



ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

As we conclude the academic year, congratulations to all our students for successfully completing 2024! This year has been filled with excitement and growth as we embraced a range of enriching activities and experiences. As we wrapped up the academic year, it was wonderful to see students across year groups engage in exciting camps that brought learning to life through hands-on experiences.

Our Year 1 students enjoyed day camps around Singapore, where they dove into activities like kayaking and tent-making, gaining new skills and building camaraderie. Year 2, Year 3, and FIB/Pre-IB students ventured further afield, exploring Tioman, Telunas, and Bintan. Each group participated in a variety of outdoor activities, from hiking and snorkeling to team-building challenges. These camps offered a unique, experience-based approach to learning, allowing students to connect with nature, develop resilience, and create lasting memories with their peers—a fantastic way to celebrate the end of the year.

Another highlight of 2024 was our international trips which were eagerly anticipated by students, staff, and parents alike. Throughout the year, our students have journeyed to remarkable destinations, including The Hague, Switzerland, Bali, UK, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, and Indonesia. Soon, our Mathematics students will embark on an exciting exploration of Italy, while our Orchestra will travel to Austria to perform in a variety of locations including Salzburg. Heartfelt thanks to all staff members who organised, led, and supported these trips, enhancing our students' learning and personal development.

To our graduates and those moving on from ACS (International), we wish you every success in your future endeavours. Many of our Year 6 graduates are heading to university or National Service, and we hold them in our thoughts as they embark on these new journeys. We hope they will carry forward the values and ACS spirit instilled in them during their time here. For students returning next year, may you have a refreshing break, make the most of your time off, and return with excitement for 2025.

This is also a time to recognise and express our deep appreciation for our Academic and Support staff who have worked with dedication and commitment throughout the year. We are grateful for all they have accomplished and for their unwavering support for our students. We wish them a restful and well-deserved break.

Our Parent Support Partners (PSP) have also contributed immensely this year, actively participating in key school events and organising activities for our parent community. Their generous volunteer efforts have provided memorable experiences for our students, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their incredible service throughout the year.

We give thanks for the blessings of this year and continue to look to God for wisdom and guidance as we continue to serve ACS (International) in 2025.

To God Be The Glory!
The Best Is Yet To Be!

Gavin Kinch
Principal

[Upcoming Events](#)

[School Bookshop Opening Hours](#)

[Donation of Guitar](#)

[2024 House Cup Results](#)

[International Science & Invention Fair](#)

[Queen's Commonwealth Competition](#)

[National Level Malay Essay Writing Competition "PENA EMAS"](#)

[Reflections on Participation in John Locke International Essay Competition](#)

[Term 4 Birthday Celebration at Oldham Hall](#)

[Study Nights 2024](#)

[Choice To Run 2024](#)

[Year 2 EOY Camp to Tioman](#)

[PPG Thanksgiving & Bonding Event](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

November	Event
18 Nov – 31 Dec	School Holidays
January	Event
2 – 3 Jan 2025	New Student Orientation
6 Jan 2025	All students return to school except Year 5 non-DSA students
20 Jan 2025	Year 5 Non-DSA students return to school
29 & 30 Jan 2025	Chinese New Year

NOTICES

School Bookshop Opening Hours

Please note that the school bookshop will be open on the following dates and times:

Dates: 16 – 20 Dec, 26 – 27 Dec, 30 Dec, 2 – 3 Jan 2025

Time: 9am to 3pm

Donation of Guitar

The Music Department would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to David Zhang Jiahao (6 SVM), for his generous donation of a pristine Yamaha guitar! David shared that his enjoyment of the diverse music CCA offerings at our school inspired him to contribute to the department's growth and learning. We greatly appreciate his support! Thank you, David!



International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) 2024

The International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) and International Research Teacher Competition (IRTC) are organised by the Indonesian Young Scientist Association (IYSA) annually. The objectives are to develop the skills of scientific research and the spirit of innovation among international students and serve as a platform to exchange innovation and invention experiences between students around the world. A total of 816 teams from 24 countries have participated in the ISIF/IRTC.

This year, two teams from ACS(International) took part in ISIF. The list of winners, which was announced on 5 November 2024, is below.

Name	Division	Project Title	Award
ISIF Results			
Yoonha Park	Year 3	Music, Math and Cryptography	Gold Medal
Woochan Lee	Year 3		
Kim Yejin	Year 3	Exploring Patterns in Different Number Base Systems	Silver Medal
Kanon Tamiya	Year 3		
Kim Chaewon	Year 3		
Yun Seojeong	Year 3		
Lo Cheuk Chun	Year 3		

2024 House Cup Results

Sports Cup	Rank	Arts & Interest Cup	Rank	Academic Cup	Rank	House Cup	Rank
Thoburn	1	LSG	1	CKS	1	CKS	1
TCT	2	GHK	2	LSG	2	TKK	2
Oldham	3	Thoburn	3	TKK	3	LSG	3

Queen's Commonwealth Competition

At a time when countries are pulling apart, groupings like the Commonwealth are one way for Singapore to strengthen its links with other nations, add value and maintain its relevance. (The Straits Times, 26 October 2024)

Participating in the Queen's Commonwealth Competition, not only developed my writing skills, but also deepened my understanding of the goals set by The Commonwealth. As an IB student, I was able to embody the IB learner profiles "Knowledgeable" and "Inquirer" throughout this enriching experience.

My prompt was "The Commonwealth's London Declaration aimed to strive for peace, liberty and progress. Write a letter to your President or Prime Minister about how to achieve those aims." As I worked on my essay, I drew upon my prior knowledge from a Seminar I had attended and embedded them into my writing. This was challenging as it was my first time participating in this competition and writing in a letter form. To enhance my writing, I conducted some research on the policies in Singapore and applied them to my essay. This expanded my horizon of knowledge and prompted me to think about the relationship between Singapore's policies and The Commonwealth values. The competition served as a great platform for developing my writing techniques and exploring different perspectives on the aims of The Commonwealth, particularly peace, liberty, and progress. I was able to demonstrate the "Knowledgeable" aspect of the IB profile as I consistently applied my knowledge on my writing, creating a comprehensive essay.

Along the way, I discussed and consulted with my peers to brainstorm ideas together and refine my writing. This collaborative process allowed me to be more communicative and fostered relationships with my peers.

Overall, this experience offered me a valuable opportunity to strengthen my writing skills, my knowledge of global issues and think critically about solutions to help Singapore achieve the aims that The Commonwealth aspires to, and I am excited to apply these skills in my future academic endeavours. This journey has deepened my understanding in many different aspects, and I look forward to participating in more competitions like this in the future.

*Chloe Mok (5 SVM)
(Gold award recipient)*



National Level Malay Essay Writing Competition “PENA EMAS” 2024

Our 6 participants achieved commendable placings in this year’s competition.

No.	Name of Participants	Class	Category
Lower Secondary			
1	Natasha Nasya Gandhi	1 LSG	GOLD
2	Aarav Ronak Shah	1 CKS	GOLD
3	Christian Arihant Greuter	1 TKK	GOLD
Upper Secondary			
1	Keira Shij Yi Stroobant-Paquet	3 CKS	GOLD
2	Aneshka Marissa Fernando	4 CKS	GOLD
3	Nathan Alexandro Tjhe	4 SVM	GOLD



I am very grateful for this award. It was difficult to write the composition and it took effort to think about the phrases and idioms that I should have used. Although I did not manage to get among the top 30 students in Singapore, I am still very happy with the outcome and will try harder in future to achieve it.

Natasha Nasya Gandhi (1 LSG)

Writing a composition was a learning experience for me. At first, it was difficult to organise my thoughts, but as I progressed, I learnt the importance of outlining ideas. I found it rewarding to express my thoughts creatively and structure them in ways that made sense. Revising was key, as it helped me improve my grammar and flow. Through this, I gained confidence in my writing skills.

Aarav Ronak Shah (1 CKS)

I am profoundly grateful to have been bestowed with the Gold award in the PENA EMAS competition. The path to this achievement was fraught with challenges, yet I persevered through moments of difficulty. With steadfast support from my friends, classmates, and teachers, I summoned the determination to excel. This experience has illuminated the value of resilience and collaboration.

Christian Arihant Greuter (1 TKK)

Writing my essay for this year’s competition was honestly quite challenging. It wasn’t easy at all. I remember spending days - maybe even weeks - planning what to write. I had pages of ideas and different storylines for this essay. All of which were my own stories, stories that I could relate to so that I could deliver a story with not only genuine emotions, but encouragement and an overarching message to never give up.

Keira Shij Yi Stroobant-Paquet (3 CKS)



I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in Pena Emas 2024 and achieve GOLD. The experience has been transformative, pushing me to refine my writing skills. I owe much of this achievement to the unwavering support and guidance from Mdm Chin, who encouraged me to challenge myself and strive for excellence. This competition has shaped my qualities that I believe will be invaluable as I navigate future challenges.

Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (4 SVM)

Throughout this essay writing competition, I learnt numerous techniques and styles of writing. Competing in this competition has taught many new values such as tenacity. I learnt not to give up even when I was faced with challenges and found ways to overcome them. I am very grateful that I was able to get this opportunity to learn and expand my knowledge on essay writing.

