



# The English Navigator



## LEARNING BY DOING

*In recent years, many e-learning platforms and apps have been promoted in order to make English lessons more fun and interactive. Schoology, Google Classroom, Kahoot, Nearpod, Edpuzzle, to name but a few, are not unfamiliar to both teachers and students. While many people boast about the advantages of integrating technology in education, there is one thing we have to bear in mind – students need opportunities to practise English in their everyday lives. They also need to realize how English can be used as a communication tool.*

*To kill two birds with one stone, we have integrated technology inside and outside the classroom and provided a stage for students to use English to complete certain communicative tasks. It may sound ideal, and you probably think that it is impractical. However, it did actually happen at our school and you are now reading the product of students' work, the English Navigator. In this issue, you will be surprised by their talent, as well as their creativity. Are you ready for the shock?*

# ENGLISH SPEAKING DAYS

During the lunch breaks of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, there were three game stalls, including a Kahoot game, some iPad games and a matching game, in the covered playground. These game booths were set up by English teachers and some student helpers. Many Form One to Form Three students participated in the activities. They found the games very entertaining.



Kahoot was the most popular game among the students. No matter how long the queue was, they still waited for the game patiently. Students were attracted by a large and clear TV screen. After playing the game, snacks were given by teachers. Another popular game was guessing idioms. It was quite challenging for some of our students. However, most of them got the correct answers with the tips given by Mr. Stone. It's a good chance to train our communication skills by speaking to our NET.



Actually, it helped us to speak English fluently through interaction with English teachers and fellow students.



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On those two days, we interviewed some students. Let's see what they said!

Form One students:

- "It's really fun and full of interesting things like using an iPad to answer questions."
- "I like to play at Mr. Stone's booth because Mr. Stone tells some jokes to entertain us and the questions are easy."

## INTERVIEW



- "We like the game on Apple TV. It's because it is interesting and entertaining."  
- "Kahoot is my favourite booth because it is very exciting to compete with others."  
- "I had no interest in English. But my interest in English has greatly improved after I played the games."

Form Two students:

- "The iPad game is my favourite booth because it is a brilliant idea to combine technology and games together at the same time."

- "Guessing idioms is my favourite. It is interesting as I like using my brain to think and I want other students to use their noodles. It will push them to another level."

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Form Three student:

- "Kahoot is an exhilarating game since participants have to scan through those questions quickly, then they need to choose a correct answer. It's rewarding!"



Generally speaking, students really enjoyed the games. You can tell by looking at their faces. They joined the games actively and they were very involved in them. In order to have better English Speaking Days next year, we have the following suggestions:

1. For the Kahoot game, there was a long queue. We suggest adding one more Apple TV to shorten the waiting time.

2. The game booths should not be set up in the covered playground because it may disturb students who are having lunch there. We suggest holding the game booths outside the covered playground as there is more space.

3. The duration of the activities was quite short this year. We suggest that the first recess can also be used to hold English activities too.





# English Speaking Day

## Technology and Education



**Present**



**Future**





## How is teaching and learning affected by the use of technology?

By Yanni Chung 2D

### *The use of technological devices in lessons*

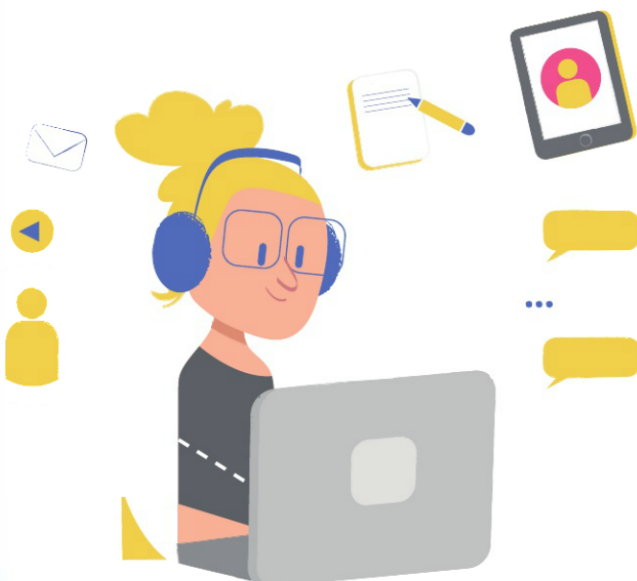
We use iPads and computers in every subject. Teachers always use iPads or computers in lessons to help students do revisions before Uniform Tests or Examinations. They adopt this method because they think that students will pay more attention to this technologically advanced way of learning. Students can be more stimulated by using electronic devices. E-learning is more fun than just using books and pens.

### *The effects of technology on education - Can it enhance teaching and learning? Why?*

Yup, it can enhance teaching and learning because we can get a lot of information or knowledge from the Internet. It is more convenient and resourceful than using textbooks or notes to teach students. Now in my school, teachers are using some educational apps such as 'Kahoot' and 'Quizlet' to play games and do exercises and quizzes with students in the lessons. Students enjoy the fun games and enrich their knowledge through using the apps at the same time. Teachers usually set some questions to let students answer in a more creative and fun way, which makes learning more exciting and interactive. The robots and machines sometimes may be smarter and stronger than humans in some respects.



### *The effects of technology on education - Will it hinder teaching and learning? Why?*



The main problem is that students may not be able to pay good attention in classrooms. They will only focus on the iPad, or the other technological devices. Some students will be distracted and they will use the iPad to play games or take photos. They will not pay attention to what the teacher is talking about. They will miss the things that they need to learn in the lessons. The dilemma is that they have fun, but they do not learn well. It is important to strike a balance between these two elements.



## How is teaching and learning affected by the use of technology?

By Nathan Shih 2D

### *The use of technological devices in lessons*

We've been using some of those technological devices and apps such as 'Kahoot' or 'Quizlet'. We use them in nearly all subjects. I felt that using them in the lessons is fun and entertaining when comparing with just listening to the teachers lecturing. The learning atmosphere can be changed drastically. Also, it is convenient for students to hand in homework, finish tests and share documents. It is more environmentally friendly too because we can use less paper.

### *The effects of technology on education – Can it enhance teaching and learning? Why?*

Yes, it definitely can enhance learning. First of all, using these tools to play games makes us feel happy in the lessons. The more we enjoy, the better we learn. Secondly, teachers can make good use of the devices to help us do revision before exams. Students usually absorb the knowledge faster by playing games in the apps instead of making notes. So it's more effective. Lastly, it encourages students to work harder because they can win the prizes given by the teachers after playing the games. Therefore, the benefits are threefold.



### *The effects of technology on education – Will it hinder teaching and learning? Why?*

Everybody knows that using mobile phones, tablets and computers for a long period of time without taking breaks will be harmful to our health, both physically and mentally. So it's important that we don't stick to them for too long. Also, it may reduce interaction among classmates in the lessons as every student is busy glancing at the tablet. What they miss is the human touch in the learning process. However, that is the element that can't be replaced when talking about education. Finally, students may do inappropriate things with the tablet during lessons, e.g. they may take photos of classmates or browse irrelevant websites. It is difficult for teachers to control everyone in the class.



To conclude, to plug or to unplug is always a controversy. There are always two squads of supporters for each choice. With the advancement in technology, it is inevitable that education should also be geared up to sprint on the technology-highway. Therefore, it is not the matter of 'to do' or 'not to do'. Instead, we should focus more on thinking about the speed and scale of the change. After all, everyone in the education sector should keep an open-mind to adapt to coming changes.



# HEAR WHAT OUR REPORTERS SAY! REPORTERS FROM ID

## Miya

What I have learnt is teamwork! Everyone has got their own opinions and I need to listen to them and don't judge others right away. Because of the different ages of our team, sometimes it was hard to reach a consensus. I am happy that my teacher has chosen me as a reporter because this is a very precious lesson that I have learnt many things from.



## Andy

I have learnt to be more patient and be nicer to the people you want to interview. Sometimes no one wants to do an interview. So, I need to be patient and wait, and eventually there will be a person willing to do so. If you want to succeed in interviewing, you need to be nice to the people so that they will help you. It was hard at first, but when I knew what to say and how to talk in a friendly way, it became easier.

## Jennifer

I have learnt to write a report, be a reporter and collect useful information. I was shy to take the first step to ask students from other forms questions, but I gained a lot of valuable experience and was glad to be one of the reporters. I hope I can improve my writing skills more and I really enjoy being a reporter!



## Aubree

I have learnt to start a conversation because I thought it was so embarrassing before. Also, I have learnt to work with others through communication. Some of the students gave similar answers so it was hard to find the differences between them. I am so glad that Miss Yeung has given me a chance to express myself. I like the activities because I can learn a lot of things, including teamwork. This is the first time that I joined this kind of activity as a reporter. I am really happy with it.



## Sofia

I have learnt how to report the views of my schoolmates. The difficult thing is you can't be shy and need to be brave to interview them. I felt lucky and hope the teachers will choose me to be a reporter again.



## Darren

I have learnt how to interview others. Most of my schoolmates I interviewed are older than me. It made me scared when I talked to them. I was happy afterwards as I have interviewed someone and their answers were quite funny.



## Joseph

I have learnt to express ideas and rephrase them in English. But I found it hard to speak in English to someone I didn't know. At the end of the day, I found it interesting and had fun!



## Dareh

I need to be brave and patient because I have to interview a student who I don't know. Actually there is no need to be scared if you are going to interview your friends. I was nervous at the beginning, but it was quite a memorable experience.



## Hugo

I have become more patient waiting for responses from the interviewees.



# REPORTERS FROM 2D

Item	Nathan	Mina
1. things learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to communicate with a foreigner</li> <li>• secrets of Mr. Stone, our NET teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to do interview</li> <li>• secrets of Mr. Stone</li> </ul>
2. difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a bit nervous at first because I seldom talk with Mr. Stone</li> <li>• but soon found out that he is easy to get along with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hard to think of questions</li> </ul>
3. feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quite nervous and excited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• happy, enjoyable, nervous</li> </ul>

Item	Minnie	Benji
1. things learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to interview people</li> <li>• more vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to interview others</li> <li>• how to work together</li> </ul>
2. difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to co-operate with others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• felt shy to speak up and do the interview</li> </ul>
3. feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meaningful and delighted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• happy, shy</li> </ul>

Item	Vivian	Hebe	Yanni
1. things learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communication skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more communication skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how to work with others</li> </ul>
2. difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hard to think of questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hard to design questions</li> <li>• hard to take beautiful photos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hard to pronounce some words</li> </ul>
3. feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• happy, excited, nervous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enjoyable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meaningful and happy</li> </ul>

## *New Faces to Join Us Next Year!*

Wanna use English in the campus authentically?

Wanna interview schoolmates and teachers in English?

Wanna express yourself in written and spoken English?

Chances are there for Henriettarians to grasp next year!!

Don't miss the precious opportunity to be cheerful, energetic and responsible reporters for The English Navigator!!

Coming issues of the Navigators are waiting for you!!

## *Join Us and Have Fun!*





# Wednesday English Announcement Team

Since the beginning of this school year, every Wednesday morning a special group of English Ambassadors have been broadcasting a weekly English Drama Radio show and Daily Announcement to the whole school, via the school's PA system. The radio drama is a short original play, recorded live, based on a different English idiom or proverb each week. The students use their dramatic and English skills to act out the drama, delivering an inspirational or educational message to the school. This is followed by the students delivering daily announcements or messages to the school.



The Wednesday announcements are designed to build the confidence and English-speaking skills of the student ambassadors. Not only do the announcers gain the opportunity to develop more dramatic speaking skills than in normal discussions, all students are exposed to authentic English, used in daily life. Secondly, it helps to further promote and spread an English rich environment throughout the school, for the benefit of all students. As all the daily announcements for that day are all in English, students cannot afford to ignore it, otherwise they may miss important information about their after-school clubs or activities.



Two of our English teachers, Mr. Cheung and Mr. Stone provided the students with training in how to interpret the meaning of the idioms and how to express the mood of radio-play script, as well as general pronunciation help.





**However, really the students have, in the end, taken the lead and excelled all by themselves by using their skills learnt in other areas, e.g. Drama Club and speech festival participation, etc.**



The students involved have really come a long way, in what is only a relatively short amount of time (only 14 announcements in fact). They have developed very good drama skills text interruption, and improved their pronunciation. However, the most important outcome is that their confidence has been boosted to far greater levels than it was before and they have shown to other students that if Form 2 students can achieve so much, so can anyone.

## Creating a print-rich environment

Another way we hoped to enrich the students' vocabulary is by making the school's campus a print rich environment. Each week's idiom or proverb is made into a poster and displayed around the school in prominent positions, to remind the students of the meaning and also to be used during special English activities. For example, one fun activity is where students are given three clues to the meaning of an idiom or proverb and must search the school for the right poster and idiom/proverb to get the answer.



Each week's radio show presents a new English idiom or proverb to the students, which are found in everyday spoken conversation. These are either inspiring proverbs to promote decent manners or they are common idioms students can expect to find when speaking to native speakers. It is hoped that they will not only inspire the students, but enrich their vocabulary.

Let's meet our English Announcement Team this year!

### **Yanni Chung**

At the end of Form 1 my English teacher Mr. Cheung invited me and some of my classmates, Howard, Edwin, Jacob and Bosco, to join the English Announcement Team. When I heard this, I felt a little confused because I didn't know if I could do it well or not. Although there are lots of difficulties being a part of the English Announcement Team, with the help of my classmates, Mr. Cheung and Mr. Stone, I have found a lot of joy inside. It feels like I'm at the top of the mountain!







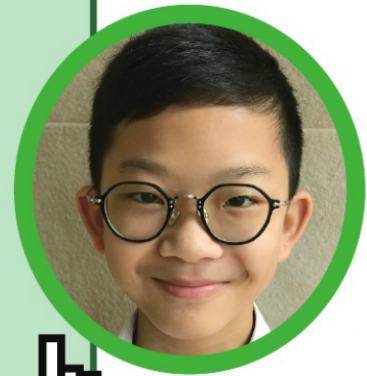
### **Bosco Wong**

I have had the pleasure to be an announcer for a year. This year, I have announced lots of different activities such as choir, Christian fellowship and English idioms. Before making the announcement, I read through the script many times. Every Tuesday, my classmates and I needed to rehearse together. These memories are valuable and unforgettable; I really enjoyed this job. I feel really proud to be able to announce important messages to the whole school. From this job, I have learnt numerous idioms and English-speaking skills. Also, I have become more confident to speak in front of people.

### **Jacob Choi**

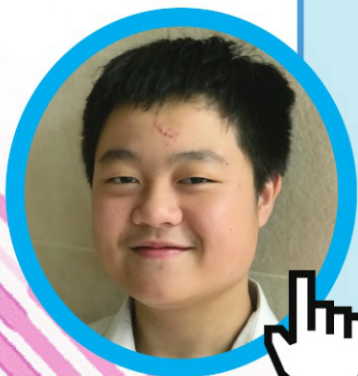
Before being an announcer I felt afraid of speaking English. After it my English-speaking skills are better and I am braver talking to an audience. I also learnt more idioms such as 'out of the blue', and 'every dog has its day!' I also learnt acting skills. I also increased the friendship between Bosco, Edwin, Howard, Yanni and myself. I hope to be the announcer next year too.

Although I have faced many difficulties doing the announcements, I have been helped by friends, classmates, my parents, Mr. Stone and Mr. Cheung.



### **Edwin Cheung**

Before being an announcer, I felt embarrassed to chat to an audience. However, after being an English announcer I feel more confident in talking to an audience. Also, being an announcer has taught me many idioms, which can be used in my writing and daily speech. Being an English announcer is a good and meaningful job. It has changed me a lot. Although it has many difficulties, after working hard, I have changed for the best.



### **Howard Chan**

This year, I joined the English announcement team. During the year, my English pronunciation and my communication skills have really improved. For the beginning, I felt the radio drama was difficult and challenging. I was always nervous when I did the drama, but after a few months, I got used to it and it became easy. I found that it was more interesting than I thought. Finally, I have more confidence to use English with others.

