

4 January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a brand new year and a warm welcome to Secondary One parents and guardians who have joined us this year!

Over the course of year-end holidays, the appointed construction company has been hard at work completing the foundational piling work for the Indoor Sports Hall. Work has progressed well albeit with some delays due to authority agency requirements. We look forward to the new facility by the end of this year. Anyone acquainted with the building process will acknowledge the importance of strong foundations for buildings since the strength of a building lies in its foundation. The main purpose of the foundation is to hold the structure above it and keep it upright. This is true for buildings and people.

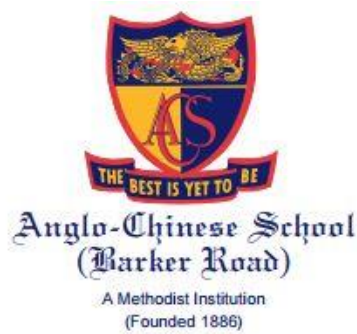
I was reminded of this recently by a speaker who talked about how we all have three distinct structures in our lives – superstructure, surface structure and substructure. The first two structures form our public persona. The superstructure is what everyone sees – our achievements and accomplishments. The surface structure is what our closest friends and family sees – as we are, warts and all. The substructure is what no one sees, our private persona and where our character is rooted. Like buildings, our substructure or foundation determines how we are able to weather the storms of our lives. The storms will definitely come and test the strength of our foundation. What will remain when the storms pass?

As principal of ACS (Barker Road), this is my primary concern for all the gentlemen who come through our gates. How strong is their foundation after the four or five years in the school? Have they spent their time wisely building their foundation and not just beautifying their façade? Many reports talk about how our students will grow up in a VUCA world (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) and recent news dominating our media channels are a testament to that. What will be the best preparation for our gentlemen in such a world? I still believe that it is about building a strong foundation of being God-fearing and growing in Grace. A strong sense of worth, an abiding sense of purpose and a deep sense of honour – for self, for others, for effort and for excellence. I look forward to your support for this challenging but meaningful task in the months ahead.

Partnering Parents/Guardians

Partnering parents/guardians is an important part of the ACS (BR) educational experience and as is the school's practice, we invite parents/guardians to attend the scheduled meetings in the table below. All briefings will be held at the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall.

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| Level | Day & Date | Time |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Secondary Two | 25 January 2019 (Friday) | 5.30 – 7.30pm |
| Secondary Three | 10 January 2019 (Thursday) | 5 – 7.30pm |
| Secondary Four and Five | 18 January 2019 (Friday) | 5.30 – 7.30pm |

Additionally, dialogue sessions with school leaders will be scheduled by the levels and I invite parents/guardians to make time for these sessions to provide feedback and suggestions to the school.

| Date | Classes | Venue |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| 15 Jan (Tue) | Sec 4 Express & Sec 5A1 | Staff Lounge or Library (depending on sign up) |
| 22 Jan (Tue) | Sec 4 NA & Sec 4 NT | |
| 29 Jan (Tue) | Sec 3 Express | |
| 12 Feb (Tue) | Sec 3 NA & Sec 3 NT | |
| 19 Feb (Tue) | Sec 2 Express | |
| 26 Feb (Tue) | Sec 2 NA & Sec 2 NT | |
| 5 Mar (Tue) | Sec 1 Express | |
| 12 Mar (Tue) | Sec 1 NA & Sec 1 NT | |

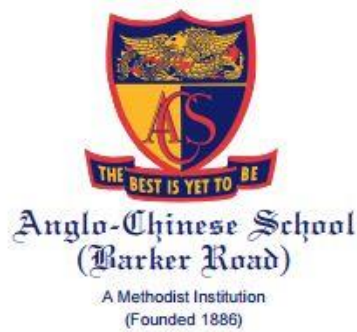
MWS Hong Bao Donation Drive

As part of the experience of being a blessing to others, the school provides a variety of opportunities to live out what it means to honour others. The MWS Hong Bao Donation Drive is one such initiative. It will be taking place during the period of Chinese New Year in February 2019. We will be collecting donations on 7 February, Thursday, through your sons in school. We hope that you can help to encourage your child to commit to give a portion of their Hong Bao money or pocket money to go towards helping the poor and those in-need. Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) currently serves 11,000 beneficiaries through their 19 centres and programmes. Your contribution will enable MWS to do more to empower those struggling with poverty.

GCE N-Level Results 2019

We thank God for the good results and rejoice with the parents and boys who have done well in the N-Level Examinations 2018. This year's results are also significant because it is the first graduating batch of the Normal Technical stream. 100% of the students in the NT class gained admission to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) while 34.3% of the NA class attained results that allowed them to access the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP). This allows them to do 1-year Foundation studies followed by a course of their choice in a Polytechnic. Nationally, 10% of the N-Level cohort each year qualifies for the PFP.

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We are especially grateful for the good performance of students with learning and behavioural needs in the normal streams. It was such a joy to see their moment of triumph when they received their results and the sheer pride on the faces of their parents. All this would not have been possible without the strong support from parents, teachers and stakeholders and the tenacity of the teachers in designing and re-designing lessons to engage the boys.

School Practices and Rules

With about 1350 students, we would need every one of them to be responsible and abide by the school's practices, rules and code of behaviour. Your son/ward would have been briefed about these expectations and to support his adherence, these are found in the Student Handbook he received. A copy of the rules and expectations can be found in Annex A.

Space does not permit me to highlight all of them, but I would like to draw your attention to our requirement for a student to lock his handphone or any other electronic devices in his locker from the beginning of the school day till after school (which includes Academic Coaching or detention classes). CCTVs have been placed to monitor the locker areas for security purposes. In addition, students are not to videotape or photograph any student, staff or visitor in the school so as to ensure that he does not violate the PDPA issues unless permission is given and it is under the supervision of a member of the staff. This will include hours before and after lessons. Students found flouting this rule will have the devices confiscated for one month and to be collected only by parents.

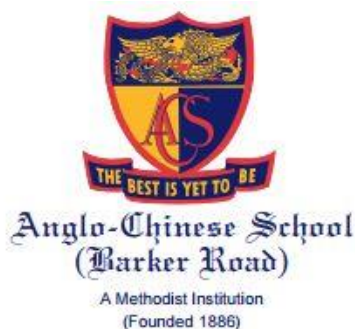
Helping our gentlemen use technology responsibly and appropriately is the rationale behind the rules regarding mobile devices. We recognize the ubiquitous nature of technology and the need to stay in touch with your son/ward. Should you need to contact him during the school day, you can always call the school office and teachers will assist all students who need to contact their parents.

I look forward to your support and partnership in 2019!

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal

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ANNEX A: SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The following describes the disciplinary actions which will be applied to students who exhibit behaviour which does not support the school's values. The administration of the school disciplinary action may not be in sequence prescribed below as the final decision will depend on the situation in which the offence was committed, its nature and its severity.
2. All offences may be recorded in the School Cockpit depending on the situation in which the offence was committed, its nature and its severity.
3. The list is not exhaustive and is meant as a general guide.

(I) Attire and Grooming

| Infringement | Consequences |
|--|--|
| Facial Hair | Student to take immediate correction, and/or |
| Long Hair, Fringe and/or Sideburns - Fringe should not touch the eyebrows when pulled down. Sides and back of hair should be sloped. | Prohibited items to be confiscated, and/or Detention Class, and/or |
| Extreme hairstyles are not in line with school requirements and are strictly prohibited. They include but are not limited to, Undercut, V-shaped back, Mohawk, Skinhead, Pompadour hairstyles. Lines cut into hair are also not allowed. | Parents to be contacted to take necessary action, and/or Suspension from school until the correction is approved by the school. |
| Highlighted/Tinted/Dyed Hair | |
| Long fingernails | |
| No school badge | <u>Remarks</u> |
| No school tie | 1) <i>Wearing of prescribed School Uniform</i> |
| Coloured socks | <i>All students are to wear the prescribed school uniform to meet school standard and expectations and any form of modification to the uniform is not allowed. Students with modified uniform will have to purchase a new set of uniform and the modified uniform will be confiscated.</i> |
| Non-ACS(BR) socks | |
| Modified school uniform (e.g. tapered pants) | |
| Ill-fitting or torn school uniform | 2) <i>Clean-Shaven and Neat Facial Appearance for students</i> |
| Improper PE/CCA attire | <i>Students must be neat in appearance, clean-shaven and no facial hair is allowed.</i> |
| Improper wearing of uniform | <i>Students who colour their hair will have their hair crew-cut to allow their natural hair to grow back. Re-dyeing the hair black is disallowed.</i> |
| Improper footwear (includes slippers/flip-flops and sandals) | |
| Wearing of unapproved sweaters or windbreakers | |
| Wearing of coloured contact lenses | <i>Students are not allowed to use hair wax, gel or other hair products on their hair while in school. If caught, student will have to wash off the hair product immediately.</i> |

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| <p>Wearing of jewellery, talisman or any form of religious adornment (only Sikh students are allowed to wear the silver bangle)</p> <p>Pierced ears or wearing of ear accessories</p> <p>Piercing on the facial regions</p> <p>Tattoo</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Students with piercings on any part of their face or body are not allowed to wear accessories in them and must let the piercings close.</i></p> <p>3) <i>Religious adornment cannot be worn. All adornment must be placed in pocket or wallet. [Only Sikh students are allowed to wear the silver bangle]</i></p> <p>4) <i>Students with tattoos will not be allowed to come to school until the tattoos are removed.</i></p> |
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(II) Attendance

| Infringement | Consequences* | |
|---|---|---|
| Late for school <i>(Reporting to the assembly area after 7.40am+ or a time as specified by the school.)</i> + Wednesday reporting time is at 8.40am. * Consequences are counted on a per term basis. | 1 time | Verbal Warning |
| | 2 times | Verbal Warning and parents informed |
| | 3 times | Parents informed, 1 X CWO (by prefects) |
| | 4 times | 1 X afternoon CWO |
| | 5-9 times | 1 X BDC each |
| | 10 times | In-House Suspension |
| Student who report to school after 8.00am must report to General Office and get a late-note before reporting to lesson. | | |
| Truancy <i>(Absence from lessons during curriculum hours without official permission)</i> | Suspension, and/or Caning | |
| Late for class | Teacher to apply immediate disciplinary actions, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. | |
| Leaving school grounds without permission | | |
| Leaving class without permission | | |
| Skipping class | | |

A Medical Certificate (MC) or a letter of excuse written by parent / guardian must be submitted to the Form Teacher or through the General Office on the day the student is back in school.

(III) Misconduct

| Infringement | Consequences |
|---|---|
| Disrespect towards Student Leader | Teacher to take immediate intervention measures, and/or |
| Persistent disruptive behaviours in class | Put student on Conduct Rating Form, and/or |
| Eating in class | Detention Class, and/or |
| Failure to perform assigned duty | School-Parent-Student Conferencing, and/or |

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| Inattentiveness during lessons | Time-Out from class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. *For persistent disruptive behaviours in class, student can be downgraded / removed from Honours Day Award and also be removed from Level Award. |
| Failure to bring appropriate study material for class Failure to meet deadlines for the completion and submission of assignments | Teacher to inform parents, and/or Academic Detention Class (ADC) |
| Littering in class/school Failure to return crockery and utensils after eating Cutting queues in canteen | Teacher to take immediate intervention measures, and/or Corrective Work Order |
| Having possession of mobile electronic devices during school hours (All mobile electronic devices should be turned off and kept in the lockers for the entire school day.) | Item to be confiscated (for 1 month and to be collected only by parents) |
| Not singing of National Anthem and/or reciting of The Pledge properly * Singing of National Anthem & recitation of National Pledge: All students who are Singapore citizens must sing the National Anthem and take The Pledge. Students must take the Pledge with the right fist placed over the heart. | Teacher to apply appropriate disciplinary actions |

(IV) Major/Serious Offences

| Offence | Disciplinary Actions |
|--|---|
| Bullying (including verbal, physical, emotional and cyber bullying) | Conflict Resolution, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. |
| Dishonest acts/ Cheating during test/examination (Possession of notes, copying from others, allowing others to copy, tampering with | Obtain '0' for the test/examination, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. |

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| marks, altering of answers / marks after marking, Smart-Watches are not allowed to be brought into test/examination venues) Inappropriate behaviour during test/examination (Talking, making unnecessary noises, non-verbal communication, borrowing of items) | |
| Open defiance and rudeness to school authority* (This includes showing disrespect to student leaders, teachers and school staff) Usage of vulgar language towards school authority | Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. |
| Plagiarism | Obtain '0' for the assignment. |
| Any major / serious offence committed | Removal of all Awards (Honours Day / SSSC / Level Awards) |

(V) Theft / Damage of Property

| Offence | Disciplinary Actions |
|---|--|
| Arson (Planting explosives or setting property on fire, whether attempted or actual) | Compensation, and/or Suspension, and/or |
| Vandalism (Wilful and/or malicious destruction of school or personal property, writing graffiti) | Caning, and/or Referral to the Singapore Police Force |
| Theft/Shop Theft | |

(VI) Other Serious Offences

| Offence | Disciplinary Actions |
|---|---|
| Assault and Fighting | Conflict Resolution, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. |
| Smoking (Use / possession / distribution / sale of tobacco and tobacco related products) | Details to be submitted to Health Promotion Board (HPB) & referral to MOH Smoking Cessation Clinic, and |

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| | Daily school monitoring (School Smoking Cessation Program) before and after school, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning. |
| Gambling <i>(Using money or its equivalent in games, betting, etc)</i> | Confiscation of items, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning, and/or Referral to Singapore Police Force. |
| Substance Abuse <i>(Use / possession / distribution / sale of alcohol, drugs, inhalants and related products)</i> | |
| Possession of Pornographic Materials | |
| Possession of Weapons All students are not allowed to have in their possession any weapon. They are also not allowed to bring any weapon-like item which is used or intended to be used to cause harm to others. | |
| Gangsterism <i>(Involvement in gangs, gang assault, making threats, harassment or extortion, whether actual or attempted.)</i> | |
| Forgery or alteration of records <i>(Forging or altering of signatures, Class Monitoring Record, medical certificates, consent forms, report books, Conduct Rating Forms, etc)</i> | This includes confiscation of the devices used. For students on 1:1 learning, the learning devices will be confiscated for at least 1 week. |
| Abuse of usage of Technological Devices <i>(Using of mobile or any digital equipment to either film or download obscene images, video clips or photograph people etc)</i> | Parents to be informed and confiscation of device used, and/or |
| Hacking into IT systems | Disciplinary action |
| Other serious or criminal offences | School to determine appropriate actions |

* Detention class takes precedence over CCA.

* Detention class can be postponed for a maximum of 3 days with valid reasons.

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