



Photos taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER



February 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

ACS (International) has partnered with the Council of International Schools (CIS) since the inception of the school. This partnership allows ACS (International) to keep up to date with current practices among international schools in regard to a wide range of areas including curriculum, student well-being, child protection, physical premises and employment practices, to name a few.

Last week, the school participated in the five-yearly review with the Evaluation Team. It was a wonderful week of being able to show them the depth and variety of programmes that we offer. The CIS team spoke with many of our students and commented to the school leadership how impressed they were with how the students were able to confidently and articulately tell them what they valued at ACS (International). The CIS team also spent time with a number of parents from our school who represented Singaporean families and international families. It was wonderful to hear the feedback about how much our school means to our parent community.

The staff of the school put a lot time into preparing for the visit, so it was great to see all their hard work and effort pay off, with such positive feedback from CIS. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who were involved in the process including students, parents and staff.

The beginning of the lunar new year is the most important date on the Chinese calendar. One aspect of the CIS visit was looking at the international nature of our school, so it was a wonderful sight for the CIS team to see our students actively engaging in the Lion Head making competition. Throughout the week we saw students preparing for the festivities that come with celebrating Lunar New Year. It was great to see the final product of all the hard work in the Library as each House delivered their Lion Heads for display and submitted their lion dance videos. A warm congratulations to all those involved in this activity.

Lunar New Year ushers in renewed hope for happiness and a time to renew ties with family and friends. As a Christian school, it is good for us to reflect on all the good things God has given us, and to take time to consider our relationships with those in our community. The recent review has given much for us to be thankful for and for the efforts of all those in our community who have made this school a very special place.

The staff at ACS (International) wishes all our students and families
 新年快乐，吉祥如意。

Gavin Kinch
 Principal

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IGCSE 2020 Examination Results

ACS (International) students in the November 2020 IGCSE examination scored a 98% pass rate, the school's best result to date. Distinction passes (A and A*) were our highest ever at 71.6%.

IGCSE Results	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pass Rate %	91	92	92	95	92.5	93.3	98
Distinction %	48	53	50	57	49	53	71.6

Thirty-two students in the 144 strong cohort gained all Distinction passes (A * or A). Top performing students who each gained 100% Distinction passes were:

Achinthieya Srinivasan	Natanya Abigail Mandagi
Annabella Tiffany Princessa	Nishant Vats
Bill Johnathan	Pongyada Sootthipong
Chua Je-Han Ryan	Roy Kawaguchi
David Leong Kai En	Ryon Chan
Dhaniesha Girish Jethnani	Sanya Bobby Sanghavi
Fan Shiyi	Shaun Ling Sheng En
Keira Lim Yi Xian	Shuck Kye Jie Dylan
Khush Jagdish Daryanani	Sim Ching Xiang Christian
Kim Yerin	Suramya Sood
Li Jia	Tan Cae Lyn
Lim Yong Tai Louis	Wang Yujia
Liu Ming Hong	Xu Xinwen
Max Kwan	Yoon Yeo Eun
Min Seoyoung	Yuki Kashiwagi
Moon Eunyeong	Zhou Run Kang Patrick

Top performing subjects included International Mathematics, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Geography, English Literature, Music and Drama with 100% pass rates. The highest percentage of distinctions were in Mandarin Chinese (100%), Music (100%), English Literature (90.9%), Chemistry (83.6%), Additional Mathematics (79.8%), International Mathematics (77.8%), Economics (79.5%) Business Studies (73.5%) and Biology (70.7%).

Top in the World results will be released later in the year. The school has gained 20 of these prestigious awards over the previous 10 years in English Literature, English Language, Economics, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Geography, Physical Education and Chinese. We anticipate to pick up at least one Top In the World in International Mathematics as one student scored a perfect 100% in the examination.

We congratulate both students and staff on the high quality IGCSE results during a difficult situation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAFF NEWS

We bade farewell to Ms Patricia Soh, Teacher of Biology, who would be pursuing further studies, and welcomed Ms Nadiah Karina Binte Mohamed Hussain, Teacher of Biology, from Singapore, to our ACS (International)'s family.

NOTICES

Lunar New Year 2021

To reduce disruption to curriculum time during the Lunar New Year (LNY) period, the events/activities on the following dates are organised:

Tuesday, 9 February

- Normal school day with LNY Assembly at Period 5

Wednesday, 10 February to Tuesday, 16 February

- LNY break – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday, 17 February

- Normal classes resume

No Food Delivery Orders

All students are reminded that they are not allowed to order food or collect food ordered for them, to be delivered to the school.

Website's Community Policies

A reminder to parents and students to check out all the policies and other matters listed under [Life At ACS -> Community Policies](#).

PEAKS Assessment for Years 1, 1B, 4 & 5

A reminder that students of the following year groups are required to do the assessment in school:

Year 1 and 1B Students: Tuesday–Thursday, 23-25 February, Library Level 2, Library Block

Class	Schedule
1B	23 February, Tue: Periods 1 & 2
1V	23 February, Tue: Periods 4 & 5
1Z	24 February, Wed: Periods 1 & 2
1W	24 February, Wed: Periods 4 & 5
1X	25 February, Thu: Periods 1 & 2
1Y	25 February, Thu: Periods 4 & 5

An email with details on the assessment will be sent to all parents/guardians and students by mid February. Students who know in advance that they cannot make it for their allocated slot are to see Ms Magdalene Ng in the General Office **between 22 and 24 February (3pm-4pm) for an alternative slot**.

The Post Assessment Briefing is scheduled on **Tuesday, 9 March, 8:00am-8:35am, Oldham Chapel**, where students will receive a copy of their Student Profile and be shown how to read it. Attendance is compulsory.

New Year 5 Students: Thursday, 25 February, after Period 5, Oldham Chapel

An email with details on the assessment will be sent to all parents/guardians and **new Year 5 students who (i) joined the school in 2021 or (ii) completed Foundation IB/Pre IB in 2020 but did not do the assessment in 2020** by mid February.

The Post Assessment Briefing is scheduled on **Thursday, 11 March, 3:15pm-4:45pm, Oldham Chapel**, where these students and all their fellow Year 5 students will each receive a copy of two profiles and be shown how to read them. Attendance is compulsory.

Year 4 and Foundation IB Students: March, after Period 5

All Year 4 and Foundation IB students will do the assessment in March. Details in March issue.

For clarification, please contact Ms Magdalene Ng, PEAKS Coordinator, at magdalene.ng@acsinternational.edu.sg or look for her in the General Office.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Singapore Cultural Orientation 1: An Indoor Activity

The Singapore Cultural Orientation 1 was held on Friday, 29 January, 3:15–5:45pm, organised by the International Student Committee. More than 62 students of eight different nationalities attended the event; 21 students from China, 7 Hong Kong, 4 Japan, 2 Indonesia, 21 Korea, 3 Malaysia, 1 Taiwan and 3 Thailand.

The orientation was organised with the objective for the new international students to get to know Singapore better, and make friends with other fellow international students.

During the event, students listened to a presentation about how to get around Singapore, took part in ice-breaker activities led by the International Students Committee with the aim to get to know each other better, enjoyed pizza and snacks while they mingled and played games at four different stations namely Station 1: Chinatown, Station 2: Little India, Station 3: Kampong Gelam and Station 4: Pictionary. They were grouped according to their nationalities so that it would be easier for them to communicate with each other.

The International Student Committee prepared Kahoot quizzes and games after playing the video that highlight the significant landmarks in Singapore, found in Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Gelam. Groups were set to compete against each other.

Overall, the event is a success with the new students knowing more about Singapore and meeting new school mates whom they will enjoy school life together. The International Student Committee was also contented with organising the event and look forward to planning more similar events in the future.

Jocelyn Chan, 5 GHK, and Circle Suen, 5 TTK



Student Reflections

It's a good experience with a lot of fun and meeting more new friends.

Han Yutong, China

Pretty interesting. I enjoyed it.

Hou Runqian, Stephen, China

It's fun. I learnt a lot about different cultures of Singapore.

Howard Au, Hong Kong

I played a few Kahoot games and learnt more about places in Singapore.

Shi Man Tat, Jerry, Hong Kong

I am able to know more things about Singapore.

Haruna Imayoshi, Japan

I enjoyed knowing more about Singapore.

Ai Ueno, Japan

I liked the diverse kinds of activities and it was also helpful for me to understand Singapore culture better through the video presentations and the activities organised.

