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PROJECT X

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A COMMITMENT TO
EMBRACE REFRESHING
CHANGES

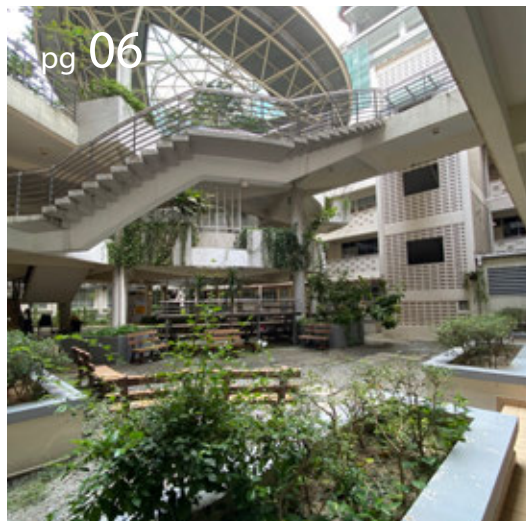
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PAVE THE WAY TO
MALAYSIAN MEDIA

THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO



The Heart of What We Do



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Acknowledgements

A very special thanks to everyone who has contributed to *The Flame*. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us and bringing this edition to life.

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HEAR FROM OUR CEO



It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for MCKL to publish our campus newsletter *The Flame* produced by our creative team and the many other committed contributors.

I'm glad that after over two years of facing the pandemic, with the help of the vaccines and better control of the disease, we are able to move into an endemic stage, which will allow us to almost return to our pre-pandemic lifestyle. During this period, and truly only by the grace of God, I'm proud to say that MCKL emerged with only greater confidence and conviction in our values towards our vision for the institution.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm regards to all students who have recently joined MCKL. I applaud your commitment to your education journey and I hope your time in MCKL will instill in you a passion for lifelong learning and a heart to serve the community.

The College has achieved another milestone this year with the recent launch of our inaugural campus—MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus). This campus offers quality education to serve the northern community with the opportunity of studying in the Pearl of the Orient and experiencing the holistic nature of Methodist education. Adding to that milestone would be the stellar achievements of our students across all programmes, the launch of our new digital programmes and last but not least, our partnership with renowned universities and corporations to grant opportunities beyond the classroom to our community. All of these achievements are anchored by, and find their meaning in, the values we hold to as an institution, in which we seek to honour God and one another.

I am confident this issue will send a positive signal to the staff, students and all those who are keen to know about MCKL. This newsletter will reflect the initiatives, determination and success of our community.

Happy Reading!

Angela Pok Wei Fun
Chief Executive Officer,
Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

BY CATHERINE BAKEWELL



Dear readers,

We are glad you are with us for the newest edition of *The Flame* as we share stories and achievements from the heart of MCKL.

In the various sections of *The Flame*, we explore how MCKL is in the business of transforming teaching and learning, communities and lives. However, we recognise that change must begin from within before and above these areas of transformation. Indeed, MCKL is advancing and changing in many exciting ways, yet forming character and instilling values are at the heart of what we do and why we do it.

Character

is the real foundation of all worthwhile success

—John Hays Hammond

Thus, in this edition, we aim to centre the role MCKL has played in sharing core values within our community and developing character in our students. This is done through the quality of education offered, the variety of student activities and the love and care of the community for one another. MCKL fosters character development through all these aspects, and especially through a core subject offered to all MCKL students; Character Formation. We are excited to feature an article that shares the experiences of MCKL's current students with the core values of MCKL.

These ten core values that MCKL holds dearly are consistent with Christian beliefs and the Methodist tradition and are as follows,

Our Core Values

HONOUR

1. Honour God

RESPECT

2. Respect yourself
3. Respect others
4. Respect property

CHERISH

5. Cherish relationships
6. Cherish nature
7. Cherish our nation

CELEBRATE

8. Celebrate excellence
9. Celebrate diversity
10. Celebrate volunteerism

Though our college is quickly advancing and changing, character is at the heart of what we do. Only when a person's values are solidified can they, in turn, impact communities and lives. This is our aim and our delight.

This edition will feature the great accomplishments of many of our students and staff as we look forward to an ever-changing education landscape. MCKL is progressing and innovating as we look to provide increasingly beneficial teaching and learning experiences.

However, as we strive forward as an institution, with many exciting things to look forward to, let us not forget why we do what we do. Our prayer is that this edition of *The Flame* would showcase the deep-seated values that are at the heart of MCKL, driving all that we do.

TRANSFORMING

Teaching & Learning

“

The job of an educator is
to teach students to
see vitality in themselves.

— Joseph Campbell

”

RETURNING TO MCKL, DISCOVERING OUR CORE VALUES

BY CLAIRE TAN



OUR CORE VALUES

HONOUR

Honour God

RESPECT

Respect yourself
•
Respect others
•
Respect property

CHERISH

Cherish relationships
•
Cherish nature
•
Cherish our nation

CELEBRATE

Celebrate excellence
•
Celebrate diversity
•
Celebrate volunteerism

Assignment: Take a picture based on the core values above!

In January, a large cohort of CAL and AUSMAT 2201 students joined us and experienced MCKL for the first time (while seniors returned to discover a new side of their college experience).

Ms Claire, a Character Formation lecturer, decided the best way to help students engage with MCKL core values, while also helping students discover the physical campus in an active and fun way, was to send them on a special investigation. They were to explore campus, find evidence of MCKL upholding its core values, take photos, and present their findings. This was called the 'MCKL Walk' — a photo scavenger hunt of sorts.

It was a way to reflect on what it means to have shared values. We all have our personal values but when we come together in a community, we agree on shared values that we all care about and tacitly agree to uphold. Values are expressed through the physical environment, through the rules and standards of a community, and through the practices of its people and our everyday actions. Values may be actively or unintentionally promoted, revealed, expressed, and experienced. We asked the question: how far, and in what ways, does MCKL actually express its espoused core values? How, and in what ways, do students perceive, experience, and interpret these values?

1. Honour God

There were abundant examples of physical manifestations of the College's Christian roots in prominent locations all over the college, such as this flame sculpture at the centre of MCKL's agora, the college chapel, and so on. Students also noticed respect for other religions as shown by the bilik solat.



Honour God
by CAL2201S1S2



Honour God
by AUSMAT2201

AUSMAT2201 noticed a prominent display of a range of Christian literature in the bookshop window on the ground floor of the main block, along a busy corridor where students and staff frequently pass by to get to the toilet or the stairs.

2. Respect Yourself

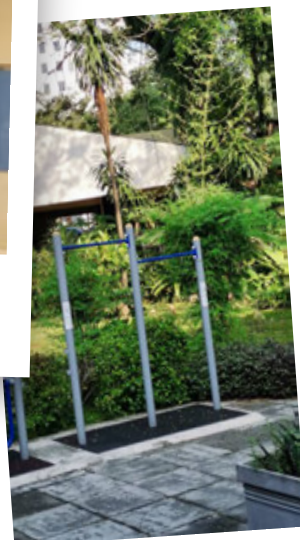
The Counselling Services Centre (and the uber-noticeable, attractive stickers on the toilet mirrors and doors) featured prominently as a visible marker of this value, but students also rightly noted that respecting oneself involves a holistic range of things, such as taking care of one's health.



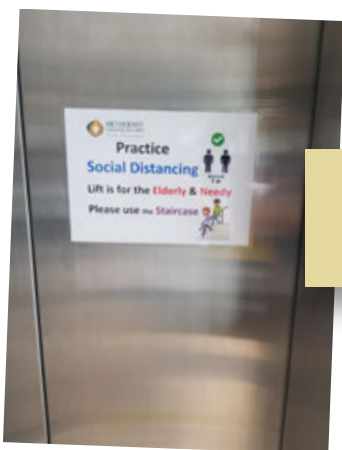
Respect Yourself
by CAL2201M



Respect Yourself
by CAL2201M



Respect Yourself
by CAL2201M

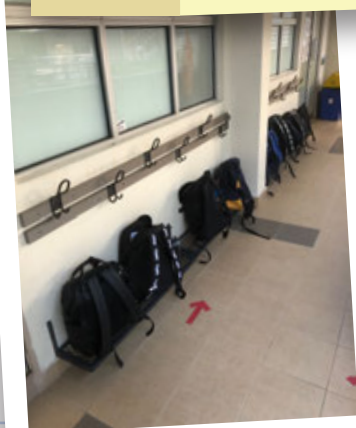


Respect Others
by CAL2201S1S2

3. Respect Others

It wasn't easy to find physical evidence of respecting others. We found that it's something that is expressed through the intangible – through our relationships with the people we meet. Students got creative in staging photos to illustrate the concept. Practices like social distancing and letting the 'elderly and needy' take priority in the queue for the lift was also seen as an expression of respecting others.

4. Respect Property



Respect Property
by CAL2201M

The close connection between respecting property and respecting others became clear over the course of our investigation. We respect property out of an instinctive understanding that someone made the thing, someone will be using the thing, and someone will have to clean or fix the thing if we dirty or break it. If someone owns it, stealing would hurt the owner. Hence, respecting property is actually a part of respecting others. Amusingly, we discovered that the photographic evidence mostly came in the form of taking photos of ordinary things that are not broken nor vandalised. Not particularly photo-worthy, perhaps, but definitely appreciated by the everyday user.



Respect Property
by CAL2201M

These signs on the inside of every toilet door (both male and female, as we found) have permanently burned their message in every student's mind.

5. Cherish Relationships

Again, it was difficult to find tangible evidence of this value. Furthermore, it is so closely related to the values of Respecting Yourself and Respecting Others. However, students amply testified that MCKL is a friendly place where sociability and participation is greatly valued—an extension of that respect and cherishing of relationships.

6. Cherish Nature



Cherish Nature
by CAL2201A



Cherish Nature
by CAL2201S1S2

It was easy for students to find an abundance of examples, thanks to MCKL's hardworking maintenance team which keeps up MCKL's lush greenery—truly a sight for sore eyes—not to mention the chickens, birds, and cats. Students even spotted bats—certainly a fascinating discovery even if not directly attributable to the College's efforts!

7. Cherish Our Nation

Students struggled to find overt proclamations of patriotism, but in the little things, they noted that MCKL is a law-abiding, community-oriented organisation: in the mandatory framed photographs of the Agong and Prime Minister, the national and state flags and the extensive MySejahtera and COVID-reporting apparatus.



Cherish Our Nation
by CAL2201S1S2

8. Celebrate Excellence

This one is self-explanatory, as seen from the abundance of posters and boards promoting our alumni's academic achievements. Some students also noted, however, that this excellence goes beyond academics to include extracurriculars, such as sports.



Celebrate Excellence
by AUSMAT2201



Celebrate Excellence
by CAL2201S1S2

9. Celebrate Volunteerism



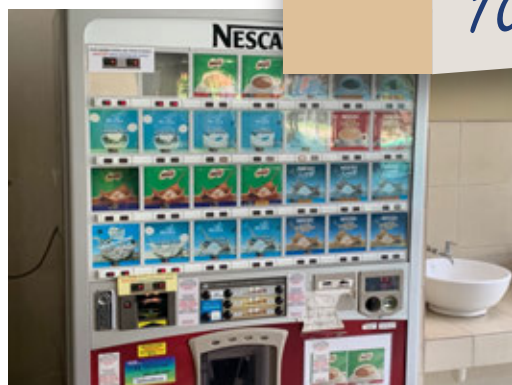
Celebrate Volunteerism
by CAL2201D



Celebrate Volunteerism
by CAL2201S1S2

There were no Service Learning projects in action this week, and so very few photo opportunities. However, all students know that Service Learning is an essential part of an MCKL education, and we even have our very own Diploma in Social Work (first accredited social work diploma offered by a Malaysian private institution!).

10. Celebrate Diversity

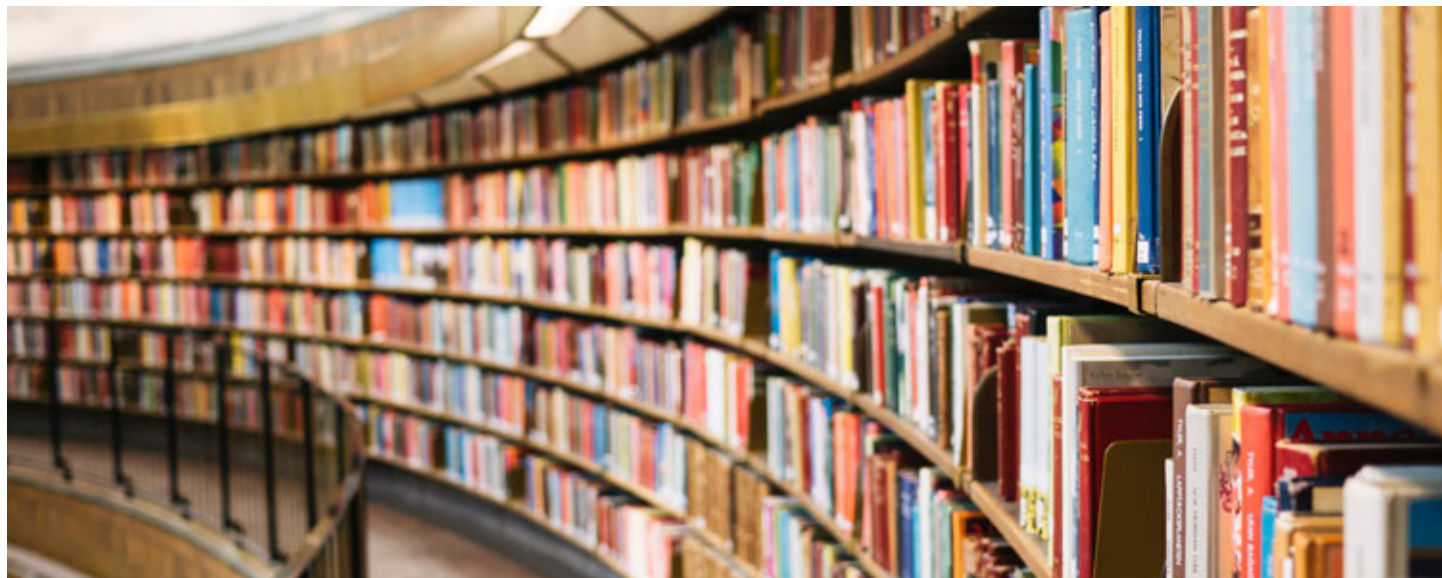


Celebrate Diversity
by CAL2201D

Students humorously interpreted 'diversity' in all manner of ways, pointing out the diversity of nationalities represented among their peers, the diversity of food and drink options in MCKL's canteen and vending machines, the diversity of programmes offered by MCKL and universities attended by alumni, and so on!



Celebrate Diversity
by CAL2201D



PRIVATE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND COMPETENCIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BY CHRISTINA CHANG

Private schooling has become increasingly in demand over the last 20 years. In 2018, Malaysia's Ministry of Education (MOE) reported that the enrolment of students to private schools has increased between 5 – 10 percent¹, and is projected to increase even further. Private schools and institutions are being established to fill the gaps of the changing nature of education delivery and the variety of courses and learner profiles that exist. Typically, private schools are led by experienced leaders in the education field. In Malaysia, experienced private school leaders are identified and recruited amongst individuals who may have served in public schools and institutions either upon their retirement or upon completing their tenure in the public service.

While it is important that leaders in private schools and education institutions are well-versed in the education or higher education system, their prior experience in public schools would not necessarily translate to what is required of them to lead a private school or institution. The reason for this is the stark operating differences between public

and private schools. Some of the differences include areas such as curriculum and instructional methods, learners demographics, institutional operations and management as well as financial capacity. Beyond that, the expectations and quality of private schools and institutions are significantly higher than public schools given the well-developed and comprehensive facilities as well as the higher fees imposed.

This comes as no surprise given most leaders in private schools and institutions should be more well-versed in the ins and outs of public institutions, having worked in the public sector for a significant amount of time over their career. Areas that are unique to private education such as implementing finance management approaches, initiating marketing strategies to ensure consistent enrolment, managing physical facilities like infrastructure that aids teaching and learning, fostering the development of teaching staff and more. Studies² have revealed that leaders in private schools and education institutions may lack certain skills and abilities required to

**Their roles have transitioned from
“...principals as managers...” to**

“...principals as managers and leaders...”

lead and manage the institution to greater heights. Literature³ also identified that principals and school leaders are expected to acquire transformational leadership and pedagogical leadership skills. Their roles have transitioned merely from ‘... principals as managers ...’ to ‘... principals as managers and leaders ...’. As a result, school leadership competencies are even more significant and desired than ever to ensure the success and continuity of these education institutions.

Besides developing capable private school leaders, another challenge that arises is developing competent teachers and educators in private schools and institutions. A study⁴ undertaken by University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA revealed that there is a significant relationship between school leaders that encourage and embed teacher professional development and student outcomes. In-service teachers who attended and were exposed to professional development programmes on teaching and learning development and practices in classrooms were able to translate outcomes better. No doubt, expectations on private schools and institutions are higher, as teaching and learning need to align and meet and benchmark with the quality of various international curriculum, outcomes, and achievements. These trainings are crucial as some teachers who are recruited may not have relevant teaching experience. Thus, teacher development is a key part of a teacher’s professional success. This is just one of the factors that leaders of private education institutions have to consider as they lead and manage.

Therefore, it is obvious that leading and managing a private school or education institution is challenging and not for the faint hearted. Through the Centre for Professional Development, MCKL has developed training and development programmes and modules to address the needs of private school leaders and educators to ensure that they are able to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities to lead and manage the private school and institutions to greater heights.

The Educational Management and Leadership for Private Education Programme intends to merge the elements of education and business together by integrating expertise in managing teams and organisations with best practices in educational leadership and education operations. Curated exclusively for leaders of private schools and education institutions, leaders shall be equipped with various frameworks, skills, and knowledge to effectively lead and drive change in private education institutions. Facilitators for this programme are experienced private education leaders, thinkers, and strategists.

Leaders in private schools and education institutions that intend to develop and upskill should consider the Cambridge International Certificate of Teaching and Learning (CICTL) and Cambridge International Diploma of Teaching and Learning (CIDTL). Both of these professional development programmes are catered for in-service professionals to progress their teaching career as effective teachers and educators. Additionally, MCKL has also curated a series of Teaching and Learning Short Courses & Workshops that are designed and aimed to nurture a community of in-service teachers and educators who are innovative, responsive, and collaborative.

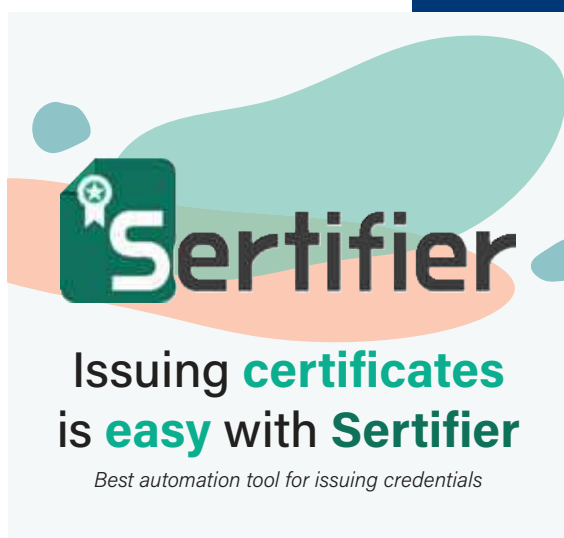
Whether you are an aspiring private school and institution leader or a dedicated in-service teacher, learning is a lifelong process. Contact us through email at admission@mckl.edu.my to find out more relating to these professional development courses.

¹Department of Statistics, Malaysia. Children Statistics, Malaysia, 2018. Link: Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal (dosm.gov.my)

²Tai, M. K., & Omar Abdull Kareem. (2019). School leaders’ competencies that make a difference in the era of Education 4.0: A conceptual framework. *International Journal of Academic Research Business and Social Sciences*, 9 (5), 214–225. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBS/v9-i4/5836>

³Duong Thi Hoang Yen, Le Ngoc Hung, Thi Thuy Hang Vu & Tan Nguyen. (2021). Factors Affecting Smart School Leadership Competencies of High School Principals in Vietnam. *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 20 (4), 1 – 17. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.26803/ijlter.20.4.1>

⁴Bredson, P. V. (2000). The school principal’s role in teacher professional development. *Journal of In-Service Education*, 26 (2), 385 – 401. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674580000200114>



DIGITAL CREDENTIALS HAVE LANDED IN MCKL!

BY CHRISTINA CHANG

Lately, young professionals have tapped on social media platforms to flex and share their professional achievements and credentials. These credentials, in the format of digital certificates and open badges, can articulate one's achievements and help with future employment or even study applications that encapsulate one's personal learning and professional journey. The credentials also outline and verify the skillsets of credential holders to future employers.

Forbes¹ predicts that digital credentials will eventually replace conventional grading and transcribing. This approach is expected to unlock opportunities to learn from multiple providers, creating faster, affordable, more flexible personalised learning pathways. Credentials will become better signals of capabilities and, as they become more portable, will make employment more equitable and accessible.

MCKL has engaged Sertifier, a digital credential management software and platform to issue digital certificates and badges at ease upon completion of programmes and courses. Earners of these digital

certificates and digital badges can share their digital credentials with one click on social platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. Each digital certificate and digital badge issued comes with a unique identification code, thus allowing future employers to verify and authenticate the digital certificates and badges. By initiating this partnership, Sertifier will generate digital certificates and open badges on behalf of MCKL and all these digital credentials will have the flexibility to be recognised in 28 countries and more than two hundred thousand institutions globally without having printed versions. All the essential data will be inserted into digital copies of those credentials and no one other than the issuer and owner can alter any data regarding the credential. Additionally, credential verification will be supported with digital network security to prevent any type of fraud.

Through this engagement, MCKL can take a huge leap forward into providing digital credentials and recognition to all academic and professional development courses offered, thus allowing prospective students the opportunity to formally recognise their achievements.

¹Ark, V. T. (2021). Digital Credentials: A Better Way to Capture and Communicate Learning. Forbes, 25 Nov 2020.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tomvanderark/2020/11/25/digital-credentials-a-better-way-capture-and-communicate-learning/?sh=73e965732dd6>

TRANSFORMING

Communities

“

An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.

— Martin Luther King

”

PROJECT X

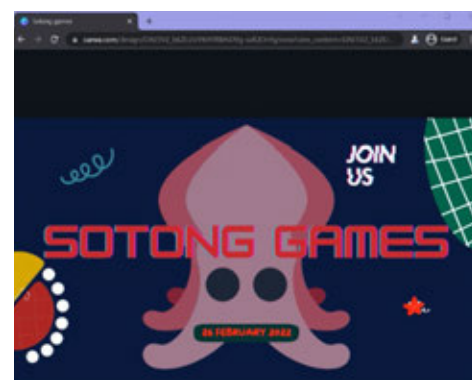
BY MOK YEN QIN & TIFFANY CHIU



In MCKL, students are encouraged to participate in clubs and societies that are formed and run by students who share the same interest. The clubs and societies hold annual events and activities that allow the students to enjoy their time in college. Besides that, there will be regular Student General Meetings. These meetings are organised by the Student Representative Council. This council plays a big role in students' college life, organising activities and functions for the students.

In the middle of February, the Cambridge A Level Union launched a project called "Project X". The initial plan was to run a 'Chill Vibes Carnival' for the students to take a break from studying and just have fun. Unfortunately, due to the latest COVID-19 guidelines, the carnival was unable to proceed as intended. The members of Project X came up with an alternative—Fashion Week and The Sotong Games. For 'The Fashion Week', themes of the day were announced through social media. Students were encouraged to dress according to the theme and the best-dressed participant would be awarded attractive prizes at the end of the event. This was followed by 'The Sotong Games', inspired by a well-known TV show called Squid Game. Students played suspenseful games together on Microsoft Teams, creating an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment.

Vishnupriya chaired the event, sharing that coming up with an alternative activity with such short notice enhanced her planning skills and taught her patience. The logistics lead, Derek Loh, said that though the team felt let down due to their wasted efforts for the first event, he learnt how to react when things don't go to plan. Reyhnajit, was tasked to publicise the event, found that it was through the challenges that she learnt valuable life lessons.



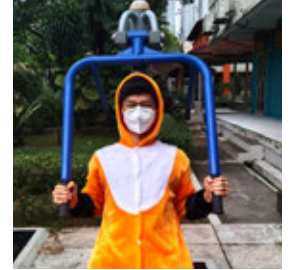
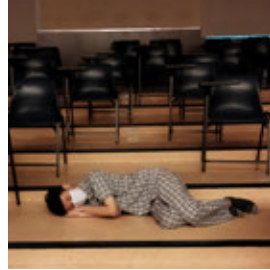
Above: Student Ethan Cheah's creative submission to Fashion Week

Below: The Sotong Games participants on Microsoft Teams



A SNAPSHOT OF PROJECT X

From left to right: Fashion Week submission from Lim Thau Loong, Edgar Wong, Leann Tan and Lee Cheng Zhen.



LEADERS IN THE MAKING

We asked some members of the Cambridge A Level Union Project X to share with us their experiences, and this is what they have to say!

It was a new experience having to deal with many people and eventually coming to an agreement. I also find it common to face rejections, especially when dealing with external parties as we all have different arrangements and needs.

Low Ken Zie
Sub-Comm Sponsorship Head

The most important skill that I have added into my arsenal was patience, which takes time to learn and master. Patience helps me to improve my ability to accept setbacks in life when things do not go as planned.

Joshua George
Vice Chairperson

Before this event, my previous roles were all behind the scenes, and so my communication skills with participants were very subpar. Hence being a facilitator was a change of scenery. I gained communication skills which would help me once I enter university.

Adrian Chan Chi Kin
Secretary

I learnt to communicate and deal with people with different personalities, and this helped me to be more flexible. Also, I tried to put in 120% effort into whatever I do even though the results might not be up to par.

Wong Su Yie
Sub-Comm Logistics Member

I was able to coordinate and cooperate with people via online means. My time management skills were also greatly enhanced as I had to work with multiple parties all at once, each with their own deadlines and different processing times.

Lee Cheng Zhen
Sub-Comm Co-Head

If I could be involved in the project again, I hoped I had expressed more of my ideas, feelings, and opinions in meetings. I was listening and being the follower. But attending the interview turned me into a more confident person.

Tan Xiao Qin
Sub-Comm Assistant Publicity

**It's during the hard times when
the hero within us is revealed.**

CALMING THE STORM

BY JONAH YIP MATHIVANAN

The Counselling Services Centre (CSC) offers MCKL students and staff mental health support through face-to-face counselling alongside education and outreach associated with mental health. Operated by experienced counsellors, the CSC provides professional help while keeping your details confidential. If you face struggles while navigating through the arduous journey of life, feel free to contact the CSC.

The CSC recognises the significance of cultivating a familiar environment for students to share their challenges. Hence, they also trained dedicated students and staff of various departments to provide peer support for our college community. The Peer Support Group (PSG) is comprised of dedicated students trained by the CSC, whereas the College Support Team (CST) are the staff counterparts.



Above: Flood relief efforts for one of the homes.

When it rains, it pours. Continuous downpours swept across Sabah and the peninsula from November 2021 to January 2022, leading to knee-deep floods in low-lying areas in seven states. News outlets did not exaggerate when they declared that one month of rain fell in a day. With the violent waters claiming 48 lives and causing thousands to evacuate their homes, it has indeed been Malaysia's worst flood in recent history.

News of the flood spread like wildfire, with videos and news articles circulating the internet and social media platforms. This tragedy caught the attention of CSC, alongside with PSG and CST; where they lend a hand out of concern for the victims and the severity of the situation. They collaborated in planning an initiative to contribute to the flood relief efforts.

The MCKL counsellors, accompanied by ten volunteers from PSG and CST teams, organised a field trip on New Year's Eve to Kampung Bukit Lanchong, Shah Alam, a place heavily affected by the catastrophic floods. All that

remained in the village were the remnants of homes—ceiling panels burst open, fans dangling, walls crumbling, doors unhinged, furniture tumbled over and covered in mud. Victims returned to their homes after staying in temporary shelters for nearly a month. There was a shortage of basic necessities in rebuilding the home of the victims. To meet the gaps of flood relief aid to those affected, NGOs and private donors rushed to the scene to provide short-term aid to the victims.

The PSG and MCKL counsellors distributed kettles and portable fans to affected households. PSG learnt putting parts of the fan together and enjoyed assembling the fans for the families. The team from MCKL also provided 'Psychological First Aid' to the flood victims that had been affected by the incident. One man was facing insomnia as he feared having to evacuate when it rained. Another felt hopeless after losing everything. This victim was overwhelmed with worries as she pondered about the future of her family. The counsellors were able to forge emotional bonds with the families instantly due to their

A tight community
is what makes human beings resilient despite the circumstances.

expertise in psychology and proficiency in the Malay language. The students exercised and enhanced their skills from the PSG training by initiating direct conversations with the victims, comforting them while listening to their experiences with the flood.

Coming into this flood initiative, a student was intimidated at first but she stepped out of her comfort zone eventually after realising it would be a waste to pass up the opportunity. She did not regret it since it was an incredible experience that allowed her to achieve her wish of contributing back to the community. She realised the importance of counting her blessings because some people reside in harsher conditions.

Another student learnt that humility is important. Humbling oneself to step into the shoes of others, bearing the burden of a community together, makes the world of a difference in a time of need. The student came to this realisation observing the humility displayed by neighbours, NGOs and all the volunteers who showed up to help with the flood relief. Beyond that, the student felt like it was also a beautiful display of unity amongst Malaysians. Ending this experience on a high note allowed the student to gain confidence both in themselves and in humanity.

One of the students sympathised with the affected individuals when hearing about their sorrows and misfortunes. "Respect emanated in me as I realised that I could neither have the same inner resilience nor mental fortitude that these people possess," said the student when describing the positive attitude of the victims. This experience taught the student that just as changes in rain

Impact is not measured in decibels, but by bringing to fruition silent, meaningful work that ultimately raises the bar and enhances the conditions of others in a beneficial and appropriate way.

conditions would worsen the flooding in an instance, everything in this world is constantly changing too. The student also learnt to be more conscious, knowing that their speech and actions have a lasting impact on others. The student mentions, "Impact is not measured in decibels, but by bringing to fruition silent, meaningful work that ultimately raises the bar and enhances the conditions of others beneficially and appropriately," when commenting on the objective of compassion projects.

This beautiful initiative that was birthed in an extreme time of need reminds us that as Helen Keller said, 'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'. In times of need, a show of solidarity, especially in action, will go a long way.



Left: CSC leading the PSG and CST to Kampung Bukit Lanchong, Shah Alam; right: setting up fans for the families.

FORGOTTEN AND FORSAKEN

BY JONAH YIP MATHIVANAN



Louis Thoo
Diploma in Social Work,
MCKL

The Diploma in Social Work (DSW) programme complies with National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice (2010). It offers courses that develop psychosocial skills and emphasise ethical values and conduct to help acquire in-depth knowledge of human behaviour.

Louis has been studying in the Diploma in Social Work since August 2021. His grandfather is an amputee and he wants to make him proud by getting into university. Louis was shocked when news outlets broke the news that the finest Paralympic athlete in Malaysia, Koh Lee Peng, was selling tissues by the roadside. How could the former para swimmer be barely scraping by? Didn't she make the country proud by bringing home seven gold and three silver medals? This has encouraged Louis to delve deeper into the issue of disability discrimination and rights in Malaysia.

Louis realised that the country is not disabled-friendly and is behind other countries in this regard. Citizens have overestimated the promises of the government. Many public facilities and buses are not accommodating to the disabled population, lacking ramps and accessible toilets. It is also difficult for people with physical disabilities to check in with MySejahtera because most QR codes are placed at eye level and might be out of reach for them. In addition, it takes a long time for them to receive OKU cards (the Malaysian ID cards for persons with disabilities). This lack of accessibility has made it quite inconvenient for the disabled to traverse across the country. Koh Lee Peng had to resign from an office job due to difficulties accessing her office building.

Discrimination towards those with physical impairments is rampant since most Malaysians have selfish mindsets, viewing them as a liability without empathising with them. People often underestimate the abilities of the disabled. Furthermore, it has caused low self-esteem and feelings of personal inadequacy among disabled people.

How could the **former para swimmer** be barely scrapping by? Didn't she make the country proud by bringing home **7 gold and 3 silver medals**?

Fortunately, Louis is one of the social workers who assist those with mental and physical disabilities in overcoming their challenges in life. Social workers identify their needs and problems to provide psychosocial support, empowering disabled people by enhancing their quality of life and helping them fit into society. It was a huge commitment to be a social worker during the pandemic as people with disabilities struggled with finances and mental health. Social workers utilised social media platforms in these times to address and raise awareness of the issues, hoping for a change in the country.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Society should change their perception towards disabled people because they are equally as capable as everyone else. Louis also mentioned that spending time with disabled people helps us to understand them better and treat them as a fellow friend rather than a client. Besides that, this also helps us to change our perceptions towards people with disabilities, which enables us to create a healthy and safe society for them.

Moving forward, we will then be able to empathise and create a friendly environment for them, so that it enables them to realise their fullest potential.



The various media coverage on former para swimmer Koh Lee Peng's predicament

MCKL Service Learning in 2022

ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING

Service Learning is an educational experience that involves participation in an organised service activity that meets identified community needs. Through the MCKL Service Learning module, students are also required to reflect on their service activity through writing, discussion and reading to gain further understanding of course content, broaden their appreciation of the discipline, and enhance their sense of responsibility.

Students learn through hands-on interaction and experience and relate their experiences to course material through discussion and written assignments for academic credit. Throughout the year, we are proud to announce that not only did our efforts not stop, but our students became even more creative in carrying out their Service Learning projects. Here are some fun projects done in 2022!

A GLIMPSE OF MCKL SERVICE LEARNING

51

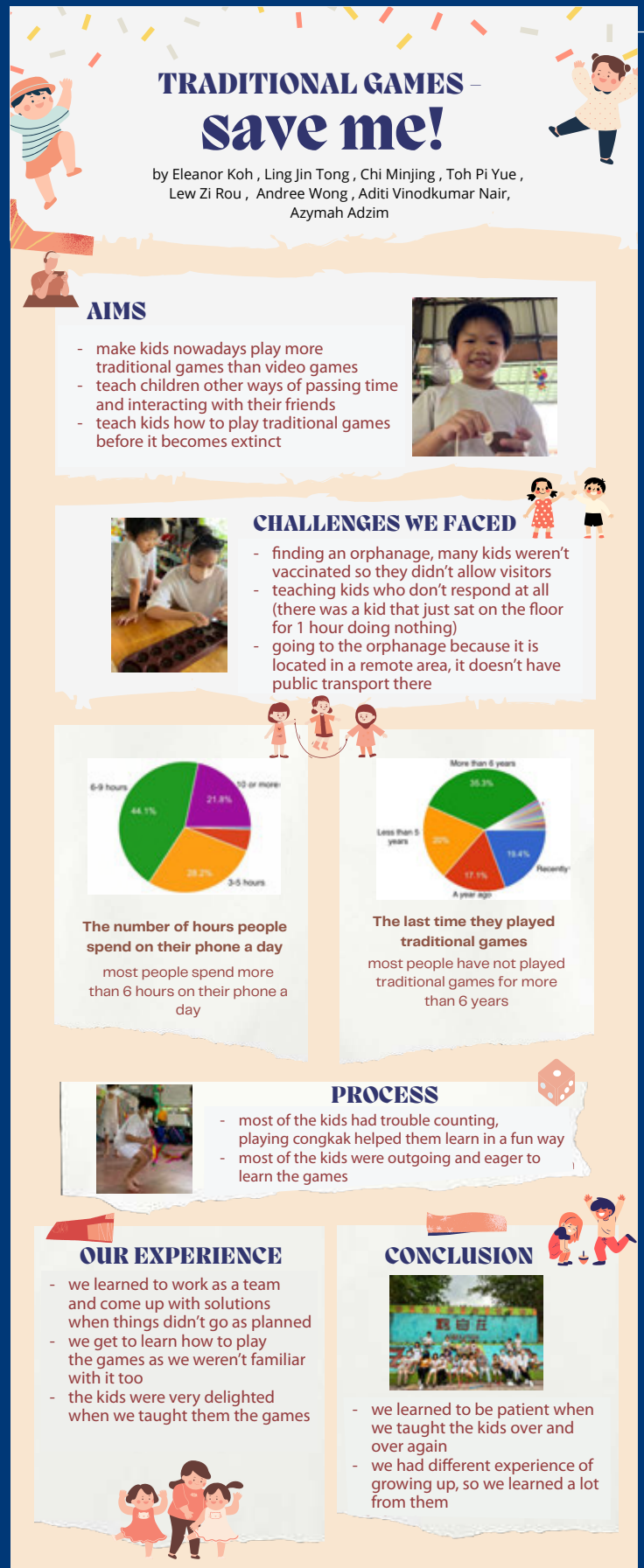
Total Service Learning projects carried out in the first half of 2022

Environment

Education for the underprivileged children

Animal Cruelty

Popular themes in this year's Service Learning projects



Posters are a common tool for our students to showcase their findings at the end of their projects.

TRANSFORMING

Futures

“

The best way to find yourself is
to lose yourself in the service
of others.

— Mahatma Gandhi

”

MCKL'S ALUMNA BAGS MALAYSIA'S ROYAL EDUCATION AWARD

BY DANIEL GREGORY



Kavena Sivapragasam
CAL Alumna, MCKL

MCKL's most prominent pre-university programme is the Cambridge A Level programme. It serves as an entry qualification that is recognised by a wide range of degree programmes varying from local universities to universities abroad in Australia and the UK. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with an abundance of knowledge, key competencies and skills, ready to embark on their individual university journeys.

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) alumna, Kavena Sivapragasam, aged 23, was a recipient of the MCKL Full Scholarship in 2016 while pursuing her A Level programme at the college. In 2018, she then received the Great Eastern Supremacy Scholarship 2018 to pursue her degree, followed by receiving the Anugerah Biasiswa Kanan Universiti Award in 2019.

During Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's convocation ceremony in November 2021, Kavena graduated with First Class Honours in the Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) programme from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia while receiving the prestigious Royal Education Award. Apart from that, she is also a recipient of the Psychology Graduate Icon Award and the University Book Prize Recipient.

**The best part
of this process is not
attaining the goal but
it's the person
you transformed
into.**

The Royal Education Award, also known as Pingat Jaya Cemerlang, is one of the most prestigious awards annually awarded to two of the best undergraduates (one bumiputra and one non-bumiputra) in every public university. The decision as to who receives the award is endorsed by the Majlis Raja-Raja Melayu and is based on several criteria such as academic excellence, leadership involvement, contribution to the community and sports and the possession of exemplary personal traits and values.

Kavena's degree-long effort and commitment in being actively involved in international and national level events, competitions and projects while maintaining a first class CGPA earned her the prestigious award. She persevered through with the honest intention of wanting to bring the spotlight on the importance of social science for building a better humanity.

Speaking about her aspirations for the field of Psychology in Malaysia, Kavena said, "It is undeniable that there's still plenty of room for enhancement but every contribution to the country is extremely valuable and necessary. I genuinely hope to see Psychology develop as an established body in Malaysia. Besides, as an advocate on Positive Psychology, I hope to be able to contribute into developing this field of study in Malaysia. It is time to amplify the need for positive practices in nurturing and tapping the potentials of a thriving community."

She added, "My research was on understanding how happiness contributes to success and my research showed that positive emotions are key to success. So, always pursue something that makes you happy. The best part of this process is not attaining the goal but it's the person you transformed into. In order to enjoy success – that's the real and more meaningful achievement."

Kavena's enthusiasm and accomplishments in the field of Psychology is a perfect example of the role of the new generation as pioneers and forerunners in their pursuit to inspiring young minds to cultivate a passion and desire to make a positive impact on their communities through human engagement. Her commitment and dedication should be emulated by young people from all walks of life in ensuring a progressive future.

MCKL ACCA FIA & ACCA STUDENTS BAG TOP GLOBAL AND MALAYSIA ACCA PRIZES

BY DANIEL GREGORY



Malaysia Top 3 Affiliates

Ranked 3rd in Malaysia, December 2021

Ang Guo Weng

*Certified Accounting Technician (CAT),
Class of 2020*

*Association of Chartered
Certified Accountants (ACCA),
Class of 2022*



World Prize Winner for FTX (MYS)

Foundations in Taxation, December 2021

Ganapathi Murugappan

*ACCA Foundation in Accountancy (ACCA FIA),
Class of 2022*

*Association of Chartered
Certified Accountants (ACCA), MCKL*

Kuala Lumpur, 18th March 2022 – Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) students from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and ACCA Foundation in Accountancy (ACCA FIA) programme displayed excellence when one world prize winner and one Malaysian prize winner were celebrated from the December 2021 Examinations sitting.

ACCA FIA qualification is the stepping stone to the ACCA Qualification and membership of the global body for professional accountants. Employers around the world, seek out ACCA members to lead their businesses to sustainable success, knowing that ACCA members are strategic thinkers with high ethical integrity, strong financial knowledge, and the right business acumen.

From MCKL's ACCA FIA programme, Ganapathi Murugappan was announced as the World Prize Winner by ranking number one in the world for the FTX (MYS) Foundation in Taxation paper. MCKL's ACCA student, Ang Guo Weng gained the title as Malaysia Top 3 Affiliates, placing as third place in Malaysia and 16th place worldwide.

"When I received the news of getting the award, I was going through on an emotional rollercoaster. However, in the end, I was extremely happy and grateful that I was able to achieve this and will be striving for the next award. The education that I

received in MCKL has provided me with insightful knowledge that brought me one step closer towards my career." Ganapathi Murugappan said.

"I was surprised and happy when I received the news. There is actually no secret, but just the same old advice to study hard, plan well ahead and no last-minute studying. I had completed my Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) and ACCA studies in MCKL and now I am an ACCA Affiliate who has completed all the ACCA papers on my first attempt. MCKL played a significant role in this achievement." said Ang Guo Weng.

The ACCA programme was first introduced in MCKL back in 2014 and has provided educational opportunities to over 25 ACCA affiliates. MCKL is one of the Top 3 Institutions in Kuala Lumpur with a Platinum Status Approved Learning Partner (ALP) of ACCA. Platinum is the most prestigious level of the ALP programme.



A PARTNERSHIP TO EMPOWER FUTURE ACCOUNTANTS

BY DANIEL GREGORY

Petaling Jaya, 11th February 2022 – Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo on the 20th of January 2022, with the ambition of enabling young accountants to further their education with the globally recognised ACCA qualification.

The memorandum was signed by Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo's Trustee, Dato' Lim Hong Thye, and MCKL's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Angela Pok, during the signing ceremony held at Hilton Hotel, Petaling Jaya. Dato' Lim Hong Thye is also the Group Managing Director of Ann Joo Resources Berhad. Amongst the goals outlined in the agreement are initiatives to nurture deserving talents in the accounting field through the education provided by MCKL and financial aid provided by Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo's scholarship aid. The partnership will also provide the scholarship recipient with a career platform under Ann Joo Resources Berhad and its subsidiaries.

The ACCA programme was first introduced in MCKL back in 2014 and has provided educational opportunities to over 25 ACCA affiliates. MCKL is one of the Top 3 Institutions in Kuala Lumpur with a Platinum Status Approved Learning Partner (ALP) of ACCA. Platinum is the most prestigious level of the ALP programme.

"This MoU lays a foundation for deserving talents in the accounting field to venture and use their strong leadership and accounting skills to serve the industry while making valuable changes in society. We have partnered with MCKL as their mission to nurture a community where excellence, in all its forms, is celebrated; and where individuals come alive to use their given ability to make a unique difference in the world echoes the same sentiment that we at Ann Joo Group believe in." Dato' Lim Hong Thye said.

Above: CEO Angela Pok signs the MoU with Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo.

