

G.T. Newsletter

G. T. (Ellen Yeung) College - Secondary Section

ISSUE 2 November 2020



Dr. Raymond TAM
Principal

Principal's Talk: "There is no time like the present!"

A semblance of normality seems to have been restored in Hong Kong. Somehow, we all know that there has never been such a strong need of certainty, regularity, or sanity as much as it is now. Somehow, we all have to admit that life is no longer without difficulty or disruption.

For school administrators, the pandemic always has a chance of a second-coming: frequent changes of school timetables and school calendars. It all means change is constant nowadays. For teachers, the physical classroom has a new neighbour—the virtual classroom in Google. Why? The physical classroom is no longer stable. The importance of continuity and transparency have rendered online schooling all the more necessary. Upgrading online teaching skills in a short time has been telling and daunting. As for students, they can better understand the proverb 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder'. They had missed their teachers and classmates so badly. For whatever mode of learning, be it the hybrid or the physical one, they are more than ready to return to school.

Difficulty doesn't discriminate against anyone. Even for our school janitors, I hope you will appreciate their diligence and commitment to GT's every corner and classroom. The fear of community infection has made life hectic for them. These days, cleanliness is next to godliness. However, it is not just their duties; we all have our fair share of this mission work.

You might ask yourself: By the end of the day, what will become of us? As the principal of the school, I dare say—When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Live this day because there is no time like the present.

The Confession of a Public Speaking Addict



The stress of video-recording is no less than facing a large audience



Championship - a matter of intelligence and diligence



Sian participating at the English speaking competition

Only two weeks were left to write two speeches that had to be good enough to go onto the national stage. I was sure I was going to say no as I knew that if I said yes, those two weeks before handing in the script would be really stressful. However, I knew this was a very special opportunity, therefore I took it. And yes, the process was tough but I ended up learning a lot throughout the research process, and accidentally writing 5 different versions of the speech helped me to understand the topic from different perspectives. Now looking back, I'm really proud that I took this challenge. I overcame my fear of Q&A sessions because I found out what I can do to train my brain, what to come up in a few seconds and being able to express them without stuttering too much.

This experience once again proved that when a door opens, go for it. Don't overthink, just take the opportunity because opportunities don't wait. I have to thank Dr Cheng for taking the time to help me in the process. I'm so glad that I took this challenge and turned it into such a beautiful lesson.

Sian Lee G10

A Teacher's Confession of her "Void"

Sian Lee (G10)'s reflection on her dramatic invitation and entry into the national senior division of the "21st Century Cup" National English Speaking in one long prose! It all seems to me the confession of a public speaking addict—an allusion to the first chapter of *How to deliver a Ted Talk*—"The Confession of a Ted Talk Addict." The author points out "Emotions drive attention, which drives learning, memory, and just about everything else" (Robert Sylwester, *A Celebration of Neurons*, 1995, p. 99).

It's the emotions that have driven Sian's learning and motivated her to live as a different person than the one that I could recognize two years ago when she was in Grade 8. A teacher can only show some basic strategies to start the race, but it is the student who does all the work ultimately. Sian's story has a oneness in itself—the quest for victory, self-fulfillment, and self-understanding via inquiry-based learning.

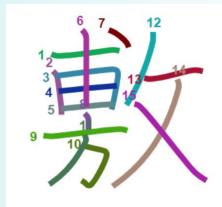
However, I never believe a learner can't learn to improve. To me, every learner can learn to defeat themselves if they want to be a better version of themselves.

Dr Clara Cheng
English Language Panel Head (Senior Form)

Challenges of online schooling at GT

網課教「敷衍」二字，「敷」字筆劃往往令同學無從入手。若於實體課堂，同學筆順有錯，老師可即時指出，橫、豎、撇、捺，手把手教授。網課期間，卻是可望而不可即。多番努力下，找到一個網站提供筆順動畫下載，在網課時展示，一目了然，而同學的學習，亦在一筆一劃之間完整勾勒，絕不「敷衍」。

