

INSIDE

樂道

THE MAGAZINE FROM LOCK TAO SECONDARY SCHOOL



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A Message from the Editor



Mr. Eric (NET)

Dear Readers,

It was in 2015 one sunny afternoon that an idea came to my mind—preparing a written record to introduce what Mr. Chung Lui Pong, our former principal, had contributed to the school. He is a man of his word and a well-liked principal by students and colleagues. I hope it can leave Mr. Chung, the man I admire most, with the sweetest memories at Lock Tao even after his retirement.

This is the story of how LT Magazine and LTSS Newslines were born. You may say I was courageous at that time as neither the English Department nor our school had prior experience in publishing any magazines and newsletters. However, these publications have clearly demonstrated the core value of Lock Tao—honesty, faith, goodness and diligence—to our stakeholders.

I remember when the publications got started, the editorial team just included two teachers and me. Despite limited manpower resources, we poured endless efforts in the publications. With blessings from God, the very first issue of LT Magazine and LTSS Newslines were published and distributed in 2015.

Six years have passed and many things have changed. This year, I help with the editorial team again with our new principal, Mr. Wong Chi Wai as well as our new English panel head, Ms. Cheung Wai Shan, and two experienced teachers Ms. Tam Lai Jin and Ms. Chan Wai Man. We hope this publication can be an effective medium of informing students, parents and other stakeholders about various school activities and events.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the teachers and students who have contributed to this magazine. I hope everyone who is reading this new issue of LTSS Magazine is as excited as the team who enjoys bringing you to this magazine.

Yours truly,

Mr. Eric

Editor



Ms. Cheung
(English Panel Head)



Ms. Tam



Ms. Chan

It is our pleasure to work under our new principal Mr. Wong Chi Wai, cooperate with a group of dedicated teachers in teaching our students especially during the time of class suspension. We are proud to say every teacher and student here strives for the best to achieve the goal of 'Suspending Classes without Suspending Learning'. Despite the hard times during the epidemic, every student still shines like super stars high up in the sky. Although they cannot have face-to-face interaction with the teachers at school, they are still motivated to learn.



Having had the online learning for a while, our students start getting used to it. Regular learning schedules are clearly assigned; and thus students can attend the online lessons accordingly. Some students who seldom interact with teachers in class are more eager to use "chat" to communicate with the teachers in the online lessons. To maintain a strong connection with students online, measures have been taken by school including providing required materials like electronic devices and free SIM cards.



Love
without boundary;
Learn
without limits



To prepare for the public exams, our students take initiative to join tutorial lessons after online/face-to-face lessons. Serving as their support team, teachers maintain open communications with them. Despite the lack of face-to-face lessons, we can still develop a bond.

Lock Tao is our home away from home, we are one big family. We are brothers and sisters tightly tied together. We share the laughter, the pain, the happiness and the tears. Our love for each other will last forever because we care and trust each other. We demonstrate the true meaning of love without boundary, learn without limits.

Every story has a happy ending. We are happy to say that we have achieved what we set out to do.



Stay Positive and Learn to Shine



*How do you face adversity in life?
Will you "rise and whine" or "rise and shine"?*

I know our S4 and S5 students have completed the SBA module about a famous motivational Christian Nick Vujicic born with a rare disorder characterized by the absence of arms and legs. He once said, "During these unprecedentedly hard times, we can either 'rise and whine' or 'rise and shine'."

Nick can continue whining. He can whine about not having arms and legs. He can whine about why he was born the way he is now. However, we know after whining, we will be filled with feeling of hardship and frustration with life. These negative emotions can ultimately dampen our enthusiasm for life.

I totally agree with what Nick said. I love sports and thus I took part in Oxfam Trailwalker in 2005, 2010 and 2018, in which I had to run for long periods in the countryside and traverse over numerous peaks with other three teammates. As such, strong physique as well as unusual perseverance are required. Although muscle soreness should be expected, the severe pain all over my body after the long walk really let me down. I started questioning myself why I participated in the event. However, thanks to my support teams as well as other teammates, we could get through the difficult times and reach the destination every time.

We have a choice. As a Christian, I have chosen to "rise and shine". With God's strength, I flip my mindset from "rise and whine" to "rise and shine". God has not promised skies always blue, but God has promised strength for the day. Meanwhile, you are not alone in the struggle of life. You can develop your own 'support team' who can encourage you to keep going when times get tough and celebrate your success with you.

May God shine your life with strength, hope, happiness and strong bond of friendship.

Let's rise and shine together.



How to Stay Optimistic

Mr. Chow Yuet Wei

Do you remember taking part in "The Bethlehem Newsflash", "Time Cops", "Joseph and his Dreamcoat" or "The Wizard of Oz"? I remember watching the "Time Cops" show in December 2019. I really appreciated how much our students were enjoying the stage. It brought me back to the summer holiday of 2018, when I took part in a musical performance.

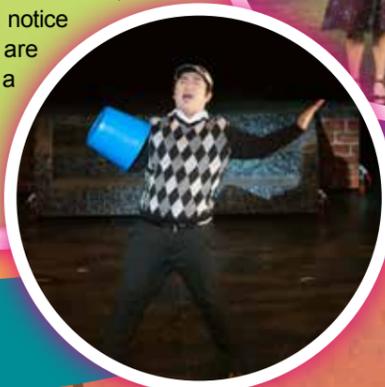
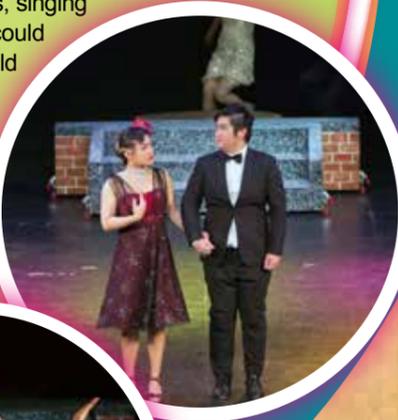
In April that year, I received an email about recruiting performers for the annual musical production. The show chosen was "Singin' in the rain". This title attracted me as this is a very well-known and classic musical. I took the chance and enrolled for the audition. I only expected to take part in the ensemble (supporting cast) and enjoy the show. A few weeks after the audition, I was notified that I got the role of the 2nd male lead. This is totally out of my expectations and I was very excited about it.

It took us 6 weeks to prepare for the two-and-a-half-hour musical show. We rehearsed every weekday night for 3 hours, and both days on the weekend for 7 hours each. It was a demanding schedule, but I enjoyed every moment of it. I made a lot of new friends and learned a lot from them. My partner, the first male lead, is an HKAPA drama graduate. He is a very good actor. I had been worrying about the contrast in ability when we had to be in the same scene. It turned out that he became a catalyst for me to devote myself to the character.

The theatre is one of my favourite places since I was small. I enjoy the theatre stage, the backstage, the audience. Every time I hear the house announcements at the side stage or backstage, I become excited. When I am performing, I usually cannot see the audience, but I can hear them laugh. Sometimes, the audience behaves unexpectedly. These are the interactions we performers love to receive.

Before the rehearsals, I was not confident with myself. I was afraid of missing the lines, singing out of tune or forgetting the dance moves. I did not believe that my performance could impress the audience. My director encouraged me all through the production and told me that my dancing and singing was impressive. I could still remember when I walked up for the curtain call, I heard the audience cheering. It is so moving to feel their satisfaction after a lot of hard work.

I remembered that some students were quite shy when they were performing for the English drama. I encourage you to keep yourself confident when you go on stage next time. Speak up and move freely, engage yourself into the scene. Audiences like confident performances. And, when you are confident enough, no one would notice your errors on stage. No matter what you are doing, Believe in yourself and wish you a "good show" in every aspect of life.



