



# Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College

English Newsletter  
Issue No.4

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The epidemic has lasted for more than a year, and face-to-face teaching has been suspended for a prolonged period. This has indeed brought unprecedented challenges to both teachers and students alike. Online learning has become the new norm for everyone, but most of the engaging campus activities have been cancelled under this new norm - as a result, many are experiencing feelings of helplessness.

Unhappiness is often a test in life. As “attitude determines height”, a person’s attitude is definitely a crucial factor in achieving great accomplishments. What kind of “attitude” do we need in order to deal with this epidemic?

I remember that Venerable Sik Hin Hung, our school supervisor, once shared with us the “Basic Life Skills” for a successful life, including the four basic skills:

*Devotion: Cultivate interest, enjoy the process, have ideals, and devote yourself to life.*

*Perseverance: Make up your mind first; you have to endure, go through trials, and achieve success.*

*Reflection: Need to know self-study, habitual reflection, distinguish right from wrong, and increase wisdom.*

*Kindness: Learn with an open mind, show care, live in harmony, and make good connections.*

I once heard a speech by a successful person regarding perseverance; this particular quote resonated with me: “Towards a long-term goal, stick to your passion, even after failure, you can still work tirelessly, and treat life as a marathon instead of a sprint.” Therefore, students, you must make up your minds before setting your goals. You may encounter many difficulties during this period, but you must be patient and persevering. Be wary not to forget the original intention. Just like a marathon, the journey is long and weary, and it is easy to give up. You may often consider giving up, but as long as you keep

## Principal’s Address

working hard to reach the end, keep persevering, you will eventually succeed. These experiences and tests will surely benefit you throughout your life.



I sincerely hope that all of you reflect on your own gains and losses during this period and strive towards the goals you have set for yourselves with a persevering attitude, believing that success is in front of you.

Cheer up!

Mr So Ka Leung  
Principal



# Exam Skills Training with Principal So

As a result of this pandemic, the school has had to adapt to various teaching methods to best cater to both health guidelines and students' needs, and a balance needed to be struck between the two with all the changes occurring throughout the year. The fluctuations between online learning and face to face learning posed a series of challenges that affected one group of students in particular.

Our Form 6 students have had to overcome these swift changes and cope with the lack of physical support from teachers and their peers throughout the extended periods of online learning - the public exams seemed especially stressful during this time. In order to boost morale and inspire motivation among students, Principal So organised a series of Exam Skills Training sessions.

During these sessions, he worked closely with the Form 6 cohort, addressing their personal worries and doubts about the impending public exams. He focused specifically on Exam Skills Training, a topic that is integral in the coming months. This training programme consisted of a comprehensive coverage of topics, beginning with skill development through multi-media support. He stressed the importance of past paper revision, as it provides active output, which can show students how much content they have learned.



He referred to past paper practice as a “tell-all” to understanding the HKDSE structure, as it allows students to observe and internalise question patterns and their associated answers. Principal So also highlighted how integral it is to be well acquainted with one’s mistakes and correct them. *“Going over past mistakes and pitfalls will lead to a more solid understanding of previously misunderstood content and ultimately lead to more confidence when facing the real exam.”* To give students a better idea of the process of self-studying, Principal So orchestrated a past paper exercise during the training session, which students stated was highly educational.

During the exam period, what stood out most during the training session was Mr So’s specific focus on mental health. He introduced some of the critical concepts of Buddhist Mindfulness; the importance of being aware of one’s thoughts and the process of taking each moment one step at a time so as not to become overwhelmed. Mr So also talked about maintaining a healthy lifestyle during the exam period. He mentioned that sufficient sleep is necessary for students to be fully awake and functional.





## Building an English Campus

Here at Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College, we believe that we must provide our students with as much experiential learning as possible to foster a holistic English environment. One way to do this is to transform the campus into a more English friendly space. Our staff, especially our English department, have worked tirelessly to cultivate a bilingual environment throughout the year.

### Labelling:

Second language English learning can be a challenge when all one relies on is classroom learning. More often than not, due to time constraints, *daily use* vocabulary is overlooked in a classroom setting. To adjust for this, we decided to implement cues for implicit learning. Our minds are wired with the ability to process language through subtle cues. Instead of relying on task-based learning to reinforce memorization, we provide students with sufficient cues to help them make their *own* connections naturally. We have primarily done this through labelling; through attaching an English label to every relevant location and item on campus. The idea behind this is that students will associate the English term with the physical representation of the object or location.

### New English Corner:

This academic year, to accommodate our growing student body, we made the decision to expand the English Corner. The English Corner is a space dedicated to English-based extracurricular and academic activities. Being a dynamic, open space, the room gives students the opportunity to benefit from interactive learning. The new English Corner, located in Room 125, is packed with a number of exciting new features to facilitate learning in a much more entertaining capacity.

Our students have consistently displayed both a fondness and talent for drama throughout the years. To nurture and further develop this, the department equipped the room with a state of the art lighting and sound system.

A new smart TV is also one of the latest additions to the English Corner. Being highly versatile, it has provided us with the opportunity to increase the scale of competitive, online English-based gaming and maximized the experience of English multimedia viewing, both of which have increased students' interest in the subject of English exponentially. We haven't completely abandoned old-school collaborative learning; the room is packed with a number of English board games so students can roll up their sleeves and get their competitive spirit soaring!



## ***Reading Corner:***

Being experienced language educators, our English department has surmised that students who develop positive reading habits are more likely to depict significant improvement in reading and writing competence, vocabulary growth, and oral skills. Because of this, we decided to construct a specific area dedicated to reading on campus. The Reading Corner is located on the second floor. It is furnished with comfortable chairs and has the benefit of open-air to simulate creativity and comfort. We have included books of various genres, spanning from comedy to action to mystery. We also have a good amount of nonfiction material.

## ***English District-wide Competition – YKN Creative Writing, Calligraphy and Bookmark Design Competitions for Primary School Students:***

For consecutive years in a row now, Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College has hosted a district-wide English competition spanning across three categories; a writing competition, a bookmark competition and a calligraphy competition. An excellent turnout of over 1200 primary school students across the Kwai Tsing District competed in this year's competition. We are glad to be able to provide a platform for such talent and hope to be able to continue this competition for years to come.

### ***YKN Writing Competition for primary school students:***

The theme for this year's writing competition was My Adventure. Students were given free rein over their piece's premise and were encouraged to write engaging narratives. Given the few restrictions on the content, students were able to take very different approaches from their peers. As a result, we were presented with an impressive range of storytelling. More interestingly, however, they showed us their ability to internalise the pop culture surrounding them, taking inspiration from popular books and film to produce meaningful and relevant pieces of work.

### ***YKN Bookmark Competition for primary school students:***

To further expand our campaign to promote reading, we incorporated a category for bookmark design. Students were required to produce a bookmark illustrating the benefits of reading. The competition was intended to allow students to explore their talents in the visual arts as well as contemplate on the benefits of reading. Competitors were graded based on their concept, design and creativity. We are glad to announce that all of the students showed a high calibre of creativity and effort and produced truly meaningful representations of the importance of reading.



### ***YKN Calligraphy Competition for primary school students***

We also wanted to focus on an inter-cultural bond between English and Chinese, which is why we devised a Calligraphy section for the Competition. Students were gauged on flair, penmanship and structure.



# Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival

Here at Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College, we believe that the key to second-language learning begins with speaking. In saying that, we do our level best to provide students with key opportunities for public speaking. One of the ways we do this is by being consistently involved in the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. The Hong Kong School Speech Festival is a city-wide speech competition garnering more than 70,000 competitors each year. It is very often regarded as one of the most esteemed annual events of Arts education in Hong Kong.

Students who compete in this competition and come back with success show higher levels of confidence and, as a result, demonstrate higher levels of fluency. Throughout the years, we have had some excellent results from students taking part in the HKSSF; this is a trend we would like to continue. This year, we sent a total of 70 students to compete in the solo-verse division of the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival.

Owing to pandemic restrictions, we were compelled to change the entire training process. Both teachers and students worked hard despite all the social distancing regulations; from audio-visual recording exchanges to online training, everyone worked hard to ensure students maximised their learning opportunities during this unorthodox time.

Despite all the hiccups, our students gave it their all and were able to produce some truly fantastic work. Unfortunately, they were not able to perform in front of a live audience this year. Instead, they faced the cameras. We are glad to be able to say that our talented students took to the change like ducks to water. They churned out some of their best work, not compromising on creativity, fluency or confidence.

We are incredibly proud of our students' enthusiasm and adaptability and hope to see them shine once again next year. We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to the teaching staff as well as the parents who supported us throughout this endeavour.



*Here is a list of students who returned with resounding success:*

No.	Name	Class	Poem	Certificate
1	Chow Tsz Yiu	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
2	Bibi Salma	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
3	Mohammed Adeela	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
4	Kwong Sum Yuk	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
5	Wu Sze Ching	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
6	Li Yeun Shan	1A	A Bad Princess	Merit
7	Bibi Dihea	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
8	Chan Hei Man Albee	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
9	Chan Ka Tim	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
10	Ting Hau Tao	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
11	Bibi Simrah	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
12	Chan Ka Wai	1B	A Bad Princess	Merit
13	Ng Man Kwan	1C	A Bad Princess	Merit
14	Hussain Hamza	1A	Finding out About the Family	Merit
15	Ling Hiu Fung	1A	Finding out About the Family	Proficiency
16	Kok Wai Ho	1B	Finding out About the Family	Proficiency
17	Ng Tsz Wing	1B	Finding out About the Family	Proficiency
18	Lui Wai Fung	1B	Finding out About the Family	Proficiency
19	Tsang Yat Yin	1B	Finding out About the Family	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up
20	Rohan Lance V Lozada	1B	Finding out About the Family	Merit
21	Chen Yi Ying	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
22	Li Tsz Yiu Crystal	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
23	Tsang Pui Shan	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
24	Wong Tsz Yin	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
25	Wong Wing Lam	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
26	Wong Yeuk Lai	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
27	Au Lok Yi Dorothy	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
28	Hon Ying Ki	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
29	Hui Yan Ling	2A	On A Night of Snow	Merit
30	Wong Hau Ching	2A	On A Night of Snow	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up
31	Lau Yeung San	2B	On A Night of Snow	Merit
32	Wong Mei Mei	2b	On A Night of Snow	Merit
33	Taybah Parvez	2B	On A Night of Snow	Merit
34	Tung Cho Yim	2B	On A Night of Snow	Merit
35	Tsui Yuen	2B	The Blackout	Merit
36	Yeung Yat Hei	2B	The Blackout	Merit
37	Guo Yu Hin Bruce	2B	The Blackout	Merit
38	Lo Wing Yan	3A	Tich Miller	Merit
39	Lo On Ying	3C	Tich Miller	Proficiency
40	Shah Bibi Rhea	3C	Tich Miller	Merit
41	Choi Hau Lam	3D	Tich Miller	Proficiency
42	Kwok Wing Yan	3D	Tich Miller	Merit
43	Mak Eisenhower	3C	Beneath My Bed	Proficiency
44	Chen Anqi Mary	4A	The Sixth Sense	Merit
45	Wong Tsz Wai	4A	The Sixth Sense	Merit
46	Chen Yeuk Laam	4B	The Sixth Sense	Proficiency
47	Lai Tsz Ching	4B	The Sixth Sense	Merit
48	Lau Cheuk Yin	4B	The Sixth Sense	Merit

No.	Name	Class	Poem	Certificate
49	Lau Wing Yi	4C	The Sixth Sense	Merit
50	Chau Yuet Cheung Rex	4A	Geography Lesson	Merit
51	Jawaid Saifullah Saif	4A	Geography Lesson	Merit
52	Kwan Wing Hung	4A	Geography Lesson	Merit
53	Choy Ka Chun	4B	Geography Lesson	Merit
54	Lam Chun Hin	4C	Geography Lesson	Merit
55	Chan Ka Man Amity	5A	Empty House	Proficiency
56	Chow Cheuk Ying	5A	Empty House	Merit
57	Lam Siu Yan	5A	Empty House	Merit
58	Lau Tsz Yan	5A	Empty House	Proficiency
59	Liang Shuying	5A	Empty House	Merit
60	Lin Ka Yu	5A	Empty House	Proficiency
61	Tam Lai Yin	5A	Empty House	Merit
62	To Choi Yee	5A	Empty House	Merit
63	Yau Oi Man	5A	Empty House	Proficiency
64	Chan Yik Lam	5A	The Side Way Back	Proficiency
65	Lee Tsz Yat	5A	The Side Way Back	Proficiency
66	Ng Ka Cheong	5A	The Side Way Back	Proficiency
67	Tse Chi Ho	5A	The Side Way Back	Proficiency
68	Lai Yee Lin Elaine	6A	Sharp Freckles	Merit
69	Yip Lok Yi Iris	6A	Sharp Freckles	Merit
70	Choi Ka Yee	6D	Sharp Freckles	Merit



# Greater Bay Area “Knowledge x Giftedness” Cup Creative Writing Competition

An important part of a student’s learning profile is creativity; a creative channel allows students to express innovation and plays a key role in their emotional development. The Greater Bay Area “Knowledge x Giftedness” Cup Creative Writing Competition was a great outlet for our innovative students. Students were given an opportunity to further explore their worlds of interest and unlock their potential in writing. Students who took part in this competition found it to be a fruitful experience; here is a list of all our participants – they came back with some excellent results!



No.	Name	Topic	Certificate
1	Mohammad Adeela	This Street so Special to me ...	Platinum Prize
3	Tai Tsz Hin	This Street so Special to me ...	Gold Prize
4	Chan Ka Wai	This Street so Special to me ...	Silver Prize
5	Ho Nok Yiu	This Street so Special to me ...	Silver Prize
6	Chiu Yik Wai	This Street so Special to me ...	Silver Prize
7	Lam Sing Yi	“I can’t ever forget it”/ “HKDSE so far so close”	Silver Prize
8	Li Chak Yuk	“I can’t ever forget it”/ “HKDSE so far so close”	Silver Prize
9	Fu Ka Yi	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
10	Cheng Yan Ki	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
11	Wu Sze Ching	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
12	Lee Yat Chim	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
13	Yeung Tsz Chun	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
14	Tse Man Hin	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
15	Chan Hoi Lam	This Street so Special to me ...	Bronze Prize
16	Guo Yu Hin Bruce	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
17	Chen Yi Ying	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
18	Taybah Parvez	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
19	Li Tsz Yiu Crystal	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
20	Chow Cheuk Ying	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
21	Zheng Jiayu	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
22	Li Man Yue	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
23	Yu Chau Han	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Bronze Prize
24	Wong Sze Man	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Merit Prize
25	Ng Ka Cheong	A Visit to my Friend at the Hospital	Merit Prize





# Prize for Schools

Buddhist Yip Kei Nam Memorial College

Excellent School Award

## Guangdong – Hong Kong – Macao Greater Bay Area Grand Speech Competition

Our students took part in the “Guangdong – Hong Kong – Macao Greater Bay Area Grand Speech Competition” this year. Similar to the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival, students were required to submit a video of their performance. Between the two competitions and all the lengthy practice sessions, our students have come away with a range of public speaking experience and are much more confident in their speaking skills! Here is a list of our competitors and their achievements.

No.	Name	Class	Certificate
1	Mohammad Adeela	1A	Certificate of Merit
2	Bibi Salma	1A	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up
3	Chan Ka Tim	1B	Certificate of Merit
4	Bibi Dihea	1A	Certificate of Merit
5	Chan Hei Man Albee	1A	Certificate of Merit
6	Hussain Hamza	1A	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up
7	Bibi Simrah	1B	Certificate of Merit
8	Rohan Lance V Lozada	1B	Champion
9	Tung Cho Yim	2B	Certificate of Proficiency
10	Taybah Parvez	2A	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up
11	Tsui Yuen	2A	Certificate of Merit
12	Yeung Yat Hei	2A	Certificate of Merit
13	Guo Yu Hin Bruce	2A	Certificate of Merit
14	Wong Tsz Yin	2A	Certificate of Merit
15	Wong Wing Lam	2A	Certificate of Merit
16	Wong Yeuk Lai	2A	Certificate of Merit
17	Tsang Pui Shan	2A	Certificate of Merit
18	Li Tsz Yiu Crystal	2A	Certificate of Merit
19	Chen Yi Ying	2A	Certificate of Merit
20	Wong Hau Ching	2A	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-up
21	Wong Mei Mei	2A	Certificate of Merit
22	Lau Yeung San	2A	Certificate of Merit
23	Hui Yan Ling	2A	Certificate of Merit
24	Hon Ying Ki	2A	Certificate of Merit
25	Au Lok Yi Dorothy	2A	Certificate of Merit
26	Shah Bibi Rhea	3C	Certificate of Merit
27	Choi Hau Lam	3C	Certificate of Merit
28	Lo Wing Yan	3C	Certificate of Merit
29	Kwok Wing Yan	3C	Certificate of Merit
30	Lo On Ying	3C	Certificate of Merit
31	Mak Eisenhower	3C	Certificate of Merit

## English Enhancement Tutorial Classes

Given the limited face to face time for lessons as a result of the pandemic, we have had to supplement students' learning with additional tutorial classes. These lessons are held after school hours and over the weekends. A dedicated group of teachers devote their time to guiding our YKNers through all their course material to ensure they stay at the top of their (academic) game!



## Walk with Me Program

The Walk with Me Program was designed as a mentorship program for our students. Students, through interaction with their peers, teachers and the principal, were given the opportunity for growth and development.



## Visit to HKU

This year, we were glad to be able to visit one of Hong Kong's oldest and most prestigious universities. Our students were given a special tour of the campus, throughout which they enjoyed hearing about its long history and the academic opportunities the university offers. We now have a dedicated group of students who are driven to strive for excellence and join HKU!



## Community-based Project

The community-based project is an initiative designed to bring our students and the community together. Throughout the year, they have been taking part in various activities both internally and externally in an effort to enhance their social relationships and get to know their community.

## Summerbridge Hong Kong

The Summerbridge program is designed to raise students' self-confidence and improve their English communication skills. The program provides students with academic support and motivates them to invest in their own future and education by constantly striving for excellence. This year four of our students were selected to participate in this 14-month program. We are looking forward to their success in the near future!

Number	Name	Class
1	Au Lok Yi, Dorothy	2A
2	Cheung Tsz Yin	2A
3	Hui Yan Ling	2A
4	Wong Tsz Yin	2A

# English as a medium both on and off-campus:

At the beginning of the year, we experienced a myriad of challenges in connecting with students both on and off-campus. For a good amount of time, none of the students were able to attend face-to-face classes, and since then, we still haven't been able to have all our students on campus at the same time. This just goes to show how difficult it has been to reach out to the student body as a unit.

Now, given our decision to take a more hands-on, experiential approach to English language teaching, we knew that we had to make some changes and adapt new measures to connect with our students. We were inspired to devise more creative ways of bringing English to our students.



## Online Platform:

Our school website has allowed us to reach the greatest number of individuals across the student body. So we built an online database of English material that students can access anytime and anywhere.

English Week Day 4 (mp4)



### Online English Week

This year we held our annual English week online. NET Miss. Fernandes worked on a series of interactive online activities to bolster students' interest. She covered topics along the areas of English idiomatic speech, talking about where one's from and even conducted an online spelling bee. These activities were designed to support the classroom activities in English Speaking lessons so as to foster familiarity and build on skills already known.



### Online Assembly:

We try to hold several workshopping assemblies in English throughout the year. With students being unable to congregate for weekly assemblies, we took the initiative to post several videos of English based assemblies online. Students that came back to school watched these videos during the allotted assembly lesson, and students at home did the same from home.



# Face to Face Activities:

Though we weren't able to gather all the students on campus at the same time, we made a conscious effort to expose each year group to as much English on campus as possible; there is no doubt that physical, dynamic language learning is much more effective than online learning.

## *Morning Assembly*

Every morning students gather in the playground to listen to the day's announcements and prepare for the day ahead. It's a great time to speak to the student body; given this, we decided to introduce a splash of English during this slot. Miss. Fernandes speaks candidly about topical issues such as mental health, the importance of reading and much more every week. Following a brief speech, an interactive question answering session is always conducted to ensure students are following what is being said.



## *Mother's Day Activity*

We were fortunate to be able to hold a small-scale Mother's day activity this year to celebrate all the maternal influences in our lives. Our students enjoyed writing little notes for the important women in their lives.

## *Morning Interactive Games*

They say the morning is the best time to soak up knowledge; with that in mind, we began a series of interactive activities every morning throughout the week. Students are highly encouraged to take part in these activities as they are designed to parallel information learned in the classroom. Most games focus on vocabulary building. Since students are entirely besotted with their screens, we use online games on iPads. The games are designed to be competitive and feature stimulating graphics to keep our students coming back for more each morning. It's great to see them bring their fellow classmates and friends over for mini-showdowns. What a wonderful sight in the morning!



# Letter from the Editor

This year has most definitely been a very trying time, but I'm glad to be able to say, despite all the trials and challenges, the YKN family has been able to accomplish a great deal, especially within the realm of English. As I documented the events we have organised this year in this newsletter, I realised, whether it be through distanced learning or the few cherished face to face classes we've been allowed, both our students, as well as our teachers have taken every opportunity to grow together as a community and share a love for learning. Here's hoping that in the coming year we continue to see such flourishing talent and passion for English!

I hope you enjoy reading the 2020 – 2021 edition of YKN's newsletter!

Benisha Fernandes