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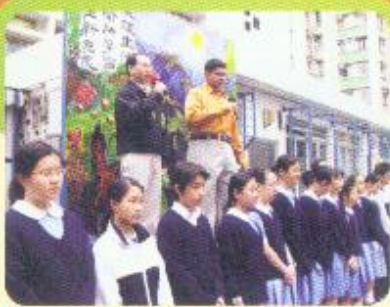
THE ENGLISH NAVIGATOR



Henrietta Secondary School



Inside this issue...



English Debating Team



Choose an English name today!



Morning Reading Programme

EDITORIAL



The name for our new English Magazine - The English Navigator - was selected after much careful thought. The word 'navigator' represents various directions that we will present to you, so that you can improve your English in innovative and interesting ways. Like the navigator of a ship or an aeroplane, we would like to steer you in the right directions to the most effective means of assisting your practical English development.

It is with great pleasure that we bring to you the first edition of The English Navigator - Henrietta School's all new bi-annual English gazette. It will be jam-packed full of information about how to learn English in Hong Kong, as well as keeping you informed of some of the school's activities. All of this will be in English, of course!

At a time when the standard of spoken and written English in Hong Kong is falling, this gazette will aim to motivate our students as to the advantages of improving their English. Our aim is to provide this objective in an interesting package.

In our first issue we will tell you the best places in Hong Kong to brush up on your English; the formation of the new Debating and Public Speaking Society; some really great web-sites; some recommendations by our staff members for improving your English; some recommendations for choosing a good English name, and a host of other activities that have been held by the school.

So feel free to browse through the pages of The English Navigator. We sincerely hope that you find something to amuse yourself, and hopefully to assist you in your endeavours to improve your English.

My thanks go to the editorial team of Cheung Fu Wah, Frederick (Head of English Department), Ng Yiu Man, Louis (Form 7B) and Tse Man Shan, Winnie (Form 7B) - without whose diligent help this project would not have been possible.

Mr Barry Manuk
(Editor-in-Charge)



Read And Learn

By Winnie Tse & Louis Ng

Reading is a great way to gain more knowledge. However, reading English books is also a great way to make your English better!

The morning reading period has been in place for more than 5 months. We have interviewed Principal Ma, Vice-Principal Chan, Mr. Ma and Miss Leung. Let's see what they say about this period, their reading habits and the way they all have learnt English.

LEGEND: R - Reporter , P.Ma - Principal Ma Yuen Fat

R: What are the main reasons for having a daily 'morning reading period'?

P.Ma: The scheme may lead to a reading culture in our school. Students have to develop the habit of reading, since it is very important for students to learn through reading. It will help students to develop their thinking skills, because everyone needs to have more room to think. Everyone needs to learn to be more patient. Also, we have the ability to focus on our strengths, which will help us to do our work more effectively.



R: Why do you think that the 'morning reading period' helps students' studies?

P.Ma: It is because it leads students to read. A lot of students have read at least two books in this period of time and, so far, many teachers enjoy it as well. Overall, the response from the staff has been good. Students are beginning to love reading.

LEGEND: R - Reporter , M - Mr Ma Chi Keung

R: How did you improve your English when you were young?

M: I used to read story books and read it aloud, listen to the radio, sing English songs and watch English films. I use English to communicate with my friends. Although their English may not be great, it is still a good chance to practice with others. When we make mistakes, we will not laugh at each other.

R: What difficulties about studying English did you face?

M: I spoke English clumsily when talking to foreigners because I was too nervous and frightened.

R: What problems regarding learning English do students need to face nowadays?

M: They are lazy, shy and afraid of speaking English. Students are afraid of pronouncing the words incorrectly because their friends will laugh at them. If students spend 20 minutes to read English books each morning from when they are in Form 1, they will learn a lot of vocabulary and other skills by the time they are in Form 7.



LEGEND: R - Reporter , C - Vice-Principal Chan Wai Kwong

R: Which is your favourite book that you have read?

C: Biographies of famous people are the books that I enjoy the most. It helps to know that everyone is not perfect and that everyone possesses weaknesses and flaws.



R: How many books do you have on your book shelf at home so far?

C: I haven't really counted before. However, in my office, I keep about 10 percent of all my books.

R: As HSS is a CMI school now, do you think it will affect students' English language-learning?

C: If they have good learning ability and motivation, they will spend more time on English.

LEGEND: R - Reporter , L - Miss Leung Choi Wan

R: What is the best thing about reading?

L: Reading lets us experience different worlds, and brush up our English and Chinese language skills.

R: What advice will you give to students to choose good books?

L: Choose books that can enrich your mind and give you pleasure from reading.

R: How do you suggest that students learn better English?

L: Students may improve their English by reading the newspaper; choosing story books that suit their ability and interest and watching TV programmes on English language-channels.



A trip to Shenzhen—Part 1



By Louis Ng

On Saturday, December 7, Winnie Tse and myself accompanied Mr Manuk on a trip across the border to Shenzhen. The objective was to see how foreigners can communicate with the local population, and to observe how similar or different the shopping experience was compared to Hong Kong.

Before we discuss the English aspect, it must be said how much like Hong Kong Shenzhen has become in such a short time. When taking a taxi around the city, we were surprised to see many Hong Kong shops like Parknshop, Wellcome, Giordanos and Bossini. We were even more shocked when we discovered that many of the shops were even bigger and cheaper than their Hong Kong counterparts. The level of frenzied building and huge skyscrapers going up even humbles a busy city like Hong Kong. Shenzhen is indeed changing, and catching up fast!

中國

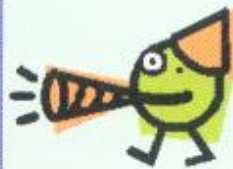


A fabulous hotel in Shenzhen!

There were even more surprises ahead! Most of the store-owners were very warm and welcoming. They exercised really good manners in communicating with Mr Manuk. Their English standard was also quite good in many of the situations we encountered. They could all say the prices in English, as well as basic polite greetings and formalities. In some cases, their English was even better than one would expect, with some shop-keepers conversing freely in English. They would ask Mr Manuk what country he was from, and how long he had been in Hong Kong. There were some shops that also had some signs in English, which really made it a lot more easier for Mr Manuk to understand what was going on.



Shenzhen is becoming more commercialized!



Shopping at the Luohu Department store!



Overall, Mr Manuk found shopping in Shenzhen a very pleasant experience. He said that he would definitely go back very soon!

Please watch out for our next article about Shenzhen, when we visit a local secondary school there in our next issue of The English Navigator!

School Events

The Debate Club begins! by Winnie Tse

A debate is a formal argument or discussion of a question. Debates were rarely heard in Henrietta Secondary School. However, this is the case no longer. We are pleased to introduce the all new Debate Club.

The Debate Club involves students from Form 1 right through to Form 7. They are people with solid English-speaking skills, as well as being confident, highly motivated and creative. Debating is all about 'thinking on your feet', as the answers cannot be memorized. Therefore, it helps if you are a quick-thinker.

The Debate Club members will give their first performance during the English Week in January. The topic of discussion will be 'That all schools should be co-educational'. We hope to see you there to see which side wins!



The English Writing Competition by Winnie Tse

This year is our school's 57th Anniversary. The English Department decided to hold an English Writing Competition open to all students. It was the first time to have this contest and the topic consisted of things that happened around the school. It aimed to motivate students' interest in English writing and let them know the importance of using English. Having good English is definitely an advantage for your future. Thus, students are encouraged to write more in English. It will certainly improve your English skills if you write more often. Students from each form were selected by the English teachers to be the finalists. This time, we were happy to see so many students chosen to be the finalists.

The Charity Run by Louis Ng

This year's charity run was held on Friday, 22 November, after school. Each class sent 7 representatives to participate in the race. It aimed to build up the team spirit of the classes and raise money for a local charity organization. In fact, it is our school's tradition and it is held in November every year. This year, even the principal, the vice principal and some teachers formed groups to participate. We were lucky that the weather was fine on that day. Everyone tried their best to run and finish the race. The champion for the senior group went to Form 6B while the Junior group champion went to Form 1E. This time, we raised to more than \$20,000 in total for this event.



Location

- F1 - Bride's Pool, Tai Po
- F2 - Pak Tam Chung Country Park, Sai Kung
- F3 - Ocean Park
- F4, 6 & 7 - Clear Water Bay Country Park
- F5 - Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Po

The Picnic Day by Louis Ng

On 15 November, it was the School Picnic Day for this year. All students and teachers went to different destinations to enjoy a day without lessons. Most of them had barbecues in the countryside. Some even flew their kites. It was a really good chance for students and teachers to talk with each other. At school, we hardly have time to communicate with others because teachers are very busy with their work all the time.

Why choose an English name?



Most of us will have an English name. Sometimes, the name will have been given to you by your parents or from a primary school teacher, who told you that you 'needed' an English name. There are many students that don't like the English names that are given to them because they sound old-fashioned, or they really don't mean anything. There are other students who choose some very crazy names, that would probably make many English-speaking people laugh if they ever heard them. But, what is the real reason for choosing an English name?

The real reason for having an English name is so that it can make it easier for us to communicate with people who use English as their main language. It is very difficult for foreigners to remember our Chinese names, so an English name is something that is more familiar and easier for them to memorize. Therefore, an English name can bring us closer to foreigners, and help us to see that they are people just like us. It can help us to understand their culture, and be more aware of problems they may have in trying to speak to us.



Perhaps, you may not like the English name that has been given to you. If you are thinking of a change, we have compiled a list of names that are among the most fashionable and popular in the English-speaking world today. Maybe, you would like to take a look at a name that best suits you!

Here we've chosen our list of favorite names for the year: names which aren't overly popular but sound interesting, unique, important, classy or just plain cool, without being too unusual or trendy...

Girl Names:

Audny (Ord - nee) - Scandanavian - New Prosperity

Ramla - African: One who predicts the future

Desiree (Dez - a - ray) - French: So long hoped for

Blossom - English: Fresh

Cali (Ka - lee) - English: Lark

Yasmine (Yazz - min) - Arabic: Jasmine flower

Mattise (Ma - teese) - No meaning - French Artist

Phoebe (Fee - bee) - Greek: Mother of Leto



Here is a list of girl names that are very popular in Australia, America and Britain right now. However, they don't really mean anything; they just sound really nice: **Hannah** (Han - a), **Madison** (Mad - a - sun), **Lauren** (Loh - rin), **Kayla**, **Destiny** (Dess - ta - nee), **Chloe** (Klo - ee), **Amber**, **Savannah** (Sah - va - nah), **Kaitlyn** (Kate - lin), **Danielle** (Dan - ee - el), **Brooke**, **Trinity** (Trin - a - tee), **Mia** (Me - ah) and **Britney** (Brit - nee).



Boy Names:

Horace (Hor - iss) - Latin: Hour in time.

Milo (My - Lo) - English: Merciful

Arden (Ar - din) - Celtic: Lofty; eager

Keegan (Kee - gin) - Gaelic: Small and fiery

Nikolai (Nik - o - lai) - Slavic: Victorious

Anwar - Welsh: Wild

Corbin - English, French, Latin: Raven

Omarr (O - mah) - African: "God the highest" (Swahili)

Here is a list of boy names that are very popular in Australia, America and Britain right now. However, they don't really mean anything; they just sound really nice: **Tyler** (Tie - la), **Ryan**, **Brandon**, **Noah** (No - ah), **Ethan** (Ee - than), **Caleb** (Kay - leb), **Logan**, **Devin**, **Jared**, **Mason** (May - sun), **Dakota** (Da - ko - ta), **Maxwell**, **Carson** and **Bryce**.

