

Primary Division I (P.1-P.2)

Topic 1 : My mother

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI'S ENGLISH PRI SCH - LEE TSZ HEI P1

My mother was walking in the forest. She tripped over a rock. As soon as she got up, it began to rain. My mother saw a cave in the distance, she ran to the cave as fast as she can. Finally, my mother reached the cave. My mother went in the cave for cover, but it was too dark! My mother unzipped her backpack and searched for her torch. My mother turned on the switch, and then, there was light. She explored the cave. After a while, she saw an egg! It was laying at the edge of a corner. My mother decided to put it in her backpack. My mother went outside and it stopped raining! She decided to go home. After a very long time, it was nighttime but my mother didn't give up. Finally, she arrived at home, she rang the doorbell and I opened the door. I was happy to see my mother again.

Topic 2 : My new year's wishes this year

ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - WONG YEUK KUK P2

I am Darren Wong and I am going to tell you my new year's wishes in this year. I have plenty of new year wishes for this year. First, I wish that chocolate is healthy, and I can only eat chocolate. Secondly, I wish I could have a good family. Thirdly, I wish COVID-19 would be over as soon as possible. Lastly, I wish I could be a good student and improve every school year. So, these are my new year's wishes in this year. Thank you.

亞洲英文協會
English Association of Asia

Primary Division II (P.3-P.4)

Topic 1: An interesting event in my childhood

ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - SELINA LEUNG P3

I woke up in a recluse with books slipped behind my back. I didn't believe it at first as I bounced on my comfortable bed last night. But I did not really care as if I have plenty of books to read. All of a sudden, a chestnut brown door appeared in front of my observant eyes that gleamed secretively. What was that? As an inquisitive child, I opened the door and entered another world... I opened my eyes and I found myself in a gorgeous garden with charming flowers as colourful as a rainbow. With my imagination, it was much beautiful than I had expected! The roses were a lovely shade of scarlet that I truly admired. I gazed at the horizon and noticed a girl darting me. She had ebony hair and emerald eyes that shone in the sunlight.

"Hello.! I'm Rachel. Do you know what this place is? It is Sunrise Gardens. I'm overjoyed since I can have a bosom friend. I've never had one." She exclaimed.

"Hi, my name is Hazel." I muttered bashfully. "I wondered if we could have fun in that rainbow?"

Rachel nodded.

So, we dashed to the gorgeous rainbow I wanted to play in. As we climbed up the rainbow, I missed a step, so I fell down to the clouds! I shrieked but Rachel didn't come.

I woke up in my cosy bed. I was safe and sound. What a beautiful dream I had!

Topic 2: An elder whom I respect very much

MARYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL - LEE YAN TUNG P4

When I spotted I lovely picture inside my drawer of me and my grandma, I realised that my grandma always cared for me ever since I was born. She was the first one I smiled at. Whenever I have trouble, she would ask me what happened and helped me fixed the situation. Even though I was naughty sometimes, she didn't get angry and told me what is right to do.

My grandma has a pair of eyes that sparkles and a lovely smile. Her hair is bit grey, but she is still very smart. She has a warm body that I always cuddle if I feel scared. She always puts me to sleep telling me some bedtime stories.

One night while I was sleeping, I dreamt of being eaten by a monster. I screamed at the top of my lungs, I rapidly zoomed into my grandma's bedroom and I told her about my dream. She said to calm down and she would help me figure out why I was having nightmares. Early next morning, we had a quiet breakfast, my grandma pretended to go to the toilet, so I quickly took out my tablet and started to watch movies. My grandma spotted me and knew what was happening. She figured out that I was watching horror movies and asked me to stop. She said, "Watching horror movies is affecting your sleep, you can't help but think about it, so you kept on having horrible nightmares." I understood immediately and stopped watching.

Thank you, grandma, for everything, I will always care for you like you cared for me, I love you.

Topic 1: Missing the days of school classes

FUKIEN SECONDARY SCHOOL AFFILIATED SCH - CHOI CHEUK YUEN P5

Science is wealth,
It is also normal mental health,
I agree with that,
But do you put on the same hat?
Biology includes livers,
Ecology has very long rivers,
What is the content of the crust?
Oxides, astatine, and dust?
No! There are a whole lot of other elements and things,
Then a whole lot of, "Dings!"
Geography and geology,
Also, archaeology!
These talk about the fossils, plate tectonics and rock samples,
Here are the examples,
A trilobite fossil from Greenland,
A splitting of the North American Plate and the Eurasian Plate in Iceland,
And also a rock sample from the Russian Far East, at the time when the Soviets rule the land!
Polonium is discovered by a scientist in Poland,
Polonium is also an element from the periodic table,
Are you able,
To memorise all, which is one hundred and three of them?
Ahem!
Are you listening to me? For heaven's sake,
Am I making your headache?
But all of this is just for your mental health,
And that is the power of "Science is Wealth!"

Topic 2: Just had an unforgettable thing

MARYMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL - CHOI KI CHING P5

Dear Diary,

Today has been an extraordinary day due to my encountering with a glowing stray. Let me tell you what happened.

It was like any other day, starting with me being screamed of by a deafening alarm, I gave a groan, then was soon shooed out of the house. On my way to school, I spotted a strange event out of the corner of my eyes.

A poos lonely stray dog was glowing ominously in a dark alley. I blinked, confused. I couldn't believe my eyes. I stepped in for a closer look, and my eyes widened.

It was not the stray that was glowing. It was a lighted match in the hands of a familiar someone. He distinctly looked like someone I knew, yet I could not grasp hold of who he was. He threw the lighted match into a pile of crumpled newspaper. Then, he ran.

The newspaper led the fire to a tall grand building. The fire spread and spread, and I stood there, watching it eat up everything in its path. I had to react, and fast.

I did the obvious and called 999, then browsed to uncover something that could slow down the raging fire. 2 grabbed or grimy hose nearby and sprayed the water all over the building.

By the time the police arrived, everyone in the buildings were saved, but there was no saving the building. It had been brunt to smithereens The police stared at the building, then glanced at me and began clapping.

Turns out, there was an important meeting going on, and I saved everyone just in time with my quick thinking. The man who lit the fire was the man wanted to caused destructions mentioned in the newspaper this morning. He was caught fleeing with another lighted match. The police congratulated me for saving the day.

Dear Diary, who knew? Investigating a glowing stray could make you a heroine.

Secondary Division I (S.1-S.3)

Topic 1 : Health is always the most important thing, do you agree?

FUKIEN SECONDARY SCHOOL - CHOW MAN YU S2

My Stance: Positive

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all of us are forced to suit the change of living environment. We're also learnt a life-long lesson that health is always most important thing. In this essay, I will show you why I strongly agree with this standpoint.

Firstly, a healthy and energetic body is vital to achieve a successful life. What if you get sick and miss a compulsory meeting or class? An unhealthy body will bring tiredness and thus gives others a bad impression, showing a lack of professionalism and capability. A few years ago, one case mentioned a college student giving up her sleep which caused an unhealthy habit, relying on coffee and plus to stay awake. At last, her excessive hard work wasn't played for as she started to have illusions and end up writing her work on the same side of the paper. SO, what will you think of an unhealthy person putting their life at risk? If I were the employer, I would prefer a fit and self-conscious employee than a weak one.

Secondly, being healthy physically an mentally can benefit ones around you. Vibrant personalities will attract better people who are as joyous and energetic, consequently, we radiate a positive energy to influence others. Studies show that healthy people tend to be more optimistic and open-minded. Therefore, it must be easy to notice that they're enjoying and caring for themselves.

Thirdly, staying healthy is essential for a long-lasting life. Surely everyone would like to stay alive, no matter reason- their loved ones, their assets, or even their duty. Emperors back in the days were eager to be immortal and stop aging. However, none succeeded. Beside the outbreak of COVID-19 has mercilessly took away lots of lives and broke numerous beautiful families. Once again, it has clearly shown mankind now fragile we are and the importance of health.

