



## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

### Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Our recent accreditation outcomes have given us reason to be thankful, and it is pleasing to see external bodies recognise the quality of work taking place across ACS (International), as those results reflect the sustained efforts of many people over a considerable period of time. However, it is important to keep such moments in perspective, because schools are not ultimately built on reports, ratings or the occasional recognition, but on the daily work carried out consistently and well. A carefully planned lesson, a student encouraged after disappointment, a difficult conversation handled with patience, a concern resolved quietly behind the scenes, or a staff member giving extra time because it is needed. All of these ordinary moments do far more to shape the culture and strength of a school than any formal commendation ever could.

For that reason, positive outcomes such as these should be received with gratitude and humility. They are encouraging, and it is right to acknowledge them, yet they do not define who we are, nor do they lessen the responsibility to keep improving. If anything, they serve as a reminder that standards must be maintained, that expectations remain high, and that good schools understand improvement as an ongoing discipline.

As a Christian school, we are reminded that our work is ultimately an act of service to God rather than a pursuit of external praise. In Colossians 3:23 we read, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." That is a valuable reminder for our school community, because much of the best work in education is unseen and often unrecognised, yet when it is offered faithfully in service of God, it carries deep worth and lasting significance.

We also recognise that the true value of these processes lies not only in affirmation, but in the insights they provide for future growth. A number of the findings and recommendations contained within the reports will be carefully considered and incorporated into the next phase of our strategic planning, which we look forward to sharing with the community at the beginning of Term 3.

So while we are pleased by these outcomes, our focus remains where it should be: on nurturing students of character, conviction and compassion, on pursuing excellence in learning, and on serving the community entrusted to us. I would like to thank our staff for the professionalism, care and commitment they bring each day which make ACS (International) truly special.

**Gavin Kinch**  
Principal



April 2026

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**STAFF NEWS**

## Staff Presenter at University Admission Conference

Ms Junita Devi Sockalingam, ACS (International)'s Head of Higher Education and Career Services, did the school proud at the recent International ACAC Regional Conference held in Hanoi from 9 -11 April.

At the conference, hosted by Dwight School Hanoi, Ms Junita co-presented on Student Transitions from High School to University. She also represented ACS (International) at a school booth during the conference, which enabled her to interact with a variety of visitors and university partners.

In her presentation, she shared insights from two parent surveys conducted within the ACS (International) community. The surveys highlighted important parent considerations often not explicitly discussed during initial conversations between parents, universities, and counsellors.

Drawing on both these surveys, as well as survey insights shared by her university co-presenter and broader research, it was evident that besides admission outcomes, other important factors contribute to student success during and beyond university, including institutional fit, culture, location, having strong support with from the university/family and friends in the area, and the availability and engagement of professors. Some participants also referenced the halo effect, where students may over-rely on the perceived prestige of a university name without fully exploring the opportunities available to develop themselves.

These perspectives resonated strongly with the audience, which included university representatives and school counsellors, many of whom were also parents.

Ms Junita's insights highlighted the importance of looking beyond admissions outcomes and focusing more intentionally on preparing students for independence and the realities of university life. Counsellors were also keen to adapt similar surveys within their own schools to encourage students and parent communities to think more broadly about factors that are not always immediately considered.



*Ms Junita Devi Sockalingam, Head of Higher Education and Career Services at ACS (International) representing ACS International at the High School Fair, connecting with university representatives*



## IB Global Youth Action Fund 2026: Peduli Initiative

**Nathan Alexandro Tjhe** (6 SVM) has been awarded the IB Global Youth Action Fund 2026 for his project, **Peduli Initiative**, which aims to reduce inequality faced by Indonesian migrant workers in Singapore and beyond.

Nathan's initiative was selected from more than 1,100 applications across more than 40 countries, with only 110 youth-led projects chosen globally, representing 324 young changemakers. In recognition of this achievement, he has been awarded a grant of US\$2,500 (~\$3,200) to support the expansion of Peduli for the 2026-2027 batch. This accomplishment marks a significant milestone, as Peduli Initiative is the **first CAS project in ACS (International) history** to receive the IB Global Youth Action Fund, and the **third in Singapore**.

The funding will enable Peduli Initiative to grow beyond its existing chapters in Singapore, West Borneo, and Sumatra, strengthening its outreach and impact across communities. Nathan's achievement is well deserved and reflects the IB learner attributes of caring and international mindedness. Through his collaborations with the **Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore**, the **Indonesian Student Association of NTU**, and several corporate partners, he has demonstrated strong leadership, diplomacy, and a commitment to meaningful, community-driven action.

Congratulations to Nathan and the Peduli Team on this remarkable achievement and their continued dedication to creating meaningful social impact.

To learn more about Peduli Initiative:

- Follow them on Instagram: [@Peduli.Initiative](https://www.instagram.com/Peduli.Initiative)
- Visit their website: [tinyurl.com/PeduliInitiative](https://tinyurl.com/PeduliInitiative)



### First Place in HIPPO 2026

Congratulations to Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (6 SVM) on his exceptional achievement in the HIPPO English Contest 2026.

Competing against more than 90,000 students from over 70 countries, Nathan delivered an outstanding performance, placing him in the top 1% of participants in his category. He also secured First Place in the Malaysia and Singapore regional preliminary rounds for the Grade 12 Special Category. Nathan will now progress to the National Finals, proudly representing ACS (International) in this prestigious competition.

# SIMUN XXI

Between 12 and 14 March 2026, the ACS (International) Envoy Club had the honour of taking part in the Singapore International Model United Nations (SIMUN XXI), organized by the International French School (IFS) in Singapore. During the three days, over 200 students from Singapore and various countries gathered to discuss and tackle the topic “Global Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Our delegates participated in intense discussions, addressing detailed global issues from affordable healthcare options globally in WHO (World Health Organisation) to the illegal arms trade in DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee). Committees were flowing with intense discussions and careful negotiations. Our team also featured committed Student Officers who spent countless hours developing study materials, facilitating debates, and guiding rigorous committee sessions: Naishsa Makhija, Head Chair of DISEC; Ethan Chan, Deputy Chair of ECOSOC; Simaran Rakesh, Head Chair of HRC; and Clayton Oliver Wibowo, Deputy Chair of SPECPOL.

Our ACS (International) delegation garnered multiple awards. Arjun Subashprabu (3 LSG), Artemiy Kondratov (4 SVM), and Kim Hyoyeon (5 GHK) received the Most Diplomatic Delegate award. This acknowledgment was particularly significant as it emphasized not only strong argumentation but also the value of collaboration, respect, and constructive discussion in reaching consensus. We take pride in representing ACS (International) on this platform. Aside from the official sessions, SIMUN XXI offered significant chances to meet students from various backgrounds, share viewpoints, and foster enduring friendships. The conference was both intellectually stimulating and a significant experience of personal growth.

SIMUN XXI was an unforgettable event that boosted our confidence, expanded our global understanding, and emphasised the significance of diplomacy in today’s society. We are eager to pursue this journey in upcoming conferences and continue to represent ACS (International) on the world stage.

*Arjun Subashprabu (3 LSG)*



## 21<sup>st</sup> SIMUN

From 12 to 14 March, the students of the Envoy club at ACS (International) participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Singapore International Model United Nations (SIMUN), at International French School. The 150 delegates from 9 schools addressed one of the most pressing challenges of our time: "Global Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Strengthening Peace, Justice and Stability."

ACS (International) represented various country delegations and was supported by four student officers who served as chairs for their respective committees, Naisha Makhija (5 TKK) for DISEC, Clayton Wibowo (5 GHK) for SPECPOL, Ethan Chan (5 TCT) for ECOSOC, and Simran Rakesh (4 TKK) for HRC. Working alongside the organisers of the conference, they played an important role in creating a successful event for everyone involved. Participating in SIMUN provided valuable insights for the delegates representing different countries in various committees. Min Jing Chin (4 GHK), representing the delegation of Russia in the SC, navigated complex national stances and the P5 veto power, influencing resolution and decision making. Artemiy Kondratov (4 SVM) representing the delegation of Pakistan in the HSC, addressed sensitive historical issues like the Rwandan Genocide and the Kosovo-Yugoslavia conflict, where aligning arguments to specific research cut-off dates were complex problems to resolve. Despite the challenges, debates were productive as delegates aimed to balance national stances while achieving a compromise with other nations. As a delegation, we enhanced our public speaking, negotiation skills and gained a better understanding of global issues, all useful aspects to build upon outside of MUN, making the experience meaningful and rewarding. Notably, Artemiy Kondratov (4 SVM), and Kim Hyoyeon (5 GHK), received "The Most Diplomatic Delegate" award, showing the embodiment of diplomacy, international mindedness and their distinction in negotiation and debate, along with 2 honourable mentions, Dylan Lim (5 TCT) and Min Jing Chin (4 GHK). Their exemplary show of conduct and dedication, as well as excellence, are the true reflections of diplomats, and we could not be prouder of their achievements.

ACS (International)'s participation in SIMUN was a valuable experience. From engaging in fruitful debate, to working with other delegates from other schools, the conference allowed us to grow in confidence in public speaking, gain important skills and have a deeper understanding on issues of the world.

*Chin Min Jing (MJ) (4 GHK),  
Artemiy Kondratov (4 SVM)*



**PSP NEWS**

## Casual Coffee Morning for Year 2 and Year 3 Parents

A Casual Coffee Morning for Year 2 and Year 3 parents was held at Tiong Bahru Bakery at Chip Bee Gardens on 24 March, bringing together approximately 25 parents for informal interaction and community engagement. The session provided an opportunity for parents to discuss Co-Curricular Activities (CCA), academic subjects, and considerations regarding tuition. Vice-Principal (Junior Division), Mr Kris Achter, shared insights on the recent ski trip, while Vice-Principal (Middle Division) Mr Christopher Hayward addressed queries on IGCSE subject selection and its implications for the IB pathway, helping to alleviate parental concerns.

In addition to these discussions, the gathering fostered meaningful connections among parents. Over coffee and light refreshments, parents exchanged experiences and strengthened relationships within the school community. Encouragingly, many parents shared positive feedback, noting that their children are happy and enthusiastic about attending school. This reflects the school's continued commitment to providing a supportive and engaging learning environment. Overall, the event was well received and contributed positively to strengthening parent-school engagement.

*Shweta Kapur  
PSP Exco*

I'm really glad I attended the recent coffee session. It was wonderful connecting with other mums across different year levels, share perspectives, and feel part of a supportive school community. I especially appreciated the opportunity to learn more about IB subject selections and how these choices can shape future university pathways. This is helpful and I feel more confident in guiding my child through these important decisions. I look forward to more sessions like this that bring parents together and provide valuable guidance for our children's educational journey.

*Sarah Lam,  
Parent of Year 3 student Noah Tan*

This is the best casual coffee get-together with parents from different years and school management. The setting is very relaxed, with fun chats. As a dad, at first, I was not sure about joining because I suspected this event was for moms only, but I was told it is for everyone. I wanted to listen and learn from other parents about how their kids experience school. There's no parenting school, but there is a parents' coffee meeting!

Questions about the subjects for Year 2 and information about IGCSE. Common concerns from parents like myself include whether my son is following what the majority of students are doing in his academic and social activities. I'm really glad I attended today because there was a lot of information sharing in a casual setting. I have to applaud the organizing team; they really took the time to sit down and talk with everyone, making sure everyone felt comfortable having casual conversations with others.

*Dad of Year 2 student Enzo*

This was my first Parents' Coffee Meet, and I truly enjoyed the experience of connecting with like-minded parents—mostly mothers, but it was lovely to see a few fathers join too. The conversations over coffee were engaging, and what struck me most was how similar our insecurities, aspirations, and hopes are when it comes to our children. Getting to meet the school leaders was definitely the icing on the cake, or should I say the "chocolat" in the "pan au chocolat".

*Nilufer Commissariat,  
Parent of Year 2 student Zara Deshmukh*



## Playing with Clay and Pouring Hearts: Mindfulness for Parents

Every morning, we rush to get our children ready and send them off to school. But while they are busy tackling complex subjects in their classrooms, have you ever wondered what we parents are up to?

On 27 March, about 20 parents gathered at a charming café for hands-on "mud play" and barista training. This was the PSP Exco's first 2026 workshop: "HDB Latte + Ceramics." Participants were divided into two groups, taking turns to experience both pottery-making and latte art. It was a vibrant and rewarding program.

### Before Your Hair Becomes a Paintbrush... Finding Mindfulness at Our Fingertips

The ceramics team crafted "pinch pots" using only their fingers. After ensuring long hair was safely tied back—preventing it from becoming an accidental paintbrush—everyone focused on the cool, smooth clay. Shaping the clay by hand into something unique was surprisingly mindful. Setting aside daily routines to focus on our fingertips provided a much-needed mental break, gently melting away stress.

### Too Pretty to Drink? Pouring Our Own Latte Art Hearts

Meanwhile, the café area hosted our latte art session. Under professional guidance, participants poured steamed milk to create adorable hearts. The delicate wrist movements and perfect timing required made the room fall silent with concentration. Once each lovely heart was completed, everyone eagerly pulled out their phones for a photo session. Savoring the expertly crafted, championship-level coffee alongside delicious pound cake was truly a moment of bliss, making the morning feel like a perfect little retreat.

### Learning, Laughing, and Connecting

Conversations naturally sparked when the groups swapped stations halfway through the morning. Parents who had just met quickly earlier bonded over clay-shaping challenges and milk-pouring intricacies, filling the room with laughter. We didn't just learn new skills—we celebrated the warm connections we share in our school community. The adorable ceramic pieces we created have been slowly drying and fired in the kiln. By the time this newsletter is published, participants should have received their finished works. Holding them will surely bring back the aroma of our latte art and the memories of that peaceful, laughter-filled morning. We believe that for parents who give their all every day, having precious time for yourself is essential. For those who couldn't join us this time, we sincerely look forward to seeing you at our next PSP event!

*Mika Yoshinari*  
PSP Exco

A coffee and a ceramics workshop in a cozy home setting created the perfect backdrop for a Friday morning catch up with fellow parents. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end the week.

Jay Krishnan, Parent of Year 2 student Ari Argue

I had an incredibly productive time at the workshop, enjoyed two activities. The latte art, in particular, opened my eyes to a whole new world, I can make my daily coffee time more pleasant. Thanks PSP members for the wonderful opportunity.

*Kimiko Hashimoto, Parent of Year 6 Marek, and Year 2 Eric Hashimoto*

Loved the workshop today—best part was doing it with the parents! It was such a therapeutic first experience for me, and I absolutely loved the cosy, home-based, personalised concept. I felt so relaxed, like all the tabs in my mind had closed and I was just in a happy place. Really enjoyed the coffee and the hands-on experience too—my kids are going to be so proud of the design I pulled off! Thank you so much!

*Sumbal Waqas, Parent of Year 1 student Maira Waqas*

This morning's Latte Art and Pottery session was a breath of fresh air. I usually feel quite distant from the world of art, which is why I find these opportunities so mentally stimulating. With my son in Year 6, the atmosphere at home has been a bit heavy lately, but spending half a day surrounded by the aroma of coffee and learning something new really recharged my batteries!

*Sue Baek, Parent of Year 6 Seong Yumin*

The PSP team has created yet another indelible memory! My left and right brain (and "social brain") were engaged throughout the workshop! Latte making requires precision in every step of the process while ceramic making let one's imagination go wild! The best part of the workshop was the time of bonding with other parents and discovering how crazy and fun loving this bunch of people are!

*Chin Sin Fong, Parent of Year 3 student Zavier Loh*



# Vermicomposting Workshop at Gardening CCA

Recently, the Gardening CCA organised a Vermicomposting Workshop led by guest speakers, and it was a really great experience. It was informative to learn about such an eco-friendly way to handle everyday food waste. The best part was the hands-on practice where we set up a living environment for the worms, which made the lesson much more practical and easier to understand. I was really impressed by the sustainable cycle — we feed our food scraps to the worms, and in return, they produce nutrient-rich compost that we can use to grow new plants. It's a perfect, continuous loop. If I get the chance, I would love to try setting up a small bin at home and use the compost to fertilise my own houseplants.

*Chung Dayon (6 TKK)*

Reflecting on the "Composting with Worms" workshop by Ms Liow Oi Lian and Ms Cuifen Pui. I have been amazed at how simple and effective vermicomposting can be in the Singaporean context. It was interesting to see how we can turn our daily waste like vegetable leftovers from the markets and fallen leaves into something useful which gives life the much needed nutrients back to the soil.

Another interesting thing learnt was what types of worms were used, for example, the African Nightcrawler and Red Wiggler. These worms have no teeth, lungs, or eyes but instead use microbes to break down any organic material to feed. The "Composting with Worms" workshop even provide great tips on urban vermicomposting, like building a "vermicomposting HDB" from drawer boxes. I was grateful for all these tips regarding proper management of the worm bin, including using dried leaves or cocopeat as bedding (simulating their natural habitat), feeding them gradually and not disturbing them too much as they are very light-sensitive creatures.

*Elton Ng Wu Di (3 SVM)*



## Victory at Oxford Schools Finals Day

In December 2025, the Debate CCA's British Parliamentary team, made up of Jacob (5 SVM) and Jayden (6 SVM) Budiman, grabbed the team champion and overall best speaker awards at the Oxford Schools Asia qualifiers, thereby punching their tickets to the 2026 iteration of Oxford Schools Finals Day. According to Wikipedia, Oxford Schools Finals Day is the "largest high-school [debating] tournament in the world", with "over one thousand teams entering each year".

On 14 March, the pair travelled to the Oxford Union to compete in Finals Day. After 6 gruelling rounds, they were crowned the Silver Champions of the tournament, outranking the national teams of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, Hong Kong, and Korea. Individually, Jayden was honoured for placing well within the tournament's Top 10 Speakers. Oxford Schools Finals Day 2026 marks the end of the lads' successful 2025-2026 British Parliamentary season. Indeed, the pair were also semi-finalists at the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Championship, semi-finalists at the University of British Columbia BP, and high school champions of the Singapore Debate Open. Jayden is also the only high school student to have ever reached the elimination rounds of the Tokyo Intersarsity, traditionally the domain of university debaters. He did so while outranking Yale University, National University of Singapore, and Cambridge University; he only bowed out upon matching up against Team Oxford.



The Debate CCA's World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC) format wing was equally as successful this season. The team, made up of Jacob Budiman (5 SVM), Vera Neo (6 KKS), and Jayden Budiman (6 SVM), championed at the 2026 Harvard WST Qualifiers, reached the grand finals of the 2025 Everest WSDC, and are semi-finalists of the 2026 University of Pennsylvania Invitational. They have won many individual awards too. Over the course of the season, the Debate CCA competed in 21 tournaments, achieving consistent success at every stage of competition. The team advanced to the quarterfinals or better in 18 tournaments, of which 16 progressed to the semi-finals or beyond, including 9 appearances in the grand finals. From these, the team secured 4 championship titles.

With my tenure as the CCA's president coming to an end, I would like to thank ACS (International), our families, and the Indonesian and Singaporean debating communities for the overwhelming support we have received.

*Jacob Christopher Budiman (5 SVM)*

## Student Leadership Conference

During Term 2, the '25-'26 Sports Council were invited to a Student Leadership Conference by North London Collegiate School. The event consisted of a few lectures about the importance of leadership, and what leadership is defined by. Following this, we participated in some interactive tasks with fellow leaders from multiple schools across Singapore. This Conference has taught the Sports Council what it means to be a leader and how to approach a team to maximise teamwork. It was a very enjoyable event, and we are very proud and grateful to have been able to participate in this learning journey! We hope to be able to use this new knowledge within our own teams and continue to contribute positively towards our school.

*Laura Kosarev & Rhys Calvert  
(The 25-26 Sports Council)*



## Year 5 IBDP Students Undertake Investigating to Solve Real – World School Issues with Wider Environmental or Social Impact

### IB Collaborative Science Project 2026

The 2026 Collaborative Science Project (CSP) offered students a deeper insight into the range of science courses available in the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). This project empowered them to apply and combine their skills and knowledge together as a group to tackle real-world school challenges.

Within ACS (International), students were provided with the materials prior to their action phase based on each request such as beakers, Eppendorf tubes and substances such as charcoal and limewater. This enabled students to have a wide range of creative ideas to solve issues within the school, be they about environmentally sustainability, social issues, or health and safety ones. Through collaborative inquiry, effective time management, and strong teamwork, students analysed authentic challenges within the community and developed solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

Preparing the project started off with the planning phase on 3 March 3 at the Oldham Chapel where the students were divided into their assigned groupings with students from different science courses and proposed their research question. Throughout the following weeks, students carried out external research, exchanged ideas, and participated in multiple meetings to refine and finalise their proposals using forms of media such as powerpoint, videos, and posters for their final presentations on 24 March.

The action phase commenced on 11 March at each group's assigned laboratories. Data collection involved experiments, quantitative data as well as surveys that functioned as supporting evidence for students' research questions aligning with different UN SDGs. Throughout this process, CSP helped students to incorporate teamwork, proactivity and creativity, enabling them to apply scientific thinking to understand and address real-world problems beyond the school environment, enhancing their skills and overall understanding.

### Winners of CSP Presentations

Among the 40 groups, the following groups have demonstrated clear communication of ideas and structure, integration of technological tools to enhance their data and their approach to learning and collaboration.

### Congratulations to the CSP 2026 winners and the recipients of the Science Faculty Popular Bookstore vouchers!

#### Group 14 – Music Room Acoustics & Sound Containment Audit

Group 14 consisting of **Gong, Daniel Wei Kwang (Daniel) (5 GHK), Kim, Kyungeun (5 OLD), Lin, Megan Elizabeth (Megan) (5 THO), Park, Yoonha (5 SVM) and Sameer Aswani, Aaron (5 TKK)** have evaluated the **acoustic performance of ACS (International)'s music rooms**, specifically MS204, focusing on sound isolation and reverberation. Their study demonstrates that simple, recyclable materials can provide meaningful structural improvements to musical learning environments.

#### Group 37 – The production of noise pollution and its effects on learning

**Jain, Aditya Vikram (Aditya) (5 GHK), Kim, Kyung-Min (5 TKK), Lee, Carissa Susanto (Carissa) (5 SVM), Thorpe, Peta Hillary (5 TKK) and Wu, Guanyi (5 THO)** carried out an investigation to explore **the extent of noise pollution within a school environment and its subsequent impact on student concentration and academic performance**. Their research highlights that integrating soundproofing materials and green infrastructure can provide a sustainable and practical approach to creating a more conducive learning environment.

#### Group 10 – Effect of Aeration on the pH of School Water Coolers

**Bay, Li Shan Nicole (Nicole) (5 TCT), Chan, Joel Ju Yau (Joel) (5 TKK), Kim, Yejin (5 SVM), Monteiro, Alyssa Joan (Alyssa) (5 TKK) and Zhang, Chenqi (Christine) (5 GHK)** have researched the **effect of aeration on the pH and ion concentration of water from school water coolers to assess its impact on drinking water safety**. Their overall findings conclude that aeration serves as a simple physical method to adjust water pH toward safer levels, especially in extreme conditions, and recommends that schools monitor pH levels and encourage students to shake their water before consumption to maintain quality.

#### Group 30 – pH effects on dairy products over time and whether they are safe to eat

Group 30, who investigated **the global issue of household food waste by investigating the reliability of pH levels** as an indicator of edibility in dairy products concluded that to bridge the gap between scientific data and consumer habits, the project proposes the "Eco-Sense" sticker—a pH-sensitive label that changes colour as food spoils—offering a low-cost, accessible solution to help households make informed decisions. The winning team comprised **Fang, Bingji (Russi) (5 GHK), Hoi, Vera Stephanie Qing Hui (Vera) (5 TCT), Makhija, Naisha (5 TKK), Poh, Rebecca Rafelle (Rebecca) (5 TCT) and Singh, Rakshita (5 OLD)**.

#### Group 5 – Access to clean and safe drinking water

**Foo, Xin Xi Riley (Riley) (5 SVM), Kang, Kevin (5 SVM), Ngai, Tak Fai (5 SVM), Tan, Asher Yi Hong (Asher) (5 THO) and Wang, Anqi (Anna) (5 TCT)** investigated the **effectiveness of various low-cost water purification methods**—to determine the most efficient strategy for improving microbiological water quality. The findings conclude that boiling remains the superior method for denaturing bacterial proteins and enzymes, offering a simple and accessible solution for water purification in emergency situations or environments lacking treated water infrastructure.

#### Group 1 – On whether canteen food with macronutrients is nutritionally sufficient for students

**Lim, Aletheia Charis Rae-Ern (Aletheia) (5 TKK), Liu, Kaixin Jade (Jade) (5 GHK), Ng, Joy Kai Xin (Joy) (5 CKS), Sun, Aiden (5 THO) and Zhang, Xiaoyu (5 THO)** examined **whether a school canteen provides macronutrients that are nutritionally sufficient for students aged 13 to 19**. Using a combination of primary research (observations, surveys, and interviews) and secondary data on nutritional values, the study found that while commonly purchased meals generally meet energy, carbohydrate, protein, and fat requirements, they are notably deficient in dietary fibre. Additionally, student food choices are largely influenced by taste rather than health considerations, with many students unaware of recommended nutritional intake. The findings suggest that although the canteen partially meets students' nutritional needs, improvements are necessary, particularly in increasing fibre-rich options and promoting healthier food choices to support adolescents' growth, health, and academic performance.

#### Group 28- The impacts of the cleanliness of school water fountains on students

**Kandiawan, Hanaleigh (Hana) (5 GHK), Lim, Dylan Zijie (Dylan) (5 TCT), Shmelev, Serafim (5 LSG), Tamiya, Kanon (5 LSG) and Than, Jun Hao (5 SVM)** focused on examining **the quality of school water fountains by analysing physical, chemical, and microbiological factors and evaluating their impact on students' usage**. Their findings highlighted while the water quality meets safety standards, improvements in maintenance and environmental conditions are necessary to promote usage.

#### Group 21- Water Coolers Vs Water Bottles

Group 21 consisting of **Atre, Ekeesha (5 OLD), Lim, Reilly Elizabeth Slade, Shan (Reilly) (5 LSG), Satoh, Hiroaki (5 CKS), Wen, Yue (David) (5 OLD) and Yan, Chris Walter (Chris) (5 THO)** examined **the factors contributing to the high consumption of single-use plastic water bottles among students, despite the availability of school water coolers**. Their observations provided valuable insights into several technical and behavioural solutions to mitigate plastic waste and encourage cooler usage.

**Group 17 – Measuring CO<sub>2</sub> levels within classrooms**

**Andresen, Maximilian (Max) (5 SVM), Ng, Qi Zhen Tammy (Tammy) (5 LSG), Wibowo, Clayton Oliver (Clayton) (5 GHK), Zhang, Faye (5 OLD) and Zheng, Peilan (5 GHK)** investigated how indoor carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels vary across different classroom locations and blocks at ACS (International). Their research concluded that to mitigate these risks, the study proposes implementing a mandatory ventilation schedule where windows are kept open for at least three hours daily and introducing air-purifying indoor plants such as snake plants and spider plants to classrooms.

**Group 36 – Efficacy of a calcium carbonate-based cooling paint as a sustainable solution to combat global warming**

**Chao, Ezrela (5 TKK), Goh, Lenci Pei Yuan (Lenci) (5 CKS), Imhof, Cedric Pierre (Cedric) (5 LSG), Wang, Yunzhu (5 TCT) and Yoo, Soomin (5 SVM)** focused on the efficacy of a calcium carbonate-based cooling paint as a sustainable solution to combat global warming, particularly in low-income countries. Their study proposed limitations such as short experimental duration and non-uniform mixture consistency, suggesting future improvements such as direct mixing without water and extended outdoor exposure tests.

**Students Reflections**

*“The collaborative sciences project was a meaningful opportunity to engage and work with members from the various sciences to investigate a real-world issue and propose possible solutions using scientific methods. Specifically, by investigating and targeting an issue which I am passionate about, which was regarding the effectiveness of the school’s music rooms, I learnt to grow as an inquirer and investigate ways to apply more advanced technology and scientific theory to problems outside of the classroom. During our investigation, I also strategized to implement a wider range of technology in both our experimentation and result presentations, which allowed me to become more open-minded.”*

**Park Yoonha (5 SVM)**

*“This project helps me understand more about optimal sleep, and how to adapt in order to maximize productivity through science/psychology. In the group, I contributed ideas, while also gathering data through primary research such as interviews, questionnaires and surveys and analyse data. I helped publicize the survey, interview various number of year 5s and create a trend and pattern found in the data. From this, I learned teamwork, collaboration and communication skills as I collaborated and discussed with my peers. I also sharpen my problem solving skills as during the project, we had to change the interview test as it did not provide a wide range of results where a pattern could be uncovered. I hope to use these skills in the future, especially in a competitive workforce in finance.”*

**Shawn Danielson Lee (5 TKK)**

*“Through this collaborative science project, I was able to work with other students who take up different science subjects. I found this to be very meaningful as we were able to tap on each others’ strengths to successfully investigate and research on nutrition in school food. Aiding in our investigation of school food and its nutritional value, which addresses the global goal of having good health and well-being. Though there were times when our research did not go as planned, we were able to work together to find the best solution and were able to overcome the challenges faced. Overall, this was a very good experience for me to actively seek ways to address issues pertaining to the welfare of students and helped me to better understand the importance of healthy eating as a global issue.”*

**Aletheia Charis Lim Rae-Ern (5 TKK)**

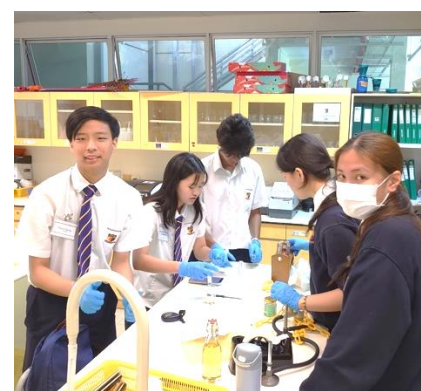
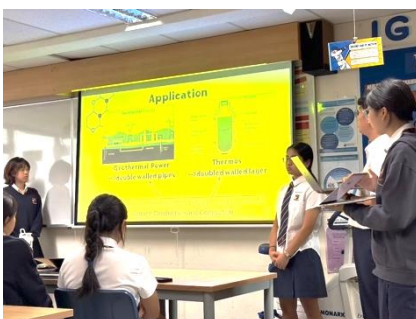
*“During our practical, we realized that collecting dry chlorine through silver nitrate precipitation was taking too long. We pivoted to using a colorimeter to measure turbidity (NTU), which was much more efficient. This taught me the importance of being flexible when lab work doesn’t go as planned. I was in charge of the biology section, researching how chlorine causes plasmolysis in bacteria and affects the skin’s acid mantle. Because we worked on different components, we spent a lot of time calling and discussing our progress. This experience improved my time management and showed me how supporting teammates makes solving problems much easier.”*

**Chao Zi-Xuan Phoebe (5 THO)**

*“I was involved in a project combining sciences with human sciences, something that I was never exposed to. It involved new processes of primary data collection, being surveys and interviews. Despite these new methods, our group still had to learn to apply the scientific method to process data and draw conclusions from them, using raw data to form accuracy values, which allowed for a fair comparison between different subjects. I conducted a lot of research on the background to ensure that the conclusion we drew was realistic, learning a lot about various tests that are conducted to measure memory.”*

**Woochan Lee (5 OLD)**

Written by Foo Xin Xi Riley (5 SVM)



# Open House Reflections

Being able to participate in Open House 2026 through probation was an enriching experience. I interacted with many parents through registration or school tours, the latter being the favourite part of my duty. I was able to pour my passion for the school into the conversations that I had and speak honestly about the wonderful things our school has to offer! Being able to represent ACS (International) on this level filled me with pride and appreciation for all that it has offered me and others. I am grateful to have contributed and maybe even have instilled the spirit of our school into the parents' hearts!

*Ekeesha Atre (5 OLD)*

My experience at Open House was full of fun, laughter and many wholesome moments with friends and visitors. Giving school tours was immensely enjoyable for me! It was thrilling getting to interact with parents and the primary schoolers and simply share with them the parts of ACS (International) that make it so special. In addition to having honest and meaningful conversations with visitors, I also felt a profound sense of joy in getting to work alongside my friends. I felt proud to belong to a community of people who serve with such willingness and love. That and the success of the event is what truly made the day of Open House so precious!

*Ezrela Chao (5 TKK)*

Open House was a great experience for me. Being assigned in the Science laboratory, Ms Grace Lim guided us in the week before the event on how to use the equipment. I had the opportunity to learn how insta snow works and explain and teach it to parents and students. Many students visited the lab and played and experimented with the snow, which made the activity even more exciting. I felt proud to be able to share my knowledge and help others understand the science behind how Insta snow works. It was also interesting to see how everyone was so curious about the expansion of the insta snow when water was added to it. Overall, this taught me communication skills and was a fun experience for me.

*Darshanaa Sivakumar (2 OLD)*



## MathMagic Workshop

On 8 April, the ACS (International) Math Club hosted a workshop on MathMagic, where our very own magician and math teacher, Mr David Fillary, connected the world of mathematics to the world of magic. More than 60 curious students, both from within and beyond the club, gathered in the Black Box after school to watch Mr Fillary surprise us with unexpected and engaging magic tricks.

In addition, he guided students through the methods behind some of these tricks, incorporating mathematical concepts such as divisibility, algebra, and logic to demonstrate how closely connected mathematics is to magic.

After the workshop, one of the students, Park Yoonha (5 SVM), reflected, “The MathMagic workshop was a refreshing and enjoyable experience. Watching mathematical concepts come alive through unexpected tricks and illusions challenged my assumption that math is purely serious or rigid. I left with a newfound sense of curiosity for mathematics—and maybe a trick or two up my sleeve.”

We would like to thank Mr Fillary for sharing his expertise.

*Lee Woochan (6 OLD)*



*Mr Fillary with the Math Club leaders after the workshop*



*Mr Fillary demonstrating mathematical concepts in his tricks*



*More than 60 students attended the MathMagic Workshop*

## BearLab Showcase

During ACVerSe on 13 March, students and staff worked together on the BearLab interactive art experience. The project involved covering resin bear sculpture with acrylic paint, showcasing different acrylic pouring techniques as well as various colours and marbled patterns. The finished products are all distinct pieces reflecting individual creativity and shared artistic exploration.



The coloured resin bears are now part of the BearLab Showcase display at the Sitorus Library. Drop by the Library when you are able — and see your masterpiece if you helped create any of the bears.

*Arulnathan John*

## Religious Emphasis Week

Religious Emphasis Week was held from 31 March to 2 April at ACS (International). We were blessed this year to have Ms Jemima Ooi as our Guest Speaker. She has been faithfully, obediently and courageously serving Jesus in the missions field over the last 14 years. He has taken her to some of the darkest and most dangerous places on the planet to minister into the lives of the broken, the destitute, the abused, the downtrodden...people whom the rest of the world have forgotten about.

Over the course of those 3 mornings, Jemima shared many powerful testimonies with our young people and they were riveted by all that they heard. One story in particular, set in the Congo region, captured the attention of many of our students. On one particular day, Jemima, the Pastor that she was accompanying, and some of the other missionary workers had to make their way to a particular destination. The Lord had commanded that they go there. Whilst driving along a road devoid of proper infrastructure, they were advised that rebel strongholds were up ahead and were intent on kidnapping many. The party knew that there was no turning back and carried on, yet at the same time, a police van seemed to materialise out of nowhere and appeared right beside them. When they arrived at their intended destination and spoke to the villagers of what had happened, their story spread. However, what was most astonishing of all, was that no one near or far had seen any sightings of that police van at all! God had clearly protected them, in their time of need, along the course of their journey, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Holland Village Methodist Church, the Christian Ministry staff at ACS (International) and the Parents Prayer Group (PPG) of the school came together to support Religious Emphasis Week. We gathered in the mornings to glorify God in high-powered worship and to then hear Jemima speak, we crafted 3 beautiful boards showcasing Jemima's impactful journey and call to missions, we designed small cards of encouragement for Jemima and prayer request cards, and we also spent time during the 3 days in fellowship and discussion with the students over the three days of REW. Our Lord worked miraculously over this period and by the end of Religious Emphasis Week, there were students surrendering their lives over to Jesus, others were curious to find out more about God, and many of our youth expressed a desire to rededicate their lives back to Christ! All Glory to God!

*Dilpreet Singh (PPG Rep)*



### Reflections on Religious Emphasis Week

During Religious Emphasis Week this year (31 March – 2 April), God’s grace came through strongly. Through Ms. Jemima Ooi’s stories and sharing, the love of Jesus was revealed. I’m eternally grateful He used Ms. Jemima to go and reach out to the lost, the lost and the least – especially in areas of the world that most people have forgotten about. She is a true blessing!

Along with the sharing, there were booths in the student centre. It was great to see students taking home Christ-centred wristbands and stickers after having a good basketball dunk. There was also a board for individuals in the school to write down a challenge they have/something Jesus saved them from. They would then paint over what they wrote with red paint – indicating that the Blood of Jesus has covered that issue completely. This particular activity really spoke to me because it reminded me of the very thing that gives me freedom today – His Sinless Blood.

*Zhu Ruo Tong, (5 GHK),  
Christian Fellowship Chairperson*



# GRADUATION CEREMONY

# 2026

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Guest-of-Honour

**Mr Christopher Ong, SC**

*Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Attorney-General's Chambers*



14 | Nov | 2026

10:00am (Seated By 9:45am)

University Cultural Centre, Ho Bee Auditorium,  
National University of Singapore



RSVP by scanning the QR code or clicking on this [link](#) by 2nd November 2026, 12PM.  
For enquiry, please contact Ms Jessie Yeung: [jessie.yeung@acsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:jessie.yeung@acsinternational.edu.sg)

## High School Musical comes to ACS (International)

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR**

'High School Musical' is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
 Music and Lyrics by Matthew Gerrard, Robbie Nevil, Ray Cham, Greg Cham & others  
 Book by David Simpatico  
 Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie

**18 MAY 4PM & 7PM**  
**19 MAY 4PM & 7PM**  
**20 MAY 5PM**  
**VENUE: BLACK BOX**

Drama CCA is proud to announce our 2026 production of Disney's "High School Musical Jr." which will take place in the final week of term, with matinee and evening performances.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock Troy discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo", Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Tickets are \$5 (the cheapest musical you will ever see in Singapore!) and we are taking reservations now through the QR code on the poster. The estimated run time of the production is 1 hour and takes place in the Black Box (Library Block level 6).

We are delighted to have more than 60 students from all years involved in the cast and production team and hope you will come and enjoy the results of their hard work!

## Choral Concert Review

The recent choral concert on 10 April was a really enjoyable experience, with a wide variety of pieces that kept it engaging throughout. The programme explored different styles and cultures, with pieces such as 'Te Deum Laudamus' by a young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the lively Gloria from Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramírez showing strong contrast. My favourite pieces were Worthy and Gloria, as they stood out for their energy and memorable musical ideas.

In the second piece that was played, Worthy, the harmonies felt especially rich, with extended chords adding depth, and the trumpet brought an extra sense of brightness and special flair to the overall sound. Overall, the pieces performed that evening was very well arranged.

What made the concert more meaningful for me was being able to recognise things we've learnt in class. Many of the pieces included music elements like counterpoint, antiphony 'call and response', which added contrast and made the music more interesting to listen to. There were also clear moments where lower and higher voices had the chance to stand out at different points, giving the performance a good sense of balance. In Worthy is the Lamb that was slain by George Frideric Handel, I could also recognise Baroque features like polyphonic texture and basso continuo in the organ. Overall, it was both enjoyable and meaningful, and it helped me appreciate how different musical elements come together in choral performances.

*Harshni Sivasubramanian (4 CKS)*



*Photo taken with Year 3 and Year 4 students along with Singapore Bible College and SSC's choral conductor and director Dr Eudenic Palaruan*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May	Event
1	Labour Day
4	O Level Language P1 (Year 4)
5 – 6	Hindi Paper
6 – 7	CAS Trip Briefing (3.15pm-4.15pm)
7	O Level Language P2
11	IGCSE Chinese 2nd P2/IGCSE Mandarin P2
14	Inter-House Basketball and Touch
16	Prefects Camp
18 – 21	Drama Production
20	Commendation Assembly
22	Last Day of Term 2