



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Last Friday, all ACS schools celebrated our 134th Founder's Day, but unlike previous years, there was no whole school celebration; no Formal Attire worn; no countries flag parade; no speeches from the Bishop, the President of the ACS Old Boys' Association (ACSOBA), the Guest of Honour, nor the Principal; no high quality student entertainment; no Back to School Party; and no day-off classes!

This year is different. COVID-19 has dictated a number of changes to all of our normal, everyday lives. Daily temperature checks, no large gatherings, no Inter-School events, and an increase in distance learning options. When will we return to normal? Probably not for some time.

Last Wednesday morning, Pastor Joel Yong read the Bishop's message over the PA system during Tutor Time; on Thursday Mr Kinch read the message from the President of the ACSOBA; and on Friday the Principal's message was given and ACSOBA awards were announced (see another section in this newsletter for details). My message included an extract from an ACS father to his ACS son. The father wrote: "Many schools inculcate the values of passion, compassion, excellence, character, resilience, tenacity, courage, leadership, enterprise, integrity and more. ACS imbues beyond these individual character attributes to include forgiveness, renunciation of violence, unconditional love, stewardship, fidelity, family, humility, servant leadership, justice, peace, righteousness, faith, hope, thankfulness, grace, ideals and friendship. These are individual as well as group and community values – and they make ACS different."

A true statement! In recent years, a number of investors have asked us to establish ACS schools in various countries. Some have said that they want ACS "without the Christian part". They have not grasped the fact that ACS without Christianity is not ACS! The success and strength of ACS is due to the fact that it was built on Christian principles and values, and these same values still guide the ACS schools today, giving strength, purpose and direction to each and every school member.

As the Back to School Party on Founder's Day was cancelled, the Parents Support Partners (PSP) lifted everyone's spirits by giving every student an individually packaged cupcake to commemorate Founder's Day 2020. A greatly appreciated gesture. We look forward to return to "normal mode" for next year's special 135th Founder's Day.

Rob Burrough
Principal



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For comments and feedback, please email
acsinternational.communications@acsinternational.edu.sg



The Olympic flag was designed in 1913

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY NEWS

Christian Ministry News

ACS celebrates its Founder's Day on 1 March, and as is the practice, HVMC marked the occasion with **ACS Sunday** that day. We were honoured to welcome our Bishop, Rev. Dr Chong Chin Chung, who spoke from Acts 13:1-5. Mr Tan Wah Thong, Chairman, Board of Management, ACS (International), shared about our ACS Brand of Education and Hannah Sin, the CF Captain read the Scriptures. Our Principal, Mr Rob Burrough, Vice Principals Mr Gavin Kinch (and his children) and Dr Kris Achter as well as many CF members were also present. Together with Mr Richard Seow, Chairman, ACS Board of Governors, who worships at HVMC and many other past and present ACSians, the ACS family spirit was truly alive that day.



The **Parents Prayer Group** meets monthly to pray for our school and students. In February, Pastor Bernard Chng shared the exhortation from John 14:7. Jesus promised His disciples His peace which enabled them to flourish in the midst of their uncertainties and fears. May we too be agents of peace to all in this season of uncertainty with Covid-19. Join us every first Thursday (see *Notices* for the year's schedule).

Christian Fellowship continues to meet on Fridays from 3:15pm to 5:00 pm on Level 6, Sports Block, at John Wesley Hall. All students are welcome, regardless of their religious persuasion.

Mrs Agnes John
Christian Ministry Staff



STAFF NEWS

Mrs Georgina Patterson is now on maternity leave and we wish her and Mr Michael Patterson well for the future with the looming addition to their family. For Term 2, we have appointed Mr Deacon Manu from New Zealand to a PE maternity leave position. Mr Manu was a Junior All Black, Maori All Black, Captain of Fiji at the 2011 Rugby World Cup and played professional rugby in both New Zealand (Chiefs) and UK (Scarlets).



