我的教育專欄(154)我們博幼孩子的英文

李家同

我們博幼基金會最近每年都會舉行很正式的畢業典禮，國中三年級的畢業生都會參加，每年我當然也會對他們講幾句勉勵的話，今年我改用英文，理由是要看我們同學能不能看得懂英文，以下是我寫給同學們的信:

Dear 2018 Graduates from the Boyo Foundation:

It is time for me to bid farewell to all of you, with sadness and joy. Sad because it is hard for us to see you leave us. Joy because you have done so well in the high school entrance examination.

I hope you would always remember your teachers of Boyo and be grateful to them. Do come back to see us from time to time.

Let me give you some advice:

1. Make sure you are good in Chinese, English and mathematics. They are the basis of knowledge. No matter what you are going to be, you need these fundamental knowledge.
2. Make sure that you have a useful skill in the future. This skill should be a little bit to learn. Easy to learn skills are not good skills.
3. Read novels, newspapers and good movies as much as possible. Through reading, you will become a person with good common knowledge which is important to you.
4. Be curious all the time. Remember that a successful person is a curious person.
5. Have a pleasant personality.

Finally, you must understand that our country is an advanced country. Therefore, you must be competitive; otherwise, you may not be able to live a comfortable life.

The Boyo Foundation will always be available to help you. But you must work hard. We can help only those who help themselves.

LCT

我發現孩子們即使沒有查字典，也能看得懂信的大意，在吃飯的時候，我抓了很多學生問我的信說些什麼，絕大多數的孩子都記得，有的將我的建議次序搞錯了，也有些同學記不全，不過沒有任何一位同學完全看不懂我的信的，很多學生認為pleasant是有趣的意思，這好像不太對，不過已經也差不多了，我們很少同學的個性是不pleasant的。

要知道我們的孩子來自偏鄉，很多偏鄉的孩子在英文上是非常落後的，這種英文文章對他們來講絕對是天書，我們的老師很認真地教他們，因此我們的孩子可以很容易地看懂這封信，我認為他們已有了最基本的能力，將來在社會上一定可以生活得很好的，可是我告訴大家，現在我們的國家升學很容易，要生存並不是很容易的事，事後有一位來觀禮的先生非常同意我的話，他說這叫做「升學容易生存難」，在我們國家，很多同學發現升學容易，就因此不用功了，所以我的提醒應該是有意義的。

畢業典禮當然要有一首歌來結束，我們的歌每年不同，今年的是Auld Lang Syne，相當感人的。