

# What's UP?

STFA LKKC English Newspaper



Easter



Shun Tak Trip



Foshan Cultural Immersion

## Easter: More Than Just a Holiday?

4D Leong Pui Sze Priscilla

What comes to mind when you hear the word "Easter"? Is it the thrill of egg hunts and parades, or simply a relief after the uniform tests? As secondary students, most of us are likely the latter. But apart from having a short break with friends and family, learning the traditions of Easter is also a fascinating experience to do during the holiday!

Dating back over more than 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ, one of the central figures of Christianity, was crucified in the execution, sacrificing his life to pay the penalty for human sin. When his followers were grieving after his passing, he miraculously rose from the dead three days later. To commemorate his resurrection and the promise of eternal life, Easter is celebrated worldwide on the first Sunday following the first full moon of spring every year afterwards.

But what do easter eggs and bunnies have to do with Easter? Over the centuries, the celebration styles of Easter have evolved dramatically, from holding all-night vigils in the 4th century, to practicing strict fasting for 40 days in the Middle Ages, to nowadays in which chocolate eggs and candy are in mass production due to commercialisation. Not only have the traditions undergone changes, the cultures and methods of celebration also vary wildly between countries. In Poland, there is a playful tradition where people drench each other with water. In Australia, people use the native, long-eared Billy to replace a rabbit to raise environmental awareness. In Bermuda, people fly colourful, homemade kites in the sky to symbolise the resurrection of Jesus. But no matter what, Easter is undoubtedly regarded as one of the favourite festivals among children and even adults!

Whether you celebrate Easter for its religious significance, its historical roots, or simply as a chance to enjoy a long weekend and recharge, why not take a moment to appreciate the interesting facts behind this unique festival? Perhaps you will gain more insights than you expected!



Qingming Festival is a time of clear skies and bright sunshine, when all things are in full bloom. It falls between mid-spring and late spring, a time for people to sweep tombs and pay respect to their ancestors, remembering the past and honoring the departed; they also enjoy outings in the countryside, basking in the vitality of life. A blend of sorrow and joy perfectly encapsulates the Chinese philosophy of life.

### ***The Birth and Growth of Qingming Festival***

The Qingming Festival is said to have originated from the ancient imperial "tomb worship" rituals, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty, more than 2,500 years ago. Originally, Qingming was simply the name of a solar term; its transformation into a festival commemorating ancestors is related to the Cold Food Festival.

The Cold Food Festival and Qingming Festival are two distinct festivals. During the Tang Dynasty, the day for tomb sweeping and ancestor worship was designated as the Cold Food Festival. During the Song and Yuan Dynasties, Qingming gradually rose from a subordinate position to one that replaced the Cold Food Festival. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the customs of ancestor worship and mourning for deceased relatives remained prevalent.

On May 20, 2006, the Qingming Festival, nominated by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, was approved by the State Council and included in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage lists.

### ***One Festival, Many Faces***

#### *China:*

Influenced by Han Chinese culture, many ethnic minorities in China also observe the Qingming Festival. Although customs vary from place to place, tomb sweeping and ancestor worship, as well as spring outings, are the basic themes of the festival. In addition, there are numerous outdoor recreational activities such as swinging, playing Cuju (ancient Chinese football), flying kites, planting trees, and tug-of-war, as well as food customs such as eating Zitui Yan (a type of swallow dumpling), Liluo (a type of sweet rice cake), and Qingtuan (a type of glutinous rice dumpling).



Vietnam:

Vietnam is one of the few countries in the world that uses the lunar calendar, just like China. Qingming Festival is a day for Vietnamese people to pay respect to their ancestors' graves and enjoy spring outings. Those who visit graves repair weeds, burn incense and paper money, and some offer flowers. In many places, there is also a custom of setting off firecrackers during grave sweeping. In Vietnam, the Qingming Festival is also called the Dumpling Festival. Because Qingming Festival is close in date to Hanshi Festival (Cold Food Festival), Vietnam combines the two festivals, unifying them on the third day of the third lunar month, when people eat cold foods such as dumplings or glutinous rice balls.

Korea:

In Korea, Qingming Festival falls on April 5th, but it is not a public holiday. Koreans like to offer flowers to their ancestors, placing flowers at gravesites to show their remembrance. Repairing the graves of ancestors or deceased relatives is an important part of the ceremony. Families go to the cemetery together to clear weeds and solemnly place offerings such as wine, fruit, and rice cakes before the grave, kneeling and bowing in respect.

***Relations between Qingming and Chinese Solar Terms***

Qingming Festival, besides being a traditional festival for worship of ancestors, is also one of the "Twenty-Four Solar Terms" (known as "Pure Brightness" or simply "Qingming"). The "Twenty-Four Solar Terms" are a product of ancient agricultural civilization, linked to the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches and the Eight Trigrams, with a long and rich history. The "Twenty-Four Solar Terms" not only guide agricultural production but have also influenced the clothing, food, housing, and even cultural concepts of the ancients.

With the arrival of Qingming, temperatures rise and rainfall increases, making it an excellent time for spring plowing and planting. Hence the proverbs, "Rain before Qingming means frequent spring rains." This shows the close relationship between this solar term and agricultural production.

The Qingming Festival places the cultural core of remembering ancestors and honoring our roots at the top of the agenda, serving as a spiritual bond passed down through generations of the Chinese nation. Inheriting the customs and culture of the Qingming Festival is not only about remembering and respecting our ancestors, but also recognizing and protecting our own cultural roots. Only by ensuring that these traditions continue in the new era can we remember our origins amidst change and unite our hearts as we move forward.

## F4's Educational Adventure in Shun Tak

4D Chan Wing Kiu Winky

At the beginning of the relaxing Easter holiday, our F4 students embarked on a two-day educational tour in Shun Tak. This CS trip was an invaluable experience for us to gain deeper insights into the history and culture of Shun Tak.



On the morning of 27th March, F4 students and teachers gathered with enthusiastic hearts. After completing the immigration process at Shenzhen Bay, we enjoyed a delectable lunch in a Chinese restaurant. We tried several local dishes such as crispy skin roast chicken and sweet and sour pork ribs.



The highlight was visiting Shunde No.1 High School. Students and teachers from the sister school welcomed us passionately. Students were separated into groups, and student guides led us to explore every nook and cranny of the school. The campus was enormous and was fully equipped with diverse facilities, including a spacious library, modern science labs, and a multi-purpose indoor stadium. We learned that school life in Shunde differs greatly from Hong Kong—for example, students there live in dormitories and have morning and evening self-study sessions. The school warmly served us double-skin milk pudding, a famous Shunde dessert, and everyone was amazed by its unique taste. We also experienced various lessons, including Chinese calligraphy, PE, Maths, and Chemistry. All of us actively engaged in the exchange activities and made many new friends. At night, we visited Shunde OCT Harbour PLUS, enjoyed free time, and then returned to the hotel.

The second day began with a visit to Qinghui Garden, where we took photos and explored its history. After lunch, we toured the International Furniture Exhibition Center. We observed magnificent design elements and spectacular artworks, and the tour guide's detailed introduction significantly broadened our horizons.

This tour was more than just a trip. It offered hands-on learning in geography, culture, history, and design. Our students returned with enriched minds and lasting memories.



## F.5 Foshan Cultural Immersion

5D Wang Lailong Aaron

### *From Tradition to Modernity: F.5 Foshan Cultural Immersion*



Our tour began after passing through border control at West Kowloon. We boarded a high-speed rail train bound for Foshan. Compared to traditional travel methods, the high-speed rail greatly shortened the travel time. Sitting comfortably on the train, I could not help but admire the convenience brought by modern technology.

The first stop of our trip was the Foshan Hongsheng Hall, where we were captivated by an exhilarating lion dance and masterful martial arts performance. We were even given a chance to practice Kung Fu.

Additionally, we visited Denghu West Street and Lingnan Tiandi in Foshan in the evening. As a key birthplace of Foshan's night economy, Denghu West Street is renowned for its diverse food stalls, where vendors can even practice the "car trunk economy"—using their car trunks as small stalls to sell goods. In Lingnan Tiandi, we witnessed the success of Foshan's cultural conservation and revitalization efforts. While preserving the original buildings and heritage, culturally distinctive shops have been introduced into Lingnan Tiandi, striking a balance between cultural preservation and economic stimulation, thereby fostering the joint development of culture and the economy.



We also paid a visit to the Cantonese Opera Grand View Garden, Shunde Ancestral Hall, and the Ancient Nanfeng Kiln, where we learned about the history of Cantonese opera, architecture, and pottery. To give us a more memorable and immersive experience, we were allowed to make pottery and show our creativity.

In just two days, we witnessed the vitality of lion dances, the exquisite martial arts, the elegance of Cantonese opera, and the artistry of pottery. More importantly, we learned that cultural heritage lives not in textbooks or websites, but in the skills of performers. This trip did not just teach us about traditions—it taught us the sense of relentlessness.

## Phrase of the Day Selected Sentences

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*Latest phrases introduced:*

*tit for tat, tables have turned, pass the buck*

*Great job, LKKCers! Keep it up!*

He replaced me with another person. So tit for tat, I stopped being friends with him and became friends with others who can be my true friend. —**1A Ma Sze Ching, Katie**

I tricked him because he tricked me. It was tit for tat. —**1A Chan Tai Yau, Ty**

She didn't send me a card - I think it was tit for tat because I forgot to invite her to my birthday party. —**1A Lee Ho Lam**

You think you can win with those tricks? You fool, the tables have turned now. —**1A Leung Pak Hei, Alex**

Stop passing the buck and admit your mistake. — **5D Wan Fong Man**

Please don't pass the buck to the teachers. You have the responsibility to keep an eye on your homework. — **5D Alice Zou**

It is your responsibility to finish your homework. Don't pass the buck to others. — **5D Luo Qihao**

Passing the buck to others will leave a bad impression to others thus we should be responsible. — **5D Ni Ching Laam**

Do not try to pass the buck to me, please do it by yourself! — **1A Lui Tsz Ki**

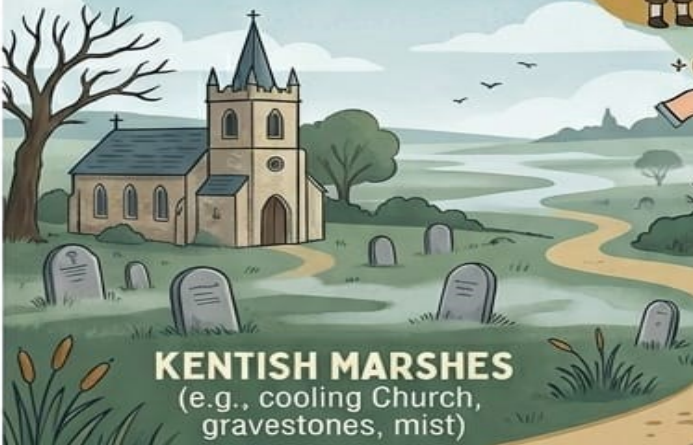
Do not try to pass the buck. As a senior form student, admit your mistakes and shoulder your responsibility! — **5D Wan Wai Ching**

# Book Recommendation

## DISCOVER 'GREAT EXPECTATIONS' & ITS ENGLISH ROOTS!

### JOURNEY THROUGH CHARLES DICKENS'S ENGLAND

#### THE STORY & ITS SETTING



**KENTISH MARSHES**  
(e.g., cooling Church, gravestones, mist)

#### Key connections » England

- 1 **PIP's Humble Beginnings:** Village boy, blacksmith's apprentice
- 2 **Mysterious Benefactor:** An anonymous gift changes his life.
- 3 **Setting:** The gloomy marshes, graveyard, Pip's simple home.



#### Key connections

- 4 **PIP's London Education:** Becoming a gentleman, studying, society.
- 5 **Social Climbing & Morality:** Class struggles, ambitions, true values.
- 6 **Setting:** The bustling, crowded city streets, offices, Miss Havisham's Satis House (partly in both).



#### GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN LONDON

#### Key connections:

- Charles Dickens
- Victorian Era
- class system
- Industrialization



### COME AND READ THE BOOK!

JOIN PIP'S ADVENTURE! UNCOVER SECRETS, EXPLORE HISTORY & DISCOVER YOURSELF. READ THE NOVEL!



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