



January 2025

## ACS (INTERNATIONAL) NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the start of another academic year. The staff at ACS (International) are thrilled to begin this new journey alongside our students. To our returning families, welcome back! To our new families, we are delighted to have you join our vibrant community. We hope your child has enjoyed their first few weeks at ACS (International) and is already beginning to feel at home.

Let me take this opportunity to wish our school community a very Happy Lunar New Year—Gong Xi Fa Cai! This year, we celebrate with optimism, looking forward to reconnecting with loved ones and embracing traditions both here and abroad. We wish our Envoy Club students well as they travel to The Hague to partake in the annual MUN conference during the Lunar New Year break.

It is with great pride that ACS (International) congratulates the IBDP Graduating Class of 2024 on their phenomenal achievements. Our students secured a 100% pass rate with an impressive average score of over 39. Additionally, we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of the five students who achieved perfect scores of 45. Our IGCSE Class of 2024 has also delivered stellar results with a remarkable 65.2% of students earning A\* or A grades.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our dedicated staff at ACS (International) for their unwavering commitment to nurturing our students and guiding them toward success.

As we begin this year, I'd like to reaffirm the vision that drives our school:

*ACS (International) develops future leaders with moral character, intellectual ability, international mindedness, and a deep compassion for humanity based on Christian beliefs and values.*

This year, we are introducing several key initiatives aligned with our vision. These include growing international mindedness throughout the curriculum, developing effective use of AI tools, and fostering responsible use towards mobile technologies. During our pre-term Staff Conference, Faculty members actively explored these priorities and planned their integration into student learning throughout the year.

This year promises to be a year of growth, learning, and shared accomplishments. I invite our parent community to continue supporting the school through prayer as we strive to fulfill our mission and develop the young learners entrusted to our care.

**Gavin Kinch**  
Principal

[New Staff](#)

[Staff Conference and CPD 2025](#)

[A Celebration of Compassion & Service](#)

[Year 2 Commerce](#)

[Internship at Singapore National Eye Centre](#)

[Envoy Club Highlights](#)

[Chamber Orchestra Concert tour to Austria](#)

[Reflections on Singapore Cultural](#)

[Orientation Trip](#)

[Higher Education News](#)





[PPG First Parents' Prayer Meeting](#)

[PSP at New Student Orientation](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

**STAFF NEWS****New Staff**

ACS (International) welcomes the following new staff who have joined us in 2025.

			
<b>Ms Frances Cheong</b>	<b>Ms Bonita Yu</b>	<b>Ms Lai Ming Yoke</b>	<b>Ms Ong Ying Han</b>
Teacher of English (1GHK)	Teacher of Economics	Teacher of Mathematics (1TKK)	Teacher of Economics (5 TTK)

			
<b>Ms Kalyani Subbiah</b>	<b>Ms Lucinda Gates</b>	<b>Mr Michael Grieser Johns</b>	<b>Ms Yang Jianlei</b>
Teacher of Tamil	Teacher of English (6 GHK)	Teacher of Drama (5 TCT)	Accounts Officer



## Staff Conference and CPD 2025

2025 kicked off on an inspiring note as teachers and staff gathered at the Sports Hall of ACS (International) on 2 and 3 January for the school's annual staff induction. The event began with a warm welcome from Mr Gavin Kinch, the Principal, who greeted both returning and new staff members. He highlighted the school's outstanding 2024 IBDP results and took the opportunity to revisit the school's Vision and Guiding Statements, reinforcing the shared values and goals of the school.

Following a devotion led by Rev Loretta Lim of Holland Village Methodist Church, Mr. Kinch outlined the school's objectives for the year ahead. The key focus areas for 2025 include:

- School Strategic Plan
- CIS Self-Study
- International Mindedness (2025 IB Programme Development Plan)
- Mobile Phone Culture
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education
- Child Protection and Safeguarding

These priorities aim to foster continued growth and excellence within the school community throughout the year.

### School Objectives for 2025

Throughout 2025, the school staff will convene regularly to collaborate on initiatives aimed at improving practices to meet the standards set by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate (IB). A key focus for the year will be the ongoing implementation of the Programme Development Plan (PDP), which aims to foster International Mindedness within the school community. This will be achieved through an emphasis on Intercultural Learning and Global Citizenship, ensuring that students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to thrive in a diverse world.

The IT Committee will also focus on exploring the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. The committee will provide guidance on how AI can be integrated into teaching, learning, and administrative roles, ensuring that it is used in a way that supports the school's values. Additionally, the Mobile Phone Policy, which prohibits the use of mobile phones during lessons, will be enforced with immediate effect to foster a more focused and engaging learning environment.

### Continuous Professional Development

#### High Quality Learning

The professional development sessions kicked off with a collaborative effort among teachers to align lesson plans and teaching strategies with the school's definition of High Quality Learning (HQL). Teachers refined their 2025 Subject Unit Plans and Schemes of Work during Faculty Collaboration sessions, sharing best practices to ensure continuous improvement in the classroom.

The first day concluded with a Cyber Wellness Talk led by Shem Yao from Touch Community. Shem highlighted the digital risks faced by young people today, particularly in the realms of online gaming and social media. He also provided strategies for staff to help students navigate these challenges safely and responsibly.

#### Intercultural Learning

On Day 2 (3 January), the theme shifted to Intercultural Learning. Mrs Tan Siew Hoon, Vice Principal (Senior Division), facilitated discussions and activities such as Story Circles, which encouraged staff to share their cultural experiences. This exercise allowed staff to deepen their understanding of culture and intercultural learning, building a stronger foundation for integrating these concepts into their teaching.

It was truly inspiring to see both returning and new staff members actively engaged in vibrant discussions, sharing personal stories and insights into their cultural backgrounds. This fostered a deeper sense of community and mutual respect among the team.

#### House Collaborations and Programme Presentations

During House Collaboration, staff continued to discuss how to incorporate the school's objectives—such as the Mobile Phone Policy and International Mindedness—into the House programme. This ongoing dialogue is crucial in ensuring that these goals are reflected across all areas of school life.

The day also featured presentations on several key programs, including Student Support, Digital Literacy, and the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) programme, offering valuable insights into how these initiatives support the holistic development of students.

The two days of professional development were a dynamic and engaging start to 2025. The sessions not only provided valuable learning opportunities but also helped staff align their efforts toward achieving the school's objectives for the year ahead. With a shared sense of purpose and excitement, the ACS (International) community is well-prepared to make 2025 a year of growth, collaboration, and achievement.

The Best Is Yet To Be.



## A Celebration of Compassion and Service

In 2023, our 13<sup>th</sup> Student Ambassadors achieved an extraordinary milestone, raising \$26,095 for Habitat for Humanity Singapore through the annual fundraiser, Choice To Run. Their unwavering dedication—from meticulous event planning and hosting to collaborating with Habitat for Humanity on the Project HomeWorks initiative, where they participated in cleaning homes for low-income families—exemplified our school's guiding values and profound compassion for humanity.

On 15 January 2025, Habitat for Humanity Singapore celebrated its 20th Anniversary with an award ceremony, where ACS (International) was honoured to receive the prestigious 'Youth Fundraiser Award.' This recognition highlighted the remarkable contribution of our 13th Student Ambassadors and the various ACS (International) stakeholders who contributed to the annual fundraiser. The award was accepted by the current Head of Student Ambassadors on behalf of the graduating leaders, symbolising the enduring legacy of service and commitment to the community.

We hope this achievement inspires our students to embrace impactful initiatives and cultivate the leadership and compassion needed to make a meaningful difference in the world. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Holland Village Methodist Church, Parent School Partners, Senior Leadership Team, teachers, and all participants of Choice To Run 2023 for making this accomplishment possible.



## Year 2 Commerce

ACS International is excited to announce the launch of a new subject called Commerce, which is designed to introduce students to the IGCSE Business Studies and Economics courses. This dynamic course is scheduled for two lessons per week and offers a comprehensive introduction to financial literacy and foundational concepts in Business and Economics. By exploring these key ideas early, the course aims to foster a passion for these subjects and encourage further study at the IGCSE level.

Students will delve into the functions of businesses, the role of the global economy, and develop essential skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. Through engaging, real-world activities such as mini-projects, case studies, and discussions, students will gain valuable insights into the practical applications of business and economic principles, making learning both meaningful and enjoyable.

Assessment will emphasise authentic, practical tasks like creating business plans, marketing strategies, and CVs, helping students connect theory to real-world scenarios. This approach ensures students not only build knowledge but also develop transferable skills that will benefit them in academics and beyond. With its interactive and innovative structure, Commerce promises to inspire curiosity, prepare students for future studies, and equip them with tools for success in an ever-changing global landscape.



