



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back for Term 4. Haze levels have significantly disrupted school programmes this term, with both academic and co-curricular activities affected. As haze levels are expected to continue this coming month we have safeguard measures in place similar to those adopted in government schools. See elsewhere in this newsletter for our procedures. We have introduced the Firefly e-learning student management platform this year to enable teachers and students to continue learning by remote access. We are actively developing this facility to broaden and deepen its capability to provide ongoing learning even when school is closed.

With just one more week of classes for Year 4 IGCSE students before study leave, and two more school weeks for Year 6 IBDP students, the pressure is building as the external examinations loom. In Chapel this week students were told that some pressure and stress actually improves performance but too much stress results in impaired performance. Students were given some tips from the Bible, from medical research and from proven advice on how to manage their stress. Parental support and encouragement at this critical time is appreciated.

End-of-year school examinations for Years 1,2, 3, 5 and FIB and Pre-IB students start on 21 October. Students should be actively revising for these important summative assessments and also looking to manage their stress.

Last year students participated in a study skills seminar facilitated by Mr Stu Wright of UCanDo. Students learned techniques for remembering facts, and were given research evidence which suggests that 'chunks' of 40 minutes active revision time interspersed by 10 minute break times are the best combination for effective study. Parents are asked to check with their students that they have a planned study schedule which builds over the coming weeks. For more study technique details and tips for managing stress, see articles on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Our best wishes to all students as they prepare for, and sit their examinations over the coming month.

**Rob Burrough**



ACS (International)

October 2015

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**DID YOU  
KNOW ?**

The electric chair was invented  
by a dentist

## STAFF NEWS

Mrs Rhevatee Gobin was selected as one of 50 top singers to take part in an Indian music show, the Asha Bhonsle International concert, organised by Sony TV last Saturday. Asha Bhonsle, sister of Lata Mangheskar, is a famous Indian singer and the Singapore concert was her last international show and also a celebration of her 82nd birthday.

## NOTICES

## PSI and HAZE

With the PSI readings regularly exceeding 100 the school community is advised of the following safeguard measures and procedures to apply in school:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| PSI 100+ | No outdoor PE lessons or outdoor CCAs  |
| PSI 200+ | No physical exercise (indoor and outdoor – PE and CCAs). PE lessons to be held indoors and adapted for low level activities and/or written work etc. Students to be able to eat their lunch in their Tutor Rooms (supervised by Tutors and / or House Prefects)                                |
| PSI 300+ | If the MoE decides to close secondary schools we are most likely to just ask the junior students to stay home; and ask the senior students to come in (Years 4 – 6) – plus all staff as well; unless of course the JCs also close. If MoE staff are asked to stay at home we will follow suit. |

Students are recommended to carry a mask in case the haze levels reach an uncomfortable level.

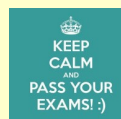
The IB and IGCSE examinations are highly unlikely to be postponed.

We will advise by email if any part of the school closes.

The whole school community is asked to check their emails and Firefly for details as they emerge.

## Slow and Safe Driving Near School

Parents driving their children to school are reminded to be considerate of the residents and young children in the area, especially in terms of driving slowly and parking in front of the residents gates whilst waiting to pick up students after school. The residents have asked the LTA for assistance with their concerns.



## IB, IGCSE &amp; O-Level Examination Schedules

These key dates can be found on the school intranet via the following URL:

<https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/examinations-1>

## Extended Library Hours

The school Library will be open for extended hours from 6.00 – 8.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 13 October for Year 4 and Year 6 students. It will be supervised by senior staff and will run until the end of the examinations, subject to ongoing demand. There will be light refreshments provided by the PSP.

## Study Techniques

With examinations starting shortly it is timely to remind students of the UCanDo seminar on study techniques run by Mr Stu Wright last year. He talked about **SCARing** the information into the brain:

- **Senses** – using several senses to aid memory retention (ie don't just read the notes!)
- **Connections** – making associations
- **Absurdity** – the unusual helps embed retention
- **Recall** regularly

He also talked about eating the right foods; doing exercises to connect the left and right side of the brain; making a study plan – 40 minute blocks with 10 minute breaks; and using mindmaps (THinKmaps) as study notes: Title, Heading, Keywords. See also the UCanDo website [www.ucando.co.nz](http://www.ucando.co.nz).

## Managing Stress

- ✓ **Acknowledge** stress, emotions and feelings.
- ✓ **Take care of your body** – Exercise and eat proper meals at regular times
- ✓ **Manage your time** – re-evaluate priorities, set goals, list priorities, establish a plan
- ✓ **Build a support network** – talk to someone, socialise
- ✓ **Laugh!**
- ✓ **Do something else**
- ✓ **Pray.**

## Fees Summary 2016

The below summary gives an outline of the various fees payable at the different year levels in 2016. For further explanation of each fee please see below the table.

Fee	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Yr 4 FIB / Pre-IB	Year 5	Year 6
Tuition Fee	\$S\$24,000	\$S\$24,000	\$S\$24,000	\$S\$24,000	\$S\$27,000	\$S\$32,000	\$S\$27,000
Deposit	\$S\$6,000 for new students	\$S\$6,000 for new students	\$S\$6,000 for new students	\$S\$6,000 for new students	\$S\$6,000 for new students	\$S\$6,000 or top up	
Admin Fee	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
External Exam Fee (payable from the Deposit)				\$1800 – \$2,200			\$2,400 approx.
PSP	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
PEAKS Psychometric Assessment (plus all new students)	\$450 + GST				\$450 + GST	\$450 + GST	
International Student Pastoral Care Fee (payable by parents who live out of Singapore)	\$495	\$495	\$495	\$495	\$495	\$495	\$495
Overseas Trips (Voluntary)	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500	\$1500 – 5,500
End of Year Camps (Compulsory – paid from deposit)	\$350 approx	\$350 approx	\$400 or \$1400 approx				
IB Enrichment and Induction Fee (from Deposit)						\$1300	

The below gives an indication of the various fees and costs likely to be incurred by students during their schooling at ACS (International). All are compulsory, except where otherwise stated.

1. **Years 1- 4 Tuition Fee** \$S\$24,000 per annum (for 2014-16 only). Please note that the Board of Management is due to revise the fees for 2017.

**Schedule of Year 1 – 4 Tuition Fee Payments** (payable by semester, with there being two semesters in each academic year)

Semester	Due Date	Amount
1	01/12/2015	\$12,000
2	15/06/2016	\$12,000

**IB Diploma Tuition Fee** An average fee of \$S\$27,000 per annum (unchanged for the period 2014-16). Please note that the Board of Management is due to revise the fees for 2017.

**Schedule of 2016 Year 5 Tuition Fee Payments** (payable by semester, with there being two semesters in each academic year)

Semester	Due Date	Amount
Year 5, Semester 1	01/12/2015	\$19,000
Year 5, Semester 2	15/06/2016	\$13,000
Year 6, Semester 1	01/12/2016	\$11,000*
Year 6, Semester 2	15/06/2017	\$11,000*

\*Subject to any fee revision decided by the School Board of Management

**Schedule of 2016 Year 6 Tuition Fee Payments** (payable by semester, with there being two semesters in each academic year)

Semester	Due Date	Amount
1	01/12/2015	\$13,500
2	15/06/2016	\$13,500

2. **School Deposit** \$6,000. The Deposit is held as security to cover damage or loss to school property, expenses and fees not otherwise collected such as the IGCSE Examination Fees (item 4 below) and Year 1 to 3 End of Year Camps (item 5 below). The Deposit must be paid with the first Semester 1 tuition fees and by the due date. The Deposit is a one-time only payment unless the Deposit is fully diminished by deductions during the student's time at school.

In Year 5 a full \$6,000 Deposit is required. Continuing ACS (International) students are only required to pay the difference between the remainder of their Year 1 – 4 Deposit and the \$6,000 Deposit required for Years 5 and 6. The Year 5 and 6 Deposit is held as security to cover damage or loss to school property, expenses and fees not otherwise collected such as the IB Diploma Examination Fee and IB Enrichment and Induction Fee (item 5 below). Any Deposit balance remaining is refundable automatically by cheque three months following the completion of the IB Diploma programme and after all deductions have been made. The Deposit will not be refunded when any Year 5 or 6 student leaves before completing the entire two-year IB Diploma programme (even if three months' notice of withdrawal has been given to the School).

3. **Miscellaneous Administration Fee** \$S\$650.00 per annum is payable at the beginning of Term 1 each academic year.



4. **IGCSE Examination Fee** Approximately S\$1,800 -S\$2,200 – depending on subjects, payable from the deposit.

**IB Diploma Examination Fee** Approximately S\$2,400 for Registration, Invigilation and Subject fees – payable from the Deposit.

5. **Parent Support Partners (PSP) Student Event Fund** – S\$50.00 per annum (GST exempted) payable with the Semester 1 tuition fees by the due date at the beginning of each academic year.

6. **PEAKS Psychometric assessment** – Payable by all Year 1 and Year 5 students, and all other new students. S\$450 + GST payable with the Semester 1 tuition fees by the due date at the beginning of the year (except new students who pay as part of the Admissions fee on application) to enable every student to discover more about themselves receiving detailed reports covering the PEAKS individual profile; Leadership; Teaching and Learning; and Learning Styles profiles.

7. **International Student Pastoral Care Fee** S\$495 per annum, payable with the Semester 1 tuition fees by the due date at the beginning of each academic year by parents who do not live in Singapore for the after-hours pastoral care of international students. This fee covers after school pastoral care of international students; liaison with the Admissions Department and contact with international student agents and families; oversight and approval of Homestay accommodation (each homestay visited at least once per year); help with student pass application; and liaison with guardians and/or help to arrange guardian as needed.

8. **Overseas Trips** – Voluntary trips to Asia, Western Australia, UK, USA and Africa during the school holidays ranging from S\$1,500 – S\$5,500 depending on location.

9. **Year 1 – 3 End of Year Camps** These 3 – 5 day outdoor adventure trips are compulsory for all students. Year 3 students have a choice of a 3 day trip or a 5 day overseas trip. The trip costs are deducted from the deposit, except for the 5 day Bali trip where only \$400 is charged against the deposit. The additional \$1,000 is payable separately.

Year Level	Venue	Length	Approximate Cost
1	Camp Challenge	3 days	S\$350
2	Camp Challenge	3 days	S\$350
3	Sentosa	3 days	S\$400
3	Bali	5 days	S\$1400

10. **IB Enrichment and Induction Fee** S\$1300 payable from the Deposit. (This covers workshops on EE, ToK, Critical Thinking, Research, ToK and EE Handbooks and some CAS activities).

11. **Miscellaneous Fees** Parents or Guardians are responsible for the payment of uniform, school bus, meals, school books and other special co-curricular activities at school.

*All fees are 7% GST inclusive unless otherwise stated. The above fees are subject to change.*

#### Withdrawal and Refund Procedure

- Three months' notice in writing to the Principal is required for all withdrawals prior to Year 6 Graduation, or alternatively to pay three months tuition fee in lieu of notice.
- The deposit, less withdrawals, is refunded by cheque to the original payee three months after the student's last day at school.
- Transcripts and Testimonials are not prepared if the above requirements are not fulfilled.
- All refunds are net of any outstanding administrative costs (eg end of year school camps, agent commission, examination fees, and any losses or breakages of school property).

#### Payment Procedure and Conditions

Payments are to be made only either in cash, cheque, cashier's order or inter-bank transfer. No credit card facilities are available.

All payments from overseas by cashier's order or telegraphic transfer are to be made payable to ACS (International) with applicant's name listed.

All cheque payments are to be crossed and made payable to ACS (International) with applicant's name written at the back of the cheque.

All fees are payable two weeks in advance before commencement of each semester on a half yearly basis.

A student cannot commence or continue schooling whilst fees are unpaid.

#### Account Details for Cashier's Order of Telegraphic Transfer

**NAME OF BANK** DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore

**ADDRESS** 12 Marina Blvd Level 3 MBFC Tower 3 S'018982

**BANK CODE** 7171

**BRANCH CODE** 033

**SWIFT CODE** DBSSSGSG

**BENEFICIARY NAME** ACS (International)

**ACCOUNT NO** 033-900959-8

**PAYMENT REFERENCE** Please include applicant's name here

## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### Halogen Singapore National Young Leader Award

Thank you to the Ambassadors for coordinating the 'Vote for Lincoln Lee' campaign for the above award, and thanks to everyone who voted for Lincoln. Voting has now closed. The next step in the process is for Lincoln to attend an intensive interview by a panel comprising corporate business leaders.

The video link featuring Lincoln is -

<http://www.halogen.sg/home/what-we-do/awards/2015-finalists/>

Lincoln Lee (6TKK) was the 2014-2015 President of the Student Ambassadors, a school prefect and a house leader, and is the second ACS (International) student in two years to be selected as a finalist for this prestigious award. Last year Aimee Griffiths was one of the top 5 finalists in the 2014 NYLA.

### Debating: NTU PRO AMS 2015

We are absolutely delighted at the 3rd overall placing in the Novice category by Dhruv Uppal (4GHK) and Naveen Venkat (4THO) in the Nanyang Technological University PRO AMS 2015 competition held on 26 & 27 September. Since it was a British Parliamentary style debate, our debaters were ranked from position one to four in each debate.

There were 48 teams in all with only 3 teams from secondary schools. Each team was given 15 minutes to prepare on a diversity of motions, two of which were: *This house believes that ASEAN countries affected by the haze should carry out cloud seeding over Indonesia's airspace, even if Indonesia objects* and *This house would mandate that all Hollywood films should include at least one person of colour in a leading or supporting role*.

Pitting their debating skills against teams from SMU, NTU, NUS, UWC and the Debate Development Initiative, Dhruv and Naveen moved into the semi-final and then the Novice Grand Final, debating on the motion *This house regrets internal party elections between election cycles which seek to replace elected heads of state* which had them emerge 3rd overall in the Novice Category. Many congratulations, Dhruv and Naveen.



### Year 4 History and Community Service Trip to Vietnam



On 5-7 September, 17 Year 4 students embarked on a history and community service trip to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

We visited many historical sites such as the War Remnants Museum, the famous Cu Chi Tunnel, and the

Agent Orange hospital. Through these, we learnt about the many hardships that the Vietnamese had to go through during the war with America. In addition to learning about the strategies the Viet Cong used against the Americans, we also had an invaluable experience in Cu Chi Tunnel whereby we actually crawled through the tunnels.

For the service-learning component, we spent half a day at the Thien Phuoc centre, home to homeless and disabled children. It was definitely a huge learning experience for all of us as we interacted with the children and learnt from the staff at the centre what it meant to care.

Overall, this trip brought the history lessons we had learnt in the classroom into life and gave us a deeper appreciation of the nuances of the Vietnam War conflict. It also shaped my worldview in that I learnt to be more appreciative of what I have.

Chan Zinwen 4TKK  
Trip Leader





### Mid-Autumn Celebration



Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Mooncake or Lantern Festival, is the second most important festival in China. While Taiwanese celebrated the occasion with barbecue meat, and Korean with rice cakes, the students at ACS International celebrated the festival with guzheng performance, riddles, lantern

making competition and the highlight of the event - the pomelo peeling competition crowning VP Mrs Tan Siew Hoon as the formidable champion amongst female participants.



Another highlight of the day was a delicately carved pomelo by Gao Xin Yue (6TKK). Organized by the Chinese Department, the celebration ended with laughter, friendship and a sense of appreciation, despite the haze.

Many thanks to the PSP who sponsored the prizes.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER	EVENT
2	• IB Visual Arts Graduates Exhibition 5.30pm Opening
9	• Last Day of school for Year 4 – Farewell lunch 11.45am
16	• Last Day of school for Year 6 – Final Assembly 12:15pm • Last day of CCA activities for 2015
21	• Internal examinations begin
30	• Internal examinations end
NOVEMBER	EVENT
2	• Normal timetable resumes
9	• Year 3 Bali Trip
10	• Deepavali Public Holiday
11	• Year 1, 2 + 3 Camps
17	• Inter-House Drama • Sports Awards Dinner
20	• Speech Day 9:00am • End of school year for students
23/24	• Teacher Only Days
24	• Year 6 Graduation
25	• Year 6 Prom

### University Visits In School Term 4 2015

- ✓ 11 Canadian Universities
- ✓ Merrimack College

**Thursday, 01 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen



- ✓ St John's University
- ✓ Jacobs University (Germany)

**Friday, 02 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen

**AEO Tour**  
(28 Universities and Colleges from the USA)

**Monday, 05 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen



- ✓ The University of Hong Kong

**Wednesday, 14 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen



- ✓ University of Dundee
- ✓ University of the Arts London

**Tuesday, 06 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen



- ✓ WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Mgmt

**Wednesday, 21 October**  
11.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Booth in the School Canteen