



19 March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the first Chapel this year, I shared Jeremiah 29 verse 11 with our gentlemen. “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ” This verse is often quoted to encourage and provide hope to our gentlemen as they face their future. The context of this verse is the letter to the exiles who were living in Babylon, far away from their homes. It was a dark time in Israel’s history with the destruction of their temple and their homeland by the Babylonians. Their conquerors took away many of the nobles and young people as exiles.

Into this dark time, God spoke to Jeremiah the prophet and asked him to convey His message of hope and faith. His message was not that He will be coming to rescue them soon but that they should trust Him to do so once the appointed 70 years were completed. In the meantime, the exiles were to build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce; marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for their sons and give their daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. They were to increase in number there and not to decrease. Also, they were to seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which they had been carried into exile. In other words, God wanted them to seize the day, work hard and trust His plans for them – plans that are always for their good.

Why did I share this with the gentlemen? Because I believe that God has a similar message for our gentlemen. Have hope and faith that God holds their future in His Hands and that He will work out His good plans for them. Each time they hear the story of someone inspirational, they hear how the events in his past have shaped him or led him to the present, they hear him join the dots of his life into a coherent inspirational story. They never hear of a potentially inspirational person telling them how his life will turn out in the future and how he will inspire others.

Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, had this to say “You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future”. Dots are not meant to be joined going forward. It is not possible to know how our current experiences will shape us and prepare us for the future. Only God knows this and He has good plans for us. We have to trust Him to connect them.

What then is our responsibility? Enjoy the process, work hard at what we are doing, do not be idle or irresponsible. Give of our best effort here and now in whatever we are doing. Like

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the Israelites, we should seize the day and use every learning opportunity afforded by ACS (Barker Road) to learn and grow in all aspects, always with the hope and faith that God will bring about His good plans for us. Plans to prosper us and not to harm us, especially when the process is difficult and challenging. Plans to give us a hope and a future - The Best is Yet to be.

### CCA Achievements

We are proud of the achievements of our students at the National Schools Games and competitions.

CCA	Achievement	Acknowledgement
Badminton	C Division – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Zone B Division – 4 <sup>th</sup> at Zone	Both our 'B' and 'C' Divisions have made it to the semi-finals of the Badminton South Zone Championships. It has been a long time since both divisions made it to the semi-finals and we are glad that our perseverance and efforts have paid off.
Basketball	B Division – South Zone Champions	The team played very well in the finals to hold off Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) to clinch the zonal championship.
Table-Tennis	C Division – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Zone	This is the first time that ACS(BR) has achieved a top 4 placing in the zonal competition. Credit goes to the Sec 1 and Sec 2 gentlemen who represented the school even though table-tennis is not an official CCA.
Tennis	B Division – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Nationals	The players worked hard and played well to defeat St Patrick's School in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> placing match.
Robotics	Robotics Challenge 2018 1 <sup>st</sup> place – Tracing Challenge Merit – Obstacle Challenge	We sent in a total of 4 teams and competed against schools like Bukit Panjang Govt High, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary, Anderson Secondary, Swiss Cottage Secondary, Compassvale Secondary, Chua Chu Kang Secondary, Meridien Secondary, North Vista Secondary.

While our Waterpolo B Division team did not achieve a top 4 placing in the National Schools Games, we are proud of how hard they worked despite challenges and setbacks this year. Their tenacity and teamwork were on full display at the final game against Hwa Chong Institution and the school hopes the team will use the lessons learnt this year to emerge stronger in 2019.

### C21@ACS(BR)

The C21@ACS(BR) programme is specially catered for our Secondary 3 students to prepare and equip every ACSian to gain ACS(BR) values and 21st Century competencies. It will provide them with the opportunity to apply and integrate what they have learnt in the classroom to the real-world context, through a cross-cultural experience while reaching out to help those less fortunate than themselves. C21@ACS(BR) will take place from 14 – 18 May

2018 and some of the places we will be visiting this year include Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, Negri Sembilan and Perak in Malaysia.

### **Construction of the Indoor Sports Hall**

One major project this year is the commencement of the upgrading project sometime in the second half of this year. By the time completion ends in December 2019, ACS (Barker Road) will have an indoor sports hall, a covered futsal court, three new classrooms and a Chinese Orchestra room. We sought the Lord's blessing for the work over the current futsal court at a Ground Blessing Service on 1 March 2018 and we continue to trust Him for the fund-raising projects to raise the \$600,000 needed. These projects include sale of LEGO replicas of our iconic clock tower at \$300 each and culinary events planned for the later part of this year. There will be masterchef demonstration classes by chefs from La Strada, Nam Nam, Torte, Punjab Grill and others as well as a dinner cooked by ACS(BR) alumni chefs. More details will be released as the dates draw closer and we look forward to your support for these projects.

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw  
Principal