



# BROWHEADLINE

## THE WINDER HERE AND NOW



A newspaper for the School, but most importantly, for the STUDENTS.  
BrowHeadline is proud to bring you issue 11 of the winder HERE and NOW!

Welcome to our final edition of BrowHeadline for this school year! We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than dedicating Issue 11 to our Deputy Head, Mrs Vermeulen. As she leaves us at the end of this academic year, we want to thank her for leading the Windermere School community. Issue 11 has been designed with Mrs V's favourite colour in mind. We hope you enjoy!



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# BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW

## Meet the Team!

What advice do you have for a big change in someone's life?

### THOMAS NUSSBAUM-RICHMAN

Hey all! In terms of advice for a large change in your life, I would say that you shouldn't dwell on that change in every waking moment, since that will prevent you from being able to continue with your life. The change must be looked at & thought about, of course, but life does have to continue as well, so don't let it dominate you, be it good or bad.



### MAYUMI SINGH

My piece of advice for going through large change is to try to always look at things positively even when you think you can't because being positive can help you enormously in reaching your goals.



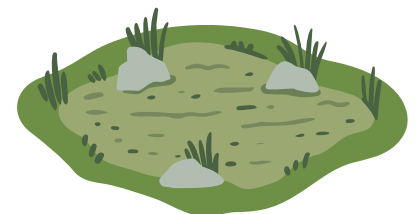
### ETHAN

My words of advice are things happen and change but whatever does happen the most important thing is to keep going forward and think positively as things will always be fine.



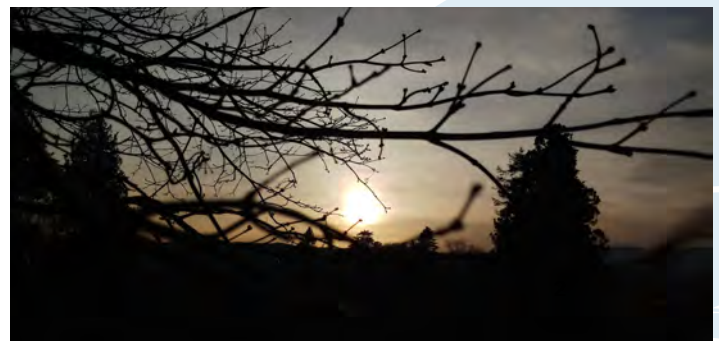
### Vivienne Sze

Personally, for when I am going through change I like to read books when I am stressed about my problems. It makes me escape from reality, and throw my unhelpful thoughts away. I also like to listen to music, so I am not being distracted from the outside world and stay into my comfort zone for awhile, therefore helping me relax.



### Alan Mak

Hi this time we are writing for Mrs Vermeulen who is leaving us and this is actually quite a big change to us all at school as Mrs Vermeulen has been working here for over 20 years. When there are large changes in life remember to always face it with courage and always love yourself no matter what is changing around you.





# BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW



## Meet the Team Continued!

What advice do you have for a big change in someone's life?

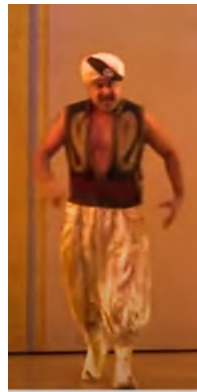
### SERENA COOPER

My advice for adjusting to change is to take as many new opportunities as possible to help you adapt and discover new things. This helps you make the most of the change, and helps you benefit from the difficulties you may face.



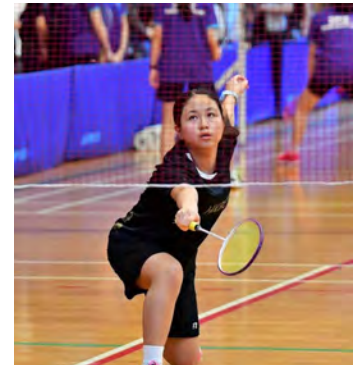
### HENRY WILMOT

I think you should always switch the light off when not using a room because having small habits can help the environment and yourself a lot as change can be difficult.



### NATASHA NG

If your life has a large change that you can't adapt quickly and you feel panic, I would suggest you to have a shower, sit down and listen to some music. This could probably make you calm. For Mrs V, I hope you can have nice time with your family after you leave. Thanks for always asking me to pull my skirt down. You are such a funny and nice teacher. I'll always miss you.



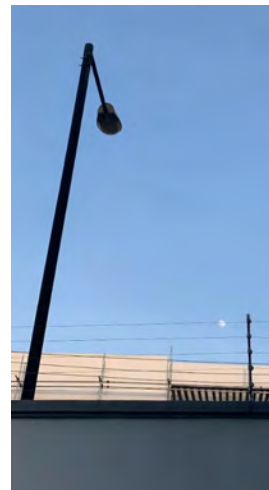
### LUANA KENNY

Hello again! Going through new change is really tough, and there isn't specifically one thing that helps. However the most important thing is to look after yourself in every way possible. If it is making a cup of tea or sitting down and watching a good TV show you enjoy, doing the little things to help with self care and self love is crucial to go through large changes.



### Sandra

For when I am going through change in my life I remember this quote, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." - John F. Kennedy. This quote helps me look forward and adapt and learn about the differences I am facing.





# A Reflection with Mrs Vermeulen

By Serena and Mayumi

## **Looking back at your time in Windermere School, what are you most proud of?**

I think I'm most proud of times when it feels like I've made a real difference in an individual's life. There has been a small number of occasions where a pupil has come back to me much later on and has said that they've done a particular degree or gone on to a particular career because of something I said or did in a Geography lesson. It always feels really amazing when that happens.

