



1 June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

School begins tomorrow and as we begin a new normal in schooling, there have been many adjustments to school life and learning as we navigate this unprecedented time. I want to thank you for your strong support for the school and also for helping your child adjust to new routines and new ways of learning remotely. Even as the school puts in place measures to manage a health crisis and ensure learning continues, there are ample opportunities for us to talk about 3 Senses and 4 Honours with our students. The context has definitely changed but our purpose has not.

Many of the safe management measures continue to be in place in this first phase of gradual reopening and the school is leveraging this to talk about the need for respect and collective responsibility to ensure that the school remains a safe environment for everyone. What will probably be most challenging for our students will be the safe distancing measures and curtailment of group games during recess and after school. It will be important for our students to understand the need to sacrifice personal freedom for collective responsibility to ensure that we come out of this pandemic. The responsibility is not just to the community within the school but also to those at home and at the frontline who work so hard by putting themselves at risk for the sake of others. I hope that you can echo the same message at home as you remind them the importance of adhering to the safe management measures.

Additionally, I am thankful that even in the midst of cancellation of VIA activities, a variety of opportunities have arisen to help our students to both appreciate what they have and also to express gratitude by serving others. This is an important way for our students to develop the sense of purpose that they can make a difference now to those in need. During the full HBL period, our students did cards for migrant workers to encourage them as part of the efforts by Crisis Relief Alliance. These cards were well-received by the migrant workers.

You may have read the news coverage regarding the former Chancery Court. It has now been converted as a temporary housing site for healthy migrant workers as part of the overall strategy to reduce the overall concentration of workers in any single location. The migrant workers are provided with basic amenities and food and are not allowed to leave except for work. MOH continues to monitor their health and safe distancing measures are in place on site (see website for more information: <https://www.moulmein-cairnhill.sg/chancery-court-moca/>). Together with ACS Primary, ACS Junior, ACJC and Barker Road Methodist Church, the school provided cookies, chocolates and snacks for the residents as a gesture to welcome them to the community and also to celebrate Hari Raya with them. This is the first

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mini-project that we have undertaken to bless the migrant workers who have contributed much to the environment we enjoy in Singapore.



There are plans for other projects including packs, delivery of fruits, and welcome and exercise videos for the migrant workers and we will definitely involve students in these projects although visits to Chancery Court will not be allowed for students. Should you wish to contribute or participate, please approach Family@Barker or the school leaders for more information.

Another initiative that the school will be undertaking with ACS Primary is a project to bless our canteen vendors. During this season with school closure for full HBL and rotation of students for HBL, the schools are concerned for our canteen vendors who have experienced loss of income. While rental waivers have been extended to them, there are still overhead and food costs that the vendors will have to bear. The two schools will be looking into fund-raising for our canteen vendors to support them through this challenging time. More information will be provided at a later date regarding how students and parents can contribute.

The school will continue to leverage changes brought by this pandemic to identify opportunities to discuss pertinent issues with our students in order to make 3 Senses and 4 Honours relevant and applicable to them. I hope you will do the same in your conversations with your children as we are convinced of the increasing importance of 3 Sense and 4 Honours for their future.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal