

ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Earlier this month the Straits Times published an article about mobile phone use in Singaporean schools. The article highlighted the range of approaches various Ministry of Education schools are taking for the management of student phones. The article shared that some schools require students to 'hand in' their phones to the school for the duration of the day, and some restrict their use to certain areas or times. The article shares the benefits the schools have experienced from their particular policy and the challenges they have encountered in enforcing it.

At ACS (International), our current policy is that students are permitted to have their phones on them during the day, but they are not to be used in class, unless the teacher permits it for the purpose of learning. Examples of this include participating in live feedback activities, taking quizzes, using their phone for translation and as a research tool. The school also supports teachers who want all their students to 'submit' their phones at the start of each lesson to a storage area. Students are allowed to use their devices (phone, tablets and laptops) during their lunch break (recess) and before and after school.

The impact of mobile phone use, and by association social media and gaming, is being hotly debated around the world at the moment, particularly in the context of young people. Books such as The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt, have given food for thought for parents and those in the education industry. Advice for phone use has already been provided for children younger than 13 by the Ministry of Health. However, the Singapore government is continuing to look at this issue, with the Minister for Health and Minister for Social and Family Development stating that further advice and guidance would be released towards the end of 2024. Of course, the challenge is finding the balance between a necessary tool in our modern age for secondary school-aged children and how to manage the negative effects that can occur.

In this context, the Senior Leadership of ACS (International) have been discussing the school's current policy and approach to mobile phones. The current Mobile Phone Policy can be found on the school website under "Life at ACS -> Community Policies" and also by clicking <u>here</u>. It is our view that it is timely to review our current policy to see if it is still appropriate for the needs of our community or if it needs some refinement. To start the process the school is conducting a Community Engagement to get the views of various stakeholders, including staff, students and parents.

I would like to invite all parents to complete the survey below to share your views about mobile phone use at ACS (International). Please click on the link below or scan the QR code.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACSPhonePolicySurvey2024

It is a privilege to partner with you as we raise young people together, so thank you in advance for sharing your views as we consider this important issue.

I wish you and your family all the very best for the upcoming term break and look forward to welcoming students back for the commencement of Term 4.





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Gavin Kinch Principal

Term 3 Commendation Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Principal's List for Effort and Achievement, Distinction for Effort and Achievement, Commendation for Effort and Achievement, and Commendation for Effort:

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	Principal's List fo	r Effort and Ac	hievement
	1		
	NAME	YEAR	HOUSE
	CHO HYOBIN	1	CHEONG KOON SENG
2	AARUSH ANANDANI	1	CHEONG KOON SENG
3	VICTORIA GOH YAN MAY	1	CHEONG KOON SENG
4	AAKASH GUPTA	1	CHEONG KOON SENG
5	KANSINEE WONGTREENATRKOON	PRE IGCSE	CHEONG KOON SENG
6	KIMBERLY ANN HENDROFF	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
7	WEE KANG QING	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
8	KIM CHAEWON	3	CHEONG KOON SENG
9	JOY NG KAI XIN	3	CHEONG KOON SENG
10	BONO JAKUB GAJDEK	5	CHEONG KOON SENG
11	EMILY TIAN GETTEN	2	GOH HOOD KENG
12	LIM SEE XUAN	2	GOH HOOD KENG
	LIU SHUCHANG	2 PRE IGCSE	GOH HOOD KENG
13			
14	LEE SEOHYUN	1	LEE SENG GEE
5	NATASHA NASYA GANDHI	1	LEE SENG GEE
16	LEE AIN	PRE IGCSE	LEE SENG GEE
17	NG QI ZHEN TAMMY	3	LEE SENG GEE
18	LEE SEUNGAH	PRE IB	LEE SENG GEE
19	KAYLEE VICTORIA NG	5	LEE SENG GEE
20	LEE WU	PRE IGCSE	OLDHAM
21	CHOW YU YING	2	OLDHAM
22	EKEESHAATRE	3	OLDHAM
23	KIM KYUNGEUN	3	OLDHAM
24	RENEE CHAN	FOUNDATION IB	OLDHAM
25	LEE YESEO	5	OLDHAM
26	KO YENA	PRE IGCSE	SHAW VEE MENG
27	PARK YOONHA	3	SHAW VEE MENG
28	ETHAN BENEDICT ARIJANTO	FOUNDATION IB	SHAW VEE MENG
29	MOK HO YI	5	SHAW VEE MENG
0	LEE XUE EN AERIEL	5	SHAW VEE MENG
31	LIANG TINGYU	PRE IGCSE	TAN CHIN TUAN
32	KIM DOYEON	3	TAN CHIN TUAN
33	ASHTON MIKAEL GOZALI	3	TAN CHIN TUAN
34	TETSUSHI AOYAMA	FOUNDATION IB	TAN CHIN TUAN
35	LO CHEUK CHUN	3	THOBURN
36	KHAIR SIYA KETAN	3	THOBURN
37	KIM SEOHA	1	TAN KAH KEE
38	LAURA KOSAREV	1	TAN KAH KEE
39	CHENG NUO	1B	TAN KAH KEE
40	NAISSHA MAKHIJA	3	TAN KAH KEE
41	SU YUJING	PRE IB	TAN KAH KEE
42	LEE SOLHEE	5	TAN KAH KEE
43	WU YOU	5	TAN KAH KEE
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	Distinction for	Effort and Achie	vement

Distinction for Effort and Achievement				
NO.	NAME	YEAR	HOUSE	
1	LUKE LIM YI KAI	2	CHEONG KOON SENG	
2	ENA WATANABE	2	CHEONG KOON SENG	
3	GUO ZITIAN	FOUNDATION IB	CHEONG KOON SENG	
4	WU YUFEI	5	CHEONG KOON SENG	
5	CHEN ANQI	PRE IB	GOH HOOD KENG	
6	JASON TIAN GETTEN	1	GOH HOOD KENG	
7	KIM BIAH	2	GOH HOOD KENG	
8	KAYLEIGH LIM JIAHUI	2	GOH HOOD KENG	
9	CLAYTON OLIVER WIBOWO	3	GOH HOOD KENG	
10	AMELIA SHI-MIN ADETOLA OLOPADE	3	GOH HOOD KENG	

35ZHAO YUANPENGPRE IGCSESHAW VEE MENG36KIM TAEYEONPRE IGCSESHAW VEE MENG37JACOB CHRISTOPHER BUDIMAN3SHAW VEE MENG38KAYLA GOH JA EN3SHAW VEE MENG39CHIAM NING HUI KATLYNFOUNDATION IBSHAW VEE MENG40GAO YIFEIPRE IBSHAW VEE MENG41NATHAK KEENAN WIDJAJA5SHAW VEE MENG42LIEW ZEN XIYN1TAN CHIN TUAN43SAHIBA ARORA1TAN CHIN TUAN44KAELYN LIM JIA XIN1TAN CHIN TUAN45CHLOE CHAN1TAN CHIN TUAN46ZOU LUXI1BTAN CHIN TUAN47LAU SIN CHING JOSIE2TAN CHIN TUAN48KIM TAEHEEPRE IGCSETAN CHIN TUAN49LU PO-HSUEH3TAN CHIN TUAN51XIEX XITONG5TAN CHIN TUAN54SEONG YEONWOO2THOBURN55KIM YEWON2THOBURN56QIAN HANWEN3THOBURN57YUN SEOJEONG3THOBURN58CHOI SOYEONPRE IGTHOBURN59RACHEL CHOO YING HSUAN5THOBURN50KIM YEWON2THOBURN51KIM YEWON5THOBURN54SEONG YEONWOO2THOBURN55KIM YEWON5THOBURN56QIAN HANWEN5THOBURN57YUN SEOJEONGO2THO	34	SOTARO INOUE	1B	SHAW VEE MENG	
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38 KAYLA GOH JIA'EN 3 SHAW VEE MENG 39 CHIAM NING HUI KATILYN FOUNDATION IB SHAW VEE MENG 40 GAO YIFEI PRE IB SHAW VEE MENG 41 NATHAN KEENAN WIDJAJA 5 SHAW VEE MENG 42 LIEW ZEN XIYN 1 TAN CHIN TUAN 43 SAHIBA ARORA 1 TAN CHIN TUAN 44 KAELYN LIM JIA XIN 1 TAN CHIN TUAN 45 CHLOE CHAN 1 TAN CHIN TUAN 46 ZOU LUXI 1B TAN CHIN TUAN 47 LAU SIN CHING JOSIE 2 TAN CHIN TUAN 48 KIM TAEHEE PRE IGCSE TAN CHIN TUAN 49 LU PO-HSUEH 3 TAN CHIN TUAN 50 SETH WAN JUNEN FOUNDATION IB TAN CHIN TUAN 51 XIE XINTONG 5 TAN CHIN TUAN 53 RACHEL ANNE DORAMUS 1 THOBURN 54 SEONG YEONWOO 2 THOBURN 55 KIM YEWON 2	36	KIM TAEYEON	PRE IGCSE	SHAW VEE MENG	
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68 ADELLYN GARCIA 5 TAN KAH KEE	66	ZHOU SUXI	FOUNDATION IB	TAN KAH KEE	
	67	DANIEL TAY YEE JYE	5	TAN KAH KEE	
69 YUMIKO MIYATA 1B TAN KAH KEE	68	ADELLYN GARCIA	5	TAN KAH KEE	
	69	YUMIKO MIYATA	1B	TAN KAH KEE	

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i 7 3	ROHAN KUMAR	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
3	HARSHNI SIVASUBRAMANIAN	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
3	JENNY KENNEDY	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
	PHOEBE NG EN HWEE	3	CHEONG KOON SENG
9	ZHOU CHENGYI	3	CHEONG KOON SENG
	HONG QIWEI	PRE IB	CHEONG KOON SENG
0	ARYAV BHESANIA	5	CHEONG KOON SENG
1	SONG YU	5	CHEONG KOON SENG
2	LEE TSUNG MENG MARK	5	CHEONG KOON SENG
3	ANDRIS JERROLD LEE	1	GOH HOOD KENG
4	SIU LOK YAN	1	GOH HOOD KENG
5	VOHRA MISHA	2	GOH HOOD KENG
-			
6	YU XIUYUAN	2	GOH HOOD KENG
7	ZHANG CHENQI	3	GOH HOOD KENG
8	NG JEREMIAH	FOUNDATION IB	GOH HOOD KENG
9	LIM YUCHAN	5	GOH HOOD KENG
0	HARUNA IMAYOSHI	5	GOH HOOD KENG
1	SHREYANSI NAGORI	1	LEE SENG GEE
2	JAMIE KAI YEANG	1	LEE SENG GEE
3	LEE XIN ZE LUCAS	1	LEE SENG GEE
4	ZHANG YUHAN	2	LEE SENG GEE
5	ROBERT ELIOT MING-YU SMITH	2	LEE SENG GEE
6	NOH HAJU	2	LEE SENG GEE
7	ZOU ZIYUAN	3	LEE SENG GEE
8	DU YINGJIA	5	LEE SENG GEE
9	AYSHA MINHAS	5	LEE SENG GEE
-			
0	FARHAN FIYAZ DIYAN	1	OLDHAM
1		1B	OLDHAM
2	NOBUHITO NAKAMURA	1B	OLDHAM
3	JOANNA CHRISTY	2	OLDHAM
4	LEE WOOCHAN	3	OLDHAM
5	WEN YUE	3	OLDHAM
6	RAKSHITA SINGH	3	OLDHAM
7	YUTO SAKAMOTO	5	OLDHAM
8	ANNE TAN WEN HSIN	5	OLDHAM
9	BRANDON CHIN LIXIAN	1	SHAW VEE MENG
0	MAYA SUE LYNN KARL DARUWALLA	1	SHAW VEE MENG
1	TAN SI HUI VERA	1	SHAW VEE MENG
2	NG WUI DI ELTON	1	SHAW VEE MENG
3	KIM GEONWOO	1B	SHAW VEE MENG
4	LINDA CHEW CHIEN RU	2	SHAW VEE MENG
5	KIM YEJIN	3	SHAW VEE MENG
6	RINTARO SUGIMOTO	5	SHAW VEE MENG
7	WAN HOI YAN	5	SHAW VEE MENG
8	REN ZIMING	5	SHAW VEE MENG
9	CASSY HARUMI SHANNON	1	TAN CHIN TUAN
0	MIYA SUNDARASON	1	TAN CHIN TUAN
1	DIANE GOO	2	TAN CHIN TUAN
2	ALESSI LEE LE CIER	2	TAN CHIN TUAN
3	MIA MIDORI SHANNON	2	TAN CHIN TUAN
4	DAWN TAN YIK SIM	2	TAN CHIN TUAN
5	LI ZIZHENG	3	TAN CHIN TUAN
6	WANG ANQI	3	TAN CHIN TUAN
7	SIM AHJEONG	5	TAN CHIN TUAN
		+	
8	TIMOTHY LOH ZHI MING	1	THOBURN
9	PAULINA GORELIK	1	THOBURN

61	SUMMER FAITH LOH	1	THOBURN
62	ANYA YEO YA XUAN	1	THOBURN
63	LEE JUN FENG	1	THOBURN
64	LI YIYI	PRE IGCSE	THOBURN
65	CHARLOTTE ANG RUOXUAN	2	THOBURN
66	JING BORUN	2	THOBURN
67	GLORIA TAM YUNG XIN	2	THOBURN
68	RIANNE NG	3	THOBURN
69	GAO RENYI	PRE IB	THOBURN
70	EZEKIEL PHUA ZHEN YI	5	THOBURN
71	MEHR BHATIA	1	TAN KAH KEE
72	CHUN JAEMIN	1B	TAN KAH KEE
73	LILEQI	2	TAN KAH KEE
74	ANANYA GUPTA	2	TAN KAH KEE
75	ONG RUO LIN RENEE	3	TAN KAH KEE
76	ELDON JOEL KWAN	5	TAN KAH KEE
77	ATHENA PEH	5	TAN KAH KEE

Commendation for Effort

NO.	NAME	YEAR	HOUSE
1	LEIA LAM	1	CHEONG KOON SENG
2	JULIA AW WONG FANG JUN	2	CHEONG KOON SENG
3	JOSEPH TAN ZI EN	1	GOH HOOD KENG
4	HO JING-MEI	1B	GOH HOOD KENG
5	NICOLE KHI ANN RAE	1	OLDHAM
6	NG HWEE MIN MIRANDA	1	OLDHAM
7	JEONG SEOYOON	PRE IB	OLDHAM
8	ELIZABETH ANN-MARIE HOWE WEN YU	2	OLDHAM
9	APPLE RENATA WIJAYA	1	SHAW VEE MENG
10	KIM KEUNHEE	3	SHAW VEE MENG
11	KANG MINHO	1B	TAN CHIN TUAN
12	ANDREW JAYDEN CHAN	1	THOBURN
13	ZHOU YANGHAO	PRE IGCSE	THOBURN
14	LEE CHIA-CHENG	3	THOBURN
15	HUNG YU NING ZOE	1	TAN KAH KEE



World Mathematics Championships Report Finals 2024

The World Mathematics Championships (WMC) features regional qualifiers from across the globe, culminating in a final event in London. This exclusive senior level final is an "invite-only" event, where participants gain entry by holding golden tickets.

Of the 15 golden tickets available for the Senior level regionals in Singapore, all six of our students secured them. Two of our students participated in the World Mathematics Championships Finals at Queen Mary University of London, UK from 23 June to 29 June 2024.

On 16 March 2024, ACS (International) was represented by 9 students – one team for the Secondary level and two teams for the Senior level regionals. Each team was made up of 3 students. All our students received at least one medal across the six different categories of competition.

Awards for Senior level:

	Strategy (Gold)	
Bono Jakub Gajdek (5 CKS)	Knowledge (Silver)	
	Applications (Silver)	
	Challenge (Bronze)	
	Collaboration (Bronze)	
Kim Geonwoo (5 CKS)	Knowledge (Gold)	
	Collaboration (Bronze)	

Of special mention is Bono Jakub Gajdek (5 CKS) who was awarded an overall achievement medal for a high sum ranking in all rounds – an award given to the top four participants of the Senior level Finals.



WMC Finals Bono and Geonwoo in Collaboration Round



WMC Finals Bono for Overall Best Sum Rank



WMC Finals Bono in Strategy Round



WMC Finals Geonwoo in Knowledge Round

The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) Contest 2024

The CEMC has been dedicated to inspiring students to reach further with mathematics and computer science for more than 50 years. The CEMC is committed to giving students the tools they need to build their confidence, grow their problem-solving skills and get excited about mathematics and computing. The 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 organisation 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 this year to provide more opportunities to our students to take part in international contests from around the world.

Results Summary

Contest	Year Level	Distinctions
Gauss	Year 1 and Year 2	54

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 and 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 16 May 2024, 65 students (Year 1 and Year 2) from ACS (International) took part in Gauss Contest 2024. The Distinction Award goes to the top 25 percent of contestants, and the list of Distinction award recipients for ACS (International) is below.

