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# The High School NEWSLETTER

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## The Last Word

December 1<sup>st</sup> marked the last day as High School Principal for Mr. Alan Crombie. In the short time I have known Alan he has impressed me with his passion and vision for the development of the High School. He has transformed ISSR from a school offering an international curriculum to a true international school. To mark the occasion, and to say farewell to Alan, the Student Council organized a Farewell Assembly at which students from various Year levels read testimonials about the impact that Alan had had on them during his time as principal. Alan then gave a stirring speech, as only Alan can, and I would like to share the text of this with you in this newsletter. At the end of the ceremony the students formed a guard of honour and presented some farewell gifts to Alan. It was a great a fitting end to his time and the school.

“Thousands of photographs have been taken of the activities of ISSR High School since August 2016, many of which have appeared in newsletters, on the new website and in the yearbooks. It is challenging enough to sift through the countless folders in search of a handful to publish for each event that convey the now discernible ethos of a powerful, self-motivated and growing school. To find just one that encapsulates what ISSR now represents might seem impossible. However, this group photo of the Year 9 and Year 10 expedition to Kampot, I think, epitomises all that ISSR High School seeks to foster: young, enthusiastic people with confidence and a sense of adventure, and a desire to explore well beyond the sometimes narrow confines of their world. They have everything to look forward to, and it is essential that a good school – supported by genuine teachers – provides them with the opportunities to achieve it.



We have seen young people adopt leadership roles, organise and speak in front of large groups, debate, plan and propose. We have seen their creativity unlocked in drama, music and the visual arts. They have produced publications, interacted with other schools both locally and internationally, coordinated large events, raised money for charity, performed in public, decorated their school – and it is *their* school – and given unforgettable experiences to foreign visitors. Amidst all of this, their academic output has markedly improved with, in 2016-17, an

84% pass rate at IGCSE and 100% pass rate in English Language and English literature, the latter two an astonishing achievement given that the vast majority of our students do not have English as their first language.

And the School is set both to consolidate and to develop what has already been attained. Year 12 enjoys as full an AS and A2 curriculum that could possibly be provided at the moment thanks to industrious staff who are undergoing their own personal and professional development. More students are now exploring work experience, and they are trained in careers and thinking skills. The introduction of new subjects and the Y10 options system finally allows students to pursue what they enjoy rather than what they are compelled to study, an options system allowing students to focus on specific creative or linguistic skills, or a combination of both. The introduction of fast-tracking for students of Mandarin Chinese means that, irrespective of age, students can gain IGCSE and AS/A2 level qualifications in the subject when they are academically ready to do so, thereby gaining international recognition earlier than Year 11 which allows them to focus on other subjects or, indeed, to begin new ones.

Through certification and the House points system students are acknowledged and rewarded for their academic attainments, their determination in the face of challenge, and their contribution both to lessons and to whole school events. The ECA programme continues to thrive, all students – irrespective of full or part-time status – undergoing four different activities throughout the academic year. All students participate in sport every week using proper facilities, and the students’ skills in this area have improved dramatically as a result.

Every student has the chance to build a portfolio extending well beyond the academic to show to institutions of tertiary education and, indeed, future employers that they are well-rounded individuals with a range of transferable skills and experiences. Every student can follow his or her individual interests, and discover within themselves skills previously untapped. Above all, I see optimism and determination in students who, previously, had no established direction.

The success of a school – the driving force – are the teachers, and they must be the right teachers. We have no time for recalcitrance, indolence, self-interest or lack of imagination; such people do not act in the best interests of any school, nor will ISSR have them.

As I return to Malaysia to take up the post of Director of Education, I take this opportunity to thank all those in this community who have supported the quantum changes that this School has undergone, a school that now has an identity, a creativity and a strong sense of self-confidence. And I know that my successor has the same vision. I wish Year 9, Year 11 and Year 12 every success in their respective Checkpoint, IGCSE and AS Level examinations.

You should be very proud of what you have achieved in such a short time-frame; be proud of the fact that you breathed life into a school.  
I send you all my very best wishes. " A.D.C. 2017





### Appreciation Awards

At the beginning of the Monday assembly on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, teachers nominated the following students to show their appreciation and to acknowledge their diligence:

#### Year 7

**Mr Peter** – Shotaro for his marvelous work ethic.

**Miss Danielle** – Sharlyn and Sonita for their commitment to their role as school council and outstanding contributions during the assembly.

**Mr Max** - Sokheng, Jenny, Sharlyn, Chhing Ann for their creative renewable energy island designs - well done!

**Miss Chris** –Jenny for always being helpful in class and Visa for his consistent good work.

#### Year 8

**Mr Peter** - Liza for her improved work ethic

**Miss Danielle** – Kalyane for her excellent answers during class discussion and for always giving 100% in everything that she does.

**Mr Max** - Chiara for achieving 98% in her recent assessment and Oggy for always applying himself in every lesson.

**Mr Joseph** – Liza for her massively improved attainment in her recent Mathematics test.

**Miss Chris** –Oggy for the improvements he's made this term and Annan for always giving 100%.

#### Year 9

**Miss Danielle** – Peace and Panha for demonstrating their excellent persuasive skills during lesson.

**Mr Max** - Elsa for her consistent attentiveness and Peace for always applying himself in lesson time.

**Miss Hannah** - Panha, Nann, Ryda, Neath, Sok Heng, Moyurith and Oudam for creating their own speeches and have confidently delivered them to each other. Their confidence in speaking English has increased greatly and they project their voices clearly so that everybody can hear. Miss Hannah very proud of them and the progress they have made in their speaking ability.

**Mr Joseph** – Neath for the excellent progress she has made in Mathematics

**Miss Chris** – The entirety of the year 9 class for 'being fabulous' but particularly Christine for her commitment to her studies every lesson.

#### Year 10

**Mr Peter** - Yu Jin for always applying herself in her studies and Yuvan for his consistent engagement in History.

**Miss Danielle** – Sorya for her improved work ethic in English and for displaying her persuasive writing abilities.

**Mr Max** - Mollika for achieving 100% in her recent assessment and Yuvan for asking insightful yet critical questions.

**Mr Joseph** – Lakshmi for the excellent progress she has made in Mathematics.

**Miss Chris** – Noeul for always putting forward her best efforts and Watey for always being helpful.

#### Year 11

**Mr Peter**–Riki for her improved application and engagement in History.

**Mr Peter** - Pei Shan for her consistent hard work.

**Mr Max**- Centina for her unwavering dedication to her studies and Pei Shan for an incredible amount of independent study

**Mr Joseph** – Philos for the excellent progress he has made in Mathematics

**Miss Chris** – Centina for her unquestionable academic abilities and diligent attitude

#### Year 12

**Miss Danielle** -Gael and Jaemin for demonstrating their excellent creative writing abilities in their recent assessment

**Mr Max** - Anna for achieving top marks in her homework and assessments and Junmin for working hard to understand how to answer psychology exam questions.

**All the teachers** - Junmin and Gaeul for their inspiring guitar duet at the farewell assembly on Friday.

**Mr Joseph** –Sreypech for the excellent progress she has made in Mathematics



### Nurturing a growth mindset

During the Monday assembly on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, Year 7 paved the way to a brighter future by coaching the entire school on adopting a growth mindset. Led by Year 7 School Council members, Sharlyn Dior and Sonita Dyna, the year 7's delivered a performance for the senior students of ISSR high school. Together, they produced four creative skits which demonstrated the fixed and growth mindset of individuals, portraying realistic, yet entertaining scenes on how a certain type of mindset can significantly influence the path of one's future. All of the performances were composed and played entirely by the Year 7 form group and rest assured it was one of the note-worthy assemblies that were conducted in this academic year. Not only did they send an encouraging message, they ended the assembly humorously, ensuring that the whole school's week got off to an excellent start. Well done Year 7!

### Welcome to our new ESL Teacher



On the 4<sup>th</sup> December our new ESL and English Support teacher joined the ISSR High School staff. Gemma Woodburn has an extensive background having worked as an English language teacher at Regent School and British Study Centres, Oxford (UK), Dominion School (New Zealand), IMPACT English School Melbourne, (Australia) and Pannasastra University, ACE, SHINE and JPA, Siem Reap (Cambodia). She brings a wealth of experience with her and I am sure she will make a valuable contribution to the development of the English skills of our students, but also enhance the students' ability to better access the academic subjects they are studying.

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**As we approach Christmas and the New Year 2018 we wish you a very happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year 2018.**

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