



3 January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students,

A warm welcome back to a new school year! I trust that you and your family had time to spend bonding with each other during the school holidays. Though vacation time is never long enough, we can look forward to a year of learning and growing together. I am certain that 2017 will bring with it its unexpected blessings and challenges. The right attitude and perspective we take to all these will ensure that we become stronger and more resilient to face a fast, ever-changing world. As I welcome the students and staff back today, I want to also bid welcome to parents/guardians of Sec 1 boys. While the majority are from ACS (Junior) and ACS (Primary), we are happy to have pupils from other primary schools who have come to join us in this our ACS (Barker Road) family.

In ACS (Barker Road), we strive to provide an education that prepares our young men to be equipped for both the opportunities and challenges that will come their way. The experiences they will gain over their 4 or 5 years of development with us will give them the rootedness to know that they are well-supported by the school and will always have a home here, while giving them perspectives and understanding of the changing landscape of the world would give them wings to take opportunity for their aspirations. Thus, the Vision of the school, "Generations of educated men who are God-fearing and growing in Grace". This vision articulates our desire for our charges to have the certainty of a community that stands with them, even as they develop and grow to fulfil their ambitions. Being a Christian-mission school, we are guided by the certainty that God is in control of all things, and as He moulds and shapes the lives of each of our young men, we can be assured that each of our young men will be anchored in the values and attributes of a gentleman that you, their parents, can be proud of, as they live out the school's values of Respect, Integrity, Commitment and Excellence.

Parents/Guardians who have been with us will know that I frequently write to communicate the school's purposes and programmes with you. I ask that you make time to read these letters and take an interest in the programmes and activities that your son/ward will be involved in. I also invite you to visit our school's website at <http://acsbr.moe.edu.sg> to find out about the school's calendar, CCAs and briefing slides for parents, aside from a range of useful information.

GCE GCE N-Level Results 2016

I am pleased to share with you that our Sec 4 Normal (Academic) students did well at the national examinations. At present 15% of them qualified for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), available to students who attain a score of less than 11 points and a minimum of Grade 3 in all subjects. With the release of the GCE O-Level results, we expect that a few more will qualify for PFP. Nationally, only 10% of students qualify for PFP. Almost 90% of our students qualify for the Direct-entry scheme to Polytechnic Programme. We are happy for our students who have done well and can choose to move on to these programmes or return to take their GCE O-Levels this year.

nTrix

This is a nexus for our school's communication with you. It is thus important that your email address reflected is accurate. Through nTrix, you will receive communication from the school, both

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from teachers and me. You will also be able to check on data of your son's/ward's attendance and the updated progress of his academic work. In addition, you can keep track of your son's/ward's CCA attendance. Parents/Guardians who regularly use nTriX have found it to be a very helpful tool to keep pace of their son's/ward's development. To provide you this support, parents/guardians will need to pay \$15 for the year.

Meet-the-Parents of Sec 1 to 5 students

As we begin the new year, it is important for us to be able to meet with you and your son/ward, so that you have a better understanding why we do particular programmes for your son's/ward's cohort. As such, we have scheduled these meetings as follows:-

Level	Day & Date	Time
Secondary 1	Friday, 6 January	2 pm – Meet Form Teachers (Optional) 2.30 pm – Briefing for parents 4.45 pm – CCA Open House
Secondary 2	Wednesday, 15 February	5- 7 pm
Secondary 3	Thursday, 12 January	5 - 7 pm
Secondary 4 & 5	Friday, 20 January	5 - 7 pm

All briefings will be held at the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall. Please note that the meetings for Sec 3 and 4/5 parents have been changed to a Thursday (for Sec 3s) and a Friday (for Sec 4s/5s), instead of what was published earlier. The change is needed as they will otherwise coincide with ACS (Primary) events held earlier in the afternoon, which would affect availability of parking lots.

For Sec 1 parents whom we will meet this Friday, please note that it is optional for you to see the Form Teachers as they would only have just gotten to know your son/ward. Your son's/ward's Form Teachers will have opportunity to see you at the end of their Sec 1 Camp, and any other arrangements to meet them can be made via email.

Temperature Check on Friday, 6 January 2017

As a precautionary measure, we will maintain visual scans of our students to identify those who may be unwell. Besides this, to ensure that our students are equipped and ready for a medical emergency, the school will conduct our temperature check on Friday, 6 January. Students will bring their Oral Digital Thermometers (ODT) on Wednesday, 4 January, to ensure that all their thermometers are in working order. The school will assist students who need new ODTs, with sales of these on 5 & 6 January. I look to your support to check your son's/ward's thermometer before that.

SG Secure Measures

In our effort to make the school a safe and secure environment for learning and in support of SG Secure, new practices have been put in place since 19 Dec 2016. The following are key reminders, if you want to enter the school compound.

1. All parents/visitors are permitted entry only at Gate B (nearest Clock Tower) and through the lobby at the car-park if you have an appointment made with the school staff, preferably two days in advance, as security will need to be notified.
2. Please report to the security booth to register and you will be issued a sticker, which is to be worn at all times.
3. Please go to the General Office at the Administration Block and the staff you wish to see will be contacted.
4. Remember that except for those who need to fetch a sick/injured student, all

meetings with staff need to be made ahead of time, to ensure that the staff is available to see you, or the security guards will not grant you admission.

5. Should you drive and need to park, do note that parking is limited. You will need to obtain a parking permission slip from the security counter and display this on your dashboard after you have parked. If not, your car may be wheel-clamped and there is a charge for removal of the wheel-clamp. No unauthorized parking is permitted.

I seek your understanding and support for these new processes to ensure safety and security for all our students and staff when they are in the Campus.

Homework Schedule and Academic Coaching Attendance

Parents have given us feedback that they have found the notifications on Homework and Academic Coaching Attendance helpful. The IT Monitor inputs the homework assigned by teachers and the duration needed. This is collated and sent to parents daily at 5 pm. Students will also be reminded of their homework responsibility via the same system. When Academic Coaching commences from Week 3, you will be notified if your son/ward is absent. These systems are put in place to support your son's/ward's learning and responsible actions.

School Practices and Rules

With about 1400 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 today and to support his adherence, these are found in the Student Handbook he received. 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.

We would prefer that your son/ward does not bring handphones or other unauthorized electronic devices to school as they pose a distraction from learning. Should you need to contact him, you can always call the school office and teachers will assist all students who need to contact their parents. All students found flouting this rule will have the devices confiscated for 3-months.

Giving Our Best

Each year, to help students and staff focus on our holistic development, I choose a theme verse and focus. This year, the verse is taken from Colossians 3: 23 and it says, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men" (NASB) and the theme is "Giving Our Best".

Rather than focus on extrinsic motivators to do the right thing, I want to challenge us to have a deeper purpose for doing what we do, well. The focus is not on getting the perfect answer, or the right outcome every time. Rather, I would like to challenge students and staff to consider if in everything we do, are we giving our best? We know we are giving our best, when we know that our efforts will please God. I invite you, parents, staff and students, to take this journey of "Giving Our Best" in 2017, for at the end of it all, we can look back and be pleased with our efforts and outcomes, knowing we have done it for God, and we will know that The Best Is Yet To be!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal