



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

We are well into the final term with the main focus of the school obviously being on examination preparation and examinations. Last week was the final week in class for our Year 4 students before they left on IGCSE study leave; and our Year 6s start their study leave on Wednesday, 16 October. At the final Year 4 Assembly on Friday, students were thanked for their contribution to school life during their time with us, were exhorted to make the most of their study leave over the examination period.

A recent Term 4 Chapel message by Rev. Chan Siew Chye on Time Management reinforced this message of making the most of study time. He reminded everyone that we all have the same 24 hours each day available to us, and that it is up to us to make the maximum use of this limited resource. He said that a key to time management is Planning and Prioritising. He used the well-known story of the professor and the container of rocks to illustrate his points. The professor filled a container with rocks and asked the class if the container was full. "Yes" they replied. He then added some pebbles to illustrate that it was not full. "Is it full now?" "Yes" they mostly replied. He then added sand. "Is it full now?" "No!" they replied as they understood the game and the professor then added water to the container to confirm that response.

The professor went on to explain that the jar signifies one's life. The rocks are equivalent to the most important things in our lives, such as family, health, and relationships. And if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and your life would still have a meaning. The pebbles represent the other things that matter in our lives, such as work, school and studies. These things are important but are not permanent or as essential to our overall well-being. The sand represents small tasks and material possessions in our lives, and finally the water represents the distractions that prevent you from getting any work done at all. (Some wags re-interpret the water analogy to state that there is always time for a drink!)

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true for the things you let into your life too. As Pastor Siew Chye exhorted us, we need to prioritise our time and deal with the most important tasks first. For students, time management and examination preparation should be a very high priority at this time!

Some of our Year 4 students will not be returning to school next year, and of course our Year 6 students will move on to higher education or National Service. It is always sad when we say goodbye to members of the school family. Our wish for each student is that they use the study time to maximum advantage; that each performs to their potential in the actual examinations; and that they go on to achieve highly at university and the workforce. To those leaving school, we thank them for their contribution to our school community and we wish them well in their university studies and wider future. We trust that they will each remember their time with us with affection, and our school being a positive transforming influence in their lives.

And above all...we remind them of the encouraging words from Deuteronomy 31:8 to sustain them during the times of examinations and in life generally: "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

**Best wishes**

**Rob Burrough**



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The word LASER stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

## STAFF NEWS

We welcome Mr Firdaus Kasmani, Lab Technician, who joined us on 30 September. He replaces Ms Ng Xin Hui.

## NOTICES

## End-of-Year Key Dates

Please note the following key dates for Term 4:

## October

16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day for Year 6</li> </ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Study Leave begins</li> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 5 begin</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 3, FIB &amp; Pre-IB begin</li> <li>Year 2 Study Leave begins</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 2 begin</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 Study Leave begins</li> </ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 1 begin</li> </ul>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepavali – SCHOOL CLOSED</li> </ul>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Science Internal Assessment begins</li> </ul>

## November

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final day of Internal End-of-Year Exams</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal classes resume</li> </ul>
6, 7, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 English IOCs</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day of lessons</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Assembly</li> <li>Inter-House Tug of War</li> <li>Speech Day rehearsal and tidy up (starts 9:00am; ½ day for most students)</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech Day</li> <li>Last school day for students</li> <li>Student reports issued</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final IBDP examination</li> <li>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony (see Poster on page 15 for details)</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Prom</li> </ul>

## Start of 2020 Arrangements

## Year 5 IBDP

Due to the early timing of Lunar New Year and its potential effect on our IB Diploma Programme, the start date for our own Year 5 students who qualified for entry via DSA (based on their Year 4 preliminary examination results at the end of Term 3 in 2019) and 2019 Pre IB and FIB students who qualified, will be Wednesday, 8 January 2020.

New students from the 'O' levels track and our own students who did not qualify for entry via DSA will start as soon as they have been approved for entry. These students will be given some catch-up time.

The advantage of this earlier start is that students will have extra lessons to help mitigate the very large IBDP workload.

## First Weeks

Friday, 3 January

2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IBDP results released at the Library</li> </ul>
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Monday, 6 January

All Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Training: IB and Non-IB Workshops "Investigating Inquiry" (for all teachers)</li> </ul>
11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Students Welcome by the Principal followed by lunch with new students and parents</li> </ul>
1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC briefing for new international students</li> </ul>
1:00pm–5:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student subject consultations and changes with Divisional Coordinators</li> </ul>

Tuesday, 7 January

All Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Training: IB Workshop "Investigating Inquiry" (for all teachers)</li> <li>New Students Orientation I (excluding Year 5) with BBQ &amp; Bonfire at 6pm</li> </ul>
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Wednesday, 8 January

10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole School Assembly</li> </ul>
10:45am–11:20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Tutor Group meetings to go over expectations, timetables, iSAMS personal details</li> </ul>
10:45am–12noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tutor Group meetings (all except Year 5) to go over expectations, timetables, iSAMS personal details</li> </ul>
11:30am–1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 IBDP Introduction</li> <li>Other year groups released at 12noon unless required for subject options/timetable changes with Divisional Coordinators</li> </ul>

Thursday, 9 January

8:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House Meetings</li> </ul>
8:45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period 1 begins, followed by regular timetable</li> </ul>



## Lunar New Year 2020

To reduce disruption to curriculum time during the Lunar New Year period, the events/activities on the following dates are organised:

Wednesday, 22 January

- Normal classes (Periods 1 to 5)

Thursday, 23 January to Tuesday, 28 January

- Lunar New Year break – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday, 29 January

- Normal classes resume

Friday, 31 January

- Chapel
- Normal classes (Periods 1 to 3a)  
(Junior students leave at 11am)
- Lunar New Year Assembly
- Staff Lunch

## Internal End-of-Year, IB and IGCSE Examination Schedules

The schedule of the 2019 Internal End-of-Year Examinations as well as IB and IGCSE Examinations can be found at <https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/information-for-parents-public/examinations>. No login is required.

## End-of-Year School Examinations

School examinations for Years 1, 2, 3, 5 plus Pre-IG, Pre-IB and FIB students begin on Thursday, 17 October, and end on Friday, 1 November. Student need only attend school for their actual examinations during the examination period and must report to school for their examinations in full school uniform.

## Study Nights

Study nights run from 3 October to 14 November, every Tuesday and Thursday, at the school library. The extended hours till 8:00 pm are solely for Years 4 and 6 students. No other students will be admitted so as to provide a conducive environment for the Years 4s and 6s.

Students are reminded to dress in school attire when using the library. School related shirts, such as the polo tee and House t-shirts are permitted, and must be worn with the school pants or skirt. PE shorts are not allowed. Students in the wrong attire will be asked to change out before being allowed entry into the library.

The PSP will sponsor dinner for the students in attendance and the staff on duty on the designated evenings.

## Important Information for International Students

A few matters for parents/guardians of international students to take note:

### *School Calendar 2020*

This is the time of the year when many of you may be thinking of purchasing air tickets for next year. The 2020 term dates, beneath the 2019 Calendar, can be found in our school website via this link: <https://www.acsinternational.edu.sg/en/academic-calendar-2/>

### *Change of Residential Address*

If your child/ward has changed their residential address in Singapore, it is important that they notify the ISPC (Mdm Chin) so that the school can update ICA on the change of address.

### *Withdrawal deadline from Hostels*

If your child/ward has fulfilled the one-year mandatory stay in the hostel, they have to inform their respective boarding hostels if they do not intend to stay on in 2020.

ACS Oldham Hall – Notice must be given no later than **15 October**. Failure to do so would result in the forfeit of the deposit paid.

ACS (Independent) Boarding School – Notice must be given no later than **21 October**.

### *Homestay*

Your child/ward is required to move into one of the homestays on the homestay list recognised by the school. They can see Mdm Chin at NB3-02 during their lunch break or after their last lesson of the day if they need more information on the availability of approved homestay providers.

We recommend that once students have decided on switching to the homestay option, they should visit a few homestays to speak with the homestay provider, check out the environment as well as the food options provided. Once they are decided on a homestay, they are to see Mdm Chin to get a "Notification of withdrawal from hostel" form so that she can follow up with a phone call to you to ascertain the intention of change and the preferred homestay. Students would then submit the completed form and the hostel's withdrawal form to the hostel.

You are reminded to sign a contract with the homestay provider and that your child/ward should hold a copy of the contract while it is in force.

### *International Student Insurance*

The school will continue to engage the services of Honan Insurance in 2020. You can proceed to buy or renew your child/ward's insurance directly with Honan during the upcoming November/December school holidays as there may be too many things to settle at the start of the school year.



## 2019 Year 4 Colours Award Recipients



### Year 4 Recipients of 2019 Colours Award for Leadership Practice and Development

#### GOLD

Gurnihal Singh	CKS
Ronak Sanan	CKS
Lim Kai Jun	SVM
Manya Nahata	SVM
Clarisse Lim Jia-Yi	SVM

#### SILVER

Kan Nuoya	CKS
Gai Siyan	CKS
Fahim Mohammed	GHK
Nguyen Thanh Thao Lam	SVM
Le Quoc Thai	SVM
Wei Yu	TKK

#### BRONZE

Stephanie Tsang Miao Zi	GHK
Vivian Hu Xin Hui	TCT
Cheng Xirui	THO
Cheng Yingfei	TKK
Natalie Chew Jiaxian	CKS

## Year 5 IB Internal Scholarships

Thanks to the Year 4 students who submitted their application. The standard was uniformly high with the panel finding it difficult to reduce to a long shortlist for interview. The panel will notify all applicants of their application outcome with shortlisted applicants to be interviewed next week.

