

ENG

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(2nd issue)



HHCKLA
BUDDHIST CHING KOK
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Book Reviews & Story Reviews

The Wrong Trousers

The title of this book is called 'The Wrong Trousers'.
The author is Nick Parks. The publisher of this story is Oxford University Press.
It is an animated adventure story.

There are three main characters in the story. They are Wallace, Gromit and the Penguin. The story took place in a small house at 62 West Wallaby Street. Wallace gave Gromit a pair of techno-trousers for his birthday. Wallace had no money, so he rented a room. The new tenant was the penguin. He lived in Gromit's bedroom. The penguin's plan of stealing the diamond was unsuccessful because Wallace and Gromit caught the penguin.

I like reading this book because the words are easy. I like Gromit most because he is clever. He knows that the penguin is going to do something bad. I would like to recommend this book to my friends because I am sure that my friends would like it very much.

Wong Lai Ping (23) S.2A

Peter Pan

One of my favourite books is 'Peter Pan' written by James Barrie.
It is a great success and children and adults like it a lot.



The story begins in a house in London. Mr. Darling has three children, Wendy, John and Michael. One night, Peter lost his shadow in Mr. Darling's house. So, he went to the house to look for his shadow. Wendy helped him sew on his shadow. In order to thank her, Peter took the Darlings to Neverland. Wendy and her brothers enjoyed the days with Peter and his crew, the Lost Boys. However, the Darlings and the Lost Boys missed home and wanted to leave. On their way some pirates captured them. At last, Peter fought courageously and saved them.

The story is very interesting and exciting. I can imagine the scenery of Neverland. I hope I can visit this dreamland. I feel pleased with the happy ending and the character, Peter, most. From him I have learnt to respect our friends and treasure our friendship. His bravery in the story can take us into different adventures.

I would definitely recommend this book to my friends.

Kathy He Qi Wen (1) S.3A

The Talking Tree And Other Stories

Title of the Story : A Necklace of Water Drops (p.19-23)

Author : David McRobbie

Publisher : Oxford University Press

Setting : The story happened in a palace in China. The Princess stored her possessions in the rooms of the Palace.

Problem : The princess wanted a necklace made from drops of water.

Main Character :

1. Princess
The princess was selfish. She wanted a necklace made from drops of water. It was impossible. She was also greedy. She wanted presents every week.
2. The King
The king sent the jewelers to prison, because they could not make a necklace from water drops. After the king began to think about what the beggar had said, he was sorry.

Lesson I learnt : I learn that I should not do selfish things.

Tai Man Kit (23) S.3D



Entertainment

Chocolate Chip Cookies Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In large bowl, beat butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt; stir into the butter mixture until well blended. Mix in the chocolate chips and walnuts. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto the cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or just until set. Cool slightly on the cookie sheets before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.



Ryan Chau Chun Wai (14) S.1E

Dear Ricky,

How are you? Let me tell you about my favourite shopping center and my recent shopping trip.

My favourite shopping center is Mega Box. It is in Kowloon Bay. I can go there by MTR and taxi. There are shoe shops, department stores, a cinema, a food court, clothes shops and toyshops. I can watch a movie and buy some clothes and books.

Last Sunday, I went to Mega Box by MTR. Then, I walked there. I arrived at one o'clock. I bought some stationery such as pens. I went to the cinema to watch a movie. I left at five o'clock.

Bye for now.

Love,
Jacky

Cedric Wong Kwan Ming (38) S. 2A

Dear Ricky,

How are you? Let me tell you about my favourite shopping center and my recent shopping trip.

There are a lot of shopping centers in Hong Kong, but my favourite shopping center is Telford Plaza. The topic of the first phase of Telford Plaza is "Golden Sun". There are more than 250 shops. For example, fashion shop, sportswear shops, electronics shops and so on. In the podium, there is a magnificent fountain. I like it very much. We can go there by MTR, bus, minibus or taxi.

Last Sunday, I visited Telford Plaza by bus with my family. We arrived there at about half past two. First, we went to the electronics shop, because my father wanted to buy a digital camera. Then, I thought that sports shoes were more attractive. I looked for the sports shoes for a while, but I wanted to save some money, so I did not buy them. After that, we went to the Japanese restaurant for dinner. We finally left Telford Plaza at about eight o'clock.

