

KYC Post

2017-2018



The Journey



The journey is a process of discovery, learning and growth. Our journeys can be from one place to another, like holidays or travel. We each have a journey of education; and we have journeys of childhood, adolescence and adulthood. What about spiritual journeys? How do they shape who we are? When we are on a journey, what are we learning? How are we changing? Sometimes a journey might have unexpected twists and turns. Do we embrace them and see them as valuable learning experiences?

In this edition of the KYC Post, teachers, students and alumni share their thoughts and personal experiences of different journeys.



Interview with Ms Lee Wan Yee

by Henry Chan Long Hei (1A) and Ivan Li Chun Pang (1A)

You recently went to Iran, which is not a common travel destination. What was it like?

Iran, which is also known as Persia, is exotic and fascinating. It's the 18th most populous country in the world.

Did you know the local language? How did you communicate?

The official language is Persian, but most people also speak English. They were very nice and eager to speak to us and take photos with us.

What did you like most about that place?

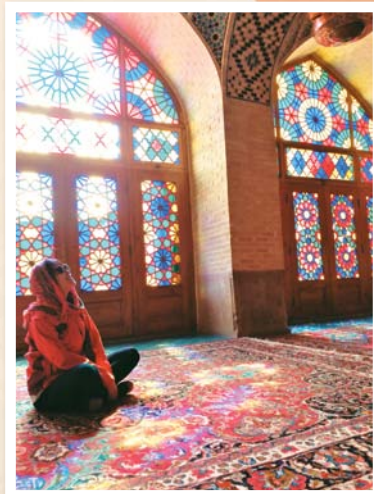
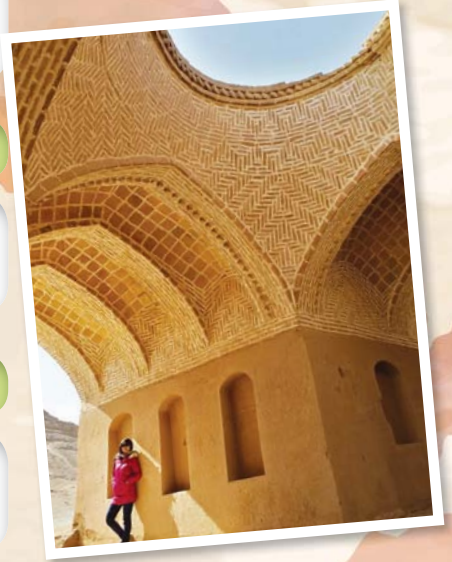
I liked the beautiful and sophisticated architecture. The Persian mosques are decorated with colourful tiles and geometric shapes.

Did you try any unusual food?

Yes, we tried dried fig and caviar. The caviar was produced at the Caspian Sea and it's top grade. It sells for \$180/ 50 grams!

What advice would you give anyone travelling to Iran?

In Iran, all women must wear a headscarf (hijab), long sleeves and long dresses or pants. They are not allowed to expose their hair, neck or arms in a public area.



Interview with Ms Zheng Shilu

by Anson Cheung Man Ching (1A) and Mavis Mak Hiu Laam (1A)

What is the best city you have ever been to?

Paris, France.

Did you know the local language? How did you communicate?

No. I didn't really know French. I used English or body language to communicate.

What did you like most about that place?

I liked the historical buildings. There are so many beautiful old buildings, like Musee d'Orsay. I also loved being along the river Seine where you could enjoy the sunshine, drink cola and relax.

Did you try any unusual food? Or do you have a favourite food from that place?

We went to a 100-year-old restaurant. I tried snails, which is a French delicacy. They were a little oily, but they tasted nice.

What advice would you give anyone travelling to Paris?

I would say do some research about Paris before you go. There is so much to see and do, but if you try to cram it all in, it won't be relaxing. Spend time strolling around the neighbourhood, observing the people and soaking up the Parisian atmosphere. There are interesting little shops and cafes everywhere. A walk along the river is very peaceful and a nice way to spend the afternoon.



Interview with Ms Chan Ching Fong

by Victoria Chan (1B) and Wong Chin Wing (1B)

What is one of the best trips you have ever done?

One of the best trips I've ever done was in Canada. I travelled from Ottawa to Montreal.

Did you know the local language? How did you communicate?

They speak in English and French. In Montreal, more than 70% speak in French and many of the signs are written in French, so it was quite difficult for me.



What did you like most about that place?

I loved the famous architecture.

Did you try any unusual food? Or do you have a favourite food from that place?

Yes. Smoked meat sandwiches. This is a common lunch in Canada.

Will you go back to Canada?

Yes! In the summer holiday or next year.

What advice would you give anyone travelling to Canada/ Montreal?

Take a kettle!





● Film Review: Into the Wild ●

By Wu Steffi Yue Wah (4A)

Recently, I watched a movie called Into the Wild, written and directed by Sean Penn. The movie is about one man's journey to Alaska, to live off the land. Christopher McCandless was born into a wealthy family. After graduating from university with honours, he left his home and wandered through the American countryside, finally arriving in Alaska. Unfortunately, Christopher was unprepared for the Alaskan wilderness and died of starvation.

I am fascinated in Christopher's experience. We should always be responsible for our own choices. When we make our own decisions, we need to accept the consequences. Christopher gave up his job and money to live a life more wild and free. This was not a 'normal' decision and it took courage and determination. Although he died for his dream, he did not have any regrets in his life. Nobody can really judge his decision. I felt happy that he achieved his dream of living in the wild because he was doing what he wanted; he was living for himself.

I highly recommend this movie to someone who is afraid to be himself or herself. Hiding our real personalities to satisfy others is exhausting. Why don't we express who we are? We should give ourselves the chance to pursue the meaning of existence. Let's not be afraid of our dreams, otherwise we might be left with lifelong regret.

Book Review: Divergent

By Li Siu Yeung (4A)

This science fiction story, written by Veronica Roth is about a girl named Beatrice (Tris) who has to attend a 'Choosing Ceremony' and select the faction to which she belongs. The five factions are Abnegation, the selfless; Amity, the kind; Candour, the honest; Erudite, the intellectual; and Dauntless, the fearless. Beatrice finds out that she has the characteristics of two factions Abnegation and Dauntless, which is forbidden. She decides to dedicate herself to Dauntless and tries to hide her divergence as deep as she can.

From the novel, I have learnt that we shouldn't crumble. Tris (a.k.a. Beatrice) is teased and insulted by the other initiates, but she doesn't give up. After some extra training from her overseer, Four, her position suddenly improves and she becomes the best of the initiates. Her character grows through the story and she becomes a strong young woman.

Divergent is the first novel in a trilogy. The second novel is Insurgent and the third, Allegiant. This is an enjoyable novel with an interesting plot and great characters.

Learning as an unplanned journey: *why 'wrong tickets' will always lead us to the 'right places'*

By Owen Wong Yu Wai (alumni, class of 2012)

The writer Owen Wong makes an attempt to explain and demonstrate, based on his invaluable and unique post-KYC learning experience, why and how occasional disarticulation of oneself with a perfectly planned route – being 'off the track', so to speak – might surprisingly bring about unintended consequences, or even serendipity. Throughout the article, he guides us to have a rethinking over the traditionally and socially constructed meanings of 'learning' as well as the dynamic concept of 'journey', and redefines them in a rather sophisticated fashion.



Dear KYC students, if you are one who loves all aspects of learning life and you hold strong beliefs in the power of learning; if you are one who, without any sense of certainty and assurance, lacks both confidence in and motivation for learning; or simply, if you are one who has a great worry about your own future, this article is designed purposefully and written exclusively for YOU.

One of my all-time favourite quotes on contemporary learning is by Alvin Toffler, an American futurist/futurologist: "The illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn" – the fundamental implication of which indicates that the 'battlefields' of learning have been transformed and switched to a different form and higher level, which equally carries the deeper implication that the traditional and conventional ways of (perceiving) learning – which strictly confines one's learning process to certain particular pre-determined paths, 'right' directions and designated frameworks – may have dominated our common thinking and practices, but they might also have been decades out of date.

In truth, the longing for a destination is nowhere stronger than in our everyday learning. Empirically, our respective learning journeys have seen too much careful planning and too many accurate calculations in search of a destination; however ironic, we plan to go somewhere as if we want to achieve something, we know the plan well, but we end



up being in some unimagined, yet truly right destinations from hindsight. The journey of learning just brings us to the right places with many, many wrong tickets.

Let me share the story of a young man whose learning journey begins at Kau Yan College. Back in the good old school days when he first came to KYC, he did not clearly know whether he was holding in his hands the 'right ticket' or being in the 'right place' – not in the sense that KYC was somewhere he did not want to go as KYC was his very first choice, but that initially he was allocated to another school and only entered KYC by 'knocking on the door' having successfully grasped the interview opportunity. Despite the ambivalence, he just did not think much along the way. What he did, instead, was to make incredible plans and set learning goals for his unknown future – one of which was to study Law at university. However, it did not work out as he did not score high in the public examination. He then changed his mind and turned to Philosophy but was rejected, once again – this was the exact point at which the plausible 'wrong ticket' came into play: studying Politics and International Relations was his only 'choice', which forced him to involuntarily think and question if it was the 'wrong ticket' taking him to the 'wrong place'.

Losing all hope was a hope; losing all choices was a choice; losing them all – being 'off the track' – was absolute and genuine freedom without limits. Such freedom somehow granted him countless opportunities for freely exploring and performing at university and within the subject area: increasingly fascinated by what he studied day-in-day-out, with no over-planning or -calculation he kept absorbing as much as he possibly could and made himself one of the best students of the field. From a consequentialist point of view, the 'wrong ticket' and the 'wrong place', if they truly existed, both turned out to be the right ones: after the four years of learning journey, the young man was sent to a top university in the UK – his dream school – to go on another learning journey.

A great friend of mine, also an alumnus at KYC, who seemingly knows a thing or two about the art and philosophy of travel, writes in a travel blog: "one plans to go somewhere and has a decent plan but ends up being in some unimagined, yet truly right, destination. The journey just takes one to the right places with many, many wrong tickets." True, no single traveller in this world can be so sure about where exactly the next trip will lead him to.

James and the Creepy Island

By Felix Ng Man Chit, 1A

After a long battle, James and the insect army defeated the huge metal shark. Then, James continued the journey to New York.

"Get back to your place, kid!" yelled Centipede, feeling lucky to have survived.

A few hours later, the huge group of seagulls were feeling tired. They couldn't hold the peach any longer. Earthworm panicked and wanted to jump off the peach. Fortunately, Ladybird pulled him back.

"Guys! Look, there's an island over there!" Old Green Grasshopper told everyone.

"We're all going to die!" Earthworm started to sob.

The giant peach was getting closer to the mystery island and lowering in altitude at the same time.

"Don't make us scared," said Miss Spider.

Bam! The giant peach hit the ground hard and all the seagulls escaped from the strings that were tying them to the peach. The giant peach began to fall apart.

"Is everyone okay?" asked Ladybird.

"I'm fine," the others replied, one at a time.

The insects walked into the forest with James to start a new adventure on the island. When they got to the middle of the island, a mega cube popped up out of nowhere and started to attack them. The cube was hovering above them and shooting missiles towards James but he dodged every single one. Centipede threw hundreds of rocks and pebbles, trying to take the cube down.

However, the cube was made of iron and copper. The insects and James couldn't beat him with rocks, so James had an idea to defeat the unbeatable cube. James wanted Old Green Grasshopper to distract the cube, while Miss Spider used her strings to cover the cube. Ladybird shot James and Miss Spider up towards the cube.

"James, don't risk your precious life!" said Miss Spider, but James kept working to kill the engine inside the cube.

Beep, beep, beep. A strange warning signal sounded from the cube before it began to fall from the sky.

"We are all going to die!" sobbed Earthworm as he dug a hole and jumped inside.

The cube crashed to the ground and smashed into pieces. Everyone decided it was wise to leave the island. They put the peach into the sea and bobbed along in the water.

A few days later, James noticed a strange statue of a woman getting bigger as they got closer. "Who is that giant woman?"

"Why it's the Statue of Liberty. It represents freedom, and it's on Liberty Island, Manhattan. That's New York! Hurrah! We've made it," claimed Old Green Grasshopper.

Finally, James and his friends had arrived in New York. They were excited to start their new lives.

The background of the page is a vibrant, stylized illustration. At the top, there are purple and pink clouds. Below them, three hot air balloons are floating: a purple one on the left, an orange one in the middle, and a large pink one on the right. The balloons have colorful patterns and baskets. The sky is a light blue gradient. At the bottom, there are dark grey mountains with white snow-capped peaks. A small hot air balloon is also visible near the bottom center. The overall style is whimsical and colorful.

James's Journey to New York

By George Lai Hin Chun

"How did we get that massive hook stuck inside our boat? We're all going to die!" cried Earthworm.

"Don't worry," said Miss Spider as she pulled a massive hammer and punched the hook out of the boat.

That night all was well. James had thought of a brilliant plan with the seagulls to help them fly away on the peach. Everyone was sleeping well, getting ready for another day of adventure.

James woke up first and went outside of the peach. He saw that the seagulls were biting the string and trying to escape. He quickly woke the other crewmembers and thought of a great plan. He told Miss Spider to produce many strings and tried to get the seagulls back, but it didn't work. The weight of the peach was too heavy for the few seagulls left and the peach fell for 10 seconds before it made a massive splash in the ocean.

"Oh no! The peach is all broken. Ohhh," cried Earthworm.

"Fear not! Luckily, for us, the U.S. border is not far. After a few days of sailing, we should be in New York!" said Grasshopper.

"Let's gather up the pieces of wood before they float away and make a raft," suggested James.

"Brilliant idea!" said Ladybird proudly.

A few days later they landed on the border. Everyone got off the raft and went to the place they wanted to go to, leaving James alone. James took the train and went straight into New York city. He went up to the top of the tallest building and he could see there were no scary monsters or rhinos.

Story

By Jeffrey Lam Ka Chai (3B)

The village stood before the boys. From the looks of it, this was rather a small village. The gravel road led to the few buildings that remained. The rest couldn't stand the test of time and had crumbled into rubble. There was a shop and a few houses on the left, and only an old, dried-up well on the right. Vines crept across the buildings, which gave the group of friends a feeling of dread. In the middle of the village was a fountain that no longer worked. Behind the fountain was a path that led to a mansion that, somehow, was in better condition than other houses. Next to the mansion was a sign 'The manor of Dracula'. Upon reading the sign, the boys felt the urge to enter, despite being frightened. It was like the mansion was alive and dragging them in.

The mansion's interior was in mint condition. There was a warm brick fireplace and comfortable rocking chair. It was nice enough to feel homely, but they didn't. They felt dread. They questioned many things.

'Why is the village abandoned?' asked John.

'How is the mansion in mint condition?' questioned Harry.

Their conversation almost drowned out the constant 'cling-clang' noise in the background.

'Did you hear that?' Jack asked the others.

They all turned around slowly and gasped. The door was locked with a chain latch!

'How did that get there?' Peter asked, his voice trembling. No one replied.

With the door bolted shut, they decided to explore the mansion in the hopes of finding another way out. There were two hallways; one on the left and one on the right. They took the right hallway first. They walked the long hall and discovered several rooms. In front of one room was a stool. On the stool sat a key with the tag 'L2'. Harry grabbed the key quickly and suddenly a giant boulder rushed at them at high speed. He had tripped the wire and triggered the release of the boulder. The boys dived out of the way and the boulder quickly passed them and hit the entrance to left hallway, blocking it entirely.

Was it shock? Or was it fear? The boys felt their hearts beat faster. Their adrenaline was rushing. At least they knew they were alive, despite what had just happened.

They continued up to the second floor. At the top of the stairs, they saw a red door. There were various images of war and death on the door. Despite the appearance of the door, the group entered. Inside, the walls were splattered with dried blood. A marble statue stood in the middle. It was a statue of a man holding a trident. In his copper hands was a key; their only hope of escape.

Reluctantly, Jack reached out to grab the key.

‘Wait!’ cried Ken. “Can you see the string? It could be a trap.’

‘Good catch,’ Jack replied.

Jack retracted his hand. He took out his handy pocketknife and cut the string. Suddenly the hand closed and metal spikes shot out of the fist.

‘Whoa! That was close!’ said Ken.

The set about carefully prising the copper hand open. Together they were able to open the hand enough to take the key.

‘Great. Let’s get out of’ Peter was cut off by the sound of a wall moving. They all spun around to see a man walk through a small gap in the wall. He wore a torn grey vest with a strange mask, similar to those worn by doctors during the plague epidemic in the 17th century. He raised his machete and struck the floor with such force that it created a large crack. The boys ran down the stairs like scared rabbits. Well, all but one. Peter was petrified. He couldn’t move. As the others reached the front door, they saw that the chain was unlocked. They opened the door and dashed to freedom.

The lucky ones realised there was never a Count Dracula, nor a vampire. All there ever was a psycho who called himself Dracula.

What’s that, dear reader? What happened to Peter? Well, he could’ve died, or he could be the narrator of this story. Who knows.

A Journey

By Nicole Chui Ling Sang (4A)

A Journey is a present
waiting
to unfold.

A journey is a camera
leaving
memories in my heart.

A journey is a map
leading
my life to somewhere unknown.

BetaCamp: A cultural and language exchange

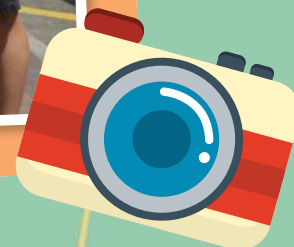
By Yau Ka Wai (3A), Cheng Hoi Ching (3A), Wong Sum Yi (3A), Yim Yu Wa (3A), Chan Si Yee (4A), Chui Ling Sang (4A), Liu Man Yin (4A), Huang Jie (4A), Cheung Man Chun (4A)

BetaCamp is an experiential learning platform in an English environment for secondary school students. Its aim to boost students' confidence in English communication and encourage them to try new things.

BetaCamp is held by a group of Poly U students who invited different students from different countries such as Kazakhstan, Brazil and Russia to talk with Secondary 3 and 4 students.

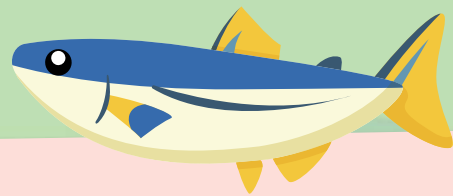
The international facilitators shared the culture of their countries and even brought food from their countries to share with us. It was a great opportunity to learn about countries more deeply. Local facilitators from Poly U also shared their problems before entering university and how they coped with them.

On Day 3, we had to develop our communication skills and confidence in speaking English with strangers. It was a very meaningful activity because we could show people love by just a little action of giving.





A letter to Ocean Park



Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my opinion about the possibility that Ocean Park would bring in more marine animals.

I think it is evident that many marine animals brought to the park would need the protection and care of the park. However, keeping sick animals and putting them into a tanks filled with water should not be the park's work and would deprive the animals of their freedom.

Making use of animals to entertain people is also wrong, as it resembles the idea of a circus.

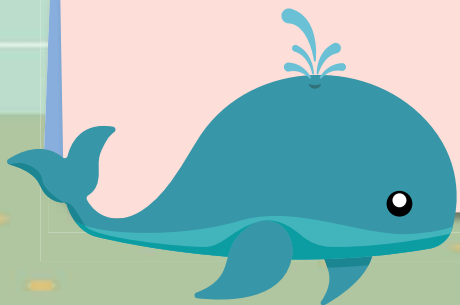
Please kindly consider not introducing any new marine animals. I look forward to your reply.

Thank you very much.

Mr Harry Choi

5A Kau Yan College

Tai Po



English Activity Day: Biology and English





Student Reflections

On debating:

Debating makes me feel more comfortable speaking in front of others and I can express my opinions about social issues. Enrica Cheng Hoi Yi (5A)

In each debate, we do not learn exam skills. More importantly, we learn critical thinking skills, which will be useful for our whole lives. Anton Wang Caibaitong (3A)

I think debating is challenging, but I really enjoyed giving a speech on stage. Zebe Lam Tsz Ching (2A)

On film-making:

When you're making a film, not everything always goes the way you want, so you need to do a lot of planning and still be flexible. Also, while the project matters, don't forget to have fun! People have different opinions but we can talk about them rather than argue; we can always find a solution. Huri Cheung Hei Yiu (3A)

Film-making is a long process and it requires teamwork and time. It's certainly not an easy task, but I can see why many decide to be in the film industry – it's quite satisfying when you see the end results. Jeffrey Lam Ka Chai (3B)

I think group work is important because we can all give different ideas and discuss them until they develop into something great. I also think that one person's ideas is as important as another person's ideas because we are all part of a group. Kimi Wu Kin Fung (3B)

In this film-making process, I learnt about time management. Although we handed the film in on time, we were a bit rushed in the days before it was due, which was tiring. We need to organize our time better in future to avoid this. Marco Leung Ho Cheung (3B)

The script is essential to the film, as it is what must be filmed, recorded and edited. The script gave guidance to the actors, including dialogue and actions; and provided a reference for the team as to a filming schedule. The script also conveys the friendship of the people involved in the film. We all pitched in with ideas, advice and support, which strengthened our bond, as well as our work ethic. Jerry Ma Xue Lin (3A).