



CHIJ KATONG CONVENT

346 Marine Terrace, Singapore 449150

PARENT LINK : JANUARY 2022

21 January 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians

Happy New Year! A new year brings new opportunities and aspirations, and I hope it will bring you and your family peace, joy and good health!

On behalf of our KC Family, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members of our Family – the parents and guardians of our new Secondary One girls. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our girls will continue to bloom where she is planted, learning and growing under the tender ministrations of the KC staff, as one big KC family. We ask God for His continual blessings and are confident that together with your support, we will continue to nurture the KC girl, giving us a renewed hope for the future; that the best is yet to come.

At CHIJ Katong Convent, we believe in working closely with parents to give our girls a strong moral compass as they navigate the changes and uncertainties around them, and to develop their confidence and courage to pursue their dreams and create their own future. Parent Link is our newsletter where we communicate with parents our key school programmes and events, and celebrate the success of our girls. In our efforts to save more trees, we will continue to upload issues of Parent Link on the school website. You can expect the issues to be out twice termly except for Term 4 when there is only one issue. We will leverage Parents Gateway platform to alert you once we have uploaded the respective issue on the website. We hope you will find the information useful.

Our Parent Link newsletter late last year was disrupted as a result of our response to the evolving Covid-19 situation. Hence, in this January issue, we have featured events from late October to the beginning weeks of January to give you a sense of what students continued to experience despite all the restrictions of various safe management measures. Each is a testimony to the resilience and ingenuity of the KC community to overcome various challenges to preserve the richness of student life. We believe that together, we can surmount the inconveniences and difficulties brought about by the current crisis to emerge stronger.

Events in 2021 (October to December)

Launch of IJ Voices

In celebration of the 4th centenary of the birth of Blessed Nicolas Barré, the founder of the CHIJ mission, a publication, "IJ Voices: Touched by the Call", was commissioned by the 11 CHIJ schools in Singapore. This publication shines a light on the life and work of our founder Nicolas Barré as well as the IJ Sisters whom he has inspired. It is a collection of reflections from 400 different members of our IJ community, expressed in various forms.

Katong Convent contributed 32 works, both from present and past students and staff, and we joined in the national launch of this publication on 22 October, over ZOOM.

The ceremony, which included a Paraliturgy, as well as an address each by the IJ Provincial, Sr Maria Lau, and Chairperson of the IJ Board of Management, Ms Vivienne Lim, also featured an oral reading of works from each school.

Katong Convent was represented by Trinity Ming Lim from Sec 4/2 and Annabel Lin Pei Xuan from Sec 2/3, who shared imagined pieces on Father Barré and Mother Mathilde respectively. Sec 3/6 was in attendance at this monumental commemoration, along with other key members of the IJ family.

Arts Immersion Programme (AIP)

The AIP is an annual initiative that seeks to enrich the arts education of KC students and staff through exposure to a diversity of arts-based programmes and skills in the expanded field of the arts. Last year, the mid-year programme was abruptly postponed due to the increased restrictions caused by Covid-19. In response, we shifted to a hybrid iteration of live and online platforms: mid-year programmes were published as online video tutorials on the school's social media, and a series of live online workshops were carried out at the end of the year.

In seeking to expose KC students to arts in the expanded field, the programme saw a variety of art forms. AIP student leaders helmed the content for the visual arts, creating video tutorials on paper marbling where mesmerising patterns and colours enhance paper craft; and flipbook animation where the fundamentals of analogue animation were taught. These tutorials now exist on our Arts and Culture Instagram: @kcartsandculture. In striving beyond the visual arts, live online workshops were also organised. Leading a dynamic workshop on Figma, Mr Mark Chan taught students how to use this online design tool to create interactive web-based media, and by the end of the workshop, they all had a mini quiz we could play with our family and friends. In addition, AIP student leaders led another session on blackout poetry, where students harnessed the use of the online platform and tools to create and share with each other a variety of digital and analogue poems from pre-existing text.

Book and Music Week (BMW)

Book and Music Week is a signature programme of KC with the four key objectives of introducing new genres, art forms, and concepts to students; providing a platform for the enactment of the Arts and Culture (A&C) programme's arts advocacy and leadership; continuing KC's tradition of a signature event to nurture student traits laid out in the KC Graduate Profile and encouraging all students and staff to be actively involved in promoting the love for books and the arts as part of KC's niche in Communicative, Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA).

To introduce new genres, art forms, and concepts to students

Last year's theme of 'A New Creation' introduced students to mythic regeneration in the arts, and the familiar narrative threads in different cultures: adventure, guidance, bravery, wit. The theme was selected also as a means for students to understand how to change with the VUCA environment especially with how COVID-19 has forced innovation. Furthermore, it allowed for students to learn about three different art forms: Ekphrasis (art from art), Intermedia (art to art), and Environment/ Green Art.

To provide a platform for the enactment of A&C arts advocacy and leadership

BMW 2021 experienced two iterations: a July presentation where Arts Advocates worked with BMW representatives to plan class activities, and a second tweaked version where BMW reps led in class activities (under the guidance of FTs) on a virtual platform.

Participation & Hybrid Experiences

With the ever-changing SMM restrictions, the BMW team had to re-plan performances and viewing experiences to ensure adherence to SMMs, the streaming/ ICT capabilities of the school and crucially, students' experience of Passive (screen time) vs Active (movement & activity). The team also aimed to provide performances that were live streamed rather than prerecorded in an attempt to maintain the liveness and immediacy of the arts despite the mediation. We were also mindful of the sustainability element in our items; hence the need to infuse elements of green art into the programme. All these were achieved despite the shortened duration of BMW from 3 full days to 2 half days!

Arts Presentations

With so many programmes having been compromised, it was imperative that space for the arts was created. The A&C team conceptualised a hybrid arts and culture experience, part of which was situated in the foyer as a physical art exhibition throughout BMW, which contributed to the arts atmosphere of the event as well as celebrated student work. Technical affordances were also leveraged so that the annual Drama Elective Programme and SYF pieces could be live streamed as well.

A new component, staged readings, was initiated, where classes were introduced to the concept of staged readings and given scripts written by students from the Library Writing programme to perform, such that students gained from the experience of each other's art and creation.

Despite the restrictions of SMM, BMW was nonetheless able to provide KC's base platform for arts experience in a meaningful and intentional manner, providing opportunities for students and teachers to enjoy the school's CPVA niche!

End-of-Year Mass

The school celebrated our end-of-year 'Mass of Thanksgiving' on 29 October in our school hall. The Secondary Two Catholic students gathered in the hall observing the SMM guidelines. The mass was streamed live to the rest of the student population. The Mass was a wonderful way to mark the end of the final academic term and to give thanks to God for the many blessings that we had each received throughout the year. This year's Mass was particularly special as we thanked Ms Chan our Principal for her contributions to Katong Convent and wished her blessings for her next posting.

Joining us for the Mass were our celebrant Fr Eugene Vaz, Sister Maria (Provincial IJ Sisters), Ms Vivienne Lim (Chairperson of IJ Board), Mdm Doreen Yip (Hon Treasurer & Chairperson of Finance Sub-Com) and Mr Sushil George (Chairman of Audit Advisory Sub Committee).

Our celebrant Fr Eugene Vaz, welcomed everyone in the hall and asked all present to reflect on being grateful despite a very challenging year. In his homily, Fr Vaz explained in reference to the gospel reading of Matthew where Jesus tells us "Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" that the message is about being persistent in prayer and through our asking and knocking, God will open doors for us. Fr Vaz then urged all to heed the words of St Paul in the second reading, "to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. To bear with one another and forgive each other". He went on to explain what the world needs in this day and age. Father Vaz then paid tribute to Ms Chan for exemplifying these values in her time as Principal in Katong Convent. Prayers of Intercession followed, with petitions that included prayers for the Church, peace in our troubled world, our school, staff and ourselves.

Communion hymns were performed while all our Catholic students had the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. After the final post communion reflection and blessing, the Mass concluded with a special invocation of blessing upon Ms Chan. Fr Vaz prayed and placed his hands on Ms Chan's forehead with the rest of us in the school hall raising our hands to simultaneously bless her. At the end of the Mass proper, Ms Vivienne Lim paid a tribute to Ms Chan for her immense contributions serving the school population and IJ community. On behalf of the IJ Board, she presented Ms Chan with a plaque thanking her for embodying the IJ motto of "Simple in Virtue and Steadfast in Duty".

The celebration was a very peaceful and prayerful time for everybody involved in our school to mark our final days of the school year in thanksgiving.

Library Programme

Speaking

The final session of the speaking programme for 2021 concluded on 1 November. Student-orators were presented with opportunities to host both formal and informal events this year with the knowledge they gained during the various sessions planned for them during the year. Besides Honours Day, students were given opportunities to host Book and Music Week as well as Graduation Day 2021. It was a good learning platform for them to hone their speaking skills. To conclude the year, students were given a year-end project where they had to craft their speeches based on a list of given topics and record themselves using the speaking and presentation skills acquired during training.

Reading

As part of the Lower Secondary Reading Programme, the library came into the classrooms of the Secondary One and Two classes in Terms 3 and 4, through the "Books on Wheel" initiative. Books were specially curated to meet the reading needs of each class and lovingly brought to each class on trolleys, allowing students access to library books as a way to keep reading despite the limitations of SMM.

Writing

During the September break, identified student-writers from Secondary Two and Three attended an engaging playwriting workshop conducted by Chong Tze Chien, a core member of The Finger Players and an award-winning playwright and director.

In the workshop held over two sessions, students were tasked with the completion of their own play by rewriting a myth of their own choice. The workshops culminated in the completion of their works, the best of which were staged as oral readings by classes in BMW, aptly themed "A New Creation" held in October 2021.

Creative Arts Programme (CAP) Workshop

In November 2021, identified student-writers from Secondary One and Two took part in a series of three workshops in preparation for the CAP portfolio submission in 2022. Held for the first time over ZOOM, students were led through a journey of introspection and meaning-making as well as introduced to the expectations of a writer seeking entry into this prestigious programme, which is organised annually by the Creative Arts Branch, MOE.

Students immersed themselves in sessions conducted both by teachers as well as Trinity Ming Lim from Sec 4/2, who not only was selected for the CAP in 2020, but was also Katong Convent's first student to be included in the CAP mentorship attachment 2020-21, and whose work was published in the programme's accompanying publication. Students particularly enjoyed Trinity's sessions, as many felt her writing journey was something which resonated with their own experiences, and she was able to keep the experience authentic and manageable for them.

Students have since completed their portfolios which would be due for the external selection process in Jan 2022.

KC Girl Guides

The Girl Guides annual camp was in full swing last November after a one-year hiatus and postponement due to the pandemic. It was held from the 3 to 12 November and in the comfort of everyone's home. Preparations for this blended camp took on a different form and also served as a means to guide new leaders; the current company leaders, patrol leaders and patrol seconds, together with the newly elected leaders, come up with video tutorials to teach their peers and juniors camping and hiking skills. For example, instead of pitching canvas tents in school, everyone learnt and built pillow forts at home.

The Company also learnt and applied the 7 principles of Leave No Trace when they planned and went on their 5km hikes, either with a friend or a family member around their neighbourhoods. The teachers and company leaders also planned, led and organised typical Guides camp activities during the synchronous sessions – a Wide Game, Guides' Own, Campfire and the Breaking of Colours.

Throughout the camp, the Guides applied Guide Laws 4, 7 and 10, where they were friendly to all Guides, demonstrated courage and were cheerful in all difficulties, and were self-disciplined in what they think, say and do by giving their very best during the synchronous sessions and completing the asynchronous camp activities independently. It was not easy pivoting from an in-person camp to a blended one, but when the teachers creatively leveraged the availability of PLDs and applications such as Class Dojo, Google Classroom, the Nike Run Club and ZOOM, they were able to successfully engage and monitor the Guides' learning progress and development. No virus can put out the Guiding light nor dampen the Guiding spirit in the KC Girl Guides Company!

e-Open House

In the middle of the COVID situation and Safe Management Measures, KC again pivoted and held her first Open House for prospective Secondary One students, albeit digitally!

It was a novel yet informative journey through the KC Experience. Not only were students and parents engaged in an overview of KC's ethos and programmes, they were also invited to take a peek into our niche: the Communicative, Performing, and Visual Arts (CPVA). The highlight of the Open House was the 360 virtual tour of the school campus that offered little nuggets of information, stories, and insights into the spirituality, heritage, and CPVA experiences of CHIJ Katong Convent. The e-Open House was closed with a video done by our students as they offered their personal voice on why they chose KC.

As one of the last official events of 2021, the KC e-Open House, with its pivoting of platforms and exploration of stories and experiences, showed truly how KC constantly strives to be a new creation!

iLEAP 2021

Last year's iLEAP for Secondary Three EAP students was held between 15 to 18 Nov. Artist mentors from Nanyang Polytechnic visited KC to conduct workshops for our students in a hybrid style of in-person cum ZOOM and collaboration with other EAP schools across Singapore. Our students experienced first-hand what learning in the applied arts was like at tertiary level as the artist mentors guided them through various art fields such as visual communication, animation and game creation and design. It was wonderful to see our girls skilfully using their art knowledge to create designs for presentation in just 4 days. Many were given the thumbs up by the artist mentors for their intelligent designs and super effort! iLEAP ended with an online showcase where all the EAP schools presented their design outcomes to one another. If your daughter was one of the participants, be sure to ask her to show you her beautiful work!

Graduation Day 2021

Every year, the school bids farewell to the graduating cohort at the completion of their secondary school education in Katong Convent with a graduation ceremony. On 19 November, the school commemorated this significant milestone, by organising a virtual graduation day with the theme 'Keeping the KC Spirit Alive' in honour of the graduating cohort.

Our guest speaker was an ex-KC girl, Madam Far'ain Jaffar. As a foster mum to underprivileged children, she was honoured with the Exemplary Young Mother Award by Jamiyah Singapore, presented to her by the President, Mdm Halimah in 2021. Her inspiring sharing with the graduating cohort showed the students how they could continue to keep the KC spirit alive, by being a compassionate servant leader even after they have graduated.

The graduating cohort was also treated to an array of fun-filled activities, such as the virtual scavenger hunt, class videos and speeches by their respective class leaders, as well as a unique class award celebration of interesting personalities in their class. Last but not least, our 2020-2021 President of the Student Leadership Board (SLB) Jacelyn Loh, presented a surprise gift from both the SLB and well-wishes from the graduating cohort as the school bade their final farewell to our Principal, Ms Patricia Chan.

The school would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parent-Teacher Support Group for their contribution of the key chains and lovely cupcakes to the graduating cohort.

The KC Concert Band

41 student musicians from the KC Concert Band took part in the inaugural Singapore Band (Solo) Virtual Championships 2021 organised by the Band Directors' Association (Singapore). The Band garnered 10 Gold, 28 Silver and 3 Bronze.

The process of teaching and learning the repertoire began in June this year. Despite the many challenges online CCA presented, the students worked hard to put up good video performances that showcased their growing talent and mastery of their instruments.

Separately, 11 members from the Concert Band took part in the WBAS Youth Band Festival organised by the Wind Bands Association of Singapore. Over two hundred young musicians from all over Singapore auditioned for this prestigious festival after an intense selection process. Successful applicants attended intensive rehearsals and workshops spanning a total of five days from 15 to 19 December at the National University of Singapore. Four small ensembles were set up this year to comply with the Event Safety Measures Management. Each ensemble put up a

separate concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall on 20 December with a programme of challenging wind band repertoire and familiar favourites.

Sec 1 e-registration 2022

On 23 December 2021, the Secondary One students started their journey in KC with a virtual meet with our new Principal, Mrs Hilda Thong and their form teachers.

Mrs Hilda Thong welcomed students and parents to the KC family and opened the session by giving students and parents an introduction to KC focusing on the IJ roots and KC's identity. She continued to share essential information with the incoming Secondary One students on academic matters, touching briefly on the Personalised Digital Learning Programme. Mrs Thong ended her session by inviting students and parents to work together with the school for a fulfilling KC experience.

The Secondary One students then had an opportunity to have a virtual engagement with their respective form teachers to know them a little better. Students were briefed on the first day of school matters and also played a game of Kahoot! to excite them as they not only learnt some interesting facts about the school, but also shared their feelings as they transited from primary school to a secondary school.

We are glad that the virtual meet was a success, and that the students found the session beneficial to ease them into KC.

2022: A New Beginning

We welcomed our students back to the KC family on 4 January, ushering in the new school year with two days of meaningful activities.

Principal's Address

The morning's proceedings began with the Principal's address, where Mrs Thong led the school in revisiting the CHIJ mission and motto to refresh our understanding of our school identity. As one big KC family, Mrs Thong illustrated how we could live out our school vision—A Caring School that Excels, by cultivating a spirit of continued improvement and a growth mindset, so that we would bring out the best in ourselves and in others. She also shared the school's theme for 2022 "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19), and exhorted all to cultivate a love for God, self, family, others, work and life. With a video of the hymn "Fill My Cup, Lord", Mrs Thong encouraged students to grow into confident individuals and ended her segment in a prayer for the school.

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, Mrs Thong also leveraged the occasion of the first day of school to remind the school about the latest safe management guidelines that would remain in place to keep everyone safe.

Starting Right

To start right as the year began, students were brought through various talks and sharings to highlight important messages. There were talks on safety, school support structures and discipline matters to remind our students about behaviour, being respectful of each other, accountability, ways to practise self-care whilst looking out for one another. The Secondary Two to graduating

cohort Year Heads also shared an overview of upcoming academic and co-curricular programmes planned for their cohort. In preparing the respective cohort to anticipate the possible challenges in the new year, the Year Heads also shared how they could manage these together with the teachers and classmates.

Commitment to Act

Time was then set aside for students to share with their form teachers and classmates their feelings about the new school year, and reflect on the events in the past year that had an impact in their life. As a class, they developed a set of class goals and committed to act in achieving these goals. Using the class goals as a springboard, students then shared with their classmates about the strengths they would like to bring to the class that will contribute towards attaining the class goals.

Sec 1 Orientation – Interaction with the Student Leaders

This year, the student councillors helmed the attire and grooming segment of the Discipline Talk for Secondary Ones. They put together videos and slides of how students should wear the IJ uniform with pride and explained the heritage of the IJ uniform. They also showed the students how to tie their hair and wear their fringes neatly. The Secondary One students also spent a meaningful two hours interacting with student leaders. The student leaders introduced themselves to their respective assigned classes and told the Secondary One students about the events they can expect in a typical year. They also introduced the various CCAs offered and gave them a brief history about the school. Thereafter, the student leaders led in some ice breakers and bonding games. All classes were brought on a school tour where they were shown venues that they would frequent in the year. As a token of welcome, every student received a goodie bag containing practical stationery and snacks lovingly prepared by the SLB.

Sec 1 Orientation – Welcome to the Family

At the end of Week 1, the KC Family organised a special ceremony for the Secondary Ones. The student emcee kick-started the KC welcome ceremony by sharing a brief history of the CHIJ badge and the significance of the ceremony. Following that, the school leaders, teachers and student leaders pinned the badges on for the Secondary One students in the virtual presence of the rest of the school to welcome the Secondary One students to our KC family with warm smiles and heartfelt well wishes.

Beginning-of-Year Eucharistic Celebration

At the beginning of each new school year, the school always gathers together to celebrate the Mass to mark the new academic year as we welcome our students and staff. It was an opportune time to ask for God's blessings on us and the work we do together here in Katong Convent. The Mass is an age-old tradition practised in all Catholic schools all across the country.

In view of the continued SMM guidelines in school, 50 Catholic girls from the 5 levels signed up for the opportunity to attend Mass in person and the Mass was streamed live to the rest of the student population. The theme for the Mass as well as the school year was taken from the 1st Letter of St John, which is "We love because He first loved us".

Based on readings specially discerned and selected by our School Chaplaincy Team, Fr Adrian Yeo, encouraged each and every member of the KC family, to sacrifice for each other by being steadfast in our care and concern for one another in faith and charity. We were also reminded from the gospel of John to sacrifice by resisting our anger, impatience and instead to

be kind, forgiving and reach out to our neighbours. He also urged the school to be a beacon amongst the schools in Marine Parade by being Christ-like in our lives.

As we continue the KC journey in 2022, we pray for all staff and students to grow in faith, hope and love for another through charity and acts of service, which will bless our community and loved ones.

Sticker Activity

Four years ago, students started the tradition of creating a large sticker collage of the school values (Perseverance, Integrity, Excellence and Respect). Students continued with this activity with each girl given 3 coloured stickers in different shades in which they wrote their own words or phrases associated with the given value. The Secondary Four cohort filled the red collage on Perseverance, the Secondary Three students on the green collage on Integrity, the Secondary Two students on the blue collage on Excellence while the Secondary One and Five students filled the yellow collage on Respect. As the collages grow over the years, these boards will eventually be put up on the school walls once they are full, and the students' reflections of the school values will be displayed.

CCA Fair and Briefing

The programme for Week 1 ended on a high note, with the much-awaited CCA Fair and briefing session for the Secondary One students on Friday 7 January. This year, we were able to have a hybrid fair, with students visiting the various CCA booths in-person (with safe management measures in place) and obtaining information on the various CCAs and on the LEAPS 2.0 MOE CCA grading system via their Student Learning Space (SLS) accounts.

Before the guided tour of the CCA booths by the CCA student leaders, the HOD/ CCA & PE, Ms Priscilla Humphries, briefed the Secondary One students on the objectives of Co-Curricular Programmes (CCP) in MOE secondary schools and the important role that Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) play in instilling skills, values and 21st Century Competencies in our students. Ms Humphries also briefed students on the CCA allocation exercise in KC, the process by which the Secondary One students will select and be assigned a CCA. This important information can also be accessed via the students' SLS accounts.

After the briefing, the CCA leaders brought the Secondary One students on a guided tour of all the beautifully decorated CCA booths situated throughout the school. In this way, not only were the Secondary One students able to obtain more information on the CCAs to help them make an informed choice, but they were also shown the various facilities in the school.

Our senior students at the booths also showed that they were adept and engaging presenters. They were well prepared and enthusiastic about sharing with the Secondary One students what their CCA was about. All CCA teachers were also on hand to answer any further queries. The Secondary One students were given an opportunity to observe demonstrations by sports CCAs such as the Sports Development Club, badminton, floorball and netball, and enjoy live performances by the Concert Band, Modern Dance and the Chinese Orchestra.

The event was a success and the Secondary One students gave feedback that the briefing and fair had helped them understand the importance of CCA in secondary school, as well as all that KC has to offer to help them pursue their different interests.

Arts & Culture (A&C) Programme 1

The Arts and Culture Programme opened the new year with a new theme of hope: At First Light. With the new theme, the A&C also unveiled a new leadership structure for the Arts Advocates. They pinned on their new badges and announced their role and position as student leaders of the arts in KC. The Secondary One performing and visual arts DSA students were also warmly welcomed into the A&C family as the girls shared their various art forms with one another.

Our Art teachers, Mr Brian Lee and Ms Cai Hanyun also led the students into the research approach for creating meaningful and engaging Arts Bites and Morning Reflections. They unpacked how the theme of light could be articulated in the content and medium of an art work. The Arts Advocates were also asked to consider what their schoolmates would find appealing, even as the Arts Advocates share what is insightful and relevant about the art work. The Arts Advocates were also introduced to various arts repositories that they could refer to when doing arts research.

It was an exciting time of new learning as the team began planning for a new year of arts advocacy and a new light!

Full Literature Workshops

Sec 3 N(A) Boom Workshop

On 10 January, the 3N(A) full literature students experienced something different from the annual drama text workshop. As they were studying the local play, *Boom* by Jean Tay, they had the privilege of the playwright visiting KC to talk to them about the inspiration and craft of writing a play.

The workshop opened with Ms Tay sharing the global and local events that inspired the play: an economic boom and the en-bloc phenomenon. At the same time, there was the issue of the Bukit Brown Cemetery being dug up to give way to a highway. This formed the foundation and the thematic concerns of the play which engaged with the question of what the value of the tangible and intangible is.

From the very insightful conception of the play, Ms Tay shared the fundamentals of the well-made play structure, tools that would be useful in the students' analysis and evaluation of the play. The session ended with the students doing research on current issues with the potential for conflict which they then tried their hand at transforming into a play.

It was a unique and memorable afternoon, having a writer of one of the students' literature texts making a personal appearance to share about the craft and themes.

Sec 3 Express Macbeth Workshop

On 11 January, two classes of Secondary Three full literature students spent an intriguing hands-on session learning about *Macbeth*. It was a workshop thoughtfully designed to entice students to engage with the text and plot, be familiar with Shakespeare's language, and encounter a few key characters.

Through the use of performance pedagogies, students entered the world of performance and were given opportunities to explore the stage and act. The session began with a warm up activity, 'Character Statues', where the participants were up on their feet acting out recognisable gestures

of key characters in the play. The second activity, 'Shakespeare Says', was crafted to allow students to immerse themselves in Shakespeare's words. The highlight of the activity was students' self-directed learning as they worked in groups to decide the sequence of the quotes given to enact a scene. The students' zeal and motivation were seen in their creative enactment of the scene. In 'Crime Scene', students were given a script with only the dialogue and they had to decide which character said which line and how they would enact the scene. Although Shakespearean language can be intimidating for students, this activity enabled them to gain confidence in understanding the plot and some of the major characters in the play. They drew on the contextual clues in the script to predict and match the speaker to the lines. Through this exciting activity, students took on the role of the various characters and gained an appreciation of plot progression. Students became more aware of the richness in the images used by Shakespeare and appreciated the dark humour in his writing. Equally important, students began utilising their analytical and inference skills to piece the script together without the usual signifiers of character and stage directions.

All in all, it was a fun and unforgettable afternoon exploring and gaining rich insight into the world of *Macbeth* with their peers!

In CHIJ Katong Convent, we are continuously looking for and providing opportunities for our girls to have a rich and fulfilling school experience that will enable the girls to grow holistically to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We welcome parents and guardians in helping to source for or provide such experiential opportunities as well.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilda Thong', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Hilda Thong (Mrs)

Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 GCE N Level Results

Last year, our Sec 4 Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) girls performed well in the GCE N Level Examinations. With the eligibility criteria for Sec 5N set at an ELMAB3 (English + Math + Best 3 subjects) aggregate of ≤ 19 points, 90.7% of our Sec 4N(A) girls qualified for Sec 5N.

Our Sec 4N(A) girls achieved 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, English Language, Literature, Art, Combined Humanities (Social Studies, Elective Literature), Malay Language and Tamil Language. Subjects that achieved more than 20% distinction were Additional Mathematics (78.6%), English Language (66.7%), Literature (44.4%), Mathematics (50.7%), Combined Humanities (Social Studies, Elective Geography) [35.4%], Combined Humanities (Social Studies, Elective Literature) [34.6%], Art (22.2%), Malay Language (30%), Combined Science (Chemistry, Biology) [45.7%], Principles of Accounts (43.9%) and Chinese Language (20.5%).

Our Sec 4N(T) girls achieved 100% passes in Basic Malay, Computer Application and Elements of Business Studies. Subjects that achieved more than 20% distinction were Basic Chinese (37.5%), Basic Malay (50%), Elements of Business Studies (25%), Mathematics (35%) and Science (26.3%).

Our heartiest congratulations to all the girls, parents and teachers. We wish all the girls every success in their future endeavours.

2021 GCE O Level Results

In the 2021 GCE O levels, our Sec 4 Express cohort did well with 80.6% eligible for JC progression and 100% passes in 14 subjects. Subjects that achieved 25% and more distinctions were Art (29%), English Language (41%), Mathematics (56%), A Math (75%), Chemistry (35%), Biology (33%), Physics (41%), Combined Science (Bio/Chem) [48%], Combined Humanities (SS/Geog) [36%], E Lit (41%), Geography (47%), Principles of Accounts (26%), Higher Chinese (33%), Chinese (25%) and Higher Tamil (40%).

76.3% of our Sec 5 cohort are eligible for JC/ MI and Poly progression. The cohort also scored 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, Literature and Higher Chinese.

We are glad that our students had put in their best effort to bloom where they were planted and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

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