

4A16 LEUNG Kwok Lap

Dear Joey,

Long time no see. How are you? Three months ago, I found a new job that was really interesting. It was to take up the role of agony aunt to help teenagers solve their problems. Bullying, dating and relationship, schoolwork and appearance are common problems that they often face. Also, they have a lot of pressure. Some of the stress comes from their family, peers and school.

Then, I want to share an interesting letter with you. Two weeks ago, a girl named Maria sent me a letter regarding her appearance. She said her friends always look great because they wear fashionable clothes and make-up. But her parents don't have much money. So, Mary often has to wear her sister's old clothes. Also, her mum usually chooses new clothes for her sister and doesn't let her put on make-up. She feels so depressed.

After I had read her letter, I gave her three pieces of advice. Firstly, Maria needs to build more self-confidence. She doesn't need to care about what other people think. I told her that she didn't live for others, but for herself. Feeling happy was the most important for her. She should be more confident with her look. Make-up is only an adornment. Secondly, I suggest her that she needs to understand her parents. Earning money is really difficult. It is not as easy as she thinks. Her parents' responsibility is to nurture her but not to give her money to buy extravagantly. If she really wants to buy expensive items, she must earn money by herself. Finally, I told her that make-up may be toxic to her skin. I don't suggest people to put on make-up. Natural beauty is true beauty.

I have learned more from being an agony aunt. I have become a more caring and thoughtful person. I know how to think from different points of view. Also, I have become a qualified listener. A bunch of "problem teenagers" has taught me a lot. It was a valuable experience. I think I will continue to help as an agony aunt.

If you have any problems, talk to me. I can offer you some advice.

Yours

Chris