



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Christmas is coming! A time to spend with friends and family, and share gifts and hospitality. It is also the time for Christians around the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Birthdays are a cause for celebration – a time to gather together, to remember and honour the person celebrating their birthday and a time to give presents. Christ-mas is no exception. A most significant celebration to gather together, to remember the birth of Jesus, and honour Him.

Leading up to Christmas, we also celebrate the end of the school year. Last week, we honoured some of the many student successes at Speech Day and we also farewelled our graduating students, the Class of 2018, at Graduation.

Our Guest of Honour at Speech Day was Professor Simon Tay, an ACS Old Boy, Singaporean law professor, author, graduate of NUS and Harvard, and former Nominated Member of Parliament. Prof Tay told the gathered school community that the years ahead will be much more challenging than the current with much uncertainty in evidence. He cited four reasons to support his assertion – the changing geopolitical alliances with the demise of the stable era of USA dominance; the new spirit of populism which is dividing nations; changing impact of technology as seen with AI (Artificial Intelligence) and social media; and the scourge of climate change. He balanced this uncertain future with two significant positives – the rising star of ASEAN countries with the prospect of internationalism to counter nationalism, and the huge potential of education to shape the future through a focus on 21st century skills as well as knowledge.

Ms Elim Chew, founder of 77th Street retail chain, a Singapore Businesswoman of the Year, change maker and social entrepreneur was a dynamic speaker at the Year 6 Graduation ceremony. Using examples from her experience, she exhorted the audience to “do well and do good”; to go find opportunities and grab hold of them, and be ready to spend 10,000 hours (quoting Malcolm Gladwell) to become expert. “The clock is ticking, start now,” she said.

For students, they now have the holidays to ponder on both speakers’ words of wisdom. Then, for many, to return to school in January 2019 to lay hold of the opportunities available to them. In the meantime, a time to rest, regenerate, spend time with friends and family and share presents as Christmas awaits.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing holiday with friends and family, a Merry Christmas remembering the reason-for-the-season, and we look forward to another great year in 2019.

Best Wishes

Rob Burrough
Principal

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- Inter-School ‘A’ Division Staff Football Cup
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- Upcoming Events

*“May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 15:13



CHRISTIAN MINISTRY NEWS

On 8 November, Christian Fellowship held its final meeting for the year in the form of an outing. Our students enjoyed a session of bowling at Chevrons after their rigorous end-of-year examinations.



Holland Village Methodist Church also organised its annual Thanksgiving Tea on 14 November to show its appreciation to the staff of ACS (International) for their work done during the year. It was held at the Student Centre after the Tug of War competition.

We congratulate our CFers who received awards at Speech Day on 16 November.

STAFF NEWS

At the end of the year, we farewell the following staff:

- Miss Linda Lauv – Assistant HoF English – returning home to NZ to be closer to family;
- Ms Amy Byrne – Chemistry – also returning home to Australia for family reasons;
- Ms Joy Lim – ESOL – health reasons;
- Mrs Lincy Rainald – IT Administrator – promotion to another role; and
- Mrs Rebecca Mok – founding HoF English and currently ToK Coordinator – who is retiring after a life time of service to education in Singapore. Mrs Mok was formerly a JC Principal and a Director at the Ministry of Education.
- Two staff – Ms Ee Mein Sia and Ms Stacey Low – are taking sabbatical leave for 2019.

We thank each one of the above staff members for their strong contribution to ACS (International) and our students, and we wish them well for the future.

New staff appointments will be announced in the first newsletter of the New Year.





Attendance at International Conferences

ACS (International) was represented by Mrs Rita Kaur, Head of Higher Education and Careers, at the following conferences in November:

The University of Cambridge International Guidance Counsellor's Conference 2018 was held from 4 to 6 November. Mrs Kaur, the only counsellor selected from Singapore schools, had the opportunity to find out more about the following:

- Learn about the admissions process and the selection criteria of admissions staff
- Attend a mock interview
- Take part in, or watch, a supervision
- Attend a formal dinner at one of the Colleges
- Visit some of the University Colleges and departments
- Explore the city of Cambridge



The Council of International School (CIS) Global Forum on International Admission & Guidance Conference was held from 7 to 9 November, in Vienna, Austria. Annually, more than 770 professionals from around the world gather to develop professional connections and discuss crucial industry topics.

The CIS Global Forum hosted over 40 sessions which ranged from country/regional updates, to tips, trends, best practices, and other professional development topics within the international admissions and guidance arena. In addition, the school fair that was held on the CIS facility gave school counsellors from international schools the opportunity to host and present their schools to the university admissions and recruitment audience. Each counsellor was provided with a table booth to showcase their respective schools. During the school fair, university admissions representatives interacted with a variety of schools to network with guidance counsellors, learn about the school curricula and share their admissions process in more detail. Dulwich College, Singapore American School, SJI (International), UWC South East Asia were among the other Singapore schools represented by their guidance counsellors.

The Council of International Schools (CIS) is a membership community committed to high-quality international education.





PRIZE WINNERS

The following students were awarded prizes at Speech Day and/or Graduation:

Speech Day Winners

Year 1

English Language
Second Language (Higher)
Second Language
Foreign Language and Intergrated Humanities
Art
Drama
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education (Boy)
Physical Education (Girl)
Most Progress Award in 1-Bridging
Best Overall Academic Performance Award in 1-Bridging
Most Progress Award
Science and Best Overall Academic Performance Award

Ramesh Chander Samstheetha Masuvathi
Shi Yutong
Rachel Lee May Ann
Bagas Pambudi Tjahowidodo
Myra Ho Meiyun
Nanditha Vithanala
Ethelyn Huang Meici
Ajay Karthikeyan
Chang Jiechang Cameron
Soong Jae Shien
Zhong Shuwen
Sun Meichen
Jareth Tan Ding Sheng
Ethelyn Huang Meici

Year 4

First language English
English as a Second Language and Mathematics
Mother Tongue (Higher)
Foreign Language
Business Studies
History and ACS (International) Internal IB Scholarship 2018
Art
Music
IGCSE Drama
IGCSE Physical Education
Physical Education (Boy)
Physical Education (Girl)
Most Progress Award in Pre-IB
Best Overall Academic Performance Award in Pre-IB
Most Progress Award in FIB
Best Overall Academic Performance Award in FIB
Most Progress Award
ACS (International) Internal IB Scholarship 2018
Literature (English), Second Language and
ACS (International) Internal IB Scholarship 2018
Economics and ACS (International) Internal IB Scholarship 2018
Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Additional Mathematics,
Best Overall Academic Performance and Oldham Scholarship

Jaelle Khoo Jia Yi
Shu Luoandi
Wang Ruiming
Park Hyunjin
S. Shantosh
Ayushi Lahiry
Pichsinee Pitikusuntisook
Zheng Hanyu
Renee Ng Lei Ni
Tarquin Loh
Bryan Yap
Mehar Taneja
Chen Hung Chun
Chang Tun-Min
Yang Jiwon
Yuka Nakamura
Koh Shan Chun
Hannah Kek
Megan Man
Nicole Tan Jia Ying
Chen Yili

Year 2

English Literature
English Language
Second Language (Higher)
Second Language
Foreign Language
History
Religious Studies and Art
Science
Mathematics
Drama
Music
Physical Education (Boy)
Physical Education (Girl)
Most Progress Award in Pre-IGCSE
Best Overall Academic Performance Award in Pre-IGCSE
Most Progress Award
Geography and Best Overall Academic Performance Award

Wong Zhi Xiong
Johnathan Bill
Zheng Jiayi
Joschka Flynn Kalisch
Moon Eunyeong
Wong Zhi Xiong
Tan Cae Lyn
Christian Sim Ching Xiang
Qian Yuting
Natanya Abigail Mandagi
Emmanuel Quintis Carter
Lim Yong Tai Louis
Aiko Yokota
Xu Xinwen
Rong Yanhan
Ryon Chan
Moon Eunyeong

Year 5

Theory of Knowledge (Chinese)
Language and Literature (English)
Literature (other languages)
English B
Language B HL
Language B SL
Language Ab Initio
Economics
Business Management
Geography and Biology
History
Sports, Exercise and Health Science and Visual Arts
Psychology HL
Mathematics HL
Mathematics SL
Language and Literature (Chinese) and Music
Theatre
Most Progress Award
Theory of Knowledge (English), Chemistry, Physics and
Best Overall Academic Performance Award

Tian Yingzhen
Joshua Robinson
Lee Seunghyun
Han Seungmin
Amanda Ong Si Ying
Sim Si Leng
Priyanka Kaur
Avi Tripathi
Muzainy Shahiefisally
Sarah Darmawan
Wong Chia Yun
Amelia Lynge
Virawin Hanratanakool
Zhang Ruiyang
Sunny Singh
Chen Xingyu
Zeng Hongli
Wang Zhuoyu
Gautam Ramasamy

Year 3

First language English, Second Language and Music
Literature (English) and Foreign Language
English as a Second Language
Mother Tongue (Higher)
Business Studies
Economics
Global Perspectives and Biology
History
Chemistry
Physics and Additional Mathematics
Mathematics
Art
IGCSE Drama
IGCSE Physical Education
Physical Education (Boy)
Physical Education (Girl)
Most Progress Award
Geography and Best Overall Academic Performance Award

Jarell Tang Zhi Xian
Daning Dyah Savitri Tjahowidodo
Pham Thao Chi
Sun Yu
Manya Nahata
Swareena Jain
Lucas Zachary Leong Joe-Yii
Chantel Thora Chesney
Ronak Sanan
Justin Cheng Ming Hearn
Rupert Chia Fui
Natalie Chew Jiaxian
Nadya Zahra Amir
Yasmin Darawulla
Jin Kawaso
Charlotte Chang
Lee Yen Xin
Cheng Xirui





