



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

On 1 March, the ACS family celebrated Founder's Day. This day remembers ACS being founded with the purpose of nurturing students to be of service "for God and humanity". The school, established in a small shophouse in No. 70 Amoy Street began providing instruction in English and Chinese to 13 children of Chinese merchants. Gradually, its high quality of education became known to the local community. Student enrolment grew so quickly that additional classroom space became urgently needed, and the school moved to a purpose-built school house at Coleman Street. Since those days, ACS schools have grown and now educate over 10,000 students in Singapore.

To honour the connection that ACS (International) has to the Methodist Church and the ACS family, the school re-developed the main entrance to become a Heritage Centre. This entry now serves as a reminder why the ACS group of schools exists and the commitment that the Methodist Church has to education. The Heritage Centre also has a TV that plays videos showing the development of ACS in Singapore and an informational video about ACS (International).

As I spend time reading the plaques around the Heritage Centre, I can see that the themes written about hundreds of years ago still ring true today. Ideas such as sound learning, moral education, Christian principles, good character and a love of learning can all be found in ACS (International)'s current Guiding Statements. The Guiding Statements are used by the school for decision making and for keeping us focused on what is important. Later this year, the school will conduct a Community Survey where parents, students and staff can provide feedback to the school about their experiences and their ideas for the future. The Community Survey will be based around the school's Guiding Statements, which can be found on the school's website in the *Our School* menu.

It is important for us to remember the past and how it has shaped and influenced our school. This is why we take time to celebrate important events such as Founder's Day. However, it is also important for us to be forward looking as we seek to continuously improve our school. The Community Survey, which will be carried out later this year, is a new initiative that will occur on an annual basis to give all stakeholders a voice. We look forward to working with our community as we reflect on the present and plan for the future.

Gavin Kinch
Principal



March 2021

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CHRISTIAN MINISTRY NEWS

Starting 21 January, members of the **Christian Fellowship CCA** take on a more active role in reading the weekly Thursday devotions at morning assembly.

Parents' Prayer Group (PPG) hosted the ACS Combined Prayer Meeting on 19 February, 8:00am to 9:30am. The prayer meeting was held via Zoom. Mr Gavin Kinch spoke on ACS Vision and his message emphasised on "a deep compassion for humanity based upon Christian belief and values". Rev. Joel Yong shared a message on "entrusted with treasure – John 19:25-27". Towards the end, the parents were assigned to six "breakout rooms" to pray for the respective ACS Schools.

A **Discipleship Class** for students, held on Wednesday afternoons, started on 25 February. The class is reading and reflecting on the book of Philippians over six weeks. For those who would like to join the class, please email Mr Wee Lian Kuanh (liankuanh@acsinternational.edu.sg), Christian Ministry Staff.

Year 5 student Joschka Kalisch shared devotion at CF on the 19 February on the "Power of Forgiveness". The Christian Ministry Staff (CMS) had a chat with Joschka (JK) about his reflections.

CMS: How did you decide on the topic "The Power of Forgiveness"?

JK: I decided to share this topic because it is one of the biggest themes that many people, not just Christians, are concerned about. They have committed actions of sin in their lives, and most of the time, they are unsure of whether they should or shouldn't confess their wrongdoings. When they don't know of anyone who can forgive them, they feel despaired or worried. I feel "The Power of Forgiveness" is one of the things in life that many hearts are yearning for.

CMS: As you prepared the devotion, what did you hear from God about your own life?

JK: When I typed out my slides, God was literally speaking word for word what I typed out to me personally. Because I now know that there will definitely be one person who would forgive my every sin, I decided "why not let other people receive the message as well".

CMS: What problems did you encounter as you were preparing the devotion? How did you address these problems?

JK: While preparing my devotion, I was worried about whether my audience would be interested to listen to me speak or myself being able to add a little bit of humour to my devotion. I was afraid that my message would be dull and meaningless. But to counter the problem, I chose to continue going forward, as always, and with God's assistance, assume the best. Sure enough, thank goodness that the best assumption became a reality. I added one part of my devotion which was quite hilarious, and many CF-ers told me that I did an excellent job.

CMS: What have you learned from this opportunity on sharing a devotion?

JK: It was a great leadership opportunity for me, as well as a great chance to try new challenges and continue my work as a child of God by sharing from His word. Furthermore, I love serving people, so sharing this devotion was a good start.

STAFF NEWS

Arrival of Newborn: The school congratulates Ms Adina Wong and her family on the arrival of their newborn son in February, and Ms Ivana Choo and her husband on the birth of their son in March.

New Staff: We welcome a new staff member, Ms Sabeena Sareena, Teacher of Physics, to our ACS (International) family.



NOTICES

Founder's Day Awards

The following students are the recipients of 2021 Founder's Day awards:

Han Pok Fong: Top Academic Performance

Year 6: Ren Yiting

Year 4: Pongyada Sootthipong

ACSOBA Medals: Best All Round Academic and Holistic Performance

Year 6 Gold: Hannah Kek – Gold Medal

Year 6 Silver: Megan Man – Silver Medal

Year 4 Gold: Shreya Sakhalkar – Gold Medal

Year 4 Silver: Asumi Yamano – Silver Medal

ACS (International) Monthly Parents Prayer Group on First Thursday

Dates: 4 March, 1 April, 8 July, 5 August, 7 October and 11 November

Time: 8:00am–9:00am

Contact Persons: Evelyn (94889556) and Vicki (87687495)

Term 1 Commendations and Academic Report

The commendation awardees will receive their awards from the Principal, Mr Kinch, on Wednesday, 24 March at 8:00am during school assembly in Oldham Chapel.

