

Letter to the editor

Seed Kayden Nathan, 4A (23)

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter regarding your recent article about how Hong Kong's illuminated neon signs are being removed due to cost and safety reasons. Here are my opinions on how to preserve these neon signs.

Firstly, these neon signs have been a part of Hong Kong culture for a very long time. They are not just for decoration; they are now Hong Kong's cultural and historical property. Instead of removing them, they should be kept and preserved. With their removal, their historical value will be lost, and Hong Kong will lose one of the things that makes the city so special and different from other cities.

Secondly, removing these neon signs will decrease Hong Kong's tourism appeal. Neon lights dotted around the city are a special sight that many other cities do not have. This makes Hong Kong unique and consequently attracts many visitors and tourists who come to witness the signs for themselves. Removing these signs may lower tourists' interest in visiting Hong Kong.

Thirdly, some may raise concerns about the energy consumption and associated costs of powering the city's neon signs. However, there are alternative methods that can be used to illuminate the signs in a more sustainable manner. One promising approach is to harness renewable energy sources, such as solar power. By installing solar panels on the roofs of buildings throughout Hong Kong, the city's abundant sunshine can be converted into electricity to directly power the neon signs. Exploring clean energy alternatives can help address energy usage concerns while preserving the distinctive character of the city's neon-lit nighttime atmosphere.

Lastly, regarding the safety concerns some Hong Kong residents may have: many neon signs are quite old and have become rusty over the decades. Instead of permanently removing these signs, they could be taken down for maintenance and then reinstalled for all to enjoy. This solution can alleviate worries about the possibility of aging neon signs falling and causing injury to residents and tourists alike.

To conclude, I believe that the neon signs illuminating our city should not be removed, as they are Hong Kong's cultural and historical property that should be maintained and preserved. Removing them would strip away a unique element of Hong Kong's identity, potentially leading to a decline in tourist interest and diminishing the city's appeal as a destination. While cost may be a concern, renewable energy can be used to power the neon signs sustainably. Additionally, any safety issues can be addressed through the use of more robust fixtures and regular maintenance, rather than resorting to removal.

Ultimately, the neon signs are a cherished part of Hong Kong's urban landscape. Preserving this timeless tradition will allow us to honor our past while continuing to attract visitors captivated by our distinctive cultural heritage. Rather than erasing this iconic element, we should invest in preserving the neon signs for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

Igloria Chloe Faye, 4A (5)

Question 4: Travel blog

Hopping to an Adventure

Have you ever wondered to yourself how you could make the most of your free time? Especially when the summer holidays are just around the corner. Let me introduce to you a sure-fire way to have a blast with your friends this holiday season by going on an adventure to the beautiful beaches of the Philippines.

First of all, it is without a doubt that the beaches in the Philippines have this captivating pull that urges you to take a dip in their clear blue oceans. However, I'm sure you've never experienced something as magical as island-hopping in the Philippines. It is an activity where you go around hopping from island to island, exploring all the wonderful gifts mother nature gives us. It gives us a chance to fully grasp the beauty of summer with the summer breeze on these beaches, the warm smiles of the locals, and the vast variety of exotic delicacies you can taste only in the

Philippines.

Second of all, if you are hoping to go towards a wallet-friendly way of spending your summer holidays, not to worry because island-hopping in the Philippines will not cost you much. Additionally, you may choose to stay at one particular beach in the Philippines if you'd like to enjoy all the services the resorts there provide. From my experience, when island-hopping in the Philippines, it is way better to travel with friends. Not only can you share the financial burden, you can also experience two-fold of the joy and the happiness that you feel, especially in the moments of carefree laughter. You know what they say, the more the merrier. Thus, do not let financial worries hinder you from having a splendid summer holiday with friends.

Last but not least, I can guarantee that there are no other beaches and tropical sights as breathtakingly beautiful as the captivating beaches found throughout the Philippines. Each island offers many different activities. Whether it be trying new exotic dishes, scuba-diving in the clear blue ocean or jet skiing to your heart's desire. There are unlimited things you could do and so many sights to see. What makes the experience even more unique are the heart-warming smiles of the locals. They are, without a doubt, one of the beautiful sights you can see in the Philippines.

To conclude, I highly recommend island-hopping in the Philippines or simply just relaxing on a beach there. From the ocean waves to the warmth of the locals, visiting the beautiful beaches of the Philippines is guaranteed to be an adventure filled with joy and laughter. Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to have fun in the summer, and stay tuned for my next adventure.

Uy Louise Ghillian San Jose, 4A (9)

Question 2: Letter of advice

Dear Mary,

I hope this finds you well. I heard that studying abroad makes you feel very homesick for Hong Kong. I have some advice for you so you won't feel so lonely there.

Firstly, I recommend that you try new things or activities. You can develop a new hobby like baking or crocheting. This can distract you from being homesick since you'll be occupied. Also, you can watch a new movie or series to keep your mind away from feeling homesick.

Secondly, remember to always call your family in Hong Kong. Although this might make you miss them more or make you feel even more homesick, seeing them in a video call can give you the strength to continue pursuing your dream of studying abroad. You'll think that studying abroad is for your future, for your success. Additionally, don't forget to keep in touch with your friends as they can also help to cheer you up.

Another piece of advice is to go out and explore the new place you're in. You can go to different places and explore the culture. It's not bad to go out and enjoy yourself. Even though you miss Hong Kong, you can still enjoy being abroad. There's a lot of places and opportunities you have yet to try. Not everyone gets the chance to study abroad. For that reason, you should make good use of it and savour it while you have the chance. Besides, you are still young so you should enjoy your adolescence even if you're abroad.

Lastly, I suggest you make new friends. Making new friends and hanging out with them can reduce the feeling of homesickness. Make sure you go out with friends that you enjoy being with since that's very important. Friends are important because they play a vital role in one's life. Just by doing different activities with friends makes life happier and easier. If you're in the right friend group, they will be with you during your highs and your lows. They will be cheering for you when you achieve something but they'll also be with you when you're down. They can be a shoulder to cry on when you feel lonely or homesick.

Overall, it's normal to feel homesick and it takes time to get used to living abroad but, if you persevere and work hard, it'll pay off. To take your mind off the feeling of homesickness, you can learn new things, go out and enjoy yourself, and make new friends. However, in order to overcome feeling homesick, you have to take your time so don't rush. Anyway, I wish you the best of luck and, if you can, please reply to me and let me know how you're doing.

Best regards,

Chris

Lubag Zya Moreen Libuit, 4A (6)

Hong Kong Theme Park Summer Job Application Form

Name: Chris Wong

A. Background (Tell us a bit about yourself):

I am a secondary school student turning secondary 5 next school year. I am a patient person who is eager and open to improving myself. Constantly looking for opportunities to challenge myself, I am hardworking and persistent. Moreover, I am extremely flexible in different situations and environments. In addition, I enjoy volunteering, reading, and doing crafts in my free time.

B. Reasons (Tell us why you want this job):

As I will be a secondary 5 student soon, I only have a few years left until I have to face real-life workplace challenges, and I believe that getting myself ready for this transition is the right solution. If I were to gain first-hand experience on what problems I might experience in my workplace, such as communication problems, I would be able to develop this ability which could help me in the long run.

Furthermore, I think that by taking on new responsibilities in a working environment, I could enhance or develop necessary soft skills that would be beneficial for my career. I could further improve my existing skills of time-management in a workplace setting.

I believe that it is crucial for secondary school students like myself to be exposed to various situations that may be beneficial for our growth and integration into society.

C. Qualities (Tell us why you are the right person for the job):

I believe that I am the right person for this job for the following reasons. Firstly, I am a friendly and open-minded person. It is crucial for theme park staff to embody a warm and welcoming demeanour, matching the joyful atmosphere that most visitors, especially children, expect to experience. Moreover, I am always open to improvement, challenges, and criticism, which I think is an important attitude any staff should have.

Apart from this, I also have a lot of experience communicating with different people. I am an active volunteer in voluntary service both inside and outside of my school. Due to this, I am constantly around people from different schools, backgrounds, and ages. As a result, my ability to communicate is not limited to talking with people my age.

Due to these reasons, I believe I am the right person for the job of ride attendant, and I think that it would be if my experience of working at your theme park could be a part of my growth journey.

A Letter of Advice

Lubag Zya Moreen Libuit, 4A (6)

Dear Mary,

It's been a while since we last spoke with each other. From the latest email you sent me, I can feel that you are going through a rough path right now. Homesickness can be a real bummer. However, I know that you can overcome this! I will give you some advice that I believe will be able to help you.

Firstly, you can join some school clubs or activities. You should consider clubs that interest you because it is highly likely that the students who join these clubs share the same interests. By meeting other students through school clubs, you can chat with them about the same things and, possibly, find other common interests, and form new friendships. Homesickness can be triggered by the feeling of loneliness, so when you have friends you look forward to seeing every day, you will brush off your homesickness in no time.

Another piece of advice I'd like to share with you is to spend more time outside. It is easy to feel homesick when you are cooped up in your room because all you can think about are your memories in Hong Kong. However, if you go out and make new memories you won't feel as bad as you do now. You don't necessarily have to spend time with new people, you can simply have some fresh air while taking in the foreign things that surround you. Take in the culture, language habits and, most importantly, the food. If you familiarise yourself with these foreign things and get used to them, you can integrate better into the new environment and feel more included.

Last but not least, you can treat yourself to some Hong Kong cuisine. Overcoming homesickness isn't always about fitting in to your new environment; it can also be about satisfying your longing for your old home. When you feel down in the dumps and missing Hong Kong, get yourself some "siu mai". Surely that can cure it! Homesickness is nothing a fresh Hong Kong-style meal can't fix!

In short, homesickness is just temporary. You may feel it will stay forever but, in reality, it will pass in good time. Make new friends, take in the new environment, and get some "char siu bao". Everything will be as good as new in no time.

I'll be looking forward to your response. Until next time!

All the best,

Chris