In this second edition of LKT English Buzz this academic year, we celebrate the achievements of our schoolmates. The focus is on their excellent use of English in examinations and in competitions.

This edition contains the best pieces of writing by students in the First Term Examinations. It also has excerpts from speeches and reflections by our champion students who took part in the 67th Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festival public speaking competition.

The achievements of our schoolmates featured in this edition show their commitment to and resulting success in mastering English. It is clear that they are confident in expressing themselves creatively and imaginatively in English. Their pieces of writing are good models for you to emulate. A lot of learning happens through modelling and observing others’ successes.

Becoming proficient in English requires perseverance and determination as well as a massive investment of time and energy. Remember, hard work, good learning strategies and a positive attitude are needed in order to become more confident and successful in all our endeavours in life, including learning a huge language like English. Remember also: Practice Makes Perfect! And Practice Makes Permanent!

Editors
A Day At The Beach

Welcome to my blog! This week's topic is all about me and my classmates going to the beach last week. It's was a fun and exciting day for me.

We went to the beach at about 11:00 a.m. It was very sunny and hot, perfect for us to beat the heat by playing some games. So my friends and I played volleyball while the girls took photos of the beautiful butterflies in the bushes.

Later, we went to the barbecue area to eat our lunch. Lunch was very delicious! Also, we found a log and my best friend, Tom, brought out his guitar, sat on the log and sang a few songs while everyone else sang along with him, filling the beach with joy and happiness.

After a while I got bored and decided to walk along the beach. I walked up a huge mountain and found a mysterious cave! I went inside and saw something shiny! So I ran back to the barbecue area and told everybody about the cave and the mysterious shiny object. Everyone gathered around in the cave and decided to explore it.

It was hard to walk on those pointy rocks and climb to the bottom, but we finally made it! I found a box and inside was the shiny object. I was thinking: could it be a treasure box? I opened the box to see that it had a huge pearl! All of us were amazed and excited about the pearl.

We backtracked out of the cave rather carefully wondering what to do with the giant pearl. We chatted for quite a while about this and decided to put it in our classroom, our second home, to remind us of a great day out and the big discovery we had made.

That's all of my blog. Hope you enjoyed reading it!

Yau Man Ki, Mickey (1B)
Hi guys! Have you ever been to a beach? I have! And, it was the most unforgettable trip I have ever had. Let me tell you about it.

The adventure started when my classmates decided to go to Gold Coast Beach since it has good sceneries. When we arrived there, we first played our favourite game, volleyball, which was not fun for me at all because my team lost every time. Then, I insisted on doing something else. So, we went looking for butterflies. They were quite nice because they stayed really still when took pictures of them. We enjoyed it a lot. It was soon lunch time; so we had a barbecue. Some of my classmates were barbecuing, while some others were singing beach songs and the rest were dancing.

But, I was not with them. I really like sea shells, so I went to pick some lustrous sea shells. While I was picking some, I saw a cave. I was surprised and decided to tell my classmates. I ran back to them and told them about the cave. We all were curious about it. We planned to explore the cave. Unfortunately, when we were about to go into the cave, someone set bees on us. We were shocked and scared. They were quite a lot, so we all ran around the beach like mad. Unfortunately, I was only the one who was stung by the bees and on the nose too. Tears were threatening to flow but I managed to keep calm. One of my classmates quickly brought a first aid kit and helped me apply some lotion on my nose. I was quite thankful to him.

After that, deciding not to give up, we went to find out what was inside the cave. We again went into the cave and luckily this time there weren’t any bees. When we went in, we saw a boy wearing a skirt made of leaves. He looked dirty. We were all shocked to see him like this. We asked why he was living in such a dirty condition. He was scared and did not speak, so we gave him some candy. After he ate the candy, he told us about himself. He told us that he once had come to the beach and got lost. He did not know the way back home, nor had anyone come to find him. We all decided to take him to the police station. When we got him to the police station, the policeman praised us for helping the boy.

This is all that happened. We were all really glad to have helped the boy in the cave! We also enjoyed the beach a lot. If you ever decide to go to a beach, always remember to look for a cave. You’ll enjoy it.

