



MCKL And Mystudy Forge Landmark Partnership

To Open Doors To Spanish
Higher Education

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Partnership Open
Doors To Spanish
Higher Education

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CEO FOREWORD

Dear MCKL's Igniters and Torchbearers,

This issue of Flame 2025 arrives as Q2 wraps up, offering a reflection on a truly dynamic quarter. We celebrate the remarkable achievements of our torchbearers – students who have shone brightly representing MCKL at international academic and sport competitions – and highlight the exciting new initiatives taking root within our vibrant community.

We also celebrate our remarkable alumni, who are thriving at our partner universities. You'll hear inspiring accounts of their positive academic experiences and vibrant student life at Messiah University, underscoring the strong foundations they built here at MCKL. Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce a significant expansion of our global pathways! We recently formalised our Spanish pathway agreement with mystudy, with the distinguished Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia gracing the ceremony as our VIP. This new avenue opens exciting opportunities for our students to pursue their academic dreams in Spain.

At MCKL, our direction remains clear: to serve our students by continuously expanding their horizons and empowering them to achieve their full potential. As Matthew 7:7 reminds us, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."* We are committed to providing diverse, high-quality educational pathways that equip them for success in an ever-evolving world.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Flame. Be sure to look out for our Q3 issue, where we'll share even more exciting developments and student successes!

Yours sincerely,
Dr Chua Ping Yong
Chief Executive Officer,
Methodist College Kuala Lumpur



From MCKL Torchbearer

Zheng Wei's Journey to the International Physics Olympiad

It is an honour for us to rally behind Ooi Zheng Wei, one of our many talented Cambridge A Level students, who will represent Malaysia at the 2025 International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Paris, France, in July 2025.

Zheng Wei's journey began when he chose MCKL for its outstanding reputation in A Level education. He acknowledged how the institution provided the strong foundation needed for his success. He knew MCKL would offer the ideal environment for his academic growth and pursuit of his love for physics.

Zheng Wei's passion for physics grew during high school, and had his eyes set on participating the IPhO. His fascination with physics deepened as he read works by great physicists like Richard Feynman. For Zheng Wei, physics was not just about solving problems; it was about appreciating the beauty and complexity of the world. The road to representing Malaysia at the IPhO was long and rigorous.

Zheng Wei participated in several rounds of testing over several months, including online university-level exams, a physical round at a secondary

“I am looking forward to exploring academic and career options in physics, especially since I have heard France is excellent for research in the field.”

school, and an experimental round in Penang. The top five scorers were selected for the national team, and Zheng Wei earned his spot through his exceptional performance. Preparation for the IPhO was demanding, particularly when it came to honing his experiment skills. "Experiment skills were my weakest area," he admits. During training camps, Zheng Wei practiced extensively, using a variety of experiment kits, and studied Olympiad-level handouts to strengthen his problem-solving skills. His hard work paid off, preparing him for the challenges of the competition.

Throughout this journey, Zheng Wei received invaluable support from MCKL's lecturers, particularly Dr. Yohashama and Ms. Elizabeth Tan, who helped build the foundation he needed to excel. Their guidance was crucial in his academic development. As Zheng Wei heads to Paris, he is excited yet slightly nervous. "I am unsure if the French will reply in French if I speak to them in their native language," he laughs. But his focus remains on making the most of this incredible opportunity.

"I am looking forward to exploring academic and career options in physics, especially since I have heard France is excellent for research in the field."

Beyond the competition, Zheng Wei has bigger aspirations. "I aspire to become proficient in the language of physics so that I can mentor future Olympiad participants and help them strive for gold in the years to come," he says. Zheng Wei's success is an inspiration to all of us at MCKL. His journey highlights the power of hard work, curiosity, and passion in unlocking incredible opportunities.

As he prepares for his trip to Paris, we are confident that this is only the beginning of his many future successes. We wish Ooi Zheng Wei the best of luck at the International Physics Olympiad 2025, and we're proud to see him represent Malaysia on the global stage.

On behalf of MCKL's management and academic team, we wish Zheng Wei the very best in France!



Birdview point of PALAISEAU, Ecole Polytechnique



Celebrating Excellence: **Making Waves** Samuel Lai Chong Weng Represents MCKL In The National Arena

Samuel Lai Chong Weng, a Western Australian Certificate of Education (AUSMAT) student from MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) has recently made waves by participating in two major swimming competitions.

Event 1: Malaysia Open Swimming Championships 2025

Samuel represented MCKL at the Malaysia Open Swimming Championships 2025, organised by Malaysia Aquatics (MAS). The competition was held from 24th to 27th April 2025 at the National Aquatic Center, Bukit Jalil Sports City, Kuala Lumpur.

Samuel achieved the following results:

- **Bronze Medal** – 800m Freestyle
- **Bronze Medal** – 4x100m Freestyle Relay

Event 2: Varsity Swimming Championship 2025

Samuel Lai Chong Weng represented MCKL Pykett Campus at the Varsity Swimming Championship 2025, held from 10th to 11th May 2025. The competition was organised by Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TARUMT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, and took place at the Swimming Pool, Club House, TAR UMT KL Main Campus.

Samuel achieved the following results:

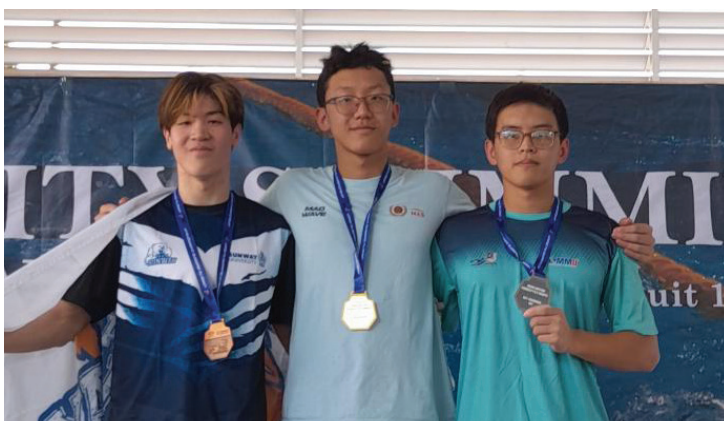
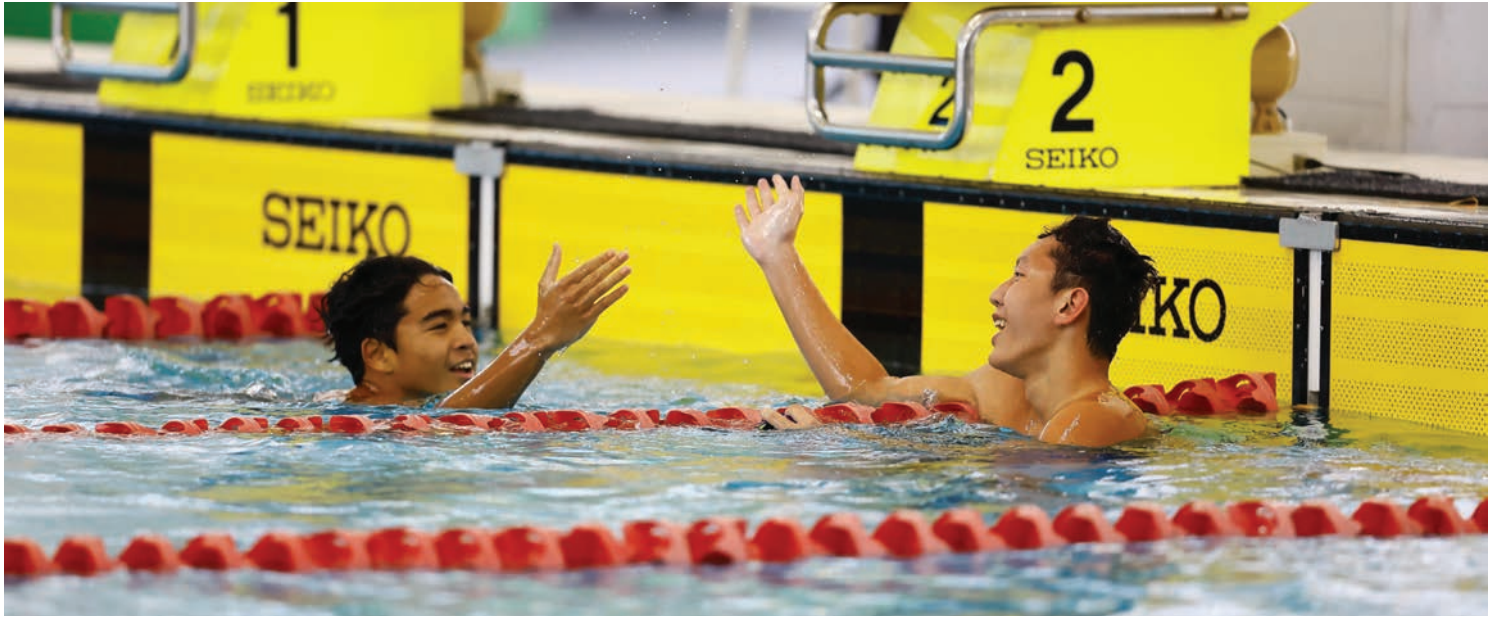
- **Gold Medal** – Men's 1500m Freestyle
- **Gold Medal** – Men's 200m Backstroke
- **Silver Medal** – Men's 400m Individual Medley

**SAMUEL LAI'S
JOURNEY TO
INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITIONS**

MEET OUR

TORCHBEARER
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

STUDENTS WHO CARRY MCKL'S FLAME OF EXCELLENCE



“You cannot put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.”

– Michael Phelps, the world-renowned swimmer

Celebrating Excellence:

MCKL Students Shine in Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

Four Cambridge A Level and AS Level students from Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) were recognised for their exceptional achievements at the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Malaysia (OCLA) held at Sunway University, Petaling Jaya in May.

Organised by Cambridge Assessment International Education, the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards (OCLA) recognise exceptional achievements of students in Cambridge examinations globally. These prestigious awards including the coveted **'Top in the World'**, **'Top in Country'**, **'Best Across'**, and **'High Achievement'** celebrating the academic excellence, dedication, and hard work of high-performing Cambridge learners.

Among them was Jaxon Moh Xian Xuan, who earned the Top in Malaysia award for A Level Computer Science. He has since been accepted into Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, where he is pursuing Environmental Engineering. Reflecting

on his journey, Jaxon shared, "My time at MCKL has been filled with meaningful experiences, from engaging lessons and strong university support to the freedom to explore my interests through a tech initiative and club leadership. These opportunities not only enriched my college life but also helped me achieve this award."

