

the flame

by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur



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Inside this issue:

15

Mining New Possibilities



16

MCKL Rallies Together



38

The Next MCKL



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Table of Contents

3

2020@MCKL

**Editorial Board Remarks
The CEO's Prologue**

5

Feature@MCKL

How MCKL adapted the student learning experience
Microsoft recognition
Zoom in on Digital Learning
How MCKL adapted the facilities experience
How MCKL adapted the student exams experience
How MCKL adapted the student activities experience
Mining New Possibilities

17

Students@MCKL

30

Growth@MCKL



37

Next@MCKL

**Expansion of Pykett, Penang
Future Education at MCKL**

Testing, testing?

Alright, let's begin.

This really has been a year like no other. The world as we know it has changed and the human race has had to put aside many other things to fight the COVID-19 virus. We at MCKL are no different. It would be glib to say that we made it through without a scratch. Instead, we want to acknowledge that we struggled at times but together we are getting through this.

The title of this year's *Flame*, 'Is The Mic Working?', seeks to represent our shared experience of navigating life online. Beyond that, we hope that this instalment of the magazine will serve to give the people of MCKL a voice. Instead of the usual *Flame* where we celebrate achievements and success stories, we wanted to present a more rounded exploration of what the year has been like for us here in MCKL. We are going to be featuring some unique stories of various experiences coping with the changes and doubts the pandemic brought and how we supported each other through this time. Read on to hear takes from all parts of the MCKL family, our students, lecturers, facilities team, wardens, alumni, with our CEO at the helm.

We believe it is important for us to acknowledge that it was not always smooth sailing; this is a necessary part of the grieving process for what we lost to the unpredictability of the year. However, we firmly believe that the challenges we faced together have already made us more compassionate human beings as well as better fighters, more equipped to take on the fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0).

The IR4.0 is another focus of this edition of the *Flame*. We are very proud of how we have transitioned all aspects of what we do online, from teaching & learning, to conducting exams, to administrative efforts. This move to digital platforms, while anticipated as early as last year, came to rapid realisation in March this year. If you are interested to see what renowned international company praised MCKL for our adoption of new learning platforms, read on!

We hope you enjoy reading through this year's *Flame*! It is real and it is raw. Through it, we hope you will see the culture of excellence partnered with grace that we have seen flourish here in MCKL. May it encourage you to acknowledge the difficulties and give thanks for the joys and remarkable community in your own life this past year as we continue on this path together. With the mic on, we hope this message will ring loud and clear through your reading.

Sincerely,
MCKL Creative Team



The CEO's PROLOGUE

“Always remember, the people are the **FOCUS**”

This truly communicates the essence of why Ms Angela does what she does. She does it for the growth of those who come under her wing. Once you lose focus on the people, you lose perspective on everything else.

While acknowledging that the pandemic has shaken the world globally, it has also become a catalyst that stirred MCKL into action. For Ms Angela, the game plan for the year revolved heavily around growing digitally whereby Wi-Fi networks were upgraded, lecturers received laptops and training sessions on how to use Microsoft Teams were carried out even before MCO began.

COVID-19 or not, Ms Angela's five-year plan to grow MCKL was never hampered. As the world is changing so rapidly, MCKL wants to nurture individuals to be prepared for education of the future where they constantly experience lifelong learning through transformational teaching in MCKL. A caterpillar does not strive to be a better caterpillar. It strives to be something less of itself, to be something totally different. Likewise, MCKL wants our students to transform from caterpillars to butterflies and strives to be an institution that facilitates such transformation with the right digital support while ensuring our students capture the core values of our MCKL DNA.

Ms Angela acknowledges that the journey for MCKL has been tough, especially in this season of COVID-19. But she encourages all those who have a listening ear and an open mind to be willing to learn from one another, to believe in our cause, and to persevere to embrace new challenges. It will be a journey of unlearning, learning and relearning. This helps put MCKL's experience during the pandemic in perspective. The fight still carries on.

While COVID-19 has hit us hard, it has pushed us further towards our goals. With that, Ms Angela recognises that this could not have been done without the support of the board of governors, partners and agencies like the government, parents and not forgetting MCKL's hands and feet; the staff and students. As people are her focus, her main battle moving in to the year 2021 consists of two things. To retain staff and to provide good talent management to enable the staff to grow together. As a result of the pandemic, we first need to ensure sustainability. While we will stagger the growth in stages, we will continue to move forward. A CEO who seeks the growth of MCKL knows that it is seeking the betterment of the staff and students.

**That, my dear readers, is her vision for an Institution of Excellence for Life.
What do you say? Care to join us on this journey?**



About Ms Angela Pok

Ms Angela is the Chief Executive Officer of MCKL

HOW MCKL ADAPTED THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

What is the Fourth Industrial revolution (IR4.0)?

From having automated vehicles to buying groceries at your fingertips, the world as we know it is advancing rapidly. Jobs are being slowly taken over by artificial intelligence and companies are constantly looking to minimize cost and increase productivity. What can students do today to stay relevant in the future job market?

According to the World Economic Forum, billions of people are already connected through mobile devices with unprecedented processing power, cloud storage and unlimited access to knowledge. The possibilities within the confines of technology will increase as there continue to be breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and the Internet of Things.

Economists, Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, suggests the Fourth Industrial Revolution could yield greater inequality, particularly in its potential to disrupt labor markets. As automation substitutes for labor across the entire economy, the net displacement of workers by machines might exacerbate the gap between returns to capital and returns to labor. This will give rise to a job market increasingly segregated into “low skill/low pay” and “high skill/high pay” segments, which in turn will lead to an increase in social tensions. Therefore, MCKL aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to ensure employability and job security for the future and to remain relevant in an ever-changing world.

Plans were already in place to encourage blended learning when March came and COVID-19 struck. Although the pandemic came as a surprise to us, in many ways it acted as a catalyst toward our existing plans of digital learning. With that, allow us to show you how MCKL transitioned to digital learning while staying true to our vision. Firstly, with blended learning, followed by innovating ways to engage students and also adopting Microsoft Teams fully to the point of gaining recognition from Microsoft.

Blended Learning

Although MCKL had plans to initiate digital learning, it must be acknowledged that since the beginning of COVID-19, the higher education industry has been greatly affected. Students and staff have not been able to visit campus and attend lectures as usual. It is due to these factors that digital learning has been strongly encouraged or in most cases, absolutely necessary, in order to ensure students maintained their educational progress.

Within MCKL, both lecturers and students have stayed connected via Microsoft Teams, a single platform that acts as our main learning management system where lecture recordings and assignments are accessible and lectures are conducted. With students and lecturers both putting in the effort to adapt to a brand new educational experience, MCKL has been able to maintain a sense of normalcy. The blended learning benefits students whereby they have more flexibility in communication with lecturers and are able to review lectures and access materials at their own convenience.

In light of the previous section regarding the growing impact of IR4.0, Ms Angela Pok encourages students and staff to be more digitally literate. Therefore, MCKL strives to embrace this reality and utilise technology to develop digitally literate students and lecturers as we continue to develop and grow in the area of blended learning.

One such way MCKL has sought to grow in this is by equipping our lecturers and staff with courses on digital education skills to help them obtain certifications which will improve student engagement and learning outcomes. One example is the in-house ICDL spreadsheet course that the staff underwent in 2019.

“Although the pandemic came as a surprise to us, in many ways it acted as *a catalyst* toward our existing plans of digital learning

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MICROSOFT RECOGNITION

On 9th October 2020, MCKL's journey was featured on Microsoft Customer Stories as Microsoft's success story for cloud computing. MCKL's digital transformation is by no means groundbreaking, but its rate of adoption was one worth celebrating.

Early adoption of Microsoft

As mentioned earlier, MCKL recently began preparing students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by adopting a digital learning management system and by providing relevant IR4.0 programmes. The College opted to use Microsoft 365 which has been widely embraced by lecturers and students and has resulted in innovations in the delivery of higher education.

According to our CEO, Ms Angela, "We've seen the wider impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Future jobs will require use of technology, cloud-based applications, system and the ability to digitally collaborate and network". Therefore MCKL has been striving to prepare our students for the changes that are to come.

One of the biggest challenges faced by students and lecturers, was to adopt an open mindset when learning how to use digital tools for education. It is important to have a "trial and error" spirit when learning something new. MCKL is proud that both students and lecturers took the initiative to experience Microsoft 365 throughout the Movement Control Order (MCO) and beyond. Now we are proud to say that 96% of our campus population is connected via Microsoft Teams.



How do we *get students engaged*, especially since many of them are already exhausted and fatigued by online classes?

Innovation in Teaching and Learning through Microsoft Teams & Microsoft 365

When asked to comment on the implementation of Microsoft Teams, Mr Adrian Yao, Director of Academic Studies (External Programmes) and Head of Teaching & Learning at MCKL said, "Face-to-face classes can't be replaced, but based on feedback from students and staff about online learning and teaching, 70% of our students enjoy using Teams, and the majority view Microsoft 365 as a set of tools they can rely on."

The move to remote learning has led to a shift in the overall teaching and learning style in MCKL. Instead of focusing on expository pedagogies, where teachers deliver and students absorb without any interaction, academic personnel are focusing more deeply on practice as well as exploratory and collaborative pedagogies.

When speaking about her class' usage of Microsoft Teams, "The channel has evolved and now has become a problem-solving community and my students enjoy using it to seek solutions," says Ms Elizabeth Tan, a pre-university Physics lecturer. "My students see and realise they're not struggling alone. They see the discussions and misconceptions within the group. I think communication is one of the best things about Teams, which hits a sweet spot between being a forum and a chat group."

"Microsoft Teams surpasses all the other LMSes that I have tried before, not only because of its ease of use and third-party app integration, but also because the lecturers have total control over every aspect of teaching and learning. This includes creating content, uploading, hosting, distributing to students and marking assignments." says Mr Yap Haw Sim, Deputy Academic Director (Future Education).

▶ Read more about this on page 15

Re-imagining education

The College is looking towards the future and balancing it against the new reality of long term pandemic management and it starts with mapping out strategies to be better equipped. One of which is to transform some of our classrooms into collaborative teaching and learning spaces. "We are reconfiguring and retrofitting several classrooms to technology-enabled active learning (TEAL) spaces," says Mr Adrian Yao. "We are transforming these spaces into both informal and formal teaching and learning spaces for the time when everyone returns after the MCO is fully lifted."

MCKL is known for the many extra-curricular activities that students get to participate in such as frisbee, foosball or Model United Nations. There are also opportunities for having regular conversations in the cafeteria or jamming in the Mabel Marsh Hall. A challenge faced in this arena is knowing how to translate these social and co-curricular activities online. "How do we get students engaged, especially since many of them are already exhausted and fatigued by online classes?" asks Mr Yoshua Chua, the former Director of Student Services. The solution that MCKL staff came up with was to hold student engagement sessions weekly on Fridays at 5PM. More on this later in the magazine.



I think communication is one of the best things about Teams, which hits a sweet spot between being a forum and a chat group

► Read more about this on page 8

Here's an overview of our journey so far:



of our campus population is **connected** on Microsoft Teams



70% of our students **enjoy** using Microsoft Teams



Majority of campus views Microsoft 365 as a tool they can **rely on**

ZOOM IN ON DIGITAL LEARNING

LECTURER'S PERSPECTIVE

It is challenging, but I'm still surviving

2020 was a year of non-stop learning—equally exhausting and exhilarating! We went from a noisy room full of alert, sleepy, tired, funny or *blur* faces—three times a week—to a screen full of muted icons. To make things more challenging, my home internet lacked the stability and quota to support 18 hours of online video calls each week. “This will not do” I told myself and began an ed-venture with students and fellow lecturers into the world of digital learning.

Communication with students looked very different. Full-class video calls don't reveal much audio-visual engagement (sadly usually only the lecturers turn on their cameras)—it seemed like the larger the group, the lesser the chance of any verbal communication. But written communication with new students reached a new record for me. I could interact with many students all at once, either personally or in an online forum or live chat to address their questions or concerns. Sometimes, I wish I had the time to code an AI chatbot to answer basic frequently asked questions so that I am spared having to answer the same question 90+ times! The magic of typed conversations is that if archived and organised well, the database of messages itself becomes collective knowledge, where other students can search up older conversations and follow the various trains of thought that “pioneers” have explored. Essentially, it is a glimpse into the form of academic discourse in the scientific world of exploration: ask questions, search, join and further the conversation.

Once during a problem-solving session online, a student mentioned in the live chat that she was previously driving but parked by the roadside just to join the online session and participate in the discussion of tricky past year questions. This story reminds me of that fact that learning can happen anywhere: by the roadside, in the toilet, on the bed, on a treetop, in a grandparent's house, a cruise ship, on campus—wherever the student is able and *willing* to learn. *Learning can happen anywhere*. Another new aspect of digital learning

is that it provides much more detail in content: recorded lectures and online lecture notes mean that students do not have to scramble to take photos of whiteboards to save all information. All notes, assignments, or test papers can be scanned and uploaded, which gives both lecturers and students a portfolio of all work in full detail. Students can learn and revise content at any time and at any pace.

“Learning can happen
ANYWHERE”

However, anytime-anywhere learning also meant anytime-anywhere work for lecturers like me. Especially during the initial weeks of working from home, it was hard to define what work hours were. There were days when online classes started at 8am, and before I realized, it is already 1am and there will still be many unfinished tasks on the list. Nonetheless, I realized that once I partnered with other lecturers who were more experienced in many areas, including time management, I was able to increase my efficiency without feeling overwhelmed every day of the week. Part of it was re-arranging my schedule to best fit the students and my timing. If there were no classes or students awake with questions at 9am, then I would rest that morning. If there were 10 questions and discussions at 9pm (and if I were still alert), then I would engage the students in learning and mastering a new concept.

Whatever the costs and benefits, we lecturers have caught glimpses of what IR4.0 could look like in each of our classes. The next steps will be crucial in shaping a form of digital education that not only focuses on the best for learners, but also on sustainability and support for all educators on the ground who spearhead the way into the digital landscape. Only then can the institution truly thrive and strive for lasting excellence.

 by **Elizabeth Tan**

Elizabeth is one of our Teaching Scholars, and is currently teaching Physics A Level

Industrial Revolution 4.0 has fuelled the impetus of rapid digitalisation in the field of education.

Abetted by recessions entailed by COVID-19, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur has become the poster child of this rapid digitalisation, where one example of this was that all classes were shifted online overnight.

Kudos to our lecturers who made online learning extremely interactive for us. Not only were amazing and engaging lecture videos created, but applications to real life situations, and demonstrations of past year questions supplemented them. Since lecture videos were recorded, and notes saved, it offered easy respite to students to re-review content that they had trouble grasping in the first round. Furthermore, weekly question and answer sessions, and the multitude of communication channels with our lecturers, (Teams chats, video calls) provided more opportunities for us to receive feedback and track our performance and set goals on how we could improve.

PERSISTENCE MOTIVATION & INDEPENDENCE

are few of the many skills honed by

ONLINE LEARNING

MCKL's adoption of Microsoft Teams and Office 365 had provided a seamless transition to online lectures and provided platforms for discussion forums. Online lectures have not only meant completing the syllabus but have also been able to assure continuous learning despite the stringent measures prescribed by the government.

Classes on Microsoft Teams were undoubtedly bizarre at first. Waking up in the morning to a computer screen and listening to your lecturers through the built-in speakers while learning through online slides proved a challenge. It did take me some time to get used to the new reality, but it eventually became a routine carried out with ease.

Time management is a key ingredient, while responsibility and meticulousness are some others. It is so easy to get distracted from your lessons with a wavering mind, owing to the stark contrast between being at home and in a college environment. One of the ways students parried through this was by being organised. Keeping necessary papers, textbooks, chargers, devices at their respective positions in advance before your lessons start is mandatory, while a conducive learning environment at home ensures a focused mind.

There is a gamut of skills one learns from new platform such as this. It goes without saying that by using different apps and the features that each offer, one becomes more receptive to new ideas and revolutionary ways of working. Persistence, motivation and independence are some of the many skills honed by online learning. Flexibility and agility working online and offline are imperative when it comes to the needs of future industries.

Conclusively, IR 4.0 spells benefits for education. Seeing how the future evolves, it is paramount that we adapt and follow the path of the digital age. Suffice to say, MCKL has adapted well to align ourselves with this evolution of digital learning.

by **Mikhail Jethwani**

Mikhail is a student from the CAL2001 cohort

ZOOM IN ON DIGITAL LEARNING



HOW MCKL ADAPTED THE FACILITIES EXPERIENCE

The unsung heroes of MCKL

The year 2020 has truly been an unprecedented year for students and many others. In order to fight the spread of COVID-19, movement of staff and students, physical contact and outdoor activities had been kept to a minimum. However, not all was forsaken, as students and staff of MCKL still made the most out of a less than ideal situation.

On the 19th of May, students were invited back to campus in a staggered manner according to programme type and streams during the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO). MCKL had laid out necessary protocols to comply with the standard operating procedures (SOP) determined by the government. To further reduce the risks of possible infection on campus, masks were worn by students and

staff at all times, social distance was adhered to where people had to stand apart by at least 1 meter, sanitisation of common areas such as stair railings, labs, classrooms and the cafeteria were carried out consistently by the cleaning staff. A huge appreciation should be given in acknowledging the efforts of our MCKL cleaning staff for being willing to return and prepare the campus for the returning students and staff.

With the cooperation from dedicated employees and higher management, necessary standard operating procedures were implemented and followed through. The series of stories that follow highlight and give credit to each team that played a part in ensuring this occurred smoothly.



Here's a glimpse of our favorite uncle and aunties at work. From left: Madam Rajes, Mr Chan, Madam Tan.

O365 training was given to all staff in the days leading up to the MCO announcement

The Cleaning Staff

Cleanliness is something we enjoy and value , yet little do we realise the heroes who tirelessly work behind the scenes to keep everything clean, tidy and well sanitised over the past couple of months.

Often, the effort of cleaners in Malaysia are overlooked and underappreciated by society. We tend to take cleanliness for granted while day in day out, these people are working hard to ensure the surroundings are clean and comfortable for all to enjoy.

Moreover, when students and staff were allowed to return to campus during Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO), the cleaning staff consisting of Madam Tan, Madam Rajes, Mr Chan and the rest of the cleaning staff, ensured that all the facilities, classrooms and communal areas were constantly sanitised to meet COVID-19 standard operating procedures.

Thanks to these dedicated staff, MCKL was a safer space for students to resume their education and for staff to do their jobs.

The ICT Staff

When technology integrates into the curriculum, the learning process revolutionises. More and more research shows that the integration of technology in the curriculum improves students’ learning process and outcomes. Lecturers who recognise technology and computers as problem-solving tools change the way they teach. Studies show that students are more engaged in their learning through the application of these powerful tools. Naturally, lecturers will adopt a more constructivist approach to create an effective online teaching and learning experience.

Since the beginning of 2020, MCKL made its journey to ensure the lecturers were well-versed digitally to facilitate smoother online teaching and learning experience, in anticipation of tight measures set in stone when COVID-19 first hit Malaysia. On the other hand, the Wi-Fi connection on campus was expanded and upgraded for students to have a more seamless connection to the internet upon their return to campus.

Besides the teaching staff who have put a lot of effort into teaching online, we are also grateful to all non-teaching staff who have continued plodding on in making sure that the college continues to operate in such trying times, whether online or face to face.

Finally, following the standard operating procedures laid out by the government, the Methodist Council of Education sponsored MCKL with temperature scanners, placed at the entrance where students and staff are required to scan themselves before entering the campus. MCKL is fortunate to have a dedicated IT department who were able to provide support both on and off-campus, tirelessly supporting students and staff alike throughout the year.



Mr David



Mr Boon How



Mr Manian



Mr Nathan



Mr Afnan



Mr Terence



Mr Patrick



Mr Asbi



Mr Hossen



Mr Monnan

Many thanks to our facilities and ICT staff!



Mr Chan



Mdm Tan



Mdm Rajes



Kak Mina



Kak Yati



Kak Fifin



Kak Rowiyeh



Ms Ruth



Kak Mila

MCKL Accommodations Stories (Our perspective)

MCKL provides accommodations to our students who require a place to stay, a place that is comfortable, convenient and conducive to studying. This also provides our students with a unique experience of being home away from home. From learning to be independent, to organising communal meals, to living with fellow students, our accommodations students learn how to survive while being apart from their families.

Scott Villa, Scott Sentral and 633 Residency are located within walking distance from MCKL. For the past 10 and a half years, Mr Roland Chan has dedicated his time and effort to managing the well-being of our students, accommodation maintenance, and providing accommodation tours to families.

In 2020, an estimated 120 MCKL-ians occupied the accommodations in the 3 mentioned condominiums. On the 18th of March 2020 the Malaysian government imposed a national Movement Control Order (MCO) due to the pandemic. Parents of students who were living in our accommodations were getting worried on matters such as distance, sufficient resources, food, and the overall safety of their children.

When the Movement Control Order took effect, most of the students living in our accommodations managed to return home before the lockdown. However, about 30 of our accommodations students chose to stay back in the 3 condominiums.

According to the SOP laid by the government, MCKL strongly advised our students not to leave their accommodation for any unnecessary purposes. Mr Roland and the rest of the wardens managed to maintain a close-knit relationship with the students via whatsapp groups.


When the MCO was imposed, most of our students rushed back to their hometown without taking most of their belongings including books and other learning resources. When it became obvious that the MCO was going to be extended longer than expected, and classes and even exams would continue online, many students found that they did not have their learning resources. Several of these students appealed to Mr Roland to assist by couriering certain books to them. Mr Roland went to the rooms of these students and through WhatsApp video identified the books the students needed, collected them, and brought them to the courier office and have them dispatched to the students.

During the MCO, meals were freshly prepared daily, twice a day, for the students and wardens by Ms Wendy from our very own cafeteria. Once the food had been prepared and packed at the MCKL cafeteria, Mr Maniam would then deliver the food to the accommodations. And there Mr Roland managed and distributed the food to the students.

The bond among our students residing in MCKL's accommodations was strengthened during this period because of the shared experiences and the warm interactions as we were looking out for each other.



SSO staff Mr Ben, a MCKL student, and the trusty college vehicle



HOW MCKL ADAPTED THE STUDENT EXAMS EXPERIENCE

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit worldwide, all sectors were affected in varying degrees. However, an area that is highly essential for our students, yet undermined and easily over-looked was the International Examinations. With many countries under lockdown, physical examinations could not take place as scheduled, notably the May/June series of Cambridge A Levels that was cancelled worldwide. However, students who were in their final semester still needed their final grades as to not delay their entry into universities (usually September/October of the year for UK universities).

The examinations unit of MCKL were kept up night and day during this period, as they juggled to communicate clearly between the Cambridge Assessment for International Examinations (CAIE) regional board, lecturers, confused students and parents. No one was to blame for the situation as no one was prepared for a pandemic, and the examinations unit sympathized with students who were personally affected as it was an emotionally trying time. The team (including lecturers in the A Level department and the examinations unit) went through a rigorous predicted grade exercise to reflect student grades as accurately as possible, and these were submitted to CAIE in early June 2020. However, when the final grades were released, the results were less than satisfactory. The results had gone through a worldwide algorithm that had been set in place by CAIE. There were many tears, even expressions of anger directed towards the team, but they persevered through it all. One examinations unit officer said, "A few things that kept me going: God, the drive to complete a task, and family."

By God's grace, the CAIE board were quick to rectify the situation and they modified their grading system to safeguard more students. Nevertheless, there will still be those who fell through the cracks.

In this season, we realized that unfortunate circumstances may happen, sometimes in a series of cascading events that no one person can fully take the blame for. At MCKL, we learned to place the students' best interest as top priority regardless of the situation. We also learned that when one part of the body hurts, the rest will hurt alongside with it. Other members of the staff



appreciated and recognized the long-suffering work done by the examinations unit. Some personally bought them drinks; a group came together and gifted them a cake as well.

This is why we call the MCKL community, family. We journey together as one. We struggle as one. We may not be perfect living it our, but we do our best, as we continue to hold on to the vision and culture of what MCKL stands for—an Institution of Excellence for Life.



HOW MCKL ADAPTED THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPERIENCE



Life goes on online. Top: Performing Arts & Music Week.
Bottom: Ms Siew Feei's set up for MCKL Live

MCKL Online Student Engagement Sessions was an initiative begun by our CEO, Ms Angela Pok, when the College was closed as a result of the Movement Control Order (MCO). The overarching idea of the Engagement Sessions was to keep the students engaged beyond the academic environment during the MCO period.

The engagement session was also known as “MCKL Live” and it was held every Tuesday and Friday, from 5pm to 6pm at the Student Portal on Microsoft Teams. There were two seasons—MCKL Live 1 was held from the end of May to June, pioneered by my former manager, Mr Yoshua Chua. Upon his resignation, I took over for MCKL Live 2 from July to August.

The style of engagement was, like how we Malaysians put it, ‘same same but different’. Both seasons featured a weekly theme and a cumulative points system. The differences are the reward systems and engagement style.

Season 1 was hosted by Mr Yoshua, He invited participations from the ground while giving out a grand prize on a weekly basis, with a total of 5 grand prizes up for grabs.

On the other hand, for Season 2, the Student Representative Council and Clubs & Societies were mobilized to engage their peers, therefore making it a student-run activity. Rewards were packaged as a weekly “Spin to Win” for students to win a prize if they accumulated enough points. The top 5 scorers would be announced and entitled to one spin each. Prizes included various gift vouchers from Popular Bookshop, Touch ‘n Go, Haagen Dazs, Uniqlo, Harvey Norman, Decathlon, MCKL hoodies and many more. The value of these gifts were between RM50 to RM100. The top 3 Grand Prizes were a Samsung Galaxy Tab, a cash prize and Apple AirPods. These grand prizes were given out at the season finale in August.

Topics or activities held during MCKL Live included an e-Sports Week led by the e-Sport Club, Back to Nature and Remote First Aid collaborated by the Hiking Club and Pre-Medical Professions Society, and Performing Arts & Music Week which was a collaboration between the Performing Arts and Music Society. In conjunction with Physical Sports Week, we had the Sports Clubs organize a virtual marathon as well as invited guest speakers from the Malaysian Olympism in Action Community (MOiAC) to share awareness and insights on Olympism—sports as a way of life. During Merdeka Month, we had a “Love Malaysia” themed week, for students to show their spirit of patriotism and love for Malaysia. Towards the last two sessions, we invited successful professional to share on “Planning-Start-Young” and “Career Exploration”.

The students who were engaged throughout the journey of MCKL Live had so much fun through the interactive activities and winning prizes despite the challenges and stress. It gives me joy seeing the students interact and engage with one another online amidst the pandemic. The planning and coordinating that went into MCKL Live are not a joke but it is worth it as I reaped the fruits of what was sown in the form of a newfound sense of fulfillment and satisfaction by investing and developing the students beyond academics.

 **by Lee Siew Feei**

Siew Feei is currently a staff in MCKL Student Services Office

MINING NEW POSSIBILITIES

You cannot look at this and not wonder at what detailed effort that was put into creating it. This whole venture took 7 builders two months to recreate what you see in the photo above (And you have yet to see the interior!).

Minecraft is a 3D sandbox game where structures can be recreated with your desired designs and a plethora of items and blocks to go along with it. Apparently MCKL was not the first college to be built in the Minecraft universe as other colleges such as Sunway and Monash already had their buildings recreated on Minecraft. MCKL student from the 1807 cohort, Mithiran Sethu, who loved the game decided to hop on the bandwagon being inspired by the possibility of such structures that could be build through teamwork.

What made it possible? COVID-19.

Most Malaysian students had to be quarantined at home according to the Movement Control Order (MCO) issued by the government. This was the perfect opportunity for Mithiran's dream to become a reality. This started a movement that gathered Minecraft builders all the way from CAL1207 to DECE2008. "The idea just took off," one of the builders commented.

However, the task proved to be arduous and was not free either. It took money to maintain the server so that the builders could continue building. Sometimes a table or a

chair took hours for the team to get a consensus because they wanted to give as they described it, 'a crème de la crème' for all viewers and potential future MCKL-ians. What was meant to be a leisure activity became a platform where friendships were made, as the builders has a common identity and were expressing their love for the College through their creative side. The cool thing now is that other players can join the server and have a virtual campus tour to get the rough idea of what MCKL would look like in real life. It was certainly a phenomenal experience seeing MCKL created with such attention to details.

One source even suggested that a virtual MCKL can create possibilities like online graduation ceremonies (Imagine that!), 3D campus tours, and online community engagements through Minecraft. All this could be a foretaste of what can be achieved and we are glad to see this endeavour succeed. The server has since been closed as it was pricey to maintain but the experience was priceless.

Video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8Qk_hg-VCQ
or search "MCKL but its in Minecraft"

Credits to our Minecraft builders:

SmithSeth (Founder), DeathSt4r, Clarin3t, SongYi, Billy, eTangent, VincentLUMCFan



The uncanny resemblance! Left: The 18:18 mark of "MCKL but its in Minecraft" video. Right: a view of MCKL dated back in 2019.



In Conclusion...

There is no doubt that COVID-19 threw a wrench in the norm that we have grown accustomed to. We were reminded of things we often take for granted. 8am classes students would often dread, a noisy classroom that teachers would normally find overwhelming, a busy cafeteria filled to the brim at lunch time with lines that never end, things that look like an inconvenience at a glance that we now regard as blessings in disguise.

While physical separation in theory could potentially cause a community to grow apart, our college was intentional about steering the ship forward with everyone on board. As seen through all the stories told thus far, it was not by the effort of one person or one department or one programme but by the measure of the entire MCKL community as a whole.

Random acts of kindness from rallying together to honour our cleaners financially as a token of appreciation, lecturers playing their part in ensuring their students remained motivated and encouraged, to a college-wide initiative involving staff, students both current and alumni, to pray a prayer of blessing over the college through recording a MCKL version of the worship song 'The Blessing', showcased the community staying true to our core values, honouring God and each other in the process.

Even as we look forward to better days ahead, we look back with gratitude and thanksgiving for all the hardships and triumphs that we've been through in this season, knowing for sure that a situation that could have set us many steps back has now launched us twice as many steps forward.

Above: A screenshot of "The Blessing" video. MCKL Blessing video can be found at <https://youtu.be/vd1nKc5Qi6Y> or search "The Blessing MCKL"

...HOW COVID-19 BROUGHT US TOGETHER

GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN IT IS PRESENTED!



Wilfred Ang
CAL1707

With exceptional results in the Bible Knowledge Quiz, Wilfred Ang was offered a scholarship prior to completing his SPM to study at MCKL. Coming from a Methodist school and having heard stories from seniors about MCKL's reputation as a well-known higher education institution, Wilfred could envision his next step after graduating from high school.

"There is a quote from MCKL that I really like and hold fast to which was 'Excellence for Life'. I think knowing that all students who study in MCKL strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives, also helped me strive for excellence in my own life and in whatever I do."

Upon leaving MCKL, Wilfred is currently pursuing his second year of university, reading Economics at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. He received the Bank Negara Undergraduate Scholarship by securing 4A*s in his Cambridge A Level examination.

YOU ARE MUCH MORE CAPABLE THAN YOU THINK!

Strong leadership qualities, active participation in extra-curricular activities and outstanding results were requirements met by Lye Jian Yi, such that he was awarded with the ASEAN Undergraduate scholarship to study Computer Science at Singapore Management University.

Aside from his classes, Jian Yi participated as Logistics Coordinator of MCKL's A Levels student union. Through his involvement in activities outside of classes organized by societies and clubs, Jian Yi was able to pick up many useful soft skills that allowed him to enhance his ability to work well in teams and have a broader understanding of different perspectives.

"I chose to enrol in MCKL as it has a solid reputation for producing students of high calibre and preparing them well for university. My time in MCKL was probably the most holistic one and a half years of school I've ever had. I enjoyed a good balance of studying, participation in extra-curricular activities and having fun with friends I made in college."—Lye Jian Yi CAL1801



Lye Jian Yi
CAL1801



Jillian Tai
AUSM1901

SHAPE YOUR OWN FUTURE!

For Jillian Tai Ju-En, being a champion is not about being better than everyone else, but it is all about the spirit. Whether it's pursuing her passion at the global top 1% university or emerging with her frisbee team as Pool B Champions at the Malaysia University Ultimate Championships in 2019, it was her determination to take challenges head-on and bounce back on her feet each time she failed, that made it possible.

While facing the struggles common to any pre-university student, Jillian saw her studies as an opportunity. With that mindset, Jillian achieved an ATAR of 97.85%, making her MCKL's top scorer for 2019. Outside of her classes, she took advantage of the campus' prominent sports field to play ultimate frisbee with "The Mutants"—MCKL's vivacious student frisbee team.

It was the same spirit of openness and resilience that inspired her to study physiotherapy at Curtin University Australia.

"I choose MCKL for their comfortable and distraction-free spaces, capable lecturers who are willing to engage students during classes and with homework. I no longer have to spend extra on private tuition." – Jillian Tai Ju-En
AUSM1901

PAYING IT FORWARD

"TAKE SERVICE LEARNING SERIOUSLY!" said Yek Ren Yew, when asked what he would advise MCKL students.

Like most MCKL freshies, he tut-tutted at the thought of having to fulfil 20 hours of community work to pass the service-learning subject. Furthermore, as a Special Scholarship recipient at MCKL, it was compulsory for him to pass this subject. Although he started doing something for the sake of doing it, Ren Yew found that he enjoyed doing community work so much that he racked up 40 hours of work, without realizing it. Little did he know, these 40 hours would help him stand out in his application for a degree scholarship.

Ren Yew applied for a scholarship from the YTL (Yeoh Tiong Lay) Foundation in hopes that it would help ease his family's financial burdens. He made it through every stage of interviews, ousting over 100 candidates and finally became a proud recipient of a YTL scholarship with a guaranteed job in YTL Corporation after he graduates. Ren Yew achieved ATAR 90.75 in his AUSMAT and is the first of four siblings to do a degree. He is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.



Yek Ren Yew
AUSM1901

MCKL STUDENT HACK

TIME MANAGEMENT

As students embark on their tertiary education after high school, they are expected to have time management skills. A college style education is determined with a combination of traditional classroom experience, academicians and a relatively flexible schedule. Students are expected to be independent in how they manage their educational and personal timetable. Everyone is given 24 hours a day, the difference of the result or outcome each person obtains depends on what they choose to do with their 24 hours. As many have advised, timetabling is the most effective method to manage your time well and identify your priorities.



Goal setting

Long term and short term



Set times to block out social media

Avoid distractions



Reward achievement

Set milestone rewards for achieving your goals



Set time limits

Key to time management



Have a clock nearby

Be aware, time stops for no one



Master schedule

Use a calendar and set reminders

CONGRATULATIONS TO MCKL ALUMNI GAINING

2:1

RATIO OF SCIENCE STUDENTS VS ARTS STUDENTS

1 IN 6

MCKL- IANS PURSUE THEIR STUDIES IN MALAYSIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

30%

STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES IN THE UK

28%

MCKL- IANS CHOOSE ENGINEERING

3 IN 20

SCIENCE STUDENTS PURSUE MEDICINE

1 IN 6

HUMANITIES STUDENTS PURSUE LAW

US

Top universities in US attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

Purdue University
University of Michigan
Wesleyan University

UK

Top universities in UK attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

Imperial College London
University College London
London School of Economics and Political Science

DE IE

Top universities in Germany & Ireland attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

RWTH Aachen University DE
Technical University of Berlin DE
University College Dublin IE

HK

Top universities in Hong Kong attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

The University of Hong Kong
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

MCKL ALUMNI

LAWRENCE LEROY CHIENG TZE YAO
ALI BIN AZMI
ONG RUIJIE
KAZI FARDINUL HOQUE
TAN TAI LON
KENNY LOO KAH KIN
LIM ZI YANG
LYE JIAN YI
REBECCA CHUNG RU BYN
SIEW HUI ZHUAN
TANG YI QWAN
YEW JIA REN
BRANDON TAY JIAN WEI
CHIEW LIK SENG
CHO NA KYUNG
GIAM KUN YUE

SCHOLARSHIP

JPA SCHOLARSHIP
MARA WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES LOAN
BANK NEGARA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
TUITION + ROOM & BOARD
FREEMAN ASIAN SCHOLARSHIP
ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
ASEAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
OCBC SCHOLARSHIP
HKU FULL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
HKU FULL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
HKU HALF ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
BELT & ROAD SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITI MALAYA
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
WABASH COLLEGE
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEGREE

COMPUTER SCIENCE (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)
PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS
ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION
PHYSICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
BIOLOGY
MATERIALS ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
COMPUTER SCIENCE
PHYSICS
COMPUTER SCIENCE
MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTER SCIENCES
ECONOMICS
ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING SCIENCE
QUANTITATIVE FINANCE

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AS THERE ARE MANY MORE EQUALLY EXCELLENT MCKL ALUMNI

ADMISSION TO TOP UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE



TOP 3 POPULAR SCIENCE DEGREES AMONG MCKL-IANS IN 2020

ENGINEERING
MEDICINE
COMPUTER SCIENCE

TOP 3 POPULAR HUMANITIES DEGREES AMONG MCKL-IANS IN 2020

FINANCE
ECONOMICS
LAW

5 UNCOMMON DEGREES AMONG MCKL-IANS IN 2020

ARTS & EDUCATION
INFORMATION SYSTEMS
LINGUISTICS
DATA SCIENCE
M.O.R.S.E.

SG

Top universities in Singapore

attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

National University of Singapore
Nanyang Technological University
Singapore Management University

MY

Top public universities in Malaysia

attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

Universiti Malaya
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Universiti Sains Malaysia

KR
JP

Top universities in Korea & Japan

attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

Waseda University JP
Hanyang University KR
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies JP

AU
NZ

Top universities in Australia & New Zealand

attended by MCKL alumni of 2020:

University of Melbourne AU
University of Sydney AU
University of Auckland NZ

MCKL ALUMNI

GRACE YIJIUN-KON
NG KAH HEE
TAN TECK KWANG
TEE CHEE HONG
YAW JALIK
YOO YUEN YAU
CHAN JIAN ZHE
SAMUEL LING ZHI YONG
CHIA JODEE
ELYSA LIM XIN YI
GEOFFREY CHANG WAI ONN
AGNES TOH JIA YUE
HONG YU HENG
NICHOLAS SEAH JUN WEI
KOH JING YAN
TOH PEI YI

SCHOLARSHIP

HKBU FULL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
HKU FULL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
BELT & ROAD SCHOLARSHIP
CUHK FULL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, AU
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AU
TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES, JP
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, IE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, IE
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

UNIVERSITY

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, AU
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AU
TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES, JP
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, IE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, IE
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

DEGREE

ACCOUNTING
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING
GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND FINANCE
ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
ENGINEERING SCIENCE
FINANCE
SCIENCE
MEDICINE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING
FINANCE, ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT
STATISTICAL DATA SCIENCE
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AS THERE ARE MANY MORE EQUALLY EXCELLENT MCKL ALUMNI

MCKL STUDENT HACK

DIGITAL SKILLS

As we look back at the 3 previous Industrial Revolutions, technology advancement and software creation have experienced significant growth. As we move into the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era, individuals are expected to have basic digital understanding and skills.

As one of the key technology trends in the era of digital transformation, the Internet of Things (IoT) is expected to grow even more. According to Statista 2020, "Almost 4.57 billion people were active internet users as of July 2020, encompassing 59 percent of the global population. China, India and the United States rank ahead all other countries in terms of internet users".

Digital learning has become quite popular in the education industry. From full digital courses to blended learning, student have the accessibility and exposure to utilising technology to participate in a new learning experience.



