

ISSUE 4

PALETTE 2025

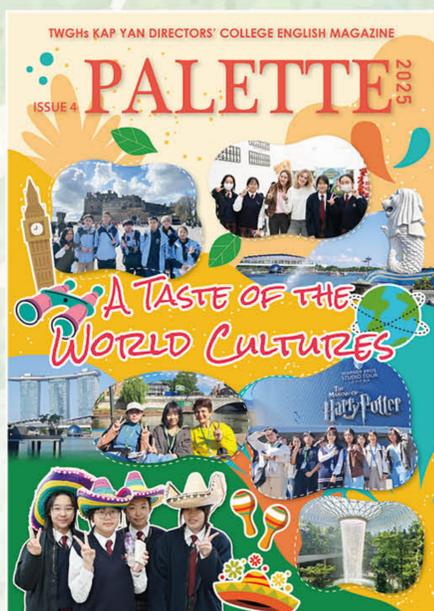


A TASTE OF THE WORLD CULTURES



PALETTE

Issue 4
2025



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From the Editorial Board

Join us on a journey around the world! In this issue, witness how Kapyanners explored diverse cultures through events like Global Awareness Week and various study tours. Last year, our students also excelled in numerous English competitions, showcasing their honed language skills. Let's delve into this issue to celebrate their marvelous achievements and witness their learning journey!

A Scottish Adventure: Elite Students Explore UK Higher Education



From April 12th to 20th, our students and teacher embarked on an enriching study tour to Scotland. Jointly organized with other TWGHs secondary schools, the tour was designed to provide an in-depth look at higher education in the UK, broaden horizons, and foster cross-cultural understanding. Students visited renowned universities, participated in English workshops, and immersed themselves in Scottish culture through exchanges with local students. Let's read their reflections and see what they discovered!

Day 2

6D Kevin Liu

Off the plane, onto the coach, and on to the V&A Dundee! This fabulous design museum has a rocky exterior, designed to resemble Scottish cliffs. Inside was an anecdotic exhibition on the ubiquitous pattern of tartan, which originated in Scotland. It was there I realized to my amusement that I had been wearing a tartan shirt myself! The Scots, however, certainly wouldn't have worn one - tartan was once banned during that time in a scramble for political power.

Through the grand entrance and onto the cobbled slopes of Edinburgh Castle: a solemn historical site that serves as the home of the Scottish Crown Jewels, watching over the picturesque, modernized city.

The day of plenitude was concluded with a bang at the National Museum of Scotland — a museum that seamlessly integrates history and science in a truly interactive way.



V&A Dundee



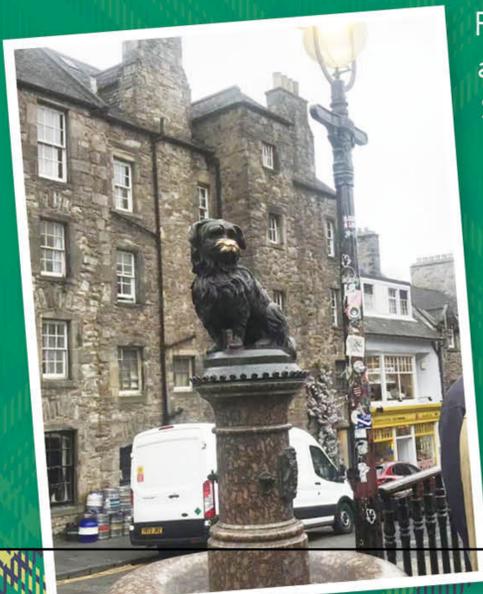
Lunch brought haggis — a dish of minced sheep's organs, outlandish though it might seem, tasted quite like Chinese salted meat.

Day 3

5D Irene Su

Today was a wonderfully insightful day, full of Scottish culture and history. In the morning, we visited the Greyfriars Bobby Statue. This little dog belonged to a policeman named John Gray. After his owner died in 1857, Bobby spent 14 years guarding the grave until his own death. His incredible loyalty made me feel that Edinburgh is a city full of warmth and human connection.

For lunch, we had classic British food at Portsburgh. We started with a tasty Scotch egg — a boiled egg wrapped in sausage and breadcrumbs. The main dish was fish and chips: the fish was crispy outside and soft inside, and the thick chips were perfect with tartar sauce. For dessert, rice pudding with strawberry sauce balanced sweetness and tartness deliciously.



Later, we visited the National Museum of Scotland. It was like walking through an encyclopedia, with exhibits from Scottish and Egyptian history to zoology and art. As a biology student, the highlight was seeing Dolly, the sheep — the world's first cloned mammal — in real life. It was thrilling to see something I've studied in textbooks right in front of me.

It was a fruitful day that deepened my appreciation for Scotland's culture and scientific achievements.

Day 4

5E Tony Zhang

On Day 4, we visited the University of St. Andrews and explored a local supermarket.

The visit to St. Andrew's was an eye-opening experience. Unlike other universities we had seen, its campus is fully integrated into the town; the academic buildings are scattered throughout, making it impossible to distinguish where the university ends and the town begins. With the students making up most of the town's population, the small town and the university coexists and depends on one another. This layout creates a campus that feels larger than any we had seen in Scotland or Hong Kong.

We were also intrigued by the university's long-standing traditions and stories. Many amongst us found the tradition of May Dip - where students run into the North Sea at sunrise on the first of May - to be a hilarious ritual. The story of the curse which brings academic failure to students who step on a particular tile with 'PH' written on it is captivating, though we doubted its validity.

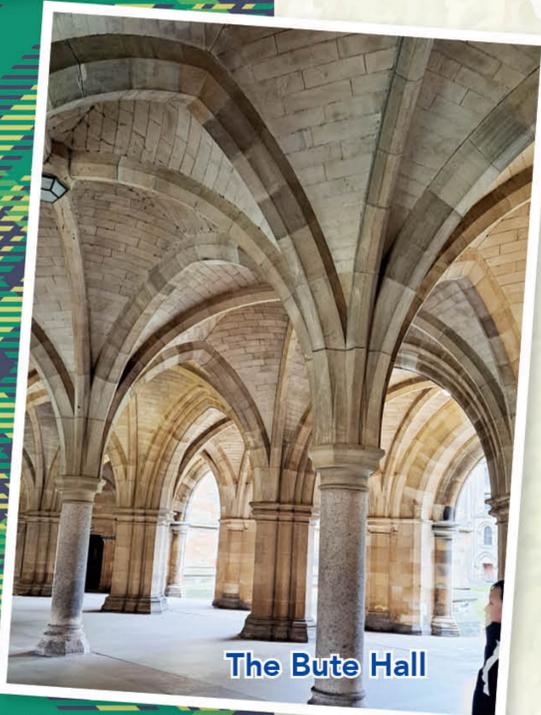
Later we visited Tesco, a popular supermarket. We noticed many familiar products were more expensive than in Hong Kong. Daniel and I couldn't pass up the chance to buy the famed Scottish soft drink 'IRN BRU', whose popularity surpassed that of Coca-Cola. While I understood its local attraction, I found its taste unremarkable.



The Bell Tower



The Spitfire, LA198 and I



The Bute Hall



The entrance of the University of Glasgow

Day 5

5D Daniel Poon

After getting off the coach, we began with a campus tour of the university, where we were introduced to the history of its various buildings. What struck me the most was the aesthetic and antique architectural design. It felt like you could easily take remarkable pictures at any corner.

