



METHODIST
COLLEGE
Veritas Vincit Omnia

Kuala Lumpur • Penang

THE Flame

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**MCKL CELEBRATES
OVER 300
GRADUATES**

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BEYOND 20:
Fostering a Culture of
Service at MCKL

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Staff

Monisha Sri Kanan
Ong Swee Lyn
Priscilla Parisa

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Foreword

Dear MCKL's Igniters & Trailblazers,

As we conclude another eventful quarter, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on MCKL's continued commitment to providing world-class education. This commitment was made evident in our achievements and the remarkable journeys of our students, faculty, and staff.

In August, we celebrated the graduation of over 300 students, a testament to their resilience and dedication. Among them, approximately 50% of our diploma graduates were awarded scholarships to prestigious institutions—a true reflection of God's provision and favour. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:19, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." This milestone is not only a mark of academic success but also a demonstration of their potential to impact the world.

I am particularly inspired by the achievements of our students. Thamini Vijeyesingam, an alumna of our Cambridge A Level programme, has been accepted to both Harvard College and the University of Oxford to pursue Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Additionally, our student-athletes, Shannon Khor (racewalking) and Ethan Yam (fencing), both high-achievers in our Cambridge A Level programme have brought honour to MCKL by winning medals at the recent SUKMA games. We also have multiple students, from difference programmes, who have been admitted to top universities around the world.

As Proverbs 16:3 encourages us, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans," our students' accomplishments reflect their hard work paired with the blessings of God. Many of our students from various programmes have also gained admission into top universities worldwide, showcasing the standard of excellence MCKL upholds.

Beyond academic excellence, we are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals. CSR initiatives like Beyond 20, led by our students, exemplify our commitment to fostering a culture of volunteerism and social responsibility. This embodies the Biblical principle in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

To stay ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving digital landscape, we continue to embrace digital literacy as a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Dr Cheah Sin Chye, our esteemed colleague, will delve deeper into the importance of digital literacy in modern education.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to succeed in the 21st century. By fostering a supportive and innovative learning environment, we empower our students to reach their full potential.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed New Year filled with joy, love, and the hope of His promise!

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

Main Campus
Methodist College Kuala Lumpur DK144(W)
Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan 4, Brickfields,
50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
T: +603 2274 1851 E: admission@mckl.edu.my

Branch Campus
MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) DK144(W)
Lebuhraya Pykett Georgetown,
10400 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
T: +604 217 5088 E: admission.pg@mckl.edu.my

 www.mckl.edu.my

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MCKL CELEBRATES OVER 300 GRADUATES,

HONOURING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND VALUES-DRIVEN EDUCATION



MCKL bids adieu to a cohort of more than 300 graduates in August 2024. The Graduation and Awards Ceremony was held for ten programmes, namely, Cambridge A Level, AUSMAT (WACE), Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Diploma in Digital Business, Diploma in Digital Marketing, Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma in Information Technology, Diploma in Social Work, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), and ACCA Foundation in Accountancy students.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Rev Dr Dennis Raj, President of the Tamil Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, and a member of the Council of Education; Mr Gopala Sundram, Chairman of the Board of Governors; and Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr Tan Kee Kwong, former Chairman of the Board of Governors. Joining them were other prominent figures like Mr Ngu Chie Kieng and Ms Hii Siew Leng from the Board of Governors, and representatives from various NGOs such as Datuk Dr Denison from Yayasan Pendidikan Kesihatan Mental (YPKM) and Dr Teoh Ai Hua, President of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers.

The graduates' exceptional performance across their programmes highlights the institution's over 40 years of educational excellence. The graduation ceremony stands as a major milestone in their academic careers, symbolising the end of years of hard work, dedication, and commitment. It also reflects MCKL's mission to cultivate individuals who excel academically

while embracing values that guide their lives. This focus on values-driven education is anticipated to continue shaping the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers in various fields.

Three Cambridge A Level students achieved remarkable success - Tong Yong Zhi, Lim Yen Nie, and Thean Ker Hsian, were recognised for their outstanding performance. Tong Yong Zhi received the prestigious titles of Top in the World and Top in Malaysia in their respective subjects. He also received the Bishop Dennis C Dutton Scholar 2024 award and the Outstanding Achiever for Best Performance for GCE A Level Examination. Other notable mentions include Jude Low, who received the Overall Academic Excellence for Pure Science, and Tong Yong Zhi again, who was awarded the Overall Academic Excellence for Combination Arts and Science.

MCKL has a proven track record of academic excellence in the Cambridge A Level exams. Over the past decade, 100% of MCKL students have successfully passed the exams. This year, close to 40% of graduates earned 3 As or higher. MCKL's impressive performance has led to many students receiving top honours, including Top in the World, Top in Malaysia, and High Achievements in various subjects. These exceptional results have helped MCKL students gain admission to prestigious universities worldwide.

For AUSMAT (WACE), the top achiever was Chen Zhi Xin, the Award Winner of the Datuk F R Bhupalan Award, and the Subject Prize Winner for Economics. She garnered an astounding ATAR 95, highest among her cohort. Other high achievers include Mary Anne Ng Wen Li, and Bernice Ng, Subject Prize Winners for English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) and Mathematics Applications, respectively.

The graduation ceremony was a momentous occasion as we celebrated the achievements of our Diploma students. Azura Toop and Lim Yew Chin excelled in the Diploma in Social Work, graduating at the top of their class and both received the esteemed Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Tan Chee Khoo Award. Ngu Jin Hwei was named the top student in the Diploma in Early Childhood Education with an outstanding 3.96 CGPA and received the Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng Award. In the Computing programmes, Caleb Lim Shian Zer achieved a perfect 4.00 CGPA and was honoured as the inaugural recipient of the Dato’ Dr Tan Kee Kwong Award. Fam Ler Shiuan was recognized as the top student in the Business programmes with a CGPA of 3.81 and received the Moey Yoke Lai Award. The ceremony also celebrated the achievements of graduates in the ACCA programme who had successfully completed their professional papers.

Speaking to the graduating class, MCKL Chief Executive Officer, Dr Chua Ping Yong, shared words of wisdom and encouragement, focusing on the unique journey each student has embarked upon, "Remember, age is just a number. Your youth is not a limitation; it is a unique advantage. Do not let anyone underestimate your potential. With determination and hard work, you can overcome any obstacles and achieve remarkable things.



“
**Let your actions
inspire
others**

and prove that
age is no barrier to success.

”

As new members of the MCKL alumni community, graduates are encouraged to not only pursue personal success but also to make a meaningful impact on society. MCKL places strong emphasis on values like service, leadership, and creating positive change. Alumni are urged to leverage their skills by embracing innovative approaches, upholding ethical business practices, and actively engaging with their communities to drive progress and contribute to a better future.

Looking ahead, graduates are encouraged to let the principles of love, compassion, and humility guide them. Just as they faced academic challenges, they are now called to approach life’s obstacles with resilience and faith, staying grounded in their core beliefs. They are reminded to honour God through their actions, show respect for the world around them, nurture relationships, celebrate diversity, and embark on life’s journey with steadfast trust in a higher purpose.

The ceremony concluded with warm congratulations to all award recipients and graduates, celebrating the end of their academic journey at MCKL and marking the beginning of their next chapter as empowered, values-driven individuals contributing to society.

A JOURNEY FROM MCKL TO THE IVY LEAGUE!



In the bustling halls of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), where academic excellence meets vibrant student life, the journey of one exceptional student stands as a testament to resilience, dedication, and the transformative influence of education. Thamini Vijeyasingam, an alumna of MCKL's Cambridge A Level programme, now stands at the threshold of her undergraduate studies at Harvard College.

Thamini's journey from MCKL to Harvard College epitomises MCKL's commitment to academic excellence and the cultivation of global leaders. This marks a historic milestone for MCKL as the first alumna accepted into both Harvard College and the prestigious University of Oxford, UK, to pursue Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). In selecting Harvard College for her higher education journey, specialising in Economics, Thamini emphasises her passion for comprehending how societies and individuals arrive at decisions.

"I find economics an intriguing subject that delves into our collective decision-making processes as well as individual and organisational behaviours. My initial exposure to economic concepts through debate and Model United Nations, along with my participation in the International Economics Olympiad (IEO) representing Malaysia, solidified my interest in the field and offered fresh perspectives," reflects Thamini.

During her tenure at MCKL, Thamini was an exceptionally active student, excelling not only in her academic pursuits but also in various extracurricular activities. She served as President of the A Level Student Union and Vice President of the college-wide Student Representative Council. Additionally, she contributed her talents as a Debate Trainer for the MUN and Debate Society, organised events like *So You Think You Can Debate?* and conducted research for the Economics Club.

Her involvement in diverse clubs and societies at MCKL provided Thamini with a platform to forge friendships beyond her cohort while pursuing projects aligned with her academic interests and hobbies.

“
My time in the Student Union was
hectic yet rewarding,
offering valuable lessons in
project management
and fostering
lasting friendships.”



Navigating the academic challenges at MCKL demanded meticulous time management and discipline from Thamini. Balancing a demanding course load, particularly in mathematics, alongside essay writing and extracurricular commitments, required strategic planning and prioritisation. Through perseverance and careful pacing, she successfully managed to maintain academic excellence while actively contributing to student life.

Thamini acknowledges the pivotal role played by MCKL in preparing her for the rigorous application process to Harvard College. From admissions test preparation to essay writing and document submission, MCKL provided a nurturing environment conducive to both academic and personal growth. "My lecturers were very helpful and supportive of my application, including post-MCKL when I was on my gap year. Additionally, my university counsellor assisted me in registering for admissions tests, essay prep and collating and submitting various documents for my transcript."

"Thamini has always been an outstanding student and her success in gaining admission to Harvard and Oxford is a reflection of her effort in grasping all of the opportunities presented to her at MCKL, from consulting her lecturers to participating in the many extra-curricular activities and competitions made available for students. With her enthusiasm, intelligence and strong moral foundation, Thamini has many more accomplishments awaiting her. We wish her all the best," Ms Shalini Ragunath, MCKL's Cambridge A Level Head congratulates Thamini.

Thamini expressed her gratitude to her lecturers for their support and enthusiasm and thanked her union advisers and Student Affairs for always addressing her questions and proposals. She also gave a special shoutout to her friends who helped her understand difficult questions and shared unforgettable memories with her. To her juniors, she offered advice to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, highlighting the importance of perseverance and hard work.



Thamini's journey from Methodist College Kuala Lumpur to Harvard College is a remarkable example of dedication and achievement. From her outstanding performance as a Cambridge A Level Outstanding Scholar to her extensive work experience through internships, Thamini's journey exemplifies the transformative power of education and the boundless opportunities that await those who dare to dream big and work hard.

BEYOND 20: FOSTERING A CULTURE OF SERVICE AT MCKL



Founded in January 2024, Beyond 20 is a student-led initiative at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) dedicated to fostering a culture of consistent and collaborative community service. Rooted in the college's mandatory Service-Learning class, Beyond 20 offers monthly volunteer opportunities in partnership with various NGOs.

Beyond 20 aims to inspire students to embrace lifelong volunteerism by connecting them with a wide network of NGOs. Focusing on humanitarian and environmental causes, the initiative aligns with MCKL's core values and encourages students to actively participate in meaningful community service.

The initiative was founded by Chan Zi Tong, inspired by her own positive experience in the Service-Learning class. Recognizing the potential for continued volunteerism beyond the required 20 hours, Chan established Beyond 20 with the goal of creating a supportive community of like-minded students.

Under Chan's leadership, Beyond 20 has rapidly grown, attracting over 50 student volunteers. The initiative has organised more than 13 volunteer sessions and several additional projects, focusing on humanitarian and environmental causes. Notable partnerships include Kebun-Kebun Bangsar, a community garden, and Friends of Sungai Klang, an environmental NGO.

One of Beyond 20's key projects was Classroom Connections, a humanitarian initiative launched to support special needs children at (SAMH) Wisma Harapan in Brickfields. Through fundraising and gathering of educational materials, Beyond 20 raised RM2,000 and donated it to the organisation, along with the collected materials.

Beyond 20's dedication to environmental causes is evident in its frequent volunteering sessions at Kebun-Kebun Bangsar. Partnering with Food Not Bombs KL, the initiative contributes to maintaining the garden and ensuring its harvest goes to those in need.

Despite initial challenges in recruiting students, Beyond 20's proactive approach and refined strategies have successfully attracted increased student participation. By actively engaging students during orientation and All Clubs Day, the initiative has seen a significant surge in interest. As a result, volunteering slots for the initiative have filled up rapidly, demonstrating its growing popularity among MCKL students.

Beyond 20's success is a testament to its perseverance and adaptability. The initiative has grown into a key platform at MCKL for students eager to continue volunteering beyond their Service-Learning requirements. By fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment, Beyond 20 has become a vital part of the MCKL community.

Looking ahead, Beyond 20 remains committed to expanding its reach and impact within the MCKL community. By strengthening its relationships with external NGOs and establishing a more prominent role among students, the initiative aims to inspire the next generation of volunteers and community leaders. Beyond 20 firmly believes that small, individual efforts can lead to meaningful, collective change. By providing students with the tools and opportunities to make a difference, the initiative hopes to foster a culture of kindness, empathy, and collaboration at MCKL, ensuring that the spirit of service continues to thrive both within and beyond the college.

MCKL'S CONTINUED SUPPORT

FOR THE NATIONAL SPM BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ 2024



This year, MCKL marked its more than a decade of supporting the National SPM Bible Knowledge (BK) Oral Quiz, a testament to its unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence and community engagement. The national final for this year took place on August 24th, at SMK St. Joseph, Kuching, Sarawak.

At the event, MCKL had the opportunity to present Scholarship Awards to the top 3 winning teams and interact with the talented participants. Additionally, the college set up a booth at the competition venue, providing an interactive platform for students and teachers to learn more about the diverse courses offered by MCKL.

St. Joseph's Private School, Kuching, Sarawak, emerged as the champion and second runner-up, while SMJK Chung Ling, Penang, secured the first runner-up position.

MCKL is also proud to acknowledge the achievements of its own students, Chan Yann Zhang and Adrian Shri Pinto, who managed to secure the fourth place. Their success further demonstrates MCKL's commitment to providing quality education.

MCKL's sponsorship of the SPM BK Quizzes 2024 exceeded RM100,000, underscoring its strong support for educational initiatives. This contribution reflects the college's dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders and promoting academic excellence.



Top 3 winning teams of the 28th National SPM Bible Knowledge Oral Quiz 2024

Top: Champion - Mark Lauren Loi Kwang Liang and Hansel Wong, St Joseph's Private School, Kuching

Middle: 1st Runner-Up - Liang Jun Chen and Justin Tan Yu Zheng, SMJK Chung Ling, Pulau Pinang

Bottom: 2nd Runner-Up - Cheryl Wong Xuan Xuan and Kimberly Ashley Lim En Er, St Joseph's Private School, Kuching

TRAILBLAZERS

MCKL SINCE 1983

Congratulations to all of our award-winning students! We are incredibly proud of your hard work and dedication, and we celebrate your achievements as you continue to excel.



SUKMA 2024

SUKMA GAMES RECORD BREAKER

MEN'S 20KM RACE WALK
1:34:38.20s

GOLD

MEN'S 20KM RACE WALK

BRONZE

MEN'S 10KM RACE WALK

Shannon Khor

CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL



SUKMA 2024

GOLD

MEN'S TEAM ÉPÉE

SILVER

MEN'S TEAM FOIL

Ethan Yam

CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL



Cybersecurity Beyond Thinkable HACKATHON

1st RUNNER UP

Aletheia Wang

DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Lee Shin Ying

DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Chua Xin Yi

DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER SCIENCE



Sydney International Undergraduate Academic Excellence SCHOLARSHIP

100% Tuition Fees
and Student Services
Amenities Fee

Damien Chim

CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL



Kyoto University SCHOLARSHIP

FOR FURTHER STUDIES
AT KYOTO UNIVERSITY

Sia Rei Zen

AUSMAT (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION)



**Second Placing Worldwide
for FA2 (Maintaining Financial Records)**
September 2024 Examination



**Top in Malaysia
for FA2 (Maintaining Financial Records)**
September 2024 Examination



Gamuda SCHOLARSHIP

FOR FURTHER STUDIES
AT TARUMT

Elvin Ng Kian Hou

DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER SCIENCE



Heriot-Watt - MCKL SCHOLARSHIP

FOR FURTHER STUDIES
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT HWUM

Heng Tze Kang

CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL

EMBRACING DIGITAL LITERACY

A STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE FOR BUSINESS EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA



The significance of digital literacy extends far beyond mere relevance in the ever-evolving landscape of business education; it stands as a foundational pillar for both individual success and the collective advancement of Malaysia. Numerous compelling factors highlight its importance, encompassing driving economic growth, fostering innovation, establishing global connections, and empowering the workforce to excel in a volatile economy.

The adoption of technology by MSMEs and SMEs in Malaysia has emerged as a critical discourse, with these entities constituting over 90 percent of all business establishments in the nation and playing a pivotal role in its economic progress.

Economically, the mastery of digital skills is not a choice but a prerequisite for the sustainability and competitiveness of any enterprise. As businesses increasingly pivot towards digital platforms and strategies, proficiency in digital skills becomes indispensable for maintaining relevance and viability in the marketplace.

Furthermore, market dynamics dictate a requisite level of digital literacy. As consumer behaviours evolve alongside technological advancements, businesses must adapt their strategies to meet evolving expectations. Proficiency in digital competencies enables organisations to engage customers across diverse channels, personalise experiences, and harness data-driven insights effectively.

Moreover, digital technologies serve as catalysts for driving innovation, offering businesses unprecedented opportunities to disrupt traditional models and spearhead industry-wide transformations. Proficiency in areas such as digital marketing, analytics, and e-commerce is pivotal for enterprises aiming to remain agile and responsive in dynamic market landscapes.

By nurturing a culture of digital innovation, organisations can unlock novel revenue streams and optimise their operations. Digital skills empower individuals to conceive and implement innovative solutions that address emerging challenges.

Furthermore, digital connectivity has revolutionised global interactions, enabling businesses to partake in cross-border trade, collaborate with remote teams, and effortlessly reach international audiences.

Given these realities, business education must adapt, ensuring students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the digital landscape. For instance, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) stands out as one of the pioneering institutions in Malaysia offering a business diploma programme centered on digital skills which include Digital Business, Digital Marketing, and Financial Technology.

MCKL's business diploma with a focus on digital skills aims to equip students with technical proficiencies, critical thinking abilities, and adaptability to thrive in a digitally driven job market.

In conclusion, the imperative for digital skills within the realm of business education cannot be overstated. Educational institutions must integrate digital literacy into their curriculum, preparing students to navigate and flourish in the digital age, thereby contributing to the competitiveness and prosperity of Malaysia on the global stage.

Dr Cheah Sin Chye has over 30 years of distinguished experience in the Malaysian education sector, he currently serves as the Academic Director of Tertiary Programmes at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL). His career encompasses teaching from primary to postgraduate levels, including a tenure as a faculty member at Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University, Sweden. He possesses a strong background in student affairs and managerial expertise, having previously served as the Deputy Dean of a Business School at a private institution of higher learning. Dr Cheah is widely recognised for his transformative leadership, dedication to educational excellence, and significant contributions to curriculum development, actively shaping the future of education in Malaysia.



MCKL moments

Anti-clockwise from top right:

- A vibrant start to the semester at the KL Campus Orientation
- New beginnings at Penang Campus Orientation
- Celebrating 20 years of excellence in Early Childhood Education
- A night of tradition and festivity at MCKL's Lunar Odessey at Penang Campus
- Shaping future leaders at the BUILD on KL Campus
- Action-packed moments at MCKL Sports Week at Penang Campus
- Games, laughter, and community at the DECE Funfair at KL Campus
- High-energy competition at the MCKL Sports Carnival at KL Campus

LIVE YOUR LIFE AS AN
EXCLAMATION
RATHER THAN AN
EXPLANATION

— ISAAC NEWTON