

Too Good to be True

Working nine to five for nearly two months, our top 2012 graduates, Keith Lee, Joshua Fung, Owen Wong and Martin Ip, volunteered to finish our department's webpage—the English Omega Zone. Not only does this high-tech, sophisticated webpage give us an overview of our department's achievements and our top students' quality work, but it is also a 'self-learning depot', which includes materials and links that are carefully picked. Students can learn at their own pace and in their own way, moving towards autonomy. What's more, the 5-star speakers' HKDSE group discussion demonstration by Martin, Owen and Joshua gained nearly 5000 hits within the HKDSE period. Their effort, enthusiasm, passion for English and love for their alma mater are very much appreciated.



The Kau Yan College English webpage: English Omega Zone.



English Omega Zone designers and top English student graduates, 2012: (from left) Martin Ip Wing Ching, Joshua Fung and Owen Wong Yu Wai and Keith Lee Ki Lok (not pictured) (6D, 2012).

Debating: Skills for life

Cyrus Luk Siu Lun 5A

Whenever people hear that I am a part of the English Debate Team, they are surprised, if not in awe. Some of them may wonder why I am interested in debating. And some of them may ask "Is debating challenging work?" To be honest, the answer is yes. The fact is we have to prepare a long time before the actual debate. Although debating may not be an easy task, from the bottom of my heart, I do think that debating has been an absolutely unforgettable experience for me. And I am so proud that I can say I have been a part of the team.

I have been in the debate team for two years already and most of the motions I have seen were really interesting and controversial. Without a doubt, debate is an extremely rewarding activity, which can definitely broaden your knowledge of the world. During the debate, we have to analyse the debate motion very carefully and prove our statement with valid evidence and strong reasons. The more challenging part of a debate is that I have to listen to and rebut the opponents spontaneously. All these experiences have trained my analytical and critical thinking skills, which have provided me with a sense of achievement and have boosted my confidence. I do believe that what I have learnt in the debate team will be beneficial to my study or even my whole life.

So, if you are still having trouble choosing an extra-curricular activity for the coming year, why don't you come and join us? I'm sure that you will enjoy debating and find that debating is not only meaningful, but also a lot of fun!



Coey Cheung Oi Lam in action during an English debate.



Principal Chow with the KYC English Debate Team: (from left) Mika Mang Kei Yan(3A), Rodman Cho Tsun Yuen (4A), Kelly Ng Ka Wing (4A), Coey Cheung Oi Lam(5B), Vincent Ip Mau Him(4A), Sherine Hung Cheuk Ning (5A), Cyrus Luk Siu Lun (5A), Dorothy Wong Oi Ying, Mr. Choi (coach).

English Drama Club

Tess Tsang Tsz Ling 4A

For the past few years I have been a member of the English Drama Club and this year I was the captain of the English Drama Team. As the leader of the team, I had to take the initiative to lead and encourage my fellow actors and actresses. It was a precious experience for me.

The competition that we entered is an English Drama Improvisation Competition. After months of training and skill building, we were given two topics one week before the competition day. That means we had one week to brainstorm two topics, create two short skits and rehearse our performances. It was an intense week of creativity and fun! Our teachers inspired us and helped us develop ideas and we worked through the weekend to get them right; practice makes perfect as they say!

On the competition day, one topic was drawn from the envelope and we had to perform our short play. Luckily for us, our persistence paid off and we were awarded second place! If you are interested in drama, come and join us in the English Drama Club next year.



(from left) Mr. Tse, Fayee So Wing Fei (4A), Constance Fok Ming Mei (4A), Sekunder Zaheer (2A), Tess Tsang Tsz Ling (4A), Alan Shek Ho Wing (4B), Ken Woo Kwok Wang (4B) and Ms. Lane.

English Activity Days



Students enjoy English Activity Day.



English Hymn Singing Competition



Classes get involved in the Hymn Singing Competition.



Online friends are better than real life friends

Mark Mak Gin Chi 4A

With the advent of the Internet and social networking, online friends are more common than before. With this, many have begun to think that online friends are better than real life friends. As a frequent user of the Internet, I solemnly agree with this statement.

Online friend-making comes with great flexibility in selection, compared to real life friend-making, which is often restricted by your local community; you can find friends of all kinds on the Internet. For example, it's sometimes hard to find enough people to make friends with. Your selection is much bigger on the Internet.

Online friend-making is not hampered by distance unless you have a really bad connection. Whether your friend lives in Tai Po or the North Pole, you can always contact him or her, and play virtual games, etc. You don't have to worry about the feasibility of a relationship because phone fees and transport fees are too expensive. The increasing ease-of-access to the Internet only serves to further reinforce this point.

You can control the amount of time spent and the level of intimacy with online friends. For example, you could hook up with someone for a ten-minute chat, or spend days developing a long-lasting relationship. If you are cautious enough, you can control your privacy on the Internet, from I.D. to your appearance. You can hide them from you online friends easily. The advantages brought by online friend-making are simply too great to be ignored. With enough common sense and care, one could use online friends to brighten up their life more than real life friends ever will.



Real life friends are better than online friends

Hermione Wong Wai Yee 4A

I have read that 'Online friends are better than real life friends'; however, I definitely disagree with this statement.

First of all, let's make a comparison between online friends and real life friends in terms of honesty. Usually, you cannot see the faces of your online friends when you are 'chatting' with them; and by 'chatting', I mean typing. So how do you know they are not pretending to be someone else? Actually, you cannot know. Moreover, sometimes, they may ask you about your real name, phone number or even address. This could lead to an invasion of your privacy. However, with real life friends, you can talk with them face-to-face in daily life. Thus, you can learn more about them such as their personality. At least you are allowed to know their real identity. In this way, we can see that real life friends are more trustworthy than online friends.

Secondly, let's compare the activities you can do with real life friends as opposed to online friends. With online friends you can only 'chat' by typing words or sending pictures through social media. You can't hear their tone or sense their real feelings during a 'chat'. Alternatively, you can do many recreational activities with your real life friends, like hiking, cycling or just hanging out. Additionally, they may make plans with you for the future such as travelling around the world together. Real life friends can give you a warm hug when you are immersed in sadness. Your friendships are more likely to last a lifetime than an online friendship. It is obvious that real life friends are better and more reliable than online friends.

Lastly, it is harmful to chat with online friends through social media such as smart phones and computers. You may easily become an Internet addict; you may find it difficult to separate yourself from the computer. This can be detrimental to your school life and family relationships. Real life friends, on the other hand, can enhance your daily life as you are talking face-to-face with them often.

All in all, I believe that real life friends are better than online friends. Knowing a person in real life reduces the risk of danger. More importantly, real life friends care about you and you know you can trust them.



Short Story

Natalie Ng Ching Fung 5B

“What! It is 12:00pm already?” I yelled to my work partner, Jane. “We have a significant meeting in the Space Museum at 12:15pm. We’ve no time to waste!”

As we were hurrying past the Peninsula Hotel, I was distracted by a shiny white smart looking car with an engine that growled. I got a shock when I looked to see the driver and it was none other than my brother! He wasn’t supposed to be driving an expensive sports car.

“Let’s go, Natalie, we’ve no time to stop and stare at the Ferrari”, my partner yelled to me. I had no time to lose, so my feet started moving again. But I couldn’t get the image of my mind -- my brother in a sports car! Something was wrong. I needed to find out the truth.

It’s impossible for him to have that expensive car, I thought to myself. It made me think of a memory from months ago. The last time I saw my brother was at the Mid-Autumn Festival when he came to me begging to borrow money. He wasn’t a ‘normal’ gambler; he was a pathological gambler. He had been gambling on his favourite car race again, but this time he owed a great deal of money. He also said that although he was an expert on sports cars, he could never find a suitable job, and he was still unemployed. At that time, he felt his future was dark. Now, my jobless, gambling brother is a luxurious car owner? Something is not right.

When I stepped out of the museum, I saw my brother driving his Ferrari again. This time I could see the older woman beside him more clearly.

“Hey, isn’t that Cindy Chan, the celebrity?” Jane asked excitedly. “She’s got older, but she’s still attractive.”

The old lady was heavily bejeweled with her diamond rings, gold bangles, and a beautiful string of pearls around her neck. It seemed as though she was trying to recapture the glamour of her youth and her smile was as sweet as honey. ‘So, is that how my brother is funding his gambling habit?’ My heart sank.

Later that afternoon, we were in a business meeting and the stylish older lady was also in attendance, coincidentally. The opportunity was too good to pass up. I had to ask her why she was with my brother.

“Oh is that your brother?” she asked. “What a wonderful young salesman he is. His knowledge of sports cars is very detailed. I was so impressed that I bought a lovely white Ferrari, just an hour ago. He definitely has a bright future ahead of him in luxury cars.”

I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. To my relief, my brother has finally turned over a new leaf. In future I should remember the old saying, ‘Don’t judge by appearances’.

A letter to my grandmother

Cyrus Luk Siu Lun 5A

Dear Grandmother,

How have you been lately? I haven't seen you for a long time since we talked at Dad's party. I'm so happy to receive your letter and thank you for your regards.

I have been so busy these days as there are a lot of assignments and tests at school that make me feel weary indeed. But thank God everything is going well and I am getting quite good marks in my school work. Also I have learnt many interesting things at school, so let me tell you more about my school life.

Have you ever heard about Christmas carols? Recently, I read a traditional short story in our English lesson called 'A Christmas Carol'. The story is extremely thought provoking, so I really want to share it with you.

The story begins on Christmas Eve. A mean-spirited old man named Scrooge is working in his office. Scrooge is a typical money lover. He sternly refuses to donate money to charity. And the fact is that he loves money, but he doesn't like spending money on others, not even on his fiancée or his relatives. Furthermore, he hates Christmas because he believes it is a waste of time and money. All in all, nobody wants to be with Scrooge because of his greed and selfishness. Fortunately, he has a chance to change his behaviour when the Ghosts of Christmas show him the scene of his past, present and predicted future. This scares Scrooge and finally he realizes the importance of being generous and selfless.

After reading the story, I would recommend it to others. I do believe that the reason 'A Christmas Carol' has remained popular over time is because the story presents a mixture of love, horror and inspiration in our lives. Also the writer reminds us of the importance of being loving and we are taught to reflect on our actions from time to time, like Scrooge, in an effort to have a better life. Through the story, I have realised that it is vital for us to treat our friends and relatives nicely. There is no doubt that the story 'A Christmas Carol' has a moral lesson which has allowed it to remain popular over time.

If you have read the story, I would love to know what you think about it. If you have not read it, let me know and I'll send you a copy.

Take care of yourself Grandmother.

Lots of love,
Chris.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory writing pieces

The following samples are from a study of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, a literature study. Students were asked to do an empathy writing task from the perspective of one of the characters.



Dear Mr. Wonka,

Thank you very much for the marvellous experience you granted me in the chocolate factory. I know I have been over-confident and I chew gum all the time. I have been putting too much focus on awards and achievements. I think I will respect and take care of other people. After this journey, I've learnt that I should not care about awards too much, since it often makes people snobbish. Moreover, I will quit the habit of chewing gum. Thank you!

Love, Violet
Kwok Ka Yan 5D

Dear Mr. Wonka,

Thank you very much for the amazing experience you granted me in the chocolate factory. I know I have been greedy and I eat without restraint. I think I will adjust my eating habits by seeing a nutritionist. Also, the more I exercise, the fitter I'll be. I intend to quit my bad eating habits and eat less chocolate.

Love, Augustus
Lee Lai Shan 5D

Dear Mr. Wonka,

Thank you for the exciting experience you granted me in the chocolate factory. I know I have been spoiled and I always want the things that I like. I think I will learn to control myself and not demand things that I like in the future. Also, I will improve my attitude towards dear Daddy, who loves me dearly. I need to try my best. I hope that I can address my problem and change my bad behaviour. Thanks a lot.

Love, Veruca
Alvin Tsang 5D

Poet's Corner

Whatsapp

Joshua Fung, 2012 graduate, First in English 2010-2012

What if there is an app that brings us happiness,
Fulfillment, hope and joy of being sound?
What if there is an app that heals loneliness,
Sadness, sorrow and tears of a pound?
What if there really is an app that does all of this?
Everyone would live merrily a whole life long.
Each and every single man could be a whizz;
All the women in the world could sing songs.
Oh, what will life be if this is the case?
Could our endless desire for more be fulfilled?
Could those bad memories that shaped us be erased?
Would we, after all those fake feelings, feel ill?
One day, using your smartphone, you visit the app store;
You find this "Whatsapp", would you buy it for a Louis d'or?

Colour Metaphor Poems

Silver

Silver is a coin
flipped into the sky
landing on the ground.

Silver is a star
twinkling above our heads
falling into my hand.

Silver is a bustling city
never becoming dim
never becoming old.

Hermione Wong Wai Yee 4A
Ice Leung Yuet Ping 4A
Momo Yiu Nga Sze 4A
Annie Lee Ka Yee 4A

Red

Red is the machine
lying in the thoracic cavity
never retiring.

Red is the liquid
pumping to all body parts
vital, integral to life.

Red is the balloon
that inflates and deflates
with each breath, throughout life.

Ivan Ko Ching Ho 4A
Vincent Ip Mau Him 4A
Kelly Ng Ka Wing 4A
Sharon Cheung Ka Yan 4A

Picture story

Lenis Chiu 1A

Last night, Max woke up because he heard some strange noise 'meow'. He switched on the light next to the bed and got out of bed carefully and quietly. Max put on his brown dressing gown quickly. Then, Max opened the bedroom door. He took a deep breath and went out of the bedroom.

Max went downstairs quietly and carefully. He listened at the door and heard some noise, 'Meow, meow, meow'. Max felt worried. He slowly opened the door. 'Oh! It is a cat!' Max said. He saw a black cat outside the window. The cat was very beautiful! Max admired a while and he went upstairs quickly because he was so sleepy and tired. Then, Max took off his brown dressing gown. He got into bed quickly and switched off the light very fast. Max thought, 'Oh! I can sleep now!' Finally he went to sleep very quickly.

The Responsibility Song

Have Fun Teaching

I am responsible, I am reliable
I always follow through with what I'm going to do
I am dependable, I hold myself accountable
I take responsibility and do what needs to be done
I show self control, use good judgment
I think about the consequences of my actions
Responsibility, it is my duty
Fulfilling all of my moral obligations
If I mess up I will always fess up
I will keep my head up; I'm never going to give up
It is my duty and responsibility to follow through
You can count on me to do what I say that I'm going to do
I never make excuses when everything goes wrong
I take responsibility and don't blame anyone
I put the blame on me, stand up and take the lead
Come now and follow me let's make this a priority
I show self control, use good judgment
I think about the consequences of my actions
Responsibility, it is my duty
Fulfilling all of my moral obligations

Reflection

Fung Wing Yan 5B

I love this song "Responsibility Song" by Have Fun Teaching. It is a Character Education song. The theme of "Responsibility Song" is about how to be responsible and reliable. The lyrics are simple and I enjoy the melody. I agree with the song that "Responsibility, it is my duty" because it shows us that we are in charge of our behaviour and attitude.

Responsible Student Questionnaire

Are you a responsible student ?

Q1. How many times have you been late for school?

A: 0 B: 1-5 C: 6-10 D: >10

Q3: How often do you bring all your equipment to class?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q5: When do you start to prepare for exams?

A: 1 month before B: 1 week before
C: 2 days before D: the night before

Q7: How often do you help others with their problems?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q9. Do you revise in your spare time?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q11. Do you always take notes in class?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q13. Do you respect your teachers and classmates?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q15. Do you keep all areas of the school neat and clean?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q2: How often do you go to class on time and are ready to learn?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q4: How often do you pay attention in assemblies and in the classroom?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q6: How often do you complete homework and assignments on time?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q8: How often do you listen to or use the suggestions of others?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q10. Do you do your homework diligently?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q12. Are you honest in completing assignments?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Q14. Do you use an appropriate voice at school (e.g. a soft voice in the library and the classroom)?

A: always B: often C: seldom D: never

Score: A = +2 B = +1 C = -1 D = -2

Total score: /30

25 to 30 : Congratulations! Not only are you a responsible student, but you are a great role model for other students!

18 to 24 : You are a reasonably responsible student!

11 to 18 : You are really close to being a responsible student. Keep trying!

0 to 10 : You need to do some hard work to become a responsible student. You can do it!

0 to -15: You are on a long path to reach your goal. Now is a good time to start!

-15 to -20: It's time to check your attitude towards school life.

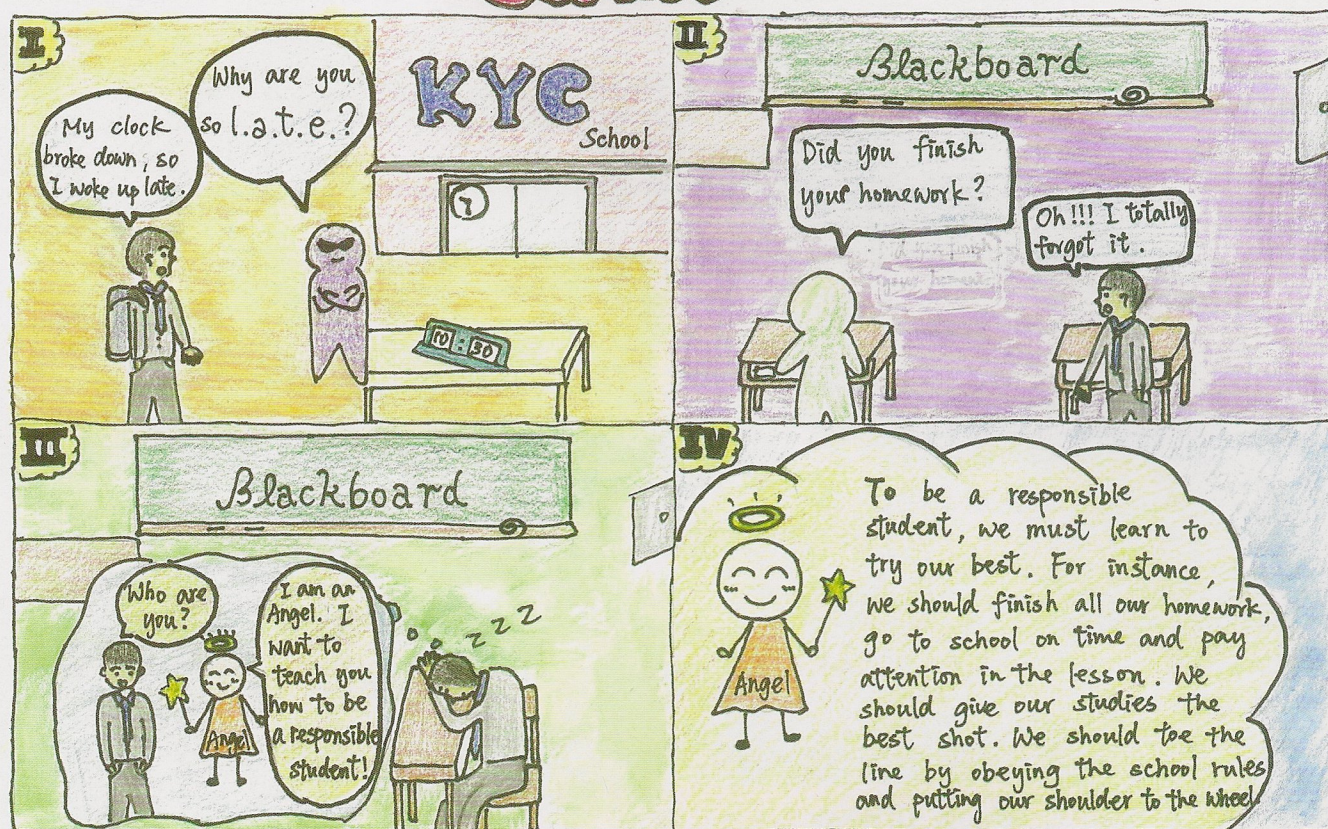
-21 to -30: Oh dear! You need to ask someone to show you how to be a responsible student, for your own sake.

Comic strip

Guidelines to being a responsible student

Sandra So Man Yi 5E and Ada Law Hiu Man 5E

Comics



Be a Responsible student !

Kau Yan College Sports Day

The Kau Yan College Sports day was held earlier this school year with great success. Students, teachers, parents and alumni got involved in various events making the Sports Day unforgettable. The Peace House was too strong this year, being declared the winner of the 2012-2013 Sports Day.

These are the grade champions:

Girls

Grade A: Lam Sau Yuk 6A, Joy House
Grade B: Sin Lok Yiu 3C, Faith House
Grade C: Lui Ching Yin 2B, Love House

Boys

Grade A: Tsui Chak Kan 6A, Peace House
Grade B: Tsang Chi Fung 4B, Joy House
Grade C: Li Man Yuk 2D, Faith House



Winners receive their awards.



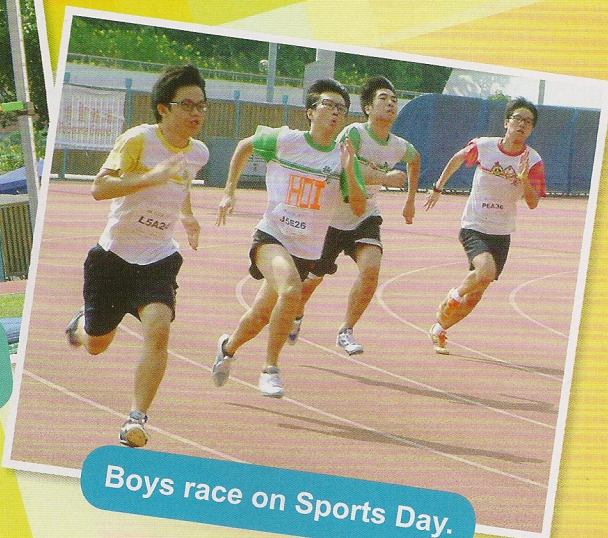
The Four Houses on Sports Day: Joy (green), Love (yellow), Peace (red) and Faith (blue).



Leung Yu Hin (1B) in the Long Jump on Sports Day.



A student jumps in the High Jump event on Sports Day.



Boys race on Sports Day.

Kau Yan College Swimming Gala

A beautiful spring day set the tone for this year's Kau Yan College Swimming Gala. The competition was strong and school records were broken. Fong Yick Sing (4B) broke a 27-year long school record for the 50m butterfly and Lui Ching Yin (2B) broke her own school record from last year for the 50m backstroke. In the end, the Joy House was declared the champion house for the day. Congratulations to all of the competitors.

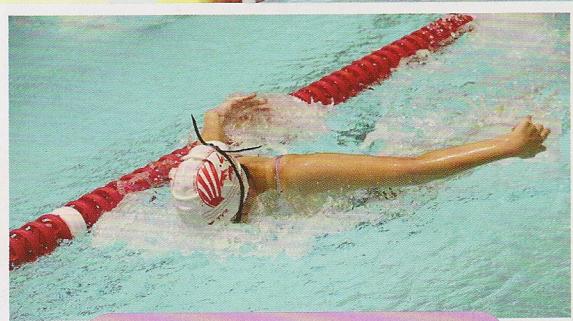
These are the grade champions:

Girls

Grade A: So Wing Lam 6C, Love House
Grade B: Fok Ming Mei 4A, Peace House
Grade C: Lui Ching Yin 2B, Love House
– school record broken for 50m backstroke

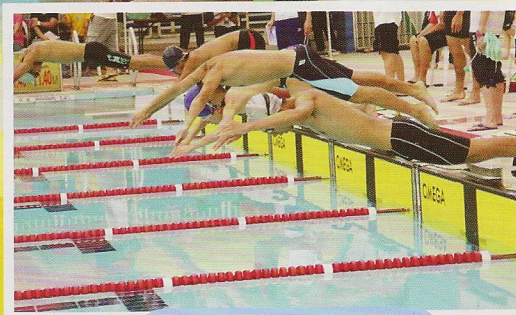
Boys

Grade A: Fong Yick Sing 4B, Love House
– school record broken for 50m butterfly
Grade B: So Yuk Shing 2C, Joy House
Grade C: Ho Hui Chun 1C, Joy House



Butterfly action Fok Ming Mei.

SG Backstroke begins.



SG Diving into pool.

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Joshua Fung S6 Graduate, 2012