Next, we visited the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Although I'm not a big fan of art galleries, I was amazed by how the content, colour, and style of the paintings reflected the social circumstances of their time. For example, the Impressionist works showed French influence on Glasgow at the time.

I was most captivated by the fighter aircraft hanging from the ceiling — the Spitfire LA198. It was amazing to see how engineers had restored an aircraft that had crashed during the war, and it was powerful to imagine that this plane once protected the skies over Glasgow.

The day was made even more memorable by a friendly encounter. While I was taking pictures, a man tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Sorry, brother." Thinking I was blocking his view, I immediately apologized. However, it turned out he was asking if I could take a photo of him and his friends! After I did, he complimented the photo and offered to take one of me too. That's how this photo was taken — a funny and warm memory from the journey.

Day 7

5D Nancy Zhao

Waking up at 6 AM on a holiday morning might seem exhausting. However, the thought that I was going to see Loch Ness — charming for its scenery and mysterious for its legendary monster tales — made it worthwhile.

The speeding bus immersed me in the amazing landscape. When I caught sight of Loch Ness, a place beautiful beyond measure, I was left speechless. The sunlight streamed through the windows, and the water glistened innocently, as if untouched by centuries of mystery. We took many photos and breathed in the fresh air. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

For our next stop, we visited the Consulate-General of the PRC in Edinburgh. The Consul General, Mr. Zhang Biao, told us about the work they have done and are currently doing. Their main duties are to safeguard national sovereignty, protect the rights of Chinese citizens in the area, and promote exchanges and cooperation between China and Scotland. We also learned about their diplomatic policy, which aims to promote global harmony and win-win cooperation. We sang the song 'My Motherland and Me' for the consular staff. This trip really gave me a strong sense of belonging to my country.

During dinner, a University of St. Andrews alumna called Claudia gave an inspiring talk. She helped us learn more about university life and deepened our understanding of how to excel academically. After that, our seventh-day trip came to an end.



Meeting Mr. Zhang Biao, the Consul General of the PRC



Meeting Claudia, the alumna of University of St. Andrews

Round up

5B Andy Yu

Our school trip to Scotland was an amazing learning experience that went far beyond being just a tour.

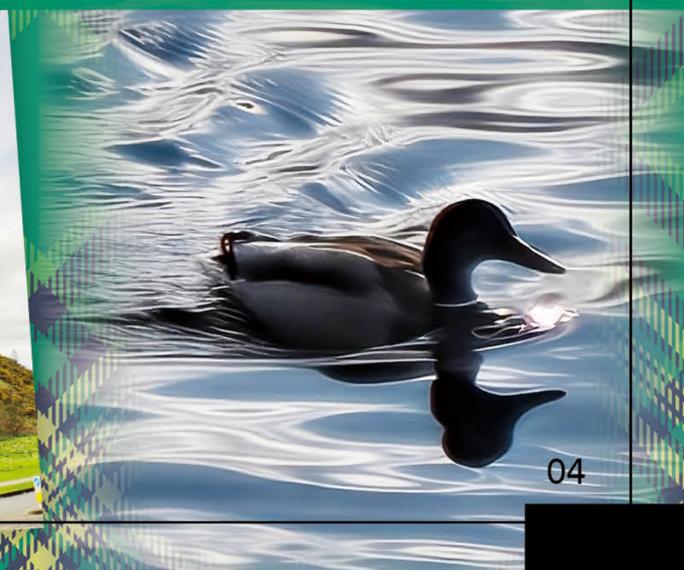
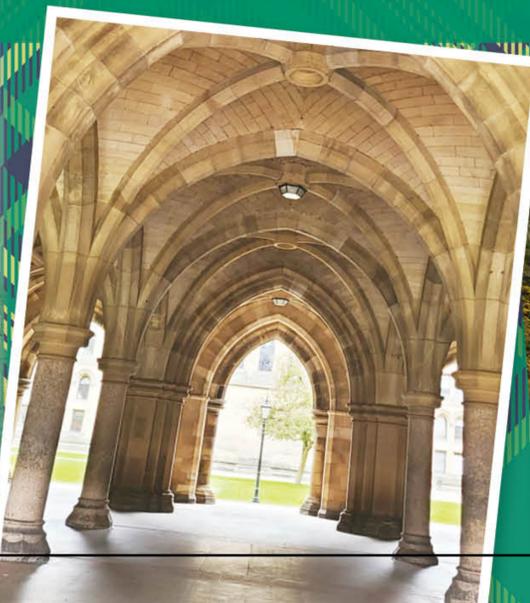
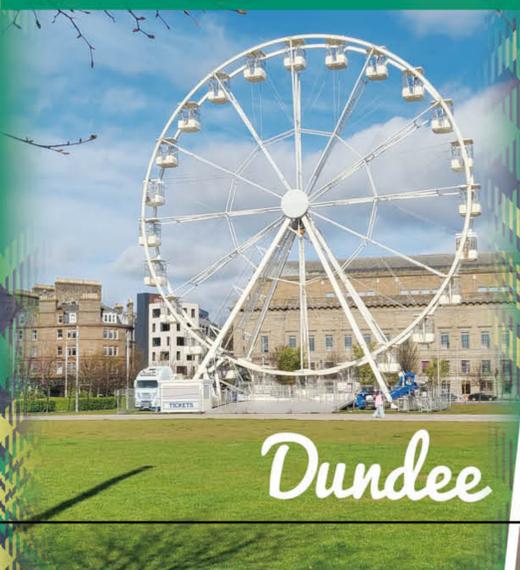
We explored the historic city of Edinburgh and the wild, beautiful landscapes of the Highlands. The most impactful part was visiting three famous universities:

- The University of Glasgow, with its tall spires and grand Victorian buildings.
- The University of St. Andrews, located on a windy coast and full of royal history.
- The University of Edinburgh, imbued with the spirit of great thinkers.

These historic campuses showed us what pursuing higher education in a different country could be like.

We learned by immersing ourselves in Scottish culture. We explored ancient castles, learned about the legend of Loch Ness, and enjoyed chatting with local people. Trying traditional foods like haggis was a new adventure.

The trip was a powerful reminder that curiosity leads to discovery. The memories of the misty glens, old castles, and prestigious universities left a lasting impression on me. It was a perfect example of how travel can be one of the best forms of education.



Tung Wah Camp - A trip to Singapore



3D Sisi Tang

Our trip to Singapore was an unforgettable immersion into a world where diverse cultures, innovation, and nature harmoniously coexist. I learned so much beyond the classroom—from the rich history engraved in the vibrant streets of Chinatown to the profound lessons on sustainability at the breathtaking Gardens by the Bay.

What impressed me most was undoubtedly the collaborative spirit we developed. Navigating through Chinatown, exploring the futuristic Supertree Grove, and even trying new food like crispy fish skin together, brought us closer as a group. I was continually amazed by the city's clean and green environment, and each day brought fresh experiences and a growing bond as a team. This journey was not just about visiting a new country—it was about building friendships, gaining confidence, and creating memories that we will cherish forever! I returned home not just with souvenirs, but with broader perspectives and a deeper appreciation for one another.

A particularly invaluable aspect was attending public speaking classes at a local university, where a platform was provided to develop our public speaking confidence through presentations and debates. Getting to make new friends and having lessons with them was such a cool experience. I didn't just listen, I got to present, debate on topics, and practice speaking in front of others. It really boosted my confidence in expressing myself!

2B Jessie Liu

This trip to Singapore was a memorable experience for me. Singapore is a melting pot of cultures. You can hear various languages and see distinct ethnic groups. It let me perceive the peaceful atmosphere amid different cultures and learn the importance of cultural inclusiveness.

We went to many attractions, for example, Gardens by the Bay, Night Safari, Merlion Park. The city environment of Singapore resembles a garden, providing shade and breeze. Besides, we had lessons with students from other schools. Once we went out to interview strangers, which enhanced my communication skills and enabled me to make new friends! At the finale night, everyone prepared great performances. We took selfies with friends we'd met for seven days. That night was so touching and was the most memorable part of the journey for me.

Although this journey lasted only seven days, it is deeply engraved in my heart. Thanks to my school, I experienced a unique culture and collected precious moments!

3A Stephanie Poon

Being chosen to be a part of the study tour to Singapore is definitely a recognition of my ability and a precious opportunity for me to immerse myself in the culture and fascinating landscapes. To be honest, it was my first visit to Singapore, and also the best time having so much fun with all my fellow friends and strengthening my public speaking skills with outstanding tutors and their valuable advice.

We not only had lessons; of course, we actually explored Singapore by visiting various places, for instance, the National University of Singapore (NUS), which is ranked 1st in Asia and 8th globally. Besides, we also visited countless renowned attractions like the iconic Merlion statue, Gardens by the Bay, where you can take a glance at Marina Bay as well as Chinatown with local food markets. Moreover, we even spent a day in Universal Studios SG! What a vivid and vibrant place!

Singapore is not only a glamorous country with all of its significant economic achievements but also has a priceless culture beneath every inch of its land and history. This 1-week trip ended in the blink of an eye. But the contentment and experiences we've gained through the few days are more than just memories; they are the wealth that we've earned and the diamond within us.



3E James Liu

The 7-day trip to Singapore organised by TWGHs was an insightful experience. During this journey, I absorbed knowledge and skills spanning across various fields. One of which is oratory tones. I used to be monotonous whenever I delivered a speech. Only after this experience, I realised this was a gargantuan mistake which spread boredom among my audience. After the lessons I took in Singapore, I am now reversing this habit and slowly changing to be multi-toned when speaking.

Adding to what I wrote, the trip was not only insightful but also riveting. The colossal artificial waterfall in the airport was phenomenal. It was truly an experience being next to 6 storeys of flowing water where you can magically feel the sensation of water. It was like you are in a tropical forest! Another mention goes to the Science Centre. The fire tornado demonstration there was breathtaking, if not literally breath-taking. Never in my life had I thought I would actually witness the formation of a tornado made of fire and later of smoke with my own eyes!

This trip to Singapore was remarkable and it will always have a unique place in my heart.

2C Bobby Chen

The trip to Singapore was an unforgettable experience. The first impression of Singapore is that it is very clean. You can't see anyone smoking on the street, no waste on the ground. Additionally, Singapore's diverse culture is vividly displayed through its various activities and famous attractions.

During the trip, we learnt a lot about public speaking. We had classes every morning, and of course I met friends from other Tung Wah schools and we communicated with each other. Most importantly, I improved my speaking skills and now I can use English to communicate better with foreigners.

We did not only have lessons, but we also explored more about Singapore by visiting famous tourist spots. We went to NUS, a reputable university in Asia. At Gardens by the Bay, we explored indoor exhibitions and walked among super trees. Moreover, the most interesting place is Universal Studios! We enjoyed the exciting roller coaster, took part in the "Mummy's revenge" and even travelled through the rainforest on a boat. That was a memorable experience!

To sum up, this trip to Singapore was extremely meaningful to me and will forever stay in my heart.



At St. Catherine's College, Cambridge



Before boarding



Fun & Games

English Immersion Summer Tour 2025

A Journey Through Culture, Creativity, and Camaraderie in Cambridge

This year's Immersion Summer Tour took students to the historic county of Cambridge, nestled along the scenic River Cam and home to the world-renowned Cambridge University. The 12-day adventure included a brief but exciting stopover in London, adding a cosmopolitan flair to the itinerary.

From punting on the river to singing traditional songs, the tour was packed with enriching and unforgettable experiences. Highlights included a magical visit to the Harry Potter Museum, a breathtaking tour of Christ Church in Oxford, and an immersive city walk through Oxford's storied streets. Students also engaged in drama rehearsals for Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, culminating in a captivating live performance that displayed their talent and dedication. Despite the packed schedule and intensive training, every student rose to the occasion, delivering a stellar performance that earned them certificates and heartfelt accolades.

Beyond the academic and artistic pursuits, there was plenty of time for leisure and bonding. Students enjoyed souvenir shopping, indulged in a variety of international cuisines, and captured countless photo-worthy moments.

The tour was not just an educational journey — it was a celebration of growth, creativity, and shared memories that will last a lifetime.

Here are some testimonials...



@London airport



@Harry Potter studio



Punting at river Cam



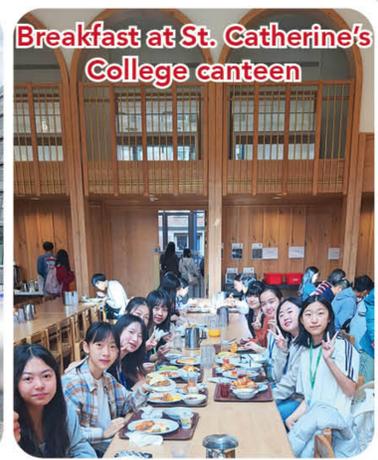
Punting



@London Bridge



@London Bridge



Breakfast at St. Catherine's College canteen

@Harry Potter studios, London

5D Starry Huang

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
And one man in his time plays many parts."

This was the most impressive sentence in Shakespeare's popular play. We laughed, sang freely, played with courage, enjoyed ourselves and tried to be the best in the U.K. In romance, freedom, and extroversion, we have seen the brightest side of the UK. Yet much deeper layers were still waiting for to be explored in this mysterious country — the U.K.

There is so much to say, yet it feels like "much ado about nothing." This trip has truly refreshed me and reshaped me in many ways.

4B Elizabeth An

Visiting the UK is what I was hoping for...visiting the Harry Potter's studio and the well-known sites in London, taking classes in the Cambridge University, sightseeing at Oxford University and watching Shakespeare's drama 'Much Ado About Nothing' in Oxford, was undoubtedly an unforgettable and meaningful experience.

The unique architecture in the UK was magnificent. It made me feel like I was traveling back in time. New enhancing knowledge about music and drama were taught by professors that broadened my horizons, especially the drama teacher Robin who's always packed with passion and inspired me much.



St. Catherine's College dormitories

Corpus Clock, Cambridge



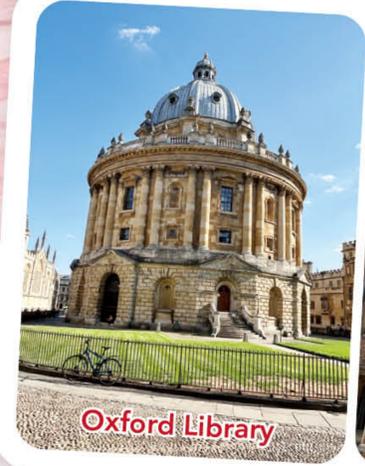
Fish & chips lunch

4B Kary Yan

The time I was on the study tour in the UK was wonderfully enriching. With my friends and teachers, I explored centuries of history in London and Cambridge. I also gained new knowledge and special experiences through drama and music lessons, while being inspired by traditions and architecture.



