



From left to right: Ms MA Yee-nam, Ms TAM Wing-han and Mr LI Ka-kit

Diversified English Learning Experiences

Recipients of the Certificate of Merit

Mr LI Ka-kit, Alex (Years of teaching: 9 years)
Ms TAM Wing-han, Vivien (Years of teaching: 9 years)
Ms MA Yee-nam, Isabella (Years of teaching: 9 years)

School

Pui Ching Middle School

Teaching Levels

Secondary 1 - 7
(English Language)

Teaching Beliefs

“Excellence in teaching means that teachers understand the strengths and weaknesses of their students and have succeeded in creating a motivating environment which enables students to discover knowledge, manage knowledge and create knowledge.”

Interview with the Teachers

Having taught in Pui Ching Middle School for nine years, English teachers Mr LI Ka-kit, Ms TAM Wing-han and Ms MA Yee-nam have spent a lot of time creating, tweaking, and testing out new ways of teaching. Now with a well-developed curriculum, they see their hard work coming into fruition, as students are gradually improving their English skills.

A School-based Curriculum

The teachers at Pui Ching have incorporated various modules into their curriculum to enhance students' English learning experience. For the lower forms, they have designed an English Literature module to develop students' literary appreciation and understanding and to foster their analytical skills. For elite students, the teachers have developed modules integrating English Language Education with Liberal Studies, Integrated Humanities and drama education to make language learning more interesting and challenging. The teachers have effectively tailor-made the modules to cater to students' needs.

The teachers have also introduced many English activities into their curriculum, for example, an annual Drama Night, Reading Week, English Café performances, all of which arouse students' interest in learning English. Having won a number of awards for their drama performances, students have, no doubt, developed confidence in using English.



Taking learning outside the classroom, Ms MA is explaining to students what has been installed in one of the many kiosks on campus.

e-Curriculum

In addition to introducing English literature and the humanities subjects into their curriculum, the teachers have made use of technology to enliven learning and teaching. With Smartboards, Wi-fi devices, mobile phones, and video-conferencing, students at Pui Ching are immersed in technology of all kinds. They are able to use their mobile phones to download news clips every morning and have video-conferencing calls to debate or discuss issues with students in Singapore and Beijing.

Mobile learning, Geocaching and Smartboards enable teachers to analyse students' answers instantly. Teachers also make use of synchronised recordings in their Communication Centre to track students' discussions for self and peer evaluation.

For these three teachers, using technology is one of the approaches to teaching that makes learning more interesting. Mr LI thinks that the IT tools don't count much on their own; they should be used to assist regular teaching. Effective teaching requires a holistic approach, not just by using IT itself.

However, IT provides a good platform for communication and information sharing. The teachers have created an online resource bank for teachers to upload teaching materials and lesson plans. This fosters professional sharing among teachers.

Where there's a will, there's a way

When asked if they have ever doubted or encountered difficulties with the development of an IT-rich campus, all three teachers were unified in their affirmative response. But they are willing to try new things. Ms MA says that the teachers all share the view that if they believe something will work, eventually it will.

It is this attitude that made an IT-rich campus possible. Even more so is the sincere care that each teacher shows the students. Taking time to chat with students in and out of class on a regular basis about things academic or personal, they have built very strong teacher-student rapport. Referring to teaching at Pui Ching Middle School, Ms TAM says that the teachers really love their students and care about the next generation. She feels that what they put in now, they will see in the future.



Students enjoy using interactive Smartboards during the English lessons.



Teachers' **Sharing**

Raising the English standards of the students is a challenge for many teachers. We have tried to achieve “excellence” in teaching by creating a learning environment which enables students to discover knowledge, manage knowledge and create knowledge.

Our English campus

At Pui Ching, we are lucky to have an English campus which is an asset in the implementation of the English curriculum. We have a Communication Centre, English Café, Black Box Theatre and campus kiosks with pre-installed questions for action learning. Our newly IT-equipped classrooms link us up with classrooms in other countries and our e-community offers a platform for collaborative learning.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum includes three elements which are inter-related and provides a comprehensive coverage of the learning targets.

The Regular Curriculum and the Elite Curriculum

Our regular school-based curriculum is characterised by its modular design, tailor-made materials and IT activities. English Literature modules are added to further train students' literary appreciation skills, and reading and writing abilities. Together with the school-based reader modules, we have laid a firm foundation for the new English curriculum.

Our elite curriculum is interdisciplinary, combining English Language Education with Integrated Humanities, Liberal Studies and drama education. It aims to enhance students' language proficiency and higher-order thinking skills.

The e-Curriculum

The e-Curriculum enables students not only to discover knowledge but also to manage and create knowledge. Activities include:

Mobile learning – using mobile phones to learn, which enhances interactivity between teachers and students and enables instant polling and testing;

World Explorer – morning news broadcasting with related questions for students to answer;

Geocaching – opportunities for students to leave their classrooms and learn English using the touch-screen kiosks;

Student Forum – an e-community where teachers, students, parents and alumni can participate in discussions and share knowledge with one another.

The Extended Curriculum

This is a series of activities conducted outside class time to provide students with maximum exposure to the English language, e.g. Reading Week, English Literature Week, scrabble competitions, drama competitions, debates, presentations in the assembly, weekly performances in the English Café, etc. Besides providing opportunities to practise English, these activities encourage originality and team work. One of the most successful examples is the publication of *Oasis*, a collection of essays from the whole school. Senior form students' talents in desktop publishing were exemplified and their team work has served as a model for the junior forms.

Effectiveness

Since the implementation of the school-based curriculum, students have found studying English more interesting and challenging. The interesting content, frequent discussions and plentiful performing opportunities have enhanced learning effectiveness.

Conclusion

Teamwork is the foundation of success. We are fortunate to have a strong and committed English panel. With their professional support, sharing and creativity, a vibrant and sustainable English culture has been uniquely established in Pui Ching, to be passed on in the years to come.



Mobile learning is a key element in the curriculum. Using Wi-fi, students access the school's server to download new lessons each day.

Assessment Summary

Dedicated to developing a curriculum with an IT component and a range of extra-curricular activities to promote students' interest in English language learning.

The three teachers are dedicated to transforming Pui Ching Middle School into an IT-rich campus to facilitate the learning and teaching of English. They have also shown strong team spirit and leadership in curriculum development. Their school-based English curriculum includes three inter-related components: a regular curriculum with programmes for the elites, an e-Curriculum which is a variety of IT-assisted activities integrated into the regular curriculum, and an extended curriculum of extra-curricular activities.

The re-designed curriculum gives teachers the flexibility of adding new modules. One of the new modules is English Literature for the lower forms, with the teachers designing a wide range of tasks to develop students' knowledge of literary works and skills of literary appreciation. They have also taken the initiative of integrating Liberal Studies and Integrated Humanities with the English curriculum in the elite classes, with the English teachers taking charge of all the lessons. Their efforts of introducing drama to students and involving them in the different stages of drama production have also fostered a positive attitude towards English learning in students.

The e-Curriculum has enlivened and provided variety to the conventional English lessons. The teachers have worked tirelessly to explore IT tools and resources and design interactive and entertaining activities to enable students to learn English outside the classroom, anytime and anywhere. Students, especially the lower forms, told the Assessment Panel that they enjoyed learning English with the IT tools.

The teachers have also created an environment and culture for language learning outside the classroom.

Activities like the Annual Drama Night, Reading Week and English Literature Week, 3-day English Singing Contest, movie shows, annual visit to the SCMP, the English Ambassadors scheme, etc. stimulate students' interest and motivation in learning English and encourage students to use English in their daily lives. The Assessment Panel was impressed with the students' confidence and ease in using the language in class and during the interview. The teachers' efforts in promoting English language learning through IT and non-IT activities deserve recognition.



A variety of activities for English learning.

Way of Access to Information of the above Teaching Practice

Website: www.puiching.edu.hk

Preferred Way of Dissemination

Sharing workshops

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