

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Over the June break over 100 ACS (International) students headed overseas to take part in the school's mid-year service trips. Service within our school, whether it be local or international, is an integral part of our mission as we seek to develop well-rounded individuals who make a positive impact on the world.

This year our service trips have included the following:

- Bali, Indonesia – Marine Reef Conservation Project
- Bali, Indonesia – Wildlife Rescues Centre Project
- Vietnam – Poultry Livelihood Project
- Thailand – Water for Life Project

We have been so pleased to be able to resume these trips as they were an important part of the school's holistic programme and were sorely missed by our students. Further to our international trips, our students have actively engaged in various local charities through the House and CCA system, each of which leave an indelible mark on both the recipients and the participants. These include the following:

- Supporting Heartware, supporting children with intellectual disabilities
- Beach cleaning
- Volunteering at Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen
- Go With The Flow (GWTF), which aims combat period poverty in Singapore
- Providing dry groceries for the Migrant Worker Project

As we observe the positive changes in our students, we are reminded that service is not just a temporary activity but a lifelong commitment to making the world a better place. Our students are embracing the values found in Mark 10:45, recognising that service is not about seeking recognition or praise but about selflessly giving back to others. The skills and values developed through service are integral to our students' personal growth and will undoubtedly benefit them throughout their lives. Empathy, compassion, and a sense of responsibility are qualities that will serve them well in their future endeavours.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the students, parents, and staff who have actively supported our service initiatives. Your commitment to making a difference has been truly inspiring, and I am proud of the positive impact these efforts have made. Together, we can cultivate a culture of service at ACS (International), where acts of kindness and generosity become an inherent part of our students' daily lives.

As we look forward to the remainder of the academic year, let us continue to nurture the spirit of service and encourage our students to find joy in serving others. By doing so, we not only fulfil our school's mission but also contribute to creating a better, more compassionate world.

Gavin Kinch
Principal

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STAFF NEWS

New Staff

Name	Department	Designation
Mr Indra Shami Bin Kamsani	Science	Laboratory Technician

2023 Long Service Award

The following staff will be receiving their Long Service Award on 1 Sep 2023 during the Teachers' Day Celebration.

1. Ms Alka Hingle
2. Mr Kent Kor
3. Ms Sia Ee Mien
4. Ms Jasmine Teo
5. Ms Stella Sim
6. Madam Dua Siew Kee

Doctorate for Philip Tan

Dr Philip Tan was awarded the Doctor of Business Administration from Teesside University last year. He attended his commencement ceremony in the United Kingdom in July this year. His research interests include Leadership and Creativity.



NOTICES

IBDP Subject Information Day for 2024 Intake

Parents and Guardians of current Year 4 (including Pre-IB & FIB) students, are invited to meet and discuss the selection of IBDP Subject for their children or wards. Details are as follows:

IBDP Subject Information can be found in the [Senior Division Website](#) or accessed through the QR code.



IBDP Information Day

15 August Tuesday – IB Information for Year 4 parents/guardians at 3:15pm to 4:15pm via Zoom

Zoom link

Meeting ID: 818 7660 6265

Passcode: 496764

17 August Thursday – PTM for Y4 and Y6

21 August Monday – Online Subject Option Portal closes. Once the portal closes on 21 August, no subject option change is allowed for this year.

School Bookshop Contact

The school's bookshop has a new contact number – 9476 8653. The previous number 6471 2127 is no longer in use.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Top Of The World Award

Our congratulations to the following students who were awarded the Top of The World Award.

Additional Mathematics	Kim Minwoo (5 CKS)
	Om Nitin Acharekar (5 CKS)
International Mathematics	Om Nitin Acharekar (5 CKS)
Chemistry	Lee Adel (5 OLD)

ACS (International) Student Receives Diana Award

On 30 June, Ethelyn Huang Meici (6 THO) was awarded The Diana Award for her contribution to the Indonesian community. The award recognises the contributions of young people who create and improve the lives of the others, and is considered to be the most prestigious accolade a young person aged 9-25 years can receive for their social action or humanitarian work.

The Award was set up in memory of HRH The Prince of Wales and Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex's mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, and her belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better. This year's award ceremony recognised over 180 recipients across the globe. Ethelyn received the award for her work in founding Embracing ThisAbility, a social enterprise which produces weighted lap pads geared towards empowering children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These lap pads are pillows with weighted fillings, and are placed on the lap and upper thighs when the user is sitting down. By applying deep touch pressure, they have been scientifically shown to calm the user's nervous system, providing a relaxing feeling. The compact and portable lap pads are a good sensory regulating tool for those with ASD, ADHD, and sensory processing disorder. The pads help ease anxiety, but can also benefit other users in relaxing, refocusing, and easing restlessness. Selling the lap pads via online platforms such as Shopee, Ethelyn's work has also provided free access to these tools for emotional regulation for over 190 children with developmental disabilities in Indonesia, in addition to supporting 25 hearing-impaired workers actively involved in producing the lap pads. Regarding the award, Ethelyn said, "I'm truly honoured to be a Diana Award recipient — I could not have imagined where my work would lead when I started Embracing ThisAbility. I certainly could not have done it without the heartfelt support of my teachers, Ms Carol Ling and Ms Sandra Sng." Her mother, Sakura, commented, "Ethelyn is very fortunate. She is a diligent girl; She aims high and works hard. However, without the support & nurturing love from her mentors, she would not have made it to the Diana's award. I am immensely grateful."

Mr Gavin Kinch, Principal of ACS (International), said: "The Diana Awards exist to empower young people to make a positive change in their communities. The award attracts entries from students all over the world, and recognises those who are transforming their communities through social and humanitarian efforts. Our school is very proud of Ethelyn who recently won this prestigious award. Ethelyn founded a charity called Embracing This Ability which is a social enterprise that empowers autistic children in their daily lives in Indonesia. Well done Ethelyn on this award, you have truly demonstrated the school's IGNITE values through this endeavour." Ethelyn's High Achievers Programme Tutor, Ms Sandra Sng, said: "Ethelyn is truly deserving of the Diana Award for her work done in 'Embracing ThisAbility'. Since Ethelyn joined the school 6 years ago, I have witnessed her bloom to become the confident young lady she is today. I cannot be prouder of her growth as a person and as a leader. Ethelyn has done amazing work for herself, the school and the wider community. Ethelyn is an excellent role model and I hope this award will inspire others to follow in her footsteps." You can support the effort by visiting <https://embracing-this-ability.com>.



Singapore & Asian Schools Math Olympiad 2023

Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO) caters to the top 40% of the student population and it aims to arouse students' interest in mathematical problem solving, and to develop mathematical intuition, reasoning, logical, creative and critical thinking. SASMO is devoted and dedicated to bringing a love for Mathematics to the students in Secondary schools. The top 40% of the participants will receive an Award Certificate and a medal (Gold for top 8%, Silver for next 12% and Bronze for next 20%).

On 5 April 2023, 102 students (years 1 to 4) from ACS (International) took part in SASMO 2023. Two of our gold medal winners Sim Ahjeong (from Grade 10) and Wu Youchen (from Grade 9) were invited to participate in the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC) based on their outstanding performance in SASMO contest. Sim Ahjeong ranked number 4 in the Singapore and 53 globally in the Grade 10 SASMO contest. Wu Youchen ranked number 7 in the Singapore and 78 globally in the Grade 9 SASMO contest. They are provided free entry and free training for this competition (typically cost more than \$600) from the organiser of SASMO contest to represent Singapore among 39 other participating countries.

ACS (International) SASMO Results

Category / Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
GOLD AWARD	1	5	3	7	10	11	9	8
SILVER AWARD	3	4	7	20	16	16	17	14
BRONZE AWARD	6	7	10	19	19	26	39	24
HONORABLE MENTION	-	-	-	-	-	5	12	16

SASMO 2023 – ACS (International) Medal Winners

NAME	GRADE	AWARD
PARK YEONA	08	GOLD
ZHEN JINGTONG	08	GOLD
KIM YEJIN	08	GOLD
LEE KANGMIN	08	GOLD
WU YOUCHEN	09	GOLD
LEE JAEHOON	09	GOLD
SIM AHJEONG	10	GOLD
TIANRUI QI	10	GOLD
DONGHEE SHIN	08	SILVER
HANRONG LUO	08	SILVER
SOSUKE KOIZUMI	08	SILVER
YOONHA PARK	08	SILVER
GEONWOO SUNG	09	SILVER
HYUNYEE SONG	09	SILVER
YU HAOXUAN	09	SILVER
HAEUN YOO	09	SILVER
YUGO ENDO	09	SILVER
KAY AN LIM	09	SILVER
CHEN YALAN	09	SILVER
TIAN RUOMENG	09	SILVER
WEIZHENG LIU	09	SILVER
WU YUFEI	10	SILVER

SASMO 2023 – ACS (International) Medal Winners

NAME	GRADE	AWARD
GAVIN FAN	07	BRONZE
JAI SARKAR	08	BRONZE
LI ZIZHENG	08	BRONZE
QUAN RUOCHEN	08	BRONZE
WANG ANQI	08	BRONZE
HANWEN QIAN	08	BRONZE
JINGYI LIAO	08	BRONZE
LENCI GOH PEI YUAN	08	BRONZE
HIBIKI MURATA	08	BRONZE
SHAWN DANIELSON LEE	08	BRONZE
JIWAN CHOI	09	BRONZE
LEE YULWON	09	BRONZE
LI JIAQI	09	BRONZE
LIN ZITING	09	BRONZE
WOO SEUNG MIN	09	BRONZE
AOI HASEGAWA	09	BRONZE
DAYON CHUNG	09	BRONZE
LEE DONG HUN	09	BRONZE
YANG ZONGHAO	09	BRONZE
YEONWOO SUL	09	BRONZE
JEON MINSOL	09	BRONZE
KOO MINSEO	09	BRONZE
UNO KATAYAMA	09	BRONZE
SUN DINGYUAN	10	BRONZE
DONGHA KIM	07	HONORABLE MENTION
JUERN KIM	07	HONORABLE MENTION
WOOCHAN LEE	08	HONORABLE MENTION
RAGHUNANDHAN KUMARAN	08	HONORABLE MENTION
HYUN MINSUNG	09	HONORABLE MENTION
KAI KIT BASIL SIEW	09	HONORABLE MENTION
NATHAN ALEXANDRO TJHE	09	HONORABLE MENTION
NISHYA SUBASH PRABU	09	HONORABLE MENTION
PASQUALE WONG WEI ZHE	09	HONORABLE MENTION
LEE HYEONJOON	09	HONORABLE MENTION
DU YINGJIA	10	HONORABLE MENTION
RENZIMING	10	HONORABLE MENTION
SONG YU	10	HONORABLE MENTION
XIE XINTONG	10	HONORABLE MENTION
ZHAO JIAKAI	10	HONORABLE MENTION
ZHOU XINGYU	10	HONORABLE MENTION

The Centre for Education in Mathematics & Computing (CEMC) Contest 2023

The CEMC is dedicated to inspiring students to reach further with mathematics and computer science for over 50 years now. They are committed to giving students the tools they need to build their confidence, grow their problem-solving skills and get excited about mathematics and computing. CEMC has grown into one of Canada's foremost authorities on mathematics and computer science for young people. Housed within the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo, the CEMC is the largest organization of its kind in Canada with more than 40 dedicated faculty and staff and hundreds of committed volunteers.

ACS (International), Singapore has organised CEMC contests for the first time this year to provide more opportunities to our students to take part in international contests from around the world.

Gauss Mathematics Contests

The Gauss Contests introduce students in Year 1 (1 Bridging) and Year 2 (Pre-IGCSE) to a broader perspective of mathematics in a fun, accessible way. Intriguing problems and a multiple-choice format make the Gauss Contests a wonderful opportunity for all students in these grades to grow their interest in and get curious about the power of math.

On 18 May 2023, 37 students (Year 1 and Year 2) from ACS (International) took part in Gauss contest 2023. The list of Distinction award recipients for ACS (International) is awarded to the top 25% of the contestants.

CEMC – Gauss Mathematics Contest 2023 Results

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) SINGAPORE

NAME	DIVISION	AWARD
Jingtong Zhen	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Jingyi Liao	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Li Ziming	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Zizheng Li	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Sijia He	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Yeona Park	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Jai Sarkar	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Ayaan Shah	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Shawn Lee	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Hibiki Murata	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Angad Singh	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Abe Toh	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Dongha Kim	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Yang Wanzhou	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Donghee Shin	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Fan Gavin	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Yewon Kim	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Juern Kim	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Ekeesha Atre	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Lee Chia Cheng	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Seongwon Choi	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Reika Horiuchi	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Ruochen Quan	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Harshni Sivasubramanian	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Guanyi Wu	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Jacob Budiman	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Raghunandhan Kumaran	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Ishaan Siddiqi	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Stephen Kurniawan	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION
Noah Wong	JUNIOR	DISTINCTION

Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Mathematics Contests

The Pascal, Cayley and Fermat (PCF) Contests are a fun opportunity for participants to explore the potential of mathematics and their role in it. Designed to be accessible both to those that have written math contests in the past and to those who haven't, these multiple-choice contests can help learners build confidence and inspire them to get excited about math.

Pascal contest is open to all Year 3 students

Cayley contest is open to all Year 4, Pre-IB and FIB students

Fermat contest is open to all Year 5 students

On 24 February 2023, 77 students (Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5) from ACS (International) took part in PCF contest 2023. The list of Distinction award recipients for ACS (International) is given below which is awarded to the top 25% of the contestants.

CEMC – PCF Mathematics Contests 2023 Results		
ACS (INTERNATIONAL) SINGAPORE		
NAME	CONTEST	AWARD
Jaehoon Lee	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Jiwan Choi	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Geonwoo Sung	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Youchen Wu	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Hyeonjoon Lee	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Jayden Budiman	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Maximus Hartanto	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Minsung Hyun	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Donghun Lee	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Zonghao Yang	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Jiaqi Li	PASCAL	DISTINCTION
Dingyuan Sun	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
You Wu	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Yufei Wu	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Sim Ah Jeong	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Bono Gajdek	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Jialin Wan	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Zhao Jiakai	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Nathan Widjaja	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Mengqian Xu	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Du Yingjia	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Wu Zhenyan	CAYLEY	DISTINCTION
Minwoo Kim	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Shi Tianyi	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Om Nitin Acharekar	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Daiki Kashiwagi	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Qingyan Zhang	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Sungjun Ji	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Junyeong Hong	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Yifan He	FERMAT	DISTINCTION
Amin Kim	FERMAT	DISTINCTION

Euclid Mathematics Contest

Written by over 20 000 participants worldwide every year, the Euclid contest gives senior-level secondary school students the opportunity to tackle novel problems with creativity and all the knowledge they've gained in secondary school mathematics.

The contest's mix of short-answer and full-solution questions provide participants with an opportunity to effectively communicate their thinking. Additionally, the final questions in the Euclid are some of the most complex and challenging among all our contests, helping participants build perseverance, a key component of mathematical problem-solving.

Euclid contest is open to all Year 6 students

On 5 April 2023, 10 students (Year 6) from ACS (International) took part in Euclid contest 2023. The list of Distinction award recipients for ACS (International) is given below which is awarded to the top 25% of the contestants.

CEMC – Euclid Mathematics Contest 2023 Results		
ACS (INTERNATIONAL) SINGAPORE		
NAME	DIVISION	AWARD
Kazuki Baba	YEAR 6	DISTINCTION
Abhay Malik	YEAR 6	DISTINCTION
Yizhen Li	YEAR 6	DISTINCTION
Eunwoo Jung	YEAR 6	DISTINCTION

Results Summary

	Contest	Year level	Distinctions
1	Gauss	Year 1 and Year 2	30
2	Pascal	Year 3	11
3	Cayley	Year 4	11
4	Fermat	Year 5	9
5	Euclid	Year 6	4

The Return of International Service Trips

We are thrilled to report that for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have successfully resumed our International Service Trips this year. The pause due to the global health crisis was a hiatus that we are more than delighted to have left behind. Today, we celebrate the normalisation of learning outside the classroom, and the return of our much-loved international service initiative. The completion of this years' service trips was a tremendous task. We needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of 109 students and 14 staff members who were simultaneously off-site right after the close of Term 2. Four distinct trips were deployed during that week, and it is with immense pride and relief that I report their successful execution.

Safety is paramount when taking learning off-site. The bounds of our school campus naturally provide a safety net, however, when stepping beyond these confines, it is crucial that every detail is planned and understood. This success would not have been possible without the combined efforts of our stakeholders. Our students and staff were thoroughly prepared and briefed; we conducted nightly reflections using the ATL framework, and first-aid training was given to all staff members. To further enhance our preparedness, we carried out a trip deployment exercise in Term 4 of 2022. This exercise allowed us to select staff with the most suitable abilities to guide the trips, ensuring the best outcomes for our students. Risk assessment was a constant focus in our preparations and was conducted meticulously up until the week of departure, reinforcing our readiness for these trips. The success of our international service trips would not have been possible without the incredible support from our Senior Leadership Team, our staff, and most importantly, our parents. Their understanding and trust in the school's ability to ensure the safety of their children during the trip were paramount to our success.

I am deeply grateful for the parents' understanding, especially when dealing with unexpected crises, such as the COVID-19 cases detected among our students during the Marine trip. Their cooperation and patience, as we immediately established a quarantine centre, was instrumental in keeping the situation under control. The resilience of our students and the tireless efforts of my fellow staff in keeping everyone safe during the trips were nothing short of inspiring. The heartfelt messages of support from concerned parents upon informing them of the measures in place were overwhelmingly positive. They expressed concern for our team's wellbeing, and faith in our ability to navigate the situation. It is this kind of support that fuels our confidence and drives our ambition to expand our service trips beyond Southeast Asia in 2024. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have played a part in the success of this year's trips, and I look forward to many more successful journeys in 2024. Enclosed in the link here are the slides we used during [the presentation and the videos](#) produced by the students from their respective trips.

Ms Jasmine Lee
Service Coordinator
Teacher of Psychology and TOK

Marine Trip Reports and Reflections

On this CAS trip, my main objectives were to foster and develop new friendships both within the Les village community and my peers who embarked on this trip. I also wanted to learn more about the culture of Les village, getting a deeper understanding of Balinese traditions. My last objective was to contribute to the restoration of the coral reef in Les Village and build a volleyball court for the local children, with the aim of learning to make a positive impact to the environment around me.

Throughout the activity, communication with the villagers posed a challenge due to my limited knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia. However, I found support in using Google Translate as well as learning basic words from the Balinese staff there. This helped me converse and overcome the language barrier.

As the trip leader, I took on various leadership responsibilities, such as marking attendance and relaying important information, providing me with opportunities to practice and develop my leadership skills. Knowing that there was much to do on the following days, we were really excited. We went on a morning walk to observe the salt farm and the techniques behind making salt. We also visited a very old temple, and I was privileged to wear a traditional hat lent by Ketut, a Balinese man. The waterfall trek tested my tenacity, as I learnt to enjoy the cold water. I also learnt more about the village community, building a volleyball court, and exploring with local village boys. Looking back on the CAS trip, I recognise the importance of overcoming language barriers. To improve for the future, I could have prepared by learning more basic phrases in Bahasa Indonesia so as to have more meaningful conversations with the villagers. After the trip, I learnt about the importance on environmental stewardship from participating in the reef restoration project. Taking part in the reef restoration project and building the volleyball have me the opportunity to see the impact I made towards the community around me. It gave me a sense of responsibility to contribute to helping conserve our natural surroundings and to lend a helping hand to the local children.

This activity allowed me to develop new friendships, embrace cultural diversity, and develop leadership skills. I would like to thank the teachers Ms Jasmine Lee, Ms Nadiah Karina, Mr Dominic Marwood, Ms Yang Yang, and Ms Cody Edgcombe for making this trip possible.

Johannes Wong Wei Zhi (5 OLD)

Johannes' letter to Les Village, Bali

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude. This trip has been a life-changing experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to develop strong bonds and relationships with the staff and villagers. One of the highlights of the trip was the chance to contribute to the restoration of coral reefs. It was moving to witness first-hand the effects of our efforts. Not only did we immerse ourselves in the beauty of marine life, but we also learnt about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. This experience has given me a deeper sense of responsibility towards protecting our oceans for future generations. I would like to extend a special thank you to Ms Elaine for her exceptional dedication and support throughout the trip. She especially came from Sydney to ensure the success of our school's involvement in this project. Ms Elaine's knowledge, passion, and tireless efforts made the entire experience smooth and memorable. Her guidance and mentorship have sparked me to consider pursuing further opportunities with Sea Communities in the future. Perhaps one day, I will return as an intern and contribute even more to the valuable work they do. Ms Elaine is a truly inspiring individual.

Additionally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Ketut Arsa, who has been the best to work with. Ketut's warm and friendly nature made everyone feel at ease, and his kindness has left a lasting impression on me. He went above and beyond to make sure that each participant felt valued and included. I am grateful for the effort he put into teaching us and for the wealth of knowledge I gained from him. I will genuinely miss his presence and the positive impact he had on our group. I cannot forget to mention those who treated me like family during our time there. Elsa, Kadek, Bela, and Ibu Made showered me with kindness and treated me like their little brother. Their hospitality and the delicious food they prepared made our stay all the more memorable. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Luh Andari, Jro Bau, Komang Wi, Gombal, Pak Eka, Twi, and Ibu Cening. Each of them played a crucial role in ensuring the success and smooth running of our trip. Their dedication, support, and unwavering commitment made a significant difference. Without their tireless efforts and the incredible sense of community they fostered, our trip would not have been as meaningful and fulfilling.

In conclusion, I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the unforgettable experiences and the lifelong connections I made during this marine service trip. Thank you once again for organizing such a remarkable opportunity, and I sincerely hope to cross paths with everyone involved in the future.

Johannes Wong (5 OLD)

I am thrilled to express my immense satisfaction with the Bali Marine Life CAS trip. It surpassed all my other service projects, making it one of the greatest experiences for me.

This remarkable CAS trip gave me invaluable knowledge about the local village, Les Village, allowing me to learn about the rich tapestry of Balinese cultures and traditions. I was inspired by the local community's commitment to preserving the marine life in the area, and with our help, to enhance the lives of the students by constructing a volleyball court. Les Village's specialisation in salt farms, where they harvest and distribute ocean-sourced salt throughout Bali, taught me an important lesson on how we can harness nature's resources wisely.

Beyond the educational aspect, the trip fostered deep connections and bonds among our group, forging new friendships and fortifying existing ones. It was an extraordinary opportunity to experience the independence in a foreign country, where we relied solely on ourselves. Fond memories of engaging in late-night conversations and embarking on crazy bus rides still bring a smile to my face.

Furthermore, as one of the student trip leaders, I carried the responsibility of ensuring that our group always arrived promptly at gatherings and activities, making sure we are always punctual. Guiding fellow students overseas was a great experience, one that I would eagerly do again.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to all the teachers and staff of Les Village for organising this awesome service trip. Their dedication and support made this once-in-a-lifetime adventure a memory that will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Chiang Yee (5 OLD)

[Marine photo and video gallery](#)

Vietnam CAS Trip

Between 27 May and 1 June, 36 students and 4 teachers embarked on a CAS trip to Vietnam with the hope to leave a long-lasting impact on the local communities of Hue, a city in central Vietnam. During our time in Hue, we built 3 chicken coops for beneficiaries (Ms Bo, Ms Sen and Ms Dieu) who have been affected economically by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising the need to start a model that could be duplicated by others in the community, we worked together tirelessly as a team over 2 days to build chicken coops that would provide them with a source of income. Furthermore, we paid for the costs involved in the construction of chicken coops and 50 vaccinated chicks that were given to each beneficiary.

