A GROUP OF students who attended English classes conducted by fellow teenagers over the summer holidays said the lively lessons helped improve their English skills and made them more confident to speak the language.

The month-long peer tutoring programme was organised by Maplewood Education Services and Hon Wah Middle School in Kennedy Town.

Twenty-five Form Four and Form Five students from the school received lessons three times a week from UK-based Hong Kong students or those studying at local international schools.

The Hon Wah students, most of whom are from the mainland, said their English, especially oral skills, had improved and they were more confident speaking the language in public.

They were given written and oral exercises and were only allowed to speak English during lessons.

The volunteers took their teenage counterparts to see the movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and used the popular US Television series Friends as a teaching tool in the classroom.

"Being taught by someone of the same age was interesting and fun," said Andy Tsui Kwok-cheung, a fifth former at Hon Wah.

"The 'teacher' was nice and we learned better in a relaxed and playful environment."

Gabriel Tam Hon-yuen, a Form Four student, and fifth former Shery Cai Fangfang said they benefited greatly from the programme.

"Usually I memorise what the teacher says in class, but don't know how to apply it in real life. Since the student teacher is my age, I was not afraid to ask questions and they shared with us the problems they have faced in their studies," Hon-yuen said.

This was the first time for Jane Lee and Lau Zie-ling from Cheltenham Ladies' College in the UK to work as tutors.

They said teaching was more difficult than they had imagined.

"Sometimes we knew what we wanted to say but didn't know how to explain it," said Jane.

"The Hon Wah students treated us as friends, not teachers, so there wasn't much pressure."

Joanne Chan, a Year 11 student at Queenswood School in England, said: "We have also learned a lot from them. Their English may not be as good as ours, but they are all enthusiastic and want to do better."

Denise Yeung Kin-sie, a teacher at Hon Wah, was grateful for the student volunteers' effort.

"Most of our students are from the mainland or from low-income families. They can't afford tutorial classes," she said.

Maplewood representative, Perry Yu, hopes the programme will expand to cover other schools next summer.

WORLD OF FILMS page 2

MIXED MEDIA WORK ON DISPLAY

An exhibition featuring the mixed media work of four local artists is being staged at the Central MTR station.

With the theme of "Collation", the artists – Tang Ying-chi, Rosanna Li, Francis Yu and Jaffa Lam – use their imagination and interpretation of collation to create installation work through various mediums.

Other than Li's collection of more than 500 red and yellow plastic objects and Tang's fabric world, Lam makes use of aluminium and blue lighting to illustrate different forms of cloud.

Yu uses a toilet bowl to interpret a classical Chinese poem.

The artworks are on display at the Arttube, a mini art gallery located on the mezzanine level of the Central MTR station, near Exit J, until September 27.

Jessie Hui

WATCH OUT FOR CINDERELLA

Cinderella's glass slipper is on display at the Hong Kong Disneyland ticket express located in the MTR Hong Kong station.

The amusement park has also set up an e-mail address for the public to write Cinderella's Prince Charming.

Cinderella may also appear in public and anyone who spots her should take note of the exact time, date and location. Send the information to glass.slipper@hongkongdisneyland.com and Prince Charming will reply with a special message.

The glass slipper is on display until September 9.

The Hong Kong Disneyland ticket express is situated near the Tung Chung Line concourse.

Jessie Hui

JESSIE HUI

2005 PAGE 4 STUDY DREAM

 peer tutoring counterparts a teaching tool grateful can't afford