

2023-2024



BUDDHIST HO NAM KAM COLLEGE

Horizons

HNK

NEWSLETTER





ENGLISH READING

The English Department held a book fair to promote the importance of reading and to cultivate a reading culture in the school. This year's book fair offered a rich variety of books that cater to diverse interests, genres, and age groups. From fiction to non-fiction, children's literature to academic resources, poetry to graphic novels, and travel to art books, students can find a wide assortment of genres and topics to explore. The book variety ensures that there is something for everyone, creating an enriching and engaging experience for all book lovers.

READING



JUNGLE
ASTRONOMY
DICTIONARY



ENGLISH ACTIVITIES



Learning IS FUN



In order to enhance students' English learning journeys, our school offers a variety of educational opportunities within and beyond the classroom, aiming to maximize their utilization and exposure to the language. Our objective is to establish a genuine English environment that boosts students' motivation and curiosity, while also fostering the development of advanced English skills. These activities create a dynamic and immersive learning environment, bridging the gap between classroom learning and practical usage of English.

74TH SPEECH FESTIVAL

Every year, students from different levels and abilities participate in the Speech Festival organized by the Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association. Through the preparation for the competition, students improve their language skills, pronunciation, and expressive communication. By memorizing and reciting poems, students also enhance their memory and retention abilities. From this experience, we hope students can develop an appreciation for literature, learn to analyze and interpret poems, and gain confidence in performing in front of others.



TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT DAY



Our school is honoured to have hosted the 2022-2023 Annual Joint-school English Teachers' Development Day with 11 participating schools from the Hong Kong Buddhist Association. The seminar revolved around ways to implement 'Reading' in the classroom. We were pleased to have invited Ms. Rebecca Yip and Mr. Robert Burton as the guest speakers of the seminar. English Panel Heads also had the opportunity to gather and share different strategies they have implemented in their respective schools. All-in-all, it was a very informative and fruitful day!

COFFEE TIME

ALUMNI Q & A

Ho Ka Yee, an alumnus of our school, developed a strong affinity for coffee during her secondary school days when she had her first cup. Since then, her love for coffee has only grown. Currently, she operates her own coffee studio where she conducts workshops to teach fellow coffee enthusiasts the art of crafting the perfect cup of coffee.

We are students from Buddhist Ho Kam College and we are honoured to be here at your studio to be doing this Q&A interview for our English Horizons Newsletter. Let's get started with our first question. What made you decide to become a barista?

Tse Hiu Ting

Ho Ka Yee

After graduating from secondary school, I found myself confused. Instead of immediately enrolling in further studies, I took a gap year to explore my career options. During that time, I came across a poster advertising a one-month barista course by chance. It sparked my interest, and I embarked on this journey, which has now been seven years.


Wow, so you are quite experienced in this field! I know many friends and classmates who are interested in becoming a barista. So, what qualities do you think are important for a barista to possess?

Huang Wing Yin


Being a barista requires resiliency and adaptability. Working in the catering industry in Hong Kong can be challenging. You often come across customers from diverse backgrounds so it's crucial to know how to effectively communicate and connect with them. Additionally, being proactive in both the learning and working process is essential to us if we want to be the best that we can be.

All you NEED is Coffee






These soft skills are undoubtedly important in any job. What about hard skills like language? How important is English in your field? What are some ways that helped you to improve your English?




English plays a vital role in the coffee industry. When you enter a café, the menus and descriptions of the coffee and coffee beans are usually in English. This compelled me to improve my English skills. I tried to learn through language apps and watching videos online. I would practice pronouncing words out loud after watching them. To expand my vocabulary, I would also watch coffee related videos and read news articles in my free time. It was helpful to know the language especially during my trip to Ethiopia where I travelled to source the best coffee beans in the world!




We know that improving your English was quite challenging, but besides this, what are the other challenges that you face in your job?


Initially, the most challenging aspect was effectively communicating with people and consistently making high-quality coffee. However, as I progressed in my career and became a teacher, the difficulty shifted to effectively conveying ideas and teaching in a professional and efficient manner.



As students, we rarely drink coffee. So, which coffee would you recommend for our students who are trying coffee for their first time?



Haha! When I was a teenager, I used to drink instant coffee. But now, as a barista, I would suggest trying a Mocha. It's a blend of coffee and chocolate, resulting in a sweet and enjoyable taste. Mocha is a great option for teenagers who are new to coffee and want to explore different flavors. Let me make you guys a cup right now!



Thank you for inviting us to come to your coffee studio to do this interview! It was nice meeting you!