## Request for Testimonials/Transcripts

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

- 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. They only need to apply for these documents if they are applying to university before year end.
- Year 4 students whose parents have informed the school that they are leaving are eligible to apply for a testimonial and a transcript.
- Students in other year groups are not eligible for a testimonial but are able to apply for a school transcript which summarises their report grades at ACS (International) when applying to other schools. The school does not write reports for these schools but only provides the school transcript if they request for a school report.
- The Academic Secretary, Ms Manwant Kaur, will process these requests upon receipt of the completed testimonial/transcript application form, which can be downloaded from the website ([Life At ACS – Forms and Important Information](#)). Please allow a minimum of 10 working days for the processing of testimonials and 5 working days for transcripts.

## Blazer Donations

Leaving students are requested to donate their old school blazers to the school for “recycling”. They can deposit their blazer at the Reception, General Office for the school to dry-clean and on-sell.





## STUDENT SUCCESSES

## National Science Challenge 2019



This year, our school enrolled Year 3 students namely Atulya Aryan, Moon Eun Yeong, Stephanie Min, Patrick Zhou, Tan Cae Lyn to participate in the annual National Science Challenge. Organised by the

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and Science Centre Singapore, this televised game show/competition composed of 42 schools from all over Singapore, aimed for students and members of the public to “marvel at how science is in everything around us”. The series aims to nurture the passion for scientific inquiry and develop creative problem-solving skills.



The competition began with the qualifying rounds (see topmost photo) on 22 May at Biopolis, where all students had to take an individual written MCQ test on all the three aspects of science. Only the top 24 schools with the highest collective scores on the test would make it through to the next round, the quarter-finals. We are proud to say that it was the first time in our school's history for a team to ever make it through to the quarter-finals.

At the quarter-final round on 10 July, there were two parts. The communication round required us to give a three-minute presentation while the application round required us to physically build a model that links to the concepts we have learned. Our given topic was angular momentum and gyroscopes, which was under the physical aspect of science. We were pitted against Dunman High School, Catholic High School and School of Science and Technology. Although the competition was tough, our model in the application round was deemed the best among other schools. However, we did not proceed to the semi-finals, but we were proud to represent ACS (International).

We would like to thank our supervising science teachers who led us through training sessions for this competition – Ms Lim, Ms Low, Mr Kor and Ms Seah. Overall, we felt that this was a valuable experience and we learnt a lot from it. It will surely benefit us in the future as students and we are thankful for this opportunity.

*Tan Cae Lyn, 3 SVM*

## Cambridge Upper Secondary Science Competition 2019

The inaugural Cambridge Upper Secondary Science competition commenced in Term 1 and 28 Year 3 students formed teams of up to six to participate in the competition. The participants had the opportunity to develop their passion for Science through practical work and to investigate on topics of interest using Science methods, which were completed over 25 hours, outside of their curriculum time. This competition promotes the attributes of a Cambridge learner through collaboration, communication, innovation and creativity.

During the judging session in Term 2, our teams were awarded Participation, Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates. The list of winners for ACS (International) is shown below. Congratulations to our students on their achievements and thanks to all students who participated in the competition.

Team	Certificate
Tan Cae Lyn, Bill Johnathan, Sim Ching Xiang Christian, Zheng Jiayi	Gold
Tan Mu En Jenell, Suveer Singh, Tan Chong Yu Donovan, Aditya Kumar Bhardwaj	Silver
Sun Lehan, Kaito Sato, Jaz Minjia Pang, Kao Zhi Ying Celine, Roy Kawaguchi	Silver
Jeun Minju, Zhu Hanqi, Asumi Yamano	Silver
Emmanuel Quintis Carter, Natasha Rose Papasolomontos, Suramya Sood, Yuki Kashiwagi, Sanya Bobby Sanghavi, David Kai En Leong	Silver
Victoria Ann Warren Streeton (Vicky), Dhaniesha Girish Jethnani, Shreya Supriyakumar Sakhalkar, Natanya Abigail Mandagi, Aaliya Moiz Sithawalla	Bronze
Ishita Chetan Jain, Choong Wuan Rong Bernice, Ashley Xin Le Lim, Keira Yi Xian Lim, Lim Colette Hui Yee, Joschka Flynn Kalisch	Participation



Teachers Mrs Phua Mui Kiam and Ms Low Lin Da with our proud Gold awardees, Tan Cae Lyn, Zheng Jiayi, Bill Johnathan and Sim Ching Xiang Christian

## The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

Seven Year 2 and Year 3 students took part in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition in April and May respectively this year. This inaugural project was undertaken by the English Faculty and served as an opportunity for our Junior Year Group students to engage in creative writing tasks and connect with global issues.

The topics that our students wrote on were as follows:

- *My cultural connections*
- *An overseas visitor is coming to your town for the first time. How would you connect with them?*
- *A place I feel connected to*
- *The Commonwealth connects people across borders – what can we learn from our neighbours?*
- *Connected by the oceans; can we work together to protect the environment?*

The participants were Faye Marie Setiawan (Gold and Silver awards), Alarice Teo Jie Shi (Silver award), Timothy Ri Xiang Tan (Silver award), Priya Peeris (Bronze award), Marc David Yuan Jun (Bronze award), and Isaac Lung Jia Cheng and Evelyn Goh Wen Xuan who received certificates of participation.



Of special mention is Faye whose essay was selected by the panel of judges as one of the **Finalist Gold Awards**. This means that the judge who marked her essay thought it was **the best one they had read** and put it forward for consideration to the Final Panel. Only 75 out of the 11,000 entries were put forward.

We congratulate all our diligent and talented participating writers!

## Australian Mathematics Competition 2019

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank has been held annually since 1978. One of the largest annual events on the Australian education calendar, the AMC is one of the largest of its type in the world. More than 40 countries participate each year.

The competition aims to be accessible to all students from Years 1 to 6, not just the mathematically gifted. There is an emphasis on problem solving, a valuable life skill, and the questions are designed to be fun for the students. The AMC consists of three papers, each with 30 questions in the Junior (ACS Years 1 and 2, Australian Year 7 and 8), Intermediate (ACS Years 3 and 4, Australian Year 9 and 10) and Senior (ACS Years 5 and 6, Australian Year 11 and 12) divisions. Time allowed is 75 minutes.

Over 1,000 students shared the prizes and around 50% of participants qualified to receive a Certificate of High Distinction, Distinction or Credit. All other entrants in the competition receive a Certificate of Participation or a Proficiency Certificate. All students were also provided with a detailed report showing how they performed in each problem with wider statistical rankings.

On 1 August, 107 of our students (Years 1 to 6) took part in AMC 2019. Our list of High Distinction and Distinction award recipients is shown below:

Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) 2019 Results		
Name	Division	Award
Ethelyn Huang Meici	Junior	High Distinction
Minwoo Kim	Junior	Distinction
Luke Lai	Junior	Distinction
Tomoki Wakabayashi	Junior	Distinction
Dayoun Moon	Junior	Distinction
Jo Woonhyeong	Junior	Distinction
Qian Yuting	Intermediate	Distinction
Zhang Zhaoxiang	Intermediate	Distinction
Du Yanzhang	Intermediate	Distinction
Rong Yanhan	Intermediate	Distinction
Lyu Nuo	Intermediate	Distinction
Lee Chaehyeon	Intermediate	Distinction
Jongwon Yang	Intermediate	Distinction
Justin Cheng Ming Hearn	Intermediate	Distinction
Son Yoona	Intermediate	Distinction
Xirui Cheng	Intermediate	Distinction
Vo Hoang Long	Senior	Distinction
Bella Chang Eun Jun	Senior	Distinction





## Extended Essay Companion

At ACS (International), we adopted Callido Learning's Extended Essay Companion – a tech-based skills development resource for our IBDP students last year. This is in line with our aim to provide quality learning to our students in their IBO Core learning journey. This resource helped our students independently learn the critical thinking skills they need for the IBDP and the Extended Essay. As teachers, we were able to monitor their progress and provide additional support when needed.

At the start of 2018, less than 10% of students were in the high-achieving zone for critical thinking. Through this platform, we were able to significantly improve our students' critical thinking skills. By the end of the programme, 20% of our students were in the top quartile of global students exhibiting sharp critical thinking skills.



Callido has been a useful tool that has enhanced my research and academic writing skills. It helped me identify apt and relevant resources for my research work and provided me with more knowledge of the ideology of citation.

*Avi Tripathi, 6 CKS*



Additionally, we are happy to announce that 34 of our students each qualified for a Certificate of Distinction from Dr Fruzzetti, Brown University, for their excellent performance in critical thinking skills in the Post Baseline Callido Assessment (see the list below).

1. Elliot Luke Soh Yunjie
2. Benjamin Djohan Ting Wei Leong
3. Sheena Huen Yan Yin
4. Taylor Wong Ka Ling
5. Sunny Singh
6. Amelia Lynge
7. Lee Hyojun
8. Mckayla Esther Tanoko
9. Justin Ooi Yen Sern
10. Anahita Darayus Bhesania
11. William Zhi Wei Woong
12. Rohit Rishi Ranganathan
13. Adam Angell
14. Janet Tedjasmita
15. Virawin Hanratanakool
16. Ciera Wong Chia Yun
17. Linda Tom
18. Hannah Koh
19. Ava Maria Chan Zyi
20. Chereese Tan
21. Nicole Lai Wei Wei
22. Zhang Ruiyang
23. Devansh Doshi
24. Abhisek Rai
25. Benjamin Chua
26. Chen Xinmiao
27. Sim Si Leng
28. Park Ju-Hyun
29. Wang Zhuoyu
30. Kaylene Choe
31. Gautam Ramasamy
32. Chang Eun Jun
33. Jaeger Hong
34. Veronica Huang

Our collaboration with Callido continues with the 2019-2020 IBDP cohort with greater focus and integration.

*The Best is Yet To Be.*

*Mrs Rhevatee Gobin  
Extended Essay Co-ordinator*



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NEWS

### ACS Oldham Hall Thanksgiving Dinner

On 21 September, ACS Oldham Hall hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The Guest of Honour was Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung and the theme for the event was “Salut” (Honouring with a grateful heart).

About 144 boarders from our school attended this event together with Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Dr Kris Achter, Mdm Chin Siew Lin and Mdm Goh Weili. Other guests invited were stakeholders and partners including Oldham Hall Management Committee, the ACS BOG, Barker Road Methodist Church, various partner schools, guardians and agents, alumni and befrienders.

This year, ACS Oldham Hall also invited some of their contractors (cleaners, laundry, caterers, etc.) to honour them as “unsung heroes”.

The Thanksgiving Dinner is also an important event for the boarders as this is the time for us to come together, to celebrate and to give thanks to the Housemasters who have taken good care of us in the past year. Boarders with good behaviour and who have contributed to the Hall received a “Service Award” or “Merit Award”. The “Boarder of the Year” award was also given to the best boarder, one per gender. Congratulations to Doan Ngoc Linh Dan (6 LSG) for receiving the Best Boarder Award (Female) and also to the Merit Award recipients, Beverly Njio, Chau Nguyen Khanh Giao, Doan Ngoc Linh Dan, Dong Renguang, Duong Hong Hanh, Jin Kawaso, Ryoko Fujii and Wang Yujia.



Doan Ngoc Linh Dan  
(6 LSG):  
Best  
Boarder  
Award  
(Female)



Hailey &  
Vo Thi Tra My



Wilson, Isaac &  
Justin Tunaldi



Hei Lam Ng  
(Hailey)  
entertains the  
guests with her  
performance

The Thanksgiving Dinner is one of my favourite events at ACS Oldham Hall. It reminds me to always be thankful for all the good things I have received here and appreciate the great care that the Housemasters have provided me. I also enjoyed helping out and giving back to the Hall as an usher and performer, and sharing information on hostel life to the guests and teachers.

Zhao Chenfan (James), 5 Oldham

## PPG NEWS

### Parents Prayer Group's Outing

A Saturday morning of discovery on 28 September greeted 29 parents who went on a romp through Singapore's Civic District, then enjoyed fellowship and lunch at the newly-refurbished Funan Mall.

Our volunteer guides from the Preservation of Sites and Monuments (a division of the National Heritage Board) took us to three national monuments and regaled us with stories of their “Double Lives” as each building, not unlike people, had fascinating private and public facets. For lunch, the 5 Senses Bistro in Funan Mall delivered on its mission of stoking all five human senses and our fifth taste – *umami*! Since good things come in threes, personal discovery was added to the mix. Our School Counsellor, Ms Chantal Roux, led us through a time of exploring the legacy we wish to leave for our children, and whether this was in line with God's plan for them. She inspired us with anecdotes from her childhood and guided us through several bible passages as points of reflection.

There was much for everyone to discover but above all, we took away with us a sense of being a part of something bigger than our often parochial existence, bolder than we had dared to dream, and most blessed to have a supportive community of parents.



The PPG meets monthly to pray for the school, and we welcome all to join us. Our final prayer meeting for the year would be held on Thursday, 7 November, 8:00am–9:00am in the Conference Room, General Office (next to the Reception). Please contact Karen Chew at 91110971 for details.





## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## TCT House Charity Project

On 30 August, a group of TCT students together with three teachers, Mdm Josephine Teo, Mr James Cope and Ms Cheryl Seah, went to Gardens by the Bay in collaboration with the Methodist Welfare Services, where we accompanied a group of old folks in the Flower Dome.



Although it was a bit hot when we first got there, we all cooled down instantly when entering the Flower Dome. We had a splendid time together; looking at the floral displays, taking pictures and walking around the cool dome. After an hour of sightseeing, we headed to the food court where the old folks had refreshments such as mooncakes, tea, coffee and biscuits. While they ate, we all drew up chairs to their tables and talked to them, and we actually had very interesting conversations with them. After enjoying the refreshments, we went to find a photo spot, and we found it amusing when phone after phone were handed over by their respective owners to ask our designated photographer to take more group pictures!



Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this charity experience, and if I get the opportunity to participate again, I would!

Victoria Streeton, 3 TCT

## TKK House Charity Project

The TKK House Charity Project is an ongoing event that takes place on the last Friday of the month. To date, more than half of TKK House students have participated in this project. Here's two reflections written by our students.

*Student Reflections*

TKK is probably best known for our monthly house visits. We help an uncle with disability by buying him groceries and cleaning his one-room HDB flat near our school. I find that by doing charity in this manner as a House, we are able to make more impact than just doing fundraising.

As the TKK Charity Prefect, I have participated in almost all the house visits. I can faithfully say that these experiences have helped bring me new perspectives in life. Although life as a student can be stressful too, I am at least fortunate enough to be able to conduct my daily tasks.

I feel it is important for our House to carry on with this project and continue to create an impact in other people's lives. By helping others, it brings gratitude on how fortunate we are. This would then help motivate us to not give up in our studies.

Pichaya (Vicky) Chanpongsri, Year 2

This is my first time doing House charity. Before I went to the house of the beneficiary, I felt a little scared. However, when I got there, I was quite surprised that the person looked quite cheerful because I thought he would be moody and upset. I did feel sorry for him that he had to live in that condition but it made me even more motivated to help him even though it's just simple things like helping to clean his windows and walls. It also made me feel even more grateful and blessed for what I have in life.

Giulia Sky Suhandinata @ Su Wei Yuan, Year 3





## Visit to Bethany Nursing Home

Just like how the day is followed by the night in a perpetual cycle, there are times when we're just stuck in our everyday responsibilities, doing the same daily routine. It makes it easy to fall into the path of being confined within our own bubble and comfort zones. And so I took a trip to a nursing home and learnt the significance of stepping out of that bubble and becoming more connected with society and giving back to them.



On 10 September, we made a visit to our beneficiary, Bethany Nursing Home. That morning, we saw the residents, most of whom in wheelchair, were participating in a "Hope Kee" programme where they sang and

danced to music and played games. Subsequently, we had a tour of the residence and saw the difference between the renovated wing and those not renovated yet. There was a significant difference between the two and seeing how much more homely the residence has become is very gratifying, especially knowing that our contributions has helped make a difference in their lives.

Moreover, visiting the home has helped shed some light on the many perspectives of life – it broadens my horizons too. It's quite astounding when the realisation comes: that one day, I too will be in a phase of life where I won't be as able bodied and gone will be my days of youth. It has made me become more appreciative of the present especially when I am full of energy and am able to help and give back to the community, which is what I intend to continue to do.



It was a delightful experience, knowing that our efforts for Choice To Run has given back to a good cause and that it puts a smile on other people's face. In our day and age where the pace of living is quite rapid, slowing down and connecting with different communities is therapeutic. It's part of our human condition as we are all inter-connected with one another.

I have learned a valuable lesson that I will hold close to my heart: when you heal others, you heal yourself.

Jia Ying Lim, 5 LSG  
Vice-Head, Ambassadors

## The Guzheng Ensemble's Mid-Autumn Festival Showcase

After three months of preparation and weeks of rehearsals, the ACS (International) Guzheng Ensemble performed at the Mid-Autumn Festival at Shangri-La Hotel on 30 August. Ten students adorned in traditional Chinese costumes in various dynasty-styles, complete with makeup and hairdos, brought the audience back in time with their mesmerising repertoire of songs.

The audience were delightfully entertained with the Guzheng Ensemble's rendition of five songs which were all related to the moon. From a classical song *Pale Moonlight Reflecting the Fish* to modern songs *Moonlight in Town* and *Love Song in the Moonlight* to a soothing song *Colourful Clouds Chasing the Moon* and to a joyful song *Blooming Flowers and Full Moon*.



Through this performance, we were able to practise collaboratively with like-minded peers and we developed invaluable skills such as good communication, coordination and teamwork. It was indeed a golden opportunity for us to showcase our talents as well as gain some experience performing to a live audience. We were very proud to be able to represent our school to perform at a prestigious location.

Jiang Jinyi, 4 Oldham



## 2019 Barrett Music Competition

The 2019 Barrett Music Competition was held on 28 August at a new venue — The Sitorus Library, a cosy and conducive environment for teaching and studying — as well as for the appreciation of fine music! And such a unique performance venue reminds one of the idea of a chamber performance, to the likes of Mozart and many other composers in the Classical Period!

The Barrett Music Competition is the highest Music award given to individuals who have a deep passion for music, founded by Rev. Dr John Barrett — our very first principal. He created this event to encourage and increase the level of appreciation of music in the school.

The categories for the competition included Piano, Vocal, Mixed Instruments and Original Music Compositions.

This year, we were blessed to have our distinguished adjudicators, Mr Eric Watson (an established international composer, conductor, music technologist and pedagogue) and Mr Arkadiusz Bialak (an international pianist and music educator) join us as we enjoy the students' fine performances.

Here's the winners of the competition:

Overall Champion: Anna Zheng Hanyu, 5 TCT

Piano: Ethelyn Huang, 2 Thoburn

Vocal: Vo Thi Tra My, 4 CKS

Mixed Instruments: Park Junha, 6 Thoburn

Original Music Competitions: Anna Zheng Hanyu, 5 TCT

It is with pride and great joy that we witness how the students have grown and developed in Music, in events such as this, for we saw how they have learnt to manage themselves and their performances to emerge as confident performers today.

Take for instance, our overall champion, Anna Zheng (5 TCT), started out her performing journey two years ago as a Music IGCSE Student in 2017 without much confidence. But this year, she came back to the competition with charisma, and great determination to judo her weakness — nervousness. She managed with flying colours, even with some distraction from the light brush of wind (from the air-conditioner) against her music scores. That tenacity conquered her fears and won the day, so much so that she gave a lovely piano performance to secure two big wins — as the winner of the original music compositions and as the overall champion of the competition!

In keeping with the school's desired teaching value "Building Through Belief", the event's organiser— the Electro-Acoustic World Music Ensemble encourages and grooms students from Year 1, to assist with the running of the event.

Apart from Andi Li (5 GHK) who is a dependable senior who had helped with the process of marks collection from the adjudicators, all the technical setups were prepared by the Years 1 and 2 students.

We would like to thank:

- Lukas Choy (2 TTK), Lighting Designer, and Lawrence Lee (2 LSG), CCA Chairman, for managing the sound and audio system;
- Jareth Tan (2 TCT) for taking all the videos and footages;
- Daiki Kashiwagi (1 TTK) as Stage Assistant;
- Ethan Kee (2 LSG) for assisting in visual projection;
- Luke Lai (1 GHK) as Front-of-House; and
- Natasha Wong (2 CKS) as Emcee.





## Year 6 Art Graduates' Exhibition "Projections"

This year's exhibition titled "Projections" featured the curation of art works by the eight IB Visual Arts students offering their viewpoints on identity and issues that matter to them. The opening of the event was attended by the Principal, Mr Burrough, Vice-Principals, teachers, staff, students and friends of the artists.



The works consisted of drawings and paintings of styles ranging from realism to abstraction as well as three-dimensional works such as ceramics, sculptures and installation. The students have also explored a wide range of media and the creative use of materials, of which some were lens-media such as digital photography, montage and stop-motion animation. Some of the highlights of the exhibition works were a life-size relief plaster figure, breaking free from a wall of medical reports, an assemblage of piled-up used cosmetics packagings, a series of three red-portrait paintings and a performance art piece.

The past two years have been a strong test of endurance, commitment and perseverance for the IB Visual Arts students. We would like to thank our friends who provided support and encouragement during our artistic journey either as models, exhibition set-up assistants, or in providing a listening ear to our woes. Also, many thanks to our parents for being understanding and supportive of our endeavours. Lastly, our deepest appreciation to our Art teacher, Mdm Chang for her guidance, staff members of the Art department for the support, feedback and advice as well as members of the school who have come to view the exhibition.

*Alex Sivarajan, 6 Oldham  
on behalf of the 2019 Visual Arts cohort*





## PSP NEWS

## Teachers' Day "Arabian Nights" Lunch

On Friday, 23 August, teachers and staff of ACS (International) were whisked away on a metaphorical carpet ride to an Arabian Nights-themed Teachers' Day lunch at the Singapore Island Country Club.



The elegant ballroom was magically transformed by the PSP Exco into an Arabian palace, replete with magic lamps, lanterns and twinkle lights. The beautiful centrepiece lanterns had been hand-decorated by the PSP Committee and teachers were able to take home the tealight lanterns as part of their goody bags. Comic relief was provided by our genie emcee, Mr Jeffrey Tan, who successfully coaxed many teachers to go on stage to sing and participate in fun games.



The scavenger hunt game saw tables of teachers working together to gather all 10 items on the list and a mad scramble to submit all the items in time to Jeffrey. There was a lot of camaraderie and teamwork between the teachers and staff, which was encouraged by healthy competition to win the top prizes.





It was impressive to see the huge effort made by many teachers to dress in Arabian-themed costumes and getting into the spirit of the celebrations. Some teachers such as Mr Francis Bell, Mr Neil Dickins and Mdm Chang Hung Tho even came dressed in their own carpets!



The PE department rose to the occasion by arriving as a camel herder with his herd of six camels and not surprisingly, won the Best Dressed Table prize! The Best Dressed prizes were awarded to Mr Francis Bell (who made his own magic carpet costume) and Ms Andrea Gordon.



Equally impressive was the diverse talent among the teachers at ACS (International), who clearly demonstrated how to put on a good show! A very professional magic show was put on by the Great Fillarini, our very own Maths teacher, Mr David Fillary.

Musical and dance talent was exceptionally high among the teachers and staff during the karaoke sessions.

Spanish teachers Mr Olger Portilla, Ms Cristina Mora and Ms Gloria Caballero did a lively rendition of *Despacito*, whilst French teacher Ms Corinne Rousset danced along expressively to the crooning of other teachers. Many teachers were very sporting and took to the stage to perform, including Mr Hong Ching Chong, Mr Sivarajan and even Pastor Joel felt inspired to join in the karaoke.



We would like to thank the parents who generously donated the many spectacular prizes for the lucky draw, an eagerly-awaited segment by the staff each year. The first prize winner Ms Many Doraisamy walked away with hand-knotted Persian carpet and the second prize winner Mr Nicholas Chia won a bottle of champagne and a pair of premium tickets to watch *Aladdin the Musical* on stage at Marina Bay Sands, whilst the third prize of a bottle of Moët & Chandon and a handcrafted Arabian-inspired necklace by Fabulous Fox was presented to Ms Penelope Ng by the designer herself.



It was such a lovely afternoon seeing the teachers and staff let their hair down and have fun, after all the hard work they've put in for the school throughout the year. On behalf of all the students and parents of ACS (International), we hope that everyone had a memorable and Happy Teachers' Day this year!

Charissa Buchanan  
PSP Exco





## UPCOMING EVENTS

October	Event
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Exam briefing (08:00—08:35)</li> </ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day for Year 6</li> <li>Year 6 End-of-Year reports published and issued (12:00)</li> </ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 Study Leave begins</li> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 5 begin</li> </ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 3, FIB &amp; Pre-IB begin</li> <li>Year 2 Study Leave begins</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 2 begin</li> </ul>
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 Study Leave begins</li> </ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal End-of-Year Exams for Year 1 begin</li> </ul>
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deepavali – SCHOOL CLOSED</li> </ul>
30, 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 Science Internal Assessment</li> </ul>
November	Event
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final day of Internal End-of-Year Exams</li> <li>Year 5 Science Internal Assessment</li> </ul>

## University Visits In School Term 4

**McMaster University**  
**Thursday, 3 October**  
**12.00 pm –12.40 pm**  
**Booth in the school canteen**



Source: <https://jalimecanada.com>



Source: <https://www.bond.edu.au>

**Bond University**  
**Friday, 4 October**  
**12.00 pm –12.40 pm**  
**Presentation: Library**

Register at  
<https://tinyurl.com/Bond-ACSI>



**University of San Francisco**  
**Thursday, 10 October**  
**12.00 pm –12.40 pm**  
**Booth in the school canteen**



Source: <https://www.usfca.edu>

# ACS (INTERNATIONAL) DIPLOMA GRADUATION CEREMONY CLASS OF 2019

Friday 22 November 2019 | 5:30pm (Seated by 5:20pm) | University Cultural Centre Hall  
 NUS Centre For the Arts, National University of Singapore, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent,  
 Singapore 119279

**GUEST OF HONOUR**  
**PROFESSOR LILY KONG**  
 PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

# 22.11.19

Dinner will be served at the Atrium after the ceremony.

RSVP and ticket request via <https://bit.ly/30jsQiT> or QR Code by 8 November 2019  
 For enquiry, please contact the Principal's Secretary: [stella.sim@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:stella.sim@acsinternational.edu.sg)