Year 6 Graduation



Theory of Knowledge (English)	Abigail Louise Tan	SVM
Theory of Knowledge (Chinese)	Chen Kangan	LSG
Languages and Literature (English)	Teo Kai Hui	TKK
Languages and Literature (Chinese)	Zhang Yutong	THO
Literature (Other Languages)	Kim Seongeun	CKS
Language B	Rachel Pang Wen Hui	CKS
English B	Chen Kangan	LSG
Languages Ab Initio SL	Jessica Thia Rui Ping	THO
Economics	Lim Si Min Grace	CKS
Business and Management	Yang Tze-Te	OLD
Geography	Goh Teng Wee	TKK
History	Teo Kai Hui	TKK
Biology	Yang Tze-Te	OLD
Chemistry	Yang Tze-Te	OLD
Physics	Russell Scott Indradjaja	THO
Sports, Exercise and Health Science	Sophie Anne Fung Li-Wen	GHK
Psychology	Alicia May Aliandy	TKK
Mathematics HL	Chen Kangan	LSG
Mathematics SL	Chen Jiashu	TKK
Music	Shawnia Seah Jia Min	TCT
Visual Arts	Vitoria Tan Yue Ni	OLD
Theatre	Xander Jay Xian Pang	GHK
Most Progress Award	Jansher Singh	CKS
Best Overall Academic Performance Award	Chen Kangan	LSG



Leadership Colour Awards

GOLD

Clarisse Jia-Yi Lim
Ayushi Lahiry
Hannah Kek Yi Hui
Xiong Jianan
Tan Zhi Yi Rachel
Riya Sanjeev
Tan Jia Ying Nicolle
Mehar Taneja
Cheng Jin Mark

SILVER

Emily Elizabeth Kriebisch
Ho Tze Xun Charmaine
Megan Man
Nicole Chung Mae Sze
Tan Shu Ai
Zhao Chenfan
Lu Pei Han

BRONZE

Larissa Chan Mei Huen
Joie Chin Le
Judith Ann Ho Han Lin
Kim Jung Eun
Cai Linshan
Jolene Lee Wen Xi
Choo Wei Yee Michelle
Park Hyunjin
Ui Ogino
Vansh Romesh Goel

CCA Awards

Group Achievement Award in the Arts
Group Merit Award in the Arts
Individual Achievement Award in the Arts
Individual Merit Award in the Arts

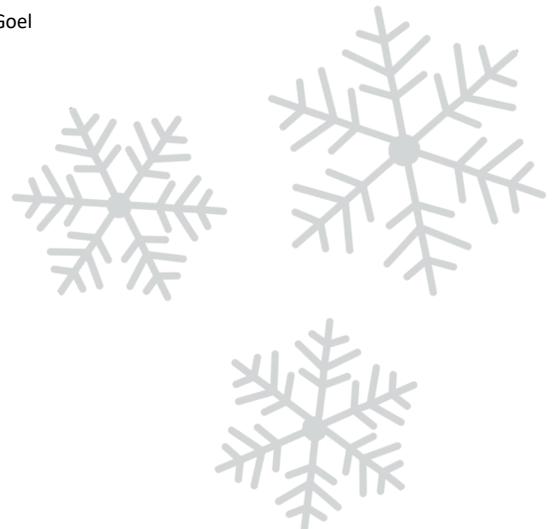
Philharmonic Orchestra
The Drama Club (Trojan Women cast)
Chen Zai Shane Matthew
Xiong Jianan

Group Achievement Award in Interest Groups
Group Merit Award in Interest Groups
Individual Achievement Award in Interest Groups
Individual Merit Award in Interest Groups

Interact Club
Robotics
Lorraine Chia – Creative Directions
John Matthew Yuen – Science

Team Achievement Award in Sports
Team Merit Award in Sports
Individual Achievement Award in Sports
Individual Merit Award in Sports

16U Girls Volleyball A Team
14U Girls Basketball Team
Madeline Lye
Dhaneisha Jethnani





NOTICES

Progression 2019

Letters regarding Progression or Non-Progression 2019 have been sent directly to parents over the past two weeks. If parents do not receive a letter from the school, they may assume that their son / daughter is progressing to the next year level in 2019.

Transcripts and Testimonials

Due to the school holidays, the issuing of late transcripts and testimonials has now closed for the year.

Pupil and Parent Portals

The Pupil and Parent portals are now closed to facilitate changes in classes and setting up of the timetable for 2019. The portals will be open again around 28 or 29 December when the draft timetable is available. Meanwhile, if parents encounter any problems accessing the reports for 2018, please send an email to choongkiat.chia@acsinternational.edu.sg

MacBook Special Discount for Students

ACS (International) has made an arrangement with its preferred Apple Premium reseller to offer a special discount to all our students who order the MacBook through this link: <https://academic.com.sg/collections/acs>

Office Holiday Hours

Please take note that during the holiday period from 26 November to 28 December, the General Office will be open from 9am to 4pm.

