

# What's UP?

STFA LKKE English Newspaper



Opening Ceremony



Say "Hi!" to our NEW teachers



Public Speaking Team

*We are back with a brand new team! Besides promoting the use of English in school, we hope to see more of you enjoying reading in English, so please enjoy this first issue of the year! Happy reading!*

## School Opening Day Ceremony - a new start!

The School Opening Ceremony kicked off on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. No one was more excited than the new Form 1 students, eager to see what lay ahead. It was a good start when we saw them all properly lined up for their first ever gathering with the whole school in the hall.

As always, the term began with the revisiting and promoting of the school's focus in our 3-year Areas of Concern plan – *Enlightened Mind Paved with Time. Enriched Life Brimmed with Sublime*. Our principal, Mr Ying gave a warm welcome to everyone, encouraging us to do our best, be our best and show our best while keeping in mind the areas of concern. Our vice-principal, Mr Tse and assistant principal, Mr Lo also reminded us that not only should we do our best in our studies, but we should also grow in spirit and values – such as finding that meaning in what we do and doing things step by step in helping to actualize our dreams.

Apart from new F1 students, we have several new English teachers this year, new lab technicians and a new Maths/Economics teacher. We were also informed that we would have a newly renovated library soon. We look forward to it very much!

Speaking of new things, we also have a revised timetable, specifically the Reading Period, which has been moved to the morning with more reading time. So, LKKEers, let's make best use of this opportunity and continue to push ourselves to read read read!

We can't forget to mention what's new in every classroom this year - the smartboard! The traditional blackboard is useful but we can't deny that having a smartboard is definitely a lot more convenient and very useful. It complements the traditional blackboard. Hopefully, students will be more motivated to learn better.

While we have many new additions and revisions, one thing remains the same - our LKKE spirit. The term has already begun and we are proud to see students brimming with joy as they get ready for Sports Day! Go, go, cheering teams! And go go, LKKEers! May we all enjoy this new school year, striving for the best!

## Interviewing a new teacher— Mr. Yim, Dexter Gareth

5C Tang Tsz Him &amp; 4B Tang Tsz

**Q: Thank you for your time to do this with us, Mr Yim. First of all, why did you choose to become a teacher?**

**A:** It's a long story. The main reason was that I wanted to inspire students to become better people in society and help them achieve their goals as they grow up. When I was in secondary school, there was a brief moment when I felt depressed and hopeless due to academic pressure, but my English teacher, Ms Law, assisted me with my studies after school in order to improve my grades. Her dedication and perseverance inspired me to pursue a career in teaching.



**Q: What are your impressions of LKKC so far?**

**A:** The way I see it, this school has a strong focus on science. Students tend to excel in Mathematics and science-related subjects. However, based on my observations, there is room for improvement in their English skills. That being said, LKKC is a renowned school not only in Tuen Mun, but also in Hong Kong— that's why I want to give myself a chance in teaching band one students and motivate them more!

**Q: Could you share how you have been implementing digital devices and online platforms during teaching?**

**A:** Using online platforms for teaching is a new experience to me. For instance, I have started using *LoiLoNote* to explore its potential. I am currently in the process of learning how to effectively integrate IT platforms and devices into my teaching to enhance student learning. One approach I have adopted is converting my notes into digital files, making them more accessible to students and organised for them to revise. I have also been incorporating multimodal texts — such as utilizing short videos as teaching aids, to enhance student engagement. These videos, with their audio and visual elements, capture students' interest and stimulate their thinking, moving beyond plain text.

**Q: What challenges do you expect to face in your teaching and how do you plan to overcome them?**

**A:** In this day and age, some students lack motivation when it comes to learning English. They believe they can quickly excel in subjects like Mathematics, but struggle with comprehending authentic texts or engaging in conversations in English. As a result, their English proficiency remains stagnant and they fail to reach a higher level. I reckon that I need to devise innovative ways to motivate students to learn English as a part of their daily lives, rather than solely focusing on exams. Take writing, for instance. It is crucial for students to grasp the significance of developing their writing skills as a means of expressing their thoughts, ideas, and emotions. As the saying goes, slow progress is still progress. By immersing themselves in the language, they will eventually achieve remarkable results.

**Q: Is there anything that you would like to say to LKKC students?**

**A:** Pursue your dreams, regardless of the challenges you may face. Although it may take time to accomplish your goals, the sense of satisfaction upon your achievement is invaluable. Also, your success can inspire those around you.

## Interview with a new teacher—Mr Yiu Chi Hung

4B Cheung Aidan

### Q: Which subject and forms do you teach in LKKC?

A: I actually teach quite a few forms but mainly, I teach regular English in F.3 and 4. I also teach the X3 classes in F.5 - those who dropped electives and I handle one of their classes. I also teach EICs in F.4 and 1.

### Q: What do you think of LKKCers so far?

A: I think that the students in LKKC know what they want. They are very goal-oriented and at the same time I believe that most of them are quite diligent.

### Q: Why did you choose to become a teacher?

A: When I was young, I thought that my teachers were kind of like my role models. But that wasn't really the case when it all started. I think it all started when I was studying for my master degree in Literature because half of my classmates were teachers, so what happened was that they somehow inspired me to follow their footsteps. They were quite passionate about their jobs. During that period, my classes were held at night from 6pm to 9pm. They looked tired but at the same time, they were more than happy to talk about their job, their careers, their teaching and other things. I felt that the pleasant learning environment in schools and teachers' passion are the things that made me start my career!

### Q: Why did you choose to teach in LKKC specifically?

A: Well, there are a few reasons. One is that I actually like the environment in the New Territories after having taught in quite a few schools in other areas. I've taught in schools on Hong Kong Island, and in Kowloon and New Territories. I feel that the students in the New Territories are more genuine and they're more open about their needs. I think they like to look up to their teachers and are eager to look for their teachers to help them in comparison to students in Kowloon who prefer to work on their own. Besides, LKKC is a school from STFA and I was actually looking for a school with a similar background organized by an association from China.



### Q: What advice would you give to students who are struggling with English?

A: I'll say read more and listen more. Also try to imitate those who are better than you. Try to make their English "yours".

## Public Speaking Team

5D Ko Yan Kiu

With the resumption of club activities following post-pandemic schedules, this year the Public Speaking Department (English section) has initiated a goal to recoup LKKC's participation in activities and competitions whilst improving students' performance in public speaking. This year, the teachers leading the Public Speaking Team are Mr. Lai Ho Lam and Ms. Jasmine Ho. With their expertise in coaching, we look forward to exciting experiences with them and joining events that are for offer this coming year.

Now that the pandemic is over, the newly established team can finally work to resume the atmosphere of English learning and rejoin the competitive spirit. Many of you may be curious as to what the team has to offer - to put it simply, the main aim is to help students gain positive attributes such as enhanced communication skills, the ability to foster critical thinking, and nurturing leadership qualities which are vital for students' personal and professional growth, preparing them for success in their future endeavors.

It is understandable the years consumed during lockdown caused some students to have retreated back into their shells - especially when it comes to something that requires face-to-face interactions, such as public speaking. To aid students in regaining unbounded confidence in abilities such as presenting in a public setting, teachers in charge of public speaking are planning to hold class-based internal competitions as well as external competitions through collaborations in competitions with other schools. In preparing speeches or presentations, it will be an experience where students will be able to learn how to think critically, evaluate evidence, and construct logical arguments. These vital skills enable students to approach information critically, distinguishing reliable sources from dubious ones, and ultimately enhancing their ability to make informed decisions.

You can also expect to see activities similar in nature to TED talks. By exploring different rhetorical techniques and employing compelling arguments, it is hoped that students are taught in becoming adept at influencing others' opinions and beliefs. This valuable skill not only lends itself to academic environments, such as debates and presentations, but also prepares students to be effective advocates in their future careers. Besides these activities, much more will be coming up, so be sure to look forward to the Public Speaking Team!

### **Interviewing a new teacher - Miss Tang Yee Ting**      4B Lim Yue Wing, Andrea   2B Szeto Hei Lam

**L: Hi, good afternoon Miss Tang. Thank you for meeting with us today. We're going to ask you a few questions so that students can get to know you better.**



**L: So first question - have you ever thought about doing something else other than teaching?**

**T:** That's a good question. Since I received a bachelor's degree in Law, I had thought about going back to the law industry or doing some jobs related to public policy and documents. But I find teaching quite intriguing and interesting because I get to interact with a lot of students, and I can also implement my own teaching plan, which I find really exciting. So for now, I think I will stick with teaching.

**S: What challenges have you faced in these few weeks?**

**T:** I think the challenge that I am currently facing is trying to get used to the school and the students because it's my first year of teaching straight out of university. Therefore, I need more time to know more about my students and pedagogy in teaching. However, I found it really fun to interact with students and they are really cute.

**L: And what would you say are the great challenges facing high-school graduates today?**

**T:** Well, I think for high school graduates today, the biggest challenge would be the new era of a changing society. For example, technological advancement and the changing structure of jobs. So it would be hard for teenagers to adapt and learn new things along the way.

**S: In the past few weeks that you've been teaching here, have you learnt anything that you found surprising or unexpected?**

**T:** I found that the students are quite friendly, which is quite unexpected for me because I thought students were really shy at first, but when I spent more time with them to engage them more in the lessons, they appeared to be very active, and they were also quite willing to learn. Yes, so this is the unexpected thing that I found in the school up to now.

**S: Do you have any goals that you want to achieve this year?**

**T:** Regarding the goals that I want to achieve this year, I would like to encourage the students to be in love with English because I know English is quite a difficult subject for students, and they don't really like it. However, I think by exploring different teaching methods, I hope they can be more interested in English.



**L: Last question - you mentioned that you like to read in your spare time. Do you have any book recommendations or other methods that you think will help improve students' English skills or increase their interest in English?**

**T:** Firstly, let's talk about your question about book recommendations. I really like the book *The Alchemist*. Basically, this book is a simple English fiction which is about a boy trying to explore different things to find his precious treasure. After reading this book, it will help students find their dreams and be persistent in what they're doing. And to help raise their interest in English, I think there are lots of different ways, for example, watching movies that they might like with English subtitles or learning other English skills through their interest. Students should explore their own skills and interest in English.

## Interviewing a new teacher – Miss Chong Yee Pui

5B Pan Yan Wa

**Q: Good afternoon, Miss Chong. It's a pleasure to invite you to this interview! Thank you for your time first of all! May I ask which form and subject you are teaching this year?**

**A:** Thank you for inviting me to this interview. I teach F.1 Maths, F.4 and F.5 Economics this year.

**Q: I see. To know more about you as a new teacher, is being a teacher your first choice when you were choosing your future career?**

**A:** Yes! When I was in secondary school, I had been thinking of my future path and the first option that appeared in my mind was to be a teacher. However, I was also eager to explore some more other careers before making my final decision. Therefore, I threw myself into the business field in university. Eventually, I figured out that I still had the passion to teach so I joined the education field once I got my diploma.

**Q: I'm glad to hear that you have finally become the person you want to be. Can you tell us if teaching in LKKC is your first job? Do you have any teaching experience before?**

**A:** Although LKKC is my first full-time teaching job, I gained some practical experiences working in other secondary schools before that.

**Q: I believe that there were many other secondary schools for you to choose after you graduated. Why did you choose LKKC as your first formal teaching job?**

**A:** LKKC is a school with a long history and high banding. According to my past practicum experiences, LKKC is unique. It's well-organized. I believe that I can learn more from teaching in this school in several aspects. This is a school famous for outstanding academic and sports performance so I wondered how students managed themselves so well. Therefore, I'm delighted to have the precious chance to join the LKKC family and meet all of you.

**Q: We're elated to meet the new teachers too! Do you mind telling us how you feel about LKKC students after teaching them for about a cycle?**

**A:** F.1 students are obedient and eager to learn. Their active learning attitude boosted my passion for teaching. I hope they can keep their passion for learning for the rest of the school year. Senior form students do pay attention in class although they may not speak up in lessons. As I mentioned in the LKKC campus video, I hope they can give me more responses. However, they are willing to help especially when I encounter technical issues. Some of them even ask questions after class which I appreciate a lot! Although students are quite shy and may not show much enthusiasm in responding to questions, I hope I can explore more sides of students after getting to know them more.

**Q: I'm sure that our students will open up after some time! Would you mind saying something to our students for this school year?**

**A:** While you are learning Maths and Economics, it's normal that you often make mistakes. However, taking each mistake as a note to improve while learning is more essential than becoming frustrated. One thing to remember is that if you're stressed, please find your own way to destress. You may also talk to me if you have any academic or non-academic issues.

**We're more than happy to have you for this interview. Thank you once again !**



## Interviewing a new teacher – Miss Chan Lok To

4A Kwok Ka Wing

**Q: Good afternoon, Miss Chan. It is an honour to have you with us. First of all, why did you choose to become a teacher?**

**A:** Teaching is actually my passion because I really love interacting with students and I also wanted to broaden not only my knowledge but also my understanding about world perceptions through interacting with others, so that's why I wanted to be a teacher. I can learn from my students as well. Not only do I teach them but they also teach me a lot and that's a win-win situation. I can also explore a little bit more about the new generation which can keep myself younger and that's why I wanted to be a teacher.

**Q: Which classes do you teach and what expectations do you have?**

**A:** I teach Form 4 English, 4B specifically. I'm teaching form 2 which is a mixed class of 2A and 2B students. I also teach some form 5 students who have dropped their electives. I also teach some selected Form 4 students to improve their English in the EIC class.

**Q: So, you are the class teacher and also the English teacher of 4B. What was your first impression when you met them?**

**A:** They are really obedient and also very attentive. They listen in my class and some of them even jot down notes. That's quite impressive. I could tell that they were willing to learn the first time I met them. I thought they were outstanding too as I asked them to do a presentation immediately—impromptu speech style. They were responsive as well. Although some of them were a little bit shy and passive at the beginning, later on, once I got to know them more, they are actually cheerful so I've tried to encourage them to speak more during class time. That's why I make sure we do group work and discussions in my English lessons as well.

**Q: What are your hobbies besides teaching?**

**A:** I love hiking and cycling. In my spare time, I sometimes do sports with my kids. We will cycle across the New Territories. In autumn, we usually go hiking once a week. Other than that, I love watching dramas and films.

**Q: You mentioned that you volunteered teaching around the world. Can you share one memorable experience with us?**

**A:** One memorable experience is that I taught in Albania, which is in Europe. I realized that they really hated competitions, but I always put competitions in my teaching to make my lessons more interesting. It is somehow related to their historical background. The people there always feel defeated. There were some civil wars and invasions from other countries. That's why they really hate competing. Deep inside, they always want to win. 'No more competition,' - this is what I heard from them so I changed my teaching method in the end. Instead of having competitions, I organized various workshops and also cooperative writing lessons. Later on, I built up a harmonious relationship with them. They finally understood that I did not intend to bring hatred, but to teach them English sincerely. I'm still friends with them even now. This is one of the experiences of my voluntary teaching that I remember.



**Q: Miss Chan, thank you for doing this interview. I hope LKKCers now know more about you.**

## Interviewing a new teacher – Miss Chan Kong San 4C Wong Nga Yi & 3A Kwan Sam Yau



### Self-introduction :

Hi, I'm Connie Chan Kong Sang, a recent Chemistry graduate from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I'm thrilled to be starting my first full-time job as a lab technician this year, where I'll be working on the 5th floor, preparing experiments and assisting Chemistry students.

**Q1: We are honoured to have you with us, Ms Chan. May we ask this first question - have you worked anywhere else before joining LKKC? If so, what was it about?**

**A1:** Last summer, I interned at a hair products research lab, where I assisted with product formulation modifications. The company produces and sells hair products, including bleaching and hair dyeing reagents. During my time there, I gained valuable experience creating and testing various hair products, which deepened my understanding of Chemistry in that field.

**Q2: What made you choose to work at LKKC?**

**A2:** With a background in Chemistry, I'm passionate about pursuing a career in the lab industry. Living in Tuen Mun, I was looking for job opportunities that aligned with my aspirations and minimized my daily commute. Fortunately, LKKC provided the perfect opportunity that matched my goals and location preference.

**Q3: Do you have any expectations at LKKC?**

**A3:** I'm eager to quickly adapt to my responsibilities at LKKC and become familiar with the students. I look forward to witnessing their progress in lab techniques and hope to guide them towards performing experiments efficiently and accurately.

**Q4: Is there anything you would like to say to the students at LKKC?**

**A4:** To all the science students, I hope you find joy in every experiment you perform. Your school days are precious and irreplaceable, so make the most of this unique time in your lives.

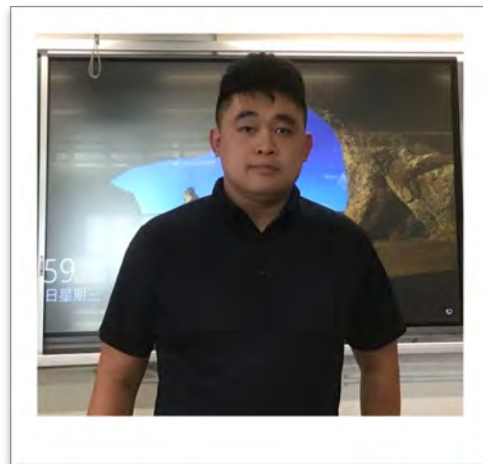
## Interviewing a new teacher – Mr Li Kin Lung 4D Wu Tsz Ching 2A Chan Wing Kiu

**Q: Good afternoon, Mr. Li. Let's start with a simple question. First of all, what is your job?**

**A:** I work as a lab technician here in LKKC. I am responsible for the Physics and Biology laboratory.

**Q: Many students are curious about your job. Could you share your daily work or responsibilities with us?**

**A:** It can't be easily described in a few words. Basically, I need to prepare experiments for students. Not only putting apparatus in the tray, but also planning ahead for all experiments before each lesson. Moreover, my job includes communicating with teachers, purchasing equipment, testing apparatus, collecting data, organizing things in group experiments, etc. There are many things to handle but the most important responsibility is to make sure that our students are safe while doing experiments.





**Q: Are there any reasons why you chose LKKC as your workplace?**

**A:** First, there is good public transport. It is really convenient for me to get to my workplace every day. Also, students in LKKC are good at studies. This may help to enrich my professional background.

**Q: What do you think about LKKC students?**

**A:** In general, I think our students are smart and polite. Although I have only been here for a few weeks, I can already feel their enthusiasm for everything. They are not only interested in studying but also passionate about different aspects of their school lives. A few days ago, I saw our students practicing their cheering team slogans for the coming Sports Day. I could tell they really enjoyed themselves so much.

**Q: Is there anything you want to say to our students as a lab technician?**

**A:** There's just one thing. Safety is the most important thing in laboratories. Therefore, students should follow every single safety precaution given by their teachers.

**Our new What's Up Team!****What's UP? Committee**

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