Bye for now.

Love,
Jacky

Amy Shum Wen Yi (17) S. 2A



Wing Sing Park

Wing Sing Park is a popular park on Hong Kong Island. It opened in 1994. There are many facilities in the park for example, a Sports Centre, a Basketball Court, a Bird's Garden and a Children Playground. We can play different games there.

How to get there

It is located in Wing Sing Street. It takes ten minutes to walk from the Wing Sing MTR Station to the Park.

Things to do

There is a Sports Centre in the Park where people can play different sports. Also, children can play on the swing and the slide at the Children's Playground. Those who like birds can go to the Bird's Garden to see different kinds of birds. They are wonderful.

What to bring

Wing Sing Park is a fantastic place with wonderful trees and flowers, so remember to bring a camera with you. If you plan to play ballgames, you also need to bring some water.

Cheung Wing Sing (31) S.1E

Poems

Bill's beetle likes
playing many toys.
Bill's big beetle
dislikes dirty places.
Bill's big beetle lives
in leaves.
I hope Bill's big
beetle will be happy.

Jody Lam (3) S.1C



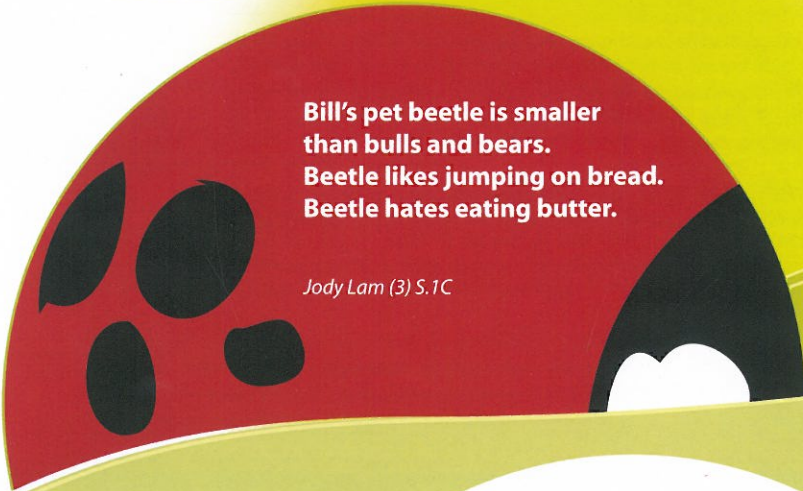
Bill's big brown beetle lives in a big box.
Bill's big brown beetle dislikes eating big pieces of butter.
Bill's big brown beetle loves eating big round bread.

Vivian Lau (10) S.1A



Bill's pet beetle is smaller
than bulls and bears.
Beetle likes jumping on bread.
Beetle hates eating butter.

Jody Lam (3) S.1C



Night, it reminds me of yesterday.
Sun dances with me in the sky.
The star plays ballgames with the moon.
The sky is arguing with the sea.

Toby Yeung Man Lam (17) S.1A



Sun is playing ball games in the sky.
The sky is crying.
The moon is working with clouds.
Mountain is sleeping in the world.

Law Po Chun (21) S.1C



My Role Model

My role model is a singer, Kay Tse.

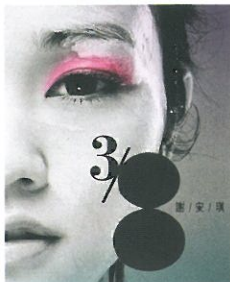
Kay Tse is one of the most famous singers in Hong Kong. She is hardworking, smart and friendly.

Kay was born on 13th March, 1977 in Hong Kong. She is 1.6 meters tall and weighs 45 kilograms. She won the Hong Kong University Singing Competition Championship in 2002. In 2005 she joined the PM Music Magazine Singing Competition. In 2008 she was awarded "My Favourite Singer".

I like Kay Tse because she is very hardworking and friendly. I am proud to say Kay Tse is my role model.

Wong Yu Ting (14) S.2E

Kay Tse



Who is your favourite role model? An actor? A sportsman? Or a scientist? Stefanie Sun is a famous singer. She is my role model. She is very good at singing and hardworking.

Stefanie Sun is a well-known singer in Singapore, Taiwan, Mainland China and Hong Kong. She has sold over 7000 000 copies in Asia since becoming a singer 3 years ago. She is not only talented at singing but she is creative too as she can write songs and play the piano very well. She is also benevolent since she always does some voluntary services.

She is 1.62 metres tall and weighs 42 kilograms. She is a Singaporean singer-writer. When she was small, she was talented at singing but she didn't want to be a singer. She was hardworking and later she attended Nanyang Technological University where she obtained a degree in marketing. Her first song is called "Cloudy Day", which is very meaningful and positive. The song tells us that we should never give up and be brave. After that, she became famous.

She is my role model because she was performing in Love Amplified Concert in 2008. Her voice is incredible. Unlike many other popular singers, she is cheerful and positive. I am proud to say that she is my role model.

Emily Chan Wing Chu 2A (2)

Stefanie Sun



My role model is a famous actor, Jet Li.

Jet Li is a martial arts super star in China. He is the best actor of Kung Fu films. He is also very popular in Hollywood. He is very smart, outstanding, skilful and kind.

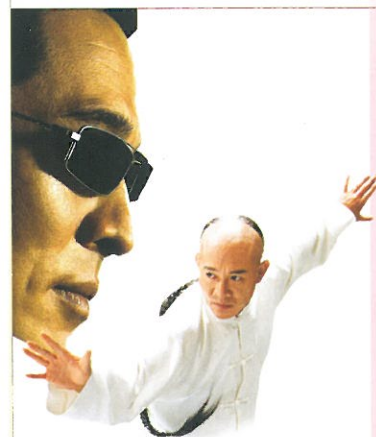
Jet Li was born on 26th April, 1963 in Beijing. He is 1.69 metres tall and weighs 69 kilograms. He is a Buddhist. He has two brothers and two sisters.

In 1982, he played a part in 'Shaolin Temple'. He has made a lot of famous Chinese films. For example, 'Kids from Shaolin' and 'Born to Defence' in 1983, 'Martial Arts of Shaolin' in 1986 and 'Once Upon a Time in China' in 1991. They are all my favourite films.

I like Jet Li most because he is very good at kung fu and smart. I am proud to say Jet Li is my role model.

Sushi Mok Man Yee (16) S.2A

Jet Li



My role model is a singer, Suen Yiu Wai.

Suen Yiu Wai is cheerful and hardworking.

He was born on 31st January, 1973 in Hong Kong. He is 1.73 metres tall and weighs 64 kilograms. His horoscope is the goat. He is a Christian. His blood type is O. He likes golf, playing basketball and skating. He won a creative music award in 1993.

I like Suen Yiu Wai because he sings well and sweetly. I am proud to say Suen Yiu Wai is my role model.

Julia But Pui Yan (1) S.2D

Suen Yiu Wai





Understanding Chinese Culture

Chinese New Year

A Wonderful Festival

Wonderful food, wonderful clothes, wonderful flowers and wonderful fireworks. Can you guess which festival I am describing? It is Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year is the most popular festival in Chinese culture. People give thanks for what they gained in the past year and wish for good fortune in the year ahead.

During Chinese New Year, we eat traditional Chinese dishes such as 'whole chicken' and 'whole fish'. All family members, whether married or unmarried, get together to enjoy a reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve. Besides, the dinner, there are also different kinds of food to symbolize good luck. For example, New Year cake and melon seeds.

Before Chinese New Year we usually buy new clothes and put them on the first day of the New Year. The clothes are usually red in colour representing good luck. Some people even put on traditional Chinese costumes to celebrate this special moment.

Many Chinese like to decorate their homes with beautiful flowers. Pink peach blossoms and fragrant daffodils are their first choices at Chinese New Year. People can find a bargain at flower markets. If you want to have good fortune, kumquat will be your choice.

On the second day of Chinese New Year, thousands of people gather at the promenades at Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui to see the annual fireworks display. The colourful fireworks symbolize the prosperity of the New Year.

Everything at Chinese New Year is wonderful. Delicious food, new clothes, beautiful flowers and attractive fireworks make people excited. To me, the most wonderful things at Chinese New Year are the red packets.

