

2 January 2020

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!

2020 marks the start of a new decade and with it comes the uncertainty of changes everywhere not least within the education system here in Singapore. Nonetheless, what remains constant is the need to educate every gentleman with the knowledge, dispositions and values for the future and to build in them 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.

The theme verse for the school this year is Ephesians 2, verse 10. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* It speaks of how we are made for a purpose. I shared a story with the students that illustrates how sometimes we may not understand what that purpose is until later (see [‘The Tale of Three Trees’](#)). Nonetheless, we can have confidence that every one of us bear God’s workmanship and have been made for a purpose. May this be true for every gentleman as they spend time to discover their purpose this year!

Signature experiences for each cohort

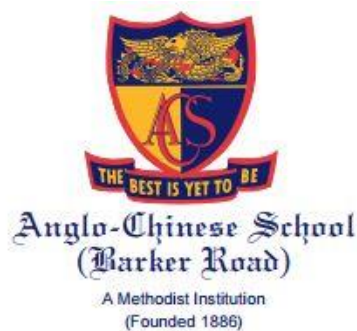
In my letters last year, I mentioned that, from 2020 onwards, the Secondary Three students will take part in Outward Bound School programme as part of their signature experience. This would also mean that the popular C21 programme will cease in its current form and will be replaced by a VIA experience with senior citizens.

As part of the review of signature experiences, the school has re-considered and expanded the objectives of the Secondary One camp and this would mean that the camp will be extended to 4 days 3 nights at an MOE campsite in 2020. The Secondary Two signature experience will be in the form of a learning festival in Term 2 where students will be presented with choice and diversity to develop their varied strengths. More details will be sent later to students and parents and I look forward to your support for these signature experiences.

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 One	3 January 2020 (Friday)	2.30pm – 5.30pm
Secondary Two	10 January 2020 (Friday)	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Secondary Three	7 February 2020 (Friday)	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Secondary Four and Five	31 January 2020 (Friday)	4.45pm – 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. Dialogues start at 8am and end at 9am to facilitate those who need to make their way to work.

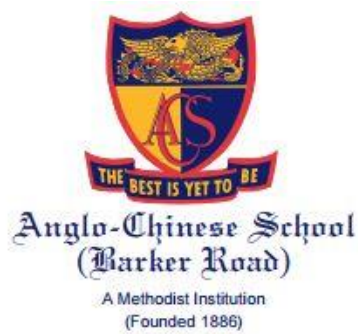
Date	Classes	Venue
4 February (Tue)	Sec 4 Express & Sec 5	Staff Lounge or Library (depending on sign up)
6 February (Thu)	Sec 4 NA & Sec 4 NT	
11 February (Tue)	Sec 3 Express	
13 February (Thu)	Sec 3 NA & Sec 3 NT	
18 February (Tue)	Sec 2 Express	
20 February (Thu)	Sec 2 NA & Sec 2 NT	
25 February (Tue)	Sec 1 Express	
27 February (Thu)	Sec 1 NA & Sec 1 NT	

As part of the school's continued efforts to engage and support parents, we had our inaugural Parents Learning Festival in 2019. I am glad that the response from parents who attended were overwhelmingly positive. In 2020, we will continue to organize the Parents Learning Festival and it will take place on 29 February (Saturday) from 8am to 12.30pm. Additionally, to support parents this year, we will be organizing a parent learning series called '**Tuesdays with Parents**' in Terms 2 and 3 from 8am to 9am to present bite-sized information on various topics that are relevant to teenage parenting today. These include education and career pathways, support for special educational needs and cyberwellness and gaming issues. Again, more details will be sent later and I look forward to your active participation in these programmes as well as feedback.

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 January 2020. We will be collecting donations on 30 January, 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.

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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 2019. 100% of the students in the NT class gained admission to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) while 29% 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.

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.

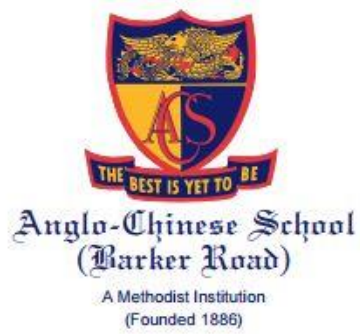
School Practices and Rules

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

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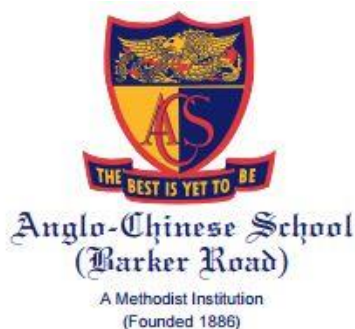
school day, you can always call the school office and teachers will assist all students who need to contact their parents.

I look forward to your support and partnership in 2020!

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal

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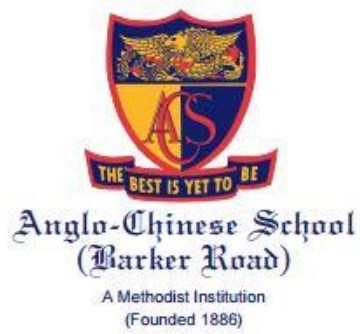
ANNEX A: SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The following describes the disciplinary actions that will be administered to students who exhibit behavior that the school does not condone and that contravenes our school values. The administration of these disciplinary actions may not necessarily be sequential. 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 to serve as a general guide.

(I) Attire and Grooming

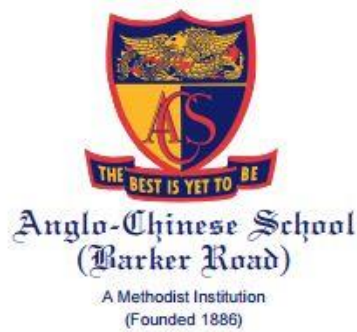
Infringement	Consequences
<p>Grooming</p> <p>Facial Hair</p> <p>Long Hair, Fringe, Sideburns - Fringe should not touch the eyebrows when pulled down. Sides and back of hair should be sloped.</p> <p>Extreme hairstyles are not in line with school requirements are strictly prohibited. They include but are not limited to, Undercut, V-shaped back, Mohawk, Skinhead, Pompadour hairstyles. Lines cut into hair are also not allowed.</p> <p>Highlighted/Tinted/Dyed Hair</p> <p>Long fingernails</p> <p>Wearing of coloured contact lenses</p> <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>Tattoos</p> <p>Attire</p> <p>No school badge</p> <p>No school tie</p> <p>Coloured socks</p> <p>Non-ACS(BR) socks</p> <p>Modified school uniform (e.g. tapered pants)</p>	<p>Student to take immediate correction, and/or</p> <p>Prohibited items to be confiscated, and/or</p> <p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Parents to be contacted to take necessary action, and/or</p> <p>Suspension from school until the correction is approved by the school.</p> <p><u>Remarks</u></p> <p>1) <i>Wearing of prescribed School Uniform</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>2) <i>Clean-Shaven and Neat Facial Appearance for students</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be neat in appearance, clean-shaven and no facial hair is allowed. • 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. • Students are not allowed to use hair wax, gel or other hair products on their hair while in school.

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<p>Ill-fitting or torn school uniform</p> <p>Improper PE/CCA attire</p> <p>Improper wearing of uniform</p> <p>Improper footwear (includes slippers/flip-flops and sandals)</p> <p>Wearing of unapproved sweaters or windbreakers</p>	<p>If caught, student will have to wash off the hair product immediately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>3) <i>Religious adornment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious adornment cannot be worn. • All adornment must be placed in pocket or wallet. <i>[Only Sikh students are allowed to wear the silver bangle]</i> <p>4) <i>Tattoos</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with tattoos will not be allowed to come to school until the tattoos are removed.
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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
*Corrective Work Order (CWO) **Behavioural Detention Class (BDC)		
Student who report to school after 8.00am must report to the General Office and get a late-note before reporting to lessons.		
Truancy (<i>Absent from school without a valid reason</i>)	Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning	
Leaving school grounds without permission	Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning	
Leaving class without permission	Teacher to apply immediate disciplinary actions, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning.	
Skipping class		
Late for class		

A Medical Certificate (MC) or a letter of excuse written by parent / guardian must be submitted to the Form Teacher 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 (other than during snack breaks)	Detention Class, and/or School-Parent-Student Conferencing, and/or
Failure to perform assigned duty	Time-Out from class, and/or Suspension, and/or
Inattentiveness during lessons	Caning.
*For persistent disruptive behaviours in class, student may be downgraded / removed from awards	

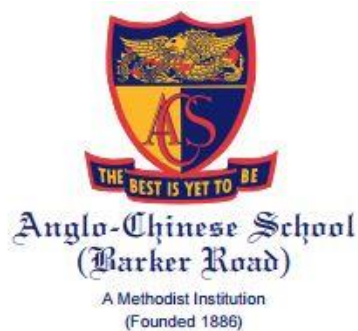
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	given out by the school and/or external organisations.
<p>Failure to bring appropriate study material for class</p> <p>Failure to meet deadlines for the completion and submission of assignments</p>	<p>Teacher to inform parents, and/or</p> <p>Academic Detention Class (ADC)</p> <p>*Failure to attend ADC and complete the assigned work will result in a Behavioral Detention Class (BDC)</p>
<p>Littering in class/school</p> <p>Failure to return crockery and utensils after eating</p> <p>Cutting queues in canteen</p>	<p>Teacher to take immediate intervention measures, and/or</p> <p>CWO.</p>
<p>Possession or use of mobile communicative electronic devices (e.g. hand phones) during school hours</p> <p>All mobile electronic devices should be turned off and kept in the lockers for the entire school day.</p>	<p>Item to be confiscated (for 1 month and to be collected only by parents)</p>
<p>Not singing the National Anthem and/or reciting of the National Pledge properly</p> <p>* 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.</p>	<p>Teacher to apply appropriate disciplinary actions</p>

(IV) Serious Offences - Misconduct

Offence	Disciplinary Actions
<p>Bullying</p> <p><i>(Including verbal, physical, emotional and cyber bullying)</i></p>	<p>Conflict Resolution, and/or</p> <p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning.</p>
<p>Dishonest acts/ Cheating during test/examination</p> <p><i>(Possession of notes, copying from others, allowing others to copy, tampering with marks, altering of answers / marks after</i></p>	<p>Obtain '0' for the test / examination, and/or</p> <p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning.</p>

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<i>marking, Smart-Watches are not allowed to be brought into test / examination venues</i> Inappropriate behaviour during test / examination <i>(Talking, making unnecessary noises, non-verbal communication, borrowing of items)</i>	
Open defiance and rudeness to school authority <i>(This includes showing disrespect to student leaders, teachers and school staff)</i> Usage of vulgar language towards school authority	Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning.
Plagiarism	Obtain '0' for the assignment.
Any serious offence(s) committed may result in the downgrading or removal of awards (e.g. Honours Day / SSSC / Level Awards)	

(V) Serious Offences - Theft / Damage of Property

Offence	Disciplinary Actions
Arson <i>(Planting explosives or setting property on fire, whether attempted or actual)</i>	Compensation, and/or Suspension, and/or
Vandalism <i>(Willful and/or malicious destruction of school or personal property, writing graffiti)</i>	Caning, and/or Report to the Singapore Police Force.
Theft /Shop Theft	

(VI) Serious Offences - Others

Offence	Disciplinary Actions
Assault and Fighting	Conflict Resolution, and/or Detention Class, and/or Suspension, and/or Caning.
Smoking <i>(Use / possession / distribution / sale of tobacco and tobacco related products, e.g.</i>	Details to be submitted to Health Promotion Board (HPB) or Health Sciences Authority (HSA) & referral to Ministry Of Health Smoking Cessation Clinic, and

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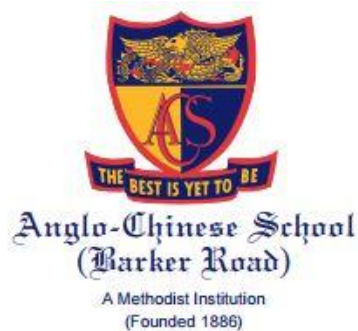


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<p><i>electronic cigarettes or its related components</i></p>	<p>Daily school monitoring (School Smoking Cessation Program) before and after school, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning</p> <p>Any student caught using or in possession of cigarettes or electronic cigarettes will be suspended immediately.</p>
<p>Substance Abuse</p> <p><i>(Use / possession / distribution / sale of alcohol, drugs, inhalants and related products)</i></p>	<p>Confiscation of items, and/or</p> <p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Caning and/or</p> <p>Report to Singapore Police Force.</p> <p>Any student suspected or caught for drug or inhalant abuse will be referred to the Central Narcotics Bureau.</p>
<p>Sexual Misconduct</p> <p><i>(Being involved in attempted rape, outrage of modesty, underage sex, peeping)</i></p>	<p>Confiscation of items, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning, and/or</p> <p>Report to Singapore Police Force.</p> <p>Expulsion</p>
<p>Consumption / possession / production / distribution / sale of pornographic material including any pictures or videos of people in compromising situations.</p>	
<p>Gambling</p> <p><i>(Using money or its equivalent in games, betting, etc.)</i></p>	<p>Confiscation of items, and/or</p> <p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning. and/or</p> <p>Report to Singapore Police Force.</p>
<p>Substance Abuse</p> <p><i>(Use/ possession/ distribution/ sale of alcohol, drugs, inhalants and related products)</i></p>	
<p>Possession of Pornographic Materials</p>	
<p>Possession of Weapons</p> <p>All students are not allowed to have in their possession any weapon. They are also not allowed to bring any weapon-</p>	

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like item which is used or intended to be used to cause harm to others.	
<p>Gangsterism</p> <p><i>(Involvement in gangs, gang assault, making threats, harassment or extortion, chanting gang related chants or songs, whether actual or attempted.)</i></p>	<p>Detention Class, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning and/or</p> <p>Report to Singapore Police Force.</p> <p>Any student caught displaying gang related behavior (chants, signs or songs) will be referred to the Singapore Police Force.</p>
<p>Abuse of usage of Technological Devices</p> <p><i>(Using of mobile or any digital equipment to either film or download obscene images, video clips. No video clips or photographs should be taken in school without a teacher's permission.)</i></p> <p>Hacking into IT systems</p>	<p>Parents to be informed and</p> <p>Confiscation of device used, and/or</p> <p>Suspension, and/or</p> <p>Caning, and/or</p> <p>Report to Singapore Police Force.</p> <p>This includes confiscation of the devices used. For students on 1:1 learning, the learning devices will be confiscated for at least 1 week.</p>
Other serious 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.
- * All cases referred to or referred by the Ministry of Home Affairs will be recorded as Serious Offences.

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