



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for Term 3. The beginning of the term has started with the usual two-day staff training days, the orientation of new students and our annual Years 4 and 6 Prelim Examinations.

A special warm welcome to the 65 new students who have joined us from Singapore, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong and the USA; and to the short-stay students on exchange from Taiwan and Japan. A special welcome to students on the annual exchange from Yamate Gakuin. In August, we will welcome a Korean short-stay programme. We welcome all new students and their parents to the ACS family and wish you every success during your time with us.

On Thursday, 5 July, we hosted 24 Vice Principals from Korea who are investigating a possible implementation of IB programmes.

Six very successful overseas trips were completed over the holidays. Students on the Year 5 CAS trips to Southern Africa, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos; the Years 4 to 6 University / Business Studies trip to the United Kingdom and Europe; and the Years 1 to 4 trip to the US. All participants returned with many different and varied experiences, and the staff were very complimentary about the behaviour, enjoyment and appreciation shown by the students.

During the first two days of this term, all teachers became full-time students for two days of professional development. One day was spent looking at Approaches to Learning (to strengthen the academic programme) and one day on Restorative Practices (to strengthen our pastoral care programme).

The Approaches to Learning is a key focus of all IB programmes. It is a skills-based initiative with particular emphasis on thinking, communication, social, self-management and research skills. It recognises that jobs of the future will be skills based rather than purely content based, and it helps provide students with tools and strategies to assist with effort and strategies for learning. Teaching of skills needs to be both explicit and sustained.

Restorative practices include key strategies for resolving conflict and restoring relationships. Strong relationships are at the heart of a healthy school, and with 1,030 teenagers there will be issues which require managing and resolving!

We wish every student the very best in all their endeavours during this term. The following verse from Philippians 4:8 is most apt – “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

**Rob Burrough**



July 2018

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Staff News
- Notices
- 2018 SEA Age Group Swimming Championship
- CAS Trips
  - Cambodia
  - Laos
  - Vietnam
  - Zimbabwe
- Pre U Seminar
- Korean VPs' Visit
- Upcoming Events

**DID YOU KNOW ?**

The brand Nokia is named after a place in Southern Finland

## STAFF NEWS

## New Staff

This year we welcome the following new staff:

1. Ms Patricia Soh, Teacher of Biology from Singapore
2. Ms Zhao Jia, Teacher of Chinese from China/SPR
3. Ms Sreemati Sen, Teacher of Geography, TOK and Global Perspectives from India.

We congratulate them on their appointment and we wish them a successful and fulfilled time with us.

## NOTICES

## Direct School Admissions

Prospective students can apply for admission to 2019 classes through our internal admissions tests or based on formal examination results such as PSLE or 'O' Levels taken in 2018.

Direct School Admissions (DSA) applicants for Years 1, 2, 3, Pre-IB, FIB and 5 can contact the Admissions Department to arrange to sit for English Language and Mathematics entrance tests. All applicants will also undertake an oral interview with a senior staff member. Year 1 applicants who do not pass the DSA process can re-apply for admission using their 2018 PSLE results.

## Transcripts and Testimonials

This is the time of the year we begin to receive requests of these two documents. The Academic Secretary, Ms Manwant Kaur, will process these requests upon receipt of the completed transcript and/or testimonial application form, which can be downloaded from the website ([Current Students – Forms](#)). A period of 15 days is required to process any document. We regret that we are unable to respond to any request to produce them immediately.

Year 6 students will automatically receive these two documents at the end of the school year. They only need to apply for these documents if they are applying to university before year end.

**Testimonials are only available for Year 6 students, and Year 4 students who are leaving school.** School leavers in other year groups can only apply for a school transcript summary of all school reports.

## Overdue Semester 2 School Fees

Many thanks to all those families who have paid the Semester 2 fees. A final reminder has been sent to those families with outstanding fees. For families with questions on the fee payment deadline, they are invited to speak with the Finance and Admin Manager, Mr Jeremy Kwai. You can also email to him at [Jeremy.kwai@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:Jeremy.kwai@acsinternational.edu.sg).

## National Service Information Night

Date: Thursday 19 July 2018

Time: 6:45pm – 8:20pm

Venue: Oldham Chapel

## Objectives

1. Have an understanding of the process and procedure of National Service (NS) enlistment
2. Clarify any misunderstanding and myth about NS training and postings

## Overview

During this event, parents and students will be able to hear from the official sources via representatives from the Ministry of Defence (Mindef) regarding NS enlistment and training. Parents, Operational Ready NSman (those who completed full time national service) and alumni will also be invited to share about the NS experience. The talk and discussion are also relevant to those who are posted to the Police and the Civil Defence Force.

This event, open parent and all students, is a combined effort of the school, PSP and Nexus, the National Education branch from Mindef.

## Tentative Programme

Time	Programme
6:45pm	Registration opens
7:00pm	Mindef /Nexus: National Education and the need for National Service
7:10pm	Mindef /Nexus/ HE Advisor: Enlistment Process and Deferment Q&A
7:40pm	Perspectives from parents and NS men Q&A
8:15pm	Closing, presentation of tokens of appreciation Collection of feedback form

Please indicate your interest by filling up this [form](#).

For any enquires, please email Mr Chia Choong Kiat at [choongkiat.chia@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:choongkiat.chia@acsinternational.edu.sg).



## ACS (International) Merchandise

A limited number of ACS (International) merchandise are available for purchase!

Suitable as gifts and for everyday use, the sturdy sports bag with shoe compartment and detachable shoulder strap (\$15), shoe bag (\$15) and pencil case (\$6), each comes with the ACS (International) logo embroidered. Also available are the large umbrella (\$20) and teddy bear in school polo tee (\$25).

Please proceed to the General Office reception during office hours to purchase any of these items. Only cash or cheque payments are accepted.



## Year 6 University Application Information Seminar

The annual University Application Information Session for all Year 6 students will take place on Saturday, 14 July, in Oldham Chapel from 8:15am. This is a **compulsory event** for all Year 6 students planning to apply to universities. Parents are also invited to attend. See also the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

## PEAKS Test for New Year 1 Students

All Year 1 students admitted in Term 3 will attend PEAKS pre-briefing at 3:15pm on 17 July, followed by the assessment. An email with details on what PEAKS is, the pre- and post-briefings and the assessment will be sent to them and their parents/guardians.





## STUDENT SUCCESSES

## 2018 SEA Age Group Swimming Championship

The 2018 SEA Age Group Swimming Championship will be held from 6 to 8 July 2018 in the Philippines. Year 3 Lien Tian-Yi Charity and six other swimmers will be representing Singapore in this meet. We wish her and her team all the best.

## Cambodia CAS Trip



Upon embarking on the Cambodia Service Trip 2018, there were ambivalent feelings in the air; fervour, to lend a helping hand at Kok Pnov Primary School, and uncertainty, as to what the subsequent days – in a foreign land – would hold in store for us.

Immediately on arrival, immersing ourselves in the rich Cambodian culture, we open-mindedly delved into the local cuisine at the Cham Moslem village and thereafter sympathised with the village elder while he expounded to us the ramifications of the infamous Khmer Rouge in the region.



We were immeasurably honoured to be welcomed by Kok Pnov Primary with an elaborate and well planned reception, on the first day, which only spurred on our zeal in carrying out the teaching lessons, for which we had prepared support materials and lesson plans. But all this was for naught, due to the substantial language barrier, which we anticipated, but

naively categorised as a minor adversity. This balked the implementation of our pre-planned activities and forced us to improvise and adapt to the needs of the children. Nevertheless, through role-play, miming and some basic Khmer, we successfully achieved the learning objectives

We had set for the children, which was to teach them rudimentary arithmetic and English.

