

MHY

| = My High-school Years

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S.K.H. ST. MARY'S CHURCH MOK HING YIU COLLEGE

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Editor's Words

Dear Readers,

It is an honour to have the opportunity to help edit writings for the school. I have learned a lot from these writings and gained a new perspective on their respective topics and it was entertaining to read all of them. Under the influence of the pandemic, all the basic preparation work of this magazine became an uphill battle. But I am also proud to share with you that our collection of writings has no compromise on quality. When reading the work of our younger writers, I can see a lot of potential in them, and I believe they will become great writers if they keep writing and try out new writing patterns.

The English Editorial Board has been a valuable platform for authentic training for future careers in journalism and authorship. I sincerely hope that more schoolmates will become editors and writers and produce even more excellent work for our school next year.

Finally, I hope you will enjoy reading all the great pieces in this 5th Issue. See you next year!

Chui Chun Hang Charles
Editor

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**Youth's
Imaginations into
Aspirations**

The Power to Unearth Lost Civilisation

Ellis Callaghan (4M)

The amount of success mankind has achieved throughout the past 5000 years is truly fascinating. From the pyramids in Egypt to the soon-to-be self-driving cars of today, we have accomplished tasks that were once thought of as science fiction.

But none of these were achieved by a single person, or even a large group of dedicated engineers. They are all results of generations and generations of innovators building upon each other.

However, a lot of our ancient wisdom has been lost in ruins. One classic example is the burning of books and burying of scholars in Qing Dynasty around 214 BC. China's first emperor Qin Shi Huang ordered the burning of books on history and philosophy and live burials of Confucian scholars. On the other side of the globe, in 48 BC, Julius Caesar set fire to the library of Alexandria, destroying 40000 scrolls. These scrolls contained vast stores of manuscripts, history, and knowledge. This destruction in the East and West significantly damaged our understanding of ancient civilizations.

Aside from these two notorious

examples, there is much more ancient knowledge that is lost to us. We still do not know how Stonehenge and the pyramids were built, we do not have recorded history of many important events and can only base our understanding on old tales.

If I had a super power, I would like to recover the knowledge of our ancestors for the benefit of mankind. Although our understanding of science has evolved far past the old times, there are many books on philosophy and history that could change the way we see the past and human civilisation as a whole.

Even though I know this is not possible, I hope that modern day people can learn from this mistake and take better care to preserve our knowledge as a species, as it has been proved time and time again that it is easy to lose our most precious resource, knowledge.



If I Were a Superhuman

Chan Yuk Ying (3M)

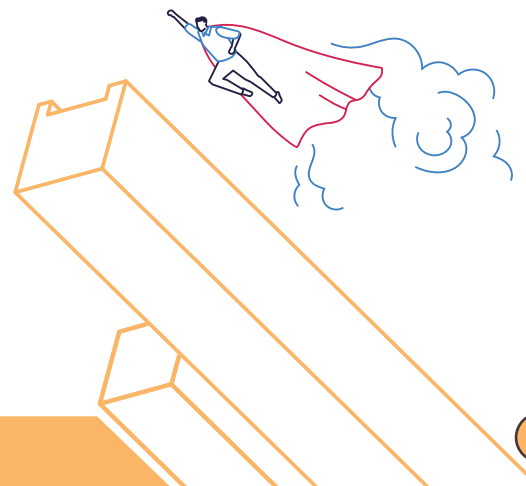
If I could have a superpower, I would choose to have super senses.

Having super senses is going to be genuinely valuable to me. I would become more alert, observant and vigilant. If an emergency or hazard is about to happen, for example, a fire, robbery or murder, I would've already noticed it and alerted the others to evacuate from danger and inform the police before the situation got too perilous. I would be capable of seeing from distances further than others and seeing the world with clearer details than the average humans. I could also see better at night or in a dim place. With my highly attuned senses, I could join Cirque du Soleil or take up acrobatics.

There are a variety of benefits from having super senses as a superpower but getting enough sleep would be a concern. I'd probably trade it all for a good night's sleep. My super-hearing senses would've picked up all the whispers, creaks and bangs in

my house. Imagine if the neighbors are rambunctious, I would get distracted easily during important events like tests and exams. Everything would be way too loud - whispers would become roars and the drop of a needle would sound like a bang on the wall. It would be a headache for me to constantly hear information that is unimportant, like how others are gossiping behind others' backs or planning unpredictable events for someone else.

Even though I might suffer, I would definitely use my superpower to help others, just like all the superheroes in stories or movies! I would use super senses to help crack crime cases and make the world a safer place for every human. So, I believe this superpower idea can change the whole world for the better.



Thinking Big!

Three God-sized Wishes

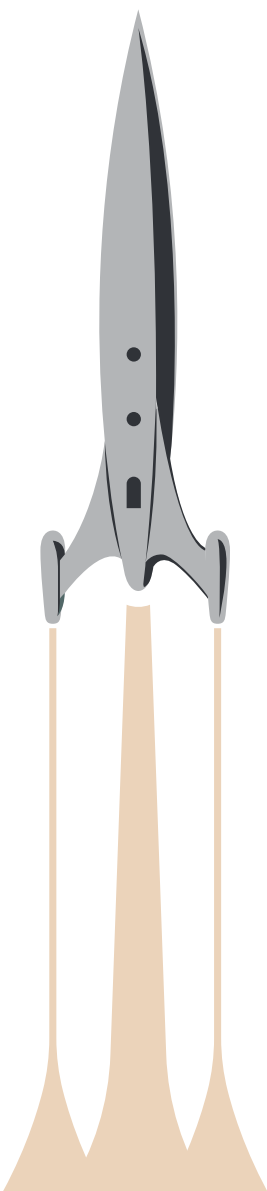
Lee Pearl Lok Yee (2A)

My first wish is that I can make my own planet. With my own planet I can live however I want and there won't be any humans in it. It will be full of plants and animals, but of course with no bugs or spiders! That planet can survive no matter what, the living things in it don't need anything to survive, meaning even without bugs or spiders animals and plants can still survive.

My second wish is that I can travel to parallel universes. With that wish, I can defy reality and I can do and see things nobody has ever seen or done before. I don't need to live such a simple and boring earth-bound life, doing nothing special. Travelling to parallel universes is such an impossible dream, that being able to do it makes it much more exciting.

My third wish is to be immortal. Some may say being immortal is a curse because you only see your loved ones die while you live on forever. However, I think that by wishing to be immortal you should already have mentally prepared yourself for it and isn't it a good thing that while they die, you still get to live and tell their story? Also, nobody has actually been immortal before so how would we know that's what immortals feel like? Immortality would give me an eternity of safety to discover everything about those parallel universes and learn from them.

Having these wishes come true would be very exciting and fun, not only would I be able to quite literally defy the universe, but also do things we could only dream about. And these are my three BIG wishes.



You Can't Wish for More Wishes

Mak Kam Po (3M)

Every girl must have dreamt of becoming a princess when they were a child. If there is a chance for you to become one of the princesses from Disney's animations, will you give it a try? If yes, which one will you choose?

One night, I dreamed of the Genie in the lamp from Aladdin. He smiled at me and said 'You can have three wishes, I can even make impossible wishes come true.' It is totally beyond my imagination that I could have a chance to make three wishes without paying any price! Although I could not believe it, I still decided to make three. But I had to think carefully first!

Going back to the time in primary school was my first wish. When I was in primary 5, I had a close friend who always chatted with me. However, I quarrelled with her because she didn't listen to my suggestions for our group project. Then, we never got in touch anymore. I regretted not apologising to her because of the lack of courage. I always thought that if I didn't say something impulsively to break her heart, would we still be friends now? I felt guilty for my behaviour at that time, and I was disappointed with myself. Therefore, I would want to turn back time and say sorry to her.

My second wish was to have the power to fly. It was convenient since I could go anywhere, anytime I want. Moreover, I wouldn't have to pay for the transportation too. It could help me to save more money for buying my favourite snacks or shopping in different countries. Besides, I could save my time commuting. Sometimes, if I woke up late, I just needed to press a button then I could fly to my school in a few minutes. It would be such a useful power.

My final wish was to know the numbers of the lottery. Winning the lottery, I could improve my living conditions significantly. My home isn't big, I don't even have my own room. My mum and dad are under immense pressure and always tired. Nevertheless, they would work hard to earn money for me to study. I am grateful to have their unfailing support. Therefore, I would use the money to help them relieve stress.

I kept chatting to the lamp in my dream but it disappeared suddenly! Then, I woke up. Unfortunately, it wasn't real. I could neither fly nor know the numbers of the lottery. I was quite disappointed. However, I am blessed enough that I have a wonderful life with my family and friends.



What is the one dream that you woke up from wishing it was real?

Ng Sin Ting Alicia (3M)

Have you ever had a dream that you want to become reality? If yes, what is your dream about? Becoming a billionaire or having super powers? My dream isn't about any of these. The dream that I wish would come true is getting rid of COVID-19 entirely.

A few days ago, I had an impossible dream. In the dream, I was at a shopping mall waiting in a queue outside of a restaurant. I looked around and nobody was wearing a face mask. There were no QR codes on the tables or around the mall. There were also no lines on the floor for social distancing purposes when waiting in the queue. I checked the calendar on my smartphone, and it was 2019, which was the year before the pandemic started. Then I woke up from the dream.

Although the dream was short, I can imagine what will happen if this dream becomes real. We can live happily without worrying about the supplies of masks and hand sanitizers at

home. Also, we don't have to maintain any social distance or have family gatherings at separate tables. There aren't any tests or vaccinations related to COVID-19. We don't have to worry about any of these things and can just be normal.

However, this is just our expectation in contrast to the harsh reality. The reality is we have to stock up enough masks at home, keep social distance and do rapid tests daily before going to school. We all know these two years aren't easy and we're still waiting for the day when COVID-19 disappears.

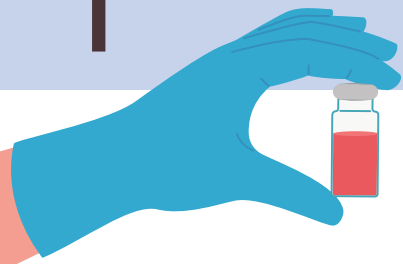
When can we really say "good bye" to COVID-19 without "see you again" and make my dream come true?





Widening Youth's Experiences and Horizons

An Unprecedented Medical Crisis in Hong Kong History



Yu Ka Chun (4M)

It is widely known that Hong Kong's life expectancy has seen a steady increase over the past half-century. Nevertheless, Hong Kong has faced its most severe overstretched public health care system during the fifth wave of COVID-19.

In order to mitigate the skyrocketing numbers of diagnosed patients, the government imposed several anti-COVID measures. For instance, the suspension of schools and closure of entertainment venues. There is no denying that it has helped prevent citizens from having close contact with those diagnosed with COVID-19. However, the number of confirmed diagnoses continued to rise, with tens of thousands of confirmed cases per day recently. Hong Kong has faced an unprecedented medical system collapse, especially with a shortage of doctors and patient overload in public hospitals.

Prior to the pandemic, Hong Kong was plagued by the uphill battle of insufficient medical resources for a long period of time. Irrefutably, an aging population with an unbalanced supply and demand are among the causes. Therefore, the Hong Kong population faces a very long waiting time for public healthcare services.

A manpower crisis in hospitals will provoke significant hurdles not only for citizens, but also for doctors and nurses. Overburdened and

exhausted doctors may cause medical blunders and medical oversight easily which may threaten the health conditions among patients. On top of this, patients suffering from a long waiting time may miss the best therapy time, which usually leads to tragedies and suffering from more severe problems or even death because they did not get timely treatment.

To alleviate the medical crisis, what the government should do is put more public expenditure on medical equipment and raise public awareness of health promotion. In addition, it is widely reckoned that private healthcare in Hong Kong is the second most expensive in the world. As a result, the government should hold some public-private partnerships with closer involvement in a bid to alleviate the number of issues.

How about us? What could be done to be healthier? We could make a difference in our lifestyles, getting rid of oily and fatty snacks to prevent heart diseases in the long run. We should also incorporate exercise into our daily routine to strengthen our immune system.

In conclusion, the medical crisis has become a serious problem that we cannot neglect. As Hongkongers, we are duty-bound to tackle this crisis hand in hand.

Be Wise and Get Rid of Con Artists Online



Chui Chun Hang Charles (4A)

With technological advancement, there has been a growing number of scams on the internet recently. There are common scams such as banking, credit card and online account scams, charity and medical scams and online shopping scams. The victims usually don't get what they have asked for and are left with nothing. In the end, most of them have been taken advantage of. It is widely known that scams are illegal, but some people are scamming others because of the thrill of getting away without consequences.

There are scams which in my opinion are the worst kind of scams – the ones that are legal where scammers find a loophole in the system and commit fraud legally. There have been multiple advertisements where a “self-made” entrepreneur who wears a fancy suit and drives an expensive car sells you their online course which guarantees you a 6-digit income. The victims might think this sounds too good to be

true but once they purchase it, they realize that all their entrepreneurship skills are already written on the internet and easily accessible and basically general knowledge that never dives into the subject matter. What makes me sick is that the victims are generally in a rough financial situation and are desperate for money so they find ways to solve their problems in any conceivable way and ultimately lose their money.

In my idealistic world, these scams should be illegal. I think people should be held accountable for their actions on the internet. It is immoral to jeopardize people's lives and they should face justice. In reality, there are a lot of illegal activities happening on the internet so it is hard to track down scammers preying on victims. But there are ways to reduce the chance of being scammed. First, do background checks on the website's legitimacy. Second, check the review on the websites you plan to spend money on.

In conclusion, we should surf on the internet carefully and not easily fall for scams. Furthermore, legal scams should not exist and should be outlawed.





Pay More, Get Less

Tang Pui Kei (5A)

Have you found out that commodities cost more than they used to? Have you run out of money more quickly than before? Without a doubt, the coronavirus opens a Pandora's box of creating a host of problems such as more food waste and poverty. Most importantly, a rise in the inflation rate. Inflation is the decline in purchasing power of a given currency over time and is the elephant in the room. We always ignore the fact that a surge in the inflation rate carries a lot of weight now, likewise for the surge in petrol prices and the burden it puts on drivers. You might be curious why and how it has become a real problem.

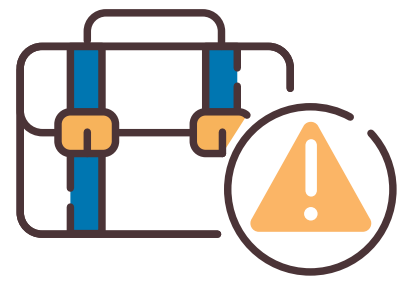
Let's begin with the main culprit, Covid-19. Remember when everything was so normal before 2020? All industries were flourishing. Since the arrival of the coronavirus, innumerable individuals or companies have experienced financial distress, as well as industries facing the biggest uncertainty ever. As many countries began to impose restrictions on travel, hospitality and tourism were the first 'victims'. Companies which used to rely heavily on tourists have been losing substantial profits and most owners cannot afford to maintain their business and end up with a perfect storm of supply chain disruption. Processors cut down orders with growers. Eventually, the seed farmers receive very few orders. According to Business Insider, a farmer in the U.S was forced to bury 1.4 million pounds of potatoes. In fact, there are 570 million farms in the world, the amount of food surplus is way more than massive. But here's the problem, why are the groceries in supermarkets always out of stock?

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), world cereal production in 2020 was 2776 million tons, followed by a 3-million-tonne increase

in 2021. Meanwhile, an average person consumes 0.9 tonnes of food per year. In light of this, it is evident that there is something wrong with the food supply chain. As we know, there are several links in the food supply chain, including production, point-of-sale staffing, and delivery. Each of them involves cost. If the cost of one changes, the disruption will cause a knock-on effect. Let's say when the price of petrol rises due to the pandemic, the delivery charge for freight rises. Similarly, when the cost of crops being delivered to factories increases, making the meat more costly, it is the same as that of feeding livestock. By the way, some food may have already become rotten in the containers before transporting overseas because of the lockdown. It briefly explains how goods and business operating costs become elevated. This is also why some manufacturers downsize products not with the price so as to earn profits.

Meanwhile, 60 percent of the countries in the so-called advanced economies have annual inflation rates over 5 percent and above 7 percent for more than half the countries in emerging economies, according to the Bank for International Settlements. It's the largest share since the 1980s. Perhaps the data might not make you feel shaken up, but for the poor and the families dealing with debt, it's simply forcing them to skate on thin ice. If the change in inflation rate is greater than that of their income or they may even be unemployed, having a meal every day will cost them an arm and a leg. After all, the growth in the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty will be inevitable.

Job Scams – Is It scary?



Chan Sum Yi Sammy (5M)

Have you ever received any weird 'job finding' messages from your phone? Did you fall prey to these job hunting scams before? During the fifth wave of the pandemic outbreak, scammers may want you to fall into the trap so they can steal some money or some personal details through ill-intentioned job messages. In order to prevent all of you from falling into this trap, I would like to share a case of a job scam and tips to protect yourself.

At first, mostly the messages may talk about the benefits of doing this job. The scammers promise good money for a job that does not require much skill. Their messages tend to target people who are young and lack work experience. It is easy for students and those who are desperate to make money to trust what they read. What's more, some of the workers may have lost their job during the pandemic. Since one of the major expenditures for companies is the employee salaries, an increasing number of employees are facing salary cuts or are eventually sacked because of the economic downturn during the pandemic. The higher the unemployment rate, the more people are willing to find these online jobs.

Let me share a case of a job scam from my friend. My friend, who is a university year one student, wanted to earn a living through getting some part-time jobs. My friend found an online job that allowed him to work anytime, anywhere. My friend had to buy products on the online platform like Amazon and iHerbs. What my friend needed to do was to finish the task ordered by an unknown person. The unknown person would tell

my friend to buy some products, such as health supplements and skin-care products. After completing each task, my friend could get 10% bonus of extra money. If you have got some experience purchasing online, you know very well that you have to fill in your personal information and address before securing an order. After getting the confirmation email, my friend had to send a photo of the email to the unknown person on WhatsApp to show that my friend had already finished the task. For the first two 'jobs', it went quite smoothly as the scammer wanted to let my friend know that it was not a trap. Therefore, my friend could receive the bonuses he deserved.

On the third occasion, my friend couldn't get back the money. My friend texted the scammer and asked why. This time my friend paid one thousand dollars, so he felt a bit nervous. The scammer told him to send the bank account number again and he would pay immediately. Before my friend sent the bank account details and my friend even deposited some more money in his bank account. Two weeks later, my friend not only discovered that he couldn't receive any money, but he had also lost all the money in the account. When he tried to reach the scammer on Whatsapp, apparently, he was blocked and could not text or call the scammer anymore. My friend went to the police and reported the case. The police officer said that there should be no online selling jobs in Hong Kong. In addition, the police asked why he gave away sensitive personal information to strangers. The police asked him to call the bank in order to freeze his account immediately.

My friend could only wait at home until further updates. Consequently, my friend realized that he couldn't get back any money. This experience tells us that we must not trust anyone in the virtual world.

Regarding the advice to prevent job scams, you should be on high alert when finding jobs online. One of the reminders is not to find jobs online. Some thieves may ask you to work on some tasks at home, and they just want to steal your money. If you want to find a job, you can find some companies which have good reputation, like H&M and Starbucks. As you may not know who

is talking to you when you are 'working' online, the chance of getting trapped will be increased. Another reminder is that people should not share any personal details with strangers. For example, they can use your bank account to make transactions for money laundering. Don't think that you are so confident to not get trapped on the internet as you are a secondary school student. The more confident you are, the higher the chance you might fall prey to scams.





Make an Impact in Your Own Way

Kwok Chi Ning (4M)

Good morning, everyone. I am Jenny, and I volunteer for work at a community kitchen now. My duties there involve handing out food to the needy. Before I share my experience of volunteering, I would like to talk about how you can make an impact in your own way. Tony Robbins says, 'The secret to living is giving', it's also how you make an impact in your way; conservation, education, rural and urban development, even archaeology, you contribute through whatever interest you have. For example, people who love animals can help at animal shelters.

When I first got involved in volunteering, it was because of the recommendation of my best friend. Previously, my perception of volunteering was that it included no income, and I would have to spend time, energy, and enthusiasm. However, in the process of volunteering, I understood why 'it is more blessed to give than to receive'. The volunteer activity we participated in was visiting the elderly living alone. That was the first time I got along with an elderly person who I didn't know. I never knew connecting with a stranger could make anyone feel fulfilled like that. All we have to do is just send some condolences to those lonely old people. I can gain my confidence by trying something new and build a real sense of achievement and also increase my social skill. I built my self-esteem too when I saw the elderly were relieved to receive our company.

It was also this activity that made me have a passionate interest in volunteering and after a series of rich

volunteer activities, I finally entered the current community kitchen. I saw the world and others from a new perspective. That made me build a sense of gratitude as I realized what is common to me but unreachable to others.

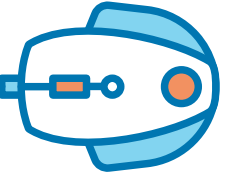
Volunteering is definitely worth your while. Trust me, you won't regret taking an opportunity to experience a new world that is full of love and selfless devotion. The participants get the opportunity to take action in society, and fill the empty space in our resume. Apart from this, volunteering can expand our interpersonal network, improve our social skills and let us meet more like-minded people. It can also broaden our horizons, as we need to deliver nutritious hot meals to the needy. This deepens our understanding of people from all classes of society.

For society, volunteering can lend a helping hand to the disadvantaged, if everyone can do something, we can build a different society. You won't regret it if you can spread the love, contributing to a more harmonious society, and strengthen interpersonal caring. Lastly, we can also contribute to social development for free during volunteering, which is definitely worth your while. Doing volunteer work is really satisfying, don't hesitate, make an impact in your own way now!

Thank you.



Living the Dream



Lee Sze Man (3M)

Nowadays, video games are gaining popularity around the world. There are different types of video games, such as virtual reality games, computer games and PS4. People are paying more and more attention to video games. Some have even made it their career.

Esports – it is a form of competition using video games. Professional players are players who play video games at a highly competitive level. Companies usually hire talented players through the live streaming of their game channels. Some companies will form teams to compete in international tournaments. When the companies gain sponsorship from the sponsors, the sponsors' logos will be printed on their uniform in return as a form of advertisement. Discussions are being held by the International Olympic Committee to see whether esports can become an Olympic event in the future.

League of Legends is one of the most popular games. Many countries have held various competitions of this renowned game. For instance, in Korea, there has been a national competition called League of Legends Champions Korea (LCK) since 2012. The champion team will receive good prize money. Then, the team will get the chance to attend the Mid-Season Invitational International (MSI) competition. It is a yearly competition between 12 regions around the world. 12 teams are invited to MSI, which is a chance for different regions to show off their strength to the opponents. The most important game of a professional player's career is definitely the World Championship Series, which is also the most anticipated games

by gamers worldwide. The players participating in the World Championship Series are all very outstanding and becoming a world champion is not only the highest honour of esports but also the dream of many gamers.

The road to success requires teamwork. In order to become the World Champion, the players not only have to make extra effort, but also have good communication skills with their teammates.

Being an eSports player of League of Legends, my brother knows this inside out as he trains for at least 11 hours every day. His daily routine involves basically working (team training) from 12 pm to 11 pm. He can take an hour-long lunch break from 6 pm to 7 pm and his meal is usually prepared by the company's chef. Starting from 7 pm, he has to attend another team training session. He and his teammates work together for many hours every single day so as to develop perfect teamwork. After 11 pm, he finally finishes his 'work', but he and his teammates usually choose to continue playing games in the hope of elevating their ranking individually. That is what an eSports player's typical life is like.

Some people say that eSports is a form of addiction, whereas some teenagers consider it as their dream career. Until now, the influence of eSports is still controversial. If you think that you can cope with the tiredness of gaming for a long period of time each day, you can give it a try!

Parents are your support



Chan Lok Him (4A)

Have you thought about your parents? This picture was taken by me. I feel a bit of despair about it. Why is there a conflict between parents and teenagers? We must remember what parents have done for us. They punish us because they want us to learn quickly as it could relate to our safety and try to steer us on the right path. They constantly protect us against other people, illnesses, weather, and ourselves.

We were born as a baby, and we will spend time with our parents as they try to nurture us so that we are prepared for the real world. When I was born, my parents taught me who I am. After that, they taught me about nature and the animals. Without knowing nature, you will not be able to know more about yourself. If you do not know about yourself, you will not know about your society. As a result, you will not be able to make new friends.

Parents love us so much, they may have helped us to live in a pampered childhood, they played with us and read stories to teach us how to be

polite, they taught us how to ride a bike. Also, they made breakfast, lunch, and dinner when we were hungry. When we were having fun with our dear friends as a teenager, they offered us care and told us not to return home late. They might be strict sometimes in order not to let us face danger. We think we know best. However, our parents have a lot more experience than us, so we should listen and learn.

Parents are your support. Former US president George Bush is a good example, President Bush Jr was rebellious, he faced alcohol abuse in 1976 and drank after his marriage with Mrs. Bush. George Bush Sr was furious after that at first. However, he decided to help his son by supporting him and helping him to quit drinking with his unconditional love.

Parents are our great support and we should be thankful.



Do you keep making decisions you regret?



Ng Ting Ngo (3M)

Making choices is something that we have to deal with every day in our lives. When we were young, we did not need to make choices ourselves, we simply let our parents make the major decisions in our life. We also did not need to suffer the consequences, as our parents took responsibility for our choices and actions, something most of us perhaps took for granted.

However, as we grow up and become more mature, we start to become more and more independent, making our own choices ourselves and having to bear the responsibilities that come with it. We start from making very simple decisions, such as taking a bus or a train to school, to having to make choices that would affect our entire life, for example, picking a subject to study when we get to higher forms.

Then, after you make your choice, no matter after thinking for a long time or making an immediate decision, regret often follows. Especially if you believe you were wrong or there were some negative results that came with it. You would begin to wonder if the decision you made was correct or not as well as hope a second chance would be given to you so you could pick another choice and make yourself feel better.

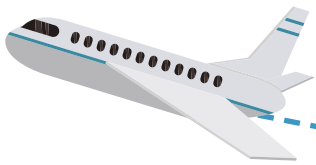
For example, if an adult chose the wrong job that he does not enjoy, he most likely would not be able to find a new job as it would either be too late or he does not meet the requirements for it.

However, I believe that the result of your choice isn't the most important

thing to care about. I actually believe that you should believe in yourself and stand your ground after making that decision. Do not let others affect you and make you doubt yourself. A common regret that people have is living a life that people expect them to live and not having the courage to live a life true to themselves. Rather they make decisions and choices based on what is considered right in the eyes of others and not based on their own judgement. Would you seriously consider being a doctor for your entire life and hating the job, but ultimately decide to stay as a doctor because your parents or peers all wanted you to become one?

This would lead to us regretting our decisions afterwards due to us not believing or fully accepting the choice we made, as deep inside our hearts we wish we had made a different choice.

Therefore, let's start to make choices that we will not so often regret and pick the path with least regret.



A Memorable Trip in Dubai

Ihsan Nimra (3M)

Last year, my family decided to celebrate my birthday in Dubai. We felt very excited to visit Dubai as it was our first time visiting there. After an 8-hour flight, we finally landed at Dubai International Airport at 8 am in the morning. We were very tired after the long flight, yet feeling very excited about our itinerary in Dubai. After claiming our luggage, we took a taxi nearby and drove to a very famous hotel in Dubai called Atlantis Hotel. We went to our hotel room to get ready for my birthday celebration the following day.

The next day, we arrived at our reserved restaurant at 7 am. The restaurant looked incredibly big. The 'little' aquarium in the restaurant made us feel like we were underwater. To my pleasure, the restaurant offered us some welcome drinks. The waiters and waitresses were very helpful and patient while helping us take photos. Later on I ordered the Greek salad basil pesto as an appetizer. It was a savoury dish with some fruit that added an extra touch of sweetness. The climax of my breakfast was ordering a strawberry sundae with chocolate drizzles and a cherry on top. It was certainly delicious. After the meal, I was surprised by how much we spent but it was all worth it.

After that, we all decided to go to the world-famous mall, the Dubai Mall. From my perspective, it was huge with extravagant décor such as lots of chandeliers and elegantly crafted tiles and pillars. There were also many shops selling high-end products. But

my favourite shop was the candy store, it was so bright and vibrant, offering a wide variety of candies and chocolates for customers to choose from. The most interesting part is that the candies could be custom made to suit our own tastes. This was our first time making our own custom candies. Although making the candies was a lot of work, we still had a fun time creating our unique flavour.

At 4 pm, we went to a waterpark called the Atlantis Aquaventure Waterpark. The waterpark was huge. It looked extremely fun to swim in. So we quickly changed into our swimsuits and went to the long slides. We also took our floats to swim in the pools. I also went on the longest slide in the waterpark, it was definitely scary as it was very high up but I still had a great time there. Everyone was splashing the water at each other. It was very joyful.

At night we went to a very special restaurant called Atmosphere Grill & Lounge. It was a fantastic experience since we could have dinner in the tallest building in the world. When the food came, it looked very appetising. I ordered my favourite spaghetti with meatballs. My dad and sister ordered the same chicken and avocado sandwich. It was mouthwatering seeing all the delicious food. Lastly, my family ordered a birthday cake to mark a perfect ending for my birthday celebration.

Finally, the whole experience in Dubai was fully enjoyable and I certainly recommend paying a visit to Dubai.



My Mysterious Background

Mohammad Umair Aftab (4M)

What do you think about the word 'Pakistan' when you hear it? I am sure most of the readers know that it is a country name but other than that, have you ever thought about what the Pakistani culture is? Well, if not, I am here to share some facts about Pakistani culture.

As a Pakistani born and raised in Hong Kong, I have always been questioned about my culture. I will try my best to tell you some interesting facts so you will have an idea about what Pakistani culture is about.

First of all, let's talk about religious beliefs. 98% of Pakistanis are Muslims and they follow and practice Islam, including me. There are other religions in Pakistan, like Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, etc. We have festivals like Eid-ul-adha and Eid-ul-fitr, these two are the major festivals in Pakistan.

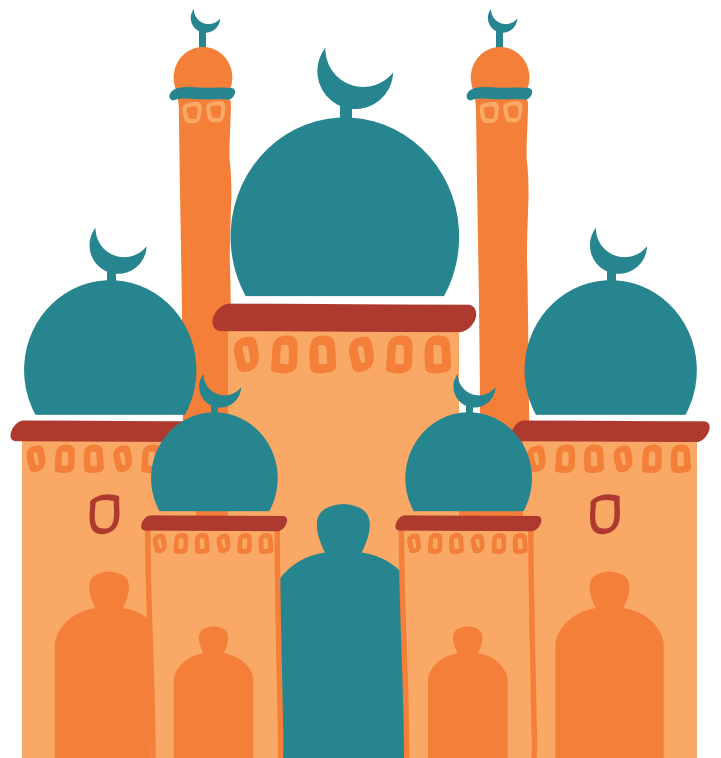
Regarding our cuisine, there is so much more than curry in our culinary world. I would like to share three distinctive dishes. Most of the Pakistani food is rather spicy because most Pakistani people enjoy spicy food. Biryani is easily the most popular Pakistani/Indian dish. Biryani is a dish made of rice, meat, potatoes, and spice. If we talk about snacks, there are 'samosas', 'kebabs', 'Kurkure' chips and so on. A samosa is a fried or baked triangular pastry with a savory filling, including ingredients such as spiced potatoes, onions, and peas. Kebabs are meat patties which have Pakistani ingredients in it, whereas Kurkure chips are Pakistani version of potato chips.

There are other chips, but this brand is definitely the most famous one.

After a big meal, everyone craves desserts, don't we? We have 'gulab jamun', 'jalebi', and 'rasgulla'. 'Gulab jamun' and 'rasgulla' are balls of dough which are fried and then dipped in sugar syrup. Both are unique and different in their own ways.

Last but not least, I guess many would like to know about how Pakistani people dress. Even though there are lots of traditions in Pakistan, the most common clothing for men and women is 'shalwar kameez'. 'Shalwar' and 'kameez' are two different words - 'shalwar' means 'pant' whereas 'kameez' means 'shirt'. 'Kameez' is a type of shirt which is long enough to reach one's knees. Women also wear 'dupatta', a scarf-like cloth which covers their head.

I hope that some of your queries are answered now. When you plan your next trip, consider Pakistan and be my guest.





Carrying the Heartbeat of Hong Kong



Wong Chak Tai (2A)

The Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway, more commonly known as the 'MTR', is a massive transport network serving Hong Kong. We use it nearly every day, but how much do we know about it? It doesn't matter if you don't know. Let's find out, shall we?

Background and History

Back during the early 1960's, the Hong Kong government saw a need of new transportation as Hong Kong's economy began skyrocketing. A study recommended the construction of a 64-kilometer-long rapid rail transit system underground. The rail network would connect the Kowloon Area and Hong Kong Island and soon connect to the New Territories as well. The name 'MTR' was established, which meant Mass Transit Railway. Fast forward several years and the MTR expanded with many new lines. In 2007, the other railway company KCR or Kowloon-Canton Railway which operated mainly in the New Territories and Kowloon areas merged with MTR, allowing for Intercity trains from mainland China and creating the massive railroad network we know of today.

Special Railway Lines

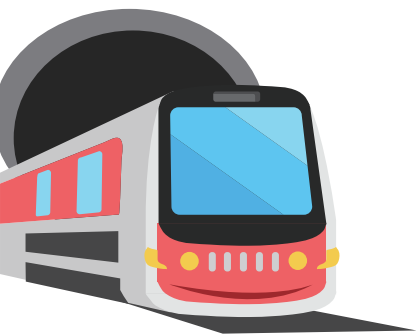
There are many railway lines in the MTR, in total consisting of 10 as of 2022. It would take hours to describe every line within the MTR, so instead I will be listing out the 'special' ones. Firstly, the Disneyland Resort Line. This iconic railway line consists of 2 stations and a never-seen-before train designed after the Disneyland theme. This line connects Sunny Bay with the popular Disneyland theme park. It's also

the shortest railway line in Hong Kong. Moving on, we have the Airport Express. This high-speed railway line connects Hong Kong's major populated areas to the Hong Kong International Airport in Chek Lap Kok. The line consists of 5 stations and a marked Airport Express livery train which contains a baggage coach. This express service runs up to 135 kilometers per hour, ensuring that passengers are never late for their flights.

Upcoming Extensions

In 2022, the MTR railway expansion of the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension was completed and opened to the public. There are more extension plans underway. The Tung Chung Line Extension is one of these projects that is yet to begin construction. It will extend the Tung Chung Line for approximately 1.3 kilometers westwards to a new station in the west of Tung Chung, it will also have a new station at Tung Chung East, diverting the existing operating track somewhere between Sunny Bay and Tung Chung to connect to this new station. The other major extension is the Northern Link, a project that connects the East Rail Line with the Tuen Ma Line. Providing a better and faster way to reach everyone's destinations. The MTR has much more to offer and many things to improve upon.

The MTR is every Hong Kong citizen's go-to way of getting around the city and surrounding areas. With its ever-expanding railway network and quality services, it's best for us to know some knowledge about something we use nearly every day. I hope this article can raise some attention and interests for the MTR.

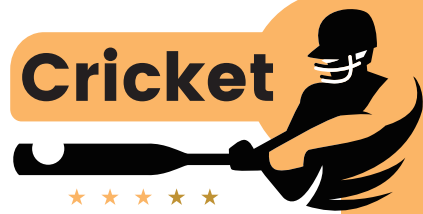




**Youth's
Imaginations into
Aspirations**

The Fantastic Sport – Cricket

Mohammad Uzair Aftab (3M)

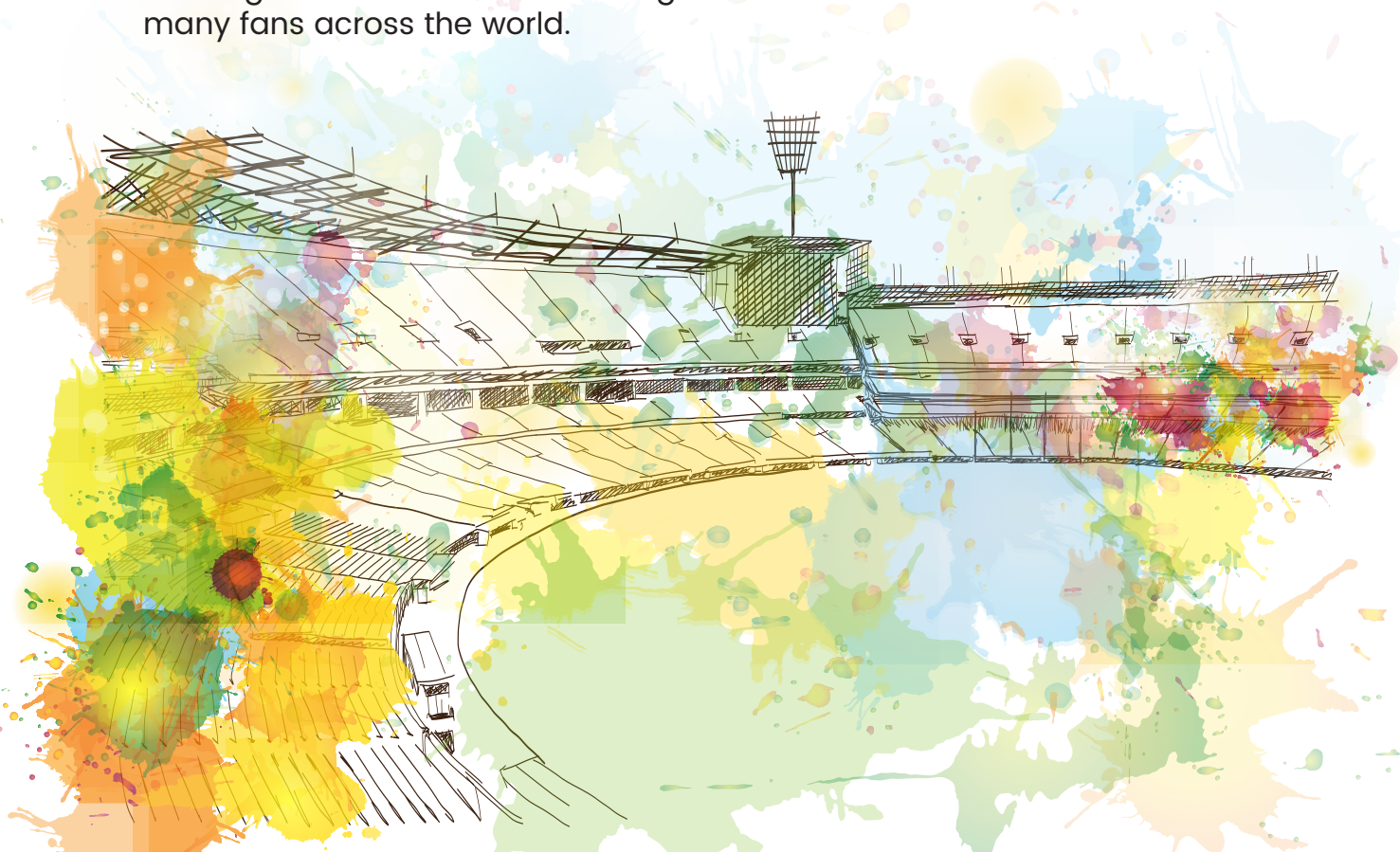


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Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of eleven players on a pitch or field. There are three formats in the cricket world. First, Test Cricket has the longest match duration and is considered the game's highest standard. The game is played for 5 days. This game was first played in 1877. The second format is One Day International (ODI), invented in 1971. There is one ODI World Cup every four years, which is played with great energy. There are always great rivalries in the World Cup, like the famous England and Australia rivalry and the India and Pakistan rivalry where whoever wins experiences a burst of joy. The third format is T20 Cricket, a shortened game format of cricket which was first played in 2003. There is great power hitting display shown in T20 Cricket with a lot of drama and wonderful comebacks, making the matches nail-biting for many fans across the world.

In Hong Kong, cricket is not very popular, and some people do not even know there is a National Cricket Team in Hong Kong. Many people think cricket is just baseball because of the similar equipment. However, the concept of the two sports is very different.

Protective gear is used by the players to prevent injuries caused by the hard, leather ball in professional cricket games. As a result, in Hong Kong, it is more common to see some people playing with a taped tennis ball in the playground. The game is mostly played by teens to spend their leisure time and have fun with their buddies. A lot of young kids play the game with great passion and dedication in the hope of becoming a professional cricketer one day.



The Mighty Neighbours We All Loathe



Lee Ying Tung (4A)

We all have these neighbours that we loathe. They hide inside your kitchen's cupboards, they roam around your house. They may even be crawling on your bedroom walls right now as you are reading this article. Who or what exactly are they? They are the mighty cockroaches.

How well do you know about those creatures that are full of mysteries and wonders? Well, if you only know a little about our brown and maybe winged neighbours, then no worries! Three facts about them will be introduced.

Here comes the first fact... Wait! One question for you first. What is the difference between a cockroach and Marie Antoinette? The answer is... Cockroaches can still survive for weeks even without their heads while Marie dies in an instant! Cockroaches breathe through the little holes on their bodies, which are called spiracles, instead of their mouth. However, sadly and unfortunately, starvation will lead to their ultimate death.

Now to the second fact... But, another question, what is the similarity between cockroaches and Germans? The similarity is... They both have an attraction to beer! To be more exact, cockroaches are attracted to the sweet scent of the alcohol. If your home is severely cockroach-infested just like mine, you can make a beer cockroach

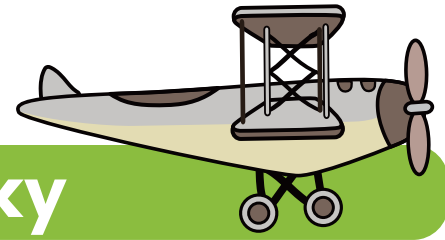
trap to cope with it. And, hopefully, we won't be bounded to a life filled with fear, suspicion, and tension of being threatened and tormented by cockroaches again.

The last intriguing fact about cockroaches is they will eat other cockroaches! This situation occurs when there is food scarcity or overpopulation in their family group. They will gobble their comrades up as a solution to tackle those problems. It doesn't matter what your identity is, whether you are their sibling, friend or partner. You may still fall victim to their cruel, wicked and unholy acts of cannibalism.

Those are all the three facts that I humbly deliver to you. I hope you enjoy reading this article.



Airplanes, Ships of the Sky



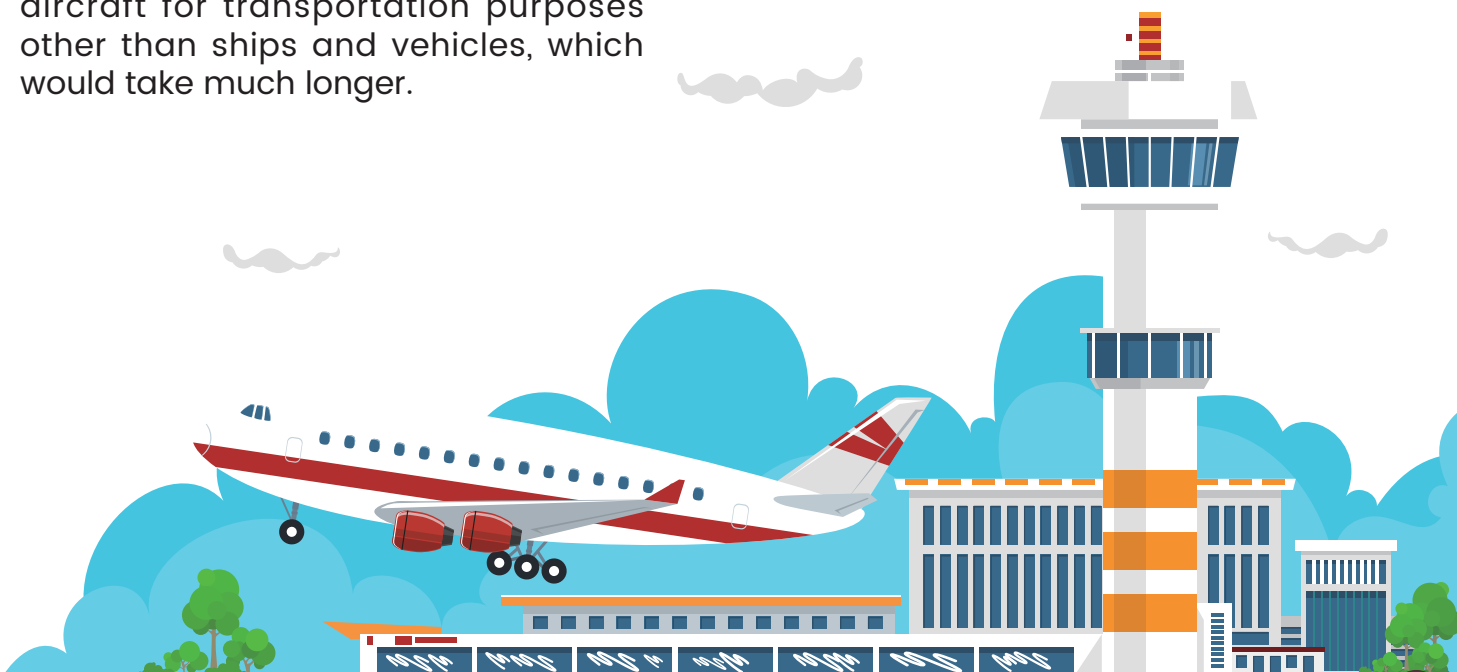
Ng Ting Ngo (3M)

Whenever we leave Hong Kong to go to other countries to travel or to join tours, we often travel on airplanes. It is widely known that airplanes are big vehicles used to transport hundreds of people at a time to another location, but do you know when they were invented, their various functions throughout history and why they are shaped like that?

The first airplane was invented by the Wright Brothers and was first flown in 1903. It was a simple propeller engine aircraft that was used primarily for transport. Shortly after the invention of the first aircraft, World War I broke out in 1914, in which planes were first used in conflict between nations. This totally transformed the strategy of warfare. Meanwhile, planes continued to be used in various types of missions for different purposes until the first passenger aircraft was built in the 1940's, where people started to use aircraft for transportation purposes other than ships and vehicles, which would take much longer.

Now you may be wondering why aircraft models are shaped like they are now. Aircraft inventors were inspired by birds that fly with wings. It is called the aerodynamic design, which allows wind to flow smoothly over and under the wings. This design allows planes to fly steadily in the sky with the help of engines thrusting forward which pushes the plane forward. Normally, air will cause friction pushing the plane backwards, which would impact the speed and stability of the aircraft, but with the aerodynamic design, the impact is minimized, and the speed of the plane is increased significantly.

Hope you learnt more about planes!





Latest Trends in Pop Culture Online

Law Yu Sze (5M)

It is widely known that many people get information about the latest trends in pop culture online these days. We are going to look at the reasons why people prefer getting information online, the areas of pop culture and the sources where people can obtain information.

The accessibility of the internet is one of the reasons why we all prefer getting information online. We can obtain the information anytime or anywhere. It is so convenient that people can get most of the information they want. Another reason is that searching for information online is an easier method. Back in the time when the internet did not exist, people could only go to the library or bookshops to search for information from books, newspapers or magazines. But nowadays, we can obtain information in a faster way, which saves much time and effort.

TV and movies are one of the areas of pop culture. People young and old, can use online streaming platforms to watch shows anytime on their smart devices, which is so convenient compared to the past. Previously people could only watch shows at fixed times on TV. Now we can choose the types of shows we like from all around the world. It is generally agreed that the range of shows and movies is wide, unlike the past, where people could only watch shows chosen by TV stations with mostly local TV shows only. Netflix, which is a company founded in 1997 for offering online streaming, is one of the sources for this kind of entertainment. It has offered many programmes like House of Cards,

Orange Is The New Black and Sense8, which have been well-received.

Another area of pop culture is music and concerts. Now, folks can enjoy concerts at home and not waste any money, which is different to the past. People can also listen to music anytime and anywhere using many gadgets. This is convenient because many could only watch concerts at a fixed time in the past. Spotify is an example that people get entertainment from. It is a company that was formed in 2006 as a music streaming service. Platform users can choose many songs that are sung by famous artists like Taylor Swift and Thom Yorke, who have won many awards.

Tech and games are also an area of pop culture. 5G can be used for broadband cellular networks which have greater bandwidth, allowing higher download speeds and making new applications like driverless cars possible. People can search for information of 5G on websites like SmarTone. People like 5G so much because it is 20 times faster than other networks. In the past, without cutting-edge gadgets, people could not 'play' anytime, anywhere. Mojang Studio is a famous company which was formed in 2009 to produce games. They have made a successful game called Minecraft in which players can explore the world to collect resources, synthesise items and experience survival adventures. This game has brought huge success.

Immersing ourselves in pop culture online is very common nowadays. What is your favourite type of pop culture?



Hidden and Forgotten Worlds



Tsen Jackson (2A)

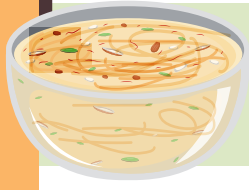
How much do you know about Backrooms? The word 'Backrooms' has started to pop up in the meme culture and western media since 2020. Many have at least seen it once no matter if it's in a meme post or on an Instagram page. According to the Urban Dictionary, The Backrooms are an endless maze of randomly generated offices maybe with moist carpets, yellow background and buzzing fluorescent lights and inhabited by 'entities'. The Backrooms are sometimes called by other names like liminal spaces, liminal core, weird core, cursed core and dream core. They all refer to some types of pictures on the internet that give a nostalgic, oddly familiar or comfortable feeling. Some are pictures of empty hallways, dark alleys, a birthday party room from primary school or a pool themed park with an alley full of water. Some are cute and nostalgic and others give a creepy feeling and a chance of 'entities' lurking around.

According to the Backrooms wiki, the Backrooms is a space that isn't in reality, in order to get to the Backrooms, you will need to "no-clip" out of reality. 'No-clip' is like a glitch or bug that happens to be in video games in which you move outside the designed area. There are thousands of levels in the Backrooms and each with unique environments and 'entities' waiting to be explored. Most of them were said to be unsafe for 'travelers'. The level from 0-999 were named as 'Cluster I'. The picture that everyone knows about is named 'Level 0' or 'The Lobby'. There are many interesting Backroom levels

and entities in the backroom fandom and they do not make sense to us. For example, 'Level 5' the terror hotel is an infinite complex of 1920s -1930s style hotel rooms, with smooth jazz music playing and random partying noises in the background and 'deathmoths' flying around. There is said to be paintings that stare at you randomly and elevators that take you to another level.

There are many unique backroom levels with entities and cool facts but my favorite level is 37 the pool room. The room is constantly filled with water covering your legs, the wall is mainly white tiled and it feels like a comforting maze for you to walk around and explore. The room feels like a waterpark divided into small rooms with water soaking your feet all the time. When I looked at pictures of the poolroom level on Instagram made in Unreal Engine (a design software), it just gave me a relaxing and warm feeling, it is truly a backroom level which I wish to visit.

Despite the lore, the entities and all the made up urban legends of the Backrooms, it is more than just a fantasy of oddly comforting photos and meme cultures. In the end, the pictures of the Backroom levels aren't all in a space out of reality. Although some are made using Unreal Engine or other software, those which are not, are photos of "travelers" taken in empty airports, abandoned school buildings or offices that have been forgotten by humanity.



Foul Language but Beautiful Food

Tong Ching (1R)

Gordon Ramsay is a celebrity British chef that has 35 restaurants and has a total of 16 Michelin stars. He is also notorious for his temper and for his incredibly funny insults at incompetent cooks when working in the kitchen. He also hosted pop TV programs like *Hell's Kitchen* and *MasterChef*.

Gordon Ramsay was born in Scotland on November 8th, 1966. When he was 5, he moved to England. Gordon's first love was soccer, and he set his sights on a professional sports career. At the age of 15, the talented Gordon joined 'Glasgow Rangers', a pro club. However, he only lasted 3 years, until 1985 when an injury DESTROYED his hopes and dreams for a professional sports career. Since he had nothing else to do, he was forced to start over, so he returned to school earning a degree in hotel management in 1987.

After finishing his studies, Ramsay set his goal to become one of Europe's top chefs. He apprenticed with Marco Pierre White at Harvey's in London, worked for Albert Roux at Le Gavroche, then worked under master chefs Joel Robuchon and Guy Savoy in France.

In 1993, Ramsay struck out on his own as head chef of the newly opened Aubergine in London where, over the course of three years, he earned the restaurant a two-star rating from Michelin. More personal prestige followed in 1995 when Ramsay was awarded Newcomer of the Year at the prestigious Catey Awards, an Oscars-like event for the restaurant and hotel business.

When the restaurant's financial backing became shaky, Ramsay left Aubergine and opened his own establishment, Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, in 1998 in London. Hailed as a destination for high-end foodies, the restaurant eventually received a three-star rating from Michelin.

The next several years proved to be a whirlwind for the ambitious, hard-driving and temperamental Ramsay. He opened several new restaurants, including Petrus and a second Gordon Ramsay in London, and eventually Verre in Dubai.

Named Chef of the Year at the 2000 Catey

Awards and Independent Restaurateur of the Year in 2006, Ramsay brought his restaurant business to the U.S. in 2006 with the opening of two establishments at The London NYC. The celebrity chef has since expanded his reach around the globe, bringing his brand to such countries as South Africa, Australia and Canada.

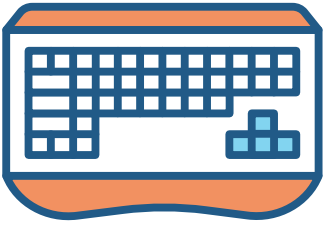
Ramsay's migration to television began in 1996 with his appearance as a judge on the BBC competitive cooking show *MasterChef*. In 1999, he was the focus of a British documentary miniseries, *Boiling Point*, which tracked his working life as he opened his first restaurant. The success of that documentary spawned a follow-up miniseries, *Beyond Boiling Point*, in 2000.

Ramsay was tapped to host two programs in the spring of 2004: In *Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares*, he sought to turn around failing restaurants, and in *Hell's Kitchen*, he ran a cooking competition among 10 celebrities, with audiences voting off contestants.

With reality television in full bloom in the U.S., the time was ripe for Ramsay to make his move across the Atlantic. In May 2005, an American version of *Hell's Kitchen*, which placed aspiring restaurateurs under the intense eye of the show's host, debuted on FOX. Like their British counterparts, American audiences learned to love and hate the abrasive chef as he narrowed the field of participants down to one final winner. Meanwhile, he launched another culinary series back in the U.K., *The F Word*.

Ramsay's strong ratings on U.S. screens opened the door for an adaptation of *Kitchen Nightmares*, which debuted in September 2007. That, in turn, led to the American productions of *MasterChef* and *MasterChef Junior* (2013), with Ramsay heading the group of judges. In 2012, he added another show to his schedule, a variation of his "save a failing establishment" theme with *Hotel Hell*.

Along with his work on TV and in his restaurants, Ramsay has written more than 20 books. His various businesses have been consolidated into Gordon Ramsay Holdings Limited.



Comfort for Your Fingertips

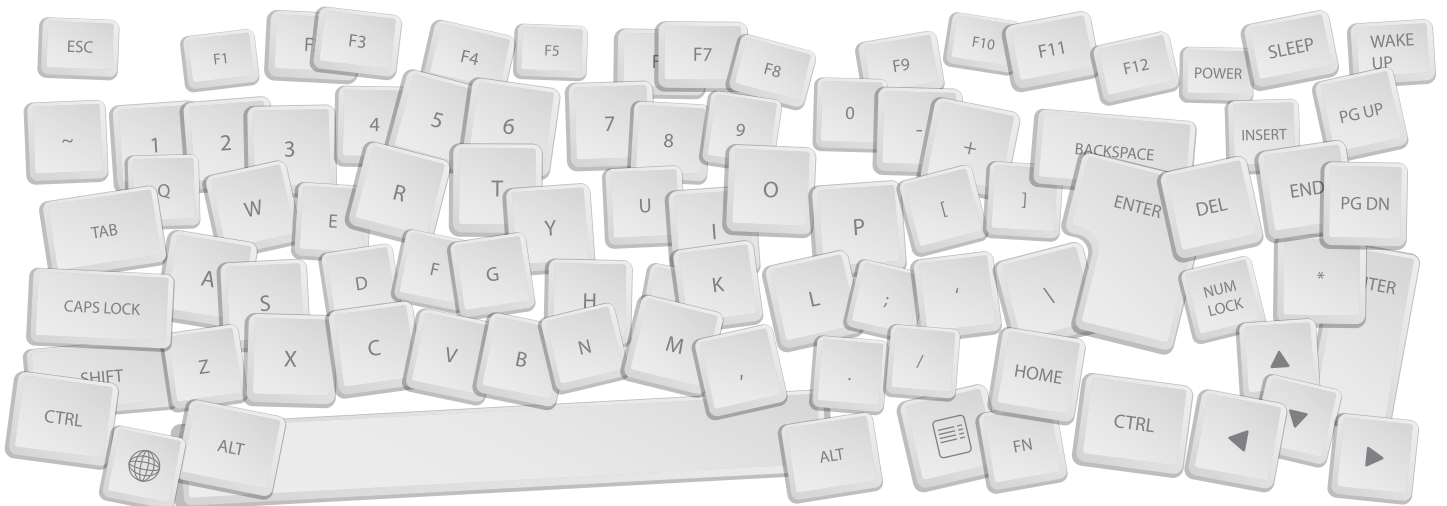
Chiu Believe (2A)

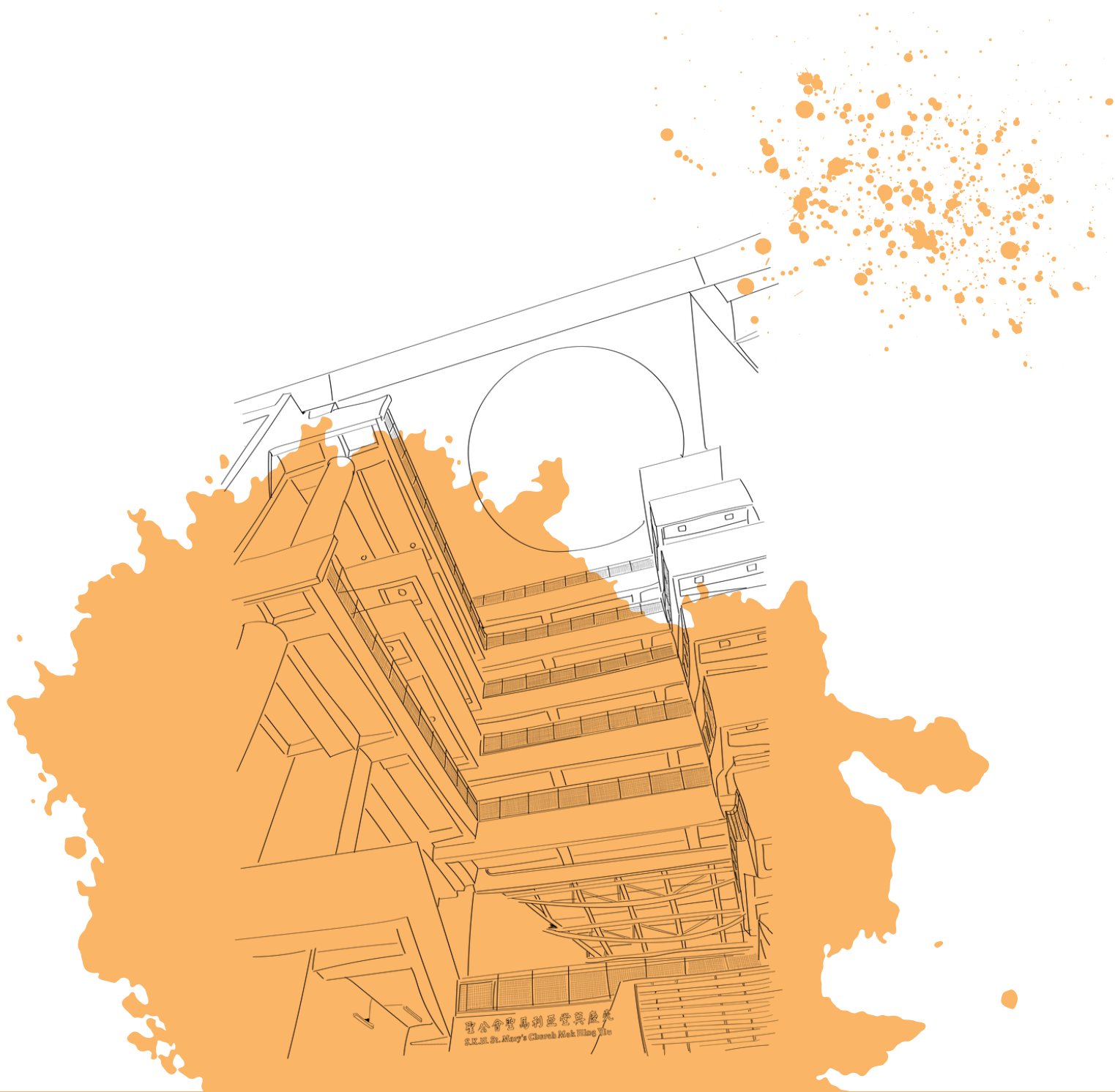
How much do you know about custom keyboards? Keyboards have been around since the late 1860s, beginning with the invention of the typewriter. Which slowly made its way to the now common black, thin membrane keyboard. The first creation of a custom keyboard is still a mystery, but it started becoming popular around 2012. Unlike the black membrane keyboards, custom keyboards often use a mechanical switch. Membrane keyboards use rubber domes which then make contact to a receiver on the keyboard and register as a key press. While mechanical keyboards use a spring-loaded mechanism to press a switch, therefore resulting in a more satisfying and more customizable switch.

A keyboard can sound different depending on how you want to modify it, with the differences typically being referred as thock and clack in the custom keyboard community. Thock is described as low pitch and deep while

clack is described as higher pitch and 'clacky'. But a single component doesn't make a keyboard clacky or thocky, to make a keyboard clacky or thocky you need to think about what switches, stabilizers, keycaps, plate, pcb and case you use. But the thickness of the plate, pcb and the type of switch you use also matters. You can also lubricate the switch to make it sound better and smoother. And sometimes the price can go up to thousands of dollars depending on what part you choose, as a result, many people go for more budget options.

Overall, getting into custom keyboards is a complicated and sometimes expensive hobby and you will encounter many problems like the stabilizers rattling, waiting due to group buys and items not being in stock. Despite the large cost and long waiting time, I think this is still a very interesting and entertaining hobby for people to get into and spend their free time on.





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