Thank you very much for reading my blog. Hope you guys enjoyed it!

Muskan Khan (1A)
A Weird War

One day, I was walking with my classmate, Brandon. We were talking about some weird news. NASA had captured a small UFO on its radar. It was very fast. The radar couldn't detect it after a few seconds.

We were still talking about it when something happened. A small piece of metal fell onto the floor. Brandon was curious and so he touched that metal. It made a loud sound and exploded. Brandon was badly hurt. A stranger came by and tried to save him. The stranger said, “I'm Isaac. Your friend here is badly hurt. I am a doctor. I will try my best to save him.”

Suddenly, a small flying object came nearer and nearer. We were scared as it seemed like the one that was captured on NASA's radar. We both ran to the nearest building.

I said, “We cannot leave Brandon!”

Isaac said, “Sorry kid, I tried my best, but…”

The building crumbled to pieces, burying Isaac. I was terrified. I looked up and saw the flying object blasting buildings and houses. I wanted to run but my legs were shaking and out of control. The object landed near Brandon's body and it made a buzzing sound. A large, red alien came out from it and it said, “I come from planet Tatonie. I come in peace…” I fainted after he shot me with his rifle.

When I woke up, I was beside Brandon. I stood up slowly and asked the alien, “Who are you? Why are you here? What is your purpose here?”

It said slowly, “I am from planet Tatonie. My spaceship has run out of fuel. Take me to your principal.”

I didn't know whether it was friendly or not. But I obeyed because it was aiming at me with its rifle. We walked to my school. It was the only building that wasn't in pieces. I walked in and soon found the principal. The alien said, “Lord Vader, I've found you at last.”

The principal smiled and transformed into an alien. I just stood there, not knowing what to do. The 'principal' said, “Is the Dark Star ready?”

The alien said, “Yes, my Lord.”

“We shall rule the galaxy with this battle station! Tatonie will be great again!”

They both laughed when someone fired a shot! It was the army! Helicopters and many tanks were aiming at the aliens. Lord Vader smirked and pulled out his glowing sword. It deflected the missiles and killed many men. I was flung away by the explosion. I found myself half buried in debris. I stood up and ran as fast as I could, away from the aliens.

The aliens easily defeated the army. They requested fire support and soon it came. Humanity was no match for them. Humans were forced to retreat. The remaining ones had to build a shelter with a strong, high wall to protect it. I was on top of the wall looking at the world outside, thinking of my past life in HK ...

So Nok Yin, Linus (2D)
Saved From The Drought

One Friday morning, Tanya and Kara were sitting on a bench in the school playground, right next to an apple tree. They were chatting about the films that they had seen during the Christmas holidays while they were eating the sandwiches which they had just bought from the canteen. They shared interesting films with each other and talked about the stories. Tanya had seen the film, *The Unidentified Flying Object from Mars* and persuaded Kara to see it.

Tanya was sharing the movie with Kara. She said that the film was great. ‘I have watched the film three times already! Let’s watch it again tomorrow!’ said Tanya. Kara was shivering. She was scared of aliens and spaceships.

Just then, while Tanya was sharing happily, there was a loud noise and something was hovering in the air. Both Tanya and Kara glanced at each other. Then they slowly raised their heads. There was a round object and a bright light. They were shaking. Kara thought of running away, but they were too frightened so they didn’t make an escape before the spaceship landed.

The spaceship landed on the playground. The engine made a loud noise and roared loudly. That horrified the two girls nearly to death. They opened their eyes wide and glanced at the dome-shaped spaceship. An alien with a big head ran out of the spaceship and tried to be friendly. He said, ‘Take me to the principal!’ The two girls were shocked. At that moment, they didn’t know what to do.

Kara was really scared. She picked up a stick and pointed it at the alien. She warned the alien to leave but failed. She cut the alien’s skin with the stick and green sticky liquid flowed out. She screamed, ‘What is that?’

The alien said that it was the thing that humans call blood. The girls’ eyes popped. The alien then said, ‘I come from the planet Mars. Our planet is suffering from a drought now. Our lord said that our planet cannot be saved unless I got a piece of gold from your principal. Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I am the president of Mars, Coco.’ The two girls finally learnt why he had came.

Tanya and Kara led Coco to the principal’s room. The principal wasn’t scared of him and wanted to take a photo and Coco’s autograph. Coco got the gold and left the room. He thanked Tanya the Kara for their help and apologized for the fright.

‘These keys will help you visit Mars,’ said Coco. ‘Slowly blow on them and they will bring you to Mars.’ While Tanya and Kara were looking at the keys on their hands, Coco had already disappeared.

Chu Wing Yu, Kitty (2C)
Cherry’s On A Diet!

Cherry was a fat girl in our class. We liked making fun of her body shape. We always played tricks on her. Despite being teased, Cherry seemed to be very happy every day. However, we didn’t know that she had made up her mind to get fit by going on a diet.

In fact, Cherry is my best friend. She is such an optimistic girl that I thought it would not affect her if I made fun of her body shape. Other classmates must have shared the same view as me. However, we were all wrong. We were hurting Cherry.

She had made up her mind to become thinner so that she wouldn’t be teased anymore. So she went on a crash diet! She ate very little food during lunch and dinner even if she was hungry. She only ate vegetables, salad and fruits. Ever since, she drank water only. She ate neither meat nor snacks. Such an unbalanced diet leads to poor physical health! Frankly speaking, I was worried about her! Not only did she have an unbalanced diet, but she also did a lot of exercise such as running. Exercise uses up a lot of energy and her diet couldn’t satisfy her large energy requirements! It was too dangerous! I tried to persuade her to give up but she just ignored me. I had a bad feeling that she would faint one day!

After a few weeks, Cherry was slim and confident. However, she looked weak. We all worried about her health and regretted teasing her.

This morning, Cherry suddenly fainted during recess. We were all shocked and panicked. As I had done a first-aid course before, I picked her up and propped her up on a chair and asked if anyone had chocolate or sweets. Something sweet could help give Cherry energy. After eating some chocolate, Cherry could stand and she thanked us for our care. I asked if she felt unwell. She smiled and told me not to worry. I was sorry for what I had done in the past. Therefore, I apologized for my behavior. Other classmates also followed suit. Cherry seemed to be very surprised. She forgave me instantly. I suggested she have a balanced diet and do adequate exercise instead of having too little food and too much exercise. I promised to work hard with her. She nodded happily. Finally, I told her that physical and mental health is the most important thing. All of us promised not to make fun of her even if she became fat again. She nodded with tears. No sooner had she nodded, than we all felt relieved and cheerful.

Now, she’s become healthy and optimistic again as she realizes that good health is very important.

Man Yin Ting, Emily (3C)
A Harsh Or A Healthy Diet?

Have you ever tried going on a diet in order to get slimmer? I hope you won't after I tell you about an incident that happened this morning.

My friend, Cherry was being teased for being fat. She was obviously hurt and in a rage. So she resolved to go on a diet for a few weeks in order to get slimmer. As her best friend, it breaks my heart seeing her in pain for being teased at. I have tried encouraging her not to take it so seriously but she really can't help it.

This morning, we went to school as usual. Before the first period, we were playing tricks and other fun stuff just for leisure and fun in the classroom. Then, all of a sudden, there was a long squeaking sound of a chair and a thud on the ground. We looked at Cherry's seat and gasped. She had passed out. The whole situation was really shocking.

We instantly ran to Cherry and lifted her up onto an empty chair. One of my classmates just kept telling us, “Give her some space. She needs air, she needs fresh air to breathe!”

We all did as we were told and a few seconds later, Cherry opened her eyes and said in a soft voice, “What's going on? Why am I surrounded by you guys?”

I knelt down in front of her and explained the whole incident to her. “Cherry, you fainted because of your unbalanced diet. It is a serious consequence due to your strict diet. I know that you are still angry and sad about people making fun of your body size, but you don’t need to change it for them. You are stunning; you are a fabulous girl. You have a beautiful soul and heart and no one can ever take that away from you. Ignore all those nasty comments. Be strong and be yourself.”

I was so emotional when I said how I felt. And when I looked at her, tears started rolling down her face. We hugged because that is what friends are for. We support each other.

After this incident, Cherry and I both started eating more healthily and exercising regularly. This really took our friendship to the next level and I'm really glad that the strong and undefeated Cherry is back.

Natalie Cheung Hoi Ching, (3D)
You can make a difference!

Going On A Working Holiday!

Hong Kong is notorious for its hustle and bustle. The citizens of Hong Kong regularly work from 8 in the morning to 8 at night. Many people complain that they don’t have time to enjoy life. In order to escape from this busy working life, I grabbed the chance to go on a working holiday scheme to Tokyo this year as a teacher teaching students Cantonese.

A working holiday is a kind of work experience in different countries all over the world. It’s not confined to work only. Participants have opportunities to explore the countries' cultures and they can appreciate the magnificent scenery of the country. This caters to the needs of people like me who wish to explore cities all over the world without worrying about money.

Tokyo has been my favourite Japanese city since I was about three years old. However, I could only gain knowledge of this city from the Internet as my family doesn’t like travelling around the world. When I first arrived in Tokyo, I was stunned by the beautiful scenery! It was snowing at the time, something you never see in Hong Kong! Viewing a ‘white city’ can absolutely heal your tired heart! The people there are amiable too. They all treated me as their friend and were willing to help me if I had any difficulties. This is far different from Hong Kong’s attitude towards tourists! Teaching students in Tokyo was enjoyable to me. The students were willing to communicate with me in Cantonese, which they learnt in my lessons! Their diligence inspired me!

The most memorable experience happened when I was once teaching students Chinese vocabulary. A primary 1 student suddenly started crying loudly! I was frightened then, thinking that I had done something wrong. After a discussion with him, I discovered that he could not follow the lesson and thought that my words were too hard to understand! Ever since, I have realised the importance of understanding students' individual abilities, especially when teaching foreign students. It would seem to be insensible to turn a blind eye to their needs!

Homesickness was my biggest problem in this scheme, especially at night, when people slept soundly and the bright moon was hanging in the sky! Thanks to advanced technology, I could chat with my family through social media and Facetime! Fortunately, students in Tokyo could understand my homesickness too and they were willing to talk with me, and took me to some attractive scenic places! This helped relieve my homesickness and enabled me to have a wonderful work experience in Tokyo!

Wong Yee Lam, Sarah (4E)
A Famous Hong Kong Actor Reminiscences

Despite being a middle-aged gentleman now, which means school days are way behind for me, I can still vividly remember my precious secondary school life! Unlike diligent classmates, I was an unmotivated lad. While they spared no effort in practicing past papers and doing revision, I was always daydreaming. Fortunately, my teachers did not give up on me. Instead, they gave me a lot of inspiration and courage which reversed my attitude to life. Therefore, I have to express my sincere thanks to all of them.

I think the best part of my job was I had opportunities to meet people from around the city and even the globe! During the course of making a film, I had to cooperate with these people. Through these interactions, I got to discover more about cultures from different places. All these interactions were fascinating and they broadened my horizons.

I remember once when I was cast as an evil character. As I was used to playing the hero most of the time, I was sort of on edge faced with this challenge. However, both my peers and director were confident thanks to my experience and sharp performance skills! Subsequently, I tried my best to perform brilliantly by pretending to be a bad guy. I think I would not have been so successful without the trust and support of my colleagues!

My advice to young teenagers is to remember that when doing anything, your attitude will determine your altitude. Take myself as an example. Although I was not talented in studying, I did not give up. I had a burning ambition and persevered. I seized the opportunity to enter the acting world and through struggles and persistent endeavours, I became a famous actor eventually. A negative attitude was never an option.

Wastage Of Precious Resources

When we study economics, we often learn that resources are scarce and thus people have to compete with each other. It is ridiculous, annoying and intolerable to see our government’s failure to utilise about 200 vacant school premises. In addition to the wastage of precious land resources in Hong Kong, it is also a kind of usage neglect.

But why do numerous vacant schools exist currently? First of all - which is also the most vital reason - over the past decade, young couples have become more and more reluctant to have children because of the unaffordable cost of living and the huge responsibility of raising a child. Hence, the birth rate has kept decreasing over the past decade. As some schools failed to enrol a sufficient number of students, it was difficult for them to survive. This gave rise to the many empty schools.
Moreover, some schools relocated to other areas to build a new school building to replace the original one whereas both government and the schools did not make a sincere attempt to refurbish the original school buildings. Therefore, vacant schools are allowed to occupy our precious land.

Apart from that, there is another hidden reason. I am not blaming the government, but clearly the complicated legal system is one of the contributing factors. Of course, it is clear to see there are more and more abandoned schools all over. But we should understand the difficulty faced by the government in changing the use of land or “recycling” a piece of land which often involves a long procedure. Thus, instead of redeveloping the piece of land, it is easier to solve the problem of inadequate land supply by reclamation.

Rather than grumbling about the seriousness of land shortage, why don’t we reflect on ways to utilize our precious land resources efficiently? I think there are some measures that the government can adopt.

Firstly, owing to the aging population on account of the low birth rate, demand for medical facilities will certainly soar in the future. Hence, I suggest that some of the abandoned schools could be converted into clinics, centres for the elderly or community centres, in order to prepare for the challenge. Although it is complicated to change the use of land because of the legal system, it is better than wasting time to find another piece of land amid scarcity!

Secondly, Hong Kong is a well-known metropolis with a hectic and monotonous life. I am sure most Hong-Kongers are suffering from exercise and relaxation deprivation. In addition to insufficient recreational sites and facilities, the lifestyle of most Hong Kong people is very unhealthy! If some of the abandoned schools could be developed into indoor sports centres (including gyms, swimming pools or even playgrounds with running paths), I am sure they can relax during weekends or holidays. More importantly, the government can promote healthy lifestyles in the meanwhile. That would be beneficial to both citizens and the government.

I am not discontented with government failure and inefficiency, but we should understand that it is urgent to fully utilise every piece of valuable land resource. Otherwise, more and more problems will certainly derive from that.

Tang Chung Fat, Peter (5E)
Exams finished barely a month ago. You have already received your exam results, but are you satisfied with them? Do you want to improve in the next test and exam that are yet to come? I want to help you by sharing some useful study tips with you. I will help you decide what kind of learner you are and the strategies you need to be a good learner.

Before you start studying, first figure out which type of learner you are. By doing this, you can find the most effective study methods that suit you.

There are, generally speaking, a total of four types of learners. Are you (a) a Visual, (b) an Auditory, (c) a Kinaesthetic or (d) a Read/Write learner?

You would be predominantly the one type or the other. Most people are a combination of two or more types of learners when it comes to learning different things in life.

Visual learners learn best when they can see the information on paper, textbooks, notes, etc.

Tips for you:
- Create mind maps
- Use flashcards to write down key concepts and words
- Colour code your notes

Auditory learners learn best when they hear information.

Tips for you:
- Study in a group so that you can have discussions with friends
- Read notes out loud
- Record yourself reading out notes and then listen to the recording

Kinaesthetic learners learn best when doing physical activities, rather than listening to a lecture or watching demonstrations.

Tips for you:
- Walk around when you study
- Use flashcards
- Use plenty of examples when writing study notes

Read/Write learners learn best when they can actually write down the notes or read them.

Tips for you:
- Re-write all your notes
- Print out all the notes your teacher puts online or copy the notes down
- Take notes when you are in class
Now that you know what kind of learner you are, how do you go about creating and maintaining good study habits?

- **Break down the content.** Research shows that if you are up all night studying, you will not do well in your exam as your brain cannot store everything you need to know in a short time. That's why organising yourself and breaking down your study time and content can improve your performance. For example, breaking down your study time into 30 minute periods can give your brain more chances to remember what you have just studied.

- **Write your own notes** rather than just reading the ones that teachers give you. We are not asking you to not trust your teachers or throw away all the notes your teachers give you. Everyone has their own learning style. If you just read the notes that your teacher gives you, it may not be the best for you to learn as your brain won’t digest everything in the notes. But if you write your own notes, you will digest every bit of information from your textbook and the notes given by teachers. In this way, you will remember the information better.

- **Ask someone to help.** Don’t panic if you find you don’t understand your notes or the information that you need to study. And don’t feel embarrassed about asking a teacher or classmate. There is nothing wrong with not knowing things. Go find someone that can answer your questions and solve your problem. This will help you clear up your mind and help you keep on studying.

- **Take breaks.** We know that when it comes to exams, we are all stressed and wish our brain to absorb every bit of information. But hey, your brain cannot take in too much information, all at the same time. Take a little break between your study periods and this will help you prevent your brain becoming too tired while studying.

There are of-course many more different and individual ways of being a good and successful student. I hope, however, that my study tips will help you achieve better results in future tests and exams.

*Lau Pui Ying, Madeline* (4D)
Here are Peter, Ben and Jada who have all done the school proud by emerging champions in their individual public speaking competitions in the 67th Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festival. They have some reflections as well as words of wisdom to share.

First in line is Tsang Lok Pan, Ben of 6D. Having participated in the public speaking event for two consecutive years, I believe that my oratory skills have improved considerably.

A well-prepared speech is the foundation of success in public speaking. To me, the process of establishing ideas and writing the script is interesting and meaningful. It is necessary to cite different examples when it comes to elaborating and justifying your view.

But a great text does not necessarily make you an outstanding public speaker.

Good public speakers must be able to engage the audience. They deliver their speech with appropriate body language and emotions, as well as varied intonation and pauses. Flawless pronunciation is certainly crucial. Remember: practice makes perfect.

I would like to express my gratitude to all schoolmates who patiently listened to me and gave me advice. A special thanks to Mr. Baldoo. Without his tireless efforts in training me, it might not have been possible for me to succeed.

As my two-year experience in public speaking ended in triumph, it is time for me to focus on the public examination.

Here are excerpts from my speech:

In my opinion, when it comes to integrity, both rules and education matter.

Kuan Chung, an ancient Chinese philosopher, regarded integrity as one of the ethical foundations of society. Without a firm ethical foundation, society is doomed. This suggests that integrity is of critical importance, when it comes to maintaining social order.

But what exactly is integrity?

The Cambridge Dictionary says integrity is "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles that you refuse to change". When you refuse to change a good quality, you are assured of the necessity of it. In fact, this is in line with the Confucian advocacy of moral self-consciousness, under which one's moral principles could be nurtured by oneself.

It might imply that everyone could take the initiative to realise the virtue of integrity. In reality, however, it seems to be nothing but wishful thinking.

Last month, Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's former chief executive, was charged with misconduct in public office. With his acceptance of benefits from tycoons, Mr. Tsang's leadership ended in disgrace in 2012, and he became the highest-ranking official in the city to face a corruption trial.

At the same time, Sepp Blatter was evicted from his presidency at FIFA. For months, the world football's governing body has been facing one of the greatest scandals ever, after being investigated by American and Swiss prosecutors, over allegations of bribery.
The cases of Mr. Tsang and Mr. Blatter are similar in two ways. First, what both of them had done breached the value of integrity, as they failed to resist temptation for material things. Second, both are being legally probed, over their malpractices. These examples demonstrate the need for rules when dealing with those who cannot maintain integrity.

As a matter of fact, many modernised societies manage to maintain integrity, thanks to well-established anti-corruption rules. Examples include the Prevention of Corruption Act in Singapore, as well as the Bribery Act in the UK. Under Transparency International’s National Integrity System, law enforcement of countries are assessed. Therefore, it is undeniable that anti-graft rules serve as cornerstones of integrity in society.

Yet, if we are to cultivate integrity in all, especially teenagers, education is of paramount importance, for its role in nurturing moral self-consciousness. While learning lessons on integrity from Mr. Tsang, Mr. Blatter and other disgraced celebrities, we should also strive after integrity by celebrating good deeds, such as abiding by laws and serving others impartially. That’s one small step for educating ethical values, one giant leap for fostering moral self-consciousness.

Next to speak, is Peter …

It was the first time ever I participated in a public speaking competition; and I think it was a big challenge, but also an unforgettable experience. I did not expect to be given first position. Some people may say that winning is most important but I would say the experience gained is more valuable as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience which class lessons or tutorial centers can never give one.

The topic I explored was, ‘Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes’. It taught me the importance and advantages of learning from mistakes. I hope all pupils come to realize that we benefit by learning when we make mistakes.

Here are excerpts from my speech:

To me, the statement, ‘Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes’, carries a positive message which simply means that people can always learn from their mistakes.

I would like to do a quick survey with all of you. Please raise your hands if you have never made mistakes.

Well, as we can see, none of us is perfect.

We may sometimes ask ourselves why we make mistakes. The answer is simple: humans are not perfect and therefore we do make mistakes in our lives. However, are mistakes always bad?

Certainly not! Making mistakes does not necessarily mean failure. On the contrary, we can learn from them, just like learning from experience.

Experience develops our abilities. I believe that you ex-pupils and S6 students here might have had the experience of entering competitions. Do you remember what feelings you had in your first competition? As for me, I was anxious and nervous. However, when I had the second, the third and each successive experience, my stress levels dropped.

But why is that? I would say this is the benefit of learning from mistakes.
A teacher once told me that I won’t lose anything even if I am last in a competition because the preparation I would have done would have already enhanced my ability to write a speech well and to speak confidently. Experience has developed my abilities and that’s why I am standing here today!

As for our graduate students who will soon work, I would like to take Thomas Edison’s experience to encourage you. I have not failed, I have just found ten thousand ways that won’t work!’ Edison said, telling us that making mistakes is gaining experience, rather than showing that we are a failure. I would say that he made ‘experience’ the name of his ‘mistakes’ since he learnt from his mistakes and refined his inventions each time he failed. This made him succeed eventually.

Chan Wai Chung, Peter (5C)

Last but not least, Jada speaks …

Through participating in the solo public speaking competition, I learnt many skills, one such skill being expressing my thoughts clearly. I am a shy person as I am afraid of speaking in front of other people. I’ve become more confident after this competition and I now feel more relaxed when I speak with people.

I didn’t expect to be champion in this competition since I was very nervous and I kept thinking about lots of things such as whether I should refer to my note cards when I speak. Also, I hadn’t practised enough so I was scared that I would forget what I wanted to say.

It’s really the best experience I have ever had and the most surprising gift in my life as I had never participated in any public speaking competition before. I have no regrets about having entered this competition and I recommend you take part in this competition too as you can gain valuable experience and knowledge through it. Experience is indeed the best teacher.

Here are excerpts from my speech:

What is experience? And what are mistakes? I know all of you have this thing called experience, like I do. Let me define these two words first. Experience is the process of getting knowledge or skills from doing, seeing or feeling things. Mistakes are the things we do that produce the wrong results. If you learn nothing from your mistakes, are you gaining in experience?

Let me tell you about how I learnt a lesson from making a mistake. One night, I had promised mum to be back home by 10 but I couldn’t do that. Instead I returned at 11. Mum was very angry and the door was locked. Ever since, I’ve learnt very well that what we promise others must be done.

So why is experience important? It’s because we become wiser through experience. Experience helps us face the world. Is there anyone in the world who is perfect? Definitely not! Everybody makes mistakes. Mistakes bring about experience and together they enable us to get closer to our goals. The important thing is how we deal with mistakes. Do you have any ideas on how to deal with your mistakes?

Successful people treat mistakes as experience. This is what we should learn. Success is a science. If you have the right conditions, you get the desired result. If you look at your errors in Maths as experience, you will be more careful next time. You will practice more to be more successful and thus improve your Maths. Doesn’t the attitude that you have about mistakes make the situation totally different? Experience is the best teacher. All of us would learn better and gain in experience if we do not treat mistakes as failures. This applies not only to studying, but also to work or whatever else. Attitude changes our life.

Tsang Hau Yi, Jada (5E)
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Did U Know?

- The first letters of the months July through to November spell JASON.
- ‘Bookkeeper’ and ‘bookkeeping’ are the only 2 words in the English language with three consecutive double letters.

How Many Faces Can You See In This Sketch?

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