



The K-pop Invasion

DYUTY AURONEE

The first time I listened to K-pop, it was confusing and to an extent, irritating. The lyrics were definitely Hebrew (alright, Korean) and the singing was pretty much of a turn off. The voices sounded nasal and this particular girl band I was listening to tried too hard to sound "cute".

It wasn't the first time I had heard of K-pop though. Two of my friends are die-hard fans of K-pop but whenever there was any mention of this in our conversations, I walked away every single time. I don't know why I held that kind of prejudice or why I haven't tried to actually listen to some before forming a perception. During one of our group presentation preparations, my friend tricked us into listening to this newly released K-pop number. I was a total no-no but somehow the peppy tune had us all feel less sleepy and more energetic. I welcomed the induced productivity.

Later that day, I found myself humming the tune in the shower. I remembered the last bits which were in English and searched for it. It was funky, catchy and sounded happy. I clicked on a few more YouTube suggestions of the same girl group and I knew that my boat had set sail. Sigh. I bugged my friends for more song suggestions and they got me some with smirks, of course and in no time I was suggesting K-pop to other novices. Life.

I have watched this particular video for more than 15 times but all I do is still point out "the girl with the pink hair" as my favourite. My other choices would be "the girl with the glowing shoes" and "the other with the white skirt". Well, these K-pop singers can sing. You obviously knew that but they can dance too and guess what – they sing AND dance at the same time. As much as the music videos seem crazy, there are some enjoyable elements in there. The funky music, the groovy dance steps and the pop of colours in their hair and clothes are unlike anything you have witnessed before.

Most K-pop artists perform in boy bands or girl groups. The ladies look either fiercely independent or mushily adorable, varying across the groups. The boys look ridiculously well-groomed. Long hair, trimmed eyebrows, rosy complexion and add to that a dangerous amount of bromance.

K-pop love is not for the weak-hearted. You must stream their live shows at four in the morning, spend thousands collecting albums, photo books and merchandise, and engage in fandom rivalries. Being a fan of K-pop does not end at the music either. Many fans also have a growing interest in Korean language, lifestyle and television as well.

So, if you need a new obsession, K-pop might just be your thing. As for me, I got commitment issues and this needs more dedication than I signed up for. Sorry.

Dyuty Auronee is an occasional fussy spot who loves her tea and authori-tea. Reach her at dyuty.r@gmail.com.

Pledge Harbor Genius Scholarship

AVAILABLE FOR A'LEVEL STUDENTS

At Pledge Harbor, the only international boarding school in Bangladesh, our mission is to help students reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit and become responsible global citizens. General admission is open from grades 3 to 12. Pledge Harbor International School will grant 5 full scholarships and 15 tuition waivers to geniuses applying to grades 11 and 12.



Find out how to be a PHIS Genius

Find out how to become a Pledge Harbor Genius

Students at PHIS grow as leaders and work together to form a closely-knit community where they establish lifelong friendships and relationships. PHIS is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. The more comprehensive and challenging your studies were in grade 9 and 10, the better prepared you are for the scholarship program.

How Admission Decisions are made

Admission is a two-step process: admission & selection.

Admission

Scholarship applicants must meet PHIS admission requirements. Details are available at: www.pledgeharbor.org

Selection

Students will be selected based on both academic and

nonacademic achievements. Grade 9 & 10 results will play a vital role.

The campus selects its A'level class through an assessment that includes a comprehensive review of your academic performance. Please see below for a detailed list of requirements from applicants:

- GPA of Grade 9 & 10
- Planned courses you intend to take in grade 11
- Mock exam scores of Grade 10
- Honors and awards reflecting extraordinary intellectual or creative achievement
- Contribution to intellectual and cultural activities
- Qualities such as motivation, leadership, concern for others and for the community
- Achievements in performing arts, athletics, personal or employment responsibilities



PLEDGE HARBOR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Admissions Open

Academic year 2015-2016 for Grades 3 to 12

Query +88-01677148663
+88-01935199738

www.pledgeharbor.org

PLEDGE HARBOR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL