



Lunar New Year Celebrations

BGS staff and student reflections

Students and staff have taken their time to share their thoughts about how they celebrated the Lunar New Year.

Miss Lau (Mathematics teacher)

“The Lunar New Year is like Christmas in many Asian countries, it is a social event which brings families and friends together. There are many traditions during the whole celebration of the New Year. During my time in Hong Kong, it was a tradition to walk through the city’s flower markets and buy gifts during the final hours of New Year’s Eve. A highlight during this time was also enjoying reunion dinner with my family.

On New Year’s Eve, it is the best day to put up Fai Chun (red sheets with phrases), and my parents prepare Lai See (red envelopes) for the New Year. Starting from the first day of the Lunar New Year, we visit many of our families and friends. Those who are married will give Lai See to children and to people who work during the holiday. My family makes vegetarian food for the first day of the New Year and has Poon Choi (many layers of different food in a basin) on the second day. On the third day of the New Year, it has been said that it would be easy to misspeak, offend others, and get into a quarrel. Instead of visiting relatives and friends, some people go to temples for lottery poetry. The whole celebration ends on the 15th, which is the Chinese Valentine’s Day. What I like most about Lunar New Year is having all the special food with symbolic meanings, like Nin Gou (year cake), Laughing Sesame Balls, and Tong Yuen (glutinous rice balls), not to mention opening all the Lai See.”

Yubi Yuen (Lower Sixth)

"I was born in the Year of the Dog. The Lunar New Year is a very important festival to me as it allows me to spend time with my family and relax into the New Year holiday. During this period of celebration, I visit my relatives and friends; we enjoy eating festive dishes like rice cakes and dumplings. Children are given money in red envelopes. Across many Asian countries people watch performances of lion and dragon dances, they are believed to bring good fortune to people in the New Year."

Alicia Hui (Year 11)

"My Chinese zodiac is the Dog, which the Year of the Dog had passed a few years ago. The Lunar New Year is just like the annual New Year celebrations on the 1st January. It is important as some traditional foods and some traditional acts are only observed during the Lunar New Year. It also marks the start of a new year in the Lunar calendar. This year, my family and I made radish cake and glutinous rice cake (Nian Gao), which are traditional Chinese New Year foods that we normally have. We also visited my aunt and uncle (bringing them the food we made) as Chinese New Year is also an occasion for family reunion."

Veronica Poon (Year 10)

"The Lunar New Year is important to me because it is a time for families to get together for a huge meal. I usually spend the New Year at my grandparents, and use this time to catch up with relatives. We usually eat turnip cakes, as the pronunciation of one of the characters is the same as tall. Therefore, children eat it in hopes of growing tall, while others eat it in hopes of making their money 'grow taller'. We also wear new red clothes, to symbolise new beginnings and for luck. My Chinese Zodiac is the Rat, as I was born in 2008."

Vanessa Poon (Year 7)

"This year's Lunar New Year's celebrations coincided with my Chinese zodiac, the Rabbit. It was a busy day for my family, which involved cleaning our house and enjoying delicious turnip cakes. During the evening, my family and I ate at our neighbours Chinese and Sushi restaurant! Before going to bed, my parents placed a lucky red envelope under my pillow. Filled with money, the tradition symbolises good wishes and luck for the new year ahead!"