Pick up short digital courses

Be on the lookout for free courses

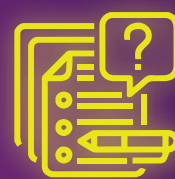
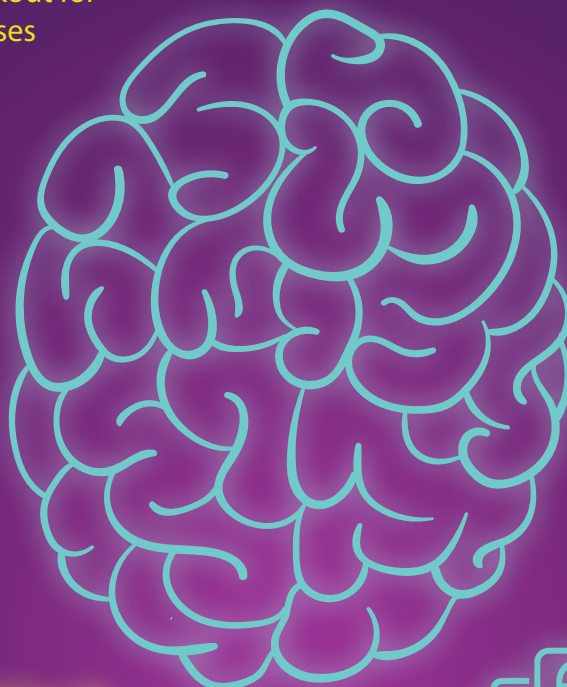


Youtube

Great platform loaded with information

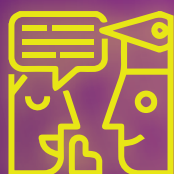


Increase your online presence



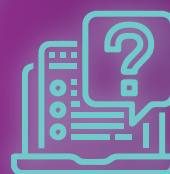
Grammarly

To improve your English



Teaching is learning

When you teach someone, you are basically revising



Google

Great research method

MCKL ACHIEVES PLATINUM STATUS

ACCA Qualification is an international accountancy certification designed to ensure that the members get all the competences and skills needed to work in a wide variety of organizations and work roles. The Platinum status marks the highest standard that a provider can achieve in delivering the ACCA Qualification. The ACCA accountancy programme in MCKL started back in 2014 and has grown in its numbers ever since. We have a team of experienced lecturers which is led by our ACCA Course Advisor, Mr Low Chin Ann.

Our team have been able to provide the ultimate learning experience to students. The efforts and perseverance from students and lecturers, allowed for high achievement with passing rates that surpass the pass rate benchmark set by ACCA. MCKL successfully maintained a track record of exceeding the world pass-rate by achieving at least 75% of the papers in each exam sitting.

In 2020, ACCA@MCKL received Platinum Approved Learning Partner status. This is the highest and most prestigious level of approval, available to learning providers who teach ACCA Qualification. Platinum learning partners are required to meet our global best practice benchmarks relating to the institution and course management, course delivery and student support. Platinum learning partners need to demonstrate student pass rates that exceed global averages for majority of the exams they teach.



Achieving the Platinum status is the result of our supportive community of lecturers and students

What makes Platinum status@MCKL special for students?

Students can expect to receive high quality education and excellent student support in a comfortable and conducive learning environment. Being of Platinum status, means that our lecturers receive regular visits from ACCA to ensure that they are up to date on recent developments in the field and continue to maintain their high standards of education.

The Platinum status was not the goal, rather it is the evidence of a strong community of lecturers and students who support and push one another to achieve greater heights.



Sneha Pediredla
ACCA 1901

Since completing Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) in MCKL, Sneha Pediredla is now pursuing her ACCA course here. When asked, why she chose to continue with MCKL, she replied, "MCKL has an outstanding record of students' academic achievements and the facilities such as classrooms are well equipped to create a conducive learning environment."

"As an international student, I did not experience any discouragement or demotivation during my time at MCKL. The staff on campus are very accommodating to my requests and students are treated fairly."

"MCKL is the best college that I found to pursue my ACCA education. It has outstanding lecturers who are very experienced, friendly and helpful. The culture to strive for excellence in students at MCKL is also a factor to my decision, as it would motivate me to excel in my education too."

—Sneha Pediredla ACCA1901



Cheah Mag Gie
DECE1608

MY EXPERIENCE FROM MCKL TO TRALEE AND COMPLETING MY DEGREE ONLINE!

Mag Gie from DECE1608 began her journey in MCKL on the wrong foot. Initially enrolling for our AUSMAT program, she survived 2 weeks before realising this was not what she wanted. With a heart for education and children, she turned to Dr Grace who was able to provide her with advice and clarity which led her to chase her passion through DECE.

Feeling more settled, she immersed herself into the entire MCKL experience with classes, group work, clubs and societies as well. She especially enjoyed subjects with hands on experience that allowed her to learn how to manage the relevant stakeholders involved in early childhood education—parents, colleagues and most importantly the children. With the foundation that MCKL laid, she then continued her education at Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland.

Her experience in Tralee was nothing short of fulfilling. She was able to gain independence, experience different cultures and pursue her passion made for a wonderful degree experience. Mag Gie especially appreciated how supported international students were in their learning experience, with extra help and attention given to ensuring all the materials and assignments were well understood. Beyond that, she was blessed by the warm community both within the university and in church who became family to her during her time abroad.

While COVID-19 prevented her from completing her entire course physically, she was able to finish strong online with the support of lecturers who still consistently checked in to ensure that she was able to cope with the online classes and assessments. Throughout each stage of her education, Mag Gie was well taken care of by the institutions that contributed to her growth as an individual and as an educator. She has now successfully completed her degree and is on her way to fulfil the next step of her dream!

MY ADVICE TO MY JUNIORS IS...

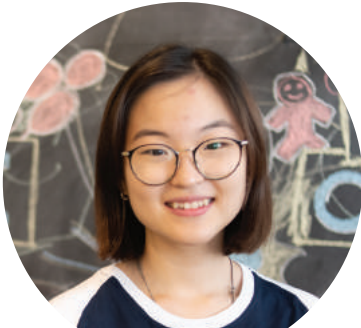
YOU MUST BE *passionate* **TO**
PURSUE THIS FIELD



Sean
DECE1808

SMOOTH SAILING FOR DECE:

We took the perspectives of three students across intakes from 2018 to 2020 on how they coped with the sudden change of teaching and learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While Sean from 1808 and Emily from 1908 were able to experience face to face lessons up till the change to online learning, Angelica from 2004 had to start her course entirely online from the get go. While they come from different cohorts, there is a resounding thumbs up to how the DECE department has adapted to the new normal.

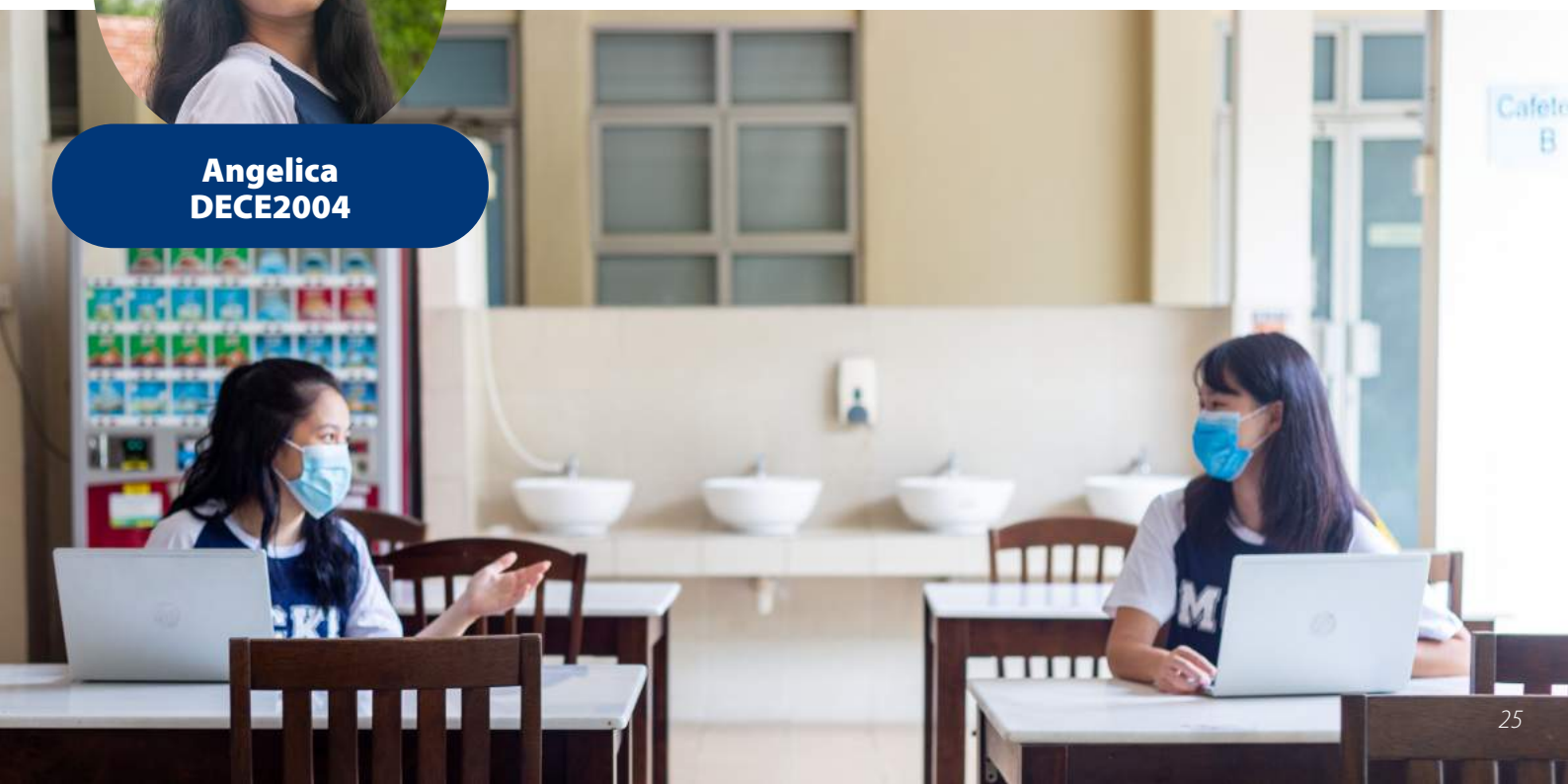


Emily
DECE1908

A key highlight from the students was the huge appreciation towards the teaching staff of DECE. Words like 'responsive', 'supportive', 'friendly' and 'encouraging' were used to describe the lecturers who tirelessly tried to cushion the burden of the sudden transition. While each student felt anxious, sceptical or unsure towards the change, they slowly realised that it was not entirely bad once they got the hang of it. From easy access to documents and lectures on Microsoft Teams, supportive peers who pushed each other through each group work and the ECE union who organised virtual hangout activities where juniors and seniors were able to come together as a community, all these key aspects allowed for pivotal progress to be made in the DECE program. While the future remains uncertain, the DECE program is well positioned to take on obstacles and challenges that lie ahead!



Angelica
DECE2004



WHAT IS SOCIAL WORK?

Social work is an academic discipline underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences and humanities, indigenous knowledge, and a value framework of human rights and social justice.

It is a practice-based profession, focused on engaging with individuals, families, groups, communities, organisations and societies to improve social functioning, address life challenges and enhance well-being.

It is also practised at administrative levels of social development, policy and planning, research and legislation in both government and non-government organisations to manage psychosocial problems and needs of societies. Additionally, social work educators practise in social work education programmes offered by college and university institutions.

Why is it important?

The increasing complexity of modern living poses a myriad of challenges for people in daily living as well as for communities and societies at large. There is a strong need to respond to those challenges with relevant professional knowledge, values and ethical skills and intervention methods to bring about positive outcomes or change in the individual, family, group, community, organisation, and society.

The social work profession embodies competency-based and ethical practice in its education and training of social work practitioners to minimise risks of inappropriate and ineffective services and harm to their clients or service users.

Who can be a social worker?

Having a keen interest in helping people is a favourable start. But it requires more than that to be a professional social worker. Besides acquiring the professional knowledge, values and skills of social work, having personal attributes like being patient and reflective and a good listener with a non-judgemental attitude, accepting of differences and diversity, and open to new learning and experiences, will enhance professional practice.

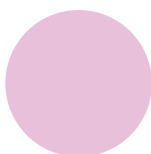
Where can social workers practice?

Professionally trained and qualified social workers are badly needed in child and family welfare, health and mental health services, rehabilitation and remedial programmes, residential care, probation and prison services, human resource management, employee-support programmes in industries, in social work management of government and non-government organisations as well as in the teaching social work.

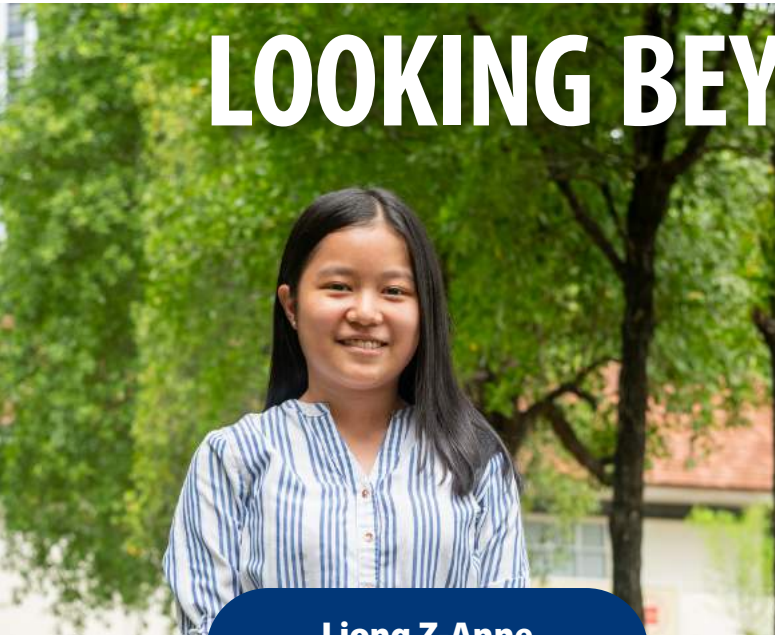
How can one become a professional social worker?

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur is one of the few private institutions that offers the Diploma in Social Work. While initially targeting working adults in government and non-government welfare organisations, it is also being offered to school leavers who have a keen interest to make social work their career.

Entrance to the programme requires three credits at SPM level. The Diploma is recognized as a fully accredited programme by the Malaysian Quality Agency (MQA/FA8500). It provides a pathway for graduates to go on to a bachelor's degree in any of the public universities as well as some international universities.



LOOKING BEYOND THE SELF



Liong Z-Anne
DSW1904

What attracted you to be in the social work field?

My passion is to serve the marginalised communities in Malaysia, especially the minorities like the native Malaysians or better known as Orange Asli, through the social work profession. Serving them looks like empowering them to have sustainable income or advocating for their rights so that they can get better education and job opportunities and to create public awareness so that they will be treated with respect as everyone else.

I came to know about Diploma in Social Work in MCKL through an organisation named "Histeam". At first, I had no idea what Social Work is about, but as I looked further into the programme, I found it interesting.

Diploma in Social Work allows me to be better equipped with professional knowledge, values and skills in supporting others. As a youth, I would say that this course helps me to discover my life purpose and provides me with a clearer future pathway. I believe Social Work makes my life more meaningful because I can work in an area of my interest, serving others and bringing meaningful changes to society.

Where do you aim to be in the social work field?

I intend to be an advocator for the needy especially for the Orang Asli who are close to my heart. Social work plays a great role in many aspects of supporting individuals. We can also influence the government sector in terms of how they create public policies that benefit all citizens of Malaysia regardless of their racial background.

To me justice is about people receiving the basic rights they deserve, like education, job opportunities, the right to be heard and basic necessities like food, water and shelter. Therefore, social justice means being able to support them in fighting for what they deserve.

What is the one thing you wish the public would understand about social work?

Everyone wants to feel that they can contribute to society. Many of us think that good outcomes from social work require you to be compassionate and helpful. But that is not always the case as there are many times when people try to assist with good intentions, but the outcome came out unexpected and negative. Diploma in Social Work gets you that missing link of understanding the appropriate methods of supporting others. Social work is not as much considered as a volunteer job but a profession that contributes to society.

“JUSTICE

is about people receiving the
BASIC RIGHTS
they deserve

”



Annabella Ching
ADTP1504

KNOWING YOUR **WHY** TRANSLATES TO YOUR **HOW AND WHAT**

pt. 1: interview with Annabella Ching

Annabella Ching, graduated from Messiah College (now University) in the States with a double major, Sociology and Anthropology (So-An), and Peace and Conflict Studies while minoring in Marketing. She is now a social worker in ElShaddai in Malaysia helping refugees find a sustainable life in Malaysia.

The question at bay is how does someone make that decision to study overseas for 4 years and then come back to choose an unconventional job that might not have the most lucrative pay and needs a lot of perseverance in dealing with people? The answer is knowing why you do what you do.

“Money is important, but it is not my top priority” That was what she said when placing things into perspective. Ever since she was a kid, she had a heart for people. How? MCKL gave her the priceless experience of knowing what it means to fit in and be part of a supportive and caring community. It was in ADTP that her mind was opened and she fell in love with the humanities. She was able to put that newfound love for humanities into action through Peace and Conflict studies (PACS) provided by Messiah College that champions peace-making and practicing justice from a biblical perspective.

Her ‘why’ has also been solidified. So-An provided the tools to understand people properly while her exposure in the States with refugees alongside with PAC studies, gave her a taste of what it means to serve people whose rights

have been marginalized. This combination of theoretical and practical learning allowed her to reaffirm her ‘why’ which is that life is more than the riches and positions but what you make with your life to impact others.

However, pursuing one's passion does not come without its challenges. Social work by nature is more about giving than receiving. . Not to mention Malaysia's lack of work life balance and self-care. As Annabella describes it, “It is close to none in receiving. So, it is draining.” Nevertheless, she goes on to say that she regains her strength from God and her family. Upon coming back to Malaysia, she was pleasantly surprised that there is an uprising of voices advocating for human rights in her generation which provides a glimmer of hope for our nation.

Annabella's story shows us the importance of knowing our why and living it out in everything we do. Her final words to our readers are a scripture verse she holds dear to her heart, Matthew 5:9 which says “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”, and may she continue to live this out in her days to come.



Linus Chin
ADTP1408

pt. 2: interview with Linus Chin

Over half a decade ago, Linus Chin came from Ipoh to study ADTP@MCKL because he had heard testimonies of MCKL's friendly and safe environment. When asked about highlights of his time in MCKL, Linus didn't hesitate to say, "the people!" Programme heads, lecturers and classmates alike were found to be so welcoming and open to having real conversations. It is in these conversations and times that he was given the freedom and opportunity to grow as a person. Linus accredits his off-the-beaten-path approach to his serving in the Christian Fellowship and being part of the first batch of ADTP. He said that these experiences gave him the courage to be a pioneer, taking the road less travelled by.

This leads us to where Linus is today. As a graduate of Messiah College (now University) with a BA in Psychology with Human Development and Family Science minor—Linus is currently working as a Community Development Intern for Yayasan Kajian dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (YKPM), a NGO that works closely with Orang Asli (OA) communities, encouraging OA development and growth, particularly in social and economic sectors. YKPM seeks to equip OA communities to grow and gain skills to be self-sustaining and competitive in the agricultural market, through the usage of a fair economic model that imparts value to each member of the production chain. In Linus' role, he assists in various agricultural projects and also seeks to streamline the farming process along the way.

Throughout his life, in volunteer programmes in OA communities, in MCKL and in Messiah College, Linus has grown in realising the need to learn, understand and listen to various OA communities as they are crucial to the development of Malaysia, as a whole. This is why, upon arrival back in Malaysia, Linus sought to find an opportunity to push for development for those who may not have much of a voice.

His advice? "Be courageous and try new things! Don't let bad experiences stop you from trying as many things as possible because even these experiences are building blocks that help you understand who you are as a person and enable you to put yourself in someone else's shoes. ADTP helps you to do just that! There's room to experiment and do new things! ADTP truly helped me to forge my own path, the one less travelled by."



20 THINGS MCKL DID IN 2020

Since the passing of the baton from Ms Moey to Ms Angela, a 5-year strategy was designed to bring MCKL to the next level in the education industry. This strategy discussed our vision of what it means to be an Institution of Excellence for Life. We are pleased to share that within the first year, we have accomplished many things from our strategic plan.

All of these accomplishments were achieved through the cooperation of all in MCKL, thus we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the part they played. This list on the right is just the beginning of some of our successes and the list highlighted in the following pages is just a glimpse of what is to come.



FACILITIES

- ✓ MCKL received an approval to establish a branch campus in Penang
- ✓ 1 new micro studio retrofitted to allow lecturers to conduct synchronous and asynchronous teaching
- ✓ 2 new "smart"/TEAL (Technology Enhanced Active Learning) classrooms to be completed by end of 2020
- ✓ 1 Pitstop: Centre for staff and student wellbeing



ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ✓ 96% adoption rate for online teaching and learning on Microsoft Teams and Microsoft 365
- ✓ Internal semester assessments and examinations were conducted and proctored entirely online
- ✓ 1 Student Portal, 1 Staff Portal, 1 Parent Portal



NEW PROGRAMMES

- ✓ 2 new diploma programmes: Data Science and Internet of Things
- ✓ 10 new microcredential courses
- ✓ 11 ICDL courses offered by Digital Education Unit
- ✓ 1 CICTL course successfully ran in international school



STAFF UPSKILLING

- ✓ 43 (and more) training programmes designed and created to improve and enhance pedagogical skills for academics
- ✓ 50 staff underwent ICDL course as upskilling



FURTHER STUDIES

- ✓ 10 DECE students furthered their studies overseas
- ✓ 8 ADTP students successfully transferred to the US
- ✓ 97 CAL and AUSMAT students furthered their studies overseas



SERVICE PROJECTS

- ✓ More than 45 student service projects were launched online
- ✓ Giving online classes was the most popular form of service project



AWARDS

- ✓ ACCA@MCKL achieved Platinum status
- ✓ 1 student achieved ACCA Top Winner in Malaysia

TO GOD BE ALL GLORY!

Whole Person Education

In efforts to make MCKL an Institution of Excellence for Life, the Whole Person Education Department (WPED) was established. WPED possesses multiple key thrusts within the DNA of MCKL. We focus on life-long learning, transformative teaching, and digital support services, preparing our students for future education and for life.

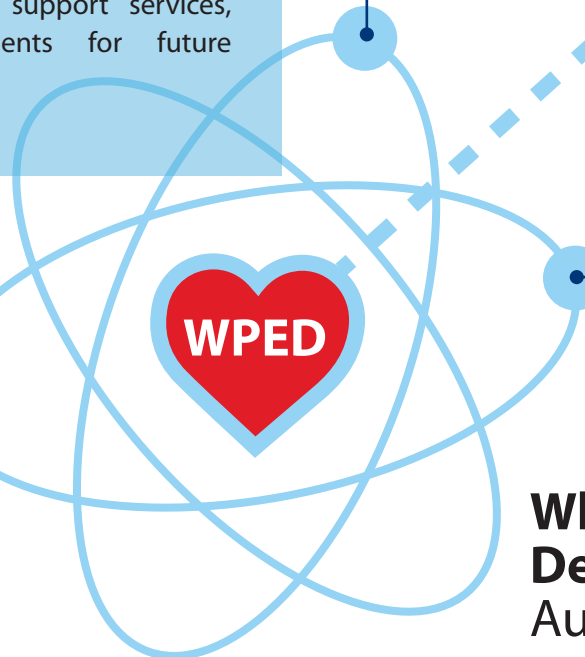
1
Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU) unit

2
Digital Education Unit (DEU)



- Life-long Learning
- Transformative Teaching
- Digital Skills Services

3
Sustainable Development Projects (SDP)



Whole Person Education Department (WPED): Authentic Growth for Life

1 Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU) unit

The Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU) unit naturally comes under WPED. MPU strives to achieve our government’s mandates directed at growing civic-minded Malaysians, which closely aligns with MCKL’s ten core values. This unit puts in continuous effort towards developing each individual’s potential. Thus, the students that undergo MPU become Malaysians who are knowledgeable, skilled, and capable of achieving personal well-being while contributing to the growth of Malaysia.

2 Digital Education Unit (DEU)

We also have the Digital Education Unit (DEU) which provides crucial digital literacy skills, which are essential in a ubiquitously digitalised world, with new paradigms of work emerging. MCKL is one of the 12 Accredited Test Centres (ATCs) that offers the International Certification of Digital Literacy (ICDL) programme in Malaysia. DEU offers Digital Skill Workshops and ICDL modules such as Spreadsheets, Data Analytics, Information Literacy, and Cyber Security.

3 Sustainable Development Projects (SDP)

The final cog of WPED are our Sustainable Development Projects (SDP). This is a platform to grow projects within MCKL aimed at student growth. Currently we have:



Matters of the Heart

A programme that students undergo to have a better gauge on their identity in today's individualistic society. The programme simultaneously proposes a relational model for growth.



Café+

A place where students can learn how to make coffee while learning the intricacies of the café business, all the way from coffee production to customer service.



The Growth Game Whole Person podcast

A platform where hard topics like burn out, anxiety, and growth are discussed in a safe space aimed to create a community that has healthy conversations that allow proper growth for students.

All in all, WPED's tagline—Authentic Growth for Life—is in line with MCKL's mission statement, 'To nurture a community where excellence, in all its forms, is celebrated; and where individuals come alive to their God-given ability to make a unique difference in the world.'

A Quick Guide to the Vision, Mission and Values of MCKL

Vision

The Institution of Excellence for Life

Mission

To nurture a community where excellence, in all its forms, is celebrated; and where individuals come alive to their God-given ability to make a unique difference in the world.

Ten Core Values

Loving God



Loving Others



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS BECAUSE YOU MATTER!

'I am not feeling well today; I am going to the doctor', this is our natural instinct when we are physically unwell. When it comes to mental health though, the reality of our response is far from what it is meant to be. When someone comes to you saying, 'I am feeling down', 'I am not in the mood to do anything', thoughts like, 'it's all in your mind', 'the person is weak or seeking for attention' may creep in, not because we don't care, but as a result of the stigma about mental health ingrained in our culture.

The struggle and impact of mental health is real. Just as physical illness can prevent us from functioning at our full capacity, mental health affects us not only in both psychological and emotional aspects but our physical wellbeing as well. At MCKL, we care about the mental health and wellbeing of our community and are intentional about building a supportive and accepting community, providing a safe space for staff and students alike. This is where the Counselling Services Centre (CSC) at MCKL steps in. The CSC, headed by Ms. Joann Toh, was established to provide professional mental health services in a safe and welcoming environment that promotes the psychological and emotional wellbeing of students, empowering them to reach their full potential.

One key initiative by the CSC was a collaboration between MCKL and the Ministry of Health in providing a full day of training to all staff on Mental Health and Psychological First Aid that

covered basic attending and listening skills, educating the staff on how to identify at risk students and how we can extend our support effectively.

As part of a holistic approach to student wellbeing, the CSC also recognized the need of having a place that serves as a healthy stress release outlet—a place where students can rest and relax, recharge and connect with peers. Hence another initiative was born. The MCKL Pit Stop is a physical space designed as a conducive environment where students can rest, recharge and be connected with their peer supporter as part of the Peer Support Group (PSG) initiative. The PSG is an initiative geared towards building a supportive environment where a group of trained students provide support to their peers by lending an ear and connecting them to the right help when needed. While COVID-19 has prevented this initiative from taking off entirely according to what CSC envisioned, they still made sure to have measures in place to safeguard the mental wellbeing of staff and students throughout this period.



Top left: MCKL Pit Stop. Top right: Pit Stop Opening Ceremony. Bottom: MCKL Pit Stop interior.



Top: Mental Health First Aid Training for staff
Bottom: Joann with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Team

Ms Joann Toh, MCKL's Head of Counselling was part of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Team, Crisis Preparedness Response Centre (CPRC), Ministry of Health Malaysia and Talian Kasih, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia during the COVID-19 Pandemic providing mental health support and counselling services to the public. Downscaling her experience with the CPRC to MCKL, the CSC made sure that counselling support services were provided online for all student and staff as part of the initiative to make services conveniently accessible to all. They also sent out materials to staff on practical tools to practice selfcare in this period of isolation and added stress.

While this year has been an unprecedented one, the CSC is well positioned to strengthen their existing initiatives while continuing their efforts in creating awareness regarding the importance of mental health and educating staff and students on practical ways to take good care of our minds in the same manner as we care for our bodies. Together, we all play a part in breaking the stigma of mental health.



by Joann Toh

Joann is the Head of Counselling, MCKL



TEACHING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO TEACH

In line with MCKL's vision to be an "Institution of Excellence for Life" with its key thrust in life-long learning, a new unit was established in May 2020, known as the Centre for Professional Development (CPD). Through the different short programs, modules, courses and certifications offered, this Centre endeavours to meet the changing needs of the 21st century workforce.

One course offered by MCKL's CPD is a programme designed to help in-service teachers develop their professional thinking and practice. This programme known as Cambridge International Certificate in Teaching and Learning (CICTL) is for practising teachers, focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in the key aspects of teaching and learning. CICTL is a Cambridge Professional Development Qualification (PDQ) offered under the umbrella of Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and is benchmarked to the Framework for Higher Educational Qualifications (FHEQ) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to Level 4.

CICTL's guided learning sessions have typically been offered on-site (on MCKL's ground). However, in August, to cater to the challenges that arose due to the pandemic, for the very first time, sessions were carried out online over Microsoft Teams. While the learning experience for online sessions differs from a face-to-face session, participants who enrolled in the August online intake found the sessions equally engaging and the programme rewarding.

Apart from that, in September 2020, MCKL was also given the opportunity to engage teachers from Tzu Chi International School, Kuala Lumpur. 19 teachers and 4 mentors (heads of school) from the school successfully underwent 3 days of CICTL guided learning sessions. Though intense, the teachers found the sessions helpful and enriching. The entire process of CICTL runs for 4 months and candidates are assessed by Cambridge International examiners through an e-portfolio of evidence. In MCKL, it is our hope that this programme will not only benefit teachers—in improving their practice, but also our learners and their learning.

by Yee Weng Yan

Weng Yan is Coordinator, Cambridge PDQ programme in MCKL



Asia Pacific Student Services Association known as (APSSA), is an international network of student affairs professionals in tertiary education who seek to provide positive student experiences that enhance student learning. Our own CEO, Ms Angela, was the President of APSSA for the term of 2018 -2020. This year, APSSA decided that MCKL would digitally host their international forum.

This event boasted over 200 participants from 16 countries and 287 institutions. 8 panelists from different countries across the Asia Pacific region, were invited to share their experiences of student services during the pandemic.

It was wonderful to hear Professor Wu from Wuhan share on how his institution responded to the pandemic and what was implemented for the safety and health of students as soon as COVID-19 was reported. It was interesting to learn from them as they were the initial area to be affected by the virus.

Beyond that, this webinar was an eye-opening session for everyone who participated as panelists from China, Japan, Australia, Philippines and more shared their experiences on how they managed the challenges from the pandemic and turned them into opportunities.

This is the first conference-like webinar we have hosted as an institution. In normal circumstances, MCKL may not have been able to host such an auspicious event due to the limitations of a physical campus. Therefore, the ability to host on Zoom, enabled us to play an integral role, contributing to the execution of the event. Various individuals such as, but not limited to, Joshua Johnson and Howard Ngai were indispensable to the running of the conference.

In conclusion, MCKL is thankful for the exposure gained in hosting this international event. Hopefully in the future, MCKL will be able to be a part of more events such as these.

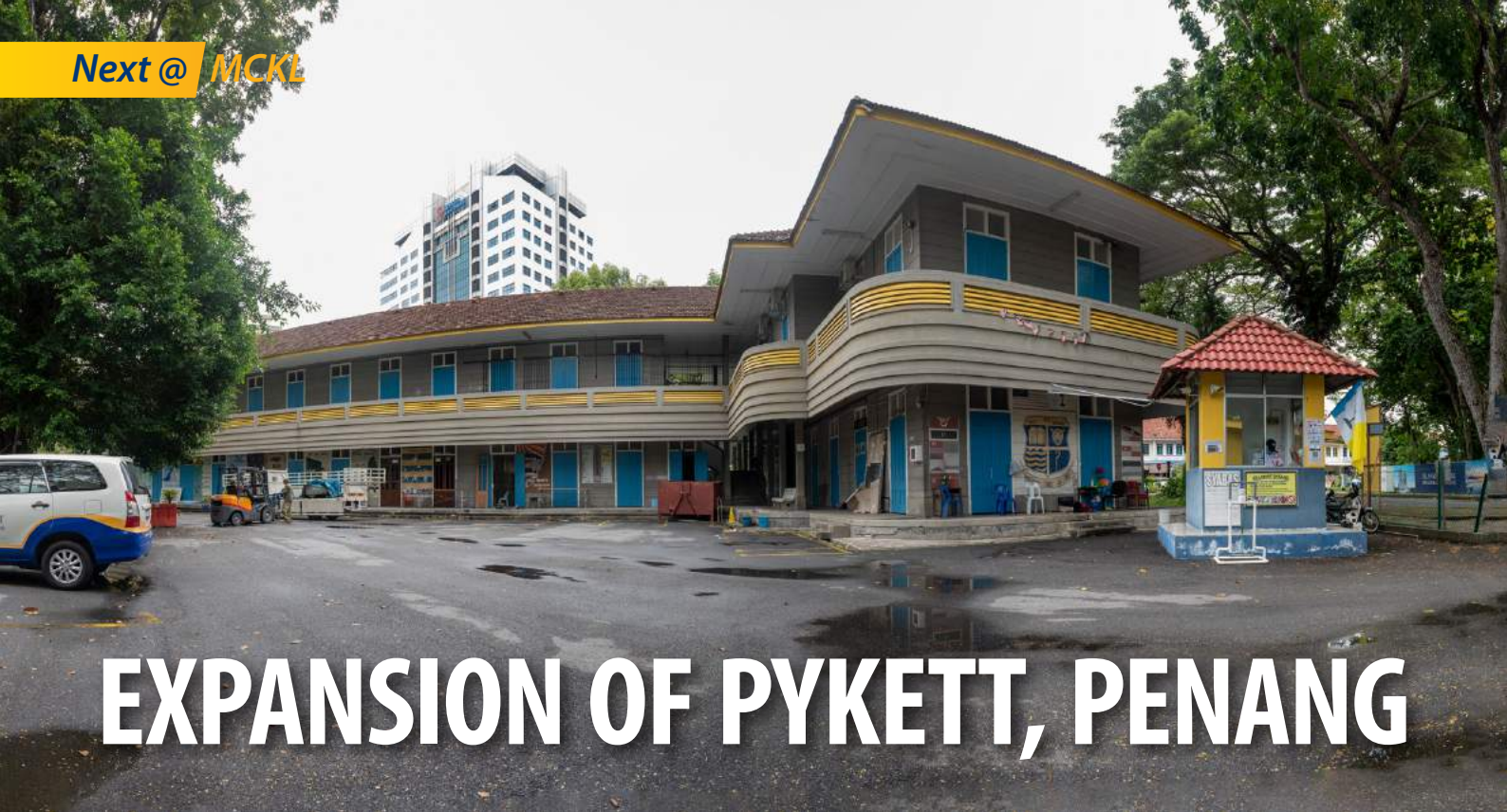


Top left: The panelists for APSSA webinar. Top right: CEO Angela gave her keynote speech. Left: MCKL event team hosted the conference

THE BEST IS YET TO COME —UPGRADING IN PROCESS!

When MCKL was established, it was with the intention to bring quality and affordable higher education here in Malaysia. To many parents and students, it is also the place for an education in the best of Methodist tradition and ethos. Looking back on our past achievements and experience, we know that all these things were only possible through God's provision and the dedicated effort of our staff. We acknowledge that as we march on for more.

This coming year, we are excited to share the news that we are expanding! Whether it is the establishment of a new campus or the launching of new programmes, we believe that the time is ripe to expand and share the goodness of Methodist higher education to more people and places.



EXPANSION OF PYKETT, PENANG

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) will be expanding to Penang in 2021. It will establish its first branch campus—MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) to be located at the former Pykett Methodist Primary School grounds, a four acres site at Lebuhraya Pykett in Georgetown, Penang.

MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) will be offering the widely recognized Cambridge A Level, the Western Australia Certificate of Education (WACE) Australian Matriculation programme and its homegrown Diploma in Early Childhood Education. It is also planning to introduce four new diploma programmes—in Data Science, Internet of Things, e-Commerce, Digital Marketing—and continuing professional development courses relevant to the IR 4.0 marketplace.

The expansion of MCKL to Penang, Pykett Campus is in line with the Strategic Growth Plan 2020-2025 of the College.

The opening of the new branch campus at Pykett, Penang has been approved by the Ministry of Higher Education. Planning and design of the renovation and restoration of Pykett school buildings were carried out in the early part of the year and physical development started in September 2020. The renovation works have been designed to preserve the character and structure of the school's historic building. When completed it will provide full-fledged college facilities to become the new Penang, Pykett Campus.

Inaugural intake of students is planned for August 2021. The vision of MCKL is to provide more higher education opportunities and alternative pathways for secondary school leavers and adult learners in Penang and the northern region. Students will be getting similar holistic education in the best of Methodist tradition and ethos as students in the main campus, which has been established since 1983 in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.



FUTURE EDUCATION AT MCKL

“Future Education” is one of the key thrusts in the MCKL Strategic Plan 2020-2025. This is in line with the many emerging professions in the labour market as a result of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0). The seven emerging professional clusters reported in Jobs of Tomorrow by World Economic Forum (WEF) are:

- Data and AI,
- Engineering and Cloud Computing
- People and Culture
- Product Development
- Sales, Marketing and Content
- Care Economy
- Green Economy

Therefore, the College Programme Development Committee has set up various task force to conduct feasibility studies of offering new programmes in the future. In fact, MCKL has received approval from Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) to launch two new Diploma programmes in 2021.

The Diploma in Computer Science, specialising in Data Science will provide opportunities for students to acquire broad-based knowledge and practical skills in Programming and Big Data. Besides, students can master the Internet of Thing—embedded systems, wireless sensor networks and automation—in various industries, through the studies of Diploma in Information Technology. MCKL targets to have 10

new, MQA fully accredited, in-demand, homegrown programmes by the year 2025.

In the same report by the WEF, the ability to use the Microsoft Productivity Suites alongside industry-specific applications of technology such as Web Design, Online Marketing and Social Media is reported as one of the important skills clusters across all emerging professions. Hence, through the College Digital Education Unit, MCKL students can acquire certification in future-oriented digital skills through the International Certification of Digital Literacy(ICDL). Besides, Amazon Web Services (AWS) Academy will also certify our students as Cloud Practitioners.

By embracing the changes in future education, as The Institution of Excellence for Life, MCKL continues to place emphasis in character building and leadership development of students. The Whole Person Education Department will strengthen the Service-Learning course to instil MCKL’s DNA, as well as other future developments that are already in the pipeline. In short, MCKL is committed to assisting each unique individual student to be FUTURE READY.

 **by Yap Haw Sim**

Yap Haw Sim is the Deputy Academic Director of Future Education, MCKL

NEW PROGRAMMES IN 2021

✓ **Diploma in Computer Science**
Specialising in Data Science

✓ **Diploma in Information Technology**
Specialising in Internet of Things



METHODIST
COLLEGE | KUALA LUMPUR

Veritas Vincit Omnia



A GOOD COLLEGE TEACHES,
A GREAT COLLEGE...

INSPIRES