

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

In a keynote address at the Roses for Peace Youth Forum, Ms Grace Fu, former Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, said: "Singapore's social harmony is not by chance, and it should never be taken for granted. Singapore is the world's most religiously diverse country. Multiracialism and multi-religiosity are key tenets of our national values. We have been tireless in our efforts at building this precious social harmony over the past five decades. This social harmony can be easily destroyed, and we would be foolish to take it for granted..."

I believe that these are wise words and that we all should heed this advice. In the January newsletter, I referred to Psalm 139:13-14 where God tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Due to this, each person has inherent value and therefore should be treated with dignity and respect. In James 2:9, the Bible tells us: "If you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors". The word that is used for *partiality* is the Greek word "prosopolempsia", which means to treat one person as inherently better or worse than another. This is one of many verses found in the Bible that speak to us on issues related to the differences that exist between people. As we read the Bible, God's message to us is clear; we should love others, regardless of their racial, ethnic or cultural distinctions.

As a school, we have a role in educating our students on the importance of social harmony and how it is the responsibility of individuals and society to maintain it. The school has updated its policies and procedures around these issues to ensure that if such issues occur at school, they are adequately dealt with. One such example is making it clear to students that "casual" racism, including between friends, is harmful and fuels prejudice and discrimination and is, therefore, not acceptable. Throughout the year, the school will be addressing issues such as racial and religious based discrimination and harassment to the students. This will be done through various channels including our Pastoral Care programme, House activities and other one-off events.

We ask for your prayer and support as we tackle these important issues and contribute to making ACS (International) and Singapore a place where people co-exist in harmony with each other.

Gavin Kinch
Principal

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NOTICES

PEAKS Assessment for Years 1 & 1B Students

A reminder that Year 1 and 1B students are required to do the assessment in school:

| Assessment Date | Periods 1 & 2 (8:45am to 10:50am) | Periods 4 & 5 (12:50pm to 3pm) | Venue |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 15 February Tuesday | 1X | 1W | iMac Suite Library Block Level 5 |
| 16 February Wednesday | 1Z | 1Y | iMac Suite Library Block Level 5 |
| 17 February Thursday | 1B | | iMac Suite Library Block Level 5 |

An email with details on the assessment has been sent to all parents/guardians and students. Students who know in advance that they cannot make it for their allocated slot are to see Ms Joanne in the General Office on 14 February (10:00am–2:00pm) for an alternative slot.

Senior Division News

The recruitment of school prefects for the 18th Prefect Board has started. There was a presentation given during school assembly on 26 January. **Year 5 students** who aspire to serve as school prefects and have been exemplary in demonstrating the school values and leadership competence are welcome to apply. The online application closes on **16 February**. See poster on page 10.

The IB Information Session for Year 5 parents and guardians will be held online on **25 February, 4pm**. A letter with the Zoom link was sent out by Mrs Tan-Lim Siew Hoon, Vice Principal (Senior Division), on 9 February.

The 2022 Academic Enrichment Programme for Years 5 and 6 will take place on **3 and 4 March**. The Year 5 programme will focus on IB Core while the Year 6 students will be writing their Extended Essay.

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.

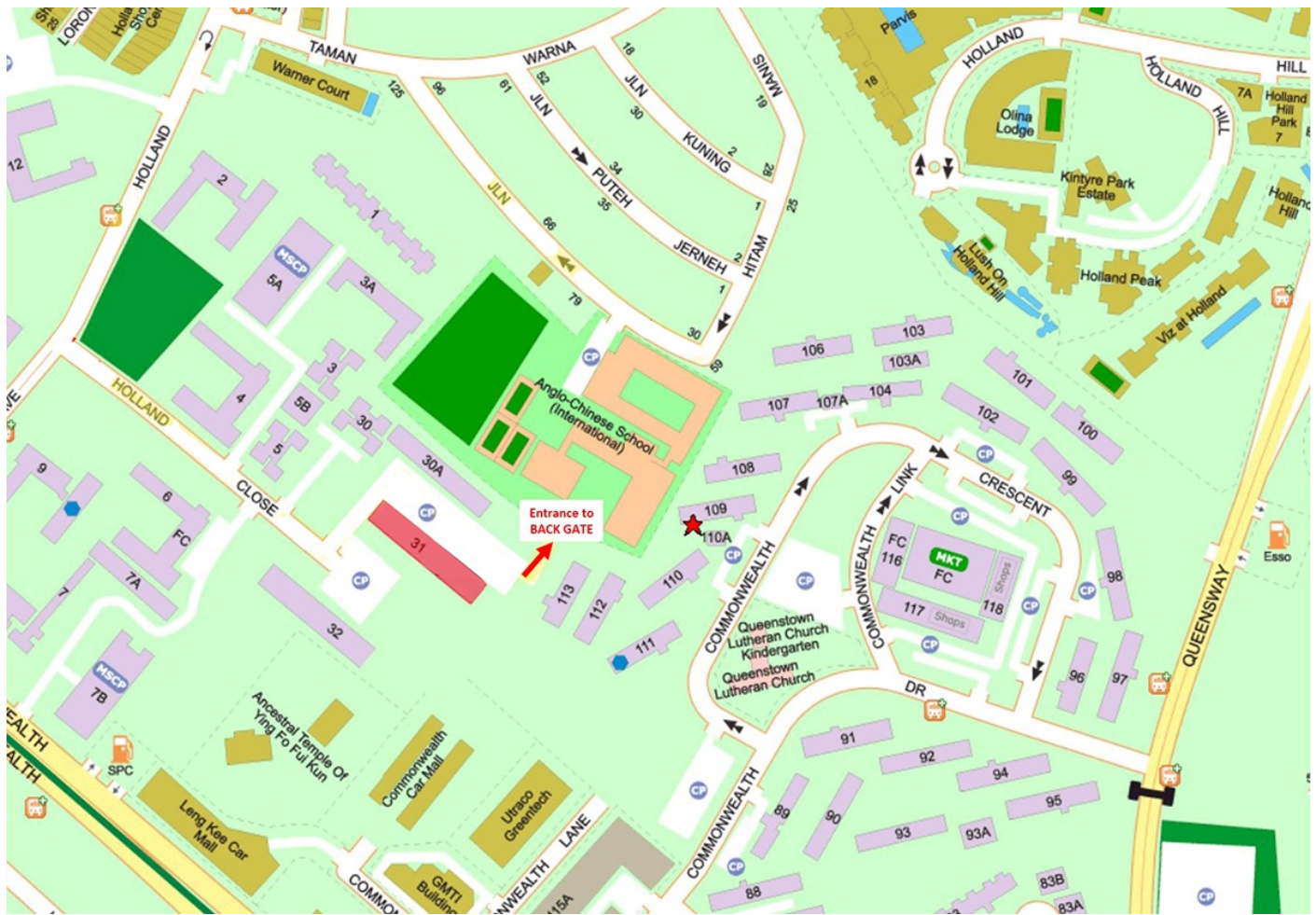


School Drop Off and Pick Up – Road Rules

In order to be considerate to our neighbours who live in Jalan Hitam Manis and Jalan Puteh Jerneh, we advise parents and drivers to adhere to the following:

- Turn off your engines when waiting to pick up your child from school. With many cars waiting outside the school, the noise of car engines can be quite disturbing to the residents.
- Drive at a safe speed that is below the legal speed limit along the roads near school. The pavements are narrow and often blocked which results in pedestrians, including young children, having to walk on the road. Drivers should be mindful of this and reduce their speed.
- Reduce speed when it is raining in order not to spray puddles of water at students and members of the public who are walking close by.
- Refrain from waiting/parking illegally. It is an offence to park/wait on either side of a road demarcated by a continuous white line or double yellow lines.
- Please do not beep your horn to get your child’s attention; this is a noise nuisance to our neighbours.
- Plan your pick-up time with your child to reduce the queuing/waiting time along the road.
- Avoid arriving earlier than the scheduled school dismissal time.
- Do not park in front of the access of any residential unit.
- Be considerate and allow cars from side roads access into the car queue waiting to exit to Holland Village.
- Parents are encouraged to make use of the back gate (Gate C) via Holland Close as a much less congested alternative to drop off your child (see below map for details). We appreciate your support in this matter as we work with those who live around us to provide a safe and enjoyable environment.

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ushering in the Year of the Tiger

Roar! We have ushered in the Year of the Tiger which symbolises strength and bravery. Despite still being in the midst of the pandemic, the Lunar New Year (LNY) festive atmosphere in ACS (International) was not dampened. This year's celebration held on 28 January included a wider variety of activities, starting off with the SLT's fun fitness dance performance which captivated the whole school's attention!

Next was the highly anticipated Kahoot game. It was an intense battle as the whole school participated actively in the live game, which quizzed about how LNY is celebrated in different countries. 5 Thoburn emerged as the winner, while 6 SVM and 6 Thoburn clinched second and third place respectively.

Other celebration highlights included the tiger dance choreographed by the PE Department and a melodic performance of the song "Xi Yang Yang" (喜洋洋) by the Guzheng Club. Talented students also presented a joyous festive song "He Xin Nian" (贺新年) and a choreographed dance based on Bruno Mars' "Runaway Baby". This year, calligraphy master Mr Phang and Jerry Leaw (6 TCT) also showcased their talent of drawing a tiger.

There was an Inter-House LNY-themed game of charades prior to the LNY celebration. The game was a close fight among a few Houses, ending with a tie between GHK and CKS. Exciting moments and great teamwork were captured in the celebration video.

A group of Year 4 Japanese students also filmed their preparation of a traditional Japanese new year delicacy named Ozoni. The LNY celebration event closed with a lucky draw for the staff, with goodies hampers given out to 15 winners.



Student Reflections

LNY has always been a special time for me since I was young. As such, being invited to emcee the event and bringing the same joy and festive spirit to my schoolmates was a huge honour. Wanting the celebration to be as enjoyable as possible, David and I worked tirelessly to perfect our script to ensure the event run smoothly. Of course, there were difficulties to overcome; the camera-shyness, the disagreements on what should be said and the repetitive filming process. However, all was naught when compared to the rush of happiness I felt when the event was heralded as a success. I hope everyone enjoyed the celebration and I wish all a very blessed LNY!

Rayna Hon Pei Yu, 5 Oldham

This year's LNY celebration was an amazing experience that I am extremely grateful to be a part of. The friendly staff, captivating performances, and newfound friends made the celebration enjoyable. I learned many new things, such as various editing functions and tips from the IT staff. As the Head of Videos, I was in charge of the live Zoom and the video itself, which really challenged me as I hadn't worked on a project of this scale before. We faced many problems with the videos, such as bad quality, countless changes, and incredibly long processing times, but we persevered and finished the race with the support from the teachers and God.

Luke Xavier Carter, 5 Oldham



Singapore Cultural Orientation

Consisting of 15 students from Year 5, the International Student Committee (ISC) aims to serve and welcome new students through creating an environment that helps to maximise students' familiarity and adaptation in the city of Singapore.

On 28 January, a total of 59 students, divided into groups of five, attended this onsite event in school. Yet, even amid regulations and restrictions, the event was no less unforgettable. The students played ice-breaker games to be more acquainted with each other, and participated in a Kahoot Quiz on Singapore's rich culture and history. They were excited to win vouchers and snacks in the competitive quiz activity.

Witnessing burgeoning smiles across unfamiliar faces has made this event particularly valuable both to the ISC members as well as to the new international students.

Ng Hei Lam (Hailey), 5 LSG



Student Reflections

I feel very happy to win second place in the Kahoot game. I have learned more on the cultures of Singapore through this Orientation.

Kazuki Tsukamoto, 2 Thoburn (from Japan)

The Orientation we had today is a totally different experience. The ISC members are very open and talk to us like friends. Also, it is a way for us as new students to better know the country and school.

Ching-Yu Wang, 4 Thoburn (from Taiwan)

The Orientation today teaches me a lot about Singapore and it helps me learn more about different cultures. The Orientation is very fun with activities.

Tengyi Li, 1 LSG (from China)

I think it was a good Orientation for new international students in Singapore. The presentation about the Trace Together app and the EZ-Link card is very useful. Also, the games that we played made us know more about our new friends who joined ACS (International) this year!

Aoi Hasegawa, 2 CKS (from Indonesia)

Extremely enjoyable! I made new friends and got a chance to develop my social skills. The free pizza was wonderful and the Orientation has motivational value. I am glad that I attended this activity.

Yong Shin Huang, 2 LSG (from Hong Kong)

To be honest, I did not know anything about the country that I have lived in for a year. This Orientation was a wonderful chance to know basic information about Singapore. I have learnt that this country has many interesting places and cultures.

Sooyeon Roe, 4 TTK (from Korea)



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Year 5 Student Wins Silver Award in Inaugural Art Prize Competition

Hannah Chong's (5 GHK) artwork entitled "Trapped Beginnings" has been awarded the Silver Award in the Digital Artworks Category at the inaugural 13–19 Art Prize Competition. Organised by The RICE Company Ltd (TRCL), this competition was founded in the belief of imparting the values of giving-back to the community to support their peers from disadvantaged backgrounds. This competition serves as a fundraiser for The Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF) which aims to empower more children and youth, regardless of their socio-economic background, to pursue their passion in the arts.

Her work was recently exhibited at the gallery of 10 Square Youth @ Orchard Central. It is currently shown on the [TRCL website](#) where members of the public can express their interest through an open auction which will run until 17 February. The funds raised will go towards BT BAF.

Hannah has indeed demonstrated the IGNITE values, as seen in her tenacious effort to strive for excellence. This is her second award in an art competition. She has also been an inspiration for the future generation of artists and youth through her noble act of giving back to the community through art.

In my work *Trapped Beginnings*, I explored self-reflection. By looking deep within ourselves, we can emerge from darkness and confusion, and embrace the beauty around us. In this painting, the subject's eyes are closed, emphasising the leap of faith. Butterflies symbolise resurrection, hope, and life. What seems to be chaos can be beautiful, if we look at the bigger picture. Sometimes we feel trapped in these four walls, but by continuing to improve ourselves, we can break free and begin again.

Hannah Chong



WELLNESS TIPS

Safer Internet Day

Most if not all of us access the internet at some point daily and cannot imagine life without it. To us, it represents a wealth of resource, be it the news, research journals, or leisure pursuits like shopping, social media or even gaming. The amount of information on the internet is a staggering 44 zettabytes* and counting. Yet, many of us do not keep track of the amount of screen time we clock each day! For that matter, we sometimes become numb to the potential pitfalls of using the internet too.



At ACS (International), we marked Safer Internet Day on 8 February. This year's theme "Together for a Better Internet" calls upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, especially children and young people. The school engaged Touch CyberWellness to facilitate workshops for our lower division students and parents. These workshops covered online safety issues such as cyberbullying, doxxing, and the influence of social media on teens. We invite you to check out these links for related information:

<https://www.touch.org.sg/about-touch/our-services/touch-cyber-wellness-homepage>

<https://www.activehealth.sg/read/screen-time/how-much-screen-time-is-healthy-for-adults>

<https://www.common sense media.org>

<https://mediasmarts.ca/parents>

*source: seedscentific.com

Image source: <https://twitter.com/saferinternetday/status/1227123032969433088>

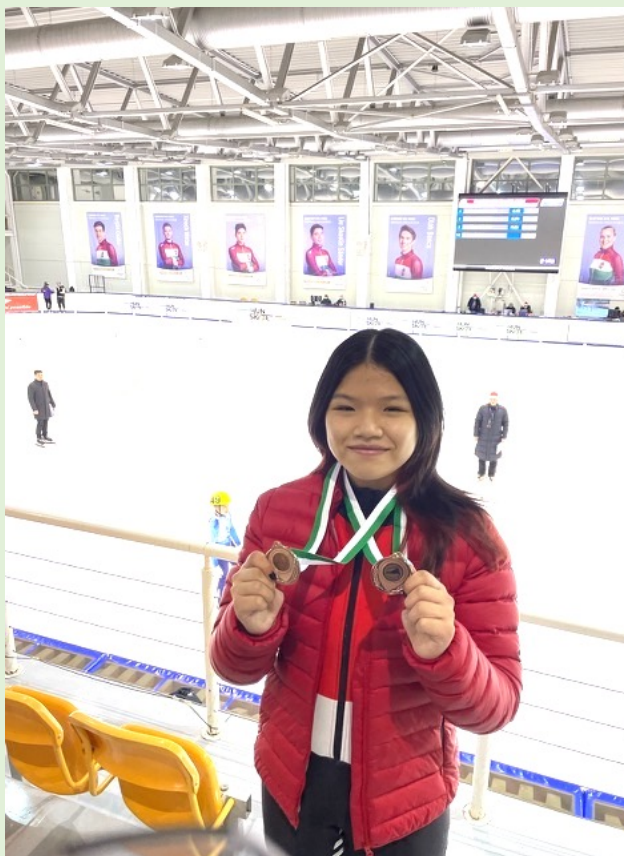
SPORTS NEWS

Year 4 Student Shone at Budapest Ice Skating Competition

Amelia Chua (4 GHK) had a very good first-ever European outing, which was also her first overseas competition in more than two years. She competed at the 30th Santa Claus Cup held in Budapest, Hungary, on 3-5 December 2021, with impressive results:

- Two bronze medals in 500m and 1500m
- Qualified for finals and finished in 4th place for 1000m
- Two new personal bests for 500m and 1000m

The competition, sanctioned by the International Skating Union, saw one of the biggest editions with more than 250 skaters and 13 countries participating, and was live-streamed on the Hungarian National Skating Federation channel. See Amelia in action on [Day 1](#) (Races 15, 23, 60, 73, 83, 120 & 136) and [Day 2](#) (Race 145).



Year 4 Student Won Fencing Singapore Cadet Competition

When the 2021 Fencing Competition season started, I had only a few months to begin training after 2 years of surgery, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and not forgetting COVID-19. The first competition was especially difficult mentally. I had to stay focused, overcome fear and be overwhelmed with emotions that I was finally back to competing in fencing after a 2-year break! On 4 December 2021, I came in second at the Fencing Singapore Cadet Competition (U17) and made it to the National Cadet Team. I was not expecting any of it, thanks be to God!

Chiang Yee, 4 Oldham



Chiang Yee (in white T shirt) at the podium

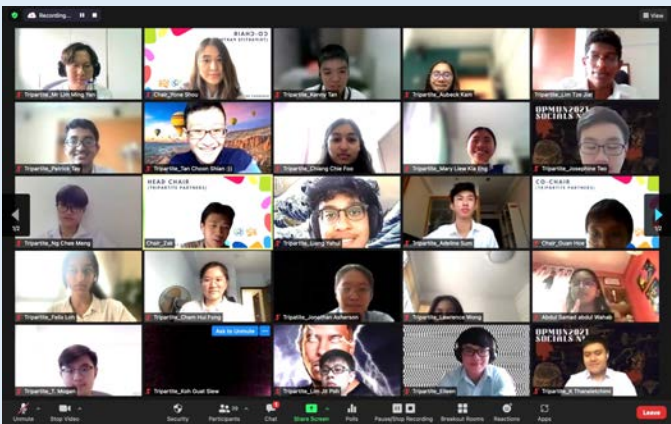


CCA UPDATES

Envoy Club

OPMUN Singapore

Saw Yone Shou (4 GHK) was appointed as a chair for OPMUN, a local conference that focuses on the affairs within Singapore with an overarching theme of racial and religious harmony in Singapore. The conference took place from 10 to 12 December 2021, with preparation work starting in June. The conference entailed two portions: the conference itself as well as advocacy projects. Yone Shou's advocacy project was on opening more discussions on different races by hosting open discussions with guest speakers from respective religious groups or races. As for the conference portion, she was a co-chair for the Tripartite Council which focused on the treatment of PMETs Singapore.



THIMUN, The Hague Online conference

Saw Yone Shou, Michael Cheung (5 TCT), Hitesh Kishnanin (5 GHK), Keiji Yamamoto (5 TCT), Hannah Lim (4 Thoburn), Lee Seohyeon (4 TKK), Kyren Lavan (6 LSG) attended the annual THIMUN Hague conference from 24 to 28 January. Despite the difference in time zone and late-night committee sessions, the students strived to excel and be active during the conference. Representing Luxembourg, they were in different committees tackling a range of global issues from political, economic to social issues, such as preserving the political interests of nations bordering the South China Sea, coming up with methods to protect oceans from overexploitation, introducing measures to tackle the link between international terrorism and organised crimes, strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, increasing safety and regulation in outer space, and introducing measures to increase youth participation to address climate change. Throughout the conference, they developed more knowledge about the world, honed their critical thinking skills and creativity to come up with new solutions and improved their collaborative, argumentative and communication skills to put their points across when working with other delegates to look for solutions to these global issues.



THIMUN Singapore

A few students were part of a large international conference, THIMUN Singapore, from 15 to 19 November 2021. Saw Yone Shou joined as a chair, Pongyada Sootthipong (6 Oldham) as a MUNITY East member while Michael Cheung (4 TCT), Hitesh Kishnanin (4 GHK), Ahbay Malik (4 TKK), Natasha Wong (4 CKS), Hannah Lim (3 Thoburn) and Jian Kim (3 TCT) as delegates. They represented Bulgaria, discussing pressing international issues and coming up with solutions alongside other delegates representing other countries in their respective committees. This experience broadens their knowledge on global issues as well as develop their critical thinking skills.

Yone Shou, as a chair of the Human Rights Council, worked with two other chairs to ensure that the committee sessions went smoothly. Prior to the conference, she worked with a co-chair on a chair report/study guide for the council topics (on the question of cyber surveillance on civilians and providing protection and medical support for people suffering from HIV/AIDS) to guide the delegates on their research and preparation for the conference.

During the conference, she oversaw the proceedings of the debate and committee alongside the other chairs. She also guided the delegates throughout the whole process: coming up with solutions, lobbying session and vetted resolution to ensure that the resolutions were of high quality. At the same time, Pongyada worked on informing people about how THIMUN works. She did this by interviewing delegates, student officers and the secretariat team to know about their takes on the conference, which was then integrated into articles that were published in the MUNITY East team which is the daily newspaper reporting on the happenings of the conference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

| February | Event |
|----------|--|
| 15–17 | Year 1 & 1B PEAKS Assessment |
| March | Event |
| 1 | Founder’s Day, followed by ACSpirit de Corps |
| 3 & 4 | Academic Enrichment Programme (Years 4, 5 & 6) |

Calling all Year 5 students!
If you are interested to be part of the 18th Prefectorial Board, please scan the QR code and reply to the questions as part of the application process.
The closing date is 16 February 2022.



ACS INTERNATIONAL

18TH PREFECTORIAL BOARD RECRUITMENT



PREFECT APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN! SIGN-UP THROUGH THE QR CODE



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 16TH FEBRUARY 2022



OLDHAM'S MINECRAFT MOB HUNT COMPETITION

Sign up NOW!

Do you enjoy playing Minecraft? If so you'll enjoy participating in this Minecraft mob hunt competition! All you have to do is find these mobs in survival mode as fast as possible.



The person with the fastest time wins!!!

Participation fee: \$5


Sign up now and stand a chance to **win \$50 voucher!!!**

Registration form



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO WILLING HEARTS !


2022 Virtual University Events



Erasmus University Rotterdam
"Bachelor Open Day"
13 International Bachelors at a top-ranked university in the Netherlands
Saturday, 12 Feb 2022
Registration [here](#)


AEO Tour
"USA University Virtual Fair 2022"
Saturday, 19 Feb 2022
12:00am – 2:00pm (SG Time)
Registration [here](#)

FREE VIRTUAL USA COLLEGE FAIR



ANY STUDENT THAT REGISTERS & ATTENDS WILL ENTER A DRAWING TO RECEIVE AN AEO TOUR SCHOLARSHIP!

SATURDAY, 19 FEB. 2022 - 12pm-2pm (Singapore)



SUTD OPEN HOUSE 2022
19 & 20 FEB
Let's light up the world together.

- Admissions & Scholarships 101
- Project Showcase & Info Booths
- Live Chats

Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
"UCL Undergraduate Open Day"
Sat – Sun, 19-20 Feb 2022
Register your interest [here](#)

Singapore Management University
"SMU Open House 2022"
Sat – Sun, 19-20 Feb 2022
Register your interest [here](#)