Park Jimin, Korea

I thought it would be boring, but the Orientation turned out to be a lot of fun!

Lee Heon Jay, Korea

It was great and perfect! I enjoyed playing Kahoot quizzes.

Lee Jaehoon, Korea

I learned to work together with group mates and know the importance of teamwork.

Adeline Kong Pei Yu, Malaysia

The activities were interesting. I feel great.

Alvin Kong, Malaysia

I have learnt about Singapore culture and the history of Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Gelam.

Lu-Heng Chu, Taiwan

Today was quite fun. I bonded well with the new international students and seniors who shared the same nationality as me.

Napat Sakdibhornssup (Éclair), Thailand

It was quite fun!

Panda Srilenawat, Thailand

The Kahoot Quiz was intriguing, the food was good and everything is fine.

Nattapat Sakdibhornssup, Thailand

Geography Trip to Kampong Gelam

On 22 January, Geography students and teachers went on a trip to Kampong Gelam, a heritage site in Singapore. The purpose of the trip was to collect fieldwork data as part of our IGCSE Coursework component. The geographical study focused on the rejuvenation efforts in Kampong Gelam and whether these efforts were successful in retaining the heritage aspect of the ethnic enclave.

We worked in groups of six, with each group collecting data from one transect in Kampong Gelam. A total of seven transects were sampled. Our data collection tasks included mapping the land use on each transect, conducting pedestrian flow counts and surveys through questionnaires.

This fieldwork was indeed an eye-opener. Being physically in Kampong Gelam gave us a better feel and idea of the geographical context in terms of the atmosphere and ambience. This was definitely more helpful than referring to pictures and articles on Kampong Gelam. We also got to explore a very different cultural landscape in Singapore – we saw several textile shops, the unique architecture, and the art murals in Haji Lane. The data collection was challenging, especially conducting questionnaires. Most of the shop owners were unwilling to participate as they felt that we were disrupting their businesses. They only agreed after much persuasion. Fortunately, most of the visitors were quite agreeable to answering our surveys as they could easily access it using a QR code. We learned to step out of our comfort zone to approach strangers and to explain to them our purpose. All in all, the trip was not only a great learning experience but also very meaningful.

Jayden Lai, 4 SVM, Anika Mahtani, 4 Oldham, and Ethan Kwan, 4 TCT



A tourist doing the survey



Measuring size of shop



ALUMNI NEWS

Undergraduate Offers From Top UK Universities

The school extends its congratulations to our alumni, **Xander Pang and Chen Yili**, and their families for their success in gaining offers from the top UK universities for undergraduate studies.

Xander (Class of 2018 and our top IBDP student with 45 points) has been offered a place at the **University of Cambridge** to study Psychological and Behavioural Sciences.



Chen Yili (one of our top IBDP graduates for 2020, top IGCSE student in 2018) has been offered the following:

1. **Oxford University**, Mechanical Engineering (St John's College)
2. **Imperial College London**, Aerospace Engineering
3. **Imperial College London**, Mechanical Engineering

She has decided to accept the offer from Imperial College London to study Aerospace Engineering.



Catching Up with Hannah Kek

The school received another piece of good news within two weeks of the release of the November 2020 IB Diploma examinations results. Hannah Kek Yihui (former 6 CKS) was the second 45 pointer, after the re-mark was completed.

We caught up with the sixth 45 pointer of ACS (International), who agreed to an email interview with the Communications Department. Have a read.



Photos taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

How did the school prepare you for IGCSE and for IBDP?

For four years, ACS (International) provided me with a lot of opportunities for holistic education through my CCAs (Netball, Badminton, Frisbee and Interact Club) which helped relieve stress and open career paths for my future endeavours.

I was blessed with wonderful teachers such as Ms Kom, Ms Low and Mdm Ong who continually supported me. My Housemaster Mr Rajan and House Tutor Mr Alastair also provided a strong emotional support system which helped motivate me. My mentor of the High Achiever scheme Mrs Tan constantly looked out for me. I could share my problems and worries with her, and it made me feel better as we would think of solutions/ways to improve. I was given a great deal of independence and space to explore methods that fit me.

Tell us about your IB journey. What were the ups and downs? What did you do to keep the ups going? How did you overcome the downs?

