Looking Behind The Scenes Of Our School Uniform

**History --- How old is the school uniform?**

Happy Birthday to Tak Nga Secondary School! Tak Nga is already 50 years old. Do you know how old our uniform is? It’s also 50! In some places in the school you can see some ‘wrinkles’ but our uniform still looks simple and elegant. Our uniform even won an award for the ‘Most Beautiful Uniform in Hong Kong’!

**Past & Present --- 1962-2012 = 50 years**

From 1962 to 2012 our uniform has stayed the same. White dress, blue ribbon and blue belt are the signatures of Tak Nga. Have you ever told someone that you’re a student from Tak Nga and he or she replied “The blue ribbon?” Nothing has changed in the design of the uniform except for the girls who are wearing the uniform. In 2010, there was a proposal to change the design of our school uniform. However, most of the students preferred to keep the original design.
Interview with Miss Winnie Cheung

Miss Winnie Cheung is the vice principal of our school. She didn’t participate in the designing of our uniform but she did have something to say about students wearing the uniform.

R: Reporter  C: Miss Cheung

Why is it important to have rules about the school uniform?

C: They are mostly related to the length of their skirt. Sometimes they wear underwear, which is black in color so it doesn’t look pleasant with our skirt. Also their uniform may not meet the requirement of the school rules. For example, we need to have the logo-TNSS on the vest, or cardigan, but some students do not wear the proper ones.

R: Why is it important to have the length of the school uniform below the knee and the school belt sitting tight around the waist?

C: Our aim is to teach our students that they need to be elegant and modest. They are important values. Just like the meaning of our school badge ‘Tak Nga’, we need to teach students about simplicity. We learn this from the Saints, like St. Teresa. So our uniform is a way to teach our students these important values. We should focus on our study and personal development, but not on our outward style. This is not the most important thing in the school. Studying and having a good character and personality are more important than our ‘look’.

R: There are several school rules regarding the uniform to ensure the tidiness of students. Are there any dress codes for teachers and other members of staff to follow and what are they?

C: I think the requirements have been changing. Many years ago, all the teachers were required to wear uniforms, and then later, all the female teachers had to wear skirts, but now many teachers wear pants and trousers. The requirements and standards change from time to time. But the basic principle is we are professionals and we need to show students that we take our work seriously, so we should dress formally.

R: If students are wearing untidy uniforms, their names will be marked down. Is there a similar system for teachers or members of staff?

C: We won’t mark the names, but if there is a concern, we’ll talk with the teachers.

R: Some schools ask teachers to wear a uniform. If someone suggested Tak Nga Secondary School teachers wear a uniform, would you agree to do so? Why or why not?

C: I don’t agree. I don’t think it is a common practice in the education sector in Hong Kong or in other countries. I believe all our teachers are professional enough to make good judgment on what they will wear to school. So I don’t think we need to do so. I trust our teachers are professional, in both their teaching and their dress.

R: Thank you Miss Cheung for being interviewed for The Bee School Magazine. We wish you a nice day.
English Week 2012 was very successful. I really enjoyed English Week this year. We had such a wonderful time on Friday that we barely noticed the time. I was really carried away by the awesome fashion parade. It was realistic and entertaining with the lively music. I also enjoyed the singing. English is everywhere! We should grab every single chance to practice our English. Practice makes perfect. I would like to thank the teachers again for being so helpful. And, I do appreciate our group leaders and ambassadors for their hard work. Our fellow schoolmates had a great time learning English too. Here are some of their comments.

‘The activities were fun and all. Yet, it would be better if everyone communicated more.’ Gigi Yip, 5C, group leader

‘It was a busy week. However, I learned a lot and had fun, especially in the International Costume Parade.’ Sarah Lee, 4C, ambassador

‘The word games were very interesting. I hope we can have the word games next year.’ Elaine Lau, 4C, group leader

‘I wish the morning assembly could be shorter. But after all, the English week was successful. My most memorable event is the singing contest, the Girls’ Band.’ Trista Wong, 3C

‘Through the English Week, I have learnt more about the use of English and found that English isn’t only useful but also interesting.’ Winnie Leung, 2B

‘I think the English week was great. I found it easy to get chops. I wish we could have a few more English weeks every year.’ Samantha Situ, 1B

Thank you all for your response. We will try our best to keep improving and look forward to the next English Week!

Nicole Wong, 5D, Chairperson of the English Club

EDITORIAL

We three are not crazy about writing articles. At the beginning we thought that being the editors of The Bee wasn’t hard work so we shouldered the responsibility. In fact, it was not as easy as we thought. When we’re rushing to finish all the articles and with the deadline to hand-in our work being closer we felt stressed and quite bothered. However it all was just a process; when we saw the magazine printed out and were holding it in our hands, it was like we owned the world! We felt really proud! After being the editors of The Bee, we know more about the school and the teachers. Some teachers always look very serious and hard to get close to, yet they are all really kind, friendly and funny at the same time!

We’ve learnt a lot by being the editors of The Bee, as we needed to work as a team, we not only improved our language skills but also communication skills. We really appreciate Miss Sefton and Miss Anna Li for giving us the chance to have such a great experience. We’ll certainly miss this after our graduation!

Sarah, Gabriella and Angel 4C
GLEE is an American musical comedy-drama television series. It focuses on the high school 'glee' club called New Directions competing on the show choir competition circuit. Its members deal with relationships, sexuality and social issues. A lot of classic and pop songs are sung by the characters in the drama. A Glee club is a school club like a choir and the cast members cheekily hold up their fingers making an L sign, which means 'loser'. The reason for this is that the club is not very popular and the members of the club are often bullied by others.

Let's meet some of the characters in the drama

**Rachel Berry**
She has the leading role in the drama. Rachel has a big dream of becoming a famous Broadway actress. In real life, she is a Broadway actress too.

**Blaine Anderson**
Blaine Anderson is introduced as a gay student in the drama.
In his first appearance, he captured the audience's attention with the song Teenage Dream which was originally sung by Katy Perry.

Glee is a great drama. I think it is suitable for teenagers because all the issues talked about, are very closely related to teenagers. Although school life is quite different between America and Hong Kong, we can hear good songs in the drama and we can find good messages in the story. If you haven't started watching it yet, what are you waiting for? Don't hesitate!

Wendy Lo 5C

**Song Recommendation**

**What Makes You Beautiful – by One Direction**

"What Makes You Beautiful" is the debut single by British-Irish boy band One Direction, from their debut studio album, Up All Night. It was released on 11 September 2011 as the first single by the band, who competed on a television show - The X Factor. "What Makes You Beautiful" is an uptempo teen pop song and a big hit right around the world, winning many awards.

*Left to Right: Zayn Malik, Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne*

In my opinion, "What Makes You Beautiful" is a super great song, very catchy and energetic. The lyrics are simple but meaningful. Personally, I'm a fan of this song because it makes me feel really cheerful and puts me in a light-hearted mood when I'm stressed. I hope you will enjoy this song, too!

Pactricia Ng 3C
OMOPHONIA – is a new word that means the fear of being out of mobile phone contact. This new form of addiction - "phone addiction" seems to have overtaken many people’s lives in Hong Kong and other places around the world.

Without a phone, people feel like they are without a link to connect with the world. All of us depend on this technology nowadays, but are we over relying on it? A telephone was supposed to be just a device that transmits and receives calls with your families and friends. But nowadays, besides calling your mum to tell her you’re going to be home late for supper, you can text your friends, play video games, take pictures, make movies, set an alarm to remind you of something, find yourself on a live map from a satellite... it’s just so addictive!

You can see almost everyone holding a phone on the MTR, on the street, at the bus stop sliding, typing, touching and tapping... I’ve even seen babies watching cartoons on iPhones! How much is too much????

It’s true that there have been great developments in technology. This has resulted in the invention of many gadgets like mobile phones or smartphones. The advantages of using them are many. Their impact on people’s lives is apparent. However, the issue of phone addiction is one of the most negative aspects. Despite the benefits, the excessive use of these devices has various negative impacts.

A survey was conducted among 150 students at Tak Nga Secondary School recently, to see how serious the phenomenon is. How much time do you spend using your phone everyday? Most of the interviewees spend 2 to 3 hours on their phones each day, besides the time spent sleeping, going to school and doing homework. In the meantime, only 8% of the interviewees spend less than one hour on their phone and 13% spend 4 hours or more using their phones each day. A high proportion of about 89% of the students spend the time texting, surfing the internet or playing games, mostly for personal entertainment!

There are many consequences of phone addiction. One of the very important impacts is becoming aloof from your family. We can see people holding a family gathering, but everyone is busy building their external social network, playing games and chatting on their phones. There is almost no communication between the family members at the table. As they are building their social network, they are also building a wall between each of the family members. Family interaction is important. It’s important to spend quality time with each other, chatting or doing an activity, watching a film together, but with the advent of phone addiction, this sad family scene will become more and more common.

Don’t waste your time on a dead gadget and miss so many wonderful things happening in your life. Spend more time with your family or friends in person, instead of being a cell phone freak!
Your Mobile Phone - Can you survive without it?

!!QUIZ!!

Do you text even when you’re eating? Can you stand it when your phone is out of battery? Do you feel anxious if you are not using your phone in some way or another? See if you spend a little too much time on your phone or if your phone is just another useful item, no big deal. Take this simple test to find out if you are addicted to your phone!

You …

1. Never turn off your phone.
2. Send texts anywhere any moment even when you’re in the loo (toilet).
3. Put your phone right next to your pillow when you’re sleeping.
4. Constantly check your phone in case there’s a message.
5. Feel uncomfortable without your phone around or if it’s out of battery.
6. Spend at least 2 hours on your phone a day. (Texting, talking on your phone, playing apps etc.)
7. Need to charge your phone every single day.
8. Check your phone, as soon as you wake up in the morning, even if you haven’t brushed your teeth yet!
9. Need to delete your text message inbox all the time because it’s so full.
10. Feel like you CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT your mobile phone!!

If you answered YES to these questions:

0-1 You are just fine! You know your phone is just a tool. Keep it up!
2-4 Be Careful!! – You’re not a cell phone freak yet, but almost!
5-7 Ooooops!!! – Don’t let yourself become a phone addict! There are many other wonderful things to enjoy in your life!
8-10 PHONE FIEND!!! – You’re obsessed with your phone! You need to get rid of this addiction! Get help immediately!

How to have a healthy relationship with your phone! SUGGESTIONS TO YOU!

It is important for both parents and teenagers to realize the dangers involved with phone addiction. Here are a few suggestions to improve and ease this problem.

1) If you have an unlimited texting plan, then you may want to downgrade, which will stop you from going over your limit. If you downgrade the plan you’re using, you will text less than before because you need to pay a huge amount of money if you text more than the limited amount every month!

2) Find a hobby that you enjoy and participate in activities you are interested in. Sometimes you text your friends when you are bored or have nothing to do. Finding a hobby or an activity you like can keep you away from your phone, and also give you something productive to do. It may also improve your relationship with others as well because texting will lower your communication skills with people.

3) Keep track of how much time you spend using your cell phone. If you want to get rid of phone addiction, one of the solutions is to control the time you use your cell phone. In the beginning, it will be hard and tough, but later you will find out that you don’t need to rely on your phone as frequently as before.