## **What is an unusual hobby that you have?**

I don't think it's very unusual but open water swimming.

## **Who do you think would play you in the movie of your life?**

Somebody with big hair! I've really got no idea!

## **What is your favourite Lake District View?**

There is a hill that is so small it's nameless, when you come towards Stonethwaite. I discovered it when I was 18 and I absolutely love it. I have no idea why! It's where I got married and it's just a very special place so it's where I go when I want to have a sit and a think.

## **What is one piece of advice you would give to students in order to succeed in life?**

I suppose you've got to be prepared to work hard, and that doesn't matter whether you're working hard at being kinder or working hard at an academic subject. But you've got to put the time in. It's really boring life advice I'm sorry!

## **If you could describe yourself as a vegetable, what would you be?**

My children would say it would have to be a courgette because I love them. I grow them, and as you can see from the picture behind you my children think I prefer courgettes over them!

## **What would you say your educational philosophy is and how has it changed over the years?**

I think education generally has become more whole child centered over the years. It's much less just about getting academic grades and I like that very much. I think my educational philosophy is that you have to look after the whole child if the child is going to be successful. So it's all about are they happy and if they have an idea of where they want to go in the future.

## **What advice would you give to someone joining Windermere School?**

Be proactive, sign up for new things, try new things and talk to your teachers. I'm amazed at how many people don't talk to their teachers!

## **What have you learned from your time at Windermere School?**

When I was studying English in the Sixth Form, we studied the poetry of Wordsworth and one line of his struck me. At the time I was 17 and I struggled to understand what it was he was really driving at. The line is 'the child is the father of the man'. I think I understand it a bit better now, or at least my understanding of it (which may not be the right one!). But to me, it feels as if Wordsworth is saying that the experiences you have when you are younger mould the person you turn into when you are older.

I started working at Windermere School when I was 26 years old (so really not very old at all) and it feels looking back as if many of the experiences I have had at the school have moulded the person I am now. So just as much as I may have had an impact on the school, the school has very much had an impact on me!

I have been here when the school moved to being co-ed, and worked here as St Annes, Windermere St Annes and Windermere School, and it feels as if, just as the school has changed massively in that time, so have I!

**If you could go back in time and say something to your younger self what would it be?**

Be kinder to yourself. Be less critical and enjoy being in the moment. Stop always pushing to being in the next place.



My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!

The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural  
piety.

-Wordsworth, poem 1802

To listen to the full interview, click [here](#).

Thank you Mrs Vermeulen for allowing us to interview you. We wish you the very best of luck in the future!

# Mr Lightburn

As part of our special edition, we found out more about Mrs Vermeulen's big little brother.

**Describe Mrs Vermeulen in one word.**  
Frowny!

**What is it like being the sister of Mrs Vermeulen?**

It's always been entertaining. It was a big surprise when I came to work here and finding my older sister being in charge!

**Do you enjoy working in the same place as your sister?**

I do now that I have a note from my mum to protect me! My lifelong advice to anyone listening or reading this: never, never, ever, work in the same place as your older sister.



**What type of activities/hobbies do you like to do together?**

Together?! We don't really. We always have had different opinions and interests. The last time that I remember doing something together was when her, her family and I went walking around the lake.

**Name three things that you admire about Mrs V.**

- 1) The ability to keep a frown on for so long!
- 2) I admire her organisation skills. They are truly fantastic.
- 3) I also admire how hard Mrs V works. I have never met someone who cares so much about her pupils and I hate to admit it but I am in awe of her job.

# MRS VERMEULEN'S LEGACY

Throughout Mrs Vermeulen's time here at Windermere School, she has made many great changes, both big and small. Due to her hard work and dedication to constantly improving the School her impact will remain forever. Here are some of our favourite parts of Mrs Vermeulen's legacy.



# Teacher of Geography

Academic Deputy Head

Mrs V progressed from the Head of Staffing and Planning to the Academic Deputy Head and became responsible for the performance of all the faculties in the school.

Head of Staffing and Planning

Mrs V organised the whole of the school year and key events. This comprised assembling the termly school dairy and managing all conflicting requests and balancing trips so that students were not pulled in too many directions at once.

Educational Visits Coordinator

Mrs Vermeulen oversaw all educational visits and was the first line in the approval process. She took this extremely seriously and underwent annual training so that she was well versed in the requirements.

·Creator and teacher of Religious Knowledge course



# Introduced Lecture Series

## Covid Lead

When the pandemic struck, Mrs V assumed responsibility for managing the Covid Risk Assessments, ensuring that the school could continue to operate. Far more importantly, she managed the delivery of all online learning.

Appraisal of teaching staff and tutors  
Mrs Vermeulen devoted countless holiday hours to this, for it involved collating all the student surveys, so that students contributed fairly to the appraisal of their teachers and tutors. Mrs Vermeulen took great pains over this and produced some informative graphs of strengths and weaknesses. The outcome of this process informed the allocation of the INSET budget.

## *Life Skills*

Detentions  
System!

Tutor par  
excellence

Head of  
Browhead  
Once Mr  
Lavender  
retired, Mrs  
Vermeulen  
became  
Acting Head  
of Browhead.

Mrs Vermeulen  
organised  
countless school  
trips and  
completed all the  
paperwork for  
more than one of  
the extraordinarily  
successful Iceland  
trips.

She also went as  
the Headmaster's  
representative to a  
Round Square  
Conference in  
South Africa.

### Exceptional Reflections

Mrs Vermeulen gave  
numerous wonderful,  
memorable, and very  
thoughtful Reflections.

Mrs Vermeulen took responsibility for so much of the school, especially the organisational and academic side.

Mrs V pulls together the day to day running of the school. She works with Mr KP to organise events, Mrs Ross with finances, Mr Hill with running the school, Mrs Moses regarding pastoral issues and IB, Heads of Department about the curriculum..

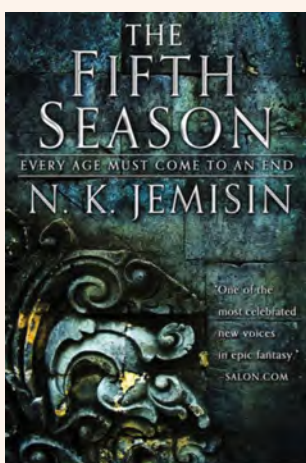
Through everything, Mrs V is always professional and positive in her outlook. There is nothing that Mrs V does not do!

Mrs V organises much of the curriculum and makes decisions about staff and student timetables, and exam timetables. She organises parents meetings and staff meetings. She looks into the next year and organises subject options. She is the key to inspections, policies and processes throughout the school.

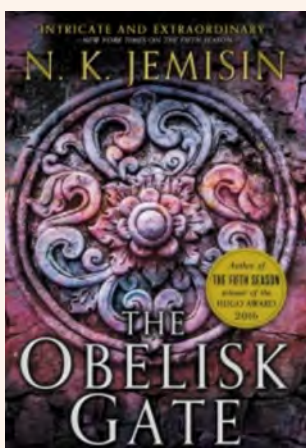


## RIVETING READS

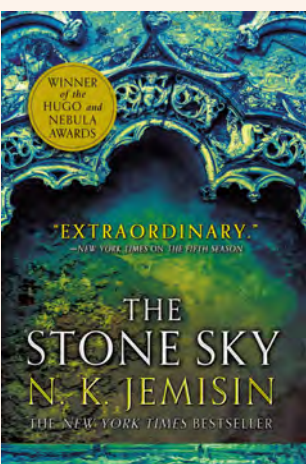
Luana Kenny



I joined Windermere School in the beginning of Year 10 and for the past two years, Mrs Vermeulen has been my tutor. Now that she is leaving, I think about the amazing light that she has been during my GCSE years. Mrs V is a person who is funny, intelligent, caring, and hardworking and helps me value other parts of life other than academics. I can't imagine a life without such a caring tutor and she made the transfer from a very different school system into the British and GCSE system much easier. She was someone I could trust and lean on.



Tutor time is always a time in the day I look forward to. I was distraught when I learnt that we were returning to reflections as it meant less time to see Mrs Vermeulen every week. She has made tutor time a place where we can share our thoughts on anything and everything. Her jokes always make us laugh and her support of our academic and extracurricular endeavours are invaluable to the tutor group.



At the end of Year 10, I was blessed with the gift of the Broken Earth trilogy by N.K Jemisin from Mrs V. This series is a double Hugo Award winning series and is critically acclaimed, justifying Mrs V's love for the books. It has taken me nearly a full year to finish the series due to several reasons. The trilogy is about a group of people who can control the earth, controlling earthquakes and sensing things through the ground and vibrations (fitting as Mrs Vermeulen is a Geography teacher) and one woman's journey facing the trials and tribulations that this fantasy apocalyptic version of the earth has thrown at her.





## RIVETING READS

### **The First Book- The Fifth Season**

The first book was dynamically paced with lots of diverse perspectives from various people during different time periods. This gave the read a fantasy world feel fleshed out and three dimensional. The world building was phenomenal, showing the significance and importance of the culture and history of this fictional world. The main character has complex emotions and there is a depth to the reasoning and her actions when facing difficult challenges.

### **The Second Book- The Obelisk Gate**

How should I put this? The second book is the reason why I took nearly a year to finish this series. I would start reading the book every couple of months remembering the brilliant first book and then after 30 minutes I would set it back down again and not pick it up for three more months. It's bland. In comparison to the first book, it is slower and there is very little new information about this world. It is setting up for the third book and therefore there is not much action until the very end, making it a long build up to something that is only furthering the story for the third book. However, we get an increasingly interesting look at the complexities of the main character's emotions and her history with her struggles.

### **The Third Book- The Stone Gate**

Trudging through the second book was worth it. I struggle to express how grand a scale this book portrays its characters. The world building by the third book is vast and there is so much depth and understanding of history and change and the reader by the end fully grasps all of those aspects. Therefore, the conclusion means so much more. The slow paced second book was a perfect set up for the fast paced dynamic conclusion to the trilogy. There is so much agony and development in the characters. Empathising with their struggles and sufferings allows the third book to mean more to the reader. As a result, the conclusion is significantly impactful and important. There is such a contrast between the main characters in the first book and the end of the trilogy due to the greater understanding the reader has of this world and the characters' trials.

This series is over all phenomenal and is something I definitely recommend everyone to read as it is such a fantastically written series.

# Life changes with the sky

As the sun sets over Windermere  
It will promise to rise again  
and the moon keeps our peace until then.

As we rest in darkness  
Sun doesn't face our scorn

Despite the sun leaving  
We know not to mourn.

The sunset streaks across the sky

It's beauty is remarkable.

The journey of the sun  
Has only just begun.

As the sun rises over Windermere  
We all begin again

A new beginning for all  
Our paths stretch ahead.

A new school  
A new job  
A new freedom  
Or a new life.

We change just like the sky  
Into the long light of July

And as we set out on our new beginnings  
Just like the sun

We take strength in our return  
Like the sun,  
We'll rise again.



# Travel Around Hong Kong

A travel guide for Mrs V to use should she ever wish to explore Hong Kong!



CHING MA BRIDGE



VICTORIA HRBOUR



THE LION ROCK





# DON'Ts in Hong Kong:



- BE A SNAIL - HONG KONG PEOPLE USUALLY WALK WITH A VERY FAST PACE.
- ONLY STAY IN HONG KONG ISLAND - THERE ARE MANY OTHER NICE PLACES.
- BLINDLY CROSS THE ROAD - JUST LIKE THE UK, THE TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD IS ALWAYS BUSY.

## Famous Places to Visit

### 1) Repulse Bay Beach

Repulse Bay Beach would probably be the best beach in Hong Kong. This beach is located in Tsin Shui Wan in the southern part of HK. It is a long, sandy stretch of soft sand with a strip of shady trees. I think that it is quite a good place to relax and spend time with your family.



### 2) Disneyland

As most people know, Disneyland is a worldwide theme park. In Hong Kong Disneyland, you can find some classic Disneyland rollercoasters such as, Space Mountain, It's a Small World etc. It's quite suitable for a family to visit because there is a hotel for you to stay in overnight.

### 3) Victoria Harbour

Want ride a ferry and admire Hong Kong at night? Victoria Harbour has the greatest view of the Hong Kong skyline. Ride in a inexpensive star ferry and have a 360 degree view of the cityscape and nice sky. It is only 37p for a ride from Tsim Sha Tsui clock tower to Central or back.

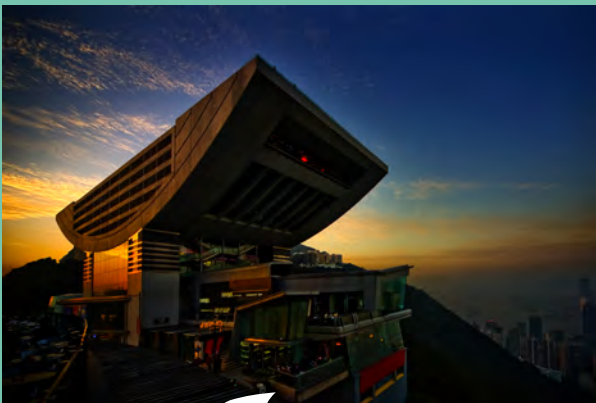






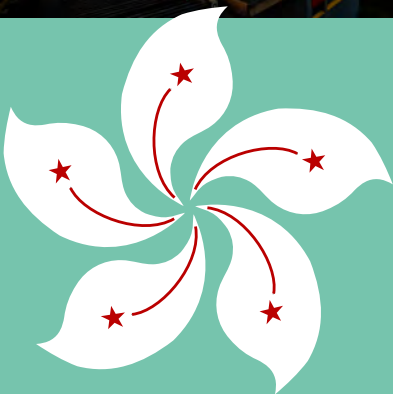
#### 4) Ocean Park

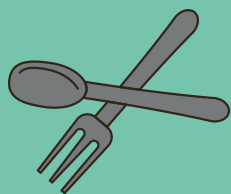
Ocean Park is Hong Kong's original amusement park and sits on the south side of Hong Kong Island. It has roller coasters with incredible views, aquarium and pandas to meet. Over 15 species of animals live in Ocean Park, giant pandas, red pandas, Asian otters and more. It also has cable cars and world-class facilities such as Polar Adventure, Thrill Mountain, and Aqua City.



#### 5) Victoria Peak

Victoria Peak is the number one tourist attraction in the Peak Tower and the Peak Tram. The Peak Tram is the city's oldest mode of public transportation that arrives to the top of the peak. The wonderful view when you arrive to the peak is what you can see on the three pictures.





# 10 MUST-EAT DISHES



## 1) Dim Sum

Yum Cha is a Chinese traditional drinking tea, and it is common to eat little bite sizes dishes while enjoying the different kinds of Chinese hot teas. Dim sum is often served at teahouses and people usually go with their families.

Here are some of the best dim sun dishes so that you don't miss out:

- Crystal shrimp dumplings (har gow)
- Coconut buns (gai mei bao)
- Chicken feet (feng zhao)
- Chinese broccoli in oyster sauce
- Char siu pork puffs
- Hong Kong style egg tarts
- Siu mai (type of traditional dumpling)
- Potstickers
- Rice noodle roll (cheung fun)
- Steamed custard buns



Of course there are so many more things to taste in these teahouses!



## 2) Fish ball noodles

You will find fish balls every where throughout Asia. It is the lightness and texture of the fish balls that makes them so attractive.

## 3) Fish balls with curry sauce

Fish balls again! These are the same fish balls as the ones in the noodles, but we cook them in a different way. We put the fish balls in the curry sauce and serve it. It's super delicious! You can buy them anywhere on the street.



## 4) Pineapple bun with butter

Despite their name, the bun contains no pineapple! It's crunchy, golden-brown top is thought to resemble the texture and look of a pineapple. Firm on the outside with a sweet, crumbly crust, and soft on the inside.



## 5) Egg tart

Egg tarts taste similar to a custard and can vary in sweetness depending on the recipe. Their shells can range from a super flaky crust to a shortbread puff pastry that is thicker, but still delicate and crisp when eating.



## 6) Roast goose

Roast goose is actually called siu mei. It is a roasted meat dish with a Cantonese sauce seasoning. The high quality of roasted geese has a crispy skin with juicy and tender meat. It's an absolutely delicious dish. You can't stop once you've eaten it!



## 7) Sweet and sour pork

Sweet and sour pork is a Chinese dish particularly popular in westernised Cantonese cuisine and may be found all over the world. Several provinces in China produce various dishes that claim to be the ancestor including a traditional Jiangsu dish called Pork in a sugar and vinegar sauce.



## 8) Vegan soup dumpling

This is a type of steamed bun that is presented in bamboo steaming baskets, similar to dim sum in both appearance and texture. They're traditionally used in a soup. Why not whip up a bowl of vegan broth or miso and add these? Featuring mushrooms, tofu and loads of flavour.



## 9) Udon noodle stir fry (vegan/non-vegan)

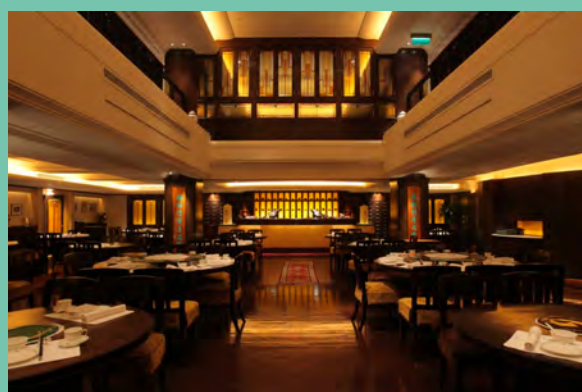
This is a take on the Japanese udon noodle that is a relatively new, but highly popular. The dish consists of thick, smooth, white udon noodles mixed with a soy based sauce, meat, and vegetables. This involves a similar stir fry technique using ramen-style wheat noodles.



## 10) Crispy salt and pepper tofu (vegan)

Before it has been cooked or seasoned, tofu tastes sour and is quite bland. However, this food is an excellent absorber of flavours. When prepared correctly, tofu can be savoury, sweet, crunchy, or soft.

# 5 RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS



## 1) Spring moon (Hotel Peninsula)

Address: 1/F, The Peninsula Hong Kong, Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong

The Peninsula is a Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant has a grand dining room. Don't miss their barbecued pork puff or steamed lobster and vegetable dumpling.







## 2) Old Choi Yun Kei

Address: 7 Tung Cheong St, Tai Po, Hong Kong

Choi Yun Kei is well-renowned for its fish ball noodles which are regarded as the best in town.

## 3) Meok Bang Korean BBQ and bar (Korean)

Address: 6/F, The Goldmark, 502 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay

This is a very famous Korean barbecue restaurant in Hong Kong. At MeokBang Korean BBQ & BAR, there are so many rare cuts of pork and beef. There is a good selection of seafood too.



## 4) Nishimura Restaurant HK

Address: Shop 602, Level 6, Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel, Harbour City, 3-27 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

This is a restaurant which serves all kinds of Japanese lunch and dinner courses. Fresh and seasonal ingredients from Tokyo, Fukuoka, Osaka, Okinawa and Hokkaido are shipped to Hong Kong by air on a daily basis.



## 5) TreeHouse (Vegan)

Address: Ground floor, H, Code, Shop 1, 45 Pottinger St, Central, Hong Kong

This is a popular vegan restaurant in Hong Kong. They offer whole plant based options completely unprocessed, free from preservatives, refined sugars, artificial sweeteners, dyes, trans-fats & bleached flour. Their foods are all natural. You could have some breads, some rolls with vegetables and sauce.



*Since there are so many nice restaurants in Hong Kong, we haven't mentioned them all [Click here to find out more](#)<sup>1</sup>*

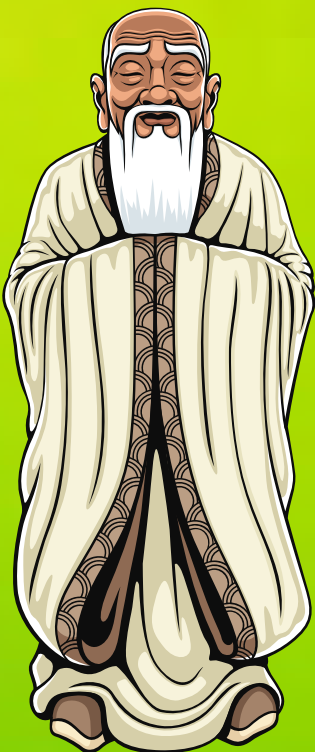
# 儒學

## CONFUCIANISM



Confucianism is a cultural mainstream philosophy and religious belief that originated in China. Eventually, it influenced and spread over to other East Asian countries. The main idea of the religious belief is to treat elders with respect, friends should act truthfully and officials should be honest and love the people. Confucius was a famous thinker and educator in ancient China and had a profound influence upon the development of this belief.

### Characteristics of Confucianism



1. Take Confucius as the first teacher and ideological leader.
2. Take the 'Book of Changes', 'Shangshu', 'Book of Songs', 'Book of Rites', 'Spring and Autumn' and other books as classics.
3. Form a tense structure of benevolence and propriety in thought.
4. Focus on the inner sage and the outer king. The learning of the outer king's meritorious deeds is accomplished through the inner body and mind.
5. Pay special attention to the ethical relationship between people and apply it to political practice as a guiding principle.





Confucianism is the most influential thought in ancient China and the foundation of feudalism. Confucianism is an academic belief that develops continuously and it keeps pace with the times. It can be called the backbone of the nation.

From about the 7th century BC, the feudal rule of the Zhou Dynasty began to decline. The teachers and members of the royal family themselves were scattered amongst the people. The ceremonies of sacrifice are called 'Confucianism'.