CEMC – Gaus	s Mathematics Con	test
Name	Division	Award
Qirui Han	Junior	Distinction
Isabella Fan	Junior	Distinction
Jiho Joo	Junior	Distinction
Yuecen Li	Junior	Distinction
Abe Han	Junior	Distinction
Nobuhito Nakamura	Junior	Distinction
Anderson Tan	Junior	Distinction
Kyotaro Inoue	Junior	Distinction
Ing Shaan Lee	Junior	Distinction
Yiyi Li	Junior	Distinction
Unna Shavalikul	Junior	Distinction
Misha Vohra	Junior	Distinction
Jamie Yeang	Junior	Distinction
Qing Chuan Ma	Junior	Distinction
Hyobin Cho	Junior	Distinction
Harshni Sivasubramanian	Junior	Distinction
Puchit Tritrakulchai	Junior	Distinction
Linda Chew	Junior	Distinction
Aakash Gupta	Junior	Distinction
Sotaro Inoue	Junior	Distinction
Yewon Kim	Junior	Distinction
Siyun Kim	Junior	Distinction
Yena Ko	Junior	Distinction
Shreyansi Nagori	Junior	Distinction
Ethan Phua	Junior	Distinction
Chwen Mau Tey	Junior	Distinction
Andrew Jayden Chan	Junior	Distinction
Reika Horiuchi	Junior	Distinction
Nathaniel Liew	Junior	Distinction
Nishca Karamchandani	Junior	Distinction
Dongha Kim	Junior	Distinction
Isaac Wang	Junior	Distinction
Zhihan Zhang	Junior	Distinction
Seoha Sarah Kim	Junior	Distinction
Angad Singh	Junior	Distinction
Vir Arya	Junior	Distinction
Jaemin Chun	Junior	Distinction
Kanav Kamat	Junior	Distinction
Sarae Mant	Junior	Distinction
Juern Kim	Junior	Distinction
Geonwoo Kim	Junior	Distinction
Jooho Park	Junior	Distinction
Evie Cho	Junior	Distinction
Gloria Tam Yung Xin	Junior	Distinction
Laura Kosarev	Junior	Distinction
Zoe Suprapto	Junior	Distinction
Kokone Horiuchi	Junior	Distinction
Seohyun Lee	Junior	Distinction
Vihana Parmar	Junior	Distinction
Arunima Jaitawat	Junior	Distinction
Tan Vera	Junior	Distinction
Hikohito Yanagida	Junior	Distinction
Adrija Ghosh	Junior	Distinction
Diane Goo		Distinction
	Junior	Distiliction

Singapore Mathematical Olympiad 2024

The Singapore Mathematical Olympiad (SMO) is the largest and oldest mathematics competition in Singapore. The top 35 percent of the participants will receive an Award Certificate (Gold for top 3 percent, Silver for next 12 percent and Bronze for next 20 percent).

On 28 May and 29 May 2024, 83 students from Years 1 through 6 from ACS (International) took part in SMO 2024. The list of winners for ACS (International) is given below.

Name	Division	Certificate		
SMO (Junior) Results				
Yeonwoo (Brian) Seong	Year 2	Silver		
Li Yuecen	Year 2		Silver	
Zhang Zhihan	Year 1	E	Bronze	
Kwak Taehun	Year 1	Honour	able mention	
SM	O (Senior)) Results		
Zhen Jingtong	Year 4		Silver	
Maximus Hartanto	Year 4		Silver	
Tetsushi Aoyama	Year 4	Silver		
Wu Youchen	Year 4	Bronze		
Haohan Dai	Year 2	Bronze		
Sung Geonwoo	Year 4	Bronze		
Lee Donghun	Year 4	Honourable mention		
SM	O (Open)	Results		
Kim Minwoo	Year 6	Gold		
Rui Gao	Year 4	Silver		
Hong Junyeong	Year 6	Silver		
Shi Tianyi	Year 6	Bronze		
Luke Lai Wen Le	Year 6	Bronze		
Liang Tingyu	Year 2	Honour	able mention	

Results Summary 2024

	Item	Junior	Senior	Open
1	Gold	0	0	1
2	Silver	2	3	2
3	Bronze	1	3	2
4	Honourable Mention	1	1	1

Visit to Washington DC

Recently our school Principal, Mr Gavin Kinch, headed to Washington DC to meet with the Director General of the IB (front left) and the IB Senior Leadership team. Representing schools in Asia-Pacific on the IB Heads Council, Mr Kinch provided advice and input in to the strategic direction of the IB. Topics covered in the sessions included a review of the IB Diploma programme, online assessment, academic integrity and increasing student voice in IB decision making.





Geography (IA) Trip to Bintan, Indonesia 26 – 28 July 2024

On 26 July, our class visited the Nirvana Resort Hotel in Bintan, Indonesia, to collect primary data for our Internal Assessment (IA). The journey began with a 1-hour ferry ride from Singapore to Bintan. Despite the trip's academic purpose, we were generously provided with ample downtime to enjoy ourselves. During our free time, we engaged in various activities such as swimming, playing volleyball on the beach, karaoke, and even playing pool. The resort had numerous amenities that ensured we never felt bored. Each meal was also an opportunity to immerse ourselves in Indonesian culture through its cuisine. The 2-day trip was a perfect blend of educational and recreational experiences, making it a memorable and enriching journey.

The main objective of the trip was to collect data for our Geography IA on beach processes. The beach was connected to the resort which made access and data collection very convenient and allowed us to make full use of our time there. Before the trip, we split into groups to collect data on the variables: wind speed and direction, long-shore drift, gradient, swash and backwash, wave frequency and height. It was highly satisfying to see the different groups sprawled across the beach, each of us doing our part for the collection and encouraging teamwork. In total we had four data collection sessions with two sites where we were able to compare and contrast data, allowing us to have a larger picture and a chance to experience learning out of the classroom. Overall it was an extremely fulfilling and memorable hands-on experience that enabled the class to strengthen our friendships and geographical knowledge.







Happy Teahouse Singapore

Chinese Poetry Recitation Competition 2024

新加坡华文诗歌朗诵比赛

2nd Runner-Up: Zhang Yuhan 张钰浛 (2-LSG) Distinction Award: Lo Cheuk Chun (Amina) 卢芍津 (3-Tho)



2nd Runner-Up: Zhang Yuhan 张钰浛(2-LSG)



Distinction Award: Lo Cheuk Chun (Amina) 卢芍津 (3-THO)

It was a pleasure to participate in the Chinese Poetry Recitation Competition again, and I it was a really enjoyable experience. This year, I received a distinction award. I had a lot of fun during competition training at school with Yuhan! Throughout this amusing journey, I learnt more about Chinese culture, especially about poetries. I had a talk with some of the judges, and made new friends from other secondary schools. Unexpectedly, I even met them in other competitions! Thanks to the support from my teachers and friends, I would love to join this lovely competition again next year if possible! Receiving this poetry recitation award is an honour I deeply cherish. I would like to thank the judges of the organising committee for recognising my efforts. Their endorsement validates the dedication and practice time that brought me to this moment. This proves that with perseverance and passion, a hobby can be turned into an art form. I would also like to thank my teachers and classmates for their support. Their unwavering encouragement and trust in me are my greatest source of strength. Their presence in my life has made this journey more meaningful and fulfilling. Poetry has always been a source of solace and inspiration for me. It allows me to express my thoughts and feelings in a creative and powerful way. It is truly a blessing to be able to share this passion with others through recitation.

This award is not only a testament to my skills as a reciter, but also a recognition of the connecting and inspiring power of poetry. I hope that my performance will contribute in some way to the joy and celebration of this beautiful art form. I see this award not as an end, but as a new beginning. Not only has it marked a milestone in my journey as a poet and reciter, but also opened up new horizons of possibilities and growth. I am committed to furthering the growth and refinement of my craft, as well as sharing the beauty of poetry with as many people as possible. Thank you once again for the privilege of winning third place in this national poetry recitation. May the spirit of poetry continue to inspire and uplift us all.

Zhang Yuhan (2 LSG)

Young Reporter News Challenge 2024

我来报新闻挑战赛 Honourable Award: Lo Cheuk Chun (Amina) (3 THO)

Participating in the Young Reporter News Challenge was very refreshing to me, as it was the first time I worked on projects regarding news reports. In order to collect updated and accurate information, I tried to conduct interviews, questionnaires, and surveys. The challenge I eventually chose to join was "Creative News in 60 Seconds", where the target audience was the younger generation.

The organisation offered a workshop for us to join afterwards, and I was beneficial as it helped students to gain more knowledge and techniques about news reports, such as script writing and video editing. I received the honourable award and I am glad that I took part in this competition!

Amina Lo (3 THO)



HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Higher Education Department Highlights

August was a bustling month for the Higher Education Department, filled with exciting events and valuable opportunities for our students to engage with local and overseas universities and alumni.

We hosted a **UK University Fair** in the Sitorus library, featuring representatives from prestigious Russell Group universities, including the University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, Cardiff University, Durham University, University of Exeter, University of Glasgow, King's College London, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Newcastle University, University of Nottingham, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, and the University of Warwick. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to explore their options and gain insights directly from the universities.



A special opportunity to attend a **Law Mock Lecture and a Personal Statement workshop** was available for our Year 4, 5, and 6 students. Both events were very well-received and provided students with a clearer understanding of what to expect in the application process. The speaker, Gabriel Tan, is an SPF Scholar who runs a pro bono initiative mentoring students interested in law.



We also had three undergraduate students representing **Cambridge University** come by to share their Cambridge experiences and subject choice advice with our students. They were from a range of disciplines, including Economics, Medicine and Law.



It was a true pleasure to host **UK alumni** Abigail Kastono, currently studying Business at King's College London, and Clarisse Lim, pursuing Politics, Philosophy, and Law at the University of Warwick. They led an engaging **'Ask Me Anything'** session with our juniors, where they shared internship experiences, modules in university and how to strengthen one's application to the UK.



Our Higher Education Counsellor had the pleasure of attending an event hosted **by Australian National University (ANU)** and met with various faculty members. ANU is located in the charming city Canberra and offers several reputable degrees. For those interested, we have stocked the library with ANU brochures, and well-resourced campus and accommodations options, just what our students need. We were also privileged to have **Imperial College London** visit us, where they shared incredibly useful slides on crafting Personal Statements and portfolios. These resources have been made available on our <u>Higher Education Google site</u> for easy access.



NEWSLETTER | August 2024

Our discussions about **subject combinations** for Year 4 students have been robust, with many students and parents actively planning ahead. It has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm as everyone prepares for the opportunities that lie ahead. Two key takeaways were shared 1) Choose subjects based on your interest and aptitude and 2) Keep the future in mind and check university entry requirements. In tandem with National Day, we organised a spread of local university information sessions.

On 15 August, we hosted an **Ask Me Anything** session with **NUS Pharmacy** and **Pharmaceutical Science** followed by a similar session with our alumna **Eshita Suvarna from SMU Business**.

On 19 August, **NUS College** joined us for another **Ask Me Anything** session, providing students with direct answers to their pressing questions on exchange opportunities, time to explore other interests apart from academics during their degree and career outcomes.





Lastly, **Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** set up a booth in the canteen, where students had the opportunity to ask about university admissions requirements and scholarships. The turnout was fantastic, with many students stopping by to learn more about their prospects at HKUST. HKUST is located on a hill and faces the sea, and if students are lucky, their students' dormitory rooms may face the sea. HKUST specialises in STEM programmes similar to Imperial College and at a fraction of the cost.



As we move into a new month, we look forward to continuing our efforts to support and guide our students through their higher education journey.

Industry Partners' Appreciation Dinner 2024

The Higher Education and Careers Department hosted its annual Industry Partners' Appreciation Dinner on the evening of 16 August, 2024. The serene Sitorus Library was transformed into an elegant, candlelit dining hall, warmly welcoming representatives from 38 companies – the largest turnout to date. The event was a resounding success.

The evening began with a warm welcome from our Vice-Principal (Senior Division), Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to our guests for their invaluable contributions in fostering a dynamic learning work environment for our students. Following this, the Head of Higher Education, Ms. Junita Sockalingam shared insights into her professional and academic journey as it was her first Partners' Appreciation Dinner. The highlights of the evening included an update on the Job Shadowing Programme, which culminated in the presentation of awards to our distinguished partners. As our guests sayoured the scrumptious food and our student performers took the stage. Wong Hai Ning (6 SVM) played the pipa, performing the piece 若 (ruo), and our violinist, Lee Donghun (4 CKS), delivered a rendition of Paganini Caprice no.24. Following the performances, 5 of our students, namely Sophie Lee Chia-wei (5 THO), Allison Tan (5 SVM), Tejaswini Jayakumar (5 GHK), Kenzie Foo (5 SVM) and Chloe Fong (6 OLD) shared their enriching experiences from the Job Shadowing Programme and expressed their gratitude to the industry partners who had guided and supported them.

The Partners' Appreciation Dinner was a memorable evening for all, filled with gratitude, inspiration, and a sense of shared purpose. The Best Is Yet To Be.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to perform at the Industry Partners Appreciation Dinner. This event holds great significance, as it provides students with a platform to share their job shadowing experiences. As a performer, I was delighted to express my gratitude to the guests through my pipa and piano performances. I'm glad to see that the audience enjoyed the music.

Wong Haining (6 SVM)

As a student volunteer, it's inspiring to see how much our industry partners value collaboration and mentorship. Tonight's appreciation dinner is a testament to the strong bonds we've built and the incredible opportunities that lie ahead for all of us.

Tejaswini Jayakumar (5 GHK)



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Language Week 2024

This year's Language Week was a lively celebration of "Traditional Games," filled with engaging activities that brought the school community together. Students were creative in their language classes and design posters inspired by traditional games from around the world. These posters were proudly displayed in an exhibition from 2 August to 7 August, where everyone joined in a trivia quiz based on the displays. The excitement grew as the school community voted for their favorite posters, with 9 of the best designs earning awards.

On 5 August, Year 2 students eagerly participated in a traditional games experience and competition, with winners emerging from the spirited challenges. The week concluded with a special school assembly on 7 August, where a video highlighted games from different cultures. An interactive quiz followed, and students enthusiastically competed to answer questions, with prizes awarded to the top performers. The week was a joyful blend of learning and fun, celebrating the richness of traditional games.

Thanks to the Language Week hosted by the school, I was able to learn about the various cultures of many countries. I learned about traditional games from many countries, including China and Japan, in great detail, and the students' posters were truly amazing. In addition, I had the opportunity to learn more about our country's traditional games by participating in making traditional culture posters during this week. I am proud that through this event, Korean traditional games, such as Gonggi Nori and Yut Nori, were able to spread to many international students.

Koo Minseo (4 OLD)

I was very excited about this week because I thought I would be able to experience diverse culture's playthings and understand what they mean, along with the characteristics of the culture. From the posters exhibited in the student centre, I learned many features of traditional games all around the world such as Congkak and Kendama. I also learned new games in my home country, such as snail game. Additionally, the games were very fun, such as Yut Nori.

Seong Yeonwoo (2 THO)







As the organising team for Language Week, we are proud of the achievements that brought our school community together to celebrate global diversity. The event aimed to connect and share information about various world cultures, and highlighting the unique traditions of each of them. With enthusiastic participation from students and staff, the event was a great success. We started with younger students creating vibrant posters about traditional games from their cultures, allowing them to explore and share their heritage in an inspiring display. A key highlight was the trivia guiz during the assembly, which tested students' knowledge of different cultures. This engaging activity fostered curiosity, learning, and healthy competition. Our video presentation featured interviews with students discussing their cultural backgrounds and traditional games, showcasing the diversity within our school and promoting deeper understanding and appreciation. Reflecting on the event, we are proud of how Language Week enriched our understanding of different cultures and strengthened our community. By sharing and celebrating our diverse backgrounds, we have fostered an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.

We thank everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this event. Your enthusiasm made this a memorable experience. We look forward to continuing this journey of cultural exploration and connection.

The Language Week Organizing Team Mok Ho Yi (5 SVM) Kandy Peng Xinning (5 TKK) Sun Dingyuan (5 GHK)











National Day Korean Dance Performance

For the 59th birthday of Singapore, 14 Korean students from Year 3 and Year 4 performed a choreography of the song "This is Me", from the movie "The Greatest Showman". Although we were all extremely satisfied by our performance on the day itself, our journey throughout the months of practice had many challenges. First, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to the Korean language teacher, Ms. Eun Jeong Oh, and the Year 4 and Year 5 students. They dedicated themselves to this project, regularly coming after school for our practice to correct our mistakes, making our performance more fluid and synchronized. One example of the challenges we faced was the frequent changes to the performers. We quickly realised that we would have to change parts of the dance to suit how many people we had, which challenged us to practice and go through moves more frequently and communicate with each other clearly so everyone was aware of the changes made to the choreography. Another challenge was that the 14 performers had different schedules, which made practice sessions with all the 14 people seemed practically impossible. As National Day approached, we would practise every day after school from 3pm to 5pm so that each of us could go through the movements and clear doubts. Not having everyone at practice also made us more principled and responsible, as those who could not attend practice needed to review videos and give feedback on the practice sessions to catch up and fix mistakes before the next practice.

Finally, the most difficult task was synchronising our movements. When we started practising each part, we had much trouble doing this and we were often frustrated, unsure if we would be able to provide a good performance. This encouraged us to practice regularly, giving constructive feedback to one another. This hard work paid off in the end as we minimised our mistakes and made our performance even more satisfying.

I would once again like to thank everyone who supported and guided us through this journey. The challenges we faced during the preparation were daunting, but as we worked towards overcoming these challenges, I realised the challenges allowed us to develop into principled and tenacious individuals.







ACS Got Talent 2024

Hosted by the 7th Student Affairs, ACS Got Talent is an exciting platform designed for students to unveil and celebrate their hidden talents through engaging performances. This year's event, held on 8 August during the vibrant International Day celebrations, took place in the Student Centre, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The event showcased a diverse range of performances, from captivating K-Pop dance and dynamic band

This year's ACS Got Talent placed a strong emphasis on cultural diversity and inclusion. It featured an impressive lineup of acts representing various cultural backgrounds, including songs performed in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, and English, as well as an exciting rope skipping performance by one of our students from Hong Kong. Each performance contributed to the rich tapestry of cultures within our school, reflecting the global spirit of the International Day celebration.

This year's performances not only showcased the diverse skills of our students but also celebrated the rich multicultural environment of our school, successfully promoting a sense of unity and appreciation among the audience. It resonated with the 7th Student Affairs motto, "Inspiring the journey - It all begins here," and aligned with the puzzle piece theme, symbolising cohesion and inclusivity. Students and staff were enthralled by the performances and actively participated in the vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, creating a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.







Mok, Ho Yi (Chloe) (5 SVM)









A Harmonious Fusion of Cultures

On 8 August, 2024, ACS (International) celebrated International Day to promote racial harmony and multiculturalism in Singapore, a melting pot of various ethnic groups and cultures. More than 12 country food stalls were managed by 100 parent volunteers of the Parent School Partners (PSP) with the support of the Holland Village Methodist Church (HVMC) and ACS (International) alumni. The students started their day with a motivating assembly in the sports hall, followed by plenty of song & dance in each of the 8 cultural rooms, after which the students came by in hoards (dutifully queued up) for 1st, 2nd & 3rd helpings from their favourite food stalls as the parent volunteers rushed to keep pace and maintain crowd control.

We had 12 food experience stalls including US/Mexico, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Korea, Europe (UK, Italy & Spain), Singapore/Malaysia, China, Thailand, Korea, Japan and a stall by HVMC as well as a beautiful set up by the ACS Alumni as well. The delicious food included cult favourites like Satay, Paella, Sushi, Indian prata, Bubble tea, Korean Tteokbokki, Tacos, Mango sticky rice, Lechon, Halo Halo, Ramli burgers, ice cream sandwiches while serving at least 4-5 regional favourites per stall, most including live counters where students happily participated. The 8 cultural rooms (Indonesia, India, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam & Thailand, Singapore & Malaysia), each supervised by a staff member) were also fun-filled themed dance party rooms playing regional music, serving themed light snacks as well as fun activities like henna hand tattoos and the uber fun "Bachata" dance room from the Dominican Republic kept the excited students sufficiently spoilt for choice. The students all wore traditional attire, some from different countries and it was heart-warming to see them step into the shoes of their peers fostering mutual respect & acknowledgement in the most endearing manner.

All in all, the atmosphere was abuzz with laughs, gasps and squeals of delight from all students, special mention to the few Year 1's who were noted seen awestruck at the colourful stalls, diverse activities and the ever smiling, encouraging faces of parent volunteers who beckoned them over to taste over 50 types of regional delights and treats spanning over a sizeable area at the basketball court as well as alongside the canteen.

International day was truly a day fostering core memories for students and parents alike. Thank you ACS (International) for this opportunity – the events and activities not just highlighted all our beautiful diverse cultures but also brought us closer together as a community.

Priyanka Kapoor, Mother of Year 2 twins Aanya & Ayana Kapoor

















Teens In Social Media:

Parent Workshop organised by PSP

Healthy online social well-being for teenagers is a prevailing topic among parents and families at ACS (International). On Monday 19 August, the Parent School Partners (PSP) collaborated with the school to organise a 1-hour parent workshop on teens in social media. Thirty parents attended the session in person and via Zoom. More than half of the meeting attendees comprised parents with teens in Years 2 and 3. School Counsellor Ms Charlina Gozali opened with the importance of healthy habits for teenagers. She also covered a description of Wellness Week happenings, as well as, statistics from last year's student surveys on general online use. The guest speaker was Mr Nigel Wong, Family Life Educator from TOUCH Integrated Family Group. The presentation title, "Social 'ME'dia & Online Harms: Empowering Children to Navigate the Thrills & Spills" captured parents' attention and they listened intently. To better understand the result of over-online usage, we skimmed the complexities of brain development in adolescents. Nigel illustrated that a teenager's brain is "still under construction." The amygdala which processes emotions and rewards "grows exponentially" during this time, while the prefrontal cortex which controls judgement, impulse and planning "does not mature until early adulthood." The science was a reminder for some parents, while a new revelation for others. The next part of the presentation evoked concern and awareness. Nigel revealed a list of social media risks which included "inappropriate relationships, negative media influence, inappropriate content, cyber bullying, negative digital footprints, ingenuity of artificial intelligence and family disconnection." Most parents attending recognised that device over-usage reduces social interaction, attention span and sleep. These seemed to be the most popular results. What some did not anticipate was the emotional damage control required. "What do we do now?" ran through our minds.

Nigel reassured us by describing an achievable parenting model followed by a few parenting strategies. Understanding the differences between hearing and listening, communication prompts and reaction, and popular app reviews were helpful overviews. While software control is an instant solution, the behavioural results may be unexpected and damaging over time. Parents were encouraged to work together with their teens to set personal goals strengthening 5 important character traits S.M.A.R.T. – "self-discipline, mindfulness, astuteness, resilience and trustworthiness."

With understanding and patience, guiding our teens to balance social media and device usage need not be a constant battle. Whether parents are in the midst of management or just discovering the effects of social media risks, it's never too late to go back to basics with calm and consistent conversation. Resources are available at school, through TOUCH Community Services and/or between parents. Undoubtedly, the online and offline journey of learning continues together.



Understanding the brain development of our teenagers is crucial for managing their emotional and behavioural changes, which are influenced by continuous neural development. Recognising that their brains are still evolving allows us to parent with greater patience and understanding, guiding them through challenges with empathy and helping them in making better decisions and healthier choices.

Cheryl Cheong, Mother of Year 3 student Karisse Tan

Attending this workshop only confirmed what I had always suspected – that the harms associated with social media are very real and can never be underestimated. In this day and age where young people rely heavily on social media for information, guidance and even friendship, parents need to be constantly vigilant and develop a relationship with their child that encourages openness, communication and trust.

Celine Abueg, Mother of Year 5 student Celina Abueg

Work on the heart, not on the minds of our kids. Teens don't react well with logic thinking. But building a heart with self-esteem and morals can influence their minds and this can lead to better choices making skills...The more we judge, the more they will sneak around to use devices or apps; it's not a one-time magic method. It takes consistency and sincerity. Practice with them to create mindfulness."

Esther Goh, Mother of Year 2 student Cadence Tham

I would say you are not alone; over usage is a common problem that most of us are facing. Communicate your concerns clearly and negotiate common terms. Decide clear boundaries and be reasonable while doing it but once decided stick to it.

Anonymous





Performing with the Brașov Philharmonic Orchestra: Crystal and Viola Huang's Transformative Journey

Performing with one or two friends on stage is a common experience for many young musicians. However, the chance to collaborate with over 40 professional musicians from the renowned Brasov Philharmonic Orchestra of Romania, is a rare and exhilarating opportunity. Crystal and Viola Huang of 4 LSG had the unique privilege to experience this, and they had a bewildering yet transformative journey. Upon entering the first rehearsal, they described feeling excitement and nervousness. "I thought my heart was going to thump out of my chest," Viola shared, reflecting on the initial encounter with the vast ensemble of seasoned musicians. Despite the initial apprehension, it quickly became apparent that the orchestra members were highly professional and also incredibly supportive. They worked with the renowned Romanian conductor Ovidiu Marinescu, who is known for his work with orchestras across Europe and beyond. He has conducted a wide range of repertoire and is recognized for his interpretative skills and dynamic approach to music.

Viola's performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, 3rd Movement was a lively and energetic rendition, showcasing an adventurous and engaging interplay between the piano and the orchestra. In contrast, Crystal's interpretation of Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, II – Larghetto, highlighted expressive qualities and masterful tone control, featuring vivid contrasts in movement and emotion.

The orchestra's openness to collaboration and their willingness to share their extensive knowledge made the experience immensely enriching. Viola and Crystal found themselves frequently engaged in valuable discussions with both the conductor and concertmaster, covering topics ranging from intricate orchestration techniques to lighter conversations about local food and culture.

One of the most striking aspects of this collaboration was the orchestra's intricate teamwork. "Watching and being part of their seamless coordination was immensely admirable," Crystal noted.

Reflecting on the experience, Crystal and Viola expressed deep gratitude and honour for the opportunity.

"It's an honour to have performed with the Braşov Philharmonic Orchestra," they stated.

This sentiment captures the essence of the profound impact this collaboration had on the students, highlighting the power of music to bring people together and foster mutual growth and creativity.





Resonance

The date had been set in the school calendar several months earlier — 17 August 2024. That was the date of the ACS (International) Philharmonic Orchestra concert, Resonance, at the Ho Bee Auditorium at the NUS University Cultural Centre. By the time 4pm of 17 August rolled around, most of the audience had taken their seats and the auditorium and a quiet anticipation filled the air. Soon after the first signal from our esteemed conductor, Maestro Lim Soon Lee, came on, the orchestra gradually came to life, evoking images of conflict, battle, and ultimately, peace and victory. "Resonance" was more than just a concert; it represented our collective effort and hard work, reflecting the dedication we had invested, with each beautiful melody being the culmination of countless hours of practice and CCA sessions.

The programme for the evening was thoughtfully curated by members of the Orchestra Exco, with a focus on the powerful themes of war and peace. Each section of the orchestra contributed to a performance that was not only emotionally resonant but also vividly portrayed the narrative of a soldier in battle.

Two of our esteemed alumni, Russell Tan from the class of 2019 and Lauren Chye from the class of 2023, returned to emcee. They guided the audience through the soldier's journey, as the String Orchestra's rich melodies seamlessly blended with the Wind Band's sonorous tones, crafting a captivating monumental symphony. The evening was further distinguished by a special collaboration—the first of its kind—between the Contemporary Singers and the Philharmonic Orchestra, as they came together to perform Paul Barker's "Celebration."

"Resonance" was not just a showcase of individual talent but a testament to what can be achieved through collective effort and unwavering commitment. The concert concluded with an encore performance of "Radetzky March" by Johann Strauss, leaving the performers and audience members with a profound sense of fulfilment. The experience reinforced the idea that music is a collaborative conversation, and this performance will be remembered as a testament to what teamwork and dedication can accomplish.













Interact Leadership Training Camp 2024

The Interact Leadership Training Camp was held on 27 & 28 July 2024 by Rotary Singapore and Youth Corps Singapore. Held at the Hillview Community Club, this camp has definitely brought a new perspective to service work and community collaboration for the student leaders of the Interact Club Excos in schools across Singapore.

The activities included inter-cultural dialogue and volunteerism for social inclusion. Each one of us learnt meaningful leadership and networking skills to broaden our service to the wider community. We also honed our leadership development skills by networking with the Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and Teacher Advisors of both the local and international schools.

This curated camp has greatly benefitted us all and we were honoured to be able to get the opportunity to be a part of this camp and the Rotary Alumni. The Interact Leadership Training Camp 2024 has brought each of us new insights on our impact to the community and has given us many opportunities to express our leadership skills.



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27TH & 28TH JULY 2024











UPCOMING EVENTS

September	Event	
2 – 13	School Holidays	
17	Year 6 Exam Briefing	
18	TEDx Talk	
	IGCSE Oral Exams (French and Spanish)	
20	Year 6 IB Visual Arts Exhibition	
	Year 4 IGCSE Art Mock Exam	
23	Year 5 Language B Prelim (Paper 1)	
24	Year 5 Language B Prelim (Paper 2)	
24	Year 4 and 6 Study Night	
25	Year 4 Last Day	
25	Year 4 O Level Chinese B Oral Exam	
26 – 27	Year 4 IGCSE ESOL Oral	
26	Year 4 and 6 Study Night	



12 NOV 2024 TUESDAY **4:30 PM** SEATED BY 4:15PM

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

GUEST OF HONOUR

DILHAN PILLAY SANDRASEGARA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TEMASEK HOLDINGS (PRIVATE) LIMITED



RSVP by scanning the QR code or clicking on this <u>link</u> by 4 November 2024. For enquiry, please contact Ms Jessie Yeung: jessie.yeung@acsinternational.edu.sg



ACS (International) Singapore is a distinctive international secondary school open to all Singaporeans & other nationalities, offering an all-round English-based education for students aged 12 to 18 years leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

Senior Leadership Team



Mr Gavin Kinch Principal



Mr Christopher Hayward Vice-Principal

Dr Kristopher Achter Vice-Principal

Mrs Tan Siew Hoon

Vice-Principal



Post PSLE IGCSE Seminars

20 November 2024	4pm
21 November 2024	10am
	2pm
22 November 2024	10am
	2pm

RSVP admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg

Seminars will be held on Campus with school tours where possible.

Attendance by reservations only

Venue: Oldham Chapel, ACS (International) 61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475

For earlier appointments, please contact Joseph Ng or Serene Lim at +65 6472 1477 or <u>admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg</u>