

1 February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

One month has flown by in the blink of an eye! The students have settled into a routine and I am glad that while restrictions in terms of safe management and safe distancing measures have been increased, it has not severely restricted the programmes that we have been able to carry out.

In the last few weeks, the school has taken the opportunity to engage our students in reflecting about current events. We had the opportunity to think about the storming of the US Capitol as well as the ongoing news coverage about the global distribution of vaccines in this pandemic. The aim of all these sessions is to sensitize our students to current events and connect the larger issues to values and dispositions that we seek to develop in them. I want to invite you to join us in this task to share your perspectives and insights into national or global events especially about values and mindsets that your child will need to develop for the future.

To illustrate what I mean, when we reflected on the global distribution of vaccines, we asked our students to think about how inequality manifests itself in differential access to opportunities. In this case, it is differential access to vaccines between rich and poor nations. At an individual level, it is about access to opportunities like digital devices at home, networks of relatives and friends who are the shakers and movers of society and even the toys and books available at home. We wanted the students to be grateful for the access that you, as parents, have worked so hard to provide for them and also to think about how they can play a part of help those who do not have such privileges. In this way, we hope to help the students learn from current events how values that we talk about are actualized and brought to life.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some news and updates about the school.

1. GCE N and O-Level Results 2020

The GCE N-Level results were released on 17 December 2020. We give thanks to God for blessing the 2020 GCE N-level cohort with good results in a challenging year amidst home-based learning and disruption in normal academic routines. 29.5% of the students qualified for the competitive Polytechnic Foundation Programme while 95.1% of them qualified to continue on to Secondary Five or the Direct Polytechnic Programme through ITE.

We celebrate that all of our students in Normal Technical stream qualified for the 2-year National ITE Certificate (NITEC) courses in ITE with 21 of them being admitted via the Early Admissions Exercise to their desired course.

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We want to give thanks for our GCE O-Level Results that was released on 11 January 2021. God has good plans for each of them wherever He places them in their next staged of education. We also thank God for the dedication and commitment shown by teachers who gave much of themselves in helping our young men achieve their very best despite the challenges some posed. This cohort of students have gone through many changes due to the pandemic and we are thankful that the disruptions have not affected their performance. We are thankful to God for sustaining staff and students throughout their preparation for the national examinations. 87% of the students qualified for an A-level education in Junior Colleges or Millennia Institute while 97.2% qualified for a Polytechnic education. Two students obtained 9 distinctions while seven students obtained 8 distinctions in the examination.

We are especially grateful for the good performance of students with learning and behavioural needs. It was such a joy to see their moment of triumph when they received their results and the sheer pride 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. We are especially thankful for the consistently good performance because it has served to validate the efforts out that our students have put in as well as the support of teachers and parents. In particular, we are heartened to see many of our students rise above their individual and family challenges to excel.

We give thanks and praise to God for His grace to our school. We are grateful to God for our team of teachers who passionately and tirelessly helped our students achieve their very best, despite the challenging circumstances in 2020.

2. Student Achievements

Towards the end of 2020, the ACS (Barker Road) Robotics Club participated in the Innovation, Design and Engineering (IDE) Series 2020 and the National Robotics Competition (NRC) 2020. The success they enjoyed in these two competitions indicated that our participants had clearly 'found themselves', as they made full use of the skills and knowledge they had acquired as members of the Robotics Club.

For the IDE Series, the students took part in the IDE Maker category, in which they needed to build a prototype using the Arduino Microcontroller to present a solution for the competition theme ('Smart Solutions for Sustainable Resource Management'). A team comprising Nelson Li Yanxi, Cedric Mok Yue En and Fong Poh Mun received the 'Judges Special Mention Award' for this category. Aaron Lau Ka Shing, Ryan Lee Han Xun and Cheah Eu En, Ryan received 'Top 5' awards for 'Best Programming', whilst Chan Chee Kin and Jerry Chua received corresponding 'Top 5' awards for 'Best Robot'.

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Anglo-Chinese School
(Barker Road)

A Methodist Institution
(Founded 1886)

For the National Robotics Competition (NRC), our students took part in the 'World Robot Olympiad' (WRO) category, in which they created robotic solutions to help prevent greenhouse gases emitting from fossil fuels absorbing greenhouse gases. Bryan Goh Jing Yuan, Lee Ming-En, Zachary and Ryan Lee Han Xun all received 'Distinction' awards and Ramachandran Ashwin, Zachary Leong Yao Jie and Jedidiah Lim Zheng Kai received 'Merit' awards for their presentation and prototype.

3. Parent Engagement Series

As part of the school's continued efforts to engage parents, we had our inaugural Parents' Engagement Series last year. We are glad that the response from parents who attended was overwhelmingly positive. Parents found the sessions informative and insightful. Though we will not be able to meet physically, we would like to continue to support parents by presenting bite-sized information on various topics that are relevant to teenage parenting today through the virtual platform. Do keep a lookout on Parent Gateway for information about upcoming sessions. This term, the focus is on education and career guidance and CCA matters. In the coming months, we will launch more sessions on Cyber Wellness, Mental Health and Parenting transitions.

4. Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Description
Chinese New Year Celebrations 2021	11 February 2021 (Thursday)	School will be dismissed at 9.45am for Upper Sec students and 10.00am for Lower Sec students on 11 Feb, Chinese New Year eve. There is no school on 12 Feb Friday, as it is a Public Holiday, as well as 15 Feb Monday, which is a school holiday.
135 th Founder's Day Celebrations	1 March 2021 (Monday)	There will be an online broadcast of the 135 th Founder's Day service to all ACS schools followed by ACS(BR)'s internal academic prize presentation ceremony. School will end by 11am on that day.
Methodist Walk 2021	March 2021	Please note that we will not be participating in a mass event due to current restrictions, but there will be a combined Methodist Walk cum Cross Country event in a different format later this term. More details will be given to you nearer the occasion.

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5. Safe Management and Social Responsibility

As Singapore goes into Phase 3, there is a need for continued vigilance and adherence to safe management measures. This is especially important in the context of schools as we have more than 1500 staff and students interacting for the purpose of teaching and learning.

We continue to send a small number of students home with flu-like symptoms e.g. cough, runny nose and sore throats in the month. We seek your cooperation and social responsibility to ensure that your child does not come to school if he is unwell and to seek medical attention as soon as possible. In addition, we have also noticed students who come to school without a working thermometer and we seek your support to ensure that your child comes to school with one.

Schools have been able to remain open due to the continued efforts of everyone - school personnel and parents. We seek your continued support and consideration for the community in ensuring that we are able to keep ACS (BR) as a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal