

MGS ECHO

Matrix Global Schools Weekly Newsletter

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



THIS WEEK'S TOPICS

Conserving Water
Challenge

MIEY Graduation

Reflections By Our New
Members in MIS

Mind Mapping in MPS
Moral Education

UTQH (Ujian Tilawah,
Hafazan al-Quran dan
Hadis) in MPS
Pendidikan Islam

While autocorrect and spelling software have made our lives easier, the importance of spelling has not lessened – it has actually never been more important. Students are so dependent on auto-spelling that they cannot spell some words or spell them wrongly especially with British English and American English. Why is spelling still so important?

The spectrum of risk with wrong spelling can range from being negligible, like misspelling in an essay, to being lethal when sending someone instructions on medical prescriptions. Too many spelling errors in an application form will also give a potential employer a negative impression of the applicant's attitude and ability for detailed work.

Malaysia has inherited the British system of spelling. It is there important for us to be aware of the differences in the British and American spelling system because in MGS we offer IGCSE, a British curriculum. The differences in the British and American spelling have come about because British English has tended to keep the spelling of words it has absorbed from other languages (e.g. French, Italian, Arabic, etc.), while American English has adapted the spelling to reflect the way that the words actually sound when they are spoken.

For example, British English ends with -ise (organise), -re (centre), -our (colour), -yse (analyse) while American English ends with -ize (organize), -er (center), -or (color), -yze (analyze). British English words that are spelled with the double ae or oe such as leukaemia and oestrogen are just spelled with an e in American English such as leukemia and estrogen. 'Defence', 'catalogue' and 'instil' in British English are spelt respectively as 'defense', 'catalog' and 'instill' in American English.

Some may say such differences are negligible but this reflects a mindset. If we justify that the differences in the two systems of spelling English are minor and do not matter, when will we acquire the mental discipline of precision to become specialists in our chosen field? As John R. Wooden, the great American basketball coach said, "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen."

'My Conserve Water at Home' Challenge

1. When you have washed your hands, turn off the tap.

2. Use rainwater to water your plants.



3. After taking your bath in a tub, use the same water to water your plants.

4. When you turn on the tap, do not turn it on to the maximum.

- Lyu Haoxuan, Standard 1A

MPS students have been given yet another challenge which is to show their creative and practical ways in conserving water in their own homes. As they are constantly at home during this CMCO period, the tendency is for them to use more water. In addition to that, we use this opportunity to spread awareness by reflecting on what is happening with a neighbouring state that is constantly undergoing water cuts. We want our students to appreciate the resources they have by not wasting them. Most of our students have submitted their video or drawing on how they conserve water as well as educating us on its importance. We are highly encouraged and amazed by the number of submissions from our MPS students.

CONSERVING WATER CHALLENGE



How to conserve water at home :-

1. Turn off the water while you are brushing your teeth.
2. Turn off the water while you are soaping your hands.
3. Take short showers and turn off the water while you soap your body and wash your hair.
4. When you wash dishes, turn off the water while you soap and scrub the dishes.

- Devaswathii, Standard 1A

Stop Press

We are pleased to announce that our new Campus Principal, Mr. Andrew Auster will be arriving in our school by the middle of January 2021.

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE TRANSLATED

随着科技不断的进步，不管是手机、电脑或是其它文档编辑器，都设有自动更正和拼写检查的功能。虽然这些功能让我们在处理文件上变得轻松、有效率，但拼写的重要性并没有因此而降低，反而显得更为重要。现在的学生们过分依赖自动拼写功能，以致他们不能拼写单词或常有拼写错误，这现象尤其在英式英语（简称英语）和美式英语（简称美语）的单词拼写里更为明显。为什么拼写仍然如此重要呢？

研究表明，全世界有85%的人是通过网络联系并以电子邮件作为日常交流，而其中有62%的人是通过社交媒体来进行交流。拼写错误所带来的后果，轻则不足挂齿，像是一篇文章中出现单词拼写错误；重则使人致命，像是医生给病人开药的处方上出现拼写错误。若是求职信中有太多的拼写错误也会给你的潜在雇主留下负面的印象——工作的态度不认真、粗心大意、不注重细节，工作能力平平。

马来西亚继承了英国的拼写体系，而本院校所提供的国际中学教育普通证书（IGCSE）也属英国课程，因此，能够区别英语和美语拼写是相当重要的。这两种语言的拼写差异是：英语倾向于保留从其他语言（如法语、意大利语、阿拉伯语等）中吸收的单词的拼写；美语则会调整拼写，以反映单词实际的发音方式。

常见的区别如：英语都以 -ISE（ORGANIZE，译：组织）、-RE（CENTRE，译：中心）、-OUR（COLOUR，译：颜色）、-YSE（ANALYSE，译：分析）结尾，而美语则以 -IZE（ORGANIZE，译：组织）、-ER（CENTER，译：中心）、-OR（COLOR，译：颜色）和 -YZE（ANALYZE，译：分析）结尾。在英语中，用双AE或OE拼写的单词，如 LEUKAEMIA 和 OESTROGEN，在美语只用E来拼写，LEUKEMIA 和 ESTROGEN。英语中的 DEFENSE、CATALOGUE 和 INSTILL，在美语的拼写分别是 DEFENCE、CATALOG 和 INSTILL。

有些人可能会说，这种拼写体系的差异微不足道，但这说法也反映了一种心态——倘若我们能够对英美语里的拼写差异小至无关紧要而辩解，那我们什么时候才要训练自己有着精密的思维，继而在我们选择的职业里成为专家呢？正如伟大的美国篮球教练——约翰·伍登说：“细节决定成败。小事成就大事。”



Walaupun fungsi autocorrect dan perisian penyemak ejaan telah memudahkan hidup kita, kepentingan kemahiran mengeja tidak berkurangan - malah menjadi lebih penting daripada sebelumnya. Golongan pelajar terlampau bergantung kepada fungsi autocorrect sehinggakan mereka tidak dapat mengeja sesetengah perkataan atau mengejanya dengan salah, terutamanya kesilapan ejaan bahasa Inggeris British dan Amerika. Mengapa kemahiran mengeja itu penting?

Risiko kesalahan ejaan merangkumi hal kecil yang boleh diabaikan seperti salah ejaan di dalam karangan, hinggalah hal yang boleh menyebabkan kematian seperti kesalahan ejaan semasa memberi keterangan preskripsi ubat-ubatan. Kesalahan ejaan yang melampau dalam borang permohonan juga boleh memberikan tanggapan negatif kepada bakal majikan tentang sikap dan keupayaan pemohon dalam menjalankan kerja secara terperinci.

Malaysia telah mewarisi ejaan bahasa Inggeris gaya British. Olen itu, adalah penting bagi kita untuk mengetahui perbezaan sistem ejaan British dan Amerika memandangkan MGS menawarkan program IGCSE, sebuah kurikulum British. Perbezaan sistem ejaan ini berlaku kerana bahasa Inggeris British kebiasaannya mengekalkan ejaan perkataan yang diserap daripada bahasa lain (seperti bahasa Perancis, Itali, Arab, dll.), manakala bahasa Inggeris Amerika telah menyesuaikan ejaan dengan bunyi pertuturan perkataan yang diucapkan.

Contohnya, bahasa Inggeris British diakhiri oleh -ise (organise), -re (centre), -our (colour), -yse (analyse), manakala bahasa Inggeris Amerika diakhiri oleh -ize (organize), -er (center), -or (color), -yze (analyze). Perkataan bahasa Inggeris British yang dieja dengan gandaan huruf vokal ae atau oe seperti leukaemia and oestrogen hanya dieja dengan huruf e di Amerika seperti leukemia dan estrogen. Perkataan-perkataan seperti defence, catalogue dan instill dalam bahasa Inggeris British dieja sebagai defense, catalog dan instill dalam bahasa Inggeris Amerika.

Ada yang berpendapat bahawa perbezaan ini boleh diabaikan, tetapi ini mencerminkan corak pemikiran seseorang. Sekiranya kita berpegang kepada pendapat bahawa perbezaan ejaan ini adalah perkara kecil dan tidak perlu diendahkan, sampai bila akan kita mencapai tahap disiplin mental yang diperlukan untuk menjadi seorang pakar yang terperinci dalam bidang yang kita ceburi. Seperti kata John R. Wooden, seorang pelatih sukan bola keranjang warga Amerika yang tersohor, "Perkara kecil menjadikan perkara besar berlaku."

And ... it's a wrap up at Matrix International Early Years. It is officially the end of term. We hope to see the children walking back into our corridor instead of virtual doors next year.

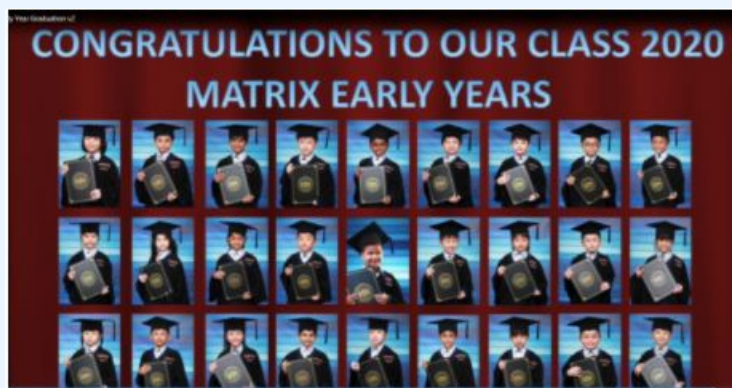
I can truly say this year has been phenomenal for learning despite the pandemic which set upon us in March. I would like to start by saying kudos to the children for all their efforts and the learning they have completed.

A big 'thank you' to all parents and guardians for supporting the school and sticking with us throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst recognising and appreciating the efforts of our team throughout the year and supporting your children in numerous ways.

Graduation this year may not look the same, but with a little creativity, we have honoured our children's accomplishments. Here is a collage of our graduates put together by our Matrix Early Years. Enjoy!

- Ms Adrinna, Head of MIEY

MIEY GRADUATION



2020 MIEY graduates

REFLECTIONS BY OUR NEW MEMBERS IN MIS



"One of the best parts about teaching is that each year you start over with a new group of students, new challenges, and new opportunities to make a difference. Each year, you have the chance to grow and perfect your craft as a teacher.

I started my new term in Matrix International School as HOD of the Mathematics Department. I was worried about the culture in this new school compared to my previous school where I was well adapted. After a few months in this new school I realised that the culture practised in this school was easy to integrate and adapt. Fellow teachers and students are supportive.

A good teacher, first and foremost, sees each student as an individual with hopes, dreams, strengths and vulnerabilities. Great and effective teachers are those teachers who are conscious about the holistic development of all students entrusted to their care and who have the ability to maximize their learning abilities by carefully developing and sustaining strong and positive relationships with them. I strongly believe that a healthy and conducive learning environment is one where teachers can promote a caring and passionate community of learners who will go on to become great achievers, excellent inventors and global leaders.

Matrix International School has helped me sharpen my skill sets and supported me in my continuous development as a teacher.

- Mr. Chandra Segran Jaganatha, Head of Mathematics Department



"Back to the day I first started in Matrix, I was nervous yet excited. I was nervous because this is a new environment, a new culture and a new way of life for me as I am moving from KL to Seremban. I was worried whether I could adapt well to those challenges that I could foresee. On the other hand, I was excited because I was looking to work in a new environment and to have new opportunities to grow myself.

It is almost three months now, and I feel thankful to have had a very supportive leadership team and colleagues who help me in getting to know the school and the students better.

Students in Matrix are lovely and kind and most of them are very polite, respectful and disciplined. I thank the students for giving me a chance to get to know them. We have had too little time to establish good working relationships, but I believe that our relationships will grow in the future."

- Ms. Ann Hui Ling, Acting Head of Chinese Language Department



Reflecting back to my first day at Matrix, it was one of the most memorable days of my time at work. My very first INSET training was long yet a memory to be cherished as all of us were able to play Touch Rugby on the last day of the training. It was a fun and exciting sport for me despite not knowing much about it. Everyone and everything instantly made me feel comfortable and definitely made me feel as though I was part of the team.

During the first week of work, I was overwhelmed with the revisions for the year end examinations that were scheduled in two weeks' time. With little connection with the students and the surrounding, I struggled to get past the examination.

Yet, the assistance by my colleagues and students made it happen for me. From the teachers, I managed to pick up tips and learned different types of skills, from learning to deal with the new environment and to use Google Classroom, to using the Engage Portal System and to get to the venue on time.

I find that my workplace in Matrix Global Schools itself is relatively diverse. There is the Head of School, Head of Academic, Heads of Department to staff members and teachers all working on the same floor. This large range of people have different strengths and qualifications and being able to work with them in a team creates a good atmosphere in the working environment for me. This enables me to easily seek advice from our teachers and staff members when I am in doubt about work related issues.

As for the students, every student at Matrix is very unique and I am glad to be their teacher. Although they can be a handful at times, I would not trade my journey with them for anything else. I wish them all the success in their life.

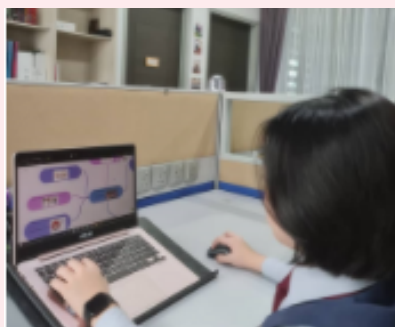
Overall, these past few months at Matrix have been positive. I am very delighted to be able to be around such wonderful people. I believe that my journey here at Matrix would be an adventurous and fruitful one as I get to learn, each and every day, from my colleagues as well as our students.

- Ms. Shamita Ravi, Mathematics teacher

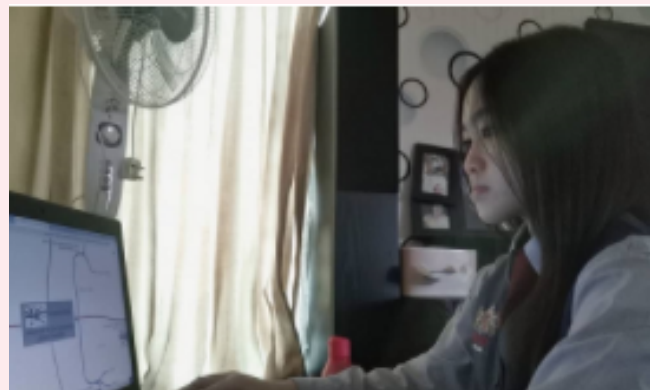
MIND MAPPING IN MPS MORAL EDUCATION

Mind maps help to simplify information to make it easier to be analysed and remembered by the brain. Therefore, students can focus on the important contents. For the subject Moral Education, students were introduced to building mind maps using 'Coggle', an online tool that can be built and shared with any target group. Every change that is made is visible to the target group. This collaborative group work enables students to be more creative and able to learn the topics in the subject 'Moral Education' better.

"Coggle is a website where you can make digital mind maps. I find it very interesting and fun to use Coggle. I like using Coggle because it is very easy to insert pictures and text. To submit it to your teacher, you just have to download it in a PDF file and hand it in! All in all, Coggle is a great website to use for online learning as it is very convenient and fun!"



- Faith Voo, Standard 5M



"When the teacher asks us to do a mind map, I prefer using Coggle compared to writing on a paper. Now, I am going to share the advantages of using Coggle. Firstly, it is easy to use, as you just type and add the colour that you want into the spaces provided. Secondly, you can search, save and insert the pictures from Google that are related to your topic. Thirdly, you can do your mindmap on your own or you can add your friends or teachers to help you edit your mind map collaboratively. Lastly, after you have written down the notes you can connect the lines wherever you want and it will be automatically saved."

- Ong Pei Qin, Standard 5M



"Here are some benefits that I learned about coggle :-

- 1) Coggle is easy to use because it is more accessible to use on other devices such as a tab or handphone.
- 2) You can do many things with coggle such as inserting a picture or selecting a colour to beautify your mind map.
- 3) It is easier to make a mind map in coggle because you only need two clicks of the mouse and you are done with the shape.
- 4) Coggle also saves all your previous work that you have done automatically. Therefore, you can refer to it at any time.
- 5) With Coggle, a topic is much easier to understand as the saying goes, 'A picture is worth a thousand words'.

- Mariya Plavs'ka, Standard 5M

UTQH (UJIAN TILAWAH, HAFAZAN AL-QURAN DAN HADIS) IN MPS PENDIDIKAN ISLAM

Form 4, 2020 is the first batch that will sit for the SPM examination with a new format next year for all subjects including Pendidikan Islam. UTQH (Ujian Tilawah, hafazan al-Quran dan Hadis) is the latest format for paper 2. In this paper, students are tested on Quran recitation skills, Quran memorization skills and hadith reading skills. Despite facing Covid-19 pandemic, and almost fully learning virtually, students were not deterred from preparing for this actual test in April to June next year. UTQH was conducted online between the teacher and students. This test was done in the hope of training and prepare them for the actual test next year.



Virtual test on hadith reading skill

"I am quite stressed because it is a new format. However, early exposure makes it better as I know what to expect."

- Ellyna Abdullah, Form 4A

"It's quite stressful to memorize all the verses but with early preparation, I will surely score."

- Sofia Shafie, Form 4A

"I feel positive with the new format."

- Shaikh Amir Muzamil, Form 4A