## Internship at Singapore National Eye Centre

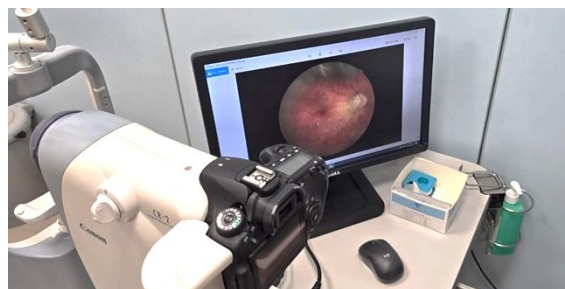
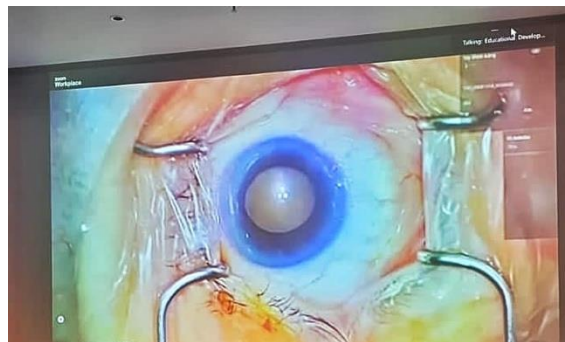
As I wrapped up my internship at the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) under Dr Marcus Ang (Head & Senior Consultant of Corneal & External Eye Disease and Refractive Surgery Departments at the SNEC), I reflected on more than 2 weeks filled with remarkable experiences and invaluable lessons in the field of eye care. Walking back and forth between buildings, I was hit by a powerful sense of wonder and amazement of Singapore Healthcare's infrastructure. There was hustle and bustle in every corner of every room, with patients, doctors, and other staff all talking and doing important tasks all at once. I observed that most of the patients waiting were elderly. But I noticed an outlier the moment I entered the waiting room, a seemingly teenage or young adult boy staring into space near the far corner of the room. When I asked Dr Ang about the young man, he brushed it off and returned to his work. But within that hour, he ushered all the other nurses and the attending consultant into a neighbouring room, as the young man stumbled in with his family members behind him. Dr Marcus closed the sliding door, and everything was tense and silent for what seemed like an hour. Eventually, he slid it back open, and the patient, his family, and the nurse could be seen while Dr. Marcus looked noticeably worse for wear. When I asked what had happened, Dr Ang explained that the patient was a 27-year-old patient with severe autism. He said the patient had a severe eye infection in both eyes that had so far led to near-total blindness, and Dr Ang added that he would have to check his eyes under general anaesthesia as the patient was uncooperative. I was shaken, and enlightened that medicine is never as simple as giving the right medication, and you must understand people and their struggles to treat them effectively.

I saw more of Dr Ang's skills when he performed a very complex lens transplant involving ultrasound in a procedure known as Phacoemulsification. In this procedure, a small incision is made under the eye, and a mysterious device I would later learn was a sonic device capable of melting lenses is sneaked in, blood being sucked out by the other surgeons. "I think I did a pretty good job," said Dr. Ang. However, nothing in medicine is ever that simple, as I would note many times over my internship, as moments later, the lens he had implanted ended up upside down, and a lengthy lens-flipping procedure had to proceed. Throughout my time at the SNEC, I learnt about various diagnostic tools used in eye care. We utilised specular microscopy to assess corneal health and monitor cell counts after transplants. It was fascinating to see how these technologies help me understand conditions such as glaucoma, which can cause inflammation and complicate treatment.

One memorable incident involved a patient who had just undergone corneal surgery. Unfortunately, his contact lens fell out after the procedure, leading to significant discomfort since the lens was meant to alleviate pain during recovery. This forced the resident assisting Dr. Marcus to have to use a specular microscope to assist in replanting a new contact lens. This lengthy and drawn-out process imprinted a deep impression on me, mainly respect for the doctor's care, and the blessing of technology on our tools. I learnt not just technical details, but also matters more related to eyesight surgery and other practical skills. A significant topic of discussion during my internship, and the source of many questions from me to the clinic staff, was the difference between two popular vision correction surgeries. I noted that SMILE (Small Incision Lenticule Extraction) is less invasive, requiring only a small incision (about 3.8 mm) to remove a lenticule from within the cornea. This flapless approach generally results in quicker healing and less risk of dry eye symptoms post-surgery. LASIK, on the other hand, involves creating a larger corneal flap (approximately 20 mm), which can lead to dry eye. I also learnt a lot on how doctors needed to show care. They have a special responsibility to ensure that they remain focused on providing healthcare, but also remain connected with the patient, to avoid situations where they seem detached or uncaring.

In conclusion, my internship at the Singapore National Eye Centre was an enlightening experience that has deepened my appreciation for the scientific and humanistic aspects of eye care. The lessons learnt here will undoubtedly shape my future endeavours in medicine, and remind me that it must come with great compassion, understanding, and a commitment to patient well-being.

Clayton Oliver Wibowo (4 GHK)



## Envoy Club Highlights

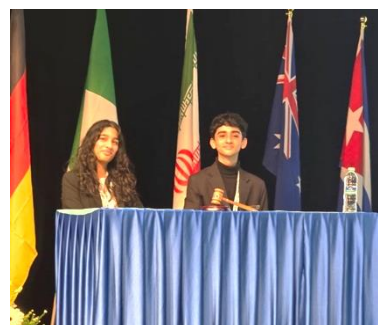
It has been a wonderful, enriching and inspiring experience with THIMUN Singapore, bringing a truly global platform to the forefront of debating and discussing some of the most impactful issues facing our world today. THIMUN Singapore returned in-person after 5 years, summoning more than 500 participants from all over Asia and Oceania. Representing Germany, our delegation approached the event with passion and dedication, focusing on promoting thoughtful diplomacy. One of the strong points of the conference was not just the robust debates, but also the leadership some members of our school showed. Naisha Makhija (3 TKK: deputy president of HYC) and Zou Ziyuan (3 LSG: president of GA3) were excellent chairs, who led their respective committees with professionalism and ensured productive discussion throughout. Their ability to steer through complex debates while staying neutral and ordering their debates impressed delegates and directors alike.

Ethan Chan (3 TCT) played a very important role as an editor in the THIMUN MUNITY East Press Corps, as it was really lively and full of life, through journalism and media. His creative reporting and ability to capture the essence of the debates added a vibrant dimension to the event by keeping all people on top of things and involved.

Meanwhile, Aryav Bhesania (5 CKS) took one of the most prestigious leadership roles, in the executive team, as Deputy Secretary-General, showing exceptional organisational and diplomatic skills. This role involved months of planning the conference with the THIMUN Board of Directors, situated in The Hague and London. He delivered an inspiring speech in front of all participants, directors, admins, and board members to close off the conference. It was amazing to see the efforts he made in coordinating the smooth functioning of the various phases of the conference.

At the conference, our delegation had debates on topics that included climate change, global security, sustainable development, and human rights. Each advocate argued in every committee to exhibit Germany's policies but was open to compromise and collaboration for the greater good of the people. Every speech, every amendment, and every resolution made evident the extensive preparation and teamwork within the delegation. Beyond the committee rooms, THIMUN Singapore enables members to be amongst students from all over the world, hear multiple perspectives, and hopefully bring a few lifelong friendships. It reminded us that diplomacy is not just about policy; it is more of being an understanding enabler for the purpose of unification. It was a tremendous experience to serve Germany, whether as delegates or chairs or part of the organising committee, transforming the experience. It challenged us at THIMUN Singapore 2024 in both intellect and inspired us to consider global citizenship and our responsibility in building a better future. We look forward to bringing this success back on the biggest global Model UN stage at THIMUN in The Hague, next January. See you then!

*Simran Rakesh (2 TKK)*



## Chamber Orchestra Concert Tour to Austria

The ACS (International) chamber orchestra embarked on an unforgettable concert tour to Austria from 18 – 28 November 2024, visiting the historic cities of Vienna and Salzburg. From a musical and cultural perspective, this trip was enriching and transformative, allowing us to perform in prestigious venues and immerse ourselves in Austria's rich musical heritage.

Guided by our dedicated conductor, Mr Lim Soon Lee, and accompanied by Ms Jasmine Teo, Ms Grace Lim and Mr Ang Chew Yan, we successfully showcased our musical talents and learnt from Austria's world-renowned musical history and culture.

We first visited Vienna, Austria's capital, known as the "City of Music," where we performed in Lorely-Saal and Schloss Esterházy. With its brilliant acoustics and long history, performing in Schloss Esterházy was truly the highlight of the trip. It was a privilege to perform in such a magnificent venue, steeped in history as the workplace of the renowned composer Joseph Haydn. In addition to performing in these two venues, we explored various museums, palaces, and Christmas markets, while also savouring many local dishes. We then continued to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and where the iconic musical, The Sound of Music, was filmed. Here, we performed in Salzburg Christuskirche and had the opportunity to explore the charming city and its surroundings. One of the highlights was the Sound of Music tour, which took us to iconic filming locations from the beloved movie, offering breathtaking views and a deeper appreciation for the region's cultural significance. We also visited the beautiful Hallstatt area, renowned for its picturesque scenery and serene lake. Additionally, we had an adventurous experience exploring a salt mine, learning about its history, and enjoying the thrilling underground slides.

Experiencing a new culture expanded our perspectives, allowing us to better understand and respect diversity. Ultimately, this trip was a rich combination of musical achievement and cultural exploration. It honed our skills as musicians while broadening our worldviews, leaving us with unforgettable memories of performing in iconic venues and embracing a vibrant new culture. The ability of music to transcend language barriers and serve as a universal form of expression was something that we truly learned to appreciate after this trip.

*Kyra Lim (5 CKS)*



## Reflections on Singapore Cultural Orientation Trip on 18 January 2025

The trip to Chinatown, Little India, and the Sultan Mosque was an eye-opening experience. Exploring the vibrant streets of Chinatown and Little India enabled me to immerse myself in their rich histories and unique traditions. The Sultan Mosque left a deep impression on me, as it highlighted the cultural and spiritual diversity that exists in Singapore. Beyond just learning about these cultures, I felt a deeper connection with my peers during the activities, which strengthened our bond and taught me the value of teamwork and understanding.

*Chen Junqi (4 CKS)*

The orientation to Chinatown and Little India gave me a chance to explore different cultures while working with a diverse group of students. We took part in activities that helped us connect with each other and learn about the unique traditions and history. As a Korean, it was interesting to see how different communities keep their culture alive within the same city.

*Kim Sunyoon (1 LSG)*

Visiting Chinatown, Little India, and Kampong Glam was an enriching journey through Singapore's multicultural heritage. Chinatown's traditional temples, Little India's vibrant colours and spices, and Kampong Glam's majestic and artistic Haji Lane each showcased unique cultural charms. The harmony between history and modernity in these districts deepened my appreciation for diversity and the beauty of cultural coexistence.

*Song Yilin (2 TCT)*

It was very enjoyable to learn about different cultures and find out about the history of India in the Indian Heritage Museum. Being able to visit Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam in the span of one day was amazing. Visiting these places with people from ACS (International) was a lot of fun.

*Jongsitthisatjakul Ornaiya (1 TCT)*

This trip was very insightful as we explored Singapore's cultural diversity by visiting Chinatown, Little India, and Kampong Glam. I also danced with my friend Kiwi at the Indian Heritage Museum. Each place showcased its unique traditions, architecture, and atmosphere. The highlight of the trip for me was visiting the museum in Little India. We had the opportunity to learn about Indian history and culture. It was fascinating to see how Singapore's multicultural society preserves and celebrates its rich heritage.

*Yang Chenghan (4 TKK)*

As someone from the UK, this was truly a mind opening experience. It taught me a lot about understanding other cultures and brought me closer to my ancestral heritage, Malaysia.

*Chin Jia Syuen (2 THO)*



The trip yesterday was really interesting because we get to see how diversified is Singapore, by visiting Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam. The most memorable part was when we were in the museum in Little India, as learnt about Indian history and culture.

*Hui Sze Yeung (Silverstream) (2 GHK)*

I felt like that yesterday the whole trip was amazing and fun. My favourite part was the Chinatown because we have a part was need to find the food beginning with the letter C,H,I,N,A,T,O,W,and N. We also found a lot of stuff that we needed.

*Chao Zi Qian/Winston (1 THO)*

Exploring Chinatown and Little India with the school was an enriching experience. It was wonderful to learn about different cultures and traditions first-hand. Sharing this adventure with classmates made it even more memorable.

*Tritrakulchai Ranida (1 GHK)*

A trip to Singapore's Chinatown was a truly memorable experience. It's a place where history, culture, and modernity seamlessly blend, creating a vibrant, colourful culture!

*Yang Shuoxuan (2 CKS)*

I experienced Chinese culture and customs and felt the unity of the group while carrying out the tasks assigned. I saw many new clothes in Little India, learnt about Indian history and culture, and saw the diversity of Singapore. I made many good friends and enriched my experience.

*Xie Yunlou (2 SVM)*

The trip makes me feel connected with people and the importance of leadership.

*Cheng Charmaine Wing Ka (2 OLD)*





## HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

### Welcome to a New Year of Possibilities!

As we kick off 2025, we're excited to share updates and highlights from our Higher Education & Careers department. This includes a recap of recent events and a glimpse into what's coming up. Let's make this a year of exploration, growth, and achievement together!

### IB Induction: Higher Education & Careers Introduction

During the [IB induction session](#) in January, we introduced students and parents to the many ways our department can support our students' journey.

#### What We Shared:

- Guidance tailored to each student's unique goals.
- Opportunities to explore universities, programs, and career pathways.
- Tools to help make informed decisions for the future.

Our priority is to work alongside students, providing personalised advice and resources that align with their aspirations. We are here to support students every step of the way, and we look forward to seeing their dreams take shape!

### Insights from the University of Sydney:

#### Student Chat Highlights (14 Jan 2025)

University and student chats are hosted in our Sitorus Library.



#### Gurmisha Chopra's (5 CKS) Key Takeaways:

- I wanted to learn more about the University of Sydney to gain a clearer understanding whether it might be the best fit for me.
- **Vibrant Campus Culture:** From a Singaporean students' club to a chocolate lovers' club, there's truly something for everyone.
- **Flexibility in Learning:** Options like combined degrees and exchange programmes allow students to customise their academic journey and keep their options open. E.g. Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor Law 5 Year programme.
- **Accessible Pathways:** Furthermore, the flexible entry pathways eased some of our stress after discussing the various options like our IB scores and SATs and other pathways to admission, showing us that studying there is indeed achievable.

What stood out to me was how approachable and achievable the University of Sydney made studying there seem. Their openness to different entry pathways and emphasis on exploring your interests really resonated with me. They even suggested checking out their open house next month to learn even more!

*Gurmisha Chopra (5 CKS)*

**Meet USYD in Singapore**

Fairmont Singapore (South Tower)  
80 Bras Basar Road, Singapore 189560

Saturday, 8 Feb 2024 | 1pm to 4pm

Join us for an exciting in-person event where you can learn all about studying at the University of Sydney. Whether you're interested in undergraduate or postgraduate programs, this is the perfect opportunity to ask questions, gather scholarship information and explore your future academic possibilities.

Scan to register




 THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

ORCID: 0000-0001-8104-1000

*University of Sydney's Open House Publicity*

### Upcoming Higher Education & Career Department Events

Stay tuned for a dynamic lineup of university talks and workshops for students designed to help them plan ahead!

 [Click here](#) for the latest schedule and updates. Students should check their email regularly for invitations and reminders.

Here's to a successful and inspiring start to the year!



## PPG First Parents' Prayer Meeting

The first Parents' Prayer Meeting on 9 January 2025 kicked off the new year with wonderful weather and a good turnout of praying parents. What a beautiful start to the year with many new parents gathering to pray and fellowship.

Christina Kokadir opened the session with a welcome and a prayer, after which she introduced the events of the first term. We were joined by ACS (International) Principal Mr Gavin Kinch who welcomed all the new parents to the school as well as the prayer meetings. He encouraged all parents to keep the school in prayer to uphold the leadership team, staff, and students in the year ahead.

Rev Jeremy Ong of Holland Village Methodist Church led devotions and shared scripture from Revelations 21 which discussed the three key ideas of God preparing a new home for us called ACS (International), wherein He will dwell, and that He invites us all to enter and join Him there. Rev Ong sees that God will do something completely new in our children's lives this year, no matter what has brought us here to this school this year. Despite our limited understanding, we trust in the hope and vision that God has prepared, and that the Apostle John is communicating to us.

At the close of the devotion, we ended with a song "Hymn of Heaven" before gathering into groups of 4 or 5 to pray for the school – its leadership team, staff, teachers, students, and families. A simple fellowship ensued, and we ended the session with new friendships found.

Our next meeting will be on 21 February where we will be hosting the first ACS Schools Combined Prayer Meeting for the year. Come join us in a time of prayer with other parents from the rest of the ACS schools! Until then, we wish everyone a blessed new year filled with hope and joy as we journey together as parents to uphold all our children in this new season.

