

The Firefly



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New Life in Junior High School

Hello everyone, my name is Kobe. I study in Yanping junior high school and I am in class 706. My homeroom teacher is Iting. She is a very funny, humorous, and excellent teacher. My English teacher Annie is also an amazing English teacher. They are both very good at teaching.

Yanping has an awesome commissary, because there are a lot of delicious food, drinks and yummy cookies. In Yanping, you will never be hungry while studying! The best part of Yanping is that Yanping finishes school early, so the students can go home early, and have more time with family. I made lots of new friends in Class 706. They are very funny, nice, and friendly. We always chat, play, and do homework together during break time.



In Yanping, you can study seriously, and you will have a lot of competitors to compete and study with you. The results of my first weekly exams were horrible! I was deeply shocked by Yanping's intensity. However, what shocked me even more was the first writing exam. The result was even worse than the first weekly exam! I wish that I can improve my score on the second writing exam.

However, there are also interesting class tours. After the first writing exam, Tr. Iting and our Scout teacher took us to climb Xiangshan. The stairs going down were very high and steep, so it felt scary to walk on them. But hard work paid off and our class saw the beautiful sunset over Taipei 101. It was a wonderful memory, I'm really looking forward to the next class trip.

By the way, there are not only tests in Yanping. The Yanping baseball team is also really amazing and lucky. Their first opponent was last year's champion. Although Yanping lost the game, the team leader is really handsome and amazing. The girl pitcher struck out one of the hitters! It was so exciting!

I hope I can have a happy and wonderful junior high school life in Yanping. I like Yanping!

By 陳鴻宇 706

The Crucial Role of Teamwork During Emergencies

— A Heavy and Grieving Day of Taiwan's History, 921 Earthquake

Whenever we speak of the earthquake disasters in Taiwan, the 921 Earthquake is often the first that comes to people's minds. On Sept. 21, 1999, at 1:47 AM, a 7.3 major earthquake hit central Taiwan, and caused massive damage and injuries. In such an urgent situation, Taiwanese society showed excellent team spirit.

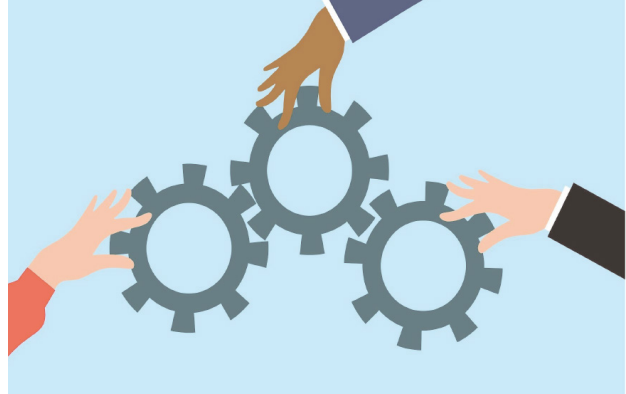


After the earthquake, teams from all over the country took immediate action, including the government, rescue teams, civil organizations and volunteers. These teams worked together to carry out rescue operations such as search and rescue, medical treatment, and resource delivery in an effort to lessen the pain of the victims. The case above clearly demonstrates the importance of teamwork in emergencies.

Emergencies which we commonly see or hear in our lifetimes are mostly unpredictable, and often appear as chaotic situations that require immediate and effective responses. During these moments, there will never be a doubt that teamwork is of the utmost importance. Working together during emergencies is not only beneficial and efficient, but also often the key principle to getting through crises.

In most situations of emergencies, resources are often scarce. A well coordinated team can make quicker decisions about the distribution of resources based on the evolving

needs of the situation. Also, there will always be a wide range of challenges that arise in emergencies from natural disasters to medical issues. In such a case, teamwork will help a lot by having more experts and professional knowledge to ensure that the right people with the right knowledge are addressing specific issues. Another importance of teamwork is that people get to rapidly respond to the



challenges. Quick and organized response is vital in emergencies. Team members can divide tasks and act promptly with the right priorities, in order to reduce time for addressing critical issues. Furthermore, in times of crisis, people may experience extreme stress and emotional pain. Team members can provide emotional support for each other, to help maintain focus in the face of adversity.

Besides the 921 Earthquake in Taiwan, hurricane Katrina, a tropical cyclone that struck the southeastern United States in late August in 2005, highlighted the importance of teamwork as well. During the hurricane disaster, the people did not have proper coordination, cooperation, and communication, which caused a delayed response and increasing suffering. After then, the lesson from this painful experience was finally learned. The crucialness of working as a team has been realized, and team work has greatly improved during disaster responses.





For a contrasting example, during California's annual wildfire season, firefighting teams from different agencies and states work collaboratively to fight against large-scale wildfires. Their coordinated efforts, resource sharing, and open communication, helped a lot in protecting communities. The two real-world examples above showed that lessons learned from past failures can lead to better outcomes in the future while highlighting how

team work isn't only an important choice, but also the key to effective emergency responses.

All in all, whether it is the 921 earthquake in Taiwan or Hurricane Katrina in the United States, it delivers a clear message: teamwork is the best way to successfully respond to emergencies. These examples show that collaboration during a crisis is not just beneficial; It is often a key principle in saving lives and lessening suffering. The importance of teamwork during emergencies cannot be overstated, it reminds people how the strength of communities when they gather up as a team helps when facing adversities.

80411 柯秀婕





What I learned from the Marshmallow Challenge

This afternoon we took a marshmallow challenge. The goal was to build a tower as tall as we could with it being able to support a marshmallow. We could use several items to construct the tower such as dry noodles, rope, and tape. Firstly, we spent some time designing the structure of the tower. My teammates and I proposed several ideas, but we were too nervous to actually put those ideas into practice in the beginning. Shortly, we began to build the bases fixed to the desk by tape and placed the noodles used to support the marshmallow on the bases. At that time, we had reached a desirable height which was considered to be a decent success. As soon as we had a basic height, we endeavored to increase the height of the structure while strengthening the bases. Unfortunately, the instant I rolled the tape over the noodles, a subtle sound came to my ears. The tower was tilting to one side and almost collapsed! Much to my astonishment no one on the team blamed me for the accident. Instead, all the team members fixed the wound without a single complaint. We ended up receiving third place.

Although we were not completely satisfied with the results, it cannot be denied that we learnt a lot of valuable lessons. First of all, it's highly essential to plan before we roll up our sleeves. Rushing into action without planning often leads to confusion and poor results. For instance, when we were increasing the height of the tower, the noodles supporting the marshmallow frequently tilted. Thus, we had to fix the structure more often. However, if we had evaluated the form of the building initially, we would have gotten a stronger structure. The second is the necessity of communication. Not only was our team willing to share ideas, our team was also good at encouraging and praising each other. Therefore we were able to maintain a pleasant vibe during the discussion, and it assisted us in solving the problem promptly. I believe that these experiences will help us achieve future goals in our academic life.

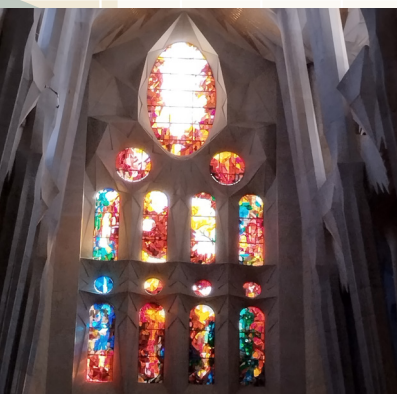
20128 洪嘉媛

Summer Trip in the UK

My First Trip to the UK

This was my first time traveling abroad. I couldn't help feeling really excited but also a little nervous at the same time. After arriving in England, I felt a little chilly because it was only seventeen degrees there, even in summer!

The master of my homestay was an Indian single father. His cooking was very tasty but too spicy. It made my tongue almost jump out of my mouth! It was so lucky for me to be in this homestay because we had a "coop"(supermarket) and a bus stop near my homestay which meant I could take a bus to school!



The school we studied at was Richard Challoner School. The school was so huge that it made me feel like their soccer field could fit our Yanping building! Thanks to the large ground the school had, students there didn't have to climb up many stairs and instead ran to classes.

During my studies in the school I had a cute buddy, Finley Ketter. He wore a black suit coat for his uniform and he also wore a tie. He treated everyone around him with a gentle and amiable attitude. He often told some funny jokes, and always had a sense of humor with him.

The most unforgettable place I visited in England was The British Museum. The building design was so grand that it made my eyeballs pop out. The exhibition inside was really fantastic. I saw tall statues, ancient stone monuments, and creative, pretty decorations, like chinaware from China. I usually buy some souvenirs from the shop when I travel. However, the moment I saw their prices, the only thing I wanted to do was scream and run out of the museum.