NOTICES

Strategic Plan 2020–2022

The Board of Management approved the school's new three-year plan at its meeting on 24 February. The new plan is grouped into eight new Guiding Statements or Goals, each with specific objectives, implementation plans and milestones / outcomes. A condensed summary of the eight Guiding Statements and their main objectives and implementation strategies follows:

Christian Character *To nurture the development of Christian belief and values, outworking our school IGNITE values and creating an environment for all members of the community to grow spiritually.*

Strategies: Specific teaching in assemblies, tutor groups and Chapel on applying IGNITE values to everyday life; Encouraging Christian students and developing Christian Fellowship CCA; Foyer area redeveloped to reflect our Methodist roots; Continued promotion of servant leadership and service opportunities to outwork the Gospel; Continued expansion of our relationship with Holland Village Methodist Church.

Learning and Academic Achievement *To promote a genuine love of learning and encourage creative, critical and reflective thinking for every student to attain the best academic achievement within each student's capabilities.*

Strategies: Continued enhancement of a strong staff professional development programme to improve classroom practice through continued development of existing initiatives: Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATL), MTR (Making Thinking Visible), Inquiry based learning, Restorative Practice, IT – e.g. Firefly/ManageBac/Google classroom, Ongoing updating of schemes of work and unit planners; Entrench PEAKS psychometric profiling to support student learning; Continued use and development of data analysis practice to promote ongoing academic improvement from year to year; Restructure the Year 1 and 2 academic programme with reference to subjects offered and time allocation in order to better prepare the students for IGCSE and IBDP; Expand the development of Critical Thinking and Research skills in IGCSE to better prepare students for IBDP; Refine and enhance the High Achievers Programme.

Internationalism *To enhance the international mindedness of all members of the school community by promoting awareness of intercultural understanding and interconnectedness between the local and global community.*

Strategies: Use ACS community events, celebrations and assemblies to increase knowledge, skills and attitudes (intercultural understanding) and internationalism; Use different cultural contexts in various subject areas eg TOK, IIE, Religious Studies, History etc; Promote cross faculty collaboration; Use a range of outside speakers from different cultural backgrounds; Raise awareness of global and local issues of international importance through CCAs – e.g. Interact, Envoy/MUN, Debate, Sustainability.

Student Development *To encourage the holistic development of our students in Christian character, leadership, service and personal skills based on the IB Learner Profile and school IGNITE values.*

Strategies: Continue to promote service throughout the school – including House Charity projects, CAS Projects and Service Trips, Junior Camps, Interact Club, Sustainability CCA, “Go Green” Campaigns, Custodian appreciation Days, MUN Impact Goals; Show respect for the environment, school custodians and other users through promoting a culture of clearing up after themselves after lunch; Introduce Codes of Conduct for students, staff, parents, coaches, visitors, homestay providers, homestay staff and third party vendors; Continue the current leadership model of a “One Prefectorial Board” with subcommittees, House and CCA leadership roles; Promote the IB Profile with special reference to leadership traits.

Student Well-Being *To provide a safe, welcoming and affirming environment reflecting the school's child protection and safeguarding guidelines, to develop students socially, physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.*

Strategies: Implement internationally recognised student safeguarding and well-being practices and standards when recruiting new staff; Reinforce the Form Tutor and House system as the cornerstone and foundation of the pastoral care network; Provide annual reminders to students of the dangers and legalities of smoking, vaping, use of drugs, and other risky and illegal behaviours in order to keep students safe from self-harm.

Staff Community *To provide a safe, welcoming and affirming environment promoting staff well-being; recruiting and retaining a balanced, diverse mix of well qualified international and local staff who offer a blend of academic rigour and internationalism in our unique Singapore international school environment through provision of professional development to model and enhance a continuous love of learning and effective performance.*



Strategies: Undertake background checks for all existing and new staff in line with international safeguarding and child protection standards; Implement an online induction programme for staff prior to arrival at ACS; Upgrade staff manual; implement staff Code of Conduct; Ensure to continuation of a relevant and highly effective CPD programme to develop staff in line with their individual needs, and the needs of the school's wider goals; Continue to refine and enhance the staff welfare activities, plus reward and recognition programmes to support a strong staff morale.

Home and Community *To develop strong partnerships with all stakeholders to ensure the safety, well-being and holistic development of all students, including those in Boarding and Homestay arrangements.*

Strategies: Continue to promote the school through the school website, parent and student portals; FaceBook; Instagram; Twitter, Schools Buddy, plus via PSP and regional office activities (e.g. PTM, marketing seminars, Coffee mornings, regular meetings, Open House, Echo etc); Codes of Conduct are developed for all members of the school community as above; Enhance the quality of care provided to our international students in homestay through annual approval visits and termly meetings of senior staff with the boarding hostels.

Physical Environment *To provide a safe and secure learning and working environment that meets the needs of all students and staff, and is conducive to high quality learning.*

Strategies: Improve the aesthetic appearance of the school entrance way through a redevelopment of the foyer area to better reflect our Methodist and ACS roots; Complete the construction of covered stands and lightning warning system adjacent to astro turf; Increase the covered ways at key areas of the school campus to improve access during wet weather and reduce congestion; Investigate opening up a pedestrian access way at front entrance of school to separate pedestrian and vehicle entrance; Review the allocation of classrooms to faculties' to ensure that faculties are co-located as much as possible, and that the classrooms are allocated fairly across faculties; Investigate the feasibility of increasing the number of separate staff and student toilets and changing facilities around the school; Complete the Fire Safety Officer review of the school to ensure compliance and safety; Investigate the feasibility of matching the MOE's plans for the Enhancement to Schools' Physical Education, Sports and Outdoor Education Facilities which ensures every school has three covered play courts by 2024; Investigate the possibility of school expansion either by further construction on current site, or through the lease of extra facilities off site.

Founder's Day Awards

The following students were the recipients of this year's Founder's Day awards:

Han Pok Fong

Top Academic Performance in 2019

Year 6 Gautam Ramasamy: S\$1,000 towards his university studies

Year 4 Fahim Mohammed: S\$5,000 per year towards his IBDP tuition fees

ACSOBA Medals

Best All Round Academic and Holistic Performance in 2019

Year 6 Gold medal: Zhang Rui Yang for his outstanding 42 points in IBDP, subject prizes in Year 5 Math HL, Year 6 Math HL and Physics, Principal's List, school wide contributions as student leader, CCA (organised Inter-School events) as well as many external accolades (Math competitions, etc.).

Year 6 Silver medal: Amelia Lynge for her outstanding academic performance including 43 points in IBDP, subject prizes in Year 6 in Visual Arts and English LL), school wide contributions as student leader, School Council exco member; school representative in Wushu and as Vice-Captain for GHK House.

Year 4 Gold medal: Ronak Sanan for his excellent academic achievement in IGCSE gaining 6xA* and 1xA grade; Principal's List, Gold colours award and involvement in Table Tennis, Tennis and Badminton.

Year 4 Silver medal: Lim Kai Jun for his excellent academic achievement gaining 7A* grades in IGCSE, Gold colours award, Interact Club and Red Cross involvement.



From left: Lim Kai Jun, Mr Burrough, Fahim Mohammed and Ronak Sanan

ACS (International) Monthly Parents Prayer Group on First Thursday

- Date: 5 March/2 April/2 July/6 August/*18 September/1 October/5 November
- Time: 8:00am–9:00am
- Venue: Conference Room, General Office
- Contact Persons: Evelyn (94889556) and Vicki (8768 7495)

* ACS Combined Meeting (Friday)

Term 1 House Standing: Aesthetics

As of end February, the standing of the Houses is as follows:

Competition	Rank	Total Points	Short Story		Photography	
No. of participants			80		96	
Coefficient			1.07		1.09	
			Position	Points	Position	Points
CKS	1	5.41	2	2.14	3	3.27
GHK	6	9.73	4	4.28	5	5.45
LSG	4	8.16	1	1.07	6.5	7.09
Oldham	5	9.13	7	7.49	1.5	1.64
SVM	7	14.61	5.5	5.89	8	8.72
TCT	3	7.57	3	3.21	4	4.36
TKK	8	15.65	8	8.56	6.5	7.09
Thoburn	2	7.52	5.5	5.89	1.5	1.64

Kudos to the participating House students!

COVID-19 Update

As always, the safety of our students and staff is paramount. The challenge we all face daily is managing risk. Walking or taking a car to school is a risk (!) but it is also seen as manageable by following common sense precautions and obeying the road rules. The safest option though is to stay at home. In a similar way, the safest way to contain COVID-19 is to isolate oneself and stay at home. However, this is not a practicable solution in the medium to long term, and life must go on. We try to minimise the COVID-19 risk by applying common sense precautions and following MoE and MoH guidelines, whilst trying to keep as much as possible to regular school routines.

The most recent COVID-19 update (6 March) with new precautions is found [here](#) and is also located on the front page of our website.

Free COVID-19 Special Coverage for Insured International Students

Students who are insured with AIA under the school's recommended package from Honan Insurance Group will benefit from a free additional insurance coverage against COVID-19. No action or additional purchase is required. For more information, please refer to the email sent this week by our International Pastoral Coordinators, Mdm Chin Siew Lin and Ms Goh Wei Li, or visit <https://www.aia.com.sg/en/campaigns-promotions/covid19-special-coverage.html>

Office Holiday Hours

Please note that during the holiday period from 16 to 20 March, the General Office will be open from 9am to 4pm.

Commendations Matters

Changes to Awards Criteria

We have converted the criteria for the top Commendation Awards to Grade Point Averages to eliminate any potential anomalies. These changes are summarised below and will be applied in time for the Term 1 reports. The GPA will be generated from the grades of all three criteria – Attitude to Learning, Course Work and Subject Attainment.

Principal's List: GPA of 6.60 or higher

Distinction: GPA of 6.40–6.59

Effort and Achievement: GPA of 6.20–6.39

The criteria for Commendation for Effort will remain unchanged and based on the Attitude to Learning and Course Work grades:

- Attitude to Learning: Minimum 6 x grades of 6 or 7 out of which at least 4 must be grade 7. NO grades of 3 or below.
- Completion of Work: Minimum 6 x grades of 6 or 7 out of which at least 4 must be grade 7. NO grades of 3 or below.

Term 1 Commendations and Academic Report

The commendation awardees will receive their awards from the Principal, Mr Burrough, on 11 March at 8:05am during school assembly time in the Chapel. The report will be published on the same day. Parents may access the report on the same day from 9:00am, under Academic information, School Assessment and Reports, in the Parent Portal.

Update on Student Policies

Parents and students are advised to check out [Life At ACS -> Student Policies](#) for two new and updated items, ICT Policy and School Attire Matters.

ACS Echo

The February–March 2020 issue of ACS Echo magazine has arrived. Parents and students who would like a copy may pick one up from the Reception in the General Office.

Feedback on Echo

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Echo. The magazine has served as a platform to keep students, parents, teachers, alumni and stakeholders in the loop of happenings in the ACS family. If you have any comments or anecdotes to share, please email acsinternational.communications@acsinternational.edu.sg by Tuesday, 31 March, with your name and preferred title (e.g. parent, alumnus).



Pedestrian Road Safety and Driver Road Etiquette

Two road safety/etiquette incidents in February have been brought to the school's attention:

- 20 February, about 7.30am: An accident almost occurred on **Taman Warna** where one parent's car which was driving very fast nearly knocked one of the students who was trying to cross the road to **Jalan Hitam Manis**.
- 18 February, about 8am: One parent/guardian who was driving behind one **Taman Warna** resident who was trying to park their car inside their car porch grew impatient, horned at and gesticulated rudely.

The school strongly advise students to use the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Taman Warna Road (beside Raffles Holland V Mall) [see red star marked "Traffic Light Junction" on the map below] for their safety. We also appeal to parents who drop off their child/ward to slow down and drive carefully along Taman Warna and to be more considerate towards other drivers/road users.



Source: <https://www.streetdirectory.com/>

Restricted Vehicle Entry to School 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 7:30am 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 at the foyer, 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 drop off their children via Holland Close near Gate C [see blue star marked on the map above] as a much less congested alternative.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Visit to Chinatown

On 16 and 21 January, five Chinese teachers accompanied their Year 3 IGCSE Chinese and Year 5 Chinese B classes to Chinatown. Needless to say, the students were excited to board the buses that took them downtown. Although there was not enough time to go on a guided tour, they made the most out of the experience by grabbing to-go food in their hands while they roamed the streets, some even holding a worksheet and pen for a quick educational quiz. An experience outside the classroom never fails to bring on smiles.



Student Reflections

Before the Lunar New Year school break, our Chinese class visited Chinatown along with other Chinese classes in Year 5. Visiting Chinatown was a great opportunity to try out speaking in Mandarin. Before the visit, our class has learned some basic Chinese, including greetings and how to order food and drinks. As soon as I got there, I ordered drinks using Chinese sentences that we learned, and the fact that I was able to get our message across through Chinese made me feel proud and more confident.

As I am not fluent in Chinese, I have always been speaking English, so this was such a unique experience for me. Also, having first-hand experience with Chinese culture was very interesting.

As Chinese New Year was just around the corner, Chinatown was decorated with various Chinese traditional decorations, such as lanterns. Shops sold traditional Chinese clothes, costumes as well as their local food.

Based on what we saw that day, as small groups, we have also created a presentation on a Chinese culture that we found interesting. Through the trip and the activity, I think I have become a lot more interested in the Chinese culture and tradition, which I believe will be a great motivation for me to study Chinese in the future.

Daniel Roh, 5 TCT

On 16 January, a group of students went to Chinatown as early as 8am. Most of the shops were still closed, however, I still enjoyed going on this short trip because I was able to use basic Chinese language to buy an item from a vendor/shop and start a conversation with the people.

The people in Chinatown are very welcoming and friendly, and together with my friends, I was also able to see many traditional sweets and Chinese New Year decorations.

Sabrina Koswara, 5 GHK



Thoburn House Blood Donation Charity Event

On 22 February, seven student volunteers from Thoburn House arrived at the Buona Vista Community Club to learn about a meaningful community event, organised by the Grassroot Leaders of the Buona Vista Community Club Committee. The student volunteers were engaged and eager to learn about the process of blood donating, so as to attain sufficient knowledge and experience to plan a blood donation drive independently in the future. One bag of blood can save the lives of three patients and every day, large amounts of blood are needed in hospitals for transfusions.

My first impression of the event was its systematic and orderly flow. The four stations were easy to navigate for blood donors and we learnt that the screening process is tightly regulated in Singapore, so that the safest blood will reach the hospitals. We understood that an individual has to be absolutely healthy in order to donate blood. These stations included registration, weight measurements, the haemoglobin test and medical screening before finally donating blood at the fifth station. We were so proud of Jocelyn Tham, one of our Year 6 Thoburn House leaders, who was one of the blood donors that day. All of us offered encouragement and support towards Jocelyn and it was also a fortuitous opportunity to learn from the experiences of a dedicated nurse, who explained at length, how the blood obtained was later separated into platelets, red blood cells and plasma back at the Health Sciences Authority. This allowed for quick transfer to hospitals to be used for different medical conditions. For example, we learned that platelets are used to help a patient who has difficulty in forming blood clots.



In addition, it was a fantastic opportunity for us to get in touch with the event organisers, one of them being Mr Ee, who patiently explained the process and background work of planning a blood donation drive. He was extremely friendly and led us in conversing with many donors that day. One of the reasons why Mr Ee does this is simple: "Just help where you think help is needed." – an advice that reminded us to always put others before ourselves.

We were gratified by the end of the event. One of our ACS (International)'s IGNITE values, noble, came to our minds as we left the venue, being more knowledgeable and confident, to organise our very own blood donation drive in the future.

Isabella Tan, 5 Thoburn



Adding a Humane Touch

On 19 February, a team of about 50 Year 5 students volunteered to help with the packing of goodie bags as part of an initiative by Touch International, a non-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating the delivery of crisis relief and community development services.



These goodie bags included lozenges and surgical masks as well as a message to the educators in Singapore, thanking them for their unwavering commitment and effort to keep schools safe and clean during this difficult time of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Student Reflections

During the packing process, we split up into small groups assigned with different tasks, from the sorting of surgical masks to the sealing of the goodie bags. Due to concerns on safety and hygiene, we were all required to wear masks and gloves throughout the project, which spanned across two days. Despite the short time frame and few resources available, we managed to pack 3,000 goodie bags for the educators, in hopes of providing them with support during this tough period of time.

Looking back at the project, I honestly feel that it was a good experience, and many of my friends feel the same way. Not only did I meet new people and build new friendships during our time working together, but I also felt proud to be able to play a part in helping the community, and to serve the educators who commit their time and effort to serve our society daily. If given the opportunity, I'm sure we would all be happy to do it again.

Jarell Tang, 5 TCT



After volunteering two days with Touch International, I realised how meaningful this experience was. As a group, we had to pack care packs for the educators in Singapore.

Even though the task seemed simple, it actually required a lot of time and effort.

We packed surgical masks, vitamins and thank-you cards. It was also very hectic as we had tight time frame and a limited number of helpers. However, it was still memorable and worthwhile. Even though we didn't have the chance to hand the care packs personally to the educators, I was glad to be able to give them moral support and to thank them through my act of packing the goodie bags for them.

Sabrina Koswara, 5 GHK



Hands-On Start for Gardening Group

On Saturday, 29 February, the Gardening group of the Sustainability CCA, spent the day at school building planter boxes. These planter boxes will be used to grow herbs and vegetables by members of this group. Students hope to provide a service to our community as well as learn and practise a valuable hobby.



During the few hours, students learned how to safely use power and hand tools and also how to varnish wood from Johannes Wong's (2 Oldham) parents. The students are grateful for Mr and Mrs Wong's knowledge and patience in teaching them these valuable skills.

The Gardening group meets every Monday after school to plan and assess their work and every Tuesday during lunch to do the actual gardening. The planter boxes are located near Gate C.

The Gardening group and the Upcycling group are gratefully accepting donations of gardening tools, small plant pots, knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn and sewing supplies. Pre-loved donations can be delivered to Reception, General Office. Thank you!



Valentine's Day

At ACS (International), we celebrated love within the ACS family during Valentine's Day on 14 February. Students from all years and across all eight houses, and even teachers received hand-delivered roses in the morning of Valentine's Day, prepared by the student council. Many were delighted and surprised when the councillors walked into the classrooms carrying bouquets of roses sent by their friends.

Along with the roses came heart-warming and lovely messages written by the students to their friends. Students also sent roses to their teachers to acknowledge and thank them for the hard work they do for them every day. Throughout the day, smiles and laughter could be seen and heard everywhere as we celebrated friendship and kindness to one another.



Many students also prepared gifts of love for their fellow ACSians. They walked into school wearing vibrant and colourful socks to celebrate the special occasion, an initiative started by the 2nd Student Affairs who also handed pre-made Valentine's cards to the students to send to their friends. All in all, it was a wholesome and wonderful day filled with love and joy, a true reflection of what Valentine's Day and friendship means to the students of ACS (International).



PSP NEWS

A Sweet Twist to Founder's Day Celebrations

Unlike previous years, this year's Founder's Day was marked by a simple yet meaningful celebration. With precautionary measures in place to address the coronavirus situation, the school had to cancel its annual festivities involving a Founder's Day assembly, student performances and awards, and hold simple expressions of support. To show the ACS spirit, students dressed creatively in their school colours; while the Parent Support Partners surprised the students with individually boxed customised cupcakes.

Over 1,000 boxes of vanilla buttercream cupcakes lined the stage at the Student Centre, where balloons in red, gold and blue festively highlighted the special occasion. Dressed in ACS colours, members of the PSP executive committee gave each student a Founder's Day cupcake carefully decorated with blue, gold and red sprinkles and a fondant ACS crest.

The gesture of goodwill, though simple, went a long way in cheering up the students during recess, who found the cupcakes not only "cute" and "amazing in detail" but "delicious" and a "fun way to celebrate the school's birthday". Many of the students even expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the parent volunteers for setting up such a wonderful surprise; while some students couldn't get enough of the cupcakes, returning for seconds and even thirds with coupons given to them by their friends.

Despite the low-key activities this year, the students, faculty and parents will probably agree that the smiles on everyone's faces and the sheer excitement were enough to make the celebration a truly sweet and memorable one for all. Happy Founder's Day!



PSP Exco



HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Career Talk on Entrepreneurship

ACS (International) had the honour of inviting Mr Ken Ooi, Founder of TenderBoard, to share on his entrepreneurial journey. Ken is a rocket scientist by training, having studied Aerospace Engineering in the University of Michigan and Astronautics Engineering in Stanford.

Upon graduation, Ken worked at Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) to procure fighting ships and unmanned aircraft before joining a small-medium enterprise (SME) in the Fintech industry. His entrepreneurial foray started when he started his first company developing and marketing enterprise software solutions which included mobile reporting systems, queue management systems and SMS aggregation. Whilst this endeavour did not succeed, it provided precious lessons to him, a rookie then, the realities of entrepreneurship and what it would take to succeed.



TenderBoard is Ken's second company and it started based on his observation that there was a gap in the market. TenderBoard is an eProcurement System that provides a means to digitise and automate their Source-to-Pay processes between businesses and their suppliers.

Ken pointed out that the role of an entrepreneur is to identify problems faced by society and to provide a solution to each problem. He also shared on why he chose to be an entrepreneur and how he sustained himself throughout this journey. He highlighted the importance of support from family and friends and the need to manage one's personal finances carefully. In response to a question if one could be a successful entrepreneur on a part-time basis, Ken responded that the definition of success needs to be clarified by the entrepreneur from the beginning. If one's aim is to be a global success, the need to be whole-heartedly invested in the project is critical. Students found this session to be an insightful experience as Ken related his experience in a personal way which the students could relate to.

ALUMNI NEWS

Meeting with our Alumni

It is always refreshing catching up with our students who are currently studying at different institutions around the world. Mrs Rita Kaur met up and had lunch with our alumni at The University of Melbourne in February.



From left: Liaw, Kylie Sze Kei (2018) – Bachelor of Arts; Rio Iskandar (2013) – Juris Doctor; Mrs Rita Kaur; Ung, Rui Lin Aida (2018) – Bachelor of Commerce.



SPORTS NEWS

U14 Netball

This year, we entered three Netball teams for the U14 ACSIS league; the U14A team played in Division 2, U14B team in Division 3 and U14C team in Division 4. There were some tremendous displays of teamwork and it was really pleasing to see all teams improving their netball skills and tactics, gaining some convincing wins against tough opposition. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the teams were unable to complete their season. However, we hope they continue to practise and refine their play moving forward. In the last training session of the season, we presented the following awards:

A team

Most Improved – Yuri Matsuda and Gurmehr Dhanoa
 Players' Player – Shannen Choong
 Coaches' Player – Si Rei Chua

B team

Most Improved – Aeryn Lee
 Players' Player – Valerie Choo
 Coaches' Player – Natalie Ee

C team

Most Improved – Edelynn Ng
 Players' Player – Mao Shimono
 Coaches' Player – Lis San Tan

Miss Kerry Sibson and Miss Laura Blunt



U14 Netball B team 2020



U14 Netball A team 2020



U14 Netball C team 2020



UPCOMING EVENTS

March	Event
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination – Years 3, 4, Pre IB and Foundation IB (Dose 1)
16–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 1 School Break
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 2 commences
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAT Prep Class by Testtakers (15:45–16:15)
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House – POSTPONED to 16 May (09:00–12:00)
30–31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Leadership interviews (from 15:30)
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTM – POSTPONED to 22 May SAT Prep Class by Testtakers (15:45–18:45)
April	Event
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Leadership interviews (from 15:30)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Prayer Group (08:00–09:00)

How to Prepare a Student CV/Resume

A Student CV/Resume is an important document in presenting an individual's interest, skills, strengths, education qualifications, achievements, etc.

The Higher Education and Careers Department will be conducting sessions with Year 6 students on how to prepare a good student cv/resume for all purposes. The session will cover the basics, format and how to make one's approach stand out.

The first session will take place on 6 March, 12:10pm, Library. Please reserve your spot soon!

Information Session
Prepare a Student CV/Resume

Date: 06 March
Time: 12:10
Venue: Library

RSVP @: <https://tinyurl.com/ACS-CVsession2020>

Icons around the laptop: Personal Details, Educational History, Job Shadowing, Volunteer & Projects, Awards & Certificates, Achievements

Higher Education and Careers 2020 Important Dates

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please take note of the compulsory attendance for the following events organised by the Higher Education Department.

Higher Education Fair 2020

Date: 6 April

Time: 3:00pm–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: 18–21 May

Time: 3:15pm–4:45pm

Year 6 students only

University Application Session for Year 6

Date: 25 July

Time: 8:00am–2:00pm

Year 6 students

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend.



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 16 May 2020



ACS (International)
Singapore is a distinctive international secondary school open to all Singaporeans & other nationalities, offering an all-round English-based education for students aged 12 to 18 years leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

- Exceptional examination results, very strong value-added achievement and an all-round holistic education
- 50:50 mix of local and international teachers who uphold the dual Methodist ethos and ACS heritage
- Small class sizes with overall student-teacher ratio of 8.7 : 1
- 40 different CCAs – 16 Sporting, 12 Visual and Performing Arts, 12 Special Interest Groups
- Over 25 overseas trips per year
- Over 200 formal student leadership positions
- Scholarships for 4 Singaporeans to undertake the IBDP

- Students with perfect score of 45 points
- 20 “Top in the World” awards in IGCSE examinations over each of the past nine years
- Students accepted to Oxford and Cambridge universities for the past eight years
- Admissions to top universities in the UK, the US, Australia and Singapore
- PSLE and Singapore GCE ‘O’ Level students achieve outstanding value-added examination results for the IBDP with improved pathways to good universities
- Successes at national level in Athletics, Touch Rugby, Debating, Orchestra, Volleyball, Taekwondo, Ice Hockey, Fencing, Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Wushu.



Mr Rob Burrough
Principal



Mrs Tan Siew Hoon
Vice Principal



Mr Gavin Kinch
Vice Principal



Dr Kristopher Achter
Vice Principal

INFORMATION SESSIONS

9:00am

Principal's Address

9:30am – 12:00pm

School tours & presentations by staff & students

Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)

61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

For more information, please contact Joseph Ng or Serene Lim at +65 6472 1477 or admission@acsinternational.edu.sg

ACS (International) – Building Through Belief