楊宇軒老師
中文科老師



「敷」字共15劃，對同學頗為陌生。

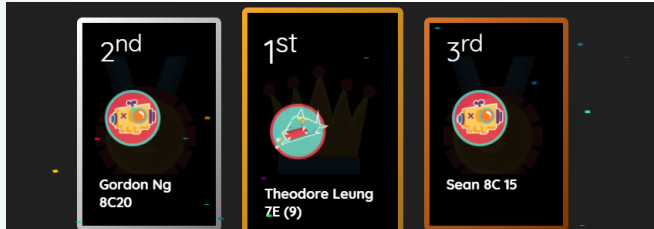


chineseconverter.com
提供漢字筆順動畫下載

I think the biggest challenge for teachers is a lack of interaction with students. It is difficult to keep track of their progress or invite them to share their ideas without face-to-face contact.

I would like to recommend an online platform, "Quizizz". Teachers could hold a game room and create some questions in it, which allows students to give immediate responses and facilitates the interaction between teachers and students.

Mr. Jasper Kwok
Mathematics teacher



Top 3 students in “Quizizz”

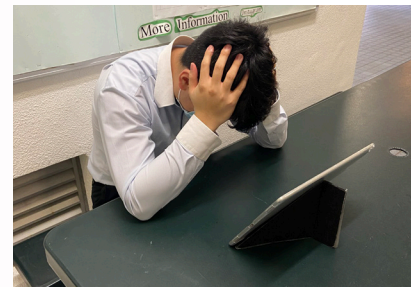
The most challenging issue is that students might easily go back to their comfort zone and simply become a silent observer in class.

To motivate silent students to participate in the lesson, extra time should be given for them to voice opinions. It would be helpful if they are willing to exchange their ideas and discuss with their peers. During the hard times, our students have made a great effort in adapting to online learning.

Mr. Karl Yeung
Economics teacher



Having online lessons

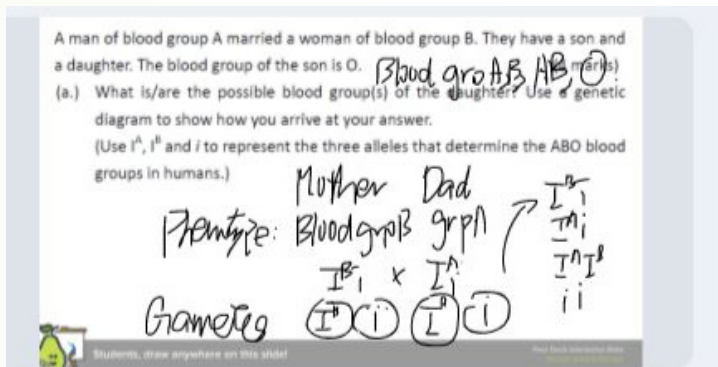


Thinking how to motivate my students

I used an online platform Pear Deck to enhance my interaction with G11 and G12 Biology students. Apart from giving plain text answers, students could also build diagrams to discuss and express their ideas there.

I could track the responses of each student using another webpage and identify the difficulties that students might encounter on some topics. Any misconceptions could also be quickly cleared up through further explanations. Incorporating technological tools has made my lessons more effective.

Dr. Richard Cheung
Biology teacher

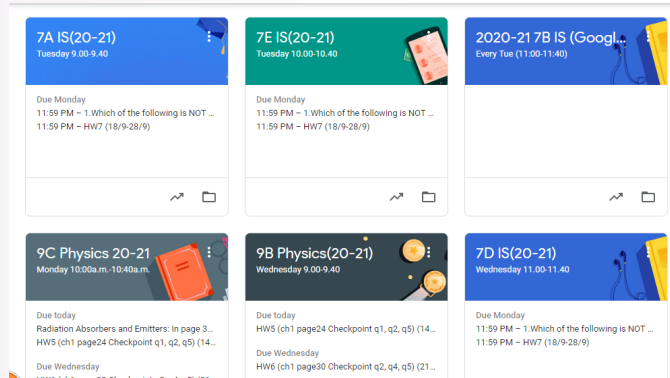


Genetic diagrams constructed by students

Thanks to the help of my panel heads Mr Hong and Mr O, the shift to e-learning went smoothly as I wanted it to be. I have shared many materials to guide students on their studies. Based on these materials, students can do project-based learning and self-directed learning at home.

I'm honoured to be a member of G.T. and ready to welcome students back to face-to-face lessons.

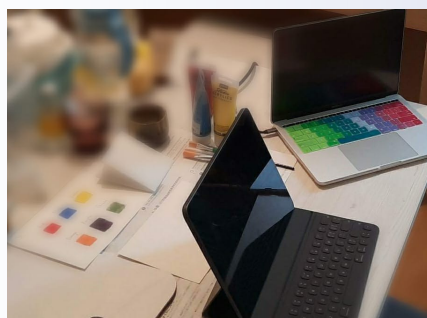
Ms. April Li
Integrated Science and Physics teacher



Keeping my online lessons organised



Online demonstrations to enhance students' learning

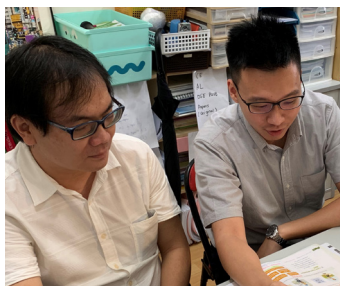


Online visual arts lessons requiring a lot of equipment and preparation beforehand

As I couldn't observe students' art-making progress as closely as in face-to-face lessons, I would break down the entire art-making process into smaller steps with more demonstrations for students to follow.

Also, I would invite them to present their learning outcomes and give peer feedback. In this way, not only can lessons be more interactive, but teachers can also enhance their teaching skills.

Ms. Samantha Shiu
Visual Arts teacher



Co-teaching an online lesson with Geography Panel Head Mr David Chan



Collaborative lesson preparation within the Geography Panel

Since March 2020, I have been shooting videos to explain the Geography workbook. Before the 2019/20 Term 2 exam, I also organised several Google Meet consultations for students to ask questions after class. There has been regular collaborative lesson preparation within the Geography Panel and the Music Panel.

It is only through solid teamwork amongst colleagues that we, GT teachers, can conquer such a difficult time of the pandemic.

Mr. Thomson Ng
Music teacher



7C class smiling with their class teachers Ms. Winnie Au and Mr. Daniel Wong

Conducting online lessons is not an easy task. For instance, G9 Biology teachers need to teach various new concepts in a short period of time. In the Google Classroom, it is difficult to have interactions with my students as to cater for the learning diversity.

Luckily, my students are motivated to learn. They sent me emails to ask questions and left comments during the online lessons. It's been hard work, but thankfully it's done.

Dr. Daniel Wong
Biology teacher



Gearing up for my online lessons

Undoubtedly, online teaching is good in knowledge transfer only if the receiving end is active. It is difficult, if not impossible, to have small group discussion through which critical thinking can be developed. It is particularly difficult for a new teacher like me to teach students online whom I have never met. Facing emerging new challenges every day, we, teachers, have to be resilient.

Dr Norman Cheung
Geography teacher

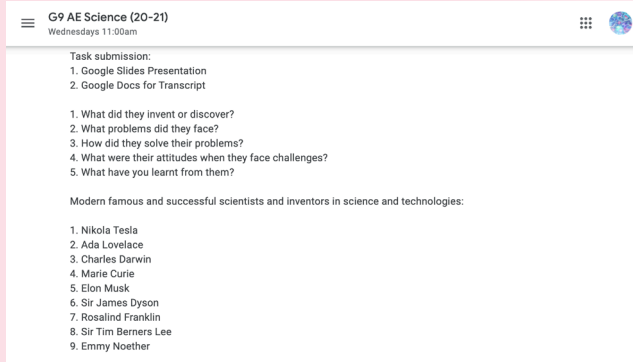
I believe teaching online forces educators to be even more streamlined with their approach to teaching. For example, you need to create a variety of lessons and tasks, so students do not become distracted by their home surroundings. You must anticipate the problems and work around them beforehand.

It might be more demanding, but I disagree that it is more challenging to teach online.

Mr. Dane Powell
English Language teacher



Rising to the challenge of online teaching



Sharing knowledge via Google Classroom

I once imagined that starting at a new school with online teaching would be very challenging. Fortunately, I was off to a smooth start with high-caliber and genuinely helpful colleagues, and students here soon impressed me with their good manners and diligence.

G.T. students are so proactive and friendly that they love sharing in mentorship meetings, and we feel close despite the physical distance.

I feel privileged to be part of the G.T. team, and I am so glad to finally see my students in person!

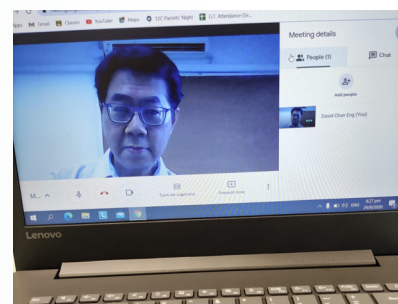
Dr. Karen Lee
Mathematics and Physics teacher

‘Online teaching’ should be a novel, yet challenging term for me. I am a novice of its seemingly ‘profound operations’ despite my teaching experience. At last, I plucked up my courage to accept the challenge – overcoming as many IT problems as possible during my online lessons.

Nevertheless, what happened in the following week made my topsy-turvy chaos reappear again with tasks such as sending messages to students and checking their online assignments.

In retrospect, the skills – especially the ones concerning operating the computer during the online lessons – are substantial.

Mr. David Chan
English Language teacher



Mr. Chan adapting to the new teaching mode



An impossible scene during online lessons

Undeniably, online schooling hinders physical activities in the sense that students are homebound. But does it mean interaction is also impeded? Well, I think it depends on the teacher’s delivery.

I remember once I taught container quantifiers, I played a game with my students asking them to guess what I wanted, by showing the objects to their cameras. Their reaction was so active that I saw them running around their flats to get cartons of eggs, packets of candies and so forth from their fridges!

Ms. Constance Lee
English Language teacher

The restrictions imposed during the pandemic have compelled us to adapt to different ways of teaching, learning, and most importantly, connecting with one another. Although advanced technology helps students arrange their learning schedule more easily, I have been wishing to get back to classrooms to provide a platform for supporting students’ self-expression.

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that’s in my mind.
Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.

Langston Hughes, “I look at the world”



My motto

Ms. Holy Yoong
English Language teacher



I personally prefer face-to-face teaching to online schooling. Although we can still monitor students’ performance and deliver content online, the opportunities to interact with students are inevitably limited. It is quite challenging for them to receive their peers’ encouragement and tackle complex problems.

By good fortune, G.T. students are independent learners! I’m glad to see them taking great initiative to access and learn the material.

Ms. Esther Chan
English Language teacher

A Big Welcome to the Newcomers—G7

G7 Online Parents Meeting

In order to welcome our new G7 parents, Parent Liaison Group organized a G7 parents meeting through Google Meet on 13 August 2020 (Thu). Almost all G7 parents joined the online meeting which allowed them to understand better the arrangement of online teaching in the new school year.

Mr. King Lau
Head of Parent Liaison Group



Prof. Li explaining the arrangement of online teaching

G7 Admission Briefing for G.T. G6 Parents

On 9 September 2020 (Wed), we delivered lots of information about our secondary section through YouTube live streaming. Around 160 parents watched the live streaming, including G5-G6 parents. After that, our management team met and chatted with the G6 parents via Zoom meeting. 95 out of 100 G6 parents joined the Zoom meeting.

Mr. King Lau
Head of Parent Liaison Group



Parents' sharing by Ms. Gigi Lee & Ms. Jenny Mark



Principal Tam delivering a speech to the parents and students with Ms. Tina Tong & Dr. Salson To



Mr. David Chan, Ms. Hui & Ms. Mok presenting our school MEG activities



Mr. Richard Yiu giving a brief about the school activities

G7 Orientation Day

The 2020-2021 G7 Orientation Day was held by the Moral Education Group on 25 September. G7 students participated in group games, Campus Treasure Hunt and Class Cooperative Painting in order to become familiar with the school environment and strengthen their relationships with each other. Students enjoyed the fruitful activities very much.

Mr. David Chan
Head of Moral Education Group



The principal giving a speech to G7 students



Students showcasing their Class Cooperative Painting on stage



Students warming up in the school hall



A student using the cards to help his teammates guess the hidden message

Class Photo Competition

G.T. College is reputed for enhancing students' creativity. A class photo competition was organized by the Moral Education Group. Students presented their funny and lovely faces for their class photos with special designs and ideas. Thanks for the wonderful work and guidance from their class teachers as well.

Mr. David Chan, Ms. Sura Ng, and Mr. Philip Kwan
Moral Education Group

Junior form



'Most Creative Award' and "Championship" (8B)



1st runner-up: 9B



2nd runner-up: 9A



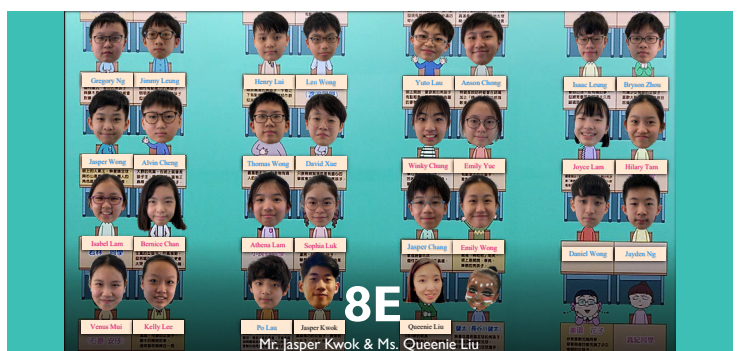
9C class photo



8A class photo

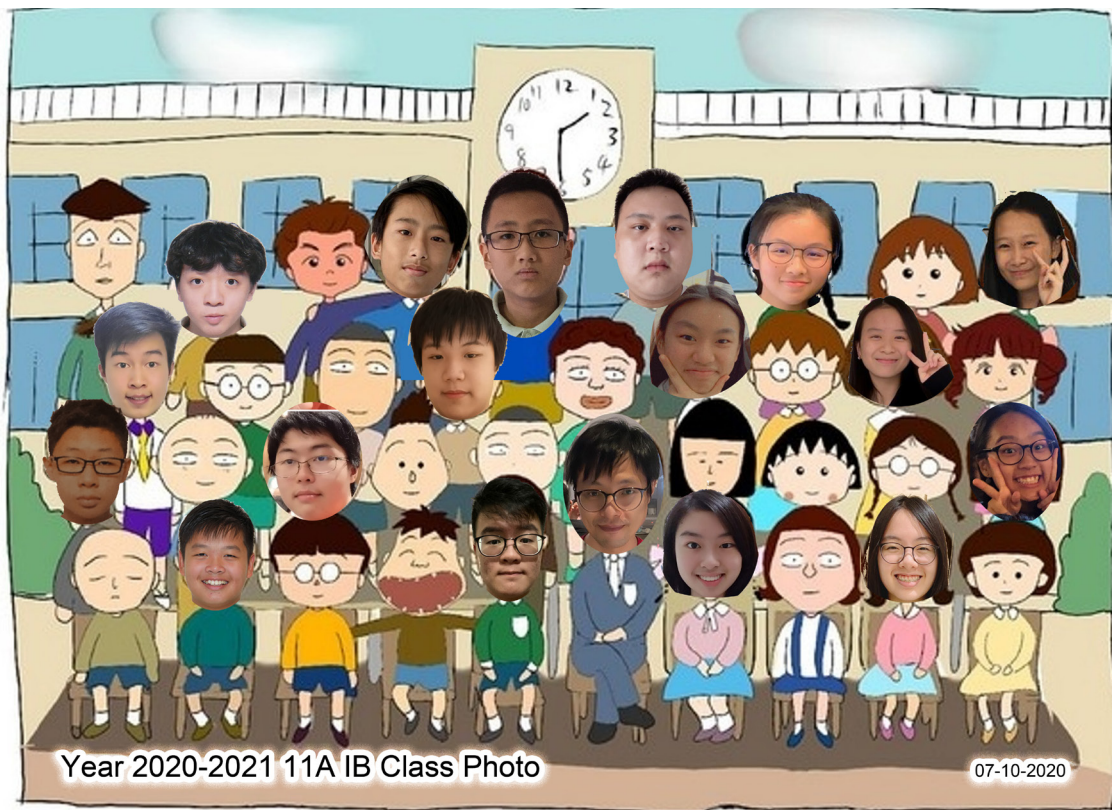


7D class photo



8E class photo

Senior form



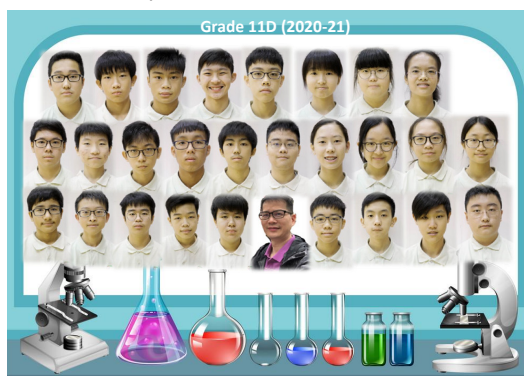
"Champion" (11A)



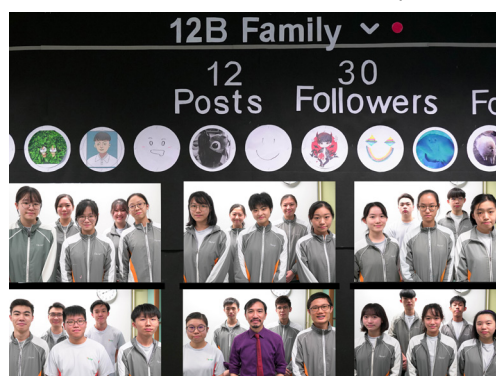
1st runner-up: 10A



2nd runner-up: 10B



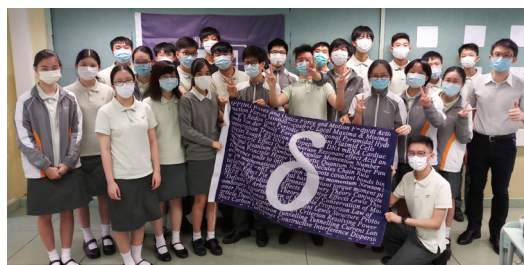
11D class photo



12B class photo



11B class photo



12D class photo



12C class photo



11C class photo

Prefect Training 2020-2021

On 18 September, the 1st Prefect Training in 2020-21 was held by the Moral Education Group in the school hall. 49 new prefects participated in various activities in order to enhance their leadership skills and communication techniques. Also, the new prefects studied the school rules, which will help them conduct smooth patrol duties in the future.

Mr. David Chan, Ms. Sura Ng, and Mr. Philip Kwan
Moral Education Group



The new prefects discussing the details of the school rules



Mr. Philip Kwan inviting students to answer questions



The new prefects in group activities

G.T. Online Parents' Meetings



Mr. Jerwa Ip talking about the rules of online lessons

In order to let parents have a better understanding of the arrangement of online teaching in the new school year, the Parent Liaison Group held a causal online meeting with parents through YouTube live streaming on 17 August (Mon). Around 400 G7-G12 parents watched the live streaming. Our vice-principals answered parents' questions via WhatsApp and in the live Q&A session.

Mr. King Lau
Head of Parent Liaison Group



Principal Tam explaining how to enhance the quality of online learning



Our vice-principals answering parents' questions in the Q&A session

G.T. Parents' Talk "Stay positive with Covid-19"



Mrs. Koo and school social workers Ms. Mok & Ms. Hui holding the Q&A session

A senior social worker, Mrs Koo, from the Hong Kong Family Welfare Service - TKO(South) Integrated Family Service Centre was invited to give a talk on the topic "Stay positive with Covid-19" on 25 September through an online platform. The aim of the talk was to help children overcome adversity with parents' understanding and support. More than 100 parents joined the talk and all of the feedback was positive.

Mr. Jerwa Ip
Parent Liaison Group
Moral Education Group



Mr. Jerwa Ip representing the school to give the school flag to the speaker, Mrs. Koo



Mrs. Koo giving tips on resilience enhancement



G.T. (Ellen Yeung) College

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