

不一樣的暑假 不一樣的交流團
直闖牛津校園 放眼世界

An exceptional summer with
an unforgettable study tour
Open your eyes at the reputable
University of Oxford



上月有報導指出，不少旅行社聯同教育機構在暑假期間舉辦為幼稚園生而設的歐洲遊學團，竟吸引眾多望子成龍的家長報名，動輒請假花上數萬元到外國去「陪太子讀書」。這邊廂有七位年紀小小的同學，憑着自己的本事，在牛津大學出版社舉辦的「RWI小小牛津生計劃」中脫穎而出，贏得在暑假免費到大學城牛津大開眼界的機會，親身體驗何謂「讀萬卷書，不如行萬里路」。《黃巴士Light》獲邀遠赴牛津，直擊這個為期四天的交流之旅，現在讓我們看看這班小小牛津生的所見所聞吧！

According to a news report made to public last month, there were quite a number of travel agencies joining hands with educational centres to arrange kindergartners to Europe for summer study tours. The point is parents who have great ambitions for their children are totally willing to spend tens of thousands and take annual leaves just to accompany their child to a so-called "eye-opening" trip. Here you can see a story quite on the contrary: seven little kids won a free trip to Oxford with their outstanding performance at the "RWI Ambassador Programme" initiated by the Oxford University Press China. Yes, as a Chinese proverb goes, it is better to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books. "Yellow Bus Light" was glad to be invited to Oxford to cover this fun-filled four-day study tour which had certainly widened the horizons of these children.



隸屬英國著名學府牛津大學的牛津大學出版社是全球最大規模的大學出版社，旗下的RWI英語課程以原音拼合法為基礎教授英語，幫助四歲或以上的小朋友掌握英語的聽、講、讀、寫能力。此課程於英國炙手可熱，獲四千所學校使用，二零零七年首度引進香港，除了教學中心外，現時把此課程納入正規課程的本地文法學校及國際學校合共逾四十家。

今年踏入五十周年的牛津大學出版社中國分社總部設於香港，而「RWI小小牛津生計劃」花了近一年時間籌備，旨在帶領在課程中表現出色的同學衝出香港，親赴牛津，跟牛津RWI英語課程作者Ruth Miskin見面之餘，亦可感受當地濃厚的學術氣息，增廣見聞。能夠考進世界知名的牛津大學者無不出類拔萃，這七位全球年紀最小的牛津交流生亦同樣經過嚴格挑選。經過十二小時的長途航程，七位憑藉優秀表現擊敗二百多名對手的小朋友與其父母抵達牛津，展開為期四日三夜、令人眼界大開的英國牛津大學交流團。

這班小小牛津生只有五至六歲，但初到牛津，毫不怯場，以一口流利英語跟當地人士溝通。他們在牛津大學出版社內，與多位於牛津大學唸書的學生大使玩遊戲及交流，其後更獲英國著名幼兒教育顧問及牛津RWI英語課程作者Ruth Miskin親自授課。親和力十足的Ruth Miskin跟這班初次見面的小朋友相處融洽，拿出自創甚至現實不存在的詞彙教同學們解碼，讀出拼音，更大讚這群年紀小小的同學們天資聰敏，閱讀能力高呢！小朋友們對於能夠獲Ruth老師親自教授英語都興奮莫名，爭相舉手回答問題，大家更穿起小小畢業袍在牛津大學的青草地上跟Ruth老師合照留念，慶祝在牛津RWI英語課程學有所成。



Oxford University Press (OUP) is a subsidiary department of the oldest university in the English speaking world, the University of Oxford, and also the world's largest university press, which has been internationally acclaimed with diverse publications of various categories worldwide. Read Write Inc. (RWI) by Oxford, whose curriculum is designed based on synthetic phonics, is developed to help children aged four or above to learn and master the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of English effectively. The programme is sought-after in the United Kingdom with 4,000 schools adopting it in the formal curriculum. Brought to Hong Kong in 2007, it has now become a daily part of the curriculum of over 40 local conventional and international schools in addition to accredited learning centres.

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of OUP China, whose headquarters is in Hong Kong. Spending nearly a year on preparations and selection, the "RWI Ambassador Programme" aims to reward students with brilliant performance in the RWI by Oxford by providing them with an opportunity to pay a visit to the University of Oxford and to meet Ruth Miskin, the author of RWI, for an inspirational and eye-opening study tour in which they can totally indulge themselves in the academic atmosphere of Oxford and broaden their horizons. To get admitted by this world-acclaimed institute, outstanding academic achievements are a must, and these seven world's youngest exchange students of the University of Oxford were also selected after rounds of assessments and interviews. After a 12-hour long-haul flight, seven RWI ambassadors who stood out from over 200 participants arrived at Oxford with their parents, kicking off the four-day-three-night Oxford study tour for a unique learning experience.

At the ages of only five and six, the seven RWI ambassadors were all pleased to talk to native speakers in English fluently even though for most of them, it was just their first trip to the UK. At Oxford University Press, they played games with student ambassadors from the University of Oxford and attended an exclusive phonics class taught by Ruth Miskin, author of RWI. Ruth Miskin, a friendly teacher with a big smile on her face, got along very well with the kids and taught them to decode inexistent words made up by her and figure out their pronunciations, praising the bright RWI ambassadors for their intelligence and English proficiency. The children enjoyed the lesson so much that they paid rapt attention to every word Ruth Miskin said, applied what they had learnt from the RWI programme over the past months and answered all the questions raised by Ruth. Each given a little graduation hood and gown, the seven RWI ambassadors excitedly and delightfully took pictures with Ruth on the verdant grassland of the University of Oxford to celebrate their fruitful learning outcome.

足印留牛津

Leaving footprints in Oxford



有幸得到大名鼎鼎的Ruth老師親自授課，

七位小小牛津生都興奮非常，不過既然千里迢迢來到牛津，上課之後，當然少不了要在當地遊覽一番。牛津大學的學生大使帶領小朋友及家長乘坐篙船遊查維爾河，觀賞沿途的迷人風光，小朋友跟水中的天鵝和鴨子作近距離接觸，玩得不亦樂乎。

其後，七位小朋友繼續腳步走訪牛津大學著名地標，這座歷史悠久的牛津城到處也充滿着故事。大家排着隊走進牛津大學其中一所人才輩出的學院Christ Church，參觀《哈利波特》電影的取景場地之一——The Great Hall，更在牛津大學舉行重大典禮的場所——Sheldonian Theatre前預演大學畢業拋起畢業帽的一幕，最後到訪牛津大學自然歷史博物館，認識古代巨鳥Dodo，親睹恐龍、鱷魚、鷹的化石，為交流之旅寫下完美的句號。



Having a golden opportunity to meet Ruth Miskin

in person, the seven RWI ambassadors couldn't help but feel very excited. Flying all the way to Oxford, another must-do apart from attending the too-good-to-miss class was of course going sightseeing and understanding this historical city. The student ambassadors of the University of Oxford took the children and parents for a traditional Oxford activity – punting on the River Cherwell, enjoying the beautiful scenery along the river on the one hand, while having a close encounter with the swans and ducks in the water on the other.

After punting, the children were taken to other landmarks of the Oxford city which tell its long-standing history. The RWI ambassadors queued up to enter the Christ Church, one of the colleges of the University of Oxford where a countless number of talents have been nurtured. Followed the footsteps of the student ambassadors of the University of Oxford, children and parents were brought into The Great Hall, the real-life location of the dining halls in the Harry Potter film series. The seven RWI ambassadors even threw their graduation caps in front of the Sheldonian Theatre where the grand university ceremonies take place, to signify their outstanding performance over the past year. The last stop was the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where the most complete remains of a single dodo are exhibited. The children were also curious to see the fossils of various animals including dinosaurs, crocodiles and eagles, marking a complete end to the rewarding study tour.

牛津RWI英語課程作者Ruth Miskin：學習英語由閱讀開始

Ruth Miskin, Programme Author of Read Write Inc. by Oxford: Setting off English learning with reading!



不少父母為了要子女學好英文，或是不抗拒英文而大傷腦筋。擁有豐富教學經驗的Ruth Miskin設計了以原音拼合法為基礎的牛津RWI英語課程，以創新的方式為小朋友帶來學習英語的新角度。牛津RWI英語課程是一個以原音拼合法出發的課程，目的在於強化同學的閱讀及寫作能力。同學會由掌握四十四個原音開始，學習以有系統的方法拆解不同字的讀音，以閱讀作為學習英語的第一步。在課堂中，同學會把故事閱讀三次：第一次拆解拼音，第二次理解內容，第三次流暢地閱讀。此外，他們亦會以二人小組形式進行討論或向對方解釋內容，兼顧提升同學的聆聽及說話技巧。Ruth Miskin認為，寫作比閱讀困難，小朋友先掌握閱讀會比較容易，達到一定程度後，便可鼓勵他們運用從故事書學到的詞彙造句及組合短文章，循序漸進，令孩子愛上閱讀，奠下良好的語文基礎。

Many parents spare nothing and go to great lengths in order to inspire their child to love learning English, or at least not to be scared of speaking English. Ruth Miskin the experienced and devoted education consultant in the UK thereby developed the leading-edge Read Write Inc. based on synthetic phonics with the purpose of helping children master English in an effective and innovative way. As revealed in its name, Read Write Inc. is an integrated reading and writing programme structured based on synthetic phonics in which children are taught to first learn the 44 pure sounds and blend the letters or letter groups into a word systemically for the sake of enhancing their English proficiency, especially reading and writing ability. Students are asked to read a passage for three times during the class for three different purposes: first for decoding, second for comprehension and third for reading fluently. They will be paired up for discussion and take turns to teach each other the way to break the codes of specific words, which also help improve listening and speaking skills. Ruth Miskin pointed out, "It will be easier for children to acquire reading skills than writing as the latter is way more demanding." This is why she suggests kids to start off by reading and try to apply the vocabulary they have learnt from story books to compose simple sentences or short paragraphs at the next stage. It is through step-by-step learning that children will fall in love with English and build a solid foundation for English learning.

張凱悠小朋友（五歲）與媽媽

Ashely (five years old) and mummy

「Ashley常跟不同國籍的小朋友一起玩，所以她抗拒以英文跟他人溝通或與外籍人士接觸。她自四歲起已非常喜歡英文，常常看英文書，更創作了兩個英文故事，為自己的故事書繪畫插圖。牛津RWI英語課程提高了她對英文的敏感度，令她更喜歡閱讀，加上老師和同學對她的讚賞，令她對英文的信心越見提升。」



"Ashley always plays with kids of different nationalities and she has got used to speaking English and communicating with foreigners. She is fond of English and the great interest has been developed since she was four. Not only does she love to read English books, but she has also written two story books in English accompanied with illustrations drawn by her. The RWI by Oxford has significantly helped her in different aspects of English learning and the compliments from teachers and classmates have boosted her confidence too."

李博文小朋友（六歲）與爸爸

Davis (six years old) and daddy

「博文入讀幼稚園後便愛上英文，去年九月，我和太太為博文選擇適合他的課程，巧合之下報讀了牛津RWI英語課程。這是他家一次學習拼音，但經過差不多一個學年後，身邊很多親戚和朋友都稱讚他的發音標準，而且他的老師非常疼他，對他很有期望，不介意抽額外的時間教導他，所以他很享受上課，很喜歡那位老師，亦對學習英語持有越來越濃厚的興趣。」



"Davis has had an affection for English since he started going to kindergarten. My wife and I tried to look for some programmes for Davis last September and it was a coincidence to get to know RWI. It was the first time for Davis to learn phonics but as soon as after an academic year, he had shown such a great improvement in his pronunciation that many of my friends and relatives found it impressive. His teacher has placed high expectations on him and even doesn't mind spending additional time to teach him, making Davis enjoy his class so much and love English even more."