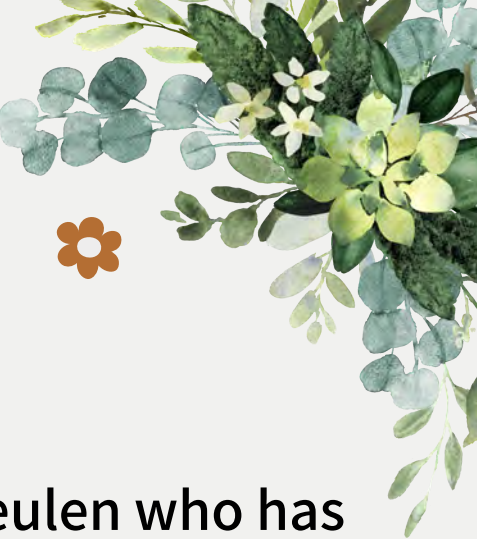

Confucianism founded by Confucius is a complete ideological system formed on the basis of summarising and inheriting the traditional culture of Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties. In ethics, Confucianism pays attention to self-cultivation and its central idea is "benevolence", which means that people should pay attention to the harmonious relationship between people. As a ritual building, the temple is not only a special venue for worshipping Confucius and sages, but also an important carrier for the spread of Confucianism.



Movie "Confucius" in 2010

Link for trailer : [https://youtu.be/koxn4Z2\\_ODM](https://youtu.be/koxn4Z2_ODM)







This edition is dedicated to Mrs Vermeulen who has been working in Windermere School since 1997 (when everything was handwritten since technology was not yet developed). She teaches Geography and Religious Knowledge. I personally was one of her RK students in Year 9, which is why I have written about Confucianism - another type of religious belief. I remember Mrs Vermeulen was trying to make the lessons as interesting as possible and I am still so grateful for everything she has done for us.



Thank you so much & see you later Mrs Vermeulen!!  
We will miss you.



# VR Corner

## CATS IN VR: Cats, except in VR.

Hi everyone! In this special edition of VR corner, I'll be covering the presence of the objectively better house pet (according to Mrs V) as featured in Virtual Reality. This article is guaranteed to interest you in VR as per the mandate of the feline overlords!

### 1: Hand Physics Lab

Taking advantage of the Oculus Quest's hand tracking capabilities, Hand Physics Lab showcases all the things you can do with the tech in VR! You can try things like stacking blocks, make drawings, and... slice eggs! There's a lot you can mess around with in the experience, and nice to come back to if you're tired of more intense games. Oh, and you can

you can pet the cat! See, I can stay on topic!



### 2: Green Hell VR

Green Hell VR is a very intense survival game available for the quest, wherein you must try your best to remain safe, healthy, and alive in the middle of a rainforest. The game involves a lot of hands-on crafting and building, in a really realistic setting. Plus, there are cats in this one too! They're a lot bigger though. And scarier. Jaguars count, right?



### 3: CATan VR

Okay, this is a hell of a stretch, but Catan is a good game. I personally feel that the board game is much more enjoyable in-person rather than on VR, but it is really nice being able to play with friends all across the world!

Catan is a board game that involves settling on an island, gathering & trading resources, and building roads & settlements

to earn victory points & win the game. It is a simple premise, for sure, but games can get really tense as players' roads block one another & settlements get crowded! This I definitely recommend if you like a good strategy game.



Yeah, that's all I could find in terms of cats in VR games. Surprisingly, there's a lack of them; perhaps I should start a petition for more to be featured?

Thanks very much for reading, and as a special note to my tutor, Mrs Vermeulen, it has been such a pleasure to have been part of your tutor group, and I cannot thank you enough for how much you've helped me for the past two years. I wish you all the best for the future!



# GAME REVIEW: UNDERTALE



GAME: UNDERTALE

RECOMMENDED AGE: 11+

RATING: 9.75/10

As said in my last game review, I have played Undertale, a game that my sister is obsessed with. After a short break of a few months, I decided to buy the game (for a low price of around £5) and play it. It was a brilliant, masterfully crafted experience that is immense fun. The tutorial is simple, the bosses are fun yet semi-difficult and the story is excellent. It uses old retro-themed styles to great effect, allowing for memorable fourth-wall-breaking moments. The soundtrack is catchy and cool too.

Overall, the game was a fun experience. If you have any spare time, this is a good game to fill the time, if slightly difficult! Maybe even Mrs. V could have a go!

# Mrs V and Sandra



I think my first proper experience with Mrs V was back when she used to do duties every Friday. There was a specific Friday I will never forget, although I can't remember all the context as I think my memories with her have begun to fill up.

I was probably homesick or we were just talking about a new book I had just bought. It was called *My Sister the Serial killer* and I can vividly remember her sitting on the side of my bed. We had a very memorable conversation and she spoke to me about her experience living in South Africa and her transition as she moved. But there were habits that she carried with her to the UK.

It was really nice to hear about her experiences as I haven't been there since I was three, so it was very interesting to hear about the things I probably didn't notice about the country.

The conversation taught me something that I've carried with me since I joined Windermere School and that I will continue to carry as long as I'm not in Nigeria. It taught me that you don't need to be at home, to feel at home. Where you feel at home is all up to you and you can make anywhere feel like home. That's why there are things that we do at home and subconsciously when we were not at home because, as long as we were on Earth, everywhere really is home.

Mrs V, thank you for the guidance you have given me academically. I appreciate the time you took to help me with revision. It was really useful and has definitely gone a long way. Most importantly, I will never forget how you helped me non-academically. You taught me things that I will never forget and I will remember till I grow grey and old.

# YOUR TIME WITH MRS V

## BY MAYUMI SINGH

As this issue is dedicated to the one and only Mrs V, I asked the school community for their memories and words about her. Here are some of the amazing responses we received.

### How long have you known Mrs V ?

MISS DAVIES- 8 YEARS

MADELEINE BALFOUR- 4 YEARS

LUANA-2 YEARS

MRS COOKE - 12 YEARS

MR BROMLEY- 8 YEARS

THOMAS NR- 5 YEARS

MRS BETHELL- 12 YEARS

MR CROSS -1 YEAR

MR RAYNER- 9 YEARS

MR ROWE - 10 YEARS

MR LIGHTBURN -ALL MY LIFE ALAS

CHARLOTTE LAMBERT-7 YEARS

AMELIA BREWSTER- 1 YEAR

MAYUMI SINGH -6 YEARS

CATALINA ALVAREZ - 2-3 WEEKS

BEN PLATT -4 YEARS

GRACE STEPHENS- 2 YEARS

FINN GERAGHTY -3 YEARS

SERENA COOPER -5 YEARS

MRS BENNETT -10 YEAR S

JOSH BELLIS -9 YEARS

IDA STOECKER-1 SINCE SEPTEMBER

MR LAVENDER -ABOUT 10 YEARS





Mrs Nield- Saving the school through lockdown with amazing work setting up the online learning and keeping everyone informed throughout the process.

Ida Stoecker - Making sure my ankles don't freeze, by reminding me to wear longer socks! Good life skills lessons with lots of fun.

Leena Maddock- How helpful she is everyday at drop To tell me if it is tutor time or reflection.

Holly Johnson -Making everyone feel so welcome and making sure we all keep up academically.

Mrs Moses - She's done too much to mention but the things I'll particularly remember her for are how effectively she took the school through the complexities of Covid teaching, her determination to swim in the lake every Friday (rain, wind or shine) and make it seem fun, how she's never phased by a challenge and her general wonder woman approach to everything.

Mr Lightburn - Incredible hard work and dedication to the students

Mr Lavender - She was instrumental in raising standards across the school in all things, and she made my life possible and much more enjoyable.

Ben Platt - All the work and effort she has put in has been soooooo inspiring and really made others put in hard work.

Mayumi Singh- Been a great person for advice and tutor and has done lots for the students of this school

Amber Kenny - She's always really nice when you see her around school, and is supportive when helping you with your responsibilities.

Mr Cooke - A wonderful friend, Geography partner and support. Everybody needs a Mrs V in their life.

Miss Loughlin - Everything! She keeps us all going and has shown an unbelievable amount of determination. Mrs Vermeulen always has time for you and is incredibly supportive and understanding.

Mrs Cooke - Often, it's the little conversations, the friendly smile or brief compliment that have meant the most to me. Her kind words will remain with me for the rest of my life.

Mrs Bennet - helping me to be organised

Luana Kenny - I like her honesty and how much she cares and how much she works into making the school a better place. She's always put so much more effort into helping everyone, she spends so much time helping everyone.

Charlotte Lambert - Mrs Vermeulen has always helped run the school in the right direction through her encouragement and kind manner. When I was at the school she was the best tutor I could ever ask for. Coming from QKS on year 9, I was a very different person to who I am today and Mrs V is to thank for that. She made me feel more confident in myself both personally and academically. She made a strive for excellence and make a "plan for world domination". Without her I wouldn't be where I am today. When I was struggling in my personal life with my family, she was always there if I needed to talk or a shoulder to cry on and that's why, to me, she was very important. Whatever my issue was, Mrs V always found a way to fix it.

In terms of the school she always made sure everything was in order and even if it seemed stern (especially when it came to my nails and earrings), she was always putting the students' best interests at heart. Because of this I believe she made the school what it is today- a place of happiness where everyone has respect for each other.

Amelie Shepard - being very supportive, getting us through our RK GCSE in year 9, listening to the students

## What do you really admire and thank her for?

Mrs Hurstwaite - Her passion for education, as well as her organisation and dry sense of humour are just some of the reasons Mrs Vermeulen is an amazing Deputy Head.

Catalina Alvarez- In the morning, she is always in the drop off point, saying hello and good morning to every one. I think this is really kind and beautiful.

Mrs Davies- She was one of the first teachers I met at Windermere School when I was looking for a teaching job in the area. I had worked on the Summer School in June and July 2013 and it was her that first got me some part time work at the school. This later led to a full time teaching job, I will always be grateful for the support she gave me to secure my role at the School. She has worked tirelessly to ensure the School runs smoothly and to support the students through their academic studies. I know she also worked incredibly hard during the first Covid lockdown in Summer 2020

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Marius Vincevicius- Was actually the best detention "guard" I could have ever asked for. Throughout my 3 years of visiting her in detentions I can say that I couldn't have asked for more! Thank you.

Dr Gray - Mrs V keeps the school running. I'm not sure anyone else could do this job!

Grace Stephens - Her tips on revision for end of year exams have really helped me for both this years and last years exams...

Mrs Bethell - Laughter.

Isaac LB - She pushes students to do more.

Josh Bellis - Providing me with the courage and confidence to succeed my own expectations and help to prove myself wrong on countless occasions.

Mr Rowe - Everything! To the point that you are slightly unnerved if you arrive and her car isn't already there! It is difficult to imagine how the school will be able to function without Mrs V, she is integral to everything good that happens here.

## Is there anything you would like to say to Mrs V?

Ms Lewis - Wishing you the very best of luck in your new adventures. I hope that you enjoy having some time with your own family after all that you have done for all the staff and children at Windermere School.

Mrs Cooke - You have been a great friend and I am sad to see this chapter end. I never expected to say goodbye this year but I wish you the best of luck in your new endeavours and know that you will excel beyond your expectations in whatever you choose to do.

Ethan Miller- good luck have an amazing life :)

Mr Cross - You are the heart of Windermere School and it will not look the same without you. Wishing you the very best of luck in your future endeavours.

Luana Kenny - That she has been like a school parental figure and that she will be irreplaceable next year. Sometimes my parents let me read the update emails she sends and she always is lovely and she is a near perfect tutor that is funny amazing and her absence will be like an absence in my heart.

Natasha Ng- Thank you for everything that you've done. Thank you always telling me to roll my skirt down.

Madeleine Balfour - thank you for believing in me

Amy Hui- Thank you so much for teaching in this school and being part of our community

Mr Rowe - No one works harder or longer, and no one could care more about the students (or staff!). We will miss you.

Marius Vincevicius- Wish all the best!

Thomas NB- Thank you so so much for being at this school, for being open to talk to me, and help me in really hard spots. I hope that you have brilliant success in whatever you do next.

Isabel Kennington - I really appreciate everything you have done for the school, thank you!

Mrs Bennett-thank you for all your help and get some rest!  
Good luck with your next venture

Eva Baker- keep cycling

Mrs Hurstwaite - Thank you for all you have done at Windermere School to make it the amazing place it is today. Enjoy your next chapter and please come back to see the shows!

Mrs D- Thank you for being there with me, for laughing with me, for laughing at me at times!, for putting up with my foibles, for listening when I needed an ear, for being my friend! I will miss you.

Holly Johnson - I would like to thank Mrs Vermeulen for always being kind friendly and approachable.

Daisy Tomlinson- Thank you for always saying good morning to me it always makes me feel happy and ready for the day.

Vivienne Sze - You are very cool and I admire the fact that you stand every morning even in the cold to remind students where they're going.

Mrs Bethell- Enjoy afternoon walking and cycling!

Mr Lavender - So much student achievement could be extrapolated back to Mrs Vermeulen and yet, so much that she did for others, and me, was unseen. She created the foundations and the supports that made success possible and then inevitable.

Ben Platt - Life is for the living so live it

Finn Geraghty - Thanks and you've been great

Layla Francis - Thank you for keeping us in check and letting us wear our hair down

Mayumi Singh - Thank you for being an amazing tutor this year. I speak for lots of people in saying you will be very much missed and you have helped so many people.

Faye Clancy - Thank you so much

Miss Davies - Thank you for supporting me during my time at the School and I hope you enjoy whatever exciting adventure you are moving on to next.

Grace Stephens - Thank you so much for helping me with revision techniques for my academic exams, they have been so useful and will be so useful in years to come when I do my GCSEs.

Emily Stables - thank you for all your hard work at this school

Kirstie Halliday - Thank you for being understanding and so supportive with rk.

Thomas NB - Thank you so so much for being at this school, for being open to talk to me, and help me in really hard spots. I hope that you have brilliant success in whatever you do next.

Mr Bromley - Thank you for your continued support and advice

Ms Thistlewood - I would like to wish Mrs Vermeulen good luck in whatever she decides to do next in her career.

Mrs Moses - Take time for yourself, have a lie in occasionally and stay in touch. Thanks for everything.

Mr Rayner - We will all miss you and hope you enjoy the next stage in your life.

Mrs Gruber - A heartfelt thank you for the many things she has either helped me with or has done for me.

Mrs Nield - You were one of the first members of staff I came across in Browhead when I started at the school and you immediately made me feel welcomed and valued. Thank you for all your support over the years.

students of this school  
 school will be able **best**  
 worked tirelessly **students**  
 work and effort tutor time  
 dedication to everything school

work at the school years  
**school** Mrs  
 time work School a place  
 Vermeulen amazing work  
 hard work  
 good morning Windermere School  
 Summer School

Windermere School thank Mrs  
 wish you the best **Thank**  
 new life year  
 amazing supporting  
 good morning

adventure amazing tutor  
 helped hard luck with your next venture  
 school  
 GOOD LUCK teaching in this school  
 chapter time at the School

Organisational Considerate  
 best Dedicated caring - soul  
 Fantabulous amazing **Determined**  
 supportive **Caring**  
 Kind-hearted inspiring awesome  
 generous to students

warm-hearted attentive  
 Frowny  
 heartfelt time-generous  
 academic achievements

Sum up Mrs Vermeulen in one word

CURLYLOCKS ENCOURAGING  
 STUBBORN UNDERSTANDING EFFICACIOUS AGREED  
 ENTHUSIASTIC EXCELLENTE KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPERSTAR  
 AUTHENTIC INCREDIBLE BOSSY  
 STRICT SMILEY FRIENDLY WARM-HEARTED FUNNY  
 HELPFUL WHIRLWIND UNRELENTING  
 ATTENTIVE SUPPORTIVE CONSIDERATE FAIR  
 ORGANISED KIND-HEARTED DETERMINED  
 FANTABULOUS COOL CARING DEDICATED KIND  
 TIME-GENEROUS AWESOME TENACIOUS  
 FROWNY FRIENDLY UNFORGETTABLE  
 DEDICATED AMAZING LEGEND INSPIRING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES AND  
 THANK YOU TO MRS V FOR  
 EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE  
 SCHOOL COMMUNITY.