



October 2020

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

The examination season is upon us! Last week was the final week in class for our Year 4 students before they left on IGCSE study leave; and our Year 6s start their study leave next Thursday, 7 October. For the rest of the school, there are only two (Years 3 and 5) or three (Years 1 and 2) more weeks in class before the internal end-of-year examinations start.

At a recent combined ACS Schools' Parents' Prayer Group meeting via Zoom, I spoke briefly on our response to the COVID-19 crisis and shared the secret to examination success – through the establishment of routines. Everyone knows that success is the result of hard work, often routine and sometimes boring! Malcom Gladwell, in his best seller, *The Outliers*, says that routine is the cornerstone of success. He talks about the "10,000 Hour Rule", claiming that the key to worldwide success is, to a large extent, a matter of practising the correct way, for a total of approximately 10,000 hours. He cites top sports teams, Bill Gates and The Beatles, among others, as examples of world-class achievers who have achieved success through routine and practice.

Sometimes, we may feel trapped by routine and repetition. Routine is deadly unless we see a purpose in it. It is worthwhile to be reminded that routine is essential for success and in fact there are many advantages of routine. These include: provides structure – gives purpose and familiarity in situations; builds good habits; increases efficiency in time and effort; reduces the need for extra willpower and motivation to keep going in difficult times; builds momentum; reduces distractions; and saves work in the long run. In summary, there are no shortcuts to success and students must embrace routine, repetition and perseverance in their studies in order to succeed.

St. Paul also knew about the advantages of routine. In 1 Corinthians 9: 26 – 27, he says "Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and **make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." And in Hebrews 12:1, he again encourages routine and consistency – "let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us".

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

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

Rob Burroughs
Principal

Staff News

Term 4 Key Dates

Term 4 Staggered Arrivals and Dismissals

Important Information for International Students

Writing to the School

Examinations Matters

Parking/Waiting Along Jalan Hitam Manis Outside

ACS (International)

Year 6 Results Release

2020 Study Nights

Revised Student Lunch Hour/Location

Safe Distancing Observance in Holland Village

Stay Home If Unwell

Transcripts and Testimonials

Blazer Donations

Singapore and Asian Schools Maths Olympiad 2020

Australian Mathematics Competition 2020 Chinese

Calligraphy Competition 2020

Creative Writing Competition

Project Step To Change

Teachers' Day

5 SVM CAS AWWA Project

Year 5 IB Geography IA Field Trip

Yemen Humanitarian Relief Fundraiser

Migrant Workers Centre Charity Fundraiser

Migrant Workers' Outreach 2020

Our Very Own Green Roof 空中花园

Higher Education News

ACS (Independent) Boarding School News

Upcoming Events

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

STAFF NEWS

The school congratulates Dr Kris Achter, Vice Principal (Junior Division) and his family on the arrival of his second daughter in September.

NOTICES

Term 4 Key Dates

Please note the following key dates for Term 4:

7 October	• Last day for Year 6 before study leave begins
19 October	• Internal end-of-year exams for Year 5 begin
20 October	• Study Leave for Year 3, Foundation IB and Pre IB
21 October	• Internal end-of-year exams for Year 3, Foundation IB & Pre IB begin
26 October	• Internal end-of-year exams for Years 1 and 2 begin
30 October	• Final day of Internal end-of-year exams
2–16 November	• Normal school days
13 November	• Final IBDP examination
14 November	• Deepavali Public Holiday (School closed)
15 November	• Year 6 Graduation Ceremony (for Graduands and SLT/HsMs/ HoFs)
17 November	• Academic Reports given out • Last day for Non-Prize winners, 1/2 day for most students • Speech Day rehearsals (for Prize Winners)
18 November	• Years 1–5 Speech Day Prize Giving (for Prize Winners and Teachers Only)
19–20 November	• Staff Only days

Term 4 Staggered 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

Please note the adjustments from 8:35am to 8:30am.

School finish times have been staggered, **from 7 October**, as follows:

- 2:45pm: Year 1 and Year 2
- 3:00pm: Year 3 and Year 5

Important Information for International Students

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

School Calendar 2021

The school calendar 2021 is now available on the school portal, for your viewing: [Calendar link](#)

Change of Contact Details

Please notify the International Pastoral Coordinator, Mdm Chin Siew Lin, of any changes in residential address in Singapore, change of guardianship and homestay providers or local contact numbers (personal, parents, homestay providers or guardians) so that the school can update the changes in the database.

Student Pass Holders

If your child’s Student Pass is expiring soon, please inform their guardian in advance for them to assist you with the renewal/extension. Please make an appointment to see Ms Serene Lim (Admissions Department) in the General Office for advice on the renewal/extension process if you or their guardian need any clarification.

International Student Insurance

It is compulsory for international students (on Student Pass) to purchase the school’s required insurance. The school will continue to engage the services of Honan Insurance in 2021. The payment for the insurance (SGD\$300) will be billed to your child’s/ward’s 2021 school fees payment. Non-Honan insurance policy holders are advised not to renew your existing policy if it is expiring, as your child/ward is required to purchase a local insurance policy as required by the school.

Exceptional Early Year-End Departure

Your child will be able to return home earlier (an exception for this year only due to COVID-19 and the possibility of serving two 14-day isolation notices in both arrival and departure countries) if you apply for leave to their respective Vice-Principal. The earliest departure will be the evening of Friday, 6 November. Year 5s must stay until the end of Science Internal Assessments (IAs) on Friday, 13 November, unless prior approval is given by Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Vice-Principal (Senior Division).

All international students leaving Singapore for the year-end break must ensure that they return to Singapore in time to complete quarantine/stay home requirements before the first day of school on Thursday, 7 January 2021. All travelling students must inform the school of their intended return date by 7 December 2020 to Mdm Chin at siewlin.chin@acsinternational.edu.sg as the school has to obtain permission from MOE for each student to be able to return to Singapore.

End-of-year reports will be available online from Tuesday, 17 November.

Writing to the School

Parents/Guardians who write in to the school via email or with a hardcopy letter for school absence, approval for leave, etc. should include the official name, year and House of their child/ward (e.g. Alan Tan Hong Tong, 2 SVM), to facilitate prompt attention.

Examinations Matters

Internal End-of-Year, IB and IGCSE Examination Schedules
The schedule of the 2020 Internal End-of-Year Examinations as well as those of IB and IGCSE Examinations can be found at <https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/information-for-parents-public> with no login required by parents or students. Other information such as the IGCSE and IBDP programmes, assessment criteria, parent portal (iSAMS) and schools buddy portal can be accessed from the same link.

Formal External Examinations
Year 4 and Year 6 subject teachers will be available for consultation with students during their regular subject timetabled times, and at other times by arrangement.

End-of-Year School Examinations
School examinations for Years 1, 2, 3, 5 plus Pre IGCSE, Pre IB and Foundation IB students begin on Monday, 19 October, and end on Friday, 30 October. Student need only attend school for their actual examinations during the examination period.

Student Dress Code
All students must wear the full and correct school uniform **during the formal external/end-of-year examinations**. Years 4 and 6 students must wear full school uniform or school-related shirts, such as the polo tee and House T-shirts, with the school pants/culottes **when visiting school** for support lesson or consultation with teachers **including staying for Study Nights**. PE shorts are not allowed. Students in the wrong attire will NOT be allowed entry into the school/library.

Parking/Waiting Along Jalan Hitam Manis Outside (ACS International)

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) and ACS (International) have received feedback in recent months about motorists parking along Jalan Hitam Manis, particularly on no-parking zones, causing obstruction to other road users. Such parking of vehicles in the vicinity of the school zone increases the risks for students using the roads. It also causes inconveniences to other road users as well as being illegal.

For the safety of all, we seek the co-operation of all parents driving to school to exercise care and consideration by adhering to the following:

- Refrain from waiting/parking illegally along Jalan Hitam Manis. It is an offence to park/wait on either side of a road demarcated by a continuous white line or double yellow lines;
- Plan your pick-up time with your child to reduce the queuing/waiting time along the road;
- Avoid arriving earlier than the scheduled school's dismissal time;
- Do not park in front of the access of any residential unit; and
- Be considerate and allow cars from side roads access into the car queue waiting to exit to Holland Village.

LTA will take enforcement actions against vehicles found parking indiscriminately and causing inconvenience to others.

We appreciate all parents' cooperation on the above to safeguard the safety of our students. Together, we can make our roads safer for everyone by exercising responsible road use.

Year 6 IB Results Release

This year, the IBO will be releasing the November IBDP results online on Thursday, 17 December, from 2:00pm onwards. This is a change to previous years when the results were released in early January. As the release date is scheduled during the holidays with many students and staff away, we do not require students to come to school to receive their results. Students will be able to directly access their results online using their candidate pin code which will be given to them on Graduation Day (Sunday, 15 November). Details about any appeals, requests for scripts, etc. will also be given at this time.

A hardcopy of the student's result slip will be available from the General Office from Friday, 18 December, onwards during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00am–3:30pm). The General Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, 24 and 25 December, for Christmas. Any queries should be directed to Ms Carol Ling, the IB Coordinator at carol.ling@acsinternational.edu.sg

2020 Study Nights

The school library is extending the opening hours from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 29 September to 12 November for Years 4 and 6 to do self study. A HoF/Assistant HoF will be supervising the study nights, and they are available for subject consultation while on duty.

PSP is sponsoring snacks and dinner for those in attendance. For those who would like to receive dinner from PSP, please sign up for it at the library counter before 1:00pm on the same day.

Date	Teacher
Tuesday 29 September	Peter Thompson (HoF/English)
Thursday 1 October	Michelle Liew (Assistant HoF/English)
Tuesday 6 October	Susan Ong (HoF/Science)
Thursday 8 October	Koh Leng Khim (HoF/Languages)
Tuesday 13 October	Tien Chan (HoF/Humanities)
Thursday 15 October	Kent Kor (Assistant HoF/Science)
Tuesday 20 October	Chang Hung Tho (HoF/The Arts)
Thursday 22 October	Laura Blunt (Assistant HoF/PE)
Tuesday 27 October	Alice Wong (Assistant HoF/Humanities)
Thursday 29 October	Raghuraman PC (HoF/Mathematics)
Tuesday 3 November	Jasmine Teo (Assistant HoF/Mathematics)
Thursday 5 November	Chris Bossan (HoF/ESL)
Tuesday 10 November	Koh Leng Leng (Assistant HoF/Languages)
Thursday 12 November	Mike Patterson (HoF/PE)

Revised Student Lunch Hour/Location

With effect from Wednesday, 7 October, Year 3 lunch hour will take place from 12:00noon to 12:45pm to even up the numbers at lunchtimes, and to reduce mingling when the senior students come out of their examination venues. The Student Centre will be available for use by Years 4 and 6 students. Location changes are as follows:

Junior Lunch: Year 2s in the Canteen and Year 1s on the Science Terrace

Senior Lunch: Year 5s shifted to the Canteen and Year 3s on the Science Terrace

Safe Distancing Observance in Holland Village

We have received a number of complaints about students gathering in groups in Holland Village and near the MRT station. Breaking the law by not obeying safe distancing measures and not wearing masks reflects very badly on the individuals and on the school. We ask all students to please keep themselves safe by observing the recommended safe distancing measures, respect the school uniform and school values, and obey the law, be it during term time or school break!

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.

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.

Blazer Donations

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



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad 2020

On 1 April, 71 students (Years 1 to 4) took part in the Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO) 2020, of which 10 were awarded Gold, 16 Silver and 19 Bronze. The results saw an improvement from 2019’s 7 Gold, 20 Silver and 19 Bronze. The annual Olympiad caters to the top 40% of the student population and aims to arouse students’ interest in mathematical problem-solving, and to develop mathematical intuition, reasoning, logical, creative and critical thinking. It is devoted and dedicated to bringing a love for Mathematics to the students in secondary schools. The top 40% of the participants will receive an Award Certificate and a medal (Gold for top 8%, Silver for next 12% and Bronze for next 20%).