Another recipient, Yau Jun Yu, was recognised as Top in Malaysia for A Level Psychology. He is currently studying Psychology at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. Offering advice to juniors, he said, "To all juniors, make full use of the support and opportunities at MCKL, they will prepare you for what is ahead. Take time to explore your passions, find a community that grows with you, and enjoy every moment of this meaningful journey."

The other two awardees were John Lai, who achieved Top in Malaysia for AS Level Computer Science, and Aditya a/l Senthil, who received Top in Malaysia for AS Level Physics.



Award recipients with their certificate

MCKL has been nurturing high achievers since 2013, a legacy reaffirmed by consecutive accolades of Top in the World and Top in Malaysia. These achievements highlight MCKL's unwavering commitment to empowering students through academic excellence, dedicated support systems, and a holistic learning environment. With a strong track record of success, MCKL continues to inspire students to reach their fullest potential and thrive beyond the classroom.

MCKL's Cambridge A Level programme is open for the July and September 2025 intake. For more information, visit www.mckl.edu.my

OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARD

2024 Examination Series

CONGRATULATIONS



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Cambridge International School

PROVEN BY EXCELLENCE

- 2620** Outstanding Scholars (3A's and above)
- 122** Outstanding Scholars (3A's and above for 2024 exam series)
- 170** Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards since 2013
- 100%** Average pass rate in 10 consecutive years

TOP SUBJECTS WITH AT LEAST 50% OF STUDENTS SCORING A & A* IN 2024

- Accounting
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Psychology

FROM MCKL TO MESSIAH:

HAZEL'S JOURNEY OF FAITH, GROWTH, AND GLOBAL LEARNING

HAZEL LIM'S
JOURNEY TO
MOEY-PHIPPS
EXCLUSIVE
SCHOLARSHIP

MEET OUR

 **TORCHBEARER**
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

STUDENTS WHO CARRY MCKL'S FLAME OF EXCELLENCE

Birdview point of Messiah University, USA

Pioneering a path that bridges academic excellence and personal transformation, Hazel Lim, an alumna of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), was been awarded the prestigious Moey-Phipps Exclusive Scholarship at Messiah University, USA, where she is pursuing a dual degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. Her inspiring story highlights not just her academic achievements, but also the enduring values that has nurtured her along the way.

Hazel began her journey in MCKL's American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP), where she developed a deep appreciation for critical thinking and holistic learning. "In MCKL, I learned to understand the 'whys' behind the academic syllabus, not just how to solve problems, but the reasoning behind them,"

she reflects. "Coming from that solid academic foundation, Messiah has continued to stretch me, especially in a more personal and spiritual manner. Here, I am learning to explore the faith whys and how beliefs intersect with learning, community, and life."

Now at Messiah University, Hazel continues to thrive in a close-knit, supportive environment that encourages students to grow beyond academics. "It might be intimidating at first to be in a whole new country," she admits, "but people here genuinely care and want to help you grow and succeed. My advice to MCKL students considering Messiah? Do not be afraid to reach out whether to professors, peers, or student organisations. Everyone here wants to see you do well."



Hazel Lim and Leanne Chong Qing Yin during their time at MCKL



Hazel Lim during the International Gala Week at Messiah University

The support she received from the Messiah community was especially crucial in her early days abroad. “Professors are always approachable; they take time to talk and give helpful feedback,” she says. “And I have found so much comfort in the Christian community here, which makes me feel at home even though I am far from home.”

Outside the classroom, Hazel has embraced new challenges and broadened her horizons. From attending Multicultural Council Club (MCC) events to joining the university’s esports team, she has taken intentional steps to step out of her comfort zone. “These experiences have helped me meet

“

Professors are always approachable: they take time to talk and give helpful feedback”

people I would not have otherwise crossed paths with,” she shares. “Even though I am not someone who is constantly out and about, they’ve been meaningful and rewarding.”

Hazel’s journey stands as a powerful testament to the global pathways available through MCKL, where students are empowered to pursue education abroad while staying grounded in their values. With the Moey-Phipps Exclusive Scholarship, she not only celebrates personal success but also encourages others to follow their calling, wherever it may lead.

ADTP is a flexible credit transfer program that gives students a seamless transition to universities across the United States. They are given the opportunity to explore a wide range of courses from various fields. Students enrolled in ADTP at MCKL will have the privilege to access exclusive scholarships and financial aid offered by our renowned partner universities to make the college experience more affordable.

MCKL’s ADTP is open for the May and August 2025 intakes. For more information, visit www.mckl.edu.my

Hazel Lim is a recipient of the Moey-Phipps Scholarship of Distinction in 2023, a prestigious 100% tuition waiver, and is exclusively for MCKL’s American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) students pursuing studies at Messiah University, USA. This scholarship, awarded to deserving students exemplifies the commitment of both MCKL and Messiah to accessible, world-class education. MCKL’s ADTP provides a flexible pathway for students to build strong academic foundations and gain access to various scholarships, significantly reducing the financial burden of studying abroad at institutions like Messiah University, a nationally ranked private Christian university known for its liberal arts and sciences programmes.

MCKL and mystudy Forge Landmark Partnership to Open Doors to Spanish Higher Education



The exchange of the official agreement between CK Chiau, Director of mystudy (L) and Dr Chua Ping Yong, CEO of MCKL (R). In attendance was HE Jose Luis Pardo, Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) and mystudy formalised a groundbreaking partnership, establishing the “**Study in SPAIN Pathway**,” at a ceremony witnessed by His Excellency (HE) José Luis Pardo, Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia. This collaboration marks a significant step in expanding international education opportunities for Malaysian students, offering a direct route to prestigious universities in Spain.

“This partnership underscores MCKL’s commitment to providing students with diverse and enriching educational pathways. We believe in empowering our students to pursue their academic aspirations on a global scale. This collaboration with mystudy opens a world of opportunities for our students, allowing them to experience the rich academic and cultural landscape of Spain,” said Dr. Chua Ping Yong, CEO of MCKL.

“mystudy is thrilled to collaborate with MCKL in opening the exceptional educational opportunities that Spain offers. We are dedicated to facilitating a

seamless and rewarding experience for students seeking to study in Spain. This partnership allows us to bridge the gap between Malaysian students and top-tier Spanish universities,” stated Mr. CK Chiau, Director of mystudy.

His Excellency (HE) José Luis Pardo added, “This initiative strengthens the educational ties between Spain and Malaysia, fostering cultural exchange and academic collaboration. We are delighted to

“*The partnership aims to streamline the process for students aspiring to pursue higher education in Spain. Through this pathway, students can access a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate courses*”

see MCKL and mystudy pave the way for Malaysian students to access the excellent educational opportunities available in Spain.”

The partnership aims to streamline the process for students aspiring to pursue higher education in Spain. Through this pathway, students can access a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including but not limited to:

Architecture and Engineering: Spain boasts renowned institutions offering cutting-edge programmes in these fields.

Business and Economics: Students can benefit from globally recognised business schools and economics programmes.

Humanities and Social Sciences: Rich cultural heritage and academic excellence make Spain an ideal destination for these disciplines.

Sciences and Technology: Advanced research facilities and innovative programme are available for aspiring scientists and technologists.

Languages and Cultural Studies: Spain offers many opportunities to study Spanish language and culture, through renowned institutions like the Institute of Cervantes.

How to Pursue the Spain Pathway:

Students interested in exploring this pathway can begin by enrolling in MCKL's Pre-University programme, where they will receive comprehensive academic preparation. Concurrently, mystudy will guide them through the university application process, language proficiency requirements, and visa procedures. This initiative significantly enhances the educational landscape in Malaysia, offering students a unique opportunity to experience world-class education and cultural immersion in Spain.

Benefits of the MCKL & mystudy Spain Pathway



Language Proficiency

The pathway provides students with the necessary language skills, including collaboration with Institute of Cervantes, ensuring a smooth transition into Spanish academic life.



Cultural Immersion

Students will benefit from pre-departure briefings and support, preparing them for the cultural transition.



Academic Guidance

MCKL's experienced faculty will provide academic guidance and support throughout the student's journey.



Cost-Effective Education

Spain offers relatively affordable tuition fees and living expenses compared to other European countries.



Beautiful city of Spain

The Dance's MA Show

A Journey of Character Beyond the Classroom

This year, our Character Formation (CFo) class embarked on a bold and inspiring project, a full-scale musical theatre production titled The Dance's MA Show. What began as a classroom assignment soon evolved into a transformative journey of storytelling, teamwork, and personal growth.

As part of the CFo curriculum, students were challenged to integrate moral values with the performing arts. The result was The Dance's MA, a creative endeavour that gave students an outlet to express their talents while exploring deeper lessons in empathy, perseverance, and self-discovery.

A Story That Resonates

Set against the backdrop of a national dance competition, the musical follows two main characters, Pippa, a girl from a quiet kampung, and Chan Baobei, a passionate dancer often judged

for his appearance. As they chase their dreams, they encounter rejection, insecurity, and societal pressure. Along the way, they learn powerful lessons about self-acceptance, forgiveness, and standing firm in their values.

“Without Character Formation, I don't think I would have built strong friendships like I have now. It taught me about acceptance and forgiveness when things did not go as planned.”



The participants at the dance



A student showing off his dance skill

Learning Beyond the Classroom

The production called for a wide range of student involvement including the actors, dancers, musicians, backstage crew, and logistics coordinators all played a part. Weeks of intensive rehearsals and behind-the-scenes coordination tested their time management, conflict resolution, and teamwork skills. In the process, students naturally developed key character traits like responsibility, empathy, patience, and resilience.

Voices of Growth

Here's what some students had to say about the experience:

"Without Character Formation, I don't think I would have built strong friendships like I have now. It taught me about acceptance and forgiveness when things did not go as planned."

"At first, I thought this musical was pointless but I learned so much from it. I grew through all the ups and downs. I learned how to stay calm, solve problems, and enjoy the moment."

"I used to think character formation was just a checklist. But now I see it's about taking the first step, showing quiet strength, and growing even when things get tough."

Although empathy was the central theme, students also gained leadership skills, built confidence, and discovered that true character is shaped not by applause, but by persistence, reflection, and kindness behind the scenes.

