



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Jack Ma reportedly became the richest man in China last year when Alibaba was floated on the stock market with a value of around S\$300 billion - the largest public offering in history. Alibaba was founded in 1999 and since then has grown from 15 employees to more than 30,000 and now has 100 million visitors every day. A fairy-tale success story.

At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos Jack Ma said that success has not come easily. He said that he has had to deal with rejection many times in his life: He was turned down by Harvard 10 times; he failed the entry exams for colleges in China three times and was also rejected for many jobs in China, including one at KFC.

Jack Ma learnt English by giving tourists free tours around his hometown of Hangzhou - something that he did during his teenage years every morning for nine years. Forest Gump is Jack Ma's hero. Forest Gump "never gives up" and believes in what he is doing, said Ma. He also quoted the phrase "Life is like a box of chocolates because you never know what you're going to get".

We all can take inspiration from Jack Ma's story, and can apply the principles of never giving up, being determined, and changing direction when one door closes but another opens.

From a Christian perspective we also see the same principles reinforced throughout the Bible. Sometimes the things we pray for are not the things God has in store for us. Sometimes we might want to give up, and sometimes God's answer to prayer is 'no'. But when God closes one door He opens another. We can all look back in our lives and see the changing paths we have each taken. Hindsight is a great thing. Seeing the way forward is not so easy! However, Jeremiah 29:11 should be an encouragement to each of us: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

To all celebrating Lunar New Year we wish you a wonderful family time, and hopefully some periods of relaxation amongst the busy-ness of it all. The school office will be closed for the week 16 – 20 February. All students are expected to be at school until 3.15pm on Friday 13 February and return at 8.00am on Monday 23 February.

Gong Xi Fa Cai

Rob Burrough



ACS (International)

February 2015

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## NOTICES

**10th Anniversary**

A school: PSP committee is overseeing the 10th Anniversary celebrations. The next event is our Founder's Day celebration on Friday 27 February followed by ACS Sunday church service here at school with the Holland Village Methodist Church in Oldham Chapel.

The following two photos from the archives are of the school dedication service on 3 January 2005.

**Year 5 Information Evening**

All Year 5 parents are invited to learn about the IB programme at a presentation in Oldham Chapel on Wednesday 25 February from 6.00 – 7.00pm.

**Parent Teacher Meeting**

The school holds two Parent Teacher meetings each year – one at the beginning of Term 2 following the release of the Term 1 report and the other in Term 3. The first PTM will be held on Tuesday 31 March from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Parents and students are invited to talk to individual teachers about the progress of the students.

**CAS PE**

Due to the timetabling of the new Shape of the Week, some year 5 and year 6 students do not have PE on their timetables. The CAS Coordinator and the PE Department are looking at alternative options for this group of students.

**School Service Trips 2015**

The following trips are being offered in 2015. Please see the coordinator Ms Michelle Liew for further details, or collect an information sheet from reception.

**Nepal**

March 15-20 (Year 5 and 6)  
Max 35 students

**East Africa (Kenya)**

31 May -14 June (Years 3, 4, 5)  
Max 30 students

**Southern Africa**

31 May-16 June (Year 5)  
Max 40

**Vietnam**

1-7 June (Year 5)  
Max 30 students

**Kota Kinabalu**

24 June - 4 July (Year 5)  
Max 20 students  
Inclusive of 4 days of building and 2 days of trekking.

**India, Kochi**

6 -12 September (Year 5)

**West Australia**

5 – 16 September (Years 2 & 3)

Please note that attendance on an international CAS service trip is **not** compulsory for Year 5 students. It is possible to undertake a range of service activities in Singapore through House, Interact Club and other CCA activities.

The bi-annual Careers/Business trip to the Eastern seaboard of the USA will also be held during the June holidays. Registrations are currently open.

**Dropping and Changing of Subjects**

Students arriving in Year 5 have been given until 13 February to confirm their option choices.

After Lunar New Year there will be no further option changes for Years 3 and 5. Please refer to the school policy, 'Dropping and Changing of Subjects', on the school website.

**Application for Transcripts, Testimonials and References**

Students requiring documentation for university applications or applications to other schools must complete the 'Transcript Application Form' available from the website <http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/en/section/2010>.

A maximum of 15 days must be allowed to process these documents which are dealt with on a first come first served basis. We regret we are unable to fast track individual requests.





### Oxbridge Acceptances

We were delighted to receive news in January that three students gained acceptance to Oxford and Cambridge for September / October. Shasta Kaul has been accepted to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at St Hilda's College beginning this October. This PPE course, along with Law, has the lowest acceptance rate into the university. Shasta scored 44 in last year's IBDP.

Dev Kishor Anand and Ho Renchun (both Class of 2012) have been offered places at Cambridge University following the completion of their National Service. Dev is to study Mathematics and Renchun the Human, Social and Political Sciences degree. Both scored 43 in the IBDP.

### School Fees and Change to Refund Policy

A reminder that this semester fees are now overdue for all students. Please see the school website

<http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/docs/School%20Fees%202015.pdf> for more details.

We also remind parents that the school Deposit is paid to cover losses over the time the student is at school plus the school draws on this fund for IGCSE, Language and IB examination fees, IB induction and workshops, and school camps. This saves parents from having to make additional payments.

Existing parents with students in Year 5 have been sent invoices asking them to 'top up' their deposits due to the drawn payments for camp and examination fees. The IBDP is regarded as a separate two year school programme, hence the request for the top up.

In addition, the Board of Management has made a change to the refund policy for IB students who leave before the end of Year 6. If an IB student leaves the school before the end of the two year course the full deposit is forfeited. This measure has been introduced to recover some lost income due to early withdrawal.

The school is unable to replace any student who leaves the IB programme after the first month or so as it is too difficult for a new student to catch up on missed work. We are therefore not able to replace withdrawn students and recover lost fees.

### PSP Corporate Prayer Meetings

These prayer meetings are held on the first Friday of every month. All are welcome.

*Venue:* John Wesley Hall

*Time:* 8:15am – 9:30am

### Combined ACS Prayer Meeting

We will be hosting the ACS combined prayer meeting on 27 March from 8.15 am to 10 am. Again, all are welcome.

### 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 are restricting vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7.30 and 8.10am. This took effect from Monday 12 January.

This means that parents will not be 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.



### Website Additions

The following information has been uploaded on the school website:

- Teachers' Email Addresses  
<http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/en/section/942>
- Student Extended Essay (EE) Handbook 2014 - 2015  
<https://intranet.acsinternational.com.sg/api/subwebs/?id=173>
- IBDP May and November Exam Schedule  
<https://intranet.acsinternational.com.sg/api/subwebs/?id=37>

Parents are encouraged to contact subject teachers via their school email addresses.

### OBA Founder's Day Dinner

Old Boys and others who wish to attend the annual OBA Dinner on Sunday 1 March at the Orchard Hotel are able to buy tickets at \$110 each from the school.

## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### Speak! Ventures Debate Championships 2015

Our debate team acquitted themselves well in this championship held on 24 and 25 January. The debaters were: Dhruv Uppal (GHK), Naveen Venkat (THO), Nathan Ni Jing (CKS), Jeriel Lim Jie Rui (OLD), Leo Ja Hyun Koo (TCT). In the Silver Division, competing with 19 other teams, our team emerged among the top 4 teams, qualifying to enter the Semi-Final. In the three rounds of debate on the first day, they won two rounds, with Dhruv Uppal named Best Speaker in all three rounds.

Even more delightful was to know that in the Best Speaker List, Naveen Venkat was placed 9th among 60 debaters and Dhruv topped the list, gaining first place as Best Speaker in the Silver Division. Warm congratulations, Dhruv, Naveen, Nathan, Jeriel, Leo.

### Singapore International Schools' Debate League 2015

After two intensive months of planning, the above inaugural League was launched at 9 am on Saturday, 17 January in our school. The Organizing Committee was ably led by Risa Tan (6 OLD), with enthusiastic assistance from Dhruv Uppal (4 GHK), Naveen Venkat (4 THO), Lim Mun Yiang (4SVM), Lincoln Lee (6 TTK) and magnificent support from our school Ambassadors. We were pleased with the keen response from the following international schools: Global Indian International School, Hwa Chong International School, SJI International, teams A & B, Singapore American School, teams A & B, United World College SEA Dover campus, teams A & B, ACS (International) and a swing team from the Debate Development Initiative.

With Internationalism as its theme, the league had teams sparring with intellect and eloquence in one prepared and two impromptu rounds. At the end of the day, the winning teams and Best Individual Speakers were presented with trophies by our Principal, Mr Rob Burrough. In his closing remarks, Mr Burrough explained that the Tso Ping Lung Award for Best Speaker was named in honour of the man who was the first President of the Celestial Reasoning Society (1882-1885), which was considered to be the first debating society formed by the Straits Chinese. Tso Ping Lung was a contemporary of Bishop Oldham, the founder of ACS.

### Regional Outlook Forum

On 8 January 2015 Year 6 Economics students attended the Regional Outlook Forum (ROF) 2015 organized by ISEAS (Institute of South East Asian Studies) at the Shangri-La hotel. The annual ROF had distinguished guests from all walks of life discuss the economic, social, political and overall outlook of specific South East Asian countries. It was an enriching experience for our students having the chance to meet with so many distinguished people from all over the world and to listen to what they have to say.



The Forum helped our students to understand the goals of three main South East Asian Countries (China, Japan and Thailand). This practical experience for our students exposed them to the real world where they understood that the theories they learn in class can succeed and fail depending on the socioeconomic and political situation of a country.





### Year 5 IBDP Induction Programme 2015

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme for Year 5 was launched on 19 January 2015. Various activities were organised for our Diploma students and they were introduced to the IB Core - Creativity Service and Action (CAS), Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK).

This involved practical as well as theory sessions. Students were given opportunities to explore 'The Leader In Me' conducted by Mrs Tan Siew Hoon our VP (Student and Staff Development), and they also attended a higher education talk with Ms Rita Kaur, our Higher Education Counsellor. Other sessions included First Aid and Keeping Ourselves Safe (KAPAP).

Some reflections from our diploma students:

"Kapap was a fulfilling and thoroughly enjoyable experience. We were being informed of potential dangers and to always be alert and aware of the dangers around me. At first, it was challenging to perfect the moves but through practice and observation I improved. I am glad to have been given the opportunity to learn but hopefully I won't ever have to use it..."

*Nicole Lueder, 5 TCT*

"...friendly trainers were experienced...I have definitely gained more confidence in protecting myself against danger especially when I travel overseas in the future..."

*Kezia Tan, 5 CKS*

Waterways Service Project



ManageBac Users



The Leader in Me





### Inter-House Competitions

The first Inter-house competitions of the year were held on Thursday 29 January and saw very healthy and positive competition between all of the houses.



Football and Netball were the first sports of the year to be played and as with each year, the standard of competition continues to rapidly improve. CKS performed most consistently over the four competitions and gained victories in both Junior and Senior Netball and Senior Boys football. TCT were victorious in the Junior Boys football competition. Congratulations to all houses that took part as the games were held in a very sporting, but competitive spirit. Please see below for the full results:



	Junior Girl Netball	Senior Girl Netball	Junior Boy Football	Senior Boy Football	Overall Netball	Overall Football	Overall Winners
1st	CKS	CKS	TCT	CKS	CKS	CKS	CKS
2nd	THO	THO	CKS	GHK	THO	TCT	TCT, THO
3rd	SVM	LSG	LSG	TCT	LSG SVM, TKK, TCT, OLD	TKK	TKK
4th	TKK	GHK	THO	TKK	GHK	LSG, THO, SVM	LSG
5th	OLD	TCT	TKK	SVM	GHK	OLD	SVM, GHK
6th	TCT	OLD	SVM	OLD			OLD
7th	LSG	TKK	OLD	THO			
8th	GHK	SVM	GHK	LSG			





## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY	EVENT
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interact Non Uniform Day – Charity Fund Raiser</li> <li>PSP Prayer Group Meeting 8.30am (All are welcome)</li> </ul>
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 Integrated Humanities to Malaka</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back to School Party (PSP/Student Council) 3.30 – 6.00pm</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.30 – 2.00pm - Lunar New Year School Celebration</li> <li>School Closes at 2:00pm</li> </ul>
14-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lunar New Year School Holiday</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School re-opens</li> </ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SG 50 Amoy Street Mural Project (Art)</li> <li>Year 5 Information Evening 6:00 – 7:00pm</li> </ul>
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15-10:30am Founders Day Celebration</li> <li>11:00am -1:00pm Staff and Guests Lunar New Year Lunch</li> </ul>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SG 50 Amoy Street Mural Project (Art)</li> <li>10.00am T-Net Basketball Tournament</li> </ul>

MARCH	EVENT
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final TOK Presentations</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of Term Report for Term 1 Published</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T-Net Basketball Tournament</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-House Music</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of Term</li> <li>Classes finish at 11.30am</li> </ul>
13 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rock Climbing Trip to Kuala Lumpur</li> </ul>
14 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hong Kong Immersion Trip to Methodist College</li> </ul>
15 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nepal Medical Missions Trip</li> </ul>

Date / Time	Important University Application Events
Thursday 2 April 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher Education Fair 2015 (Parents and Year 4 to Year 6 students are invited to attend)</li> </ul>
18 – 21 May 3.15 – 4.45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Statement Writing Workshop (Compulsory attendance for all Year 6 students– 2 Houses per week)</li> </ul>
Saturday 25 July 8.15 am – 2.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University Application Talk (All Year 6 students must attend, parents are welcome to join)</li> </ul>

**SATS Preparation course @ ACS (International)**

On-Campus Preparation Course for the SAT is suitable for students applying to the US Universities. The program includes over 25 hours of regular seminars, three computer-scored diagnostic tests and review session apart from 400-word vocabulary flashcard box and College Board's Official SAT Study Guide.

**When:** February 24 –April 30 2015  
(Every Tuesday from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm)

**Where:** ACS (International)

**Provider:** Testtakers Singapore  
(a company specializing in SAT preparation)

**Course Fee:** \$950

More information at [www.testtakers-sg.com](http://www.testtakers-sg.com);

Email: [info@testtakers-sg.com](mailto:info@testtakers-sg.com)

(Please see Ms Rita Kaur for registration forms)

