

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome to the start of a new academic year. The staff of ACS (International) are excited about the new school year and to welcome back our students as they commence another year of study. To our new families, I would like to extend a special welcome. I hope that your child has enjoyed their first week at school, settled in and made some friends.

At this time, it is important to acknowledge families in our school community who endured separation from their child last year due to the pandemic. For many of our students, the end-of-year break provided them with an opportunity to see family and friends whom they were separated from. I trust that this time at home was special and that everyone made the most of their time together. I pray that in 2021 we see COVID-19 tamed and an end to the separation and uncertainty the virus has brought to all of our lives.

ACS (International) congratulates the Graduating Class of 2020 on their outstanding IBDP results. The results serve as a testimony to our students' tenacity as they rose to the challenges of 2020. The cohort had a 99% pass rate and achieved an average score of 35.7 points which is expected to rise after re-marks are complete. 92% of our students achieved scores over the IB world average of 29.8 points, with 20% gaining a score of over 40 points. We are particularly proud of Ren Yiting who achieved a perfect score of 45 points.

The school leadership offers its thanks and appreciation to all the staff of ACS (International) for the dedication and hard work they have put into nurturing the graduating students of 2020.

In our virtual Commencement Assembly 2021, I took the opportunity to speak to our students about the vision we have for them as they continue their education:

ACS (International) develops future leaders with an international vision, moral character, intellectual ability, and a deep compassion for humanity based upon Christian belief and values.

These are the attributes that we look to invest in the students at our school. Our young people should be inquirers, thinkers and knowledgeable as they apply themselves to their studies; caring, principled and reflective as they apply themselves to others; and risk-takers, communicators and open-minded as they apply themselves to the world.

There will no doubt be challenges in 2021 but we live with the knowledge that the Lord our God is with us and we can bring all things to Him in prayer. In Joshua 1:9, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous, and not to be afraid or discouraged as the Lord God is with him wherever he goes. This is just as true for us today as it was for Joshua. So as we head into 2021, I exhort our students, staff and school community to dedicate ourselves to excellence, rise to challenges we may face and continually commit our school to the Lord.

Wishing all of you a successful academic year and a healthy 2021!

Gavin Kinch
Principal

[IBDP Examination 2020 Results](#)

[Staff News](#)

[Staff Professional Development Days](#)

[2020 IGCSE Results Day and Important Dates for Second Intake of Year 5 Students](#)

[Parent-Tutor Evening](#)

[Update on Website's Community Policies](#)

[Planner/Handbook for Students](#)

[Pupil Portal and Parent Portal](#)

[2021 Suite of Information](#)

[ACS \(International\) Merchandise for Sale](#)

[MacBook Special Discount](#)

[Lunar New Year 2021](#)

[Year Groups to Take PEAKS Assessment in 2021](#)

[Envoy 2020 Magazine](#)

[Sewing Up](#)

[Prefectorial Board Bonding Day](#)

[One Million Trees Planting Project](#)

[Orientation 1](#)

[Feedback on December 2020 Virtual Job Shadowing Programme](#)

[Ongoing Virtual Mentoring Programme](#)

[Sustainability CCA – Gardening Group](#)

[Catching Up with Ren Yiting](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

IBDP Examination 2020 Results: Second 45 Pointer After Re-mark

The staff of ACS (International) are pleased to share an update of 2020 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) results with the school community.

For the fifth year out of the last six, ACS (International) students achieve the perfect score of 45 points in the IBDP examination results. This year, we are proud to announce we have two perfect scorers in the 2020 IBDP examinations, the second after the re-mark was completed.

Ren Yiting is a Chinese national who joined ACS (International) in January 2016. She completed the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) offered by Cambridge Assessment International Education in 2018, achieving outstanding results. Yiting went on to study the IBDP in 2019, and was appointed as a School Prefect and served in Ambassadors sub-committee from 2019 to 2020. She was also actively engaged in co-curricular activities and had served the school and wider community.

Hannah Kek Yihui is a Singaporean who joined the school in January 2017. She completed the IGCSE offered by Cambridge Assessment International Education in 2018 with outstanding results before pursuing the IBDP in 2019. She was appointed Student Head of House for CKS House and a School Prefect from 2019 to 2020. Hannah was active in sports and other co-curricular, and had served the school and wider community with passion and distinction during her 4 years with the school.

92% of students scored above the world average of 29.81 points which is our best result in recent years, exceeding last year's 91%. The overall pass rate was 99.4%. One student did not pass as they unfortunately scored less than 12 points in their three Higher Level subjects.

The average score of 35.7 points was a slight improvement from last year's 35.3 points, but this is expected to top to 36 points when recounts and successful appeals are factored in.

As usual, a significant number of our students passed the IB Diploma with English as their second language. This is particularly impressive as students firstly have to learn English, then think in English then write in an English academic style. Research usually suggests that it takes 7 years to become fully proficient in a second language, and most of these students achieved this in 3 to 6 years.

Five students among the 2020 class were accepted to the IBDP programme with 'O' level L1R5 scores of 23–25 and scored an average of 32.5 points. One student entered the school on an L1R5 score of 24 and achieved an IB score of 38 points. Another example of significant value add is a student who entered the school with a PSLE score of 183 and achieved an IB score of 39 points. While there are similar stories to this in the 2020 results, these two examples highlight the exceptional value add that students can get at ACS (International). These students now have many university options.

ACS (International) extends its congratulations to the students for all they have achieved, particularly given all the disruptions caused by COVID-19 in 2020. The SLT offers its thanks and appreciation to all the staff of ACS (International) for the hard work they have put into nurturing these students during their time with our school.

We are grateful for the way that our staff and students rose to all the challenges that COVID-19 brought in 2020.



Ren Yiting and Mr Kinch



Mr Kinch and Hannah Kek

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

This year, we welcome the following new staff:

- Mr Eason Wee Ngai Shen, Teacher of Mathematics, Singapore
- Ms Phoebe Tan Yan Xin, Teacher of Mathematics, Malaysia
- Mr Jacob William Henstridge, Teacher of English, United Kingdom
- Ms Celina Yang Kairu, Teacher of English, Singapore
- Mr Chris Ong Chong Tat, Teacher of Economics, Singapore
- Mr Eric Gwee Chee Wee, Teacher of Chemistry, Singapore
- Mr Teo Tee Wei, Teacher of Chemistry, Singapore
- Ms Ng Lynn, Teacher of Biology, Singapore
- Mr Lian Kuanh Wee, Chapel Staff

We are pleased with their appointments and wish them a fulfilling and rewarding career with us.

New Staff Responsibilities

We congratulate the following staff on their appointments to the roles as shown below:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Mr Gavin Kinch | Principal |
| • Mr Chia Choong Kiat | Acting Vice-Principal
(Middle Division) |
| • Mr Christopher Bossan | TOK Coordinator (New)/
Head of Faculty (Current) |
| • Ms Caroline Heng | Assistant Head of Faculty
(ESOL) |
| • Ms Michelle Low | Global Perspective
Coordinator |

Arrival of Newborn

The school congratulates our Science laboratory technician, Mr Muhammad Firdaus Kasmani, on the arrival of his first child, a daughter, in January.

Staff Professional Development Days

Our staff returned for the new academic year on Monday, 4 January, after a well-deserved rest. We welcomed new staff to our school community and congratulated those who return this year to positions of leadership.

Day 1

In the first staff session, we spent time looking at our school's Guiding Statements and Strategic Goals for 2021 so that from the onset, all staff are clear about what we are looking to achieve in 2021. The academic staff also met together in House teams to share thoughts, feelings and ideas about the year ahead using an approach called Community Building Circles.

The second staff session involved all staff reflecting on the school improvement process we have undergone for the past 18 months, which is being guided by the Council for International Schools. The staff reflected on all the tasks they have carried out and how these can be used for continual school improvement in 2021 and beyond.

Day 2

The academic staff attended an in-house Professional Development workshop, "Integrating TOK Into Subjects", led by the TOK Coordinator, Mr Christopher Bossan.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is part of the IBDP Core, and the course focuses on critical exploration on the nature of knowledge and process of knowing. The objective of the workshop was to equip all teachers to integrate TOK into their subjects in order to enrich and deepen discussions in the subject and across subjects, develop independent and critical thinking, and foster international mindedness by recognising diversity of perspectives.

Teachers were actively engaged in sharing and learning from one another during the breakout sessions. Finally, they collaboratively planned a TOK activity for their respective subjects.

The workshop has informed and inspired our teaching faculty to intentionally make connections to TOK in their classrooms.

Day 3

The academic staff received an in-service training on our CCA platform (SchoolsBuddy) and all staff attended our annual Child Safeguarding and Protection training. Houses and Faculties next met to finalise their plans prior to the commencement of school.



NOTICES

2020 IGCSE Results Day and Important Dates for Second Intake of Year 5 Students

All 2020 IGCSE students should access their results after 5:00pm on Tuesday, 19 January, using the access code provided by the Examinations Officer, Mr Gregory Goh. Please contact Mr Goh at gregory.goh@accinternational.edu.sg for assistance.

- Please note the criteria for entry to the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International) as follows:
- Minimum of 2A, 2B, 2C 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

The second intake of Year 5 students approved for entry, from the 'O' levels track and our own students who did not qualify for entry via DSA, also known as Year 5 non-DSA students, will report to school on Thursday, 21 January.

Date	Programme	Duration	Venue
Wednesday 20 January	Subject consultation based on IGCSE results	8:45am onwards	Conference Room, General Office
	Introduction to IBDP for IGCSE students (non-DSA) and 'O' Level students (Second intake)	2:00pm–3:00pm	Oldham Chapel (Note: Parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 21 January	Tutor Time	8:00am	
	Period 1 begins, followed by regular timetable for Periods 2 and 3	8:45am	
	IB Core Induction (CAS and Managebac; Study Skills)	12:50pm–4:00pm	Oldham Chapel

Parent-Tutor Evening

- The annual Parent-Tutor Evening will be held as follows:
- Date: Wednesday, 27 January
 - Time: From 5:00pm
 - Format: Zoom Meeting

Tutors will send out more information and the link for the Zoom meeting on the actual day.

Update on Website’s Community Policies

As we have just commenced the academic year, parents and students are encouraged to check out all the policies and other matters listed under [Life At ACS -> Community Policies](#) for updates.

Planner/Handbook for Students

Often, we as adults forget that planning and organising is a learned skill and habit. We further forget that this skill needs to be taught and reinforced for the developing adolescent brain.

Organisation Skills are part of the IB Approaches to Learning (ATL) framework that we work to build into our House Tutor time along with class. This is specifically important for our Junior Division students who are learning about a new school and preparing to undertake the IGCSE and IB course work in the coming years. A solid foundation in learning to self-manage and organise often leads to future success in these demanding programmes.

As part of these efforts, a Planner/Handbook has been distributed to all junior students in their tutor class. Parents and teachers can help in these efforts by checking the student’s planner and encouraging them to write down important dates in class.

Middle or Senior students who could benefit from a planner or Junior students who lose their planner can purchase one at the Reception for S\$5.00.

Pupil Portal and Parent Portal

The Pupil Portal and Parent Portal are open from Wednesday, 6 January, for access.

2021 Suite of Information

A suite of information for 2021 can be found at <https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/information-for-parentspublic> 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.



ACS (International) Merchandise for Sale

Suitable as gifts and for everyday use, the following merchandise are available for sale. Samples can be viewed at the Reception, General Office.

Please proceed to the Reception during office hours to purchase any of these items. Only cash or cheque payments are accepted.



Cap - S\$5.00



3-Folded Umbrella - S\$12.00



Ball Pen - S\$12.00



Long Umbrella - S\$20.00



64GB Flash Drive - S\$20.00



Stress Ball - S\$2.00



Travel Pouch - S\$10.00



Drawstring Sport Bag - S\$10.00



Travel Adaptor - S\$15.00

MacBook Special Discount

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

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

Year Groups to Take PEAKS Assessment in 2021

In February, all Year 1, 1B, and Year 5 non-DSA students are required to take the PEAKS assessment. All Year 4 students (including Foundation IB students) will do the assessment in April. An email regarding the arrangements for this year's assessments will be sent to these students and their parents/guardians nearer their assessment date.

Year 1 and 1B students will be guided to do theirs during school hours, while Years 4 and 5 students after Period 5. The assessment fee is \$481.50 (inclusive of GST).

For queries relating to PEAKS, please contact Ms Magdalene Ng, PEAKS Coordinator, magdalene.ng@acsinternational.edu.sg

STUDENT SUCCESS

Envoy 2020 Magazine

The theme for 2020 annual ENVOY and MUN CCA magazine was Sustainability and Equality. Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this issue focused on the 10th goal "Reduced Inequalities" and the 12th goal "Responsible Consumption and Production", keeping in mind our affiliation to MUN-Impact which is a global community that partners the United Nations to promote the SDGs and create the positive change that the world needs.

This magazine is a student production. Click [here](#) to read the magazine.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Sewing Up

This year, the Ambassadors are working together with Sustainability CCA on an environmental project, Sewing Up. The project is mainly targeted on recycling, where we will learn how to recycle plastics in innovative ways.

On 15 December 2020, I attended a workshop where I learnt how to sew pouches from plastic food wrappers which can be used as pencil cases, purses, and more. Contrary to our preconception, wrappers of *Mentos*, *Kit Kat*, *Milo* and so many more, all make striking fashion. I am very grateful to be given this opportunity to learn about recycling and reusing plastic wrappers.

Here’s some exciting news. We will be selling these handmade pouches sewn by students! Please come and support us by purchasing these unique pouches on Monday, 25 January, at Student Centre during Senior Lunch. Please support this good cause. All proceeds will be donated to MWS Bethany Nursing Home.

Jesslyn Goh, 5 TCT



Prefectorial Board Bonding Day

The 16th Prefectorial Board has had a very unconventional term, to say the least, with many of the usual events the prefects participate in cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The student leadership camp was one of the events. As such, this board never got an opportunity to really bond with their fellow members as a whole and get to know each other. Hence, the EXCO and I suggested organising the Prefectorial Board Bonding Camp, held on 29 December 2020.

The planning and organisation of the event was not an easy task, and the six of us worked throughout the end-of-year holidays to plan the event to the best of our abilities. We wanted to make sure this event was fun and enjoyable for everyone, while simultaneously helping us improve our communication and teamwork skills.

The 46 members of the board were split into six teams, with each of the EXCO members leading one team. Each group played a total of eight games in the day, both dry and wet games, competing against the other five teams. During lunch break, we also had the pleasure of having one of ACS (International)’s alumni, Joshua Wong, come to speak to us about his then experience as a student leader and tips on leading during uncertainties. To top off the day, we had three of our own prefects, Xavier Ng, Yang Jongwon and Lucas Leong, individually showed off their talents in a mini “talent show”.

I think the event was a great success and everyone was all smiles by the end of the day. The games selected were all a huge hit, especially the wet games in the hot weather. The bonding day was definitely fun and an experience to remember.

Natalie Chew, 6 CKS



One Million Trees Planting Project

The One Million Trees Movement is a nationwide effort coordinated by the National Parks Board, to plant one million trees across Singapore by 2030. Through the movement, all members of the community have the opportunity to be involved in improving our urban environment and transforming Singapore by restoring nature back into the city, as well as contributing to the global effort to tackle climate change. Trees serve as natural air filters, providing us with clean air and help to enhance the physical, mental and social aspects of community well-being.

On Saturday, 12 December 2020, together with 29 fellow National Youth Achievement Award participants including the Sustainability CCA's Gardening Group, I (see photo in top row, left, in blue T shirt) gained the opportunity to be involved in this project.

We arrived at Telok Blangah Hill Park well-prepared, after receiving instructions on appropriate dress code and instructional videos on tree planting. Our first task was to dig into the soil to create space for the tree (we wanted to plant), before rolling it into the hole, and covering the spaces with loose soil. Sounds easy enough until we were told that the tree base was approximately 1m by 1m and the tree was 3m high! We finished our newly planted tree with a scattering of dead leaves and a much-needed watering. I certainly did not know that dead leaves could be recycled in such a way!

Even though it was physically tolling, I enjoyed the sight of many trees being planted by our school representatives. I knew that this was to contribute to the environment and the society. In total, 30 ACS (International) students planted 63 trees in one morning!

It is through participating in projects such as this that I will become a more socially responsible citizen who understands the issues faced by the community and find ways to contribute actively to find a solution. I am very pleased to have been able to play an active role for future generations to enjoy and would encourage anyone to get involved in the project and play their part!

To find out more about participating in the movement, visit <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/treesg/one-million-trees-movement>

Jie Shi Alarice Teo, 4 CKS and Silver NYAA participant



Orientation 1

On 5 January, we welcomed about 175 new students to the ACS(International) family with open arms to the beginning of their journey at our school.

The orientation allowed them to engage in exciting activities, become familiar with their fellow classmates and get a chance to speak with their Year 5 and Year 6 seniors to understand our school better. The theme for this year’s orientation was Disney, which we related with our school’s IGNITE values. With safe distancing measures in place, the new students (ranging from Years 1, 2, 3, Pre IB to Foundation IB), were divided into 22 teams with a maximum of 8 students per team, and were led by our senior orientation group leaders.

The event began with the 16th Student Council presenting the school’s history and core values. Then, we moved on to exciting ice-breakers and introductions, after which, the new students were brought around the campus in small groups. To engage them further, and build a spirit of team-bonding and cohesion, many games were lined up for them. From swiftly running around in Captain’s Ball to acting out funny situations in the Reaction Game, the orientees enjoyed every minute of the thrilling games.

After a few rounds of team games, they were re-grouped into their respective Houses where they met their House Captain and bonded with their House-mates with more activities. The day ended with a dance session taught by the group leaders, to the song “A Friend Like Me” from the movie *Aladdin*. To replace the usual mass dance at the end of every orientation, the orientees were filmed dancing together in smaller groups, of which the videos were compiled for their parents’ viewing.

To accommodate the new students who could not be in school physically, there was a short virtual orientation via Zoom which occurred concurrently. They were engaged through a virtual school tour as well.

Overall, the day was memorable and all the orientees went home with smiles on their faces. We pray that the new students will smoothly adapt to their new second home and that they will be blessed during their experience with the school.

The 16th Student Council



HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Feedback on December 2020 Virtual Job Shadowing Programme

The Higher Education and Careers department continues to provide job shadowing exposure to our students in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students have had a wonderful and exciting opportunity learning from the industry experts. It helps them have a better understanding of what their proposed future pathways would entail. It also definitely helps them to streamline and work towards their targeted future undergraduate course in their academic journey towards their chosen career paths.

Seven students were attached to various organisations during the first two weeks of December 2020. Our students were nonetheless very happy and they benefited greatly from their virtual attachment.



Published with permission from Mr Rajan Chettiar, LLC (right)



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

Student Reflections

This five-day job shadowing stint at Rajan Chettiar LLC has been very interesting and enjoyable! I learned a lot about the different legal systems globally and had several one-on-one sessions with different associates and lawyers who answered my many queries about law. This opportunity provided me with a chance to first-hand experience what lawyers do on a day-to-day basis with their packed schedules. The staff were very kind and welcoming.

This experience was very memorable and allowed me to gain opinions from several different experienced people, which will definitely help me when I apply to university in a few months!

Anna Kong, 5 LSG (in 2020)

Patience, Perseverance and Productivity. These are some of the attributes that I have learnt through this experience. This job shadowing stint at EBOS SG has been a new and unique experience which allowed me to learn more about the marketing department in companies and what kind of work they carry out. My supervisors were quite friendly and welcoming, and they gave clear detailed instructions about my tasks at hand.

From cold-calling new companies to writing interesting articles, I have had a meaningful journey. This has truly taught me something different and I am glad for this opportunity!

Manya Nahata, 5 SVM (in 2020)

Job shadowing at EBOS Cloud Accountants was and always will be a memorable experience for me. It taught me a lot about the marketing sector and really helped hone my skills, ranging from how to reel in prospective customers to writing industry-specific articles.

This job shadowing stint has definitely been a great learning experience for me.

Eshita Suvarna, 5 CKS (in 2020)



Ongoing Virtual Mentoring Programme

December 2020 to March 2021

Our Mentoring Programme is a platform for our students to interact with their mentor to learn about a particular profession by receiving guidance and tips on how to prepare for university and future career.

Currently, 13 students are meeting their respective mentor from various industries periodically. 19 mentors available for attachment in January in the following areas:

Current Available Opportunities
Advertising
Arts Administration/Theatre Production and Stage management
Business/Finance: Financial Services (Insurance) and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods
Dentistry
Entrepreneurship
Legal
Medicine
Psychology
Sales & Marketing
Science
Technology: Product Design & Development or Animation & Visual Effects or Cybersecurity

Year 6 and Year 5 students who are interested to participate in the Virtual Mentoring Programme are to email Ms Yap at linlin.yap@acsinternational.edu.sg by Friday, 15 January.

Student Reflections (September to November 2020 attachments)

Overall, this programme has been really insightful and is very well-structured. During the first session, we shared our motivation in becoming a doctor, which is important in helping us evaluate whether we were heading towards this career for the right motivation. This programme has also provided me with a lot of information on the pre-requisites of becoming a doctor and has allowed me to explore more options, be it in local or overseas universities. From this programme, I have managed to hone my skills of answering questions during interviews, which will be useful for me in the future.

Shirley Wang, 5 CKS (in 2020)

This virtual mentorship programme was a rather unusual yet enriching and engaging one. It was very informative with regards to learning more about the pre-requisites for university admissions and the interview process for local universities that offer medicine. After attending the mentorship sessions conducted by Dr Lee Oh, I am more familiar with Singapore’s healthcare landscape, qualities of a doctor and the motivation as a student.

Apart from the mentorship programme, Dr Lee Oh also offered my classmates and I to job shadow him over a period of two weeks. During this time, we were able to witness doctor-patient interaction first-hand and learn more about his experience as a General Practitioner. He also shared some effective study techniques and guided us to look at things from a different perspective.

All in all, I am very thankful for the opportunity to mentor under Dr Lee Oh and I would definitely recommend this programme to my juniors who are interested in pursuing medicine!

Erica Molenberg, 5 TCT (in 2020)



CCA NEWS

Sustainability CCA – Gardening Group

During the 2020 December holidays, the Sustainability CCA was kept busy.

The Clothing & Sport Equipment Donation Group prepared boxes of goods to donate to local charities just in time for the holiday season. Group members had to clean all the equipment donated by the PE Department and to call numerous charities to arrange for collection.

The Gardening Group met up for a few days to work in the garden. As we have a few different plants like chillies and aloe vera, we had to make sure they had enough water and to check the weeds were not taking over! We also cultivated some herbs and spices. We will sell some of our plants to raise money to purchase soil and tools, plus we want to make a donation to “Stay United” (<https://www.sgunited.gov.sg/stay-united/>).

To improve access to our garden, we landscaped a walkway for school members to enter the garden without trampling on the plants. We had to first prepare and level the ground, then measure the space for the cement tiles to ensure the tiles were lined perfectly. As a group, we managed to lift the heavy tiles and lay them on the ground. It was hard work but we completed the work under the guidance of Ms Jackson. Learning how to grow plants and care for a garden are skills we can use in life. Working together to manage spaces and reuse things instead of always buying new ones is also an important skill.

Through gardening, students can develop new skills, understand and evolve a love for plants. There is also a sense of satisfaction caring for something you have planted and learning more about different plants. Gardening is very hands-on and is a great pastime for anyone who wants to keep busy at lunch time or after school dismissal. It is also a great way to make new friends and relieve stress. You don’t need to be good at gardening; you gain experience the more you get involved.

If you find gardening interesting, make sure to sign up with the Sustainability CCA at the CCA Fair. Lastly, look out for posters that advertise our plants for sale! We will be selling plants every Wednesday during Junior Lunch, starting from Wednesday, 13 January, in the canteen. Take a look, you may find a plant you like.

Johannes Wong, 3 Oldham



ALUMNI NEWS

Catching Up with Ren Yiting

The results of the November 2020 IB Diploma examinations were released online to students on Sunday, 3 January, unlike previous years when students would come to school to receive their hardcopy result slip and could only access their results online later in the same day. By the time the 2020 cohort arrived at the Oldham Chapel on Monday, 4 January, 3:30pm, to collect their result slip, close friends of Ren Yiting (former 6 TKK) already knew that she was the fifth 45 pointer of ACS (International), of which the first was from the 2015 cohort.

We caught up with the school's perfect scorer who agreed to an email interview with the Communications Department. Read on to know more about Yiting.



Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

You joined ACS (International) in 2016 as a Pre IGCSE (Bridging) student. How did the school prepare you for IGCSE and for IBDP?

The support from my teachers played a big role in both my IGCSE and IBDP journey. They enlightened my passion for studies, instead of just saying that the grades were important. For example, my Mathematics teacher, Mr Raghu's faith and courage changed my attitude towards Mathematics and boosted my enthusiasm. In the last four years, my teachers always surprised me with different ways of thinking and learning. They always encouraged instead of criticising me when I made mistakes. They not only cared about my academic achievements, but also my physical and psychological conditions.

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?

I think the ups could be scoring high in common tests or end-of-year examinations, but it's extremely difficult to retain the high academic performance throughout the year. To be honest, I was not the best student in the last two years, but I tried my best to make sure I'm always in the top list. I balanced the time spent on revising each subject to ensure that I would perform equally. I did my individual notes for each subject, which was very helpful for me to understand the concepts.

Consequently, the downs would be some slip-ups in the tests. As a perfectionist, I couldn't tolerate the mistakes I made, so sometimes I would become emotional due to my academic performance. To overcome this, I would improve my mood first and try to think about the methods to improve my understanding of the concepts (of the subject in question) rather than just focus on the disappointment. I would go through the questions I answered incorrectly and find out what mistakes I had made. I also re-allocated more time on this subject and understand the concepts instead of memorising them.

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?

2020 was indeed a black swan that no one could expect. Most people felt HBL disrupted the regular school life, but I think HBL gave me a great opportunity to focus on my studies and myself. I set my own timetable during HBL and strictly followed it. I like the HBL period because I don't have to travel to school and I could use the travelling time to exercise and improve my IAs.

Unlike most of the people, I think doing HBL really improved my self-management and time management skills. Throughout the year, my family gave me 100% support and they created a quiet environment for me to study although they had to work at home during the circuit breaker period as well. My mother eased my anxiety and pressure from the upcoming examinations by doing most of the house chores so that I could focus 100% on my studies.

As for leisure, I barely had any social life in the last two years. The leisure I had was engaging in social media and staying in touch with my best friend, Anna Zheng. She always comforts me when I'm feeling less confident and is the one who has brought me endless joy in the past last two years.



Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

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

I guess these would be joyful, big family and meaningful.

Joyful – I met many amazing people in ACS (International) and I do remember a lot of comical memories. They created a joyful environment for everyone and this took away the stress on my studies.

Big Family – After joining the 15th Prefectorial Board (Ambassadors), I have learnt to organise events successfully and deal with last-minute changes. My team and I helped each other when we faced difficult issues, like a big family caring for each other.

Meaningful – I had travelled to many countries with the school in the last five years, including Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Japan and Zimbabwe. The most memorable trip for me was my CAS trip to Zimbabwe. We visited local schools and their living conditions, observed the beautiful sky with thousands of stars, and walked with lions in the morning. We even tried the bungee jumping at Victoria Falls. I will etch these memories on my heart.

Any advice for your juniors, especially the Year 6 students?

Be self-disciplined, no matter what happened. **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!** Finish your IAs, EE and TOK as early as possible. Set yourself simple and realistic goals such as “complete Economics Chapter 3 notes” instead of “read Economics textbook”. For juniors who dislike their subjects, my advice is, don’t lose your interest in the subjects you have performed badly just because of your scores. Try to foster your passion in the subjects you have chosen, and this will make the journey in your studies easier.

Understand that varsity is next. Can you share with us your future plans, like subject of study and potential career?

As I mentioned earlier, Mr Raghu has ignited my passion in Mathematics. I will continue to study Mathematics at university, with the plan to pursue a master’s degree in Big Data or Finance.

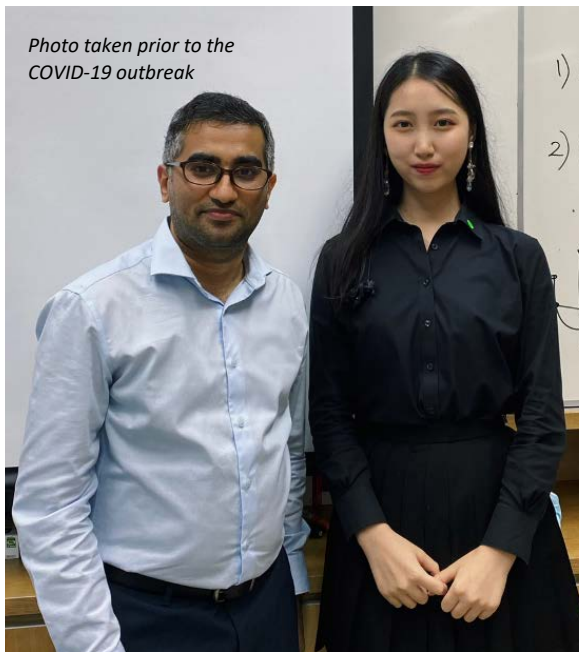


Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak




Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak




Photo taken prior to the COVID-19 outbreak

UPCOMING EVENTS

January	Event
12	• CCA Fair 15:15–16:00
13	• School Assembly (Year 2 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35
14	• Parents Prayer Group (<i>Online</i>) 08:00–08:35
15	• Chapel (Year 4 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35 • ACS Staff Dedication Service 15:30 onwards
20	• School Assembly (Year 5 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35
22	• Chapel (Year 3 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35
27	• School Assembly (Year 4 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35 • Parent-Tutor Evening (<i>Online</i>) 17:00 onwards
29	• Chapel (Year 5 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35
February	Event
3	• School Assembly (Year 3 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35
5	• Chapel (Year 1 in Oldham Chapel) 08:00–08:35




ORDER YOUR BOOKS TODAY!



SECOND HAND BOOK DRIVE

PHYSICAL BOOTH SET UP FROM JAN 4-8

ONLINE SALES UNTIL JAN 31ST



QR code for the website!

50% off

for the books in 2021 booklist

If not listed in 2021 booklist :

YR 1-2:	\$15
YR 3-4:	\$30
YR 5-6:	\$40

for more info, visit @acsint.ambassadors



Inter-House Lion Dance Competition

MAKE YOUR OWN LION HEAD & CREATE A DANCE

DEADLINE: JAN 27 2021 | WEDNESDAY | 3:30PM