The report will be published on the same day. Parents and students may access the report on the same day from 9:00am at <https://acs.fireflycloud.asia/information-for-parents-public> with no login required. 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.

Final 2020 IGCSE Results: More 100% Distinction Passes

The school has now received all 2020 IGCSE results from Cambridge Assessment. We would like to congratulate the following students whose names have been added to the 100% Distinction Pass list.

Asumi Yamano

Cao Kefei

Choong Wuan Rong Bernice

Elliot Sebastian Lim Wei Kuan

Kwan Hwang Kid Max

Nishant Vats

Shreya Supriyakumar Sakhalkar

Tham Jia Hao Skyler

Yuiko Yokota

Yuki Kashiwagi

Term 2: Extended Period 5 for Years 5 and 6

From Term 2, Year 5 and Year 6 lessons will finish at 3:10pm in order to further stagger students leaving the school campus at the end of the day.

Updated Progression Criteria: Year 4 to IBDP

The school has updated its Progression Criteria for Year 4 students seeking admission into IB through their IGCSE grades. This change is due to the impact the pandemic has had on examination grades across the world. Please visit the school's website [Beyond The Classroom -> Parent Communication](#), for further details.

PEAKS Assessment Matters

Students of the following year groups are to take note of the PEAKS session(s) of which **attendance is compulsory**:

Year 1 and 1B Students: Post Assessment Briefing, Tuesday, 9 March, 8:00am-8:35am, Oldham Chapel

All Year 5 Students: Student Briefing and Post Assessment Briefing, Thursday, 11 March, 3:15pm–4:45pm, Oldham Chapel

An email with details on the two briefings has been sent to all parents/guardians in week 1 of March.

All Year 4 and Foundation IB Students: Assessment, Thursday, 25 March, 3:15pm-4:30pm, Oldham Chapel

An email with details on the assessment and the equipment to bring will be sent to all parents/guardians and students by mid March.

The Post Assessment Briefing is scheduled on Thursday, 8 April, 3:15pm–4:45pm, Oldham Chapel, where students will receive a copy of their profile plus Career Guidance profile and be shown how to read them.

Year 2 and Year 3 Students: Student Briefing

An email with details on the briefing for each of the two year groups to be held in mid April will be sent to all parents/guardians and students by end of March.

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

Office Holiday Hours

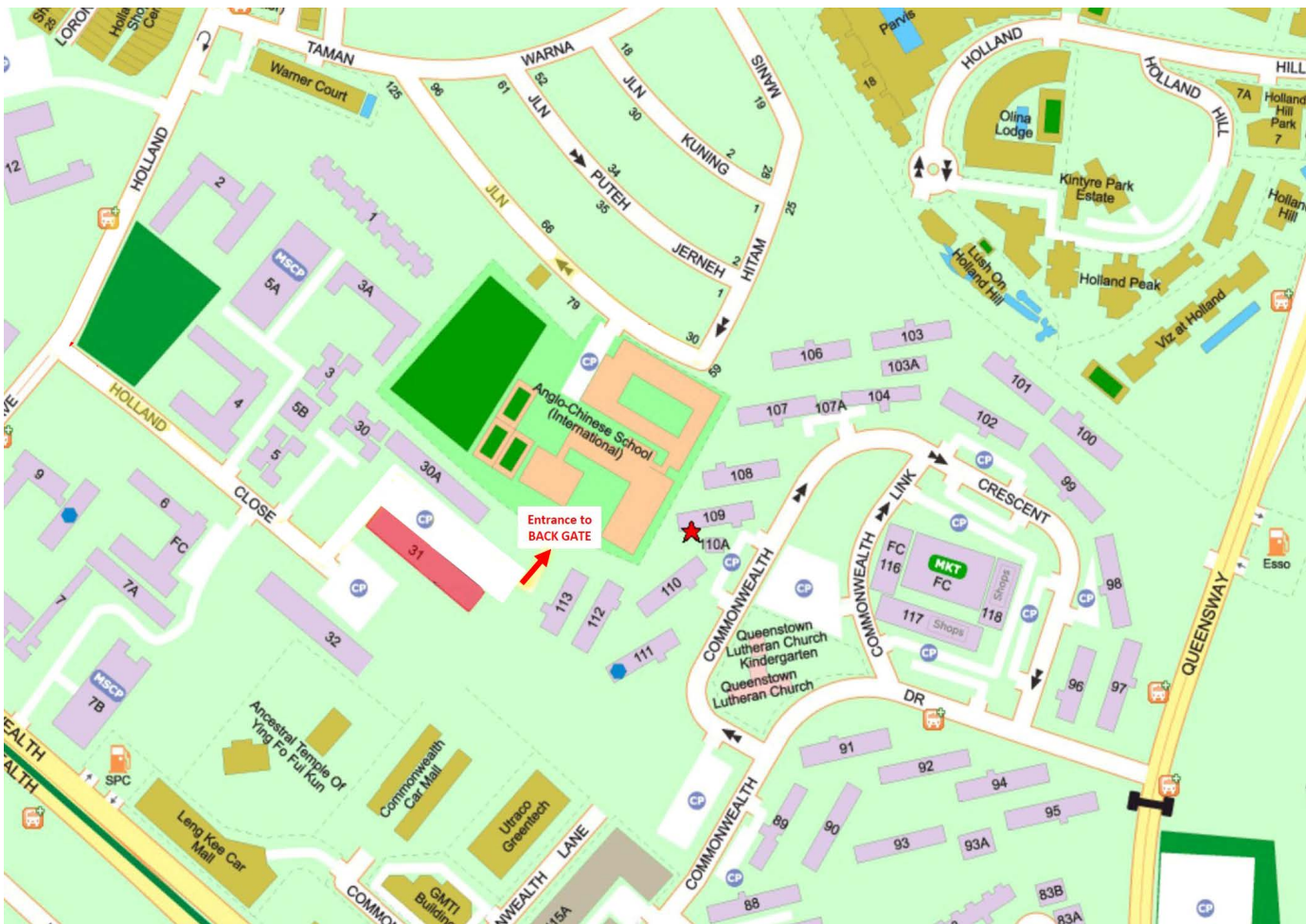
Please note that during the holiday period from 15 to 19 March, the General Office will be open from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Restricted Entry to School by Vehicles at Start of the Day

Due to the heavy congestion at the school gate by both vehicles and foot traffic, we restrict vehicle entry to the school grounds to just staff cars between 7:30am and 8:10am.

This means that parents who drive are not able to enter the school grounds to drop off their children. All dropoffs must be done outside the main gate at the drop-off zone. On wet days, however, parents will still be able to access the covered drop-off zone outside the Administration Block.

Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off their children (see below map for details).



Screen Time Balance

At the beginning of the year, we sent Year 1 families a link to go through a website on developing positive online media-balance strategy. The aim of this activity was to help students become aware of the need for this balance and how they connect with others online. For new Year 1 families or those who are interested, feel free to access the materials [here](#).

In his recent Growing Leaders blog, Tim Elmore's *Five Ideas to Manage Your Kids' Screen Time in a Pandemic* shared some very eye-opening research as shown below as well as signs of too much screen time to watch out for and ideas to manage screen time:

- YouTube: The average viewing time is 97 minutes a day, double the time of 2019.
- Teen smartphone time: Time is now between 7 and 8 hours a day, practically a full-time job.

As a school, we use Elmore's resources for our pastoral and leadership development. We encourage parents and students to check out the above post and blog [here](#).

STUDENT SUCCESS

National Science Challenge

Over the course of the past few months, we have faced many challenges in the National Science Challenge, from the 60-question quiz in the qualifying round, the ecology challenges in the quarter-finals, to the variety of tasks in the semi-finals. To our pleasant surprise, we managed to advance through the qualifying round and past the quarter-finals to become one of the 12 schools in Singapore to enter the semi-finals of the prestigious national competition.

The semi-finals took place in January 2021, where it was divided into **four** different rounds which consisted of the following challenges: Investigating suitable conditions for aquaponics (*On-Site Challenge*); Building our own scientific apparatus (*Imagineering Challenge*); Unravelling a scientific phenomenon (*Tell Me Why*); and last but not least, Answering a series of general knowledge questions (*Rapid Response Round*).

We started with the **On-Site** challenge where we were tasked with investigating the optimal conditions for growing plants in aquaponics, such as the pH level, nutrient level and light intensity. With some help from the Internet, we managed to produce a solution and present our findings. This was a rewarding learning experience as we were able to do hands-on research and take readings using the scientific apparatus provided.

The **Imagineering** challenge was less rule-bound; we were asked to generate two designs and their respective prototypes for laboratory apparatus within the allotted time frame of 2.75 hours, the first hour of which consisted of purchasing the materials whilst simultaneously planning the designs. After brainstorming ideas, we settled on a centrifuge and pressure chamber, the latter of which (through a series of unfortunate events) failed to function to a visible extent. In this challenge, we had to be creative and this significantly helped build our problem-solving skills (due to design flaws).

In the **Tell Me Why** challenge, a phenomenon was presented to us – after a plastic spoon was rubbed with a cloth, the spoon was able to pick up pepper flakes but not salt. Given 10 minutes to discuss and brainstorm, we then had to present our theory behind this phenomenon in a stressful 90-second impromptu presentation. This round emphasised the importance of giving an engaging, coherent presentation even under intense pressure (even when you don't fully understand the question).



The **Rapid Response** round was the most anxiety-inducing of them all; it consisted of a series of short-answer questions with 10 seconds to input each answer. With questions ranging from a unit for quantum computing to enzyme regulation, this was a true test of all our scientific general knowledge.

We have come really far and these achievements would not have happened without great teamwork and the assistance of our science teachers Mr Kent Kor and Ms Low Lin Da. We sincerely thank them for their time, guidance and input. It was truly an insightful experience, one that was full of memories made and knowledge gained, with the tension, intensity and overall adrenaline rush making it an experience like no other.

To find out if we have made it to the Grand Final, please tune in to the **final season!** Don't miss the season finale of this exciting science programme! You can also visit NSC [Facebook page](#) to catch the *trailer clip* for the first episode and their [website](#) for details.

The Science Faculty seeks your continuous support on our STEM-related initiatives and related events and encourage more students to continue pursuing their interest and passion for Science.

Team NSC

Ethelyn Huang, 4 Thoburn, Dayoun Moon, 4 CKS, Sandhya Bhagwani, 4 TTK, and Trey Indradjaja, 4 Thoburn

Telecast Details

Channel 5

Premier Telecast: Every Tuesday, 23 February to 30 March, 7:30pm to 8:30pm, 6 Episodes

Encore Telecast: Every Saturday, 27 February to 3 April, 3:00pm to 4:00pm, 6 Episodes

CNA

Encore Telecast: Every Saturday, 27 February to 3 April, 3:00pm to 4:00pm, 6 Episodes

After each episode is premiered on Channel 5, the clip will be uploaded onto meWatch and MediaCorp entertainment YouTube page.

The broadcast for the Semi-finals and for the Grand Final are as follows:

Semi-final 1: 9 March, 7:30pm, Channel 5

Semi-final 2: 16 March, 7:30pm, Channel 5

Semi-final 3: 23 March, 7:30pm, Channel 5 (We were in this Semi-Final round!)

Grand Final: 30 March, 7:30pm, Channel 5

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumnus Awarded Full Scholarship

The school extends its congratulations to our alumnus, Judith Ho Han Lin, in her award of a full scholarship under the Lee Kong Chian Scholar's Programme, for her undergraduate studies.

Judith (one of our top IBDP graduates for 2020, top IGCSE student in 2018) will pursue a double degree programme. Her primary degree would be Bachelor of Business Management and the secondary degree Bachelor of Science (Economics) at Singapore Management University.



The Arts Lab

On 29 January, Years 5 and 6 IB students who study Group 6's Arts subjects participated in the first ARTS LAB event, an Arts Faculty's initiative that aims to promote students' understanding of the applications and connectivity across the Arts subjects, led by Mr Peter Talbot. This ARTS LAB also encourages students' awareness and reflections on world issues from multiple perspectives.

The students watched the film "Human Flow", directed by renowned artist Ai Weiwei, which documented worldwide refugees' problems, followed by some discussion. They responded by penning down their insights and their answers on Padlet to questions such as "Does politics have a place in the arts?" "Do artists have moral obligations?" "Why do artists make works that are political?"



Participant responses on the questions

Everyone has moral obligations. Artists are supposed to push boundaries and shape beliefs. I think artists with a platform, like Ai Weiwei, need to show people a new perspective of looking at things. At the same time, we need to be conscious and aware of how our art impacts society, and to reflect on our intended purposes for making art.

Tara Teo, 6 Thoburn

Art can also be a tool for empathy and understanding, and educate others on different perspectives on critical issues. In Ai Weiwei's film "Human Flow", he made a point to focus more closely on the refugees' crisis and how it personally affects people, and the true extent of how terrible the situation is. Often, in our modern society, it is easy to forget and ignore situations that are happening beyond our bubble, which is why some people can easily remain ignorant.

Alissa, 5 TCT

Politics is a big part of many people's lives. The way a country is run determines the lives of millions, and it's because of these leaders and uncontrollable factors that push people into devastating circumstances (as seen in the documentary). An artist wants to challenge their beliefs, and explore things that mean a lot to them, which is why politics are seen throughout all forms of media, and in recent times, specifically art.

Ada Lee, 5 Oldham

Artists make works that are political because I feel they have an opinion that they want to share. Politics contain many different viewpoints and opinions. When an artist expresses their own views on politics, this reaches out to more people about their own views and give a different opinion which is portrayed uniquely and creatively. This will probably stick with the viewer and allow them to have a more open mindset.

Ashleigh Yeu, 6 Oldham

Feedback on the event

I greatly enjoyed the event, particularly because we managed to have some meaningful discussion about art. The beginning of the video about the 2012 London Olympics was also a nice experience, just the fact that it introduced me to more artistic media.

Alissa Lee, 5 TCT

I enjoyed this event because I was touched by this cinematic film created by Ai Weiwei, especially the parts where he was taking aerial shots to show us the living conditions of the immigrants and the challenges they faced. I learnt that I should be appreciative of my lifestyle and I should recognise my privileges which the immigrants struggle or do not even have. This session has also taught me that because of how subjective art is, if we really put our minds to it, we can bring utmost awareness to a world issue through our creative works.

Elliot Sivarajan, 6 Oldham

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Volunteering at Orange Valley Nursing Home

Did you know almost half of the people who live in nursing homes are 85 years old or older? In addition to their physical woes, they are also distressed by dementia or depression. Since 2020, the elderly has to deal with the challenges of COVID-19 as well. They are mostly confined to their nursing homes with fewer family visits, owing to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The vaccination process for the elderly began on 27 January. The older Singaporeans were more hesitant about getting vaccinated, according to Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. As a student in-charge of TKK Charity, I wanted to alleviate some of their concerns and apprehension in regard to the vaccination.

With the help of our teachers, Mdm Koh Leng Leng, Ms Akane and Mr Talbot, we got in touch with Orange Valley Nursing Home, Balestier branch. We had planned to have an interactive quiz to familiarise them with the vaccination procedure. The winners were rewarded with a goodie bag to make their experience more fun. To make the session more memorable and enjoyable, we included a craft activity to create a cherry blossom painting using recycled plastic bottles. All of the volunteers contributed their time, effort and money to put together the goodie bags.

We had initially anticipated visiting Orange Valley Nursing Home. However, we could not do so due to the COVID-19 restrictions so we decided to have four online sessions from 4 to 9 February. Soon after, we encountered another challenge that most of the elderly could only understand Mandarin/Chinese. The 12 volunteers from 6 TTK were split into four groups with at least one speaking Mandarin. Each session was modified by the group to the suit the needs of the elderly attending it.

I think this endeavour was a success. The elderly had actively participated in the quiz and seemed to particularly enjoy the craft activity. I feel each and every member had a sense of contentment at the end of this charity activity true to the saying, "Giving is not just about to make a donation, it's about making a difference."

Nivedita Venkataraghavan, 6 TTK



LNY Celebration 'Live' in a Different Way

Though it is an annual celebration, this year's Lunar New Year event was special in its own way.

Student Reflections

I was given the privilege to direct, edit and produce the Lunar New Year video this year.

Planning the event took several months and many meetings to prepare every detail of the celebration. I worked closely with my Chinese teachers. This opportunity not only helped build my organisational and communication skills but it also allowed me to practise my Chinese. During the preparation, we put together different ideas to help improve the quality and flow of the video.

As we planned the sequences of the video, we had to film the actual performances. Due to the lack of proper communication, experience, and equipment, nearly every performance had to be retaken due to mistakes in the audio or quality. But with the help of the teachers and staff, we were able to pull it together and produce the footage that we needed. This took many weeks and hours after school hours and required the commitment of everyone involved.

After all the filming, I had to work on editing to put all the videos together. I had to learn how to manage my time, balancing schoolwork and my personal activities along with the editing. I constantly received feedback from my teachers (and parents) about the details of the video and that kept me awake at night to make the changes. As I stitched all the performances together, I worked with other students who did their own editing (lion dance highlights and yo-yo performance) which helped reduce my workload.

With the video finished, the order of performances confirmed and the equipment all set up, it was show time. This was my first time conducting a live stream on YouTube via Zoom. I was grateful that I was able to learn how to operate a stream and it gave me insight into how the IT team conducted the weekly chapels and school assemblies. Not only was I assisted by the friendly and patient staff, but I also took the initiative to conduct my own test live streams with the equipment I had at home to grasp a better understanding of how it worked. I was also able to consult my dad who was well versed with these operations as he regularly hosts webinars. However, to further my apprehension, Mrs Tan, Vice-Principal, emphasised when she saw me at the computer that if anything went wrong, I would be responsible. Thank God nothing did.

After several practices with the streaming functions, three dry runs of the whole celebration, and with the help of Mr Robert Icban along with the IT team, I felt that we were well prepared. It was also interesting to see how two small monitors sitting in the Library could relay the video feed to every classroom in the school.

Minutes before the event, I reminded myself to take it slow and steady to avoid making mistakes. I only had several hours of sleep due to the last-minute changes to the video, but my adrenalin was kicking in.

Overall, I thought the celebration was delivered well and it was undoubtedly an incredible experience.

Emmanuel Quintis Carter, 5 Oldham



Every Spring Festival, I celebrate it with my family, but this year it is different. I am now studying in ACS (International) and because of COVID-19, I can't go back home. So this Lunar New Year, I celebrated with my classmates. We watched the school's Lunar New Year Celebration Performance video together. When I saw the performance of the lion dance, I felt very much at home. I think it was the best performance and until now I can't forget those familiar songs and dance steps. That afternoon, we had a lot of fun and I had a great time with my classmates.

Song Yuhan, 1 LSG



As someone who has always enjoyed doing arts and craft, I really liked doing this project. Lunar New Year means a lot to me and I've always enjoyed lion dances. For the project, I made the head with a few others and had a lot of fun. It was nice just making the head and I was quite proud of it although parts of it kept coming off. Another issue was the lion head was too big to be able to see through it. I ended up using a tape to create a support for the students' head but it kept coming off. On filming day, I was not there and it had caused a lot of issues as the dancers didn't know it was to support the students' head. There was also a lot of trouble with the dancing process. In the end, I agree that LSG deserved the win as theirs was really amazing. I had a nice time talking and getting to know my House mates better. Although we didn't win, I still had tons of fun. I think the other Houses did a great job as well.

Melody Lee Yun Shyan, 2 Thoburn



Results of the Lion Head Making Competition

Junior Division

- 1st: LSG
- 2nd: CKS
- 3rd: Oldham

Middle Division

- 1st: Oldham
- 2nd: LSG
- 3rd: SVM

Overall

- 1st: LSG
- 2nd: Oldham
- 3rd: SVM



Dumpling Night

During the Lunar New Year holiday, on 15 February, together with Madam Koh and two other ambassadors, we successfully carried out the dumpling-making session called Dumpling Night at Oldham Hall.

During the event, we introduced the culture of dumplings and how to make them to the international students who stay there. Keeping social distancing in mind, the students practised on what we have taught but we were also surprised to see them display skills of making versions of dumplings belonging to their own countries. After all the dumplings were cooked, we all had a great meal together.

Dumpling Night is a project that aims to bond international students to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many international students are forced to stay away from their hometown and cannot reunite with their families. It is a hard time for them to stay alone in a foreign country, especially true during the festive season. Hence, we came up with this dumpling-making session to attempt to “bring their hometown back” to the international students who could not return home during the festive holiday. We hope the students can have fun and relax during this period, despite the pressure from either academically or those arising from the pandemic.

Since it is a newly initiated project, we did face many difficulties and uncertainties while organising it. One of the main problems was we were not good at making dumplings ourselves and trying to learn it by watching YouTube videos was not effective. Hence, we invited one of the ambassadors’ mother to teach us personally. After the lesson, we had a better idea about wrapping dumplings and what materials we needed. The practice session was especially helpful.

I have learnt a lot by organising this project. Other than the skill of making dumplings, I have also learnt about leadership. As one of those in charge of this project, I was involved in different stages including proposing, planning, promulgating, and organising. I realised the most important thing I have learned is teamwork. For every stage, my teacher and teammates helped and pushed me to do a better job. I really appreciate everyone who had given help to me in this project.

Wu Yanyu (Rita), 6 SVM



ACSpirit de Corps 2021

As with all things during this pandemic, this year’s ACSpirit de Corps was different. Traditionally, a concert and carnival is held in every Founder’s Day after the formal event. This year’s festivities were held fully virtually from the classrooms, and many changes had to be made. Live in-person performances found themselves behind the screen in a pre-recorded concert, and games were brought to each tutor room with games held within the class.

Nevertheless, the show was able to go on. The unwavering efforts of teachers, parents, and Years 5 and 6 facilitators ensured that all members of the school community were able to not only have fun, but also to enjoy themselves safely with safe management measures in place. Students were still able to participate in exciting games and quizzes and designed tutor group flags for them to keep as mementos. Afterwards, a wide variety of acts was successfully lined up, showcasing the best of our school’s talents with exhilarating performances.

Even with the challenges posed by the pandemic, by the grace of God, we were still able to conduct a meaningful event without any major hiccups. Happy ACS135!

Samuel Sianipar, 6 TKK
Head of Student Affairs



THIMUN The Hague 2021

Seven students from ACS (International) participated in the conference from 25 to 29 January. Six students were delegates of Solomon Island and one student was the Editor of the magazine, Munity Online.

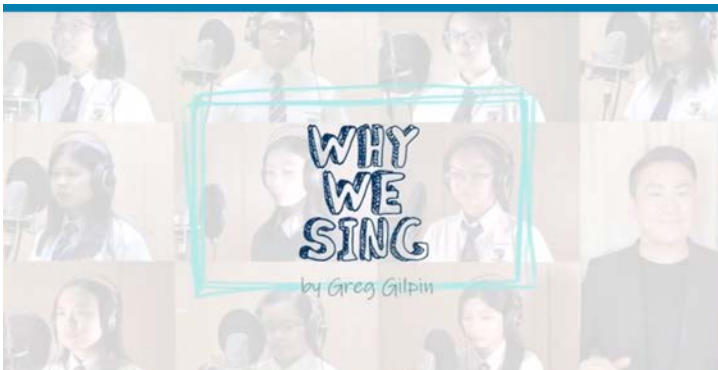
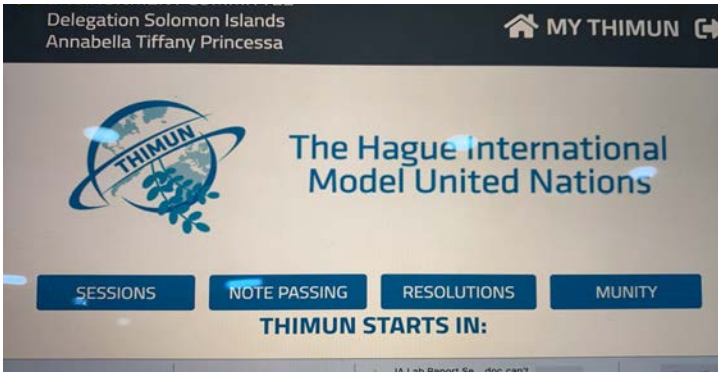
The biggest difference between this year's and previous conferences was it being online. Overall debate time was shortened from last year. The sessions normally started around 7:00pm and would end around 12:30am. There were 9 committees in total, each ranging from 100 to 200 participants. Each committee were given three issues, with three sub-topics under each issue, discussed through different lobbying sessions. Our students participated in ECOSOC, Legal & Finance committee and Environment committee.

The format of the online conference allowed students to explore more issues and open up various perspectives rather than just sticking to the one issue that they were comfortable with. It gave students a chance to explore and discuss multiple issues.

Lobbying session were shorter due to the shorter conference timing which was quite challenging for students as they had to discuss with the groups and collaborate on a piece of resolution that was capped at 25 clauses. Despite the challenges, it was an interesting and fruitful experience for our students.

The highlight of the conference was the video of ACS (International) choir group. The song "Why We Sing" was played at the opening ceremony of the conference.

Yone Shou Saw, 4 GHK



Ending Student Council’s Stint with a Big Bang

Valentine's day is one day in the year dedicated to spreading love and appreciation for whoever one feels the need to cherish their special relationship with. This year, the Student Council continued this wonderful tradition to ignite the flame of love in the hearts of students and spread warmth in the atmosphere of ACS (International). To prepare for this celebration, council members sold roses and candygrams (candies with messages attached), and held various activities such as the photo booth and the cheesy pickup line contest.

This year’s Valentine’s Day turned out to be a huge success despite it being held on 8 February due to the Lunar New Year break. Close to 400 roses were sold, a myriad of candygrams were bought, and the photo booth was so popular that 45 minutes of lunch time turned out to be insufficient to satisfy the demand. Overall, student involvement in Valentine’s Day was very much celebrated and a joyous occasion indeed.

Valentine’s Day also marked the end for all events organised by the Spirited 16th Council. Council members were gratified that their last event was accompanied with success. Most importantly, the Student Council was especially proud that this event brought students closer together through a collective spirit of love in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertain times.

Yang Jongwon, 6 Oldham



Fin-tastically Jaw-some CKS House Camp

Collaborative, connective, spirited, and fun. These words describe House camps at ACS (International) – annual events that are held to create stronger friendships between House members.

We knew, however, that this year is going to be a little different due to the unexpected changes that the world faces from COVID-19. Despite these unprecedented circumstances, CKS House overcame these obstacles, successfully carrying out a House camp on 20 February. We wanted to make the best out of the situation that we were in, to provide an enjoyable event for all.

Over the span of a few weeks, students of 5 CKS polished their collaborative skills to design games that would not only bring the House closer together, but also fun. Although this was a challenging task, with imagination and tenacity, a solid plan for the event was established. We came up with a variation of activities such as Escape Room, Volleyball Toss, Pin-the-Shark, Marshmallow-Spaghetti Tower, Water Dodgeball and Egg Parachute, among others. These activities boosted the students' creativity and allowed them to interact with those they had not worked with before. There were also attractive prizes such as personalised trophies, snazzy sunglasses, pencil case goodie bags and many more, that were given out at the end of the camp.

From this event, the students of CKS House learned to work cooperatively across several year groups. We emerged from the House camp bonded with each other and eager to work collaboratively to achieve our goals. Our objective to familiarise everyone and create a more kindred House environment was a success. Similar to the previous years, this year's House camp consisted of the common traits that made those fruitful. Yet, it was a unique experience; regardless of the odds that we encountered, we were able to unitedly form an unforgettable memory that further strengthened the CKS spirit. This is one of the most requisite aspects that CK Sharks value, as Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is a success.", and we couldn't agree more!

Kim Minjee, 5 CKS



HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Careers Days

What an exciting two days for Higher Education Department! Our first face-to-face event since the COVID-19 pandemic took centre stage!

Day 1: Healthcare Career Talk on 24 February

Our students had the opportunity to hear from Mr Karman Yuen, Deputy Director of Healthcare Manpower Division, MOH Holdings, about the healthcare personnel outlook in Singapore. They learnt about the skill sets needed to be a member of the healthcare sector and were introduced to various positions such as allied healthcare professionals and support services.



One interesting fact was that nurses form the backbone of the Singapore healthcare system and that there are many different pathways available for all who are interested to join the nursing track. Students left the talk with a clearer idea of the academic requirements to be part of this noble profession but more importantly, of the need to have a sense of compassion and empathy in this line of work.

Student Reflection

It was a real good opportunity to learn more about how healthcare systems in Singapore work. As an international student, it was quite difficult for me to get information about the healthcare landscape on the Internet. Through the talk, I learned that the healthcare landscape consists of primary care, acute care, and community care. By looking at the journey that a patient would go through to get treatments, I learn that not only doctors but also many people (dietitians, pharmacists, medical social workers, etc.) are involved in the healthcare system. I want to say thank you to Mr Karman Yuen for giving us a meaningful talk!

Ko Bomin, 6 TCT

Day 2: Healthcare Booths on 25 February

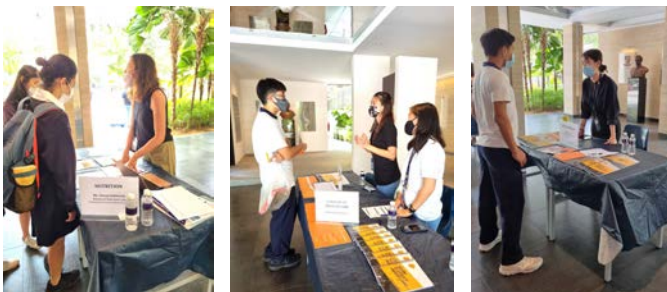
The next day saw around 80 students visit the MOH Holdings and healthcare specialist booths which were set up in the school compound during the Senior lunch break.

Our students had the pleasure of catching up with our alumnus, Ms Kajal Kirpalani, who graduated from Curtin University, with a Bachelor of Science (Physiotherapy). Kajal shared on what is expected on a day-to-day basis as a physiotherapist and how she decided to pursue physiotherapy instead of medicine. Another group of students spoke to Ms Angelina Liang (2017 cohort), third year student pursuing the Bachelor of Psychology with Monash University, who shared her experience in studying the subject.

Those who were keen to be a nutritionist had the privilege to learn from Ms Teresa Ontiveros, Nutritional Consultant & Business Owner of Balanced Nutrition Lab, on how to create a meal plan and a healthy raw carrot cake energy balls snack recipe. The academic requirements to be a nutritionist was also revealed in greater detail. The students learnt about the daily job responsibilities of Ms Stacy Lum, a speech therapist with Sengkang General Hospital, and discovered the invaluable work which she does for her patients.

At the MOH Holdings' booth, students gained a deeper understanding about the career progression and scholarship opportunities of an allied health professional. They discovered the diversity of job opportunities within the allied health sector and the academic qualifications expected of prospective applicants.

Overall, many students have benefited from the information, consultations and talk provided. With these, hopefully, their decision in choosing the right courses/careers will be easier now.



Student Reflection

I got to ask questions and hear real voices of their careers in detail which gave me a better idea of what it is about and the process of getting the specific career. By listening to them, some careers were different from what I was imagining so I could find a career that previously wasn't in my options, but I'm now interested in.

Asumi Yamano, 5TKK

Higher Education Fair

Our school had the honour of hosting the Higher Education Fair on 1 March where students learnt about the application requirements to study in the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore (at the National University of Singapore).

A common theme across all three talks was the need to start the discussion process early and to be pro-active in the students’ higher education journey. Assurances were given that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the universities in all three countries remain committed to admitting students from Asia. Students were introduced to the admissions requirements for popular degree courses such as medicine, law and business. They also gained a better understanding of the vibrant living environment in each country.

Booths set up specially to provide further information saw a good number of students turn up to clarify their doubts. The exhibitors commended our students for their enthusiasm and the insightful questions posed.

The Higher Education and Careers Team will continue to provide the necessary support to our students and look forward to hosting the second session on Monday, 5 April (see page 18 for details).



Students learning about the university options in various countries

PSP NEWS

Founder's Day: A Parent's Reflection

Chatter and organised movements began filling the main canteen grounds as parents, staff and student leaders filed in with boxes of bottled water and table tags. The day's historic event, Founder's Day, was about to commence as eight PSP Exco members and three parent volunteers quietly anticipated student representatives from 48 tutor groups to swing by for collection. Guided by Ms Stacey Low and Mr Charles Lee, several Peer Support students arrived to equally man the marked canteen tables – ready and patiently waiting.

And then it began. We caught a waft of the first Canadian Pizza delivery, and the scene quickly turned organic. The experienced Exco continuously transported and directed stacks of pizza boxes and shoulder-width containers of individually packed chocolate and vanilla muffins. Assigned students poured in to grab-and-go. The shuffle circulated like clockwork in the canteen with an intermittent announcement of progress and leadership tips.

Meanwhile, students and tutors watched videos of the history of ACS (International), competed in friendly games and activities in their respective classrooms and received their pre-packaged Founder's Day memorabilia – a well-designed anniversary mug – to mark the occasion. Back in the canteen, photo opportunities especially with Mr Kinch captured teamwork, bonding and even social distancing.

The momentous morning was settling as we all sat down for our sweet and savoury snacks while exchanging uplifting stories of parenting teenagers. Amongst the bustle, we short-term reminisced the flutter of smiles and generous serving of helpfulness and kindness. We were experiencing the cohesion of student, school and parent community embracing presence. The power of ACSpirit de Corps – what once was livened by a ceremony in formal attire, student-created performances, photo booths and games – succeeded despite current limitations. The golden snapshot of this year's Founder's Day, however, was not by the number of activities but by the positive awareness of pure celebration.

To the administration and senior staff who tirelessly supported us; to the canteen crew who muscled through hundreds of empty recycled boxes and packaging; to the seven parents who packed a sea of souvenir mugs; to the House Tutors who consistently managed classroom energy; to the student leaders who fast-walked from one end of the school to the other to keep the event alive: YOU are appreciated. It is you who proudly sparked and forged a remarkable day celebrating 135 years of a sound institution. Congratulations, ACS (International)!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March	Event
6	• Oldham House Camp 09:00 – 11:00
9	• Year 1 and 1B PEAKS Post Assessment Briefing 08:00–08:35
11	• All Year 5 PEAKS Student Briefing and New Year 5 Post Assessment Briefing 15:15–16:45
12	• Chapel – REW 08:00–08:35 • GHK House Camp 16:30–18:30
15–19	• School Break
24	• School Assembly (Commendation awardees to be in Chapel) 08:00–08:35
25	• All Year 4 and Foundation IB PEAKS Assessment 15:15–16:30
26	• Chapel – REW 08:00–08:35 • LSG House Camp 16:30–18:30
27	• TTK House Camp 09:00–11:00

April	Event
1	• Parents Prayer Group 08:00–09:00
2	• Good Friday (Public Holiday) – SCHOOL CLOSED
8	• All Year 4 and Foundation IB PEAKS Post Assessment Briefing 15:15–16:45

Higher Education Fair 2021
★ Exclusively for Y6 students only! ★
Monday, 5 April

Firm up your education plans and get some insider tips on university application process by listening to the Admissions Experts on the following Institutions/Organisations:

Date	Institution/Organisation	Time	Venue
5 April	➤ Singapore Management University(SMU)	3:30 pm-4:00 pm	Oldham Chapel
	➤ Yale-NUS	4:00 pm-4:30 pm	
	➤ Study in the US	4:30 pm-5:00 pm	

2021 University and Careers Events

National University of Singapore
“e-Open House”
27 Feb – 06 March 2021

Source of picture : <https://nus.edu.sg/e-openhouse/home>

Study Abroad Virtual Fair By IDP
“Virtual Fair”
Sat & Sun, 06 & 07 March 2021

Source of picture : <https://www.idp.com/singapore/study-abroad-education-fair>

SIM Global Education
“Open House on Campus & Online”
Fri & Sat, 12 & 13 March 2021
11am – 5:30 pm

Source of picture : <https://www.sim.edu.sg/events/open-house>

University of Cambridge
“Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021”
Mon-Fri, 15-26 March 2021

Source of picture : <https://www.oxford-cambridge-student-conferences.com>



METHODIST WALK 2021

ACS (International) will be raising money for The School Hardship Fund, with the goal of \$15,000 and the distance-based goal of 5,000km. Fundraising on [Giving.sg](https://giving.sg) will take place during the month of March with events at school happening from 22–26 March.

We aim to reach this goal together by walking with friends and family during the MethodistWalk 2021 weekend or evenings.

Instead of the usual pledge cards, every student will receive the unique link to our fundraising page which they can use when seeking donations from family and friends via email or Whatsapp.

Donations may also be given in the form of a cheque made out to **Methodist Schools' Foundation**, with our school name ACS (International) clearly indicated on the back. Any cash or cheque donations can be brought directly to our General Office.

We look forward to having your fullest support as we come together as a school family for MethodistWalk 2021.

