



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER



## IN THIS ISSUE

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for 2016! We trust that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and that you are all looking forward to the year ahead. A special welcome to new students, new parents and new staff. We wish you all a successful and enjoyable time with us. The new staff are introduced in a later section.

At the beginning of last week we received last year's IB Diploma results for 2015. We are pleased with the overall pass rate of 98.7% which is an improvement on the previous two years (92% and 96% respectively); and another successful enrolment to Oxford University is also very encouraging. The value-added improvement by many students has also continued. A summary commentary is provided below. IGCSE results are released on-line next Tuesday 19 January at 5pm.

This year is the 130th Founder's Day celebration for the ACS family. We look forward to celebrating this important anniversary with the other ACS schools. All six schools have agreed on a common theme and bible verse – 'Called to Serve: Our Hearts, Our Hopes, Our Aims are ONE' "Serve one another humbly in love" Galatians 5:13b. This theme is closely aligned with Bishop Oldham's original vision (A Heart of Service) and is still very relevant today. As a Christian community we are called to serve each other and the wider communities that we have been placed in. May 2016 be a year that is characterised by service to others for in so doing both the one being served and the one doing the service are benefitted.

We are indeed looking forward to the year ahead. As a Christian institution we also try to model an inclusive and supportive environment, where all students can reach their individual potential. We look forward to working in partnership with students and parents to realise hopes, dreams and potential so that 2016 is a most successful year. The Best Is Yet To Be.

**Rob Burrough**

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**DID YOU KNOW ?**

The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven.

## STAFF NEWS

We welcome Miss Chantal Roux from South Africa as our new Counsellor; in English we welcome Ms Helen Baker and Mr Neil Dickins from the UK; in Humanities Mr Lim Tse Ren (Singapore); in Science Miss Ivana Choo and Mr Mak Chee Keong (both Singapore); and in Physical Education Miss Kerry Sibson (UK).

We also welcome the following new support staff: Mrs Joey Tan Hui Ping (Bursar); Mrs Ivory Loy (HR Manager); Ms Kanmany d/o Doraisamy (Librarian); Mrs Serene Lim Siew Yin (Receptionist); Mr Alvin Ho (Sports Administrator) and Rev Noel Goh to Holland Village Methodist Church as Assistant Pastor who is also our school Assistant Chaplain.

Congratulations to Mrs Sandra Sng on the birth of her new son; and to Mr Mike Patterson and Miss Georgina Smith, and Mr Ho Wee Kwang on their respective marriages.

## Staff Conference



As part of their personal and professional development, academic and support staff of ACS (International) School gathered for the PEAKS Profiling Certification (Level 1) training on 4 and 5 January conducted by the team from Research Communication International. During the conference, staff learnt about their strengths/potentials based on the PEAKS Personality dimensions of Purpose, Energy, Affirmation, Knowledge and Sustainability. The training not only benefitted the staff personally but was also the foundation of their training to support the Year 1 and Year 5 students who will undertake and receive their PEAKS psychometric assessments this month.

## From the Church

In December 2015, we received news that from January 2016 Ms Esther Kasinathan, our Christian Ministry Staff is posted to Geylang Methodist School and Rev Chia Chin Nam ends his term as our chaplain. Rev Joel Yong remains our Chaplain-in-Charge and Rev Clarence Lee continues to serve as Chaplain. Ms Jelin Tan also remains as Christian Ministry Staff to the school.

Rev Noel Goh is added to the Chaplaincy team this year and although he is new to us, he has more than 25 years of ministry experience. We caught up with him for a brief interview.

**Question:** *Welcome to ACS International, Rev Goh! Thanks for agreeing to be interviewed! You have been a veteran pastor for many years - which are some of the churches that you have pastored over these years?*

**Answer:** *Well, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church was my 1st posting and Wesley Methodist Church was my 2nd and the longest duration in any posting. Fairfield Methodist Church was my 1st posting as Pastor-in-charge and there were a few more before my Sabbatical year. After that it was Barker Road Methodist Church. Then after my study leave, it was Faith Methodist Church. Now I am a pastor at Holland Village Methodist Church.*

**Question:** *What do you like to do in your free time, to unwind?*

**Answer:** *A game of squash always gets my "old" blood moving & helps me be more alert & has proven to be the more efficient form of unwinding at the moment. Not sure how long before my knees "unwind" themselves though.*

**Question:** *You have been married for many years and have 2 grown children. What is one of the most important lessons you have learned about family matters?*

**Answer:** *It is this- love your family with the love of the Lord, so that it's neither indulgent, insufficient or insecure. Enjoy your children now instead of waiting to play with your grandchildren.*

**Question:** *What is your favourite bible verse and why?*

**Answer:** *My 1st favourite is Psalm 27:4 which says "I have asked one thing from the LORD. This I will seek: to remain in the LORD's house all the days of my life in order to gaze at the LORD's beauty and to search for an answer in his temple. "I like this verse because it resonates closest to how my heart feels for the Lord.*

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed! We hope you will have a great time in your term with us as chaplain. We are looking forward to your chapel sermons as our newest chaplain!



### Improved IB Results at ACS (International)

Over ninety eight (98) percent of last year's International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates gained their IB Diploma in the November 2015 examination in the results released on 5.1.2016. The results show an improvement in the overall pass rate on 2013 and 2014, increasing from 92% to 96% to 98.7%. The overall cohort average of 34.7 (out of 45) was also higher than last year's average of 34 points. The world average is 31 points with 24 points and above being a pass mark. Our top mark was 44 shared by Deandra Muliawan and Ariane Ruppli.



Five Singaporean students in this cohort had PSLE scores below 220 yet averaged 40 points in the IB Diploma, and 10 with PSLE scores below 200 averaged 32.5 points. An outstanding value-added improvement. Overall, 28 Singaporean students with PSLE scores below 225 scored between 27 and 41 IB points with an average of 35 points.

Also outstanding were the O Level to IB Diploma improvements. Twelve Singaporean students came from the O Level system with an average O Level raw score of 18 points, improving to an IB Diploma average of 34.6. Three students had scores above 20 and were not eligible for JC enrolment yet produced an impressive 32.3 average IB score.

26% of the cohort gained a Bilingual Diploma showing language strength in two different languages at first language level. Fifteen students gained a score of 40 points and above.

It is important to compare apples with apples when comparing results between schools. Our 98.7% pass rate plus the higher than world average pass rate was especially pleasing when considering that for 45% of our students English is a second language. It is not easy to firstly learn English, then think in English then write in academic English.

### ACS (International) Second Oxford Student



Risa Tan has just been accepted to read Law at St Hilda's College, Oxford University, beginning her studies later this year. Risa scored an impressive 43 points in the IB Diploma examination and gained selection based on several interviews, a very strong school portfolio and strong academic performance.

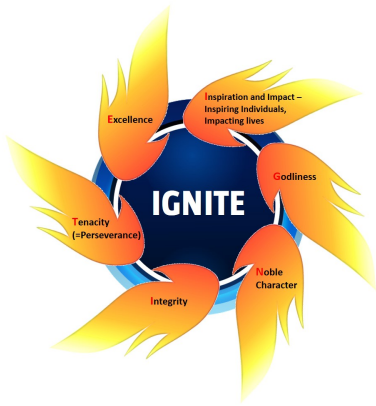
During her time at school Risa consistently made the Principal's List each term for academic performance and was a member of the High Achievers group. She is a very talented writer, speaker and debater. She was President of the ACS (International) Debate Society, and in the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships (Division I) her unique debating style earned her the award for Best Floor Speaker in this national debating tournament.

As well, Risa gave an extremely thought-provoking TED talk for TEDxYouth entitled "Singlish: The Native Language" which was widely circulated and received considerable positive response from both live and online audiences. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMMzDag4VvI>.

Risa has been a regular and active contributor to the Straits Times Forum, as well as to TODAY newspaper. She has contributed her views on local politics, education, the Little India riots, and gender and social issues. She was invited to meet the Straits Times editor and attend the Forum Writers' Dialogue. Risa was a Grassroots Volunteer in the Buona Vista constituency. In this role she served under Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament Chan Chun Sing and attended Meet-the-People sessions every Monday night. Her work included writing petitions to various government agencies on behalf of Singaporeans with financial and family problems. Other areas of service included her participation in a service trip to Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe) volunteering for a job shadowing project for the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust as well as fundraising and helping rebuild a school in an underprivileged community in rural Zimbabwe.

We are delighted that Risa's outstanding abilities, her strong character and her passion to serve others has been rewarded with this prestigious offer to Oxford University..

## NOTICES

**IGNITE School Values**

Our recently defined school values help define and empower us. They contribute to our sense of purpose and vision, and inspire collective action.

Our IGNITE values are:

**I**nspiration and Impact - Inspiring Individuals, Impacting lives

**G**odliness

**N**oble Character

**I**ntegrity

**T**enacity (= Perseverance)

**E**xcellence

As well as the values identified, IGNITE speaks of 'lighting the flame', the fire of the Holy Spirit, energy and action. All members of the ACS (International) community live by these values.

**2016 School Timetable**

There are minor changes to the school timetable for 2016. They include:

1. Tutor Group for all students at 8.00am every day
2. PSHE for Years 1 and 2 only – regular tutor time or IB Core time for all other students
3. Chapel on Fridays; House meetings on Mondays
4. Fewer classes on during lunchtimes

**PSP Coffee Morning 2016**

Happy New Year!

To the parents and guardians of returning students, welcome back. To those of you who are new to the school, welcome to the ACS (International) family. It was a pleasure meeting some of you at the Orientation Campfire Night and we look forward to getting to know you better.

It's a special year for the school and to kick things off, the Principal, Mr Burrough, and PSP would love for all of you to join us at the PSP Coffee Morning.

**Date:** 28 January 2016 (Thursday)

**Time:** 8.15am - 10.15am

**Venue:** Wesley Hall, 6th Floor, Sports Block, ACS (International)

**RSVP:** [acspsp.net@gmail.com](mailto:acspsp.net@gmail.com) by Tuesday 26 January 2016.

PSP Exco

**Lunar New Year**

School will finish for students at 12 noon on Friday 5 February. Students flying home for the New Year may book flights from 4.00pm only. Classes resume on Monday 15 February.

**Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day**

Due to the heavy congestion at the school gate by both vehicles and foot traffic we restrict vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7.30 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 outside the main gate at the drop off zone. On wet days however, parents will still be able to access the covered drop off zone outside the Administration Block.

With an increased roll there is increased congestion at the school entrance and students on foot are contributing to that. Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off their children. (see map below for details).





### IGCSE Results and Year 5 Start Date

The IGCSE results will be available to all students online from 5:00 pm Tuesday 19 January. Students should access their own results using the access code provided by the Examinations Officer, Mr. Gregory Goh. Please contact Mr. Goh for assistance at [gregory.goh@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:gregory.goh@acsinternational.com.sg).

Please note the criteria for entry to the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International).

IBDP Entry Criteria:

- Minimum 2 x A, 2 x B, 2 x C grades in subjects to be studied in IB
- Minimum of grade B for all HL subjects.
- Exemplary academic and behavioural record.
- Must be able to put a subject package together.

Students who have been offered Direct Admission have confirmed places for the IBDP, however should any of their IGCSE results fall short of the above criteria, they must consult the relevant Head of Faculty.

Students whose results do not meet the full requirements for IB entry are able to meet senior staff on the morning of Wednesday 20 January between 8:00 am – 12:30 pm to seek advice concerning their future academic programmes. Students are required to meet senior staff if they fall into the following categories:

- They do not meet the criteria for entry onto the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International)
- They do not meet the criteria for a particular subject at either Higher Level or Standard Level

### 2016 School Term Dates and Weekly Timetable

These two items are again attached for your information.

### Community Service, Safari & Adventure Expedition

9 Days in Malawi

May 28 – 7 June 2016

Years 1-3 & Pre-IB & FIB

About \$4,800 - \$5,000



### International Service Trips offered in 2016

Advance notice of the following international service trips is given below. Please note that all trips are subject to staffing and student demand on any particular trip. Each trip should accommodate a maximum of 30 students except Kota Kinabalu and Japan which can accommodate a maximum of 20 students.

All trip details will be available on the week of 25 January and will be posted on the school's intranet under Co-curricular/ CAS Service trips 2016. Teachers will present their trips to Year 5 students on 26 January and students can view the itineraries of trips and look for the relevant teacher in charge to sign up.

Destination / Year Group	Time Period	Duration	Costings (Approximate amounts in SGD)
Southern Africa / Year 5	June	22 June-2 July	5500
Vietnam / Year 5	June	30 May-7 June	1600
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia / Year 5	June	22 June-2 July	3000
Cambodia / Year 5	June	30 May- 7 June	1600
Thailand / Year 5	June	29 May-6 June	1600
Kochi, India / Year 5	September	5-14 September	2500
Japan / Year 5	September	5-14 September	4000

### Lower Years

Destination/ Year Group	Time Period	Duration	Costings (Approximate amounts in SGD)
Western Australia / Years 1-3	3 – 14 September	Approximately 12 days	\$5200
Malawi (Years 1 – 4)	28 May – 7 June	8 days	\$5000
Bali, Indonesia / Year 3 (Compulsory expedition for those attending)	November	Approximately 7 days	\$1200

## STUDENT SUCCESSES

### MasterChef Asia Winner: Ex-Student

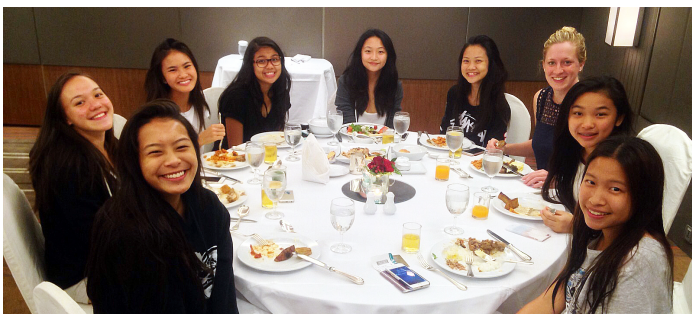
We are pleased to note that one of our first batch of students, Woo Wai Leong from the Class of 2006, is the MasterChef Asia winner. Wai Leong is also a law graduate. See the following link for more details of his win:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-s-woo-wai-leong/2337178.html>

### Touch Rugby and Rugby Tour to Bangkok



On Sunday 22 November the U16 Touch Rugby and Rugby teams travelled to Bangkok Patana School (BPS) for our international tournament. The girls played in a friendly match against a local club team and the boys took on The Baabaa's club side. The boys had an extremely close match and just missed out in the last few minutes of the game. After a leisurely start to Monday with some pool time and shopping we travelled back to BPS for two triangular tournaments. The girls proved that they had the knowledge and skill with a comfortable win against Harrow International School and unfortunately just lost out in their second game against BPS. The boys played BPS and Harrow and battled extremely hard only narrowly losing both games 5-0, 12-7. After a long afternoon of fixtures everyone enjoyed a fabulous buffet dinner and some lively team games to round off a very successful tour.



A special thanks to the accompanying teachers Mr Mike, Ms Cristina, Mr Nick, Ms Gemma and Ms Georgie, and congratulations to the five students who were nominated as players of the weekend; Tricia, Sunny and Fera for Touch Rugby and Renny and Lucas for Rugby. All the students played extremely well in all three games and we are looking forward to our next trip in the future.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### University Visits In School Term 1

**London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**  
**Monday, 11 January**  
**11.40 am-1.00 pm**  
**Booth in the School Canteen**



**Durham University**  
**Tuesday, 26 January**  
**11.40 am-12.30 pm**  
**Booth in the School Canteen**

**USA Universities Tour:**  
**Some Participating Institutions:**  
 (University of San Francisco; Utah State University; Virginia Tech; University of Alabama; Shoreline Community College; Shoreline Community College; North Seattle College; Abilene Christian University; Baruch College – City U of New York; New England Institute of Technology)



**Monday, 29 February**  
**11.40 am-1.00 pm**  
**Booth in the School Canteen**

### International Students' Matters

- 18/1 – Briefing by ISPPC to all international students (330 – 4pm)
- 22/1 – Training and collaboration for new guardians (7-8pm)
- 30/1 – SG orientation for all new international students. (HVMC and school collaboration) (9am – 4pm)



JANUARY	EVENT
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCA Fair</li></ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Methodist Schools Staff Dedication Service</li></ul>
16 & 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACS (International) Inter Schools Debate Competition</li></ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IGCSE Results released at 5.00pm</li></ul>
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 5 Orientation and Induction Programme begins</li></ul>
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PEAKS Assessment Year 5</li></ul>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inter-House Netball and Football</li></ul>

FEBRUARY	EVENT
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Custodians Tea</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Back to School Party</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lunar New Year Celebration</li></ul>
8 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School closed for Lunar New Year</li></ul>