The first word that appeared in my mind was "hot" when I stepped into the air in Spain. It was like staying in a steamer. I could even sweat out enough sweat to fill the Pacific Ocean! The Spanish bread was so special that it was as hard as a brick! Moreover, Spanish dance is so intimidating!

The design of Spanish cathedrals added a lot of round elements that made me feel mild and comfortable. Sunshine shone through the windows which were made of colorful glass coloring the floor with different shades of the rainbow.

This journey had a very unique meaning to me and my memory is the best souvenir from this journey.



810 莊欣茜

A Trip to the United Kingdom



Have you ever traveled to another country without your family or acquaintances? This was a special experience for me. I went to the UK by myself. It was the first time I left my parents for a long period of time.

We transferred in Dubai, which is a wealthy country, that is rich in oil. Their airport was huge.

We even needed to take a bus to go to another gate. We bought playing cards as souvenirs. Each card had a landmark of Dubai. Then, we boarded another plane and flew for around eight hours. Finally, we arrived in the UK.

The first thing we did in the UK was visit our homestay. Our homestay family was very nice to us. At first glance, we saw the bunk bed, which would not be available in Taiwan. The food they prepared for us was also delicious. The next day, we went to Windsor. We were in a big group, so we didn't need to line up and wait through customs. That was very cool. We had a guide give us a tour. We saw a lot of old buildings and we knew how powerful the defenses were.



We visited one of these, Queen Mary's original doll house.

We saw the interior layout of the former palace. They said that it was an equal scale of magnification. We also saw guardsmen. They wore bearskin hats and red clothes that made them look serious. Their pace was organized, which shocked me.



804 09 李羽菁

My Senior High School Journey

As time flies by, unbeknownst to me, graduation is around the corner. In the past two years of my high school life, I have been enriching my resume with both academic performance and extracurricular activities. First of all, undoubtedly, as a high school student, I have gained advanced knowledge from classes and subjects, ranging from geometry to economics. The diversity of the subjects allowed me to get in touch with all manner of realms. Thanks to these diverse courses, I have found my interest in finance, in which I am determined to pursue a successful career. With regard to extracurricular activities, I joined the Mock United Nations club and the school magazine club, representing my yearning for knowledge and my pastime, respectively. In the Mock United Nations club, I fostered my English composition skills, cultivated my eloquent ability, and built up my global vision. On the other hand, in the school magazine club, I got the opportunity to turn my pastime, writing, into a real magazine. To sum up, in the past two years of my high school life, I fulfilled myself with knowledge and an assortment of abilities.



If I could start over, I would have improved my time management skills. The suffocating stress stemming from schoolwork and club business occupied my daily life, leaving me with inadequate sleep time. The shortage of sleep might have taken a heavy toll on my health. If I could start over, I would have done my level best to cope with the work in the most efficient way. Nevertheless, I don't regret participating in any of the activities. Had it not been for those activities, I wouldn't have become who I am right now. By prioritizing and managing my schedule more efficiently, I could have learned the knowledge in classes and fostered the skills without sacrificing my sleep. After all, health is always the top priority for humankind. If I could start over my high school life, I would have kept all the activities but carried them out more efficiently.

30529 陳宜卓



Over the past two years of high school, I have gained not only academic knowledge but also invaluable life skills. The rigorous coursework has honed my critical thinking and time management abilities, teaching me the importance of balance. Moreover, the diversity of the social environment has broadened my perspectives and enhanced my communication skills. These experiences have shaped me into a more resilient and adaptable individual, equipping me for the challenges beyond the classroom.

Extracurricular activities add vibrant hues to this canvas. The echoing cheers at sports events, the harmonious notes of a choir rehearsal, and the clatter of art supplies in the studio contribute to the rich mosaic of high school experiences. The nervous excitement before a performance or the adrenaline rush during a game are etched in memories. Balancing academics with club meetings and practices becomes a delicate dance, illustrating the art of time management. Late-night study sessions, which have impressed me a lot, fueled by a mix of determination and caffeine, become rites of passage. The camaraderie forged during group projects and the shared triumphs and struggles with classmates build a sense of community.

Reflecting on my high school journey, if given the chance to start anew, I would prioritize a holistic approach to personal development. Balancing academics with extracurricular activities would be a focal point, ensuring well-rounded growth. I would actively seek opportunities for leadership roles, fostering teamwork and enhancing my organizational skills. Building strong connections with teachers and peers would also be a priority, creating a supportive network for both academic and personal growth. Striking a balance between ambition and self-care, I would aim for a high school experience that not only nurtures holistic development but also academically. After all, high school life is not merely a collection of classes and exams; it's a mosaic of friendships, challenges, and self-discovery.



304 34 林鼎紘



How time flies. Although I can clearly recollect the day that I set foot in my 10th-grade classroom, it is undeniable that the scene is already a memory that was etched into my brain two years ago. Reflecting on the two-year-long experience, I indeed have learned lots of lessons. For instance, there are always annoying hindrances to my achievement in studying, and I used to be infuriated with my silly brain since I was unable to figure out complicated and dizzying figures and formulas. It really dealt

a blow to me when I saw my classmates achieve flawless performance on exams while mine was dismal. Nonetheless, I slowly came to realize that in the way of studying, engaging in the process and enjoying the feeling of getting stronger were of paramount importance. With a philosophical mentality, I managed to taste the nectar of success, turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones without difficulties. Other experiences such as getting along with friends and family members are also cherishable nutrients to my life, and I have reaped an abundant harvest from the process of highs and lows.

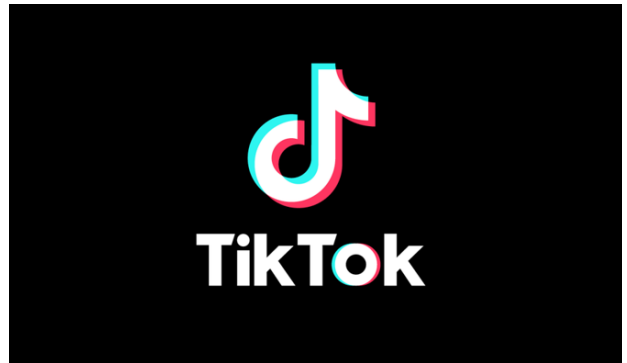
However, I still wish to airbrush my high school life to make it more memorable. If I had an opportunity to start from scratch again, I would seize every transient chance to spice up my life, for I think, owing to overwhelming pressure from studying, I have missed out on miscellaneous kinds of enjoyments which a normal high school student should experience. I would join the most fashionable club about dancing and playing the guitar; this way, I could broaden my horizons by mingling with people of all sorts. I would also be willing to read more fantasy novels as I found this hobby recharged my battery all the time when I was worn out and could only slump onto the sofa. The last but not least thing I would like to do is decrease the time I spent surfing the internet, which is the most unproductive way of killing time and would merely leave me with an empty feeling and strained eyes. In conclusion, I hope my renewed high school life can put more emphasis on social relationships, self-discipline, and reading, which serves as my guide to spiritual growth.



30711 許芷庭

Social Media Addiction- Everybody is Tik Tok-ing

When it comes to discussions pertaining to the developing social media platform—TikTok, I don't hold a positive view regarding its influence and the consequences it may bring. For me, I don't use TikTok, but often scroll through the “Shorts” on YouTube, consisting of videos with around thirty to sixty seconds each. Because of its brief time span, social media influencers are digging for ways to employ innovative ideas in videos and attract us instantly; otherwise, we may easily skip them. As more and more videos continue to hold appeal, I often stick to my phone scrolling through them all day, losing track of time. Eventually, they lower my work and study efficiency, and I also lose contact with friends and family, which I consider terrible.



Platforms like these have already had a substantial impact on our lives, and many people find them addictive, leading to challenges with mental health. Personally, I could have immersed myself in TikTok and made it a habit to scroll through the videos for almost three hours a day if I ever got the chance to use it, without even noticing. Those who have similar symptoms like this can easily fall prey to the thief of time and wind up becoming “phubbers,” who are so overwhelmed by the virtual world that they couldn't care less about their physical experiences. Furthermore, videos from those platforms don't play a role in refreshing our dreary and weary mood after working a long



day, as we often feel regretful whenever we realize we have wasted a copious amount of time and could have done something much more meaningful instead. Over time, we are unknowingly placed in a vicious cycle, among which poor productivity and mental issues can arise. With the reasons mentioned above, I do not view TikTok and any social media platforms like such as conducive to our life; rather, they may pose severe threats to our well-being.

20831 陳冠丞

In this digital era, it's nearly impossible for us, let alone Gen Z, to live without online interaction, which has led to the rise and bloom of multiple and various choices of social media. Among all platforms, TikTok had become one of the most used and loved one due to its distinguished way of making and watching videos, which brought about the great market of the so-called “short video”. On the one hand, its special ability enables teenagers without filming skills to easily make one and share their lives or thoughts with friends. On the other hand, its considerable access to younger teens may also lead to a myriad of social problems and privacy concerns. Moreover, since a lot of TikTok users are adolescents or even younger kids, lacking the ability and awareness to filter out fake or harmful information would give rise to lots of potential risks such as committing suicide and delinquency. I’ve tried it out in its early stage of development.



Frankly speaking, I was a bit addicted to it and would spend hours scrolling content mindlessly, which I later found to be very time-consuming. Plus, I found out that lots of adults would spread some sex-related information out of bad intentions, or even take TikTok as a platform to lure young girls for sexual assaults. Little did I know whether there’s bright and upright content or not, but I’m of a strong opinion that its dark side hugely outweighs the bright side.

Let’s take my friend Katie as an example. Since she started filming videos on TikTok, She quickly gained lots of fans due to her physical beauty and slim figure. However, never did she know that her popularity would cost her dearly. Katie began receiving lots of sex-related messages from strangers, which made her delete all her accounts a few months later. In my opinion, TikTok has been a vital information resource for many youngsters, thereby making it an important and crucial role in combating those inappropriate content on it. Not only should the public take prompt action to raise awareness to its underlying danger, but should also impose stricter regulations toward spreading fake information. All in all, seeking entertainment is just as important as creating a safer networking environment for the coming generations.



20419 劉子寧

Welcome Our New Foreign Teachers!

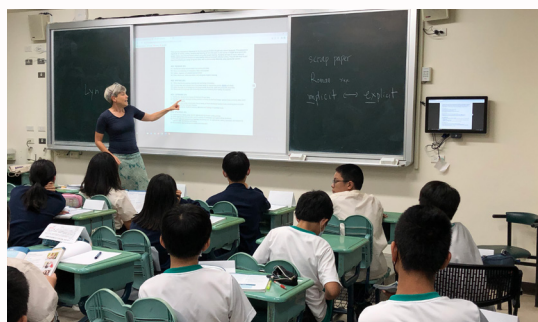
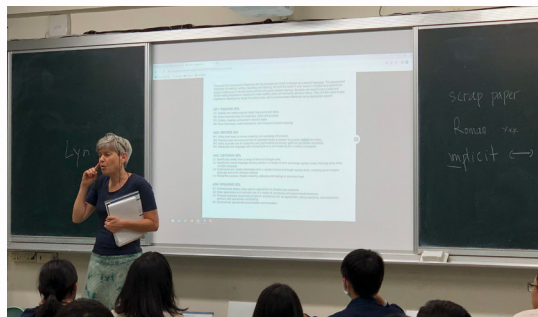
IGCSE: A Different English Program



Gail

Have you noticed the new "Oxford International AQA Examinations Approved Centre" sign at the main entrance to Yanping High School? Starting in 2023/24, Yanping is offering IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) classes. They prepare students for the IGCSE examinations which are administered twice a year in International Schools all over the world. The IGCSE is accepted worldwide as the equivalent to a US high school diploma.

I'm Teacher Gail, and I am preparing 25 grade 7 Yanping students for the four exams in English as a Second Language: reading, writing, listening and speaking. We meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening. The IGCSE exams in ESL are all about assessing real-life skills -- in other words, how good you are at using English in real life. That means that the class itself is also very focused on practical English: how do you strike up a conversation? How do you keep a conversation going? How do you go about finding important information in a text? How do you convey meaning in a piece of writing? How do you pick out the important bits of information in a speech or recording? At the same time, I have to make sure students have a secure grasp of the basics: punctuation, spelling, grammar ... The IGCSE is, after all, a first step towards entering an English-speaking university, so things need to be a little more serious than they are in, say, the English conversation class.



Before coming to Taiwan I taught at universities in Japan, and I feel that what the students are learning in this IGCSE course is going to be very useful to them wherever they end up pursuing their studies.

Have Fun in Ms. Lyn's Biology Class

Lyn



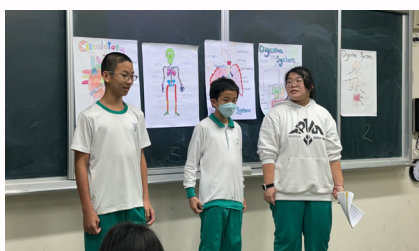
Hello,

My name is Wenalyn. I have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and two years of clinical experience. I also completed a diploma in professional education, majoring in biology. I have seven years of teaching experience in the Philippines, Thailand, and Taiwan, where I have taught students of various grade levels and backgrounds.

Biology is the study of life, encompassing various topics, from the smallest cells to entire ecosystems. Throughout this course, students will engage in multiple activities, presentations, and discussions to deepen their understanding of biological concepts.

In addition to practical activities, I will utilize multimedia resources such as educational videos and employ various assessment methods, including quizzes, tests, projects, and presentations. As a biology teacher, my goal is to make the subject matter interesting and accessible to all students, regardless of their prior knowledge or level of interest in biology. I find it rewarding to witness my students' growth and development, both academically and personally.

I am here to support your academic journey, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Let's embark on this exciting adventure together and make this biology class a memorable and enriching experience.



Pick Up a Hurl and Have Fun!

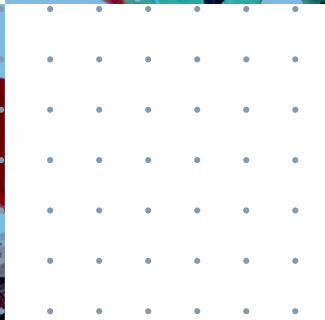
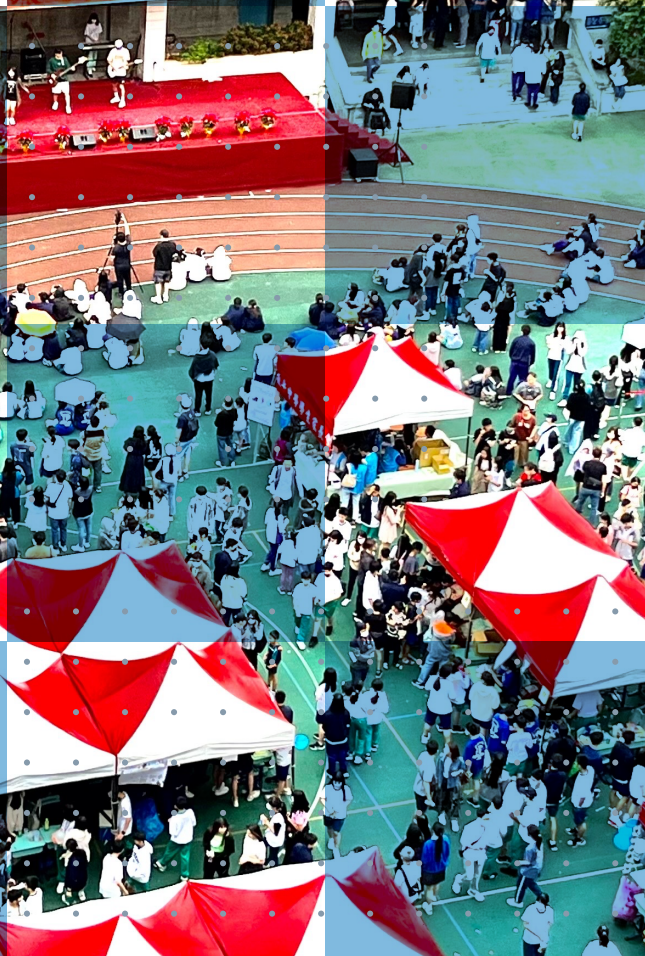


Rebecca

Gaelic football is like a mix of soccer, rugby, volleyball and basketball, but with a unique Irish twist. Picture this: players kicking, punching, bouncing and passing a ball, all while trying to score goals or points. It's a fast-paced, action-packed game that will have you on the edge of your seat – or standing on it depending on the team! Gaelic football comes from Ireland and has been around for almost 150 years. Our team in Taipei - the Taiwan Celts - is the oldest Irish football team in Asia. It started 28 years ago, in 1995 when a group of young Irish guys moved over to Taipei and couldn't live without Irish football. It has been going ever since. There are now clubs in

cities all over the world, and almost every country in Asia have a team. We compete together once a year at the All Asian Gaelic Games. A few friends and I are currently making a documentary about the history of this club which we will release in March 2024. I am also the Ladies Captain of this team so if you ever wonder what I do in my free time - that's it! All are welcome to come watch our competitions in Taipei!





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