

UCSI hosts KL schools

Students learn English at academy's holiday programme.



Word chain:
Students playing the Human Scrabble game.

Parents who wonder what to do with their children during school holidays should take advantage of the UCSI English Academy's (UEA) holiday programme for secondary and primary school students.

The programme's objective is to create a conducive environment for them to learn English in a fun way. Not only will they learn how to communicate in English, they will also experience how enjoyable learning English can be.

UEA organised an Open Day on May 22 to promote the programme. Students from SK Cheras Indah and SK Seri Bintang Utara were invited to get a feel of how English was taught at the centre.

Students and teachers arriving at the centre were given goodie bags and a tour of the north wing of the campus.

They were then, taken to the auditorium for a welcome speech by UEA director Adeline Tan and a briefing of the day's itinerary.

Once seated in their assigned classrooms, the trial class began with a reading on Bart Simpson, the famous cartoon character. This got the students excited. To make the lesson more interesting, teachers had pasted answers to the questions posed around the classroom.

The students were soon running around looking for the right answers. The excitement continued with a listening task to complete the blanked-out lyrics of an evergreen song, well-known by children and adults, "We are the World" composed by Michael Jackson.

Incidentally, a free trial Business English class was conducted simultaneously in another room and attended by a few adults who wanted a feel of a professional English Language learning environment.

Lunch was followed by yet another fun activity. Everyone gathered at the foyer next to the dining hall, for the games competition. It began with a Treasure Hunt where students worked in groups to solve puzzles with clues to secure the "treasure" located at pit-stops where UEA teachers were waiting.

Not only did the students maximise their team efforts, but they also used their English Language skills to solve the puzzles.

The Treasure Hunt ended with the announcement of the winner who arrived first at the last pit-stop. However, the excitement did not end there as the second game, Human Scrabble was next.

Again, divided into groups of seven, the students were given cards which represented alphabets that were hung from their neck. Moving around, they formed as many words as they could. Thus, Human Scrabble had students demonstrating their vocabulary skills as they competed to come up with the most number of words.

The session ended with a small award ceremony for the winners of the two games. Students from both schools were happy at experiencing the fun-filled English Language learning activities, different from their daily fare of exam-oriented English classes.

According to one of the teachers, "Today, I actually got to hear all my students speaking English among themselves. I'm so proud of them."

The holiday programme is only available during the school breaks in March, June and September.

It is conducted from Monday to Friday, comprising morning indoor activities and afternoon outdoor activities to ensure students get a "fun" learning experience.

☐ For details, look out for the UEA advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.