



July 2024

## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to Term 3, and I hope that your child was able to have a good break over the June holidays. Of course our Year 4 and 6 students continued to work hard over the break as they prepared for their preliminary exams. I wish them all the very best as they await their results.

In addition to enjoying the break, there was a large number of students who travelled overseas as part of our annual service trips. We believe in nurturing students who possess moral character, intellectual ability, international mindedness, and a deep compassion for humanity. This vision is brought to life through these annual service trips, where students engage in meaningful community service projects across different countries. Our Service Trips 2024 were designed to help students make a positive impact, find personal fulfillment, build connections, and fulfill their civic responsibilities. You can read about each of these trips on pages 7 to 10.

Our students embarked on various service projects including the Bali Marine Project, the Vietnam Livelihood Project, the Perth Coastal Project, and the Chiang Mai Elephant Project. These projects aimed to engage students in marine conservation efforts, improve the livelihoods of local communities through sustainable initiatives, involve coastal clean-up activities and environmental education programmes, and support elephant conservation efforts. Through these projects, students learnt the importance of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and wildlife protection.

Our commitment to service is deeply influenced by the Bible verse from 1 Peter 3:8, "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.", which serves as a guiding principle for our actions. This call to be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble underpins our service trips, inspiring students and staff alike to actively participate in these projects, demonstrating leadership and compassion. Through these service trips, ACS (International) continues to develop future leaders who are not only intellectually capable but also deeply compassionate and committed to making a positive difference in the world. I would like to thank Dr Kris Achter and Ms Jasmine Lee for overseeing these trips, and for all the teachers who gave up part of their holidays to make them possible.

I wish all our students and families all the very best as we head into the second half of 2024.

**Gavin Kinch**  
Principal

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STAFF NEWS

New Staff

New Staff	Department	Designation
Mr Foo Chee Juan	Maths	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr Alric Chong	Humanities	Teacher of Economics and Business Management
Ms Sabeena Sareena	Science	Teacher of Physics
Ms Eva Jiang	Finance	Accounts Officer

2024 Vanda National Junior Science Olympiad (VNJSO)

ACS (International) proudly congratulates the achievements of the students at the 2024 Vanda National Junior Science Olympiad (VNJSO), a global competition emphasising critical and creative thinking in scientific problem-solving. The VNJSO focuses on higher-order thinking skills to equip students with a deep understanding of scientific knowledge, reasoning, and analytical capabilities. Our students excelled across various categories:

Silver Medal:

Khair Siya Ketan (3 THO)

Bronze Medals:

Laura Kosarev (1 TTK),  
Kaelyn Lim Jia Xin (1 TCT),  
Evie Cho Chuan Chi (1 TTK),  
Luke Lim Yi Kai (2 CKS),  
Wong Jules Tsu (2 TTK),  
Kimberly Ann Hendroff (2 CKS),  
Park Yoonha (3 SVM)

Honourable Mention:

Victoria Goh Yan May (1 CKS),  
Hyvelli Jingyi Wangsa (2 TTK),  
Ekeesha Atre (3 OLD),  
Naisssha Makhija (3 TTK)

Congratulations to all our participants for their hard work, dedication and achievements!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July	Event
30	Year 4 IB Information session
31 – 2 August	School Photo-taking
August	Event
1	Inter-House Chess
5 – 7	Languages Week
5	Science Competition (Year 3) ICAS Assessments
7	Australian Mathematics Competition
8	International Day
	National Day celebrations
9	National Day
12	PTM (Year 1, IB, 2, Pre IG, 4, 6) No lessons
13	Release of May IGCSE results
15	Year 2 IGCSE Information session
	Inter-House Netball and Football
16	Industry Partners Appreciation Dinner
17	Resonance, Philharmonic Orchestra Performance
19 – 23	Wellness Week
20	Barrett Music Competition
22 – 23	Group 2 Language IOs
22	Year 1 and 2 Girls HPV
23	Methodist Schools Long Service Award Service
24	Ambassadors Charity Event with Apex 100 & Oldham Fiesta
27	Year 5 HE Talk
28	Commendation Assembly
	ESOL Research Exhibition
30	Teachers’ Day celebrations
September	Event
1 – 15	School holidays

# ACS (International) Students Take On A New Sport: Triathlons

Participating in the Metasprint Discovery triathlon on 5 May was a thrilling first for us at ACS (International). This event, known for its dynamic mix of swimming, cycling, and running, allowed us to demonstrate our endurance, determination, and sportsmanship. Despite being newcomers to triathlons, we (Kay Thrin Kam, along with Ashley Chan, Daniel Moushain and Yuvaan Baakshi) embraced the challenge with an open mind and a desire to push our limits. We devoted ourselves to intensive training sessions in the weeks leading up to the triathlon. With the guidance of Ms Laura Blunt, we refined our swimming techniques and learnt all about transitions and tips for our first-ever triathlon.

The Metasprint Discovery triathlon was more than just a race; it was a journey of personal growth and striving for excellence. Looking back on our experience, we've gained valuable lessons in resilience, teamwork, and the importance of perseverance. Despite facing challenges such as loose bike chains and jellyfish stings, we learnt from them and look forward to future triathlon opportunities to represent our school once again proudly.

We would also like to thank the support of several Year 5 students who volunteered at the event and helped us along the way!



## Triathlon Workshops

Additionally, I participated in the school's Triathlon Workshops. Firstly, I had the opportunity to meet professional triathlete Chelsea Sodaro during a meet-and-greet session. She shared valuable insights into her races and offered advice for people interested in picking up triathlons, such as myself. I found it fascinating to learn about the training methods triathletes use based on the climate of their next race.

Secondly, I attended triathlon workshop sessions held afterschool at Sentosa with fellow ACS students; led by a skilled Singaporean triathlete coach. During these sessions, I practiced transitioning from swimming to running and even managed to improve my freestyle swimming skills significantly in just three weeks! I found it particularly interesting to learn about optimizing transitions, staying safe during triathlons, and gaining knowledge from an experienced triathlete.

The workshop concluded with an exciting relay duathlon that pushed me to my limits. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, made new friends, and am inspired to continue pursuing the sport. I only wish the workshop could have been a long-term CCA to start a school team.

Ashley Chan (5 CKS) and Kay Trinh Kam (Year 5)





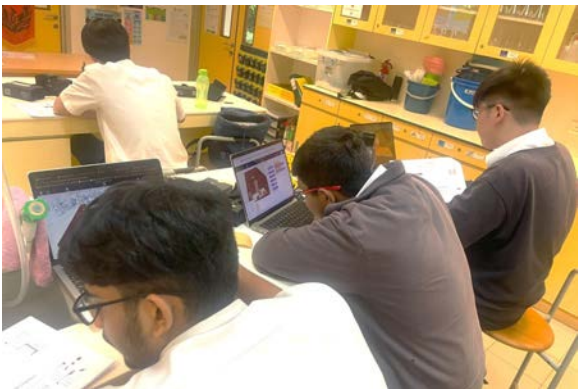
## VR STEM Programme Reflections

Participating in the VR (virtual reality) STEM programme was an enlightening journey where we acquired essential coding and programming skills and found immense enjoyment in the process. The structured curriculum and immersive VR environment made learning both engaging and fulfilling. We developed technical expertise and valuable life skills by overcoming challenges, collaborating with peers, and embracing a problem-solving mindset. This experience has also ignited our passion for continued learning and equipped us with the confidence to navigate the complexities of the digital world with enthusiasm and determination.

The collaborative aspect of the VR STEM program also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among participants. Sharing ideas, troubleshooting, and celebrating one another's successes created a supportive learning environment where everyone felt empowered to excel.

Overall, our experience with the VR STEM program was nothing short of transformative. It equipped us with practical coding skills and instilled a passion for learning and a newfound confidence in tackling challenges head-on. As we continue our journey, we carry with us the invaluable lessons and experiences gained from this programme, eager to apply them to future endeavours in the ever-evolving world of technology.

*Abirami d/o Murti (6 CKS) and Aglaia Teo (6 CKS)*



# Artistry

## Future Generations

Artistry’s earlier works from 2023, ‘Future Generations’, tackled the controversies with the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It has affected not only the academic content we consume and create, but also the artistic ones. Ranging from films to fashion, these tools allow for a completely streamlined art process that, in this fast-paced world, dominates industries. But can artificial intelligence really take over human creativity? As a CCA, we acknowledge its use as a means to reproduce and conceptualise ideas. Yet, there is the argument that art requires soul. At a certain point, artists must take a step back and admire the charm of humanity and authenticity in art. AI blurs the boundaries of what makes an “artist” by pushing accessibility to the extreme, but is that a good thing? Part of what makes art special is that it is difficult to create, even with the tools in front of us. Without any hard work required, mastering what you love can seem more and more pointless. The future of the art world is also impacted by other media that is not as disruptive as AI but is definitely slowly changing the scene in its own way. Social media slowly drains the enjoyment of the process by demanding visual eye candy. The fashion industry sees new changes constantly through quick fads from celebrity trendsetters. But what do all these things actually mean for the future of art?

Will it rebel against its own consumerist ways and encourage slow, narrative, and soulful art? Or will it continue to saturate itself with inexpressive end products at a faster pace than ever?

Shreya Biswas  
(5 CKS)



<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/e1363d31dd.html>

## Colour

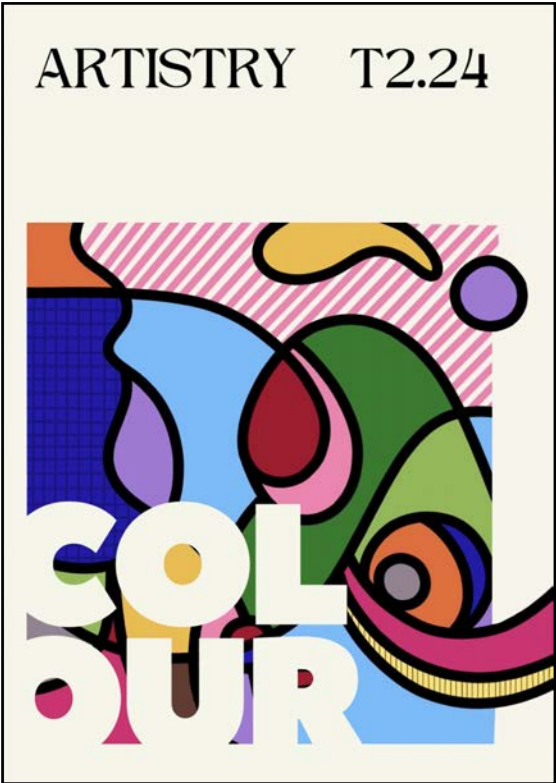
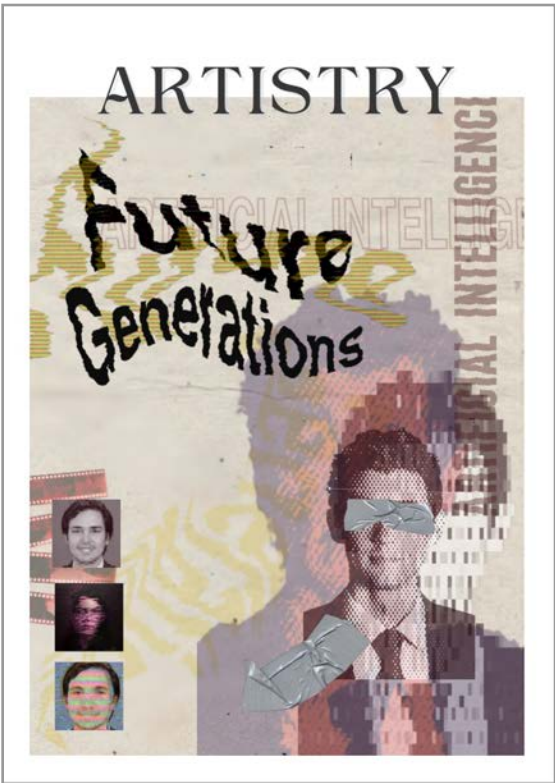
This term’s latest issue of Artistry is a dizzyingly vibrant affair – apt for the magazine’s theme of colour. Curated by our most passionate and talented students, this edition celebrates the inextricable link between colour and human emotion, and how these manifest in various mediums of art experienced in our daily lives. This edition delves into the fascinating world of colour in film, explaining why seemingly joyfully coloured films, such as ‘La La Land’ can often become tinted with a bittersweet tone by the end of the movie. We investigate how the light, airy blue of a girl’s eyes can symbolise the colouring of a hopelessly infatuated boy’s perception of the world, and how directors stamp their name on productions with a signature pastel palette. Fans of fine dining will be pleased to know that this issue also inspects the use of colour in the presentation of food, taking delectable meals to insuperable masterpieces simply with adding a touch of artistic flair and colour. For the militant followers of Taylor Swift, Artistry presents an analysis of her undeniably vibrant Eras tour costumes, appreciating the narrative woven into her outfits, often referencing past albums that were heavily associated with colour - look no further than ‘Red’.

Artistry is more than a magazine; it is a celebration of creativity and a testament to the talent within our school. It opens the door to the world of art to those who may not be the next Leonardo Da Vinci but have an appreciation of aesthetic beauty that is innate within us all. We invite you to immerse yourself in our pages!

Violeta Valderas  
(6 CKS)



<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/8530fbb525.html>







Choice to Run 2024

Apex Fiesta Edition

This year, the 14<sup>th</sup> Student Ambassadors, CKS House and Oldham House are joining forces for the most anticipated charity event of the year, Choice to Run 2024: Apex Fiesta Edition! Our beneficiary is the Disabled People’s Association (DPA), a non-profit organisation representing the disability community. Through our event, we aim to raise awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, and all proceeds will go directly to DPA.

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at Choice to Run 2024! Whether you choose the exhilarating new obstacle courses or stick to the traditional non-obstacle route, there’s something for everyone. Feeling competitive? Test your strength and stamina in the survival challenge APEX100. And that’s not all - Oldham Fiesta will be packed with exciting carnival games, delicious snacks, and a variety of fun events. And don’t miss the chance to dunk your favourite teachers!

Bring your friends and family, mark your calendars, and sign up now for an event you won’t want to miss!

For more information, visit our [website](#) and follow our Instagram @acsint.ambass, @acsint.cks and @acsint.old for further updates!

See you there!



# CHOICE TO RUN 2024: APEX FIESTA EDITION

**Date:** 24 August 2024, Saturday  
**Time:** 8am - 12pm  
**Venue:** ACS (International)

**Scan this QR code to sign up NOW!**

**Registration fee:** \$30 (by 4 August)  
**Early bird fee:** \$25 (by 24 July)

Each participant has the choice of signing up for **either CTR or APEX100**

Eliminated APEX100 participants in rounds 1 and 2 may sign up for CTR on event day for \$5

**One-off CAS experience** for all IB student participants who complete the 40-minute run

**Participants are entitled to:**

- CTR T-shirt
- \$5 worth of **Fiesta** coupons
- 1 free cup of colour powder for Colour Fiesta

(Colour Fiesta will take place from 12pm - 1.05pm)

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CAS

# Chiang Mai Service Trip 2024

[\(Video\)](#)

Our recent service trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand, provided us with profound knowledge and understanding of the very idea of service, the elephant welfare project, and the welcoming community there. Throughout the trip, we were guided by our highly supportive and encouraging service leaders and teachers. As I gained more insight into this project, I became more conscious of the elephants' harsh working environment under stressful conditions to carry out labour and tourism for humans and their lack of freedom. This project allowed us to learn about the challenges the sanctuary faces in allowing the elephants to roam freely and live as they wish. We aimed to provide extra food and reduce costs for the community; hence, we worked with the ChangChill elephant sanctuary, which was more ethical compared to the other 'sanctuaries' built solely for tourism. Over 5 days, we got to know the local community well by interacting and cooperating with them. I learned about the many various roles needed to preserve the natural life for these animals and how the mahouts, our guides, and the farmers collaborate closely to achieve these objectives. What intrigued me was the intense care the mahouts provided for elephants and how their lives are dedicated to them, ensuring no violence is used. The Karens were very patient and kind, prioritising the elephants instead of tourists and have even taught us many skills through weaving and cooking. Our guides and the farmers willingly plant food in the blazing sun just to make sure the elephants have enough food for the next season. Everyone in the community was helpful and easygoing; whenever we encountered problems, they would help come up with solutions. Their culture consists of much hard work and perseverance, and they always finished their tasks, no matter the harsh conditions outside.

We managed to plant several banana trees and bamboo roots by learning how to use the shovel and spade and digging the soil using farming techniques we picked up. We also made vitamin balls from the natural ingredients we found to aid the elephant's digestive system to ensure optimum health and wellbeing. By working together as a team, we achieved so much by contributing to the elephants' food source and health for the next few months. Overall, we fulfilled the project's goal in hope that the elephants continue to be healthy and stress-free. I have realised the true meaning of service: it is not merely about helping but also learning the culture and needs of the community we are helping and working towards a sustainable solution together, amplifying our impact on others' welfare. I believe that putting in our finest efforts to achieve this solution was a high point in this service trip, and I will remember how we can make a positive, significant impact on others through service.

Ngim Jingwen (5 LSG)



This trip was nothing like I had expected — and I am grateful for all I learnt, including bug bites, slipping in mud, and more and bigger bugs. It was admittedly a little challenging at the start of the trip, especially since it felt like we were in the middle of nowhere. However, I surprised myself by how quickly I adapted and began enjoying it! Our time in the remote village was valuable over the first four days as we planted banana trees and bamboo for the elephants under the rain and shine. Before this, I had never tried gardening so learning how to properly dig on a cliffside was completely new to me and was a chance to apply my physics skills, though they didn't get me too far. In addition, we had the opportunity to view the elephants in the ethical sanctuary. We watched the elephants eat the vitamin balls we made, as well as the sugar cane we chopped up for them. This enabled me to realise the effort the villagers put into running this ethical sanctuary every day. I have gained a deep respect for how they put the elephants before themselves and am inspired to adopt such resilience too. Interacting with the community when learning how to cook and weave not only taught me about a new culture, and how to communicate despite the language barrier. Waking up to home-cooked breakfasts every single morning was truly heartwarming, so I tried to learn a few words in Thai to properly express my gratitude. Not only was this a service trip, but a cultural immersion one as well! On our last few days, we moved to Chiang Mai. The bustling night market and lights there were just as beautiful yet seemingly unnatural for me, since I had grown so used to the quiet environment in Mae Win village.

Teamwork was a central theme of this trip as we hiked in rain, worked together to uplift the bamboo roots and shared bug spray. I'm proud of all of us for doing our best! I've learnt and grown so much along with everyone. I now know how to not fall in mud, plant, farm, communicate in challenging circumstances and face obstacles with positivity and an open mind. Though this trip was supposed to be focused on elephants, I have also developed a stronger appreciation for farmers and where our food comes from as I'm now more aware of the back-breaking strength that goes into harvesting it. Finally, I want to extend a massive THANK YOU to the teachers who took such great care of us! We really appreciate you all keeping us hydrated, safe and (almost all of us) free of stomach issues!

Kaylee Victoria Ng (5 LSG)





# Vietnam CAS Trip

[\(Video\)](#)

**Chicken Coup Activity:** These few days were an extremely tiring yet productive and fruitful day that started off at 6am! The aim was to construct the foundation of the chicken coup for the villagers so that they could sell the chickens and eggs to raise money for their families. Helping with the cement, mixing of sand, carrying heavy bricks under the scorching sun, I truly felt my 'blood, sweat and tears' going into this project. I witnessed the excellent teamwork and camaraderie that was crucial to pull this off. We took turns taking breaks and made sure that each of us put our maximum effort into this whilst having enough rest to continually motivate one another. We weighed one another's strengths and weaknesses and made sure to delegate the workload evenly. At times where we needed multiple people to push the wheelbarrow, we all stepped in to help one another, knowing that we could only thrive as a group and not as individuals. It was truly heart-warming to see Vietnamese volunteers who worked as our translators so that we could also befriend the family we were helping, forming bonds that I knew we would never forget. As a trip student leader, I made sure to always motivate my peers. Whenever I would see a student physically strained and lacking the will to continue, I offered words of encouragement and led by example. Furthermore, I also helped with the coordination of the groups, packing of materials for this project and I was glad that my hard work and contributions were put into good use. Visiting the primary school: This was one of my favourite activities as we had the privilege to visit a local primary school and teach the students some hygiene lessons, as well as provide them with colouring materials and origami classes. Even though it was rather simple for us, the smiles that were brought to the kids' faces when they saw new stationery and colourful pens and pencils will forever be edged in my memory. We played some Singaporean childhood games, immersing our culture with theirs and forming impactful bonds with one another. As I was one of the leaders for this activity, I had to plan the games months earlier and conducted several meetings with the co-leaders/teachers. Even though it was hard work and time consuming in the packing/buying of materials, I knew how much it meant to these kids and was glad that I could contribute in one way or another.

**Kayaking:** After a 5-hour drive to the outskirts of Danang, we were greeted by the peaceful scenery of the cave and began the cave exploration! This involved a 2km kayaking journey, which truly tested our coordination and teamwork skills. In between, there were designated cave spots for us to learn more about the historical culture of Vietnam! Not only was this an extremely physically engaging activity, but it also increased our knowledge and allowed us to appreciate a different aspect of this beautiful country.

I think this was an extremely insightful experience that broadened my perspectives of the world. With the element of Creativity (organising games for the children), Activity (Kayaking activity), and Service (Building chicken coops), this was an enriching curriculum that I will never forget!

Natasha Rae Tan (5 OLD)



For most of my Vietnam Livelihood Trip, we were divided into three groups to assist with building chicken coops for the local villages. Our first task was laying the groundwork, which involved setting up the cement floor and bricks. Many tasks were involved, such as shovelling gravel into buckets and transferring it to create the base of the coop. On the second day, we began building the walls and fencing for the coop. We were also tasked to help with the netting for the outdoor play area, ensuring the chickens couldn't escape. On the final day, we focused on finishing the roof, as well as constructing a chick bed and ladder. At the end of the construction, we participated in a chick ceremony, where we brought the chicks into their new home and watched them settle into their new environment. Overall, this experience was incredibly rewarding and taught me the value of hard work and community effort. The most significant aspect of the trip was the hands-on experience of building the chicken coops. It taught me the steps involved in construction and the importance of teamwork and collaboration. I learned practical skills, such as mixing cement and ensuring the structure's safety and efficiency. This experience highlighted the value of delegating tasks based on our strengths and working together to achieve a common goal. I was very proud of what we achieved in just three days. It gave me a deeper appreciation for these projects and how they benefited the community.

During this trip, I was able to tackle challenges and develop new skills that I would not have been able to learn in Singapore. Building the chicken coop was physically demanding, requiring perseverance and efficient time management to stay on schedule. This experience taught me the importance of stepping out of my comfort zone to foster better teamwork and achieve our objectives more effectively. This trip also allowed me to gain a better understanding of the significance these chicken coops held for the families we were assisting. On the final day, we received a heartfelt speech from the homeowners whose coop we had helped build. Their grateful words showed us how much our work improved their daily lives. Knowing that our efforts would help provide food and income brought us joy.

Nathan Widjaja (5 SVM)





# Bali CAS Trip

[\(Video\)](#)

As the trip leader for our recent Bali Marine Service CAS trip, I am thrilled to share the exciting adventures of our Year 5 IBDP students in Bali. From cultural immersion to marine exploration, our students embraced every moment enthusiastically and respectfully, creating memories that will last a lifetime. They demonstrated remarkable cultural awareness, eagerly embracing local customs and traditions. One standout example was during the Gamelan lessons, where students focused on individual instruments and practised basic techniques and patterns. Playing together as a group, they showed patience and discipline, understanding the importance of each part of the ensemble.

The trip featured almost daily snorkelling sessions, where our students' dedication to marine exploration was truly inspiring. They engaged in sustainable netting, coral watch monitoring, and launching reef turtle structures, displaying an unwavering passion for Bali's marine life despite challenges such as jellyfish and strong currents. Their dedication and curiosity impressed even the organisers, who noted their unprecedented love for the water. Additionally, our students excelled in a reef structure design competition, with the winning group's innovative design set to be implemented by the Les Village Marine Community. The students also attended a plastic recycling workshop, where they learnt about transforming plastics into sustainable products when recycled correctly. The dangers of improper plastic disposal resonated deeply with the students, inspiring them to clean up the shoreline and collect rubbish while snorkelling. As our students return home, they bring back fond memories and valuable lessons in teamwork, cultural understanding, and environmental stewardship. This trip has enriched their knowledge of marine conservation and empowered them to take actionable steps towards environmental sustainability. As a trip leader, it has been both a pleasure and an honour to witness the dedication and enthusiasm of these students, making this CAS trip a resounding success.

*Ms Linda Low*

From 25 May to 30 May 2024, a dedicated group of us, mainly from the Year 5 IBDP cohort, embarked on a meaningful service trip to Northern Bali, Indonesia. The purpose of this trip was to enrich our marine knowledge and captivate our interests in coral research and development while also contributing to the village community. Our goals included documenting the coral reefs, promoting environmental sustainability, and fostering cultural exchange with the village community. Our destination was Les Village, located on the northern coast of Bali, a poor area devastated by a massive volcanic eruption in 1963. Unlike the tourist-heavy southern coast, the north remains untouched by the developed tourist industry, with villages practising subsistence agriculture and fishing. We spent several amazing days snorkelling, free-diving, exploring the vibrant coral reefs, and encountering various types of fish and corals. Creating and decorating artificial coral reef structures shaped like giant turtles was a highlight, as was planting coral substrates and painting the tables to deploy into the sea. The plastic recycling workshop was enlightening, teaching us about different types of plastic and the truths about recycling. Sorting plastics and visiting a recycled plastic warehouse where shredded plastic was transformed into furniture were eye-opening experiences. Cleaning two beaches and picking rubbish out of the ocean felt incredibly rewarding as we applied our knowledge from the recycling workshop to sort the waste, contributing to environmental conservation. Monitoring the health of the coral reef by collecting observational data and recording instances of coral bleaching and marine debris made us feel like we were making a real impact. We also found salt farming fascinating, watching the process of extracting salt from seawater through natural evaporation. The service trip profoundly impacted us and the community in Les Village. We learnt about marine science and gained valuable insights into different cultures, fostering a deeper sense of empathy and social and environmental responsibility. Our efforts in planting corals in the reef, conserving beach cleanliness, and interacting with villagers significantly affected the local environment and community, and we were proud of our contributions. Reflecting on the trip, we found the experience incredibly rewarding and eye-opening. Despite challenges such as language barriers, we learnt resilience and the importance of teamwork, and the lessons from this trip will stay with us for a lifetime.

We are immensely grateful for the support and collaboration of Sea Communities and the resident marine biologists, whose expertise and resources were crucial to the success of our projects. Their partnership enabled us to learn extensively about marine science, sustainability, ornamental fish, coral reefs, and the history of Les Village. This trip would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our teachers, organisers, and student volunteers. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, from Ms. Low Lin Da, our trip lead, to Ms. Jasmine Lee for organising the trip, Ms. Elaine from Sea Communities, Mr. Lee, our tour guide, Rachel and Sam, the marine biologists from NUS, and the chefs at the homestay for the delicious meals. Their contributions have made a significant difference in Les Village and inspired our school community to continue engaging in meaningful service.

*Aahan Wakharkar (5 SVM)*





# Perth CAS Trip

[\(Video\)](#)

Our Perth CAS trip was the first ever service trip to Australia. Overall, we were extremely excited for the trip. It was also the smallest CAS trip in terms of numbers, with only a total of 16 people. This allowed us to bond with each other as a tightly knitted group. We were all shy upon initially meeting each other as we do not meet up often in school. However, as we moved further into our trip, we bonded together better. When we arrived, the breeze of the wind was cooling and comforting while the beautiful scenery mesmerised us. Upon reaching our accommodation, we were also invited to cosy houses such as the Clive and Shakespeare houses. Additionally, the food was also consistently good, allowing us to re-energize and prepare for the days to come. In terms of the service we did, firstly we went to Point Peron to pick up trash. We found rubbish such as beer bottles, used wrappers and much more. We picked up even the smallest bit of trash, and we eventually cleared about 10 kg of waste out of Point Peron. This was followed by planting trees by digging holes and watering and fertilising. Overall, we planted 30 trees. We also went to Yalgorup National Park to collect brushes. Brushing is an activity where we removed vines and branches that may have fallen off trees over time and put it in a trailer where we will keep it for another use. Together, my friends and I were able to collect even the smallest twigs and leaves while also carrying large tree trunks. This was difficult but was fulfilling to do. We used the brushes we collected to stabilise dunes, to ensure no more land is lost. This was a very interesting way, showing how fascinating nature really is. Through this service, we were able to show acts of selflessness. Our trips also included some super fun activities, including walking around the few beaches we visited. It allowed us to meet some exclusive animals in person such as kangaroos and more. However, the highlight was kayaking at the Canning River. It was something that could not be commonly found in Singapore. We were able to work out our muscles in probably the funniest way we could and enjoy the vibrance and atmosphere of the river.

Overall, the trip was an enriching, enjoyable and memorable one. We were able to do service, reaching out to the wider community and for a greater cause. Beneath the surface value, I was also able to make closer relationships with both peers and teachers and appreciate everything that I have been given, including on this trip. The long hours playing cards and chatting with your roommates at night is something that is irreplicable and I am very grateful for the experience as a whole.

Eldon Joel Kwan (5 TKK)



Given how we were not only the smallest group in comparison with the others but also due to the absence of a strong internet signal in our accommodations, we naturally interacted more with each other, our teachers, and the wonderful surroundings around us through our many interactions with each other such as archery, kayaking, brushing the sand dunes, planting trees. Through these interactions with each other, we not only learned more about ourselves, but we also learned more about the wonderful environment in Western Australia and friends around us. Over the course of the week, we undertook a wide range of activities.

On the first day, we immediately set to work planting trees and cleaning up an area known as Point Peron working collaboratively as a group taking on different roles such as digging holes, planting trees, watering and fertilising them, picking up the litter that lay all around the area. Over the next few days, we set to work transporting tree branches of varying shapes and sizes to a trailer where it was transported to the sand dunes to be used in brushing at a later time. Working together as a group together with the teachers and the volunteers, we managed to fill 4 trailers with branches. An additional bonus for all of us at the end of every day was not only seeing the fruits of our collaborative labour but also the time we spent on the beaches after finishing our activities enjoying the cool sea breeze and sceneries while eating lunch and chatting with each other. We also enjoyed many other exhilarating activities. There were not many artificial light sources around the campsite, we decided to try stargazing on one of the nights after dinner. To our amazement, the many photos that we managed to capture were beyond what we believed to be possible. On the second-last day, we had the opportunity to take part in archery at our campsite. I was apprehensive at first that my arrows would not fly far as I had not shot a bow and arrow in 5 years but over time, I picked up the technique once again and managed to hit the board. On the last day, we went kayaking in the Canning River. It was truly an experience that I would never forget as despite the rain that came and went, we enjoyed a fun day both kayaking and observing the various flora and fauna on the river as we went along the banks of the river. I will never forget all our shared experiences that we had from our nightly card game sessions after dinner to the time we spent as a group giving back to the community in various ways such as in tree planting to helping them get their vehicle out after it was stuck in the sand dunes.

Roy Kwan (5 SVM)





PSP

# First Aid & CPR Training

## Parent Workshop organised by PSP

A First Aid & CPR / AED workshop was organised by Parent School Partners (PSP) on the morning of Monday, 20 May. The 4-hour session was conducted by Singapore First Aid Training Centre at the Oldham Chapel Foyer. A total of 27 parents including 4 PSP Executive members attended. Year 5 parents were the majority of attendees at 25.8%; an even number of Years 1 and 3 parents attended at 22.6% each. The two trainers registered the attendees and distributed starter kits filled with materials to be used during the workshop.

For the next 2 1/2 hours, the partnered teams, wrapped, fastened, and tugged and tucked gauze, bandannas and plaster. The workshop content included management of bleeding and wounds; fractures and dislocations; burns and breathing difficulties; and heart attack and cardiac arrest recognition. Between each module, the trainers covered video information explaining statistics and figures from Singapore and around the world. Parents were most fascinated with the personal examples from the trainers' ambulatory experiences. After the trainers shifted locations to the strategically placed mannequins on the floor of the foyer, anticipation grew stronger for the more rigorous portion of the workshop – cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of the automated emergency defibrillator (AED). That was the opportune time for parents to practise and apply chest compressions. The trainers guided the compression timing with the ever-famous “staying alive” tune and lyrics. The most technical part of the workshop was learning how to operate the AED. Before turning on the device and pressing the infamous “activation” button, parents were taught or reminded of several steps taken including clearing the path of danger, and efficiently preparing the victim's body for electric shock. We are happy to report that all 17 mannequins were successfully resuscitated, some twice.

To conclude, parents enjoyed light pastries paired with Toast Box coffee and tea. The workshop armed parents with many life-saving methods. Our grateful thanks to the parents for their initiation for this workshop and placing importance on first aid not only for their families but those around them as well.

The trainers were entertaining and knowledgeable. It was fun and useful! Thank you for organizing this!

Liza Tay  
Parent of Year 5 students Allison and Zachary Tan

A really helpful and informative First Aid training session organised by PSP. To familiarise ourselves with first aid is so critical yet often overlooked. The instructors were knowledgeable and experienced; spicing the session with their real-life experiences. A very fruitful four hours spent with parents of ACS (International) indeed. Thank you PSP!

Maisy Koh  
Parent of Year 4 student Sophie Beh

Who knew saving lives could be so entertaining? Not only am I equipped with Band-Aids and CPR moves, but I have also made some friends and had lots of fun!

Phyllis Luo  
Parent of Year 1 student Lucas Joel Imhof





PPG

PPG Prayer cum Bonding

Soft Pastel Nagomi Art

On 4 July 2024, the ACS (International) Parents Prayer Group (PPG) came together for a time of worship, devotion and prayer which was followed by some much-needed art therapy and lunch.

During our time of worship, sharing of pivotal testimonies, an insightful devotion and prayer led by Pastor Loretta Lim, the Lord’s mighty presence was clearly evident. Pastor Loretta’s devotion – a heart of thanksgiving – deeply resonated with me as I realised that as we go about our day-to-day lives, it is so easy to become complacent about everything. We must always acknowledge that our Heavenly Father is constantly at work in our lives and thanking Him throughout the course of the day places emphasis on the trust, faith and hope that we have in Him. We were then blessed to come together once more for a Soft Pastel Nagomi Art session led by the very talented Mr. Goh. His kind temperament and patience were greatly appreciated by all of us, and we had a lot of fun talking, laughing, and engaging in a very therapeutic art class. My artistic talents are few and far between, but we were surrounded by those who were clearly gifted in this area. A lovely lunch then followed.

I have been a part of the ACS (International) Parents Prayer Group for 6 months thus far and have never missed a session. As a new parent to the school with a daughter in Year 1, these monthly sessions have enabled me to meet other like-minded parents who have been gracious enough to share their wisdom and wealth of experiences with me. Most importantly though, I have the privilege of coming together with school staff and parents to join in a very special and sacred time of worship, devotion, prayer and fellowship.

The Parents Prayer Group (PPG) meets monthly to pray for the school, and we welcome all. Our next few meetings for the remainder of the year will be held on Thursday 1 August, 3 October and 7 November, from 8am to 9.30am. Please contact Christina on 96905560 for more details.

Dilpreet Singh  
ACS (International) PPG





## HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

### Recap of Our UK Trip

In June, we had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 4 and 5 students to the UK for enriching university and business tours. The universities we visited were University College London, Imperial College London, London School of Economics, King's College London, University of Edinburgh, and University of Glasgow. The students attended lectures, explored campuses, and engaged with current students and faculty. We also had the wonderful opportunity to meet ACS (International) alumni on some of the campuses. They took us to nice lunch spots on campus.



University of Glasgow



University of Visit to Newton Farm to learn about how a farm operates and its marketing initiatives



ACS (International) alumni, Alex Cheng and Michael Chen, sharing with our students on UCL's campus

More photos from the trip can be found on our Higher Education & Careers website under "[Campus Visits](#)"

### University Applications Information Seminar

On 13 July, we hosted our annual 'Uni App Day' for all Year 6 students and their parents. This event was designed to provide comprehensive guidance on making choices and key admissions information. Highlights of the event included:

**Higher Ed & Careers Department Sharing:** Understanding the different application systems both locally and overseas including deadlines and what to prepare.

**Alumni Guest Speakers:** Moderated Q & A panel consisting of alumni sharing their personal experiences and perspectives of making decisions pertaining to careers or university.

- Joshua Yue, B. Business, Minor in Economics, Minerva University (2021)
- Henry Wang, B. Computing, National University of Singapore (2024)
- Clarisse Lim, B. Arts, Politics, Philosophy, Law, University of Warwick (2025)
- Selina Cheng, B. Commerce, University of British Columbia (2026)
- Sheryl Tan, MBBS, National University of Singapore (2026)
- Student Moderators : Declan Loh (6 TTK) and Ariel Ku (6 GHK)



Selina Cheng, Henry Wang, Joshua Yue, Sheryl Tan, Clarisse Lim



Key Takeaways from the Panel

- On making the right course/career choices : Life is a series of experiments.
- On studying overseas : You leave with more than you came with.
- On "fit": A good university doesn't mean it's good for you.

The slides from the event are available on our [Higher Education & Careers Google Site](#).

### Launch of Our Google Site

We are excited to announce the launch of our [Higher Education & Careers Google Site](#). This platform is a one-stop resource for all things related to university applications. Key features include:

- Application Guides: Step-by-step instructions for applying to universities in various countries.
- Last Year's Data: Insights and statistics from the 2023 graduating cohort, including acceptance rates and popular courses.
- Event Resources: Slides and materials from past events like our recent University Application Day.
- Alumni Stories: How our alumni are faring and what their journeys were like after IB/IGCSE.
- Visit our Google Site to explore all the resources available to you.

Popular Courses Among the 2023 Graduating Cohort

Our 2023 graduates have shown diverse interests, but some courses have stood out as the most popular choices. Here are the top courses selected by our recent graduates:

### Most Popular Courses

*\*based on 100 student responses from the 2023 Batch*

1 Business incl Fintech, Commerce

2 Engineering

3 Computer Science/Computer Engineering/AI

4 Law  
Psychology incl  
Psychology and Media Analytics  
Psychology, Sociology and Political Science

5 Biology/Biotechnology  
Pharmacy/Pharmacology  
Economics incl Economics & Psychology

Other Courses - Communications and Media, Design, Design and Artificial Intelligence, Fine Arts, History, Accounting, Medicine, Nursing, Social sciences with data science, Communications and Media, Fine Arts, History, Accounting, Medicine, Nursing Social sciences with data science, International Relations, Life Science and Chemistry, Mathematics, Medical Physiology, Natural Science, Information Systems, Physics, Pre-Med, Chinese, Public Policy, Science, Speech Pathology

These choices reflect the dynamic interests and ambitions of our students as they embark on their higher education journeys.

Upcoming Events: Alumni AMA and More

- We have several exciting events lined up for our students to attend:
- 16 July, 12pm-12.40pm: Singapore Medical Society UK Talk
  - 23 July, 12pm-12.40pm: Cambridge University Malaysia and Singapore Association Talk
  - 26 July, 12pm-12.40pm: Alumni AMA: UK Seniors, Q&A Session
  - 29 July, 12pm-12.40pm: Imperial College London Talk
  - 31 July, 12pm-12.40pm: UK University Fair featuring 15 UK universities
  - 1 & 2 Aug, 12pm-12.40pm: Law Mock Admissions Session by past Law students

Publicity for these events is sent via email to our students.

Job Shadowing Programme (27 May to 28 June 2024)

The May/June holidays were an exciting period for 41 of our IB students, who actively participated in the Job Shadowing programme and immersed themselves in real-world work experiences. They gained valuable insights from professionals across various fields: 16 students explored medical-related fields, 11 engaged in Engineering/Technology roles, 5 delved into the legal profession, and 4 experienced the Business/Finance sector, among others. Following their attachments, many students developed a clearer perspective on their future academic and career trajectories.

Shadowing at the cardiology department was an enlightening experience that deepened my understanding of medical practice. Observing consultations and surgeries provided invaluable insights into patient care and the technical skills required in cardiology. The supportive environment and interactions with experienced doctors solidified my passion for the field and highlighted the importance of continuous learning and teamwork in healthcare. This experience has been truly memorable and has greatly influenced my career aspirations.

Nicolas Koh (5 LSG)



Published with permission from Tan Tock Seng Hospital  
L-R: Dr David Foo, Sara Attal (5 OLD) and Nicolas Koh (5 LSG)

I have learnt so much in the span of four days here at ST Engineering (Changi). The respective supervisors have given me a detailed explanation of what they do and how they function. It was an eye-opening experience being able to see the works up close and have a taste of the behind-the-scenes action from the top-notch technicians and engineers. They guided me and introduced me to the world of aerospace engineering and made it an unforgettable and remarkable experience.”

Daniel Tay Yee Jye (5 TKK)



Published with permission from ST Engineering Aerospace Services Co Pte Ltd  
L-R: Tristan Jaden Lee (5 TKK), Ong Zi Yi (5 LSG), Heo Youngjune (6 OLD), Yuto Sakamoto (5 OLD), Daniel Tay Yee Jye (5 TKK) and Mr. Shaiful

This job shadowing has been an enriching experience for me. In this short period of time, I was able to get an idea of how working in a corporate company feels which has helped widen my perspective. I was also taught many things from my experienced supervisor who has helped me a lot. Overall, I have enjoyed this experience and encourage others to sign up as this rare opportunity is very much beneficial.”

Kenzie Foo (5 SVM)



Published with permission from Centurion Corporation Limited  
L-R: Kenzie Foo (5 SVM) and Mr David Phey



Published with permission from Lee and Lee (Dental Surgeons) Pte Ltd  
L-R: Dr William Choo Keang Hai and Songeun Yum (5 CKS)

I had the privilege of shadowing at Lee and Lee (Dental Surgeons) Pte Ltd, an experience that has been profoundly impactful on my journey towards a career in dentistry. Having the opportunity to observe and learn under the guidance of Doctor Choo and the team of doctors was truly enriching. During my time at the clinic, I was able to witness first-hand the immense dedication that goes into providing excellent dental services, whilst prioritising patient comfort and care in every interaction.

Songeun Yum (5 CKS)

My time here had solidified my passion for dentistry and provided me with a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to excel in this profession. I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have learnt in my future career.



ACS (INTERNATIONAL)  
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

# Resonance

AUGUST 17TH 2024 | 4:30PM

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, HO BEE AUDITORIUM

GENERAL ADMISSION \$20



Please scan the QR code for ticket payment or reservations  
Tickets can be also purchased from the General Office

## ACS Mooncakes Sale

Back by Popular Demand!

中秋



Due to overwhelming requests and demand for our customised mooncakes, we are pleased to announce that they are back for sale this year, packaged in a newly designed gift box and matching carrier!

Includes 4 flavors - Single Yolk Lotus, Macadamia Nuts, Black Sesame, and Lychee with Melon Seed. Get your hands on a set for just \$88! All proceeds will be donated to Christian Outreach to the Handicapped. While stocks last! Order now via QR code. The images shown are for illustration purposes only and may not be an exact representation of the product.



A FULL Payment must be made for order to be processed.



CLASS OF

# 2024

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

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 [link](#) by 4 November 2024.  
For enquiry, please contact Ms Jessie Yeung: [jessie.yeung@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto: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



Mrs Tan Siew Hoon  
Vice-Principal



Mr Christopher Hayward  
Vice-Principal



Dr Kristopher Achter  
Vice-Principal



# ACS (International) Admissions Seminars for 2025

## Post PSLE IGCSE Seminars

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

RSVP [admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto: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 [admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:admissions@acsinternational.edu.sg)