

WORDS LINES PAGES

STUDENT ANTHOLOGY 004

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Are Teachers Replaceable?

by Liu Wai Leung, Louis (2014 graduate)



Thanks to the remarkable progress in technology, nowadays information is readily available on the Internet. As almost everything can be accessed on the Internet, some may point out that there is no necessity for the existence of traditional schools; while some may argue that schools and teachers are irreplaceable. For me, traditional secondary schools and teachers should by all means exist, with three reasons to support my views.

To commence with, teachers' irreplaceable position in education becomes the very first reason for my claim. Teachers play an important role in inspiring students while computers fail to do so. It is true that the Internet contains a lot of information. However, when students have problems when learning on the internet, their problems, deplorably, cannot be solely solved by the Internet for the Internet purely provides students with information. They cannot directly point out students' mistakes and figure out why their answers are true or false. For instance, subjects under the 'subjective marking method' such as Chinese History and Business Studies, students' works cannot be assessed by computers because their subjects' questions are 'open-ended questions'

instead of MC questions. It is impossible for make a judgment on whether the essay is good or bad. On the contrary, these can be done by school teachers easily. Teachers can illustrate the answers in great details with explicit examples. They can also point out the unique mistakes of students and inspire them to remedy the situation. Consequently, We can see that only teachers can inspire students to study but the Internet provides just information that fails to do so. The internet, therefore, cannot replace the special position of teachers and it is invalid to say that traditional secondary schools and teachers are not necessary.

Besides, traditional secondary schools help imbue students with social skills, which the Internet can by no means imitate. The Internet simply just provides us with the information. In secondary school, students' social interactions are everywhere. We can learn how to communicate with others through chatting with our classmates and teachers; We can learn how to cooperate with others through joining some competitions or group projects. Better still, we can even learn how to manage an organization when we take up a post as the committee member of school societies. Nonetheless, students cannot learn these practical skills through the Internet. Everything

students are exposed to is just a machine. Some may counter that they may have a chance to chat with friends through Facebook or Skype. However, these kinds of social networking sites cannot succeed in teaching students true social skills, such as face-to-face interaction. After all, the authentic value of education is not only to impart knowledge to students, but also equip students with suitable social skills, in order to help them deal with their future lives. Hence, when the Internet fails to achieve the authentic value of education, it is unjustifiable to have a notion that traditional secondary schools and teachers are no longer necessary.

Last but not least, learning through the Internet cannot ensure the quality of studies and may, however, become a hindrance to studies. Precise information is not guaranteed on the Internet. Despite the massive information available on the Internet, it is hard to determine whether the resources are accurate. For instance, Wikipedia provides a lot of information for the public, but, regrettably, it contains certain amount of wrong information. Its data-bases can be freely edited by anyone using the Internet. Thus, the Internet may provide us with inaccurate information. The majority of data are offered by the anonymous. As a result, when students study these materials, they may be misinformed by the incorrect information. It goes without

saying that it will adversely affect their studies. On the contrary, teachers who are professionally trained in education can teach students precise knowledge. Almost all of the teachers were graduated at universities and possess profound knowledge in different subjects. Their teaching is beyond doubt convincing and trustworthy. Therefore, the argument that the Internet can replace teachers and traditional schools cannot stand when it cannot provide accurate information for students.

Traditional secondary schools and teachers should exist regardless of the advancement of the Internet. All in all, the Internet can only be a supplement for studies. It is nevertheless impossible to replace the role of traditional schools and teachers which helps provide comprehensive development for students. †

Studying in local schools or overseas

by Jade Leung Man Yan (5A)



Do you have some friends or schoolmates who have left Hong Kong to study overseas? Today I will examine two reasons why many Hong Kong parents are sending their children to other countries to complete their schooling. Also, I will discuss the effect this has on local schools and on the children who leave to study overseas.

In my opinion, the first reason that leads to this phenomenon is that parents don't want their children to endure the pressure and torment of the HKDSE. It is without a doubt that this examination is a hardship for Hong Kong students. If you want to enter University, you need to put an enormous amount of time and effort into each subject because there are very few academic degree places at each university. Thus, many parents don't want to see their children being defeated by the pressure of the HKDSE; they want them to have a happier school life. This is why they send them overseas.

Studying in other countries can also broaden students' horizons. They can experience dorm life and different cultural values and traditions. Students studying abroad become more independent and gain confidence along with improved communication skills. Also, Hong Kong employers are always looking for highly skilled

people with a good level of English. Parents see studying abroad as an investment in their child's future; they want their children to get a fabulous job so they send them to English-speaking countries such as the U.S. or the U.K.

Of course, this phenomenon has an effect on local schools and the children who leave to study overseas. With students leaving to study elsewhere, there are fewer students completing the HKDSE. This reduces the range of achievement in the exams and can impact on the reputation of the HKDSE.

Children who study overseas can do so in a relaxing atmosphere because other countries do not focus solely on academic results. Instead, students are required to enjoy a variety of activities benefiting their personal growth. Additionally, students completing school overseas have a much greater chance of entering an overseas university.

In conclusion, studying overseas is popular among Hong Kong families because parents believe that their children can develop their potential more effectively. They believe that in sending their children overseas, they are giving them a good foundation for their future. †

Be Thankful

by Sekunder Zaheer (4A)



Good morning, everyone! My name is Chris Wong, the Chairperson of the Student Union. First of all, I would like to ask you guys something. How was your year? Have you been going through some good things? Or you just feel terrible about the things around? Here is a poem I would like to share:

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

the poem is written by Ralph Waldo Emerson.
And the poem is about being thankful.

It is coming to the close of the academic year, looking back to what we have been through. We've come a long way from where we began, but did we notice the things around us through the way? I, myself have been through a rough year. There was so much pressure around, from parents expectation to teachers expectation. I've been knocked down by these kinds of pressure badly. It was like I hit rock bottom. And I didn't know how to get back up. I was really exhausted. I started to give up myself. The first thing I did every day as I got out of bed was going back to bed. I was living like I

didn't have a soul, just like the walking dead. It sounds horrible, right?

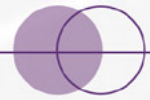
But when I was in my darkest time, a friend came up to me. He encouraged me by being with, helping me. He taught me to look at the bright side of life. And here I am now, telling you guys to do the same.

Maybe it's been a bittersweet year for all of us. Some may have good luck; some may just have bad days. But besides looking at the dark side of life, there are many things that we should be thankful for as the poem I recited said.

Although we may have rough times, there will always be a bright side, and we should be thankful for what we own. The academic year is coming to an end, but also a new beginning. We should all be thankful for the past and be graceful for the future. Let the dark side of life rest and the bright side of life shines. Thank you! †

Back to the Beginning

by Sekunder Zaheer (4A)



In spite of my good exam results, I decided not to continue my studies. All I really wanted to do was travel the world.

I had just turned 18 years old and I decided not to go to school anymore; I wanted to travel, to explore this beautiful world. At first my parents really disagreed. But after months of begging, they finally realized that I am all grown up!

The teachers were really upset though. They thought that I would study all the way to university and achieve good marks representing our school. But, that's not my problem anymore.

I was thrilled about planning my trip, but then my dad came into my room and destroyed my dreams by saying he and mom wouldn't pay a penny for my travel. My biggest problem then was the money; how could I fund this dream?

To find enough money, I went back to search for full-time jobs, part-time jobs or something that even gave me a chance to win money (lottery). Finally, I found a job near my house, working in a convenience store.

The first day of my job went pretty well. The manager of the store was really good to me. He

taught me all the things I needed to know and he was patient. But the second day started to get rough. As customers came in big waves, our manager started to unveil his real face behind the mask. He was really grumpy. He kept scolding us. I couldn't imagine that he was the same kind man I met on the first day!

After a month, I decided to quit my job. It was too exhausting and the manager was like Godzilla, really terrifying! But my salary wasn't even enough to get me to the beginning of my trip. I was really depressed and I didn't know what to do.

The next day, I went to a friend of mine, Peter, who also had left school years ago. I was hoping that he would give me some advice. He also wanted to travel the world once, but then he became a successful businessman. I went to his office and sat down.

He said to me, "Chris, I know you really want to go around the world now, but it ain't gonna happen. You're still young. I hope you'll take my advice and get yourself back to school."

I was really angry and disappointed. Although Peter was older than me by about 12 years, I still treated him like my best pal. What a waste

of time!

Then I went home and went straight to bed. It was only 8pm in the evening but I fell asleep. I was dreaming about what Peter had said to me, the words were like buzzers in my head.

‘Back to school. Back to school...’

I woke up with sweat all over my back. Then I realized that all I had done since leaving school was a waste of time. I remembered the days when my friends and I were at school having great times together.

‘How could I leave those beautiful memories behind?’ I kept asking myself.

No matter how hard I resisted, I started to cry. I regretted leaving school. I should have listened to my parents. Why was I so stupid? I kept on abusing myself, wishing that it was all another nightmare, but the truth is I stuffed up! I disappointed everyone.

After a day for two, I stepped up to my parents and told them that I was sorry for not listening to them. I hadn’t been going to school for almost two months, but it seemed like I had left my second home for a year. I really missed school. I asked for help from my parents and my friend, Peter. I then found out a surprising thing. Peter and the Principal of my school

were friends! Peter told me that I could go back to the same school with the same class. I felt relieved and I told myself that it was my second chance and I can’t throw it away again.

Although I really wanted to travel the world, I think that I’ll have to put that dream aside and enjoy my school life.

Essentially, I guess you could say I have gone back to the beginning! †

You are Never Too Old to Live your Dreams

by Cherry Lam Tuen Nga (5A)



I'm a thirty-two-year-old woman. I wanted to sing to everyone when I was a kid and the dream hasn't faded away. I used to think I would never have the chance to pursue my dream. But today, I want to tell all of you that you are never too old to live your dreams.

As a kid, sometimes my mum would take me to a restaurant for dinner. At one particular restaurant, there was always a beautiful lady standing on the stage, singing with a wonderful voice. Her voice made me feel peaceful and joyful. At that time, I thought about how great it would be if I could stand on a huge stage and sing, bringing happiness to others.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. My dad passed away when I was nine and my mum had to raise me by herself. It was a tough time for us, so my mum always told me to study hard so I could get a good job, then I would be able to move on from this tough life. I spent almost all of my time studying, doing homework and revision exercises. There was no time for me to practice singing. My dream was just a dream.

After I finished school, I went to University, got a nursing degree and became a nurse in a Hong Kong hospital. My mum was incredibly proud of

me and what I had achieved. I also found personal happiness as I met my husband there and now we have two lovely children. But I always felt like there was something missing from my life, something I needed to do. I started to reflect and try to work out what was missing -- what did I need? Then it occurred to me, where is my dream?

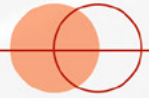
I told my husband and my children about my dream of singing and entertaining people. It felt a little foolish to be thinking about it now, all these years later. I asked them what they thought about my dream; should I finish it? I was surprised with their resounding 'YES'!

With my family's encouragement and all the courage I had, I joined a singing competition and readied myself to take the stage. I was prepared for anything, including the worst; harsh criticism from the judges or the audience's cruel laughter. I was ready. I didn't care how they responded, as long as I gave my dream a shot. No regrets.

I couldn't believe the recognition that followed. The media reported the story of my life and my new found success. I began singing at celebrations and restaurants, much like the lady I admired when I was a child. Remember, you are never too old to live your dreams! †

Gaining Applauses from the Pedestrians

By Ivan Ko Ching Ho (6A)



Dear Editor,

Just a few months earlier, nothing took us aback quite so much as the brawl in the pedestrian zone of Mong Kok's Sai Yeung Choi Street. The campaign organised by the local residents aimed to advocate the idea of restricting the opening hours for street performers become a brawl between the performers and the residents. The campaign ended with bloodshed sheds light on this latest controversy. In my view, in no way should we neglect the downsides of this policy.

The reasons to which the government should not restrict the opening hours for the street performers in the pedestrian zone can be ascribed are manifolds. To commence with, we should not only take care of the feeling of the local residents but also that of street performers. Most of them have been performing there for over 10 years, in which the pedestrian zone, irrefutably, becomes their another home. Gaining applauses from the pedestrians there, they found their pride and the feeling of success which are irreplaceable by any other jobs or habits. Chan Pak, started his singer life at pedestrian zone since his retirement, said he found his value there. He found tremendous support there and he found his meaning of life

there. When he was asked what if the opening hours were restricted, he said, 'If I lose the last place that can accomodate by passion and spirit, I'm going to lose my meaning of life.' It can be seen that pedestrian zone is the home of passion and enthusiasm to many performers. Isn't it unmerciful to destroy their dream!

It might also be noted that the performances in the pedestrian zone are invaluable local culture that should never be suppressed. Sustained and unremitting as the government's effort is, there is still a long way to go before we, Hong Kongers, succeed in fulfilling our coveted dream of transforming our place into a genuine cosmopolitan city in the eyes of foreigners. Political uncertainty and hectic lifestyles are not the stumbling blocks. Our deficiency is the lack of local culture. The urban sprawl has made many traditional culture disappeared and it eventually comes to own street performances which have witnessed the development and the success of Hong Kong. This indigenous culture is well-reputed in the globe so many tourists come to enjoy the splendid performances from the performers, probably Chan Pak. Is it a wise decision to suppress local culture that is not much left?

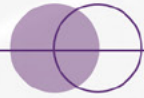
Furthermore, the restriction of the opening hours for street performers may bring negative influences on Hong Kong's economy. As aforementioned, many tourists come to Hong Kong for our renowned street performances. The restriction may disappoint our tourists, which is a great shock to Hong Kong's tourism. A large number of shops may close down in Sai Yeung Choi Street. Our government should not only take care of the feeling of the local residents but also the owners of shops that rely on tourism.

It is understandable that the noise and crowd are some how annoying, but we should never overlook the tremendous benefits come from street performances. We as Hong Kongers also have the responsibility to take the role of heritor of this culture and carefully treasure it. It is earnestly hoped the proposal will be withdrawn and we can take our indigenous culture to the world.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong †

Women's rights

By Lui Ho Wang, Wong Yuet, Leung Shek Kwan, Chan Ching Ka



That is unfair.
No one seems to care.
Be it good or bad,
You always make me sad
What's in your eyes?
You always
Make me cry.
We cry all night
Trying to ease the plight
Everyone has their own points of view.
It, we don't need to conceal.
We have the right
To make it right.

†

Biochemical Reactions

By Sun Ho Yin, So Man Yiu, Lau Yan Lam, Fan Ka Ni (4A)

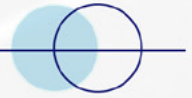


Evaporation
Transpiration
Titration
Neutralization
Reduction
Oxidation
DCPIP solution
Iodine solution
Calcium hydroxide solution
Magnesium sulphate solution
Sodium Potassium Calcium
Boooooooooooooooooooooooooooooom

†

Irresistible

By Mark Mak (6A)



Good-afternoon my colleagues, as some of you may know, we have been contracted by the company Gamesuit International two months ago to advertise their new product, War-Sys Mark I. A set of simulated weapons and armour designed for enthusiastic war gamers who want to pursue realism in their game. It is scheduled to be released in the First quarter of 2015. I will now present the advertising plan I've assigned to produce.

I'll start by introducing the product. It consists of a full body suit, including a helmet, along with simulated weapons. The weapons are mostly simulated firearms, just like in a normal war game. The weapons send out digital signals when they are "fired", which are received by the sensors on the target's suit. The suit registers the hit and reacts depending on where you were hit. For example, a shot to the head or body makes you unable to use your weapon, taking you out of the game; while a shot to the hand or leg makes you unable to use it for operating a weapon, or slow your leg's movement down – Realistic, isn't it?

On this feature alone, we could present it as the greatest innovation that the world of war gaming was ever granted. It will also

be presented as a better alternative to video gaming – It involves real exercise, and since you are physically participating, it will be a much more immersive experience, and that is a point we wish to get across to our audience. It will be packaged in a gigantic cardboard box, with the motto, "Next-Gen War gaming," printed in bold letter on it.

TV advertisement is effective as it can reach a wide audience, potentially uncovering new customers for our client's product. I plan to run a commercial on both TVB and HKTV. TVB is the most watched television station in Hong Kong, and HKTV is mainly watched by youths, which is an age-group likely to play war games and with high consumption power.

The advertisement will be styled like a movie thriller, with black background and starting with the screen intensifying on the phrase, "The next generation in war gaming", followed by a recording of a war game player playing in the suit. It will be done from the in-built helmet to show that players could savour every moment in their game, and review it later on. The video will follow the player through as he goes through an intense battle to take over an outdoor warehouse, showing that with the

suit, any place could potentially become a war game playground, giving them much freedom. While the audience is watching the video, the narrator will talk about the feature of the suit, only 10 kg of weight in total, realistic feature, impact-safe, maintenance-free. At the end of the video, the narrator will speak in an intense voice, "All yours, for only \$1,500, at your nearest Gamesuit International Outlet." It is hoped that this message will invoke the customer's desire to possess the product and buy it. †

However, we must recognize that war gamers are a relatively small group and they may not be willing to spend \$1,500 on their own entertainment. We will have the product announced two months ahead of its release date, so that people will build up hype about the products, increasing its demand when it is actually released. We will also invite famous professional paintball and airsoft players to have a free trial of the products, and then post it as videos on Youtube, exclusive to the company's channel. With celebrities' endorsement and the power of word-of-mouth, I hope we could boost the product's sales before it is on the market.

This concludes my advertising plan. Thank you for listening and I hope we will have a great time co-operating with Gamesuit International

First Thing First

By Ivan Ko Ching Ho (6A)



After the public consultation put forth to seek the general public's opinions about the future funding policy on supporting sporting events, a big controversy has been sparked off. Being one of the most prosperous cities in the globe, we are facing serious domestic issues such as the lack of housing and unemployment and we are experiencing the severe aftermath from these issues. Before putting forth my opinions, it is high time for us to probe into the reasons for domestic issues being the first priority.

The justifications to which the government should solve domestic issues prior to organizing sporting events can be ascribed are manifolds. To commence with, providing a decent place for Hong Kongers to live with dignity is indispensable for maintaining the city's stability. Hong Kong has a dense population of 7 million packed in a limited space of 1100 square kilometers. The inevitable population growth and external immigration have generated not only a huge demand on the supply of residence, but also unprecedented high property prices that is absurd, if not impossible, for Hong Kongers to afford buying one. Lying behind the image of being a cosmopolitan city, the reality is that many grassroots dwellers are living in cage houses, sub-divided houses or even being

homeless. Without funding for solving the lack of public housing, these grassroots dwellers are doomed to living without dignity. Without the basic dignity of life, they are going to express their anger through protests; without proper measures to relieve their outrage, the stability of society is bound to decline. In response to this, the government should set more funds to proffer a decent place for the impoverished to live. This can be done by raising the amount of housing subsidies and providing more public housing for them. To conclude, it is too obvious to be omitted that housing problem is the most urgent problem nowadays that deserves immediate funding.

It might also be noted that the high unemployment rate has significantly dampened Hong Kong's economy. There are two repercussions coming from this issue. The first one is the problem of productivity. Since most of the jobs are occupied by older workers, the working efficiency declines every year. Because of the lack of positions for youngsters, certain industry found it difficult to replenish their human resources that contributed to the low working efficiency, resulting in low productivity. The second one is the increasing expenditure on social assistance schemes. As

we all know there are several assistance schemes for the disabled or retired people. Unemployed people can apply for these schemes in order to sustain their lives in turn increases the financial burden on treasury and a shadow is bound to be casted on Hong Kong's economy. That's why the government needs to provide funding to alleviate this issue instantly without delay.

Critics may counter my stance, claiming that organizing sporting events can increase the sense of belonging of Hong Kongers through certain validity at first glance is fundamentally groundless. When it comes to the stability of Hong Kong, it depends on not only the pride of being Hong Kongers but also the living quality which has causal relationship with serious domestic problems. Solving this issue can increase their degree of satisfaction of living in Hong Kong. Organising sporting events can only benefit certain groups of people, such as professional athletes, but large proportions of Hong Kongers could be thrown tragically behind. With a view to the urgency of issues, in no way should we waste money on sporting events and neglect those grassroots dwellers, living in cage houses and waiting for help desperately.

Taking all aspects into meticulous account, it is lucid that the government should provide

funding for solving domestic issues first. It is clear that fulfilling basic living requirement is far more important than organizing a sporting game. The government should bear in mind that its policy should focus on the majority of society and should not just please a small group of people who love sports. It is hoped that everyone can live in a decent place with dignity and enjoy a decent life with pride in Hong Kong. †

A Call to Control the Travel Industry in Hong Kong

by Ivan Ko Ching Ho (6A)



Mr Chairperson, honourable judges, members of the opposition. Good day to you all.

Standing here today, we are going to debate the motion: ‘The regulations should be put in place to control the travel industry in Hong Kong.’ In recent years, travel industry has developed prosperously and pushed Hong Kong up the economic ladder. However, the tremendous increase in the number of tourists, especially the mainland tourists, has significantly disturbed the harmonious atmosphere of society. Just a few months earlier, nothing took us aback quite so much as the bloody brawl between Hong Kong protesters and the mainland tourists at Sheung Shui MTR Station. This case sheds light on the problem of current travel industry and it is high time for us to probe into the irreversible damage brought by the excessive amount of tourists.

The justifications to which the regulation should be put in place can be ascribed are manifolds. To commence with, the overdeveloped travel industry has dampened the quality of life of Hong Kongers. Nowadays, most of the tourists come from China or more precisely Shenzhen. They come to our place, however, are not for visiting the resorts in Hong Kong but buying

their daily commodities such as tissue paper, milk powder, or even rice. It’s not difficult to discover that our commodity prices have significantly augmented to an extent which is unaffordable for many grassroots dwellers who work their fingers to bones in order to make ends meet. The influx of mainland tourists has drastically pushed up the demand for many daily commodities, making them usually out-of-stock which in turn makes local residents difficult to find their daily needs in reasonable prices. Nonetheless, this is by no means the only slight blemish.

It might also be noted that the uncivilized behaviour of some mainland tourists have contributed to grave public grievance. Owing to the cultural difference between Hong Kong and mainland China, it’s very often, if not always, to see some mainland tourists carry out their uncivilized, if not barbaric, behaviour such as infringing the public orders or foul public places. The recent case that a mainland adult defecated at an MTR station is definitely not a sporadic incident that infuriates Hong Kongers. Over the years, it is always our pride to be a well-educated global citizen with public virtues; it is always our pride to be the citizens of a clean and sanitary cosmopolitan city; it is

always our pride that Hong Kong is praised as high-civilized society. Tolerating the barbaric behaviour of mainland tourists in Hong Kong to perpetuate is tantamount to ruining our profound prestige. That's why we should put the regulation in place to control the travel industry.

In no way should we ignore the fact that the unregulated travel industry posed a grave danger to our local culture. It's beyond doubt that most of the travellers come to Hong Kong for shopping. Praised as the paradise of shopping, the increase in number of tourists also brought a corresponding increase in the rent of stores, making local shops with unique feature difficult to continue their operation. Sustained and unremitted as our government is, there is still a long way to go before we, Hong Kongers, succeed in fulfilling our coveted dream of transforming our place into a genuine cosmopolitan city in the eye of foreigners. A hectic lifestyle and political uncertainty are not the stumbling blocks. Probably our deficiency is the lack of unique local culture. The travel industry has irrefutably made our local shops more difficult, if not impossible, to survive. Isn't it necessary to stop this situation from worsening?

Taking all aspects into meticulous

consideration, it's open-and-shut that the regulation is necessary. We should bear in mind the quality of life of Hong Kongers should always be placed as the first priority. If our opponent still sticks to their thought, severe consequences tend to emerge. Hoping that the proposal can be put into practice and the government can act in accordance to citizens' will. †