Mr. Chan Lok Sang

While the pandemic is hitting us hard, it is important for us to stay positive. Embracing various hobbies is one of the methods to fill us up with energy. Here are 2 major activities which I like doing during the lockdown:

Worshipping and going to church

As a worship leader of Kowloon International Baptist Church, I am responsible for planning the music and leading worship every Sunday. As you all know, I enjoy playing guitar and singing a lot and I'm really thankful to be able to use my talents to serve God at church.

Sporting

Riding a bike, hiking, and jogging are three sports that I did most of the time in the past year. At the beginning, I found that wearing a mask while doing sport is not fun at all. Now, however, I seem to have get used to that already.

What hobbies do you have? I look forward to getting to know you more! Feel free to share with me things that you like to do during leisure time. As a saying goes, 'work hard, play hard'. So now, I'm going to 'play hard'. See you next time!



Ms. Lau Nim Yan

My typical day has changed significantly since the outbreak of COVID-19 and has altered my daily routine in many ways. Since the first outbreak, we were forced to face the cancellation of school-teaching and many other significant events in our lives. It has been difficult and challenging to adjust to a life where I am not allowed to travel freely.

Gradually, I've learnt to treat this great change as an opportunity to adapt and make positive improvements. Life did not stop, it has instead encouraged us to slow down. Having this belief in mind, I strived to find ways to enjoy life to the fullest and make good use of the 'extra' time.

I'm extremely grateful for being able to use this period to spend more quality time with family, especially my cat, Pepper, who's always seeking for my affection. This pandemic inadvertently strengthened the bond between Pepper and me as I've been able to spare more time to teach him tricks and cook him more of his favourite foods, e.g., chicken breast with eggs. A little on the downside, this cheeky boy has grown to be picky and wouldn't have less tasty dried food anymore!

Although the time for us to go back living our normal lives remains uncertain, it is still for the best that we keep a positive mind, stay healthy and look after one another amidst these difficult times.



The Avenue of Stars

S1E3 Cheng Siu Kwong

A speech to introduce a two-day exchange trip

Good afternoon everyone, I am Simon. Today I'm going to introduce our two-day exchange trip to Heyuan to you.

Heyuan is located in the southeast of China. It has a population of about 3 million. The Hakkas in Heyuan create and develop delicious Hakka cuisine. Their famous dishes are stuffed bean curd and stewed pork. Many tourists visit Heyuan because of its great traditional food.

In our two-day trip, we will visit many tourist spots. We've planned different activities for you as well.

On the first day, we will visit Wanlu Lake and Dinosaur Fossil Museum. We can appreciate the view of Wanlu Lake and take photos at the lake. If you like, you can take a boat trip to observe the water quality of the lake. I am sure you can find balance and calm in such a quiet environment. Then we will have a look at dinosaur fossils and dinosaur eggs, and learn the history of dinosaurs in the Dinosaur Fossil Museum. Don't forget to buy some postcards and keychains there for your friends and family.

On the second day, we will go to Nongfu Spring Factory and Xinfengjiang Music Fountain. We can explore the production process of Nongfu spring water at Nongfu Spring Factory. You will be amazed by the high technology used in the factory. Next, we can enjoy the beautiful view at Xinfengjiang Music Fountain. It is one of the largest music fountains in China. After that, we will have lunch in a local restaurant where you can try stuffed bean curd and stewed pork. In the evening, we will take a coach back to Hong Kong and dismiss at school.

I think the trip will be interesting and meaningful. After the trip, you can learn more about Heyuan.

The Avenue of Stars

S5E1 Ho Man Lam

Hiking Safety Steps to Keep on Trail

By Chris Wong

Not many people are aware that there's more to Hong Kong than just delicious dim sum and awesome shopping. That said, if you haven't been to any of the Hong Kong hiking trails yet, then you're sorely missing out. Hiking is a fun way to exercise and explore the outdoors. Although hiking is typically a safe activity, it can be dangerous due to falls, unsafe trail conditions. To stay safe before, during, and after your hike, consider the following safety tips.

Firstly, to stay safe, we must do some research on the Internet about the hiking trails that we have chosen. It is a good start to know about the difficulty of each trail. If you are a beginner in hiking, choose the lowest level trails. Don't forget to check the time that you will take to complete the trail. I remember the first time when I went hiking. I searched for a lot of information about the hiking trails. When I almost got lost on the way, I was still able to find my way out successfully. Therefore, doing some research before going hiking is very important.

Secondly, we must drink enough water before hitting the trail. When you feel thirsty, your water level is already low. Therefore, you should develop habits for long-term hydration to help you be at your fittest and healthiest before going on a hike. According to the studies done by the University of Hong Kong, drinking water is the best way to avoid heatstroke. Don't forget to take the time to hydrate yourself with water or a sports drink especially on a hot summer day.

Thirdly, what should we do if we encounter dangerous situations? We may get lost, encounter bush fire or have headaches when hiking. We may need help in the countryside, but we are far away from the hospitals and police stations. Then, we must stay calm and evaluate the situations. In case a fire needs to be reported, ring 999 or send all the information to your emergency contact.

There are too many things we should pay attention to before going hiking or during hiking. There are a few most important things I want to remind you of. Be prepared, go with friends, tell your family where you are going and stay calm in dangerous situations. The scenic trail is always filled with hidden gems along the way. Traversing through secluded beaches, refreshment stands, temples and attractions is amazing. I hope my tips are useful for you. Hope you can have a nice summer day and a meaningful hiking trip.

IS IT DIFFICULT TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE?

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is an institution responsible for helping U.S. officers and diplomats working overseas in acquiring essential language proficiency and cultural awareness in carrying out their job smoothly. FSI has compiled a list to show the approximate time for an English speaker to achieve proficiency in speaking and reading in specific language. Chinese is rated as one of the most difficult languages for English speakers to learn as well as Arabic, Japanese and Korean.

To achieve basic Chinese proficiency, an English speaker needs around 88 weeks (i.e., around 2,200 class hours). The reason for that is Chinese is a tonal language, in which same sound with two different intonations often creates two different words. Not to mention the complexity of the writing system. In Chinese, verbs lack tense or time marker, however in English, different tenses are conveyed with time markers like 'yesterday' or 'tomorrow'. Also, thousands of characters make learning Chinese a formidable task. Instead of an alphabet, which allows you to learn a fixed number of symbols that represents sounds, Chinese uses characters, with each representing a word. Essentially, you could keep learning Chinese characters your whole life and still not know the complete set.

Does that mean learning a new language like Chinese is as challenging as climbing Mount Everest? Well, it depends on whom you ask. As stated by FSI, each learner is unique, the time it takes to learn a language depends on a number of elements: (1) how close a new language is to the learners' native language or other languages that they know, (2) how complex that language is, (3) how many hours each week learners devote to learning the language, (4) how available are the language learning resources, and the most important element — (5) motivation.

Learn to Read Chinese in Eight Minutes?

Chineasy, an Internet startup company founded by a Taiwanese American, Shaolan Hsueh, converts essential Chinese characters into simple illustrations for non-Chinese speaker to learn. Chineasy divides the learning process into three components (1) building block, (2) compound and (3) phrases.

Building block

According to Shaolan, building block refers to the use of some common and simple root words to build characters and phrases. An example is the character 木, which means "tree" or "wooden".

Compound

Compound refers to the use combined building blocks to form other characters. For example, two trees (木) written together gives us the character woods (林); When a person (人) is written next to a tree (木), we get a picture of someone leaning against a tree and resting, thus denoting the meaning of "to rest" (休).

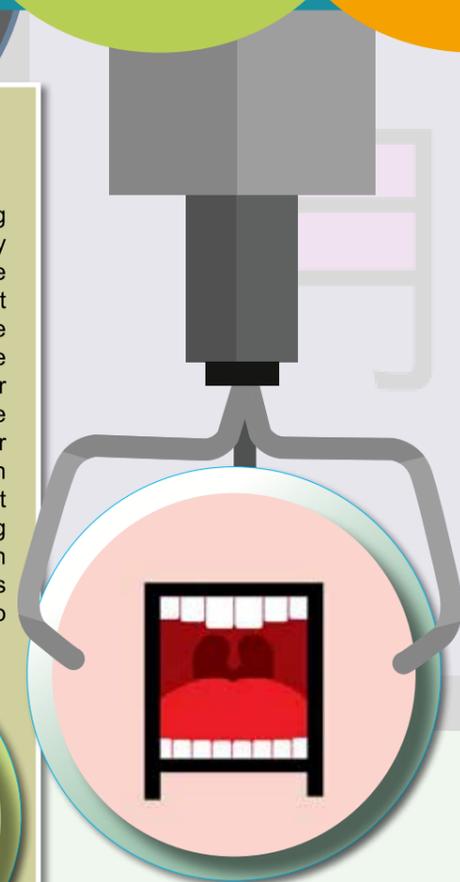
Phrase

Phrases mean the words are constructed by two or more characters formed by "building block" and "compound". For example, a fire (火) with a mountain (山) mean volcano (火山).



Using some interesting methods like Chineasy to learn a language helps me realize that learning does not have to be boring. It can be fun and interactive. For example, we can use illustrations to remember words or characters. In

addition, every learner is different, so no single method is best for everyone. Learning is a lifelong journey with no ending in sight. We need to have a better understanding of our own motivation to strive for continuous improvement. Learning is never cumulative; it is a movement of knowing which has no beginning and no end.



Goodbyes are not forever

My dear S6 students, maybe some of you are dreading the public exam as well as the seemingly endless revision and stress that comes with it. Focus on the goals but not obstacles. We are all by your side. We know progress takes time. Be persistent. Let the breath of sweet memories at Lock Tao fill you, as the light of each new day begins. For this moment itself is a miracle, and to live it is your privilege. May God bless you with the courage to never lose faith in yourself in the examination hall.

Best regards,

Ms. Cheung
(English Panel Head)

Dear S6 students,
April is always a month of stress and challenges for DSE candidates. Even more, Covid-19 has given us a very special learning experience these years, making some of us feel frustrated, irritated, or even desperate. To many, this is an unprecedented raging tempest.

However, do remember that nothing is impossible. Persistence is always the key to weather storms. Indeed, diligence and persistence conquer everything.

We are all by your side to support you. As Winston Churchill said, 'Never, never, never, never give up!' Have faith in yourself, and success will only be around the corner.

Best wishes,

Ms. Tam



Dear S6 students,
It is always hard to bid farewell, especially to those whom you have treasured for years and those who have been with you to share all your joy and sadness; laughter and tears. Yet, bidding farewell does not mean an end to our relationship. It only marks an end of a chapter in your life and that another chapter eagerly awaits. You must look ahead and be prepared of all the bright possibilities that the future holds for you. No matter what challenges you may encounter, remember to live up to the school motto – "Honesty, Faith, Goodness and Diligence".
May God grant you courage, guide you and protect you in your future endeavors.

With warmest wishes,

Ms. Celine Chan

Dear S6 students,
Time flies. Now that you are approaching the end of secondary school, you may feel the challenge of entering a new page of life. When I think of you, two Bible scriptures pop up in my mind and I want to share with you. 'Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.' (Proverbs 4:23) 'Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.' (Proverbs 10:4)
May God's words be the light leading you ahead. May He keep you and bless you. All the best in DSE.

Best regards,

Ms. Li

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