Audience Response

The show was performed live to a packed audience, and feedback was gathered through evaluation forms. Out of 140 responses:

- **Very Satisfied (5/5):** 100 responses (71.43%)
- **Satisfied (4/5):** 35 responses (25.00%)
- **Neutral (3/5):** 4 responses (2.86%)
- **Dissatisfied (2/5):** 1 response (0.71%)

An impressive 96.43% of the audience left satisfied or very satisfied. Viewers praised the students' energy, coordination, and the emotional impact of the story. While most aspects including acting, music, dance, costumes, and technical setup received glowing reviews, some suggestions for future improvements were also noted, such as enhancing vocal delivery and refining technical elements.

More Than a Performance

The Dance's MA Show was not just a stage production, it was a living, breathing classroom. Through the process, students did not just perform they grew. They learned to collaborate, lead, and face challenges with character and grace.

We are incredibly proud of what our students have achieved, both on stage and within themselves. This project stands as a testament to the power of character education when paired with creativity and we look forward to more initiatives that nurture both talent and values in meaningful ways.

Action for Change

MCKL & MYCorps Unite for Social Work's Future

On April 12, 2025, MYCorps Alumni and Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), through the Department of Social Work, hosted one day conference titled **"From Awareness to Action: Social Work for a Better Tomorrow,"** in celebration of World Social Work Day. The event brought together social work professionals, community advocates, and students for meaningful discussions. Speakers shared real-life stories, field experiences, and the challenges they face working with diverse communities across Malaysia.

The day began with a powerful presentation by Ms. Jayamalar Samuel, Capacity Building Director at the All-Women's Action Society (AWAM), on **"Breaking the Cycle: Ending Domestic Violence."** Drawing on her experience, she explained the root causes of abuse, the struggles survivors face when seeking help, and the importance of survivor-centred responses. Her session stressed the need for ongoing public education, stronger laws, and community-based support to break the cycle of violence.

Next, Ms. Asha Singh, Advisory Committee member at Family Frontiers, presented a session titled **"Preventing Child Abuse: A Collaborative Approach."** She spoke about the shared responsibility of protecting children, highlighting their vulnerability and limited ability to protect themselves. She stressed that adults must safeguard children's rights and dignity and reinforced the need for cooperation in preventing child abuse.

Caseworker and community leader from Shelter Home for Children, Mr. Edward Dass shared his inspiring experience with the topic, **"Inclusive Approach to Support Underprivileged Communities."** His personal story of transformation and how a second chance changed his life deeply resonated with the audience. He highlighted the importance of inclusion, empathy, and long-term community support in helping marginalised individuals.



The participants at the conference

This was followed by Ms. Jenny Pui, co-founder of Social Work Without Borders, who brought an international perspective with her talk on **"Realities and Challenges Facing Refugees & Stateless Populations."** She used a thought-provoking analogy: *"We always say we need to teach our clients how to fish. But what if there are no fish in the sea?"* This powerful question prompted the audience to consider the limited opportunities for refugees and the structural injustices that must be addressed to provide meaningful support.

Finally, Mr. Sam Lim, Manager at Malaysian CARE, concluded the conference with a session titled **"Exploring Addiction and Its Link to Mental Health."** He discussed the strong connection between mental health and drug use. He emphasised that relapse is a natural part of recovery and explained that setbacks are often part of the healing process. Recognising this as a common phase can help reduce stigma and support more compassionate, client-centred approaches in addiction recovery.

Throughout the day, the conference combined expert knowledge with real-life experiences, providing both valuable insights and personal connections. The event highlighted the crucial role social work plays in creating a more inclusive and supportive society.

Bridging Communities Through Play

MCKL Students Host Sports Day for Myanmar Refugee Youth



The participants at refugee sport day

On 12 April 2025, 16 dedicated students from Methodist College Kuala Lumpur's (MCKL) CAL2501DS1 class organised a joyful and meaningful Sports Day for refugee students from the Siamsin Learning Centre. The event was held at MCKL campus, welcomed 30 children and teens aged 7 to 17 for a full day of play, connection, and cross-cultural exchange.

The Siamsin Learning Centre is a community-based educational institution located in Taman Sri Kuching, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It primarily serves refugee children from Myanmar, particularly those from the Zomi and Chin ethnic communities. Due to Malaysian policies that restrict access to public education for non-citizens, centres like Siamsin play a crucial role in providing basic education to displaced children.

The day began with an icebreaking activity where students created colourful team flags, sparking a sense of identity and teamwork right from the start. This was followed by a fun-filled senamrobik session, energising everyone and setting the tone for the rest of the day's activities.

Students then rotated through five exciting station games, each designed to challenge their creativity, reflexes, and teamwork. The Treasure Hunt sent participants scrambling across the MCKL grounds to find hidden "power-up" slips that boosted their final



Refugee students playing Ping Pong & Cups

scores, encouraging strategy and quick thinking. In the high-energy Tag Game, students became "catchers" and "runners," testing agility and coordination through chase and escape. The Ping Pong & Cups station combined skill and a bit of luck as students bounced balls into water-filled cups marked with different point values. For a brain teaser, the Memory Game had them flipping cards to recall and match sequences, a true test of focus. Finally, the Spoon & Ball challenge pushed their balance and perseverance as they navigated a course with a ping pong ball on a plastic spoon.

After a morning of laughter and teamwork, participants and volunteers gathered for a shared lunch, followed by a relaxed "free and easy" time featuring a movie screening, board games, futsal, football, and casual chats. The day concluded on a touching note as each student from Siamsin received a special gift pack prepared by the MCKL students.

A Student's Journey to Faith and Community at MCKL

When Joshua Pasterkamp first arrived at MCKL and settled into campus accommodation, he felt the quiet ache of solitude, a yearning for deeper connection. Though he exchanged passing smiles and occasional waves with fellow students, something was missing.

"I noticed this group of accommodation students who were always together, like a family," Joshua recalls. "They seemed so joyful, so content. I must admit I was jealous. I wanted what they had."

That longing nudged him out of his introverted shell and into the weekly accommodation gatherings, known as Crossroads Home. His first visit was awkward, unfamiliar, and did not quite meet his initial expectations. But it was there that he heard about another event: Alpha, a programme where students and staff come together to discuss many of life's big questions.

"I signed up not really knowing what it was about. I did not even realise Alpha had anything to do with Christianity," he admitted with a laugh. "So, you can imagine my surprise when Jesus came up."

At the time, Joshua did not consider himself a Christian. He believed in the possibility of a higher power but had never given it a deeper thought. Yet something about Alpha kept drawing him back week after week. It was not just the discussions but the warmth, openness, and genuine love of the community. That experience sparked a slow but steady journey. After Alpha ended for his term, Joshua found himself drawn to MCKL's Christian Fellowship (CF), which he easily integrated through his accommodation group, which included several committee members he had admired.



Joshua (black shirt) and his friends

"They never pressured me. They just accepted me for who I am. Even when I was not a Christian then, they welcomed me completely," he says. "Eventually, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and CF was there for me thereafter." One particularly defining moment for Joshua was CF's 2023 Christmas Rally, his first Christmas as a Christian.

"I never made the connection between 'Christ' and 'Christmas' before. It is a miracle I even made it into college," he jokes. Invited to perform in the rally, Joshua witnessed firsthand the passion and planning that went into the event. "The way they poured their hearts into telling people the real meaning of Christmas without the

“*They never pressured me. They just accepted me for who I am. Even when I was not a Christian then, they welcomed me completely*”

commercialisation of the celebration, but it's more about Jesus, and it was inspiring.”

Though he cannot recall the exact message from the speaker that day, the moment of prayer that followed stayed with him. When the invitation came to pray the Sinner's Prayer, Joshua realised he had been avoiding that step. He joined the prayer, and something shifted.

“I felt this joy rush through me. Like God was patting me on the back. In that moment, I knew. I knew my faith was real.” That moment sealed his conviction. From then on, everything changed.

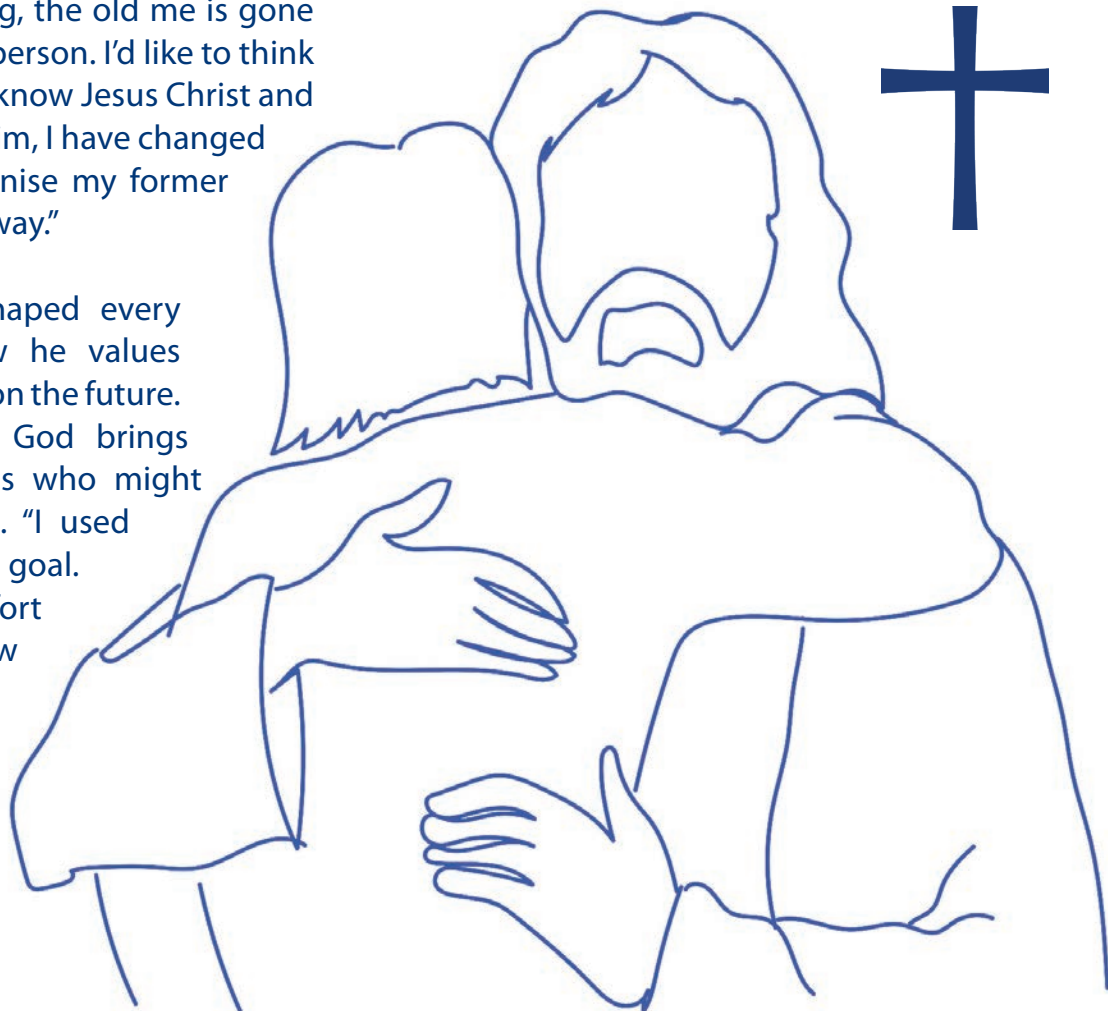
“If I was a ball of clay back then, every ounce of clay is now gone and I am now a ball of dough, which is a very weird way of saying, the old me is gone and I am a completely new person. I'd like to think that through my coming to know Jesus Christ and having a relationship with him, I have changed so much that I don't recognise my former self, in a good and positive way.”

His faith journey has reshaped every part of his life from how he values relationships to his outlook on the future. “Now, I cherish everyone God brings into my life even the ones who might not deserve it,” he reflects. “I used to think happiness was the goal. That maybe money or comfort brought joy. But now I know that the greatest thing we can do is glorify God. True joy comes from Him, from giving, discipling, fellowshiping, and loving others.”

Joshua's words of advice to fellow students who are curious or hesitant about joining Christian groups, he says, “Do not be afraid. Whether you start by getting to know one or two people or just show up and chat with whoever looks friendly, you will find a warmth in them. MCKL's Christian groups are filled with some of the kindest and most understanding people I have met.”

He leaves with a quote from C.S. Lewis: “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

“So, if you are on the fence,” Joshua says, “why not come have a chat?”



Fermat Contest 2025

The Fermat Contest is a prestigious international mathematics competition organised annually by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) at the University of Waterloo, Canada. This contest is open to grade 11 students and below, provides a platform that challenges their mathematical abilities on an international level. As a registered college for the Fermat Contest, MCKL invited students from high schools across Penang to participate in this global event.

This year, the competition received an overwhelming response 150 students from 12 high schools in Penang. Notably, this was the second consecutive year that MCKL Penang campus hosted the Fermat Contest, a testament of its ongoing commitment in promoting mathematics education in the region.

The two-day event began on February 22 February, 2025 with a series of preparatory workshops aimed at equipping students with the skills needed for the contest. These workshops were conducted by experienced lecturers from MCKL Penang campus, Dr. Lim Chien Sheng and Mr. Daniel. The workshops focused on refining students' mathematical problem-solving abilities, ensuring they were well-prepared for the contest.

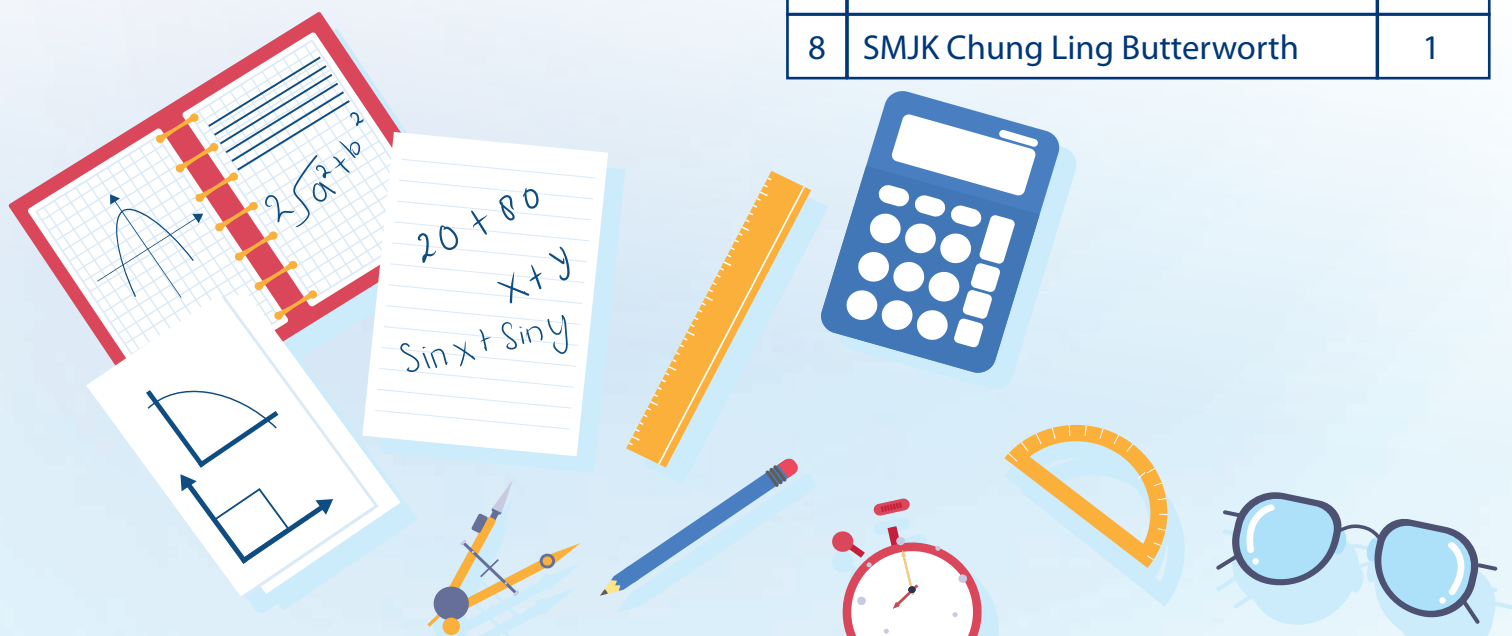
Following the workshops, all participants took part in a Mock Fermat Contest, which served as a practice ground for the actual competition. From the mock contest, the top 50 students were selected based on their performance and were invited to compete in the actual Fermat Contest held on Thursday, 26 February 2025, at MCKL Penang campus.

