1-14 July 2001
Delegation to
the United Kingdom...

International Youth
Exchange Programme
2001-02
This book was a gift from Hong Kong (China), Commission on Youth.
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We are very honoured to be selected as the Hong Kong youth delegates to visit Wirral in the United Kingdom. The International Youth Exchange Programme contains a great variety of activities. Apart from sightseeing, we had the chance to explore the development of the country. Thus, we could have an insight into the social welfare, education system, political structures and most of all, the traditional as well as the appealing British culture.

This report is a record of our precious experience and happy memories. Though the trip lasted only for two weeks, it was indeed an exceptional affair for us all. Moreover, it is our conviction that this report is not simply a record of our memories, also, it symbolizes our long-lasting friendships with the Wirral young people. Here, we sincerely present you this valuable gift and hope that you will enjoy.
I. AIMS

The International Youth Exchange Programme aims providing opportunities for youths to broaden their horizons and international perspectives. It also renders them chances to exchange ideas and experiences with their counterparts in other countries.

II. BACKGROUND

The programme started in 1979 under the name of Commonwealth Exchange Programme with the exchange of youth between Hong Kong and Britain. In 1996, the scope of the programme was extended to cover other countries and has been renamed as International Youth Exchange Programme since then.

III. QUALITIES OF A YOUTH DELEGATE

To become a Hong Kong Youth Delegate, one should:
(a) be aged between 18 - 24;
(b) be proficient in English;
(c) have common sense and good academic background;
(d) have good knowledge of Chinese culture;
(e) be knowledgeable about Hong Kong;
(f) have voluntary/community service experience; and
(g) have a valid travel document.

IV. NOMINATIONS

All the Universities, Post-secondary Institutes, District Offices, Education Department and Social Welfare Department are invited to submit their nominations in around early April each year. Selected candidates are invited to attend an interview conducted by the selection board arranged by the Home Affairs Bureau. The membership of the selection board includes a member of the Commission on Youth as the Chairman. In addition, the representatives from the Home Affairs Bureau were being the members of the selection board. Successful candidates will be arranged to visit a country as assigned by the Home Affairs Bureau.
our profiles...
We are glad to have a member from the Commission on Youth as our tour consultant and an executive officer from the Home Affairs Bureau as our tour director in this exchange programme. They are:

Prof. Daniel Shek, BBS, JP  
Member of the Commission on Youth

Mr. Michael Man  
Executive Officer of the Home Affairs Bureau

Other than the Hong Kong representatives, we have 3 tour consultants from United Kingdom, they are:

Charles  
Margy

Karen
Amy Lok
Hihi everybody! Although I am still very young (23 years old only), I am the oldest among the Hong Kong Delegates. I am Amy, Active Amy. I was graduated from the Hong Kong Institute of Education for the Certificate of Education. After that I started teaching in a primary school. Do I look like a teacher? A year later, I resigned the job and decided to study the Bachelor of Education in the Institute again. Still, I was majoring in English. I have just finished my study. I will teach in another primary school in the coming September. As you can see from my name, I am Active Amy. I like both indoor and outdoor activities. I like playing almost everything, and I like playing basketball most. I am quite a creative person too. I like DIY very much. Do you like the surprise I had prepared for you?

Caecilia Chu
Hey, this is Caeci of St. Mary's Canossian College. I am a six former this year and I am so glad to have met this group of very nice young people. I enjoy traveling and meeting friends of different nations. At school, I am an active participant of the Science and Mathematics Society, English Society and other clubs of interest. Moreover, I like debating and to discuss challenging issues with my colleagues. It is my strong conviction that I can learn whenever I am and whatever I do. I truly treasure every experience that I have gained in the trip and every friendship that I have established with all the others during my stay in Wirral. You guys are so wonderful!
Carol Siu
Hello! It is Carol, currently a first-year student studying medicine in the University of Hong Kong. I am a cheerful and vivacious girl. My hobbies are travelling, hiking and listening to music. I have been a Girl Guide since Form 1. It is my pleasure to be selected as a Hong Kong Delegate in the International Youth Exchange Programme. I will never forget the fourteen-day trip in which I have built up the invaluable friendship with my group mates from HK and UK. The programme also provided me a precious chance to experience the British culture and life-style. The whole programme was full of fruitful memories.

Cherry Wong
Hello! I am Cherry. I am majoring in Translation in the Lingnan University and I will be a Year 2 student in the coming semester. Regarding my personality, I am neither a versatile person nor an outstanding student. Nevertheless, I am quite responsible and diligent. I believe that having a balance between academic work and extra-curricular activities is essentially vital to a student. Thus, I participate in different sorts of activities, both indoor and outdoor in my leisure time. Among those hobbies, music can bring me the greatest pleasure and it really helps me to relax from the busy life. For my aspiration, I hope that I will contribute to society with my knowledge and keep on helping the needy with all my devotion.

Connie Lui
*HELLO* It's Connie, currently a year 2 student doing Electronic and Information Engineering at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. I am an active member in my society and I like to take part in various activities such as Drama, Camping, Sports etc... I am so glad to be selected as one of the delegates representing Hong Kong to Wirral. I have made many new friends there and this experience did mark a highlight in my life!
Ester Lam

Ester Lam is a 20 years old girl. She loves music (handbell), sports (badminton), travelling, outdoor activities, also eating too. It seems that she is a very active person. Indeed, she also concerns about the social issues and youth empowerment. She is a year 2 student and will be graduated next year. She studied Higher Diploma in Accountancy at Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Chai Wan Campus) which managed by Vocational Training Council for few years.

Michelle Lok

Hi buddies! This is Michelle. I'm a six-former in Sacred Heart Canossian College. I like playing piano and violin and I love reading especially those adventure stories, like Harry Potter! This is the first time I've been to Europe. The romantic atmosphere and the lovely building really amazed me. Charles, Karen and Margy and all UK delegates are all very kind and nice to us. And now, I've put my sweet memories in UK into this dainty treasure box and hope you'll enjoy our work.

Noel Kwan

Hi, Dear! I am Noel, currently studying Accountancy in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. I am sure you can recognize me without any difficulties because of my natural curly hair. I am an optimistic and pleasant girl who loves joining different activities and meeting new friends, but I cry quite easily sometimes and you may learn it from my group mates, even they have just stayed with me for 2 weeks time only. I like singing, fishing, eating, swimming and playing some sorts of ball games in my leisure time. Travelling over Europe by myself is my target in the next summer.
Peter Pang
Hello! My name is Peter Pang. I am a 21-year-old student studying Accountancy in City University of Hong Kong. I was a member of the Youth Hong Kong Red Cross of my secondary school for 7 years. I also actively participate the Student Mentoring Scheme of my university. My future career is to become a professional accountant. I am very happy to be selected to join this elite group to visit England. And it was really an unforgettable trip for us!! Read through the report and you will know how exciting it was!!

Philip Ching
Philip Ching is a year three student of the Hong Kong Institute of Education. His major subject is English, while minors are Chinese and Putonghua. Philip will graduate and become a full-time primary teacher since 2002. The main reason for Philip to choose this career is that being teacher is a challenging job. In order to be a good teacher, he should be patient, responsible, adaptable and as creative as his students.

Philip has many hobbies. He likes playing badminton, volleyball, listening to music, singing, reading, collecting stamp, watching television and movies. Among all of his hobbies, he likes watching movies most because movie reflects the situation in society. He felt so happy that he could participate in Hong Kong Film Awards and organize a talk with the renowned director Fruit Chan last year. So, Millennium 2000 is a very important year to him.

I have said so much about Philip Ching, but who is Philip Ching? I am.

Raymond Lam
Hello! I am Raymond Lam Shu Kee, an eighteen-year-old boy studying in La Salle College. I am the only child in my family and the youngest one in this group. I enjoy helping others and doing voluntary work. Joining the Community Youth Club provides me with such chances. I like making friends with others. So, I am deeply thankful for being selected as one of the delegates of this programme, which gave me great opportunities to make cordial local and foreign friends. I like playing badminton and table tennis, and collecting stamps at my leisure. I want to become a teacher in future as I believe teaching is challenging and meaningful.
Ronnie Lui
Hey, it's "romantic" Ronnie speaking. I'm twenty-one years old, studying the BEd course in the Hong Kong Institute of Education. As I will become a primary school teacher in the coming future, I do aim at equipping myself in many aspects in order to welcome the very challenging job. For instance, I learn Putonghua, vocal singing and GuZheng recently. However, don't think I am a very boring person. I believe the saying "work hard and play hard". I like Karaoke, moviegoing, reading and exploring new things with my friends. I do enjoy these relaxing activities and I can relieve pressure through them. For the expectation of my own self, I hope I can be an able teacher, who can always use the smiling face to encourage students.

Sharon Kong
I am Sharon Kong in my twenties, studying communication in the Hong Kong Baptist University. Watching movie, hiking are my hobbies. Travelling around the world and doing some thing for environment protection is my dream.

Stella Chan
Hi! It is Stella Chan, a twenty-year-old girl studying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. As a psychology student, I am always interested in interacting with people and always seeking for exposure to cultural differences. I enjoy traveling, singing, dancing, swimming, painting and calligraphy. For my career plan, I want to be a clinical psychologist. As an aspiration in life, I wish to work for an international charity organization. Despite my limited power as an individual, I still hope to contribute to the world with love and service.
pre-tour preparation
On 1st June, we attended a briefing session organized by the Home Affairs Bureau. The officials of the Bureau briefed us on our roles, duties and some of the necessary preparation work of the tour. Also, we had been told about the arrangement of the visits and the workshops throughout the twelve days in Britain.

Then, one of the youth delegates of the previous year share with us her experience in joining the programme.

In addition, We took the introductory video we prepared in Hong Kong to present our homeland to the Wirral young people. More than that, a cultural presentation regarding the Chinese Lunar New Year was specially prepared for them. As souvenirs, we had bought some Chinese handicrafts such as the traditional Chinese stationery set and the nice little teapots with us. Also, the Hong Kong Yearbook was still an indispensable item.

For our host family, all of us have prepared photo albums to introduce ourselves and of course, some intriguing gifts to express our gratitude for their very kind reception. In order to let them know more about the unique culture in Hong Kong, we did a thorough research on the youth problems, history, economics and the education system of our home place.

Two days before our trip, we gave mock Cultural Presentation to the officials of the Home Affairs Bureau and our team consultant, Professor Shek. We found it very useful to help improve our presentation and make it the best of all.
Introduction of Wirral- Ivy Farm & Arrowe Park

Where were we going to in this exchange programme? London? Manchester? Leeds? The answer is Wirral! Wirral has a population of about 326,000 in an area of sixty miles and is the eighth largest Metropolitan District in the United Kingdom. The weather is cool and dry, and you can enjoy the sunshine until nine at night. The temperature is normally between 12-25°C in the summer.

The Wirral peninsula, separated from Liverpool by the River Mersey, is a place of contrasts; from the hustle and bustle of Birkenhead with its ferries and historic warships, shopping precincts, markets, galleries and museums to Wirral Country Park where badgers and foxes hunt and the hedgerows are alive with butterflies in the summer.

Arrowe Country Park is situated in the middle of the Wirral, comprises 400 acres of which 250 are open parkland and deciduous woodland, while the remaining area provides an excellent 18-hole Municipal Golf Course. There are also a Visitor Centre, stream, lake and some good fishing facilities. The Visitor Centre is located at Ivy Farm, which provides self-catering accommodation for youth and some groups up to 35 people, with an excellent common room, dining room as well as a fully fitted kitchen. We were also one of the groups staying in this Visitor Centre.
Itinerary

**Day 1**  1 July 2001 Sunday
Departed from Hong Kong International Airport

**Day 2**  2 July 2001 Monday
Arrived at Manchester International Airport
Transferred to Wirral (Ivy Farm) for accommodation by the Yellow Bus
A walk in the Arrowe Park
Introduction to the Wirral group & discussions on the programme for our stay

**Day 3**  3 July 2001 Tuesday
Visit the Bidston Windmill
Enjoyed the full view of the Wirral Peninsula at the Thurston Common Local Nature Reserve & visited the Royden Park
Visited the Wirral Country Park & its beach
Visited the historical village of Port Sunlight & the Outlet Village
Visited the Moreton Youth Centre

**Day 4**  4 July 2001 Wednesday
Visited the West Kirby Grammar School for Girls & the Wallasey School
Visited the Williamson Art Gallery & Museum
MCMXXVIII
Workshop on Problem Solving
Movie: the Gladiator

**Day 5**  5 July 2001 Thursday
Visited the Liverpool Football Club
Visited the Liverpool Cathedral
Workshop on Cultural Differences

**Day 6**  6 July 2001 Friday
All day visit to the Alton Towers
Day 7 7 July 2001 Saturday

Attended the reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr. Gerard P. Scott, JP KHS and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Ann Scott.

Visited the Maritime Museum, Museum of Liverpool Life, Customs & Excise National Museum & Tate Art Gallery at the Albert Dock Complex.

Enjoyed a cruise across River Mersey.

A night spent with the host families.

Day 8 8 July 2001 Sunday

Free time with the host families.

Barbecue with the Wirral group and the Slovenia group in the evening.

Day 9 9 July 2001 Monday

Visited the Roman Walled City of Chester.

Visited the Roman Walls & Ruins, Roman Garden, Chester Roman Amphitheatre and the Chester John's Church.

Enjoyed a cruise in the River Dee.

Visited the Chester Cathedral & the Chester Racecourse.

Shopping in the central part of the city.

Visited the Cellar Youth Club for Deaf Young People.

Day 10 10 July 2001 Tuesday

Visited the John Moores University.

Visited the Max Spielmann, the most advanced photo laboratory in Europe.

International Evening joined by the Slovenia Group at the Belvedere Centre in Wallasey.
Day 11  11 July 2001 Wednesday

Attended the official reception hosted by the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr. John Cocker in the Mayor's Parlour, Wallasey

Visited the Seacombe Aquarium

Shopping in the Outlet Village

Workshop on Drugs & Alcohol with the Wirral group

Day 12  12 July 2001 Thursday

Meeting with Mr. Chris Rice, the Director of Education & Cultural Services in Wirral

Visited the Multicultural Centre and met Mr. Colin Chee, the Team Leader of the Chinese Community

A walk at the seaside of West Kirby

Farewell dinner at a local Chinese restaurant

Day 13  13 July 2001 Friday

Departed from Manchester International Airport to London

Departed from London Heathrow Airport to Hong Kong.

Day 14  14 July 2001 Saturday

Arrived at Hong Kong International Airport
programme highlights
Official Visits

Visiting Lord Mayors of Liverpool and Wirral

Visiting the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Liverpool (7th July 2001)

It is indeed our great honour to have this invaluable chance to visit the Liverpool Town Hall. (One of the oldest buildings in Liverpool, opened in 1754). We had a short meeting with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Gerard P. Scott. JP KHS and the Lady Mayoress Mrs. Ann Scott.

The Lord Mayor and his helper Steve introduced to us the history of Liverpool as well as that of the old Town Hall. They explained the functions of each of the room in the Hall during the tour and we were all amazed by the beautiful furniture and decorations. The crystal chandeliers, the pictures, the sculpture and ceramics were so very unique and elegant. We went into the Council Chamber where the councillors have their meetings and make decisions. We have spent the whole morning in the Town Hall and we were all very impressed by the hospitality of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress. Lastly, we presented a traditional Chinese plate to them as a token of thanks and gratitude.

Visiting the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Wirral (11th July 2001)

The Cultural Night was the first time we met the Lord Mayor of Wirral, Councilor John Cocker and the Lady Mayoress. Yet, after the enjoyable evening, we were able to meet the Lord Mayor once again in the following morning! We had a tea party together in the Mayor Parlour in Wallasey. It seemed that each and everyone of us was so keen on knowing more about the place where we spent the two weeks in! We spoke of everything about Wirral, from the government system, recreation of the people to the weather of this lovely place. At the end, the Lord Mayor put on his red silk cloak and took pictures with us. To express our heartfelt thanks, we presented the souvenirs to him and enjoyed the tea party together.
Visiting Mr. Chris Rice, the Director of Education and Cultural Services (Wirral) (12th July 2001)

On July 12, we were very honoured to visit Mr. Chris Rice by whom we have been told a lot about the education system and the counseling services in Britain. The interview began with a discussion on the challenges that the education department in the place is facing. Surprisingly, we are having similar situation in Hong Kong! Many teenagers lose their interest in studying and they eventually commit crimes. Thus, the local government is now putting more effort to provide more alternatives for these students to further develop their working and communication skills. In recent years, there has been a drastic growth in vocational study programs. That includes Accountancy and some other professional courses. However, Mr Rice mentioned that the public acceptance of these qualifications have been the greatest concern in the place right now.

Regarding the curriculum for the country, it is originally determined by the central government. Primary schools focus on literacy (grammar, vocabulary etc.) while a balanced school life and vocational programs are encouraged in secondary schools. Apart from these, courses concerning personal, social as well as interacting skills are established in secondary schools for students. Also, the curriculum emphasizes on the creativity of students in the country. This is, perhaps, the greatest difference between the education systems in Britain and Hong Kong.

Though time was limited, the meeting was indeed inspiring, especially for the students in HK who are now experiencing education reform. We should learn to be more creative and to think independently.
Visiting the Wirral Multicultural Centre (12th July 2001)

The concept of the Multicultural Centre for Wirral began in 1986 when Chinese and Vietnamese residents wanted help with interpreters in order to access statutory services. The Multicultural Centre stands on Education Department Land. Mayor Gordon Paterson laid its foundation stone in July 1992 and the building opened in September that year with Irene seconded by Education as the administrator of the Centre.

The principles on which the Multicultural Centre operates are to promote intercultural harmony, value cultural diversity and respect for the individual regardless of language, race and religion.

The minority ethnic associations have used this Centre for a variety of activities such as Luncheon club for Chinese pensioners, English language classes, mother-tongue teaching, youth club and activities for cultural festivals.
Visiting Liverpool John Moores University (10th July 2001)

On 10 July, we went to Liverpool John Moores University, which used to be a polytechnic. Now, it is the fifth largest university in the United Kingdom. We visited the School of Law and Applied Social Studies, and the School of Health and Human Science. Eileen Neuuman, the Programme Director of Youth and Community and Social Science, received us in that morning. She had also given us a brief account on the education system in the U.K.

As most of us were tertiary students, and the others would receive tertiary education in the coming years, we were devoted to learn more about the tertiary education in the U.K.

The two top universities in the U.K. were The Oxford University and The Cambridge University, which have been very famous all over the world. Since Industrial Revolution, there had been more universities such as The University of Manchester, The University of Birmingham and The University of Liverpool. In 1970s, polytechnics provided vocational training and they started to get the university status in 1990s. From late 1990s until now, there has been a battle for funding between old and new universities; research and teaching.

How about the secondary education? Eileen and her colleague, Dr. Nickel Adams, gave us some information. In 1960s, 40% of secondary students studied in grammar schools, while the other 60% studied in secondary school and technical college. At that time, there was a lot of manufacturing industries. They needed skilled labour, but not highly educated people. However, since industry has become technical, professional people are needed. The change of job market has driven the change in education system. Moreover, education can help students to get status in society. Everyone should have equal educational opportunities. So, more opportunities have been provided to those 60% students in secondary school or in technical college.

We can use a phrase to conclude our visit to Liverpool John Moores University – "Students should learn to be, not learn to do." This is also one of the aims of education.
Visiting West Kirby Grammar School For Girls and Wallasey School (4th July 2001)

In order to have a better understanding in the educational system of UK, we were divided into two groups to visit the West Kirby Grammar School For Girls and the Wallasey School on 4th July.

We had a tour around the West Kirby Grammar School For Girls, followed by a meeting with the head teacher Miss Erskine. She mentioned that the school emphasized on the creativity of the students. For example, they are allowed to design their own menu in the cookery class. Also, the artwork of the senior students is exhibited to inspire and encourage the junior ones.

During our visit in Wallasey School, we found that the school has comparatively less focus on examinations, but pays more emphasis on working in a collaborative manner with students.

After the tour, we have a deeper understanding towards the UK's campus life through a tour to their classrooms and we learned a lot from them through our discussion.
Workshops and Cultural Exchange

*Visiting Youth Centres*

We visited Moreton Youth Centre in the evening of the 3rd July and the Cellar Youth Club for Deaf Young People on 9th July. During the visit, we could appreciate the operation of the youth centres. We also had a chance to join in the activities and interact with the youths in the centres. It is beneficial to us since it could enhance our understanding on the youth service in UK.

*Visiting Moreton Youth Centre (3rd July 2001)*

In the evening of 3 July 2001, we visited Moreton Youth Centre in Wirral. The Centre is run by the UK Government for both sexes of normal and disabled people. Clubs in the Centre are organized by the volunteers. Motivation for the voluntary workers comes from a sense of satisfaction. The Club aims at giving the youth a better lifestyle, despite their desperation in school. Usually 14-15-year-old people join the activities there. Around 35-40 teenagers go to the Centre each evening and usually there are more people coming on Fridays. The Centre undergoes many projects in different themes such as smoking, art, sports, etc. It also provides some recreational activities such as playing pool or basketball, dancing, making clothes and watching TV. In UK, there are some common youth problems such as drug abuse, insufficient parental care, crime and violence, having unsafe sex, dissatisfaction in school and so on. To alleviate the problems, the youth club provides interest groups to help them get recognition apart from academic studies.
Visiting the Cellar Youth Club for Deaf Young People (9th July 2001)

We also visited the Cellar Youth Club for Deaf Young People in the evening of 9 July. We were received and introduced by Karen. Every week the centre provides different kinds of activities such as workshops to arouse the youth's awareness of drugs and alcohol. It also offers assistance to the homeless youngsters. For example, bathing and laundering are free for those young people. The centre also provides some facilities for the youth. The youngsters can talk among themselves in the coffee bar. Multipurpose rooms are for members to have meetings or gatherings. They can play basketball and table tennis in the gym. During the visit, we had an exciting basketball match with the UK teenagers in the centre. That was really enjoyable!

The visits were precious chance for us to know more about the youth service and get in touch with the youngsters in UK. The experience we gained was invaluable.
Workshops (Cultural differences and Drugs and Alcohol)

We attended two meaningful workshops during the trip. They were about the cultural differences and the drugs and alcohol issue.

**Workshop on Cultural Differences (5th July 2001)**

We had the workshop on the cultural differences in the garden in front of the Ivy Farm. In order to keep everyone relax, the presenters, Miss Debbie Dawson and Miss Jan MacDonald began the workshop by playing a game called "Parachute" with us. We all enjoyed it. After that, we started our discussion. The UK group and the HK group discussed the similarities and the differences between the two places which includes the three main issues, the school or employment, the family and the leisure. We found some similarities between the two places, like the education systems are quite similar; the divorce rates are both increasing. Undoubtedly, there are some differences, like the UK people frequently play sports during their leisure time while the Hong Kong people like to see movie and sing karaoke rather than playing sportsgame. Through the discussion, both of the groups knew more about the cultural differences and the related legal laws about the two places.

**Workshop on Drugs and Alcohol (11th July 2001)**

Another workshop was about the drugs and alcohol issue. Miss Margy Ellard and Miss Lyn McCormick guided the HK group and the UK group to discuss the drugs and alcohol issue. The focus was mainly on the legal law of using drugs and alcohol in UK and the disadvantages of taking them. First, we completed a questionnaire, as well as a discussion during the workshop. After the discussion, we knew more about the properties of drugs. Both of the groups enjoyed the workshop very much. This followed by a case study.
Chester (9th July 2001)

A day we spent in Chester

This day, we visited Chester. Here is the Roman Walled City of Chester. We walked along the city wall from East Gate through Watch Tower to West Gate. We passed the Roman Garden, which showed the fragments of the Roman Building and the Roman Hypocaust (Roman system of under floor heating). We visited the Chester Roman Amphitheatre, which is the largest Roman amphitheatre in Britain. It was used for entertainment and military training. There, we also met a group of students led by their teachers and also a soldier dressed tour guide!

It is time for us to go to the Chester Visitor Centre to get more information about Chester! There was History of Chester Exhibition Gallery, cafe and souvenir shop too. We all sat down and enjoy a cup of coffee!

That day was a special day because Professor Shek arrived after lunch on the bank of the River Dee. He joined us to have a cruise on the River Dee to appreciate the beauty and character of the city.

When we were visiting Chester Cathedral, a father approached us and guided us for the walk in the Church. The Church has over one thousand years of history. It was built in Norman Style. We were very happy to learn the story of Sincere. In Latin, cere means marble with wax. Sincere means marble without wax and implies not pretending to be perfect. It is true that we should be genuine and not pretending to be good when we are not really that good, because God will know what is the truth.
Birthday celebration of Peter (3rd July 2001, 4th July 2001)

There was a very special event happened on the 4th of July during our trip which is not in our itinerary – Peter’s 21st Birthday. Both the Hong Kong delegates and the UK delegates had prepared something very special for him. Let’s see what happened:

“Once upon a time there was a pub, where we celebrated someone’s birthday. Remember how we decorated his birthday card, and asked him to guess whose lips in the card...

It was Peter’s birthday, we thought it never end, we sang and drank together on that night. We took many photos; he received a birthday cake. He truly treasured that very special moment ~

La ~ la la la la-la.....

There were two celebrations for his birthday. The first one was on the night of 3rd of July. We went to the pub near Arrowe Park and presented Peter a ‘very’ special birthday card with all our lips on it (including the boys’ and Michael’s).

The second one was the celebration by the UK group after the dinner on his birthday. The UK group presented him a nice birthday cake and a ‘Key to the 21’. He was very happy and it was definitely one of the most unforgettable birthdays!!!

Liverpool Football Club (5th July 2001)

One of the highlights of our programme was the visit to the Liverpool Football Club (LFC). Outside the LFC, there is the Bill Shankly Memorial Gate with the name of the club’s anthem ‘You never walk alone’ on the top and the Hillsborough Memorial, which is to dedicate the life of 96 supporters died in an accident in 1989.
We had joined the guiding tour and thus had the chance to visit the dressing room and the bathroom of the players. Everyone was excited to see Owen (his shirt) in the dressing room.

Just like the football stars, we walked through the player entrance to the football field. After a brief history by our guide, we preceded to the LFC Museum and the souvenir shop. The museum has four full-sized European Cups displayed with match shirts, newspapers and memorabilia from the winning matches that capture the excitement of those record-breaking days. And we all bought some nice souvenirs from the shop!

**Alton Towers (6th July 2001)**

Another highlight of the trip to England was the visit to the largest theme park in Europe – Alton Towers. If you like going to Ocean Park in Hong Kong, you will certainly like this exciting place. With 500 acres of parkland and over 125 attractions, the UK group and we had spent an exciting and enjoyable day there. The Oblivion is one of the newest rides of the park and it is the world’s only vertical drop roller coaster. The drop is of 60 meters long and the roller coaster runs straight underground at a maximum speed of 110 km/hour. Other great and exciting rides include the River Rapids, Corkscrew, and Runaway Train. There is a great “Spider” in the “Forbidden Valley” as decoration with a red river nearby. How horrible is this place? Inside it there is a “Nemesis” on which you are just like flying in extremely high speed. Some of us who could not afford the exciting rides went to Haunted House, the cable cars. There are also beautiful grassland and pond with swans for us to take photos. The two groups played together, screamed together and enjoy every moment with one another!
Home Stay (7th July 2001, 8th July 2001)

Our unforgettable home stay and our lovely host families

The exciting day of home stay comes! We shouted on 7th July. We were divided into five groups, visiting five different families, with Amy going to Ellie's home, Caecilia, Connie, Michelle, Noel and Ronnie going to Kate's home, Carol, Sharon and Stella going to Emma's home, Cherry and Peter going to Andy's home, and Philip and Raymond going to Gary's home.

We brought with us some souvenirs with Chinese wordings and our photo albums, which were made of wonderful and memorable pictures, with description, at our different ages. Dedicating our efforts to making the photo albums, we hope that they would know more about our family, childhood, school life, hobbies, travelling experience, etc.. The next day, some of us went to the Outlet Village, some of us went to Southport, and some of us went to Manchester. Our activities included shopping, eating, visiting, etc.. Staying overnight and spending a day with our host family, we became closer and know more about one another. But...

"The exciting day of home stay goes by. Why does the time for us to part with our host families come so quickly? They are so kind and nice that we hope to stay with them for a longer period." We said on the 8th July.

Staying with them let us know more about the similarities and differences of the habits and lifestyles between the UK and HK people. Having discussions with them not only improved our English speaking skills, but also enabled us to exchange with them our different views on cultural differences. Mutual understanding was then further enhanced.

We were really very happy that we could meet with an enthusiastic reception, touching us to the hearts. How could we forget our lovely home stay and host families! Let us once again express our cordial thanks for their care and kindness which would stick into our mind forever!
International Evening (10th July 2001)

International Evening includes three parts which were shown by Slovenia Group, UK Group and HK Group. We were the last group to present in that night. We arrived at 6pm at the Belvedere Centre in Wallasey which is near Ivy Farm. Then we prepared for our show the six sections: drama, making Chinese lantern workshop, Chinese calligraphy workshop, singing the song “Those were the days”, preparing Chinese food and a video about HK. Furthermore, we published a booklet about the content of the international evening.

Firstly, a group of young girls and elderly group of the Slovenia group danced with a popular song separately. Then they presented their poems about their feelings during the period of exchange programme in dancing movement.

Then, the UK group wore their smart clothes to present the trends of UK. The presentation split into different sections by year, e.g. 60s’, 70s’, 80s’, 90s’ and now.

Finally, it was our show time! Our aim of the show was to present the Chinese culture to the foreigners. So, we had a drama about the preparation and celebration of Chinese New Year. It involved ten group mates to cast the story. Especially, we invited God of Fortune to be a guest performer and he gave many red packets to our guests. Actually, he was one of the ten group mates. Also we had prepared some Chinese food (lin zi) for them.

The second section was a workshop presented by Amy about Chinese handicraft Lantern. The workshop included inviting ten guests to make a lantern from twelve red packets.

Chinese calligraphy workshop was the third section presented by Stella. She taught the guests, especially the Mayor of Wirral to print an animal which is well known all over the World, Panda.
Also we had prepared a song called “Those were the days” for a long time. It was a really touching song, which can describe our feelings in those days.

**Those were the days**

*Once upon there was a tavern,*  
*Where we used to raise a glass or two.*  
*Remember how we laughed away the hours,*  
*And dreamed of all the great things we would do.*  
*Those were the days, my friend,*  
*We thought they’d never end,*  
*We sing and dance forever and a day;*  
*We'd live the life we choose, we'd fight and never lose,*  
*For we were young and sure to have our way.*  
*La la la.....*

Maybe our singing touched the Mayor. He also sang a song “Those the hard day” with a guitar. Slovenia group and our group were a dancing partner with the Mayor. We were sure that everyone did enjoy the Mayor performance!

Then it was the time to have dinner. We had prepared two Chinese foods for them, and the Slovenia group did so. The food was sweet and sour pork and chicken with potato. We made the food for few hours with limited sources. So the food must be very delicious! During the dinner we made friends with the Slovenia group and learnt some Slovenians. Also we exchanged our email addresses and took lots of photos.

One – Anna  
Two – Da Wak  
Three – th ree

Finally, we presented our video show about the view of HK. It includes many scenic spots e.g. the Peak, Stanley, the Victoria Harbour and the Airport. We devoted lots of efforts to this video because it can truly show the situation of HK.

In the end of the international evening, we were difficult to tears apart. Emotionally, we did not want to finish the good time that we have tasted. But we knew that we would communicate through email. We are deeply impressed that the technology can shorten our distance.
Farewell Dinner (12th July 2001)

A Farewell dinner was held in a Chinese restaurant called King Dong restaurant, located at the China Town of Liverpool, at the night before we left. Charles and Karen have ordered some Chinese dishes for us, for example, the spring rolls, the sweet and sour pork and the green pepper and beef in black bean sauce. They all tasted good and were competeable to those in Hong Kong’s restaurants.

During our dinner, we shared the pictures we had taken in U.K. and recalled our memories of these 14 days tour again and again. We all have enjoyed our dinner so much but we did feel a bit upset because we were going to leave the day after.

Before we finished the dinner, Professor Shek representing the Hong Kong group had expressed our gratitude to Charles, Karen, Margy and all the U.K. delegates for their warmth reception and presented some souvenirs we have prepared to them as a gesture of thanks. They were some stationery sets, calculators and pens from the Commission on Youth as well as a Chinese tea set with tea.

After that, it was so surprising that the U.K. group has also prepared some souvenirs for everyone of us. We all loved the T-shirt with the word ‘Wirral’ on and the book which had lots of fantastic pictures of countrysides of England. We then left the restaurant and enjoyed our last night in Ivy Farm.
read our minds...
How can I start writing my reflection? ...I am so lucky and happy to have a chance to join the International Youth Exchange Programme 2000-2001 this year. Here I have prepared a song "Those were the days" for you. All the words written are really from the bottom of my heart. The melody is the same as our song presented in the international night presentation. Hope you all enjoy this song I write and remember our great time spending together!

<Those were the days>

1. One month before we went to Wirral
   There were so many things we had to prepare
   We introduced our Hong Kong by video
   We shared our Lunar New Year by drama
   * We were so excited to leave our Hong Kong
     We looked forward to the day to Wirral
     We prepared everything
     For drama and research
     We tried our best to prepare for the trip
     La la la...

2. At the end of June we went to Wirral
   Where we stayed visiting for twelve days
   Remember how we spent the time together
   We had made lots of great friends to treasure
   @ Friends from Hong Kong, Wirral, are like a family
     We sing and dance and laugh for everything
     We like to share with them,
     They like to stay with us
     Our friendships grow from day to day!
     La la la...

3. We visited Wirral, Chester, Liverpool
   We liked to go to Alton Tower
   Remember how we rode on the Namesis
   And flew from here to there like a big bird
   Repeat @

4. The day we left our friends from Wirral
   We had to go back to our homeland
   We recognized the time flying so fast
   And we cried for missing our friends
   Repeat @

5. When we came back to our Hong Kong
   We had to prepare the report and video
   I learnt a lot in video editing
   It also recalled my great memories
   Repeat @
Time flies. It is hard to believe that the 14 days did pass so quickly. Certainly, this is one of the best things that happened to me this year. I am so very honored to be chosen as the youth delegate representing my homeland to visit Britain. Of course, it is indeed a memorable and gratifying experience.

From the numerous preparations of the programme, to the successful as well as cheerful presentation in the Wirral Youth Centre. I have learnt a lot from all other members of our team. The experience was indeed educational and exciting. It provides me with precious opportunities to work and coordinate with outstanding students from different universities and institutes. The trip does widen my horizon and turn me into a more mature girl.

After two months of busy work with all members, I have built up a valuable friendship with each one of them. We sweated, we strived and we laughed. On top of these, we have met a very sociable and amiable group of friends from UK. The ten UK delegates undoubtedly very much enrich our stay in these 2 weeks. I am deeply moved by their warm reception and hospitality. Since then, I have found that communication can be effectively conducted between different cultures. This is perhaps the most valuable thing that I have learnt.

Last but the least, my heartfelt gratitude shall go to Charles (the very nice guy that I have met in the first day), Karen, Margy, Michael and Prof. Shek for their patient guidance in the programme. And, I should here express my appreciation and thanks to the research group on history and the professional video-editing group who have kindly excused me partly from the job during my examination period. Thousands of thanks and loads of luv!

With the sweetest Memories of all,
Caecilia
The summer of 2001 is the most enjoyable time that I have ever had. This is my honour to participate in the International Youth Exchange Programme. The trip was memorable and extraordinary. The happy days I spent in Wirral were always in my mind.

Arriving at Wirral, I was immediately impressed by its pleasant environment. I will never forget how fresh the air was, how comfortable the sunshine was and how gentle the winds were there. The time spent in the Arrowe Country Park was fantastic. The mass games, the workshops, and the night trip... all activities in the park were full of pleasure.

The International Youth Exchange Programme is also a golden opportunity to broaden my horizon. Meeting the Director of Education & Cultural Service, I could learn more about the education system of UK. The visit to the youth centres and multicultural centre enhanced my understanding of the social welfare in England. We were grateful to receive the warm reception from the Mayor of Wirral. The excellent architecture of Liverpool Town Hall and Liverpool Cathedral amused me very much. The tour of the historical Roman walled city “Chester” was interesting, too. Among the activities, the most invaluable experience I gained is from the home stay. It is a prime chance to practise the real British life-style.

Everything in the programme was marvellous but what I treasure most are the people. I enjoyed working with my Hong Kong group mates. We cooperated with each other smoothly throughout the programme. The warm hospitality of the Wirral group also impressed me very much. Charles, Margy and Karen were friendly and helpful. Chatting and playing with the UK group were full of joy. The friendship that I have built up with the HK and UK group mates were rooted in my heart. The warm reception and loving kindness from the host family were also unforgettable. The time staying with the host family was delightful.

I would like to thank for the nomination from the Hong Kong Girl Guide Association and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. I should also thank the Commission on Youth and the Home Affairs Bureau for organizing this programme. What’s more, thanks should be given to the people who contributed to the trip, especially Prof. Shek, Mr. Man, Charles, Margy and Karen. All of them gave me a lot of lovely memories.

Best Regards,
Carol
This summer is very special for me. While Hong Kong was still the British colony, I already longed for visiting this elegant and classical country. Now, I can fulfil my dream!

When I just arrived at Wirral, it gave me a strong feeling because the environment is very natural: numerous red brick houses, grassland and livestock. When I met Charles, Karen, Margy and the UK delegates, their kindness ensure a wonderful trip for me already.

The 14-days' trip was not only memorable, but also broaden my horizons. Nothing can be better than the picturesque scenery in the Wirral Country Park and the grand Liverpool Town Hall!

I must give my deepest gratitude to the 13 Hong Kong delegates. Although we came from different background, we share the same goal to promote our beloved homeland. I will never forget those days which we struggled together!

At last, I have to say thank you to Prof Shek and Michael for their guidance in the programme. I fully achieve the aim of the programme to widen my scope of vision and build up my network internationally. This is a perfect experience for me to promote our culture and I learn a lot of things which can't be learned from the textbook!

Cherry

Those were the 14 days...

I remembered the funny jokes made by a very nice handsome gentleman called Charles at Ivy Farm...

I remembered the warm reception by two beautiful and kind ladies called Margy and Karen...

I remembered the smiling faces on every friend I met in Wirral...

I remembered the most exciting kitchen-attack after every breakfast and dinner...

I remembered the fantastic songs sang by Cllr John Cocker, Mayor of Wirral, during the International Evening...

I remembered the scary morning I woken up by Jake (Kate’s dog) at Kate's house...

I remembered the big green grassland and fresh air at Arrowe Park...

I remembered the tears and blessings from our friends in Wirral when we left Ivy farm and at the airport...

These 14 days' memories will always in my heart...

Connie
As I said in the interview, “This is not a chance for fun, for travelling, but this for me to broaden my mind, to feel the culture!” We visited many place in Wirral and Liverpool. Also we had a day spent with Wirral friends and his family. Indeed, I do so!

I am attracted to the programme because it offers new exciting opportunities, which I could not get by myself. My character is always to try my best and face challenges happily. I am eager to gain character-learning experience of life, so I know that it is not very easy to be accepted in this programme so I am sure that I will value the opportunity highly.

In the past 12 days we did many things and those things were very meaningful. It was really a good time for me. But the most impressed me that was our relationship between HK group even with UK group. We not only shared our life style even our happiness and sadness too. It built up in July but I think it still never end.

We can do many things to experience our life. But I chose to experience with you (my HK group and UK group) for 12 days, I’m surely to say “It’s worth to do so!!”.

Ester

England is a very beautiful place. The two weeks time I’ve spent in Wirral is really unforgettable. I can still remember how we have been mad taking pictures every where at any time. I can remember the smell of the meadow in the Arrowe Park, the crystal clear water in the pool and the blue slide where little kids played. I can remember every little joke we cracked. The laughter of pure happiness sounded like chimes, which constantly rang in my memory. I can still remember the day we went to Alton Tower. The excited expression on everyone’s face, I could still see!

I remember how we laughed away the hours and went to bed without worry. I remember the order “OUT OF MY KITCHEN” of a nice old man. I remember how we gave each other big hug everyday. Our love and respect for each other have brought us a long way and I do treasure our friendship. I thank the UK delegates and my group full-heartedly and hope this will go on and on......

Michelle
In this exchange programme, we have prepared a song for the international evening, it was “Those were the days” and it can perfectly tell you what I am thinking right now. I still remembered how we laughed away the hours during our trip in U.K. with the friendly U.K. delegates. “Those were the days my friends, we thought they never end, we sing and dance forever and a day......”. Although we have gone home, we all will never forget our friends and the charming Wirral, and I believe the friendship between Hong Kong delegates and U.K delegates will be everlasting.

I thought the so-called “exchange tour” was, in point of fact, the same as the tour organized by a travel agency primarily but I found myself was wrong soon. I am sure I will never be able to meet the Mayors, the government officers of U.K, visit the youth centers, exchange the ideas with youth there and experience the live of British family by joining travel agency. I found myself was so lucky to be one of the delegates and have this memorable trip that some people may never experience.

I should thank my school and the Commission on Youth for giving me this valuable opportunity to participate in this exchange programme. This has not only widened my horizons but also given this unforgettable experience to me. The beautiful scenery, the smell of the meadow, the soft wind and the gentle sunshine of Wirral will always be in my heart forever and ever.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Charles, Karen, Margie, my host family and U.K. delegates for their warmth reception. I do love you all and I can't wait to see you again.

Noel

PS: Charles, I did tell my parents that I have met a kind and handsome old man in England! >~
At the very beginning, I was not confident to be chosen as a delegate of this programme, because there were so many applicants. When I knew that I was chosen, I was so happy to tell my family and friends because I was sure that I would learn something from it.

I needed to attend two interviews, one is held by the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and the other by the Hong Affairs Bureau and the Commission on Youth. These two interviews allowed me to practise my interviewing skills.

After being selected to be Hong Kong delegates, we should started to discuss about our trip immediately. We needed to produce a video, do a research, prepare for the cultural presentation and attend different meetings. Although we were nominated by different schools, universities and institutes, we have been familiar with each others.

There were many visits for us, including official receptions with the Mayor of Liverpool and Wirral, and visit to the Cellar Youth Club for deaf young people. When I go travelling by myself, I won't have the chance to visit these organizations and people. However, I did that in this trip.

The most unforgettable event in the trip is the home visit. Raymond and I went to the home of Gary, who is an English delegate. His mother Chris was so kind that she brought us to visit her relatives and have a day-trip in Southport. She even came to visit us again in the last day of this programme. We sang the song "What ever will be, will be". When I was just a little boy, I ask my mother, what will I be? Will I be handsome? Will I be rich......

Philip

After looking at our fantastic pictures in this report, you may exclaim "What a wonderful trip!" I do gain a lot of great memories from the trip, including the demanding but challenging pre-tour preparation, the sweet stay in Wirral and of course, the post-tour work and gathering among the HK delegates. Remember we all stationed in WanChai for days to work for the presentation? Remember we went to different shops to search for the souvenirs and props with our sweats? Remember the night we gathered in the airport excitingly? The delicious meals that we had in the Ivy Farm? The big grassland in there? I remember the meetings we held in my room. I remember the yellow bus. I remember the visits (especially our suits and high-heel shoes>0<1), the cultural presentation night and the night walk in Ivy Farm. I remember the smiling faces of Charles, Margy, Karen and the UK group. I remember how our group work together I remember a lot. All these stuffs are all incredible. And I won't forget the nice co-operation among us during the trip.

Dear friends from HK and from Wirral,
I will remember you,
Will you remember me?
Remember the good times that we had?
Don't let our life pass us by.....

With very best wishes,

Ronnie
I am glad that I was chosen as one of the youth Hong Kong delegates of the International Youth Exchange Programme 2001-2002. The fourteen days trip gave me an unforgettable experience in my summer holiday. It's my first time to visit England and the trip really broadened my horizon and also enriched my life experience.

I was very excited to learnt that I could go to England, not only because it was free of charge (hehe ^.^), but also I was become a 'Hong Kong Delegate'. Before the trip, we only had about one month time to do all the preparation. We needed to prepare a cultural presentation, research about HK, a video tape introducing HK and so on............ Although we were very busy, we could still demonstrate our team spirit and finish the tasks before we go. I can still remember the one-day 'sightseeing of the HK Island' to take the video and also our singings during rehearsals directed by our singing teacher Miss. Ronnie Lui!!

On the first day we arrived, we took a walk in the Arrowe Park. I was fascinated by the environment of the park, large green grassland, flowers and the fresh air. It was very refreshing and a good place for relaxation. Also, it gave me a good impression of England.

We had visited many places in these 14 days, for example, the Mayor of Liverpool and Wirral (also met the Mayor of Chester!), the Liverpool Football Club, the Alton Tower and also 2 grammar schools and the John Moores University. Through these visits, I had broaden my vision and also learnt more about the educational system and cultural differences between England and HK.

Most importantly, I had the chance to interact with the friendly UK delegates who accompanied with us during the whole trip. I think they are 'very' kind and amicable and I am thankful to their efforts of being with us and preparation of our programmes. I think both of us (HK & UK) had paid tremendous efforts in this exchange programme but the HK group seems not very good at the 'kitchen fight'.

I would like to thank a very nice man - Charles, Karen, Margy, all the UK delegates (especially Andy and his parents, for the home stay), Professor Shek and Michael Man for your efforts paid in this exchange programme. Also, I must thank every member of our team for the excellent teamwork spirit and I have learnt something from each of you.

Peter

After returning to Hong Kong, I still could not help thinking of the enjoyable and memorable days when I was in Wirral. This exchange programme was an invaluable and unforgettable experience for me to broaden my horizons, make friends and improve my English, and those were the days I would not forget.
When being informed that I was selected as a delegate of Hong Kong, I was happy but worried. I was worried through lack of experience of joining exchange programmes. Fortunately, the adequate pre-tour training and meetings enabled me to co-operate well with my partners. Thank you for selecting me as a delegate!

In this programme, we played a lot of problem-solving games. What would you do if a cup filled with water, but with holes at the bottom, was put on your head? You may refuse to do so. However, we did enjoy it. Achieving the aims of the games is more important. I love these games because they were held not only to strengthen our friendship and relationship, but also to help us develop the qualities essential for leading a meaningful and successful life.

The green colour and refreshing air made a great difference between England and Hong Kong. Walking on the soft grassland and looking at the lively trees and flowers in Arrowe Park, I felt like having a dream. I admire the people there for their eagerness to help and friendly face.

The day of the home stay came! Philip and I stayed at Gary's home. The cordial reception and eager faces of our host family gave us a homely feeling. I was deeply impressed by Gary's mother's treasuring up the souvenirs we brought her. On that night, we gave them our photo albums. They listened with all their minds, expressed their feelings and told us their experience, deepening our understanding and cementing our friendship and relationship. I must be thankful to her for introducing to us her kind relatives, with whom we exchanged addresses and became friends. What a wonderful home stay!

An eighteen-year-old boy melted into tears. It was I who could not help shedding tears of gratitude twice. On the evening before I left Wirral, Gary's mother, together with her relatives, came to Ivy Farm. Hugging and saying goodbye to one another, we burst into tears. Time, why are you slipping away so quickly? The second bursting into tears was predictable when Margy and Charles sent us off.

During the flight to Hong Kong, I thought about the delicious meals prepared by Margy, Karen and Charles, the visits to the Mayors, schools, youth centres, workshops, museums and Cathedrals, our different roles in the International Evening, the refreshing river cruises, etc. Those were the days I would treasure up in my memory!

The devoted reception and care of Margy, Karen and Charles, the co-operation of the Wirral and Hong Kong partners, Professor Shek, Michael, Wirral, Ivy Farm, the yellow and white buses, the itinerary and the exchange programme, all contributed to "Those were the days!"

Whole-hearted thanks and love,

Raymond
I can never imagine the kindness of the UK delegates and coordinators, Charles, Karen and Margy. They treated us as not only their guests, but also their friends. In early morning when we were sleeping, they prepared the breakfast for us. When we went sightseeing, they drove us there and played with us. Sometimes, we had some formal visit, or seminar, they also went with us and attended the boring session. They prepared all the meals, accommodation, programme, visits for us. After a whole day programme, when we were taking bath, taking rest, taking a walk nearby, they still had to prepare the programme of the coming day. They were very patient to wait for us when we were crazy about shopping. What's more are Emma and her family. They prepared the Chinese meal for welcoming us, took us to bowling and church. We shared our night with our photo albums. I miss them very much.

At last, I want to thank the people we met. They may not know us, or just saw us at once. But they also greeted us with smile and were willing to dual with us this troublesome Hong Kong group.

Sharon

If you ask me what is the most fantastic memory in these 14 days, I will definitely answer "PEOPLE". Few people will stay with us for the whole life, but every acquaintance has the power to change the rest of it. Of course, it would be exaggerating to say that Charles has created a newborn self for me, but indeed, people in the Ivy Farm do impose a remarkable impact on my heart. Every meal they prepared for us, the "kitchen attack" happened every morning, the constantly changing cover design of the menu......just too subtle to be noticed but the most dedicated to be felt. Their lovely smiles, gentle touch, considerate thought and attentive arrangement leave me with uncontrollable laughter and unexplainable tears. I am not sure whether I'll still remember their faces and names 10 years ago. Definitely, however, the sun of the Ivy Farm will always shine upon me.

Recognizing my reflection has gone too sentimental, so I better stop here. Here are few lines in my favorite song "Perhaps Love": "Perhaps love is like a resting place, a shelter from the storm. It exists to give you comfort. It is there to keep you warm. And in those times of trouble, when you are most alone, the memory of love will bring you home." Brothers and sisters, you'll never walk alone, as my memory of love will be with you, always and always.

Tons of Love,
Stella
our memories...
Don't give up guys!

Apart from the Wirral Group, we also spent time with the Slovenia Group.

Look at their hair. It's so windy!

An old old castle in the Alton Tower
Cool! That's lovely!

The yellow bus! We love it!

Show me your tongue! Errrrr...

"OUT OF MY KITCHEN!" said Charles.
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