Psalm 65:11 – You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

*Liza Tay, Parents' Prayer Group (PPG)*



## PSP at New Students Orientation

More than 800 parents, guardians and students attended the New Students Orientation at ACS (International) at Oldham Chapel and Chapel Foyer on January 2, 2025. More than 233 new students registered this year, nearly half of whom are international students.

The Orientation commenced with a lively introduction by Head Boy Eldon Joel Kwan and Head Girl Yutika Dhar, followed by a welcome speech by ACS (International) Principal Mr Gavin Kinch, who shared the school's ethos through its IGNITE values, holistic curriculum, and extraordinary achievements of its students, notably the 2024 International Baccalaureate (IB) Cohort.

New parent Jeanne Mant, mother of Alyssa, found the session "very informative and helpful" especially with regards to the school's mission and values; whereas, Lynn Tan, mother of Kaitlyn Yong, appreciated learning about ACS (International)'s "distinctive qualities" that set it apart from its sister schools. Presentations by the Parent School Partners (PSP) and Parents' Prayer Group (PPG) highlighted the importance of parent volunteerism in the school community and the many exciting events for parent participation throughout the year. Parent Alicia Israel, mother of Zoe, felt "assured to hear about the active parent participation in school" and felt encouraged to contribute as well. Parent Emily Teoh, mother of Eden, was "glad to be welcomed by the PSP" and appreciated the calendar of events and parent chat groups as "good support to new parents with lots of questions."

Mr Alvin Ho, Head of Co-curricular Activities (CCAs), then shared the school's rich and diverse CCA culture, stirring excitement among the students, followed by Director for Administration Mr Chia Choong Kiat, who discussed the school's mobile policy, iSAMS and SchoolsBuddy applications.

As the programme drew to a close, International Student Coordinator Mdm Chin Siew Lin addressed the international families, as local parents and students were ushered to the Student Centre and canteen for refreshments. The entire morning was packed with interesting and practical information as well as opportunities to purchase supplies and uniforms. At the Student Centre, pre-loved blazers and ACS-branded red packets were sold by the PSP, as long queues of parents in the canteen eagerly awaited Bibi and Baba uniforms and textbooks from Pacific Bookstore. Meanwhile, the PSP, PPG and Holland Village Methodist Church (HVMC) booths in the Student Centre addressed enquiries regarding CCA choices, student life concerns, study tips, and first year expectations. After the crowds started to fade, the excitement of the day remained palpable, as small pockets of parents and students continued to share their hopes and personal experiences, displaying that familiar close-knit family culture so evident at ACS International. This was affirmed by Fiona Ngadimo, mother of Sophia, who was "happy to see such an inclusive and warm parent community in the school."

The PSP wishes to thank the school for the opportunity to welcome new parents during the Orientation. We look forward to nurturing new friendships, strengthening bonds through fruitful dialogue, and deepening parent-school partnerships in the coming year.

Celine Abueg, PSP Co-Chair



## UPCOMING EVENTS

January	Event
27–31	Chinese New Year Holiday
29	Chinese New Year
30	Second Day of Chinese New Year
February	Event
4	Service Trips Launch
5	Lunar New Year High Tea (International Students)
7	Year 4 Geography Data Collection
8	Year 6 Biology Ecology Field Trip
11	Barrett Music Competition
12	Watoto Children's Choir Visit
14	Thoburn and Oldham House Camp
15	TKK House Camp
19	Guardian/Homestay Information Session
21	CKS and GHK House Camp
28	Founder's Day Ceremony
	ACSprit de Corps

March	Event
29	Methodist Walk (Junior Division)





# ACS (International) Chamber Orchestra

## Esplanade Outdoor Theatre

Friday, 28 February 2025

7:15pm - 8:00pm

8:45pm - 9:30pm





# METHODIST WALK

29 March 2025

ACS (International) will be raising money for the following needs of the school:

1. Student Hardship Fund
2. Oldham Chapel upgrades

We invite all in our ACS (International) community to join us and aim to walk at least 50km in support of the "A Million For a Million" pledge.

We encourage cashless donations through the school's [Giving.sg](#) campaign page. Donations may also be given via cheque made out to Methodist Schools' Foundation, with the name of the school clearly indicated on the back.

We look forward to having your fullest support as we come together as a school family for **MethodistWalk 2025**.

Details can be found on the [FAQ](#) and fundraising platform [Giving.sg](#)

Scan here to give



2025  
Methodist  
Walk

Walk in the Truth of God

Ps 86:11

