



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for 2019! 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 over 200 new students join us this year from 16 different countries and they were all thoroughly welcomed to the school community in Orientation 1 last week by our student leaders. We wish them all a successful and enjoyable time with us. Our new staff are introduced in a later section.

Last week, we received the November 2018 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. Indicators such as the 99.4% pass rate and the 90% of students who scored above the world average are our best in recent years. IGCSE results will be released on 17 January.

At this week's first school assembly of the year, the students were encouraged to make the most of the opportunities on offer and to contribute positively to the ACS (International) school family. They were told the traditional first assembly story of two newcomers to a town. The first arrived and was met by an old man at the town gate. The young man asked him, "What are the people like here?" The old man asked what the people were like in his last town. "They were nasty and fought". "Here too," the old man said, "they are nasty and fight." The second young man arrived and asked the same question. When asked what the people were like in his former town, he replied that they were loving, friendly and helpful. "Here too," the old man said, "they are loving, friendly and helpful." When a man sitting close by asked the old man why he had given two different answers to the same question, the old man replied, "You find what you bring."

ACS (International) is no different – we are the product of the combined student and staff attitudes to school. Thankfully, we have a strong school culture relating to family where people are encouraged to be loving, friendly and helpful. Newcomers quickly appreciate and reciprocate the positive attitudes found at school.

Students were also reminded of the "Golden Rule" found in Matthew 7:12 where Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." This command summarises how we should act in our school family and especially about how we should interact with others. As a Christian institution, we try to model an inclusive and supportive environment, where all students can reach their individual potential. Returning students were exhorted to lead the way for their new fellow students.

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 2019 is a most successful year. The Best Is Yet To Be.

Rob Burroughs
Principal



January 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- New Staff
- New Staff Responsibilities
- Staff Conference 2019
- From Staff to Community
- Philip Tan as Speaker of MOE-NAC Artist Series
- Meet the Tutor Gathering
- IGNITE School Values
- PSP Coffee Morning 2019
- MacBook Promotion
- IGCSE Results & Year 5 IBDP Start Date
- Request for Testimonials/Transcripts
- PEAKS Assessment 2019
- Planner/Handbook for Students
- Saturday Detentions
- March Holiday Different to MoE March Holiday
- 2018 School Year Book
- Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day
- Latest IB Results Show Continued Improvement
- Adventure/Service Camps 2019
- Food Offerings by YQueue Express
- ACS (International) Merchandise for Sale
- ACS (International) Chamber Orchestra: Trip to France and Amsterdam
- Julie Park Wins Third Place with "Conscious Bins" Campaign
- Orientation 1
- Upcoming Events

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

A group of owls is called a parliament

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

This year, we welcome the following new staff:

- Mr Phillip Evans (ToK Coordinator & Economics), a Singaporean PR originally from the UK;
- Ms Ng Sho Ching (Chemistry) from Singapore;
- Ms Danielle Parry (English and IIE) from the UK;
- Mr David Fillary (Mathematics) from the UK;
- Ms Asha Shanmuganathan (Drama) from Singapore; and
- Mrs Megha Singh (Geography and IIE) from Singapore.

Mr James Cope (ESOL) from the UK and Ms Michelle Low (Geography and ToK) from Singapore will join us later this term.

New Staff Responsibilities

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

Mdm Chin Siew Lin	Acting ISPCC
Ms Cheryl Seah	Acting HSM TCT House
Mrs Michelle Liew	Assistant HoF English
Mr Nicholas Chia	Careers Advisor
Mrs Sreemati Sen	Research Coordinator
Mrs Gemma Millar	Part Time Counsellor (Feb – May)
Ms Caroline Heng	Service Coordinator
Ms Mattie Jackson	Pastoral and Tutor Resource Coordinator
Mrs Manjari Sreedharan	IIE / ATL / Study Skills Coordinator
Ms Ong-Wee Teck Hoon	Junior Mathematics Coordinator

Staff Conference 2019

The first official school day each year is marked by the new student Orientation and the whole Staff Conference professional development day. This year on 3 January, the Staff Conference focus was on deeper understanding and the use of the student PEAKS psychometric profile tool in order to enhance student achievement and holistic development. Led by Charis and Lydia Lim of Research Communication International, the company which has developed the tool over 20 years, the staff were also shown data gathered over the previous three years of the project at ACS (International). The data showed some significant trends across the six year levels and the five PEAKS factors – Purpose, Energy, Affirmation, Knowledge and Sustainability. This data will help teachers better understand the student dynamics in their classes.



From Staff to Community



We at SWC live and serve by the motto of “Reduce , Reuse and Recycle” and it is for this reason that we set up our Staff ACSchange Shop in the staff lounge . Set up in early 2018 for the purpose of ‘barter trading’ and meaningful exchanges, it has, through the generosity of staff, managed to raise \$170.30 from the sales of donated goods. SWC matched this amount dollar for dollar raised and a cheque of \$340.60 was presented to The Interact Club on 20th November during the last staff lunch for the year. What a fitting end to the year for the SWC!

We look forward to your kind donations next year so that, collectively and collaboratively, we can do more for the community around us and beyond our school gates. So do good and donate goods!

Mrs Carrie Cheah
SWC



Music Teacher Philip Tan as Speaker of MOE-NAC Artist Series

MOE-NAC Master Artist Series invited our award winning music teacher Mr Philip Tan to give a talk to MOE teachers, NAC Arts administrators, MOE Star Singapore Master and Lead teachers on Creativity, Community Engagement and how to empower our students in learning, at the Esplanade on 11 October 2018.

In his talk, Mr Tan also shared about his works at ACS (International) and how he had encouraged innovative learning in school. He also provided examples of how his Year 2 students learn to be a more sensitive sound designer and music composer by producing their own video productions. Year 1 students were taught how to build their personal artistic portfolio, e.g. performing live with their own compositions with electronic dance music and live orchestra.

Mr Tan is the third music speaker MOE-NAC has invited since the Master Artist Series was first introduced in 2013. The other two speakers were Cultural Medallion award recipients, Dr Kelly Tang and Ms Jennifer Tham.

Philip's Music Curriculum with Year 2 Students

As a school who builds on belief, we pride ourselves on building a holistic and nurturing learning environment. We are always finding new ways to engage and help students to learn better; and at the same time, inculcate and add value and meaning, to their learning. Hence, learning to express ourselves, communicate and reach out, are important aspects of learning in the Music Curriculum. Thus, we are constantly looking for opportunities to build an authentic learning framework that will support the subject, while making students realise that Music is a universal language and an interdisciplinary arts form that has the ability and power to connect, heal and manage differences in life and society, locally and internationally.

The Year 2 students have produced more than 15 high-quality videos with soundscape and music for the Buenos Aires Hospital, located in the capital of Argentina. Many of the children in the hospital suffered from illnesses that made school-going impractical. Thus, these videos served as part of the teaching tools for the hospital teacher Ines Bulacio, to introduce Singapore and learning to these children.

In this production, the students learn how to produce a creative content, work out meetings and timelines, carry out professional audio recording with condenser and wireless microphones, set up lighting and video equipment, create music and design soundscape to match the moving images; all these are relevant skill sets required in a real production. Year 2 Jordan Faith Nathaniel's *How to Find Happiness* has been a good resource for the hospital as Jordan used simple science experimentation to illustrate how we can achieve happiness.

With this heart-warming authentic project, the students were more involved in this social learning setting. They were eager to learn and to impact on these children in the hospital. Through this project, we hope that they will develop in students, empathy, deeper understanding and compassion for people whose circumstances are less advantageous. We want them to think hard how to care, how to reach out and at the same time, still enjoy the discovery and learning processes so that learning is fun and meaningful. Thus, Music is the universal language and bridge that the soul needs, for it has the ability to connect and express when words fail.



Ms Ines Bulacio showing Jordan's video to a patient



Song Presentation



Positive Thinking

Middle and Bottom photos: Other productions by Year 2 students.



NOTICES

Meet the Tutor Gathering

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

28 January – Parents of students in CKS, GHK, LSG, OLD

30 January – Parents of students in SVM, TCT, TKK, THO

Time: 5:30 – 7:00pm

Venue: 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 appended 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.

PSP Coffee Morning 2019

The first PSP Coffee Morning of the year will be held on Friday, 25 January from 8:45am 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 Q&A session, followed by an update on PSP activities and morning tea.

MacBook Promotion

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>

Parents and teachers are advised to install the iParent and iStudent App. The validation code is ACS. The login details are the same as those in the Parent and Pupil Portal.

IGCSE Results & Year 5 IBDP Start Date

The 2019 Year 5 IB Diploma induction programme begins at 9:00am on Monday, 21 January. All students planning to take the IBDP should report at 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.edu.sg.

Please note the criteria for entry to the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International) as follows:

- Minimum of 2A, 2B, 2C 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 School 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 17 January or Friday 18 January between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Request for Testimonials/Transcripts

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

- All Year 6 students automatically receive a testimonial and a transcript. Students complete their testimonial form and hand it 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 from other schools
- Please allow a minimum of 10 working days for any testimonial/transcript request.

PEAKS Assessment 2019

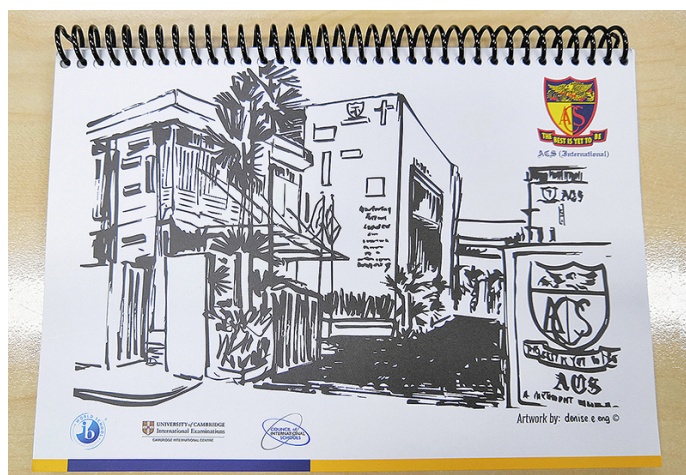
To all parents of Years 1 and 5 students: An email regarding arrangements for this year's PEAKS assessments will be sent to you in the next few weeks. Please note that Year 1 students will be required to complete the assessment in school sometime in March, whilst Year 5 students may complete the assessment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

If you have any queries relating to PEAKS, please contact Ms Magdalene Ng at magdalene.ng@acsinternational.edu.sg

Planner/Handbook for Students

Often, we as adults forget that planning and organising is a learned skill and habit. We further forget that this skill needs to be taught and reinforced for the developing adolescent brain.

Organisation Skills are part of the IB Approaches to Learning (ATL) framework that we work to build into our House Tutor time along with class. This is specifically important for our Junior Division students who are learning about a new school and preparing to undertake the IGCSE and IB course work in the coming years. A solid foundation in learning to self-manage and organise often leads to future success in these demanding programmes.



As part of these efforts, a Planner/Handbook has been distributed to all junior students in their tutor class. Parents and teachers can help in these efforts by checking the student's planner and encouraging them to write down important dates in class.

Middle or Senior students who could benefit from a planner or Junior students who lose their planner can purchase one at the Reception for S\$5.00.

Saturday Detentions

Students who have unexplained or unauthorised attendance issues, or who are regularly late for class, or who miss academic deadlines may receive a Saturday detention by a senior member of staff. These detentions run from 9:00am to 12noon. 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!

March Holiday Different to MoE March Holiday

Unfortunately, this year our Term 1 March holiday (9 to 17 March) does not match the local Singapore Ministry of Education holiday. We usually try to align our holidays with MoE holidays which have largely remained unchanged for a number of years, but each year we have to publish our term dates earlier than the MoE to enable international families to book travels and holidays. Last year, the Singapore MoE subsequently moved the 2019 March holiday to the week following.

After the different Term 1 March holiday dates were published, we discussed whether to change the dates to align with the MoE dates in order to assist local families who have primary school going children to babysit. We also discussed whether to have a two-week March break or extend Term 4 by one week. Neither were satisfactory. Unfortunately, a change would also mean extra financial cost to those families and staff who have already booked March flights, plus we would have to change the Years 1 to 3 Adventure Week camps/programmes and the school's Ski Trip (and incur costs as deposits had already been made).

In this no-win situation, we reluctantly decided to remain with the previously published dates. We apologise to the local families with MoEschool children who will now have a different March holiday to our school. Families who have booked holidays which align to the MoE March holiday can email the relevant Divisional Vice Principal so that dispensation can be given for their child's absence.

2018 School Year Book

Many thanks to Miss Emma Murray plus the Student and Staff Editorial Team for a wonderful summary of 2018 which is now available for all 2018 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 done 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).



Latest IB Results Show Continued Improvement

ACS (International) students collectively gained higher than predicted results in the International Baccalaureate Diploma 2018 results released on Friday, 4 January. The 168 students in the Class of 2018 produced a 99.4% pass rate with 90% gaining scores above the world average – both indicators being the highest in recent years.

The table below summarises the results of recent years:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pass Rate	92%	92%	96%	98%	96%	99.4%
Score Over 40	14%	12%	10%	18%	22%	21%
Top Score (max: 45)	44	44	45	45	44	44
ACS Average Score	34	34	34.8	35.4	36	35.6
World Average	30	30	31	29.2	29.8	--
Above World Average	72%	77%	83%	83%	85%	90%
Bilingual Dip.	--	--	26%	29%	33%	27%

The percentage of students gaining 40 points or more was our second highest at 21%. The top mark of 44 points was shared by Chen Kangan (Michael) and Xander Pang. Nine students gained 43 points.



Chen Kangan (Michael)

Xaander Pang

The overall cohort average of 35.6 (out of 45) slightly exceeded last year's best ever average score of 35.5 published on results day which later increased to 36 points once re-mark scores were added in. We are hopeful that these latest averages will also exceed 36 points after re-marks. 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 211 with a range from 158 to 257. All 20 students with PSLE scores less than 200 passed their Diploma. One student with a PSLE score of 171 scored an impressive 38 points, and another with an 'O' Level L1R5 score of 27 scored 32 points. They now have many university options available to them. These are just two of many fine value-added achievements.

It is important to compare apples with apples when comparing results between schools. Our 98.8% 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.

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 fine individual results and 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!



Adventure/Service Camps 2019

In the last week of Term 1, ACS (International) will be offering five different camps to students in Years 1 to 3, 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

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
<p>Telunas Resort, Sugi Island, Indonesia</p> <p>Located in a secluded cove surrounded by jungle and sea. 1 hour to Batam, 1.5 hours to Sugi Island.</p>	5–8 March 2019	<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 	S\$560



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 breakersSnorkellingService learning: Juara Turtle project and Suka suka farm – agricultural projectKayakingCamp dinner/beach partyJetty jumpWaterfall and rainforest trekCoco house	S\$820



OPTION 2

Venue	Date	Activities	Cost
Thailand	5-8 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giant slider• Rope walk• Floating platform run• Zipline• Rafting• Tower jump• Mangrove wildlife cruise• Firefly cruise• Mudboard surfing• Service learning at Wat Prasit Primary School	S\$990



OPTION 3

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 of more than 6 months from the arrival date.
- Consent forms are to be handed in to the General Office by 15 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. Thailand option is fully booked, please pick either Cameron Highlands or Tioman. 'First come first serve' basis. Do note that camp fees are not included in the school fees this year as advertised and thus need to be paid separately. Please make sure to pay your camp fee to the Finance Department by 15 January 2019.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Camp Organiser Ms Analiza Garcia analiza.garcia@accinternational.edu.sg



Food Offerings by YQueue Express

Staff and students can look forward to different food choices offered by YQueue Express this year. They have a mobile app to order, pay for and collect food.

Here's the link to create a YQueue account:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eqpku3im9bzuhcj/YQueue%20-%20Creating%20an%20Account%20v4.mp4?dl=0>

Watch the video on how to order for Subway and Sumo Salad:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y3myrrsy0wo2qwi/YQueue%20-%20Placing%20an%20Order.mp4?dl=0>

YQueue Express @ ACS (International)

Resumes on 8th January 2019 at the ACS (International) Canteen

YQueue Campus
Save time and skip the queue - browse, order, pay and collect food from multiple merchants within one simple app. Providing students with security and flexibility since 2017.

Available on the Google play and Apple Store.

Select The ACS Store
YQueue Express @ ACS

Place Your Order
Japanese Battered Ha Cheong Gai Don \$5.50

Select Your Meal
Creamy Spin Noodle Dish \$5.50

Pay For Your Meal
Select Payment Method: DBS PayLah!

YQueue Express @ ACS (International)

Resumes on 8th January 2019 at the ACS (International) Canteen

Merchant Highlights
Bringing the best of Singapore to you

- Dondori**
Dondori is a fusion between Japanese takeaway concept and truly authentic singaporean flavours.
- Fong Seng Nasi Lemak**
Haven for hungry NUS students! Well known for its nasi lemak, with chicken wings & fried fish.
- reedz**
Reedz Cafe
Offers tasty Western-styled bento boxes
- SUMO SALAD**
Sumo Salad For ACS only
Access a separate store on the app. Sumo Salad offers a healthy range of gourmet salads, signature, wraps and pasta to satisfy you! Order in advance!

