

CONNECT 2021

JULY 2021 | ISSUE 2

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Message from the Editorial Director Mr. Brett CRAIG

I would like to welcome everyone to the second edition of Lee Kau Yan Memorial School's Connect magazine. In this edition, we have articles on the following:

- The English Passport Programme
- Two articles on our school musical "Alien Insight", written by Mr. Stuart MEAD and directed by Mr. Pavol DUTKO
- Student work
- A profile of one of our students, Kelvin CHAN, who is a national level competitor, representing Hong Kong in long jump
- And an introduction to our two new English teachers, Mr. Howard LAW and Mr. Ambrose LEUNG.

It is fantastic that we can produce a second edition of Connect for you this year! Once again, I'm extremely grateful to our Principal, Mr. Jonathan LAI, for making this possible and giving the magazine his full support. I would also like to thank our Assistant Principal and English Panel Chair, Ms. Amy CHUNG, for her additional support in encouraging and supporting our second edition. I must also thank the students and teachers who have contributed to this issue.

Putting together a magazine like Connect is not an easy task. Once the work is collected, collated and edited, it then needs to be put together into the form of the magazine that you now hold in your hands, and this would not happen without the brilliant work of our English Teaching Assistant, Ms. Crystal SUN.

Please enjoy our second edition!

We will be back bigger and better next year, hopefully able to feature more of what is happening around school, with the many activities and competitions that our students take part in.

See you at the end of Term 1 of the 2021-2022 academic year!

Brett CRAIG
(Native-speaking English Teacher
Lee Kau Yan Memorial School)



ONLINE ENGLISH FUNLAND

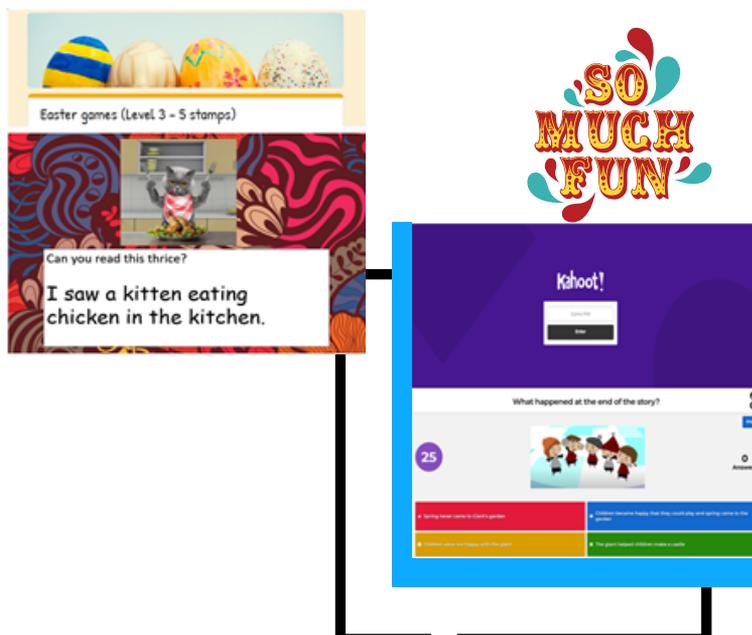
What is the Online English Funland?

The Online English Funland is an online platform that gives our students the opportunity to learn English outside the classroom. There are different arrangements for F1-4 and F5 students. For F1-4 students, we prepare materials based on topical themes. The materials are then split into three levels: easy (Level 1), medium (Level 2) and difficult (Level 3). Our goal is to provide fun English activities to pique students' interest.



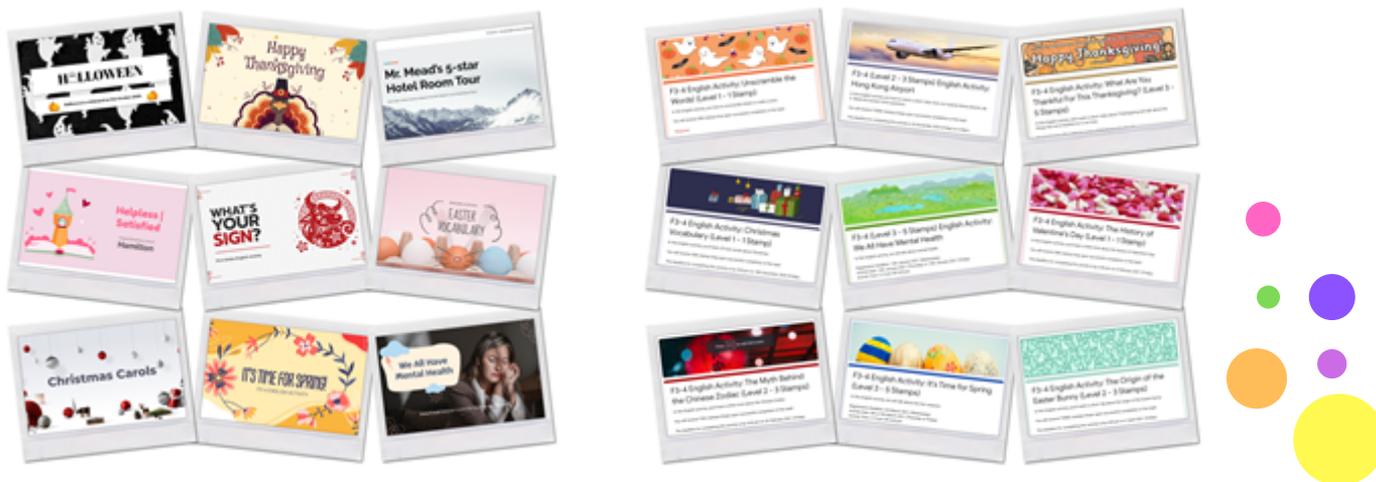
For F5 students, we used the 2019 HKDSE English speaking papers to help students strengthen their group discussion and English-speaking skills.

F1-2 ONLINE ENGLISH ACTIVITIES



To ensure active participation and cater to students' interests, various e-learning platforms such as Kahoot and Bamboozle were utilised. The two pictures on the left provide a glimpse of what students were participating in online. The popular Kahoot game that F1-2 students participated in was one of the rounds where they were introduced to one of Oscar Wilde's famous short stories through a video clip and quizzed later through Kahoot. The other was part of the Level 3 online Easter Zoom activity where students had fun with tongue twisters.

F3-4 ONLINE ENGLISH ACTIVITIES



The F3-4 online English activities are comparatively more difficult than the F1-2 online English activities. Level 1 and Level 2 online English activities are organised exclusively on Google Forms, while Level 3 activities are conducted via Zoom. A variety of multimedia tools were used to keep students engaged.

F5 ONLINE ENGLISH ACTIVITIES

GROUP DISCUSSION AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE



Zoom sessions for F5 students were required for the Group Discussion and Individual Response as part of the preparation for the HKDSE Speaking practice. Group discussions were plenty of fun. Students demonstrated enthusiasm and genuine interest in coming up with arguments for and against the points being discussed for the chosen topic. They also had the chance to improve their critical-thinking skills when taking part in the individual response part of the speaking practice.

OUR EXPERIENCE / REFLECTION ON ACTIVITIES

The English Passport Programme has been an immense success this academic year. Despite the pandemic and face-to-face class suspensions multiple times throughout the year, 12 rounds of online English activities were completed and a majority of students from F1-F5 participated in them. Some of the classes which consistently participated were 1B, 1CD1, 3CD1, 4B, 5A, and 5C. A huge congratulations to them as they were also the same classes which received the maximum number of stamps. So, dear students, keep participating and have fun!



A MESSAGE FROM MR. MEAD

Hello, Everyone!

I am very excited about seeing you finally on stage with “Alien Insight”. Sure, I wrote the script but, as soon as you got it in your hands, it became your musical drama. You are the ones who will bring it to life. I so very much wish that you are enjoying the challenge, the fun and the teamwork involved in this project. I especially hope that you will see it as wonderful, positive experience and a great memory of your school life.

I write comedy musical dramas for the benefit and enjoyment of the actors. My eyes light up when I see students on stage as they show the world and themselves just how good they have become with all their hard work. Three students are now acting in their third musical drama at Lee Kau Yan Memorial School. That is quite an achievement. I saw how much they improved and gained confidence with their first two, so I am particularly interested in seeing what they do this time. For lots of other students, this is their second drama. Well done!

This has been an unusually different and difficult year for everyone. Perhaps, among all the events and difficulties of the past year, your involvement in this drama has been a breath of fresh air and a chance to focus on happier things ... and to laugh. This drama is funny; I am really looking forward to seeing how much you capture the fun and colour of this show. I would love to see you make it even better than I have imagined it. There are many funny characters and situations in this drama; I am looking forward to laughing and smiling as I watch it. Be energetic, be funny, be confident!

I want you to do a successful show. Mostly, I want you to be happy. I also want you to feel proud of yourself and the whole team. I congratulate and thank the teachers and all the various helpers for being on this journey with you; make sure you thank them too, because they deserve it. You should also thank the school for giving you the chance to be in this show; I know the school is always looking for ways to challenge and educate students, so well done, Lee Kau Yan.

Thank you for being in “Alien Insight”. Thank you for your hard work and your smiles. It is impossible to say just how much I miss being there with you. Please, always feel that I am there with you as you rehearse and perform. I am proud of you, and I am proud to say that I know you and have worked with you.

Best wishes always.

Mr. Stuart MEAD



ALIEN INSIGHT



A Little Bit of Drama

This year's musical drama was written by Mr. Stuart MEAD, an Australian with a colourful sense of humour... and rest assured, there is plenty of humour in our new drama.

The story is set in Hong Kong and pokes fun at the typical stereotypes of the young, urban, upper middle-class people you see in parts of Hong Kong.

Putting together a play, especially one as big as this requires the three "Ps": planning, practice and patience!

The first challenge for a production like this is finding the right cast; young actors who are willing and able to do the job. Fortunately, most of the cast had already signed up last academic year before the pandemic made things way more difficult than we could have imagined, so this was a good start. But how many would stay? Thankfully it turned out that most would!

The original play was long... and I mean really, really long. There was something like 60 characters and almost 20 scenes. Now this would be fine if we were making a movie or putting on the original production in a theatre, but, as we know, the pandemic put an end to that. So, Mr. MEAD had to rewrite the script. This meant that almost half of the script disappeared, along with the characters. Unfortunately, this also meant that we could only really rehearse for 30 minutes each day, with limited cast members.

Would we ever get to perform our musical drama for an audience?

With the re-writing of the drama, and the cut in the number of characters, it was decided that it would be best to turn the drama into a video performance. This was an excellent idea, because rehearsal time was limited and the students were struggling to memorise their parts. Even though the script had been cut by almost half, it was still a long script. Thankfully, the video format is more forgiving than a live drama production. If students make a mistake, they can do it again until they get it right. For example, with the song and dance numbers, the students were able to perform the dance, then dub the song over the dance, so that students didn't have to concentrate on, or worry about performing both at the same time.

There are several points in the story that relied on improvisation, because there were times that not all of the actors were available and we were running out of time. You can practice the lines, block the scenes and choreograph the action, but what can you do if everyone is not available?



And this is where our actors shone like the stars that they are! We've got some real talent performing in the show; skillful and diligent actors! They have performed with confidence and style! Some actors are playing two characters. Serious reporter Kee Sing Yu also plays a masked bank robber. Other actors, like the handsome "Casanova" Rex, or the two fancy girls, Sally and Paris, are able to easily get into their characters and fluently pronounce their lines.

Ultimately, we were left with a week to film the action. Many of our actors showed great devotion to the project and even remained in the school hall beyond their allotted time so that they could shoot their scenes several times. And in this way, it became similar to shooting a film.

I have great respect for our cast and crew. Putting on a drama in the middle of a pandemic was never going to be easy, but our students rose to the task! I thank them for the work which they have committed themselves to. Well done!

We have done our best to get the writer's vision on video and, like me, I hope that you are not only looking forward to the final product, but will also share in the enjoyment of seeing it!

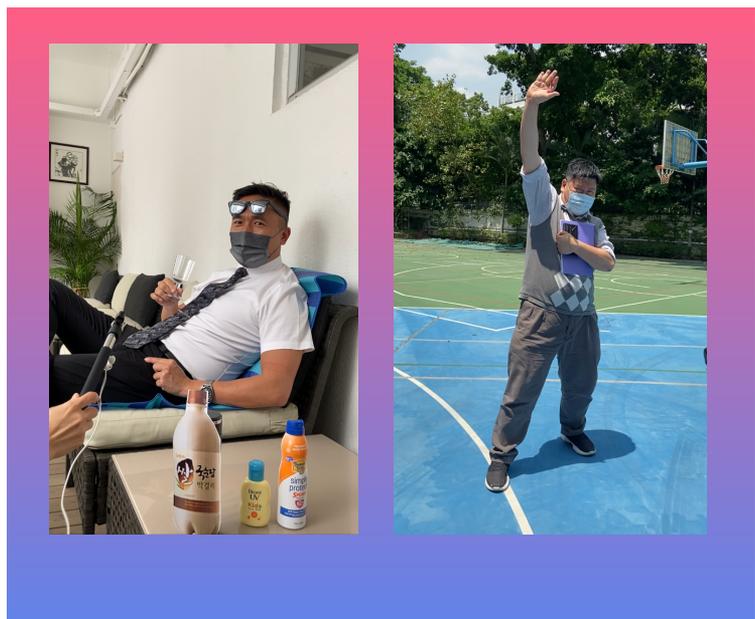
Mr. Pavol DUTKO
Director



COVID-19 has not only changed the way we live, but also the way we organised the English Week. In the past, various activities such as interactive workshops, competitions, exhibitions and talks were held during the week. This year, due to the pandemic and time constraints, we could only conduct the classroom activities in our English lessons.

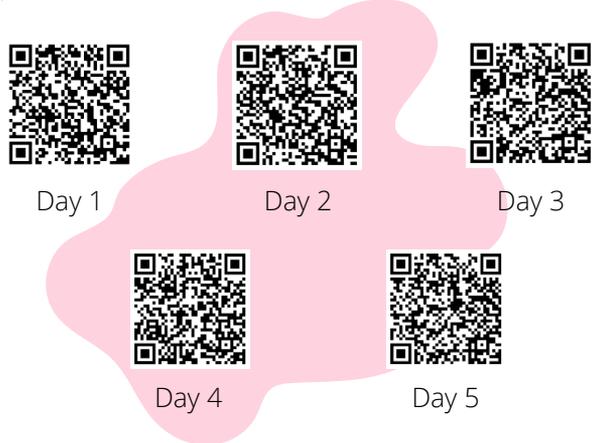
The coronavirus pandemic has reached almost every country in the world. With the entry restrictions and quarantine measures imposed by different countries, it is impossible for us to travel to anywhere. In view of this, the theme of the English Week was Travelling around the World. It was hoped that through the activities in the classrooms, our students could get a taste of different cultures and reminisce about our travel experiences. As the unique charm of Korean culture is getting popular with people around the world, we chose South Korea as the destination of our English Week.

English Week 2021 was held from 10 May to 14 May. A 10-minute video followed by three questions was shown each day. The topics of the videos included Korean facts, K-pop Music, Korean food, k-drama and films. Students would get a Korean snack prize if they answered the questions after watching the videos.



In order to make the video more interactive and fun, we invited different subject teachers to appear in the episodes. With the help of the English ambassadors, the activities were able to run successfully. It was a great pleasure to see our students' smiles behind their masks.

You can review the videos by scanning the QR codes below:

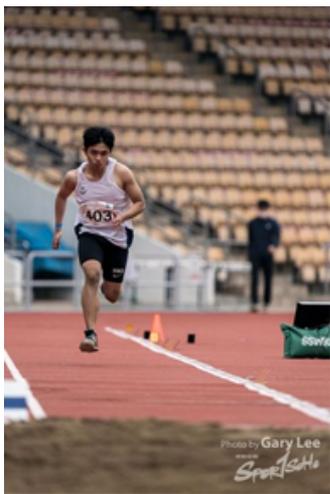


Special thanks to VP MAK, VP CHUI, Mr. Yu Nang CHAN, Mr. Jason CHENG, Ms. Wai Yan CHEUNG, Mr. Kit CHU, Mr. Chi Wang CHU, Mr. Yu Kun GUO, Mr. Chi Hong KWOK, Mr. Tin Kin KWOK, Ms. Mo Wa KWONG, Mr. Chi Kwan LAU, Mr. Chung Man LAU, Ms. Tsui Fun LAU, Mr. Kim Chong LAW, Mr. William LEE, Mr. Alex LO, Mr. Raymond LIN, Ms. Choi Hung NG, Ms. Queenie PANG, Ms. Man Yu SA, Mr. Gary TAM, Mr. Ka Wing TSOI, Mr. Yiu Hang WONG, Ms. Ho Ka WU for their great help and kind support. In particular, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Principal LAI, the captain of our flight who kicked off our journey.

Ms. Debbie SHEK



“Be hungry for success! Be hungry to make your mark and be hungry to be seen and to be heard and to have an effect. And as you move up and become successful, make sure that you are also hungry to help others.”



After years of working and training hard, I was finally able to take part in a national level competition, representing Hong Kong. And guess what event was I competing in?

Two years ago I was still a new guy on the sports field. I had a dream, a dream to be a member of the Hong Kong long jump team. It seemed like a ridiculous idea for a teenager, but I kept my faith and motivated myself to achieve this goal. I remember when some people said that it was a crazy idea for a junior form student to even think about becoming a member of the Hong Kong long jump team, and even crazier to compete at a national level! Some teachers thought that my goal should be to focus on school results like everyone else. But why not try to be special? Why not try to make the national team? As Arnold Schwarzenegger once said, “What is the point of being on this Earth if you are going to be like everyone else?” I want to achieve a legendary life! I also want to become a legend.

To become a legend is a long and hard process. To maintain a sense of hard work, you need to have a clear vision, a vision where you can give 100% and never stop believing in your dreams or yourself. When I first started training, my focus was on my school results. It was a hard process, studying and training. My friends might have doubted me, and some teachers might have thought that my school work would suffer if I concentrated too much on long jump. But I realised that in order to succeed, I needed to think outside the box and multitask, moving between training and study. I knew that if I wanted to chase my dream, I would have to deal with school work first, then focus on my training. As Bruce Lee once said, “What your mind believes, your body achieves”.

Now, not every legend is a myth. Some are flesh and blood. Some legends walk among us, but they aren't born, they're built. Legends are made from iron and sweat; mind and muscle; blood and vision, and after a victory last year, after years of training, I finally earned my place in the national team to represent Hong Kong, and took part the national youth titles. Although I didn't place in the competition where I'd hoped, it was still an amazing experience! It helped me to improve things like my technique and speed, but more importantly, it really helped me to frame the right mindset.

When the competition was over I realised that not winning is really a way to improve yourself. When you fall, you need to get up. Don't be afraid to lose; don't let fear guide your life. Learn from your mistakes.

Be hungry to learn! And be hungry to succeed!

I think everyone is capable of chasing their dreams, but you have to ask yourself if you want to. Will you let the barriers of school results and peer pressure stop you?

It's important to remember who you are and to have a clear vision so that you can move forward and find a way to break those barriers. If you can see it and believe it, then **YOU** can achieve it. Chase your dream!





Student Work

Recently, a number of our students participated in an IELTS course run by Mr. Pavol DUTKO. At the end of the course, students had to do an IELTS exam, of which writing was a part. Below, you will find the IELTS writing question and answer from Jacky LEI, 5A. His response was highly credited. Well done to Jacky in the IELTS exam!

IELTS Academic Writing Task

Write about the following topic:

The responsibility of bringing up children should be shared equally between mother and father. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write about 250 words.

Although "gender equality" has become one of the main "rules" of our society, gender stereotypes form in the early ages and still remain. This has led to some debate over whether both parents should be equally responsible for raising children. Personally, I strongly agree with gender equality and parents should share the responsibility of bringing up children equally.

First of all, the mother and father "created" the child together. Biologically, to "form" a child, it requires the parents to mate. Mating is impossible with just one person, that is the cooperation between the mother and father. That is why the parents should be responsible for taking care of their children, and not follow the age old gender stereotypes, since the children are the creations of parents' love. The parents love each other equally, thus they should also love their children equally.

Secondly, "a family" means every member of that family needs to stay together no matter what and this includes the parents. It is morally wrong for a family member to not take any responsibility for the family, such as a dad leaving the family to avoid having to pay child support. Surely, anyone would despise actions like this, as this is something only humans without morals would do. Thus, morally speaking, parents are equally responsible for the family, including raising their children.

In short, yes, parents should absolutely be equally responsible for bringing up their children, and I strongly support this opinion. Due to gender equality and morals, the responsibilities of being a parent should not lie in the hands of a single person.

Jacky LEI, 5A



Online Shopping: A Convenient Way of Getting What You Need

People in this city like to shop online. Hongkongers buy clothes, shoes and make-up products, even when they are just relaxing at home! Why, then, has online shopping become so popular?

The online shopping trend has been around since the late 2000s, when express shopping became common. In 2011, the Tao Bao company introduced an online shopping website, and online shopping exploded. As a result, the popularity of online shopping grew and became more widespread.

Online shopping is so common nowadays that people will buy products from different countries, especially when a product is hard to find or might be cheaper. Of course, you can now download different apps that help you to shop online. These shopping apps allow you to purchase everything you need. For example, if you want a product from Japan, you do not need to fly there. You just need to click on the shopping app and buy what you want. The convenience is that you can pay by credit card, but you need to be careful that you don't become addicted (which could happen very easily!).

Online shopping has become an important part of our lives. It allows us to buy various things in a convenient way. Online shopping is truly changing the way that we shop, but you need to decide if this is something good or bad.

Carmen MAK, 4B



It is no doubt that people treat cosplay very seriously nowadays. People cosplay at tourist destinations and even when they are just walking down the streets. You can see cosplayers in Hong Kong. However, why has cosplay become so popular?

Cosplay refers to a performance art that uses costumes, accessories, props and make-up that allows people to dress up as characters found in anime and computer games. The earliest origins of costumes may come from the interpretation of myths, legends and folk anecdotes, as well as festival stories and literary works.

There are many types of cosplay. One of the more common cosplay types is "Anime, Comic and Games" (ACG). It covers a wide range of areas including comics, animation, video games and graphic novels. In terms of presentation, it can also be divided into Realistic Cosplay and Cosplay in Spiritual Form. Realistic Cosplay can be compared to a western realistic painting, which aims to replicate the appearance and the soul of the person as much as possible. On the other hand, Cosplay in Spiritual Form is similar to the ancient East's depiction of the spiritual form.

To conclude, cosplay is becoming an ever more important part of our lives outside of school and work. It allows us to share with friends how we are feeling and also makes us feel relaxed in times of stress. People say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so maybe cosplay has helped us communicate ideas with one another more than ever.

Hayson YAU, 4B

MESSAGE FROM NEW TEACHERS

Hello, everyone. I am Mr. Howard LAW, and I am a new English teacher here at Lee Kau Yan Memorial School!

It is super exciting for me to write about myself in Connect 2021, only two weeks after joining the school. I have been teaching English to students in a couple schools, now, for a few months. I love to talk to my students in English. So, if you want to brush up your speaking skills (or get better marks in the English-speaking exam), please feel free to come up and talk to me! It would be awesome if you can say a simple 'hello' when you see me in the corridors during the lunch break.

What are my hobbies? Well, just like a lot of teachers here at LKYMS, I quite enjoy doing a bit of reading in Chinese, English, or even German (if I am feeling brave that day). Yes, I know: German! I studied German for a bit when I was studying at university, but I am not very fluent in it. Don't worry though, I won't be speaking German when I am in an English class!

Other than reading, I also like doing a bit of internet surfing. It always feels great to know what is going on in the world, or maybe find some silly things on social media to laugh at. But I think most importantly, surfing the internet lets us actively use our English knowledge. That is one reason we need to learn English, after all, almost everyone on the internet uses it. If I don't know English, I certainly can't read articles and chat with people from different countries!

Anyway, I hope to see all of you in September next year, and maybe, if I am lucky, I will be teaching some of you!

Mr. Howard LAW



Hello, everyone from LKYMS! It's my honour to become an English teacher in the LKYMS family. I think some of you may have met me during lessons or the exam period (as I did teach some of you in May and June). I will also be teaching in LKYMS in the coming school year. And I am so looking forward to seeing all of you in September.

I will use THREE adjectives to describe students in LKYMS: Lovely, Kind and Marvellous. Students in LKYMS are very diligent, energetic and eager to learn. I know that learning English would be a difficult challenge for many students. However, students here are willing to try and learn English through different activities, including the English Passport Scheme and the Musical Drama Performance. Trust me! You will find these English activities interesting and at the same time useful for improving your English standard!

Guess what? Indeed, I am quite an active and energetic person. I like playing volleyball and badminton in my spare time. You can never imagine that I was the captain of the Boys' Volleyball Team in my secondary school! Besides doing sports, I also enjoy singing and listening to classical music. I also joined the school choir for 6 years in my secondary school. I think listening to music can help you relax and release the pressure in our daily lives.

Can't wait to see everyone of you in the coming September! Take a good rest in the summer holiday and prepare well for the new journey! 😊

Mr. Ambrose LEUNG



FEATURED PHOTOS





In loving
memory of our
Editorial Director
Mr. Brett CRAIG

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- Psalm 23

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