"We are glad to be in partnership with an esteemed organisation as Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo. The current economic landscape emerging from the pandemic has left many individuals' household incomes affected, causing students to postpone their education or search for secondary income. This partnership will provide education and career changing opportunities for Malaysian accountants." said Ms Angela Pok, CEO of MCKL.

The first recipient of the scholarship was MCKL's ACCA student, Lim Yi Nie, aged 23, who received the scholarship during the 2021 Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo Scholarship Award Ceremony held on 28th December 2021. The Yayasan Jasa Ann Joo Undergraduate Scholarship officially presented Yi Nie with a full scholarship worth RM 21,000 per academic year. When asked, Yi Nie said "I am truly shocked but grateful to receive this scholarship. It will surely help reduce my family's financial strain while giving me a platform to launch my accounting career."

I am truly shocked but grateful to receive this scholarship. It will surely help reduce my family's financial strain while giving me a platform to launch my accounting career.

*Lim Yi Nie,
MCKL ACCA student*

Below: MCKL ACCA student Lim Yi Nie receives the Yayasan Ann Joo Scholarship



A COMMITMENT TO EMBRACE REFRESHING CHANGES

BY DANIEL GREGORY



On the 16th of November 2021, MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) hosted a Thanksgiving & Tree Planting Ceremony at the inaugural branch campus in Pykett, Penang. This campus was established to serve the northern community in the best of the Methodist tradition.

The ceremony was attended by Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar (Bishop of Methodist Church in Malaysia), Chairman of Wesleyan Education Services Sdn. Bhd. (WESSB) Board of Directors, Dato' Chin Lean Keat, Chairman of MCKL Board of Governors, Dato' Dr. Tan Kee Kwong, Council of Education (COE) Private Education Director, Mr Lim Kah Cheng, members of the Methodist COE, MCKL Board of Governors, MCKL CEO, Ms Angela Pok, MCKL Principal & Academic Dean, Dr Gerard Boey, Wesley Methodist School (WMS) Penang Board of Management, Methodist Boys' School (MBS) Old Boys' members and pastors & priests of Penang churches as they gathered to offer a heartfelt thanksgiving and praise to God for the completion and relevant approvals for the college to begin operations. An opening prayer was said by Rev. Ronald Yap of Wesley Methodist Church, Penang.

"The vision of MCKL College here is to provide higher education opportunities and alternate pathways for secondary schools leavers and adult learners in the northern region. We also offer ourselves as God's servants and as a community, ready to serve for the greater glory of God" said Ms Angela Pok, CEO of MCKL during her welcoming remarks.

During his sermon on 'Embracing Refreshing Changes', Rev. Dr. T Jeyakumar quoted the scripture Mark 2:22; No one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise the wine will burst the wineskins and both will be ruined, explaining that good changes are necessary and those who find it hard to accept changes will be left behind. Speaking after the event he shared, "I believe in the provision of quality yet affordable education in all our schools and colleges. I would also like to urge parents to allow their children to gain valuable teachings at our Methodist schools before they attain maturity and are ready to face the outside world, as character formation is equally as important as skills and knowledge."

Above: The Methodist community and other attendees at the Thanksgiving and Tree Planting Ceremony, representing the devotion of MCKL's academic to nurture students.

**Good changes
are necessary
and those who find it
hard to accept changes
will be left
behind.**

Digital programmes are also highly in demand by the workforce, thus it is a huge game changer in the education and corporate field. It is commonly required for people to be multiskilled while constantly upgrading themselves to adapt in today's society." The speech was followed by his thanksgiving and blessing prayer for MCKL Penang Pykett Campus.

After the service, three trees were then planted on the college grounds to symbolise the devotion of MCKL's college academics to nurture students. The first, Tree of Knowledge for students to be experts in the discipline of their choice, followed by Tree of Skills to help develop students' 21st century learning and careers skills, and finally the Tree of Attitude to shape students into progressive individuals with celebrated traits.

Students and parents are welcomed to make an appointment for a personalised counselling session regarding the new Campus, programmes offered, intakes and scholarship now. Contact 04 - 217 5088 or email pykett@mckl.edu.my to book your appointment.

For more information on MCKL, kindly visit <https://www.mckl.edu.my/> or call 03 2300 0998. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and news.

Below: Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar presenting his sermon to the faithful during the Pykett Campus Thanksgiving service.



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF SUCCESSFUL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

BY DANIEL GREGORY



Above: DECE alumni batch of 2021, currently pursuing their degree studies in MTU

Kuala Lumpur, 19th November 2021 – Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) celebrated the remarkable achievement of reaching a milestone of 10 years in partnership with Early Childhood Education (ECE) provider Munster Technological University (MTU) (previously known as Institute of Technology, Tralee) in Ireland. Both institutions have mutually built a long lasting and transformative partnership to achieve a sustainable goal that is to provide quality and comprehensive education to ECE students to meet the ever-evolving demands of the workforce.

MCKL and MTU, Ireland first entered a partnership back in 2011, with the ambition of enabling MCKL students to directly enter year 4 of MTU's Early Childhood Education Bachelor's programme. MCKL's students are eligible for this express pathway due to the comprehensive selection of subjects and robust practical exposure which guarantees admission to MTU upon completion of MCKL's two and a half years of diploma studies.

Now boasting over 102 alumni, the partnership has grown from humble beginnings, with just six students in the first graduating cohort in 2015. MTU consistently remains one of the top providers of the ECE programme and ranked Top 151 in Academic Ranking of World Universities.

MCKL alumnus Samuel Pau, aged 28, from the first batch of diploma students in 2011, pursued his bachelor's programme in IT Tralee (currently known as MTU) in 2015 and successfully graduated in 2016, through the express pathway. Samuel who recently completed his Master's in Education is one of the many MCKL students who has successfully pursued their careers in Ireland. In 2020 alone,

ten students who were studying the ECE programme at MTU are pursuing their careers in Ireland.

Samuel who is currently a Childcare Manager at Best Start Preschool and Afterschool Donnycarney shares, "The education at MCKL provided me the knowledge and opportunity to explore the suitable career options in Ireland." He also shared, "Male educators in ECE are rare and I am very proud to be in the childcare industry as we are acting as male role models to young children, which is very crucial in their life. Male early educators are creating a diverse workplace. The quality of teaching tends to improve with diversity, and the professional relationships between all work colleagues tend to be better."

This year, even during the challenges of the pandemic, MCKL has successfully sent eighteen students to pursue their final year in MTU, a breakthrough since 2015. The partnership being the top choice of many students has continued to open various academic and career opportunities for MCKL graduates in Ireland.

**I am very proud to be
in the childcare industry
as we are acting as
male role models
to young children,
which is very crucial in their life.**

*Samuel Pau,
DECE Alumnus MCKL*



▶ KICKSTART YOUR UNIVERSITY SEARCH **ASAP** ▶

It's never too early to think about where you want to go, as each course and university have specific conditions to be met. By being aware of these requirements early on, you will be more prepared for the university application process. Here at MCKL University Placement and Alumni Department (UPAD), we encourage everyone to stay curious and so as to not miss out on great opportunities!

Top 3 All-time Favourite Questions

Switch subject?

Should I add, drop, or switch subject?

For certain majors, having the right subject combination is crucial. Don't be shy to check with us about this!

Scholarship?

Can I get a scholarship?

Money is one of the biggest factors to consider when deciding where to study. Research, talk to counsellors, talk to your parents to understand your financial situation.

Best place?

Where is the best place to study (insert course name here)?

The quality of teaching and method of delivery for a course is important, as well as facilities and services available, course content and course focus. These are all good points to consider in choosing a university.

TOP 3 FACTORS STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER ABOUT THEIR UNIVERSITY APPLICATION

\$\$\$

Total Cost

Because, money matters! On a serious note, not every course allows you to change majors halfway through the programme, so pick your course carefully.

📖

Course content

You will be stuck with the course for 3-4 years, so pick something you're interested in



Location

You will spend 3-4 years living here, so choose a place you can get used to. Do consider the culture, weather, food and university facilities.





BEST TIME TO START LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIP

At the time of university application and after submitting your university application. Many scholarships are open for application between December - June each year.



WHICH IS MORE **WORRISOME** FOR STUDENTS?

Scholarship or Interview? **University Admission Essay?**

Scholarship interviews, as there is a higher element of unpredictability for this.



90% OF STUDENTS HAVE **EXTRA CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** LISTED IN THEIR UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

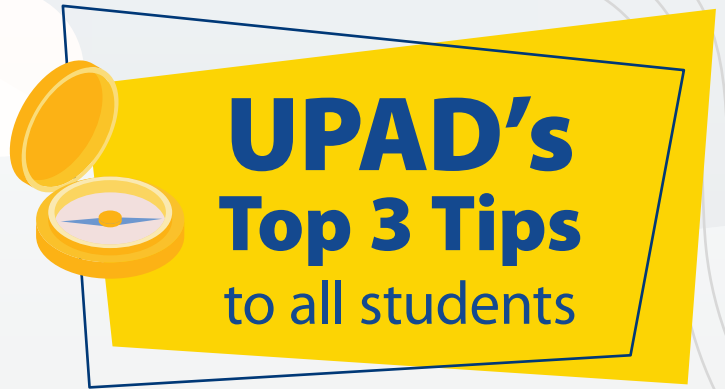


ARCHERY



FENCING

SOME OF THE **UNUSUAL** EXTRA CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES LISTED IN UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS



Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines!

Once you have passed the deadline, it is very likely you will have to wait another year to apply to the same university again. Keep this in mind so you don't miss any deadlines, whether for university or scholarship application!



Talk to the counsellors at UPAD

Speaking to someone experienced in university application can give you a fresh perspective about your university application. Besides, we don't bite ;)



Do your research

Hearing things from counsellors, parents, and friends is different from doing your own research. Do this, as your education belongs to you, not anyone else. Know what you are getting yourself into, and make informed choices.



Reach out to UPAD today!

- University Placement Consultation
- University Applications
- UCAS Centre
- Resource Centre
- Connecting with Alumni

Available to current MCKL student and alumni, UPAD can be contacted via these channels:

- ✉ uni.placement@mckl.edu.my
- 📍 uni.placement
- 🌐 uniplacement.mckl



METHODIST
COLLEGE | KUALA LUMPUR
Veritas Vincit Omnia



MCKL
THE CAL A-LISTERS

CONGRATULATIONS

OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International School

June 2021 Examination Series



TOP IN MALAYSIA

A Level Business

ASHLEY KHOO XIANG YI

Wesley Methodist School KL (International), Alumna

Cambridge A Level, MCKL Alumna



TOP IN MALAYSIA

A Level Further Mathematics

KIM BYUNGJOO

Fairview International School, Alumnus

Cambridge A Level, MCKL Alumnus



HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

AS Level Computer Science

CHIN LIAN ANN

Sri Emas International School, Alumnus

Cambridge A Level, MCKL Alumnus

PROVEN BY EXCELLENCE

132

Outstanding Cambridge
Learner Awards since 2013

100%

average pass rate in
8 consecutive years

63%

3A's & above in
June 2021 Exam Series

TRANSFORMED

Lives

“

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.

— Billy Graham

”

WALK THE TALK

BY VANESSA CHONG

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt and light-colored pants, crouching in a grassy field. She is smiling and petting a white dog with orange ears. The dog is wearing an orange harness. The background shows a sunset or sunrise sky with some distant buildings and power lines.

Joey Lim

Speech Language Pathologist
ADTP Alumna, MCKL

The American Degree Transfer Program, more commonly known by its abbreviation ADTP, was the path undertaken by Malaysia-born MCKL alumna Joey Lim. ADTP is a flexible credit transfer programme that gives students a seamless transition to universities across the United States. Students are given the opportunity to explore a wide range of courses from various fields, ranging from physical sciences, life sciences to art, history, literature, philosophy, and even religious studies. After accumulating sufficient credit hours in MCKL, Joey transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where she graduated with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, followed by successfully obtaining a Masters degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences at Portland State University. Currently, Joey is working as a full-time speech-language pathologist in an American high school.

Speech-language pathologists, also called SLPs, are experts in communication. While it may not be a very well-known occupation, speech-language pathologists play one of the most important roles in treating various types of communication and swallowing problems. SLPs often conduct speech and language evaluations to identify the individual's speech and language needs that are academically and functionally relevant. Like many of us, Joey struggled in picking which profession she wanted to pursue, especially since she enjoyed both science and language which she had trouble choosing between. However after extensive research and careful consideration, Joey finally set her heart on speech-language pathology. "Speech-Language Pathology was a perfect combination that enabled me to continue learning about science and language," said Joey.

When asked about how her time in MCKL had prepared her well for her time in university and her future, she only had positive things to say about her experience. Right off the bat, Joey mentioned that she really liked the classroom sizes and community in MCKL as the whole ADTP community itself was not too overwhelmingly large. She also loved the way her professors challenged her to think critically as she got the chance to research different kinds of topics and apply a more critical perspective. During her time in MCKL, Joey made many friends both in and out of her cohort. "Despite going to different colleges in the United States, I still had my community of friends by my side when I needed them most," Joey remarked.

**Speech-Language Pathology was a
perfect combination
that enabled me to continue learning
about science and language.**

She also did not forget to mention the MCKL DNA: Service Learning and Character Formation lessons. While working on her Service Learning assignment, Joey had the opportunity to volunteer with an organisation that encourages people to interact with individuals with disabilities. This was a great eye-opener since it was a population she knew she would be working with in the field of speech-language pathology. Being a Malaysian, Joey is also extremely grateful for her multicultural background as it has enabled her to work with her students from different cultures through a different lens.

For those who are considering speech-language pathology as a career option, here are some words of advice from Joey herself. "Keep your options open and be unafraid to try out different things," advised Joey. She stressed that while working in this field, it is crucial that one learns to be flexible and to welcome spontaneity because not everything always goes to plan. Joey strongly recommends never stop learning as it is a lifelong journey, but instead constantly stay updated with the latest evidence-based assessments and treatments as it has helped her greatly with her practices. Joey's last and final tip is to establish good relations and keep in touch with your professors and mentors as they will one day be your colleagues.

PAVE THE WAY TO MALAYSIAN MEDIA

BY WONG YUE QING



Pritha Manivannan

Senior Producer
AUSMAT Alumna, MCKL

The fire for her dreams in the media field was ignited when "The Oprah Show" was introduced into her life. An inspirational person that she looked up as a child, Oprah, has hugely impacted Pritha's ability to achieve her desired goal. Her flames never wavered but blazed stronger instead.

Pritha, who has an everlasting passion for the media, is currently employed as a senior producer in the e-commerce sector. Pritha spent an intense 11 months in MCKL, having pursued the Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) in MCKL. AUSMAT is an internationally recognised Pre-U programme which enables the students to further their studies both abroad and locally. Pritha was awarded the Astro Scholarship Award and was able to further her studies at Monash University, Malaysia. She graduated with honours from the Bachelor of Arts programme, where she majored in Journalism and Communications.

During Pritha's time working at Astro AWANI, she received the PEMUDAH Journalism Award for Best TV News Story for one of the pieces she produced. Pritha expressed that it was not easy to have a broadcast of your own aired on television, as it also requires a lot of hard work. However, Pritha reflected that every piece of her work that was aired was a fruitful accomplishment.

Ms. Thilakam Raju, Pritha's mother, worked as a staff member at MCKL for over 30 years. Pritha described MCKL as a second home, and she stated that her mother's fascinating anecdotes about the students, culture, and educational achievements played a significant role in motivating her to pursue her Pre-U at MCKL. "Seeing all the students MCKL has had over the years, I truly feel that the college has planted the leaders of tomorrow in each and every one of us," Pritha shares.

**To be a host,
it requires you to
not only be
outspoken but
knowledgeable
too.**

As a senior producer, Pritha develops entertaining content for businesses. The content also incorporates online streaming to conduct sales to the viewers and engage the brand and audience to satisfy both parties. Pritha is also a TV host, where she broadcasts entertainment and current affairs shows on television. Pritha highlights that her line of work is extremely fast-paced and ever-changing. There is a constant need to develop new material that meets the needs of the audience while being entertaining. "To be a host, it requires you to not only be outspoken but knowledgeable too," said Pritha.



**Advice from
the wise:**

Pritha stated that many people who entered the media sector believe it is simple and glamorous. However, it necessitates a lot of innovative thought as well as lengthy hours of effort. She encouraged people who are truly engrossed in this pathway to **take initiative to strive for their dreams** by participating in workshops to learn more about the media profession.

INTRODUCING THE VENGKAT FAMILY

BY MARISSA HALEY CHONG



The Cambridge A Level is MCKL's most popular pre-university programme. This qualification is accepted and is in demand by many local and international universities, for further studies. MCKL equips their A Level students with profound knowledge and valuable skills, which makes them well-prepared for their university journey.

The Vengkat Family are a family of five, consisting of three sons, Sri Ram, Lakshman and Bharath, and their parents, Meera and Vengada. Meera and Vengada enrolled all three of their sons in the MCKL Cambridge A Level programme. The oldest son Sri Ram, who went on to study Aeronautics and Aerospace engineering in the University of Southampton, chose to study at MCKL due to its good reputation, and this inspired Lakshman and Bharath to follow in their older brother's footsteps. All three sons were awarded with merit scholarships while doing their A Level, and were later granted with scholarships from their chosen universities.



Character, integrity and human values instilled in students through various volunteering programmes advocated by MCKL have built strong leadership qualities in our boys.

*Mdm Meera Badmanaban and Mr Vengada Ramanujam,
Proud parents of 3 MCKL-ians*

Meera and Vengada have a true belief that academic results alone are not the most important thing for students. As MCKL celebrates volunteerism, their sons were able to gain many important values that only come through experience. "Character, integrity and human values instilled in students through various volunteering programmes advocated by MCKL have built strong leadership qualities in our boys," said the parents, about how MCKL's ethos helped to develop their sons' characters holistically.

While in MCKL, all three brothers had a tremendous amount of help from the college, especially the University Placement and Alumni Department (UPAD), in submitting UCAS forms and for recommendations on high ranking international universities. "I can confidently say that they were the reason that the UCAS application process was such a breeze," said Sri Ram. The UPAD in MCKL has helped countless students enrol successfully in prestigious international universities.

Lakshman, the second son, is now pursuing Actuarial Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK. He obtained the coveted Outstanding

Cambridge Learner Award for gaining the highest mark in the world for his Cambridge AS Level Mathematics in 2018. He advises prospective students who want to study abroad to "chase their dreams and aim high".

Meera and Vengada added that MCKL prepared their sons well for the future by establishing a solid foundation of good discipline and the fire in their hearts to work hard for their A Level examinations. This can be seen through the youngest son, Bharath, who recently graduated from MCKL in 2021 with 3A*s in his A Levels, which made him a recipient of the 'Exceptional Achiever Scholarship' from the University of Southampton Malaysia campus, where he is currently pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. "The learning environment was highly stimulating with lecturers and tutors who are caring and extremely concerned about the well-being of students," mentioned Bharath, when recalling his experience in MCKL.

We thank the Vengkat Family for sharing their inspiring and success story with us, as we gained insight into a family that chose MCKL, not once or twice, but three times, as the preferred college for their sons' quality education.



I can confidently say that they (UPAD) were the reason that the UCAS application process was such a breeze.

*Sri Ram Vengada Ramanujam,
Cambridge A Level
Class of 2015
University of Southampton, UK
RAeS Centennial Scholarship*



Chase your dreams and aim high.

*Lakshman Vengada Ramanujam,
Cambridge A Level
Class of 2019
London School of Economics
and Political Science (LSE), UK*



The learning environment was highly stimulating with lecturers and tutors who are caring and extremely concerned about the wellbeing of students.

*Bharath Vengada Ramanujam,
Cambridge A Level
Class of 2021
University of Southampton Malaysia
Exceptional Achiever Scholarship Award*

E-COMMERCE ENERGY

BY VANESSA CHONG



Lim Kai Xiang
Diploma in E-Commerce,
MCKL

In this day and age, it is evident that the world is changing rapidly with the role of digitalisation reshaping our day-to-day practices and operations. With the advancement of modern technology, many industries have swiftly adopted online operations as the virtual brick and mortar of businesses. E-commerce has not only boosted existing businesses but is also changing business models and enabling greater penetration to the market with the usage of the internet. Meet Lim Kai Xiang, a student currently pursuing a Diploma in E-Commerce here in MCKL.

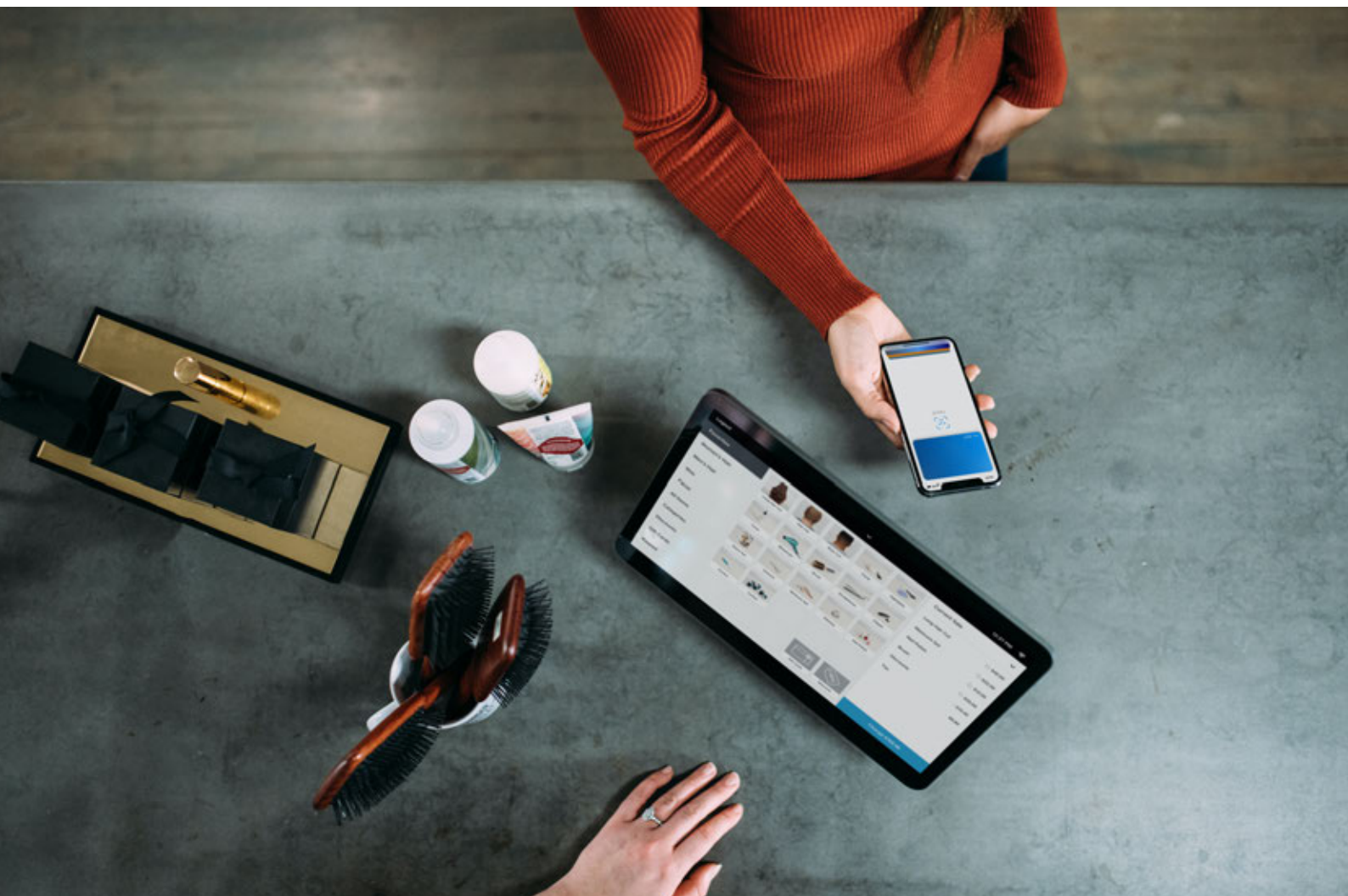
For Kai Xiang, business has been a part of his life from an early age as both his parents and his uncles run their own businesses. Naturally, Kai Xiang was taught how businesses work and what it is all about. When asked about why he chose to venture into the pathway of e-commerce, he shared that it provides the academic knowledge and skills to pursue global career opportunities and helps to develop a broad understanding of the business industry. Kai Xiang also mentioned that in his opinion, business is one of the most important things today as it plays a big role in culture and society in general. Due to the rapid advancement of technology and how it is able to constantly create new innovations, this piqued Kai Xiang's interest as to how businesses work their way up to success through various strategies and perseverance. "I personally believe that my love for business and thirst for knowledge will support me in my studies," said Kai Xiang.

While Kai Xiang was still studying, he gained some valuable work experience from his uncle's company, which is a business that sells car spare parts and repairs vehicles and machinery. Kai Xiang had worked there as a mechanic for three months and assisted his uncle with inspecting and testing cars along with completing preventive maintenance such as engine tune-ups, oil changes and wheel balancing. Through this experience, Kai Xiang obtained soft skills such as developing good communication skills with the customers, the ability to listen and follow instructions as well as the ability to concentrate for an extended period of time.

I personally believe that my love for business and thirst for knowledge will support me in my studies

When choosing to further his studies after high school at MCKL, transportation and affordability were both contributing factors for the Lim family. Kai Xiang appreciates the fact that MCKL values academic excellence and offers scholarships based on merit and enjoys the smaller size of MCKL's community as it allows him to get to know other students and make new friends. Throughout his time in MCKL, he shares that his lecturers prepared him well in terms of how to write structured emails and proposals to official companies, along with attending various events which involved his participation. Kai Xiang also did not forget to give credit to MCKL's Character Formation and Service Learning lessons as it helped him develop new skills, build relationships with amazing people and gain essential experience working with diverse members of different communities.

It is safe to say that business and e-commerce is a blossoming industry which provides positive prospects in both the near and far future. By studying in this field, there is much to learn starting from how to write proposals all the way to how to communicate and deal with people. To those who have a deep interest in business and e-commerce and love working with ideas, a career in this industry will likely be your cup of tea.





METHODIST
COLLEGE | KUALA LUMPUR
Veritas Vincit Omnia

TO LIVE IS TO
CHOOSE.
BUT TO CHOOSE WELL, YOU
MUST KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND
**WHAT YOU
STAND FOR,**
WHERE YOU WANT TO GO
AND WHY YOU WANT TO
GET THERE.

— KOFI ANNAN