



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for 2018! We trust that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and that you are all looking forward to the year ahead. A special welcome to new students, new parents and new staff. We have nearly 200 new students join us this year from 19 different countries. We wish you all a successful and enjoyable time with us. The new staff are introduced in a later section.

Last week we received the November 2017 IB Diploma results. We are pleased with the overall results which continue the trend of improvement and a summary commentary is provided elsewhere in this newsletter. IGCSE results are released next week.

At this week's first school assembly of the year the students were encouraged to make the most of the year ahead. They were reminded that success is the result of hard work, often routine and sometimes boring! In fact, as many experts say, routine is the cornerstone of success. Malcom Gladwell, for example, in his best seller, *The Outliers*, talks about the '10,000 Hour Rule', claiming that the key to world-wide success is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing the correct way, for a total of approximately 10,000 hours. He cites top sports teams, Bill Gates and The Beatles amongst others as examples.

Sometimes we may feel trapped by routine and repetition. Routine is deadly unless we see a purpose in it. Students were reminded that routine is essential for success and in fact there are many advantages of routine. These include: provides structure – gives purpose and familiarity in situations; builds good habits; increases efficiency in time and effort; reduces the need for extra willpower and motivation to keep going in difficult times; builds momentum; reduces distractions; and saves work in the long run. In summary, there are no short cuts to success and students must embrace routine, repetition and perseverance in their studies in order to succeed.

St Paul also knew about the advantages of routine. In 1 Corinthians 9: 26 – 27 he says *'Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.'* And in Hebrews 12:1 he again encourages routine and consistency – *'let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us'*.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead, working hard in partnership with students and parents to realise hopes, dreams and potential so that 2018 is a most successful year. The Best Is Yet To Be.

Rob Burroughs
Principal



ACS (International)

January 2018

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DID YOU KNOW?

The ice cream cone was introduced in 1904

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

This year we welcome the following new staff.

1. Ms Helen Koo Siew Ngor, Administrative Officer from Singapore
2. Ms Jaclyn Chang Lian Fong, Career Specialist from Singapore
3. Mrs Carrie Cheah Koon Leng, English Teacher from Singapore
4. Ms Clare Wee Wei Wah, Geography Teacher from Singapore
5. Ms Emily Kate Austin, History Teacher from Australia
6. Ms Patricia Soh Bi Xue, Biology Teacher from Singapore
7. Mr Lee Scurr, PE Teacher from United Kingdom
8. Mr Giribabu Venkata Tummala, Mathematics Teacher from India

New Staff Responsibilities

We congratulate the following staff on their appointments to the below roles:

Name	New Position
Mrs Georgina Patterson	HSM Oldham House
Mr Lim Tse Ren	HSM LSG
Mr Mark Ritchie	IIE and Global Perspectives Coordinator
Ms Ceri Sennett	Academic Research Coordinator
Ms Kerry Sibson	Assistant HoF PE
Ms Analisa Garcia	Assistant Exams Coordinator

Meet the Tutor Gathering

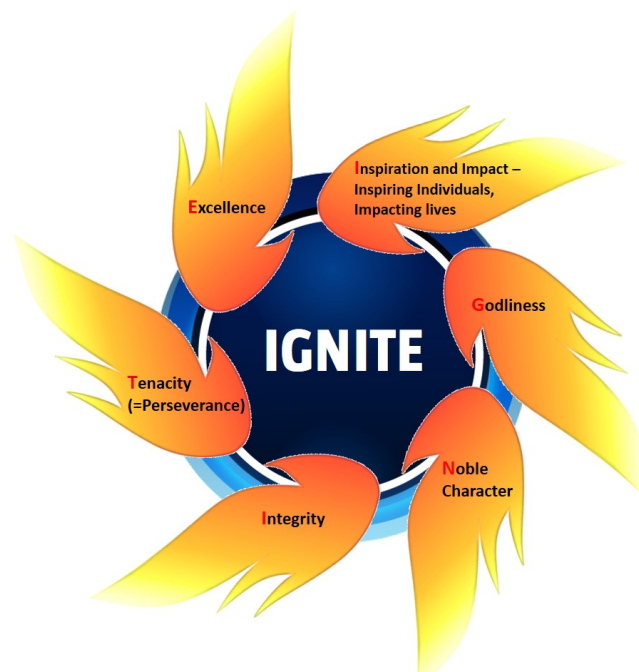
The annual initial Tutor/Parent meetings will be held as follows:

31 January – Parents of students in CKS, GHK, LSG, OLD
 1 February – Parents of students in SVM, TCT, TTK, THO

Time: 5.00 – 6.00pm

Meet: School Chapel then to Tutor Rooms.

IGNITE School Values



Our school values help define and empower us. They contribute to our sense of purpose and vision, and inspire collective action. Our IGNITE values are reprinted below to remind us all of our agreed way of living:

Inspiration and Impact - Inspiring Individuals, Impacting lives
 Godliness
 Noble Character
 Integrity
 Tenacity (= Perseverance)
 Excellence

As well as the values identified, IGNITE speaks of 'lighting the flame', the fire of the Holy Spirit, energy and action. All members of the ACS (International) community live by these values.



Staff Conference 2018

On 4 January, ACS (International) began the new school year with the annual Staff Conference. The one day conference was led by two Vice Principals. In the morning session led by Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Vice Principal (Senior Division), she welcomed the staff back to school and also introduced the new staff and announced the new internal appointments. Setting the scene for 2018, she reiterated the school mission of nurturing 'deep roots and strong wings' among our students to develop global citizens and future leaders. Recognising the significance of collective wisdom and expertise in developing our students, she exhorted all staff to continue to work collaboratively, each giving his/her best in the spirit of a strong community or village.



In the afternoon session, Dr Kris Achter, Vice Principal (Junior Division) coordinated two sessions focused on our house system. In the opening session he presented the vision of the house system. Stressing the importance of building community, developing deeper relationships, and holistic development for our students. He also shared research on our Generation Z students from the book *Marching off the Map* by Tim Elmore. Through Elmore's (2017) extensive generational research the author inspires educators to be skilled in adapting to what is new while also holding to the non-negotiable values that cross generations.



Elmore believes that educators and parents "must cultivate one significant skill set in ourselves: we must be able to either adapt to the new world that's emerging, or we must explain why a timeless virtue or value is still relevant in our 21st century world." In the second session House Tutors split by division to have more intentional conversations about student needs in their respective divisions. These sessions equipped and engaged our House Tutors for more intentional use of tutor time. In the final session of the afternoon teachers meet within their respective houses to plan for the school year.



IB Results Continue to Improve at ACS (International)

ACS (International) students gained higher than predicted results in the International Baccalaureate Diploma 2017 results released Friday 5 January 2018. The cohort of 175 students was the largest to graduate in the 13 years of operation and the overall results are also the highest in recent years.

The percentage of students gaining 40 points or more has increased to 22.3% - up from 10% and 18% in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The top mark of 44 points was shared by three students – Evangeline Leong, Stefan Njoo and Zhu Mengqi. We are hopeful that at least one of these students will improve to the perfect score of 45 points after re-count as has happened in the last two years.

The overall cohort average of 35.2 (out of 45) equalled last year's best ever average score. The world average is approximately 30 points. The school average was especially pleasing considering the average PSLE score of the Singaporeans in this cohort was 221 with a range from 166 – 263. The two students with PSLE scores less than 170 scored 36 and 37 points and they now have many university options available to them. This is a fine value-added achievement.

Also pleasing was the 33% of students who gained a Bilingual Diploma showing first language strength in two different languages. This exceeded the 29% of last year and 26% in 2015.

It is important to compare apples with apples when comparing results between schools. Our 95% pass rate plus the higher than world average pass rate was especially pleasing when considering that for 45% of our students English is a second language. Students must firstly learn English, then think in English then write in academic English. This is a considerable challenge and we are proud of these students' achievements.

These results are not unique to this year. Each year our students improve significantly on their secondary school entry performance as indicated by PSLE and other entry results; and over the past seven years the school has produced 17 'Top of the World' IGCSE students in English Literature, English Language, E Mathematics, A Mathematics, Economics, Geography, Physical Education and Chinese.

As an inclusive Methodist school we strongly believe that every student who is accepted at our school should be given the opportunity to sit the IB examination. We have high expectations and our students respond exceptionally well. On occasion and by exception, we accept Year 1 students with PSLE scores below 200 and O Level scores above 20. The students and teachers are to be congratulated on the added value scores that the students subsequently gain in the IB Diploma.

We are very proud of our students and their strong performance. Congratulations!



NOTICES

IGCSE Results & Year 5 IBDP Start Date

The 2018 Year 5 IB Diploma induction programme begins at 9.00am on Monday 22 January. All students planning to take the IBDP should report to the Chapel by 9.00am.

All former IGCSE students should access their own results after 5.00pm on 17 January using the access code provided by the Examinations Officer, Mr. Gregory Goh. Please contact Mr. Goh for assistance at gregory.goh@acsinternational.com.sg.

Please note the criteria for entry to the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International).

IBDP Entry Criteria:

- Minimum 2 x A, 2 x B, 2 x C grades in subjects to be studied in IB
- Minimum of grade B for all HL subjects.
- Exemplary academic and behavioural record.
- Must be able to put a subject package together.

Students who have been offered Direct Admission have confirmed places for the IBDP. However, **all returning ACS (International) students in the IBDP need to confirm their subjects with senior staff in the Conference Room on either Thursday 18 January or Friday 19 January between 8.30 and 3.30pm.**

PEAKS Assessment 2018

To all parents of Year 1, 3, and 5 students: An email regarding arrangements for this year's PEAKS assessments will be sent to you shortly. Please note that Year 1 students will be required to complete the assessment in school, whilst Year 3 and 5 students may complete the assessment in their own time at home.

If you have any queries relating to PEAKS, please contact Ms Denise Eng at denise.eng@acsinternational.edu.sg.

Saturday Detentions

Students who have unexplained or unauthorised attendance issues, or who are regularly late to class, or who miss academic deadlines may receive a Saturday detention by a senior member of staff. These detentions run from 9.00am – 12 noon. Offences include:

- ▶ 4 or more lates in a term
- ▶ 3+ lates in a week
- ▶ Failure to hand work in on time despite warnings

We are hopeful that students will not put themselves in the above situations!

Request for Testimonials & Transcripts

Parents and students are reminded that the school policy for testimonials and transcripts is as follows:

- All year 6 students automatically receive a testimonial and a transcript. Students complete their testimonial form and hand to their Tutor to complete the first draft.
- Year 4 students whose parents have informed the school that the student is leaving are eligible to apply for a testimonial.
- Students in other year levels are not eligible for a testimonial but are able to apply for an official school transcript.
- The school only provides the official school transcript if a school report is requested other schools.
- Please allow 15 working days for any testimonial or transcript request.

PSP Coffee Morning 2018

The first PSP Coffee Morning of the year is being held on Thursday 25 January from 8.00am in Wesley Hall on the 6th Floor of the Sports Block. **All parents are welcome.** The programme will include a talk by the Principal on current happenings at school, plus a time for Q and A, followed by an update on PSP activities and morning tea.

2017 School Year Book

Many thanks to Miss Emma Murray plus the Student and Staff Editorial Team for a wonderful summary of 2017 which is now available for all 2017 students to collect from the Library.



Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day

Due to the heavy congestion at the school gate by both vehicles and foot traffic we restrict vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7.30 and 8.10am.

This means that parents are not able to enter the school grounds to drop off their children. All drop offs must be outside the main gate at the drop off zone. On wet days however, parents will still be able to access the covered drop off zone outside the Administration Block.

With an increased roll there is increased congestion at the school entrance and students on foot are contributing to that. Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off their children. (see below map for details).



STUDENT SUCCESSES

American Protégé - We Sing Pop!

We are delighted to announce that Shermaine Saw had been conferred the 'First Place Winner' – *We Sing Pop! International Song Contest 2017*. Only the First, Second & Third Place Winners were specially invited to perform at this renowned Summer Gala Concert at Isaac Stern Auditorium/ Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall - New York, the world's most illustrious music venue housing 2,800 audiences.

Shermaine had been selected from a large number of applicants internationally whether they are signed or unsigned artistes from 4 to unlimited age group.

This is Shermaine's third success in this international competition. Previously she was the "First Place Winner" for both "Classical" and "Musical Broadway".

We Sing Pop! Song Contest 2017 Results

Awards

Selected winners of the We Sing Pop! Song contest 2017 will perform at the Isaac Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall on June 6, 2018 at 8:00 PM, as a part of American Protégé Summer Gala Concert 2018.

First Place Winners

Shermaine Saw, a 13-year-old ACS (International) student from Singapore, who endeavours her music passion into International and Local arena. Shermaine's vocal genres are diversified from Classical, Musical Broadway, to English/Mandarin Pop. She triumphed Bronze medal in Austria's International Anton-Bruckner Choir Competition, subsequently snared 1st Place Winner for both Classical & Musical Broadway categories at American Protégé, New York. She has respectably performed for President of Singapore, Prime Minister and Ministers in major events including 'Istana Open House', 'May Day Rally', 'ChildAid', 'United Nation', 'EduSave Scholarship' and etc. Recent competitions, Shermaine topped highest Gold award in Asia Arts Festival and conferred to 2nd runner-up at Asian Dreamerz. Remarkably, she upholds and achieved Distinctions for her LCM Diploma Popular Music, ABRSM Grade5 Singing and LAMDA Grade7 Musical Theatre. Privilege as a selected vocal soloist to represent her esteem school's orchestra, Shermaine continued her music journey trouncing melodies into Italy during November 2017!



American Protégé

International

Music Competitions



Philharmonic Orchestra (Italy 2017)

'No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.'

This quote by H.E. Luccock encapsulates the essence of the Philharmonic Orchestra. From 20 to 28 November 2017, 24 members of the orchestra embarked on its Italian tour. The orchestra, travelling as the ACS (International) Chamber Orchestra, performed in the Montecatini Basilica Church in Montecatini, the St. Filippo Neri Church in Florence, the Church of St. Stae in Venice, and in the Church of San Giorgio in Lido de Jesolo. Our repertoire ranged from full orchestra pieces to individual solo pieces by singers Shawnia Seah and Shermaine Saw. This was the first time we have performed in churches.



One of the greatest challenges that we faced was coping with the biting cold and keeping the morale up. Each performance would start with a rehearsal, during which the church doors were opened. The music from our rehearsals attracted passers-by who formed our audience. The growing crowd served as a great encouragement for us while we struggled to play our instruments with

fingers numbed by the cold. By the end of each performance, we found the audience on their feet in jubilant applause. Through this, many of us were motivated to create music regardless of the size of our audience.

Aside from our musical tour, we were also given the opportunity to learn about the rich culture and history of Italy's architecture and way of life. Doing so added meaning to our surroundings and allowed us to fully appreciate the Italian experience. Some of the famous landmarks that we visited include the cities of Pisa, Siena and Verona.



Our tour of Italy was extremely enriching and an experience that was etched in our minds in our quest to play as one sound, one harmony, and as one body. For me, this tour will hold a special place in my heart, for I had always dreamed of performing with an orchestra in a cathedral. On behalf of the orchestra, I would like to extend my gratitude to our conductor Mr Lim Soon Lee for his musical tutelage throughout the trip. I would also thank Ms Carol Ling and Mdm Josephine Teo for their care and guidance during the trip.

Teo Kai Hui, 6 TKK



30th Singapore Physics Olympiad (2017)

The theoretical round for the 30th Singapore Physics Olympiad in 2017 was held on 21 October 2017, with more than 200 JC1 students from various schools in Singapore taking part. The experimental round for shortlisted students was held on 23 November 2017. The competition was hosted at the National University of Singapore.

Congratulations to Year 5 student, Li Peize, on his outstanding silver medal achievement, competing against the top student Mathematicians from across Singapore.

Singapore National Swimming Championship 2017

Congratulations to Madeline Lie who achieved the following medals at the national championships in December.

- ▶ 400IM - Gold
- ▶ 200IM - Bronze
- ▶ 200 Fly - Bronze
- ▶ 800 Free - 4th position

Cambridge Bound

Congratulations to Yang Xiyan who has been offered a place at Cambridge University at Magdalen College to study Mathematics. Xiyan scored 40 points in the IB Diploma.



Swimming: National Age Group Championships, Perth, Australia

Congratulations to Charity Lien who was a member of the Singapore Swim Team competing at National Age Group Champs, Perth, Australia in December. She entered 6 individual events gaining 2 silver and 3 bronze medal placings, and 2 bronze medals in relays.



Orientation 1 - 2018

From awkward silences between strangers, to feeling at home and being part of the ACS family at the end of two days.

Orientation is always one of the most memorable takeaways from our student life.

Orientation 2018, was definitely not an exception.

Going by the theme of 'Greek Mythology' and filled with laughter, excitement and nerves, the Student Council worked hard to place our best cards on the table with games like slip n' slide and water dodgeball. The highlight of the camp, however, was definitely the bonfire, where we performed the mass dance, competed at the top of our voices with our group cheers, yet bonded with one another as realisation struck that the end of camp inched closer to us. Indeed, starting afresh may always seem intimidating at first, but somehow or another, it is part of human nature that farewells have to be bittersweet.



We are thankful for being blessed with such a successful event, with high levels of enthusiasm and energy that would not have been possible without the support of our orientees and student leaders.

We wish each and every one of our orientees the best in their future endeavours, as the best is yet to be!

*Rachel Pang
13th Prefectorial Board
Student Council*



UPCOMING EVENTS

January	EVENT
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Pals For Paws Parent Prayer Group - 08:15
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Orientation for International Students
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation (Year 5) Student Orientation II (Yr5, PrelB) (Year 5s + New students)
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAS Service Briefing - Year 5s
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the Tutor Gathering (5.00 – 6.00pm) - Parents of students in CKS, GHK, LSG, OLD
February	EVENT
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the Tutor Gathering (5.00 – 6.00pm) - Parents of students in SVM, TCT, TKK, THO Year 5 PEAKS - Post Test Debrief 08:00 Parent Prayer Group - 08:15
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 PEAKS Post-test briefing 15:05

University Visits In School Term 1

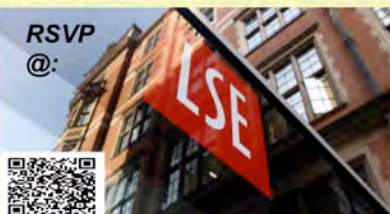
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Friday, 12 January

12.00 noon – 12.40 pm

Presentation: Seminar Room

RSVP @:



University of Nottingham

Monday, 15 January

12.00 noon – 12.40 pm

Booth in the School Canteen

University of Birmingham

*Law programs at the University of Birmingham
Recognized by the Board of Legal Education*

Monday, 15 January

12.00 noon – 12.40 pm

Presentation: Seminar Room

RSVP @:



University of Michigan, Shanghai

Thursday, 25 January

12.00 noon – 12.40 pm

Booth in the School Canteen