Despite the scorching sun in Hue, we displayed tenacity and excellence by staying committed to our goal and working diligently to make the best chicken coops we could muster. In the end, we were rewarded with an indescribable sense of accomplishment, certificates of appreciation from the NGO, Hearts for Hue, and the smiles of Ms Bo, Ms Sen and Ms Dieu showed us how our collaborative efforts made a meaningful impact in their lives. We had a great opportunity to meet and interact with children from Huong Van 2 Primary School, conducting various activities such as teaching English, how to fold origami and teaching the children how to wash their hands thoroughly. During these activities, we witnessed the children's eagerness and interest in learning, and this was truly heart-warming for us and spurred us to teach them with more energy and enthusiasm. Although we encountered language barriers and other difficulties along the way, we managed to deliver our planned lesson to the children successfully. Due to the close relationships that we formed with them, it was heart-breaking for us to say goodbye. Putting aside our desire to spend more time at the school, we moved on to complete the chicken coops for the beneficiaries.

The CAS trip was not all about doing community service; we also had a lot of fun throughout the trip. Some of us went to a nearby shopping mall to buy things that we needed and we had fun at an arcade while others walked along the street, trying out local street food and enjoying the night scenery of Hue. We played volleyball, walked along the beach and witnessed sunrises in the early morning. Besides these activities, we visited two caves named Phong Nha Cave and Paradise Cave (both listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites) and we were all amazed by their natural beauty. We finally ended our trip with a visit to the Hue Imperial City, learning about the intriguing history and culture of Vietnam before our flight back to Singapore. The CAS service trip to Vietnam was a wonderful experience for all the students and teachers; we not only made a difference in the lives of people in need but also formed new friendships and deeper relationships with friends. All our fond memories during this trip are truly unforgettable and will remain etched on our minds forever.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ms Jasmine Lee and Hearts for Hue for organising this wonderful CAS trip, as well as Mr Hong Ching Chong, Mr Charles Lee, Mrs Lim Lay Pian, and Ms Sandra Sng, for taking care of us throughout the trip. Our grateful thanks too to Mr Yusoff, of ISE Travel, who made a last-minute change to serve us with pizzas on our last night in Hue and all the others who made this trip possible such as the volunteers, drivers and tour guides.

Um Seyoung
(5 TCT)



Thailand CAS Trip

Day 1 (27 May)

When the flight landed, we started travelling on trucks towards the mountains north of Chiang Mai. We stopped by a local restaurant for lunch and after that, we travelled to a local supermarket to purchase any other essential items we needed. We then spent about one hour on the road, travelling up the mountains to our dormitories. The view and air quality was exceptional. After exploring the surrounding area and taking many photos of the scenery, we discussed what we were going to teach the local students the next day. We planned to teach them how to use Google Slides, ChatGPT and typing. The facilitator, Mr Jimmy Ooi, also taught us a few basic Thai words. I was very excited to be in Thailand and could not wait to meet the students of Ban Pang Huay Tad School.

Day 2 (28 May)

We travelled to Ban Pang Huay Tad School where we then split into 2 groups. One group taught IT skills while the other group taught English. After 3 hours, the groups would switch. The school children were exceptionally kind, welcoming and enthusiastic despite our language barriers and differences. Although it was hard to understand each other, the students were all very eager and inquisitive. While teaching them how to use Google Slides, I found out one girl had the exact same birthdate as me, June 18 2006! This truly showed how different some people's lives are from each other as despite being born on the same date and being the same age, we were worlds apart. I also taught the school children how to create google accounts and how to access ChatGPT. Since most of these students did not have phones, they were not able to create a ChatGPT account but I managed to circumvent this by using a different website (poe.com) to use ChatGPT without needing phone verification. During the first session of teaching, I realised that the children's English was worse than initially expected as they could barely understand any English words, let alone form sentences. My group members and I decided to use Google Translate or ask a teacher for help in translating. This mostly worked as I could tell that by doing this, the students understood what was going on. During the lunch break, I played football and volleyball with the students and was surprised to see that they were all really good at these sports. After that, my group members and I taught English. We decided to go over the basics quickly such as the alphabet, pronunciation of simple words and the 5 W's and 1 H. We made sure that the class understood what we were saying before we moved on and always tried to get the students to participate by coming up to the board to answer questions. We also played some simple games with them like Pictionary and Hangman. All of us had a great time teaching the students and likewise, I could tell the students were enjoying themselves with all their laughing. After leaving the school, we visited a tea cafe where we relaxed and had a short break. The view was amazing and we could see the mountains stretching into the horizon. We even could see the school below us! Next, we headed back to our dormitories. Not long after that, some of the school girls visited us and brought us lychees. I was really touched by this as they took time out of their day to pick fruits and hike to us. After talking for some time, we took a few photos and played volleyball with them. Later, they sang a Christian worship song in Thai, titled "จงมีความเชื่อ". Their singing was superb and I could tell they were really happy we enjoyed their performance. It was a pleasant surprise that they were Christians as I expected them to be Buddhists, but these mountain people are predominantly Christians. It was a great day and I enjoyed every single moment of it. I felt that we could have organised our lessons better but I tried my best and was greatly satisfied with my effort. The school children were all really nice & fun to hang around with.

Day 3 (29 May 2023)

Today we travelled to the school again and continued our lessons. During the lesson, we did pronunciation of certain sounds in words as well as learning how to form basic sentences. The students were very eager to learn English and constantly volunteered to go up to the board to answer questions. This made me quite happy as it showed the genuine interest of the students in learning English. Later that day, we separated into 3 groups. My group visited a couple of houses surrounding the school in order to complete a Rotary International survey. I asked the homeowners questions pertaining to their living conditions and access to amenities. The questions included how far the nearest hospital was, how clean their drinking water was and if they had sufficient educational materials. From the questions, I learnt that they all had sufficient access to amenities and their houses although made of wood, bamboo and metal sheets, seemed quite stable. When I returned to the school, I conversed with one of the boys I was playing football with earlier and found out that he was a Lionel Messi fan. Although it was a bit hard to communicate with him through Google Translate, I could tell that he enjoyed the conversation. I was quite surprised at how simple the lives of these children were. After school, they did not have much homework to do, and they were easily entertained by everything such as spiders, leaves, flowers and running around. In fact, some of them would spend an hour or so just wandering around the mountains, playing with leaves. It also seemed that all the school children were very excited to see me and would constantly come up to me and ask me my name or signature as if I was some sort of celebrity. This was likely because this was their first time encountering a foreigner in a long time. In the evening, some of the school girls visited again and we played badminton and volleyball with them. I had a great time today and was quite sad that tomorrow would be the last day at the school. This trip opened many new perspectives and I learnt many things. I discovered that on the surface level, the lives of these children might appear carefree and easy but when I conversed with them, I discovered that they experience many hardships from a young age such as the loss of their siblings due to inadequate healthcare or poverty. Additionally, they have the same insecurities as other teenagers around the world such as being insecure about their appearance, living conditions and relationships. In fact, sometimes ignorance is bliss. Since they have access to social media, they have a general idea of what life is like in large cities and what they are missing out. As a result, some of the students are quite unhappy because they know that they are unable to do a single thing about it. I also discovered that after graduating Secondary 3 or its equivalent, most of the students will immediately start working in the city or village as their families do not have enough money to enable them to pursue further studies. The eldest children also have to support their younger sibling's basic education which forces them to start working from a young age. Despite all of this, all the locals I met were friendly, kind and generous. Many of them had strong faith in Jesus which definitely helped them to look towards the future with positivity and hopefulness. Because of the mountain's isolation, it is very easy to feel lonely at times but it is certainly peaceful and serene. I honestly would not mind retiring in such a beautiful place.

For this CAS service trip organised by ACS (International), I travelled to the rural mountainous area of Chiang Dao in Northern Thailand to participate in the "IT For Life" community service project managed in collaboration with the Thai Youth Community Foundation, Hilltribe Development Centre Office and the local community leaders.

In this project, I interacted with the school children in Ban Pang Huay Tad School in Chiang Dao by conducting IT lessons, English Lessons and other activities. In addition, I had the opportunity to conduct home visits and interviews at Pang Huay Tad village on behalf of the Thai Youth Community Foundation and Rotary International to better understand, and meet the greater needs of the local community.

Through this CAS service trip, I aimed to achieve the following:

- Provide a meaningful and impactful service experience that benefited the local community
- Introduce the tribal children to basic IT skills to meet the growing needs of the digital age
- Increase my personal awareness of different cultures, customs and ways of life
- Gain a better understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity
- Develop my ability to work and collaborate with others
- Gain valuable experience in international service work
- Increase my awareness of intercultural understanding and interconnectedness between local and global communities through cultural immersion

From this experience, I have become more aware of the importance of access to proper learning resources and guidance, having gained an insight into the digital landscape in rural areas. This was a fulfilling experience, and I hope that the students will make good use of the IT skills they have learnt. This experience has taught me the importance of cultural awareness and understanding when travelling to different countries, or interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds. I have gained a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity, and am reminded to keep an open mind when exploring different cultures. Communicating with the students has also taught me the importance of awareness of cultural nuances and etiquette when communicating with people in different countries and communities. It is important to remain respectful and sensitive to other people's cultures.

Overall, the experience left me with a deeper appreciation for the work that charities do and the important role they play in supporting communities in need.

Max Lee Jiefeng (5 LSG)



Student Reflections on Bali Wildlife Trip (26 June – 1 July)

Bali Wildlife Rescue Centre: After this Bali Wildlife Service Trip, I gained valuable experience in working with animals. I also had more opportunities to interact with them, and it was very comforting that we were contributing to their welfare so that they could be eventually released back to the wild. I enjoyed that we were given many opportunities to explore different animal sanctuaries, such as the turtle conservation centre and the Bali Wildlife Rescue Centre. I felt very bittersweet leaving Bali as I knew I would miss the experiences of helping out at animal sanctuaries and also seeing many different types of wildlife.

Beach Clean-up & Mangrove Tree Planting: We picked up trash from the beach, and I was surprised that there were so many plastic bottles and Styrofoam pieces. There were also many pieces of seaweed washed up, and we picked up the rubbish and placed them in trash bags. We then got onto a boat to feed bread to the fish, and also to take a look at the mangrove forest. I learnt that mangrove trees grow very slowly, and that most of the trees there were older than me (and would still take a few more years to become fully grown). Next, we travelled to a mangrove forest to plant our own mangrove trees. We trekked through the soft mud to get to the planting site. We each planted a small mangrove tree, which would take 3 to 5 years to grow. The last activity of the day was watching a special Balinese dance called the Kecak Fire Dance. Usually, Balinese dances are performed with instruments, but this dance did not use any instruments and relied on the voices of a men's "choir". I found this extremely interesting as they were able to mimic instruments with their voices very well, and they seemed well practiced. Through this dance, I appreciated more of Bali's culture.

Elicia Lam (5 TCT)

Turtle Conservation Centre: The visit was an eye-opening experience that involved careful planning and organisation. Prior to my visit, I researched the centre's mission, activities, and ways to contribute, ensuring that my visit would be purposeful and aligned with their goals. This planning allowed me to fully engage with the conservation efforts and make the most of my time there. The journey to the conservation centre required effort and commitment. As I made my way to the centre, I contemplated the vital role turtles play in the marine ecosystem and the challenges they face due to habitat loss and human activities. This realisation fuelled my determination to support the conservation efforts and contribute to their protection.

Amid the activities at the conservation centre, moments of active reflection emerged. As I witnessed the staff and volunteers working tirelessly to care for the turtles, rehabilitate injured ones, and promote public awareness, I reflected on the impact of our actions on the environment. I pondered the importance of individual responsibility in protecting endangered species and preserving biodiversity. This active reflection deepened my understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems and reinforced my commitment to be an advocate for environmental conservation. Visiting the turtle conservation centre also facilitated personal development and achievements. Engaging in hands-on activities such as feeding the turtles fostered a greater appreciation for the wonders of marine life and the significance of conservation efforts. Witnessing the positive impact of the centre's work and being part of their initiatives instilled a sense of pride and fulfilment, knowing that I had contributed to the well-being and survival of these magnificent creatures. Through active reflection, I deepened my understanding of environmental issues and my role in protecting vulnerable species. The visit fostered personal growth and a sense of achievement, reminding me of the importance of individual actions in making a positive impact on the world.

Gurmehr Kaur (5 THO)



Student Reflections on University Visit Trip 29 May – 7 June

As someone who had my eye on Australian universities with applications just a year away, this trip was a practical and invaluable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of what life might be like in the early future.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that nearly all of our visits were serendipitous encounters with ACS (International) alumni who had chosen to pursue their interests at the very institutions we were exploring – some of whom I even recognised from my junior years here. We stepped out of our comfort zones and embraced the fortunate opportunity to network with the alumni, university ambassadors and staff. Throughout our visits, we were overwhelmed by the warm and helpful alumni and college ambassadors and staff who were eager to share their knowledge without qualms, allowing us to ask personalised questions and get the priceless answers we needed.

Surpassing the mere exploration of universities, we forged connections on this trip like no other, what started as acquaintances across year levels quickly transformed into genuine connections. Travelling with like-minded students enabled us to exchange valuable research, personal opinions, and experiences relevant to higher education and career choices. Amidst laughter, we bonded over Melbourne and Sydney's unique experiences, embracing the highs and lows.

I am glad to confidently say that this trip has guided me, fostering self-discovery, broadening horizons, and leaving cherished memories and valuable lessons - visiting campuses before committing is a must and trumps simply searching up course requirements on university websites.

Einna Parekh (5 LSG)

Choosing to sign up for this Australia trip was the best decision I've ever made! We toured prestigious university campuses, had our questions answered by admissions officers and even met former ACS (International) students. As a Year 4 student who will soon choose my IB subjects, this information was very useful since I am now aware of the course prerequisites for my desired areas of study. Furthermore, I learnt about the Foundation programmes offered there, which are now a path I'm considering. Thanks to this trip, I've been introduced to many possibilities I never knew existed.

I made many amazing friends across different year groups whose playful personalities injected fun into the trip. Together, we toured Australia's most brilliant sights: the harbour, expansive gardens, adorable penguins... I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to see all this. There were times when I struggled (studying for prelims and hoping I'd packed enough socks for the week) but when surrounded by such great friends and teachers, I was able to make the most of this trip and had a ton of fun while learning about higher education and independence.

I'd like to say a massive THANK YOU to Ms Pamela Ng, Mr Nicholas Chia and Mr Chang Weng Moon, who went through many ups and downs when organising this and for making it as memorable as it was! Thank you to all my friends for being so inclusive and caring. This Australia trip was one that I'll never forget and will forever be a core memory for me!

Kaylee Victoria Ng (4 LSG)



Visit To Willing Hearts

CKS House sent teams to Willing Hearts, a volunteer-run soup kitchen that makes thousands of meals every day for people across Singapore, on 13 March, 1 May and 1 June.

I worked collaboratively, with CKS teachers and students from CKS and some other Houses. We arrived at the soup kitchen at 5am and quickly got to work. Following instructions, we first moved some boxes to get ready the things we needed for packaging the food. Then we flattened the cardboard boxes so that they were suitable for recycling. After that was done, I was sent to help in the kitchen with another student, where we helped with some of the simpler tasks, such as stirring the food, transferring the food from the cooking pots to some other containers, and moving these containers outside the kitchen. The kitchen was quite hot, but not too uncomfortable. What surprised me was how physically tiring it was to scoop up the food from the cooking pots into other containers. My arms were quite tired after doing it for a while. After helping out in the kitchen for a bit, I found that there wasn't too much left I could help with, so I went out to help package the food. There, we transferred the food in the containers I mentioned earlier into smaller plastic containers to form an actual meal. We then put them into larger bags so that they could be delivered. I spent the rest of my time there doing this, along with some other small tasks now and then, such as moving empty containers to the sink, and helping to move some frozen vegetables. We finally finished our session at 9am, and the next group of volunteers arrived just before we left. I was very tired by the end, and felt weak in the knees from standing for so long.

It was rewarding to know that we had done something good. It was also nice to see people of all ages working together to help those in need. What surprised me the most was the sheer number of meals that were made — during our four hours there, food was being prepared and packaged non-stop. It made me realise that there were more people in need in Singapore than I had contemplated.

Kim Minwoo (5 CKS)



SG Beach Warriors

Welcome to the SG Beach Warriors! We are a CAS project led by Year 5 students, and we are focusing on beach conservation and sustainability. Our goal is to raise awareness about the impact of plastic waste on the environment and encourage students to volunteer for beach cleaning activities.

As we are soon coming to the end of Term 3, our project is organising our last beach clean up! Please refer to our posters for the details! Our last event at Pasir Ris beach park collected 10.39 kg of litter within an hour and we are expecting to collect more this event! By joining this event, you can gain valuable experiences in waste management and also develop teamwork skills. In addition, this event is a great opportunity for a one-off CAS experience under both activity and service!

So, join us in making a difference and protecting our beaches for future generations. Together, we can create a sustainable and clean environment for all.

Our LAST EVENT!!
Last chance for a meaningful & quick CAS experience!

Partnered with: National environmental agency

SG Beach Warriors!

CAS-able!

Help make a cleaner world! Join our beach clean-up event!

Location: Pasir Ris Park
Date: 12 August 2023
Specific time TBD

SIGN UP HERE!

ESOL Faculty Visit To The National Gallery Singapore

On 24 May, our Year 5 IB English B ESOL students embarked on a learning journey to the National Gallery. The group was led by Ms Talo Rooke, Ms Rose Anne Rosanes, Mr Dayhim Djazeb and Ms Caroline Heng, and visited three different exhibitions at the gallery.

The Liu Kuo Sung exhibition featured contemporary Chinese Ink Artworks, while the Living Pictures exhibition featured a depiction of different photography methods used over the last century. Finally, the Southeast Asia Gallery featured interesting and interactive works by leading SEA artists. Our students engaged meaningfully in dialogue with each other about the thought-provoking artworks, gaining inspiration for their written assignment post-trip.

We look forward to more meaningful learning journeys ahead for our ESOL students!



Envoy Club of ACS (International) Dominates MUN Excellence

The Envoy Club is delighted to recognise the remarkable accomplishments of our talented students who recently participated in two prestigious Model United Nations conferences: the Raffles Model United Nations (RMUN) and the Int’ MUN Conference (IMUNC).

They are Aryav Bhesania (4 CKS) (J Captain), Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (3 SVM), Hyunsuh Lee (3 TTK), Afia Gupta (3 TCT), Nishya Prabu (3 LSG), Zou Ziyuan (2 LSG), Naisha Makhija (2 TTK), Katherine Gabriel Mandagi (5 TCT), Lorraine Tan (5THO), Gabriel Loh Seck Chuan (4 THO), and Lucas Yin (5LSG), Kaytrinh Kamh (4 GHK), Victoria Yip (2CKS), Jayden and Jacob Budiman (2 SVM and 3 SVM), and Clayton Wibowo (2 GHK).

Notably, our students embraced the opportunity to go beyond traditional country representation. Aryav Bhesania (4 CKS) and Ethan Chan (2TCT) represented Thailand in the UNSC, while others stepped into the shoes of prominent figures such as Xi Jinping (Afia Gupta, 3 TCT), Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker (Jayden Budiman, 3 SVM, and Jacob Budiman, 2 SVM), and American Airlines CEO Nicholas Calio (Nathan Tjhe, 3 SVM, and Kaytrinh Kam, 4 GHK). These students brought depth and authenticity to their discussions. The conference witnessed memorable moments, including intense standoffs in the Security Council with the potential invasion of Thailand at stake, persistent disagreements in the ICAO regarding airline regulation, and enjoyable post-conference socials with foosball and spirited karaoke sessions. We extend our congratulations to all the RMUN delegates and applaud award winners Afia Gupta (3 TCT; Xi Jinping; SCO; Intermediate), Ethan Chan, and Aryav Bhesania (double delegates; Thailand; UNSC; Advanced Crisis) for their exceptional achievements.

Meanwhile, at IMUNC hosted by ACS(Independent), our delegates once again showcased their talents in a wide range of committees, including the HRC, EU, and advanced crisis committees like the Organization of American States (OAS). Representing countries such as the UAE, Bulgaria, and the United States, our students embodied their roles with great poise and delivered exceptional performances.

Over 17.5 hours of uninterrupted diplomacy and debate, notable discussions included the EU's vigorous debate on Ukraine's pre-war admission, analysing its political, economic, and social ramifications, and the OAS committee’s response to critical updates regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis set in October 1962. A highlight from the OAS was the unanimous resolution, sponsored by the USA, proposing to make Cuba the 51st American state.

Furthermore, the presence of political actors like Fidel Castro and Vladimir Putin brought added excitement and realism to the debates, enabling participants to vividly imagine the challenges faced in each discussion. We wish to acknowledge Naisha Makhija (2 TTK), one of the youngest delegates at IMUNC, who received well-deserved recognition from the chairs, including a Best Delegate certificate and gavel. Additionally, we celebrate Lorraine Tan (5 THO) as our first-ever press delegate, representing the Washington Post at IMUNC and offering a unique perspective through her exceptional journalism skills. For the first time, both conferences witnessed outstanding success, with 10 out of 13 IMUNC delegates receiving awards during the closing ceremony, setting a high standard for ACS (International).

We extend our sincere congratulations to all the students who participated in IMUNC and RMUN. Their exemplary performance, passion for diplomacy, and commitment to international affairs have brought immense pride to our school.

Verbal Commendation		Honourable Mentions		Outstanding Delegates	
Lucas Yin	SPECPOL (beginner)	Nishya Prabu	SPECPOL (beginner)	Afia Gupta	DISEC (Beginner)
Best Delegate		Lumi Lee	DISEC (beginner)	Gabriel Loh	DISEC (Beginner)
Naisha Makhija	UNHRC	Lorraine Tan	Press (First ACSint Press Delegate)	Nathan Tjhe	EU (Intermediate)
		Avalon Zou	UNHRC (Beginner)	Aryav B	OAS (Advanced)



Teen Mental Health Talk

On 19 July, a Teen Mental Health Talk titled "Suicide: What Parents Need to Know" was held at ACS (International). School Counsellor Charlina Gozali facilitated the talk, which was organised by the ACS (International) Parent Support Partners and Holland Village Methodist Church. The guest speakers were IMH CEO A/Prof Daniel Fung, former ACS (International) student Timothy Goh, and School Counsellor Ms. Dorothea Yeo.

As I reflect on my children's journey from kindergarten to teenage stage, I realised how much the social scene has changed slightly over 10 years. Back then, stories about mental illness and suicide among the young were infrequent or non-existent. With most parents doing our best for our children, wouldn't children now be happier than the previous generation? Yet, when our guest speaker Dr Daniel Fung showed studies indicating how children now are less happy than before, it was sadly, not surprising. This is partly because the local news weeks ago raised awareness on the rise of youth suicide cases and attributed it as the leading cause of death in this age group. Also, partly because in our social circle, we have heard stories of family and friends struggling with mental health issues.

Timothy Goh, a brave young man who recently graduated from ACS (International) came forward to tell his story. He took us back to his journey starting from Year 2 when he had constant worries about fitting in and felt pressured to have a worldview about everything around him. Social media also made him feel that others' lives were more interesting than his. With the cacophony around him, his mind found it hard to rest. With his parents' support, medical help, an understanding school and counselling sessions, Timothy pulled through. He asked parents to patiently journey alongside their children because eventually, with a good support system, children would figure it out. I was struck by his maturity when I asked him if he worries less now. His response was that people will always have an opinion regardless of what you decide to do, so just do your best. He has come out stronger and wiser from his earlier struggles. We were privileged to have our school counsellor, Ms Dorothea Yeo who spoke passionately about how one suicide was one too many. She showed the increasing number of cases among Singapore youths. She also shared an impactful encounter as a volunteer responder to a call for help. From this she realised that a person wanting to end life still has a part of him that wants to live, and we should hold on to that! She advised the importance of connecting with our children. In line with this was a video message from a mother who lost a son to suicide. She shared the importance of validating the feelings of their children instead of denying them so they can get the help and support needed. She shared the heartbreaking journey of her son, turning her grief into purposeful action on suicide prevention.



Last but not least were the many lessons Dr Daniel Fung imparted. He shared how important it is to switch to building alliances with our teenagers instead of a top-down approach when they are younger. Bonding over mealtimes and asking how they are make a difference overtime. Experimenting with solutions collaboratively like such as setting alarms to monitor game time duration would give better outcomes than being a forceful figure at home.

With the tendency of some adolescents to feel embarrassed about disclosing their problems, parents need to take a more proactive approach. We need to anticipate the need for a healthy environment, healthy promotion of body image, and early supervision of addictive behaviours to lower the chances of mental illness occurrence. If it happens, it takes a multidisciplinary approach involving parents, counsellors, teachers and friends to give them the right environment to overcome the struggle. If medical treatment and medication are required, it should go hand in hand with close parental supervision to watch out for possible side effects.

Please look out for the upcoming talk on Ways to Connect with our Children Better later this year! Let's promote healthy emotional well-being for our children as they move from one academic year to the next!

Cherry Bodestyne
School Support Partners



Term 2 Birthday Celebration For Oldham Hall Boarders

To mark the birthdays of our fellow Oldham Boarders during Term 2, we organised a fantastic celebration which took place on 25 May. It was complete with a free snack bar that was a hit among everyone. The snack bar boasted an array of delectable treats, ranging from mouthwatering cookies to savoury snacks and sweet gummies — offering something to satisfy every craving.

The Birthday Celebration was a resounding success, thanks to the collective efforts of Madam Chin Siew Lin and Ms Miho Tsumura with the help of International students committee members, Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (3 SVM) and Neilson Alexandro Tjhe (5 SVM). It brought joy to those celebrating their birthdays and fostered a sense of unity and togetherness among all the participants.

Several students who attended the celebration shared their reflections.

The Term 2 Birthday Celebration was such a fantastic treat! I loved how the snack bar had a wide variety of snacks. The cookies were my favourite, they were incredibly tasty and topped with the most delicious frosting. It was a great way to relax and enjoy the company of my friends while indulging in some delightful treats.

Song Hyunye (3 TCT)

The snack bar was amazing! I appreciated the thoughtful variety of snacks provided. It was so enjoyable to mingle with my peers, share stories, and celebrate together. The event added an extra touch of warmth and camaraderie to our boarding community.

Lee Hyeonjoon (3 LSG)

The Term 2 Birthday Celebration was so much fun! I couldn't believe the snack bar had such a wide selection of goodies. I particularly loved the gummies, they were simply irresistible! It was a great opportunity to meet new friends and create lasting memories. I can't wait for the next celebration

Shunsei Miyasaka (3 OLD)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event memorable. Your enthusiasm, support, and shared enjoyment added to the vibrant atmosphere and made the celebration truly special.

Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (3 SVM)



Exuberant String & Percussion Music Workshops

In July, the IGCSE music and IB Music programme hosted a series of enjoyable and productive String and Percussion workshops. We learnt from Jayne Lee, an award-winning violin educator who specialises in accelerated learning. In 2021, she made the headlines in the *String World* and publications such as *The Strad* when her 5-year-old student Travis, was the youngest recipient to receive a Grade 8 Distinction from the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM). The lessons with Ms Lee were fun. We were able to play songs within our first session. We learnt how to play and write for violin with extended techniques such as *Col Legno*, *Sul Ponticello*, *Sul Tasto*, *Sul G* and *Double Stops*. The highlight of this workshop was composing an original 16-bar composition using all these techniques. Ms Lee got us to think more deeply about the intent of the music and how enjoyment on the violin can be translated from music composing.

Mr Augustine Chong, a leading professional percussionist, then taught us how to play and compose for the various percussion instruments. We were captivated by the vast variety of percussion instruments and how each instrument could affect the overall tonal colours of the composition. Mr. Chong enlarged our learning palette by presenting large genres of music using a choice of various mallets to enhance each sound quality.



Eye-opening Music Therapy Workshop With Singapore Leading Practitioners

It was my privilege to be invited and to have attended the annual music therapist day event #SGMT 2023 held at the Humanistic Youth Centre. The event comprised an interesting concept of 'human-library' where I chose 3 areas of music therapy research and spoke to professional therapists who have been working in Singapore and various parts of the world, regarding their observations, experimental practices, case studies and advanced research. I learnt the diverse range of music instruments used for treatments such as kalimba, ocean drum, tongue drums and some percussion instruments. During the group discussion, the therapists shared insightful observations and I also had the opportunity to share my ideas and observations regarding their practices and research.

I realised that being a music therapist entails much more than using various instruments to produce sound effects. Utilising the power of music to assist patients in overcoming a variety of obstacles, such as assisting children with developmental delays and facilitating recovery treatment for those with hearing impairments. At the end of the event, all the participants were involved in a simulated music therapy exercise, where the leading therapist instructed us to repeat the melody and lyrics and then create our own version. It dawned on me that music can be more than just auditory entertainment; it functions as a powerful tool to assist people. Participating in this workshop, along with the many other music-related events throughout the academic year at ACS (International), have greatly expanded my perspective on the entire music industry and enriched my knowledge beyond what is covered in the regular curriculum.

Wong Haining (5 SVM)

ORDER	BOOK TITLES
A	Music Therapy for Premature Babies in the Intensive Care Unit
B	Music Therapy for Children With and Impacted by Cancer
C	From Early Childhood Music Educator to Early Intervention Music Therapist
D	Music Therapy in Special Education
E	Music Therapy with Children- and Youth-at-Risk
F	Working within a Multidisciplinary Team as a Music Therapist
G	Family-Centred Music Therapy at End-of-Life Care
H	Reflections from Experiences as a Music Therapist and Vocal Coach
I	Music Therapy for Persons with Severe Brain Injuries
J	Music Therapy with Older Adults in the Community Setting



Job Shadowing Programme

(29 May – 30 June 2023)

The June school holiday was a busy time for 50 of our IB students as they took part in the Job Shadowing programme where they experienced work life for the first time. The attachment saw 21 students participating in the medical field, with 11 of them being attached to hospitals that had just started to host non-medical students since the COVID-19 outbreak. Our students had the opportunities to learn from industry experts. They were exposed to the roles and responsibilities of their prospective professions, thus making their Job Shadowing a rewarding and enriching experience.

Student Reflection

The four-day job shadowing experience at Haque Centre of Acting and Creativity was as enjoyable as it was challenging. Through Mr. Kamil's guidance, I was able to learn about the logistics of running a theatre company and I was lucky enough to have been involved in one of the performances: Metaphors Be With You through which I began to improve my creative writing skills and learned the importance of creative writing in highlighting the essence of theatrical performance. The experience was undoubtedly a fruitful one.

Hailey Ng (6 LSG)



Published with permission from Haque Centre of Acting & Creativity
L-R: Mr. Kamil Haque & Hailey Ng (6 LSG)

The Job Shadowing Experience was an insightful experience that taught me the inner nuances of my career interest. It provided me with details that would not be available anywhere else, cleared up most of the doubts I had about my future career, and showed me how a normal day in my life would look like 10 years from now.

Sanjita Parashar (5 GHK)



Published with permission from Singapore General Hospital
L-R: Chiang Yee (5 OLD), Dr. Darren Tay, Sanjita Parashar (5 GHK)

It was an amazing experience to be able to learn from the job shadowing programme with Centurion Corporation Limited. I have learnt so much about what accountants do and the skills that are required to be an accountant. This gave me a huge insight into the working life in the Finance and Accounting world, which was extremely useful for me. This allowed me to gain knowledge and a foundation in Finance and Accounting, preparing me better for my career ahead. Overall, it was a productive and well spent 4 days that I can benefit from.

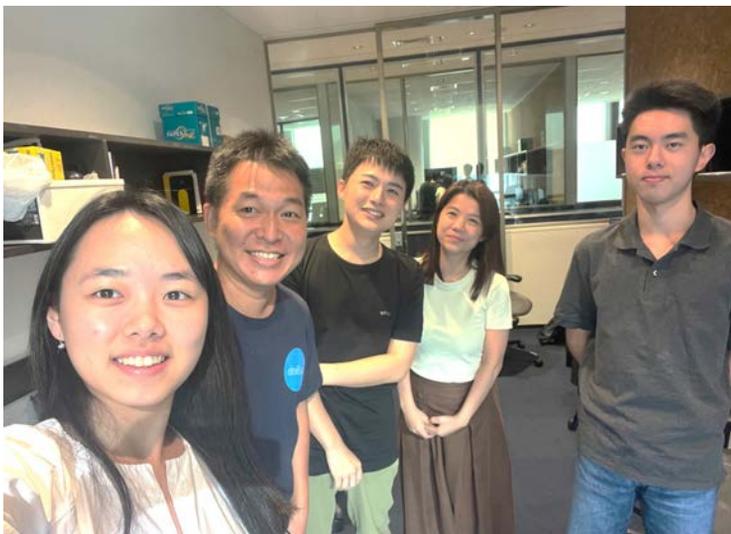
Sara Kwok (6 THO)



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L-R: Sara Kwok (6 THO) & Ms. Sherlyn Lee

The five days of my participation in this job shadowing programme at Miyahealth Pte Ltd were an enlightening experience that reinforced my interest in Computer Science. Besides the technical scientific knowledge, the unexpected exposure to new concepts, including business management and human resources, significantly broadened my perspective and navigated my future career path after university, which greatly benefited me. The practical insights I received from my supervisors, especially regarding the role of Data Science in business, were invaluable. Overall, this programme served as an excellent opportunity for professional growth and exploration of the fields of computer science.

Eunwoo Jung (6 SVM)



Published with permission from MiyaHealth Pte Ltd
L-R: Eunwoo Jung (6 SVM), Mr. Bevan Cheong, Mr. Wee Ming Koh, Ms. June Liew and Lyu Siqi (6 GHK)

Peer Leaders Lunch Activities

Our exciting, engaging, and entertaining Just Dance event made a comeback on 24 May during Junior lunch. Dancing is a thrilling activity that involves synchronised movement to music. It helps with social bonding and most importantly helps you just have fun. Many students from Year 1–3 showcased their dance moves during Just Dance. The entire student centre was epic and everyone was hyping with the music.

To further encourage interaction between peers in Term 3, the Peer Leaders have set up game corners in the student centre during lunch time. Air hockey machines and various other board games are available for students to use. Feel free to use the QR code below or visit our booth at the Student Centre to book your slot!

It is our pleasure to hold events that create a positive impact on students. There will be more fun events coming up soon in August! Don't forget to follow our Instagram account (@acsint.peerleaders) to avoid missing out on future events!



Junior Lunch Just Dance Event



Air Hockey Table in Student Centre

UPCOMING EVENTS

August	Event
2 – 4	Languages Week
8	National Day Assembly and International Day Celebrations
10	Year 2 IGCSE Information Session for 2024 (for students)
11	Year 2 IGCSE Information Session for 2024 (for parents online)
12	A Musical Odyssey
21 – 25	Wellness Week
23	Inter-House Sports
25	Long Service Awards Service
26	Choice To Run
28 – 1 Sept	Teachers' Week
29	Barrett Music Competition
30	ESOL Research Exhibition



Choice To Run 2023

The 13th Student Ambassadors of ACS (International) would like to invite you to join our annual charity run on 26 August – Choice To Run 2023. Let's seize this opportunity to unite as a community, walking or running together and supporting a great cause.

This year, our beneficiary is Habitat for Humanity Singapore — a Christian non-profit organisation which works alongside families to build and rehabilitate homes for vulnerable families. They also empower the elderly to build better lives for themselves with safe and decent housing. We aim to raise \$20,000 to help them with necessary supplies to bring better living conditions to the families and individuals who need it most. You may also pledge an amount for each lap run by our participants to motivate them to run for a good cause.

By signing up, you will receive a T-shirt, a running bib, an e-certificate and a \$5 coupon for carnival games, food stalls, and access to a variety of refreshments! Teams who sign up together will receive additional coupons!

Would you like to find out more about this special event? Visit us at @acsint.ambassadors on Instagram or click on this link to visit our website:

<https://sites.google.com/acsinternational.edu.sg/ctr2023/>

Be sure to register before 6 August! We hope to see you there!

Should you have any queries about our event, you may drop an email to our Head of Student Ambassador, Yuri Masuda, at yuri.masuda@acsinternational.edu.sg.

We look forward to seeing you there on 26 August!

CTR
CHOICE TO RUN 2023

MILES FOR SMILES, RUN FOR HUMANITY

CHOICE TO RUN 2023

Date: 26 August 2023, Saturday
Time: 8am - 12pm
Venue: ACS (International)

Scan this QR code to sign up NOW!

Registration fee: \$30
Early bird fee: \$25 (by 26 July)
FREE for all teachers!

Website

CAS experience for IB students!
Registration will close on 6 August 2023

Sponsors

HOLLAND VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH
PSP PARENT SCHOOL PARTNERS
ALLFORU #SponsorshipPlatform

Beneficiary

Habitat for Humanity Singapore

Brought to you by
13th Student Ambassadors




X


SATURDAY

29 JULY 2023

Darren Loh Cup VIII

REGISTRATION
& RULES

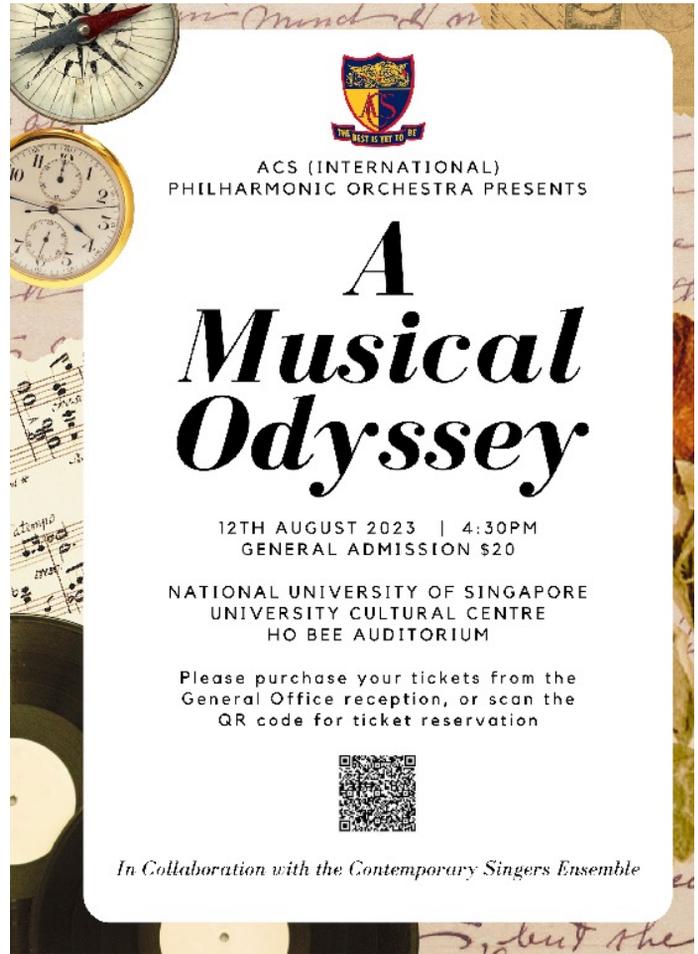


VETERANS: 8AM

OPEN: 10:30AM

U19: 1PM

MIXED: 3:30PM





ACS (INTERNATIONAL)
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

A *Musical Odyssey*

12TH AUGUST 2023 | 4:30PM
GENERAL ADMISSION \$20

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE
HO BEE AUDITORIUM

Please purchase your tickets from the
General Office reception, or scan the
QR code for ticket reservation



In Collaboration with the Contemporary Singers Ensemble



GRADUATION CEREMONY

2023

CLASS OF

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
DIPLOMA PROGRAMME**



10

NOVEMBER 2023

FRIDAY
4:30PM (Seated by 4:15PM)

at UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE, HO BEE AUDITORIUM,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE



RSVP and ticket request via <https://forms.gle/qLKHYCVX5amWhj2z9>
or QR Code by 4 November 2023.
For enquiry, please contact the Principal's Secretary: stella.sim@acsinternational.edu.sg