

i-Learner Stevenson Term



Newsletter



What's new at i-Learner?

MESSAGE FROM
MS. PUN

Reflections on summer



*Win prizes in our
poetry competition!*

*Speaking tips from
i-Learner teachers*

Miss Brenda shares
her thoughts on developing
speaking skills at
a young age



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What's new?

Welcome to i-Learner's Stevenson Term newsletter! This is a chance for you to catch up on what's new at i-Learner and keep up to date with our latest goings-on.

This term's newsletter is dedicated to speaking and contains plenty of tips to get your children talking and improving their English. We also welcome our Wan Chai newsletter pages which celebrate i-Learner's developments on Hong Kong Island.



MESSAGE FROM MS. PUN

It is my pleasure to once again welcome all students and parents into the new school year at i-Learner. After an energising summer, filled with fun, laughter and lots of learning, we are ready and raring to tackle the new school year with a smile.

Our summer 2017 unfolded with a long list of immersive English camps, in which our summer tutors from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford inspired primary and secondary school students with their energy and teaching expertise. Students had fun interacting through games and through their elected subjects, enjoying topics ranging from German to Scottish dance. At our studios in Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai, our enthusiastic teachers prepared games, different academic courses and Little Scholars immersive camps to provide our students with unforgettable summer memories. On top of our popular courses like Critical Reading and Writing and Love to Write, we were also pleased to open new summer courses such as Latin, Philosophy, and Shakespeare, with some students even having a chance to build their own robot! We were delighted to see students beaming with smiles as they discovered interests that they never knew they had.

At i-Learner, we like to nurture our students so that they can become kind people who can contribute to their communities when they grow up. We include this element of learning in our curriculum and teaching methodologies, and always encourage our students to understand the world around them. This year we were delighted to learn that a group of our students successfully raised \$1,200 by holding a charity bake sale at our TST centre for SoCO and the Hong Kong Cancer Fund! Their enthusiastic support and work not only provided tangible help to these charities, but also served to raise awareness amongst students, staff and parents.

Our theme this year at i-Learner is speaking. We would like our students to feel empowered by the language they learn, and to be able to express themselves not just on paper, but verbally too. Effective communication is a skill often missing in English curricula, however it is clear that without it, it is difficult for students to express their ideas clearly, solidify the foundations of their language knowledge and build good relationships. Our speaking focus ranges from younger learners tackling the basics of English pronunciation, right the way up to secondary students who wish to fluently command English to hold debates and express their opinions. Over the course of this term, we will have many activities that get students talking and expressing themselves.

With the magic of words, and the creativity and hard work of our teachers, we look forward to this new school year when we will have even more stories to tell.

Kemmiss Pun



Speak up!

Why is i-Learner getting students talking this term?

We believe that speaking is a foundational skill, out of which a student can develop strong abilities in other areas. If we look at learners around the world, we can see that under normal circumstances, every child learns to speak their native language naturally and with ease. The level which they attain in reading and writing varies much more across different learners, cultures and societies, but the ability to speak fluently remains constant. The human brain seems most efficiently primed to first acquire spoken language.

Learners, particularly younger ones, who can establish a strong base in spoken English, will then take like a duck to water when they take their first steps into reading English. Accelerating too fast into the world of books before acquiring a firm grasp on spoken English can end in students who do not feel the language they are learning truly belongs to them. As a result, learners can feel confused or unsure of how the written language connects to their spoken language.

i-Learner is therefore placing an emphasis on developing students' speaking skills this term. We want to encourage students to push forward in their spoken English, both through classwork and by enjoying extra-curricular activities.

Confidence is a significant part of success in speaking, and this is true for learners of all levels, from kindergarten right through to university and beyond. Over the next few pages, we will present to you a variety of tips and tricks from our teachers, for how to cultivate a love of speaking in your child, and how to overcome some of the obstacles that lie on the path ahead.

Interview with *Miss Brenda* – How important is speaking?

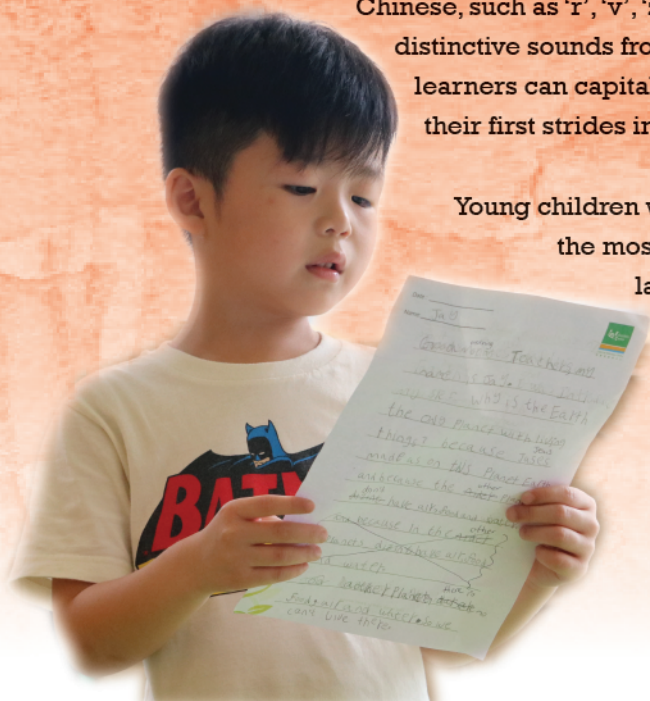


Talking to young children is very enjoyable to me, especially when they try to speak English, which is often their second language. It is good fun to hear them talk mainly about their “universe” – their family, school, toys, favourite cartoon characters and some made-up stories.

Speaking in English can often not be so easy for children in Hong Kong, especially for those who do not benefit from daily practice with their family, friends or teachers. Being immersed in an English-speaking environment is indeed important for them to learn English. Generally speaking, there are four main areas to learning a language, namely listening and reading (reception); and speaking and writing (production). The learning sequence usually proceeds: listening > speaking > reading > writing. For a young learner, it is therefore crucial to begin with listening in order to build up a solid foundation of sentence structures and vocabulary. Some children are able to move to speaking relatively quickly, while others stay quieter while they internalise the language. After this period of consolidation, a magical moment comes when they can apply what they have acquired naturally in a new context. I can't help but be amazed and surprised by the process every time.

The sooner young learners become exposed to a new language, the better it is for them, because they are still sensitive to fine phonetic details. There are some sounds in English that we do not have in Chinese, such as 'r', 'v', 'z' and 'th'. It is easier for young learners to mimic or copy the distinctive sounds from English speakers. By mastering these sounds early on, learners can capitalise on their strong listening and speaking abilities as they take their first strides into reading English.

Young children who lay solid foundations in speaking and listening go on to be the most successful readers and come to own English as their own language. It is wonderful to witness this process as children leap from being able to speak in English to being able to read.



OUR TEACHERS' TOP SPEAKING TIPS



Practicing speaking can be very simple: start with talking about everyday life. Ask your child what he or she did each day (a good way to practise past tense too!).

Describe the surroundings you are in with your child and imagine what could possibly happen there. You will be surprised by how creative your child can be!

Mr. Alvin



i) Make use of every single chance to speak English. EVERY. Use English even when you speak to yourself.

ii) Language is for communication. If you do not speak the language, then the value of it will be lost. Also, speaking involves oral muscle movements. If you exercise the muscles more often, then you will be able to manipulate the muscles more precisely, which means your pronunciation will also improve.

iii) Parents could try asking their children to tell them something in English for 5 minutes every day. It can be anything. For example, a story or what they have done on that day.

Miss Jaye



Use your voice and hands effectively! Try to speak slowly and loudly to make it clear enough for your audience to understand. Don't forget your body language too! This will help you put your ideas across more easily.

Miss Rachel



To develop good speaking habits, first things first, you have to be confident enough to speak up. Practise reading aloud to work on pronunciation and intonation. You may do it in front of a mirror to make sure you have facial expressions and postures that are as natural as possible.

The next step is to talk to native speakers so you can imitate good pronunciation. Once you're comfortable with daily conversation, try to polish your presentation and public skills to take your speaking skills to the next level. Always remember, practice makes perfect!

Miss Alison



Speaking is a gateway to meeting new people. When faced with introductions the first thing you are going to do is open your mouth and speak. Making a great impression could mean the difference between acing an interview and getting that promotion or not. Tips I would give for making a lasting impact on somebody would of course be: smile, make eye contact and look confident! Even if you don't feel confident at first this will really help you to seal the deal.

Mr. MacDonald



Speaking is a great way to make new friends. It's important to relax when you talk to people so that your pronunciation is clear. If you can't remember a specific word, just try to think of another way to say it. To make the conversation more dynamic, choose descriptive vocabulary and use body language to give your message more impact!

Miss Katie

Thrive in the right environment

Not all families speak English at home. How can you still nurture a child's abilities in English?

Below we have collected our best advice to give your child the listening environment they need to flourish and develop a good foundation in spoken English.



Ranging from a simple I-spy game to a more involved game such as Pictionary or Charades, games are a fantastic way to show your children that English is fun, and is an enjoyable method to introduce basic vocabulary to your children.



A quick YouTube search for 'children's song' or 'English learning song' brings up hundreds of fantastic singalongs for your children. Often these songs use repetition and catchy rhythms to make English not only a joy to listen to, but also easier to repeat and remember.

There are plenty of after-school clubs that children can join to keep them interested in English. Through English, children could enjoy painting, sport, drama, dance and much much more. By experiencing English through a wide range of fun activities, children will gain a more natural command of English.



With tablets and smartphones, it's easier than ever to give your child the chance to listen to English. Apps such as LearnEnglish Kids: Playtime from the British Council offer videos and games that not only entertain young learners, but also expose them to natural English over a range of topics through engaging games and activities.



Your local library is full of simple stories that introduce children to the world of English books. Storybooks are great because there is a book for every interest, age and ability. They're great to read with your child before bed.

Classics include: The Hungry Caterpillar, We're Going On A Bear Hunt, and The Gruffalo.



What child doesn't like to watch Disney movies? There are tons out there that are excellent at engaging children with fun stories and native English.

Children love to watch their favourite movies again and again, as they become more and more used to the language. You might find them talking like their favourite character in no time!



Get speaking!

Fun games and activities are great ways to get students speaking. They can be adapted to all ages and needs. Here are a few to get your children to start talking and improving their oral English.

You Read, I Draw

A fun game that combines reading and drawing to engage your child's senses as you enjoy speaking together. The level of this game can easily be varied to accommodate a range of abilities.

Simple Sentences Read and Draw II	
1. The pig is pink. He likes to play in the mud.	Draw it
2. I have two flowers. My friends are blue and red.	Draw it
3. My dog is big and brown. He can run fast and jump high.	Draw it
4. There are three trees. The leaves are purple, red and blue.	Draw it
5. Do you see the hot sun? The sun is big and yellow.	Draw it
6. I see five cats. They are all in a row.	Draw it

1. Write sentences about your daily life down the side of the page, e.g. "I get up and I brush my teeth."
2. The student has to read out each sentence and draw a picture next to it that shows the meaning.
3. This game can be varied by writing more complicated sentences, or by hiding the sentences, so the child has to use their listening skills before they draw.
4. To extend the game further, take a picture (anything from Google or from your own holiday snaps will do!) and describe it in detail without showing your child. He/She has to draw what you describe on a piece of paper. After you have finished, compare the pictures and see how close you were!

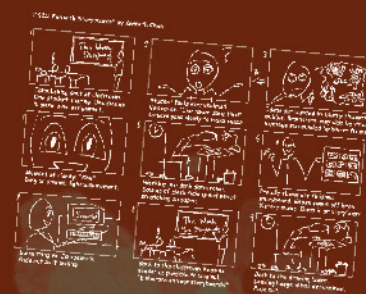
Two truths, one lie

A simple game that builds a child's abilities to justify and argue their opinions.



1. Children write down two true facts about themselves, and one (convincing) lie.
2. Children take it in turns to question each other about their 'facts' and try to work out which ones are true.
3. Each child must defend their statements, and convince everyone else that what is a lie is actually true!

Storyboarding



1. Player B can divide his/her piece of paper into boxes, which will count as different stages on a storyboard.
2. As A starts to read a story, B starts to draw the characters and events as they unfold.
3. After the story has been told to the end, and the storyboard completed, A can check that the storyboard is correct, and then retell the story in his/her own words, with reference to the storyboard.
4. You can vary this game by switching round the roles of reader and drawer.

Speaking at i-Learner





Come along to our fun K-Club sessions, which include storytelling, drama games, and sing-along music sessions. These sessions are a sure-fire way to raise your confidence in speaking by taking part in fun and exciting activities!

Time: Every Monday at 10:10 (1 hour)
Place: i-Learner TST studio, Room 4
Price: \$50 per session (includes one parent/helper)
Don't miss out on this weekly hour of kindergarten fun!

Kindergarten Courses

Our regular kindergarten courses are one of the most popular programmes that we provide, and are proven to help our young students develop key skills across the board.

In particular, speaking is a focus of each level of our kindergarten courses – through small group discussions and exercises, we encourage our kindergarteners to start speaking as soon as possible, which is vital for students to grow as confident and proficient speakers in their future school careers and lives.

Our Kindergarten courses now integrate preparation materials for extracurricular speaking exams into our regular kindergarten programme, so that every kindergartener can benefit from this focus on speaking. Sign up for kindergarten courses to ensure that you start to develop your speaking skills with us at i-Learner.

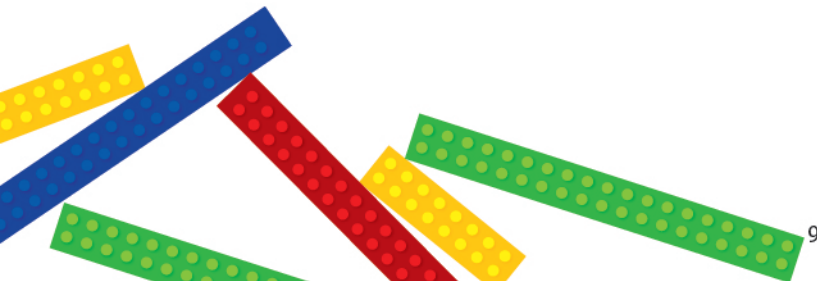
Speech Festival

The Hong Kong Speech Festival is a time-honoured tradition that many people consider to be the benchmark for students' success in speaking skills.



Many students enjoy participating in this event and showing off their speaking skills. i-Learner provides tailor-made courses that focus on each of the individual skill areas needed to get good marks in the Speech Festival. We are also proud to have an excellent track record of helping students who have gone on to achieve excellent results in the Festival.

This year, our Speech Festival expert Clare Smout is flying over from England to best prepare students for the competition. This is a great chance to develop your child's speaking skills and boost your child's English.





Summer Reflections

Outside of i-Learner's popular summer courses at our TST and Wan Chai Centres, this summer welcomed the arrival of a fantastic group of summer tutors from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This summer we were once again delighted to see so many smiles on students' faces and to enjoy the fruits of everyone's labour at the end of the term. Here are a few highlights from our summer of treasures this year.



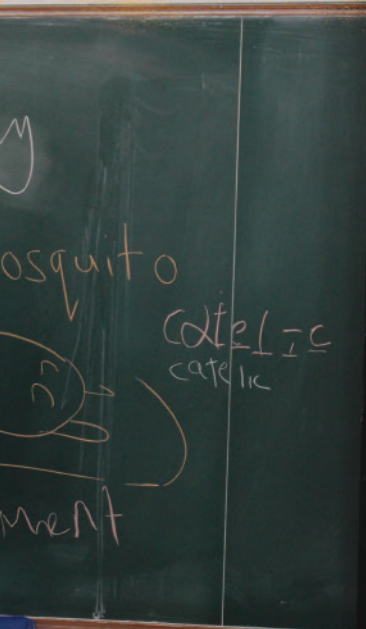
ANCHOR SUM TREAS



Our Little Scholars summer courses give students the chance to take their studies outside of the classroom. Here, students enjoy a trip to the Hong Kong History Museum, where they can collect information for their project of the week.



Students continue to enrich their learning through trips to Kowloon Park and the Hong Kong Botanical Gardens. Their English learning takes off as they explore the world around them with our tutors from England.



SUMMER SURES



Alongside group work and activities, students are able to enjoy a wide range of elective subjects, from Chemistry and Biology, to more unusual topics such as German and Scottish Dance.



Students unleash their creativity as they take to the world of arts and crafts. Such activities give students a chance to use English in unfamiliar settings and flex their language skills with their tutors. It also gives them an opportunity to express themselves through a different channel and bond more closely with their teammates and their tutors. Students also have their crafts to take home at the end of the day!



Students form groups and build their team-working skills. Through a range of games and activities, students are not only able to improve their English, but also gain a confidence boost and make some new friends along the way.



Large group games help to create a feeling of community and of working toward common goals. Punctuating classroom-based elective lessons, big activities in the hall give students chance to let off some steam, and use English with other students and their tutors in a more relaxed environment.



Developments at Wan Chai



This summer also saw the much-anticipated opening of our second centre in Wan Chai. Located conveniently next to The Pawn opposite Southorn Playground, our new centre has been showing that students on the Island are just as hard-working and ready to have fun as those in TST!



Meet Mr. Luke

I am very excited to be here in Hong Kong working for i-Learner as an English teacher and Education Consultant. I am originally from the UK, but I spent a significant part of my childhood in the United States, and I have lived in both Portugal and Brazil. After graduating from Sixth Form, I attended the University of Cambridge to study a BA in Modern Languages (French and Portuguese), following this up with an MA in Education and International Development at the Institute of Education, University College London. I have previously taught English at an after-school club

in Brazil and I have twice volunteered for an education charity in Ethiopia, first as an English teacher at a summer school and secondly as a researcher looking into the effectiveness of mobile technology in improving the quality of English teaching in Ethiopian schools. Over the past year, I have also been working as a private French and Portuguese tutor in London, helping students to achieve the best of their ability in their A-level and GCSE exams. I am excited to bring my passion for languages and learning to my classrooms here in Hong Kong.



We are also very pleased to announce our growing Chinese courses in Wan Chai. With a strong foundation from our TST centre, our Wan Chai Chinese team is enjoying the chance to reach a whole new group of students as they bring our wonderful Chinese courses to the Island. Below are a few words from the i-Learner Chinese team in Wan Chai.



Chinese @ Wan Chai

你們好！我是iLearner灣仔中心的語文教學負責人。

「凡操千曲而後曉聲，觀千劍而後識器。故圓照之象，務先博觀。」灣仔中心的小學閱讀課程，建立在語體豐富、重視階梯性的各類讀本上，不僅鞏固語文基礎知識、陶冶人文修養，更拓展興趣、知識面，通過互動討論讓孩子們發揮想像、積極思辨、暢所欲言、言之成理。

我的學術興趣涉及中西文化交流史，尤其中國從「傳統」向「現代」的變革。在我編纂的中學讀本中，有如「中國俠文化精神史」、「山河、英雄、鸚鵡、飲食、讀書——傳統文化面面觀」等新主題單元，廣收歷代名家名作，兼顧現代中文及其古典淵源，引導學生批判性地思考兩者之間的繼承關係。

我的教學重視社會、歷史縱深，和學生們探討不同時空背景下文本內部的思想、文化關聯。

寫作課程方面，「文言文·寫作班」（高小、中學）作為傳統特色，亦將在灣仔中心定期開展。我們精選一系列文言文經典篇目閱讀，從字、詞、句、段的揣摩與積累入手，每篇附有進階寫作練習，吸納中國文學的古典神韻與寫作妙法，可謂一舉兩得。在教學方法上，則分「下筆如飛」、「精雕細琢」兩種，交叉進行。前者訓練限時審題、選材、組織結構的應試速寫能力；後者學習如何對初稿進行修改、潤色，鍛造文辭凝練、思維清晰、內容真摯的美文。

「博觀而約取，厚積而薄發」，若寫作實踐與閱讀積累皆不偏廢，學生們在考場上當可做到下筆有神，應付泰然。

值此金秋，我滿懷期待，與您的孩子在iLearner相遇。順頌秋祺！

朱天茹

Where to find us

Just two minutes walk from
Wan Chai MTR Station Exit A3
Call us on 3611 8401 or
WhatsApp us on 6468 8366





What you say about us

We are always pleased to hear what you have to say about us. Hearing parents' and students' thoughts gives us the chance to grow and ensure we maintain the high quality of education and service that we are known for. Here are some of the kind things that you have shared this term!

"I've learnt more sentences in English. I like Miss Brenda. I like playing games in class."

Trinity Wong, K3, Pre-School English

"I have learnt a lot at i-Learner, including poetry analysis, writing structure, critical reading, and most importantly a lot of new vocabulary. What I like most about i-Learner is the way of teaching from my teacher Mr. Adam. He likes to interact with students, making the class very lively, enjoyable and interesting, despite doing reading, which is something I usually dislike the most."

Tin Chi Lo, Year 9, GCSE English Language

"I came to i-Learner because the centre was highly recommended by my friends. They shared their good experience and comments with me, and I saw that the courses are high quality. My child has improved in his reading, writing and grammar since studying at i-Learner. I like i-Learner because it is situated in a good location, boasts experienced teachers, has classes that are made of small groups and uses high-quality teaching materials. The teachers are professional, experienced, patient and just brilliant."

Mother of Alvin Wong, P1, Critical Reading and Writing Level 1

"I have learnt English grammar and reading here. I like the lessons with Miss. Esme and I think it helped me with my English exams."

Kristen, P3,
Advanced Grammar and Reading Level 4

"At i-Learner I have learnt a lot about rhythm, poetry, prose, different kinds of tenses, similes, metaphors, writing and reading. The writing skills I have learnt have improved my Chinese writing tests at school. I like i-Learner's fun reading and group activities the most."

Kjersten Cheung, P4
Critical Reading and Writing Level 4

"I decided to join i-Learner because it is well-known in our area and has a good reputation. Since coming to i-Learner, my child has learned to think and explore for herself. She has improved her reading and writing skills, and now has a better knowledge of grammar. The best asset of i-Learner is its teachers. Good teachers have taken care of my child and helped her to develop. I express high praise to Ms. Willow, Mr. Adam and Ms. Tu. They have excellent teaching skills and they take good care of my child."

Mother of Eunice Ho, P3, Mastering Reading Skills Level 5

"Since coming to i-Learner, I have learnt about many different grammar topics, how to analyse poems, Shakespeare and writing techniques. I like how i-Learner teaches topics before they are encountered and it has helped me a lot with exams, since I understand everything taught at school much better."

Carolyn Chan, S2, Critical Reading and Writing Level 8,
Grammar and Writing Level 8

1

Search 'i-Learner Studio' on the App Store or Android Market, or simply scan the QR code.



Apple App Store



Google Play

2

Log in with:

Username: The telephone number you are registered with at i-Learner

Password: The first 4 digits of your telephone number. Once you have logged in, navigate to *Settings* and reset your password.

3

View your child's courses and check the time and date, classroom and teacher. You can also notify us of any absences. Our Admin team will then get in contact to confirm and arrange replacements.

4

Update us with any other information through our messaging centre.



i-Learner on the Go!

This year we are proud to announce the launch of our very own smartphone app. Parents can conveniently locate all the information regarding their child's courses, fees, and timetable at the simple swipe of a finger.

Our in-App messaging system also allows parents to keep their child's tutors up-to-date with their latest syllabus information or upcoming exams.

Download today!

5

Keep on top of your child's progress with our teachers' reports.



7

More developments are in the works, so watch this space for more in-depth course content, photographs and functions that allow more parent-teacher-student interaction such as target-setting and award schemes.

6



Track your class fees and finances. Please note that physical receipts will still be issued as definitive statements.

Poetry Competition

It's time to show off your speaking skills and creativity in our Stevenson Term poetry competition!

Simply write a poem on the following theme, and use at least four of the rhyming words on the right. Your poem can be of any form that you like. When you have written it, bring it to i-Learner and perform it for your teacher.

You will then be entered for a prize and will find out if you have won at the start of next year.

Competition Period: **Before 31st December**

THEME: AUTUMN WORD BANK

COLD	GOLD
TREES	BREEZE
BROWN	CROWN
FIRE	HIGHER
LEAF	BRIEF
CLOUD	PROUD



Exam practice

Over the coming weeks, i-Learner will put on exam practice sessions, which can ensure that your hard work in school and i-Learner classes can translate into success in exam papers. These sessions will allow you to practise the key skills required by exams.

Speak to a member of i-Learner staff to sign up for these exam practice sessions now!

Christmas Parties

Christmas time is just around the corner! Come to our festive parties and celebrate this special time of the year with your friends at i-Learner. Our teachers will put on a wide variety of fun and exciting themed events, games and activities, so that you can practise your English in fun and engaging ways.

Our range of Christmas parties are varied for all ages, so don't miss out – speak to an i-Learner member of staff today to sign up today!

