

Tanghin Voice :

FALL

2024

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ENGLISH IS FUN!

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The First English Speaking Week

The first English-speaking week was held from the 23rd to the 27th of September, and needless to say, I had a great time. The theme of the week was **Sustainable Development**. There were four booths set up beside the Tang Hin statue, each with a few English Ambassadors to challenge students with a speaking task. Participants

gave a one-minute presentation about issues related to clean energy, responsible consumption and climate action. Students, especially those in form 1 and form 2 participated enthusiastically, which I was delighted to see. As one of the English Ambassadors, I was working at one of the booths and noticed that most participants expressed their creative ideas well. With the hints and encouragement provided by the Ambassadors, even those who were a bit shy successfully conveyed their message. In the end, they got a prize and gained a point for the interclass competition. The prizes at the counters ran out quickly! Everyone had something to say about sustainable development and that meant that everyone has the potential to play a part in protecting the environment. This activity has raised students' awareness related to this issue and at the same time, gave them a chance to practice their English. It was a memorable experience!



The English Society

The recent annual general meeting of the English Society was a resounding success, with over a hundred students gathered in the Lecture Theatre! The members enjoyed playing games and dancing to popular English songs, creating an energetic and lively atmosphere. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to connect and have fun with English. We're excited to announce that more engaging activities are on the horizon and we thank everyone who participated and contributed to making this event memorable. We can't wait for what's next!



The English Society

HUA ZHANG POETRY PENMANSHIP COMPETITION

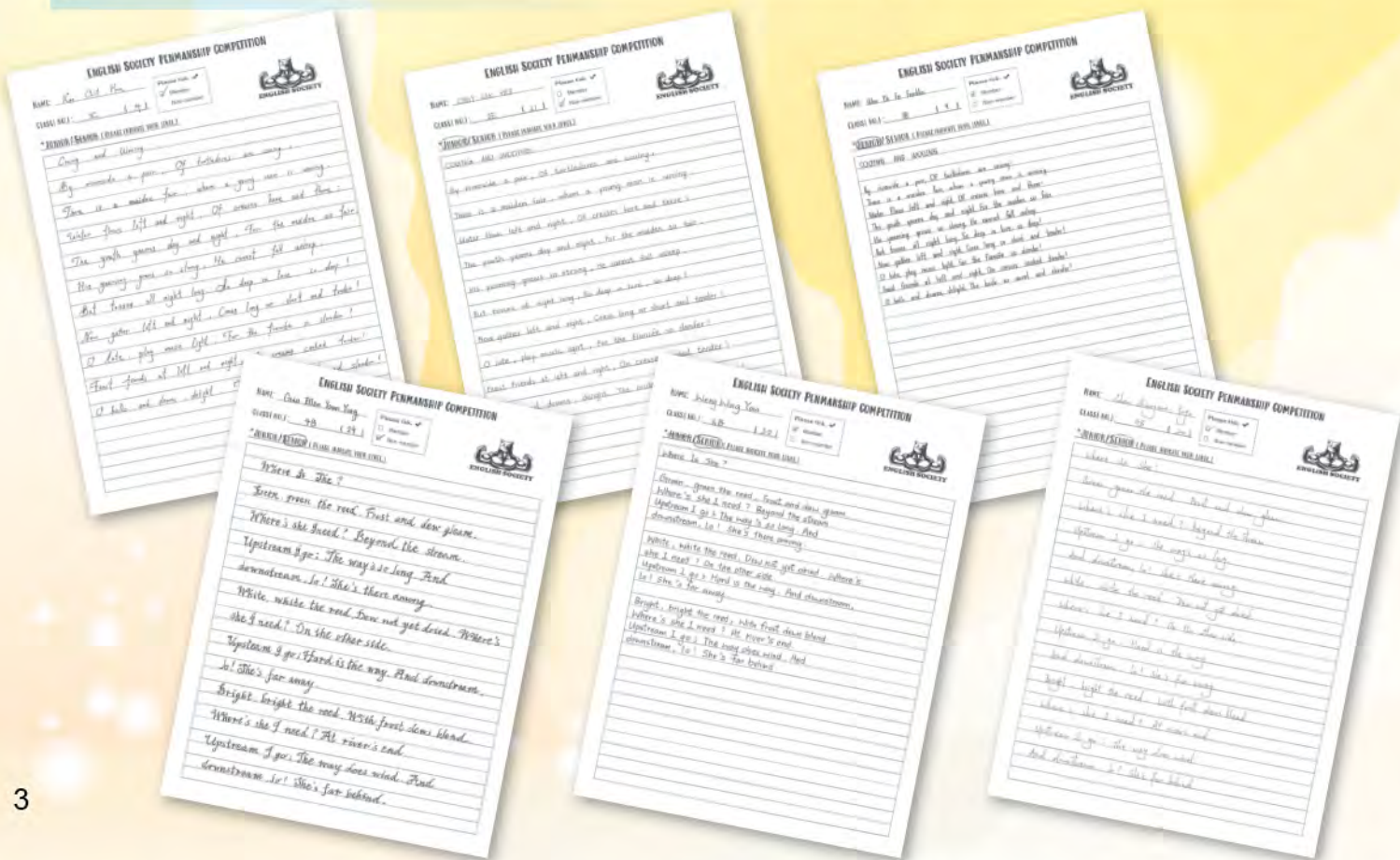


A PENMANSHIP COMPETITION THAT CELEBRATES THE ELEGANCE OF WRITING

Whether you're a seasoned calligrapher or a beginner, express your artistic flair and immerse yourself in the charms of traditional poetry! Participants will transcribe excerpts from *The Book of Songs (Shi Jing)*, showcasing their calligraphy skills and appreciation for classical literature.

Junior (S1-3): Cooling and Warming
Senior (S4-6): Where is She?
Champion: One for each group
Runner-up: One for each group
Third Place: One for each group
Encouragement Award: Five for each group

JUNIOR/SENIOR * 25/10-4/11 * WELCOME ALL



English Reading & Writing Club

Do you know anything about the English Reading & Writing Club? It is a relatively new club established in 2022. We are dedicated to motivating and encouraging students to learn English through fun reading and writing. Instead of doing typical writing assignments, we hold many exciting and integrative activities in hopes of drawing students' attention to learning the beauty of the language. For instance, the most welcoming activity was held in 2023,

Room Escape. The committee members designed a series of riddle solving tasks based on the selected literature 'Alice in Wonderland'. Schoolmates were engaged in the mystery and tried to solve the tasks to find the way out. The iconic publication of our club, which is the seasonal issue, encompasses book, song and poem recommendations and creative stories written by our club members. Don't miss our next issue!



English Debating and Public Speaking Club

We are a vibrant community devoted to enhancing students' communication and critical thinking skills. We have participated in various competitions and achieved excellent results. Our club offers a supportive environment for Tanghinians where they can engage in stimulating debates, improve their public speaking abilities, and build confidence. Through our debating training courses, student-led speaking sessions and friendly matches, our members are trained to express their ideas critically and eloquently. We always strive for excellence and it is our goal to help all members experience the excitement of public speaking and debating!



English Drama Club



The English Drama Club put on an original play 'Fly with you' in the school hall as one of the school's 40th Anniversary Open Day performances. It is a story about two past students, Lucas and Jessica running into each other at the airport ten years after their graduation. They recount their school life and talk about how the school nurtured their talents and shaped them into who they are today. Under the guidance and support from their teachers and peers, they are able to make their dreams take off like a plane. In the end, they light each other's path to success.

We would like to send the message that with a good learning atmosphere provided by the school as well as our confidence and determination, we can overcome any obstacles lying ahead of us and lead a fruitful life.

MAKING A POINT

SCIENCE : Does Life Exist Outside of Earth?

Ocean, Cheuk Kwan Hoi (SA) 2023-2024

For a long time, the very idea of extraterrestrial life has mesmerized us. We have been imagining what aliens would look like, how they would occupy foreign planets, what language they would speak, and perhaps many more things about them. Some of us laugh off this “ridiculous” idea, while others insist they do exist. In my view, the existence of extraterrestrial life is highly probable.

To begin with, there are numerous sites in the universe where chemical reactions leading to life can occur. Before going into detail, let us delve into the primordial soup – an experimentally proven hypothetical condition regarding the origin of life. This hypothesis states that life on Earth originates from organic compounds which continuously form and react in a hot and humid condition, in which vital molecules are built. Today we know for certain that specific substances and an appropriate environment initiate life. If these substances are found on planets with such environments, it proves that life exists. Substances such as atoms that can undergo reactions to produce organic compounds are quite abundant in the universe. In fact, hydrogen, oxygen and carbon are the 1st, 3rd and 4th most abundant in the universe respectively. Factually speaking, regarding the environment, a considerable number of planets like the Proxima Centauri B are speculated to be inhabitable. This implies that many hot and humid

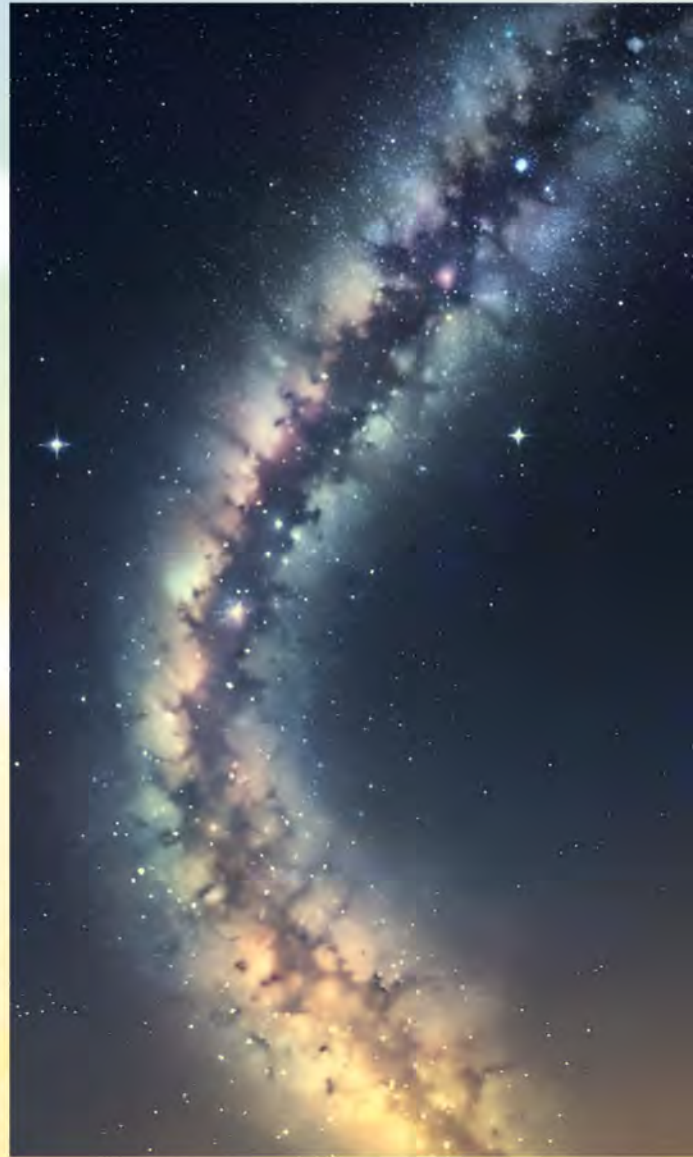
places allow the synthesis of vital substances. Therefore, we can safely assert that life outside Earth is distinctly possible due to the abundant conditions.

Also, putting theories aside, we have detected unusual signals or phenomena that potentially indicate the existence of life outside of Earth. On Mars, methane is chemically unstable; yet this gas has been continuously detected there. This is remarkable because it shows that some methane-producing microorganisms called methanogens could be living on Mars. Also, some bacteria-like structures have been noticed in a meteorite fragment known as ALH84001, which is estimated to have originated from the planet. All these events tell us that it is highly likely that life exists on Mars. But what about other places? In fact, the “Wow!” signal, which is a drastic, unusual peak of a narrowband signal, has been detected somewhere in the Sagittarius constellation. With so many signs discovered, we can say that life outside of Earth is not only theoretically feasible, but practically possible.



Some people think that it is irrational to believe in the existence of aliens because the very concept is bred from pure imagination. They cite old religions trying to explain natural phenomena like tsunamis as 'the interference from God' and being refuted by scientific deductions. However, unlike deities, the potential of foreign life is supported or extrapolated by scientific observations and experiments, which then tell us that those hypotheses are scientifically plausible. For instance, we conclude that Mars might well harbour life, not just because of the 'Martian' fairy tale but also because of what we have discovered there, like layers of ice, regeneration of certain unstable gases, and many more. Therefore, we should not blindly reject the possibility of the existence of alien life.

To conclude, even though we might not be absolutely certain about alien life, the potential of their existence is very high. We might even find more pieces of evidence with the advancements in technology and ever-improving knowledge, so sit back and see for yourself as it all unfolds.



MUSIC :

An Exceptional, Uncompromising and Unique Piece of Rock Music

Tiger, Shuai Yucheng (4A) 2023-2024



Ok Computer is the third studio album by the English Alternative rock band Radiohead. It was recorded in 1996 and 1997, with their producer Nigel Godrich, and was released on 21 May 1997. The album features the band's unique style and unconventional way of presenting music. It demonstrates the profound sense of social alienation, fatalism, isolation and melancholy experienced in a world full of influences brought by capitalism, consumerism and egoism. Through ambiguous lyrics, exquisite sounds and affectionate

emotions, the album creates room in which the audience can immerse themselves and feel what music can offer.

The album consists of 12 songs, each presenting a specific theme. For example, the 2nd song, "Paranoid Android", tells the story of a young lost man going through depression as well as his inner confrontation and constant confusion with things like social norms. The song is well-structured, not only by its arrangement of music but also by its development of emotions from confusion and anger to sorrow and depression. "Paranoid Android" takes the audience away to a designated house of feelings. This is also accomplished in other songs in the album, showing clearly how the artists feel about life.

In terms of musical attributes, the album makes use of innovative production and recording techniques, such as natural reverberation and no audio separation. The band's one-of-a-kind method of manipulation of notes and musical instruments successfully fuses different music forms and traditional alternative rock styles altogether. The album acts more as a project than a product to be sold, for it breaks the boundaries and stereotypes of how consumers think about rock and contemporary British alternative music. The album is great because it does not conform to the mainstream and popular rock music market. It embarks on a road which differs itself from commercialization, and gears itself more towards self-expression and art.

I was massively inspired by this album. The emotions it induces are contagious and the

messages are often indirectly conveyed. Instead of singing out what they want to express straightforwardly, the composers imply it in their own way. In the song "Fitter Happier", it puts forth seemingly positive things that one can imagine living in a modern society, such as "better relationships with associate employees", "going to the gym regularly", and "pragmatism, not idealism". The album presents a diagnosis of society for what it was, and depicts what the artists think about the present lifestyle – repetitive and unemotional. Life in general is repetitive as people tend to pursue a stable and healthy lifestyle which somehow becomes distorted in a peculiar way and somehow never changes over time. It is unemotional as the ethos relentlessly pushes every person's lifestyle towards "the standard" for all, regardless of their individuality. This is also the main message of the album, despite its ambiguity – how modern life brings worry and depression to the composers. The way of demonstrating a point or thinking this vaguely makes me love the album. You would not want to focus on the lyrics and think about them or try to figure them all out. Instead, all you do is immerse yourself softly into the music.

Ok Computer is hence a magnificent album, a 10/10. Being critically praised and recognized, it has left a strong mark on the history of rock music. However, what appeals to me the most is not how great or important it is to the music industry. I love it because it is so emotionally driven. I love it because it deeply strikes my heart. I love it because it is an exceptional, uncompromising and unique piece of rock music.

HUMANITY : A Mixture of Good and Evil

Abby, Zhang Fangyu (5A) 2023-2024

It's a misleading oversimplification to believe that people are innately "good" or "evil". This concept underpins that "bad" people commit misdeeds since they are intrinsically "bad", and they should be locked away so that they can't harm others with their "evil" behaviour. Among the wars throughout history, this idea causes certain groups to believe that they are fighting against an "evil" enemy and that once the "evil" people have been killed, peace and goodness will arrive. Actually, humans are complex integrations of both "good" and "evil". Rather than being intrinsic, most ruthless behaviours are due to environmental factors. Moreover, humans are managing to reach equipoise by counterbalancing "evil" with "good".

First, "good" and "evil" are a pair of concepts. If there is a definition of "good", things that don't fit the definition are defined as "evil" subsequently – it's like if you win a game, there must be someone to lose it. Thus, good and evil cannot exist alone. In the classic novel *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Jekyll believes that "man is not truly one, but truly two", and while he is aware of his good side, he also acknowledges there is evil within him. Even prisoners who have behaved cruelly and mercilessly can be rehabilitated and eventually display good qualities such as empathy and kindness. Everyone has a little good in them and everyone has a little bad in them. The story shows that humans are a mix of good and evil. This leads us to the second point – change.

How one behaves is subject to change due to environmental factors, such as an abusive childhood, or social interaction with families or peers. For children, unmet physical or mental needs are often triggers for behaviours of concern. For instance, a hungry child may become irritable or disruptive, while a loveless child may throw tantrums or become uncooperative. When they grow up, they may encounter problems in socializing or regulating their emotions. Feelings of isolation, neglect, or lack of a supportive social network can lead to aggression, withdrawal or depression. As a result, the environment may play a role to change a good person into an evil one.



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hycle

Humans strive to encourage good and dampen evil. In the novel, Dr. Jekyll believes that it is the "curse of mankind" that good and evil are bound together within him, and the two parts are in direct conflict with one another. Hyde's sinister presence and actions are constant reminders of the power of evil throughout the story. This highlights the idea of an innate duality and the implications of giving into one's own evil side. Hence, if we pay more attention to the goodness of society, we can make it fairer and freer for all and stop it from devolving into societal chaos. Governments all over the world, companies and schools have been putting a

lot of effort into promoting these values, which propel social cohesion.

In conclusion, neither good nor evil can eliminate the other once and for all because they exist in pairs. What humans are trying to do is to head towards goodness: to see beyond the superficial differences in race, gender or nationality and relate to a common human essence beneath them. Although it is a long journey for humanity to totally restrain from doing evil as some natural impulses are hard to reject, believing in goodness isn't sentimental or improbable. We can make a better world.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS :

Breaking Stereotypes, Building Empathy

Sarah, Zhou Ning Xuan (4A) 2023-2024



Artwork by Sarah Zhou

Stereotyping against Asian students has become a conspicuous issue around the world. There has been an overgeneralized belief that all youngsters within Asia share the same characteristics, some of which are negative while others are seemingly positive. Stereotypes are everywhere and, by virtue of this fact, affect various aspects of Asian students' lives, such as their academic performance, social life, and mental health. In other words, they impose limitations on students, assign them roles that do not necessarily suit them, and make it harder for them to be their true selves.

To commence with, stereotypes adversely affect Asian students' academic performance. The

stereotype of studious Asian youngsters who are academic overachievers, often in math and science, has long been entrenched in overseas education systems. While this might seem to be a compliment, the truth is that it is a burden for Asian students as if it prompts them to live up to the image of being a whiz-kid, which in turn effects their overall academic performance. For example, in one research study of Asian-American high school and college-aged students, Asian-American students reported more symptoms of stress and depression. Teachers expect Asian students to fit a certain stereotype. For students who are good at math and science, they are confined to being polished in math and science. As for mediocre students, the misconception imposes immense stress on them. Moreover, stereotypes hinders students' ability to do well in other subjects and thus impacts their overall academic performance.

On top of that, stereotypes cause severe social problems for Asian students. Asian students are sometimes perceived as socially inept nerds, either lacking social skills or being asocial. They may feel invisible and irrelevant because they lack the English conversations abilities when they move to the west. The feeling that Asians are foreign and invisible dates back centuries. Worse still, the belief that Asians are perpetually inferior foreigners seems to affect students at schools in the west. For example, Asian students gain less support from class and feel isolated because of stereotyping. In this case, stereotyping can do serious damage to Asian students' social ability,

causing discrimination and even limiting their potential.

In addition, destructive emotional stress for students can be resulted from stereotyping. On the one hand, the "model minority" symbol prompts teachers to have especially high expectations for their Asian students. Students thus feel an enormous amount of pressure to live up to these standards, causing their mental health to suffer tremendously. On the other hand, if they are perceived as nerds, they will gain less support from others or even suffer from unfairness and discrimination. This undoubtedly buries their true selves and causes mental destruction.

In light of the above, we should no longer disregard this problem but take action to eliminate the undesirable effects caused by stereotyping. Recognizing the potential damage is the first step. If you are on the receiving end of a stereotype, don't be afraid to speak up and change people's mindsets. Treat youngsters in the same way regardless of race, as stereotypes not only limit their academic and social development but also bury their true selves. Let us all embrace differences and strive for a more inclusive society and for a brighter future.



DESTINY : Fate and Free Will

Hilda, Chan Wing Tung (5A) 2023-2024

What are you having for lunch today? Rice? Noodles? Fast food? Do you have the free will to choose what you want to get for lunch, or is choosing to have McDonald's today already scripted in your life? Many believe that our lives were predetermined the second we were born, and whatever is to be will inevitably occur no matter how hard we try to change our fate. This is "destiny". Some say that every choice we make is our fate, while some think that the outcome in our lives is the result of our choices. I do believe that we have the freedom to choose and make our lives different. Still, I do not think that how things turn out in the end is solely determined by our choices.

In my view, fate is what the universe brings us, and free will is how we choose to react to whatever lies ahead. Happiness, opportunities, challenges and failures are predestined. No matter what we do, they will come to us sooner or later. This kind of fate is inevitable. Imagine starting a business on your own. You earn millions of dollars and you become one of the richest people in the world. Suddenly, the stock market crashes and you lose almost all your money. What will you do then? This is when free will steps in. Will you "accept your fate" and be defeated by this for the rest of your life? Will you choose to see this as a chance to learn and get back on your feet? The decision is in your hands. Whether we can be successful or at least happy in life is entirely up to us. Fate brings the unexpected, and we have the free will to make decisions and respond to them.



Free will without fate is like spirit without matter, good without evil. The only significant difference between these two is the thinking process and the experience that guides us in the right direction of the cause-and-effect process. In the early stage of our lives, we are made to believe that everything is predetermined. But as we become conscious of the world around us, we feel that we are always free not to identify ourselves with the established norms and regulations. Fate leads us to paths where we learn valuable lessons, which come in handy when we make choices in the future.

“What goes around comes around.” I’m sure everyone has heard of this saying. It means the way that we behave now will affect how we will be treated in the future. Some people believe that this proves that there is only fate in the world. It is destined for good things to come to good people and bad things to get back at bad people. One can never avoid bad karma. However, do they really not have a choice? Kind people are not destined to have better luck. They are not destined to be happier than other people. The only difference between them and the rest of us is that they can appreciate the good in everything. They choose to spread positivity and make others happy. Eventually, those people they helped repay them by doing something good for them. Even if no one helps them back, the happiness brought by doing good deeds keeps them moving forward in life. With such a positive attitude, they see every good opportunity in life and seize them. On the contrary, bad people are so invested in setting

people up for failure to make themselves feel better that they miss the opportunities to have a better life. These people constantly dwell on the misfortunes of the past and miss out on the good in the present. It is our choice to have a good destiny or not.

Fate and free will are the two sides of the same coin. We are brought to certain situations by fate and we have the free will to decide whether to make good use of them. It was fate that brought you to this piece of writing, but it was your choice to read it till the very end. In the face of obstacles, stop telling yourself that it is fate. You can take action to get out of the woods by yourself and not by fate. “There are those who say fate is something beyond our command. That destiny is not our own. But I know better. Our fate lives within us. You only have to be brave enough to see it.” This is a quote from the movie Brave. It reminds all of us that although we can’t control what comes to us, our life is still in our hands.



CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you solve the following riddles written by your schoolmates?
The answers are on the back!

1
Why can't dinosaurs clap?
Gaby Lee (5B)

2
What do you call a man with
no body and no nose?
Athena Yip (5D)

3
What has four reels and flies?
Ricky Wang (4B)

4
The first-half is jiggly, my second-half is healthy. They both
taste yummy, but you can't eat me as a whole. I do not have
a heart, but I can still relax in my beautiful sea. What am I?
Abby Tsang (4B)

5
What is considered the enemy
in every sport?
Auston Chan (4A)

6
What is the smartest insect?
Howard Ye (4B)

7
What kind of ball doesn't
bounce?
Samuel Lin (4B)

8
How do you call a person
without a nose?
Sonia Zheng (4A)

9
Do you know the difference
between a plane and a prince?
Angel Zhang (4A)

10
Who is the poorest person
in a bank?
Evan Hui (4A)

11
What is a secondary
PC called?
Evan Hui (4A)

12
What do you call a bee
in America?
Corolin Cao (4A)

13
What are limited time
exercises?
Kingsley Lam (4A)

14
What animal is so strong that it
can lift up a car?
Minnie Ng (5D)

15
Tomato mummy and tomato baby walked along the
street. Tomato baby walked too slow and was left
behind. What would tomato mummy say?
Cici He (5B)

Answers :

1. Because they don't exist! / 2. Nobody knows! /
3. A garbage truck / 4. A jellyfish / 5. The weather /
6. A spelling bee / 7. A snowball / 8. No ONE nose /
9. One is in the air and the other is a heir / 10. A broker /
11. A PCB / 12. A USB (bee) / 13. Tests and exams /
14. A crane / 15. "Ketchup Ketchup"

"Beauty is diverse! This represents a form of expression in collage art and it transforms the originally monochrome facial features of The Statue of David into something colourful and different. It is another new form of expression that breaks the boundaries of traditional artistic styles."



Artwork by Ellen Guo 4B (2024-2025)

明道立德

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