The General Office will be closed from 12noon on 21 December through to 25 December. Business as usual from 26 December, 9am to 4pm. On 31 December, the General Office is open from 9am to 5:30pm, with normal office hours 7:30am to 5:30pm operating from 2 January 2019.

Sale of Books and Uniform and Cut-Off Date for Formal Wear Orders

All students are to take note of the information as follows:

Popular Bookstore

Books

Date	Business Hours	Venue
17-21 December 2018 26-28 December 2018 2 January 2019	Mondays to Fridays 9am-4pm [Closed on 24 and 31 December 2018, Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays]	School Bookshop

Bibi&Baba Pte Ltd

Uniform

Student Year	Date	Business Hours	Venue
All Years	2 January 2019	10am-3pm	Outside School Bookshop
Year 1	3 and 4 January 2019	10am-4pm	
Years 2 to 6	7 and 21 January 2019	10am-4pm	

Formal Wear (Compulsory for Founder's Day on 1 March 2019)

Last Order Date	Delivery Date	Contact Details
13 January 2019	26 and 27 February 2019	Sandy/Pauline 6271 9248

Booklist 2019

Booklists for all students have been published on the school website: <http://www.acsinternational.edu.sg/booklist+2019>





Student Start Times 2019

All new students are required to be in school from the following dates at the times stated:

Term 1

Years 1 – 4:

Wednesday 2 January 2019 *Pre-Orientation Admission Process*

9am to 5pm: *Admissions finalisation including fees, administration, subject choices, language options and any other matters to be completed and ready for formal welcome on 3 January 2019.*

Thursday 3 January 2019 *Orientation I Day 1 (Report at Oldham Chapel)*

9:00am: *New students and parents meet in Chapel for Principal's Welcome followed by New Parents Morning Tea with SLT and Admissions.*

9:30am to 3:30pm: *Orientation I Day 1*

3:30pm to 5pm: *Divisional Coordinators (DCs) available for subject adjustments.*

Friday 4 January 2019 *Orientation I Day 2*

8:30am to 9pm: *New student and parents bonfire BBQ with SLT & Housemasters/mistresses (HsMs) from 6pm.*

Monday 7 January 2019 *Term 1 School Starts*

9am: *Full school assembly in Sports Hall for all students in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6.*

9:45am to 11am: *Tutor meetings for distribution of timetable, checking of iSAMS details, ice breaker games, goal setting, etc.*

11am: *Students with subject and timetable issues to see DCs, SLT, IB Coordinator (IBC), etc. All students on Monitoring meet DCs/IBC. Year 6 High Achievers group meet with Mrs Tan. Other students are released from school.*

Tuesday 8 January 2019 *Term 1 Lesson Starts*

8am: *House Meetings*

8:45am: *Period 1 begins, followed by regular timetable.*

Year 5

Thursday 17 January and Friday 18 January 2019 *Pre-Orientation Admission Process*

9am to 4pm: *All returning students enrolling for Year 5 IBDP must confirm their subjects in person with either Ms Ling, Mrs Tan or Ms Alka Hingle. Introduction to IB, ToK, CAS, Managebac.*

Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January 2019 *Orientation II and IBDP Induction*

9am: *All students report at Chapel for Welcome and start of IB Induction. Orientation II and subject option consultation with senior teachers.*

Wednesday 23 January 2019 *Term 1 Lessons Start for Year 5*

8am: *School Assembly*

8:45am: *Period 1 begins, followed by regular timetable.*

Note: Popular Bookshop and Bibi&Baba are on site for book and uniform sales respectively on 2, 3, 4, 7 and 21 January.





2019 Calendar and Term Dates

The school and public holidays calendar for 2019 is appended for your reference.

2019	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F					
Jan		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
Feb					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	
Mar					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
Apr	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30			
May			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31
June	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28					
July	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
Aug				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
Sept	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				
Oct		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
Nov					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
Dec	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			

School holidays	
Public holidays	
Teacher Only Days	New Student Orientation
Monday 7 January: Course Confirmation. All students except Yr 5	
Compulsory attendance 9.00am start	
Lessons begin for all classes except Yr 5	
Orientation for Year 5 begins	
Activities, Camps and Specialist Senior Academic Programmes	
No classes; Yr 4 & 6 Prelims Only & Faculty CPD	
Final School Day for Yrs 1 - 5 & Speech Day Prize Giving	
Teacher Only Days	
Year 6 Graduation	

Singapore Public Holidays 2019	
New Year's Day	Tuesday 1 January
Chinese New Year	Tuesday 5 February
	Wednesday 6 February
Good Friday	Friday 19 April
Labour Day	Wednesday 1 May
Vesak Day*	Sunday 19 May
Hari Raya Puasa	Wednesday 5 June
National Day	Friday 9 August
Hari Raya Haji	Monday 12 August
Deepavali*	Sunday 27 October
Christmas Day	Wednesday 25 December
(* Monday of the following day is designated a public holiday)	

House Standings

The table below summarises the Inter-House competition for 2018. Special congratulations to CKS on their successes.

Sports		Rank	Aesthetics		Rank	Academic		Rank	Overall	Rank Points	Place
CKS	42	1	OLD	24	1	CKS	30	1	CKS	7	1
THO	35.5	2	TCT	19.5	2	GHK	28	2	OLD	9	2
TKK	33.5	3	GHK	18.5	3	OLD	21	3	GHK	12	3
LSG	25	4	SVM	17.5	4	SVM	19	4	SVM	14	4
OLD	23.5	5	CKS	17	5	TCT	15	5	TCT	14	4
SVM	20.5	6	THO	16.5	6	THO	14	6	THO	14	4
GHK	18	7	LSG	16	7	TKK	12	7	TKK	18	7
TCT	18	7	TKK	15	8	LSG	5	8	LSG	19	8





Adventure/Service Camps 2019

In the last week of Term 1, ACS (International) will be offering four different camps to students in Years 1 to 3, Pre IGCSE, Foundation IB and Pre IB. This replaces the traditional end-of-year camps. Years 4 to 6 will be undertaking Academic Camps during this time. The details of the compulsory adventure/ service camps are as follows:

OBJECTIVES

- To provide an opportunity to **have fun** with friends and try new activities
- To provide students with experience of outdoor education and community service
- To develop a sense of independence, self-confidence, bravery and achievement
- To enhance problem-solving skills
- To prepare students with skills to complete the NYAA
- To enhance a greater sense of community and relationship building between students, and between students and teachers

Year 1

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
Singapore (inbound)	6–8 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock climbing • Star Wars’ Saber dueling experience • Fishing session • Exploration at Coney Island/Southern Ridges • Amazing race • Ice skating 	S\$390





Year 2 and Pre IGCSE

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
<p>Telunas Resort, Sugi Island, Indonesia Located in a secluded cove surrounded by jungle and sea. 1 hour to Batam, 1.5 hours to Sugi Island.</p>	<p>5–8 March 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raft building • Low ropes and team building activities • Pottery • Jungle hike/waterfall • Shrimping • Community service/village tour • Pizza/movie by the beach/ bonfire • Deck jumping 	<p>S\$560</p>





Year 3, Foundation IB and Pre IB

OPTION 1

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
Tioman Island, Malaysia	5–8 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim test/ice breakers • Snorkelling • Service learning: Juara Turtle project and Suka suka farm – agricultural project • Kayaking • Camp dinner/beach party • Jetty jump • Waterfall and rainforest trek • Coco house 	S\$820





OPTION 2

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
Cameron Highlands, Malaysia	5–8 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping • Trekking • Kayaking • Camp dinner • White water rafting 	S\$810



Reminders:

- ▶ **Any student who needs a visa must obtain one at their own cost**
- ▶ Please make sure you are holding a passport with a validity date for more than 6 months from the arrival date.
- ▶ Consent forms are to be handed in to the General Office by **10 January 2019**.
- ▶ Year 3 STUDENTS: State your first and second choices. Note that each camp option has a cap/maximum number of students who can go. **'First come first serve'** basis.
- ▶ Camp fees are included in the school fees; so there is no need for separate payment.





STUDENT SUCCESSES

“Conscious Bins” Campaign by Julie Park

As part of the Interact Club’s efforts to focus more on environmental conservation, Head Girl Julie Park embarked on a school-wide passion project – “Conscious Bins” – to encourage all students in our school to play an active role in paper recycling.

Her “Conscious Bins” campaign was selected for the FINAL round of the **Green Wave Environment Care Competition 2018**, a nation-wide competition organised by Sembcorp Marine (one of Singapore’s biggest waste management companies).

Julie gave a phenomenal presentation at the finals, presenting in a very formal, board room setting with a panel of eight judges from professional bodies such as the Singapore Environment Council, Nanyang Technological University, Ministry of Education, the Public Utilities Board, BP Shipping and Sembcorp itself.

The judges were very impressed by Julie’s confidence and conviction during her presentation, and noted that she was the **only** individual presenter. All the other 15 schools in the JC/ITE category sent a team of about 4-5 students each.

Julie even managed to get all the judges up on their feet to take a closer look at her “Conscious Bin”!

Results of the competition would be released in mid December. Stay tuned!





EVENTS

Japan 2018 CAS Trip

Over the September holidays, a group of 23 Year 5 students and three teachers visited Yokohama, Japan, on an exchange programme from 3 to 12 September.

The day after we arrived, we made our way to our sister school, Yamate Gakuin and followed our buddies and their parents to their homes. Most of us took the train back with the families, and reached their homes after an hour or so.

The homestay was a unique experience for all of us. Many shared the same sentiments that the home-cooked Japanese meals were delectable, and the families treated us with utmost hospitality; an experience which we are eternally grateful for. Everything about the host families that we stayed with had exceeded our expectations, as none of us could have expected that level of warmth, care and consideration that they had put in for us.



During the few days at Yamate Gakuin, we sat in a variety of classes with our buddies and observed how typical lessons were conducted. Most of us had one lesson of the day in which our buddies and their classmates showcased different aspects of Japanese culture. We did activities such as simply folding origami cranes to playing with a Japanese toy called the “Kendama”, as well as calligraphy and other card games. Watching Japanese television series and reading about their culture didn’t even hold a candle to the amount of pure warmth and welcome we felt whilst on our trip. Kindness was repaid with nothing but the same and they wholeheartedly accepted us, trying to teach us about their culture and traditions to the best of their ability. Not to mention, we also attended two of four Clubs each, namely: Karate, Kendo, Koto, and Japanese tea appreciation.

Furthermore, we participated in several service activities including teaching English to the students at Yamate Gakuin, teaching English to children at the local kindergarten and going to an elderly care home. Even though our buddies and their classmates at Yamate Gakuin knew basic English language and conversation skills, many of them lacked the confidence to speak it and communicate using English. So when we taught them English words, phrases and idioms, it was a challenge to get all of them to willingly participate in the activities. However, after they saw some classmates reply and get correct answers, they were more eager to answer the questions.

As for the kindergarten children, it was somewhat intriguing to teach them English as their level of English was actually at a higher standard than our Japanese! So it was quite a comical sight when we were trying to understand what they were saying and vice versa; but with a few sentences translated by their teacher and a few signals, we were able to teach them a little bit of English.



At the elderly care home, the only challenge – similar to at the kindergarten – was the language barrier between us and the elderly. But as we began to play cards and *Jenga* with them, it didn’t matter anymore whether we understood what each of us was speaking. As we explained to them how the games were played through sign language and made gestures to communicate, it surprisingly went smoothly as we tried our hardest to understand what the other was saying. By the time we had to leave, we were reluctant to go and our goodbyes were said along with hugs and sad smiles.

However, having all of these memorable moments was nothing if we couldn’t share it with our buddies and talk about our time spent outside the school. This allowed us to create a strong connection and friendship with our buddies and when the week was almost over, we already had jokes and memories that we shared together to always remember each other by.

Our last day at Yamate Gakuin saw many of us bid tearful farewells to our buddies and their friends that we got to know in the short week that we’d spent with them.

We were fortunate enough to have had the experiences of visiting shrines, local landmarks and do some shopping during our time in Japan. However, we realised at the end of the trip that the most memorable part of it all was the time we spent with our buddies and the everlasting bond which we now share with them.

Overall, I would say that the best thing about this trip was that it enabled us to make new friends in Japan and keep in close contact with them and their families. Overall, experiencing Japan from the perspective of a native Japanese was an enriching and unique experience – one which we can all agree on that we wouldn’t trade for any other experience we would ever be offered.

Nikita Pateloo, 5 SVM





TKK Charity

TKK joined the Children’s Charities Association at its annual fair on 3 November at the Civic Plaza outside Ngee Ann City. The theme for this year was “Walk An Extra Mile with Me”.

A game booth was designed and made by students of TKK House and we manned the booth from 9am to 4:30pm. Parents, colleagues and students visited us. Our booth was one of the most popular booths at the fair, and we won a prize for being one of the best decorated booths!

It was a great experience for both staff and students involved, and we learnt about the less fortunate in our community as we humbled our hearts to serve. Besides the game booth, we helped the Children’s Charities Association sell toys and clothes too. Altogether, we raised about \$800.

Together with my classmates, I helped to decorate the game booth. I painted on a canvas, and it was a fun and enjoyable experience. I would definitely want to do it again if I have the chance to.

This is a meaningful opportunity to represent TKK in a very positive way. I learnt a lot through the process, from helping to design the canvas to helping out at the booth on the actual day. Although it was very tiring, it was still very exciting. Many people were very supportive, and students from our school came to support us and they were very encouraging. I have had a very fun time with my friends who helped out too. Volunteering is like a way of giving back and I have learnt to be grateful for everything I have and not to take things for granted. It’s a very rewarding experience.

Alyssa Kastono Ahadi, 1 TKK, House Prefect



Visit to Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition

On 11 October, eight of us from Chinese Calligraphy CCA visited a teacher-student Chinese Calligraphy exhibition organised and presented by our tutor, Mr Phang Weng Kiong at Visual Arts Centre (Exhibition Gallery). He is the President of the Molan Art Association, as well as a famous Chinese artist and calligrapher in Singapore. A rich variety of teachers’ and students’ artworks were exhibited, from calligraphy and paintings to seal carving.



The visit was an eye-opening experience in which we appreciated the magnificent and unique works by Mr Phang and his students. We could see the countless effort and time they put in to present such amazing works. We were delighted to receive a collection book with all the artworks that were exhibited.



Having been guided and supported by Mr Phang, we explored the spectacular Chinese calligraphy world which we had never seen before. All of us were deeply inspired and motivated, and we look forward to presenting great works at our next exhibition.

Wang Luying, 6 SVM





Year 1 Integrated Humanities Learning Activities

As part of skills acquisition for Integrated Humanities (Religious Studies, History and Geography), 122 students in Classes 1V, W, X, Y and Z have been guided by their teachers (Mr Chang, Ms Kirby, Ms Austin and Ms Ho) in acquiring skills for the subjects in Year 2 and beyond. Learning activities included aspects of National Education, the IB Profile and the introduction of the IB Regulations of being honest content creators. Ms Many and the Library staff supported with helpful suggestions about available resources and the usage of work terminals.

These sessions are more challenging for those who need additional guidance in following instructions, learning to make presentations and vocalising reflections of their experiences.

Students gave feedback that they enjoyed such sessions and would like to have more of these in Year 2.

The photos below show some of the trips/activities they have made/participated in.



Role-playing the traders in Temasek who were bartering goods



Collaborating to summarise and create a mindmap



Self-directed learning at the Singapore Maritime Gallery (Former Ford Factory Museum)



Trying out a handpump that extracted well water during the Occupation of Singapore (Former Ford Factory Museum)



Reflecting and communicating the experience after visiting the Singapore Maritime Gallery





End-of-Year Activities Week 2018

On 12 and 13 November, students from all our eight Houses participated in a range of service learning activities at the Bukit Timah Saddle Club, Ground-Up Initiative Sustainability Campus and Habitat for Humanity.

A fun House Walk was also organised by the Housemasters/mistresses for students to build on their House spirit and strengthen their camaraderie with their peers as the year comes to a close.

Here are some highlights from our students' experiences:

On Monday, Oldham and Thoburn Houses went to Hort Park for a 4km walk. We started off by taking a bus to Hort Park and doing lots of challenges with our assigned teams. It was a great way to get closer and bond with other students from other years.

Anika Mahtani, 1 Oldham

The guides at the Ground-Up Initiative Sustainability Campus educated us on the conservation of the environment that we live in. They told us what we could do to help – by reflecting on what we have been doing right and to continue doing them, and what we have been doing wrong so that we can change that habit such as throwing rubbish on the floor. They were so serious about conservation that when we were eating bananas, they asked us to put the banana peels in a pot so they can use it to nourish the plants with nutrients as they are biodegradable. It was a very fun yet tiring trip due to the weeding, but I would still recommend this trip for the next batch of Year 1s.

Arvind Ramesh, 1 TCT

At the Bukit Timah Saddle Club, it was the first time that I was around horses. I was a little bit nervous but it was a very exciting experience! The horses were extremely friendly and I could see that they also enjoyed having people visit them. I could see a lot of students getting used to the horses and even petting some of them. My favorite part was grooming the horses because we used brushes and actually got to clean them to make them more comfortable. It was a like giving them a massage!

Lee Jaeyun, 3 LSG

Overall, I believe that the walk to the Botanic Gardens was a success, as we all learnt about the importance of nature, one plant at a time, one story at a time and one eco-system at a time.

Alexander Chi-Long Kuffel, 1 TCT

I would love to return back to the Ground-Up Sustainability Campus with my family and show them all the meaningful things that I have learnt today.

Vivian Hu Xin Hui, 3 TCT







Speech Day, Graduation and Prom

Years 1–5 Speech Day, Year 6 Graduation and Year 6 Prom represent the culmination of the school year and enable some of the many student successes to be acknowledged. As well as presenting prizes, the ceremonies feature student performances and student speeches, alongside speeches by the Principal and Guest of Honour.



This year, the Guests of Honour were Prof Simon Tay (Speech Day) and Ms Elim Chew (Graduation). The evening following Graduation, the Year 5 Student Council hosted the Prom for the graduating students. This year, Prom had a masquerade theme and was held at the Carlton Hotel. Students in their formal gowns and suits enjoyed dinner, a photo summary of the students over their 6 years, some games and prizes, learnt a sequence dance led by Mr Burrough and finished with some dancing.





Inter-School 'A' Division Staff Football Cup

Congratulations to our staff football team for retaining the Inter-School 'A' Division Staff Football Cup. This is our third victory in four years and the first time any school has won back-to-back titles.

16 teams competed for this year's title. The tournament was scheduled for Wednesday, 10 October, but was suspended part way through due to bad weather. The teams re-convened on Saturday, 3 November, for a football carnival morning. This tournament was made up of staff teams from the various MOE IP, IB and 'A' level schools.



Front row (L to R):
Mr Rajan, Mr Francis Bell, Mr Gavin Kinch & Mr Leong Zhicheng

Back row (L to R):
Mr Billy Molloy, Mr Lee Scurr, Mr Peter Thompson & Mr Gregory Goh
Not in photo: Mr Mike Patterson



PSP NEWS

Study Nights

This year's Study Nights ran every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 October through to 13 November. Students were treated to a wide variety of food for dinner generously provided by parents/guardians. We had chicken rice, pizza, *nasi briyani*, *nasi lemak*, Japanese bentos and Korean bibimbap to name a few. It was heartening to see the students enjoying their dinner with their friends and teachers, discussing about their examinations and sharing a few laughs. PSP would like to thank the following parents who ordered, *ta-pau'd*, cooked, baked for Study Nights and kept an endless supply of snacks in the library:

Kan Pau Kim
Yvonne Tan
Larisa Nagra Singh
Josephine Oei
Alysia Ling
Jessica Hung
Sophia Kan
Angelina Fung
Anna Xu
Beena Haji
Debra Leong





HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

BridgeU

Great News! Our Year 5 cohort has access to a brand new online application portal for a comprehensive university and careers guidance. Students were given access to the online platform during the last week of school. Some of the important functions of this platform are listed below:

- Research on university and career choices
- Write excellent personal statements and essays
- Thorough research on university courses
- Build a personal skill development plan for applications

Students also have access to careers tool, university matcher, personal brand building and subject choices under the same platform.

For more information on BridgeU, visit <https://bridge-u.com/>



Higher Education Outside-of-School Events

Happenings and Events by SUTD

November and December

All events and happenings by SUTD

@ <https://www.sutd.edu.sg/About-Us/News-and-Events/Events>

Yale-NUS Open House 2018

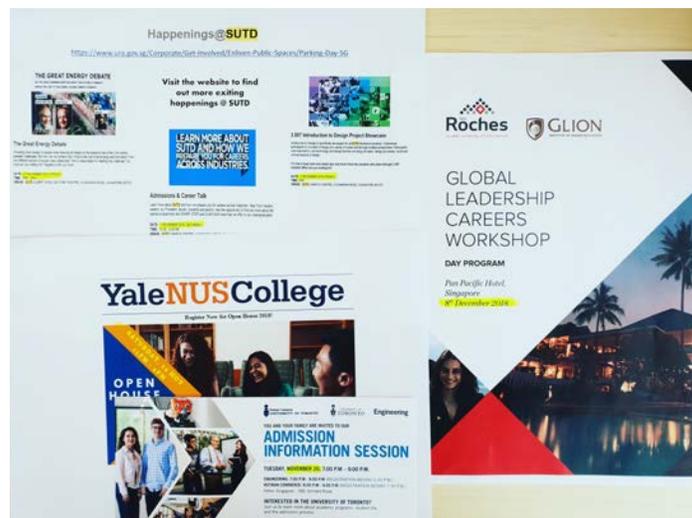
24 November

Registration @ <https://apply.yale-nus.edu.sg/register/OpenHouse2018>

Global Leadership Careers Workshop by Les Roches and Glion

8 December

Email registration @ vicky.truong@sommet-education.com





UPCOMING EVENTS

Few Places Left! Sign Up Today!



ACS (International) is excited to announce the launch of a new trip for Years 1-4

The trip, known as "From Space to Sea", comprises two phases – Space and Sea. It will be held in Florida, USA, from 25 May 2019 to 6 June 2019.

The *Space* phase develops Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills in students as they attend Nasa's Space Camp. Students will spend three days at Kennedy Space Centre, close to Cape Canaveral, where they are encouraged to pursue STEM skills through exciting educational adventures that cannot be found anywhere else. They will experience, imagine and interact using brand-new immersive simulators in the new Astronaut Training Experience Center, tour Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, and solve everyday challenges faced by astronauts. This programme is inspiring, educational and fun – with enriching space-related activities that will help develop the student's scientific understanding.

The *Sea* phase focuses on ecology, allowing students to explore and interact with unique aquatic environment found in Florida. Students will tour the Everglades to understand the flora and fauna that make up that ecosystem, explore tropical waters to see the variety of life in coastal areas, and experience the Atlantic Ocean to better understand the way oceans work. They will see world-class exhibits of manatees, sea turtles, penguins and rays. They will also learn about wildlife rescue and marine animal care at the Conservation Outpost.

To view the detailed itinerary please follow the link below:

Itinerary: tinyurl.com/ACSFloridaTripInformation
 Promotional Powerpoint: tinyurl.com/ACSFloridaTripPromo

If you are interested in your child attending this trip it is essential that you complete the *Registration of Interest Form* as places are limited:

Registration of Interest Form: tinyurl.com/FloridaTrip2019Registration

If you have any questions about the trip you can contact gavin.kinch@acsinternational.edu.sg