Aneshka Marissa Fernando (4 CKS)

Reflections on Participation in John Locke International Essay Competition

This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the International Essay Competition organised by the John Locke Institute in London, at which I was allowed to choose from a variety of different topics on global issues and write my opinions on possible solutions to these topics with a fresh and creative perspective. Having been shortlisted, I was invited to London to attend the Global Essay Prize 2024 conference. With professors from many universities in England present to share their different perspectives on law, philosophy, science, and artificial intelligence it was a fulfilling and educational experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. Additionally, I had the chance to meet students from all around the world whom I would not have met otherwise, allowing me to forge new friendships and connect with like-minded individuals.

Reflecting on this experience, it has personally allowed me to be a more open-minded person. While conducting further research into the thesis I was encouraged to look into the many different stakeholders and how they would be affected by the policies made. Personally, it has also encouraged me to recognise various cultures creating a deeper appreciation for their unique narratives. Furthermore, it has motivated me to think critically, as I had to consider the various perspectives of different groups on this issue and find a balance among their viewpoints when coming to a solution.

Jacob Christopher Budiman (3 SVM)



Jacob Christopher Budiman (3 SVM), who received a Merit award for his essay at the Competition

Term 4 Birthday Celebration at Oldham Hall

12 November 2024

We would like to thank all Oldham Hall boarders for their incredible support and participation in all our term birthday celebrations. Their presence, energy, and enthusiasm made each moment truly special. We are deeply grateful for their continued involvement and look forward to many more shared memories.

*Mdm Chin Siew Lin & Mdm Goh Wei Li
International Student Coordinators*



Study Nights 2024

"Food is so yummy thank u!!! I will miss Study Night. I really appreciate the preparations from parents, the librarians & teachers!" "The desserts were all really nice. Thank you for the past few weeks!"

These were some of the comments from students who had come for our 7 week-long Study Nights which took place twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday. The Parent School Partners (PSP) continued to uphold a yearly tradition of supporting our Year 4 and Year 6 students who were preparing for their IGCSE and IB exams during this important time of the year. Zealously, a team of PSP parents planned an extensive menu that was exciting and nutritious. The menu ranged from tantalising Japanese Smoked Duck Don, Grilled Chicken Burger to freshly prepared Korean Chicken Bibimbap. Most popular with the students was Jollibee Chicken Rice. Perhaps a comfort food to them, it left them clamouring for it to be brought back again!

It filled our hearts with joy to see the students heartily tucking into their meals and enjoying light-hearted conversations with their friends at the canteen tables. On several evenings, desserts and other cold treats were served, lighting up the students' faces even further. It was our mission to not only fill their tummies, but also refresh their minds and spirits during the hour-long dinner break. Seeing the many happy faces recharged and energised at the end of the dinner, and ready for another lap of studying in the library, I am sure that all of the parents who had volunteered for study nights would agree that our work had been totally satisfying. Thank you to all the parents who had made time to come down after school hours to serve at our Study Nights!

In tandem with the PSP, Christian Ministry Staff from HVMC Mr Benjamin Quek and Mr Aaron Ho unflinchingly turned up at every Study Night to support the students in prayers and ministry. We are thankful for the many illuminating conversation that took place, with many of the students' faith boosted and worries allayed. Ms Many and her team of librarians helped make the Study Nights a smooth operation as they worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that every dinner order from the students was captured. Their welcoming smiles and approachable presence were a regular fixture throughout the weeks.

To our Year 4 and Year 6 students who have just completed their exams, we are glad to have been given this opportunity to support you. We will continue to cheer you on in your journeys!

Joy Sim, PSP Exco

Heartfelt thank you to Ms. Many, Meng Leng, Phyllis, Ben and Aaron with their unwavering support for Study Night. The impeccable cooperation and communication between librarians and PSP made every single study night dinners (also snack corner refill times) goes smoothly. It's very heart-warming to see the kids smile after long day of studying while receiving their ordered dinner. Those bananas and milo lifting are definitely worth it!"

Lita Damayanti (parent of Year 3 student Clayton Wibowo)

Thank you Ms Many, library staff, PSP, Ben and Aaron for this opportunity. This was my first time doing Study Nights. What a wonderful experience! The students all looked so happy when they received their food orders. Their smiles and laughter are priceless, and I get such a satisfying feeling when I see the kids are well fed. I hope to continue with this programme in the future.

Shweta Kapur (parent of Year 5 student Shiv Kapur)

Thank you, Many, Phyllis, Meng Leng, Ben, Aaron, and the dedicated members of HVMC, for being guiding angels to our diligent students. Your unwavering commitment to creating a calm, supportive environment has truly made a difference. We are grateful for your continued partnership with PSP, which has brought about yet another successful Study Nights.

Ms Erica Shen (parent of Year 4 student Brandon Shen and Year 2 student Nathan Shen)



Choice To Run 2024: 'Wheel the Ground' for Accessibility

Building on the success of Choice To Run (CTR) 2024 which was held on 24 August, the 14th Student Ambassadors, in collaboration with CKS and Oldham Houses, partnered with the Disabled People's Association (DPA) and SmartBFA to organise the 'Wheel The Ground' activity within our Holland Village community on 2 November. 'Wheel The Ground,' an initiative by DPA — the country's only cross-disability non-profit organisation — aims to map out wheelchair-accessible routes around the community, promoting inclusivity for individuals with mobility challenges. Through this initiative, the 14th Student Ambassadors hope to demonstrate how the funds raised from CTR 2024 are being used and to highlight their impact in supporting those in need.

Student's Reflection:

This was an extremely insightful trip as we had the opportunity to experience the difficulties that wheelchair-bound people faced by sitting on wheelchairs and even collaborating with wheelchair users from DPA. The group I led focused on the Commonwealth area where we explored the MRT and its accessibility to supermarkets, HDBs, community clubs, etc. We soon realised that small curbs and uneven pathways pose significant challenges for wheelchair users, often forcing them to take longer detours via ramps. The SmartBFA app therefore aims to create an accessible map for people in wheelchairs. Even though we only explored a small area, we were glad to be part of this initiative towards striving for a more inclusive Singapore.

Natasha Tan (5 OLD)
14th Ambassadors

Throughout the experience, my perspective on the lives led by those with disabilities was drastically influenced by seeing first-hand the daily difficulties faced by these individuals. Certain factors often overlooked by the rest of society such as short curbs, slightly steep ramps, or poor weather can dictate the convenience and livelihood of wheelchair users. We were better able to understand the obstacles and barriers faced by wheelchair users and speak to those who experience these issues every day. Overall, it was an eye-opening experience and a blatant reminder of the changes that still have yet to be made.

Aaryan Siddiqi (5 GHK)
14th Ambassadors

Spending time with wheelchair users taught me about the daily challenges they face, from navigating simple tasks to accessing public spaces that many of us take for granted. I was struck by their perseverance and optimism, which reminded me of the strength that can be found in overcoming adversity. This experience inspired me to appreciate my abilities and recognize the importance of empathy and support for others.

Nathan Alexandro Tjhe (4 SVM)
Student Volunteer



Year 2 EOY Camp to Tioman

The Year 2 Tioman EOY camp was a memorable one for me and many others, with many enriching activities that have broadened my horizons. It was a truly unforgettable experience that was like no other that helped us all to strengthen our bonds and work on values.

My group did hiking as well as fire starting on our first day and although the hiking was challenging due to the rocky uneven terrain, we rose to the occasion and finished the arduous hike. Our previous experience during the Year 1 camp helped my group out and enabled us to start a fire that lasted throughout the entire activity. Kayaking was extremely fun and although the weather was scorching, it did not dampen our spirits, it really helped foster teamwork between the two people in the kayak as they had to work together to paddle in sync. Snorkelling on the third and final day of the activities was my favourite activity thus far, the mesmerising underwater landscape captivated me and the marine life was thriving. This unique experience cultivated our resilience as we had to battle against the strong current in order to view the ecosystem in its full glory. During our leisure time we had the option to explore the shoreline, swim in the pool or spend quality time with our constant companions, the cats and our friends as well of course.

In conclusion, this camp was like no other and we have garnered many great memories from our experience. The valuable lessons I learnt about nature and the island will be something I will remember for a long time to come and the memories that I have gained from this camp will last forever.

Tan Zi Ya (2 CKS)



PPG Thanksgiving & Bonding Event

Terrarium Workshop – Garden in a Jar

The morning of 7 November began bright and sunny with an opening prayer by Christina Kokadir and a look back at the year’s Parents Prayer Group (PPG) events. This was followed by a powerful and engaging sermon by Pastor Jeremy Ong on Psalm 100: 2-5 to remember and recount all of God’s goodness to the generations after us. To commemorate the year in thanksgiving to God, we wrote personal notes to our future selves and popped them into a time capsule that will be opened next year (2025). What an exciting journey it has been this year and we look forward to the day when we open the capsule to look back and remember all that God has done for us and our families in 2024.

Then it was time to move on to the Terrarium Workshop with Jason, our creative trainer, who helped all 18 participants put together a plethora of terrariums in varying styles and colours. As we bring these marvellous creations home, the amazing plants and patterns inspire us to continue appreciating nature and thanking God for His provision of all things on Earth.

What is a gathering without food? Thanks to the PPG Committee, a sumptuous lunch of Nasi Tumpeng, pretty cupcakes and Bika Ambon Kueh were prepared for all participants which we dug into with gusto.

At the end of the event, we went home filled – physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Philippians 1: 3-6 says, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

The PPG meets monthly to pray for the school, students, staff, and we welcome all. Our first prayer meeting 2025 will be held on Thursday 9 January 2025 from 8am to 9.30am. Please contact Christina at 96905560 for more details.

Have a good holiday and see you next year!

Liza Tay, PPG ACS (International)





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 Stew 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

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