

<b>Headline</b>	Did train-the-teacher plan succeed?		
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## *Did train-the-teacher plan succeed?*

**I** REFER to the letter, "It all starts with teachers" (ST, July 16).

In 1999, to remedy the situation, the Government sent about 8,000 teachers to a course to prepare them for a new English syllabus on the teaching of grammar, starting with Primary 1 and 2 and Secondary 1. I wonder what happened to the plan and whether it succeeded or not.

That was a step in the right direction; in order to speak good English our children

should initially be taught the rudiments of the language in primary school.

Perhaps the Government could take a leaf out of the book of the past when, in primary school, we were taught subjects such as English, Spelling, Reading (when we had to individually stand up and read aloud passages from the Reader), Dictation (when we spelt and wrote out passages from the textbook dictated by the teacher) and Recitation

(when we had to memorise and enunciate verses) to strengthen our grounding in the language.

When I was in Anglo-Chinese Secondary School we looked forward to the last half-hour on a Friday set aside for a "Literary Society" period during which, under the chairmanship of the class monitor, two teams debated in parliamentary language on topical subjects.

**LEE KIP LEE**