev Ganguly (4K) and Ng Bryan Jing Jie (4H), who all managed to achieve A* or A (levels 7, 8 or 9) in every subject. These amazing results are the result of an incredibly positive attitude towards learning, an insatiable thirst for knowledge, effort, determination and an enormous amount of resilience in the face of adversity.

Good news was also brought by Scholtes, Maurice Michael. He was honoured the "Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award" by the Cambridge Assessment International Education for his distinctive academic achievement. He gained the "High Achievement Award" in Hong Kong for Cambridge International A Level Computer Science.



In addition, Laura Simone Elisabeth Schulz was honoured the "Highest Mark in the World for GCE A-Level Physical Education" in the Outstanding Pearson Learner Award. Of 575 students from around the world who took the Edexcel GCE Advanced Level Physical Education examination in the 2019 cohort, only 11 students achieved grade A* and Laura put in her best effort and attained this incredible achievement.





Recognition of outstanding academic attainments also came from the awarding of prizes. Ruvarashe Lyndah Shoko (4H) won the Merits Award (Junior Division) of the Mediation Essay Competition 2020 co-hosted by the Department of Justice and the Education Bureau. Good news was also brought by Matthew Wong Tin Yan (3A). He triumphed with a bronze medal in the Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan Cross-Strait in Mathematical Olympiad. Good news also came from the Intermediate Biology Olympiad 2020. Sukrit Pandita (6H) and Gerard Xavier Kheng Kiat Poon (6H) brought home the Gold and Silver award respectively and Benjamin Jun-jie Glover (6H) and Paolo Mendoza Silva (6H) triumphed the Bronze Award. Moreover, Paolo Mendoza Silva (6H) and Aryan Mandar Pendse (6H) attained outstanding results in the International Biology Olympiad – Hong Kong Contest (IBO-HKC) with Bronze Award and the Honourable Mention Award, respectively.

Our alumni are always one of our most valuable assets, setting an excellent role model for our students. Olsson, Emily Hedvig was awarded Academic Excellence Scholarship and earned a place on the Master's List by Wu Yee Sun College of The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Jasmine June Alberts, Jacky Zhi-jian Lau and Christopher Sven Olsson were honoured in the Dean's List of the School of Engineering, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology for their outstanding academic performance. They all achieved a Term Grade Average of 3.7 or better in the academic year. Honour also

came from Guillaume Tian-Bao Samson who graduated with **DISTINCTION** with BA (Hons) Business Administration and Management from De Montfort University, studying at City U School of Continuing and Professional Education (SCOPE), the local academic partner. YHKCC is proud of you all!

Staff Development

Learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change and this applies to both teachers and students. We are committed to making continuous improvements in pursuit of nurturing all-round students with a healthy wellbeing, a growth mindset and also an international lookout. In support of this, we put great emphasis on organizing a vast diversity of staff development programmes to enhance teachers' professionalism, skills and knowledge to maximize teaching and learning effectiveness. Peer observation, collaborative lesson planning, workshops, and seminars were held to foster cross-cultural, interdisciplinary collaboration as we believe that ongoing professional development is the key to quality education.



Principal's Report

Exposure

Outbound trips and exchange programmes were suspended in light of the worldwide evolving COVID-19 situation but a few local visits and exchange programmes with principals and teachers as well as interested parents and students from the following schools were arranged to give them a better understanding of our school.

- STFA Tam Pak Yu College
- HKFYG Lee Shau Kee College
- Ching Chung Hau Po Woon Primary School
- Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School



Student Development and Achievements

2020-2021 was named the "Year of Doldrums", only half day schooling was applied for the entire academic year and the majority of the tournaments and events were cancelled due to the

COVID-19 spike. However, the school strove to organize as many events as possible and the hardship of the year never stopped student development and achievement as students put in their best to take proactive participation in virtual events with remarkable attainments.

The Phoenix Cheerleading Team achieved excellent results in two of the online competitions, namely The 2020 Asian Youth Cheerleading E-Invitational Championships and the 2020 Asian Age-group Cheerleading E-Invitational Championships. They triumphed in 2nd place in both events for the Team Cheer (4-5 Athletes), Age 12-18 Division. It was also an honour for the team to be one of Hong Kong's representatives in both whole-Asia competitions.

Hazel Bishop (3Y) of the Athletic Team did exceptionally well in the Virtual World Cross Country race hosted by the Chinese International School. She completed a 5km distance in 31 minutes and 9 seconds and was placed in the top standings for her age group.



Community Service

To fully endorse our core values "Serve one another in love", students are highly encouraged to participate in community service so as to develop a sense of personal responsibility and social awareness. However, due to the pandemic outbreak, the Service Outreach Programme (SOW) was suspended for the





second year in a row. However, the passion of caring and making contribution to society never dwindled. The Community Service Club joined the Hong Kong Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) Flag Day to gain support and donation from the general public. Tiny work can make a big difference. Moreover, to appreciate the determination and endeavor of the frontline staff in the community to fight against the COVID-19, the Community Service Club worked hand in hand with Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City to give out surgery face masks and soup bags to the security guards of Mun Tung Estate, expressing our gratitude and blessings to them.

Since the inauguration of the YHKCC-OIWA Elderly Academy last year, a variety of programmes have been run at our campus for the elderly to sustain life-long learning and inter-generational harmony. Interactive sports like Pickleball class, badminton



practice and also cooking lessons were arranged to provide a platform for the senior citizens to pursue healthy living. It also serves as a bridge to connect between the youth and the elderly in the community, creating a strong bond.

The passion and motivation of giving back to the community continues as always. In response to the 2021 Peacebox Campaign initiated by Hong Kong Church Network for the poor (HKCNF), the Community Service Club took the lead to collect donated supplies such as stationery, toys, commodities, etc. in school and transferred to HKCNF for distribution to those in need as blessings.



Principal's Report



School Events

We believe that learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom and active participation in activities gives students authentic and diverse experiences which enrich their lives. In view of this, we are committed to organizing a wide range of activities to widen the exposure of students and cultivate a strong sense of belonging as well as a strong bond in our dynamic, harmonious learning environment.

Having a happy and safe learning environment is always a prerequisite for success. To provide students with a clean and safe learning environment, we launched a series of precautionary measures against COVID-19 during the course of the year. We set up a temperature checking station in the lobby and put hand sterilizers in each classroom and prominent positions of main public areas. Several air purifying machines were newly bought to put in the lobby of the General Office and Staff Room to filter fresh air. Petitions were placed in the canteen areas and the

classroom setting was arranged to face one way. A salute should be given to all janitors for carrying out thorough and massive cleanups every day.

The first ever live Facebook Music Contest was held with an electric atmosphere last July, attracting more than 2.3k views. The talented contestants in solo, instrumental and band categories and the humorous MCs made the contest highly impressive and enjoyable. Congratulations to all the winners for their magnificent performances.



Love is all around and we are grateful to have the blessings from YMCA of Hong Kong. Mr. Peter Ho, School Supervisor, together with YMCA of Hong Kong Leadership team members who visited us and brought along seasonal Mid-Autumn Festival gifts as well as CNY gift sets, with the aim of sharing the festive joy and hearty wishes to all the members of YMCA of Hong Kong. The delegates gave out gift boxes to our colleagues, celebrating the auspicious time of the year.



Ups and downs are an essential part of our lives. When we were in full gear to prepare for the annual highlight event, The WonderFest 2020 and highly anticipated for it, the fourth wave of COVID-19 came. We took the safety of stakeholders into consideration and made a difficult decision to call off the event. It was definitely a pity but we believed that the right time would come to have our show on!

To help the new Form 1 students gain a better understanding of YHKCC school life, the ECA Taster Activities were held to provide Form 1 students with the opportunity to try out some of the extra-curricular activities that will be offered in the new school year. The afternoon was divided into two sessions and students participated in various activities ranging from Board Games, Scouts, Home Economics, Music, Drama to sports such as badminton, basketball, volleyball, football, hockey and rugby. We were happy to see the great satisfaction and joy of the students at the end of the event.



We believe that a great school listens to all its stakeholders as it self-evaluates and makes plans for continuous improvement. Hence, we place importance on hearing the voice of students through an elected Student Council. Calypso, Amplify and



Principal's Report

Concordia were the three cabinets running for the Student Council 2020-21. A debate was held before the voting to provide a platform for the running cabinets to present and debate their proposals on one hand and on the other hand to give a better understanding of the cabinets for the rest of the students. The voting day was well-managed and the voting rate turnout excellent. Congratulations to Calypso!

2021 is also a very special year for our sponsoring body, YMCA of Hong Kong with its 120th Anniversary of establishment. A vivacious Kick-off Ceremony together with a Marathon was held in January at YMCA of Hong Kong. The ceremony was inspired by the concept of Body, Mind & Spirit, celebrating the renewed look of the external facade of the YMCA Headquarters at Tsim Sha Tsui and our teacher representative, Mr. William Chan, participated in the marathon to pass the baton, featuring our dedication to strive for excellence.

Taking care of the students' wellbeing and keeping up a healthy body are of utmost important, in particular, amid the pandemic. Our Form 6 students and teachers were invited to participate in the "I JUMP Challenge" organised by JPC Lantau. The programme covered a 20-day morning workout challenge with 20 push-ups, 20 sit-ups as well as



10 Star Jumps with the objective to build up a habit of doing daily exercise and pursue healthy living. Students and teachers gathered at the school hall for 20 consecutive mornings and completed the challenge in high spirit.

The closing ceremony was held on 6th February with a delegation of guests and representatives from supporting organisations in attendance. Ms. Diana Lo and myself joined a hiking challenge to the Lantau Peak (934m), the second highest peak in Hong Kong, after the ceremony. The big challenge was absolutely a great wrap up to the programme.



The school is dedicated to supporting cross community events, creating a strong bond for students to take an active role in serving and caring for the community and most importantly to have a better understanding of social welfare. The Islands District Youth Festival 2021, co-hosted by the Islands District Council, JPC Lantau, Fight Crime Committee and co-organised by HSKSH Tung Chung Integrated Services, The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC), OIWA, Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City, YWCA and our school, was successfully concluded at our school Hall with impressive sharing and performance of singing, dancing and also trick challenges. We were glad to have the support of our alumnus, Jose Urbano, to deliver Locking Dance as the opening and much appreciated about the active participation of our students in different categories of the Festival. The marvelous performances impressed all the attending guests.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, Information Evenings were held via Zoom video conferencing this year. Though we could not meet parents in person, scheduled appointments were all



well attended by parents. Through the interactive and productive exchange, parents had a better understanding of their child's learning progress, strengths and weakness in learning as well as curricular offered by different streams.

At the Graduation Ceremony and College Night, certificates and prizes were presented to our students in recognition of their outstanding academic and non-academic achievements. This year we had 63 and 66 graduates from the HKDSE and GCE A-level streams respectively.



Principal's Report

New School Facilities

STEAM educates students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics with an interdisciplinary approach and supports students to understand the world in a multi-disciplined way, transforming the world in the form of comprehensive innovation and cultivating their ability



to solve problems. To advocate STEAM education, a STEAM Lab with open spaces and working tables, robotics equipment, 3D printer, etc. was newly constructed to foster the learning skills relevant to the 21st century.

We are dedicated to providing excellent pastoral care and guidance based on the core values. A newly transformed Student Wellbeing Centre was completed to house the Student Wellbeing Team together with the



Educational Psychologist as well as Social Workers. The Center was also equipped with a relaxing chit-chat area for counselling, making support and guidance seeking much more accessible.

A good environment is not only beneficial to students but also teachers. Room 101 has been renovated to be equipped with touch-screen TV, adjustable lightings and seating arrangement to foster school meetings, presentations as well as the reception of guests.

To keep abreast of the latest technological developments and give Internet users a pleasant browsing experience at the school website, we had the website revamped with a new look with mobile responsive functions, sustaining both hardware and software enhancement.



We've come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories. I would like to express my earnest gratitude for the dedication, commitment and relentless support of all the teaching and support staff during this baffling, painstaking academic year. Your willingness to take every challenge is admirable to me and I am truly proud to see the YHKCC core values presented by each one of you and you have all set an excellent benchmark for our students.

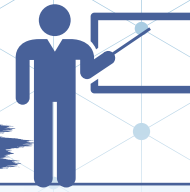
The road of transforming can be rocky, but I am confident that all of us are ready to embrace all the upcoming challenges and to adapt quickly. Please continue with what you are doing and reach for better every day. *"The Spirit God gave us does not make us afraid. His Spirit is a source of power and love and self-control."* (2 Timothy 1:7)

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers, supporting staff and janitors for your trust and unfailing support in the past 17 years. Growing and working along with you all has been immensely gratifying and all those precious memories are the best gift to me for my farewell. I sincerely hope that all of you will continue upholding our core values and I wish you all continued success in all your future endeavors.

May the Lord continue to bless and guide us.

Mr Dion Chen
Principal

Message from the Yearbook Team



Teacher Team



Ms Jessica Choi
Teacher Editor in Chief



Mr. Mark Clemenson
Teacher Deputy Editor in Chief

Welcome everyone to our very special edition of the YHKCC Yearbook.

This year, the whole world has been disrupted with waves with uncertainties, frustrations and ever-changing plans. Zoom lessons, breakout rooms, self-directed learning and flipped classroom strategies are no longer foreign pedagogies in this year of teaching and learning. We are forever grateful that we are still standing here, with a strong team of dedicated students and teachers that would love to share their experiences and journeys of this very unique year with you all. Having GRIT is to have the courage to face challenges, and follow through with plans while being confident, resilient and full of hope for the future. We tilted our Yearbook this year- "Beyond Grit" symbolising how YHKCC is all that and so much more. It is our greatest hope that all readers will enjoy and be encouraged by the stories of gratitude and resilience that fill these pages and will brave the rest of this year with a glimmer of hope.

Enjoy!

Ms Jessica Choi, Teacher Editor in Chief & Mr. Mark Clemenson, Teacher Deputy Editor in Chief



Photography Team



Samuel Cheuk 5A
Chief Photographer

"I have been the Chief Photographer since Form 3. My responsibilities range from mentoring less experienced members to attending important school events such as Sports Night to take photos for the school. It was quite challenging in the beginning as being a Chief Photographer as just a Form 3 student was scary. My mind would always be full of unpleasant ideas such as would the members of the team listen to what I say? How can a Form 3 student-lead senior students? Yes, Ms YYY decided to pick me to be the Chief Photographer instead of the other seniors. Back then it was such a daunting task. Furthermore, I would have to communicate with teachers about the arrangements for different events. Being a guy who is more on the introverted side definitely did pull me out of my comfort zone. However, thanks to the encouragement and guidance of my teacher in charge, Ms YYY, I was able to hold my own.

My first year as Chief Photographer was not without downs though. One of my first major tasks was to arrange heads of years, teachers and students in the Editorial Board for picture taking sessions. To do this I sent emails to teachers asking when they were free to have their pictures taken and went to classrooms to call students out. I am a very shy person and I had to jump out of my comfort zone to reach out to teachers to request a picture session in their free time. With dedication and willingness to learn, I was able to excel at my duties to create amazing photos for YHKCC."

Chief Photographer | Samuel Cheuk 5A
Photographer | Ashley Tsang 4M,
Swara Kamble 4M,
Abdullah 4M,
Jaden Baradas 4M,
Gesie Ang 4A,
Aidan Ho 4H





Editorial Team

Hello Everyone! This is Shruti - the Editor in Chief of this year's Yearbook. Being the Editor in Chief has never been an easy job as there are definitely a lot of obstacles to tackle throughout the journey. To be honest, this year has definitely been very tough and arduous due to the hard-hitting pandemic that has made everyone distant from one another physically. Yet, I can proudly say that the pandemic didn't manage to keep our team distant emotionally or mentally.

"Thank you" probably isn't enough to thank everyone who supported me throughout my journey. Gratefulness. Gratitude. Guerdon. These are the first 3 words that come into my mind as I look back on my journey. Contributing to the yearbook has been one of the best times in my life at YHKCC. It will never be forgotten. As a reporter, it made me realize the importance of proofreading, editing and deadlines. I was able to find myself and explore my passion for writing at the same time! Truly, this was a fruitful experience!

I would like to thank all the members of the Editorial Team for their immense support and faith in me, including Ruva for being an amazing partner!! I am very grateful to Ms Jessica Choi and Mr Mark Clemenson for their endless guidance throughout my journey. Last but not the least, a big thank YOU to Mr Dion Chen for it could not have been possible without him.



Shruti Kaur 5Y
Editor in Chief

Hello all. This is Ruva. It is an honour for me to be one of the contributors to this yearbook. As a member of the Editorial Board, my role was Deputy Editor in Chief. Reporting is probably one of the most difficult tasks in the world. Facts are sacred and recent events in our world of fake news, misinformation and alternative facts made me realise how important the job at hand was as the yearbook is an important part of preserving the school's history, which is created daily.

As reporters, our job is to retell these stories in the most authentic way possible. My passion for writing propelled me to join this wonderful team. The experience has been fruitful in many ways, especially during this global pandemic, COVID-19 because it gave me a sense of fulfilment as we were recounting the school's activities as history was being made.

Being a reporter this year has had one major setback. Many events, from the exhilarating International Fun Fair to the competitive Inter-House Sports Day were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is undeniably heart wrenching. However, we have managed to take this hurdle and convert it into an opportunity to showcase how everyone in the school has been resilient to work through it. Lastly, I would like to thank Ms Jessica Choi, Mr Mark Clemenson, Mr Dion Chen and our dedicated team for their support throughout the journey.



Ruva Shoko 4H
Deputy Editor in Chief

Message from the Yearbook Team



Reporters



Abeer Sayed 4C
Chief Reporter

Hi guys! I'm Abeer. Joining this team was a pretty tough decision, seeing as I doubted I would be able to keep up along with my grades and assignments, but eventually, I ended up joining! At first, I joined the team so I could have an experience of what it was like contributing to the school, and its yearbook, more specifically. I soon came to the realization that our students and alumni have some great stories and achievements within and outside the YHKCC community to share with all of us! My short experience as a reporter went fairly well and started on with some editorial work as well. I got closer with more people and learnt about different people in our team. It was slightly difficult, managing between the team and academic work, but I'm sure we'll get through it, and make sure to include many interesting reports and stories for the school, and we look forward to everyone's enjoyment!



Tanisha Yadav 4Y
Reporter

Hey everyone! I'm Tanisha. In the four years I've been in YMCA I've always looked at the yearbook and wondered how they manage to make such a unique product every single year. It turns out it requires a whole lot of teamwork, hours of searching and definitely a lot of grit.

When Ms Choi came to my table in an English class to convince us to join the yearbook team, my whole table immediately jumped at the opportunity. Even though all of us were ecstatic to join, there was a hint of doubt in all of our minds, would we be able to take on such a big responsibility? Despite the lingering fear of not being able to meet the standards of the previous yearbooks, we worked our hardest and tried our very best to help out in any way we could. We couldn't have done it without our Editor in Chief - Shruti, Deputy Editor in Chief - Ruva and our wonderful teachers Ms Jessica Choi and Mr Mark Clemenson. So here's to another year gone by and another yearbook, it was a journey I'd love to do again! Cheers!



Luis Baltazar 4A
Reporter

Greetings all! I am Luis. I joined the editorial board as an editor because I thought that it would be a good opportunity to try a new experience that I've never had before. I like having to think of new ideas for the yearbook, as it provides me with a new challenge, trying to think of something original. We hope you enjoy reading the yearbook as much as we enjoyed making it.





"What's Up" Feature Articles Reporters Team

Hey! I'm Sydney. On behalf of the DSE 4.1 English class, I can say that our last unit was the most fun I've had academically in a while. It was everyone's first time doing an interview. We had to come up with our own questions, interview alumni, review what we had learnt from those interviews and write what we learnt in our own feature articles. It forced all of us to get out of our comfort zones, assuming that everyone gets nervous with conversations and small talk with strangers like I do. I'm glad we were able to experience conducting our interviews and writing up their stories. Hope you will enjoy reading them as much as we did creating them!



Sydney Fegi 4A
Reporter



Airline Industry Reporters

Luis Baltazar 4A, Cyrus Fung 4A,
Max Tsang 4C



Entertainment Industry Reporters

Sydney Fegi 4A,
Ahsun Mohammad 4C,
Erica Song 4M,
Carmella Lindner Schiavon 4A,
Alisha Lamb 4K, Mikayla Camp 4K



Frontline Healthcare Industry Reporters

Tanisha Yadav 4Y,
Madalena Nugteren 4C,
Abeer Sayed 4C



Athletes Reporters

Abhijith Aravindan 4K,
Vivek Bhayani 4A,
Puneet Chohan 4H,
Stefan Fernandes 4K,
Richie Fong 4Y, Kendrick Ching 4Y



University Student Reporters

Louis Buddle 4H, Anson Tsang 4Y,
Howard Yip 4M, Andy Suk 4C

Message from the Yearbook Team

"What's Good" Reviews Columnists



Joshua Dionisio
Columnist

Hi! My name is Josh, and on behalf of the recommendation columnists, I'd like to say that this enterprise set upon us not only allowed us to curate some of the finest pieces of work we've encountered in our lives but also to exhibit their deeper meanings as to what makes them so special and unique to us. With every song, film, or book, each of us delved into some of our favourite productions and compositions, to evoke recommendations that could act as an instant classic, a tear-jerker, or life-changing masterpiece for everyone to enjoy. As a whole, we hope everybody can relish the submissions we've recommended, whilst feeling free to add their own interpretations and meanings to it as well. Aspiring for anybody, to potentially make our own cinematic/literary gems, into gems of their own!



Our columnists:

Songs | Joshua Dionisio 5K

Movies | Zita Puentespina 5K

Fiction Books | Angelyn Cunningham 5K

Non-Fiction Books | Kotomi Hasegawa 5K



Design Team

"It has been a pleasure working with the Yearbook for 5 years. I joined because I liked to draw, but I walked out coming to loving the journey. Had I not been able to participate, I doubt I would be able to appreciate the art of designing. Graphic design is an intricate process, it requires creativity, flexibility and visualization. Every page had been carefully designed to fit into a collective theme. Even something as simple as an icon could carry an abundance amount of meanings within them. It was not an easy journey, but a fruitful one nonetheless."



Cherry Tam 6Y
Chief Designer

"This would be my 3rd and last year in the yearbook design team. I am excited for what's to come after and sad in the way that I will miss the meetings to brainstorm ideas. Throughout the whole 3 years, I was able to go back to creating art changing to an elective in form 4-which I did not choose. Being at the yearbook design team helped me to give ideas, try to design those ideas, learn to receive advice on how to better the design and finally put that advice received to create a final design that could be in the yearbook. With the end of being part of the yearbook design team, I am happy to have experienced it all."



Elisha Andre 6C
Designer

"I have been in the yearbook design team for 4 years now, and I'm happy to say it was the most enjoyable time I had. Though meetings were irregular and sometimes it was hard to come up with appropriate concepts, the meetings were full of random creative ideas flying around with the constant presence of laughter. Yearbook design has helped me grow to learn the importance of teamwork, meeting deadlines, as well as importance of communication. In these 4 years, I have also gained friends that I can count on for anything and everything, I will whole heartily miss being part of such an amazing group of people filled with talent and creativity."



Shikha 6Y
Designer

"I joined the yearbook design in my third year at YMCA. I was really motivated to contribute ideas as a new member and overall I had a really enjoyable time with my fellow designers. At times, there can be some doubts in our designs. However, the results, in the end, are almost always satisfying as we saw our designs become a book ready for every student to read. Something I learned from these 4 years in this team is that I should remember the deadlines because they are really important. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such kind and amazing designers. I'm also grateful for the teachers that put up with our team's constant struggles throughout the years. I will miss being part of the YMCA yearbook designing team."



Pearl Lam 6M
Designer



Aquena Varghese 6K
Designer



Zoe Jantschar 6A
Designer



What's Happening?

YHKCC embracing life with a positive attitude during the pandemic

COVID-19: Hybrid Learning



On Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc across the globe, making the world as we know it feel like remnants of yesterday's dream. Of all the affected areas, the impact on education seems to be the most unique. When lockdown restrictions were imposed, many of us would have thought that it was the end of the line for learning. It always appeared that education and school were inseparable. But guess what? Desperate times call for desperate measures and the product was online learning. If people had heard about online learning a few years ago, they would have probably affiliated it with homeschooling. Nevertheless, it has now evolved into a new educational norm.

Although it has existed for quite some time, online learning had never operated on such a large scale before. From Zoom to hybrid (Half-day + Zoom) to half-day; throughout this roller coaster experience of learning during the pandemic, a lot of mixed views and feelings arose as a result. It has been fiercely argued that online learning is no substitute for the classroom.

Students and teachers may have complained about the overwhelming workload, distracting environment, physical and mental strain and the difficulty of teaching and learning. But at the end of the day, we were all able to see the silver lining of our experience, persevere with grit and resilience and look forward to the future with hope.

Here are some sharings from our students on their unique learning journey this year:

“What I enjoyed most about online learning was that I got to sleep in a little more and I had a lot more time for my homework, usually I'd have trouble waking up so having that extra time was really good. I learnt how to overcome a lot of problems this year like keeping myself organized so I don't forget to submit homework, making time to study so I don't fail tests etc.”

Rebecca Curti, 1H





“During my Form 1 study in YHKCC this year, I experienced many weeks of school online learning lessons. I was tired of learning in front of my computer for the whole day. I rushed through so many different subjects which were very different from my primary school life. I felt lonely learning online at home by myself only and I could not play physically with my classmates in school.

By solving these problems, I tried to adapt myself to the secondary school schedule. I sought help from my teachers and classmates via sending emails and Google Hangout messages. I listened to teachers during online lessons and worked hard to finish and submit my homework on time. Now, I am very familiar with my secondary school life in both online and face-to-face lessons. I am looking forward to experiencing the challenges of Form 2 next year.”

Anton Yip, 1Y

“This year has been a very interesting year with many challenges. The biggest challenge for me was focusing during the course of online learning. There are many ways where one can lose focus in online learning, such as excessive drilling noises in a renovation, or maybe a dog barking at something outside, or maybe siblings yelling and playing without considering everything else. Almost everyone would be experiencing such problems, on top of having a poor connection to the internet during a session. I experienced these too, but I mitigated most of these problems with the help of my mom. I got my dog to stay quiet and the drilling stopped one day, and my mom took my brother to school to have his own online learning. After that, I had a mostly quiet learning environment.”

Roch Baczkowski, 2C

“The best thing about online learning was the convenience in general. All the learning material was easily accessible and you needn't worry so much about losing pieces of paper as everything was already there. You couldn't forget to bring a textbook because all the books were readily available at home right in front of you. The switching between online and physical learning had its benefits as well. I learned how to plan ahead and be prepared as I couldn't carelessly leave my books at school all the time for a surge in COVID-19 cases could cause another school zoom suspension anytime. My ability to be punctual was improved as well since practising getting on zoom five minutes early and attempting to arrive to class helped me do the same in other situations.

Esme Luong Mcfee, 1C



COVID-19: Hybrid Learning



“Studying from home because of COVID-19 made a vast difference in my life because there were so many new things that I was very oblivious to but had to get used to. But through that process, I managed to realize all the great benefits that helped me so much in my academic life. I had gotten so much more free time to study ahead and review everything more frequently which helped me understand each and every subject more clearly. I had much more time to also practice everything that improved the quality of my grades, which I’m the most grateful for. Saving paper was also an advantage of online learning, like all of us became eco-friendly as we were able to submit our work online and not waste trees. Along with that, I found that I didn’t need to stay up past midnight all the time to study, and could always wake up with a refreshed mind every morning. I also want to appreciate all the teachers’ hard work and their dedication. I want to thank them for making all the lessons so enjoyable and not boring, as they are the ones who put in so much effort for us students to do well even in such uncertain times. Although online learning and Zoom had their own disadvantages, this whole experience taught me that there are always bright sides of everything that we should focus on.”

Vrinda Jain, 3K



“Despite the overwhelming workload, distracting environment, physical and mental strain and the difficulty of learning, when I think about online learning, I can’t help but appreciate its value.

The coronavirus pandemic was an unforeseeable crisis that had a devastating impact on all of us. To be able to learn despite the adversities is something we all should be grateful for. Although most of us are fluent with technology, most of us weren’t fully aware of how this could be used to enhance our learning. This pandemic taught us that in the hardest, yet most effective way. Students also had more time to absorb learning materials and they naturally improved their communication and time management skills through their daily endeavours. Students also spared their commuting times and enjoyed more rest!

What I appreciate the most is the tireless effort of education organizations and teachers to ensure learning goes on no matter the obstacles as, without them, education would have lost to the coronavirus. By being able to learn during times of COVID-19, we have already succeeded. With that being said, online learning has proved to be a viable substitute for face-to-face classes and I envision it having a bigger and more significant role to play in the future.”

Abhijith Aravindan, F4 DSE

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“I am a dreamer, I believe that I am capable of doing big things. This is great as this makes me an ambitious person. However, this means that I also believe that good things will come to me without me doing anything. This trait of mine led to my downfall during online learning. I believed that I could get through it with no problem, I believed that I wouldn’t fall behind, I believed that I would be able to maintain my grades. I was wrong. I was fatigued every day, I would curl up in bed, crying myself to sleep. My dreams for my future faded away and my mental state was in a horrible condition.

However, as people like to say, there is always a silver lining. As a dreamer, I believed that and I clung to the hope that I would find a silver lining. And I did. However, it did not come easy. I started by writing my feelings in my journal as I tend to always bottle up my feelings. This helped me a lot as I could pour out my feelings and use my journal as a channel. Furthermore, keeping a schedule isn’t really my thing so I created a list of work that I had to catch up on and started ticking them off one by one. I find this method satisfying and helpful.

I also started putting myself as a priority. I have always acknowledged my mental health but I have never valued or taken good care of myself. However, as online learning put me at my lowest, I started to recognise that I needed to be there for myself as no one could do that for me. Of course, it is easier said than done, but you always have to start somewhere. I am not saying that you should put yourself first right off the bat, but you should at least see yourself as a priority. Mental health is important and I am so glad that I found my silver lining.”

Athittaya Cheung, F5 GCE

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COVID-19: Hybrid Learning



“What I most appreciated about this hybrid learning experience was that it made me a more organised person. As we all knew from the start of 2020, the whole world was struck by the deadly virus that killed millions of innocent people. Students and teachers were forced to stay home. All students had to adapt to a new learning process of entirely online learning, for 6 months students had to stay home and go through this hybrid learning. From 2020 my grades started deteriorating, for a few months. I was unmotivated and struggling with my homework. After a brief realization the pressures of my DSEs started to kick in. It became clear to me that it was time to take my responsibilities more seriously. From that point on, I was determined to do better for myself and most importantly for my future.

From that point on I started focusing on my studies. I also stopped procrastinating on my homework. If anyone were to be in my position a year ago, my advice to you is to try and isolate all your devices and make an effort to focus on your online lessons. In the past I would always be on my phone, addicted to social media. I learned to gain good self-control to hold back on temptations. What I most appreciate about hybrid learning is that it gave me the opportunity to reflect and change my life from the mistakes I had made before it was too late. It has also helped me increase my concentration and focus. The new hybrid learning has helped me become the person I am today. I would also like to thank and show appreciation to teachers for putting immense effort and time into helping all of us in our most trying time.”

Mark Suen, F6 DSE



On ECAs

This year has been extra challenging for hosting mass events due to COVID-19 measures. Even after school resumptons, it was still very difficult for extracurricular activities to continue to the nature of the activities. It was always at the back of our minds that ECA is a huge part of school life and we tried very hard to revisit the possibility of hosting Inter-House events. It wasn't till March-April that we had the chance to do so!

Here are some sharings from our House Captains this year - despite a slow start, they're now more than ready to fire up their competitive spirit and lead their houses to victory!

"This past year has definitely been crazy, to say the least. From the moment I got selected as House Captain, I never expected to be able to propose yet alone host any events during this Pandemic! Going into this year I was lost, unsure of whether or not I'd be able to establish my legacy in this school by getting to know the members of my house and leading them through intense house competitions. However, thankfully after a year full of ups and downs, in April we finally managed to reintroduce House events back into the YHKCC community. Personally, one thing I've learnt from being a House Captain this year is that house spirit never dies regardless of the circumstances. I was reminded of this when our House won inter-house basketball. Seeing the joyful faces of the members of my community celebrating our win rekindled the fire inside of me. I know now more than ever that my duty is to lead Taylor House to victory and that we can overcome any challenges facing our way."

Yohann Pamnani,
Taylor House Captain

"What a ride this school year has been! If you asked me at the beginning of the school year what my plans were as a House Captain, my mind would have gone blank. I didn't think we would have any house events or any opportunities to get to know our members. Luckily, I was wrong because as soon as April hit, we all tried our very best to bring back house spirit through the events we had and encouraged new members to join. One of the things I learnt while being house captain was, although many things may not go as planned, the reason why I'm here is to serve Williams and to strengthen the bond within. I find it ironic how it seemed like COVID-19 hindered a lot of growth within the community, but in fact, it was the perfect timing for us to kickstart the battle of the houses in a different way."

Andra Manuel,
Williams House Captain



COVID-19: Hybrid Learning



"This year was very challenging for obvious reasons— school being closed for a few months due to the pandemic. I had lost a lot of motivation to both study and prepare for house events in November and December. But after the cases slowly lessened in February, the school was scheduled to resume, and I found the motivation to start studying for my mid-year exams. After exams had finished, what really motivated me to strive to bring back the house spirit was the teachers vs house captains volleyball match. After seeing how many students were cheering and chanting, I remembered what house events felt like and how they brought students among all forms to do their best together. Through my experiences as the Morrison house captain, I've learnt to persevere with a desire. I hope I've at least motivated a few students with the work I've put in as house captain."

Harkomal Singh,
Morrison House Captain



"Where to start? It was strangely my rivals— Harkomal, Johann and Andra— who helped me overcome our hurdles. Together as we collaborated to plan feasible events, it became clear that our competitors can be just as encouraging as our teammates. Our house bond is precious, and it's rewarding to witness our joint ideas spring to life in our remaining time. With the resumption of the activities came the revival of the house spirit. Hearing the students' roaring cheers and watching their electrifying performances proved that house culture isn't about winning; the ultimate goal is to allow everyone to unite through our love for sports. I can only hope the juniors develop a passion as ferocious as the energy brought in each house event. This wild year reminded me how we have a responsibility to include every individual because belonging is what the houses are a symbol of. Though tough, this wild year demonstrated how there is always beauty in the chaos if we persist— and that is the realisation of how integral a part the houses play in YHKCC."

Kotomi Hasegawa,
Chambers House Captain

Student Council Election

With 3 cabinets competing to be elected as the Student Council (2020-2021), the academic year kicked off with one of the most intense campaign seasons in history. From organizing the cabinet's very own campaign day to the highly anticipated Student Council Cabinet Debate, students are provided with the valuable opportunity to grow and mature as a team. Throughout this period, social distancing measures were strictly maintained in order to create a safe environment for students to participate in the election process. 3 polling stations were set up for students of different forms to vote. In addition, online voting sessions were held to cater the needs of those who were unable to vote in person.



Student Council Election



“Being a part of Amplify was truly indescribable. The amount of work, effort and heart we poured into each project and idea we had was a unique experience. I believe that if you ask any member of Amplify, they would agree that it was simultaneously exhausting and taxing, yet somehow the most rewarding ordeal we had undergone.

As president of Amplify, I can confidently say that the nine other people who made up Amplify are irreplaceable, and I truly cannot thank them enough for embarking on this journey. Without them, the concept of Amplify would have remained exactly that: a concept. Our members allowed a simple thought to become a structured idea, and I cannot stress enough their impact on the course of this journey.

Regardless of the outcome, this experience has been essential to us. It allowed us to grow, in both mistakes and successes. Once again, I would like to thank the members of Amplify, who raised and built an idea from the ground up. I also would like to thank the teachers who allowed us to take part in this, and gave us their endless support and encouragement. Finally, I would like to thank the student body of YHKCC. Our slogan was: “Voice the change you envision.” All of this would be impossible without your voice in the first place.”

Amplify, Running Cabinet of Student Council 2020-21



“From practical skills like writing a formal email to soft skills like time management, what we have learnt during the campaigning process is countless. As a team, the most valuable lesson is definitely the importance of communication. Some of our members rarely responded to text messages or even read them, causing frequent misunderstandings and mistakes made. However, after a particular event, we have come to a realisation that the prolonged lack of communication we had been experiencing did not just pull us away from succeeding but also pushed us towards greater problems. Since then, members of our team who were inactive began to express their ideas more actively and made satisfactory contributions to the team. In fact, communication is like roots. Plants will have poor anchorage to the soil without roots; a team will fall apart easily without communication.

Though we did not get elected, none of us regret being part of Concordia. We are grateful to have such valuable experience that will undoubtedly be beneficial to our future as well as a chance for us to build unforgettable memories and grow together as a team.”

Concordia, Running Cabinet of Student Council 2020-21

Student Council 2020-21 Calypso

We are Calypso, a group of passionate student leaders who are motivated to bring about positive change in our school. We place great importance on not only being the support system, but also the voice of our student body. Our value for student well-being is reflected in our proposals. We believe that students' initiatives to take care of their own mental and physical health should be promoted in order to create a caring community in which our students can thrive both academically and mentally. Beyond our school-centered proposals, Calypso also sees the importance of caring for the greater community. We see that it is important for students to have different outlets where they can utilize their talents and give back to the Tung Chung / Hong Kong community.



During the online learning period, Student Council members tried their best to connect each and every student with the use of social media platforms. With the aim to raise awareness of different social issues, the WE movement was launched, offering a platform for students to express their opinions and thoughts through words. In December, the cabinet introduced the Christmas project where Calypso members took turns to hold fun activities via IGTV. With school gradually resuming, Friday Concerts, Easter Egg hunts and Arm Wrestling competitions were held in hopes to uplift the students' spirit.



Our team comes from different religious and ethnic backgrounds, mirroring YHKCC's diverse community. We, therefore, see the value of inclusivity and celebrating our differences. Calypso sees potential in the developing characters of the students of YHKCC and hopes to give students further academic, extra-curricular, and interactive opportunities. We are very excited about this opportunity and are committed to helping YHKCC blossom into the best it can be.



Cabinet Members



To become the Student Council President had always been a dream of mine. The idea of working with fellow student leaders to enhance the school spirit and serve the student body has driven me throughout the years to work on myself as a leader and as a person of the community. I found inspiration from my seniors and learnt from them, I followed the examples of my leaders and developed a style that suited myself. Despite all the preparation to hone myself to achieve my goal as a future student leader, there was nothing that could have prepared me for my reign as the Student Council President. I was so accustomed to a hands-on student leader that a virtual leadership caught me off guard. It was a different type of leadership that I was yet to learn, but it wasn't a journey that I had to go through alone, it was one that I opportunely grasped with Calypso. At the start, finding ways to motivate and generate togetherness within the school community was particularly challenging as we were unable to implement most of our proposals and had to do the lion's share virtually. However, over time we learned to compromise and make the best of what we had. We motivated each other to grow together and think innovatively to achieve our goals whatever it takes. Although Calypso's reign was not as we had hoped and expected, I'm still extremely proud of how far Calypso has come and how much we've achieved, but the most rewarding part of it all was to see my members flourish as better and honourable individuals, who can be relied on no matter how unpredictable the situation, as well as see the visible impact we've made to the student body despite the unstable school year we've all had. The resilience to withstand challenges and uncertainties, along with the determination and persistence to strive for success are the qualities that I, together with Calypso have thoroughly absorbed, and I hope our actions as the Student Council were able to incite such influence to the student body.

Jasmine Mata, President



Student Council 2020-21 Calypso

Cabinet Members

Calypso has been my personal tree of growth - each branch representing a member of my dream Student Council cabinet. The perspectives gained and the perseverance I have developed are privileges that I strive to share with the student body. My personal goal is to start creating an environment filled with constructive conversations and the radiation of open-mindedness. As a student leader, I learnt the importance of validation and communication in a collaborative space as everyone is truly a leader in their own way. We are all navigating our way through very crucial times - be patient and be compassionate to those around you. I reflected upon myself and my role as a leader, and I knew the impact I wanted to make was one of my personal effects. But how do we, as a council, make students see the significance of empathy and understanding of the world in the eyes of others? This resulted in the We Movement. The We Movement is a platform for future student leaders by Calypso - a safe space to create, share and grow. This true passion project from Calypso has also become my personal peace amidst the chaos of the world during this uncertain time. The monthly We Movement topics are selected with the intention of creating a community where students, alumni and teachers can share a common ground of experience - where we can all learn a new collective subject. I hope our council has radiated the love we have for each other and our roles as student leaders in the projects we have curated for you!

Zita Puentespina, Vice President



Through Calypso, I know I can confidently say I was able to achieve my personal goals as a leader throughout the past year; and maybe even to the extent of saying I achieved more than I expected. As a student leader, and as the Vice President of a cabinet filled with tremendous potential and passion, Calypso was my platform, and our platform, to truly grow and learn from a plenitude of experiences. As a leader I aimed to inspire, motivate, and bring as much as I could to the table to assist our cabinet, our school, and our future in as many ways as possible. To me, Calypso was more than a group of leaders, a cabinet, or a set of students doing their best to serve their school; to me, Calypso is family. One that wasn't simply my own, but a family everybody else could consider as theirs. Calypso taught me how to work collectively with those around you, to accept every individual for who they are, and to utilize every aspect in the most effective way possible to create the greatest outcome. I am proud to have become a student leader, and the Vice Presidents of Calypso; let one of alone be part of this irreplaceable cabinet that has blessed me with an unforgettable amount of lessons, memories, and home that will always stay and be one.

Joshua Dionisio, Vice President





“ One of my most valuable takeaways from the experience of being in the Student Council was learning to be part of a team, not only within Calypso but the whole school. I learnt what it meant to be a leader and the determination, persistence and confidence it took to do it. I worked with the ideas of students enough to gain a better understanding of their wants and needs. At times, it was hard work turning those wants into a reality, especially when we had to accumulate different methods of enjoyment and motivation through activities that would benefit the students both mentally and academically. Though it was still a memorable experience being able to be a part of a decision making process. Being a student myself, I learned how to exceed my comfort zone and further interact with students from different forms. My initial goal was to make others feel they were in a safe and lively environment. I did not realize that in doing so, I would also feel more confident and comfortable in my school community. Overall, the experience as a whole was very valuable itself and definitely a significantly memorable and impactful part of my high school experience.

Angel Cunningham, Secretary



Honestly, being part of the Student Council is already very memorable as I learned a lot from here, I earned a lot from here, and I gained a lot from here. The most memorable part of my Student Council experience was definitely the preparations before the election. There were lots of greetings at the entrance in the morning, lots of giving-out-candies, and most importantly, lots of smiles from the students when they received their candies. It was such a heartwarming and heart-touching moment when I saw so many happy faces from our fellow schoolmates. I don't know if it is just me or not, but when people smile, I get happy too! The power of happiness indeed! During the preparations before the election, I also saw lots of sweat on my other Calypso members, especially when they were standing right under the sun in the morning, greeting the students at the entrance. I could feel how diligent they were in this election when I was just standing at the side chilling. Being in a Student Council was such a life-changing experience because I started to tell myself that I needed to put more effort into this election. That's why I started to use my full energy

trying to get more votes from you guys! "Some people want it to happen, some people wish it would happen, Calypso makes it happen."

Andy Cheung, Activities Officer



Student Council 2020-21 Calypso

Cabinet Members

Ever since I was young I have always been one of the loud people in the room, always joking around, not taking things that seriously but still wanting to be the leader of every little task. I was just an immature little kid when I watched my first Student Council debate. The cabinets seemed like they did not only want to make an impact on the school and the people, but they also looked like they were having so much fun as a group of individuals. I decided then and there that that was something I wanted to be a part of. Finally I can stand here and say I am the House Officer of the current Student Council, Calypso. I didn't want this position so I could brag about my status or use it against people. I truly wanted to make an impact. I always just sort of believed I would go to school, meet some people, have some fun, play some sports and in the end get good grades. Now being a student leader. It has opened my eyes to a whole new side of school and a whole new vision. Whilst grades are important, I realise that school is a whole lot more. It's about making a difference, whether it be big or small. I realised that I need to use my position to be the voice of the students and change the things that impact them. Calypso has made me realise that everything I do can impact someone or something and because of this I am more mature as an individual. I used to always want things to go my way, but now being part of a group of people I have learned that their opinions are just as important and creative as mine, so I should be patient and compromise so we successfully make an impact.



Zoe Dalton, House Officer

Before joining the Student Council, I never imagined myself as a leader. I was always a shy person who often lacked initiative and kept to myself. This experience has helped me widen my horizon and open my eyes to self discovery. I always thought I worked best by myself, but in the Council, I learnt that I could work effectively with a team and how much I actually enjoyed collaborating with other people, especially Calypso and the student body. Whether it be creating posters for campaigns or brainstorming ideas for activities, I realized how fun it truly was to work with a team who are as passionate as you are. Although the entire experience had its ups and downs, we still worked together to solve the problems. This helped me recognize the value of collaboration and my own abilities/contributions to a team. Throughout the whole process, I learnt a lot about my abilities and gained confidence in myself. I was able to discover the kind of leader and person I wanted to be. Before having this experience, I was content with the person

I was and the position I was in.

Joining Calypso and the confidence it gave me made me realize that I should take initiative to seek for more opportunities and strive towards a better version of myself. Calypso helped my mindset grow and has paved many new paths for me.



Ana Rubio, Promotions Officer



“ The dilemma that comes with having big ambitions while being reserved has its long list of complications. This year's Student Council election genuinely put me in a different perspective, and I found myself growing as a person because of this experience. There have always been two certain things that I fantasized about ever since the beginning of my secondary school life, one was to graduate, and the other was to be in the Student Council. I always had the drive to make a change in our school community. Despite trying my best to push through and develop a more open personality as the years progressed, there had always been a lingering thought that pushed me down and made me believe that I couldn't be one the student leaders that once inspired me in my junior years. Through so much motivation, self-realization, and words of encouragement, I finally realised my potential and uncovered the various skills I didn't even know I had to begin with. Taking up big opportunities can be so eye-opening. It can really set you on a new path in your life if you're ever feeling like you have nowhere to go. Calypso has been my gateway to a wide array of opportunities and it's really grounded me with a sense of purpose and belonging. I've met so many great people in this journey and I can't stress enough how important it is to get out of your comfort zone despite how overwhelming it may seem. Strength and growth comes through continuous effort.

Spatika Swaminathan, Publications Officer



Being a part of Calypso was an astounding experience for me. This spontaneous journey I took part in has truly inspired me to become who I am today. At first I wasn't expecting much and just thought that we would be able to establish fun games and competitions for the students and that it could look good on my CV. But every single moment I've shared with Calypso, all the get-togethers and the meetings have changed my whole perspective. I've learnt to trust everyone involved because we're all focused on the same goal and it has genuinely helped me build better relationships with them, which has led me to realise that joining a Student Council wasn't at all for the status or having a good reputation but has been a gateway for change and growth. After being given the opportunity, I chose to work hard and do my best for every single chance to give students an awesome highschool experience and lead them to taking the same path I took. Calypso changed me in a positive way. When I go to school everyday, I would have a big smile on my face and become friendly towards everyone around as we are one whole community and hope that one day I become someone else's role model.

**Gabriel Parungao,
Communications Officer**



Student Council 2020-21 Calypso

Proposals & Experiences



WE Movement

The WE Movement is one of our major proposals. It encompasses Calypso's values - Compassion, Growth & Humility. This project focuses on bringing awareness of social issues that affect our students that are not thoroughly explored in the school curriculum. It encourages students to think about how these social issues can impact certain communities and how they can be solved. Our intention is that this project cultivates empathy and compassion within the YHKCC student body and thus creates a community that truly cares. The We Movement Instagram account is used as a platform for students and teachers to speak up about their experiences to do with monthly WE Movement topics. We will focus on sharing the

accepted entries in any form from students and teachers who would volunteer to share their experience. We hoped this would encourage constructive conversation about the underlying societal issues that caused these experiences, and inspire other students to speak out about their own struggles, no matter how minor they may be.

Despite the negative circumstances that led to the postponement of many of our proposals, as Calypso, we believed in the cause of the We Movement. The time was now, to stand hand in hand with our school community, to use this opportunity to reflect about the world around us. We believe that a mindset of negligence will cause damage to one's well being, and so we compromised and made the best of what we had. We conducted this proposal heavily on social media which made it more accessible and less daunting for students to submit their ideas. This is more than just a proposal, but Calypso reaching their hands out to students who may be struggling during this unprecedented time.

Christmas Project

During the festive Christmas period, despite our face-to-face classes being cut short and turned virtual, the Student Council still wanted to create a high-spirited and Christmassy atmosphere within our school community. Calypso then created an Instagram IGTV series called "Christmas Countdown with Calypso" where each member of the Student Council posted an IGTV video displaying their favourite Christmas activity, may it be with their friends or family. Activities such as painting, charades, baking and QnA were featured and it was very fulfilling to see how much the students and teachers liked it. We're glad to have been able to virtually pass the festive spirit through our videos despite the limitations posed by online learning.



Morning Activities

When students entered school, the Calypso team stood by the school gate to uplift their spirits. Whether it be to welcome them back to school, or to spread some Christmas cheer, Calypso made sure to greet students as they walked in. During the Christmas season, we handed out candy canes and had our Activities Officer, Andy, wear a Santa costume, to have everyone feeling the Christmas spirit. When students returned to school after the resumption of face-to-face classes, we prepared numerous mini games, posters and played upbeat music with hopes that we could give them a cheerful start. We were very lucky and happy to be able to interact with so many students and be given the chance to brighten up their day.





Singspiration

The YMCA Singspiration Project is an event in which different sections of the wider YMCA Hong Kong community come together to sing worship songs and praises as a way to inspire and serve the community. We were honored to be invited to perform two worship songs "Give thanks" and "Amazing Grace" with the primary school.



The YMCA Singspiration Project was a gratifying experience to join our YMCA community of Hong Kong through singing hymns and praises. The warm and welcoming atmosphere encouraged us to reflect on our God-given talents - we were not there to simply sing but to share our love and praises to God through worship with members of our YMCA family. We were humbled by the privilege of singing with warm-hearted members and especially with our very own Mr Edgar Caole who was the piano accompaniment. It was an experience worth cherishing and a moment we thank our school for enabling us to be a part of.

Zita Puentespina 5K

Singspiration was a fun experience and personally, the singing of hymns and shared laughter between the singers up on the stage brought us closer to the YMCA community. We were welcomed into the venue warmly and we cherished this experience and celebrated the praise of the lord with members of the YMCA community. It was something that we will definitely not forget and will be a cherished memory forever.

Michael Paclibar 5K





Tennis Tournament

The school year of 2020-2021 has definitely been a trying year with its shares of ups and downs. Although our school tennis team did not play any league matches, we are more than honoured to have had the opportunity to play the YMCA tournament held on 31st October 2020. We all attained outstanding results. In the Under 14 Girls category, Tamiranashe Hopewell Shoko came 1st Up Runner. In the Under 16 category, Ruvarashe Lyndah Shoko placed first and Nikitha Rajaram placed third. Our team displayed resilience by working very hard to prepare for this tournament with the very little time we had because of the closure of sporting facilities prior to the event. This year also was the first year we had a boys' tennis team, and it is a huge stepping stone to the growth of our team. We hope to continue to keep lifting the school flag high and to keep growing as a team. Special thanks go to our coaches, Mr Paul Wong and Mr Ringo Ma, and Mr Dion Chen for their support throughout the season.



Chinese Debate

The Chinese Debate Team joined the 2nd Hong Kong Schools Debate Competition on 10th October 2020. Even though most of our team members are new to debating and also new to the online competition style, they still did their very best. Together with our component, St. Mary's Canossian College, we were able to stage a very intense and entertaining debate. All members learnt a lot from the preparation process and the match, including research skills, presentation skills and team work. They are already looking forward to joining more matches after the pandemic!



“這是我第一次參加正式的辯論比賽，它和我想像中的大有不同。原來我們的對手不只是友方同學，還有分秒減少的時間。緊張和焦慮的心情是必然的，但網上作賽少了評判的眼光，加上身在自己學校和有隊友的支持，給予我安慰和鼓勵，令我從中得到不少樂趣。”

李欣霖 4A

“猶記得半年多前參與的辯論比賽，準備的時間並不多，加上是第一次有幸參與，心情特別緊張和不安，在場上更緊張得不知如何反駁。但比賽同時令我獲益良多，不止提升了口才、反應和自信心等，亦從友方同學身上學到不少。接下來我會繼續努力，希望在下一次發揮得更好。”

陳衍希 4K



“這次比賽雖是網上形式進行，但心情仍非常緊張。在台下發問時間之前，我坐在電腦面前，不停在心裏反覆練習我的稿子，害怕不夠時間，幸好最後能順利讀完。我參加了辯論隊之後得著很多，如資料搜集方法、演說能力等等都是加入了辯論隊之後提升了的，當初的決定實在太明智了。”

彭子穎 3C

“這次的比賽讓我留下了深刻的印象，是我在中學生涯裡珍貴的經歷。在比賽時我們一直互相鼓勵，讓我感受到了團隊的溫暖和支持，令我在發言時也添了幾分自信，急才也發揮了出來，說話更流暢，沒有顫抖。在應對對方的質問時，有了隊友的扶持，反駁更精準有力。很开心有這次機會參加辯論，讓自己更進步，也體會到淋漓盡致的團隊精神。”

張可盈 5M

“比賽中我獲益良多，對方辯友的自信突顯了我的不安和緊張，也令我發現了在巨大的壓力之下，我暫時沒有辦法把心中所想流暢地說出來，這是我現時正努力攻克的難關，期望有一天我能和友方表現得一樣好，甚至更好。”

何凱彤 4A

Christian Fellowship

The New Testament word for "fellowship," koinonia, expresses the idea of being together for mutual benefit. The vision for Christian fellowship is to help everyone in the YHKCC community to express love to Jesus and to one another. Christian fellowship encourages good works.



Activities:

1) Zoom Bible Reading

We had lots of fun reading the Bible together. It's very memorable because during quarantine time everyone experienced different levels of stress and difficulties. In those Zoom Bible-reading sessions participants were able to support and encourage each other.

2) Zoom Young Life jamming

We had fun together singing songs and jamming. Even though it was a zoom session, participants had lots of fun together.

3) Young Life Campaigner

This was the regular Bible reading session we hosted in school when we could. The fellowship time we shared is very memorable. The main goal for this campaign group was to help members grow spiritually and serve one another.



F.6 Team Building and Christmas Parade

Having lessons and hanging out with peers used to be part of every student's normal school schedule, but the COVID-19 epidemic made us realise how fortunate we are just to have a morning of gathering at school.

We are grateful that despite all kinds of class and activity suspensions, the school could finally manage to hold the Form 6 Christmas fun day as our Form 6 signature team building activity for this school year.

On the 18th December there was festive cheer in the air. Teachers and Form 6 students returned to school dressed in their finest Christmas outfits. Reindeer ears, Santa hats and Christmas themed face masks were everywhere on the YHKCC campus. Students were welcomed at the school gate by Christmas songs and Mr Joseph's and Ms Lee's finest dance moves. The day began with a short year assembly and everyone was boosted by the mini-games prepared by the Heads of Year and in awe of the flexibility of Andrew Smith 6M and Megan Yau 6K.



Students were placed into groups and given their schedule for the day, a range of fun team building activities to complete over the course of the morning. The adventure began with having the Santa relay race at the running track then competing in the infamous candy cane hockey game. You could find students running around trying to complete the scavenger hunt in the fastest time possible, whilst other students used their wisdom to build the tallest possible Christmas tree. Dodgeballs were flying across the school courts as other students competed for prizes in Christmas musical chairs. Even under the social distancing measures, we could all enjoy a morning of exercise and laughter behind our face masks.

We then had the privilege to be the only year group who could physically enjoy the Christmas service. Dozens of little mice waited for us at the school Hall. We are thankful that our Form 6 students could have this opportunity to serve in the Christmas service and give their donation in the Christmas parade for one final time as they reached their final year of school.



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CHANGE
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GROWTH!

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About Noia

We are a student-run business that aims to empower youth. We designed two sweatshirts, called the Growth sweatshirt and the Change sweatshirt.

The Growth Sweatshirt comes in white with a design of a hand with flowers blooming out of it, representing a helping hand and encourages personal growth. "Empower" is printed in a sleek black font on the right sleeve.

The Change Sweatshirt comes in maroon with a statement design on the back: a sakura branch, symbolising spring. The front is simple, featuring our company name (Noia) printed on the left chest area.

Following the on-going tradition in YHKCC, our students have participated in the Junior Achievement (JA) competition. JA Hong Kong is a non-profit organisation that exists to provide young people with the opportunity to explore their full potential, supporting youth entrepreneurship. This year, a group of 26 students in Form 5 came together to form their own business called Noia.



“

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved in this amazing journey: our teachers-in-charge Ms. Julia Williams and Mr. Mark Basford for their constant support, our customers for purchasing our sweatshirts, our shareholders who believed in our company, the previous JA team's CEO, Sahibjit Singh, who offered us guidance and last but not least, my wonderful team that made all of this possible.

It was truly an eye-opening experience to be able to not only be involved in but to lead a student company. I would like to thank my team for continually believing in me and showing their eager spirit. Admittedly, we encountered our fair share of challenges, but it was these setbacks that made the outcomes all the more rewarding.

Emi Hasegawa 5H

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Being a part of JA was really an amazing experience overall. It's something that I've wanted to do since Form 1, so being able to not only participate in it, but to also be a director, and to be really involved with the creation of our product was a wish come true.

When we started JA, we knew the challenges we would have to face because of Covid-19 and the restrictions, so we were always able to make a plan B. Along with the hard work and ambition of our brilliant CEO, fellow directors and teammates, our business was able to successfully overcome any of the obstacles we faced. The experience taught me the value of hard work and the value of taking the initiative to seize the opportunities I want. It also taught me how important it is to be passionate about the things/work you do, because it's what kept me motivated through the late nights and tough spots.

Anna Joshy 5K

The 2021 JA company has been an amazing and memorable experience. Despite Covid-19 and numerous difficulties, the JA team worked immensely hard to make it a success, and I'm glad that I was a part of it.

Bhuvanesh Daswani 5K



Cheerleading

Although we had to wait for the school to open up, training and recruitment went on as usual. What worried the old members was former members have either graduated last year or decided to spread their wings in other areas. However, the team has grown bigger than before with more junior members eager to join and senior members wanting to explore the cheerleading field.



“

“In the beginning, everyone was pretty demotivated and we lost a few parts of our team due to lack of energy/practices we had but we’re starting to get back on our feet as a team. I’m very proud of the rookies’ developments in training and how the veterans have grown to be very strong examples of the sport.

In a very fortunate event that we did have practice, everyone was excited to learn something and get back to regular practice, we were stopped a couple of times by the ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions but we’ve learnt the spirit of resilience. We now use the time we have to full advantage to become better cheerleaders.

For me, this year’s challenges definitely made me a little frustrated as I wanted to give the newer members a chance to learn and have experiences me and my friends did when we were rookies in the team. I think that covid really showed me and the team that when you’re committed to something, you have to find ways to overcome challenges that you least expect whether if you’re new to the team or in a leadership position but I am very happy that the team is eager to get back on their feet.”

Nicole Lim 4A, Assistant Captain

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Competitions in October

In October, the team joined two online competitions: the 2020 Asian Youth Cheerleading E-Invitational Championships and the 2020 Asian Age-group Cheerleading E-Invitational Championship. Phoneix competed against other Asian nations and bagged 2nd place in the Team Cheer 4-5 Athletes (Ages 12-18) Division for both competitions.

Assistant Captain, Sarah Joy Wallace, and member Diana Tse had the following to say about the changes in the competition.



I had confidence that we would be able to place, however, I did not think it would be up to our own personal standards. Learning the basics of a routine like count sheets and positions was by far the most challenging portion for me. This made me gain a huge amount of respect for seniors that were previously in this position. With this pandemic, it was harder to meet up or stay behind past practice hours to work on other aspects together.

Additionally, being able to film and retake the competition video was odd in the sense that we could watch the video back and retry, but it also made us pick ourselves apart. At some point, we had to build confidence in ourselves and our coaches to let it get sent out. Being able to watch the video led us to see what were things we needed to improve on.

Sarah Joy Wallace 4C, Assistant Captain



"I didn't think we would score that high of a place because we competed against professional cheer teams from other countries. The challenges brought up this year gave us less time to train and improve our skills. We were not able to train and prepare ahead of time due to the pandemic, meaning it was more tiring to do harder stunts.

All that being said, though the competition was done through a recording of our performance, I thought that my members and I still showed our team spirit and excitement during the routine."

Diana Tse 3C, Member

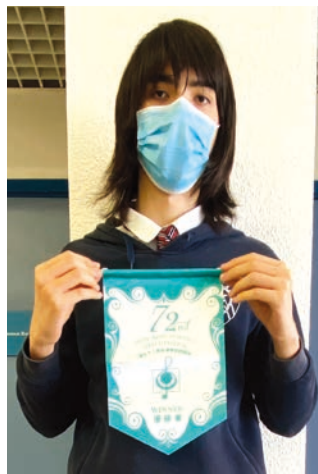


Speech Festival 2020



This changes this year, not dampen students' enthusiasm in joining the competition. The school had a total of 19 entries with students competing for the usual categories such as solo verse speaking and prose reading. However, it was a great surprise that we had five entries for the public speaking category - a category that is quite intimidating, our school usually gets one to two students a year. This proved that our students were not only resilient in the face of COVID-19 but also willing to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

When asked about their experiences, Yan Emil Spooner-Luo of 6K, who was placed 1st in Solo Verse Speaking and 3rd in Public Speaking Solo, had this to say on behalf of the other participants, "While of course, the video format was definitely advantageous in some regards, it is still most certainly a challenge!" While Yan's challenge was mostly on making sure he kept eye contact with the camera, others had different concerns.



Talia Cheung of 2H, though persevering for her own 1st place in her Solo Verse Speaking category, found it hard at first to be motivated. "There was no interaction between myself and the adjudicator and I didn't know how my competitors were doing."

Jasmine Marie Mata of 5A and Zita Marie Puentespina of 5K, our solid duologue partners who were placed 2nd in their category, agreed with Talia's sentiments. The two reflected that while face-to-face competitions are their forte, this year's competition arrangements meant that they had to adapt. "We were no longer going to be screening our competitors and we had to find

our own way to gain our performance adrenaline," Zita shares. Jasmine was equally frustrated. "It felt like a blind competition not knowing whether or not our performance was good enough to make the winning cut."

Another challenge that the competitors might not have foreseen until it was time to record is how awkward it is without an audience. Shruti Kaur of 5Y, who was placed 2nd for Public Speaking Solo and 3rd in Shakespeare Monologue, shared that "it seemed bizarre to speak in a hall where there would be nobody except you!"

Despite the challenges, our students showed that as long as they persevere, they can do anything. Even those who did not gain an official place still received a score in the 80s - well within YHKCC's standards. As a whole, you can count on our students to step up to the mark!



I-Jump Challenge



Earlier this year, the Form 6 students were invited to participate in the I-Jump challenge. This consisted of those who joined doing 20 days of morning “workout” that had 20 push-ups, 20 sit-ups as well as 10 Star Jumps. I joined as I believed that the I-Jump could help benefit an effort to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Although it was somewhat difficult at first- after the first 2-3 days the daily exercise became easier and easier, allowing me to do the activity without much stress to my body as I was getting used to it. After completing the challenge, I can say without a doubt that the I-Jump challenge has definitely helped me pursue a healthier lifestyle.

Andrew Smith 6M



24 Hour Race- Committee

Over a span of 11 months, I took up the role of Director of Business Development for the 24 Hour Race Hong Kong. It was nice to have my friends and fellow schoolmates involved in the organisation of a great event for an important cause- anti-slavery, which I strongly support. During this time, I worked with leaders from different schools to organise a race during the unpredictable times that Covid-19 brought. The drive and persistence to find sponsors and partners was more important than ever and it brought me great pleasure and joy when I signed RedBull HK as the race's first sponsor. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Iris and Pooja, and the experience of working for a charitable and important cause is one I believe we will not forget.

Sahibjit Singh,
Director of Business Development at
the 24 Hour Race Hong Kong

As non-athletes, we felt a strong need to support the cause the 24 Hour Race served. We joined the Business Development Team as the Partnership Manager and the Sponsors Account Manager and the experience was priceless. In a harsh economic climate, finding sponsors and partners for the event became evermore challenging and the joy of signing Kukri is one we won't forget. We gained invaluable insight into slavery and the operations of a Charity. We are so grateful for this experience.

Iris Mathews, Partnership Manager
and Pooja Dayanan, Sponsors
Account Manager



Director of Business Development
Sahibjit Singh 6K

Partnerships Manager
Iris Mathews 6H

Sponsors Account Manager
Pooja Daryanani 6K

Design Manager
Diana Silva 6K

Fundraising Manager
Zoie Pinto 6A

24 Hour Race- School Team

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Throughout the 24 hour race process, I found myself pondering what I was contributing to. It wasn't just the run, but the cause. Whilst raising money, we promoted the cause and raised awareness towards helping victims of trafficking. To be able to come as a group to work towards an essential change required in society was very motivating and kept me going during the run. Running for 3 hours is barely a representation of what victims of trafficking have to run to get to safety and this realisation was eye-opening. I believe eradicating slavery is what we should all aim.

Jose Mena and Raffano Rajasa,
Team Leaders and School Coordinators

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TL and School Coordinator
Raffano Rajasa 6H

TL and School Coordinator
Jose Mena 6H

Runner

Saar Michaelis 6H,
Paolo Mendoza 6H,
Benjamin Laudon 6K,
Andre Invento 5M,
Krisna Korani 5H,
Adrian Cambara 5K



Celeste 2020 Fashion Show

Celeste is a sustainable charity fashion show organised by Polaris, the Student Council 2019-2020. The event is completely organized and run by students at the YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College.

The show aimed to raise universal awareness for sustainable fashion through collections made from recycled materials and old fabrics, all of which created by student designers and generous sustainable sponsors across Hong Kong to help create a new dimension to upcycling. Due to the global pandemic, the show was live-streamed to ensure that we were all practicing social distancing.

As a charity event, the show is supporting and collaborating with Redress, an environmental NGO working to reduce waste in the fashion industry. All of the donations made through the show were given directly to them. We have decided to raise awareness of sustainable fashion

as the fashion industry contributes majorly to world pollution and 8% of greenhouse gas emissions, in which 360 tonnes of fabric waste is dispatched into Hong Kong's landfills every day.

Our expectations differed from reality as our show was beyond a success reaching over 1.5K views! You may watch the whole show on our YouTube channel "Celeste YHKCC".



Les Naturels Saisons: Les Naturels Saisons is produced by senior students from our school, Rashi Gupta 6H, Jasmin Smallu 6H and Bhargavi Amaranathan 6Y. The collection is based on the 4 seasons in which each outfit represents a different season where different colors are used to show the mood of the different seasons. The collection is made out of a variety of sustainable materials, like foam cups, wires, old fabric, tissues, stones, cans and more.



Directed by | Iris Mathews 6H
Photographed by | JC Baradas (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2020)
Models | Iris Mathews 6H, Tasha Chew (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2020), Maximus Mantoua (Discovery College), Charis Li (Lutheran Academy), Andrea Andaya (Lutheran Academy)



Futurism is created by Sofia Paymaster & Shunki Lai (from Renaissance College and King George V School). Futurism exhibits the cross between geometry and fashion. The use of shapes derives from structures and forms and interlocking it with fashion creates various unique and stylish garments for both men and women. Adding elements of sustainable materials such as up-cycling fabric helps to show that what others may call "trash" can actually be turned into quality garments.



Directed by | Savreen Virk 6H

Photographed by |
Tanush Changani 6K

Models | Rosa Cook 6A, Isabella
Meregote (YHKCC Alumni
Class of 2020), Bob Lamb
(Renaissance College),
Sonia Kwon (International
College of Hong Kong)



Flowers & Florals was created by Shreyanshi Agrawal (from King George V School). The collection aims to enhance and show the beauty of the nature surrounding us. Consisted of vivid and bright colours, the collection uses a range of different printed patterns using biodegradable cotton, containing designs of flowers and nature.



Directed by | Pooja Daryanani 6K

Photographed by | Jade Chiu
(Benenden School UK)

Models | Iris Mathews 6H, Jose
Armando 6H, Rafael Lai (King George
V School), Noshin Chowdhury
(Renaissance College)

Celeste 2020 Fashion Show



Redress sponsored the show with two collections from The Redress Design Award. It is the world's largest sustainable fashion design competition that works to educate emerging fashion designers around the world about sustainable design theories and techniques. The selected outfits are from different years of the competition, designed by Marie-Eve Aubry, Sarah Jane Fergusson, Melissa Villevielle, Seerat Viridi, Lowe Tong, Kate Morris, Gönül Yigit and Jesse Lee. Find out more on @getredressed on instagram.



Directed by | Abigail Taylor 6K &
Jose Armando 6H

Photographed by | Michaela Paraiso 6A & Geneve Chu (Kellett School)

Models | Savreen Virk 6A, Jose Armando 6H, Abigail Taylor 6K,
Emilie Grobe (Island School), Jenny Malygina 5K, Akshay
Ramchandani (Renaissance College), Ashlyn Deplaedt (Delia
School of Canada), Venus Yeung (PLK Choi Kai Yau School)



Astra
TAILORING

Another one of our generous clothing sponsors is Astra Tailoring. They embody sustainable techniques of zero-waste, up-cycling and the use of dead stock fabrics to create their suits. They create a twist to everyday suits by uniquely reflecting different personalities into their designs whilst aiming to challenge the inefficiencies of disposable fashion. Find out more on @astratailoring.

Directed by | Sahibjit Singh 6K

Photographed by

Hying Gan (Chinese International School)

Models | Andy Cheung 5H, Arthur Pearson 6M, Akshay Ramchandani (Renaissance College), Rafael Lai (King George V School), Anders Lam (King George V School), Arnold Tsang (King George V School)



Celeste 2020 Fashion Show

“This was a very exciting project to take part in, considering that it was the first one from our school. Although it's difficult due to the coronavirus restrictions and the school suspension, the final product of the show exceeded my expectations. As a model, I was only required to attend a fitting for the designs and the final day when we filmed the videos. The Celeste Team had a very creative idea for the show and executed it perfectly! I am so grateful to be a part of this show and to work with the Celeste Team in doing something positive for society.”

Abigail Taylor 6K (Model Management Team and Model)

“Since it was our first time designing clothes, I think it was a very difficult experience but along the way it was really fun!”

Rashi Gupta 6H (Student Designer of Les Naturels Saisons)

“I'd say overall Celeste has handled the pandemic very well. They've always given other designers and me updates on how the show will be working and the different options we can opt for on how they are handling the situation.”

Shreyanshi Agarwal (Student Designer of Flowers & Florals)

“Overall in my opinion, Celeste was extremely enjoyable and was truly an eye opener, especially as a designer. We had to be innovative on how to use various forms of sustainable mediums to create our pieces.”

Sofia Paymaster and Shunki Lai (Student Designers of Futurism)

Celeste Team:

Head Organisers | Tanush Changani 6K and Iris Mathews 6H

Deputy Head Organisers | Andrew Smith 6M, Benaila Fernandes 6A, Tanya Asnani 6H

Production Team | Andrew Khemchandani 6A (Head), Brian Lee 6H (Head), Rusheel Melwani 6M, Sahibjit Singh 6K, Benjamin Laudon 6K, Shaira Zaman (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2020)

Media & Entertainment Team | Megan Abella 6H (Head), Michaela Paraiso 6A, Savreen Virk 6A, Pooja Daryanani 6K, Khush Parwani 6K, Julia Innocenti 6K

Finance Team | Aryan Pendse 6H (Head), Saar Michaelis 6H, Ryan Atwal 6H, Gerard Poon 6H

Model Management Team | Savreen Virk 6A, Jose Armando 6H, Abigail Taylor 6K

Design & Graphics Team | Erica Tang 6K (Head), Ester Liu 6M, Megan Carter 6A, Diana Silva 6K, Micah Suen 6K, Angela Xue 6K

Photographers | Michaela Paraiso 6A, Sahibjit Singh 6K, JC Baradas (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2020), Shakira Burton (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2019), Geneve Chu (Kellett School), Hying Gan (Chinese International School), Jade Chiu (Benenden School UK)

Videographers | Michaela Paraiso 6A, JC Baradas (YHKCC Alumni Class of 2020), Nathan John (Renaissance College), Jade Chiu (Benenden School UK)

Editors | Megan Abella 6H, Tanush Changani 6K, Megan Yau 6K

Music Contest

The theme of this year's Music Contest was 'Ignite your Music Dream'. The categories of the competition were vocal solo, vocal group, instrumental and band. The preliminary rounds were privately completed in November 2020 and judged by the Music Department staff. The semi-finals were held on 23rd January (Saturday) with a limited number of audience being allowed to support their friends who competed. The final will be held in late June in the School Hall.

Congratulations to all contestants for your persistent effort to give your best in the performances. Good luck for the finalists! There will be position awards judged by the Music Department staff and a professional musician as guest adjudicator. All students will also vote for their favourite contestant per category for the Audience Choice Award.

We would like to thank in advance all participants, helpers and staff for helping to make this annual event a success.



Finalists: Vocal Solo

Amanat-Anwar 1C, Tirel Ip 2H, Emma Humphrey 3M,
Andra Manuel 5M, Ayusha Dhakal 5K, Joshua Dionisio 5K,
Michael Paclibar 5K, Athena Guillar 6Y,
Benjamin Laudon 6K

Finalists: Vocal Group

VOX | Larkin Chan 5H, Megan Carter 6A, Gerard Poon 6H,
Micah Suen 6K
Zoie | Zoie Montgomery-Pinto 6A, Zoie Santos 6K

Finalists: Instrumental

Viola | Bernice Wong 1Y, Trumpet | Taffy Ng 1A,
Piano | Circle Au 2M, Piano | Matthew Wong 3A,
Piano | Elif Ayhan 6K

Finalists: Band

Ultraviolet | Shikha 6Y, Pearl Lam 6M, Elisha Andres 6C,
Zoe Jantschar 6A
The Boardwalk | Alexander Dayrit 5A,
Bayanin Riki Ishibashi 5A,
Yuichiro Minamikawa 5A



Music Society

Beat Club

Beat Club was formed in December 2011 by Edgar Caole. It is a percussion group and it consists of different ensembles such as Djembe, Drumline, Drum Set Drummers and Beatboxers. It gives the students a venue to express their talents in Music through Drums and Percussions. The Beat Club performs in all Music Department and School events and outside invitations as well.

Due to the Pandemic we had only one event/performance this year called the ECA Exploration Day For New Form 1s. Also we did four straight days of rehearsals for the Disney and WonderFest Performances but unfortunately they were cancelled due to the Pandemic as well. However, the students and I enjoyed the long rehearsals and bonding time together and we appreciate the support of Ms Chow, Mr Chen and all the Parents.

Mr Edgar Caole, Teacher-in-charge

BEAT CLUB Members List:

Chairperson | Richie Fong 4Y

Co-vice Chairperson | Annabelle Lam 3Y,
Prudence Ng 3Y,
Ernest Chan 2C

Secretary | Rainbow Lee 2M

Advisor | Marcus Ng 6C

Members | Myles Chan 1C, Clayton Cheung 1K,
Amitai Abouhatsira 1K,
Omar Perks 1K, Hellen Tang 1K,
Yoyo Tang 2Y, Daisy Lo 2M,
John Wu 2M, Kyle Ho 2A,
Ivan Leung 2K, Lucas Whitman 4K



With the pandemic going on for the entire year, I felt like I wasn't making any progress in improving myself and that I wasn't doing enough. However, the little time I spent with Beat Club this year was very valuable to me and made me appreciate the people in my life more. In our time together I felt that I was able to learn to collaborate better with other members and to enjoy the excitement of performing again and having a purpose, even just through our rehearsals.

It has been uplifting to play in Beat club for the third year in a row and I hope that others will come to enjoy the experience just as much as I have.

Annabelle Lam 3Y, Co-vice Chairperson

I have been in the beat club for two years, and it was an enjoyable experience. When I first joined, I didn't know anything about percussion music or playing any percussion instrument, so it was nerve-racking. But after several Wednesday meetings, practice sessions, and the help of Mr. Edgar, I began to meet a lot of new people and started to enjoy playing the djembe.

Due to covid 19, we didn't participate in many activities this year compared to last year. However, we still had some practice sessions and rehearsals before school suspension, and it was a great experience. The best thing about beat club rehearsals is that I can enjoy playing the Djembe with other members together. When we perform, each member has to work together and count carefully to the beat to play on time, so it is really fun to play the djembe while counting and dancing to the songs' rhythm. Everyone was enthusiastic and having fun playing different beats together while listening to the wonderful music performed by Mr. Edgar. It was slightly unfortunate that we didn't get to perform this year, but it was a fun and exciting experience at the end of the day.

Prudence Ng 3Y, Co-vice Chairperson



Choir

The Choir was coached by a new external conductor, Mr Lau and supported by our staff. We started the year with some physical rehearsals, followed by online ones to keep the learning going. A variety of song genres were explored. Despite many events being cancelled, an interesting project we were involved in was producing a video by collaging individual singing clips. Our members showed great effort in practising and recording their singing part at home with the given backing track. After the hard work, they were happy to watch it featured as part of the YMCA of HK Virtual Christmas Carolling online and broadcasted at the hotel.

We are looking forward to more performances when the pandemic is over. If you enjoy singing and would like to learn singing techniques, do join us!

Ms Lorraine Chow, Teacher-in-charge

Choir Committee

Teacher-in-charge | Ms Lorraine Chow,
Mr Dennis Lau (external conductor)

Teacher involved | Mr Jocelyn Gagnon

Chairperson | Nikitha Rajaram 3H

Members

Misa Alves 1Y, Charlotte Lee 1Y, Tia Shah 1Y, Anton Yup 1Y, Lucia Roday 1M, Pansy Wu 1M, Amanat-Anwar 1C, Charlotte Goldsmith 1C, Ronnie Ngai 1C, Yashvi 1C, Johanna Briones 1K, Yanni Leung 1K, Eilis Wong 1K, Shirleen Lam 2H, Hosanna Lee 2H, Nikitha Rajaram 3H, Haidy Kwan 4A, Winni Wong 5H (piano accompanist)



It has been a pleasure to learn new songs and especially great to have physical rehearsals on Saturdays in the first semester. It also is a new experience for me to develop my leadership skills in being the chairman.

I hope to sing as a team on stage again like we used to in external and school performances when the pandemic is over. On behalf of all choir members, I am very thankful to Ms Chow, our choir conductor Mr Lau and our principal Mr Chen for giving us opportunities to showcase our talents.

Nikitha Rajaram 3H, Chairperson

Music Society

Orchestra

Music rehearsals under the pandemic have been challenging, with doubts whether events would be cancelled or whether ECAs would be allowed after school. We are grateful to have been able to arrange several physical rehearsals on Saturdays in Semester 1. There were also some online sectionals.

We had a fruitful time learning some Christmas and pop repertoire. We also edited a video to be featured as part of the YMCA of HK Virtual Christmas Carolling. During the period without rehearsals, the bonding and friendship among members continued to grow. Sometimes, intriguing music videos were shared in the Hangout group or we were simply expressing our feelings. We are looking forward to our future rehearsals.

If you would like to meet other like-minded musicians, join our warm and friendly family!

Ms Lorraine Chow, Teacher-in-charge

Orchestra Committee

Teacher-in-charge | Ms Lorraine Chow

Teachers involved | Mr Edgar Caole,
Mr Mark Basford

Co-chairperson | Rita Cheung 5M, Elif Ayhan 6K

Co-vice-chairperson | Winni Wong 5H, Matthew Wong 3A

Members

Bernice Wong 1Y, Taffy Ng 1A, Circle Au 2M, Joshua Nicholas Chan 2M, Mark Lam 2M, Tirel Ip 2H, Micah Pang 3C, Benjamin Cheung 3C, Matthew Wong 3A, Nick Choi 3K, Ian Yu 4Y, Ken Mizoguchi 4M, Rita Cheung 5M, Winni Wong 5H, Elif Ayhan 6K

“

What I enjoyed in the rehearsals was playing music with others and helping the new members. The online rehearsals was also a new experience and good try! I hope to have socials like in the past and group photo-taking when we meet again.

Rita Cheung 5M, Co-chairman

Although there had been limited time in rehearsals, I treasured every moment when my teammates were around, such as playing music and chatting happily. If physical meetings are resumed, I would want to talk about our experiences during Covid and play music together since I missed every one of them.

Elif Ayhan 6K, Co-chairman

”



Community Services



The pandemic has brought about much distress to the whole world. Despite the constant school closures and ever-changing plans due to uncertainties around us, there is one thing we know for certain - our community needs compassion and love more than ever at this hour.

YHKCC Community Service Club upholds our core values of building a community that cares and serving one another in love and translates them into action supporting the Tung Chung community.

Here are a few events that we were able to participate in - just to spread a little kindness and joy in times of need.



Community Services

The ABWE Flag Day

On 24th October, students of the Community Service Club joined a flag selling activity organized by the Hong Kong Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) Social Services.

Students gathered at the Tung Chung MTR station in the early morning and were passionate to participate in the flag selling activity. They were all enthusiastic to gain support and donations from the general public and achieved great satisfaction from delivering community service, contributing valuably to our society. Clearly, they showed that tiny work can make a big difference.



Pickleball Class with the elderly

On 4th July, the YHKCC - OIWA Elder Academy organized a pickleball class for the elderly at the campus. The pickleball coach, Mr. Lee together with our students from the Community Service Club, introduced and demonstrated pickleball game to the elderly and

played with them in the fantastic weekend morning. All the buddies enjoyed the interactive game and actively participated in the practice. The sport class provided a good platform to create a strong bond between the youth and the elderly in the community. The YHKCC - OIWA Elder Academy will continue to run a variety of activities for the elderly to sustain life-long learning and inter-generational harmony.



Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City

The COVID-19 pandemic has been around for a year and we are blessed to have a safe and healthy environment in school and around us. To appreciate the determination and endeavour of the frontline staff in the community to fight against the COVID-19, our school worked hand in hand with Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City to give out surgery face masks and soup bags to the security guards of Mun Tung Estate on 19th January 2021.



The members of the Community Service Club and teacher-in-charge, Mr. Alchian Au and Susanna Yiu, together with our Principal, Mr. Dion Chen visited the main office of Mun Tung Estate as well as the security post of each building to send our blessings and gifts to each security guard.

The YHKCC-OIWA Elder Academy Virtual Cooking Class

The YHKCC-OIWA Elder Academy held a virtual cooking class on 20th February 2021.

The cooking class took place in the YHKCC Home Economics room. Our students prepared dishes together with the elderly from the OIWA Elder Academy, showing great cooperation and fantastic cooking skills. The cooking class was recorded and shared at the YHKCC-OIWA YouTube channel.

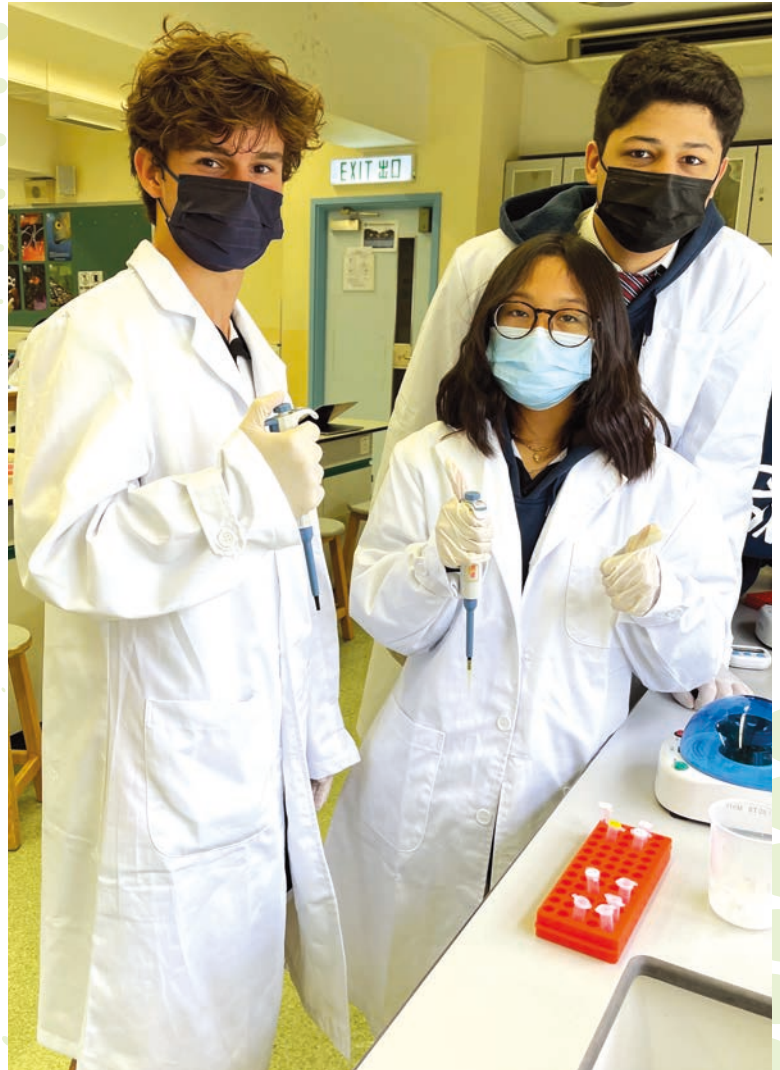
The cooking class provided a great opportunity for the elderly to cook with the younger generation and share their cooking experiences. It was also a good driving force for the elderly to create new dishes and do more cooking at home during the pandemic.



Science Activities - BioTech

Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) Programme

This year, we are very fortunate to have Amgen Foundation and Chinese University of Hong Kong to sponsor our senior form Biology students to participate in Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) Programme in our school Biology Lab. We believe that innovative STEM education programs will maximize our students' learning of knowledge and skills that can be applied to relevant biomedical fields.



Globally, the program has impacted nearly 850,000 students to date. The Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) enables students to gain hands-on experience with many of the same techniques that biotechnology researchers use to produce cutting-edge human therapeutics including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for diagnostic purposes, DNA gel electrophoresis for analytic purposes, and Recombinant DNA technology for producing the next generation of medicine.

We incorporated the ABE program into our school-based HKDSE and GCE Biology curriculum with an aim to engage our students in an exciting educational experience. Through this innovative science education program, our students are introduced with the importance of scientific discovery through a molecular biology learning experience. This will help our students to connect core science concepts to real-world applications.

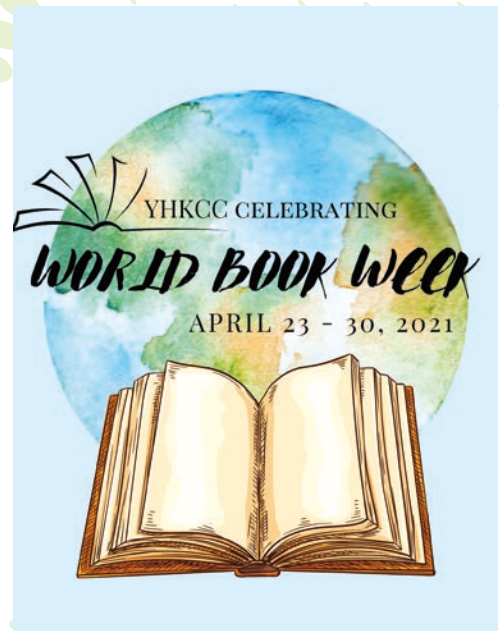


World Book Week

On Thursday 23rd April, we celebrated World Book Day 2021. We are very grateful to be back at school and to have the freedom to enjoy and share so many different books and stories, especially at a time when connecting with others feels more important than ever. Over 100 different countries across the world celebrate World Book Day every year and YHKCC is proud to play our part!

This year, in a special hybrid version of this event, World Book Week kicked off with a Book Character Dress Up Competition which where students and staff thoroughly enjoyed! We then had two other online activities - the "BookstoEat competition" and "Merge Life with Cover" competition where students showed off their cooking skills and as well as also their photography skills!

Thank you to all who have participated in making this such a fruitful and enjoyable event!



◆ **Book Title:** Matilda
Author: Roald Dahl

◆ **Why it inspired us:** We chose this dish because Matilda was one of our favourite books as kids. There is an important event in the book where Bruce Bogtrotter was forced to eat the chocolate cake. This book talks about how good triumphs over evil.

◆ **Brief Summary:** We baked a chocolate cake. It has three layers and it is frosted with chocolate fudge. It is iced very untidily as it states in the book.



LAIBA MINHAJ
2A 19

SAMAH FIRDAUS
2K 20



Books2Eat Competition

During our social distancing time at home, we were sure that many students and their families have become experts in cooking and baking amazing dishes.

Taking this as an opportunity, we invited all home bakers and home cooks to submit entries to our Books2Eat Competition. All that was required was to create a dish that represented their chosen book. Participants chose creating a dish mentioned in the book or recreating a book cover!

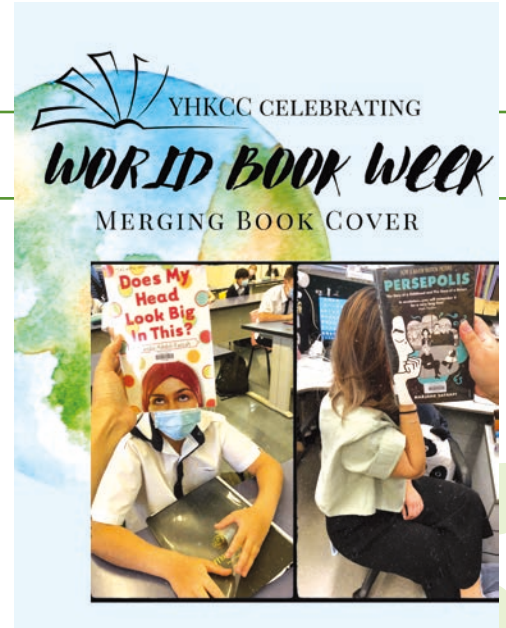
Here are some entries from our creative student-chefs!

World Book Week

Merge Life with Cover Competition

Not a confident Masterchef? That's okay too. The second activity was a creative photography competition where we fuses YOURSELF merged as part of a book cover! We called this the "Merge Life with Cover" Competition!

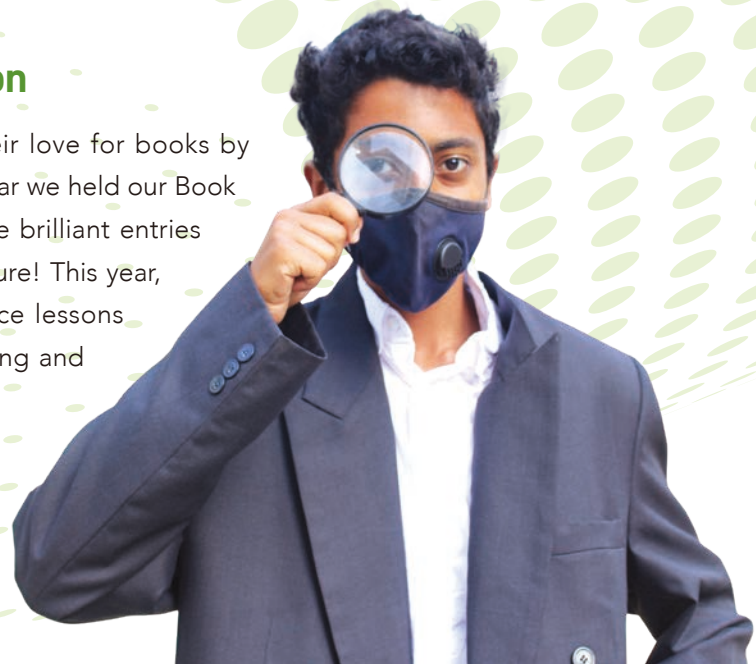
We certainly received some very creative and funny entries! Hope you all had fun creating these!



Book Character Dress Up Competition

Every year, readers all across the world show off their love for books by dressing up as one of their favourite characters. Last year we held our Book Character Dress Up Competition online and got some brilliant entries from some Childhood classics and Villains from Literature! This year, we are very grateful to have had resumed face-to-face lessons and everyone was able to join in the fun day of learning and teaching dressed up as their favourite book characters!

To promote house and department spirit, we have asked students to dress up according to their houses' selected author/series while teachers were encouraged to dress in different sub-genres of fiction! Here are some of our amazing entries!





Author / Book Series

Chambers Houses
Jane Austen / Percy Jackson

Williams Houses
J.K. Rowling / Sherlock Holmes

Taylor Houses
Shakespeare / Mary Shelley /
Hunger Games

Morrison Houses
Roald Dahl / Chronicles of Narnia

World Book Week

Sub-Genre of Fiction/Non-Fiction

Business | Historical Fiction
Chinese and Chinese History | Detective & Mystery
Creative Arts | Science Fiction
English | Adventure
Humanities | Myths & Fantasy

Liberal Studies | Horror
Mathematics & ICT | Classics
Modern Foreign Languages | Children's Fiction
Science | Young Adult Fiction
Physical Education | Biography



Graduation Ceremony

YHKCC's Annual Graduation Ceremony for Form 6 students was held on the 19th June. We were very honoured to have Mr Dion Chen the Principal, and SMC members as the platform party.

It was a particularly touching and memorable Graduation Ceremony to both graduates and Mr Chen because it was the last time that Mr. Chen, as the YHKCC principal, was to deliver his speech to the graduates. He recalled the fascinating moments witnessing students' great achievements and successes in different school events and competitions as well as his unforgettable memories of interacting, nurturing and supporting graduates over the past six years. He added



that it's time for he and the graduates to write a new page in their history in another place with new challenges and opportunities to become better and stronger people. He believed that his efforts in helping students develop their characters based on the YHKCC's five core values would enable them to build a better community and world with love and care. He ended his speech by wishing all graduates all the best and a bright prospect and hoping that they would gather together in the YHKCC again in the future.



The three students representatives in their vote of thanks wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Mr Chen, teachers, all supporting staff, parents and their classmates for their endless support, patience and care.

All graduates were happy to celebrate their graduation with their teachers, families and parents. Besides the graduates and teachers, the ceremony was attended by more than 300 parents and friends.

Farewell to Mr Dion Chen



Mr Dion Chen: Our Fantastic Principal

Mr Chen, gives us a rollercoaster ride as he shares his exclusive life journey with us that encompasses his heartfelt childhood memories and strenuous times during his career.

By Shruti Kaur, Ruvarashe Shoko and Abeer Sayad



Our much beloved principal of 17 years, Mr Dion Chen, will sadly be resigning in his role as principal at YHKCC. As Mr Chen sips a glass of orange juice, we're taken through his journey virtually, as he shares his various memories and experiences.

Brought up as a simple, local boy, Mr Chen studied at the Victoria Secondary School. He reminisced how since a young age, he liked challenging himself! "I was already in the Boy's Scouts since Form 1. I liked it because there were so many things we could learn and so many services we could do."

Mr Chen also takes us through his unpredictable journey of becoming the renowned principal of YHKCC. The existing YHKCC, encompassing the fruitful body, mind and soul of

each unique individual, was a far fetched vision, given the situation Mr Chen encountered as he embarked on his journey of being a principal.





"And of course, after working for 1 or 2 years with the leadership team and other teachers, bit by bit we shaped our direction and also our vision so that's why now we have very clear core values and the school mission." The growth of the school as a whole has been an inspiring process. Mr Chen added that there have been large improvements in all aspects of school life, from sports, to the arts, to academics. "Now, I can truly call YHKCC a school", which was very different from what it was like 17 years ago.

Moving forward, Mr Dion Chen envisions the continual development of student values and character traits, because having good academic standards only does not equate to the successful formation of the whole person. With tears in his eyes and a heavy heart, our principal states that he hopes all students in YHKCC will remember the values they learned in our school and grow as respectable, caring members of society as they progress through life.

Our principal may sometimes come across as harsh or strict, but this is truly for the betterment of others. Despite his strict

demeanor, we can all tell that he harbours a sweet and caring personality. "...that's why you see that I can be quite harsh to students, I'm sure they have that kind of feeling. Of course academically, I believe that we are also getting better and better. Good academic results do not represent that you are a great person, but I think not just in Hong Kong but in other parts of the world, we can lay this strong foundation in terms of character as well as academic excellence."

Remember that you all represent a casting iron and that you need to keep hammering yourself before you become perfect steel.

"Don't be upset or feel too overwhelmed by your teachers! Although the process is quite daunting, the result will be fruitful! Just remember that your teachers are always behind you, supporting you through your obstacles and hurdles" he said tearfully.

Our dear principal Mr Dion Chen does have an often unseen side that can gather quite a few laughs. Several teachers have shared with us about Mr Chen's habit of cracking quirky and unconventional jokes. Teachers believe his jokes are quite unusual, yet warming to the heart. He had once looked forward

to singing 'It's A Small World' during YHKCC's International Fun Fair, but unfortunately his wish was never fulfilled, perhaps to everyone's loss.

It also comes as a shock to many teachers that Mr Dion Chen, apart from his excellent work as a principal, is also a brilliant baker! He can bake different dishes like Hong Kong egg tarts, pineapple buns, and traditional birthday cakes like a true professional, which is really something to be applauded. He is also into rare sports like water polo, which is quite unexpected for sure!

As Mr Chen looks optimistically ahead to his future, he has shared that before beginning his career, he worked part-time in a bakery. Therefore, in the upcoming 20 years, he plans to open up a bakery and he is certainly looking forward to his future endeavours!

We will greatly miss you, sir!



Farewell to Mr Dion Chen

Mr Dion Chen is loved by many students, teachers and parents. Many express their appreciation for him, feeling grateful when he stands outside the school gates almost every morning at 7am. He is described by all as being very welcoming and caring, always showing kind actions and sharing words of thoughtfulness. Mr Chen often checks up and converses with his colleagues and students, asking them how their day went, if they need any help, and so on. This part of Mr Chen really warms the hearts of those who know him.

From teachers & administrative staff

Time flies! I can't imagine we have known each other for 17 years at the YHKCC! Amazingly, we still look the same!

I am truly grateful for what God has given me, not only the opportunity to work in this school, but also for the people around me. You are definitely one of the key people that I am grateful for. With God's blessing we were able to go through various challenges and the up and down moments of the school. We were able to work closely together to provide an all-round education for our students. Your diligence and commitment to the YHKCC has always motivated me to strive for improvement and excellence.

Your heart for the YHKCC is irreplaceable. Though you are leaving us, you will always be part of our YHKCC family! May God continue to lead you and be with you. May the Holy Spirit guide you and give you wisdom, courage and strength to deal with challenges lying ahead! God bless you and your family!

Love,
Your colleague, friend, younger
sister Diana

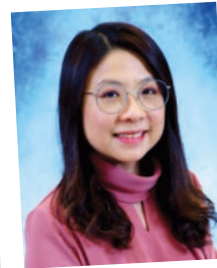
Ms Diana Lo



Miss you

時光荏苒，如果不是您有新的事業發展，要離我們而去，我也沒有發現我們已經共事了十六年！在這段不長也不短的日子中，您既是我的上司、同事、引導者，也是我的隊友、伙伴、好朋友。其間所給我的許多的支持、鼓勵和幫助，還有說不盡的故事、回憶、甘苦，點點滴滴，全在心頭！大恩不言謝！真情不用剖！盼您未來順利愉快！在祝福您有美好的新一頁之餘，也相信您和港青基信書院的緣份和牽絆還深，您將會以不同的形式與我同在！

利愉快！在祝福您有美好的新一頁之餘，也相信您和港青基信書院的緣份和牽絆還深，您將會以不同的形式與我同在！



Thank you

Ms Kit Ng

One thing that we can all hope to achieve in life, is to leave a place better than when you found it. You can walk away from YHKCC safe in the knowledge that it is a stronger and more caring community thanks to the outstanding contribution that you have made.

All the best for the future; you will always hold a special place at the heart of this school.

Mr Peter Molan



All the best



Good luck

I love how Dion does his best to take care of everyone's needs. I remember one day, he stopped by my desk to tell me that he was going in for a meeting with the SMC. "How old are your kids? Will three of them be studying here at the same time? I can ask for the quota to be changed from two to three." I was very touched that he would think about this. It's those little signs of thoughtfulness that makes Dion such a great principal!

Mrs Lisa Baczkowski

Dion, it has been an honour to work for you this past four years. From the first day I met you in my London interview you have been nothing but kind and supportive. No matter how busy you are, you have always made time to meet with me during the various challenges I faced. I will always remember your calm and inspiring leadership. You made YHKCC into a community and a family where every student and member of staff feels valued. I will miss you and I wish you the best of luck in your new school - they are very lucky to have you.



Best wishes

Ms Sarah King



Best of luck

Heartfelt gratitude to your great support and thoughtful guidance over the years. You are always the inspiration and driving force for me to move on. Much appreciated for the trust and autonomy given, building up my confidence to overcome challenges and make impossible possible.

Your time in the YHKCC has been a true gift and I am blessed to be one of the team members. Thank you for your positive vibes and seeing the good in people. Best of luck for your new adventure!

Ms Amanda Shek

Mr Chen is my first "boss" after my graduation from university haha ^^ . I feel grateful to be trusted, inspired and appreciated by such a considerate leader. Being impressed by Mr CHEN standing in front of the school entrance to greet our students at early 7 almost every day, I feel education is not just conveying knowledge, but more of a way to be a good model.

It has been my great honour to work with Mr CHEN in the past 3 years of my career. Here I wish Mr CHEN a brighter future and more fruitful life in the future.

江湖再見



Goodbye

Ms Amy Chen

Farewell to Mr Dion Chen

From teachers & administrative staff

It is my honor to be one of the staff members in YHKCC to serve students, teachers and parents for more than 10 years. Thanks to your guidance and leadership, I have greatly uplifted my administrative skill in school.



Miss you

I pray that God bless you and your family today and always. May He grant you more strength and wisdom. May He protect you and uphold your undertakings wherever you are.

Ms Bonnie Shing

I feel so sad when hearing you will be leaving us in the first place. Thanks for leading our School and being so supportive to our Department all these years. Without you, I am sure we cannot be where we are. Here, I wish you all the best in your new school. Hope we can have a chance to work together in the future. Take good care!

Mr Jonathan Yip



Thank you



All the best

每天早上，校門前總會出現一道清秀的身影，穿著筆挺的西裝，與學生們親切地互道早安。偶爾會向衣領不整齊的同學招手，然後一邊聊天一邊為他整理。

今年開學，他還帶着新寵物——烏龜大師（Master Oogway）一起「迎賓」，這畫面又滑稽又溫馨。除了學生，他還向所有路過的街坊噓寒問暖。

沒錯！這道風雨不改，每天一早就站在校門前的身影，就是我們敬業樂業、身體力行、和藹可親的陳迪安校長。

一聲簡單的問題，見微知著，這份對師生的關懷之情，如同清晨的曙光、冬天的暖陽，溫暖了每一位港青基信學子的心。

Ms Sarah Sze

Messages from students & alumni



Good luck

How lucky are we, to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

Deepreet kaur 1M



Best wishes

Dear Mr Chen, thank you for taking care of our school. I am so grateful that you are our principal even though we don't have a chance to talk too much. I love it when you would stand at the school gate and greet everyone. You also have a very good sense of humour that makes the school happier. I am so grateful that you are such a hardworking person. Thank you for taking care of students and our school. You make many people smile and laugh. The community you have formed has become such a wonderful place and I don't regret a single bit for applying and going to YMCA. I hope the next school you will be going to is a wonderful place. We will all miss you and will always remember you.

Helene Karuna Krueger 1A

I was in the YMCA primary school, SWCS, and when I was in year 4-5, we were facing a period without a principal. Our previous principal had left the school, and we were getting many substitutes. Then, Mr Chen came to our school. He volunteered as a substitute, and honestly, he was the best substitute we had before Mr Moore came. Although he worked at a secondary school, he still sacrificed his time and put so much effort into helping our school..



Best of luck

When I was in Year 5, I took the interviews. YHKCC was the only school I had in mind, I worked my hardest in the interviews. The reason was no other than Mr Chen. He came to our school as a substitute principal, and through that did I learn about YHKCC and how good of a school it was. I came to his talks and the admission briefings. I really saw how good this school was because of him.

I'm saddened that Mr Chen will be leaving after 17 years, and I wish him good luck for the journey ahead of him. Thank you for inspiring me to work to the best of my ability!

Edina Verity Thomas 1C

Farewell to Mr Dion Chen

Messages from students & alumni

Having Mr. Dion Chen as the principal of YHKCC in my first two years of secondary is an honour. From your friendly good mornings in the morning to your inspirational stories in assemblies, you always find a way to light up the atmosphere. You have impacted my life in the YHKCC by making it everything that the five core values stand for, remarkably building a community that cares. The YHKCC has a very caring yet supportive atmosphere, given the fact that our charming school has a sense of belonging and connectedness amongst students and teachers, allowing pupils to learn with an optimistic attitude. Your inspirational stories help shape us into much more responsible yet more intelligent young men and women. Your cheerful smile and wisdom will forever be embedded in our minds. In the long run, Mr. Chen, you are an extraordinary principal who has done a lot for our school and has shaped it into what it is today, an incredible, bright and prominent school. You have not only changed my perspectives of the world as a person but also as a student. I wish you tremendous luck in your bright future. Stay brilliant and noble!

Haleema Hashim Munawar 2C

Being a part of a YHKCC community, I will humbly miss your presence as a principal including your valuable speeches during the assemblies. To be honest, I can proudly say that you were a great inspiration for us in instilling the core values into our hearts and a perfect example of a role model. As a student, I have learnt a lot from you sir and we all as a student body wish you all the best for your upcoming future endeavors. We hope we get to meet you soon in the near future! (I sincerely hope that you could attend our graduation ceremony next year sir, we will really miss you a lot!) Thank you for everything you have done for us.

Best wishes,

Shruti Kaur 5Y



Goodbye



Thank you

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you by saying "thank you" a million times. It's been five years since the first day of school that I met my principal. Everyday, every morning, you stand at the school gate, right under the sun, welcoming YHKCC students and waving at us. I don't know how much you sweat each day in the morning, but I am pretty sure that it must be a very challenging task, especially in this hot weather.

You have made YHKCC such a beautiful school just like yourself. You have made YHKCC so successful and talented. You have made a great difference in the lives of YHKCC teachers, staff, and students. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Andy Cheung Kam To 5H



Miss you



All the best

I can still vividly remember the day I first met Mr. Dion Chen in his office before I got into this school. Along with clueless freshly graduated students from primary, we were interviewed as a group and I could immediately tell the person we were talking to is a notable and venerable man. He was very calm, welcoming and explained the journey of becoming secondary students with passion. His mannerisms never ceased over the years I've been in this school, and he is the type of person that every student would not be afraid to approach for advice, may it be academics or something personal. Additionally, he is someone with knowledge who uses words with restraint to help the student leaders, teaching staff and the rest of the school to create a more cohesive and effective educational setting for everyone. He has immensely helped the school retain its moral values by modeling it to the students everyday, and enhanced our learning environment by taking a notice towards the wellbeing of every individual in this school.

Vivianee Alabata 5C



Good luck

Mr. Dion Chan was a very cheerful, very friendly, and understanding principal, he has always been an inspiration to many students and is very outgoing with all the students in YMCA. He has personally encouraged me to work and study hard at YMCA. One of my most memorable memories is that in form 5 he had noticed me sitting alone during the lunch period and he came towards and talked to me and shared some of his personal life stories with me to cheer me up. This has given me a lot of dedication to study hard and to always try my best in everything.

Saif Deen Class of 2018



Best wishes

Though I have never personally gotten to know Mr. Dion Chen, I remember how he would always take time out of his day to greet me every time I was in the SLC, studying. Despite his outwardly strict demeanor (yet sweetness), I don't think the Class of 2019 would ever forget his 'HULALA' singing and dancing during our graduation ceremony. That memory has been engraved onto my mind and it'll take CENTURIES for me to forget our 'strict' principal acting goofy.

Yusuf Mohideen Class of 2019

What's New?

Newly introduced facilities and events this year in the YHKCC

Whole School Reading Lessons

We have introduced a new initiative to promote reading and literacy on a whole-school level this year - a timetabled Reading Period! This has offered all students from F1-4 dedicated time to read for leisure and to actively discover and explore the variety of books, genres, and authors our school library and reading rooms have to offer. Students will not be tasked with producing reading reports, giving presentations or answering text-related questions or quizzes, but will be encouraged to read in order to learn, discover and explore more about the world we share. In addition, students have been taught how to ask questions about what they and others are reading, and given practical guidance in the art of keeping a reading journal to document what they have read and how it has helped them with other areas of their learning and life.



This routine space in their timetable has provided students with the time and opportunity to read, but also allowed them to actively take advantage of book recommendations, shared and group reading sessions, literature circles and inquiry-based questions for learning. For avid readers, this has been an opportunity to use their reading to answer thematic questions, read around the curriculum, discover new titles and authors, and work with their peers to make sense of what they have read. For non-readers, this has been a safe space and time for them to discover what different books have to offer and learn how they can use books to aid their learning and understanding of different topic areas.

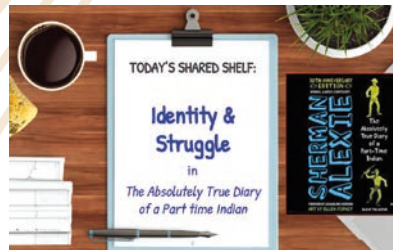


WE AIM TO

1. Give students experiences with many different and diverse texts
2. Empower students to select their own reading materials
3. Afford students the time to read
4. Help students to connect skills and strategies to interesting contexts
5. Build resilience in literacy learners
6. Engage students in pleasurable reading across the curriculum
7. Make reading aloud and shared reading acceptable and respectable to older students
8. Guide students to solve authentic problems through reading, book talks, different interpretations, and a variety of projects
9. Promote leisure reading at home and encourage parents and students to read together
10. Use reading journals to help students to pause and reflect, ask questions, and connect ideas based on their reading

Shared Shelf

Teacher-led literacy hotspot, introducing new authors and titles, sharing personal recommendations and reading experiences, spotlighting different apps and podcasts, and exploring latest book-related news stories.



Freed to Read

Students spend this time independently reading the books they have chosen. They are encouraged to find a comfortable position to read and to actively avoid distractions. During this time they are free to browse the library and select new books to checkout. Intervention groups for struggling readers will take place during this time.

Book Buzz

Students break into literature circles to share/reflect on what they have read in the lesson. A reflection Q or task will be posed to guide this discussion, and students will be encouraged to talk about what is happening in their story, whether or not they will

keep reading/listening, if they would recommend it to others and what it has made them think about. This time can also be used to write in their reading journals.



F3 students and their reflection on reading fiction:

F1-2 students sharing their experience with Reading Lessons:

"I like that that we are actually given time to read."

"I really like the reading lessons - especially the topics that are covered in class! I would like to read the books my teachers introduced."

"Having a full lesson to read was enjoyable, the reading topics introduced during lessons were interesting as well!"

"I liked most of the reading topics, they were interesting. The best part was when we could read as I always have a book."

"The reading lessons were pretty fun if you are an active book reader, I can adapt to new genres and enjoy reading books while improving my vocabulary and attempting new styles of writing."



"Whenever I read fiction, I'm reminded of possibilities that are normally disregarded by people in real life due to common sense, making it an eye-opening experience. Reading fiction is a really wonderful way to confront set ideas in our world by illustrating what it would be like to live without the same sort of constraints both socially and physically. Each fiction genre presents their own unique themes and conventions that fascinate me in different forms but are united by the commonality that they can all show people what is often ignored in real life. Awareness of issues and interesting topics is extremely important to me, so fiction is also important since it develops my imagination and feeds my inspiration whilst also benefiting my actions and thoughts surrounding real life problems that I otherwise might not be knowledgeable about."

Another reason why I read fiction is to be able to experience situations I'm unable to live through in this world and connect with groups of people and their struggles which I might be unfamiliar with. Empathy is the most essential trait in my opinion due to how it can cause people to be considerate of others and lead to harmony. As I've previously mentioned, I'm immensely empathetic and would never want to create uncomfortable or disrespectful environments for others, even unwittingly. Therefore, finding out about other viewpoints and lived experiences through reading makes fiction important to me."

Emma Humphrey, 3M

"Whenever I watch movies or read books, I'm usually keen on those genres because the story plots appeal the most to me. For example, in romance, the typical themes are mainly "enemies to lovers" or "friends to lovers" and I enjoy the progress and development of the characters. It makes me feel happy and joyous to see how people fall in love and learn to solve their conflicts together. It shows how strong their relationship is."

If I were to try out a new genre to read, I would probably have to pick murder and mystery as it would keep me at the edge of my seat and I also enjoy thrillers, crime-solving and mystery so I guess it could be one of my favourites."

Phoebe Villaroman, 3C

F4 students and their reflection on reading and journaling:

“This year’s reading lesson was filled with completely eye-widening experiences personally. I enjoyed gaining insights on hot-seated topics such as cyberbullying and earning new yet lifelong knowledge such as the differences between APA and MLA citation methods, which could really come in handy later in life, both in tertiary education or occupation wise. Reading lessons were also a temporary escape from the harsh school reality into a world of fantasy, or whatever genre of books you’re into, really. Reading lessons are also your fitness guide as you have to walk up to the library located on the 7th floor every fortnight!

All jokes aside, through a consistent practice of journaling, you can tell how much progress you’ve made throughout the year, or specific time period; and how much you’ve grown on a physical level from reading books psychological level from how your thinking has changed. It can also act as a tool of reflection for you to discover greater meanings of life.”

Oscar Seyau, 4A

Reading class has opened a world of reading that I never knew existed. Reading in my mind was always a task, it was an obligation. I had to read to improve my diction, to grow more intelligent. But, reading class has helped me realise, I can read for enjoyment and for leisure. I just have to find the topics and genres I am interested in. Like science fiction, murder mystery and detective books. I found reading to be such an annoying task because of the words. I was always too lazy to read every word as every word meant something. I would forget the entire section after a second of reading it. I found it most boring even though the books had action and drama, because i couldn’t create the scene in my mind. My interpretation of the scene was also dull. Reading class has made me overcome the challenges of reading through visualizing images.

Ken Mizoguchi, 4M

Reading was once one of my greatest joys. Picking up a book and delving deep into the story, blocking out the world around me and putting myself into the shoes of the character gave me a brief escape to a fantasy land.

After entering secondary school however, reading was something that I ended up neglecting, putting all my focus on homework and projects and endless tests and exams. To be able to have time to pick up a book was something I could only imagine. The books once cherished were now sitting on the bookshelf collecting dust as my textbook grabs all my attention.

That's why I think the newly implemented reading class is something meaningful, as it gave me a moment - even if it was just an hour, or forty minutes, to sit down and read something I genuinely enjoyed. Other than revisiting old favourites, the shared shelf also gave me an opportunity to discover books I wouldn't usually even think of reading, and learn from people with inspiring stories to tell. The reading lessons helped everyone reflect on things outside of the classroom, things like real life issues going around the world, where there would be less of an opportunity to discuss in a classroom.

Ashley Tsang, 4M

Journal entries from our students:

"IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO BE AND WHY?"

IRON MAN

★ ★ ★ The main reason is HE SAVES LIVES ★ ★ ★

I would be iron man/tony stark because he is **SMART** especially in math and science which are 2 of my worst subjects and I would love to be good at science and math.

I would be iron man/tony stark because he is a **LEGEND**. Even though he is gone, he will always be remembered for all the great things he has done and also created.

I would be iron man/tony stark because he is **RICH** not that money matters but it would be really nice to be a billionaire and be able to buy as much as I want and I also could give so much.

I would be iron man/tony stark because he is **UNSTOPPABLE**. He can defeat anyone who stands in the way of him and other people in need.

I would be iron man/tony stark because he has very **COOL TECH**. Although I'm not very good with tech, it would be really cool to have a virtual helper/walker (like how tony stark made a virtual helper/walker called JARVIS) and he also has many cool cars (he is the most technologically advanced superhero).

I would be iron man/tony stark because (SPOILER ALERT) **HE RISKS HIS LIFE FOR A GOOD REASON**. I thought that it was really cool/inspirational how he died to save everybody.

I would be tony stark because of his **IRON MAN SUIT**. No explanation needed but his suit is very cool.

TONY STARK

pg 1-32

SIMON vs THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA

"you should be 'who you are'." - Martin
- this tells us that there are people who can't be themselves because they are "scared" of what others will say.
- Martin seems like an annoying and selfish character but he also kind of wants others to be themselves, he just doesn't know how hard it is for them.
- But I agree with what Martin says. I think everyone should have the right to be them selves and feel good with who they are.

"And I never talk about this stuff with anyone, only you" - Blue
- Blue and Simon must have a really good relationship, even though they don't know who they actually are.
- Blue and Simon must be private people and the fact that they open up to each other in a way they never have to anyone else is really cute. It's nice to know that they have each other to talk to.
- who is Blue? and what is his story? when will we find out who he is.



"If Blue finds out that Martin Addison has screenshots of our emails, I'm pretty sure he'll freak out. But he'll freak out in a totally Blue way" - Simon
- Blue must be really freaked out by the idea of coming out.
- Simon must really care about Blue and he doesn't want their relationship to be affected.
- Will Blue find out that Martin Addison has screenshots of the emails? Will Martin leak the emails?

BOOK BUZZ 3

INSPIRATION

OPRAH WINFREY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Oprah Winfrey was born into poverty in rural Mississippi to a single teenage mother and later raised in inner-city Milwaukee. She has stated that she was molested during her childhood and early teens and became pregnant at 14. Sadly, her son was born prematurely and died in infancy. Despite her rough childhood, she became the first African-American woman to own her own production company, the first black woman billionaire, and she is the richest African-American woman. Not only is she a celebrity, she is a leader and a hero known all around the world. She is an inspiration for women all around the world and I strive to be like the leader she is.

BOOK BUZZ 2

Goal:

Since I'm not a big reader, I don't read that much, I want to read at least 2 or 3 books by the end of this school year.

Challenge:

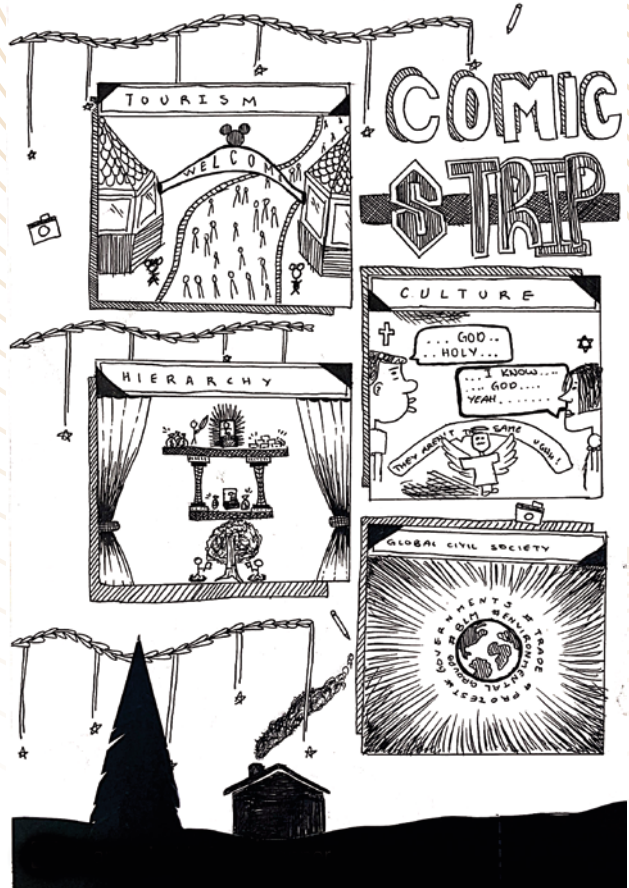
My challenge is to read a book that I never would have read before but at the same time, also be really passionate about it.

What I read today:

Today I read page 32-50 of *Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda*.

My thoughts:

The pages that I read were talking about a Halloween party and Blue and Simon were talking about what their costume will be and what their costume has been in the past. What I found really interesting is that Simon actually has a suspicion for who Blue may be. He says "here's the thing, I have this feeling in my gut that Blue is Cal Price. I just do. I think it's his eyes... And sometimes when I look at Cal, I feel like we understand each other." What I found weird is that they never really explained who Cal Price is. Simon just randomly started thinking about it.



"CAN AN ADAPTATION BE BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL? WHY OR WHY NOT?"

Forrest Gump



A lot of people don't know this but 'Forrest Gump' was originally a book. Growing up, Forrest Gump was actually one of my most favourite movies and I didn't even know there was a book until a few years after. And to be honest, I'm actually really glad I watched the movie before reading the book. And personally, I feel like the book is only enjoyable if you've watched the movie. One of the reasons why I preferred the movie is because the book didn't make me feel anywhere near the same emotional connection to the characters as I did in the film. That may have something to do with how Tom Hanks played Forrest Gump. But also it could have something to do with one of my favourite lines in the film, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." However, in the book, it says "being an idiot is no box of chocolates" which to me, doesn't even make sense and it just doesn't hit the same. I might be bias as I always prefer the movie, but I do believe an adaptation can be better than the original.



THE RISE OF THE DRAGON

AUTHOR: ANGIE SAGE

PUBLISHED: 2004

PERSONAL RATING:



- I REALLY LIKE THIS BOOK BECAUSE THE GENRE IS FANTASY. ANOTHER REASON I LIKE THIS BOOK IS BECAUSE THE EVENTS AND FEELINGS EXPERIENCED BY THE CHARACTERS FEEL SO REAL.

- I LIKE THE 'RAPIDS' THE MOST BECAUSE THEY ACT LIKE THE STEREOTYPICAL DRAGON, BIG TEETH, SCARY CLAWS, AND PNEUMATORS.

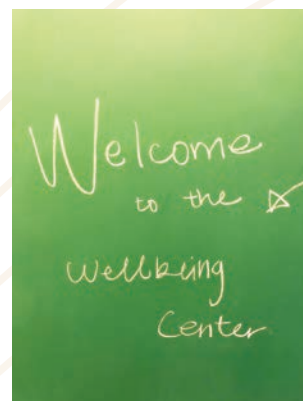


CS Scanned with CamScanner

Student Wellbeing Centre

This year saw the exciting launch of our new Student Wellbeing Center on the first floor. Located at the heart of the school, the Student Wellbeing Center is a place where students may come for a quiet space, some timeout, board games and activities during breaks and to meet with teachers for some extra support. With a range of boardgames, puzzles, magazine and open chalkboard wall spaces, the Student Wellbeing Center is open for all students and staff to meet, relax and seek support.

The Student Wellbeing Center also brings together the school's dedicated Social Workers, Educational Psychologist, EAL, SEN and Wellbeing teams together in one place. We aim to make YHKCC a more welcoming, supportive and inclusive environment for everyone to grow and thrive. Consisting of a large multi-purpose space, six individual meeting and consultation rooms, a classroom space as well as a staffroom, the Student Wellbeing Center seeks to place the wellbeing of our school community at the forefront of our school's culture for many years to come.



Professional Development Programmes

Whilst we may associate school with learning of students, it is also a place of lifelong learning for staff. At YHKCC, we have a comprehensive Staff Development Programme to ensure our school is a place of growth for everybody in our community.



Learning Trios

Each year, staff select an area of pedagogical focus and work alongside two other teachers to research, learn and develop in this area. Teachers collaboratively plan lessons and observe their ideas in practice. This year the Learning Trios have focused on: Positive Education, ICT in the curriculum, Learning Dispositions and Collaborative Learning.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

In February 2021, 22 members of staff completed an accredited four-hour training course supporting Youth Mental Health. Our staff have refreshed and enriched their skills in working with students who may need extra support during their time in school.

Aspiring Middle Leaders

We are delighted to announce a new school initiative of Aspiring Middle Leaders for 2020-21. This course focuses on skills and approaches to leadership in a school environment. This course has been led by members of the school Leadership Team school Leadership Team, Chorov Consulting International and Habitual.

Staff Wellbeing Afternoon

For Staff Development this year, we took the opportunity to reflect on positive lifestyle habits and personal wellbeing. YHKCC worked in collaboration with Habitual, to design a comprehensive afternoon of wellbeing workshops for our teaching staff. Teachers participated in a range of workshops, including: yoga, mindfulness, postural assessment, Latin dance, financial wellbeing, sleep assessment and body-weight workout. At the end of the day, we reflected on positive changes we can make in our own lives to promote our own personal wellbeing.





STEAM Lab

STEAM Lab is the new room in our school this year. Originally it was the MMLC (Multimedia Learning Center) of our school and the center has been used since 2003. Most of the furniture and facilities in the center cannot suit the needs of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) development nowadays. Therefore, with the great support and sponsorship from the SMC, we started the renovation work in May 2020 and finished the whole project in the same year.

The STEAM Center is designed as a maker's space for 25-30 users. Inside the center, we have already set up different related devices and equipment, such as 3D printers, laser cutters, coding equipment, robots, mobile devices and mobile charging units for devices. There is an 86 inch interactive whiteboard in the room. Teachers and students can share their ideas through the interactive whiteboard or they can have free discussions and write on the whiteboard at the back of the center.

There are 16 tables in the room and all tables are equipped with wheels. We can move the table around in the center and form different groups or maker areas easily. If there are tables not needed in the lesson, users can move them to the bottom of shelves at the side of the room, to increase the space available for activities.

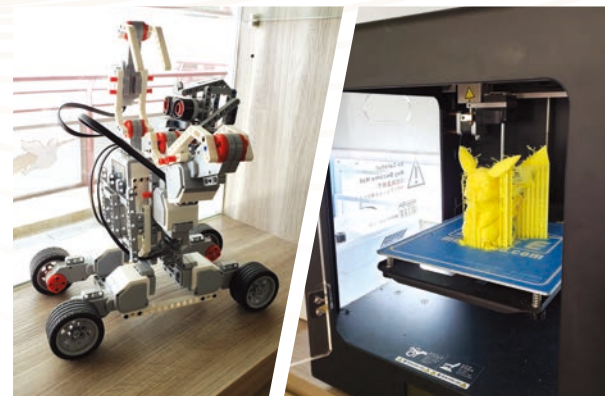
There are 4 moving electrical bars which are raised to the ceiling to prevent setting up power supply on the floor. When users need to charge the devices with electricity, we can lower the electrical bars down and plug the sockets on them. This can also increase the flexibility of getting power supply for the lessons.

The upper part of the wall (facing corridor) of the center has been renovated as the display shelves for showing students' work and some STEAM related equipment. This can also help to raise students' interest in learning STEAM.

In the future, we will continue to install more other STEAM related equipment, such as Virtual Reality devices. We will also purchase more coding related reference books for students to read and further develop their skills.

After the pandemic situation in Hong Kong and students now being allowed to stay after school, all STEAM related courses will also be held in this center. We hope we can have more and more lessons, activities and competitions will also be held in this amazing STEAM center.

Last but not least, thanks to Mr Dion Chen and Ms Diana Lo for their great idea and support in building this center.





Master Oogway Caring Team (MOCT)

Life is full of blessings. On one special morning, a tortoise appeared on our School's running track and enrolled to be our member. This is how a fantastic college life began...

We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the creativity and passion of the teachers, students and alumni who participated in the tortoise naming nomination. All the entries were innovative with unique characteristics. The student leaders together with the Principal, Mr. Dion Chen, reviewed the multiple entries collaboratively and chose the winning name "Master Oogway" for our new member. We are thankful to have more and more YHKCC community members showing interest and care to *Master Oogway*.

Our Biology teachers take this opportunity to extend further learning among students by setting a poster presentation project to our junior Form Biology students. Students were given 2 months to research on the biology and classification on the tortoise. Some outstanding posters were prepared and posted outside the General Office with the introduction of details of the classification, physiology, behavior, general caring guideline on the African Spurred Tortoise.

In addition, a group of tortoise-loving students volunteered to form a tortoise caring team known as *Master Oogway Caring Team (MOCT)* to take care of the maintenance of *Master Oogway*.



Daily roster was established to ensure we had enough manpower to take care of *Master Oogway* every school day.

We are thankful to have had *Master Oogway* with us from the beginning of the year and our students really enjoyed the moments of feeding and taking care of *Master Oogway*. With the experience we accumulated in the 1st semester, we are now planning to welcome a new tortoise to our School and we hope our students will enjoy interacting with our new YHKCC member - *Master Oogway 2* after the Easter Holiday!



What's Up?

Our alumni from various industries and different parts of the world showing resilience and hope while coping with COVID-19



Connor Defalco, A Silver Lining Seeking Pilot's Story

Connor Defalco, a Cathay Pilot, prides himself in working in the one of the best offices of the world - the cockpit.

*Interviewed by Luis Baltazar, Cyrus Fung and Max Tsang
By Cyrus Fung*



Connor Defalco, an alumni from YHKCC, graduating in 2011, later became a second officer at Cathay Pacific. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 and the pandemic overall, has greatly affected the aviation and tourism industry, including Connor's career.

Becoming a pilot wasn't Connor's original idea. Living in Discovery Bay, he grew up surrounded by pilots. As many of his friends' mothers or fathers were pilots, he was always intrigued by the substantially different lifestyle that they would lead compared

to his parents. An initial interest was in the fact that his friend's father, Angus, would typically be sleeping at odd hours of the day in preparation for a flight or simulator. He learned that a lot of these pilots would be going to work when people typically are tucking themselves into bed, and getting home when an average worker would be waking up to head to the office. Despite being a seemingly insignificant detail in the life of a regular airline pilot, this was the detail that initially sparked his interest in aviation.

His perception of flying started at the age of 16. Connor had his first trial introductory flight and he said it wasn't in anything glamorous, but in a Jabiru J-160 in Warwick, Queensland. He was "blown away" by the experience. By the third lesson, he had already fallen in love with Aviation for a completely different reason - and one that he would never have thought he would enjoy in anything. He fell in love with flying because of the application of procedure. He says "A perfect application of a procedure doesn't always lead to

the perfect outcome, but through practice, planning, a bit of brains and some forethought - perfection feels within reach and aviation is a career that pushes you to work harder, never stagnate and always continue learning."

When we asked how YHKCC influenced his career choice, he said that he was not the most motivated student during his time at YHKCC. Despite proving to be one of the more troublesome students within YHKCC at the time, he was pushed through his schooling there. When he was 15, he finally realised that there was life and a career outside of the school, but he had to work hard for it. He said he would never forget the responsiveness of the teachers, and how they welcomed his participation freely without judgement or second guesses. Teachers here showed him that, despite underperforming for the large majority of his schooling at YHKCC, he was able to perform at and above the required level to succeed at a chosen career path, and no longer did he feel limited by his perceived ability.

Connor is really grateful that his teachers believed in him and helped him throughout his hard times at YHKCC. And seeing that there is an aviation program now at YHKCC, he was very impressed and happy. He thinks that there are many opportunities in Hong Kong

through cadet pilot programmes and there will be a high demand for candidates for those programmes in the near future.

When asked how the pandemic has affected his career, he replied that it has affected the whole industry heavily. Due to the strict control of passenger flow into Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Government, his airline (Cathay Pacific) is operating

"Use this opportunity to better yourself instead of letting it get you down. Find the silver linings and take advantage of any opportunities you may have available to you. Come out of this experience stronger, more brave, and more kind."

at a very minimal capacity. Most of his colleagues from flight school who were assigned to the Boeing 777 have not flown since February or March 2020. Due to his assignment to the Airbus A330 and A350, he has been flying fairly steadily throughout the past year and a half, usually with one or two trips per month.

He said everyone is changing things every day in response to the government changing their minds on how to better control the spread of COVID-19. "We also take precautions into our own hands, and are very careful to maintain good personal hygiene".



off or even fired as the aviation industry is going through very hard times. He said that he is currently completing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, and would continue with his studies in that. He said that losing his job here in HK would probably mean a lack of opportunities within the airlines everywhere else. He thinks the skills required to be a pilot can broadly benefit any career path, and he doesn't think that an app developer would care if he told him about crosswind landings or emergency procedures and techniques! But for now, he said he would focus on his studies, spend time with his girlfriend and play videogames with friends.

Lastly, when asked what words he could give for others who were struggling through the pandemic, he said that "Life is unfair, but life goes on. Come out of this experience stronger, more brave and more kind."





Lean Caraan, A Compassionate Jetsetter's Story

Lean Caraan tells us his story of a flight attendant during COVID-19 - from travelling Worldwide to Staying-at-Home.

Interviewed by Luis Baltazar, Cyrus Fung and Max Tsang
By Luis Baltazar



The Aviation and Tourism industry have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with most flights being cancelled and people having to undergo quarantine when arriving in new countries. Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's biggest airline, recently cut off about 6,000 employees from the company, along with axing Cathay Dragon, an airline owned by Cathay Pacific. Lean Caraan, a flight attendant for Cathay Pacific, is one of the many employees affected by the pandemic.

Lean Caraan, a former student of YHKCC, left in 2011 and became a flight attendant for Cathay Pacific in 2019. He was recommended to take an interview for the job by a friend's mother, and decided to go on ahead. In 2019, he passed the interview and has since then started working as a flight attendant. As of 2021, at the age of 28 he is coming up to two years of working for the airline. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world, and especially battered the Aviation and Tourism industry, and Lean's career.

The pandemic has heavily affected Lean's career, as before the pandemic started, he had been taking flights constantly every month, and being back in Hong Kong for only around 5 days. He was travelling to places like New York or the Philippines. However, with COVID-19 causing flights to stop worldwide and be heavily restricted, with lockdowns occurring all over the world and quarantine being in place when travelling, Lean has only taken flights rarely.

When the pandemic first hit worldwide, Lean's last flight was to Los Angeles. After that, there was about an 8-9 month gap between that flight and his next flight in December of 2020. To pass the 8-9 month gap, Lean was doing various things, playing video games, reading books, learning how to cook Adobo, a Filipino dish, and "fast paced walking." He wanted to teach himself as much as he could during this time. However, due to the tourism industry being heavily affected by the pandemic, he had to worry about being laid off from his job, due to constant lay-offs from companies affecting his mental health. With cases worldwide slowing down and vaccination rates going up, the world has been able to open up its borders to more essential flights.

Due to the new openings, Lean has been able to go back to his job as a flight attendant, but with the added risks of getting infected with COVID-19. When asked about this, he said "It's



a risk, but it's a joy to be back in the plane, and a joy to see people flying in and out again."

Cathay is also professional in making sure that there is as low a risk of infection as

possible. Shared surfaces are kept to a minimum and are regularly sanitized, along with high performing air filters. He further added that he felt that he needed to do this, saying "There are still people out there,

"I hope that even though this has happened, they still keep pushing forward, to do something better with their lives. I hope that we still show kindness to others, because it's what we need right now."



who need to go to work in a different country, and people who need help" adding that it is very important to show kindness towards the passengers, and do his job well.

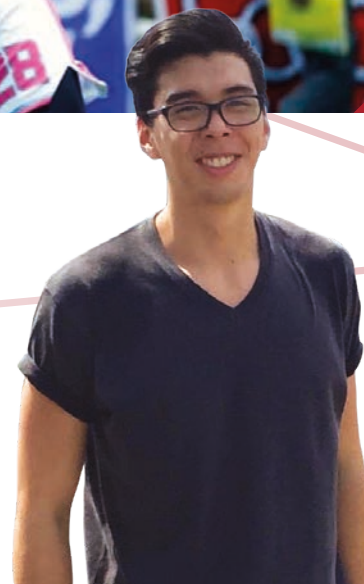
The pandemic has taken a toll on everyone, with people losing their jobs, students having to self study or do online learning, everyone has to adjust. People don't deserve this, but we can only keep on pushing forward, with kindness.



Joshua De Villa - An Inspirational Baller's Story

Despite the devastating impact of the novel coronavirus, this young man refuses to give in and lets his determination and passion for basketball drive him forward and beat all odds.

*Interviewed by Abhijith Aravindan and Richie Fong
By Abhijith Aravindan*



For someone who took the demanding sport of basketball seriously only after graduation, Joshua De Villa has achieved a great deal of success since then. He has played for the Pasay Voyagers in the Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL) and established himself as one of the merit players in the Philippines. Now he's back in Hong Kong, looking to build a reputation for himself.

Joshua, who plays Power forward, chuckles in modesty after being referred to as one of the merit players in the league and says,

"I'm going to be humble and say I'm not one of the merit players in the Philippines."

As hungry as ever, Joshua strives to play in the Philippines Basketball Association (PBA) next and accumulate money to start businesses around the world. When asked about the obstacles in his path of forging a legacy, he claims in an unwavering tone,

De Villa didn't always have a clear mind regarding his career path. The 2013 graduate of YHKCC looked back on his secondary school life, only to have bland memories from his junior years.

"I was too young to appreciate the things my school offered." Although he had a rough start, his senior years were enjoyable,

"Nothing is easy. Everything comes with struggles. It all depends on your determination to keep going"



But true to the optimistic and positive man he is, " I was just chilling around as I knew things would open up. Although everyone including me has self-doubts, it's normal and I wasn't worried as I always backed my abilities."

Although he desperately missed holding a basketball, as he explicitly describes the whole experience saying "It was that bad!", the passion he had for the game only increased and got him through difficult times. De Villa says that the greatest lesson he took away from the covid lockdown was appreciation.

mainly due to his good teachers, thus making the overall experience great for him.

do that while enjoying what I do and get paid at the same time, I feel like that's a huge win for me."

Basketball was barely in the center of his universe back then. Joshua was just a kid who played the sport purely for the love of it. It was his mom who convinced to join the school team when he was in Form 5. Unlike most other people who start their journey to become a professional athlete at an early age, Joshua was a bit delayed in his journey. "I feel that I was a bit late to get into the sport professionally as I was already 17 years old when I joined my school's team."

When all seemed to be going well, the infamous coronavirus pandemic struck and almost wholly immobilized his endeavours. He and his team basically went into off season mode when lockdown restrictions were announced, thus inevitably resulting in Joshua staying at home for two months.

"I learnt the value of the things and people around me, thus in the process also learnt to appreciate everything I have."

But from there, his basketball journey has been a huge upward spiral. "I have been blessed with an athletic body and I'm quite tall too (197cm, 6ft 6inches). It would be a waste if I didn't take the opportunity. Fortunately, it turned out well and I'm happy that I can continue doing it."

He still had to do workouts on Zoom early in the morning and run a certain amount of kilometres every day to keep fitness levels high but in his honest opinion, "It was terrible. I was being fit but I didn't get to play basketball, which was the whole point of this. I was in great shape but for what?"

His resilience and hope paid off as he got back to training in December and felt delight and relief. Although he had to wear masks in certain gyms and even while running, he still felt great.

Joshua De Villa has embarked on his journey to the top and his advice to not only those who wish to walk down the same path, but also to people wishing to succeed in any field is simple, but influential.

When asked about his inspiration, Joshua had no second thought as only one word popped up spontaneously in his head: Family. For his ever-supportive and motivating kin, he hopes to give back to them soon. "If I'm able to

These little attempts made to keep Joshua engaged with the sport felt pointless to him and he even started to doubt himself as he knew it was going to be a Herculean task to get back into the game and make a mark in this highly competitive field.

"Just keep working hard. That's what it takes in such a competitive field, you can't be mediocre. You have to stand out and in the long run, that will be beneficial."



Samantha Steptoe. A Resilient Footballer's Story

Despite having a global pandemic coronavirus, Samantha Steptoe kept her passion and courage for football alive, and in return, it helped her thrash all the problems out of the way.

*Interviewed by Vivek Bhayani and Stefan Fernandes
By Vivek Bhayani*



With choosing the most demanding and popular sport, football, comes many responsibilities and the need for much determination. At quite a very young age, Samantha had a passion and desire for playing football, which led her to achieve great heights in the football profession.

Thinking back, Sam claimed that it was actually a random decision to start playing football and join the school team in Form 1. She considered herself to be more of an academic student instead but since everyone needed one ECA, she went for football trials and got selected. The more

games she played, the more she grew to love the sport. "I felt very lucky that I had gone to the trails for fun, which turned out to become my vocation".

"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great achievements."

Sam plays goalkeeper, gently smiles when referred to as the key player of the team. "Football is a team sport, everyone's contribution matters. I have always tried to do the best for my team." From there, her football journey has had a huge impact

on her life as a student. She gained many direct scholarship offers from many Universities. At the age of 16, she was already at university attempting a BBA in Information and Marketing. Sam was one of the youngest undergraduate students back when she started Year 1, and jokingly remarked that while her friends embraced the university bar, she still had 2 years to go before she was legal to drink.

When asked about how she dealt with obstacles in her path of pursuing football as a career, she said "Never give up!"



“Never give up on something you really want. It’s difficult to wait, but more difficult to regret”.

When asked for her inspiration, Sam without hesitation, said - Mom. Her mother was always supportive of her perusal of a football career. Her football coach also has high praises of her.

This year, after the sudden breakout of coronavirus, her team was told to stop training and attending matches, as a lockdown was implemented. This led Sam to quarantine at home for 3 months. Unlike most

of the people who became lazy or unmotivated, Sam started finding and trying out new ways to improve herself. She still did all the workouts and maintained the strict diet plan. “It was painful, waking up early in the morning to do a workout when there was no true motivation at that time. But you know you had to do it.”

“When I look back after connecting the dots, I know that

my hope and resilience have paid off . Because of the discipline I have maintained throughout these 3 months, I feel more confident and healthier both on a physical and mental level.”

Interesting to note, during this interview, Sam was actually recovering from an operation due to an old injury. She had to take leave from football for a few months. When asked about it, Sam remained cheerful and optimistic and claimed that she can’t wait to get back on the field again.





Emi Ichikawa, A Gifted Dancer's Story

Professional dancer, Emi Ichikawa, shares her experiences of the performance industry and explains how she overcame some major obstacles

*Interviewed by Syndey Fegi and Ahsun Mohammad
By Syndey Fegi*

What exactly do professional dancers have to face? Surely the worst that they would have to experience would be long rehearsal hours, right? Well, Emi Ichikawa, a former student from YHKCC, has answers regarding those supposed obstacles often faced by professional dancers like herself.

Emi started to dance when she was only three years old, and now continues to dance professionally. Whilst she was studying in YHKCC, she had to balance both school and dance. She would do course work for A-levels in the morning then go to dance practice, and then

finally get home at around ten at night only to study for her upcoming exams. This draining routine stressed Emi out quite a bit but the whole situation taught her how to manage her time properly and efficiently, helping her to set her priorities straight in the long run. She also learned how to separate dance from her social life and to manage both dance and her social life properly.

Emi first worked with the World Caribbean cruise ship for eleven and a half months before moving to London. She claimed that the last show that she had done with the World Caribbean cruise was

the best performance she had ever put on in her career. With the World Caribbean cruise, she had learned to cherish all the little special moments with the crew and enjoy the amazing shows.

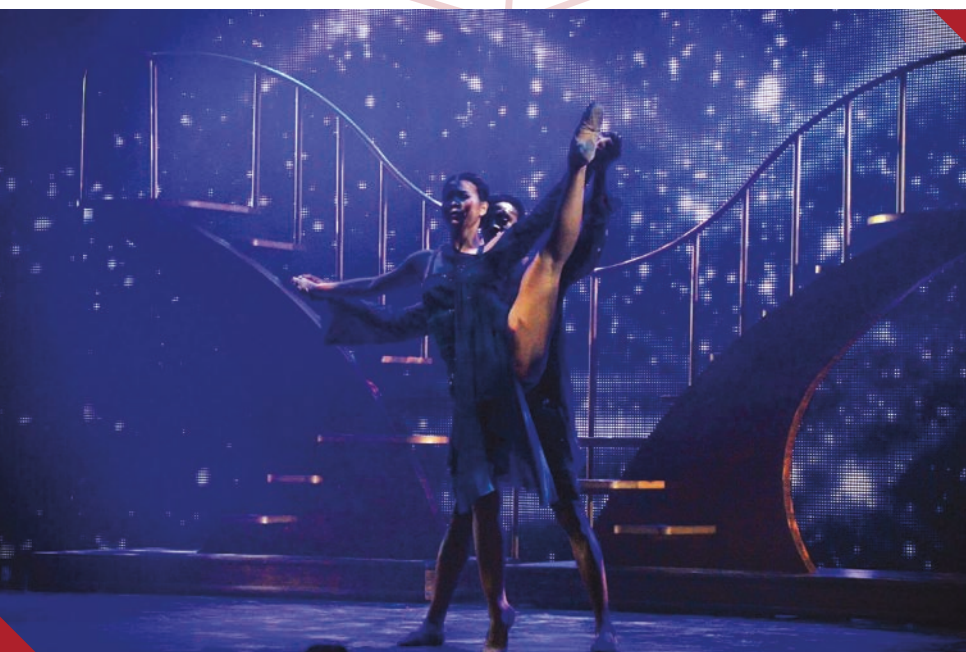
Then the pandemic hit the world, affected and still is affecting Emi's whole livelihood as a dance performer. COVID-19 caused everything to stop. Now there were no in person lessons or rehearsals or shows. She had been to only two in person auditions in the span of six to seven months. Emi and professional dancers alike had to make do with normal

jobs or side hustles such as design, being a makeup artist or hairstylist to keep themselves afloat. Emi herself started a design website to assist fellow professional dancers. As with the growing demand for technology, dancers need websites linking to all their contact information and

two video calls monthly to bond and catch up. It may not seem like much but to us, it's plenty and that's what matters."

Some tips and advice Emi had to offer to any aspiring dancers or anyone in general included being disciplined. "After

Another tip Emi had to offer was to never give up. She explained how her friend auditioned for a spot twice and got rejected both times. She auditioned once more despite already having been rejected not once but twice, and she ended up finally being accepted. Emi's friend danced



social media for scouts. Filming however, like in music videos, movies and television shows were allowed to continue during the epidemic. Fortunately, Emi was able to film a few music videos and described them to be loads of fun.

Maintaining healthy relationships with family and friends as a professional dancer during the pandemic must be difficult. "Even before the pandemic, it was really difficult for me to get hold of my family. We would have agreed to doing at least

"You are not the only person being paused right now, everyone in the entire world is having a tough time with the unfortunate situation. Let's do this together!"

completing dance school, you are completely on your own. You need to keep up with your own training, pick the right classes and find the right mentors to coach you." Emi also stated that you need to understand that being a professional dancer is forever an ongoing process, especially with COVID-19.

for and with Dua Lipa. Before heading back to her dance practice, Emi reminds us all to persevere - "Don't take no for an answer"!



Miguel Urmeneta, An Unlikely Actor's Story

Hong Kong born and raised Filipino actor Miguel Urmeneta shares with us his acting projects during COVID-19

Interviewed by Erica Song and Carmella Lindner Schiavon
By Erica Song



Have you been feeling like you got nothing done during this pandemic? Maybe you have been laying in bed watching countless hours' worth of Netflix,, eating any junk you had left from the last time you went shopping, which was probably a month ago since COVID-19 has you locked in your house. Don't worry we're all slacking every day that COVID-19 is here infecting people. Every day this pandemic stays we start to run out of shows or movies to binge with our good friend ice cream. Well, now you can learn what it was like to be an actor during this outbreak from Miguel Urmeneta.

Miguel Urmeneta, a Filipino alumni from YHKCC who was born and raised in Hong Kong, became an actor after graduating in 2014. He has 4 siblings which is probably what molded him into a fun-loving, bubbly person. Being an actor like Miguel normally comes from having wanting to be an actor since childhood but Miguel's case was a little different "As a small, small child I think I wanted to be something like an archeologist, and then when I was in my early teens I had these ideas of becoming a YouTuber or professional gamer. Becoming an actor came out of nowhere."

Miguel participates in different forms of acting like voice acting and theatre, leaving him with plenty of options during the pandemic. A quote from Miguel's Instagram bio, 'Life has a funny way of working itself out' by David Cook, shows that Miguel always has hope no matter how hard the situation in front of him is.

During COVID-19, Miguel played a part in 'Back To The Office' as Henry the accountant. The commercial aims to show the struggles people crossed during the lockdown and how it's great to be able to go 'Back To The Office'.

Miguel's character, Henry, struggled with others not knowing how to navigate working online. "I didn't really relate to Henry because he was an accountant and stuff, he's a bit too much of a nerd for me and everyone I've worked with online knows how to work online."

COVID-19's regulations had it so they can only have half the live audience they're used to.

"You really miss being on stage and having a live audience, but what can you do, all we can do is stay hopeful and wait it out."

Just because this pandemic was a bit of a rough ride for most of us, that doesn't mean there isn't a bright side. COVID-19 has let Miguel explore voice acting since it doesn't require people meeting or getting too close to each other, like when he voiced for A Tale of Two Cities.

One of the hardest parts of being an actor is all the lines you have to memorise, especially for people like Miguel who does theatre where they're in front of a live audience and there's no cutting and retaking of the scene that can be done. But due to the COVID-19 regulations, things from school, meetings to weddings, and trials are being

conducted through online platforms, most popularly Zoom.

This also applies to acting which makes the stress of memorizing lines near irrelevant. "Memorizing lines isn't a problem anymore now that a live audience isn't present, if you mess up or forget your lines you can just retake the scene."

Even though acting wasn't a dream job of Miguel, now that he is an actor, he, like everyone else, has dreams for his career. "I would love to



see myself in more high-end projects, like the people I looked up to in LA."

That goal pushes him every day COVID-19 is present. He didn't slack just because he's home all the time but instead worked on his career with his extra time. Looking for projects like 'Back

To The Office' which took the current state of the world and made it so the struggles we all go through can be something we can all watch and laugh at. "You have to find the positive in a time when everyone thinks there is none, always look forward to light at the end of the tunnel."





John Maguigad - Passion through Performing, the Story of an Actor

John Maguigad, the story of a young actor in Hong Kong on pursuing his career in the entertainment industry and how he copes with the struggles of doing theatre in a pandemic, showing resilience and hope.

*Interviewed by Alisha Lamb and Mikayla Camp
By Alisha Lamb*



John has been entranced by the world of theatre and performance ever since he can remember. He grew up in Hong Kong and graduated from YHKCC where he developed his background in physical theatre, contemporary performance, and dance improvisation.

John first discovered his passion for acting back in F1 when he was casted as Puck for the school musical "A Midsummer Nights' Dream". He fell in love with the experience and the more he did it, the more he

liked it. He chose to do drama and theatre in IGCSE and A-levels and started working with a youth theatre company and that's when it really hit him. He wanted a career in the performing arts.

Before COVID-19 in Hong Kong, he enjoyed performing on stage, with his most recent performances being "Take A Stand with HKYAF" and "Flood with HKYAF" in collaboration with the National Youth Theatre. John firmly believes in the power of theatre to help guide

people in their personal growth, and he was looking forward to sharing that with the young performers at the Faust. With Faust, his passion for teaching theatre also grew. He assisted in workshops, school/holiday programmes and Faust Festival shows for the past 3 years as an Assistant Leader.

Before COVID-19, John's original plan was to go to university. Due to multiple lockdowns in the Philippines, he took the opportunity to explore local performing projects



instead. John expressed his gratitude working on various projects with the HKYAF. His latest being their big production last year - "#Hashtag" as one of the main characters.

"Theatre is a subject and career that needs people together at all times and you need to be with people to practice it. It was just not the right time to pursue it as a subject or as anything when everyone is going to be online because the experience wouldn't be as authentic and wouldn't be as good to me so I just held it off until it got better I guess, but it still leads to a lot of awesome opportunities as well, so I don't really mind. I would have never done my YAF show if I went to university."

On the whole Covid situation, John shows positivity and resilience. "I was glad that a lot of opportunities were still being offered but it was also very up and down because you could be doing something and then if there was a sudden surge of cases that took everything down, it would be gone. Then you would have to adjust, and then it would have to be moved because it would get canceled, so there was a lot of just going

back and forth with people. It wasn't good. But it was manageable, with a positive attitude."

John feels that the entertainment industry is adjusting to Covid. "I think in a way, it gives us more versatility, like you don't have to be there in person, it's a big money-making thing but also I think it's interesting to see how people will interpret the whole other side of having virtuality instead of a real person. It's not like everyone will be like "Have everything online again." Everyone will always prefer experiencing things in person because it's a different feeling. But given the option, if you can't make something because it's in a different continent or different country, if it's being held virtually, although it's a compromise, it's also something that is acceptable for a lot of people now."

His plans and wishes haven't changed since before the pandemic. He feels like a lot of the things he wanted to do are the same. He wants to go to uni for theatre, to act in production shows and even in film. He doesn't think that the pandemic changed that a lot but what it did change was the way and the time in which it's going to happen.

"Take a chance. No matter what it is, even if you're not sure about it. If there's an opportunity, take it because you don't know where it's going to lead you."

Lastly, his advice to younger students wanting to pursue a career in acting is - to audition. "Even if you don't get it, even if you think it isn't right for you, try. The more experience you have, the more it's going to help you and the more it's going to get you more involved in the community. So don't overthink and just go for it!"





Nugent Leung - A Faithful Frontline Medical Officer's Story

YHKCC alumnus Nugent Leung explains how his life as a medical worker differentiates from working during the COVID-19 pandemic and ordinary life.

Interviewed by Abeer Sayed, Tanisha Yadav, Madalena Nugteren
By Abeer Sayed



The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 has thrown the world into crisis. Adults are losing their jobs, their health and their loved ones. Hospitals stand as monuments to the best of humanity, tending great care to the many hearts and souls seeking refuge within their walls. Hallways packed with crammed gurneys holding the withered patients, nurses frantically rushing from room to room, and doctors in the corners massaging their tired temples. But some nurses really know how to remain positive.

Described as optimistic and inquisitive by his peers, 27 year old Nugent Leung is exceptionally buoyant, especially for a nurse who works in the Emergency Department in Tuen Muen Hospital during a deadly pandemic.

Looking back at old memories stowed away, Leung described his school life as 'vibrant compared to other more traditional schools'. Taking physics, biology and chemistry as his three DSE electives, he was also a part of the Red Cross, which is quite understandable considering his current profession.

After graduating from YHKCC in 2012, instead of directly joining university, Leung attended a higher diploma nursing school organized by the hospital authority. He then took up a part-time top up degree in Hong Kong University, which was also in the nursing field.

Leung mentioned how he felt it was extremely challenging after graduating from high school. Many would have the assumption that things would progress slower and more freedom would be available, along with a vibrant and ideal university life, when in fact, it is quite stringent.

Leung now has a bachelor's degree, and is currently applying for a masters.

Leung let out a little nervous chuckle when asked about his free-time activities. 'I actually do a lot of things, I started learning archery and it's pretty fun. I have been trying to make some cocktails too, because it's quite stressful at work.'

For most people, their inspiration is derived from the influence of commonly known people like celebrities and influencers, or some previous incident in their lives, while Leung's inspiration came from his own mother.

'I remember when I was young and looking at her thinking she seems to be having a great life, maybe nursing is a great career. One time she said, "what better job can there be when you can earn money from it while helping others?"'

Since many of Leung and his colleagues' residential areas have quite a few elderly people

present, going back home would be risky to the health of old people. Leung, who lives with his dad, mentioned that his dad would prefer Leung to stay at home with him instead of in a hotel for months.

"It's essential to know the right time to express emotion or sadness, using resilience to understand yourself and your mechanisms in handling stress and emotions."

Regarding Leung's work schedule, it is surprisingly less stressful than one would assume. Not completely stressless - but just less stressful than people might think. Because working in a high risk environment is obviously very challenging, hospital authorities issued benefits to workers in the ER, and they get a special allowance to work here.

Leung believes that resilience is an important trait to develop while in the medical field. As he is dealing with stress everyday, it is important to understand

one's weaknesses. Being soft wouldn't count as being weak, as it is fine to not feel okay during tragic situations. He then shares a photo of his workplace after an elaborate resuscitation of a teenage girl with cardiac arrest.

Thanks to Leung's experience in facing the DSE exams back in YHKCC, he has an understanding of resilience and he is thankful for the help from his family and friends, which allowed him to regain the motivation to study hard, and solve his difficulties.

Now more than a year into this pandemic, like any other person, Nugent wishes for the pandemic to quickly be over so he can travel. Nugent is interested in travelling to any country besides Hong Kong, especially to Japan. He appreciates Hong Kong having relatively more things to do compared to other countries.

'We have the sea, we have the mountains, we can do some water sports, we can hike, we can camp and maybe even paraglide. In Hong Kong we have plenty of things to do, but it doesn't replace traveling.'





Yusuf Mohideen - the Atypical Journey of a Typical University Student

HKU student Yusuf Mohideen feels COVID-19 pandemic has affected university life but is grateful for his experiences due to it

Interviewed by Andy Suk, Louis Buddle, Howard Yip and Anson Tsang
By Andy Suk



From the beginning of 2020 until now, COVID-19 has spread across the world at a massive pace. As the virus has rapidly encroached upon life, many countries have been locked up for the past few months affecting many.

Yusuf Mohideen is a student of the University of Hong Kong, is double majoring in psychology and neuroscience. The reason that he wanted to study in university was because he wanted to go with the traditional route of education which enriched his

thirst for knowledge as he got to meet like-minded people, explore his interests and also voice out on social issues he was passionate about with his university's platform. But unfortunately, all things were caught on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Yusuf did not have any difficulties. Surprisingly, he liked the situation. He didn't quite mind not needing to go to school in person. The lessons were held on "Zoom", so he usually woke up

later in the day since all his classes were in the afternoon. Tests and exams were all open-book which included more application-based questions which helped him in understanding the topic in a more in-depth manner. He thought that the initial situation was really not that bad for a university student.

The days that he was supposed to spend going to university in two years turned out to be only three to four months. Before attending university, he anticipated the excitement of meeting new

people, learning more from his professors and just expanding his horizons in the sanctuary of knowledge. So as the situation persisted, Yusuf slowly realized that he was becoming lazier and less motivated.. "Since I chose all my online lessons to be in the afternoon, I can wake up later but this means that I stay up later in the night as well to catch up with the increasingly difficult topics we were learning in class. I also skipped lots of lessons unless it was compulsory" said Yusuf regretfully. Besides him becoming more demotivated, he became increasingly more irritable and anxious since he knew that his current study and sleep schedule were hindering his mental health. Because of the pandemic, he became less active because of the lock down. He couldn't gather with his friends which stressed him out. He also felt bored isolating himself most of the time and had to be creative in seeking a healthier outlet. Since



"We are privileged in the sense that our worries are not as big as those in other countries where the government and lack of resource allocation has affected their lives even more, because of that, I'm grateful for what I have."

Yusuf is also a very artistic person, he was inspired to do bleach tie-dye challenges as well as paint his denim hoodie - these mini tik tok art challenges and trends kept him busy during his free time. "I also regularly journal and walk around my neighbourhood for poetry inspiration, it keeps my mind busy and my creative juices flowing." Whenever possible, he also tried hiking to connect with nature and animals.

to post on my social media about social issues that I really care about. I think it is important that our voices are heard. "

Now Yusuf is enjoying his hobby. He has been hiking and visiting beautiful beaches to relax himself both physically and mentally, as well as studying hard for his subjects. Since he noticed himself being lazy, he started to change himself. He hopes to go back to his university and have a typical university life, with exchange overseas learning. Yusuf also hopes for the pandemic to end soon. "I want to go back to physical lessons and have lots of exchanges that got cancelled this year." Yusuf knows what he wants for himself and is working towards the path that will help him grow into a better person. He says 'COVID might be a terrible time for all of us but for those in HK, we are privileged in the sense that we have resources.

As the pandemic became more serious, he freelanced online, reading novels and organized LS tutorial classes for DSE students who were struggling with LS. It brought him some work-life balance. As for the economic aspect, Yusuf said some of his friends lost their jobs during this pandemic and he was grateful that he could still continue tutoring, but on zoom which was actually easier. "I also like



What's Good?

Inspirational and uplifting books, songs and movies recommendations from our students



Joshua Dionisio 5K



Moon River

Originally composed by Henry Mancini and debuted in the classic film 'Breakfast at Tiffany's', the short but sweet, ten-line song with a soaring melody combusts with emotion and authenticity. Utilizing metaphors that encompass a message of everlasting hope, the song tells us that though time takes its course, there is plenty of it to remember, live out, and make the most of.



Gravity

'Gravity' is a grammy-winning song on the grammy-winning album 'Continuum' written by singer/songwriter/producer, John Mayer. Mayer hails this song as the most important he's written and proclaims it to be a 'time capsule' song. The song explores regions of self-acceptance and perseverance against temptation or any obstacle that may bring you down. It can also suggest owning the power to say no to certain things and to be able to stand your ground despite whatever is in your way. A 'time capsule' song it definitely is, one that has and can touch many people's lives, and one that everyone can relate to.



Photograph

'Photograph' is one of the most popular songs of singer/songwriter, Ed Sheeran. The quintessential artist conveys an array of messages within this song; each of which can be decoded after every listen. Love, Hope, Perseverance, Patience, Nostalgia, and so much more, are some of the fields 'Photograph' encapsulates in four minutes and nineteen seconds, serving as a timeless piece curated by one of the generation's top songwriters.



Blackbird

'Blackbird' is one of Paul McCartney's classic compositions, specifically focused on the Civil Rights Movement and the "End of Racism in America". Throughout the song, McCartney pays homage to the civil rights movement and the fight for justice against the injustices of the world. 'Blackbird' can be understood as a symbol of hope, a symbol of resilience, fighting for what it has been yearning for its whole life.



You Say

'You Say' resonates with people on every level. It reminds us of inner-strength and resilience, accepting self-worth and the ability to take ourselves wherever we please, to take a leap of faith and let God take us through the purposeful plan He has created for all.



Zita Puentespina 5K

My Girl:

“My Girl” (1991) is a heartbreaking film - encompassing childhood innocence, romance and imagination and most importantly, resilience in the midst of loss.



The world of single parenthood is infused with constant reminders of death through living in a funeral home. This creates an unconventional image for a young girl, Vada. As a result of her mother’s death, Vada’s hypochondriac tendencies have led her to run toward the family doctor, pleading for a diagnosis of her “problem”. This film grasps the perspectives of Thomas J. and Vada toward death. It is a film worth watching which will leave you in tears. A classic for our generation to experience!

The Theory of Everything:

“The Theory of Everything” (2014) is an extraordinary film based on the life of Stephen Hawking, a well-known astrophysicist. From the moment of his diagnosis with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and having been given two years to live to how he fell in love with his ex-wife - Jane Wilde, it is a dramatic piece that encompasses hope, resilience, love and space. A tear-jerker film recommended for those who want a glimpse into the world of romance and science.



Argo:

Argo (2012) is an Oscar-winning thriller based on the 1979 hostage crisis in Tehran. The CIA mission was titled, Argo - an exfiltration specialist masquerades as a Hollywood producer for the eventual rescue of six American diplomats. It is a film that will leave you on the edge of your seat and will leave you craving for more.



It is perfect for history students as it encompasses hope and resilience amidst one of America’s great exfiltration missions.

10 Things I Hate About You:

Debating on what movie to watch with your friends? Stick with a classic - “10 Things I Hate About You” (1999)! Kat Stratford is a beautiful and witty senior who is unfortunately abrasive towards her fellow peers. This results in her younger sister, Bianca being unable to date her courter, Cameron, until Kat has a date too - a rule their father upholds in their home. So Cameron pays a mysterious boy to do the work for him. It highlights elements of romance, rebellion and youth. It was loosely inspired by William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew”. The movie has a sense of charm with its 90s style & music too!



Soul:

“Soul” (2021) is a Pixar animated film that journeys through the life of a middle school band teacher named Joe whose life hasn’t gone the way he expected - pursuing his passion for jazz. But on the day Joe thought he had finally gained his “big break”, he is transported into another dimension. There he finds what it truly means to have a soul and to live a meaningful life. A great inclusive movie that will start conversations about life with your family! It touches base upon a true story of resilience.



Top 5
Fiction

Angelyn Cuningham 5K

The Summer of Impossible Things by Rowan Coleman

This heartbreaking novel is about how a mother and daughter discover the challenges of sacrifice, courage and family. After the death of her mother, Lydia travels back in time to 1977 and meets her mother as a young woman where she discovers traumatic events and makes an effort to change the course of what has happened. Through this fantasy, Coleman explores the hardship of relationships and the extent to which one will go to protect the ones they love.



Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

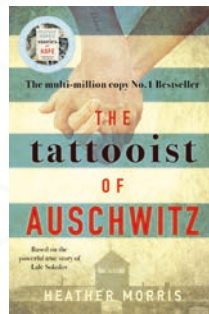


This is a multi perspective novel by Celeste Ng about a mixed-race Chinese American family whose daughter drowned in a lake. This complex story slowly begins to untwine as each family member

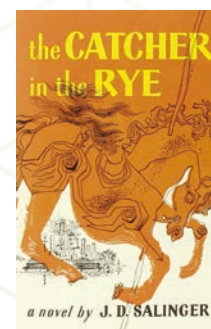
digs deeper into their past and pieces together the puzzles which may have contributed to Lydia's death. This is a fascinating and beautifully written novel on the consequences of rejection, racism and love that pulls readers through an unfamiliar American world.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

This is a novel inspired by the true events which happened in the life of a Jew, Lale Sokolov and how he fell in love with a woman who was the concentration camp tattooist during the holocaust in 1942. Heather Morris presents a completely heart shattering and beautiful story about the survival of both Lale and Gita through a time of severe suffering and violence. This is a completely emotional story that will for sure have you in tears by the end.



The Catcher In The Rye by J.D. Sallinger



This coming of age, diary style piece of fiction by JD Sallinger is a classic novel in which we go on a journey in the life of Holden Caulfeild. It explores the theme of traumatic childhood experience,

breaking the barrier between innocence and depression. This extremely personal and realistic account of a mentally challenged adolescent mind grips readers with a sense of pity and compassion while pulling them through the experience of an uncomfortably relatable world.

The Hunger Games by Suzzane Collins

Everyone has seen the film, but the book is just as exhilarating. This is a science fiction dystopian novel, an incredibly fascinating story of an idealistic world where there is a massive division between the low and high class. The oppressed are used as entertainment for the rich where twelve chosen individuals are placed in an arena and forced to kill each other. This addictive love story will have your heart beating and begging for more by the end of the read.





Kotomi Hasegawa 5K

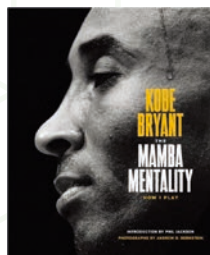
Becoming by Michelle Obama

"Becoming" is unlike any other autobiography. It's a dynamic ride that will leave you beaming with a refreshed soul. Every page oozes with descriptive language that animates Obama's stories into ones you can imagine experiencing yourself. It's the wake-up call we need if we wish to resist the possibility of falling short of our best versions. Resonating and powerful, it stimulates us in the most stressful of times, to let loose; in the most confusing of times, to stay calm; and in the most divisive of times, to be kind. A dazzling must-read in every respect.



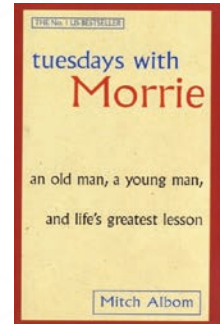
Mamba Mentality by Kobe Bryant

Written by the revered basketball god himself, this memoir is a window into the mind of one who strives for nothing but greatness. Not only are there fascinating anecdotes of Kobe Bryant's NBA career, but also professional advice, workout and dietary plans to help young players perfect their craft. With this, you will be able to unlock the secrets of the sport and have the blueprint to success in your hands. Best of all, it ignites a fire in readers to master whatever field they may be in, in order to truly gain the "mamba mentality".



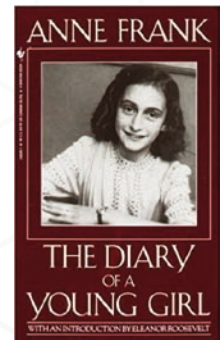
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Time waits for none. "Tuesdays with Morrie" puts into perspective the reality of this age through the true account of the priceless bond between Professor Morrie and his ex-student Albom. Not only is it compelling, but it's a book that's a pocket-full of lessons to forever treasure. That it deserves the reputation it holds is indisputable, for the memoir begs us to live an electrifying and meaningful life holding our dear ones close because we never know when our hourglass will run out of sand.



Diary of A Young Girl by Anne Frank

At just 12 years of age, Frank records two gruelling years spent in an attic during the Holocaust, unaware that this period would be considered one of the worst genocides to have ever occurred. Despite this, her diary is a piece of great authenticity, simmering with hope and altruism and continuing to live long after her death. She makes it clear that nobody has ever become poor by giving. The glow of Frank's memoir has not burned out; it's a torch shedding light onto a past we cannot dare forget if we hope to learn from humanity's mistakes for a brighter future.



Miracles from Heaven by Christy Beam

Beam's memoir is an emotional rollercoaster that will soften the hardest of hearts and leave even atheists teary-eyed. It tells the incredible and mysterious tale of how a young girl visited Heaven amidst a fatal accident and was able to miraculously recover from her chronic illness. Being an emblem of hope, it teaches us to persevere in our adversities because the impossible can happen. Beam's story is nothing short of a catalyst to appreciate the little miracles that occur on a daily basis.

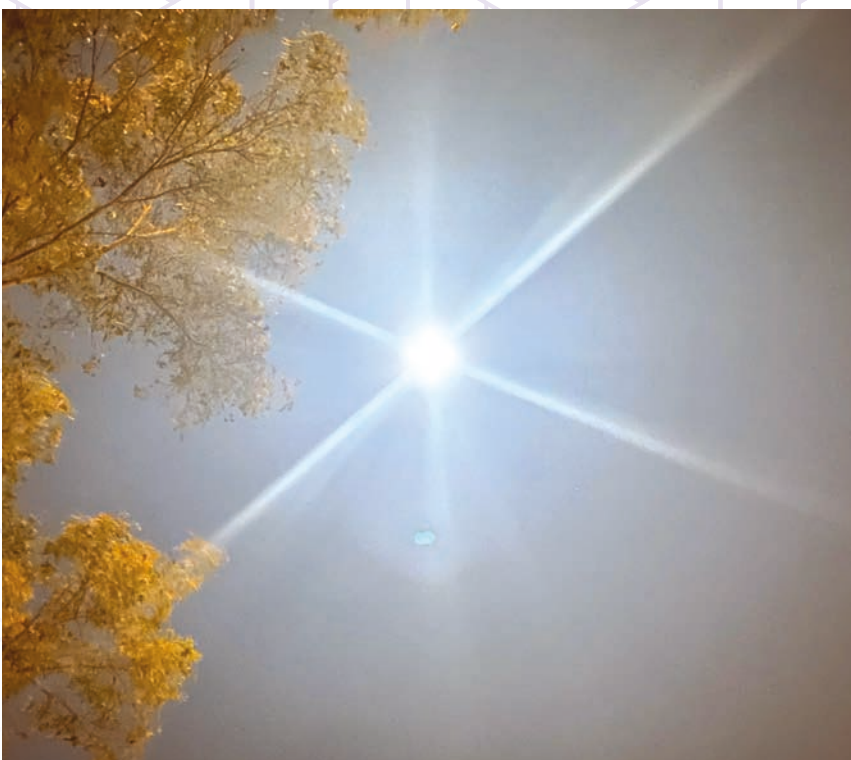


What's That?

Showcasing students' English, Chinese, Spanish and French talents in prose and poetry embracing the theme of resilience and hope

Twas an early morning on a peaceful day. Birds are chirping their way out of the polluted grey clouds as this man started working out vigorously on the empty street. This was before the clock struck, before the rush of businessmen filling buses, and buses filling streets. Despite this hardship of a time, this man is finding his joy through the pandemic.

Oscar Seyau 4A



The slow hymn of nature silently agrees on an armistice with the worries of the past, lulling the faint pieces of imbrolios to bed. The moon speaks to me about aspiration- which I like to think has a secret layer of puerility hidden under. Ignoring it's delirious optimism, I hear the leaves above me. It's rustling allows me to detect mother nature's voice, whispering secrets about the far future that no one can confirm, but only I can believe. And there I lay, caressing the newfound hope as I dream about the future I now dare to embrace.

Maryelle Paraiso 3K

Photography



The golden sun sinks into the horizon and glowing beams of hope sparkling over the surface of the ocean, tinting the water a burnt orange. It splashes carelessly onto white sand, patterned with the footsteps of people whilst they let their warm sweat seep out of their moist skin. The day ends as the raucous chitter-chatter calms down, and rays from the luminous sun slowly fade away, gently leaving only the sound of the sea waves, sedately welcoming the night wind.

Wrinda Jain 3K

Hope is but a fleeting moment, yet when one looks at images; moments that inspire it, the quiet spark within all of us lights into a great, roaring flame. Its tendrils lick away at one's destiny, melting our doubts, fears and trepidations away like wax beneath a candlefire, liquidating and melting away as we are blinded by the light of hope, before the fire burns away and we are left with nothing but an afterimage and the feeling of determination.

Nicholas Wong 4C



Photography

别放弃

当太阳下山而黑暗出现时，
好像没有希望了。
但是，当第二天早晨太阳升起，
阳光照耀著我们时，
仿佛希望再次出现。
当阳光明媚时，
它提醒我们：
我们仍然活著，
我们仍然充满希望。
明天太阳会再次升起，
明天会有更多的机会，
别放弃，别放弃！
希望在明天。

Hana Chan 3M



希望

虽然 2020 年有许多困难、
痛苦和悲伤，
但是如果您能看到一线光芒，
怀有一颗希望的心，
那么您将能够跨过所有的痛苦。
天空虽有乌云，
但乌云的上面，
永远会有太阳在照耀。

Areebah Khan 5A



山峰

最困难的时候，
也是离成功最近的距离。
人生就像远足一样，
每一步都很重要，
坚持不放弃，
最后你一定可以到达山顶。
所以无论前路多么困难，
只要有勇气向前走一步
那成功也离你不远了，
你可以看见美不胜收的风景。

Krisna Korani 5H

战友

知己好友是希望的象徵，
她们在黑暗中发光，
她们是并肩作战的战友，
她们是我的守护使者。
名声与财富，
如果同友情相比，
它们都是尘土。

Zita Puentespina 5K



Poems 中文

因為你
別人叫我瘋子

因為你
多少個黑夜
我心如刀割
徹夜難眠

因為你
我眼睜睜看著死神迫近
卻感到無能為力

今天，向你發出最後通牒
警告你
不要再回來
不要再依附在別人身上生活
因為你帶來的只有痛苦與傷害

願
路途上
有彩虹
有遮風擋雨的傘
有屬於你的依靠

一路
從黑色
走到彩色
從黑暗
洞見光明

永別，抑鬱症

盧以藍 5Y

你低垂的頭上
發出耀眼的光芒
照耀著我

在這混雜的世界裡
你就是那一抹
耀眼的光

就是在漫長的冬天裡
冰縫裡開出的一朵花
像是冰天裡的希望

在這陰霾中
你畫出一顆
獨一無二的
閃耀的
五角星

就算再黑的天
也總看到那束光
不會消失
為我帶來希望

張可盈 5M

保護我們的家，保護這塊土地。
自私，啊！我無能為力。
為弱小發聲，爭取我們的權利。
無知，啊！你無能為力。
改善我們的體制，改變我們不正確的價值觀。
自私、無知，令我們無能為力，哈……

自私與及無知，都因我。
摧毀中的地球，都因我。
社會日漸墮落，都因我。
要改變，也因我。

在現在這個困難的日子，
發現問題的我們，
我們，改變吧！
像那小草一樣，變得柔韌，
將我團結為我們。

在地球這個家，每一個角落。
柔韌的我們，
為不公，璀璨著！
璀璨，
讓別人看見，幫助於我，也等同於你。

讓我們回到，
回到那個純潔的我們。
不再心痛。

改變吧！我們。
那柔韌的我們，
可以的。

陳頌熹 5M

乘客

巴士上的乘客帶上口罩，
列車上的乘客帶上口罩，
渡輪上的乘客帶上口罩……
白色的、藍色的、綠色的、黃色的、紫色的……
是春天花朵的顏色，
卻沒有春天的氣息，
乘客只有搖頭嘆息！

巴士上的小孩帶上口罩，
列車上的少女帶上口罩，
渡輪上的老公公帶上口罩……
遮掩了童真的臉，
遮掩了美麗的臉，
遮掩了滄桑的臉……
卻遮掩不了罩下的希望，
乘客不再搖頭嘆息！

花下長出新苗
把疫情撲滅
讓乘客們能除下口罩！
面上重現歡欣的顏色！

劉健豐 4C

Poems English

Cheery, Mopey & Me

Cheery, the morning sky, bright & blue.
A friendly, talkative, outgoing hue.
He fuels my mind with the happiest thoughts,
The talking machine ran on a million watts.

Mopey, the night sky, dark and glum,
A snappy, picky, loathsome scum.
Slipping spiteful words into my mouth,
The bull whose patience's gone south.

I hate Mopey, he gets under my skin,
Says I can't be who I am within.
The joyful, outgoing fluttering bird.

The rainbow stood high, deeply coloured.

In tough times I need Cheery,
Yet he's gone by the count of three.
So malignant Mopey comes out to play,
The blue skies morph to gloomy grey.

Blinded by sadness and stress,
All alone, lost and depressed,
I'm so useless, it's crazy,
Still alive, just barely.

They say to live your life to its fullest,
But what's the point? I'm a pessimist.

No wait, I'm not.
Just mixed in these thoughts.

Though we can't always have what we desire,
That's something I'm going to admire.
We can learn to walk around it,
Right, that's the fighting spirit!

There's an up to a down,
There's a smile to a frown,
I won't ever give in,
I made an effort within.
So I slumber each night,
As my dreams shine bright.
And in my dreams,
There's a new friend it seems.

It's Cheery, Mopey and me!

Ellie Lai 2K

For A Better Tomorrow

At first I thought it pointless
Our world is evil-ridden
Why fight to fix the future
When hope is vastly hidden?

But then I found it bouncing
Off all their protest signs
Stringing hands together
To unite and break divides

It's clutched within their fists
Held highly in the air
Like soldiers in a battle
They march without despair

Although it might seem pointless
To persist for names like Floyd
Dare not succumb to darkness
For hope will fill your void

Kotomi Hasegawa 5K

3 things

One
You will fail at life at some point
Accept it
You will fail and fail
But it doesn't mean you can't try and try

Two
Failure means something
It means bravery
It means you tried
So do it again and kiss your last failure
goodbye

Three
Maybe it's time for a change
Failure leads to greater things
Don't give up, have hope for the better
So take a leap weather you fall or fly

Ruth Ogwu 5K

French

Résilience et Espoir

Avec une résilience aussi grande qu'un lion,
Et un espoir comme un grand éléphant,
Vivre sera difficile,
Mais amusant et facile

Avec L' espoir il doit y avoir des difficultés,
Avec des difficultés vous devez avoir de la
résilience,
Se battre avec tout votre espoir,
Et avec toutes ces difficultés, je vous dis au
revoir!

Resilience and Hope

With resilience as great as a lion,
And a hope like a big elephant,
Life will be difficult,
But also fun and easy

With hope there must be difficulties,
With difficulties you must have resilience,
Fight with all your hope,
And with all these difficulties, I say goodbye to
you!

Chakraborty Mumpi 4Y



Con resiliencia, crearemos conciencia

Cuando ves basura en la calle y el aire huele a polución,
Cuando te parece que todo está empeorando,
recuerda que hay una solución.
Con resiliencia, crearemos conciencia.

Hay algo que todos podemos hacer,
para mantener el aire fresco que respiramos,
para mantener limpios los mares y ríos,
y mantener vivos a los seres humanos.
Hay esperanza, y poco a poco lo logramos.

Ahorra tus papeles, no los tires a la basura.
Podemos ayudar a cuidar la tierra,
no eches plástico al mar, espera.
Si todos colaboramos, a lo mejor nos salvamos.
Hay esperanza, ya verás que lo logramos.

Ahorra tus botellas, para reducir tu huella,
Recuerda que podemos ayudar a cuidar la tierra:
Si todos colaboramos, hay esperanza, seguro nos salvamos.

Ayuda a limpiar una playa,
o a reciclar cartones y latas.
Aprende y enseña a otros sobre estos problemas,
te prometo que merecerá la pena.
Así otros no cometerán los mismos errores,
y evitaremos que se mueran las flores.
Con resiliencia, lograremos tiempos mejores.

Tenemos que actuar ya, para salvar nuestro planeta.
Tenemos que hacerlo rápido, para cumplir nuestra meta.

Seamos resilientes, es una tarea pendiente.

Translation: Hope for the environment

When you see trash on the street
and the air smells like pollution,
When everything seems to be getting worse,
remember that there is a solution.
With resilience, we will raise the spirits.

There is something we can all do
just to keep the fresh air we breathe,
to keep the seas and rivers clean,
so that human beings can live.
With hope, little by little, we will achieve this.

Save your papers, don't throw them away.
We can help take care of the earth,
Don't throw plastic into the sea, wait.
If we all collaborate, we may be saved.
There is hope, you will see that we will
achieve it.

Save your bottles, to reduce your footprint,
Remember that we can help take care of the
earth:
If we all collaborate,
maybe we will be saved.
With resilience, better times will come.
We just need love.

Help clean a beach,
or recycle cardboard and cans.
Learn and teach others about these issues,
I promise you it will be worth it.
So others will not make the same mistakes,
And we will avoid this from happening again.

Let's be resilient, it is our responsibility.

We have to act now, to save our planet,
We have to do it fast, to meet our target.

Mann Nankan 2H

¿Hay esperanza?

Cambio climático, calentamiento global,
¿De quién es la culpa?
"No es mía" todos dicen.
¡Que indignante!
Sin embargo, seguimos adelante.
Destruyendo, sin vergüenza en el semblante.

Pero mira un siglo atrás,
cuando empezamos la primera fábrica,
y no había nada más.
Quién imaginaría que ahora
estaríamos viviendo en este lujo.
Y seguimos destruyendo, sin tapujos.
¿Hay esperanza?

Tener agua potable,
lo damos por sentado.
Una necesidad básica,
que mucha gente no ha logrado.
Cortamos muchos árboles,
consumimos los recursos,
sin considerar los efectos,
de nuestros desperfectos.

¿Has pensado en la pérdida de los seres vivos?
Obviamente no, te importa un comino.

Debemos actuar ya.
¿Pero cómo?
Es muy sencillo:
Reducir, Reutilizar y Reciclar.
Estoy segura de que todos podemos ayudar.
Apagar las luces,
cerrar los grifos,
no malgastar recursos,
separar la basura;
no es ninguna locura.
¿Verdad?

Todos podemos hacerlo, sin duda.
Salvar la Tierra,
aportar tu granito de arena,
para que el planeta no muera.
Solo necesitamos resiliencia.
Y no perder la esperanza,
pues con persistencia todo se alcanza.

Translation : Is there hope?

Climate change, global warming,
Who's fault is it?
"Not mine" they all say
Outrageous!
But we move on.
Destroying, with no shame in our face.

But look back a century,
where we started the first factory.
There was nothing else.
Who would have thought
That now we would be living in this luxury.
And we continue to destroy, openly.
Is there hope?

Even drinking water,
we take it for granted.
A basic necessity,
that many have not got.
We cut trees down,
we consume the resources;
without considering the results,
of our flaws.

Have you thought about the loss of beings?
Obviously not, you don't care at all.

We must act now.
But how?
It's very simple:
Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
I'm sure we can all help.
Turn off the lights,
close the taps,
don't waste resources,
separate the trash.
It's not crazy, perhaps?

We can all do it, without a doubt.
Save the Earth
Contribute your grain of sand
So that the Earth won't die.
We only need resilience
And not losing Hope
With persistence, we will achieve it.

Roxanne Chu 2K

Fiction ■ English

Hope

Heat.

That was what could describe the atmosphere.. hot, dry, unforgiving.

The world had crumbled as the sun scorched the surface of the Earth, the sun unforgivingly glaring off the glass of the proudly standing skyscrapers of the city which heavily loomed over as a reminder of what the world had become. Feet dragged and pulled across the cracked ground beneath, careful not to trip and stumble as heavy breaths were drawn into their lungs like a fish out of water as they stumbled amongst the wasted lands.

Not much was left, the heat of the glaring sun beating down onto them relentlessly like lashings of a whip without thought or care for pause, they didn't know why they had decided to venture out, it would have been safer if they had just stayed within the confines of the concrete palace of the city yet..something had compelled them to go past the boundaries which had been crossed by so many long before themselves.

They had felt a sudden call to action, a tug on their heart urging them to go out, what it was exactly, had yet to be named by them yet they felt as if it was on the tip of their tongue, was it fear? They questioned themselves as they looked around the barren terrain, eyes squinted from the harsh light.

Was it anger that had drawn them out of their comfort, they questioned, it had been their main guess however did not seem to fit the light emotion they were feeling in their heart. They stopped their movement, calloused hands coming up to shield their sight as they looked into the distance..a sliver of green.

Determined to reach it, they quickly walked towards it and as it grew closer, they began to recognise the green of leaves and the stem of a plant, and that was when it had hit them. Hope.

That was what had drawn them out.

They stood in front of the budding plant, as insignificant as it seemed, it served as a reminder, a symbol that there was still so much more in this world than what they had believed, that despite the harshness, cruelty and mercilessness that it had thrown it's way in this new world, that life finds a way, that despite the world that had surrounded them the hardships thrown in it's way, it's persistence through its concrete confines and their choice to not to give up even when it had been presented to them, but to push on, reminded them of hope.

Stephy Tsou 3K

Icarus can Fly

The tips have caught alight. Each feather burns to a crisp in an instant and my wings go up in flames and I burn a great amber in the sky. I've flown too close to the sun once again. From afar I could even be mistaken to be Helios riding his chariot, pegging the sun high up in its place. But Helios does not appear mid day. Only a mere idiot mortal. A failure.

I fall from a great height. Gravity pushes down on my chest with heavy force as I fall back first. My sandals slip off my feet and I watch as my wings crumble away into ashes. They catch into the wind and fly away. Take me with you, I wish to fly too. But no, I fall and my frail arms flail. Wind whistles in my ears, like the screeching of sirens and it's piercing. Ha. The sirens and sea nymphs from below are laughing at me as I fall. The waves below crash and sea foam sprays into the blazing sky and tickle the small of my back. I can feel the lick of the sea and it opens its vast mouth and swallows me whole. The waves close in and my insignificant self is gone and I sink to the bottom. The waters choke me as I let myself settle in the sea bed. My feet touch the soft sand and I let the water fill me. Bits of my broken wings still clutch to my arms and jagged splinters dig into my side leaving bloody streaks on my skin. I let the pain sear into my flesh. I let the sea take me.

...

A large warm hand cups the side of my cheek and I feel warmth rush into my veins. A sea nymph? But they're cold blooded creatures.

Heaven? I will my heavy lids to open and I am greeted by a lush forest at the crack of dawn. I find myself in a bed of grass and beside me lay my pair of wings as it once was, grand and meticulously made and mended. They were my greatest work so far yet they disappointed me and it sat there in its glory to mock me. I scramble onto my nimble feet and find my clothes dry, my wounds healed and my sandals buckled onto my feet. I look around and jump a little when my eyes land on a creature. A garden myth, whose skin supple green and hair luscious gold carefully carries water in a lily pad, along with lily seeds. "Artemis has healed you of your wounds and let you sleep in her protection. You are well now. You must leave before sun rise." she says softly and places the food and drink on the grass and slips away before I can utter a word of thanks or even a question. I eat the seeds and sip the dew and wonder how I got here and who fixed my wings. The wings were put together so finely but how? I saw them disintegrate into dust before my eyes when I fell. There wasn't even a scratch in sight until I lifted the lower arm of the wing to find a gold engraving.

"Fly again"

Warmth once fills me once again and something stirs in my stomach. I run. My chest is heavy and my head is light as I try to catch my breath. I take my wings to the cliff edge and leap. I spread my arms and my great wings fan out beneath me. I soar and Helios smiles as he rides his chariot and pegs the morning sun in the sky.

Leoni Mok 5K

Fiction ■ English

The Ruby and The Lake

The fields of wheat and corn gave way to tall pine trees as Emily drove through the roads of northern Minnesota. She rolled down her car window to enjoy the crisp, clean air. A lake appeared from time to time, reminding Emily of the reason that she had come so far on this journey. These forests and lakes were where many of her childhood memories were made, but many years had passed since she had visited this part of the country.

The drive seemed longer than she remembered, but Emily didn't mind because it gave her time to think. There were so many memories that came back. When Emily was a child, she used to get on a bus for the long ride to her grandparents' cabin on a lake in northern Minnesota. It was so different from the city life that she knew. She remembered how excited she always felt as the bus brought her closer and closer to her grandparents' cabin. She always knew that when she started seeing forests and lakes, she was getting close.

Emily's grandmother had passed away several years earlier, so her grandfather was living alone. Grandma had drowned in the lake, and Grandpa believed that her spirit was still there. Grandpa had asked Emily to make this visit. He didn't tell her why, but he told her that it was urgent. When Emily spoke with him by phone, she could tell that something was different about his voice. He didn't have his usual confidence, and she could tell that something was wrong.

Emily turned off of the paved highway and headed down a winding dirt road with tall trees on either side. After a series of seemingly endless twists and turns, she spotted the old mailbox with grandpa's name on it. Turning into the driveway, she saw grandpa waving from the front porch.

By the time she opened her car door, he was there, waiting to give her a big hug. "Welcome! Welcome!" he said. "It's so good to see you!"

"Hi Grandpa! It's good to be back," Emily replied.

Grandpa was smaller than she had remembered, and he looked tired. "How are you, Grandpa?" she asked. "Is everything ok?"

Grandpa smiled weakly. "Come on," he said. "I bet I know where you want to go first. When you were a little girl, you always got out of the car and ran straight down to the lake."

In front of Grandpa's cabin, a long dock stretched out over the water. Emily used to fish from the dock when she was a little girl. As she and Grandpa strolled to the end of the dock, Emily paused to enjoy the fresh air and the sun reflecting on the water. It was such a peaceful scene, and she

wondered what could possibly be so wrong that grandpa needed to see her so urgently.

Emily noticed that Grandpa was studying her necklace. "Your necklace," he said thoughtfully, "is almost exactly the same as grandma's necklace."

"I know, Grandpa," she replied. "I always loved Grandma's necklace. I loved the heart-shaped ruby in her necklace. This one reminded me of her's, and that's why I bought it, but it's not as beautiful."

"I gave that necklace to Grandma when I proposed to her," Grandpa said. "We were young, and I couldn't afford a diamond ring. She wore it all those years, and she was wearing it on the day she drowned. We recovered her body, but we never found her necklace. It's somewhere in that water, and that's part of why it will break my heart if"

"If what, Grandpa?" Emily asked.

Before Grandpa could reply, the sound of an approaching speed boat caught their attention. Passing far too close to the dock, the speed boat turned at the last second, spraying water on Emily and Grandpa. The driver of the boat shouted something as he sped away, but Emily couldn't make out what he said.

"Who was that?" Emily asked angrily.

"That's Jeff," Grandpa said. "He owns all of the property on this side of the lake except my cabin. He wants to build a resort, but he can't do it while I'm here, so he's been trying to scare me into selling my property for years. His threats don't bother me so much, but your grandmother really despised him."

"That's awful!" Emily said.

"There's more to the story," Grandpa said. "Let's go back to the cabin, and I'll tell you about it over a cup of coffee."

Grandpa's home was a small, wooden cottage, painted red with white trim around the doors and windows. As a child, Emily thought that it looked like the kind of home that Santa might live in. It was always filled with wonderful smells from Grandma's cooking. As a child, Emily loved sitting at the kitchen table and looking out over the lake as she devoured Grandma's cookies.

As they sipped their cups of coffee, Grandpa explained to Emily that he had fallen behind on his mortgage payments, and he would be forced to sell the cabin unless he could come up with some money soon. As Grandpa spoke, Emily thought about her own finances. She hoped that he wasn't going to ask her for money.

"Do you remember when you were little, and you and Grandma and I used to go fishing together?" Grandpa

asked. "You were the best little fisherman ever!"

Emily smiled as the memories came back. It was true that she had always been the luckiest fisherman in the family.

"Well," Grandpa continued, "there's a fishing tournament that's going to be held on our lake tomorrow. Whoever catches the biggest fish will win \$10,000. I need you to help me win that prize so I can save my cabin."

Emily felt relieved that Grandpa hadn't asked for money, and she was excited to go fishing again after so many years, but she also felt a lot of pressure. If they didn't win the tournament, she knew that she would feel that she had failed Grandpa.

"Grandpa," Emily paused before continuing. "Let's win this tournament!"

The next day, fishermen from all over came to the lake to try to catch the biggest fish. Rising before the crack of dawn, Emily and Grandpa were among the first to launch their boat. Grandpa's little rowboat looked small and frail compared to the much larger boats that the other fishermen were using.

"Don't worry, Grandpa," Emily said. "The fish don't care how big your boat is."

But as the hours went by, Emily and Grandpa had no luck at all. Emily tried to keep Grandpa's spirits up, but she could see the concern on his face. She wondered what had happened to the good luck that she had always had when fishing as a child. More than that, she felt bad that she was letting Grandpa down.

The sun was about to set in the sky, and Emily and Grandpa knew that they had almost run out of time to win the big prize that would save Grandpa's cabin. With the late afternoon sun reflecting on the water, they didn't notice the speed boat as it approached them. Jeff brought his boat far too close this time, swamping Grandpa's rowboat and filling it with water. The rowboat began to sink. As Jeff sped away, Emily and Grandpa frantically swam to shore.

Crawling up on the sand, Emily turned to Grandpa. "Are you ok, Grandpa?"

Grandpa didn't answer. He just sat on the sand and stared at the water where his boat had been.

"The rope!" he said suddenly. "I can see the end of the rope floating on the water! If we can get hold of the rope, we can pull the boat to shore."

"I'll swim out and grab it," Emily replied.

Emily swam out and took hold of the end of the rope

that Grandpa always used to tie the boat to the dock. Swimming back with the rope, she found that it didn't reach all the way to shore, but it did reach far enough to where Emily could stand in the water.

"Come here, Grandpa," she cried. "Help me pull the boat in!"

Grandpa joined her in the water, and together they slowly pulled the boat up from the bottom of the lake and back toward the shore. The boat was filled with water, so it was very hard to pull it up on the shore. As they struggled with the boat, Emily and Grandpa saw something flipping and flopping and splashing in the bottom of the boat.

"Well . . . what is . . . I think it's a fish!" Grandpa cried. "I think it's the biggest fish I ever saw! Emily, get the net! I think we caught a winner!"

And at that moment, the horn sounded, marking the end of the tournament. Grandpa and Emily proudly presented their fish to the judges, and sure enough, it won first place! The judges presented Grandpa with a cheque for \$10,000.

"Emily, we did it!" Grandpa cried. "This will save the cabin!"

Relieved and happy, Emily and Grandpa celebrated with a barbecue on the beach that evening. After a good night's sleep, Emily awoke early the next morning and prepared for the long drive home. As she was loading her bags into her car, she noticed that Grandpa wasn't around. Eventually she saw him standing alone down at the beach. As Emily approached him, she noticed that he was holding something in his hand.

"Good morning, Grandpa. What have you got there?"

Grandpa's eyes were filled with tears. "This is Grandma's necklace," he said. "You'll never believe where I found it. It was in the belly of the fish."

"Grandpa," Emily's eyes filled with tears. "Do you think . . ."

"Grandma put the fish in the boat," he replied. "She wasn't going to let anyone take away our home."

"Before you go," Grandpa continued, "I think the luckiest little fisherman in the world deserves a prize!"

And without saying a word, Grandpa placed Grandma's necklace around Emily's neck.

Anon Lundquist 2A

Fiction ■ Spanish

Con resiliencia saldré de la pobreza

Me llamo Danilo. Tengo catorce años y soy de San Salvador. Es la capital en el oeste de El Salvador pero es una de las ciudades más peligrosas aquí. Vivo en un barrio pobre, en una chabola. Vivo con mis tres hermanas, un hermano y mi madre. Nuestro barrio tiene muchas personas porque hay mucho desempleo y no tenemos suficiente dinero. Las chabolas aquí están hechas de madera, tierra, hojalata y ladrillos.

Cocinamos y usamos el baño afuera con muchas otras personas porque nuestra chabola es muy pequeña. Hay dos habitaciones con nuestras camas, un armario, unas cajas, una mesa y unas sillas. Afuera tenemos una mesa y unas sillas para sentarnos y pasar el rato con nuestros amigos y también hay una casa pequeña para el perro.

Mi padre fue a los Estados Unidos hace seis meses a trabajar como mecánico. Como yo, él gana dinero para mi familia porque mi madre sufrió un accidente cuando era más joven y ya no trabaja. Se queda en casa cuidando a mis hermanos, también compra comida del mercado, cocina y mantiene la chabola. De mi padre aprendí a ser resiliente y nunca perder la esperanza. A pesar de nuestras dificultades, me enseñó a ser fuerte y a no rendirme.

Voy al instituto por la tarde con dos de mis hermanas, se llaman Andrea y Elena. Mis hermanos pequeños no pueden ir al insti porque necesitamos caminar por un poco tiempo y son

demasiados pequeños. Solo yo y mi hermana mayor, Andrea, trabajamos. Andrea tiene quince años y trabaja en una plantación de café conmigo cuatro veces a la semana.

Nos levantamos a las cuatro, llevo una camiseta sin mangas y unos pantalones, desayunamos arroz con frijoles que mamá cocinó la noche anterior y llegamos a la plantación para empezar a trabajar a las cuatro y media. La plantación está muy cerca pero empezamos a trabajar muy temprano. Es un trabajo muy duro.

Recogemos los granos de café, los secamos y quitamos las cáscaras. Esto me causa dolor de espalda, en las manos y en los pies. Es muy agotador pero la familia necesita comer.

Terminamos a las doce menos cuarto y comemos pan y fruta por veinte minutos antes de caminar a la escuela. No tenemos tiempo para ir al instituto cada mañana porque vamos a la plantación, así que nuestra profesora nos espera hasta la una y media y nos enseña hasta las cuatro.

Volvemos a casa a las cinco y media y estudio lo que aprendí. Leo libros que la profesora me dio y juego con las cartas o la pelota con mis amigos. Los días que no necesito trabajar me gusta relajarme y también ayudo a mi madre y enseño a mis hermanos pequeños. Deseo un futuro mejor para ellos.

Sé que algún día dejaré de trabajar y podré estudiar en la universidad. Solo necesito ahorrar un poco más. Ya casi lo he conseguido, solo necesito resistir un poco más. Lo lograré.

Translation:

My name's Danilo. I'm fourteen and I'm from San Salvador. This is the capital in the west of El Salvador but it's one of the most dangerous cities here. I live in a slum in a shack with my three sisters, brother and mom. A lot of people live in our neighbourhood because there's a lot of unemployment and we don't have enough money. The shacks here are made of wood, dirt, tin and bricks.

We cook and use the bathroom outside with many other people because our shack is very small. There are two rooms with our beds, a dresser, some boxes, a table and some chairs. Outside we have a table and some chairs for us to sit on and to spend time with our friends, as well as a small house for the dog.

My dad went to the US six months ago to work as a mechanic. Like me, he earns money for the family because my mother was in an accident when she was younger and doesn't work now. She stays at home helping my siblings, also buying food from the market, cooking and keeping up the hut. From my parents I learned to be resilient and never lose hope. Even though we are going through a lot of difficulties, they taught me to be strong and not give up.

I go to school in the afternoon with two of my sisters, Andrea and Elena. My younger siblings can't go to school because we need to walk for a while and they're too small. Only I and my older sister, Andrea, work. Andrea is fifteen and works at a coffee plantation with me four times a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

We get up at 4 am. I put on a tank top and some pants, we eat rice and beans that mom cooked the night before for breakfast and we arrive at the

plantation to start to work at 4.30 am. The plantation is very close by but we start working very early.

We gather coffee cherries, dry them and remove the cherry shells. It hurts my back and my hands and my feet. It's very exhausting but the family needs to eat.

We finish work at eleven forty-five and eat bread and fruit for twenty minutes before walking to the school. We don't have time to go to school every morning because we go to the plantation, so our teacher waits for us until one thirty and teaches us till four.

We return home at five thirty and I study what I learnt. I read books that my teacher gives me and play with cards or a ball with my friends. The days that I don't need to work, I like to relax and also help my mom and help teach my younger siblings. I wish them a better future.

My family and I like to have dinner with our friends but we don't go out later because the neighbourhood is dangerous at night - there are dangerous gangs on the streets. I sleep at nine after feeding the dog. I need to sleep so that I'm not tired by dawn.

I know that one day I will stop working and I will be able to study in university. I only need to save a bit more. I am almost there, I just need to persevere, to resist a bit longer. With resilience, I will make it.

Annabelle Lam 3Y

Non-Fiction ■ 中文

逆境

恩格斯曾經說過：「逆境使天才脫穎而出，順境會埋沒。」古今中外，有哪個偉人能事事如意？沒有。世事無常，人生必有順意的時候，也有跌落低谷的時候，問題是在於你面對這件事情抱著甚麼樣的態度。

逆境，是一位老師，教導你怎樣面對困難。力克·胡哲就是其中一個從逆境中走出來的人。剛出生的力克·胡哲就患有海豹肢症，天性沒有形成四肢。小學的時候，因缺憾而飽受同學嘲笑、欺侮，但他沒有放棄，力克曾經這樣說：「只有一次又一次的嘗試，就沒有失敗。」他依靠這信念，從人生的低谷中走來，並積極地面對人生每一個挑戰和困難。

逆境，磨練我們的意志。晉代的孫康，由於沒錢買燈油，晚上不能看書，只能早早睡覺。一天半夜，他從睡夢中醒來，發現床縫裡透進一絲光亮。原來，那是大雪映出來的光，這正可以用來讀書呢！他立即換好衣服，取出書本，跑到屋外，不顧寒冷，看起書來。手腳凍僵了，他就起身跑一跑，搓一搓手。此後，每逢有雪的晚上，他都不會放過，孜孜不倦地讀書。短短數年，他的學識猛進，飽學成才，後來做了大官，為百姓謀福利，這便是逆境自強的好例子。

古今中外有不少身在逆境，但能成功的例子。今天，我們也身在「新冠肺炎」的逆境中，我們做好防備，緊守崗位，便能像力克·胡哲、孫康一樣，找到自己的出路。

盧懿晴 2M

光明

「風可以把蠟燭吹滅，也可以把火點旺。」雨過天晴還是一蹶不振，取決於你有沒有在逆境中自強的決心。逆境之前我們要咬緊牙關，不怨天尤人，認識自己，保持樂觀態度，接受挑戰。

鋼琴家黃愛恩天生只有三隻手指，她不能改變只有三隻手指的事實，但懷著積極向上的心態，努力練習，終克服困難，成為一位出色鋼琴家，看！逆境沒有嚇退她，反而造就了她。

著名發明家愛迪生辛苦經營的實驗室因一次大火而成灰燼，愛迪生坦然以對，並說：「災難也有價值，我們以前所有的繆誤過失，都給大火燒得一乾二淨了。感謝上帝，這下我們又可以從頭再來了。」火災剛過一個月，愛迪生就發明了第一部留聲機，看！逆境可以摧毀一切，但不能阻擋我們重來。

曾經有一個女孩，罹患癌症，要把右腿切掉，厄運降臨在她身上，但她沒有倒下，她以頑強的鬥志和無比的勇氣，跨過荊棘，在美國滑雪錦標賽獲得一枚金牌，她就是著名滑雪運動員——戴安娜·高登。看！逆境或許能摧殘肉體，但不能奪去志氣。

說了那麼多，無非要讓陷於逆境的人知道，古人說得好：「不經一番寒徹骨，怎得梅花撲鼻香。」只要自強不息，迎難而上，我們總見光明。

徐紫然 2C

希望與堅毅

橙色的光淡淡地照在黑暗的角落裡，雖說很微弱、黯淡，但也足以在黑暗中畫出一道美麗的弧度。這不是清晨探出山頭的第一束陽光，而是希望的曙光。人在絕望時的內心是漆黑一片的，彷彿在宇宙中失重的空虛感。

不管在何時，人都應該保持一顆充滿著希望、積極向前的心態面對生活上的挑戰。畢竟生活中的挑戰來自不同方面，但換個角度去想，我們只是這浩瀚宇宙中渺小的一份子，那我們面對的困難豈不是滄海一粟嗎？再者，人生道路上的挫折與失敗也常常轉化為動力，有志者事竟成，促使我們在未來成為更好的自己。在《美麗人生》中的經典場面，父親為了不給自己的兒子產生童年陰影，就連在被納粹抓走之前也樂觀地跟兒子說來玩一個捉迷藏的遊戲，雖然自己不久後便慘死在納粹的槍口下，可是他這一個舉動留給了自己的兒子繼續生存的希望。

周沁穎 4M

逆境自強

人總有失意的時候，這是無可改變的，因為人生就是這樣，每個人都需要經歷逆境才能茁壯成長。

當我們碰到逆境，感到不安，想要逃避，但事實上情況未必如「想像」般壞。只要我們保持頭腦清醒，控制情緒，就算再大的難關，也能跨過。

現實生活中，有不少人可以在逆境中自強不息，香港著名單車運動員李慧詩便是好例子，她在成名前，曾被傷患困擾，幾乎無緣出賽。可是，她堅持自己的夢想，在艱苦的逆境中奮勇向前，最後在倫敦奧運中為香港奪取一面難得的銅牌，試想想，如果她在逆境的威嚇下放棄，會有今天的成就嗎？

人生有順逆，懂得逆境自強，把挫折變成自己的動力，我們便可以屹立不倒，正如卡耐基所說：「人身處逆境，適應環境的能力實在驚人。人可以忍受不幸，也可以戰勝不幸，因為人有著驚人的潛力。」

三橋晴香 2H

記得小時候，凜冬將至。因為抵不住那強烈的寒風，世間萬物皆好似失了魂般的逐漸枯萎。百花早已開在前頭並凋謝，唯獨庭院中的一棵梅花樹頑強而生，慢慢地從幼嫩的枝頭長出花苞、含苞欲放。賦予它開花的並不是奇蹟或者它自身的魔法，而是希望與堅毅成就了它。積雪盈尺，淡黃色的臘梅猶如畫龍點睛般在白茫茫的一片雪海中添加了色彩。宋帆曾說過：「不經一翻徹骨寒，怎的梅花撲鼻香。」陣陣芳香從那傲雪凌霜的梅花傳來，也突顯了梅花的堅毅。

希望與堅毅脫不了關係，甚至可以說是環環相扣。沒有人的人生是一帆風順，多年行駛在海面上的帆船也一定經歷過風雨。半途而廢的人們往往徘徊在山腰的小徑，可擁有希望與堅毅精神的人們則會在山頂一覽無遺腳下的美景。

French

Résilience et l'espoir: une paire

La résilience et l'espoir vont de pair. Passer la journée en quarantaine a pris beaucoup d'espoir. En espérant que cela se termine bientôt, mais l'espoir peut s'éteindre. Être résilient signifie toujours faire de son mieux pour ne pas laisser l'espoir s'éteindre. La résilience est comme l'huile d'une lampe à boue, l'espoir. Vous avez besoin d'espoir pour l'avenir, afin d'être résilient face au présent.

Traduction en Anglais (Translation in English)

Resilience and hope: a pair
Resilience and hope go hand in hand. Spending the day in quarantine took a lot of hope. Hope this ends soon, but hope may be extinguished. Being resilient always means doing your best not to let hope die out. Resilience is like the oil of a mud lamp, hope. You need hope for the future, in order to be resilient in the face of the present.

Komal Gill 4Y

Non-Fiction ■ English

Voice

I clutched at my microphone, I felt the blinding lights fill my vision. I can't see the audience; they're mere silhouettes. I opened my mouth and the world went blank.

My whole life, I felt I've always had something to say; all the criticisms and the wonderful things I want to point out. Yet I always feel silenced by some abstract force that just won't ever show itself.

I was always the silent type in anything, especially in school. I was that kid who you wouldn't think has a say in anything, and to a certain extent, you'd be correct because I'd stay dead silent if you were to ask me anything. Although there was something that made me stand out, my writing, on countless occasions I've been complimented about my writing; albeit adults or my peers, simply found my writing astonishing. I wasn't sure why so many people were so impressed with it, I was just writing the first things that popped into my head. And for the longest time, I thought that was my voice. I thought that the only way to convey my feelings and thoughts was through writing. But something inside me just knew that wasn't it.

It may be hard to believe but at the time I didn't listen to music, and when I say I didn't listen to music I mean I didn't. Frankly, I wasn't sure why I didn't, I guess I just wasn't exposed to it as a child which is a fact that honestly bewilders me looking back.

But something in me changed the first time I actually listened to a song, the first song I listened to was Bohemian Rhapsody by a band from the 1970s called Queen. Needless to say, it was a breathtaking experience. The song was beautifully crafted and nuanced to a point where you know that nothing was left out and that they fixed every single mistake. That was when my life changed. It's as if it lit a spark in me and I immediately knew that it was music. But I didn't know what kind of music.

Finding out which kind of music didn't take long at all, I was horrible at instruments, I took a try at guitar and I immediately knew that was a big no. Then I tried Piano but that was worse because I couldn't play either the guitar or the piano, which basically destroyed my expectations towards playing an instrument. I almost felt hopeless until I tried singing along to another one of Queen's songs, at this point I was already very into Queen, The song I sang along to was a song called "Save me". I'm not sure how to describe the feeling of singing but it felt as if I left my body and I felt very into it. I only snapped back into reality when I heard my mom at the door make a sound looking very surprised. From the look on her face, I knew, I've found my voice.

Then, my school was holding a talent show, and I thought this was a great opportunity to express my voice. But I was still that shy boy who people thought didn't have a say in anything and were just silent all the time. I ended up just walking away and not signing up.

I went home sad that day and I think my mom noticed, she asked me what was up and I explained the whole thing to her and she told me something that resonates with me forever. "Just go for it"

I know that it's really simple but it's the way she genuinely said it is why it stays with me. To this day, it's the hope and resilience that my mom gives me that keeps me going and keeps me singing.

Through my inner strife and the adversity, I faced mustering the courage to sign up. I did but honestly, I just hoped for the best and I practised and practised. On the day of the competition, I was horrified, but the moment I stepped on the stage all my worries seemed to disappear and suddenly it was just me and the music.

Michael Paclibar 5K



*“The Spirit God gave us
does not make us afraid.
His Spirit is a source of
power and love and
self-control.”*

2 Timothy 1:7

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