The list of medal winners is as follows:

SASMO 2020 Results		
Name	Grade	Award
Sophie Koh	07	Gold
Sun Dingyuan	07	Gold
Shi Tianyi	08	Gold
Yook Joeun	08	Gold
Zhang Qingyan	08	Gold
Dayoun Moon	09	Gold
Ethelyn Huang Meici	09	Gold
Park Hyunsu	09	Gold
Yeoeun Yoon (Jasmine)	10	Gold
Yerin Kim	10	Gold
Celina Isabela Madamba Abueg	07	Silver
Yeseo Lee	07	Silver
Daiki Kashiwagi	08	Silver
Jiang Chunyu	08	Silver
Kim Minwoo	08	Silver
Ma Mingyue	08	Silver
Yifan He	08	Silver
Ahn Cheeyoon (Olivia)	09	Silver
Jo Woonhyeong	09	Silver
Liu Jihan	09	Silver
Ji Hyunmin	10	Silver
Lee Hyunseok	10	Silver
Park Ji Min	10	Silver
Patrick Zhou	10	Silver
Yuki Kashiwagi	10	Silver
Zhang Haoyu	10	Silver
Angus Yuan Innes	07	Bronze
Yutika Dhar	07	Bronze
Aika Saito	08	Bronze
Dohyeon Jung	08	Bronze
Ajay Karthikeyan	09	Bronze
Conrad Trey Indradjaja	Grade 09	Bronze
Feng Zhenting	Grade 09	Bronze

Myoungjae Kim	09	Bronze
Qijia Cheng	09	Bronze
Teo Jie Shi Alarice	09	Bronze
Wang Junpeng	09	Bronze
Jang Jihye	10	Bronze
Jinsol Lee	10	Bronze
Lee Yeonje	10	Bronze
Li Jia	10	Bronze
Moon Eunyeong	10	Bronze
Rong Yanhan	10	Bronze
Xinyi Shu	10	Bronze
Zhang Zhaoxiang	10	Bronze

Australian Mathematics Competition 2020

On 30 July, 73 students (Years 1 to 6) took part in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) 2020. Over 1,000 students shared the prizes and around 50% of participants qualified to receive a Certificate of High Distinction, Distinction or Credit. All other participants received a Certificate of Participation or a Proficiency Certificate. All participants were also provided with a detailed report showing how they performed on each problem with wider statistical rankings.

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

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

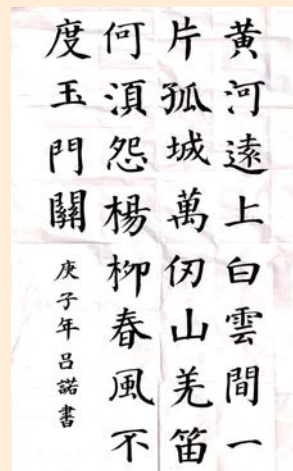
The list of High Distinction and Distinction award recipients is as follows:

AMC 2020 Results		
Name	Division	Award
Tianyi Shi	Junior	High Distinction
Dingyuan Sun	Junior	Distinction
Shizhao Cheng	Junior	Distinction
Dayoun Moon	Intermediate	Distinction
Ethelyn Huang Meici	Intermediate	Distinction
Woonhyeong Jo	Intermediate	Distinction
Yerin Kim	Intermediate	Distinction
Hyunjin Ji	Intermediate	Distinction
Yeoeun Yoon	Intermediate	Distinction
Patrick Zhou	Intermediate	Distinction
Rupert Chia	Senior	Distinction
Justin Cheng Ming Hearn	Senior	Distinction



Chinese Calligraphy Competition 2020

Every year, the Chinese Calligraphy CCA has kept the spirit high by sending its members to compete in many competitions at the national level. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have managed to keep up the tradition this year. Our member, Lyu Nuo (4 GHK), has proudly won the Outstanding Award in the 31st National Student Chinese Calligraphy Competition 2020, jointly organised by the Chinese Calligraphy Society of Singapore and *Lianhe Zaobao*, sponsored by Honourable Patron Mrs Goh Chok Tong.



Creative Writing Competition

2020 is a special year for all of us.

Our lives are changed. Many companies have to close down. We turn to Zoom and Google Meet like never before, and the sense of isolation has never been stronger with the circuit breaker and safe distancing measures. We turn inwards. We reflect. We try to move on.

Such is the intention when we planned the Creative Writing Competition this year. We received a wide range of works and the students surprised us with their creativity. The first prize winner, Gao Zihan (3 Thoburn), stood out as she writes beautifully, giving an account of a coronavirus using just 60 seconds. The rhythm of the writing is fast paced and the structure of the account is kept tight, giving the work a unique breath.

Other entries include short story, detective story, diary, monologue, and even a picture book with illustrations. All these works are compiled into an [ebook](#).

Enjoy.

Congratulations to the top winners:

First Prize	Gao Zihan, 3 Thoburn
Runners-up	Liu Jihan, 3 LSG Momoka Kanda, 3 TCT Shoma Hirano, 3 TKK

"It is a great honour for me to win the first place in this competition. In this writing, I anthropomorphised the virus, gave it human emotions and portrayed some of the good and evil sides of humanity through the lens of the virus. I feel deeply writing about something that happened during the pandemic and how people survived the disaster through the act of unity. I think writing and reading are inextricably linked. The more you read, the better you write. So I would advise students who want to learn to write well to read a lot."

Gao Zihan

倒数六十秒

我要消失了。
倒计时六十秒。
我在蝙蝠的身上沉睡。有个不知好歹的傻子把我咽了下去。烦死了，扰人清梦。我因此从沉睡中醒来，有几个自称白细胞的家伙拦着我，他们要和我争斗，我一抬手，他们齐刷刷的向后倒去，怎么说呢，弱的不堪一击。我跟着他的呼吸出去了。我在街上横行，没有人知道我。

倒计时五十秒
我讨厌人类的欢声笑语和家人团聚，因为我没有家人。我不断分裂，无数个我穿梭在无数个人的身体里。我破坏家庭，我大开杀戒。有时候我钻进一个家中作为中流砥柱的父亲的身体里，有时候我肆虐在一个单亲家庭的母亲身体里，有时候我在刚降生孩子的身体里横行霸道。我擅长破坏。他们说悲剧就是把美好的东西撕碎了给人看，我举双手赞同。

倒计时四十秒。
我终于被重视起来了。我被赋予了名字，挺傻的，新冠，全称不记得了，反正是人类取的。记载上说以前的人类都叫我们瘟疫。啊？为什么我有名字？我怎么知道，都说了是人类取的。

先是锁城，再是锁国，好像凭借着这微薄的努力就能阻挡住我一样。新的医院拔地而起，一批批的人进来，却只有少数人脱身。别做无用功了，有这点儿钱不如多买几块死后的棺身之地。

电视有好多说着不同语言的人。有的袖手旁观，有的幸灾乐祸，还有的趁火打劫。好奇怪，明明都是一样的，但没关系，下一个就是你们。

我放火，我隔岸观火。
有人骂我，有人怨我。无所谓，反正人类杀的人类更多。

倒计时三十秒。
无数个我跟着四处逃窜的人离开了这个国家，又去另一个国家。为什么人们不能老老实实的待在自己该在的地方呢？人类专家明明劝诫过他们的。好话不听，自作聪明。

这对我来说无所谓，我在哪里都能兴风作浪。但我逐渐感到了自己的力不从心，他们前仆后继的与我抗争，一批批走了，一批批撞上。明明是微弱的光，聚在一起却明亮的晃眼。我以为人心是易变的，只要我稍稍作祟就能破坏他们的感情，但我太低估爱与大义这种说不清道不明的东西了，明明是深渊在侧，却还有无数人万死以赴，走过十万八千里也初心不改。

倒计时二十秒。
听说疫苗研发出来了。我也知道我时日不多了。我不仅震惊于人类汇聚在一起的强大的生命力，且在这四面楚歌的绝境下，我居然还能感受到人间丝丝缕缕的爱意，我心里居然有油然而生的敬意。我看见他们举起那树枝扎的火把，将自己暴露于所有恶意的目光的中央，奔走呼号而风雨不歇。前面的倒下，后面的便来，添上一根一根的柴。他们的火把烧得滚烫，要照亮每一寸黑暗，要将夜空点燃，他们满怀滚烫的热情与信仰，望着远方的光将希望在大地上播撒。当太阳最终降临的一刻，曙光中我眯起被刺痛的眼，却发现哪里是什么树枝木柴，那火把，分明是用他们拆下的肋骨，淋以热血点燃。病痛泥泞的躯体下，藏着的竟是一颗颗精妙绝伦的，依然跳动的五脏。

倒计时十秒。
我的身体即将化为灰烬，但我尚存一丝意识。我合时宜的想起了以后的人类会怎么记载我，又非常不合时宜的怀念起了刚出世时路边热干面的味道，啧啧。

倒计时结束。
有人上岸，有人隐没在海里。
我闭上眼。



Mr Burrough with Momoka Kanda, Gao Zihan, Liu Jihan and Shoma Hirano

Judges' Remark:

This is an excellent piece of fictional writing that has won full score. Zihan writes beautifully in a succinct yet poetic manner. She recounts in the first person her journey as the coronavirus from the beginning of spread to finally getting curbed. This recounting took place in all of 60 seconds.

Chinese is Zihan's first language.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Project Step To Change

Each year, Ambassadors have been organising a big-scale fundraising project to help the underprivileged in our society. Quick to adapt to changes this year, 12 Ambassadors stepped out of their comfort zone and curated the project Step To Change in aid of MWS Bethany Nursing Home remodelling care project, sponsored by the PSP in kind and in cash. In response to the COVID-19 situation, two project arms ACShop and ACS Challenge were created. ACShop, an online market sells COVID-19 useful items such as handmade soaps, face masks, face shields and T-shirts to raise awareness. ACS Challenge encourages students to showcase their talent by making a video and collecting donations using their video. The process was filled with obstacles. Our students could not widely publicise the event during school assemblies as usual and had to use alternatives such as Instagram in order to make the project work.

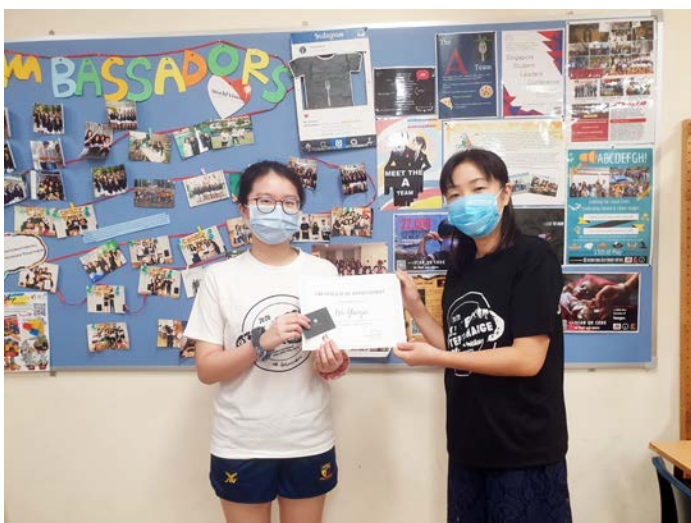


When both projects ended in August, the amount of \$2,374.53 raised would be matched dollar-to-dollar by the Holland Village Methodist Church, totalling \$4,749.06. This would subsequently be topped up another dollar-to-dollar by the Government's Community Silver Trust as well as by a private Trust. The fund raised is crucial in creating a better and more humane living environment for the MWS Bethany Nursing Home residents, which will definitely make a great difference in their lives. We wrapped up the project Step To Change with a visit to the home.