Waiting for bus to London



Oxford Library



St John's College



Selwyn College, Cambridge



Cafe @Cambridge



King's College Chapel



Church-stained-glass window

4D Eva Chen

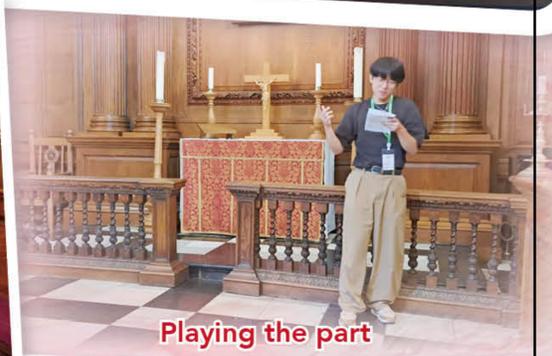
The trip to the UK was wonderful. Strolling through the streets of Cambridge immersed me in the local culture. We could really observe and learn a lot in a relaxed frame of mind.

5A Jalen Xie

The exchange tour to the UK was an unforgettable experience. Punting on the River Cam, experiencing local cultures, singing choirs in churches and playing games is a novel experience for me.



Certificate ceremony



Playing the part



With Shakespeare's Benedict



Pizza lunch



Drama performance

4D Suzy Zhang

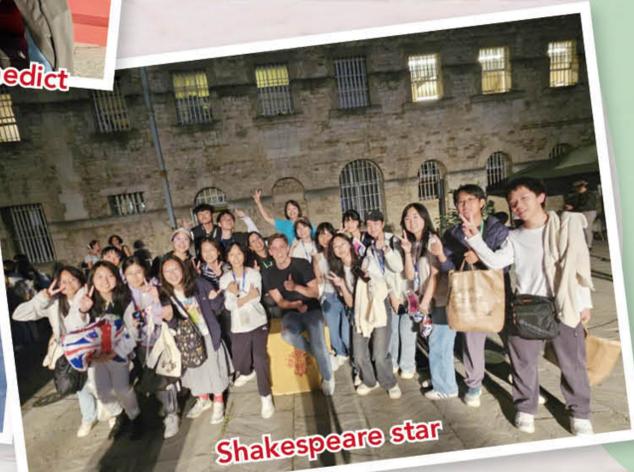
This trip to U.K. made my life rich. My favourite activity was punting. On the boat, we all enjoyed the fascinating scenery and felt the summer breeze. Another thing that impressed me was the drama lesson. Our teacher, Robin, who is full of passion taught us enthusiastically. To conclude, I had a wonderful time in Cambridge.

5B Hugo Wong

The recent trip to the UK has been an unforgettable experience. Not only did I enjoy the breathtaking views in Cambridge, but the lessons throughout also broadened my horizons, especially in drama. It's surely a lifetime experience to step in the classroom in Cambridge.



Shakespeare's play @Oxford



Shakespeare star

Global Awareness Week

To provide opportunities for students to understand world cultures and global issues, the Global Awareness Week was held in the first term, from 18 to 22 November. The service provider, Intercultural Exchange, organized interactive sessions and events to facilitate cultural exchanges for students, inside and outside classrooms.

Global Dialogue Sessions were conducted by international teachers in the lessons, with 25 sessions in English lessons for S1-S5 on the themes based on the school curriculum (S1 Food Culture, S2 Sports & Healthy Living, S3 Traditions vs. Modernity, S4 Celebrities & Impact, S5 Global Problems), 5 sessions in the S3 Geography lessons on Climate Change and an S4 History lesson on Regional Rivalries and Cooperation.

3 lunch-time events, including Bollywood Dance, Indigenous Music Jam and Global Village, were held at the covered playground with guest speakers from 15 nationalities. Participants had a chance to appreciate Indian dance, try out indigenous musical instruments and communicate with English-speaking guests at the booths.

Students were engaged to interact with foreigners and learn about diverse cultures around the world. They were eager to practice English skills and thoroughly enjoyed the activities.



Bollywood Dance



Indigenous Music Jam



Global Dialogue





Global Village



S4 and S5 TED Talks

Inspiring Insights into Chinese Development

In early March 2024, our secondary school hosted an engaging two-day TED Talks event during lunchtime: one dedicated to S5 and the other to S4 students. With one speaker selected from each class, the talks focused on themes of Chinese development or accomplished individuals from China. This initiative was designed to sharpen English-speaking skills, foster greater confidence in delivering speeches, and deepen students' appreciation for Chinese culture.

Building Essential Skills and Confidence

The TED Talks provided an excellent platform for students to hone their English proficiency and public speaking talents in a supportive environment. Speakers delved into fascinating topics, such as China's cutting-edge technological innovations or the remarkable stories of leaders, allowing them to highlight thorough research and personal perspectives. This experience not only helped participants develop composure and eloquence but also inspired their peers to embrace similar challenges, proving that stepping up to speak can lead to personal growth and empowerment.

2024-25
2ND ENGLISH WEEK



Day 1: S5 Students Shine

On the first day, S5 students took center stage in the school hall, delivering thought-provoking presentations on topics like modernized classic Chinese legends, the rapid adoption of electric vehicles, and the journeys of influential entrepreneurs. Their well-prepared speeches demonstrated dedication and insight, captivating the audience and sparking lively discussions. It was truly encouraging to see these young speakers rise to the occasion, setting a positive example for future events and motivating others to participate.

Day 2: S4 Students Impress

The following day, S4 students stepped up with equal enthusiasm, exploring subjects such as the life of Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese strategist and thinker, and Eileen Chang, a renowned Chinese writer who gained fame in the 1940s for her novels and short stories. The relaxed lunchtime atmosphere made the event accessible and enjoyable. Attendees left feeling inspired by the fresh ideas, highlighting how such opportunities can ignite curiosity and passion among younger students.



Deepening Cultural Awareness and Enhancing Speaking Skills

By researching China's advancements, students deepened their cultural understanding and enhanced their speaking skills. The 2024 event was a success, boosting confidence and knowledge about China. One S5 speaker noted: "It was my first public speaking experience, and I am so delighted to have accepted the challenge!"

The school looks forward to continuing this tradition next year.



Spellathon 2025

The annual Spellathon returned this March with its signature blend of excitement and academic challenge, captivating junior form students (S1–S3) in a lively lunchtime showdown. Organized by the English Department, the event transformed the school hall into a buzzing arena of spelling prowess and friendly competition. In preparation, students received a curated list of vocabulary items to practice in advance. On competition day, classes gathered in the hall, brimming with anticipation as they geared up for the challenge.

The contest kicked off with the Basic Round, where participants lined up behind tables while the Master of Ceremonies (our NET) read each word aloud twice. With just 10 seconds on the clock, students raced to jot down the correct spelling—testing both speed and accuracy.

Next came the Challenging Round, designed to push top spellers to their limits. This high-pressure segment demanded rapid-fire responses, separating the good from the great.

After the final word was pronounced, teachers reviewed the entries and proudly announced the winners and overall champion. Prizes were awarded, cameras flashed, and the hall echoed with cheers and applause—a fitting celebration of hard work, quick thinking, and a love for language.



Meeting Siobhan Haughey @ SCMP

6C Vanessa Yang

On October 11, 2024, unfolded a serendipitous and dream-like encounter with Siobhan Haughey, the outstanding Hong Kong swimming athlete. It was an astonishing coincidence, as I had just used her as an example in my argumentative essay right before this opportunity presented itself. It seemed as if the universe had conspired to bring us together at the perfect moment.

During our meeting, her advice on practicing mindful social media use, was a wake-up call. In today's digital age, where negativity on social platforms can be overwhelming, setting aside dedicated time to disconnect isn't just a choice; it's a crucial step towards maintaining mental clarity. This realization led me to understand the importance of the next lesson she imparted: knowing myself and my values.



In the hustle and bustle of life, we're often swayed by the opinions of those around us. But Siobhan made me see that by focusing on the viewpoints of those who truly matter and remaining true to my inner compass, I can chart a more purposeful course. This self-awareness naturally ties into the idea of celebrating small wins. When I'm centered on my values and identity, I start to appreciate the little victories that used to go unnoticed. Instead of chasing only grand achievements, I now recognize that every small accomplishment, whether it's perfecting a new skill or tidying a cluttered drawer, contributes to my overall happiness.

To some extent, I'm a perfectionist. My lofty standards had often held me back; but understanding that vulnerabilities can turn to strengths was liberating. I have become more tolerant of my flaws, seeing them as unique parts of who I am rather than failures.

In essence, this incredible encounter with Siobhan Haughey was far more than a fleeting star. Instead, it was a rich source of wisdom. Her words have deeply influenced me, inspiring me to lead a more intentional, balanced, and fulfilling life. I'm filled with gratitude for this experience and look forward to continuing my journey of growth, armed with these invaluable life lessons.





Pre-S1

Bridging and Enhancement Program



From July 17 to July 22, 2025, students participated in the Pre-Secondary One Bridging Program, designed to facilitate a smooth transition to secondary education. The program aimed to build foundational skills, boost confidence, and foster camaraderie among peers.

Activities included ice-breaking sessions, skit writing, and vocabulary games focused on classroom language, mathematics and integrated sciences. Students practiced mini-dramas, presented their work and tried out the online reading platform. This comprehensive approach ensured that participants not only developed essential academic skills but also enhanced their creativity and collaboration, preparing them for the challenges ahead.



Students celebrating the completion of the filming process



Film-it Competition 2025

The competition was held in March 2025 with the aim of enhancing students' English language skills through filmmaking. This competition provided students with an opportunity to collaborate with their peers and use English creatively. The theme of Film-it 2025 is From Print to Screen, and participants are encouraged to create a short film that explores the joy of reading and how reading can have a positive impact on our lives. Our production specifically highlights the importance of acknowledging that everyone is different.

Seven KYD students participated in this competition, stepping into roles as actors, actresses, and directors. This hands-on experience allowed them to immerse themselves in the filmmaking process, fostering teamwork among the group and enhancing their communication skills.



Classroom scene with students of different personalities



Discussion of the filming process as a team



3 2 1 Action!

Time to Talk Competition 2025

The Time to Talk competition, hosted by the NET Section of the EDB, is a celebration of creative expression—blending precise presentation skills with performance artistry, all centred around a meaningful theme.

This year, after a spirited audition process among Form 1 students, two standout teams were selected to represent the school. Drawing inspiration from the popular songs Surface Pressure and Dream It Possible, the teams crafted original presentations.

Over the course of two months, the students poured their energy into refining their ideas—navigating trial and error, rehearsing between classes, and balancing their academic commitments with guidance from 5D Flora Zhang and Ms. Gee, our NET.

Their final 4-minute presentations, enhanced by animated PowerPoint visuals, explored the everyday challenges faced by teenagers and offered thoughtful strategies for overcoming them.

Their hard work paid off: the Break the Mold team earned a well-deserved Merit Prize, while the second team proudly embraced their first experience of public speaking—a milestone in confidence and creativity.



Breaking of the Mold

Tung Wah Hospitals Kap Yan Directors' College_Team B

Yong Ng : mouse
Flora Zhang : fox
Jenna Chan : elephant



Debating Competitions

The English Department is committed to stretching students' potential both within and beyond the classroom. Our students joined a range of debating competitions last academic year and achieved outstanding results. We were awarded the champion in the grand final – junior division, one of the Hong Kong Secondary Schools Debating Competition. Not only have they acquired better debating skills, but they have also fostered greater confidence for future challenges.

The motion for HKSSDC T2 Grand Final was:

This House Prefers a world where the majority of investment in sports is allocated to encourage grassroots participation (e.g. community clubs) rather than invested in professional sports.



What students have acquired after joining the team



2C Ayden Ma

It has been my pleasure to be part of the English Debate Team. Through this opportunity, not only have I made friends, but I've improved in many aspects than before. I have developed stronger critical thinking skills, conquered my stage fright and of course, improved my overall proficiency, all while being in a friendly environment!

This year will be yet another exciting time, and I truly hope more people will join the Debate Team too!

4D Carlos Siu

From English debate, I have acquired a variety of skills such as listening to speeches, responding to others' points quickly, and drawing up accurate conclusions in a limited time, most of which are quite beneficial for me academically. But more importantly, I met and worked with kind, supportive peers and teachers in debating, and the process of thinking and brainstorming in debates brings me great joy. Winning debates gave me the sense of accomplishment, and losing one gave me the chance to reflect on my mistakes with my teacher, improving my skills accordingly.



5B Victoria Yeung

Joining debate contests has been a transformative experience for me. It's not only about writing scripts and reading aloud like public speaking, but more about the way I present my arguments, for example when to pace my speech and when to tone my voice. The research involved when we're given the debating topics also broadens my knowledge, as I get to dive into information that I wouldn't normally look up. While the competitive environment fostered resilience and quick thinking, it also let me gather diverse perspectives from opponents to enrich my worldview.



Performance - KYD A cappella Team



Performance by Speech Festival Winner

NDSS Inter-school English Storytelling & Public Speaking Contests 2025

This year's competition was held on June 30, 2025, which was divided into two sessions. We invited two experienced senior NETs from the Education Bureau, Ms. Luana Hasell and Mr. Richard Cowler, as judges.

The first session featured a storytelling contest for the junior students, with a total of 14 participants. The students adapted their beloved stories and performed them vividly. The second session was a public speaking contest for the senior students, with 16 participants showcasing excellent speaking skills, exuding confidence, and delivering meaningful and thought-provoking content.

This competition has boosted students' confidence, enhanced their interest in English, and more importantly, solidified their determination to improve their English skills. It has been a tremendous success on all fronts.



Public Speaking Contest in Progress



Our KYD Storyteller



Our Guests with All Award Winners



Special Thanks to the Professional Judges

76th English Speech Festival

This year as always our school finished the Speech Festival with flying colours. Among 57 students who took part in this year's Speech Festival, 10 took home the first to third prizes. The three winners who received the first prizes share their experience and reflections.

4D Isabella Hou



We all have heard this saying at least once: "Practice makes perfect". However, we realise very soon that practice proves only excellence — no matter how hard we work, we cannot reach perfection. Nothing on earth is exactly and absolutely perfect: this is what I learnt from the adjudicator. Everyone has a different approach to perform the same poem. There is no right or wrong. Yet, there are variations in styles, no matter whether others like your way of presentation or not. I am very honoured to be the champion of this year's Speech Festival. But, my fellow schoolmates, taking the step by joining, is the first step to winning. It doesn't matter if you win — from the moment you decide to enter the competition, we are already proving ourselves. And remember, though there are chances that we might lose, we just must look ahead and hope for the best. All in all, step out of your comfort zones to seek your own rainbow!

5A Monna Lam

"Keep learning from the past, and after countless practice and reflections, we will eventually become a better self." This is what I've learned from this year's Speech Festival.

This is in fact the fourth time I joined the Speech Festival. I used to believe that public speaking wasn't something I was good at. I used to stumble over words, forget my lines, and feel nervous in front of others. You could say I had no confidence at all. But this year, after years of experience, when I am surrounded by people who believed in me — I knew something would be different.



Last year, I was lucky enough to win the second prize. That experience made me realise what I had to improve to become the champion. I can't deny that the poem this year was particularly challenging. I kept forgetting lines, and there were moments when I doubted myself. But I received the biggest support from Miss Yim, who kept encouraging me even when I felt blue.

At the same time, I practiced a lot. I didn't want to disappoint anyone or waste the time they invested in me. Winning the competition was important, but more importantly, trying my best was what truly mattered. So, when I found out I won the first place, I was over the moon. Finally, I could tell the 12-year-old me, "your hard work has finally paid off. Don't ever give up. I'm proud of you."

5D Nancy Zhao



Participating in and winning the first prize of the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival were unforgettable experiences for me. At first, the training for the competition surprised me a lot — I never realised I had mispronounced so many simple and frequently used words! For example, I pronounced the word "leg" like "lag." That was unbelievable! I was really thankful that I decided to join the Speech Festival. I couldn't imagine that I might have mispronounced those words forever if I hadn't taken the chance to join the competition!

On the day of the contest, I astonishingly discovered that almost all the contestants performed extremely well! They acted animatedly and had perfect intonation and pronunciation. I also tried my utmost to act like the little girl in the poem. For that, I had to perform and speak as naturally as I could. I was really delighted and honored to receive the Champion of this year's Speech Festival.



Speak Up Act Out (SUAO) 2025

Speak Up Act Out (SUAO) is an annual drama competition organized by the EDB NET Section, designed to empower public school students across Hong Kong to develop their English communication skills through performance and storytelling.



This February, six junior form students from our school were selected—through an audition process—to take the stage with a five-minute original skit themed around the word “Evolve.” Their piece explored the importance of preserving cultural heritage in a rapidly changing world.

Despite juggling exams, schoolwork, and extracurricular commitments, these enthusiastic performers carved out time to hone their craft. Under the guidance of their NET Ms. Gee, they learned essential acting techniques such as voice projection, breath control, pacing, and dialogue delivery. Most importantly, they were encouraged to unleash their creativity and take ownership of their performance.

Competing against several schools from the Northern District, the team delivered a lively performance that earned applause from the audience. While they didn't take home a group award, one standout moment came when 3D Sisi Tang was named one of the Best Actors—for the second consecutive year. A huge congratulations to all our performers for their dedication, imagination, and courage to speak up and act out!



ERS Book Report Competition



The English Department's annual ERS Book Report Competition is designed to cultivate students' passion for literature. Participants demonstrate their understanding and creativity by reimagining a favorite book through various formats — such as a comic script, a movie poster, or a letter to the author. Featured below are a selection of winning entries in 2024 - 2025.

Form 1

Category 1:
Recording an audio/a video clip recommending a book

1B	Ma Tsz Long	1 st Prize
1D	Luo Kelvin	2 nd Prize
1D	Wang Pengyu	2 nd Prize
1A	Wong Chi Fai, Anson	3 rd Prize

Category 2:
Writing a speech sharing a book at the morning assembly.

1A	Shi Ka Yi	1 st Prize
1B	Kho Chun Yin	2 nd Prize
1B	Li Jia Xin	3 rd Prize

1st Prize
1A Riley Shi (24-25)

Name of the book: My Year of Rest and Relaxation
Author: Ottessa Moshfegh

Good morning, schoolmates. Today, I want to share my thoughts on the novel *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh. This book is a unique and thought-provoking exploration of mental health and modern life. The protagonist, a young woman in New York, decides to take a year off from the pressure of society, seeking rest and relaxation through a self-imposed hibernation. It is a radical act of self-preservation, a way to disconnect from chaos and find some inner peace.

The novel delves into the emptiness of modern life, where people are constantly chasing success and validation, yet feeling increasingly isolated. Through the protagonist's journey, we see how taking a step back can lead to moments of clarity and self-discovery. It's a reminder that sometimes, the best way to move forward is to pause and reflect.

This book challenges us to think about what truly matters in life. It encourages us to slow down, to listen to our inner selves, and to find meaning beyond the hustle and bustle of everyday existence.

In a world that never stops, *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is a powerful invitation to rest, to heal, and to rediscover who we are.

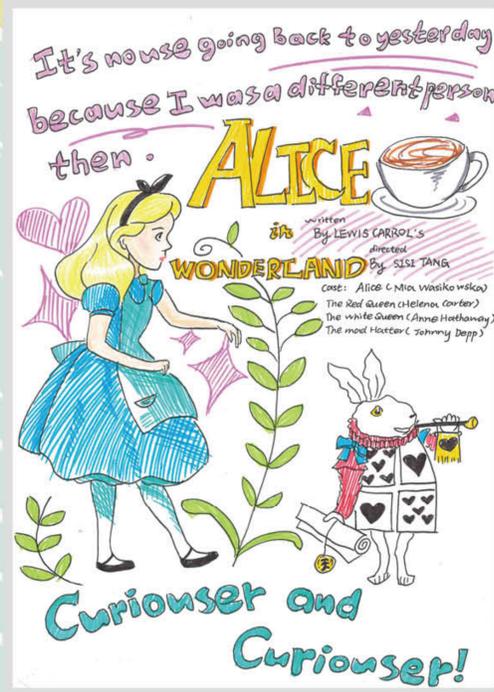
Thank you!

Form 2

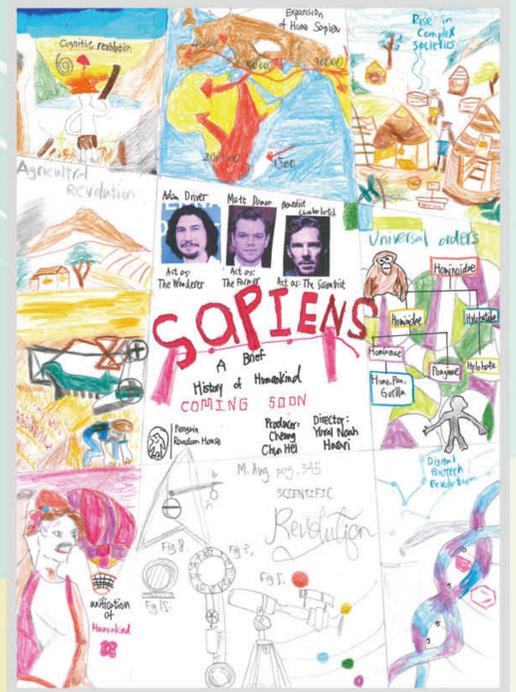
Category 1: Designing a movie poster (Fiction/Non-fiction book)



2A Emily An
(1st Prize)



2B Sisi Tang
(2nd Prize)



2D Cheung Chun Hei
(3rd Prize)

Category 2: Writing an interview script (Fiction)

2B	Tang Hong King	1 st Prize
2A	John Lam	2 nd Prize
2E	Winnie Guo	3 rd Prize

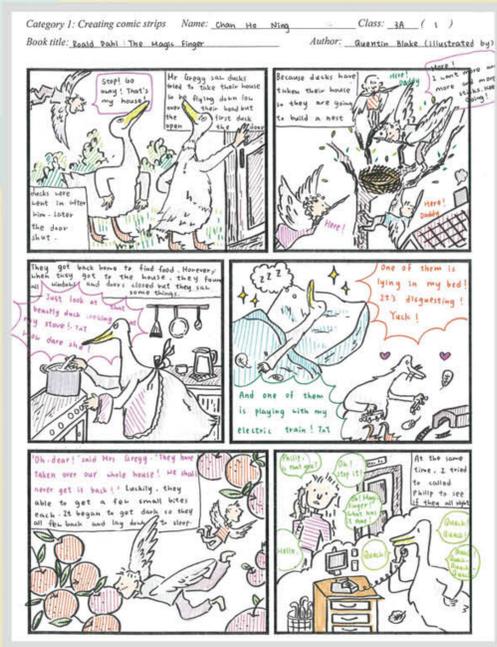
Form 3

Category 1: Drawing a comic strip (Fiction)

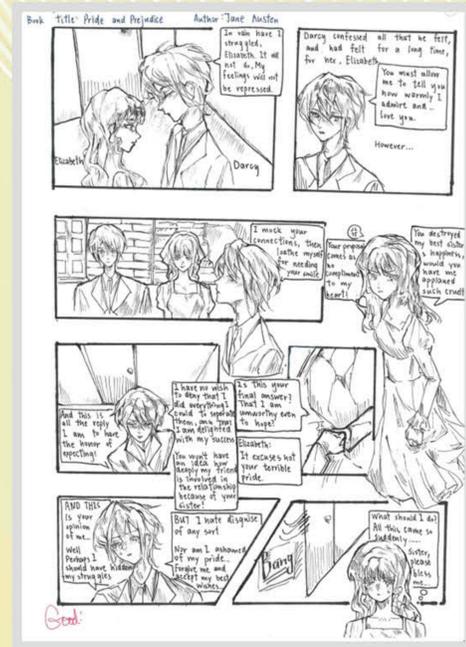
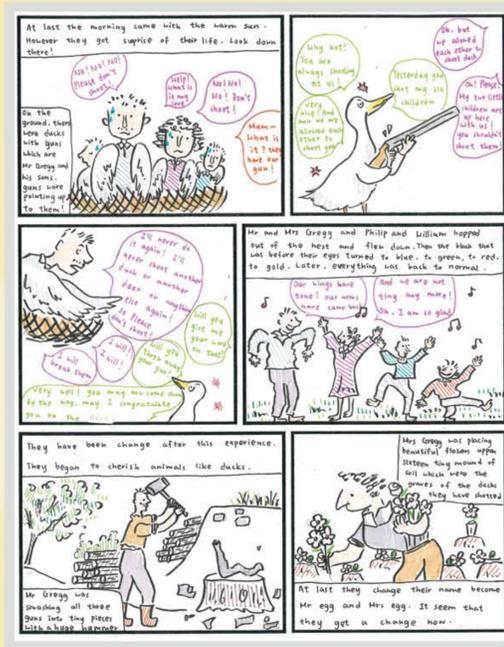


3A Lancy Liu
(1st Prize)





3A Chan Ho Ning
(2nd Prize)



3C Jaden Zhao
(3rd Prize)

Category 2: Writing an email to the author (Fiction/Non-fiction)

3C	Cheng Man Hon	1 st Prize
3E	Kuang Sai Tsun	2 nd Prize
3A	Tai Cheung Chun	3 rd Prize
3C	Chan Wing Yee Vincy	3 rd Prize

Write an email to the author telling him/her which part of the book impressed you most and why.

1st Prize
3C Bosco Cheng (24-25)

Name of the book: The Silent Patient
Author: Alex Michaelides

Dear Mr. Michaelides,

I hope this email finds you well. I recently finished reading "The Silent Patient," and I wanted to take a moment to share how deeply it affected me. The psychological depth and intricate plotting left me in awe, but one part in particular, stood out: the shocking revelation of Alicia's motive for her silence and the truth behind Theo's involvement. The way you slowly unraveled the layers of Alicia's trauma, tying it to her childhood, her marriage, and Theo's own past, was masterfully done. The moment when Theo realizes his own role in her breakdown was chilling and brilliantly executed. It made me question everything I thought I knew about the characters, and that kind of narrative precision is rare.

If I could offer one small suggestion, it would be to delve even deeper into Alicia's perspective during her silent years. While the mystery of her muteness is compelling, I found myself craving more of her internal monologue and fragmented thoughts. Giving readers fleeting glimpses into her mind, even in disjointed or cryptic ways, might have made her silence more haunting and her eventual revelation even more powerful.

Regardless, The Silent Patient is a phenomenal work, and I'll be recommending it to everyone I know.

Best Regards,
Bosco Cheng



THE STANDARD WRITING COMPETITION 2024

6E Dave Chen

I am honoured to be the champion of the 12th English Writing Competition organised by The Standard Newspaper. In my essay, I argued that artificial intelligence (AI) will inevitably but not entirely replace some aspects of human interaction. While AI excels in efficiency and precision; human emotions, empathy, and creativity are still irreplaceable. To prepare for an AI-driven

future, I proposed that we focus on developing skills that complement AI, such as critical thinking and emotional intelligence. I also emphasized the importance of education and retraining programs to help workers adapt to new job demands. I hope my essay inspires readers to think critically about the impact of AI on our society and to prepare for the opportunities and challenges that come with it.



A Good Deed Returned

2C Ayden Ma



At the age of fourteen, while my brother was only eleven, our lives were forever changed due to the tragic loss of our mother, who passed away from an incurable illness. In the same difficult year, our father was involved in a car accident on one sorrowful night, leaving him in a deep coma. Our family was hardly rich; in fact, we struggled to put food on the table and a roof over our heads, let alone cover the growing medical bills. Still, I was determined to ensure that my younger brother did not have to give up on pursuing knowledge. Therefore, I had little choice but to drop out of school and take on the responsibility of working at my father's small fruit stand.

One day, something interesting happened. While I was standing at my stand with hardly any customers as usual, I couldn't help but catch a glimpse of a child about eight years old snatching a jar of cough medicine at the shop opposite my stand, only to be seen by the shop owner, who began scolding him furiously—he was practically erupting with anger! Seeing this, my heart couldn't help but soften. "This kid is even younger than me! I can tell his parents are sick by the look on his face," I sighed. I completely understood what it was like for him, as I had a similar experience. Though it would probably mean breaking my budget, my compassion got the best of me.

I walked up to the kid and held out some cash that I could barely spare. As I patted his shoulder softly, "It's okay, buddy. Just remember to pay it forward someday in the future." I then gave him a basket of my fruits and waved goodbye, a bittersweet feeling swelling up inside my heart. "Though this wasn't a very smart decision, I'm sure Dad would've done the exact same thing," I thought, feeling a mix of sorrow and helplessness for the shared struggle we both ached to overcome.

Days turned into months, then years. My dad still had yet to arise from his unfortunate coma, and as the medical bills continued to rise, I could only feed my brother nothing but meager loaves of bread every day. I clenched my rough yet powerless hands, knowing that I would never be able to make a difference. My hopes for this gruesome and wretched world shattered completely.

But that's when my determination suddenly ignited into a scorching inferno. As the flames roared within my soul, I remembered why I was enduring all this anguish. No matter what, I mustn't falter; this isn't just for myself. I'm here to ensure my father and brother will live a life free from worries. So, with my newfound motivation coursing through my veins, every day, I pushed my body to the limit. Not long after, while I was carrying some crates of fruit, I collapsed. I slowly began to lose consciousness, my vision starting to blur, and I succumbed to the dark abyss.

"H-huh?" I mumbled in a weak tone as I observed my surroundings. It appeared I was in a hospital. "Oh yeah, I fainted," I recalled. "Oh, it seems you're awake," a doctor said as he walked toward me. "You're lucky someone saw you. What you're experiencing right now is chronic fatigue. The best you can do is to take a break." I frantically panicked. "N-no, I can't! I still need to pay for my father's medical bills and...my own..." "Oh, no need to worry about the bills. A kind man paid for them," the doctor said as he handed me a note. "No need to worry about hospital bills or any other problems; I've got it covered. It's time for me to return a favor." A tear rolled down my cheek, and this time, it wasn't out of sadness but out of sheer gratitude.

From then on, I reassured myself that being kind is always the best decision—not because it might come around one day, but because everyone has their own difficulties and backgrounds. If we can lend a hand, then why not?

The Unplayed Piano

5E Tony Zhang



The piano arrived at Palazzo Place on a cold Tuesday, slumped in the lobby of the rundown apartment complex. Its ebony veneer was chipped and cracked, the ivory keys were yellowed, and one of the three thin legs bore a fracture wrapped in duct tape. The landlady had hauled it from some back-alley thrift store, declaring it 'atmospheric'. In truth, it was an eyesore. Only Mr. Kim, the superintendent, seemed to acknowledge its introduction.

I'd just moved into Palazzo Place that winter, a 20-year-old accountant fresh out of university. My cramped living space was on the second floor, just past the stair landing. The thin walls, a constant source of TV shows and soap operas despite my relentless complaints, made resting there barely possible. Most evenings, I'd have a walk at the nearby park for a rare moment of tranquillity. On my way down the stairs, I'd pass Mr. Kim, smelling of sawdust and lemon polish, humming broken melodies.

He worked on the piano incrementally, restoring the old relic piece by piece. Some days I'd find him polish the wood, rubbing the veneer with oil, carefully removing any stains from the antique instrument. Some days I'd find him replacing snap strings, the broken steel wires, their better days already behind them, showing signs of decay and even rust. Some neighbours complained about the sound, though I soon got accustomed to his nocturnal tinkering—soft creaks of the wood and the occasional chord echoing in the lobby. Once, returning from my nightly walk, I noticed him tuning the keys, meticulously adjusting the hammers of each key with a rusty wrench, moving his ears closer and closer to the strings until they are almost touching. The bent figure did not even notice me. Once he was done, he played a scale—hesitant yet focused. He exhaled; I could faintly see the relief on his face. I stood by the stairs, staring curiously.

But he never played a song.

The sheet music appeared in spring—Chopin's masterpiece, Nocturne in E-flat Major. The crisp sheets of paper propped on the stand. By then, the piano had been restrung and tuned, its fractured leg reinforced with added material. Still, I only ever heard broken scales during Mr. Kim's maintenance works.

Then, one April night, I heard music.

Not scales, not chords, not fragments. A melody, liquid and soothing. It rippled gently across the rundown building, upstairs and through hallways. I recognised the soothing melody—Chopin's Nocturne in E-flat Major. I followed the music to the lobby. A girl was there, around 15, her hair braided, fingers skating across the keys effortlessly like a butterfly dancing in the bushes. Mr. Kim stood by the mailbox, holding a mop, unmoving and quiet, as if enchanted by the fragile melody. The music ebbed and waned with each note, simple chords

weaving complex melodies flowing through the air. When she finished, she touched the sheet music almost affectionately. Mr. Kim remained quiet, retreating quietly down the hall.

Her name was Lila. She lived upstairs from me with her mother, a nurse who worked doubles. Each night, at nine o'clock sharp, she'd play from the sheet music Mr. Kim left, be it a sonata from Beethoven, an etude by Liszt or a ballad by Schubert. Sometimes, she'd even improvise, fresh melodies weaving under her hands. Mr. Kim watched her, though he did not make it apparent. He'd linger by the mailboxes or pretend to fix the notice board, tilting his head to listen as she stumbled through tricky passages. By summer, the piano was alive. Tenants paused to listen to the music. Even the sound of my neighbour's endlessly played soap operas paused during her 'concerts'.

Her departure was sudden. Her mother had got a job elsewhere in August. The night before she moved, I found Lila at the piano, playing a piece, raw and restless, which I didn't recognise...her own. Mr. Kim stood by the staircase. When she finished, she stared at the piano, then tucked the sheet music of her own piece into her backpack. Mr. Kim paced to the basement.

The next morning, the piano was locked.

Years later, I attended a concert at the Central Concert Hall. A prodigy pianist, the flyer said, with a 'preternatural touch'. I bought the ticket on a whim, nostalgic for cramped apartment at Palazzo's Place, for the sound of soap operas from my neighbour, for Mr. Kim's distinctive smell of sawdust.

The pianist was Lila.

She wore a black gown, her hair was still braided. When she reached the final piece, she paused, hands hovering hesitantly above the keys. 'This is for a man I never properly met,' she said. 'He fixed a broken piano in a place I once lived. He left me Chopin. But today, I'll play mine.'

The piece was her own; the same restless composition from her last night at Palazzo's Place. The melody soared and dove, jagged but soothing, a bridge between now and then.

Afterwards, I walked the distance down the familiar alleyways back to Palazzo's Place. The building, now crumbling, was slated for demolition, the windows boarded, and the lobby empty. Yet the piano remained, dust covered and silent, its veneer cracked, just like how it had been when it first arrived. A single sheet of music, yellowed by age, sits still on the stand.

Nocturne in E-flat Major.

Years later, the piano's silent keys still hold the echo of a man who had tuned not just strings, but the quiet, unseen music of a life he had helped another find.

Brain Teasers

Question ONE

— — — —

(1) What four-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down but still be read from left to right?

Question TWO

— — — — —
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M
 N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

(2) What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Question THREE



(3) Your parents have six sons including you, and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

Question FOUR

sorrow	crosses
sickness	sun
happiness	risk

(4) I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me, yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.

Question FIVE

revive	assess
banana	potato
grammar	dresser
voodoo	uneven

(5) What is unusual about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven?

spell the same word backward.
 of each word and place it at the end. It will
 (5) To solve this word puzzle, take the first letter
 (4) The letter "S"
 (3) Nine—two parents, six sons and one daughter
 (2) Short
 (1) Noon

Answers:

PALETTE

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