The official results for the Fermat Contest were announced on March 29, 2025. It was a fantastic showing for MCKL, as 29 out of their 50 participants earned a Certificate of Distinction. This is a huge accomplishment because it means they scored in the top 25% of all contestants, and nearly 20,000 students worldwide took part in the contest this year.

The following is a breakdown of the number of distinctions achieved by students from each participating school under MCKL.

NUMBER OF DISTINCTIONS

No	School	No of Distinctions
1	Han Chiang High School	6
2	Chung Ling Private High School	6
3	Wesley Methodist School Penang	5
4	SMK Bukit Jambul	4
5	SMJK Chung Ling Pulau Pinang	3
6	SMJK Chung Hwa Confusion	2
7	SMJK Jit Sin	2
8	SMJK Chung Ling Butterworth	1



The two highest-scoring students among all participants at MCKL were awarded medals for their outstanding achievements. Both students scored an impressive 144 out of 150, representing Han Chiang High School and SMK Bukit Jambul, respectively. These students were recognized as the school champions.

The participants at this year's contest hosted by MCKL truly excelled on the international stage at the Fermat Contest, achieving a remarkable **7th place ranking globally** among registered schools

outside of Canada. This outstanding performance was powered by the combined efforts of their top three participants, who collectively scored an impressive **426 out of a possible 450**.

Their achievement is even more significant considering they competed against **434 registered international schools**, placing MCKL Penang campus among some of the most distinguished educational institutions worldwide.

The following is a summary of the top-performing registered schools:

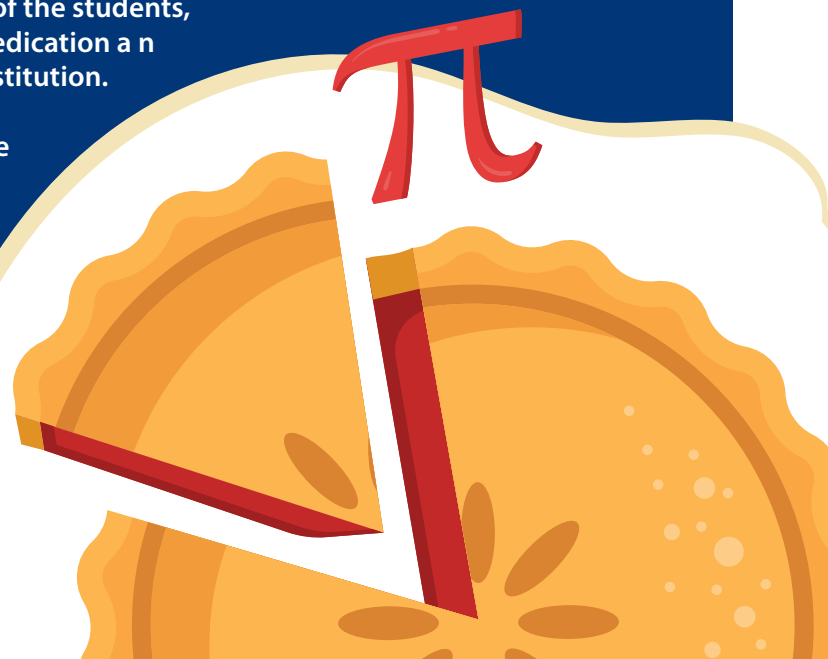
NUMBER OF DISTINCTIONS

Rank	School	City	Score
1	Chengdu Foreign Lang. School	Chengdu, China	450
1	Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School	Bloomfield Hills, USA	450
3	Chinese International School	Hong Kong	444
4	Philippine Science High School	Quezon City, Philippines	438
5	Random Math	Cupertino, USA	436
6	Cardiff Sixth Form College Cambridge	Cambridge, UK	430
7	ACS International	Singapore	426
7	International School of Prague	Prague, Czech Republic	426
7	MCKL Penang, Pykett Campus	Georgetown, Malaysia	426
7	The Koc School	Istanbul, Turkey	426

The Fermat Contest 2025 at MCKL was a resounding success, with 150 participants from 12 local schools coming together to challenge themselves in the field of mathematics. The high level of participation and the impressive achievements of the students, especially the 29 distinctions, highlighted the dedication and excellence in mathematics education at the institution. With the top-performing students and MCKL's international ranking of 7th place this year, serve as a demonstrates the commitment of both the students and MKCL's faculty in fostering academic excellence in the region.



Participants from various schools at the competition



THE MORE THAT YOU
READ,
THE MORE THAT YOU
LEARN,
THE MORE
PLACES
THAT YOU'LL
GO. —Dr Seuss