The ACS Challenge provides students with the chance to showcase their talents and challenge other students on whether they can do the challenge or even level it up. The most popular challenges went to Chau Nguyen Khanh Giao (5 CKS) and Wu Yanyu (5 SVM). Nguyen Khanh Giao challenged ACS students on whether they could read a book for 3 hours straight. Yanyu, on the other hand, challenged students to the T-rex dinosaur game on whether they could achieve a score of 1,500 points. To participate in each challenge, students had to at least contribute \$20 from sponsors or themselves; this was really a challenge. Lyu Jiaying (5 LSG) raised the most funds and was rewarded with a prize and certificate. Overall, although the ACS Challenge was a new event curated by the Ambassadors team, we hope to see more participants joining this event if there's another run next year.

Congratulations to Nguyen Khanh Giao, Yanyu and Jiaying who each received the 2020 ACS Challenge Award.

Jesslyne Yau, 5 Oldham
Head of Logistics for Ambassadors



Teachers’ Day 2020

This year’s Teachers’ Day, celebrated on 28 August, was unique considering that the event took place whilst reinforcing COVID-19 safe distancing measures and was organised differently from previous years. The event started with the pre-recorded video of Bishop’s message, followed by the Methodist Schools’ Long Service Award Service.

The Student Council planned a celebration that aimed to affirm the teachers for their hard work and effort especially during HBL, with some laughs out of them. The segment consisted of the teacher’s awards, each accompanied by a comical skit put up by the school prefects, and a yoyo performance by Xavier Ng (5 SVM). Many were entertained by a video showing teachers dancing and Mariah Carey’s *Hero* sung by Shermaine Saw (4 Oldham). The finale was a short but sweet group dance put together by the Student Council.

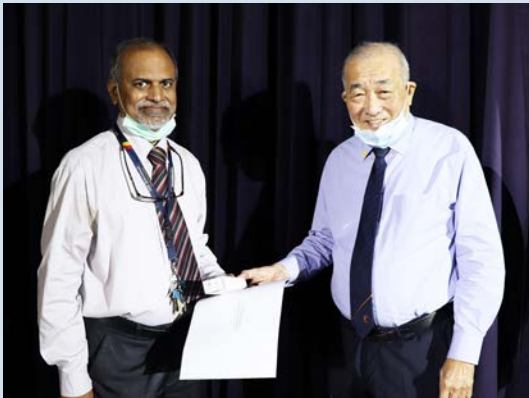
Part one of the celebration closed with nine committed and devoted teachers and staff receiving their 10-year award for serving the school and students, before the PSP took over the second half of the celebration.

16th Student Council



Methodist Schools’ Long Service Award Service

- Methodist Schools’ Long Service Award
- 1. Mrs Carrie Cheah (30 years of service)
 - 2. Mr George Kadukkara Thomas (20 years of service)



Posthumous Methodist Schools Service Award
1. Mr Chen Chiah Chee



(from left) ACS (International) 10-year long service awardees, Ms Syazana Binte Mohamed Sahid, Ms Grace Lim, Ms Shiva Sharma, Ms Komathy Kuppusamy, Mr Chan Tien Hsiang, Mr George Kadukkara Thomas, Ms Michelle Liew, Ms Sandra Sng and Ms Corinne Rousset, with Mr Burrough and Mr Tan Wah Thong (front row, right)

Teachers’ Day this year was celebrated at the Oldham Chapel where our teachers were honoured by both students and parents.

Instead of the usual themed dinners of previous years, the PSP Exco organised a grand raffle draw with 78 exciting prizes. A special thanks to all parents who made contributions ranging from \$100 Fairprice vouchers, lipsticks, hair curlers and bottles of wine to smoothie makers, food hampers and \$200 Takashimaya vouchers. The top prize was an Apple iPad, followed by Apple watches, \$500 MBS vouchers, airpods, and portable JBL speakers. All staff were gifted with a special ACS customised luggage tag while a lucky few received additional spot prizes.

When the grand finale gift was presented on stage, gasps of awe and resounding applause filled the room – a beautiful blue suitcase engraved with the school name was presented on stage to each staff member. It was a gift above all previous years and one which, in this time of COVID-19 restrictions, shared a message of hope and the promise of exciting journeys and future travels ahead.

A special thanks to the Student Council who assisted in setting up the stage and distributing prizes to our teachers who remained seated in accordance with safe distancing measures. The PSP exco was truly pleased to be part of this amazing event and would also like to thank the school for the lovely tote bags and customised EZ-link cards. Thanks also to Mr Sutopo for the beautiful ceramic pieces he handmade for our exco members during the CB period.

Team PSP



5 SVM CAS AWWA Project

As part of the CAS experience, 5 SVM worked closely with Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Helping Hands to create an education programme for students with special needs and those who are vulnerable or at risk. As well as deliver online engagement resources, they put together a Zumba workshop for the elderly, created sensory boards for students with learning difficulties, online financial and literacy worksheets, origami lessons and many more.

AWWA Helping Hands gave a special mention to our students in their weekly bulletin to thank them for their effort, hard work and contributions. We are very proud of the work they have done.



THANK YOU, ACS (International)!

Developing Sensory Boards for AWWA SSCC in July 2020

A group of volunteers from ACS (International) developed sensory boards to engage 50 children with special needs during their daytime activities at AWWA Special Student Care Centre. The team has also developed a series of engaging videos, from online Zumba activities, to financial literacy worksheets, and origami lessons, for our centres to use to engage our clients.



Disability & Inclusion • AWWA School • Allied Health Professional Group • Family Services • Health & Senior Care

Student Reflections

We decided to make sensory boards for AWWA as it would assist the students with learning difficulties and their sensory development. These boards provide different textures and shapes which enable the children to explore and investigate. They also allow to build nerve connections in the brain and encourages the development of their motor skills. Overall, building the boards with my Housemates provided a great bonding experience. As I was team leader of this project, it was pleasant and rewarding to be able to lead a team and contribute to our CAS project.

Joel Liow

For our CAS project, we used virtual methods to make the elderly and children at AWWA feel more lively and integrated into society. My group focused on improving mental, social and physical well-being of the elderly by doing fitness activities like Zumba videos. We felt that this would help them be more active and also make them happier. A few goals of this project included ensuring physical and mental well-being of the elderly and making sure they open up. By collaborating with each other, we made sure this project was organised and we engaged with elderly people from all backgrounds, thus achieving global engagement. Lastly, I feel very proud of my tutor group for putting in so much effort and hard work just to see a smile on their faces. :)

Manya Nahata

I went from coming up with a lesson plan to teach English to designing a sensory board and I was quite thankful for this change. Designing is something that I do enjoy so being able to use this hobby of mine to enable others to learn is truly a wonderful opportunity for me to learn how I can use my skills to help others.

I also believe that this experience was also a good opportunity for me to reflect on the ethics of my choices and actions. Since young I've also been aware of how blessed I am in terms of my family's finances and the quality education I receive. This project is a constant reminder to me to firstly, not take things for granted; secondly, my better social standing puts me in a position to help others who might be struggling and I cannot ignore that. Lastly, when doing charity or service work, very often people just donate money but as much as that is a major contribution, I also feel that it is just as important and valuable to donate one's time and effort.

Clarisse Jia Yi-Lim

Year 5 IB Geography IA Field Trip

Thirty-five Year 5 IB Geography students embarked on a field trip on 11 September to Raffles Place, Singapore, accompanied by four teachers. The main purpose of this trip was to collect primary data for our Geography IA where the main focus of the study is on the Central Business District (CBD). Multiple surveys took place at four randomly picked roads located in Raffles Place – Cecil Street, Church Street, Robinson Road and Raffles Quay. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we had to split ourselves into groups of two to five students and the surveys were conducted efficiently while maintaining safe distancing. The following surveys were conducted for our data collection.

Traffic and Pedestrian Count

This group split themselves into two sub-groups with four transects each, where each sub-group focused on two roads. At the designated timings, one person counted traffic or pedestrians and one person recorded the timing. The counts were done using a clicker and results were recorded after 1 minute of observation. Three trials were done so that an average of results could be used for a more reliable data set. A challenge we had was when there were too many cars or pedestrians passing by, which led to unreliable results, so we had a few people counting each time and only when the numbers were the same did we take them as the final results.

Building Quality

This group did the building quality survey. They recorded each building's name and also counted the number of floors of each building along the roads on Raffles Place. For each road, they ranked the quality of the building, for example, the presence of greenery, cleanliness, and maintenance level. (Each of the group members played the role of recording, photo-taking, researching so that they could finish the task quickly.)

Bus Stops

This group was in charge of noting down the number of bus stops and their respective bus numbers on each transect. Walking down each road, they took note of the location of each stop and made an according sketch in order to gauge the placing of each stop on each road. At each stop, they wrote down the bus numbers as informed by the boards at the stops. After this, the repeated bus numbers within the stops on each road were segregated to avoid double counting. With this information, one can easily find out the accessibility of Raffles Place, which was their prime point of study.

Nearest Neighbour Analysis

This group was tasked with two streets each. We were in charge of measuring the distances between buildings located side by side. This was done to understand the spatial distribution of the building located at each of the roads in Raffles Place to understand if the density of the buildings met the CBD characteristics. A sketch and photographs of each road and the buildings were also taken for evidence to use in our final report.

Overall, this was an engaging and memorable experience. We were grouped randomly and managed to make new friends. Despite doing this for work, we had a lot of fun and were able to do the given task properly and carefully. A big thank you to Mr Chia Choong Kiat, Ms Clare Wee, Ms Ho Chia Yue and Ms Sree. It was certainly an enriching experience.

Kai Kin, 5 SVM and Rhys Dai, 5 TKK



Yemen Humanitarian Relief Fundraiser



Saniya Rohit Jamwal (centre) and her project partners Ayushi Lahiry (left) and Sheryl Tan

In July, I started a non-profit ground-up initiative, Humanitarian Relief, as a call for action on the Yemen crisis, the world’s largest humanitarian crisis which has worsened due to COVID-19.

The children in Yemen are vulnerable due to malnutrition and the country’s devastated healthcare system. Nearly 12.3 million children needed humanitarian assistance – 70% didn’t have access to clean water while 10.3 million didn’t have enough food to eat.

We wanted to help alleviate the impact of war on these children as we believe health and education are fundamental to sustenance of every child. Working hand in hand, we believed we could help combat the civil war in Yemen by protecting the most vulnerable group. By using our voices, we were able to raise theirs.

During the last two weeks of Term 3, my friends and I held daily interactive information sessions in order to raise awareness and engage with the student body. We used these sessions to scout for volunteers and were successfully able to garner 80 volunteers. The magnitude of support was overwhelming. With the help of 30 volunteers, we proceeded with open donations which were held during lunch hour and after school dismissal where students and teachers were encouraged to donate any amount. The total amount raised was donated to Save the Children. The main fundraising event took place on a day whereby students came dressed in the colours of the Yemen flag to show their support for the cause. We are extremely grateful for all the support – we raised S\$3,200.35 from the open donations and the fundraiser.

Sitting in our air-conditioned classrooms with access to a host of resources, we could not help but feel sad for children on other side of the world going through a plight the majority of us don’t experience in our lifetime.

I hope that this story will bring light to the issues people are facing in parts of the world where there is total breakdown of order and the vulnerable women and children need external help to sustain their daily existence in a perennial crisis.

Saniya Rohit Jamwal, 6 LSG

YEMEN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



93% OF CHILDREN ARE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



70% OF CHILDREN DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



10.3 MILLION CHILDREN DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT



7.4 MILLION CHILDREN ARE IN NEED OF CHILD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

How to help?



Spread the word
@humanitarian.relief



Donate to Save the Children

LEARN MORE AT [SAVETHECHILDREN.ORG](https://www.savethechildren.org)

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Fundraiser for Yemen

THE CHILDREN OF YEMEN NEED YOUR HELP



Casual Dress Day
26th August 2020
Red, white and black \$2
Other colours \$4

DONATE NOW



Donate to Save the Children



Spread the word
@humanitarian.relief

Migrant Workers Centre Charity Fundraiser

In May, the Prefects Exco held a charity fundraiser in support of the migrant workers in Singapore who have been severely affected by the pandemic. We were driven to do as much as we can to aid them and make their lives easier, during this time of uncertainty. We have since extended our project to the school's Peer Leaders and Student Affairs committee.

Initially, we started with a goal of \$2,000, but thanks to the overwhelming support of family and friends of the ACS community, we have raised that goal five-fold. As of 21 September, we raised \$8,665. To reach our goal, we held a Migrant Workers Week at the start of Term 4. During this week at lunch time, we held entertaining activities that included a migrant workers themed dressed day, music booth (song request), sale of the migrant workers' favourite snacks and also outreach laptop stickers.





MIGRANT WORKERS CENTRE FUNDRAISER

MUSIC BOOTH

REQUEST A SONG FOR \$1 PER SONG

JUNIOR LUNCH AND SENIOR LUNCH
14/9 TO 18/9
LOCATED @ THE CANTEEN

Migrant Workers' Outreach 2020

On 18 September, Friday, the Interact Club handed 400 care packages to the representatives of Wesley Methodist Church. These were delivered to 400 migrant workers living in the dormitories that the Church was supporting.

The aim of the project was not only to purchase and deliver useful supplies to this marginalised community, but also to let them know that there are people in Singapore who care for them.

Under the guidance of Ms Michelle Liew and Ms Caroline Heng, we decided which supplies would be most appropriate to put into the care packages. We took the responsibility to order nutritious food, such as Vitamin C, halal biscuits, seaweed and Indian muruku snacks, a favourite among migrant workers from India and Bangladesh.

We also collaborated with Thoburn House and the Art Club, and collectively, all of us created 400 hand-made and personalised encouragement cards to be paired with each care package.

After receiving the supplies via delivery, we organised the packing of the items on Thursday, 17 September. Around 80 enthusiastic student Interactors set up booths and packing stations to ensure a smooth, safe and socially-distanced packing experience. We decided to use an assembly line approach to ensure efficient packing of the items.

This experience has brought immense satisfaction to all of us in the Interact Club. We also received messages and photos of appreciation from the migrant workers, bringing us great contentment and satisfaction to all the hard work we have put in. Special thanks to Dr Achter for giving us the green light to carry out this project, and Mr Kinch for meeting with the representatives of Wesley Methodist Church.

We are definitely looking forward to more opportunities ahead to give back to the community during these trying times.

Ronak Sanan, 5 CKS
Interact Club

Stage 1 – Planning Phase



Interact Club teachers and students in a Zoom Planning Meeting with representatives from Wesley Methodist Church
[Published with permission from Ms Loke Ai Mei (row 2, centre), Mr Leonard Au and Mr Prem (row 3)]

Stage 2 – Packing Phase



Our Interact Club Core Team for the Migrant Workers’ Outreach Project

Stage 4 – Delivery to the Dormitories



Representatives from Wesley Methodist Church helped with “the last mile” to deliver our packages to the dormitories



Hand-written, personalised Thank You cards made by students from the Interact Club, Thoburn House and the Art Club

Stage 3 – Pick-up by Wesley Methodist Church



Interact students and teachers passing the care packages to representatives from Wesley Methodist Church



Migrant workers receiving the care packages in their dormitories

CAMPUS NEWS

Our Very Own Green Roof 空中花园



With global warming and climate change becoming a pressing issue, ACS (International) is also hoping to play our part in keeping the environment green. We set up on a little journey to turn the once vacant rooftop of the Darren Loh Block (Library Block) into a garden with sponsorship from the alumni.

Thanks to the National Parks Board for supporting our project in many different ways, including a sponsorship, we have set our very own rooftop garden. Trellis are built, seeds are sowed, edibles and flowers are planted, and the sun did the rest. In the near future, we hope this garden can be a place for the school community to meet and share the joy of gardening, for the alumni and the PSP to drop a visit, and a real harvest ground where we can share the fruits of our labour.

This project would not be possible without the involvement of the alumni, the support from the Chairman Mr Tan Wah Thong and the Principal Mr Rob Burrough. Dream big and stay grounded. Such is our goal for Green Roof 空中花园.



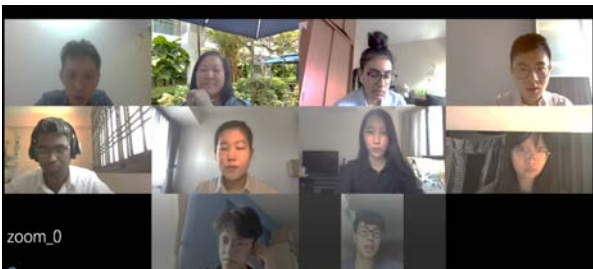
HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Virtual Job Shadowing Stints

Change is constant! To survive and thrive, you must evolve.

With that in mind, the Higher Education and Careers (HE) Department has been quickly adapting to changes caused by the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike the cohorts in the past which had the experience of direct industry exposure, we convinced our job shadowing partners to explore virtual attachments for this year's cohort. Our first virtual job shadowing saw 21 students attached to different companies during the Term 3 break. The Year 5 and 6 students were very excited with the outcome of this virtual programme.



Published with permission from Mr Lionel Chok, iMMERSiVELY Pte Ltd (top row, first from left)



Published with permission from Ms Janice Sim and Mr Aznil Hafiz, EBos SG Pte Ltd (top row, first and second from left)

Student Reflections

"iMMERSiVELY has definitely been one of my most memorable job shadowing experiences as I was able to gain a greater insight into the world of infocomm technology. This opportunity opened my eyes to Extended Reality (XR) and its plethora of applications. Despite not being able to experience the technology first-hand, my peers and I were able to research into the many extensions of XR which benefited us as we were all able to give stellar presentations on the applications of XR in real life.

Being interested in computer science, this experience further confirmed my interest in this particular course and equipped me with knowledge that I know I will be able to use in the future. The technology of XR is growing daily and it will be marvellous to see it progress into something bigger than we can image."

Saniya Jamwal, 6 LSG

"I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at EBOS SG, where I attended a job shadowing programme for five days. During this programme, I wrote articles and proposals about accounting, finance as well as marketing. The people in charge of the programme at EBOS SG were extremely accommodating and welcoming, guiding me and my friends while we performed our tasks. Being able to have first-hand experience of working at an accountancy firm provided many insights into the various occupations within the finance industry. This experience helped me understand what kind of job I would like to do in the future and provided me with an idea of how technology will change the business industry when I enter the workforce."

Judith Ann Ho Han Lin, 6 LSG

"Joining the job shadowing programme on marketing was such a valuable and memorable experience. ResMed guided me in three projects and gave some feedback on the tasks I did. While working on the projects, I acquired a lot of useful knowledge. When I clarified my doubts with ResMed, they provided me clear answers. The programme has given me the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of marketing and gave me insights and inspiration too."

Jung Saekyung, 5 LSG

"Despite it being online, the job shadowing with Allen and Gledhill LLP was very insightful and interesting. The supervisor was friendly and open, encouraging me to ask any questions regarding the job shadowing stint. I was definitely enlightened and got to know more about the life of a lawyer and what is expected. I found out that law as a job is much more complex and has many aspects, and the work itself is quite challenging. However, the passion of the lawyers drives them to carry out their work on time despite difficulties faced, and I found that aspect admirable. I was able to hone my analytical and writing skills and was given more insight into a lawyer's life."

Jaden Foo, 5 Oldham

Pilot Mentoring Programme

The HE Department have further introduced a Mentoring Programme as another alternative to job shadowing. Students are typically assigned to specialists who are the experts in their respective fields who in turn mentor our students based on their preferences.

This pilot programme will see nine students virtually meeting their assigned mentors periodically during the school term. Our current list of mentors includes a cardiologist, an entrepreneur, a general practitioner and an ophthalmologist. During these sessions, the mentors will help the students understand in detail the demands of the profession, the academic qualifications required and the future career progression. Some key aspects covered during the 1 hour mentor-mentee meetings are as follows:

- Feedback on personal statement
- Tips on how to prepare for the admission interview
- The difference between soft skills and technical skills
- The pro and cons about the specialisation

The HE Department would like to invite parents to participate in and help us develop both the job shadowing and mentoring programmes for the success of our future generations.

Parents who are keen to participate are invited to email Ms Rita Kaur at rita.kaur@acsinternational.edu.sg or Ms Yap Lin Lin at linlin.yap@acsinternational.edu.sg

ACS (INDEPENDENT) BOARDING SCHOOL NEWS

Villagers Outing

As a villager of the “village” of students who stay at ACS (Independent) Boarding School, Ms Stacey organised and led a visit to the Asian Civilisations Museum and Albert Hawker Centre during the September holidays. Mr Cope, a nice and friendly English teacher, joined in the outing to help Ms Stacey in guiding us.

There was an entrance fee of \$4 (special rate for students), but it was very worth it. The museum had a lot of interesting artefacts from all over Asia, not just Singapore, which was really interesting to see. I was lucky to visit the museum with friends from different countries, as they could explain the exhibits and answer my questions. My Chinese friend Yujin helped me a lot with reading the calligraphy of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Kaustav, my Indian friend, helped me understand the Buddhist sculpture. It was a very special experience for me, as I didn’t have a chance to see such artifacts from other countries, even in my home country. I think it is a privilege living in Singapore, a country with a combination of different Asian and Western cultures. We stayed in the museum for over two hours before moving on to Albert Hawker Centre to enjoy some local dishes.

Albert Hawker Centre is a 30-minute walk from the museum but we past by many interesting landmarks and buildings along the way. I was really looking forward to having food from different countries, so I think it was the best part of the programme. I liked the hawker centre from the first glimpse. There were many food stalls and old ladies sharing a durian. I had *char kway teow*, a Malaysian dish, which I still think is the best food I have had in Singapore. Other villagers had different dishes like *satay* and *nasi lemak*. After dinner, Ms Stacey guided us through the store upstairs which sold a lot of nuts, and the streets in Bugis. I bought some fruits such as plums, which were very delicious.

I think this villagers programme has been a great help to us in understanding the Singapore culture, which I didn’t get a chance to experience because of the COVID-19 situation. I liked the food, the people and the culture. I hope to have more chances of joining the villagers programme again.

Kwak Seungyong, 4 Oldham



UPCOMING EVENTS

October	Event
7	• Year 6 Last Day
8	• Year 6 Study Leave commences
19	• Year 5 Exams commence
20	• Year 3, Foundation IB and Pre IB Study Leave commence
21	• Year 3, Foundation IB and Pre IB Exams commence
26	• IBDP Exams commence • Year 1 and Year 2 Exams commence
30	• Final day of Internal Exams
November	Event
2–16	• Normal lessons resume
5	• 08:00–09:00 Parents' Prayer Group
15	• Year 6 Graduation Ceremony
17	• Last Day for all students
18	• Speech Day

Y4 and Y5 students!

Experience life as a university student at Yale while attending an academic session of your choosing.

Apply by our Early Action deadline and hear your decision back by late December. While YYGS is excited to host on-campus sessions, we will notify students by March 5, 2021, if that is not possible. More details are listed on our [COVID-19 update page](#).

Early Action Deadline: November 10, 2020 at 11:59pm ET

Regular Decision Deadline: January 12, 2021 at 11:59pm ET

Apply Today: <https://globalscholars.yale.edu/how-to-apply>

Webinar Series: <https://globalscholars.yale.edu/how-apply/info-sessions>*

*Register to either attend live and/or to view recordings on your own time.

Yale University
Yale Young Global Scholars





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 Burroughs
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 is limited
and by reservations only**

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

16 October, 1pm

RSVP ro_southkorea@acsinternational.edu.sg

Seminar
in Japanese

21 October, 3:30pm

RSVP ro_japan@acsinternational.edu.sg

Seminar in
English for
Singaporeans &
Other Locals

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