Whilst mingling and interacting with the children, it came to our attention how underprivileged and disadvantaged these kids were. Bereft of lighting, whiteboards, stationery and even potable water in the classroom, their educational environment juxtaposed starkly to what we were used to back home. Such exposure manifested in a newfound appreciation for all that we are blessed with.



Aside from the provision of education, our service trip constituted of multiple other projects – such as the construction of a brick wall around the perimeter of the school and the Eggs for Trash programme – which were funded by the \$900

that we raised in surplus to our initial goal of \$1,000. Through the latter project, we fostered, in the school children and the local residents, an innate desire to preserve their resplendent Cambodian landscape, which is slowly seeing the pernicious effects of plastic pollution.



In retrospect, the service component and the cultural learning experiences – visiting the Angkor Wat and Silk Farm, riding on buffalo carts, learning how to cook traditional Cambodian delicacies, and practising the ancient art of Bokator – all made for a wholesome trip.

*Gautam Ramasamy, 5 GHK*



## Laos CAS Trip



The local partner for the trip to Laung Prabang was World Volunteers (<http://world-volunteer.com>), a group specialising in small-scale development programmes in the rural areas of Southeast Asia. For this trip that took place from 28 May to 2 June (including flight time), we, a team of 4 staff and 39 students were partners in one of their sustainable clay building projects, specifically the construction of boarding facilities for a school using bricks made of clay, mud and straw at the village of Nong Jon Village.



With just a short three and a half workdays, our students managed to complete the construction of one wall, helped to plaster several walls and prepared over 300 mud bricks for the next group of student volunteers joining the project. It was heartening to see every single student putting in their best at the worksite, overcoming fatigue, heat and humidity as well as bearing with lots and lots of mud splattered on their face and body.

Our students also spent three nights in homestay in the village, and had all their meals prepared by the host. Our fear that the food might not be to their liking was unfounded, as some complimented that the home-cooked food was better than those served in restaurants.

In a two-hour trekking trip outside of the village, we experienced heavy rain and had to walk on very muddy paths. Throughout the trek, our students were seen helping and encouraging one another on though a few found the going tough.

Acknowledgement must be given to the World Volunteers staff for their commitment. Besides working side by side with our students at the construction site, they were constantly checking on the well-being of our students every night and were at the village square before any student arrived in the morning.

In this invaluable experience, both our students and staff have gained a new appreciation for the simplicity and purposefulness of life in a rural settlement, the open space and the clean air.



Catch a glimpse of the trip on youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g563l9poHV8> produced by one of the World Volunteers staff.

*Mr Chang Weng Moon, Ms Caroline Heng, Ms Delphine Esnault and Mr Chia Choong Kiat*

## Vietnam CAS Trip



On 28 May, a joyous bunch of 36 students departed Singapore for a trip that they never knew would touch their hearts in the ways it could.

The Vietnam CAS trip proved to be quite a journey for every of these students – an emotional rollercoaster that ranged from laughs and smiles on engaging with the young kids at the orphanages, to heartfelt cries on seeing the victims of the deadly Agent Orange attacks.





We faced numerous challenges in the first few days, starting from being punctual every morning for breakfast. Some of us made it on time while others didn't. Besides, teaching the kids at the orphanage was another hurdle because it was their school holidays and they did not want to stay in class for the lessons we had planned for them.

Despite all the hurdles that came our way, we improvised and adapted our lessons, and were spontaneous. This trip was just not an intensive service trip – we had our chance with fun too. We spent a night at the Madagui Forest Resort, where we played an intense round of paintball and even got a chance to do the Zipline! An interesting part of our trip was the visit to the night market, where we got a glimpse of what Vietnamese shopping looks like and got to test our bargaining skills too!



On top of all the fun-filled activities, the greatest gift we received on the trip would have to be the values we received and the lessons we learnt. The service we gave spoke to our hearts, and we were reminded over and over again how fortunate and blessed we are to live, study and be where we are and be who we are as individuals. Seeing the children with disabilities opened our eyes to the marvel of our own ability to speak, be mobile and have a healthy body and mind.

Visiting the war museum allowed us to appreciate how safe and peaceful Singapore is. Bringing the children from Que Huong Orphanage to the beach was a wake-up call to how much our own parents love and take care of us.

The experience was a wonderfully rich nine days where we learned to look out for our friends and team mates. It instilled a great sense of togetherness and we all felt like one big family.

There's no better way to sum up what we learnt from the trip than this quote, written on the back of a group picture and given to each student, by our loving supervisors – Ms Choo, Ms Chantal and Mr Ritchie – at the end of the trip:



*I slept and dreamt that life was joy  
I awoke and saw that life was service  
I acted and behold, service was joy.*

Rabindranath Tagore

Anahita Bhesania, 5 CKS, and Sara Goh, 5 TCT

## Zimbabwe CAS Trip



During the June holidays, a group of Year 5 students travelled to Zimbabwe on their CAS trip for yet another exciting and heartwarming adventure in Africa.

Service was a really crucial part of our trip and we had the opportunity to visit a range of different schools and communities. Firstly, we went to the township of Hatcliffe, near Harare, where we visited the local school to hand over donations that we had collected. It was eye-opening and really heartbreaking to see the poor conditions of the school and the local community. We were also given the opportunity to engage in conversation with members of the community about their life





and daily struggles which really highlighted the differences between our lives and theirs.

The second service element was when we visited Humani school, where we had the opportunity to teach primary-aged students English, Mathematics and PE. This was quite challenging due to their basic level of English and we had to work hard to engage the students and get them all involved, but ultimately it was a really enjoyable and rewarding experience.



The final school we visited was Bunina School, which is a secondary school that we have been working with for a number of years. It was excellent to see that with the funds ACS International students has raised over the years, the school has managed to successfully complete a whole new classroom block which was a great improvement from the conditions of the classrooms they were in the previous year. We were tasked with helping to build a new office block for the school and finishing a garden area for their agricultural lessons – both were hard work but we made good progress throughout the day and hope the school will be able to complete them very shortly. We also put on a "Sports Day" for the students, playing lots of games including Netball and Football which was well received by the students and the local community.



Throughout the trip, we had were wowed on a daily basis by sightings of elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, giraffes, hippos, crocodiles and even had the very rare experience of seeing lions in the wild. We also were given a very interesting talk by the anti-poaching unit about the struggles they face to protect these beautiful creatures.



The trip culminated in a jaw-dropping visit to the Victoria Falls, where we all had a great time and got thoroughly soaked! After this, we had a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River with the hippos which was breathtaking! The last day finished on a real high with the adrenaline activities. Many of the students were brave enough to Bungee Jump, Gorge Swing or Zip Line over the Falls which was an exhilarating experience.

Zimbabwe 2018 was thoroughly enjoyable for both staff and students and an experience that will most certainly be remembered for a lifetime!

*Ms Kerry Sibson*





## Pre-U Seminar



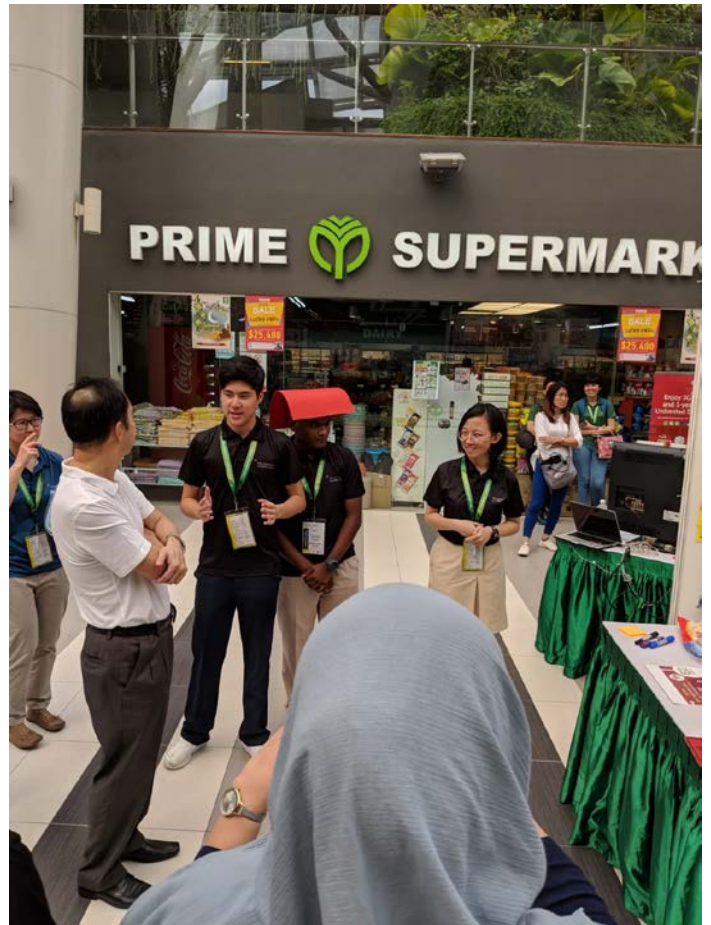
The Pre-U Seminar, held from 28 May to 1 June, had truly been an eye-opening experience. Each year, participants from various Pre-U institutions employ critical thinking skills to come up with solutions to issues of a theme. This year's theme of "Transform our Sg", was inspired by the notion of coming up with a roadmap for Singapore's transformation to become a smart city-state.



My team, comprising 18 students from other Junior Colleges and our school, worked on the issue of conserving our heritage. We presented on the importance of balancing the conservation of our heritage sites and Singapore's future needs in terms of space. The opinions of tourists we had interviewed provided new perspectives on how Singapore could continue to stay relevant through the use of augmented reality technologies.

The seminar is the perfect platform to gain general knowledge of the challenges which Singapore faces and prompts us to start thinking of the steps we have to take as leaders of tomorrow.

*Nathaniel Marthen, 6 TKK*





## Korean VPs' Vist



Twenty four Korean Vice Principals visited the school this week as part of their tour of Singapore to learn about the various IB programmes. Hosted by Principal, Mr Rob Burrough, Vice Principal, Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Korean language teacher Ms Oh Eun Jeong, Head Girl Julie Park and five other senior Korean students, the visitors were able to tour the school and hear first-hand from students and staff about the advantages of an IB education.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
02 July – 13 July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prelims</li> </ul>
20 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16:00 Photo Comp Submission Deadline</li> </ul>
21 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All day – Darren Loh Cup</li> </ul>
23 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos</li> </ul>
24 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos</li> </ul>
25 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos</li> </ul>
28 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>08:00 - 14:00 One ACS Career Forum</li> </ul>
02 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>08:15 - 09:15 Corporate prayer meeting</li> <li>16:30 - 20:30 Y4 and Y6 Parents Teachers Meeting</li> <li>16:30 - 17:30 IB Information Session 1</li> <li>19:00 - 20:00 IB Information Session 2</li> </ul>
03 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 - 12:45 Presentation: "Acing the UK med school application"</li> </ul>



## Upcoming Event – Year 6 students only!

**University Application Information Session July 14  
(8.15 am – 2.00 pm) in the Oldham Chapel**

The Careers and Higher Education Department is holding its annual university application information session Saturday, 14 July.

This session has proved immensely popular over the years and your child / ward will find it very useful to help with the application process. The session is a **compulsory session** for all our Year 6 students who should prioritise this important information session as part of their university planning process. **Parents are also most welcome to attend.**

Alumni will also be present to speak about their university experience and will provide some useful tips on overall university application, living away from home and some insiders' information on surviving the crucial years at any Higher Education Institutions around the world.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email the Higher Education Advisor, Ms. Rita Kaur at [rita.kaur@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:rita.kaur@acsinternational.edu.sg).

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to RSVP.



The Anglo-Chinese School Old Boys' Association presents

**The ONE ACS Career Forum 2018**  
Saturday, 28th July 2018  
8:00am - 2:00pm  
Centre of Performing Arts 2, ACS (Independent) at 121 Dover Road

- Hear from a "C-Suite" panel on "disruptions to the future of work"
- Gain insight into different professions, career paths; and what they really entail
- Engage directly and candidly with alumni speakers in an informal setting
- Ask all the questions you want to get a better understanding of your career / job options
- Learn strategies for powerful interview and personal branding skills

Industry Panels  
Accounting ~ Allied Healthcare ~ Banking & Finance ~ Business Development  
Data Science ~ Engineering ~ Entrepreneurship ~ F&B ~ Law ~ Lifestyle & Hospitality  
Marketing ~ Media & Entertainment ~ Medicine  
Public Service ~ Social Outreach & Pastoral Care ~ Venture Capital & Startups

Soft Skills  
Interview Skills ~ Building Your CV


*In addition, local higher education institutions will be present with personnel ready to answer questions about admission criteria and courses offered*



Sponsored by

**the ACS foundation**

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[www.theacsfoundation.org](http://www.theacsfoundation.org)



## IB Diploma Graduation Ceremony 2018

The Principal Mr Rob Burrough, along with the Staff and Students of ACS (International), warmly invite you to attend the Graduation Ceremony of the Class of 2018.

Friday 16 November 2018  
5.30pm (Please be seated by 5.20pm)  
Lim Seng Guan Sports Hall  
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

*Dinner will be served at Lim Seng Guan Sports Hall following the ceremony.*





ACS (International) Philharmonic Orchestra presents

# Melody Fantasy



**DATE : 19 AUGUST 2018, SUNDAY**  
**TIME : 4.30PM**  
**VENUE : VICTORIA CONCERT HALL**

**TICKET PRICE: \$10 (FREE SEATING)**  
**\*DOOR OPENS AT 4.00PM**

Please get your tickets from ACS (Int'l) office reception or email to [APOConcert@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:APOConcert@acsinternational.edu.sg)

### University Visits/Career Talks In School



**The University of British Columbia**  
**Friday, 20 July**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Presentation in the Seminar Room**



**The Queen's University of Belfast**  
**Tuesday 24 July**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Workshop in the Seminar Room**



**University College London (UCL)**  
**Wednesday 01 August**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Presentation in the Seminar Room**



**Nagoya University**  
**Thursday 02 August**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Booth in the School Canteen**



**"Acing the UK med school application"**  
**Friday 03 August**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Presentation in the Seminar Room**



**University of Birmingham**  
**Monday 20 August**  
**12.00 noon – 12.40 pm**  
**Presentation in the Seminar Room**

## ACS (International) Philharmonic Orchestra

Come 19 August,  
our Philharmonic Orchestra  
will perform at the  
Victoria Concert Hall for the very first time.

We would like to invite you and your family to join us at our concert entitled *Melody Fantasy*. Drawing from the great minds of Tchaikovsky, Brahms and the like to construct our repertoire, alongside modern musical compositions from Studio Ghibli and even Hollywood, this year's annual concert promises to enlighten you and blow your mind with a wonderful performance!

Get your tickets from our  
General Office reception today!

Russell Tan  
President  
ACS String Orchestra

Classical . Pop . Jazz . Musical . R & B . Traditional



### Barrett Music Competition 2018

A platform for music excellence

Categories

- A - Piano
- B - String
- C - Vocal
- D - Original Music Composition

Application Deadline : 20 July (Friday)

Audition : 23 July (Monday)

Final : 21 Aug (Tuesday)

For entry forms & details please contact Mr. Philip Tan, Ms Arleen Teo or any members of the Electro-acoustic World Music Ensemble.