The IB journey will forever be one to remember. The ups included the opportunity to serve the school as CKS House Captain and plan events to boost the House spirit. Although doing well academically was a priority, these two years were more about developing maturity and a proactive attitude. As a leader, I could interact and empathise more with others by listening to their needs and making quick decisions. These challenges helped me develop time management skills and self-discipline, all of which were necessary to meet the deadlines of IAs.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I helped host many charity events, went on CAS trips and learned about the world. The constant opportunity to critically think about problems in the world and incorporate my areas of interest into my studies gave me motivation to persevere and keep going.

The downs were my initial self-doubt and lack of confidence in my work. I felt pressured to do better and was concerned about not reaching my full potential. I also struggled to accept that my good results throughout the two years were of my own effort. I consulted my teachers who advised me to focus on my strengths and give myself the credit I deserve.

2020 was a year of unprecedented firsts. How was it like for you managing the abrupt changes to school life such as doing HBL and observing safe distancing and enhanced hygiene levels, while juggling the IB course, family and leisure?

Initially, COVID-19 was a huge inconvenience to the sports CCAs I participated in, as well Inter-House events. The circuit breaker period made it difficult for me to participate in any activities and I had difficulties adjusting. However, it provided me with an opportunity to stay self-motivated and time to improve my weaker subjects. Since IB is all about self-discipline, HBL gave me time to experiment study methods, e.g. I stopped using notes but focused on applying concepts learnt through past papers and flashcards. I also used study apps like Forest and Taskade to remove distractions and complete checklists.

I kept myself happy by playing online games with friends at night, spending time with family and also exercising regularly. By completing work in the day and playing at night, I could maintain a balanced lifestyle.

In three single adjectives or phrases, describe the school and elaborate on each of them.

Opportunities – Students are given a chance to develop their interests all year round. Career talks by universities or alumni, MUN conferences, art competitions or debates help us find out about our interests and passions. I was able to participate in many academic olympiads and the pre-university seminar which helped broaden my knowledge and perspective of various subjects. We can also participate in Inter-House sports competitions and slowly work towards being part of the school team.

Flexible – The school offers a wide range of subjects for both IGCSE and IBDP. Many of my peers enjoyed studying psychology and business management which are not offered in other schools. I was also not limited to learning in a certain way – the school provided me with enough personal space to learn more about myself and become more independent.

Character Growth – I entered the school as a quiet person with no confidence. The warm welcome by teachers and students helped me speak up and engage. This instilled a sense of proactiveness as I started to ask questions in classes, approach teachers to clarify my doubts, and participate in Inter-House events all year round. The small cohort size also made it easier to know everyone and the freedom to try new sports.



Any advice for your juniors especially the Year 6 students?

For Year 6s, try to make the most of this year and have fun! Besides studying, I made sure I had a social life as well. I was able to forge friendships which I will always cherish.

I have learnt that procrastination stems from our fear of certain emotions, e.g. a fear of failure may prevent us from finishing certain assignments. This can be curbed by accepting your own fears and finding interest in the subject you study. My passion to study medicine motivated me to study the medicinal effects of Chinese herbs for my Biology IA, and my keen interest in environmental sustainability led to my research on removing heavy metals from rivers for my Chemistry IA.

Use the IB journey to incorporate and develop your interests so that the work you produce for IB represents who you are as an individual and you will be able to take pride in your work. Manage your time well so that you can work hard and play hard too. Participate in school events and opportunities, because these experiences will make up your high school life. Do things you never thought you could do, for these experiences will take you to places. Also, ensure you devise ways to release stress. IB may be demanding, but the two years will be manageable if you plan your schedule and set aside sufficient rest and revision time.

Can you share with us your plan for the near future?

My dream is to become a medical doctor who works in third world countries. I will apply to medical school and hope to specialise in emergency medicine and infectious diseases. Meanwhile, I will continue volunteering in Singapore in various community services.



Photos taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

PSP NEWS

PSP Virtual Coffee Morning

Undeterred by the current safe distancing measures due to COVID-19, the PSP went ahead with its annual Coffee Morning on Tuesday, 26 January, albeit in a virtual format for the first time. This annual event at the start of the academic year is usually well attended by new parents to the school as it provides an opportunity to meet the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team, to learn more about the school and to ask any burning questions on any areas that required clarification.

The virtual format of the Coffee Morning conveniently allowed close to 280 parents, which was more than previous years, to join in from home, work and overseas. After the initial technical difficulties with sound and control were sorted out, the three co-chairs, Ms Alysia Ling, Ms Jessica Hung and Ms Christina Poi took turns to speak about various events that PSP hosted in the past, as well as about upcoming school events which will be greatly pared down due to the safe distancing measures. Do keep an eye out in school notices for further details of events in due course, starting with the first school-wide event of ACSpirit de Corps to be held on Founder's Day on 1 March.

Our new principal, Mr Gavin Kinch, then warmly welcomed parents, new and old, to our school community and gave a brief rundown on procedures in school, encouraging everyone to read and familiarise themselves with the new Parent Handbook 2021. Both he and Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Vice Principal of the Senior Division, answered as many questions as they could which were raised in the running chat during the meeting.

PSP Exco warmly welcomes all parents to the ACS (International) community and wishes everyone a very Happy New Year!

PSP Exco

UPCOMING EVENTS

February	Event
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14:00–15:00 Lunar New Year Assembly • 15:15–15:45 Lunar New Year Staff Celebration
10–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunar New Year – SCHOOL BREAK
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 School Assembly (Year 6 in Oldham Chapel)
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 Chapel (Year 2 in Oldham Chapel) • 08:00–09:00 Combined Prayer Meeting (<i>Online</i>) • 16:30–18:30 TCT House Camp
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09:00–11:00 CKS House Camp
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:45–10:55; 12:50–15:00 Year 1 and 1B PEAKS Assessment & NVR Test (by class)
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 School Assembly (Year 3 in Oldham Chapel) • 08:45–10:55; 12:50–15:00 Year 1 and 1B PEAKS Assessment & NVR Test (by class)
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:45–10:55; 12:50–15:00 Year 1 and 1B PEAKS Assessment & NVR Test (by class) • 15:15–16:30 Year 5 PEAKS Assessment (selected students only)
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 Chapel (Year 4 in Oldham Chapel) • 16:30–8:30 SVM House Camp
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09:00–11:00 Thoburn House Camp
March	Event
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–11:00 Founder's Day Celebration followed by ACSpirit de Corps (in tutor groups) • 11:30–13:00 Higher Education Fair for Year 6 (<i>Virtual</i>)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 Higher Education Talk for Year 1
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08:00–08:35 School Assembly (Year 2 in Oldham Chapel)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Based Learning for Years 1, 2 & 3 • Academic Enrichment Programme for Years 4, 5 & 6
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Based Learning for Years 1, 2 & 3 • Academic Enrichment Programme for Years 4, 5 & 6

2021 University and Careers Events



British Council Southeast Asia Masterclass Series
"Engineering Difference Makers"
Friday, 05 Feb 2021



Source of picture: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/>

BrightSparks
"BrightSparks Virtual Fair"
Sat & Sun, 20 & 21 Feb 2021
10:00 am – 6:00 pm



Source of picture: <https://v2.virtualrecruitmentdays.com/2021/home>



Career Talk: Healthcare
"Mr Karman Yuen, Ministry of Health"
Wed, 24 Feb 2021
12:00 noon – 12:40 pm
ACS (International),
Oldham Chapel



Source of picture: <https://mobisofttech.com/resources/blog/data-in-healthcare-industry/>

Careers in Healthcare
"Physiotherapy, Psychology, Nutrition, Medicine and Speech Therapy"
Thu, 25 Feb 2021
12:00 noon – 12:45 pm
ACS (International),
Chapel Foyer



Source of picture: <https://www.digitalauthority.me/resources/state-of-digital-transformation-healthcare/>



Spring 2021 Virtual Events

AEO Tour
"Week of Virtual Workshops/Presentations"
Mon-Fr, 22-26 Feb 2021



Source of picture: <https://aetour.com/counselor-information/>

UKSLSS Pre-University Webinar
"Life of a law student in the UK"
Sat, 27 Feb 2021
8:00 pm SG Time



SMU Whitehacks
"Whitehacks – introducing IB students to cybersecurity concepts"
Sat & Sun, 06 & 07 March
10:00 am – 6:00 pm



University of Cambridge
"Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021"
Mon-Fr, 15-26 March 2021



Source of picture: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/student-conferences>