Menu Highlights
Many other items available in-app

- Japanese Ha Cheong Gai Don**
Crispy Ha Cheong Gai battered in panko served with onsen egg, himalayan pink salt edamame and fried tofu in chili crab sauce. Available on Mon, Wed & Fri.
- Nasi Lemak Combination Set**
Nasi lemak, chicken wing, luncheon meat, fish filet, peanuts, egg and chili



ACS (International) Merchandise for Sale

Suitable as gifts and for everyday use, the following merchandise are available for sale. Samples can be viewed at the Reception counter.

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



Cap - S\$5.00



3-Folded Umbrella - S\$12.00



Long Umbrella - S\$20.00



Pencil Case - S\$6.00



Denim Pouch - S\$7.00



Ball Pen - S\$12.00



64GB Flash Drive - S\$20.00



Drawstring Sport Bag - S\$10.00



Stress Ball - S\$2.00



Travel Adaptor - S\$15.00



Travel Pouch - S\$10.00



STUDENT SUCCESSES

ACS (International) Chamber Orchestra:
Trip to France and Amsterdam

ACS (International)'s very own Philharmonic Orchestra embarked on their annual trip in a smaller group – Chamber Orchestra – to perform overseas, with France and Amsterdam as their destination from 21 to 29 November.



The trip consisted of the group touring France and Amsterdam's various churches such as the *La Madeleine Church*, *Saint-Germain L'Auxerrois Church*, and *Maria Van Jessekerk*, for public performances. Another prominent venue that we performed a public show was Disneyland France, giving both old and new musicians a great chance to hone their musicianship under the spotlight. We were also able to experience the beauty of both countries as we went on tours to various historic sites: France's Louvre, Eiffel Tower and the Opera, the *Kinderdijk* windmills and cheese factories of Holland, to name a few, allowing us to truly take in the vast expanse of the countries' histories and learn more about their culture.



In the end, the best part of the trip was being able to spend time with our fellow musicians in the orchestra. Through enduring long hours of practices and rehearsals, performing onstage with one another, and experiencing the cultures of countries abroad, we have come to know each other as friends, rather than colleagues. The word "Philharmonic" originates from the Greek words *philos* ("loving"), and *harmonica* ("harmony"), a fitting word to express the unity and passion we feel in performing, for both the elation of musician and audience alike.

Russell Tan Kiat Wei
President, Chamber Orchestra



Julie Park Wins Third Place with “Conscious Bins” Campaign

From July to October 2018, our Head Girl, Julie Park, embarked on a school-wide campaign – “Conscious Bins” – to encourage all students in our school to play an active role in paper recycling.

Julie’s passion project earned her a third place achievement in the Green Wave Environment Care Competition 2018, a nation-wide conservation competition organised by SembCorp Marine. She also won the overall Good Presenter Award as she thoroughly impressed the panel of judges with her confidence and conviction.

Congratulations and well done, Julie!



EVENTS

Orientation 1

From 3 to 4 January, over 200 new students marked the beginning of their time at ACS (International) with Orientation 2019 – two days that were packed with games and activities that helped these students better understand school life and get to know one another. Following the theme of “The Solar System”, each group was led by their Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs) and Orientation Assistants (OAs), competing against one other in various bonding activities that had them put their teamwork to the test in order to emerge victorious above the other groups.



On 3 January, orientees and parents flooded in to Oldham Chapel where they were given an introduction to ACS (International) by our Principal, Mr Rob Burrough. Additionally, the students were introduced to the 14th Prefectorial Board Executive Committee members and the role of prefects in the school. OGLs and OAs then began to break the ice by introducing themselves to their groups. Over time, the new students became more and more familiar with our school, through informative activities such as the school tour and learning of the school anthem. They also began to forge friendships with one another through an afternoon of games, showing great enthusiasm when learning their group cheers.



4 January was even more exciting than the previous day, as the new students who felt more welcomed and integrated into the ACS (International) family continued to show their excitement and eagerness during games such as Captain’s Ball, Capture the Flag and water games such as the Slip n Slide as well as the Water Balloon Fight. The two days of orientation ended with an electric showcase of group cheers and a choreographed mass dance from orientees, OGLs and OAs, to entertain the orientees’ parents, who were invited to attend the campfire ceremony, a tradition since our school was first opened in 2005. By the end of the night, the orientees were taking pictures with one another and had expressed excitement to start the school year with their newfound friends, much unlike the shy and unsure orientees who entered the school gates only a day earlier.



Although it may seem intimidating to begin a new chapter in an unfamiliar environment, it was heartening to see how a successful orientation has helped 2019’s batch of new students take the first steps towards a memorable and joyful future with ACS (International). This could not have been possible without the help of dedicated student leaders who devoted many days of planning and organising to make Orientation 2019 a success.

*Amelia Govier Lynge, 6 GHK & Kim Min Jun, 6 LSG
14th Student Council Subcommittee
14th Prefectorial Board*



Student Reflections

"The Orientation was very fun and helpful to us. We like the fact that we had a bonding experience with other students before school started. We got to know everyone better and we made many new friends. The group leaders were also very kind to us and gave a very helpful tour around the school so we won't get lost."

Kim Sanghee & Kim Hanhee (twins from Korea), 1 Thoburn

"The Orientation was very fun and an exciting experience for me. It was a great opportunity to make new friends and learn about my new school. The Orientation was mostly about getting students used to their new environment and familiar with their classmates. We were put into different teams each named after a planet in our solar system; each team was directed by about four confident Senior students. We played games against each other to collect points whilst also making friends."

Wilson Baxter Christiano Jong (Timor Leste), 1 TKK

"If I could describe Orientation Day, it would be nerve-racking, fun and memorable. It was nerve-racking for me because meeting new friends and being in a new school have always been nerve-racking. It was fun because all our Seniors or Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs) and Orientation Assistants (OAs) were very friendly and supportive as well. They took good care of us, and always made sure that we stayed hydrated. The games were also fun to play, both the dry and wet games. It was memorable because overall, I had a great time making new friends and also playing the games. I will never forget this day because I sprained my ankle for the first time when I was running, so now when my ankle hurts, I will remember this day of Orientation at ACS (International). It was a day to remember."

Jesslyne (Indonesia), 4 Thoburn



UPCOMING EVENTS

January	EVENT
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O Level results released. Senior staff available for Admissions interviews
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCA Fair (15:15-16:15)
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGCSE Results available online
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Induction for new International Students
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5s commence – IB Induction Day 1 (09:00)
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Induction Day 2
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 lessons begin
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSP Coffee Morning (08:45-09:30)
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor & Parent Meetings (CKS, GHK, LSG, OLD) (17:30-19:00)
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor & Parent Meetings (SVM, TCT, THO, TKK) (17:30-19:00)
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Prayer Group (08:15-09:15)

February	EVENT
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunar New Year Celebrations – Half Day for Students (08:00-12:00)
4-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunar New Year Holiday

EarthFest 2019



As part of the Interact Club's continued efforts to focus more on environmental conservation, our student Interactors would be taking part for the first time in **EarthFest 2019**.

In its fifth year, the annual EarthFest is Singapore's largest sustainability festival.

ACS (International) will be running a booth to share more about our conservation programmes, so do join us in this fun, family festival!

- **Date:** 20 January (Sunday)
- **Time:** 11:30am–4:30pm
- **Venue:** Marina Barrage
- **Booth Number:** 130 (2nd Floor)
- **Website:** <http://bit.ly/EarthFest2019Tix>



University Visits In School Term 1

The London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE)

Friday, 11 January

12.10 pm – 12.40 pm

Presentation: Seminar Room



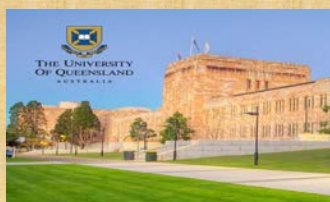
University of Birmingham

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

Monday, 14 January

12.10 pm – 12.40 pm

Presentation: Seminar Room



Can we de-extinct ancient Pokemon?

The University of Queensland

Thursday, 24 January

03.15 pm – 04.00 pm

Workshop: Seminar Room



Studying Medicine at Queen's
University Belfast

Thursday, 24 January

12.10 pm – 12.40 pm

Presentation: Seminar Room

Higher Education and Careers 2019 Important Dates

Parents/Guardians, please take note of the compulsory attendance for the following events organised by the Higher Education Department.

Higher Education Fair 2019

Date: 1 April

Time: 3:15pm–5:00pm

All Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students – Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend.

Writing Effective Personal Statement and Essays for Year 6

Date: 13–16 May

Time: 3:15pm–4:45pm

Year 6 cohort

University Application Session for Year 6

Date: 13 July

Time: 8:00am–2:00pm

Year 6 cohort – Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend.

