



25 June 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back for Semester 2! This will be a busy semester especially for graduating students as they gear up for the national examinations. It is in the midst of this busyness that parents have an opportunity to help their teenager be ready to live as an independent adult. This process entails parents to allow their teenagers to practise making decisions for themselves, starting with less important ones, and eventually those of utmost importance. A time will come when parents must allow their teenager to leave their nest. When that time arrives, the teenager must have already learnt how to live as an independent adult, capable of making wise, right and moral decisions for himself, and for others.

Generally, there are 2 broad categories of parents whose approaches in parenting are not helpful in preparing their teenager to become an independent adult. The first category of parents cannot let go of their teenager. The second category of parents let go of their teenager too quickly.

The first category of parents struggles with the idea of granting independence to their teenager. These parents are often plagued by fear that their teenager will not be able to make it without their help. Hence, their teenager is given very little opportunity to learn how to make good decisions. As a result, the teenager may become dependent on parents when he is an adult, lacking self-confidence, initiative and resilience. He may also have problems developing healthy relationships with friends and persons of the opposite gender. For a strong-willed teenager, he may experience a lot of conflicts with his parents as he fights for his independence. Conversely, parents of a strong-willed teenager may experience a lot of anger and frustration when their teenager rebels against them.

The second category of parents, at some stage of their teenager's life, is likely to revoke the independence that they have given so quickly. Without proper guidance, their teenager does not know how to make good decisions, especially on emotional, social and moral issues. As a result, their teenager may likely make poor decisions that may result in repercussions that parents did not anticipate. These may include emotional distress, anti-social behaviour and, for some, brushes with the law. For a teenager who is timid and less assertive, the teenager may become insecure, lacking in confidence and self-esteem. The teenager may also become a victim of bullies.

To help a teenager learn to become an independent adult, parents must consciously give their teenager appropriate opportunities to learn how to make good decisions. For a start, allow the teenager, in early adolescence, to take baby steps to learn how to make decisions on not so important matters. As the teenager demonstrates ability and confidence in making good decisions on not so important matters, the teenager should be allowed to graduate towards making decisions on more important matters.

A good platform for the teenager to practise good decision-making is self-management of the teenager. Self-management is a "battleground" on which many teenagers and parents have "fought".

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When “fought” unwisely, both parents and teenager will come out of the “battleground” badly scarred and resentful of each other. Yet, this is the best platform for learning good decision-making and independence. How do you “fight” wisely?

Laurence Steinberg, in his book "The Ten Basic Principles of Good Parenting", suggests the following self-assessment for parents when deciding whether your involvement is appropriate or preventing independence.

1. Does my child have the capabilities to handle this situation or make this decision on his own?
2. If my child handles this on his own successfully, will he come away feeling better about himself or learn something important as a result?
3. If my son makes a mistake, will the consequences be something that he and I can live with in the long run?

Achievements of our Uniformed Groups

We are proud of the achievements of our students in the Uniformed Youth Organizations (UYOs) for their respective inter-unit competitions.

| CCA | Achievement | Acknowledgement |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Scouts | Frank Cooper Sands Award (Gold) | |
| Boys Brigade | J M Fraser Award for Excellence (Gold Honour Roll) | Ten ACSBR students have fulfilled the demanding criteria for the Founder’s Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evan Lim Shouwang - Lee Tee Hong Samuel - Wesford Josh Goh Wei Hock - Ernest Choo Rui En - Samuel Lee - Koh Hsien Yih, Michael - Ryan Chan Ming Yang - Chiang Qin Kang - Jerrett Koe Yi Yang - Wong Jun Ying |
| National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) | Unit Overall Proficiency Award (Silver) | |
| National Cadet Corps (NCC) | Best Unit Competition (Silver) | |

Update on construction of the Indoor Sports Hall

Demolition works for the current futsal court has begun and is about 80% complete and piling works for the new building will take place in Term 3. The installation of air-conditioners in the classrooms to ensure that there is a conducive environment for learning is also complete and all classrooms and selected special rooms have been equipped.

The school will continue to work with the construction company regarding noise mitigation measures during crucial periods. We hope that you can work with the school to remind your child of the need to conserve energy and use this resource responsibly. As mentioned in my last letter, the air-conditioners will be removed following its completion some time in December 2019.

Fund-raising events for the Indoor Sports Hall

I spent six wonderful years in ACS Secondary and ACJC and was blessed by caring and dedicated teachers, the best facilities a school had to offer at that time and an incomparable ACS spirit that

remains in me today. One of the deepest lessons I learnt from the ACS family was the need for each generation to build for the future. I had the privilege of enjoying facilities and programmes in ACSS and ACJC that I did not build and had a hand in building facilities and programmes for juniors that I did not meet. It was with much pride that I could point out to my students when I returned to ACJC as a teacher that I had a hand in building the sports complex that they now enjoyed and probably take for granted. This is the intangible ACS spirit - to build and leave a legacy for those who come after you. This is the spirit that I hope to inculcate in the ACS (BR) gentlemen.

The construction of the Indoor Sports Hall (ISH) builds on this tradition. When finished, the ISH building will house two Sports Halls, one for ACS (Primary) and another for ACS (BR), a covered futsal court and additional classroom facilities. While part of the cost will be borne by MOE as a standard provision, the school is still expected to contribute about \$734,000. To raise this amount, we have planned a series of events this year.

We have a series of culinary events in July and August and we hope to raise about \$100,000 through the sales of the tickets. In addition, we will be selling ACS merchandise in the second half of the year. We are thankful for the support of old boys, parents and supporters for the lunch at New Ubin Seafood. It is completely sold out! There are many more seats available for the cooking demos and dinner at Les Amis. I look forward to your support. You can order the tickets online through this link a(<http://bit.ly/ACSBR-FR2018>) or contact Ms Ezzati at 6256 1633 or fundraising@acsbr.moe.edu.sg.

Reminders about important events

| No | Event | Date/Time | Remarks |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Inter-House Games | Friday 29 June / 7.30am – 12pm | Reporting at different venues and dismissal at 12pm from CCAB at Evans Road. More details will be sent via another letter. |
| 2 | Youth Day School Holiday | Monday 2 July | Not a school day |
| 3 | GCE O-Level MT Listening Comprehension Examination | Tuesday 17 July | School will be dismissed at 12.30pm |

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal