



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome back to school for 2017! We trust that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and that you are all looking forward to the year ahead. A special welcome to new students, new parents and new staff. We wish you all a successful and enjoyable time with us. The new staff are introduced in a later section.

Last week we received the November 2016 IB Diploma results. We are pleased with the overall results which continue the trend of improvement and a summary commentary is provided below. IGCSE results are released on Tuesday 17 January.

At the first school assembly on Monday the students were told the story of two newcomers to a town. The first arrived and was met by an old man at the town gate. The young man asks him, 'What are the people like here?' The old man asks what the people were like in his last town. 'They were nasty and fought'. Here too, the old man said, they are nasty and fight.

The second young man arrived and asked the same question. When asked what the people were like in his former town he replied that they were loving, friendly and helpful. Here too, the old man said, they are loving, friendly and helpful.

When a man sitting close by asked the old man why he had given two different answers to the same question the old man replied: 'You find what you bring.'

ACS (International) is no different – we are the product of the combined student and staff attitudes to school. Thankfully we have a strong school culture relating to family where people are loving, friendly and helpful. Newcomers quickly appreciate and reciprocate the positive attitudes found at school. As a Christian institution we try to model an inclusive and supportive environment, where all students can reach their individual potential. We look forward to working in partnership with students and parents to realise hopes, dreams and potential so that 2017 is a most successful year. The Best Is Yet To Be.

Rob Burrough



ACS (International)

January 2017

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**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

A snail can sleep for 3 years

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

This year we welcome the following new staff.

We welcome Mr Gavin Kinch from Australia as our new Vice Principal replacing Ms Kathleen Manley; Ms Caroline Heng in ESOL & English (Singapore); Ms Elisa Zantos in English (Australia); Mrs Grace Chui in Mathematics (Singapore); Mrs Gemma Millar in Geography (UK); Mrs Claire Tan in History (Singapore); Mr Mark Ritchie in Economics / TOK (Australia); Mr Amal Kiran in Economics (Singapore); Mr Will Donkin in Economics (South Africa); Mrs Arleen Tan in Music (Singapore); plus Mr Roger Teo and Mrs Joyce Seet as Christian Ministry staff attached to the church.

We also welcome Miss Siti Alawiyah Bte Mohmad Saleh as a new Science Technician..

Congratulations to Mr Ian Parry on the birth of his new son in the UK over the holidays.

We are pleased to also recognise and congratulate one of our Music teachers, Mr Philip Tan, on gaining a Top 50 Global Teacher Award nomination via the highly regarded Varkey Foundation. Mr Tan is Singapore's only nomination to reach the final 50.

Staff Conference

Our staff started the year with a fruitful conference where we welcomed new staff and discussed the year ahead. We look forward to another eventful year!



Philip Tan Global Teaching Award

It is not every day that a teacher can say that they have been selected to be in the running for a prize that has been called the "Nobel Prize of Teaching". It is also not every day that a school can say that we have such a teacher on our staff. Yet today we are fortunate enough to be able to say both!



Mr Philip Tan is a music teacher who is currently in the running as one of 50 finalists for the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2017. He is the only Singaporean on the list. We are incredibly blessed to have him on the staff team – his inclusive teaching methods and belief in his students mirror the school's values, helping the students reach greater heights in their own journeys. Mr Philip Tan has a wonderful vision to further music education – We congratulate him on being nominated as a finalist, and support him wholeheartedly in his bid for the prize.

You may read more about Mr Philip Tan and the prize at the URLs below:

<http://www.globalteacherprize.org/finalist/philip-tan/>

<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/education/music-teacher-in-running-for-14m-teaching-prize>

<http://berita.mediacorp.sg/mobilem/singapore/guru-s-pura-ini-antara-50-finalis-bagi-hadiah-guru-global/3367186.html>

<http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/singaporean-running-be-awarded-nobel-prize-teachers>



Improved IB Results at ACS (International)

We give thanks for the blessing of improved examination results and fine value-added improvement by our students in last year's International Baccalaureate Diploma examinations in the results released on 5.1.2017. Over ninety-nine (99.4) percent of candidates gained their IB Diploma in the November 2016 examination. The overall cohort results are the highest in recent years. The results show an improvement in the overall pass rate on 2013, 2014 and 2015 increasing from 92% to 96% to 98.7% to 99.4% in 2016.

The overall cohort average of 35.2 (out of 45) was also higher than last year's average of 34.7 points. The percentage of students gaining 40 points or more increased from 10% to 18%. The top mark was 44 points.

Singaporean students in this cohort had PSLE scores on entry averaging 217 points yet improved markedly to average 34.7 Diploma points – well above the world average of 29.2 points. Four students with PSLE scores below 200 averaged 33 points. A fine achievement.

Also outstanding were the O Level to IB Diploma improvements. Twenty-seven Singaporean students came from the O Level system with an average O Level raw score of 15.6 points, improving to an IB Diploma average of 35.5 (well above the world average of 31 points). Three students admitted by special consideration had scores above 20 and were not eligible for JC enrolment yet produced an impressive 34 average IB score.

29% of the cohort gained a Bilingual Diploma showing first language strength in two different languages. This was an improvement on 26% in 2015.

It is important to compare apples with apples when comparing results between schools. Our 99.4% pass rate plus the higher than world average pass rate was especially pleasing when considering that for 45% of our students English is a second language. It is not easy to firstly learn English, then think in English then write in academic English.

These results are not unique to this year. Each year our student improve significantly on their secondary school entry performance as indicated by PSLE and other entry results; and over the past seven years the school has produced 17 'Top of the World' IGCSE students in English Literature, English Language, E Mathematics, A Mathematics, Economics, Geography, Physical Education and Chinese.

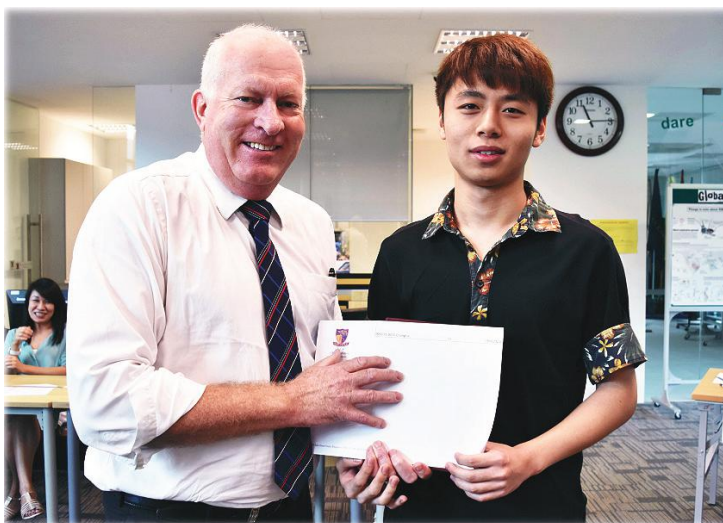
As an inclusive Methodist school we strongly believe that every student who is accepted at our school should be given the opportunity to sit the IB examination. We have high expectations and our students respond exceptionally well. For example, we accept Year 1 students with PSLE scores below 200 and O Level scores above 20 by exception. The students and teachers are to be congratulated on the added value scores that the students subsequently gain in the IB Diploma.

We are very proud of our students and their strong performance.

The IGCSE results are released on-line at 5.00pm on 17 January.

IB Top Student

A big congratulations to our IB top scorer, Li Chang Rui! He topped the IB cohort of 2016 with a score of 44. We commend him and his teachers for their hard work and dedication that has led him to obtain this score.



Christian Ministry at ACS (International)

Time of Dedication

On 5 January before students returned to school, a group comprising of staff, church members and parents met for a time of worship and to dedicate the school year of 2017 to God.

'The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord' (Proverbs 21:31). It was a humbling time of laying our plans before Him and prayers were focused on school leadership, staff, students, school partners and Christian ministry work in the school.

Pastor Loretta gave the exaltation and the Vice Principals – Mr Kinch, Mr MacLean and Mrs Tan closed in prayer at the end of each section. Mr Burrough closed the session with prayer.



Calling for Donation of Textbooks

The Christian Fellowship is partnering with Interserve, an international missionary organization to help supply textbooks to a refugee camp in Klang, Malaysia. Migrant Ministry Klang hosts people who are Rohingyas, Afghans, Pakistanis, Syrians and Somalis. They are currently in need of textbooks for their refugee school.

Books wanted:

- Subjects: Math, Science, English as second language
- Year: 1, 2, 3

Date of collection: 20 January 2017

Venue: Christian Fellowship (C.F.) Booth at the CCA Fair

Students may also leave the books in the box marked 'donation of textbooks' outside the International Students' Pastoral Care room at SB4-1

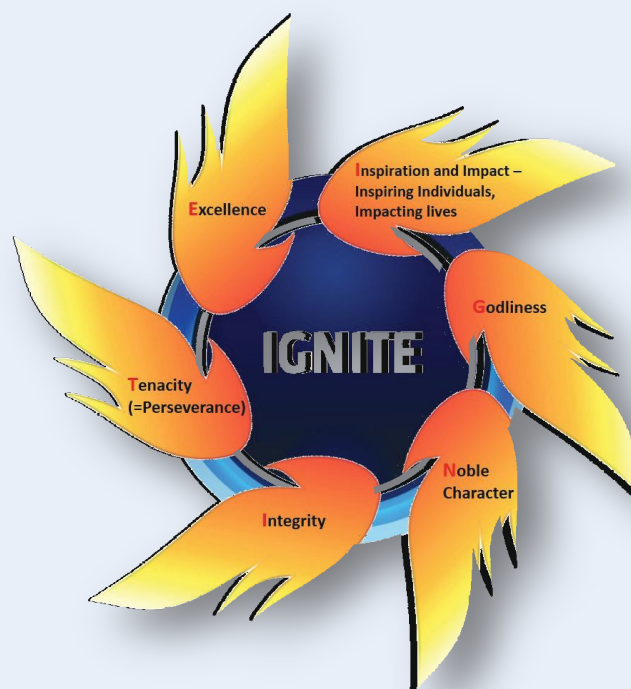
See you at the Pole

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 7:50am – 8:15am

The pastoral department will be continuing with our time of prayer and encouragement in the Chapel foyer once a week before school. All students and staff are welcome to join. Please feel free to contact Ms Chantal (School Counsellor) or Ms Stacey (International Students Pastoral Care Coordinator) for details.

IGNITE School Values



Our school values help define and empower us. They contribute to our sense of purpose and vision, and inspire collective action. Our IGNITE values are reprinted below to remind us all of our agreed way of living:

Inspiration and Impact - Inspiring Individuals, Impacting lives

Godliness

Noble Character

Integrity

Tenacity (= Perseverance)

Excellence

As well as the values identified, IGNITE speaks of 'lighting the flame', the fire of the Holy Spirit, energy and action. All members of the ACS (International) community live by these values.





CAS Trips 2017-Year 5

The Year 5 CAS trips will be presented by teachers on 19 January in Oldham Chapel at 330pm. Parents are welcome to join this presentation.

Destination/ Year Group	Time of the start of trip	Duration	Teachers
Southern Africa/ Year 5	Beginning 1st week of June	Approximately 16 days	Billy Molly I/C Kerry Sibson Chantal Roux Michael Patterson
Vietnam / Year 5	Beginning 1st week of June	Approximately 9 days	Thomas George I/C Analiza Garcia Ivana Choo
Bali	Beginning 1st week of June	Approximately 9 days	Cristina Mora I/C Claire Tan
Cambodia / Year 5	Beginning 1st week of June	Approximately 9 days	Stacey Low I/C Manjari Sreedharan
Thailand / Year 5	Beginning 1st week of June	Approximately 9 days	Chia Choong Kiat I/C Yang Yang Ceri Sinnett
Japan / Year 5	Beginning 1st week of September	Approximately 11 days	Akane Yoshida (I/C) Lim Tse Ren Emma Murray Rhevatee Gobin

Lower Years Trips

Destination/ Year Group	Time Period	Duration	Teachers
USA trip	June	Approximately two weeks	Damien Chiang/ Gaye Kirby/ Chin Siew Lin
Year 3 End of Year Camps	Nov	Approximately one week	To be confirmed

Request for Testimonials & Transcripts

Parents and students are reminded that the school policy for testimonials and transcripts is as follows:

- All Year 6 students automatically receive a testimonial and a transcript. Students complete their testimonial form and hand to their Tutor to complete the first draft.
- Year 4 students whose parents have informed the school that the student is leaving are eligible to apply for a testimonial.
- Students in other year levels are not eligible for a testimonial but are able to apply for an official school transcript.
- The school only provides the official school transcript if a school report is requested other schools.
- Please allow 15 working days for any testimonial or transcript request.

International Student Matters

The 2017 International students' Handbook as well as Guardianship and Accommodation policy of our school can be found on our school website at <http://www.acsinternational.com.sg/international-students/>.

The policies are available in both English and Mandarin and hard copies are available upon request.

International students should read the handbook and familiarise themselves with the policies. Vacancies for available homestays can be viewed on the noticeboard outside the International Students Pastoral Care Room (SB4-1).

Upcoming Programmes for New students

1) Cultural Tour around Singapore (Compulsory)

Date: 21 January 2017

Time: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Reporting and Dismissal Venue: School (John Wesley Hall, Sports Block Level 6)

2) Lunch talk: Living and studying overseas by Higher Education and Career Advisor (Compulsory)

Date: 20 January 2017

Time: Respective Lunchtime

(11:00 for Juniors and 12:00 for Seniors)

Venue: International Students Pastoral Care room (SB 4-1)

Lunch is provided for this session.

3) February English Tuition Programme (optional)

Date: 3/2,10/2,17/2,24/2

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Venue: SB 4 – 2

* Students who are coming for this and who do not have a CCA session beforehand are encouraged to go to the Christian Fellowship gathering and to join them for light dinner at John Wesley Hall. CF meets from 3:15 to 5:00).

4) Singapore Experience Programme (optional)

Venue and timing as discussed with your host, at your convenience.

P.A.L.S. (Parents are Life Savers)

P.A.L.S is a support group for all parents and guardians of ACS (International) where they can discuss the successes and challenges of raising children. The aim is to provide a safe environment where parents can develop the skills they need to raise, protect and prepare their children. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us once a month for coffee, support, and resources.

If you would like more information, please contact Chantal Roux (Counsellor) at chantal.roux@acsinternational.com.sg.



IGCSE Results & Year 5 IBDP Start Date

The 2017 Year 5 IB Diploma induction programme begins at 8.00am on Monday 16 January. All students planning to take the IBDP should report to the Chapel by 8.00am. This includes those students who did not gain DSA but who are hopeful of gaining entry through the IGCSE examinations. As the IGCSE results are only available online from 5:00 pm Tuesday 17 January the school will enable those 'yet-to-qualify' students to attend without paying the required school fees. No fees are payable if entry through IGCSE is not achieved.

All students should access their own results after 5.00pm on 17 January using the access code provided by the Examinations Officer, Mr. Gregory Goh. Please contact Mr. Goh for assistance at gregory.goh@acsinternational.com.sg.

Please note the criteria for entry to the IB Diploma Programme at ACS (International).

IBDP Entry Criteria:

- Minimum 2 x A, 2 x B, 2 x C 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.

Students who have been offered Direct Admission have confirmed places for the IBDP. However, **all returning ACS (International) students in the IBDP need to confirm their subjects with senior staff in the Conference Room on Wednesday 18 January between 8.30 and 3.30pm.**

Year 5 IBDP Induction Programme 2017

Monday 16 January						
Time	8 – 8.15am	8.20 – 10.30am	10.35 – 11.10am	11.15 – 12.15pm	12.20 – 2.30pm	2.35 – 3pm
Activities	Welcome Speech by our Principal Venue: Oldham Chapel	8.20 – 8.55am Meet VP of IB Division 9 – 10.30am IB Matters with IBC What is IB diploma programme? IB Learner Profile What is CAS? Venue: Oldham Chapel	10.35 – 11.10am Higher Education and Career Talk with Ms Rita Kaur Venue: Oldham Chapel	Lunch (on your own)	12.20 – 1.45pm Break out session with IBDP Alumnus 2016 1.45 – 2.30pm Tea Session at the foyer Venue: Oldham Chapel	2.35 – 3pm Closing Venue: Oldham Chapel
Tuesday, 17 January						
Time	8 – 8.30am	8.35 – 10.45am	10.50 – 11.30am	11.30 – 12.30am	12.35 – 1.55pm	2 – 3pm
Activities	Math and Science talk with HOFs Venue: Oldham Chapel	Preparing for IBDP: Part 1 - Time Management Part 2 – Study Sensei Venue: Oldham Chapel	International Students Meeting with ISPC Venue: Oldham Chapel	Lunch (on your own)	PEAKS profiling Venue: Oldham Chapel	ICT Managing resources Venue: Oldham Chapel
Wednesday, 18 January. Time: 8.30am – 3pm						
IGCSE Results 2016: Review & Consultation/ Confirmation of Subject Options (This review is for ALL IGCSE November 2016 students including those with DSA). Venue: Conference Room.						
*New students to ACS (International) will have Orientation organized by the Student Council.						
Year 5 CAS (Overseas Trip 2017) Year 5 Service Trip Presentation – 19th January 2017, 3.30 – 5.30pm at Oldham Chapel.						
19 January – IBDP lessons start. Please refer to your time-table.						



2017 School Term Dates

2017	M	T	W	Th	F		M	T	W	Th	F		M	T	W	Th	F		M	T	W	Th	F		M	T	W	Th	F
Jan	2	3	4	5	6		9	10	11	12	13		16	17	18	19	20		23	24	25	26	27		30	31			
Feb			1	2	3		6	7	8	9	10		13	14	15	16	17		20	21	22	23	24		27	28			
Mar			1	2	3		6	7	8	9	10		13	14	15	16	17		20	21	22	23	24		27	28	29	30	31
Apr	3	4	5	6	7		10	11	12	13	14		17	18	19	20	21		24	25	26	27	28						
May	1	2	3	4	5		8	9	10	11	12		15	16	17	18	19		22	23	24	25	26		29	30	31		
June			1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9		12	13	14	15	16		19	20	21	22	23		26	27	28	29	30
July	3	4	5	6	7		10	11	12	13	14		17	18	19	20	21		24	25	26	27	28		31				
Aug		1	2	3	4		7	8	9	10	11		14	15	16	17	18		21	22	23	24	25		28	29	30	31	
Sept					1		4	5	6	7	8		11	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	22		25	26	27	28	29
Oct	2	3	4	5	6		9	10	11	12	13		16	17	18	19	20		23	24	25	26	27		30	31			
Nov			1	2	3		6	7	8	9	10		13	14	15	16	17		20	21	22	23	24		27	28	29	30	
Dec					1		4	5	6	7	8		11	12	13	14	15		18	19	20	21	22		25	26	27	28	29

School holidays

Public holidays

Teacher Only Days & New Student Orientation

Course Confirmation All Students except Yr 5
(Compulsory attendance 9.00am start)

Monday 9 January Classes for all students except Year 5

Orientation for Year 5 begins

No classes; Yr 4 & 6 Prelims Only & Faculty CPD

Final School Day for Yrs 1 - 5 & Speech Day Prize Giving

Teacher Only Days & Yr 6 Graduation 21 Nov. TBC

Singapore Public Holidays 2017

New Year's Day	Sunday	1 January*
Chinese New Year	Saturday	28 January
	Sunday	29 January*
Good Friday	Friday	14 April
Labour Day	Monday	1 May
Vesak Day	Wednesday	10 May
Hari Raya Puasa	Sunday	25 June*
National Day	Wednesday	9 August
Hari Raya Haji	Friday	1 September
Deepavali	Wednesday	18 October
Christmas Day	Monday	25 December

2017 School Timetable

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meeting Time	8.00 – 8.40	Tutor	Staff Collaboration/ Student Activities	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor
		House / IB Core	Tutor (8.35)	Assembly Division		Chapel
1	8.45 – 9.45					
2	9.55 – 10.55					
3a	11.00 – 12.45	Junior School Lunch (10.55 - 11.45) / Senior School Period 3 (11.00 - 12.00)				
3b		Senior School Lunch (12.00 – 12.50) / Junior School Period 3 (11.45 - 12.45)				
4	12.50 – 1.50					
5	2.00 – 3.00					
	3.05 – 3.35	Staff Briefing	Student Consultation / Support			
CCA1	3.40 – 4.40	Staff Collaboration				
CCA2	4.40 – 6.00					



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Arnell at Carnegie Hall

Some of those who read this newsletter may remember that one of our students, Arnell Nur Karina, achieved the First Place Winner (Broadway/Musical Theatre/Jazz) at the American Protege International Vocal Competition 2016 at Carnegie Hall, New York. She was then invited to perform at the Winners' Recital which was held on Saturday, December 17th at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Arnell's success was featured in the September 2016 issue of our newsletter, which can be found at the following link. You can also read a bit about her other musical successes.

<https://intranet.acsinternational.com.sg/api/news/?id=153>

More information about the winners of the Americal Protege International Vocal Competition may be found below:

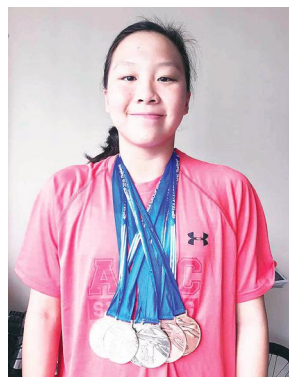
<http://www.americanprotege.com/vocal2016/>



Gold, Silver, and Bronze at the SEA Age Groups Swimming Championships



The SEA Age Groups swimming championships is a swimming competition consisting of various swimming events with different age groups going for gold. The 40th championships were held during 9 – 11 December last year. Current Year 2 student Charity Lien (2 LSG) competed in an impressive back-to-back 10 events over the course of 3 mornings; the only swimmer to have participated in such a large number of events. Nine of these were individual events, and the other was a medley team relay. In this remarkable feat of stamina and mental strength, Charity swept a haul of two gold, two silver, and two bronze medals.



Charity's Medal Tally:

Gold for 50m Breaststroke
Gold for 100m Breaststroke
Silver for 200m Breaststroke
Silver for 200m Individual Medley
Bronze for 400m Individual Medley
Bronze for 4x100m Medley Team Relay



2017 Orientation 1

This year's theme for Orientation is "Connected". Orientation 1 is a 2-day event organized by the 12th Student Council with the support of 40 other Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs) and Orientation Assistants (OAs) from Years 4-6. Orientation 1 kicked off with the Principal's Address followed by the Parent School Partners (PSP), the School Counsellor, the Head of IT and the International Students Pastoral Care Coordinator.

OGLs brought the orientees on a School tour, this was followed by ice breakers such as *Whacko*, *Murderer* and *Blow Wind Blow*. The orientees participated with great enthusiasm. Over the next few hours, they participated in dry games such as *The Longest Line*, *The Colour Game*, *The Human Knot*, *The Diamond Trust*, *Photo Scavenger*, and *Capture the Flag* with great aplomb! It was a fun-filled afternoon with lots of laughter, sweat, and new friendship.

The second day started off with our very own version of *The Amazing Race* in Holland Village. The fastest group completed the race within an hour! The friendly competitiveness of the different groups made all the games even more fun. As for the OGLs and OAs, all their hard work paid off - the orientees participated enthusiastically in the programme that they spent many days preparing for. The afternoon was spent playing wet games including *Water Dodge Ball*, *Drop the Water Bomb* and our very own *ACS Soapy Bench*, a game that has been part of ACS Orientation tradition since the school began.

As part of another tradition, our Principal Mr Burrough, declared the Annual Bonfire open for an evening of fun and laughter. Parents were invited to attend, and they were entertained by the orientees performing their groups' choreographed music videos and the awesome mass dance! The evening ended with a buffet dinner.

The 12th Student Council would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team, the PSP, the OGLs and OAs and the PA team for their support and encouragement in making Orientation 1 a success!



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY	EVENT
14 + 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Schools Debating Competition held at ACS (International)
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Induction IGCSE Results published 17:00
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Orientation 2 + IB Consultation
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSP Coffee Morning (08:15 – 10:30)
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCA Fair Industry Partner's Appreciation Night 2017 (18:30 – 20:30)
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor/Parent Meeting/Get together: CKS,GHK,LSG,OLD
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutor/Parent Meeting/Get together: SVM,TCT,THO,TKK
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School LNY Celebration
26 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNY

FEBRUARY	EVENT
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSP Back to School Party
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined ACS Parents' Prayer Meeting (ACS International) 08:00

University Visits In School (Term 1)



Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland (RCSI)
Thursday , 19 January
11.40 am – 12.40 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

LIM College, New York

Tuesday, 24 January
11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



École Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL)
Monday, 06 February
11.30 am – 12.40 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

University of California,
Riverside

Monday , 13 February
11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



Hong Kong Baptist University
Tuesday , 14 February
11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Booth in the School Canteen

Singapore Management
University (SMU)

Tuesday , 28 February
11.15 am – 12.45 pm
Booth in the School Canteen



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