

HCY A.C.E. (Adventure.Collaboration.Education) Programme: Singapore English Study Trip

The HCY **Adventure.Collaboration.Education** -A.C.E. Programme- saw 18 F.5 and 21 F.4 students jetting off to Singapore the week after First Term examinations was over (22-26 Jan 2024). The 5-day Singapore trip was short but absolutely meaningful. Whether it was the interaction between HCY & the Singapore students, or the amazing places in Singapore, were quite blown away. Now, let my school mates who were with me on the trip tell you more about our time in Singapore!

Photo gallery: <https://www.twphcymc.edu.hk/Gallery01/Single/386/activity/1>

HCYers' sharing

A. Most unforgettable experience- St. Joseph's Institution (SJI)

Of course, visiting SJI is the most unforgettable experience of the entire trip. Just the sheer size of the SJI campus: ginormous! Imagine the distance from the Shek Wai Kok market till the very end of Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground!! THAT'S the SJI campus! In SJI, they have more than 3 sports grounds, and even an indoor basketball court. What shook me most was they have a church and two theatres. AND a school canteen where students buy food and eat during their recesses. Our SJI buddies welcomed us the minute we arrived. During recess, they showed us around the campus and made us feel we are part of the SJI community. During lessons, my buddy introduced and explained their courses to me patiently. We all felt lucky to have made new friends at SJI!!

Jade Chan (5E)

B. My impression of Singapore

1. Multi-racial; multi-cultural- Little India

Singapore is a multi-racial country. One of the places we visited was Little India. That is the ethnic enclave for Indians. When we arrived in Little India, the surrounding environment and the colourful decorations really attracted me. There were many merchants and garland makers selling their products. These were things I had never seen in Hong Kong. In Little India, I could feel the Indian culture and traditions.

Monnie Lam (4B)

Singapore is truly a city of diversity. Imagine a big community with diverse cultures. When I visited Little India, I saw a different picture compared to what I usually see in Hong Kong. During my shopping in Little India, I couldn't locate the toilet. One of the Indian passer-bys came to help and told me where to find one. This made me realise that to be a city of diversity, Singaporeans see others as fellow mankind, with respect for others, not based on their skin colour, religion or culture.

Chloe Chan (5B)

2. *Atmosphere & vibes*

As a nature lover, I was mesmerised by Singapore's land use for lush greenery. The green spaces nestled within their housing precincts bring relief to their highly urban environment. I enjoyed the tranquillity as well as the rare fresh air. Gardens by the Bay is definitely my favourite. Not only because of its sustainable idea as a greenhouse but also its peaceful and quiet atmosphere, reminding me to stay grounded.

Deborah Lau (4D)

3. *Two things stood out for me- Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Urban Planning & Landuse*

I expected to feel claustrophobic in Singapore. After all, it IS one of the smallest countries in the world. Yet, to my immense surprise, Singapore felt spacious! I was impressed by how the Singapore government has used the limited land wisely.

This trip has also allowed me to know about an important figure: Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore. His vision for the tiny island is the Singapore we see today. What stood out for me was his emphasis on the value of "clean and green" to minimise the impact of a harsh urban environment. Thus, we can see a myriad of plants everywhere in Singapore. It is truly a City in a Garden.

Raymond Cheung (5D)

C. **What I have learnt**

1. *Co-existing with Nature*

When I first arrived in Singapore, I found that it is a city where plants and human live harmoniously. It really astounded me that buildings in the city state are coated with plants and leaves. I used to believe this would only happen to abandoned buildings. But in Singapore, Nature and the city are doing a happy dance together. Even in the busiest streets like Orchard Road, there is still a touch of green. After the trip, I realised that a great city is one which is not just for

humans but also plants.

Sam Dong (5E)

2. *Speaking well is not about the accent*

After this trip, I have learnt that confidence is the most important in learning a language. If you are brave enough in speaking a language, nobody will bother your accent. Instead, they are most interested in our conversation, our exchange of opinion and ideas, because accent is not as important as you think. Everyone has their own accent after all, don't they, depending on where we are born and who we interact with. Therefore, be brave and be confident in yourself, and try not to be afraid of speaking English.

Kelvin Chan (4C)

The 5-day Singapore Study Trip was an intense and whirlwind one. We enjoyed ourselves tremendously and also learnt a lot. This trip has certainly broadened our world view and make us realise how big and diverse the world out there is.

On behalf of the F.4 & 5 HCYers who have gone on the ACE Programme, I would like to thank the many people who have made this Singapore Study Trip such an enjoyable and memorable one, the first being our Principal, Dr Lau. Thank you for letting the trip happen for all of us. A big thank you to all the teachers who came along with us; thank you, Mr Lui, Ms Law, Ms Chan and Ms Soon. There were also 3 people who helped us a lot during our journey, our tour guides and the coach driver. Thank you, Mr Jeff, Miss Sue and the epic driver Mr Mohammad. All of them worked together to ensure that we are safe and gave us a wonderful trip.

Til the next ACE Programme, my fellow HCYers! See where that takes you!

Woody Leung (5D)