Chan Chin Mei S.2E (1)

Among the festivals in Hong Kong, the festival I like most is Lunar New Year. During Lunar New Year, I have dinner with my parents at home. I have many sweets and cakes to eat. I also visit my relatives and friends with my parents so that I will get many red packets.

During the last Lunar New Year I had a one-day city tour with my parents which was the most unforgettable New Year I have had in my life.

On the second day of New Year, we met our friends at Tung Chung MTR station. Then, we went to Ngong Ping and visited Ngong Ping Village. In Ngong Ping Village, we bought many souvenirs.

What's more, we visited The Big Buddha. At The Big Buddha we ate lunch, which was vegetarian. After that we visited Po Lin Monastery and saw many statues of Buddha.

In the afternoon, we went to Ladies Market in Mong Kok. I bought many presents with my parents. Ladies Market was very crowded so I didn't like it very much.

After that, we went to Ocean Park. At Ocean Park I went on the rides and watched the dolphin show. We visited the Sea Jelly Spectacular. The jellyfish were fascinating! At 19:30 we left Admiralty MTR station.

I felt the trip was very interesting for such a wonderful one-day tour. I enjoyed my Lunar New Year holiday very much.

Van Poon Chun Kit (34) S. 1A

A festival is a religious or other celebration. For example, Christmas and Easter are Christians' festivals. Chinese New Year, which can also be called Lunar New Year, is an important traditional festival for all Chinese people because almost every Chinese family will group together to have a luxurious feast. We call it a reunion dinner.

I love Chinese New Year. I can collect many little red packets and then use the money to buy my favourite things. When all of my relatives and friends pay a visit to me, I feel so happy to have lots of people in my house helping me celebrate. Moreover, my parents always buy a new shirt, trousers and shoes for me to wear during Chinese New Year.

On New Year's Eve, after having the reunion dinner, my parents and I usually go to a flower market to buy some good luck flowers, food and decorations to decorate our house.

On New Year's day, we say and hear 'Kung Hei Fat Choi' everywhere. We also have a good chance to enjoy fantastic fireworks. Besides, some lion dance troupes will visit the shops and houses to bring them good fortune and good joy. In the villages of the New Territories, we even see the people light firecrackers. All these things make me feel cheerful and excited.

I really think that Chinese New Year is a wonderful festival and has a great festival atmosphere.

Ng Ka Chun (35) S.3C



Writing Competition



Beauty contests are harmful to society and should be banned. Do you agree?

S6 Essay Competition

Almost every girl has a dream to become Miss Hong Kong. Although some people still love watching beauty contests, others think that they are harmful to society. They think the show should be banned and complain about them. However, what are the harmful effects of beauty contests on society?

There are several ill effects of beauty contests. First of all, beauty contests encourage sexist attitudes. The participants are asked to wear sexy swim – suits, among others and to create some sexy poses. Sometimes, the host of the show may tell some dirty jokes while the participants still have to stand on the stage and have smiles on their faces. We can also read some articles about the criticisms of their body shapes and the descriptions of their sex experiences! In this case, women are presented as sexual objects and people may look down on women. Secondly, the shows give wrong values to teenagers. In spite of misunderstanding sex, they may be confused by money and fame. Since some people participate in the competition because of the plentiful prizes, this encourages teens to be materialistic; it is bad for their growth if they become snobbish. Thirdly, it is very common that participants have to join some slimming programmes in order to show their “perfect bodies” to an audience. This gives us a message that “thin is beauty”. People will try some unhealthy methods to lose weight, such as taking slimming drugs or slimming meals. In some serious cases, some people may suffer from anorexia.

However, some people may argue that the beauty contests have some positive effects on society. Most people believe that the beauty contests are a good form of entertainment to reduce stress. They find it is interesting to look at the models’ appearance and guess who will be the winner. Another point is that the participants can learn a lot from the experience and the contests can let them broaden their horizons. They

will have a chance to travel to other countries with special status and meet new friends. They will become more self- confident and will learn some communication skills. Besides, some girls may find this a great chance or an effective path to enter the entertainment industry. The contests are a stepping-stone to becoming an actress. Moreover, some participants can be role models for many students. For instance, they may also do some voluntary work. Finally, the winners can represent Hong Kong and exchange culture with others. This is good for promoting tourism as the winners can become ambassadors for the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

To conclude, the beauty contests have positive effects for society. However, it is not hard to find the bad points about the competitions too. TV stations should improve the programme’s quality and the mass media should publicize the positive aspects of the beauty contests but not sex or money. As a result, the public may receive meaningful values from the shows while watching the contests.

Kwok Yee Lam(4) S.6S



Nowadays, beauty contests are very popular. The Miss Hong Kong Pageant or even The Mister Hong Kong Contest are the most well – known examples. Though the majority of people in society enjoy watching these kinds of beauty contests, some people criticize them and worry about what harmful effects will come with their popularity.

First, the beauty contests encourage people to pay attention to the appearance of others. In order to win the contests, the candidates should have a beautiful appearance. This may mislead the audience, especially the younger ones. They may think that external beauty is most essential. People will overlook the importance of inner beauty. Thus, people will judge each other by their appearance only. Secondly, beauty contests help spread the wrong idea of being slim. All the participants are very thin and believe that it is the standard of beauty. The term “keeping fit” is no longer applicable for those who are obese, neither is it for slimming girls as well. This is because they think that the slimmer, the better. They will waste their money, time and eventually their health. Thirdly, the mass media will create some unrealistic stories about the candidates. For example, the mass media may say that the winner of the contest bribed the judges. It will convey a wrong message to the younger audience that if you win in a game, you can do whatever you want. Lastly, the mass media will consume a lot of resources to produce the beauty contests since they can be used to make a lot of money from commercials. They should allocate resources to some meaningful programmes such as documentaries instead of beauty contests.

Some may object to the ideas I have just mentioned and argue for the holding of the beauty contests. They claim that the beauty contests offer entertainment. Undeniably, watching beauty contests on TV is entertaining. However, they spread wrong values and ideas to all the audience while you are enjoying the show. You are receiving the wrong messages as mentioned above and you are gradually accepting them. This will put our society at risk since wrong values are widely dispersed. Some may also say that we are facing tremendous stress in our daily lives. Why can’t we relax after work, take things easy and enjoy the shows? It is a terrible mistake. I think that there are many other good ways to relax rather than watch beauty contests. Reading, listening to music or exercising are healthier ways to relax.

At the moment, most people still think that it is desirable to hold beauty contests. Though it has become a trend to watch beauty contests, we should know that the harmful effects come along with them.

Chan Chin Long (10) S.6S (2 nd runner up)



Small-Class Teaching

Nowadays, "small-class teaching" is a hot topic in Hong Kong. It has been disputed for a long time. Many students think their lessons are boring, lack opportunity for discussion and lack time to ask questions. Moreover students feel ignored and neglected because teachers are busy managing the class. Based on the above problems, it is about time to implement small-class teaching in all schools.

At present, there are at least 40 students in a class. If small-class teaching is implemented in schools there will be about 20 students in a class. Therefore, students' motivation will increase and their results can be enhanced since teachers can introduce more interactive teaching methods and students can be more attentive in the lessons. Also, students will have more chance to practise what they have learned and participate actively in class. This can also raise students' confidence in learning.

If schools really implement small-class teaching, the teaching quality can be raised because the teachers can pay more attention to each student, and can cater to each individual need better. Besides, as the teacher-student ratio can be reduced, teachers can manage the class better and can give instant help to students.

However, some people claim that teachers lack training and experience and so they may not be able to fully utilize a small-class setting. To solve this problem, the government can provide professional training for teachers. For example, it can design curricula for small-class teaching. Therefore, teachers will gradually gain more experience.

To conclude, "small-class teaching" is good for students and teachers. It is because the teaching quality can be raised and the students' results can be enhanced. I hope the government will consider the needs of small-class teaching and take action immediately.

Kwok Hin Yan (38) S.5C

Fifty percent of the marks of all subjects in the HKCEE and AL examination should be based on the student's course – work in school. Discuss the pros and cons of this proposal.

Hong Kong's education system is examination-oriented. We assess students by means of the results of public examinations and in doing so we understand that students work under great pressure. Now, there is a proposal which suggests that school-based assessments (SBAs) are also used to assess student's results and that should weigh 50% of the total marks. According to the report from the Hong Kong Examination and Assessments Authority (HKEAA) in 2008, many schools state that they support the implementation of this policy. Therefore, the HKEAA deems it useful to hold them continuously.

Some educationists say that the school-based assessments are accurate measures for students. For example the marks in the SBAs will be part of the results of the public examinations. In addition, teachers can adjust their teaching methods and progress in accordance with the performance of the students in the SBAs. Moreover, the SBAs are another form of learning as students can have opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. The students may have more interest in the subjects because they can attain different learning experiences. It also makes their learning more effective and widens their horizons. Furthermore, the parents can help their children's work. This helps to develop a rapport between teachers and students.

Nevertheless, some people protest against the SBAs because they find that they increase the pressure for students and teachers due to the needs of handling a large amount of daily work. Many suffer from mental disorders or even commit suicide. The relationship between teachers and students may be aloof because the former spend too much time on marking the SBAs. Moreover, students think that they may not have the ability and time to handle so many assessments. Some students are doubtful about the fairness of the SBAs because some may submit assignments which are not done by themselves.

However, I believe that the problems arising from the SBAs can be solved. In school the principals can employ more teachers or assistants to share the responsibility of teaching. It can reduce the burdens of teachers and ensure a high standard of teaching quality. Also, the school's social workers should pay more attention to students and become listeners to share their pressure. I believe that the SBAs should not be applied to all subjects because too many assessments will turn out to be burdens for students. However, the problem of fairness is still the most difficult to solve. I think the HKEAA has to adjust marks of the SBAs according to the results of the Students' Public exams.

In conclusion, the pros of SBAs are many, but there are some disadvantages in them. They need improvement before their implementation.

Wong Sui Ling 65 (9)



Writing Competition

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Be a Wise Internet User

According to a survey conducted by the Computer Club on students' use of the Internet, around 75% of our students have spent at least three hours a day online. This result shows that most of our students use the Internet frequently. They may be unaware of potential risks they are exposed to when they use the Internet and neglect possible dangers.

The Internet can be harmful when used inappropriately. The students can be exposed to pornographic materials and violence easily. Exposure to these materials may have many bad effects. For example, students may develop wrong concepts and ideas about sex and love. They will also fight with their schoolmates easily.

Another danger is that students do not know the true identities of users online. In the Internet, we don't know the true identities of users online and it is very difficult to differentiate between true and fake information from the users in chat rooms and discussion groups. Some of them may deceive people and tempt students to do illegal things such as smuggling drugs and selling pirated goods.

In order to use the Internet wisely, parents must provide guidance to their children. They can install firewalls to block unhealthy websites and ensure that the chat rooms and discussion groups are reliable and registered. Also, students should not provide personal information to strangers or unknown website providers on the Internet.

We need to be careful when using the Internet. Avoid potential dangers and be smart Internet users.

Chu Man Ming (39) S.5D

Causes and Effects of Drug Abuse

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the causes and effects of drug abusers among teenagers in Hong Kong.

Firstly, some teenagers may come from broken families. Their parents do not take care of them. Secondly, they are under great pressure from school work. They feel unhappy if they get poor results. They want to relieve their pressure. Thirdly, they are afraid that their friends laugh at them if they say no to drugs. Lastly, many teenagers do not know much about drugs.

The effects of taking drugs are very harmful. Teenagers may be unable to sleep after taking drugs. Teenagers may lose their memory and appetite and last but not least, the teenagers may feel panic and tension easily.

We must work together to help them. Parents should pay more attention to their children and find a way to solve the problem. For example, asking the social worker for their advice. The school should hold more talks to educate the teenagers so that they know the serious effects of drugs. The government should ask the Education Bureau to hold more anti-drug campaigns to educate the public. It would be better if the government asked the police to inspect karaoke bars and pubs to stop people selling and taking drugs frequently. Teenagers should not take drugs.

Let's work together to fight against drugs today.

Yours faithfully,

Chris

Yuki Fan Sau Man (3) S.4A

