

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Leung Ming Yiu

Class : 1B (2014-15)

An Alternative way of learning English

I do not know if you are good at English or not but I am sure that I wasn't. When I was in primary six, I couldn't handle English and couldn't speak the language with correct pronunciation. I also refused to read English novels because it seemed extremely hard and boring for me. But I later realised that the real reason was I didn't recognise most of the words and I had to spend half an hour reading just a few pages since I always needed to look up the new words in the dictionary.

However, I started to play an online game. Of course it was in English. In order to get better at this game, I had watched people playing it for a long time. I changed from being unable to understand anything they talk about to understanding most of the things. I gradually improved my English.

I am not saying that playing online games can get your English better but it is much easier to learn English in the way you want, the way you find interesting.

I hope everyone can find their own way to learn English.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Mak Yi Lam

Class : 1B (2014-15)

I feel extremely grateful to get the Literary Excellence Scholarship because I have made significant improvement in English Language.

This award serves as a great motivation for me to improve my English because it has told me that my great effort on English pays off.

In fact, my English language results in the first term were not good at all. Then I recognized that English Language was an important language because most of the subjects at school were taught in English. Therefore, if I still didn't have any improvement in this language, it would be difficult for me to study in the following years.

After I had set up my goal, I needed to understand why my English results were not good at all. Finally, I found that I seldom immersed myself in English in my daily life.

Then, I tried to read some English books instead of watching TV. Besides, when I was watching TV, I would watch an English channel to grasp all the time to learn English. Also, I improved my English Language by having weekly private tuition classes with a university student who has brilliant results in DSE. Rather than giving me some exercises to do, she told me how to learn English, which was to read more and do more (exercises). She would read some essays with me and told me the meaning of the vocabulary that I didn't know. She helped me a lot to improve my English.

Although I have made improvement in English language, I think that I still have much room to do better. I am going to do more with English for example, watching more English video clips.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Lau Woon Sing

Class : 1C (2014-15)

I am thrilled to learn that I got the third prize of English language and the respective scholarship this year. Let me share with you my reflections and future plans.

Talking about my reasons for the achievement, both my hard work and the support of my teachers, family and friends count.

It is surprising that what I learnt in F.1 English lessons is totally different from that in P.6. I learnt advanced skills in P. 6 while I learnt fundamental language concepts now. I am now more alert to grammar. These basic concepts surely benefit my writing skills. 'Building the base' well is essential.

I also joined the English Prose Reading competitions. Besides learning how to pronounce some difficult words properly, I was taught to read naturally and fluently. The extra-curricular activities play an important role in my learning, too.

This year, I read many more English books than before. My parents kept reminding me to do so. Apart from that, I am discovering more and more about astronomy and psychology. I read many articles, and most of which are written in English. Through extensive reading, I have gained knowledge, and the use of vocabulary and grammar.

Friendship is certainly a key to success. Instead of being enemies, my classmates and I studied and collaborated in projects together. This creates a warm studying atmosphere in which I learnt more efficiently.

With much help and support, I must go on. In the coming years, my goal is to rewrite some books in my own words. It seems difficult but it definitely can improve my comprehension skills.

At last, I would like to encourage you to work hard. No matter whether you are successful or not at the moment, learning is a process to know the world, and yourself.

'One is never too old to learn.'

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Mak Ho Lam

Class : 1C (2014-15)

Frankly speaking, my achievement in English to date isn't really worth mentioning. In comparison with some native English speakers, mine is just a tiny dust. The only explanation to my achievement is the strong foundation laid down by my primary school. Here, I would like to show my great gratitude to my fellow teachers and schoolmates, both in primary and secondary schools, for teaching and helping me on my way to success.

In my own experiences, a rich English learning environment is the key to excellence in English language. The rich English learning environment in my primary school is exactly the strong foundation I mentioned above. In fact, no matter which language we are learning, we need to use it frequently, in order to familiarize ourselves with it. Don't try to escape from it, face it courageously. The best way out is through.

Some concrete actions to improve our English levels are reading books, watching English movies, writing English essays and speaking English. Through these methods, you'll be able to progress in many aspects such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Additionally, NETs assigned to different secondary schools in HK are fluent native English speakers, so chatting more with them will definitely benefit you a lot. I've planned to have talks frequently with our NET, Ms. Chapman, in order to keep upgrading my English level, as practice makes perfect.

Today, I ranked second in form in English and received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I am glad for my hard work. However, who can promise that I can keep up my level 10 years later? How about 20 years later? The answer is no one.

Only you, yourself, can control your fate. People who can't do things themselves always tell you that you can't do it either. Don't listen to these discouraging people. Believe in yourself, seize every opportunity to learn and improve, overcome every obstacle and unlock the door to success. Striving for the best or simply giving up, it's all your choice.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chu Lai Ming

Class : 1C (2014-15)

It is my honour to receive the Literary Excellence Scholarship. In this essay, I would like to share my reasons for achieving the standard for this scholarship and talk about my plans on how to bring about further improvement.

I believe that one of the most important keys to success, no matter what subject or aspect, is interest. You will never have the heart to learn something that appears dull to you. What sparked my fascination in English is probably the fact that my dad often reads English books to me in the library when I was a child. He often played English songs in the car too. As I spent more time interacting with this language, I became better at speaking and listening to it. My parents encouraged me to take part in enrichment classes, which helped greatly with building my rudiments in English.

Allow me to insert a metaphor here. In the process of building an architectural structure, the most important aspect is to have a strong and sturdy foundation. I believe that the other major reason for my achievement is that I've built a good fundamental in English ever since I was young. As mentioned above, I was given many opportunities in daily life to familiarise myself with this subject. As a result, I became good at it and was able to reach the standard of this scholarship.

I believe that there is always room for improvement. Therefore there are several habits I plan to develop to enhance my skills in speaking and increasing my scope of vocabulary. First of all, I will hold conversations with my family in English, as this aspect cannot be trained with books and pencils. It will help boost my confidence when I'm speaking in this language. Secondly, I will chat more with foreigners because they speak the most accurate English. I can learn the native accent and enhance my listening skills while comprehending their speeches. Lastly, I'll keep a notebook of definitions, which is like a customised dictionary. As I read books, I'll write down the words that I don't understand into the notebook and look them up in the dictionary. That way, I'll build up my vocabulary bank and have a wide range of words I can use in my future writings.

Again, I am honoured to receive this scholarship. Thank you for taking time to read this essay and I hope that anybody who reads this will be inspired to make changes and improve their English, as it is one of the four core subjects in the curriculum and is a very important language after all.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : So Wai Chun

Class : 1E (2014-15)

Literary Excellence Scholarship is the first award in my secondary school life. I'm very happy and will continue studying hard to improve my English.

In the first exam, I got low marks. The reason was that my scope of vocabulary was not wide enough and the grammar was also very weak. But in the final exam, I improved significantly.

I adopted several strategies to improve my weak English. First, do more exercises and revision. Before the exam, I did many school past papers seriously and studied hard for the vocabulary part. This helped. Second, study hard. Even I faced a minor problem with the English textbooks, I asked my teacher for help at once. It made me progress much in English. Third, listen carefully. I had to take notes and study the notes after the lessons. I made fewer mistakes when doing the exercises.

In this summer vacation, I have a plan to keep improving my English. I'm going to read more English books. The new words learnt are useful for my English writing. I will use them to write the book reports. I'm also going to do more exercises on grammar and writing to make me more proficient in comprehension and writing skills. Watching English TV programmes and listening to the English radio programmes are also something I will do this summer to improve my listening skills.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chan Wing Sum Venus

Class : 2A (2014-15)

It is my honour to have received the English Literary Excellence Scholarship this year. I would like to reflect on my keys to success.

Firstly, my interest in reading is certainly one of them – reading can improve our language skills greatly and thus, helping us get better results in examinations. Reading biographies can also help us learn from mistakes. In short, it can widen our horizons tremendously.

Secondly, I always concentrate in class. Paying attention when the teachers are teaching is very important – you will be surprised by the amount of knowledge you can gain during the lessons. Doing revision after school is not enough – you have to understand what the textbooks are about, and listening to the teachers can help you a lot.

Last but not least, my teachers, parents and friends helped me improve my academic results. They encouraged me to work hard and supported me throughout the year. When I encountered difficulties, they were always there to help me face them, and to comfort me when I failed. For this I will always be grateful.

In order to improve myself, I will do revision more constantly and do more exercises to help myself. I will also try to improve my time management skills because I failed to finish my Mathematics exam paper. I will also seek more help from others when I encounter problems. I hope by doing so, I can get better results in examinations and, even more importantly, my DSE.

Lastly, I would like to thank my parents, teachers and classmates for their support again – I would not have received the English Literary Excellence Scholarship without their help.

I hope you will continue to study hard and pursue progress and excellence!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Ng Ho Nam Justin

Class : 2B (2014-15)

I am going to share the joy of achievement with you upon receiving the Literacy Excellent Scholarship.

The main reason for my success is to be hardworking to study before exam. Why did I have this idea? In the first common test in Form 2, I got quite poor results. Therefore I decided to work harder for better results in the final exam. Finally I had an increase of about seventy marks in English Language. Therefore, hard work is number one strategy to improve.

Many factors have helped me make the progress. I am going to introduce two of them. Besides hard work, the help of the teaching assistants are an important factor. In the lessons, if I find any difficulty in studying, I will try to find a solution by myself first. Then I will ask the classmates or teachers for the solutions if I still cannot solve the problems. This helps increase the learning efficiency.

A good study environment is an important factor, too. If the place is too noisy or dark it will affect our studying. Then it is hard to get high marks eventually. I propose doing revision in the library because it is quiet inside and there is lots of information for reference, which help my revision.

For the future, I have a plan to improve my English further. It is to be a responsible subject prefect. It will help me to learn more English. I hope you can also have good results in the tests and exams!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student: Lam Lai Man

Class: 2B (2014-15)

I feel so grateful and joyful that I can receive the Literacy Excellence Scholarship of English Language. In my opinion, there are two important keys to obtaining success in English. Here I am going to share my thoughts with you.

Firstly, extending the scope of vocabulary is one of the paramount factors. On the one hand, it helps save our time while having tests and exams. While doing comprehension, we always spend a lot of time on some questions since we don't know the meanings of some difficult words in the passage. These questions often ask us to find synonyms or antonyms of words in the passage and take us a lot of time to guess the meanings of words. In the end, we may write an answer that we are not sure or even skip the question. Therefore, it is a must for us to learn more vocabulary so as to spend less time and get high mark in comprehension.

On the other hand, it gives us a helping hand when writing compositions and having oral exams because we will have more great ideas. However, we don't know how to express the ideas because of the lack of vocabulary.

Furthermore, we don't know how to connect our ideas together since we lack conjunctions, too. In order to write fluently and get high marks in oral exam, we must learn more useful vocabulary and conjunctions. In addition, we can learn vocabulary in a fun way! For instance, watching English movies and listening to English songs can enable us to learn lots of vocabulary, too!

As well as learning vocabulary, constant practice is also a significant factor in getting high marks in English. There're countless ways to practice like writing articles, doing comprehension exercises, reading books and so on. However, practices should be done constantly if one wants to make progress. For example, if we want to make improvement in writing, we have to keep writing. Eventually, we can write articles fluently and accurately. In short, practice makes perfect.

Generally speaking, learning more vocabulary can let us get high marks in reading, writing and speaking while constant practice can help us make progress in English. We should work hard to improve our proficiency of English language.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chan Kwan Ming

Class : 2E (2014-15)

It is my great pleasure to have received this scholarship. Before that, I didn't imagine that I would be awarded this honour. This makes me feel happy since my effort paid off.

To improve in English, of course we have to be hardworking, and maintain a good habit in your daily life such as having good time management. We should also try to read more English books or newspapers in our spare time instead of playing computer games. Besides, good learning strategies are also important to improve our English.

Moreover, I would like to extend my gratitude to my English teacher, Mr. Wai. In the past year, he taught me lots of skills to learn English and he was able to maintain a good learning atmosphere in class so that the lessons were more interesting, which made me become more interested in English. These help me to improve the English.

This honour will become one of the motivations to make me improve my English in the future. I will try my best to learn English in the next four years in TST and won't let my teachers and my parents down. Lastly, I would like to thank the donor of the Scholarship, Mr. Liu Man Kin, to give me a chance to receive the award and reflect on how I can improve my English more.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Li Chi Fung

Class : 2E (2014-15)

A short essay on receiving the Literary Excellence Scholarship

When I knew I was awarded the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I was shocked because I had never thought I could receive this scholarship by getting outstanding results in English.

When I was in primary school or in Form 1, I didn't think my English was good. In Form 2, I met my English teacher, Mr. Wai. He is a good teacher and I am sure that I would not have got the Literary Excellence Scholarship if he had not been my English teacher. He taught us the importance of English nowadays, the attitude and the ways to learn English. They are all valuable and precious. They have enhanced my English a lot. I would like to thank Mr. Wai sincerely for his teaching.

Although my English is still not very good now, I can see the improvement of myself when compared to the me in Form 1. Frankly speaking, I was not as diligent as now when I was in Form 1. I didn't have much motivation in learning English at that time. I have changed my thoughts throughout the year.

Now I have the enthusiasm for learning English. After trying to study English hard, I think English can also be fun and interesting. It is not as boring as I thought before. After I made as much effort as I could make, I eventually got satisfactory results. This shows efforts won't be squandered. "No sweet without sweat." The more effort you put in, the more you gain. We also need a good teacher to help us, inspire us and guide us to success. Luckily, our school are full of good teachers. Now, go and make your own achievements!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Wan Chun Kiu

Class : 2E (2014-15)

Literary Excellence Scholarship

I am honored to be awarded this prize. It is to prove my efforts in the examinations pay off and my improvement in English Language is evident. I really would like to thank my parents, teachers and classmates because they have helped me a lot. I will keep on working hard in the future.

In the first term, I didn't have any strategies to learn and so I got bad academic performance. Therefore, I had to spend more time and make more effort in my studies. Then, I tried to seek some advice from teachers in the second term.

I would like to thank Mr. Wai in particular, who was my F.2 English teacher. He is the most humorous teacher I have ever seen. He inspired me inspired enthusiasm for learning English. In the second term, I sought advice from him to improve my English. 'Read newspapers!' He told me. He suggested reading the 'Your Say Letter' from SCMP Young Post. I could learn vocabulary, sentences and some reading skills, which can help me improve my comprehension in tests and examinations.

I will have more improvement in the future. Mr. Wai suggested we should make good use of the summer holidays. Through reading books, watching TV programmes, and listening to English songs, I can learn more vocabulary in these relaxing ways! Hope I can also have improvement in F.3.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Wong Po Kwan

Class : 3C (2014-15)

The End-of-term service was a great throwback to events in this school term. It is a time for confession and quiet introspection, a time for us to examine the rights and wrongs we have done.

If I am to comment on my learning effort made this term, I will say it is merely satisfactory but never enough. This year I have myriads of goals and promises yet to be fulfilled. I didn't read as much, didn't plan as much, and didn't follow the planned and scheduled events at all. With rounds of applause down the stage in the school hall, a surge of sudden guilt and grief came to me, and things seemed sombre and bleak. I began to question the effort I had made in learning this term. Confession without improvements is meaningless. I shall seek a way and make a detailed plan to better myself from now on.

Reading is a great problem of mine since I am a very picky reader. I am extremely obsessed with sci-fi and fantasy novels with epic, extensive world building. However, I am newspaper-phobic and I hate boring realistic novels. Focusing too much on certain genres is making my knowledge and scope of vocabulary limited, which brings problems in some of my writings. So from now on, I'll try reading historic novels and newspapers more even if they don't sound interesting at all, hoping to extend my vocabulary.

Constant practice on writing is also a great way to improve our writing skills. I plan to write some weekly journals during the upcoming holidays to strengthen my writing skills. I'll also try not to type too much and begin to use pen and paper to write because typing makes me more and more dependent on autocorrect and sometimes I don't even know the spelling of some fiendish words.

Determination is another important personality trait I lack. Maybe a timetable of my summer day schedules can help get myself some motivation to strictly follow the plans above. A timetable of my studies in the next academic year can also be made.

Never has learning been easy to anyone but sadly, we are all under an unwritten obligation and pressure to learn. We mortal men often feel exhausted and hopeless about our learning, especially when we are in the midst of tonnes of unfinished schoolwork and tests. Now positive attitude and a well-planned timetable can help us out a lot.

There is no limit of the progress we can make. Improve ourselves to infinity and beyond.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Yeung Hoi Ching

Class : 3C (2014-15)

It is an honor and a pleasant surprise for me to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I have never thought I could receive any scholarship in this school. Although it is just a small award, it is certainly a recognition of my diligence.

Even knowing that Form 3 is one of the most important school years, I was not doing well in the Term Exam, I started to work harder in the second term to improve my academic results. In order to do so, I started revising a lot earlier before the upcoming common tests and examination. I went to the study room almost every day at that time. The process was definitely long-lasting and tiring, I even thought of giving up because of these obstacles and the tempting offers from peers. But when I thought of my future, I knew it was worthwhile persisting. With the help of my caring teachers and fellow classmates, I finally overcame these obstacles and my hard work paid off.

I won't give up anymore and I will keep on improving. Teachers always say that reading is important to us and I am going to fall in love with English fiction. The summer holiday is an opportune moment for me to enhance my skills. It is said that the competition will be even keener and students will be more pressurized in the senior forms. Therefore, I hope I will then be fully prepared and able to accept the challenges at ease.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Tam Suet Wing

Class : 3A (2014-15)

Self-reflection for the Literary Excellence Scholarship

It is my honor to be granted an opportunity to share my self-reflection of receiving the Literary Excellence Scholarship with other students.

First things first. People may ask why I am capable of having this so-called success. There is no other reason but diligence and determination. As every student knows, we were bombarded with loads of vocabulary and grammar items in the modules. It may cause dizziness sometimes but I kept reminding myself of the determination to pass the English exams with flying colours. As a consequence, I always started revising those items at least three weeks before the examinations and working hard always brings about equivalent rewards.

Apart from the knowledge in the modules, possessing comprehensive skills is vital too, including reading, listening, writing and speaking skills. To acquire English proficiency requires constant practice. Therefore, I tried my best to complete most of the exercises delivered in my tutorial classes and the stack of exercise books I have bought. As for speaking skills, I have benefitted a lot from the English Debating Team. I have no intention to promote here but I have truly improved my fluency in speaking English through the regular debating training session.

Although I appear to have achieved the goal mentioned above, there is still room for further improvement in reality. Reading, which I lack most, can both enrich the scope of vocabulary and enhance our comprehension skills. Thus, I must squeeze more time from the fruitful summer vacation and the approaching busy school life for reading books or magazines, especially those with plenty of unfamiliar words. I am also planning to watch English news and programmes more often, so that I can get used to or even learn to speak like a native speaker as quickly as possible.

In a nutshell, let's work hard together and pursue our goals.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Man Pui Yu

Class : 3D (2014-15)

Why do you think I will become successful? The reason is very simple. Work harder! Hard work is the key to success.

Never am I a talented student. I have never revised my modules frequently and always crammed for my exams. As a result, I always got undesirable results.

Therefore, I started to revise more frequently. I looked up the dictionary when I encountered new words. I jotted them down, which is something that I have never done before. I revised the vocabularies every other day. I read grammar books twice a week. The night before the exam, I had nothing but confidence and kept thinking about how to celebrate after it. However, I only got a little improvement.

I questioned myself: Why! I have worked hard every day and night! why could I still not make enormous strides? I was disheartened and confused. Thus, I sought help from my parents. After having a discussion with them, they said although I had improved a lot, it was still not enough.

Consequently, we found some ways to improve my strategies of studying English. First, I used my smartphone to take pictures of the vocabulary lists. As a result, I could revise them anytime and anywhere I liked. It was much easier and more convenient. Next, I should not just read the examples. I should do more exercises instead. Because only by doing exercises I could be aware of the problems that I had. The night before the final exam I was totally well equipped. Finally, I improved greatly.

Remember, hard work is the key to success.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chan Chun Kiu

Class : 3E (2014-15)

Essay of Literary Excellence Scholarship

It's my honor to have received the award for the second time. It's also very kind of our school to provide an opportunity for me to share my learning experience with others.

To begin with, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my English teacher this year, Miss Wu. Her passion for teaching has really motivated me to make more effort in learning English.

As I've said, my teacher has helped me a lot in English. But apart from that, the significance of learning outside the classroom cannot be neglected. If you just learn English at school, you can never take a step further and achieve more. What I'm about to share with you is how I learn English in my daily life. If you have kindly read the article I wrote last year, you must have known that it's 'No music no life' for me. I've learnt a lot of vocabulary and phrases in the English songs. This time, I'm going to talk about how I learn English other than listening to songs.

You may have guessed correctly. What I'm about to say is reading English books. You may sigh, 'Oh! I know he must be talking about this. So boring...' Indeed, reading may be boring to many of us, especially boys. However, I must admit that reading English books is the best way to learn English. You can easily learn to phrase the sentences beautifully, or come across new vocabulary items.

One more thing you need to know about learning through reading is you must choose the books carefully. A dull, or over-complicated book may kill your interest in reading. Therefore, it's definitely important to choose a book that arouses your interest. For me, I love to read the books written by Mitch Albom, whom I'm sure most of you have heard of. His books like "Tuesdays with Morrie", "The time keeper", "The first phone call from Heaven", etc. are all fascinating, with meaningful messages and intriguing story lines. To start learning English by reading, I recommend reading Mitch Albom's books.

Besides reading, you can also learn English by watching films. This way is, I'll say, more interesting. In books, you cannot learn the pronunciation of the words, thus, books do not teach you to speak like native speakers. However, films do. Watching films with English subtitles can surely help you improve your listening skills and expand your vocabulary. Of course, everything has pros and cons. You will have to risk learning some abusive language, I guess.

English is an international language. So it's significant to have good English skills. If you find my article inspirational, you may follow my advice: remember to listen to English songs, read English books and watch English films.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients

(2014-15)

Name of student : Wong Shing Kit Jacky

Class : 3E (2014-15)

Reflections on being awarded the Literary Excellence Scholarship

I am very honored to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. First, I would like to give a vote of thanks to Mr. Liu, the donor of the scholarship. Here are my reflections on my reasons for success.

I would like to thank my English teacher, Miss Wu Xia, because she taught me English in a very good way. In the Term Examination this academic year, I failed my English. Everyone knows that I may not be promoted to the upper form because I failed one of the core subjects. I was in Form three now, so the results may also affect the choice of the elective subjects in Form four. Therefore, this was serious. Fortunately, Miss Wu helped me improve my English academic results. In the final Examination, I had an increase of more than forty marks. This makes me win this scholarship.

Although my results were improving, it was not enough. I had to go to the summer bridging course in July. Therefore, I will work harder to improve more in English.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients

(2014-15)

Name of student : Li Ka Man

Class : 4A (2014-15)

Since my English is not good, I always get low marks in my tests and examination. To improve my English, I have to extend my scope of vocabulary, learn more sentence structures and be more careful with grammar. Therefore, here are a few plans that I am going to do in order to improve my English.

First, I am going to read more different types of books. I seldom read English books as I thought it was complicated to look up some difficult words I encountered from online dictionaries. But actually I know that it is the only way I can improve my English! But from now on, I will read more English books so as to improve my reading and writing skills and also add more new phrases in my vocabulary bank! Besides, reading more English books can enhance my reading speed, which is so important in examinations! As a consequence, I can improve my marks. I always read slowly, so that I don't have enough time to do my assignments or finish the tests and examinations.

Second, I think that watching English drama series is also a good strategy. The actors and actresses speak fluently. Through listening and learning their pronunciation and intonation, I can improve my speaking skills not only in examinations but also when chatting with others, like foreign visitors. Speaking fluently can also boost my confidence. Don't you agree? Besides, watching drama series can also let me know more about colloquial English and even slangs. If I choose a good drama series, I can also recommend it to my friends. Then all of us can benefit from it. Isn't it a great idea?

Last but not least, I can relieve my stress and give myself a break from the hectic school life when watching some funny drama series. As the saying goes, 'Laughing is the best medicine for everything.'

Do you have some other plans? Share with me. Let's strive for better results!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chin Wing Tung

Class : 4B (2014-15)

Short Essay for The Literary Excellence Scholarship

It is such an honor for me to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I greatly appreciate the generous financial support from Mr. Liu Man Kin, the donor of the scholarship. It is definitely a motivation for us to work hard to overcome the trying hurdles and get improvement and distinction. It is also a recognition of my efforts made. When I was told that I had been awarded this scholarship, I did feel my hard work paid off.

It all started in the first term. To be honest, I did not concentrate in class. I did not take English seriously. As a result of my recklessness, I was not punctual in my English oral exam. Therefore, I was disqualified, which was a big blow and a wake-up call to me. When I received my report card, I realized that I was in the low ebb. The '0.0' in brackets served as a reminder of the ordeal every single day. I determined to get my flying colours back. I started to pay attention in class and finished every task with my very best.

Attitude is the key to success. At least when you get your results back, you will not regret. What should also be noted is that I had a great English teacher and lovely classmates. It is believed that learning starts with asking. Not to feel ashamed to ask and learn is crucial. Apart from my English teacher, my classmates are really good models for me to learn. All of them are good teachers. Some of them are good at spoken English. Some are good at reading. Some are good at writing. We helped each other. We encouraged each other. We supported each other. The scholarship should be awarded to 4B instead of only me.

To keep improving, I think we should hold an optimistic and positive attitude. Although the results are important, it does not mean everything. We should keep confident and believe in ourselves. If you got a frustrating mark, you had to ask yourselves, 'Have I tried my best?', or, 'Anything else can I improve?' No excuses to hide your laziness, for example, talent. You reap what you sow. Hard work is the key to opening the treasure box! If you got a satisfying mark, never be complacent.

My further plan to get more improvement is to watch more documentaries and extend my scope of vocabulary. I hope that my experiences and reflections are useful.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients

(2014-15)

Name of student : Tang Chuen Fung Jonathan

Class : 4C (2014-15)

How to start improving English

English is the most spoken language in the world and as we all know it is important to speak good English so that we can have a better future. People always say that the best way to learn a language is to be in an environment that allows you to always speak and listen to that language I totally agree to that. Sadly, in Hong Kong it is almost impossible to achieve that since our education system only focuses on examinations. It means if you want to speak good English, you have to rely on yourself.

So after all the above nonsense, you may ask "So how can I start improving my English?" The answer is simple. You can start off by listening. I used to be poor at speaking English, so English had been my weakness for a long time until I started watching English gaming videos on YouTube. Through doing so, I eventually learnt more about different elements in spoken English, like the intonation, speed, phrasing and etc. Then with the encouragement given by an English teacher, my English started to have great improvement. There is no doubt that by listening to more English, I started mastering it. Watching videos allows me to interact with English native speakers and provided me with so many vocabulary items that are impossible to learn through daily English lessons. In short, watching YouTube clips taught me a lot in English.

In fact, YouTube is not the only medium to teach you English. If you're interested in watching drama series, there are also a lot of American and British drama series on the Internet. Or if you are too lazy to go online, you can always watch TVB Pearl. Just choose whatever English channel that you're interested in and just enjoy watching programmes you like. Some may say they are not comfortable with watching English programmes, but let's be honest. If you are really attracted to the story line you'll watch it no matter what language it is in. Just choose what interests you, sit back, and enjoy the show. Months later, you'll see magic.

That's how I improved my English. I sincerely hope this article can help you. To be fair, there are a lot of factors that I haven't told you because learning is never easy. But if you have the determination to enhance your English, I am sure that you will be capable of overcoming whatever challenges lying ahead of you. Remember, listening is only a start, there are still a lot more you need to do before success. Good luck!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Lau Kin Wang

Class : 4E (2014-15)

Go confidently in the direction where success awaits you

The significantly remarkable painter, Vincent van Gogh, once said, "I dream my painting and I paint my dream." It seems that dreams are untouchable and impossible. Some students may deem overcoming the trying hurdles on the journey of learning English extremely difficult and worthless, without the helping hands of teachers or tutors. My fellow students, there is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve--- the fear of failure. There is no one but you to take the first step towards success. You yourself are the only key to realizing your dream.

I am definitely not a native English speaker. But talking about the factors that help me achieve 'excellence' in my studies. I have a lot of things to share with my fellow students. Personally, I think having your own style of learning, being proactive yet earnest, and last but not least, willing to exchange ideas with your counterparts are the crucial factors that will indeed help you to improve your English, not just academically but also with lifelong benefits.

Frankly speaking, to grasp your learning pace is really indispensable. It is easy to dismiss the importance of 'knowing your ability' as either a vacuous platitude or an overstatement." Of course I know what I am doing right now," but the fact is they do not even know whether their way of acquiring knowledge works or not. To learn a language does not mean to learn how to use it in public exams. On the contrary, the language you learn should be 'dissolved' in your mouth, which means you can use it like your mother tongue. You can 'taste' it. You can feel it.

I often watch YouTube videos. There are plenty of channels you can choose from, ranging from scientific learning Veritasium, MinutePhysics, Crash Course, and TED to fun facts Top10memes, Smosh etc. You can even start with watching gamers such as PewDiePie and try to understand what he is talking about. Furthermore, some YouTube clips are with English subtitles, which makes learning through watching videos much easier.

It does not matter whether you are a quick learner or not. Building up confidence and daily vocabulary is essential and basic to improving proficiency in any language. Some may think that constant practice through doing exercises is more effective; however, my opinion is that tutorial classes and exercises cannot bring enormous benefits in the long run as they cost you more money and less rest. Therefore, I would not recommend tutorial classes as a way to catch up with learning pace of the whole class or brush up proficiency in English.

Truth lies behind the mist of uncertainty. We are the one who clears this uncertainty by actively asking and observing. Asking a question can reflect the knowledge you have obtained and not yet obtained. Even if you are a high-flyer in exams, do not be complacent. There are still oceans and oceans of knowledge awaiting you.

Friends are the one who will give a helping hand in need. As the Chinese old saying goes, "You may trim your appeal if you take brass as mirror; you may know prosperity and downfall of a country if you take history as mirror; you will understand the merits and drawbacks if you take people as mirror." You will find out what you have not done enough and should be improved.

It is an honor to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. This makes me feel being supported and I could therefore walk farther on the road towards excellence. I must admit there is still big room for further improvement. I would like to save this Scholarship into my education fund i.e. money for university and exchange trips. Widening our horizons is a good way to experience foreign cultures and thus languages. I would also plan to read 10 books in the following year. Reading does give me a sense of accomplishment.

Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it. Always remember that this whole thing was started with a dream and a mouse." I would like to thank Mr. Liu Man Kin, donor of the Scholarship, for giving keen support to our school in nurturing young learners to be proficient in languages. Lastly, please allow me to reiterate that it is an honor to receive the Literary Excellence Scholarship.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Mok Tsun Yiu

Class : 4E (2014-15)

As we know, "Rome is not built in one day". It is the same when it comes to learning languages, which requires persistent effort. However, having suitable learning strategies is of the same importance, since they can help us allocate time more efficiently.

In my experience, reading is the best way to learn languages. You may think that is a cliché but it did help improve my English a lot. Every time we yearn to learn a language properly, we had better understand its application first. Through reading, we can see and thus learn how the author described, and later try to imitate the writing style in our articles. Moreover, we can widen our scope of vocabulary, which can be used both in our writings or daily life. One of the vocabulary sources I find the most pragmatic is South China Morning post. We have to subscribe to it for a period of time yet as far as I know, few classmates treasure it or view it as a valuable learning opportunity. Indeed, I believe words like "referendum" or phrases like "be earmarked to something" will be useful when I need to write an essay in Liberal Studies. It is apparent that the benefit of learning vocabulary through reading is that you can learn their usage at the same time too. There are numerous ways to use a word and reading can help us know as many of them as possible.

Besides, watching high quality English Youtube videos is perhaps a more interesting way to improve our listening and oral skills. From these videos we can learn a wide variety of colloquial expressions yet I have to emphasize that videos of HIGH QUALITY should be watched. There is no use in looping videos with mere imprecation and indecent jokes except that they can pollute our mind.

Though my English has advanced, there is still much room for me to improve. Sometimes my essays are not well-structured so it will be difficult for others to comprehend. I reckon it can be improved by drafting an outline before actually composing the article. Other than that, my comprehension skills need to be brushed up. I shall do more exercises so that I will be more proficient in it.

In conclusion, the Literacy Excellence Scholarship is very meaningful to me. It encourages me to polish my English further. I will improve myself and do my best in the years to come.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Sze Yuk Ching

Class : 4E (2014-15)

Make out your first leap, and become the winner

I would like to hereby express my utmost gratitude to Mr. Liu Man Kin, who donated generously to fund the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I would also like to express my dearest appreciation to Ms. Tsoi and other English teachers, who spare no effort to enlighten me with knowledge and sculpted me to be a more proficient student academically.

This is my first time to have received scholarship, and I would like to share how I finally had the chance to stand on the stage and harvest the fruit I sowed. My story began when I was in F.1, and I was a total freshman in the school.

I was hardly a high-flyer in my primary school, and I dared not dream big about my English results when I came here. Knowing that my classmates were brilliant and diligent students with exquisite flair, I had never conceived myself that I could improve my English this much. For most of the time, having bare passes was my goal for basically all the quizzes, tests and exams. I seldom found English interesting. To be frank, I used to find it boring and tedious.

The turning point of my life was in F.3, when my English teacher, Ms. Wong, invited me to join the Speech Festival. I was flattered at first, unable to believe that she chose me to represent the school. My friend asked me to participate with him. I thought it would be a great idea to join, so I said yes to Ms. Wong, and I joined the duologue section with my friend.

I remember that a former alumni was invited to teach us how to do a duologue well. To my surprise, it was not as monotonous as the plain prose reading, it was much more interesting as it requires not only prose-reading skills, but acting skills and drama elements. Gradually, I found myself not only becoming more intrigued in learning English, I was no longer afraid to speak English in public! It was really astonishing for me as I finally found the interesting part of English. And the final outcome? You would not believe it. We were the second runner-up! This experience boosted my morale and I became a lot more courageous when it comes to learning English.

This year, I joined the event again. I was the first runner-up in the solo prose reading and the second runner-up together with my partner in duologue. I am adamant that the previous year's experience had enormous effect on me and paved way for my success. I even joined the mock trial competition the first time with my schoolmates and I won the 'Best Witness' award.

I understand the boasting part has to stop for now. What I really want to emphasize is that it is never too hard or too late to make yourself leap. If I never had the courage to raise my hand and tell Ms. Wong I was interested in joining the Speech Festival, I could still have been the underdog in my class, grumbling and mumbling about my English results. If you dare to take risk and make your first move in your weak point, you are halfway to success!

To those who want to improve your English, I would give three suggestions. First, you should really focus a lot on your English lessons. Teachers in our schools are extremely devoted and committed. They are working from dawn to dusk to teach us everything they know and guide us to become great students. Thus, we should never miss out the English lessons. I used to doze off in class and up until now I am still regretting it! Being one of the committee members of the Prose Reading Club in school, I would definitely recommend students join us and gain vital experience in English speaking skills. You will also gain confidence which could benefit you in your daily life. It is simply killing two birds with one stone!

Lastly, never be too shy to seek help from your teachers and friends that are better than you! When you have encountered problems, don't hesitate and hold back your doubts. Consult the teachers or discuss them with your friends! You could benefit a lot from that and improve a lot academically!

Every book starts with page one. Similarly, success begins with our first leap. Dare to make your first move, and you will go through all the hardships in your life. Fellow schoolmates, let us work hard together to pursue our dreams!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Au Yeung Tsz Fung

Class : 5D (2014-15)

To start with, I am extremely honored to be able to receive the Literary Excellence Scholarship because of my results in English Language. I believe that a firm grasp on basic knowledge and high sensitivity to trending social issues are both fundamental to launch oneself onto the road of brilliancy.

First and foremost, I consider extensive exposure to English to be the main contributing factor of becoming proficient in the language. Nowadays, there are many diverse ways for us to incorporate English into our daily lives. For newcomers, television drama series, movies and songs all provide a great deal of incentives for students to approach the language. For instance, pop songs usually have lyrics accompanied by catchy tune and rhythm so learners won't be easily bored. Meanwhile, TV shows use clever conversations to produce an intriguing plot to suck audiences in, allowing viewers to learn more about colloquial language. These methods can help students to immerse themselves in an English environment.

Nonetheless, neither of those activities is able to provide as many benefits as reading does, as one can observe various vocabulary and sentence patterns unique to English. A book is like a garden carried in the pocket. Therefore, it is prudent for students to start book-hunting, which shouldn't prove difficult as many of them can be easily found online and are highly accessible, once they feel at home with the language. In my own experience, I first lost myself in English programmes before becoming a fan of English novels. Generally speaking, these can all help us build up a solid base before further sharpening our skills in the near future and for the rest of our lives.

Moreover, keeping ourselves updated about global news and celebrities' statuses is of utmost importance. Many valuable reading materials, such as newspaper articles contain information regarding new technology or biographies of famous and influential people. The same can even be said of the reading papers in examinations. Having familiarized ourselves with these materials means that we will have prior knowledge on certain scientific wording and lives of popular figures. This can be easily done by reading vital segments of newspaper and watching English news report every day. Through these, we can better adopt to the current English learning environment as well as handling our exams more easily. It is truly killing two birds with one stone.

Improving our English is not only vital for our exam results but can also indirectly aid us on multiple occasions. As a universal language, English is the most commonly written and spoken language in the world. Having good English can help us make friends across the world and communicate with them with ease. Since many reports and essays are written in English, if we are more familiar with English on a whole, we can gain exclusive information and knowledge from the above sources. Last but not least, we can broaden our horizons and widen our scope. To conclude, due to benefits of being proficient in English, I am greatly motivated to enhance my English proficiency.

Despite having made some progress, there is still much to do before I can truly be confident with my ability. To do so, I plan to participate in more events in which English is the dominating language so that I can be fully immersed in the language environment. No doubt it is likely to be an unforgettable experience too. Furthermore, if possible, I hope I can join an overseas exchange programme and visit countries like Britain where English is the native language. By interacting with the locals, I can deepen my knowledge and improve my oral skills through testing my capability.

In conclusion, I whole-heartedly agree that constant practices and reflections is pivotal to reach beyond our limit. Therefore, I will do my best to seek new ways in hope of bringing myself to a new height. I am glad that I have been chosen to receive this scholarship. Through hard work and determination, I am convinced that every student can reap the benefits of having good English one day.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chau Ming Yeung

Class : 5D (2014-15)

It is an honour for me to have received Literary Excellence Scholarship in the academic year of 2014-2015 as a F.5 student. I express my sincere gratitude to having such an opportunity to share with you my learning experiences and some reflections that might inspire and refresh you.

As a form 5 student, I am experiencing pressure exerted by HKDSE. Homework and tests stack up to my neck. Many of my schoolmates learn English just because of the public exams, and they have no intention to improve their English levels despite their focus on exam skills and marks. It is such a tragedy that the education system in Hong Kong has become exam-oriented. I always try to strike a balance between exams and rest, and I was once frustrated by tonnes of homework and challenges like most of you. But what I want to emphasize is that we need to learn the strategies to study in daily life and never disconnect ourselves from the surroundings.

To be frank, learning English is not a piece of cake for sure. We are not familiar with the foreign language compared with our mother tongue, so we may be afraid of English and avoid using it. In the following essay, I would like to share with you some tips to help you embrace a new mindset to learn English more effectively and fruitfully.

English lights up our future by bridging our gap with the globe. Grab every chance to expose yourselves to an English environment. Immersing yourselves into some of your favorite pastimes like reading fiction, magazines and newspapers, watching documentaries, TV shows and movies, or just listening to pop songs and talks which you are interested in, helps broaden your scope and horizons and, what's more, assists in igniting your flame to achieve your learning targets and your willingness to empower yourselves, so that you may learn English voluntarily and eagerly. Just take myself as an example. I would search for absorbing and entertaining TV episodes or reality shows, like Master Chef, in English through Youtube and other Internet platforms. They are easily accessible and worth watching. We are able to learn colloquial English and delve into an ambience of language. Through constant exposure to English, our English levels can be raised gradually with efforts made.

Many of us neglect and deny our strengths and potentials, and some of us just cannot overcome obstacles due to a lack of confidence. Nevertheless, some of the barriers do not actually exist. Whether they emerge depends on our attitude and courage to take action. Just like most of you, it is challenging for me to tackle four English papers. I attempted to plan my learning schedules and make good use of my holidays to enhance my language proficiency by reading books and doing exercises. Obviously, there were times when I could not reach my target, but the utmost importance of learning English is to preserve your passion to explore the world. Once you have a perfect understanding on the nature of English as an international tool for communication, you will know how to let yourselves off the hook of exams, and take the initiative to learn English so as to fulfil your desire to explore the globe.

As the saying goes, "Every dog has his day." Never worry about whether you have a chance or not. Take the long view instead of being frustrated on your English exams only. Leave yourselves some space for a nap. Besides, try to learn English in daily life, but not in tutorial classes or before exams. This can make learning more enjoyable and meaningful to a large extent.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients

(2014-15)

Name of student : Ip Tsz Chung Macro

Class : 5D (2014-15)

I am glad to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship in English this year. In the following, I would like to share my reasons for success.

To begin with, I think cultivating a reading habit is undoubtedly the most effective means to improve language skills. By reading English newspapers regularly, we can widen our scope of vocabulary and also improve our grammar. In addition to language skills, you can be more sensitive to current affairs and this will surely be useful in other subjects.

Before having my final exam, I kept reading newspapers every day and jotted down the words that I didn't know. By repeating this process for a period of time, I finally had improvement in English in the Final Exam, especially the writing paper. Not only newspapers, other reading materials like novels and poems can also help us to consolidate our English proficiency. Take me as an example. I would under no circumstances read English novels before. However, my mum once forced me to read. After finishing the first chapter, I couldn't help flipping through the pages. I found the pleasure of reading from then on. Up till now, I will still devote all my spare time to reading. I am sure that if you can foster a reading habit, your English level will keep rising day by day.

Besides, watching English programmes instead of Chinese is also beneficial to learning English. I suggest you watch the English version and read the English subtitles simultaneously to polish your listening skills. In this way, you can learn English in an entertaining way. Students should take the initiative to talk to the NET teacher and grab every chance to speak English with the teachers. Through more contact with English, your oral skills will be enhanced and your confidence boosted.

As English is the international language, we should keep using the language all the time. In order to further improve my English, I will join an English camp in my summer vacation. In the camp, as all participants have to speak English, I can totally immerse myself into the English-speaking environment.

To conclude, we should not study English only for the exams. It should be for our whole life. We need English all the time in our future career, so we should make best use of this summer to brush up our English!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student: Leung Lai Hang

Class: 5D (2014-15)

I am very glad to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship. Looking back, my journey to good English is quite tough. I wasn't born in a family with both of my parents being able to speak fluent English, or having extra cash every month to fund me to attend various phonics, pronunciation class or grammar classes. I was born into a typical Hong Kong family. However, I believe nothing worth having comes easy, and this is my simple yet effective motivation. Everyone who excels in something will have made a lot of effort into it before succeeding. With continuous hard work and profound interest in something, it is predictable that they will be high achievers in those fields.

Hard work is prerequisite for success in anything. Most of us are not gifted. Luckily, hard work could be a substitute for talent when talents failed to work hard. I remembered my Mathematics teacher, Ms. Chan, said, 'For the next three years, whenever you feel powerless or desperate, always remember the word "effort". If you want to succeed in the HKDSE, you have to put in "effort".' I did not listen to her at first. However, things become clearer when I had already gone through more than three quarters of the journey. By the time I am typing this article, there are less than 7 months to the HKDSE. The clock is ticking. For me, not until half year earlier did I recognise the importance of working hard. If I had realised this earlier, I am sure I would have become even better. No matter how hard you have worked in the past, always remember to treat today as the first day of your remaining years. Never let your laziness in the past be one of your burdens on the journey. It is never too late so do make good use of your time and work hard. I look forward to seeing you in the media being one of those getting seven 5** in the HKDSE.

The famous Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs, has once said, 'Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.' Take a look around you. I am sure you won't find a person who excels in something but didn't love it at all. Therefore, I believe the second key to improve academically is love what you do. If you are still in junior forms, take some time to get to know about yourself. Make a prudent decision when you choose your subjects. If you have already chosen your subjects, start to fall in love with them, seriously. You have no time to complain and the only thing and the best thing you can do is to love it and make it one of your strengths.

Regardless of your goals, it is beyond doubts that the above two factors are crucial for everyone to achieve their goals and be outstanding. Although we may not be one of the best students, at least we have tried our best. At the end of the day, it is the attitude that counts. I would like to use a quote from the Indian movie, "3 idiots", to end this short piece of writing. Don't chase success, chase excellence and success will follow.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Yuen Ho Cheung

Class : 5D (2014-15)

First of all, I am delighted to have received the Literary Excellence Scholarship and have a chance to share a reflections on my reasons for success, factors for making the progress and a plan on how to bring about further improvement.

There are some contributing factors for me to make progress in learning English. I decided to make more strenuous effort to fight for a better future. Besides being the international language, English is also a prerequisite for our future career. If we don't learn English well, we will regret while we are working. Besides, I have found that English is everywhere, like in movies, books, our daily life and etc. Not only can a good command of English give us a competitive edge, but it can also help us communicate with people from other countries more easily.

I would also like to reflect on my reasons for success. Although it is just slight improvement, I have put lots of efforts. It is without a shadow of doubt that if we endeavour to do something, we can succeed. Moreover, the result has proved that being patient and never giving up are the keys to success. I believe that opportunities only knock once and are for well-prepared people. As a result, my effort pays off and I still need to be more hard-working for further improvement.

In the years to come, I still have to work harder. I know it is not easy, so I am going to have plan on how to bring about further improvement. If I need to raise my English level, I have to make more strenuous effort. Furthermore, self-access learning is of utmost importance for further improvement. for instance, we should read more books and newspapers to widen our scope of vocabulary. This can surely help our writing. Moreover, we ought to concentrate more in class. We can also watch some Ted Talks, which enable us to learn more useful vocabularies, and also widen our horizons. We have to practice more so that we can strengthen our grammar foundation and improve our pronunciation.

To sum up, either having improvement or success, we need to keep working hard. Never giving up is an indispensable step before reaching success.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Tsin Lok Yin

Class : 5D (2014-15)

To begin with, I'm so honored to receive the Literary Excellence Scholarship. I had been having a really hard time improving my English results before I discovered ways to learn English effectively. Undoubtedly, improving English results require a lot of efforts – there are really no shortcuts.

First of all, I believe taking an initiative to learn English in our daily life is the utmost important factor in learning English. Living in a metropolitan city, English can be found easily everywhere. For instance, English newspapers, English books, English slogans and English posters are media that help us to learn English. We should always pay attention to these as they may consist of vocabulary which may be useful in writing. In my own experience, I read young post every day to enhance my interest in reading English texts. With colorful photos and interesting Sudoku games provided, I am able to read the whole young post without feeling bored. I highly recommend it to everyone to build a reading habit as well. On the other hand, English songs and movies do help a lot in learning English if you do not have much interest in English at the beginning. Take watching movies as an example. The twist and turns in movies may easily seek your attention, which provides incentives for learners to watch them. Hence, our scope of vocabulary can be widened.

Furthermore, we should always allocate our revision time wisely. Nowadays, a majority of students give priority to the elective subjects as they are believed to be more practical than English. The insufficient studying time in English eventually leads to unsatisfactory English results. How can students expect to have good English results if they do not even manage their revision time wisely? Besides, some students pull an all-nighter before the English examinations, and as a result they flunk their examinations. In my opinion, what we should do is to manage time properly and concentrate while doing revision.

To sum up, I'm so glad to have been awarded this scholarship. I will try my best to strive for further improvement and breakthrough in my English results in the future so as not to let anyone down. For those who are still struggling with English, pluck up your courage and take the initiative to learn the language. Work hard pays off! Be confident in yourself!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Wan Tsun Yin

Class : 6B (2014-15)

First of all, I must admit here it was pretty surprising for me, if not shocking, when I realized that I had been awarded this 'Literary Excellence Scholarship' in English Language- the third most improved.

Time flies! We've now finished our HKDSE Examination and are preparing to move on to the next stage of our life. In the past 3 years as students under the senior secondary curriculum, we've all been working hard, shoulder by shoulder with our almost tireless teachers, in pursuit of being admitted to the university. Now we can finally take a break, but yet our teachers cannot because they've still got a lot more students to teach.

Whenever talking about the key to achieving a decent improvement in a foreign language, our own hard work is of course one of the pre-requisites to success, but credits should also give to my 3-year English teacher, Mrs Tam- and I believe it would be the best place for me to express my deep-hearted and sincere gratitude to her. Admittedly, my English, especially writing, used to be quite prolix and even digressive. It has all been thankful to have Mrs Tam as my teacher. Not only had she taught me knowledge about English, she had also inspired me to excel. She encouraged us to strive for the best, and at the same time, she did her best to teach us, which you can easily feel from any of her lessons. What I learnt from her is far more than academically English results for HKDSE- but something useful lifelong.

Take the generalization skill Mrs Tam has emphasized for long as an example. Not only such skill can be applied to English Language writing and speaking, it is also applicable to our critical thinking and value judgement when evaluating any issue in our life. What's more, Mrs Tam trained me in the road to F.4 Prose Reading competition, equipped me with different English oral skills, which I can still clearly remember now. Thanks to her teaching, I eventually captured the champion trophy. As such, what's more can I ask for from such a passionate and experienced teacher like Mrs Tam?

Mrs Tam, though sometimes you might mix my name with the most diligent girl's name in our class, or maybe (it is obvious that) I am not your academically best performed student. I really want to once again express my deepest gratitude to you here, just hope one day I can repay.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Wong Cheuk Yin

Class : 6B (2014-15)

As being a student attaining the Literary Excellence Scholarship of Improvement in English Language, I would like to share the joy of achievement, and the way to success with all of you through this short essay.

You may question why I was willing to improve my English standard, and how to make such a progress.

Before starting to make such an improvement, it is ultimately crucial to give yourself a reason to improve. Without the determination and the strong will, the thought of giving up will arise. English is a language that is widely used over the world, so that English words could be easily seen on government documentations, road signs, books, web pages, contracts, to name but a few. Even if you dislike English language, it is still being a "tool" for communication and knowledge delivery. Many universities give English language a heavy weighting, and the reference books are also printed in English. Even if you are a Chinese History major, you still get to read the source from different countries, for example, some British essays about the Opium War. You are going to be left behind if you do not read English. And that is the main reason for myself to boost my English standard.

Apart from the determination, the implementation is also crucial. There is no way to success with just a dream. And, there is no shortcut to success too, it is a must to do practices, like how the people deal with Mathematics or athletics. Of course, there are many ways to have such a practice done. For instance, reading English books, chatting with native speakers, listening to English programmes.

I am interested in technology, so I always visit websites and read books related to technology, in English, of course. Although the vocabulary learnt might be limited by your own interest, it is still a good starting point to read more English. It will be too hard for me to read Shakespeare or some dictionary size novels, because I have no interest in them. Even having some online chats, or viewing gaming-related websites, as long as they are in English, and you are interested in that context, it is surely a practical good way to learn better English. You may easily spot how the writing style and sentence patterns differ one another, and you may even do a little proofreading on the language to see your English stand.

Lastly, do not waste your teachers' effort. Even though you have to familiarize yourself with English on your own, the basic of English could not be found in any dictionaries, that is, sentence structures and grammar. Without the basic, you may only know the meaning of single words, but not the whole sentence. Teachers are the only people who find silly mistakes acceptable. So, pluck up your courage to write with novel ideas. I have made many mistakes through these trials, but without trying out the words, I can never know their correct usage. Do cherish the chance of being taught by a teacher. What are you waiting now. Grab a paper and start writing!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : WongKa Ki

Class : 6B (2014-15)

English Excellence Scholarship Essay

I am very honoured to be awarded the Literary Excellence Scholarship in English Language. Please let me first show my gratitude to the donor, Mr Liu Man Kin and my English, Mrs Tam.

I believe most of the students first improve their English by doing translation. Hong Kong students, with Chinese as their mother tongue, tend to translate every single new vocabulary they encounter into Chinese word. I as well used to be one of those students, who plan English essays in Chinese before translating them with sophisticated English vocabulary but of course, at the expense of being criticized as "unnatural" and Chinglish.

As I read more, I started to realize that this kind of translation strategy was not sustainable. It is absolutely impossible to substitute every English word with Chinese phrases without changing the exact meaning. For instance, "doubt" and "suspect", with similar meaning in Chinese, are used in totally different ways in English. As my teacher always says, the only way to improve English is to read and listen more, and let the words creep into our mind.

Reading is definitely the most effective way to get rid of Chinglish expressions. Nevertheless, some students may have English-book-phobia, which makes English books even more prohibitive than virus. To overcome this phobia, it is crucial that we choose the book we are really interested in. Take me as an example. I have once seen my classmate reading English literature books, which I deemed real "cool" at that time. To make myself look just as cool, I picked "Divine Comedy" in the library but unfortunately, I couldn't survive even a few pages. The book ended up to be a tragedy.

In retrospect, I looked quite ludicrous at that time as there is no need to duplicate what others do. Just pick up whatever book you like as long as it is not pornographic and violent. Whip up your interest with an interesting book and you will find out that English is not as prohibitive as you thought.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Chong Chung Hei

Class : 6E (2014-15)

Being awarded the scholarship, I felt a great sense of accomplishment since it is a recognition of my hard work.

I am convinced that the key to success is to get ourselves exposed to English-speaking environment and to polish our English skills by reading book news, etc. Through reading such useful English-learning materials, I can learn different vocabulary items and phrases, ranging from professional jargons to slang words. When it comes to speaking English, I was always tongue-tied. However, with the help of Miss Wong, who encourages me to talk more, my communication skills did improve. I came to realize the ultimate truth of learning a language is practice makes perfect. The more you speak, the more articulate you are.

Other than frequent practices, reading newspapers regularly can also improve our proficiency and widen our vocabulary bank. Therefore, when I have time, I will read through an article and find some unfamiliar words. Before using the dictionary to find out the meaning of these words, I will try to guess what they mean. In this way, I am more competent in reading some difficult articles with sophisticated words as I am capable of predicting meanings from the context. After all, it is hard to know the meaning of thousands of English words, so it is more convenient and practical to learn to guess these words.

In the senior secondary curriculum, English is one of the core subjects that every single student needs to study. Most of them see learning English as a duty or even as a torture. With no doubt, they can't learn much with this mindset. I think one of the contributory factors of being proficient in a certain language is to take the initiative to learn it. I was used to reading a newspaper when I was asked to finish my homework and I was one of those students who thought English is a torture. But then I started to read some articles in my leisure time since i came to realize the importance of English.

Undoubtedly, the help from teachers is also crucial for us to improve. I am glad to have Miss Wong to be my English teacher, who endeavored to polish my English skills and provided a helping hand when I had problems. With her help, I have become more articulate and proficient in English.

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student: Ng Lai Yu

Class: 6E (2014-15)

When I was just a little Form one child, it's real hard for me to imagine my graduation day. But then, the time has come and passed---no more teachers to tether my behaviours, no more recesses to play with friends, no more secondary school life, no more.....all is left is what I've learnt.

Cordially, the uttermost important thing I've learnt is languages skills--- both Chinese and indeed English. Being the common language of our global village, English is assuredly of paramount importance to our future successes. Nevertheless, I'm not here to accentuate the importance of English once again, which is what they do; I'm here to share with you the joy and charm of learning English.

Believe it or not, there are always some of us who do enjoy learning English, ascertaining that it may not be as hard as what the others conjectured. Then, what's the little secret of their enjoyment? First, it unequivocally has something to do with their learning methods, and I will itemize mine below.

Having adopted countless ways to enhance my English proficiency, the most joyous one I find is to listen to English songs. While you're enjoying the exquisite music, I'm sure that you will also be able to learn multifarious English vocabulary items just simply by paying attention to the lyrics of the songs. With such marvelous backdrop melodies, reciting the vocabulary you learnt will just be a breeze!

There is yet another approach I use in order to learn English, which is to watch English movies regularly! English movies are fun, thrilling and intriguing. After watching a single English flick, you're bound to have your listening and speaking skills improved and you can learn the accents from the actors and actresses. Even more, you can extend your scope of vocabulary after watching the movies. Make an effort to create your own vocabulary book, jot down the words and phrases wherever you learnt previously on it. Don't forget to read through your vocabulary book when you're free so as to brush up your knowledge, and you will never succeed unless you endeavor to do so. As time passes by, you are bound to relish yourself in the world of English!

Still, in order to follow the above pathways to success, first you must need an incentive. For me, one of my motivations is my longing for the success in my future career. English is utterly important for my desired career, indeed, for most of the careers, for instance, lawyers, journalists, teachers, etc. Being proficient in English Language skills is unconditionally the prerequisite to such promising occupations as you will need to communicate with others by making use of English. This thought keeps motivating me to improve my English skills in various aspects and I hope that it'll be your incentive to enhance your skills too.

Another contributing factor to my improvement is the support from my teachers and my classmates. Their encouragement keeps reminding me to improve my English skills. No one is impeccable and there is always plenty room for improvement for us. This is the reason why we need to keep ourselves improving by learning. My mentors let me understand this thoroughly and now I always remind myself of this with a view to being a better person.

Graduation is not the termination of learning. On the contrary, it's a milestone---a milestone which keeps prodding me to learn more and more!

S.K.H. Tsang Shiu Tim Secondary School

Essays of Literary Excellence Scholarship Recipients (2014-15)

Name of student : Yiu Ka Sang

Class : 6E (2014-15)

To master anything really quickly and painlessly, say English

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Liu Man Kin, donor of the Literary Excellence Scholarship, for his selfless contributions, as well as his conviction to help us students overcome the trying hurdles of English learning.

This scholarship undoubtedly provided us with a strong motivation for perpetual self-improvement, and more importantly, a platform for us to share our journeys to new heights, in which we can learn from each other, and get further ahead.

English is a tough and hard-to-learn subject from many students' perspective. The dread and frustration keep holding them back from making any substantial progress. To make matters worse, our minds are constantly flooded with new knowledge, homework and extra-curricular activities. In this nonstop world, when will you ever find that much time and energy to do something about that subtle and daunting language?

Here I would like to share some ideas which I take from Mr Josh Kaufman's book, *'First 20 Hours: How to Learn Anything... Fast!'*. He proposed a simple and field-tested method to help us get to grips with any new things that we want to learn. Though English is definitely not something new to you if you can understand me up to this point, why not learn it in a new way, given your old approach has been proven rather unsuccessful? His revolutionary way, condensed in merely hundreds of words, is provided as follows:

First, deconstruct the skill. For the case of learning English, or more precisely, preparing for English exams, fragments of such a skill include: format of e-mail, subject-verb agreement, understanding of vocabulary items, ability to locate synonyms and antonyms, to name but a few. Search for the ones that appear repeatedly in exams and that you are familiar with. Those are necessarily basic building blocks for you to excel in English. The more you can break apart the skill, the more you are able to decide what you have to do in order to achieve your goal, and you can practice those first.

Then, you just have to learn enough to self-correct and remove practice barriers. Do not give yourself pretexts for procrastination. For instance: I have to learn every grammar rule before practicing writing; or I have to wade through the whole dictionary before doing a reading comprehension exercise. Do it step by step, but make sure that you are moving in the right direction; in other words, the ability to self -correct. As for practice barriers, examples include TV, online games, WhatsApp, you name it. What to do about them? Just have those distractions removed and concentrate.

Last but not least, pre-commit to practice. At first it is easy for novices to feel stupid, but once the frustration barrier is overcome, everyone can stick with the practice long enough to reap actual reward.

Simple, right? So get started, it's now or never!