Based on the above reasons, I strongly agree that health is always the most important thing. May we mourn for those who have left beforehand as well as be grateful for what we have now. There're many reasons to grieve the past, but we've got to rise above it all. I hope all can anchor themselves to their feet and do our best to stay healthy.

Topic 2 : Review of the past year and outlook for this year

PLK MA KAM MING COLLEGE - WOO HOI SHAN S3

Hong Kong People:

Are you living good in the past year? Maybe what you're thinking is all about coronavirus outbreak, shortage of mask, serious unemployment, to name but a few. Maybe you're anticing why there was coronavirus outbreak which affect your life critically. Yet, despite the fact that last year was a hard time, do you discover anything good happened last year or something you have learnt from it?

As for me, due to the epidemic, we can not envisage whether we'll be infected or not, whether our family members will leave us or not. Therefore, we need to cherish every moment in our lives and the people who are accompanying you. Express your love and generosity with one another as everyone wants to be loved and cared.

Every cloud has a silver lining. Always remember the sun will come out tomorrow. Don't lose the hope of life. Try to explore the beauty of life and you'll discover that your life is not that miserable. Although you can't go travel, then would you like to spend more time on complimentary and exploring the fabulous side of Hong Kong. Although you may think you're living in bustle and hustle, then try to enjoy our breath-taking nature and escape from it.

Let's pursue something meaning this year and be optimistic towards our life. On social level, if you are able, try to help the disables and the destitute people in our society. On individual level, cherish the time and improve yourself in different area.

In short, don't take anything for granted and try to explore the beauty of your lives.

Yours truly,

A minor citizen

Secondary Division II (S.4-S.6)

Topic 1 : The advantages and disadvantages of online teaching, try to comment on it

ST PAUL'S SECONDARY SCHOOL - AGATHA TSANG S4

Back before the COVID-19 pandemic began, 'zoom' only had one concrete definition. Yet, by the time April 2020 rolled around, the word had gained another - mind-boggling tedious online lessons. Globally the plague had halted all activities, sinking its talons into the tourism, retail, dining industries. However, there was a glimmering beacon of hope for education: online teaching. But was this idea a true blessing or a curse disguised as one?

Online teaching has granted students and teachers alike the unbridled freedom to work at their own pace, at the comfort of their homes. In lieu of antiquated classroom settings that stifle creativity and stunt progress, online learning allows pupils full control; over their learning, heralding a new mode of education. This ameliorates students workload and mitigates academic stress, especially for those in higher forms. Students can learn in an environment they're familiar with, hence maximizing productivity and boosting self-esteem.

In addition, online learning provides a plethora of opportunities for students to participate and interact in class. With the privacy of direct messages and 1-1 chat rooms, students can ask away, instantly resolving any questions or misconceptions during lesson time, without fear or being perceived as a 'teacher's pet'. From my personal experience, many classmates (myself included!) eagerly joined in, with the omnipresent shielding of anonymity eliminating the threat of public humiliation if we were to get an incorrect answer. For teachers, this also implies that they can fully grasp where their students are struggling, facilitating a frictionless, more enjoyable process for both parties, further establishing classroom harmony.

Benefits aside, online teaching is not entirely flawless. Its reliance on the internet has opened up a new can of worms, all ranging from minor and glitched to grave matters of security and safety. Not all families are financially capable of purchasing the electronics required for online lessons, not to mention that institutions may not possess a network sturdy enough to simultaneously support dozens of classes, take my school as an example: last month the Wi-Fi system completely shut down, abruptly suspending all learning activities without warning.

Moreover, online teaching is wholly dependent on a student's discipline and drive. In a clinic or a few buttons, unmotivated pupils can virtually disappear from their studies. The absence of an instructor's physical presence contributes to a spate in late assignments and neglected coursework, defeating the sole purpose of online teaching: to ensure that students don't fall behind in these trying

times.

Furthermore, the temptation of plagiarism may lead students astray, providing a detrimental shortcut for those looking to abuse a teacher's unwavering trust, all whilst depriving software or mandatory camera appearances, as the proverb goes, "where there's a will, there's a way."

To conclude, there're a myriad of arguments both for and against online teaching, with wither side raising valid concerns and reasonable claims. Conflictedly, although I do prefer the tranquility of my bedroom and the liberty of unmonitored snack consumption. I begrudgingly acknowledge that face to-face teaching applies just the apt amount of pressure to get me working towards my aspirations. What're your thoughts on this matter?



Topic 1 : The advantages and disadvantages of online teaching, try to comment on it

TSUEN WAN PUB HO CHUEN YIU MEMORIAL COLL - CHUNG WING KI S5

Over the course of more than a year, students around the world have got used to an unprecedented form of education – online teaching. While some claim that this novel type of schooling, having emerged from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, grants pupils new experience, others may feel that it poses perilous problems to them.

Long before there was an outbreak, I had anticipated the utilisation of virtual classroom tools. Although I am not a tech guru. I have always been fascinated by the myriad of possibilities of technology. When we were forced to study at home, therefore, I was more than happy at first: I could finally make us! Just to name a few, Google Classroom, Zoom, Khan Academy and Duolingo had instantly transformed into my latest favourites. On account of that, I was so very glad to experience something entirely unimaginable prior to the pandemic.

And it was not me alone. Billions of students worldwide would access a brand-new kind of teaching due to (if not thanks to) the supposing the dreadful virus. Who would have pondered the possibility of learning from home, especially those from traditional government-funded schools where innovation has been nothing but scarce? Yet things have changed. On a larger scale than distance teaching between teachers and pupils in the same city, educators have realised the potential of technology and organised overseas exchange programs -online. We have the long-held belief that such events should take place in person, face- to- face, but what is a better way to connect students globally and enhance their learning experience amid uncertainties revolving around continuous waves of outbreak and ever-changing lockdown mandates? Surely, it may be a sort of compromise; however, it is also enlightening that pupils have the opportunity to acquire knowledge in a groundbreaking fashion. Needless to say, it has to be admitted as well that online teaching does not demonstrate its downsides as time goes by. As I said, I was ecstatic in the beginning of digital leaning – in the beginning only. Months into this “new” form of education, I had grown bored and even fatigued of it. For one thing, the apps were, and are, amazing, but using Google meet for five hours a day, 5 days a week is not that all enticing. (as a matter of fact, I have already excluded the supplementary lessons here.) My eyes gets blurry at times, and my ears hurt. I also have to sit there whole day, further worsening my already inactive habit. So I end up getting numerous minor yet disturbing pains which tends to drift my focus away form my study.

Whereas declining physical health is an undoubtedly concerning issues, perhaps the more alarming consequence is its effect on our mental and social health. When online education puts children at home, it is likely to ignite heated arguments between parents and pupils as they disagree

upon trivial matters that may not have been observed were the kids on campus. An array of studies have found that since the start of the pandemic, cases of domestic abuse have risen. They suggest that the trend is linked with more frequent minor disputes at home. It is not subtle to infer that, as a result, the mental well-being of students will be discouraged. Not having a proper state of mind, they are also less likely to interact with peers and people in general. Yes this may be an indirect impact of online teaching, since the result may not necessarily take place in all families. Nevertheless, however insignificant a possible outcome, the fact is that it remains an effect not to be underestimated or dismissed. By and large, something that is not immediately related does not mean it is not related at all, and it is often the neglected underlying issues that will cause problems unthinkable. In any way, the conclusion is that distance learning is to bring lasting adverse impact to our various aspects of health.

At the end of the day, as long as a the pandemic persists, we are still relying on technology for teaching and learning. In addition to accepting it as the new normal, we should take one step further to analyse the positive and negative effects of the innovative education method. To define it as a friend to a foe is impossible and unnecessary, because by nature, it is, however cliched, a double-edged sword. After all, I still believe that technology and what it can offer are incredible; only when we identify the potential perilous problems of online teaching, can we harness the profound power of the ever-developing science, and make education better than never.

