

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Happy Birthday, Singapore! Today's National Day celebrations at school have been very muted this year. They were held in Tutor Groups and consisted of the National Day Parade NDP 2020 theme song, *Everything I Am*, being played in every Tutor Group room followed by messages from the Principal, the Minister of Education (read by Mr Chia Choong Kiat) and a closing prayer by Pastor Bernard – all conveyed via Zoom. The gift of a soft toy bear in ACS PE uniform from PSP to every student was greatly appreciated.

Usually, we would celebrate in the assembly hall, dressed in red and white, enjoying the National Day stories and entertainment, appreciating our diversity and internationalism whilst watching the parade of all the flags representing the countries we come from, and looking forward to the PSP-sponsored International Day celebrations, then an early finish with no classes! But not this year! We did finish school at lunchtime, but common sense and government regulations restricted our National Day celebrations – and indeed many of the day-to-day freedoms which we formerly took for granted. We have all had to adapt to being physically separated from each other; we have become more independent and resilient through Home-Based Learning (HBL), and hopefully we have become more kind and tolerant in the midst of common adversity.

In school, the lack of large-group gatherings has limited our opportunities to meet in Houses or as a whole school, and therefore continuing to build a strong school culture and pride in House and School has been difficult. It is the same at country level, and for this reason this year's National Day celebrations serve as a rallying call for everyone living in Singapore to unite and look to our future with hope and optimism. The best is indeed yet to be! And as Jeremiah prophesied "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer 29:11)

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the National Day weekend is a time of celebration. It is a birthday celebration! It is a time to celebrate 55 years of nationhood in Singapore, appreciate the past, make the most of the present, and look forward to the future. Happy 55th Birthday, Singapore!

Rob Burrough
Principal

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For comments and feedback, please email

acsinternational.communications@acsinternational.edu.sg



Bananas grow pointing upwards

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY NEWS

Christian Fellowship (CF) has resumed its meet up via Zoom on the Friday afternoon of 17 and 24 July. We are thankful to God for the provision of technology and for the willing hearts of dedicated Christian Ministry Staff (CMS), CF teachers, CF EXCO, students, and as such, we are still able to gather regularly.

The usual structure of our CF has been adjusted to fit the online platform. Instead of teaching the Word of God in a classroom setting, we now have “live” teaching via Zoom. We rejoice that the Word of God continues to be preached, and we know that God is still in our midst.

We were blessed to have Mr Philip Poh, Baker Road Methodist Church, and Rev. Dr Norman Wong, Methodist Welfare Services, minister to our CF students, speaking on topics such as “Why should we trust the Bible?” and “What should we do with the Bible?” Our CF students also had an enjoyable time of fellowship and games.

Chapel services continued online, with Rev. Joel Yong speaking on “Imperfect Families” on Friday, 17 July.

Parents’ Prayer Group (PPG) continued to meet on Thursday, 2 July. It was a unique arrangement with two parents who met up in person, and the rest through Zoom. The group committed prayers for God’s protection in the midst of the COVID-19 situation, Year 4 and 6 Preliminary Examinations, new student leaders, good health for all school community members, and the upcoming Religious Emphasis Week (REW) on Friday, 14 and 21 August, among others.

STAFF NEWS

New Appointments

We congratulate the following staff on their new appointment:

- Ms Kerry Sibson as Thoburn Housemistress
- Ms Laura Blunt as Assistant PE Head of Faculty

NOTICES

Stay Home If Unwell

Students who feel unwell (e.g. having cough, fever, flu or stomach upset, feeling nausea) prior to coming to school are advised to stay home to rest and to consult a doctor if necessary. Please visit only one clinic and do not doctor-hop. When back to school, please submit your parent’s/guardian’s letter of excuse or medical certificate to your tutor.

IGCSE and IBDP Subject Selection Processes

IGCSE

The Subject Selection process commences on Wednesday, 12 August. Year 2 students will be introduced to the process during Tutor Time, with the materials presented in this session made available to parents thereafter on the school website.

Key dates to take note:

- Wednesday, 12 August:
Subject selection via online submission opens
- Friday, 18 September:
Subject selection via online submission closes
- Wednesday, 11 November:
ONLY day for change of subject selection (**before 5:00pm**)
- Wednesday, 18 November:
Receipt of 2020 subject choices

IBDP

Year 4 students (including those in Foundation IB and Pre IB) MUST attend the IB Information Session on 7 August, 12:30pm–1:30pm, Chapel. Materials presented during this session will be made available to parents thereafter on the school website.

Key dates to take note:

- Friday, 7 August:
Subject selection via online submission opens (after IB Information Session has ended)
- Friday, 21 August:
Students who qualify for DSA to IBDP informed (or at the latest by Monday, 24 August) via email
- Monday, 24 August:
Subject selection via online submission closes (**at 5:00pm**)
[Note: NO subject change is allowed thereafter.]

No Lessons on Teachers’ Day

There will be no lessons on Teachers’ Day, Friday, 28 August. All staff are to report for a special staff assembly in the Chapel at 9:00am.



Update on IGCSE November 2020 Exams

The IGCSE November 2020 exams will proceed unless the majority of schools worldwide are unable to sit. We append the letter from Cambridge International and some FAQs for perusal as follows:

November 2020 series

Cambridge International is planning to run exams for the November 2020 series. We believe exams remain the fairest and most reliable way to assess student achievement and our schools are telling us they want to hold exams if they can. Question papers will start to be dispatched to schools and exam centres soon.

We know many schools are continuing to adapt to the disruption caused by Covid-19, hence we will be as flexible as we can to support students and teachers, so that students can complete coursework and sit exams safely and securely. We are working on a practical guide to support schools running November exams. The guide will be available on our website in August.

We are continuing to monitor advice from government authorities around the world on whether schools can open and exams can be held in October/November. Our regional teams are also in close contact with their schools.

Schools will follow local regulation and health advice, and any that cannot hold exams safely will be able to defer their entries to the next exam series.

In the unlikely event that most candidates cannot sit exams in the November 2020 series, we would work with schools to switch worldwide to the 'assessed grade' methodology, similar to the June 2020 series.

Our key priorities remain the same – to keep students and teachers safe, and help students get on with their educational journeys as soon as possible.

FAQs

Will Cambridge run exams for countries that can hold them, and assessed grades in countries that cannot?

We will only run one system.

What will happen if students cannot sit exams but Cambridge is running exams in other countries?

In that case, we will ask students to defer to the next exam series.

What about private candidates who missed exams in June 2020?

Many private candidates will take exams in November, where possible. Some of them deferred entry from June. We are finalising contingency plans to support private candidates in the unlikely event that exams cannot take place.

Syllabus-specific advice for the November 2020 series

We realise many schools are now considering how to manage coursework requirements for syllabuses in the November 2020 series.

For some coursework, speaking and practical components, you will be able to adjust the way you teach the course or administer the test to meet the requirements of the component. This applies to the [components listed in this document](#).

Visit our updated [Help page](#) for more information.

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/news-details/view/update-for-cambridge-schools-on-june-and-november-2020-series-20200716/>

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/news-details/view/update-for-cambridge-schools-on-june-and-november-2020-series-20200724/>

IBDP Subject Information for 2021 Intake

Year 4 students are to register subject choices for 2021 intake this month. Parents and students may use the following link or scan the QR Code to access IB Subject Information and IB Presentation held on Friday, 7 August:

<https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/information-for-parents-public>



The Subject Options for IBDP need to be completed and submitted online via Firefly using the link that is sent on 7 August via the school email account of the students. Students will be briefed on how to do this on the same day.

Timeline

- Friday, 7 August: Portal opens for subject options to be made
- Sunday, 23 August: Portal closes for subject options to be made, where no option change is further allowed.

Note

- **Y4 DSA students** will make subject choices based on their Prelim exam results and with reference to future tertiary studies and career.
- **Y4 Foundation IB and Pre IB students** will register subject choices and they will receive confirmation after their 2020 end of year examinations results are released.
- **Y4 non DSA students** will register subject choices and they will receive confirmation after their IGCSE results are released in January 2021.

For further concerns and enquiries, please do contact subject teachers, Ms Alka Hingle (DC for Senior Division), Ms Carol Ling (IBC) or Mrs Tan Siew Hoon (VP of Senior Division).



Years 4 and 6 Prelim Results and Term 3 Academic Report

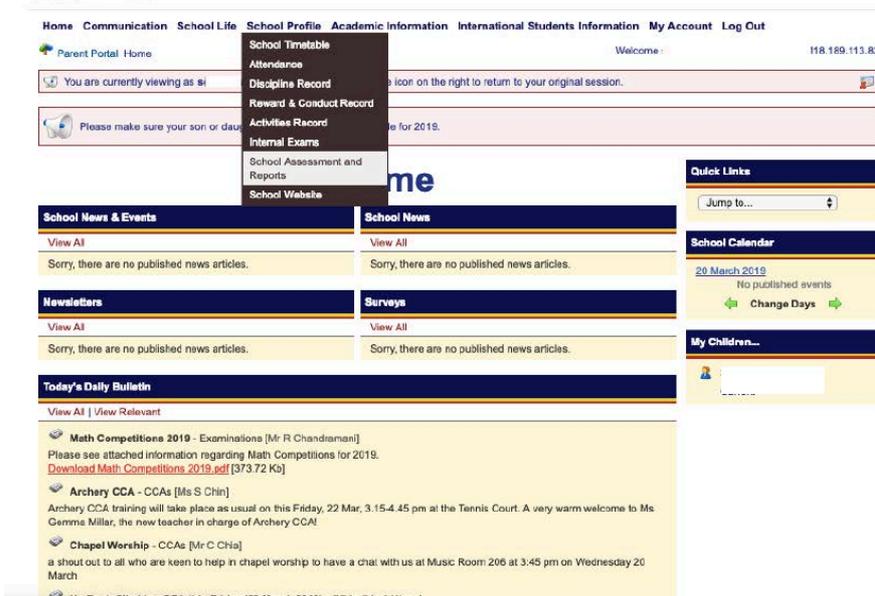
- Years 4 and 6: Prelim grades will be published on Monday, 17 August.
- Other Year Groups: Term 3 grades will be published on Friday, 21 August.

Parents and students, please see the following screenshots on how to access the term reports.

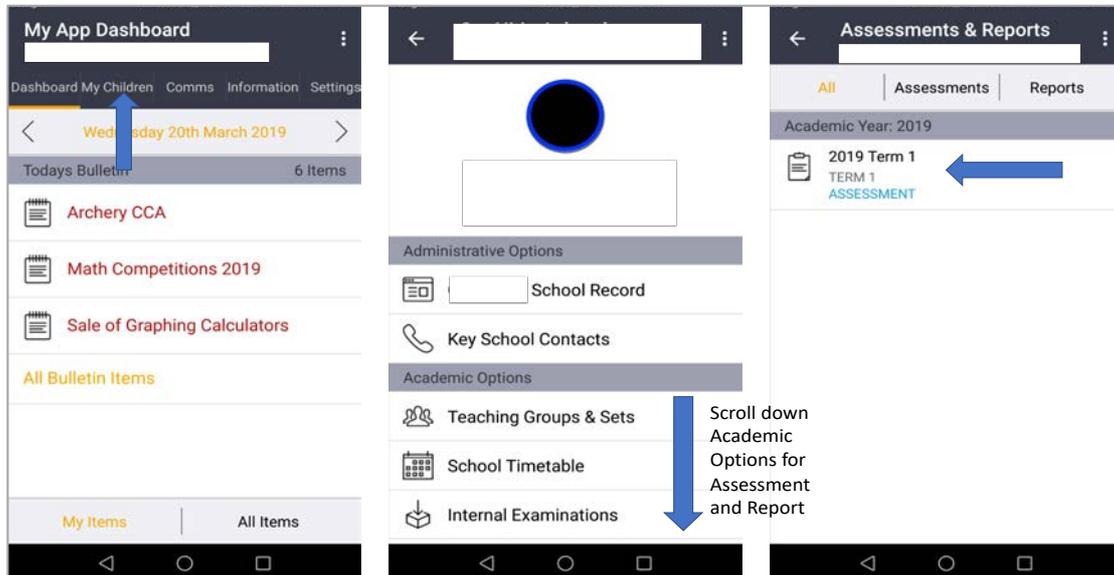
Accessing Term Reports via Web Browser



Access term Report via <https://acsinternational.parents.isams.cloud>



iStudent / iParent App



Direct School Admissions

Prospective students can apply for admission to 2021 classes through our internal admissions tests or based on formal examination results such as PSLE or 'O' Levels taken in 2020.

Direct School Admissions (DSA) applicants for Years 1, 2, 3, Pre IB, Foundation IB and Year 5 can contact the Admissions Department to arrange to sit for English Language and Mathematics entrance tests. All applicants will also undertake an oral interview with a senior staff member. Year 1 applicants who do not pass the DSA process can re-apply for admission using their 2020 PSLE results.

Current Year 4 IGCSE

Students have two opportunities to gain admission to the IB Diploma Programme the following year. Those who gain a minimum of 2A, 2B and 2C grades in the preliminary examinations and who have a good work record, will be offered a place by email letter at the end of Term 3. Those who are not offered a place may still gain admission by gaining the same minimum of 2A, 2B and 2C grades in the formal IGCSE examinations that they will sit for in October/November.

Foundation IB and Pre IB students who have already gained 2A, 2B and 2C grades in either IGCSE or 'O' Levels have guaranteed entry to IBDP. Otherwise, they will be offered entry based on their performance in the school's end-of-year examinations that they will sit for in October/November.

Other Year Groups

Applicants for Years 1, 2, 3, Foundation IB, Pre IB and Year 5 can contact the Admissions Department to arrange to sit for English Language and Mathematics entrance tests which are usually held every Monday. All applicants will also undertake an oral interview with a senior staff member. Year 1 applicants who do not pass the DSA process can re-apply for admission using their 2020 PSLE results.

Term 4 Stagger Arrivals and Dismissals

School start times have been adjusted as follows:

- Monday – Junior Division 8:00am, Middle Division 8:00am, Senior Division 8:30am
- Tuesday – All Divisions, 8:30am
- Wednesday – Junior Division 8:30am, Middle Division 8:00am, Senior Division 8:00am
- Thursday – Junior Division 8:00am, Middle Division 8:30am, Senior Division 8:00am
- Friday – All Divisions 8:00am

School finish times have been staggered as follows:

- Junior Division 2:45pm
- Middle Division 3:00pm
- Senior Division 3:15pm

Term 3 Online Parent-Teacher Meetings

Years 4 and 6 (Wednesday, 19 August) and whole school (Monday and Thursday, 24 & 27 August) Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) will be held online this year. Parents will be notified via email in the week of 10 August with details on how to sign up for the online PTMs.

ACS (International) 2021 IBDP Internal Scholarships

Year 4 students are invited to apply for three 2021 scholarships worth \$10,000 each for the year 2021 only – click [here](#) for the application form.

The successful applicants would have demonstrated:

- Outstanding academic achievement throughout Year 4 (in IGCSE, Foundation IB or Pre IB classes);
- Strong contribution to co-curricular and/or House activities; and
- The ability to achieve highly in the IBDP and give back to the school.

Each scholarship will be used to offset Year 5 IBDP tuition fees. \$5,000 will be deducted from the fees payable for each of the two semesters. Applications to the Principal consisting of a letter of application listing achievements and contributions to the school close on 30 September.

Transcripts and Testimonials

This is the time of the year we begin to receive requests of these two documents. The Academic Secretary, Ms Manwant Kaur, will process these requests upon receipt of the completed transcript and/or testimonial application form, which can be downloaded from the website ([Life At ACS -> Forms & Important Information -> Forms -> Request for Transcript/Testimonial](#)).

A period of 10 days is required to process any document. We regret that we are unable to respond to any request to produce them immediately.

Year 6 students will automatically receive these two documents at the end of the school year. They only need to apply for these documents if they are applying to university before year end. Testimonials are only available for Year 6 students, and Year 4 students who are leaving school. School leavers in other year groups can only apply for a school transcript summary of all school reports.

MacBook Special Discount for Students and Staff

ACS (International) has made an arrangement with its preferred Apple Premium reseller to offer a special discount to all our students and staff who order the MacBook through this link: <https://academic.com.sg/collections/acs>



STUDENT SUCCESS

Interact Leadership Training Camp

I attended the Interact Leadership Training Camp, a camp that is hosted yearly by the Rotary Club of Singapore in partnership with Youth Corps Singapore (YCS) for the student leaders of Interact Club Committees (ICCs) at all schools. It took place between 17 and 19 July via Zoom; nonetheless, I had an enriching experience.

We were all allocated to groups; each with a facilitator that comprised students from schools across Singapore and Malaysia. It was exhilarating to meet new people as well as to learn about their thoughts, experiences, and activities regarding Interact! In our group, we partook in activities such as ice breakers that allowed us to familiarise ourselves with each other. We also engaged in profound discussions on our ambitions and how we would translate them into action in our clubs.

Many YCS leaders and Rotary Club members were present. They educated us on how to lead, manage, and motivate volunteers. Additionally, they shared great thoughts, advice for projects, real stories and examples from their work on the ground, which helped us gain a deeper understanding of leadership in action. The camp concluded with an ICC election for Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all Interact Clubs to communicate with other schools and have a more holistic effect on the community.

Having met many inspiring and incredible people, I can confidently say that I now have a broader perspective and have walked away as a more knowledgeable person. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the various views and ideas everyone had regarding the Interact Club and work together to expand ours. I would encourage Interactors to sign up for the camp in the coming years as you not only gain valuable skills but also have fun and get to make new friends!

Sanya Sanghavi, 4 Thoburn

2020 International Music Competition

Marisa Lee (3 Oldham) recently participated in the 2020 International Music Competition "Grand Prize Virtuoso" in July, which was open to all nationalities and ages in Strings, Piano, Wind, Vocal and Chamber Music. Seeking to feature and encourage young musicians from all musical disciplines, ages and backgrounds, the annual competition divides into different age categories across disciplines.



Marisa's repertoire of choice features William Kroll's *Banjo and Fiddle*. Ultimately placed first in Intermediate Strings category, Marisa has also been selected as a category winner to perform at the Wiener Saal, Mozarteum on 30 August, organised by the same competition adjudicators and coordinators. Marisa will perform her winning piece, much to the pride of her family and friends.

International Sci-Teens Challenge 2020



During the June holiday, the Anglo-Chinese Junior College (ACJC) Science and Mathematics Council organised the International Sci-Teens Challenge 2020, a science digital video competition to engage youths from all countries to explore the realm of Science and Technology.

Five ACS (International) students completed the challenge and three, namely Lee Yeseo and Celina Isabel Madamba Abueg (Year 1), and Dayoun Moon (Year 3), with Ms Analiza Garcia as their teacher-in-charge, were selected. The top 30 videos, each explaining a science phenomenon were shortlisted by a panel of judges from universities, research institutions and professional societies. The videos were open for public voting that contributed to 20% of the total score. In the final round, Celina and Dayoun each received the Bronze Award.

We congratulate Celina and Dayoun on their achievement and thank all students who participated in the competition.

Junior | Interdisciplinary Sciences



How can a Whirligig Save Millions of Lives?

Dayoun Moon, 3 CKS

Junior | Physics



The Cheerio Effect - A Scientific Phenomenon

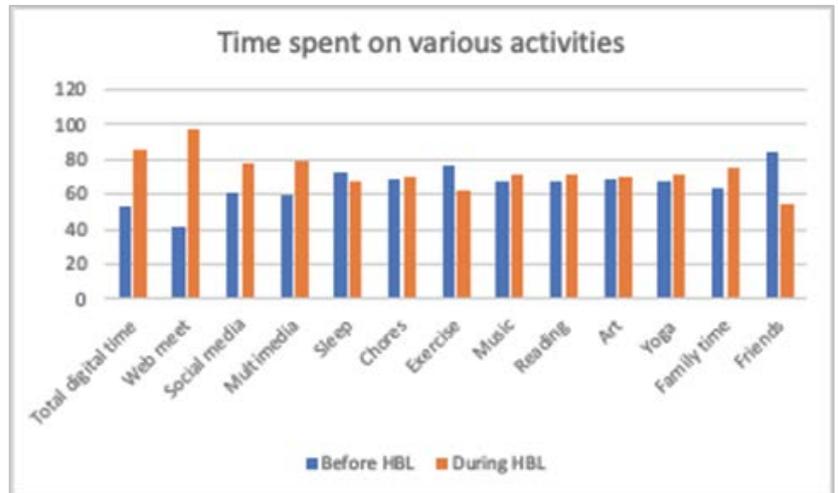
Celina Isabela Madamba Abueg, 1 LSG



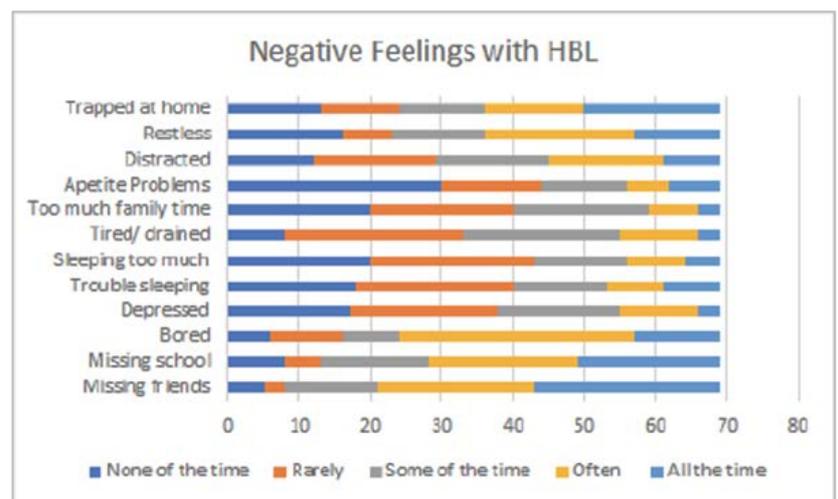
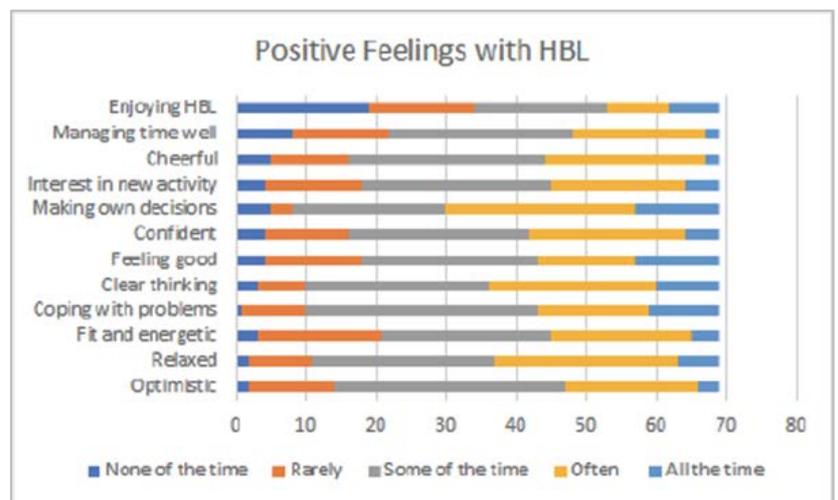
Year 1 Student’s Research Project into HBL

Year 1 student Govind Wagle (1 LSG), and his twin brother, Gopal from ACS (Independent) surveyed 69 secondary school students from both local and international schools during the circuit breaker period to investigate the “Psychosocial Impact of Home-based Learning Experience Among Secondary School Students in Singapore During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. The majority of students surveyed were male; the female to male ratio was 1:1.46. Approximately three-quarters of the respondents (55, 79.6%) were between 12 and 14 years of age.

Their research methodology and analysis was very sound and most impressive. We append three key graphs of their results which show changes in time spent on different activities before and after HBL; and positive and negative feelings associated with HBL.



Gopal (left) and Govind enjoying their time outdoors



Unsurprisingly, the secondary school students surveyed largely prefer going to school over learning in the home environment, although 11.6% (8/69) preferred HBL over going to school. The researchers conclude that the students surveyed appear to have adapted well to the HBL and had opportunities to develop new skills as well as a positive outlook towards life.

Rob Burrough
Principal



Languages Week Quiz

As part of Languages Week activities, a quiz on COVID-19 was held online on 1 July. 419 responses were received.

We congratulate the following winners:

First Prize (Perfect Score)

Abhay Malik, 3 TKK

Runners-up (High Score of 12/13)

Larissa Chan, 3 SVM

Alexander Ryu Kato, 3 TCT

Harith Mikail, 3 CKS

Lau Yu Hang, 4 SVM

Teachers (Highest Score)

Mr S. Sivarajan

Ms Michelle Liew

For those who would like to attempt the quiz, here are the questions.

Which of the following is not true about COVID-19?

- There is no cure.
- There is no vaccine.
- It is highly transmissible.
- It only affects the elderly.

The incubation period for COVID-19 is _____.

- 1-14 days
- 14-21 days
- one year
- two years

Which is not a symptom of COVID-19?

- Cough
- Fever
- Runny nose
- Loss of smell

Which group of people is more at risk than others?

- Elderly
- Young children
- Teenager
- Pregnant woman

What is the most effective way to avoid getting infected?

- Wear mask
- Stay at home
- Wash hands
- Keep one metre social distancing

Social distancing can lead to isolation of old folks.

- True
- False

Which group of people is least affected by social distancing?

- Working adults
- Elderlies
- Homeless
- Handicapped

The WHO recommends ____ minutes of moderate-intensity or _____ minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week.

- 150, 75
- 120, 60
- 200, 100
- 250, 125

Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister predicated that the economic impact of COVID-19 will last for _____.

- 6 months
- a year
- two years
- an infinite period of time

Job losses in Singapore will increase to about _____ this year.

- 10,000
- 100,000
- 20,000
- 200,000

Key sectors affected by COVID-19 does not include

- Service industry
- Tourism
- Aviation industry
- IT

Which issue may a family face during Home-Based Learning?

- No internet
- Bad timing
- Jobless
- COVID-19

What is one advantage of Home-Based Learning?

- Parents better appreciate the child's learning.
- Parents can feedback to teachers on how they can teach better.
- The child learns faster with more time spent in front of the computer.
- The teacher has more preparation time.

Check your answers on page 9.



(from left): Mr Burrough with a few winners, Larissa, Alexander, Harith, Ms Liew and Mr Sivarajan.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

It's Barrett Music Time!



Yes it's Barrett Music Competition 2020 Season, but this year the competition is going virtual!

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we need to take precautions and slow down certain activities or make changes which are inevitable. Playing music a little slower does not mean no expression/action for musicians. Musically, our spirits are not hampered by the virus, for music-making can still be as interesting and as vibrant as before!

The Barrett Music Competition is the highest music award given to individuals who has deep passion in music and expression. To encourage participation this year, we have five new categories:

- Mixed Instruments
- Vocal
- Piano
- Percussion
- Music Ensemble

We congratulate all our finalists! We will announce our live broadcast soon. All viewers, including parents, guardians and fellow students, have a say and the chance to vote for Barrett Music 2020 Grand Champion!

Please take note of the finalists' voting number and start voting when the link is available soon. Stay tuned!

Answer Key to Languages Week Quiz

1. It only affects the elderly.
2. 1-14 days
3. Runny nose
4. Elderly
5. Stay at home
6. True
7. Working adults
8. 150, 75
9. a year
10. 200,000
11. IT
12. No internet
13. Parents better appreciate the child's learning.



CCA NEWS

Resumption of CCAs

CCAs at ACS (International) has resumed, following the recent announcement from the MOE regarding the gradual resumption of CCAs. As per the guidelines, all CCAs will be capped at 20 students per activity and within that, students can only work closely in groups of 5 or fewer. This will mean that CCAs can resume but will be modified to follow the Phase 2 guidelines and ensure the safe management measures.

The school will continue to use "SchoolsBuddy" to organise, manage and review the CCA activities of the students. You can also download the SchoolsBuddy app now on your mobile device to receive all of the up to date information about your CCA on the move. Download the app for iOS devices [here](#) and Android devices [here](#).

For Sports CCAs, a new preference based container on SchoolsBuddy for the upcoming "modified sport CCA season" has been launched. Students can make their selections based on order of preference across a broad range of competitive and recreational sports. Please keep your eyes peeled for future correspondence on SchoolsBuddy with regards to this.

For Interest Groups and The Arts CCAs, the previous containers used for CCA sign-ups are still active. CCA teachers will soon be sending out correspondence regarding the restart of these CCAs in due course.

For enquiries, please feel free to contact:

Sports CCAs: Mr Mike Patterson
michael.patterson@acsinternational.edu.sg

Interest Groups CCAs: Dr Kris Achter
kris.achter@acsinternational.edu.sg

The Arts CCAs: Mdm Chang Hung Tho
hungtho.chang@acsinternational.edu.sg

We look forward to seeing our students back involved in CCAs at ACS (International) very soon!

Sports CCAs

Venue	Time	Monday		Time	Tuesday		Wednesday		Time	Thursday		Friday	
Sports Hall	3:00–4:15	Taekwondo		3:45–5:00	U16 Boys Volleyball	U16 Girls Volleyball	Netball (Recreational)		3:00–4:15	U19 Volleyball Boys	U19 Volleyball Girls	Table Tennis	Rock Climbing
	4:15–5:30	U14 Boys Badminton	U14 Girls Badminton	5:00–6:15	Girls Basketball (Recreational)		Badminton (Recreational)		4:15–5:30	Boys Basketball (Recreational)			
Field	3:45–5:00	14U Boys Rugby	14U Girls Touch	3:45–5:00	16U Boys Football	19U Boys Football	Rugby (Recreational)	Touch (Recreational)	3:15–4:30	Football (Recreational)			
Tennis Courts	3:45–5:00	Tennis (Recreational)		3:45–5:00					3:15–4:30			Archery	
Gym	3:45–5:00			3:45–5:00					3:15–4:30	Bodybuilding			

Staffing

14U Boys Badminton – Alastair Tan
14U Girls Badminton – Michelle Low (Rose Anne, Talo Rooke)
14U Boys Rugby – Alvin Ho and Deacon Manu
14U Girls Touch – Georgie Patterson

16U Boys Football – Lee Scurr
16U Volleyball Boys – Mike Patterson
16U Volleyball Girls – Alicia Chan

19U Volleyball Boys – Mike Patterson/Kerry Sibson
19U Volleyball Girls – Alicia Chan

Archery – Alka Hingle
Badminton Recreation – Cynthia Navamani
Basketball Boys (Recreational) – Giribabu Tummala (Tien Chan, S. Sivarajan)
Basketball Girls (Recreational) – Hilda Toh (Cody Edgcombe)
Bodybuilding – Alvin Ho
Football (Recreational) – Lee Scurr, Frankie Bell
Netball (Recreational) – Kerry Sibson, Emma Harris, Laura Blunt
Rock Climbing – Adina Wong*
Rugby (Recreational) – Alvin Ho and Deacon Manu
Table Tennis – Ong Wee Teck Hoon
Taekwondo – Olger Portilla
Tennis (Recreational) – Clare Wee (Pamela Ng, Rhevatee Gobin)
Touch (Recreational) – Georgie Patterson/Mike Patterson

*Rock Climbing to be confirmed

Interest Groups CCAs

Chess – Monday
Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings – Friday
Christian Fellowship (Online) – Friday
Cookery – Tuesday
Creative Direction – various days
Debate and Public Speaking – Tuesday, Thursday
Envoy – Wednesday
Interact – Thursday
Robotics – Tuesday
Science/Coding – Thursday
Sustainability – various days

The Arts CCAs

Art Club – Tuesday
Ceramics – Tuesday (Junior) or Thursday (IB)
Drama (Online) – Monday
Electro-Acoustics World Music Ensemble (Music Video) – Tuesday
Guitar – Wednesday
Gu Zheng – Friday
Percussion (subset of Wind Band) – Tuesday or Thursday
PAV – Timing TBC
String (Cello, Violin, Viola, Double-Bass) – Monday and Thursday
Wind Band (Online) – Tuesday and Thursday
Contemporary Singers Ensemble (Online) – Thursday (from 4pm)



Sustainability Gardening Group

Our Gardening Group just started this year. We have a beautiful garden at the back of the school near Gate C. We grow different types of plants and herbs such as pandan, aloe vera, okra, dill, pumpkin and many more. Students in the Gardening Group come at different times during the day, putting effort into making the garden a better environment for plants to thrive in. We are aiming to help the school community plus keep us busy at lunch times and learn a new skill.

We would be very grateful for any donations of plant pots, gardening tools and any unwanted small plants. The tools would help us propel the efforts of the garden and allow us to help the community more. The plants will help us grow more crops that we could use for the school, to sell or to give back to the school and/or neighbourhood community. Currently, we gave dill and pandan available for harvesting – instructions signs have been posted in the garden for you to help yourself.

Many are not even aware that the Gardening Group exists and what our aims and goals are. Thus, through this article, we hope that you are now better informed. The Gardening Group is one of the subgroups of the Sustainability CCA. If you are a student or teacher and are interested in joining us, please sign up for the Sustainability CCA through School Buddy. Then you will receive notices and can join our meetings and help in the garden. Please note that we practice safe measures management when in the garden and we limit ourselves to two students from the same year group to the garden at any one time.

Darnesh Ramu, 2 SVM and Wong Wei Zhi (Johannes), 2 Oldham



ALUMNI NEWS

E-Guide: CROSSROADS

With so many university destinations and degrees to choose from, students are often flustered as to where and what they should study. The Higher Education and Careers Department at ACS (International) works hard each year to provide students with the latest information on various universities. They organise several events such as university information sessions, advice on the grade requirements for various degrees at different universities, one-to-one consultations on university applications, personal statement workshops, and job shadowing opportunities.

Nevertheless, it is no doubt that attending university open days and hearing about the personal experiences of current university students plays a crucial role in making this life-altering decision. Unfortunately, unforeseeable events have posed significant challenges to accomplishing this. The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, has adversely affected how universities operate, with on-campus events such as university open-days and informational events having to be cancelled or moved online. Invariably, COVID-19 has disadvantaged prospective students as they are unable to experience the culture and atmosphere of the universities they are considering.

To combat this problem and to support the efforts of the Higher Education and Careers Department, we have put together an e-guide, *CROSSROADS: Personal Experiences from the Class of '18*. The e-guide is a collation of the university experiences of 31 ACS (International) alumni from the Class of '18, who are currently attending 20 different universities across the globe. In addition, the e-guide contains practical advice on adjusting to life overseas, dealing with application rejections, and what students can do between IB and university. It also features students who have taken unconventional routes to their choice of degree and university. Ultimately, this e-guide intends to provide students with a better understanding of university life and what to expect at various universities across the globe, despite the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

As such, *CROSSROADS: Personal Experiences from the Class of 18'* is an on-the-go platform that supplements all the help that the Higher Education and Careers Department is already providing to current students. We also hope that the e-guide will inspire students to pay this initiative forward when they are in university by creating one for their juniors. Once again, a big thank you to our contributors and the HE Department for making this e-guide possible.

Please find the links to the e-guide and the feedback survey below. You may download the e-guide onto your laptops/phones if you wish.



E-guide: www.shorturl.at/hmJR8



Survey: www.shorturl.at/irtMZ
(Deadline: 31 August)

Kathleen Teo Kai Hui, Faith Wong Yann Hwa and Nika Sadri
Co-Founders of Crossroads (Students from the Class of 2018)



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST	EVENT
10	• National Day Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 IB Core – Year 6 • 08:00–08:35 Year 2 Tutor Time (In-class video) – IGCSE Subject Selection • 15:30–16:30 Online University Application Seminar by Higher Education and Careers Department (for Parents' Information)
13	• 08:00–08:35 IB Core – Year 5
17	• Year 4 and Year 6 Prelim results published
18	• 08:00–08:35 Inter-House Quiz – Round 2
19	• 08:00–16:00 Online PTM for Year 4, FIB, Pre IB and Year 6 (SCHOOL CLOSED)
21	• Term 3 results published
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online PTM Day 1 – Years 1, 1B, 2, Pre-IG, 3, 5 (SCHOOL CLOSED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 08:00–12:00 AM session ○ 12:00–13:00 Lunch break ○ 13:00–16:00 PM session
25	• Group 2 Languages Individual Oral
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 2 Languages Individual Oral • 08:00–08:35 Term 3 Commendations Assembly
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online PTM Day 2 – Years 1, 1B, 2, Pre-IG, 3, 5 (SCHOOL CLOSED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 08:00–12:00 AM session ○ 12:00–13:00 Lunch break ○ 13:00–16:00 PM session
28	• Teachers' Day (SCHOOL CLOSED – Staff to be present)

Dear Parents,

Our school is collaborating with Elevate Education to bring to you another live webinar, to help support you and your children. This series of webinar focuses on **How to get your child ready for an exam in a pandemic** and how you, as parents, can help reinforce the skills necessary at home.

Given the success of their previous two webinars, this 60-minute webinar focuses on giving you tangible strategies to help your children effectively manage their time and overcome distractions at home.

Event Title

Exam hack – How do I get my child ready for an exam in a pandemic?

Date

Tuesday, 11 August 2020

Time

8:00 – 9:00pm (Singapore Time)

Sign-Up Link

<https://elevateeducationonline.com/elevateasiawebinarreg/>

Cost

Free

Please click on the sign-up link above to register. Some of our teachers will be attending, so we encourage you to attend.

Singapore Mathematical Olympiad

(Revised Contest Dates)

Junior Round 1 & Senior Round 1
Monday, 7 September, 0930–1200 hours

Open Round 1
Tuesday, 8 September, 0930–1200 hours

Location

ACS (International)
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

Note

- The Olympiad will be held during the second week of the September school holiday.
- The dates are fixed; no refunds will be allowed.
- The venue will be Old Block level 3 classrooms; report time is 9:15am.
- Registered students must participate in the contest in their school uniform.
- Temperature check will be done and safe distancing measures will be followed.





ACS CHALLENGE DO YOU DARE?

Build the best Minecraft MLG Water Bucket

- Make meme of your favourite teacher
- Fastest tongue twister
- Yo-yo freestyle
- Make your T-Rex dinosaur run more than 1500m and the list goes on...

VISIT INSTAGRAM @ACSINT.AMBASSADORS TO WATCH MORE INTERESTING VIDEOS :)

SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE NOW !!!

Awards will be given out to the most funds raised as well as the owner for the most popular challenge!!



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) LANGUAGE WEEK 2020 PRESENTS

CREATIVE WRITING

Extended to 10 August

Write in any genre, fiction or non-fiction, on the topic of **Covid 19**, in any languages (except English). Find a **creative** way to express your thoughts and reflections on the pandemic event. How has it affected us in so many **WAYS**?

Submit through your language teacher by 1 AUGUST 2020

University Webinars 2020



Source of picture : <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news>

University of Pennsylvania: Quaker Conversation : International Students

(This is an opportunity to hear directly from international students at Penn about their experiences navigating and celebrating their identities at Penn and in Philadelphia).

Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:00 am (Eastern Time)

<https://key.admissions.upenn.edu/register/?id=7569959f-74ef-4bc0-9d3a3c44c1f548>



University of Bristol: Medicine Info Session for Southeast Asian applicants

Medicine Info Session for Southeast Asian applicants
University of Bristol's Medicine School is recognised by the Singapore Medical Council. You will hear about Admissions criteria for 2021 entry with details relevant to students from Southeast Asia. You will also learn about what it's like to study Medicine at the University of Bristol from the perspective of academics and current international students.

Monday, 17 August 2020 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Local Time)

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_kkuuh6DKSkqyBTdpeVqQKQ



Source of picture: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/law/>

UCAS

UCAS Virtual Exhibition 2020



Business, Law and Finance – 29-30 Sept
Biomolecule and physical sciences – 16 Oct
People studies and teaching – 23-24 Oct
Maths, engineering and computing – 2-3 Nov
Creative subjects – 13-14 Nov

<https://uqevents.eventsair.com/uq-open-day/register/Site/Register>

Source of picture: <https://view.email.ucas.com>



Online University Application Seminar by Higher Education and Careers Department (For Parents' Information)

The Online University Application Seminar for parents' information that was previously scheduled on Wednesday, 5 August, will be postponed to **12 August, 3:30-4:30pm**.

The link will be sent out closer to the date. Besides the step-by-step application guide to universities in the UK, Canada, the US, Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore (which are popular destinations of our students), the latest developments in the Higher Education scene due to COVID-19 will also be shared.





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).

School Senior Management Team



Mr Rob Burrough
Principal



Mrs Tan Siew Hoon
Vice Principal



Mr Gavin Kinch
Vice Principal



Dr Kristopher Achter
Vice Principal

Seminars will be held on Campus with School Tour

Attendance by Reservations Only

Each session is limited to 45 participants

Venue: Oldham Chapel, ACS (International)
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

Please contact Joseph Ng or Serene Lim
at +65 6472 1477 or
admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg



ACS (International) Admissions Seminars for 2021

Seminar in Korean	11 September, 1pm
	16 October, 1pm
	RSVP ro_southkorea@acsinternational.edu.sg
Seminar in Japanese	12 August, 3:30pm
	22 September, 3:30pm
	RSVP ro_japan@acsinternational.edu.sg
Seminar in Chinese	25 August, 1pm
	23 September, 1pm
	RSVP admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg
Seminar in Vietnamese	29 August, 10am
	RSVP ro_vietnam@acsinternational.edu.sg
Seminar in Taiwanese	21 August, 2pm
	RSVP ro_taiwan@acsinternational.edu.sg
Seminar in English for Singaporeans & Other Locals	22 August, 9am & 11am
	5 September, 9am & 11am
	8 September, 9am & 11am
	10 September, 9am & 11am
	26 September, 9am & 11am
	10 October, 9am & 11am
	17 October, 9am & 11am
	RSVP admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg
Post PSLE Seminar for Locals	26 November, 1pm & 3pm
	27 November, 10am, 1pm & 3pm
	28 November, 9:30am & 11:30am
	RSVP admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg

