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ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

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

Let me wish all of our school community Gong Xi Fa Cai! I really hope that all of our school community enjoyed celebrating the Lunar New Year with their families. For many in our community this was the first time they were able to celebrate this event with large family gatherings or were able to head back to their homes overseas to celebrate with their loved ones.

ACS (International) congratulates the IBDP Graduating Class of 2022 on their outstanding results. Our students achieved a pass rate was 100% and the IBDP average score was 38.04. The school also offers it warm congratulations to the 3 students who received perfect scores of 45.

ACS (International) also congratulates the IGCSE class of 2022 on their outstanding results. 76.7% of students received an A* or A grade, with 63 students receiving straight A* or A grades. The school is expecting at least four The Top In The World awards to be given to our students, but this will be is announced later in the year by Cambridge Assessment International Education.

The school leadership offers its thanks and appreciation to all the staff of ACS (International) for the dedication and hard work they have put into nurturing the graduating students of 2022.

As we start the year, I like to remind the community of the vision the school has for its students:

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

This year the school will be working on several initiatives that help implement this vision. There will be a focus on anti-bullying, digital learning, and reflective thinking. In the Staff Conference which took place before students returned, our staff spent several sessions exploring these issues and planning for how they will be addressed with the students throughout this year. The school is also looking forward to the return of international trips this year. Members of the school's Envoy club are travelled to The Hague, Netherlands to participate in the Model United Nations conference. The trip was very successful.

2023 promises to be a busy year with much to look forward to. Throughout this year I ask that the school community continues to pray for the work of the school as it seeks to implement the vision and develop the young people in its care.

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Gavin Kinch Principal

Planning Together for 2023

As a tradition, every new academic year at ACS (International) begins with the Staff Conference. This year was no different and the conference on 4 and 5 January 2023 comprised the usual fare of Principal's welcome and presentation of the school objectives for the year, professional development workshops, and House and Faculty meetings.

The school objectives for the new year 2023 cover a wide range of subjects — academic matters, pastoral issues, professional development, school environment, Christian character and student and parent communities. They have been formulated from the school strategic plan, recommendations from IB and CIS reviews, community surveys in 2022 as well as input from Heads of Faculty and House and the Senior Leadership Team.

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions on the two days were aligned to the school objectives and focused on Peer Learning among teachers, teaching and facilitating Reflective Thinking using digital tools, and steps to prevent Bullying. A session on IB matters to explain Programme Development Plan, CAS, EE, and Coursework management protocol (Strike Policy) was also held for all staff. During the Faculty meetings, teachers collaborated on identifying explicit skills to teach to reach the stated outcomes in the school Digital Literacy Framework. These skills were then added to their respective Unit Plans and Schemes of Work.

As in many previous CPD sessions at the school, teachers were teaching teachers during those CPD sessions, testifying to the emerging culture of peer learning among the faculty and the diversity of professional skills among our staff.

We look forward to the new academic year with the aspiration to faithfully serve our ACS (International) together with the grace and strength from our LORD GOD.

Tan-Lim Siew Hoon
Vice Principal (Senior Division)













NOTICES

Planner/Handbook for Students

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

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

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

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

Cookery Club

The ACS (International) Cookery Club welcomes parents to show their support by volunteering their expertise in any simple cuisine in the Lifeskill room (OB2-5) from 3pm to 5pm every Thursday.

If you are able to share your talent and skills, please contact Mrs Lim lay Pian at laypian.lim@acsinternational.edu.sg or Mrs Diana See at diana.see@acsinternational.edu.sg

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

STAFF NEWS

New Staff

New Staff	Department	Designation
Dr Philip Tieh	ток	Teacher of TOK
Ms Zoe Yep	Languages	Teacher of Chinese
Ms Priya Chandrika Janardhanan Nair	Science	Teacher of Biology
Dr Srivalli Singh	Science	Teacher of Biology
Ms Kathryn Upshall	English	Teacher of English
Ms Amanda Woo	ESOL	Teacher of ESOL

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Excellent Showing at Chess Competitions

ACS (International) managed to get in the news again when our students gave sterling performances in chess and debating competitions in November 2022.

At the National Age Group Chess Tournament U14 tournament, Tay Yi Xiang (2 CKS) came in 3rd place for his age group. As a result he has been promoted to the top ranking High Performance Squad at the Singapore Chess Federation.

The National Age Group Championships is the most important standard chess tournament on the Singapore chess calendar for youths, and Yi Xiang had not been in a physical chess tournament since 2019. But he rose up the ranks from 16th place, amid tough competitors, to finally reach his 3rd placing in the U14 category.

Yi Xiang also came in 5th in the Junior Division of the writing competition of the World Scholars' Cup Tournament of Champions which was held at Yale University in the US. More than 700 students took part in the competition.

Ms Lim Chwee Ling, Yi Xiang's mother, said: "We were concerned when Yi Xiang expressed his wishes to pursue both interests at such an intense level before the competitions. However he has proven that he would make it work by prioritising his time and efforts. And of course this is only possible because the school and the Chess/Debate CCA teachers took the leap of faith in Yi Xiang, supporting his joining the competitions and thus allowing him room to grow. Thank you!"

The Best is Yet to Be!





ACS (International) Gives Outstanding Performance at Debate Competitions

ACS (International) got in the news again when our students gave sterling performances in debating competitions in November 2022.

Jayden Budiman (2 SVM) and his team made it to 1st place in World Scholars' Cup Tournament of Champions (TOC) @ Yale University in mid-November 2022. Jayden and ACS (International) will be featured in Wikipedia as Tournament of Champions (TOC) champions.

The six-day WSC TOC comprised a full day of individual challenges where every scholar was tested on their knowledge in six different subjects, as well as collaborative writing and team debates. This was followed by the Scholar's Bowl the next day, where every team worked together to solve analytical questions and multimedia challenges.

Despite the gruelling schedule, the participants managed to have fun by dancing and singing during The Scholar's Ball, experiencing how diversity was valued and appreciated through the booths set up to represent each participating scholar's country, as well as meeting the famed Painted Warrior, an alpaca who's been celebrating the TOC since 2014.

On the last day, the individual and team achievements were announced Woolsey Hall, Yale University's famous auditorium.













Clayton Oliver Wibowo (1 GHK) won 3 individual gold medals, 1 silver, and 4 group medals.

Jacob Christopher Budiman (1 SVM) won 1 individual gold medal and 3 group medals.

Jayden Christian Budiman (2 SVM) won 7 individual gold, 1 silver medal, 2 individual trophies, 4 group trophies, and 1 group medal.

Jonathan Lie (1 TKK) won 1 individual gold, 2 silver medals and 4 group medals.

Shawn Danielson Lee (1 TKK) won 1 individual silver medal, 3 group medals.

Nishya Subash Prabu (2 LSG) won 1 individual gold medal and 3 group medals.

Tay Yi Xiang (2 CKS) got 5th Place writing champion trophy and 3 group medals.

Ziyuan Zou (1 LSG) won 1 individual gold, 1 silver medal, and 4 group medals.

For team achievements, Jayden's hybrid group was ranked the 1st in the region, while Clayton, Jonathan, and Ziyuan's team were placed 49th.

Shawn and Jacob's team was placed 115th, while Nishya and Yi Xiang's team was placed 70th. These are great accomplishments, considering that there were more than 485 teams.

The students' achievements have also been featured in English and Indonesian newspapers. One of the links can be found here.

Our heartiest congratulations to Yi Xiang, Jayden and their teammates, and kudos to Ms Megha Singh and Ms Danielle Parry, who encouraged and goaded the boys and their teammates to success, despite their lack of debating experience and fear of public speaking.

Here's to seeing more of their participation in the Debating CCA in 2023!

The Best is Yet to Be!







Issue 2 of "Artistry" and Launch of Artistry CCA

With the successful launch of the first two issues of the "Artistry" magazine, we are proud to launch Artistry as a new CCA. Year 6 Visual Arts students Myra Ho, Elizabeth Kong, Angel Chang, Natasha Wong, Suhani Gupta and Hannah Chong, will continue to be the steering forces of this CCA with their mission to encourage awareness and appreciation of Art, as well as interactions with Art through the Artistry Art editorial.

Please click <u>here</u> to view the second issue of the magazine.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Orientation 1 2023

On 5 January 2023, ACS (International) welcomed more than 200 new students into our family with Orientation 1 2023. The theme for this year was "Cultural Foods", and featured students from diverse backgrounds attending the school. It also highlighted the unique Singaporean hawker culture where we can eat foods from different cultures in one sitting.

The event kicked off with a quick presentation from the Orientation ICs as they introduced the school's history and core values. It was then followed by the 18th Student Council's icebreaker activities such as Rap Challenge and Name Chain. Teams with names ranging from Ramen to Pizza then set off with their Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs) to various parts of the school for a fun-filled day with engaging activities.

The afternoon was filled with joyful commotion as the orientees bonded over a variety of dry and wet games. From Mafia to Water balloon Fights and finally our AC tradition of Soapy Bench, teams worked hard to score as many points as possible to clinch our attractive prizes.

The day ended with a welcome speech from our Principal, Mr Gavin Kinch and prayer from Revd Jeremy Ong, Pastor-in-Charge of Holland Village Methodist Church. We were immensely blessed by all the support rendered in making this orientation a success! We wish all our new students all the best as they embark on this new chapter of their lives at ACS (International).

Seraphina Djaja (6 GHK), on behalf of the 18th Student Council







Prom 2022

After nearly 3 years of the COVID-19 pandemic having suspended all major events for ACS (international), the Student Council was finally able to organise the Year 6 Prom in 2022.

This event was held at the Carlton Hotel and was a long-awaited one not only for the staff but for the Year 6 students as well. After many meetings and consultations with the rest of the committee, we finally came up with the theme of 'Old Hollywood'. This theme allowed for a wide range of outfits for the Prom. There was a wide variety of activities that ranged from the delicious 8-course meal to the array of games that the Student Council had lined up for everyone.

To seamlessly complement the activities, the band 'The Lost Box' had popular songs lined up for everyone's entertainment. There were exciting prizes for students who were voted as 'Mr. & Ms. Old Hollywood', 'Biggest Movie Star(s)', 'Best Dressed', 'Best Dancer', 'Best Couple' and the grand title of 'Prom King and Prom Queen'. Those who narrowly missed out on these prizes did not lose out as a lucky draw was set up with many more prizes ranging from Golden Village Gold Class tickets to Carlton Hotel vouchers.

The night ended on a high note with the whole Class of 2022 taking to the dance floor with a rave led by the talented DJ Casey. Amidst the goodbyes, farewell and messages of appreciation and thanks among school mates and teachers, we wish our Year 6 students the very best for their IB examinations and their next journeys ahead!







Singapore Cultural Orientation Tour 1

The Singapore Cultural Orientation Tour, the International organised by Student Committee (ISC) on 14 January, was attended by 64 new international students, 20 ISC members, 6 Peer Leaders and 2 teachers. The tour was designed to provide an introduction to Singapore's culture and help the international students feel more comfortable and familiar with the cultural diversity of Singapore. The tour also aimed to help students make new friends.

The students were divided into groups of ten and assigned group leaders and peer leaders to supervise them. The orientation began with a buffet breakfast where the students enjoyed light snacks and beverages. We then conducted icebreaker games such as charades, 'back-to-back drawing', and 'whose story is it?' to encourage the participants to know and interact with people from different backgrounds, breaking down initial barriers and creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere. We believe that getting students to know each other is an essential part of ensuring that the orientation runs smoothly. Soon after, we set off on our journey.

The first destination was Chinatown, an area filled with everything related to Singaporean Chinese culture. We were struck by the vibrant colours and intricate architecture of the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Thian Hock Keng Temple, where some of the group members prayed for well-being and a good year ahead. We also enjoyed delicious Chinese cuisine for lunch, which was a treat for our taste buds and was a great way to introduce the new students to the local cuisine. Some students were even brave enough to try the more traditional and spicy dishes, much to their delight.

The second destination was Little India, where the group learnt about the history, people, and culture of the Indian population in Singapore. Despite the rain, we all had a great time exploring the Indian Heritage Centre and looking at interesting artefacts, colourful saris, and the intricate henna designs on display. We also enjoyed learning about the Indian community's contributions to Singapore's society and economy.

The final destination was Kampong Glam, which represents the Malay-Arabic population of Singapore. Unfortunately, the Malay Heritage Centre was closed, but we were able to catch a glimpse of the shops in Arab Street and some significant landmarks such as Masjid Sultan. We were impressed by the beautiful Islamic architecture in Kampong Glam.

The event was successful and ran smoothly thanks to the hard work and dedication of the ISC Coordinators, Madam Chin Siew Lin and Madam Goh Wei Li, as well as the ISC members and peer leaders who helped. We received positive feedback from the participants, who developed a deeper understanding of Singapore's rich cultural diversity and its importance in shaping Singapore's identity. We were also pleased to see that the participants made new friends and had a lot of fun during the tour. We look forward to Singapore Cultural Orientation Tour 2 in Term 3!

Neilson Alexandro Tjhe (5 SVM)





Participants' Reflections

Thank you so much for organizing this event, it was so fun. I visited many places that I have never been to and wanted to go there for long time.

Sin Ching Josie Lau (1 TCT)

I really enjoyed the trip to Chinatown and Little India because of the International Students Committee members' kind guidance. Thank you so much for helping me experience this trip.

Jinwoo Shim (1 SVM)

This trip was really nice, and the leaders are really friendly and enthusiastic. They are very patient with us. I can really learn a lot about Chinese and Indian culture. I hope more such activities will be held in the future and I want to attend and learn more.

Taiyi An (Bella) (4 THO, Pre-IB)

It was so good. Though I went to bed at 3am last night, I didn't feel tired. I was so happy to be with many new friends, and new places too.

Yuchan Lim (4 GHK, Pre-IB)

I had a wonderful day. I enjoyed the brilliant Chinese food and witnessed the exotic Indian Museum. Most of all, I would really appreciate the effort spend by all fellow Year 5s. Hope to see you in school again.

Gu Chengzhi (2 CKS, Pre-IGCSE)

I think it was interesting that we could go to other places and see what they are like and try different food. I think that going to a museum is pretty cool and we can learn about different cultures.

Yin To Jayden Poon (2 LSG, Pre-IGCSE)

I have a lot of fun yesterday (14 January), the lamb kebabs are delicious. We followed the group leaders all day and the group leaders are kind to us. The cultural outing is enriching. I was very tired when I got home.

Lee Chia-Cheng (2 THO, Pre-IGCSE)

It was a very happy day. I met many friends and learnt about different cultures in Singapore. I thanked the school and students for organizing such meaningful activities.

Ziyi Tang (4 OLD, Pre-IB)

It was a short time yesterday (14 January), but it was good to know about Chinese culture while walking around Chinatown. It was fun to play many games at school.

Kim Kyungeun (2 OLD, Pre-IGCSE)

This was my first time joining an outing in Singapore with my friends. Even though my condition was not good, I could enjoy many cultures in Singapore. Thanks to the International Student Committee members, and that was really fascinating. I was glad that I could get to know my friends well.

Ahjeong Sim (Olivia) (4 TCT, Pre-IB)

It was a good opportunity to learn new cultures and I was glad that I could make new friends with international students from other nations.

Noh Haju (1 LSG)

I think I understand a bit of background knowledge of India since we went to the museum. Also, it was fun, and I made some new friends.

Rohan Kumar (1 CKS)

It was good though the lunch was late, but the places were fun.

Hyvelli Jingyi Wangsa (1 TKK)



Interact Club Service Learning Summit 2022

Last December, students from ACS (International)'s Interact Club were invited to attend the Service Learning Summit 2022 (SLS), hosted by our Interact counterparts at Hwa Chong Institution. The SLS was a full day event and featured several guest speakers ranging from MCCY Senior Parliamentary Secretary Eric Chua, to the leaders of a student-led project about people with intellectual disabilities (PWIDs).

In the opening address, Mr Chua spoke about the government's role in aiding others, while also reflecting upon his own personal experience and how it shaped his service story.

The attendees then listened to fellow student stories about their service projects: how they started, how they executed their projects, and how they overcame their difficulties.

We heard about The Food Bank Singapore and learnt more about food wastage, difficulties faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, innovations and connections they made, and how the students can help their efforts.

The role of youth was a key focus of the umbrella topics that were covered in SLS, namely mental-wellbeing, poverty, and ex-offenders. I attended the talk by Ms. Dorothy Lim from Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH), and discovered the different programmes SAMH has for people with and without diagnosed mental disorders and the important role we play in connecting those people to the help they need.

During the closing ceremony of SLS 2022, we a representative of Rotary Singapore speak about the importance youths play as the future of service.

I enjoyed my experience at the Service Learning Summit 2022. The deep insights I gained listening to the many experienced speakers with storied service backgrounds, the discussions I had in my focus group, and sharing my thoughts and hearing the ideas of others has indeed helped me gain a greater understanding of the role service plays in our wider community.

Hector Chia President of the Interact Club



Field Trip to Chinatown

This year, the Chinese department at ACS (International) was glad to resume organising its annual field trips to Chinatown. On 16 and 17 January, 146 students visited the Lunar New Year Goodies Market, soaking in the festive atmosphere and savouring the wide range of food and decorations on display.

The students' reflections on their experiences are below:

"I travelled with my Chinese Class to Chinatown on Monday (16 January). I found it to be a very interesting and fascinating experience. The first impression of the place was a shimmering sea of red that greeted me.

The atmosphere of the whole place was very lively, and everyone was very excited. During the visit, we split up into small groups to walk around, get food, and take pictures of the items that were sold at the shops.

I was extremely interested in the candy and preserved meat, as I have never seen them before. It gave me a perspective on how the people in China lived and what items the market had. I am amazed at many things found in Chinatown, and my friends tried to purchase some of them.

Overall, the visit to Chinatown to celebrate Chinese New Year was a completely new perspective for me, learning the ways of the local Chinese people in Singapore live and shop was mind-blowing."

Lee Jaehoon (3 GHK)

"It was a fantastic time as well as an experience for us to go to Chinatown, which is full of Chinese New Year decorations. During the field trip, I walked around with my friends visiting different shops or stalls to identify the items that are often used for Chinese New Year and their significance. Although I took a long time to find all the items, it was a great opportunity for me to expand my vocabulary and to understand the culture of the Chinese New Year, eventually developing more cultural mindedness!"

Tomomasa Masuda (3 GHK)

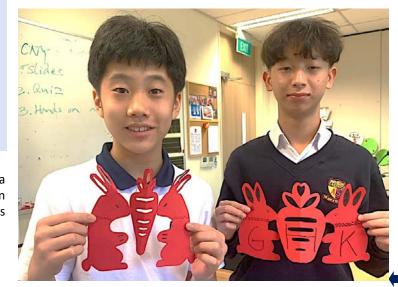
Besides the field trip, the students studying Chinese had a go at Chinese Paper Cutting too. From the smiles on students' faces, we can tell that the hands-on activities were well-received.











Chinese New Year Celebrations at ACS (International)

The Lunar New Year celebrations at ACS (International) this year were truly a blast!

Although we had only two weeks to prepare for the celebration, the performances were of an exceptional standard, drawing in the audience with their mesmerising dances and songs. There was not a moment of dullness as we presented a mix array of items from the traditional to contemporary.

Special mention goes to Hailey Ng's Cantonese Song 喜欢你 (Loving You) and Kris Wang's Solo Dance which saw many in the audience whip out their phones to record the exceptionally captivating moments. In Loving You, audience voluntarily took out their handphones and shone the torchlights, creating a sea of stars.

Other items in the performances included the Guzheng Ensemble, Traditional Mask Dance and K-Pop by Korean students, an animation video, and the must-have and much-missed Lion Dance. Each performance was of a remarkably high standard.



Grateful thanks to the student committee who helped put everything in place — Corrine Kim, Jibin Kim, David Kim, Adel Lee, Ethan Ling and Sean Lim. They frenziedly put together a video starring the Senior Leadership Team, created an arts house-style short film, planned a Game for the Celebrations, documented the Inter-House Lunar New Year Decoration Competition held in conjunction with the Celebrations, and formed the student production team for the day.

We are most blessed by the willingness of these students and performers to step up to help. Without them, we could not have come so far. May the Year of Rabbit be a good year for us.



















PPG NEWS

PPG December Meeting and Christmas Wreath-making Workshop

The Parent Prayer Group (PPG) hosted the last prayer meeting for 2022 on 10 Nov with Pastor Jeremy Ong sharing his heart through Isaiah.

With Christmas around the corner, the praying parents got creative with their hands in making personalised Christmas Wreaths, led by the fun and candid Mr Chris Lim from Christanio De Florist and Musical Agency.

The Christmas Wreath was made entirely from scratch, with the PPG members first forming the structure using lovely red branches. Then fresh and artificial plants, pine cones and Christmas balls were added to the structure, which boosted the character of the final product. The workshop ended with a special appearance by Principal Mr Gavin Kinch who commented that the lounge smelt great with the fresh eucalyptus. The parents proudly showcased their creations with a group photo with Mr Kinch.

Making the wreaths reminded us that although we were all given the same set of materials, each creation was unique and beautiful, just as how God has created us as unique individuals, each with special talents, beauty and character. It was an amazing and great reminder that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made by our loving Father, the first Creator and Maker.

The PPG meets on the first Thursday of each month to pray for the school. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Evelyn Lek at 94889556.





UPCOMING EVENTS

February	Event
2	ACAD Meeting
10	GHK House Camp
11	CKS House Camp
17	THO House Camp
	SVM House Camp
23	Sports Day
24	PCF Maths Competition







ACS 137TH

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

Once again, The ACS Old Boys' Association is proud to organize our ACS 137th Founder's Day Dinner after a 3-year hiatus! Focusing on the theme of "One ACS – Stronger Together", our annual gala dinner is back at The Shangri-La Singapore, giving us the opportunity to re-connect with our ACSian community.

WEDNESDAY, 01 MARCH 2023 6.30PM - 10.30PM

> SHANGRI-LA 22 ORANGE GROVE RD SINGAPORE 258350

Early Bird Price for ACS Schools

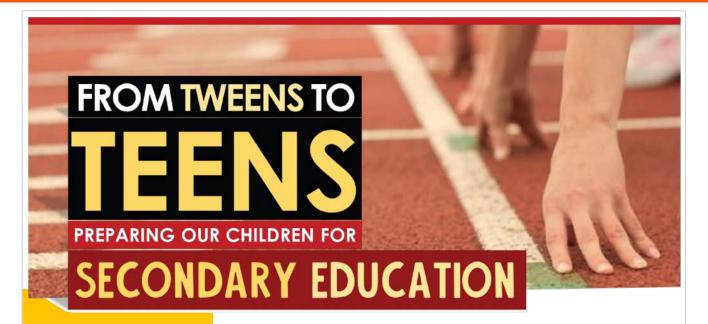
\$160

1 Jan - 8 Feb 2023 \$1,600 per table

Please contact your ACS school to register and buy your ticket(s)!

Enquiries? Contact ACSOBA at admin@ACSOBA.net WhatsApp+65 8044 8689











Moving from primary to secondary education can be a daunting phase for our children. Faced with a greater number of subjects to manage, a new school environment to get used to, new friendships to forge, and a slew of physical, emotional and mental changes that come along with puberty, children will greatly benefit from their parents' support in helping them make this transition smoothly.

ACS (International) Oldham Chapel

Wednesday 1 February 2023
3:45pm to 4:45pm
No registration needed

Parent Tutor Night

5pm to 6pm
In your child's House Tutor Room