

Exemplar 12: Organising the Experiential Dimension of English Language Learning

Overview

[Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School](#), which is situated in Po Lam in Tseung Kwan O, organised a trip to England for a group of students during two successive summers.

Trip to England



Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School



This English Enhancement Measure was regarded as exemplary good practice because of the originality of its conception and organisation and its impact on both the participants and the wider school community.

Participants in 2001



Initial Planning



One of the two NET teachers



The idea of organising a trip to England was proposed in 2000 to the then principal by one of the school's two NET teachers. The principal was extremely enthusiastic about the idea because she was very keen to raise the standard of English in the school. She gave her wholehearted support to sponsorship and fund-raising initiatives. With the backing of the principal, the two NET teachers organised the first trip, which took place in summer 2001.

At an early stage, the decision was taken to limit participation to S.6 students only. They were felt to have the required level of maturity and to be most capable of benefiting from a period of immersion in an English-speaking environment. Also, they were not encumbered with the burden of public examinations in that year.



Aim and Objectives

When the NET teachers conceived of a school trip to England, they had a very clear rationale. One key feature was that it should be more than just a study trip. Instead, it was to be an experience that would genuinely broaden students' experience with English and English culture. The NETs therefore organised the trip so that it would achieve a range of linguistic, cultural and experiential objectives:

- To enhance students' language proficiency
- To strengthen students' English skills
- To develop students' confidence
- To encourage students to become independent learners
- To provide students with the opportunity to be immersed in the English culture
- To enable students to practise their English in authentic social contexts
- To develop students' social skills in various cultural settings
- To foster students' love of English
- To enhance students' examination and employment prospects



The 2002 participants' scrapbook



The 2001 participants



NET expertise in conducting a trip of this kind

This is not just a study trip, but a linguistic and cultural immersion programme. Hong Kong students have exposure to globalization via the Internet, but they lack the opportunity of exposure to non-Chinese culture that will enable them to become proficient and comfortable in any Western social and cultural environment.

As we do not teach at an EMI school with students who are financially and socially advantaged, our philosophy is to offer every opportunity and advantage to the students under our care and instruction.

This sort of trip is invaluable for many reasons that will be illustrated later. This type of trip draws heavily on the expertise of the expatriate teachers. The students are very comfortable with the expatriate teachers and seize every opportunity to spend time with them as will be demonstrated in the extensive fund-raising for the trip.

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Key Features

The distinctive feature of the school trip to England was that it was not just a two-week immersion programme. Instead, it was a year-long English enhancement project, involving not only the participants but also the whole school.

Since most of the students came from low-income families, one major issue in planning the trips was cost. In order to ensure that no student would be unable to take part in a trip for financial reasons alone, an ambitious programme of fund-raising formed part of the project.

The S.6 students took a leading role in organising a school second-hand sale of stationery sets and products donated by Goodstar International Limited, and in obtaining support from Vitasoy for a year-long sale of the company's drinks in the school.



For all the S.6 potential participants, the year-long project involved not only organising the fund-raising activities but also planning the itinerary for the trip. English was used as far as possible throughout. For example, when students researched possible places to visit and stay, they presented the options, in English, to other would-be participants.



A Chinese dinner at the Yang Sing Restaurant in Manchester's Chinatown - the owner of the restaurant, who delivered a speech to the entire party, was one of the sponsors.

Since the 2001 group included a large number of boys, the organisers decided to include a visit to Manchester United Football Club in the itinerary.



The S6 students took a leading role in the following fund-raising and publicity initiatives:

- Soliciting a reduction of airfares from Cathay Pacific Airways Limited
- Securing a donation of stationery sets and products from Goodstar International Limited to be sold at the Clearwater Bay (ESF) School Night Market and also at the school
- Organising a school second-hand sale
- Running a stall at the Clearwater Bay School Night Market
- Soliciting sponsorship from major local companies such as Shanghai Tang
- Organising a School Talent Show to raise money
- Obtaining support from Vitasoy for a year-long sale of the company's drinks at a stall in the school, and overseeing the running of the stall
- Securing sponsorship from the owner of the Yang Sing Restaurant in Manchester's Chinatown district, who laid on a welcome banquet for the entire party
- Publicising the trip via the South China Morning Post, which reported on the fund raising for the trip

All correspondence with potential sponsors (and follow-up thanks) was in English, providing the students with valuable real-life experience of formal letter-writing in an appropriate register to achieve specific communicative purposes.

Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School
將軍澳官立中學

Tel. 電話 : 27011779 (Principal 校長室)
27040051 (Office 校務處)
Fax 傳真 : 27040777



2 King Yin Lane, Tseung Kwan O
將軍澳敬賢里二號

本校檔案 OUR Ref. :
來函檔案 YOUR Ref. :

5th December, 2000

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fung
Goodstar International Ltd.
Dear Mr. And Mrs. Fung,

On behalf of the Form Six students of Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School, we are writing to thank you for donating the stationery sets and bags for us to sell at our school and at the Clear Water Bay School Night Market.

That night, the goods we sold were very popular. Ms. Payton, Ms. Roberts and seven students from Form Six worked very hard selling things on our stall. Finally, all the goods were sold out and we made a great profit of \$11,000! Such a good result was fantastic and totally beyond our expectation! Compared with other stalls, we believe that we were the most popular, and earned the most money.

The money raised will really help with the fund raising for our trip to England. In addition, we learnt a lot and enjoyed the process of selling things. It was a remarkable experience for us.

Without your support, it would have been impossible for us to raise so much money and be so successful.

Once again, thank you for your support from the bottom of our hearts!

Yours sincerely,

Anthony . Kenneth . Lester .

Helpers at the Night Market
The English Trip Fund Raising Team

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24th May 2001

Public Relations Department
Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Michael Yip and I have been lucky enough to be chosen to participate in the study trip to England. Fortunately, we have now raised enough money to enable the trip to go ahead. The trip would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, one of which is you.

We were very excited to receive your offer of reduced airfares for our trip. We realized that the cost of the airfares was going to be a large part of our fundraising efforts and your considerable offer was warmly received. Your contribution encouraged us to continue with our fundraising, and to search for more sponsors.

We are currently busy preparing for our trip, attending cultural and social skills workshops, as well as researching places of interest that we will visit during the trip. We were very excited to read the article in your newspaper about our fundraising efforts. As you are my designated sponsor, I look forward to writing to you during the trip and on my return.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Michael
Michael Yip

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24th May 2001

Messrs. Harry and Gerry Yeung
Yang Sing Restaurant

Dear Messrs. Harry and Gerry Yeung,

My name is Benny Ho and I have been lucky enough to be chosen to participate in the study trip to England. Fortunately, we have now raised enough money to enable the trip to go ahead. The trip would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, one of which is you.

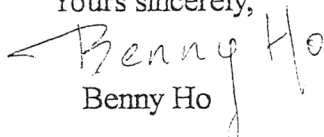
We were very excited to receive your letter and offer of a welcome banquet at your restaurant. This is a considerable offer and we were delighted to receive it. We know, from the television programme "The Yeung Ones" that your restaurant is very successful and popular and we feel honoured to have been invited for a welcome banquet.

We are currently busy preparing for our trip, attending cultural and social skills workshops, as well as researching places of interest that we will visit during the trip. We are very excited and looking forward to the coming trip. As you are my designated sponsor, I look forward to writing to you during the trip and on my return.

You may be interested to know that the South China Morning Post has written an article about our fundraising for the trip, and I have enclosed a copy for you to read. The newspaper will also have further articles written by the students. I will send you a copy of these when they are published.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


Benny Ho

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24th May 2001

Mr. David Tang O.B.E.
Shanghai Tang

Dear Mr. Tang,

My name is Jenny Chan, and I am one of the lucky students who have been chosen to join our school's study trip to England. We have now raised enough money to enable the trip to go ahead, so we are all very excited.

On behalf of all the students who are going on the trip, I would like to thank you for your donation. Without sponsors like you the trip would not be possible. In addition to your cheque, you wrote us an encouraging letter. We really appreciated your letter, and it encouraged us to continue fund raising. We were surprised that someone as busy as you would find the time to write to us personally.

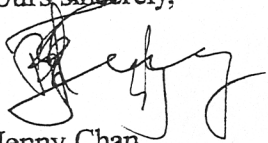
The idea of this study trip is fantastic as it provides us with an opportunity to travel and to experience another culture. When the suggestion for the trip was made, we could not believe that we could possibly raise the money. Nevertheless, despite some great disappointments, we have been successful. We have all acquired new skills, especially in letter writing, accounting, and promotion. These will all be valuable in our future careers.

We are now all busy preparing for the trip. We are attending cultural and social skills workshops to prepare us for our home-stays in England. We are each researching a different place that we will visit on the trip, and we will make a presentation to the group about our particular topic.

You are my designated sponsor, so I will be keeping in touch with you throughout the trip and on our return. You may be interested to know that the South China Morning Post has written an article about our Fundraising, and you have been mentioned in the article. There will be a series of articles written by the students, and I will send copies of these to you as they are published.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Chan'. The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail.

Jenny Chan.

Menu
6th July, 2001

Jelly Fish with Spring Onion Flavoured Oil

Stewed Baby Bamboo Shoots

Ostrich Gizzard with Garlic

Sweet Pepper Shanghai Style

Chow Chow Soup

Roast Pai Pan Duck

Sweet & Sour Spare Rib

Pan Fried Stuffed Beancurd

Diced Prawn & Pork with Peppers & Preserved Turnip

Stewed eels with Blackbean Sauce

Stir Fried Broccoli with Ginger Sauce

Boiled Rice

Mango Blancmange In a Fish Shape with

Cheshire Strawberries

The visits to the Victorian farm and the Victorian town

The trips were tailor-made to suit the needs of the participating students and planned with their active involvement.

In the 2002 trip, since the group had different interests from the first group, more elements focusing on social history were incorporated.



The homestay experience of Anthony, a participant in 2001



The nature of the trips also evolved in response to feedback from the students once the trip was over. For instance, it was found that the homestay experience with host families was extremely popular with the 2001 students. They preferred home stays to hotels. Therefore, the number of nights that the students stayed with host families was increased significantly on the second trip.

**Trip to England
Itinerary 2001**

Date	Day	Time	Details
28-June-01	Fri	1900 2335	Depart school for Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok airport CX 255 Hong Kong to London
29-June-01	Sat	0620 1400 1900	Arrive London Heathrow Arrive York Banquet dinner
30-June-01	Sun	0900 1630 1830	Take a guided walking tour of this beautiful city, visiting the <i>Minster</i> Free time to walk the city walls and to visit the many interesting alleyways and souvenir shops Coach to Harrogate to meet host families Meet host families
1-July-01	Mon	0900 1400 1830	Howarth Drive over the Yorkshire moors to <i>Bronte's Parsonage</i> Fountain's Abbey Visit to the world heritage site of the 12 th Century <i>Cistercian Abbey</i> , the <i>Medieval Deer Park</i> , the <i>Victorian Church</i> and the <i>Elizabethan</i> <i>Hall</i> . This is a unique opportunity to appreciate the full range of England's heritage with a knowledgeable local guide. Return to host families
2-July-01	Tue	0930 1830	<i>Jorvik Viking Centre</i> in York . The opportunity to step aboard a time- car and travel back in time through the centuries to the bustling market, dark smoky houses and busy wharf-side of Jorvik 948 A.D. Free time in York. Return to host families
3-July-01	Wed	0830 1130 1830	Say good-bye to host families and head north of the border into Scotland . Stop en-route at <i>Hadrian's Wall</i> and <i>Housestead's Fort</i> . The fort was built by the Roman Empire at its height and its most impressive historical ruins stretch along the countryside. Arrive in Edinburgh and check in at the Jarvis Mount Royal Hotel.
4-July-01	Thur	0830 1400 1830	Half-day sightseeing tour of Edinburgh including <i>Edinburgh Castle</i> . Afternoon free for independent sightseeing and shopping. A traditional Scottish Banquet with traditional music and dancing at the Carlton Highland Hotel.
5-July-01	Fri	0800 1430 1930	The group will today leave Scotland and head for the famous Lake District that has some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain with its panoramic views of its still lakes and surrounding mountains, thick forests and little villages. Cruise on Lake Windemere Reach the North Lakes Hotel in Penrith for overnight stay.
6-July-01	Sat	0930 1430 1800 1900	Tour of Old Trafford , the home of Manchester United football club. A tour of the museum, a chance to delve into the history of the club followed by a tour of the stadium. Chester , half-day walking tour with local guide and entrance to the Cathedral. Check-in at the Chimney House Hotel, Sandbach Leave for a very special evening in Manchester's famous China Town at the Yang Sing restaurant. Our host for the evening, Mr Harry Yeung, is a former Hong Kong citizen.

7-July-01	Sun	0830 1900	Depart Stratford-Upon-Avon . Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Afternoon walking tour of famous sights in Stratford. Check-in at the Demontford Hotel for overnight stay.
8-July-01	Mon	0900 1900	Depart Shrewsbury for London En-route to London visit the historic university town of Oxford and Christchurch Church University College Grounds. Check-in at the Hyde Park Towers Hotel, London
9-July-01	Tue	0900 1400 1900	Full day sightseeing tour of London including <i>Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey</i> and <i>Buckingham Palace</i> . See the Changing of the Guard <i>Natural History Museum</i> Farewell Dinner
10-July-01	Wed	1400 1830 1630	Free morning for sightseeing and shopping Coach collects group at the hotel for transfer to London Heathrow CX 250 London to Hong Kong Arrive Hong Kong

Itinerary 2002

Date	Day	Time	Details
29-June-02	Sat	0400 0800 1240 0130	Depart school for Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok airport SQ 001 Hong Kong to Singapore SQ 320 Singapore to London Arrive London Heathrow airport to be met by JAC and journey to Bingley by coach. Arrive Ramada Jarvis Hotel for overnight stay.
30-June-02	Sun	0900 1830	Depart Bingley by coach for the city of York . Take a guided walking tour of this beautiful city visiting the <i>Minster</i> . Free time to walk the city walls and to visit the many interesting alleyways and souvenir shops. Arrive Harrogate to be met by host families
1-July-02	Mon	0900 1345 1830	Fountain's Abbey Visit to the world heritage site of the 12 th Century <i>Cistercian Abbey</i> , the <i>Medieval Deer Park</i> , the <i>Victorian Church</i> and the <i>Elizabethan Hall</i> . This is a unique opportunity to appreciate the full range of England's heritage with a knowledgeable local guide. Departure for Howarth and <i>Bronte's Parsonage Museum</i> Return to Host families
2-July-02	Tue	0930 1530 1915 2115	<i>Jorvik Viking Centre</i> in York . The opportunity to step aboard a time-car and travel back in time through the centuries to the bustling market, dark smoky houses and busy wharf-side of Jorvik 948 A.D. Free time in York. <i>River Boat Cruise on the Ouse River</i> <i>Ghost Tour</i> This evening the group will be led on a tour through York to discover the spooky side of York's history. Return to host families
3-July-02	Wed	0830 1830	Depart for Bradford for the <i>National Museum of Photography, Film and Television</i> to explore the world of the media through a combination of permanent galleries, temporary exhibitions and three cinemas. Return to host families

4-July-02	Thur	0830 1830	Say good-bye to host families. Travel to the Roman city of Chester . Take a walking tour of Chester and complete a <i>quiz</i> . Visit the Cathedral and free time to look around Chester. Shrewsbury Meet new host families
5-July-02	Fri	0830 1430 1930	The group will today travel into Wales and <i>Caernarfon Castle</i> which is architecturally one of the most impressive castles in Wales. We will visit the <i>Llechwedd Slate Mines</i> , a deep mine offering an alternative view of slate mining. Helmeted, the group will walk through exciting chambers and tunnels on a tour unfolding the saga of men who mined the slate. The students will travel into the lower depths of the mine down a 30-degree incline on the special underground railway. Return to Host families.
6-July-02	Sat	0930 1830	Depart Shrewsbury for Acton Scott Victorian Working Farm . Take a guided tour of the farm and eat a picnic lunch. Afternoon visit to the historic town of Shrewsbury . Return to host families
7-July-02	Sun	0830 1900	Depart Shrewsbury for Stratford-Upon-Avon . Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Afternoon at Warwick Castle , the finest medieval castle in England. Return to host families.
8-July-02	Mon	0830 1400 1930	Depart Shrewsbury for <i>Cadbury World</i> . Discover the history, the making and the magic of Cadbury World. It's choc full of fun! The group will visit Blists Hill Victorian Town and will experience the atmosphere and way of life of a whole working community. There is a working foundry, a schoolhouse and a bank where you must obtain Victorian money to spend in the shops in the town. Return to host families.
9-July-02	Tue	0900 1900	Depart Shrewsbury for London En-route to London visit the historic university town of Oxford and Christchurch Church University College Grounds. Check-in at the Hyde Park Towers Hotel, London
10-July-02	Wed	0900 1400 1845 0030	Full day sightseeing tour of London including <i>Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey</i> and <i>Buckingham Palace</i> . See the Changing of the Guard <i>Natural History Museum</i> <i>Medieval Banquet</i> at St. Katherine's Dock . Return to the Hotel
11-July-01	Thur	1700 2215 1900 2345	Free day for sightseeing and shopping Coach collects group at the hotel for transfer to London Heathrow SQ 321 London to Singapore SQ 868 Singapore to Hong Kong Arrive Hong Kong

Proposed Itinerary 2003

Date	Day	Time	Details
30-June-03	Mon	0400 0800 1240 0130	Depart school for Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok airport SQ 001 Hong Kong to Singapore SQ 320 Singapore to London Arrive London Heathrow airport to be met by Sylvia Doherty and journey to Harrogate by coach. Arrive Dragon Road car park to be met by Host Families.
1-July-03	Tue	0900 1830	Depart <i>Harrogate Railway Station</i> for the city of York . Take a guided walking tour of this beautiful city visiting the <i>Minster</i> . Free time to walk the city walls and to visit the many interesting alleyways and souvenir shops. Arrive <i>Harrogate Railway Station</i> to be met by host families and return with them for an evening meal and an evening at leisure.
2-July-03	Wed	0900 1830	Arrive <i>Trinity Road</i> for a trip to the beautiful Village of Ripley and take a guided tour of <i>Ripley Castle</i> . Time to wander around the gardens and to perhaps have a locally-made ice cream. Then onto <i>Brimham Rocks</i> . Explore the rocks before heading to Skipton with its ancient market town and castle via Embsay Moor . On the way back to Harrogate visit <i>Bolton Abbey</i> in the magnificent setting of the <i>Wharfe Valley</i> . Return to Host families
3-July-02	Thur	0930 1730	Spend the day enjoying the many rides and exhibitions at the <i>Lightwater Valley Theme Park</i> Return to host families
4-July-03	Fri	0900 1200 1630 1730 2400	Meet at St. Mary's Walk and then visit the Council Offices to meet the Mayor of Harrogate. Free time to explore Harrogate and to complete the historical quiz. Depart <i>Harrogate Railway Station</i> for Knaresborough and a guided tour of <i>Mother Shipton's Cave</i> . Free time to look around this ancient town. Return to host families Depart Harrogate for <i>Lumley Castle</i> and the medieval banquet. Return to host families
5-July-03	Sat	0900 1830	Say good-bye to host families. Travel to the Roman city of Chester . Take a walking tour of Chester and complete a <i>quiz</i> . Visit the Cathedral and free time to look around Chester. Shrewsbury Meet new host families
6-July-03	Sun	0930 1830	Depart Shrewsbury for <i>Acton Scott Victorian Working Farm</i> . Take a guided tour of the farm and eat a picnic lunch. Afternoon visit to <i>Cadbury World</i> to see how chocolate is made and to taste some of the delicious chocolate! Return to Host families.
7-July-03	Mon	0830 1900	Depart Shrewsbury for Stratford-Upon-Avon . Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Afternoon at <i>Warwick Castle</i> , the finest medieval castle in England. Return to host families

8-July-03	Tue	0830	Depart Shrewsbury for London and Windsor . Visit the <i>Natural History Museum</i> . Return to Windsor, weekend home of the Queen, by train.
		1900	Meet new host families.
9-July-03	Wed	0900	Depart Windsor by train for London . Take a walking tour of the capital and stop off at many sights and famous places.
		1900	Return to host families.
10-July-03	Thur	0900	Spend the day exploring Royal Windsor with a visit to <i>Windsor Castle</i> and the <i>Great Park</i> . Take a leisurely walk to see the famous <i>Eton School</i> where Prince William went to school.
		1800	Say good-bye to host families and depart for <i>Heathrow Airport</i>
		2215	SQ 321 London to Singapore
11-July-03	Fri	1900	SQ 868 Singapore to Hong Kong
		2345	Arrive Hong Kong

Benefits to the School Community

The programme of fund-raising required everyone to use English: the potential participants and the other students. The impact on the school community was something that built up over the year. The trip began to become part of the school culture, with students in lower forms setting their sights on a similar trip when they entered S.6.



Interaction during a fund-raising activity

In the two years that the trip took place, the whole school rallied round, including the PTA and individual teachers. There was recognition that an experience of this kind gave students from relatively poor backgrounds an opportunity that they would never otherwise have had.

Benefits to the Participants

For the students who participated in the trip, there were benefits of various kinds, not only linguistic ones but also cultural and experiential ones.



One former student compared the trip favourably with the university exchange programmes she had taken part in since leaving school.

Another student observed that, in addition to the obvious benefits to participants' English, for her the most important aspect of the experience was the opportunity of relationship-building with the two NETs.



One student was particularly conscious of the impact the trip had on his confidence in speaking English.

After-thoughts

Twenty S.6 students participated in the first trip. Because the first trip was so successful, the number of participating students increased to 30 for the second year. However, a third trip, which was planned for summer 2003, had to be cancelled because of SARS.

The 20 participants in 2001



The 30 participants in 2002



Although the project has been suspended since the intervention of SARS, there are hopes that it will be revived in the near future. Based on all the evidence, it is clearly a model of good practice in both its conception and implementation, providing a unique opportunity for students to develop linguistically, culturally and experientially.