



English Newsletter 2016

Choi Hung Estate Catholic Secondary School

Game Booths



English Morning Assemblies



Social Issues Course



English Speaking Day



Give a hand to Primary Six pupils



Message from the Principal

Our Golden Jubilee

Principal Ho Ka Yan

Our 50th Anniversary has been crowned with abundant blessings of God on our school. All the celebrations were organised successfully, especially the Thanksgiving Mass, the School Semi-centennial Banquet and the Open Days. As the Principal of CHECSS, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers and the student helpers who have put in a lot of effort and hard work to make this happen.

The Thanksgiving Mass inaugurated a series of school anniversary programmes and activities, which took place in The Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception. The most enlightening part was the message “a school with love can bring up students to receive vocation by the God” from Rev. Cardinal John Tong in the Mass. This has indeed inspired me to lead CHECSS with love and to nurture more God’s servants.

Apart from the Thanksgiving Mass, the School Anniversary Banquet co-organised by the teachers and the alumni was held in a roaring success with more than 750 alumni, staff and students in attendance. All of us gathered to share our joy as a big family. It is utterly touching to witness that many alumni have proactively lent a helping hand to the development of our school and students. We have received compliments on the meaningfulness of this event from numerous guests and stakeholders.

An anniversary is a time to look back at our accomplishments and a time to look ahead to live our dreams together. We wish CHECSS a brighter future and we hope it will pass it on with love and diligence.



3D Kelvin Lau Hiu Fai

CHECSS is like home
because it gives me warmth.
The teachers are like my mothers
because they are kind.

3D Donald Chiang

I love CHECSS
because it is my home.
The teachers are my parents
because they always stand by me.
My classmates are my brothers
because we always play together.



School Open Day - English Platform

English Platform, which is an amusing platform located on the 3rd floor of Choi Hung School on Open Day. The visitors played English-learning games and had a chance to jot down their wishes and hung it on the 'Wishing Wall'. Our English Platform ended with laughter and joy from our guests, visitors, teachers and students.

Our special helpers from European countries

'Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!' ('Happy birthday!' in German)

Two foreign exchange students from Iceland and Austria lent a hand to our English teachers running English activities for celebrating our School Anniversary Open Day.

These special guests shared their cultures and their languages with our Open Day guests and our students. They also participated in planning some English games together with our English Ambassadors. All students felt involved and fun with them. We had a very enjoyable time with them!

English Musical

Based on the emphasis of diversified learning, we created this mini English musical. This musical aims at developing students' ability in listening, speaking and writing. Teachers and students demonstrated a high level of creativity, collaboration and enthusiasm in the play.

The core values of our English Musical are 'Love' and 'Truth', which are aligned with the five core values of Catholic education. With the small school campus and limited facilities, our students are still able to strive for excellence in the play. It is certainly not easy putting on a production like this, let alone the language barrier that students have to overcome. All the students involved should feel proud of their diligence and achievement in this production.



Drama Appreciation

Drama education has been given considerable emphasis in our school's English language curriculum in order to develop English language learning aura. This year, 60 students will participate in the Jockey Club 'From Page to Stage' Programme, in which they will appreciate the classic play 'Les Misérables' on 17th March at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre Theatre.

With an aim to raise students' interest and understanding in English through a high quality drama performance, a theatre workshop conducted by *The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection* will also be held in April for junior form students.

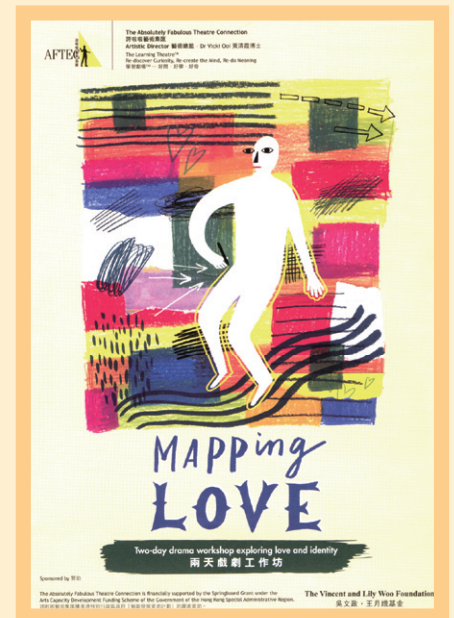


Upcoming 'Mapping Love' Drama Workshop

10 drama-enthusiastic students from our school will be attending a two-day drama workshop organised by The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection (AFTEC) in late March called 'Mapping Love'. The workshop will explore the themes of love and identity in life and will be taught by expert dramatists from London and San Francisco.

These selected students are very fortunate, since our school is one of the 24 lucky schools to be selected to participate in the workshop. Furthermore, the participants will be offered an opportunity to audition to become a cast member in one of AFTEC's very own professional theatre productions.

This is the perfect occasion for our boys to showcase their talents in English. The English teachers in our school hope that through this experience they will also find their purpose and roles early in life.



Choi Hung English Café

'Good morning, sir. Would you like some tea or coffee?'

The 'waiters' take orders and explain the food and drinks available to the 'guests' while the 'guests' place orders in English. Here you can immerse in the atmosphere of Western Culture and have a gasp for air from your busy routine.

English Café is held from time to time to serve external guests and our students. Chairs and tables are set up replicating a café, offering English tea and coffee, and puffs and cookies. Not only does it showcase our hospitality, it also encourages students to speak English in a relaxing and authentic setting.

English Week – Golden Jubilee of Our School

From 11th to 15th January 2016, the annual event, English Week with the theme 'Golden Jubilee of Our School', was held. It served as part of our school's 50th anniversary celebration.

The school was soaked in a rich English learning atmosphere. Everywhere in the campus, students were found inviting their teachers to have a chat in English, playing English games in the hall and having fun with English words through playing table-tennis. The English Week was crowned with the award presentation ceremony.

However, it was just a start of our lifelong English learning experience, Choi Hung boys were all looking forward to the next English Week in the coming year, which will surely give them another joyful English learning experience.



Movie Show

On 15th January, 2016, Room 303 was packed with students who were eager to find out the way Riley, the main character of the film 'Inside Out', adjusted to her new life in San Francisco. While the students were enjoying the delicious snacks and drinks, they were watching how Riley's main and most important emotion, Joy, tried to keep things positive as the other emotions conflicted on how best to navigate to a new city, house and school.



The game booths provide a great opportunity for students to discover the joy of learning English outside the classroom .

With the help of dedicated English Ambassadors, the game booths were carefully designed showcasing different themes such as sports, fashion and food. They offered fun, brain-teasing challenges to our boys, especially the junior forms. Form 1 students participated in as many stall games as possible to collect stamps to redeem prizes.

Overall, students were quite enthusiastic about playing the games and it added fun and excitement to English learning in our school.



English Channel of Campus TV

As part of the English Week, English Channel of Campus TV broadcast was held on 14th and 16th January, respectively. On 14th January, the broadcast was designed around a short film by Tracy Foster for 'The School of Life' titled *How to Become a Better Person*. Students worked on abstract nouns, discussed virtues that are important in the modern world and watched a short film. The Thursday morning broadcast was designed around a short film by Lara Lee for 'The School of Life' titled *Success*, which was about the nature of success. Students were given an opportunity to talk about success, watch a short film, and read a transcript. All in all, English Channel of Campus TV broadcast helps cultivate an English-speaking environment in our school and stimulates more interest among students in learning English through watching English videos and engaging in post-watching activities.

Table-Tenglish

Table-Tenglish is one of the English activities that our English teachers held during the English Week. It is a game which combines table-tennis and English vocabulary building. The player is required to say a word related to a designated topic which is given before he hits the ball back to the other side of the table. Each group from S.2 and S.3 sent their elites to the game and due to the presence of these skilful student participants, the competition was so exciting that many students from other classes also cheered for them.



English Society

The English Society is one of the school's extra-curricular clubs, which assists Choi Hung boys with spending their spare time meaningfully and significantly. The advisers are composed of the English Panel Head and at least two other regular English teachers. It is one of the most popular clubs in our school as there are about 60 members recruited each year. This reflects that a lot of our students are interested in learning English interactively outside the classroom or they are aware of the importance of using English in a competitive metropolitan city like Hong Kong. Every year, the English Society organises a wide range of activities like English Drama Performances, English Week, Talent Shows, Singing Contests, Summer Study Tours, etc. for all participants. All in all, any students who want to learn English in an active and effective way are all welcome.



English Speaking Day

Our English Speaking Day was held again this year in order to provide students with more opportunities to speak English outside the classroom. This year, our junior form students were encouraged to read aloud an English passage to teachers and English Ambassadors. Meanwhile, our senior boys had to answer an individual response question that they had prepared



beforehand. Our students and English Ambassadors appreciated the event as they were given the chance to hone their communication and interpersonal skills.



English Morning Assemblies

The English morning assembly has been held every Wednesday for over past 10 years and it has proved to be a great success. Different classes have been taking turns to perform in English in morning assemblies. Students themselves choose the themes and modes of presentation under the supervision of their English teachers. This practice has greatly boosted not only students' confidence in public speaking but also their creativity. Students have become very interested in these presentations and the quality of morning assemblies has won much praise.



Give a hand to Primary Six pupils

P.6 Mock Interview, an annual school event, was held on 14th November, 2015 in order to help P.6 pupils to prepare for their admission interviews to secondary schools. This is a crucial period for all of the anxious pupils and their parents who are scrambling to find a suitable school. Hence, the response was so overwhelming that there were more than 1000 pupils and parents attending the Mock Interview.

We offered our chosen English Ambassadors (EAs) to be interviewers and prepared a mock interview for the most common questions asked. After that, the P.6 pupils were given feedback and suggestions for improvement. This was greatly appreciated by the pupils and parents. Besides, the pupils and parents were then invited to the School Hall to enjoy a free cup of drink and snacks at our 'English Café', which was a student-led activity. Our English Ambassadors served different types of beverages and snacks to the guests.

We would like to give heartfelt gratitude to everyone for making this a successful event.



S.1 English Fun Day

Our annual S.1 English Fun Day was a great success. It was held in the school hall on 25th August, 2015.

With the help of teachers and student-helpers, the students were divided into several groups and played several English games like 'Guess the Object', 'The Collector' and 'Spelling fun'.

All the games were exciting and challenging to students. They enjoyed the games and participated in them actively and enthusiastically. Students were given an opportunity to compete constructively with each other and they could also practise English, exercising their cooperation and communication skills.

'Learning English through games' is one of the goals of our English Fun Day. We believe that S.1 students will be more motivated to learn English by kicking off their secondary school life through fun English activities.



Our new *English teacher*



Mr Frankie Tsui

Mr Tsui has officially joined our school as an English teacher this year. Although in the previous year, he was already a practice teacher as well as our part-time NET teacher at CHECSS. Presently, he is teaching junior form students but you probably have seen him on Wednesdays during one of our English morning assemblies.

Mr Tsui believes that the secret of learning English is to have a lot of suitable exposure. Simply put, we need to experience more in English. But more importantly, the things we listen to or read should be something that we can mostly understand; otherwise, we will be quick to lose interest in learning English, which is the last thing we want. Say, if you want to read an English book, find one that you can mostly understand or one that really interests you instead of very difficult book or one that is too easy and dull.

Too often, we don't get to use English outside the classroom, but don't let that stop you. You can gradually change the world around you by doing little things in life, like changing the language on your smartphones, searching things you want to learn in English, or even make use of a thesaurus instead of an English-Chinese dictionary. Eventually, you will find yourself relying on your English ability to learn more about the world we live in, provided that we stay curious.

To end with a thought, aren't mankind curious creatures? But fortunately, it just so happens that English is the best tool for us to satisfy our endless thirst for knowledge, overflowing with such, like a fountain that never runs dry.



Our new *Part-time NET*

Miss Agnes Pak

Hello, every one! I am Miss Agnes and I am the new part-time NET teacher at CHECSS. It is an exciting experience for me to be here as this is my first time teaching in a boys' school. I enjoyed very much in meeting each and every joyful, energetic face.

From my experience in learning and teaching English, I think the most challenging part is how to tackle grammar structures and expand your range of vocabulary. Just to share with you some tips. First, immerse yourself into the English language environment. Watch news report on English channels, read English books and newspapers, practise your oral English in your daily lives. Second, be courageous. Do not feel embarrassed when you make mistakes in learning English. Grasp every chance to practise your spoken or written English. Ask and consult your teacher in the ways you can improve. Third, 'practice makes perfect'! Try to practise more in writing and speaking English with your classmates. Hoping that with these personal tips, you may find learning English is not as challenging as you thought.

In the English Campus TV programme and Social issues course, I have met many students of high potential in mastering good English. I sincerely hope that with your perseverance and diligence in work, you will excel in your English language and studies. Keep going to reach your goal, Choi Hung boys!

After School English Courses

Campus TV Course

'To be a reporter and a newsreader is not merely a dream!' A group of Form 1 to 3 students could make their dreams come true through the English Campus TV programme. Public speaking techniques such as speech delivery, pronunciation and intonation, and voice projection were introduced. Furthermore, students have learnt how to conduct interviews, write news transcripts and read the news on the English Campus TV programme. Despite several trials and errors, students showed courage and perseverance to produce and broadcast their first 'news report'. Our Choi Hung TV 'news reporters' can now deliver speeches with clear organization and self-confidence.



Social Issues Course

Since early January 2016, the Social Issues Course has been held every Tuesday and Thursday for the senior forms students. The course aims to enhance students' awareness of social issues, critical thinking skills in combination with expressing ones' idea precisely in both written and spoken English. Controversial topics like Policy Address, comprehensive pension scheme and global warming were explored. Besides, students were given opportunities to construct strong arguments and back them up with analytical skills and solid evidence. From this experience, our students have learnt how to express their thoughts on social issues in a confident manner.



Public Speaking & English Pronunciation Courses

In February 2016, two new after-school courses are kicking off and they will be delivered by our NET Mr Ilnur Minakhmetov. Public Speaking Course (PSC) is aimed at S.2-3 students and will be run on Tuesdays whereas English Pronunciation Course (EPC) is targeted at S.1-2 students and will be run on Thursdays.

PSC aims to improve students' communication skills in a fun and engaging manner. Students will learn to become more fluent and comfortable with their spoken English through various speaking activities and will work towards giving a final speech or presentation individually. Creativity is encouraged and the students can approach their goal in whatever way makes them comfortable. This is a highly interactive and stimulating course.

The aim of EPC is to improve students' English pronunciation and intonation in order to be able to communicate clearly in English. The students will learn how to speak English fluently, correctly and concisely in various real-life situations. The course will also develop your English grammar skills as well as extending your English vocabulary.



Choral Speaking

After having spent hours in preparation, students from 1A managed to amaze us with their fabulous choral speaking performance held at the P.6 Mock Interview and English morning assembly. Though hard work, the boys managed to apply their teamwork skills, improved their pronunciation, and learnt more about English grammar in a more interesting way thanks to the poem Block City, which they performed on the stage.

Choral Speaking as a group performance provided the opportunity for the inexperienced to try the stage and speak without feeling too intimidated while the more seasoned students just took the stage and impressed everyone with their beautiful voices.

The boys were very happy and pleased about their performance.



The 67th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival

Winner

2 nd place	1A Cheng Chi Kwan
3 rd place	3A Gao Li Wen

Certificates of Merit

1A Lam Tik Ming
3A Lun Tsz Ho
3B Ng Cheuk Yin Cheston
4B Yip Hiu Hei Skylar
1A boys – Choral Speaking

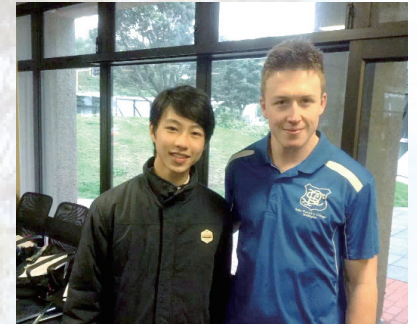
This year, a number of CHECSS students from S.1 to S.5 participated in the 67th Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. The students did well and received positive feedback from the adjudicators. Through learning the poem and practice, they had a taste of the art of English and have become more confident to speak English in public.

Joint School Oral Practice

In order to help our students better prepare for the speaking paper in the HKDSE, our English Department organised a joint school oral practice in November 2015. Our Secondary 6 students were granted an opportunity to speak English with students from Lee Kau Yan Memorial School. This activity was a great success since it helped students increase their confidence in speaking English and improve their communication skills.

Widening our exposure through summer excursions

Last summer, three Choi Hung boys were chosen to participate in a study tour organised by the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Schools Council (Secondary Schools) in Australia and New Zealand. The boys were exposed to the learning environment. There were over 100 students from a number of Hong Kong Catholic Schools in this programme. Our boys found authentic needs of using English in their daily lives and all of them would like to explore different cultures around the world. It is worth participating in the summer excursions.



New Zealand Summer Study Tour

4A Lam Kam To

Hi! I'm Lam Kam To from Class 4A. I participated in the New Zealand Summer Study Tour during the summer holiday. And I'm going to share my experiences during the tour.

Wellington, which is the capital city of New Zealand, is the place we stayed in. Wellington isn't a big city but the environment is really comfortable. Fresh air and picturesque views attracted me. I took deep breaths and opened my eyes bigger because I wanted to enjoy the clean and fresh air there and to see more beautiful views. There are a few residents in Wellington so the buildings there are not as many as Hong Kong. Because of the small amount of buildings, many plants are remained.

We studied at St. Patrick College, which is an enormous secondary school. Compared to Hong Kong, the atmosphere of the lessons of St. Patrick College was more relaxing and free. Students could choose their own seats before classes. During the lessons, they had a lot of time to discuss and revise. Students could also use their phones and computers so they can search the information they needed immediately. I thought this could help students to study easily and get into a habit of self-studying.

Besides, the dietary habits of New Zealanders are very different to that of Hongkongers. They eat rice rarely while they mainly eat potatoes, bread and pasta. Local people are confident that they think their products like meat are good. They believed that the meat they cooked was the most appetizing. I admitted that their beef roll made an impression on my tongue. Although the food were high in calories that make them unhealthy, they were really tasty.

To me, Wellington is a special place. I love it so much.

All in all, the study tour broadened my horizons. My English, self-independence and communication skills were improved after the tour. I thought I was blessed that I had this opportunity!

Idioms Hunt



Some idioms are hidden in the school, look carefully at the clues in and around the pictures, join our awesome adventure to hunt them down. The real treasure is in the hunt!

Rules:

1. Look for the pictures in the campus.
2. Write down the idioms in the spaces provided on P. 14-15 of the booklet.
3. Go to Room 414 and show your answers to Ms. Li.
4. Students who have found all the correct answers can redeem a prize.
5. Redemption period: 7th - 8th March, 2016.

Answers:

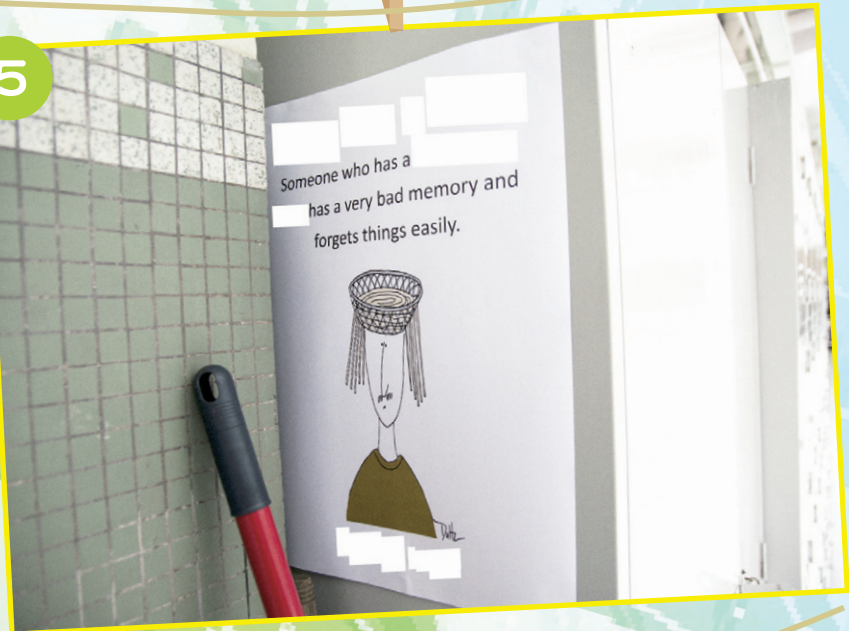
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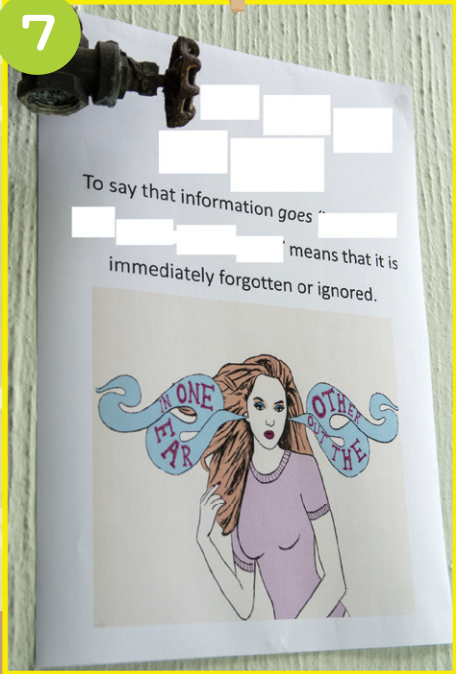
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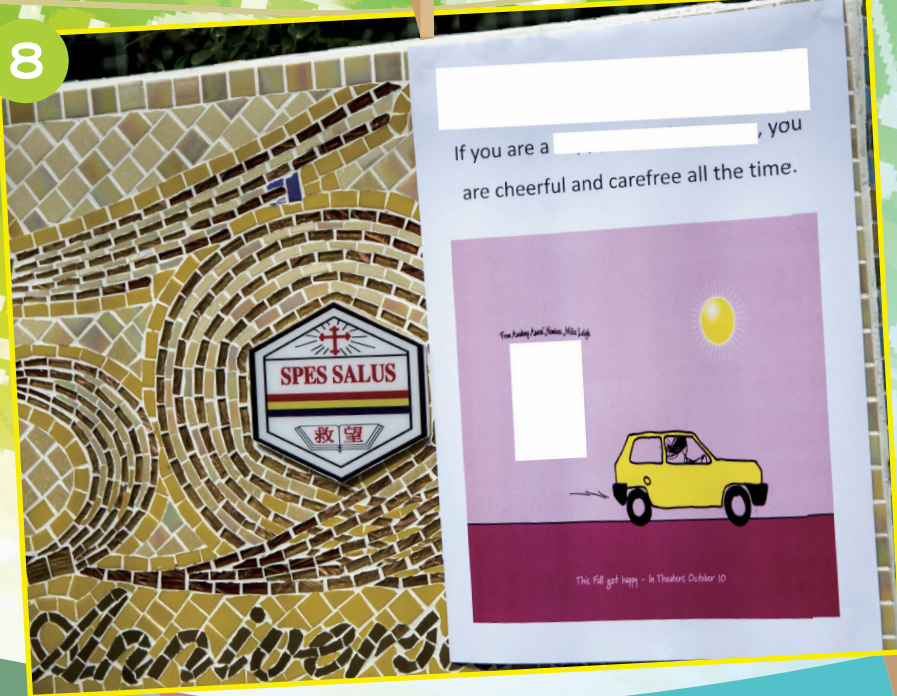
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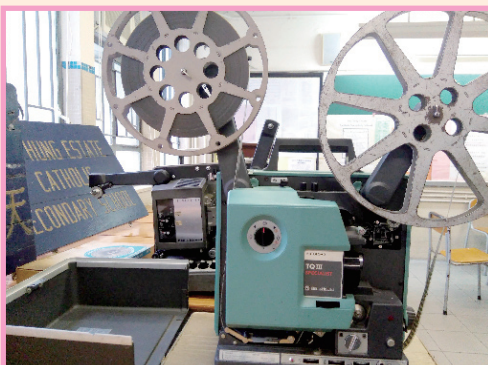
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English Gallery

5A Vincent Chen My Open Day

Bearing the responsibilities on the Open Day, I have a chance to glance through various school badges of different ages. Ranging from a simple school logo to the posts which are of vital importance. I could feel the mission they give us and the responsibilities they bespeak. These are the qualities CHECSS students should have - being diligent, responsible and to never say never.



Slides of Old Days

Contrary to today's sophisticated projectors which projects digital media files. This historical slides projector was used to project photographic films during lessons. It does not only give me a close-up look at its mechanical structure, but I could also experience the history and the evolution of our beloved school.



Trying Traditional Local Snacks, guests had a taste of delicious traditional local snacks with memories and love. It is an unbreakable bond between our school and the community that makes them so tasty, it is far beyond merely a fish ball.



Coffee or Tea? Students enthusiastically engaged in the experience of serving guests in the English Cafe. They had a rewarding experience of serving others and handling beverages while improving their English proficiency. All of these help promote our all-round development.

A Fruitful Day

Times flies like a shuttle. It is already the end of our Open Day, and everything seems to have happened seconds ago. We will definitely remember these fruitful days of excitement, enjoyment and applause. As our slogan goes, '50 years of commitment, marching towards excellence'. I believe that we will not settle here and we would keep going and achieve more, just like what we have been constantly doing. We are glad to have participated in the Open Day, and I'm so proud of being part of it.

