



# THE *Flame*

by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

Vol. 12 No. 2 • Dec 2022

SPECIAL EDITION



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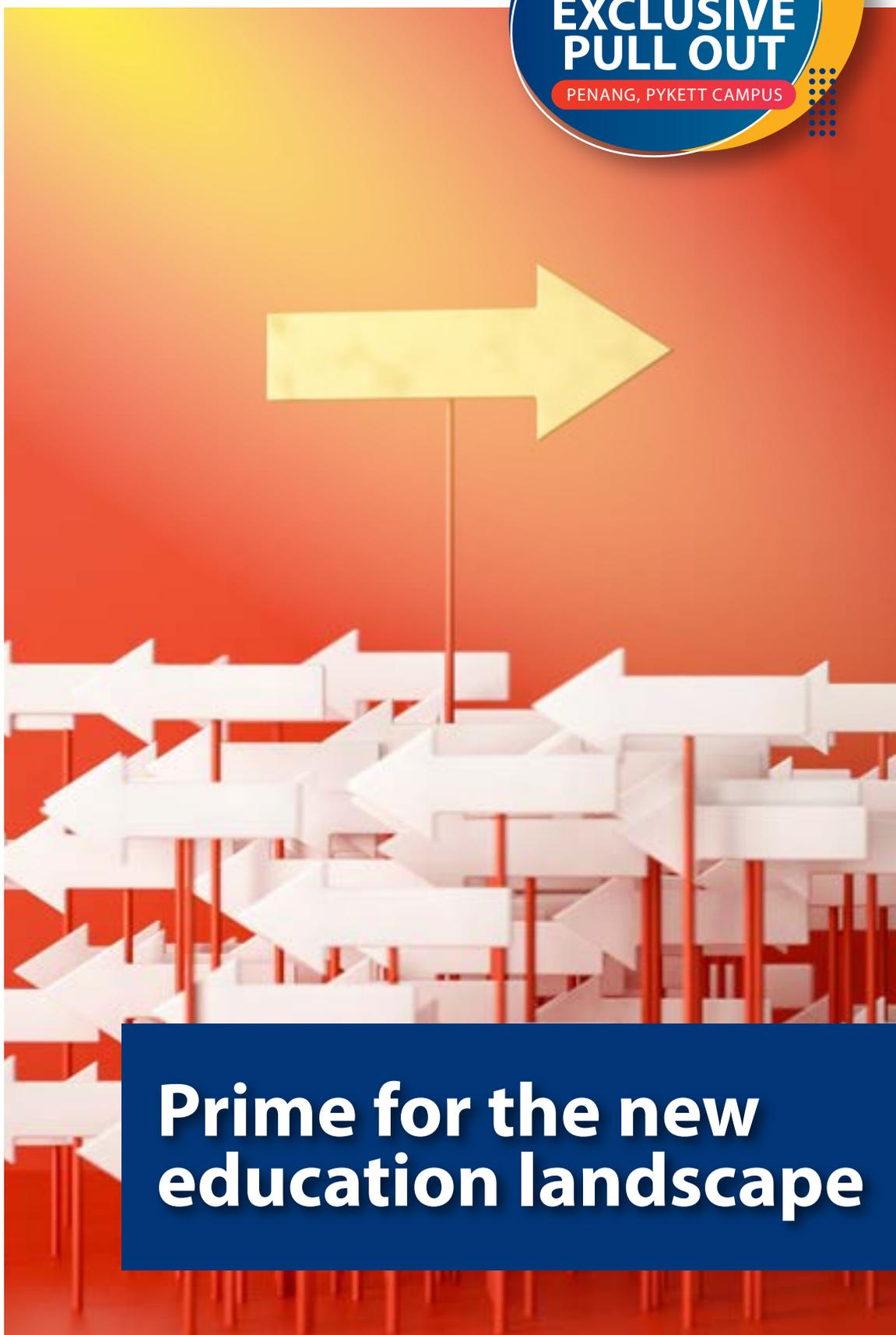
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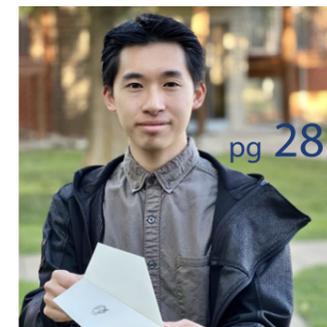
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**Acknowledgements**

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.

**Staff**

Catherine Bakewell  
 Christina Chang  
 Nurazuin Wahab  
 Priscilla Parisa  
 Wan Muhamad Kamarul Izzat bin Wan Mustafa

**Contributors**

Ashley Zhou  
 Tee Kai Yang  
 Mok Yen Qin  
 Ching Shyun  
 Tiffany Chiu  
 Wong Yue Qing

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## Section 1

*In the Spotlight*

# APPOINTMENT OF MCKL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**Dr Chua Ping Yong**

The Board of Governors at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Chua Ping Yong as MCKL's Chief Executive Officer in October 2022. Dr Chua carries more than 30 years' experience in the education industry in Malaysia and overseas, majority of which is in tertiary education. During this time, Dr Chua has worn many hats including instructor, lecturer, senior lecturer, head of division and head of school, dean, and executive director and president.

His area of expertise is in electronic engineering, having obtained his diploma in electronic engineering in Malaysia; master's in Industrial Control System, and doctoral degree in Robotics, specialising in Tactile Sensors and Robotic Hands at the University of Salford, UK. Most recently, he served as the Head of the Centre of Excellence Research, and Innovation at First City Corporation Sdn. Bhd. before joining MCKL.

"It is an honour to serve MCKL as chief executive officer, to lead a top-notch and important institution to the community, especially at a time where we have demonstrated extraordinary human perseverance to endure the impossible and come out stronger than ever before. The education landscape has changed tremendously in a few short years and although there are many more significant challenges ahead, I am optimistic about the opportunities that will present themselves as our nation rebuilds from the pandemic," said Dr Chua.

In his leadership role, Dr Chua is no stranger to developing policies, vision and direction for his respective faculty or company, as whole. At his longest tenure in Tunku Abdul Rahman College, he played a key role in its growth of student numbers and faculty members, quadrupling in size, as well as offering more 100 Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) accredited programmes.

"I am excited to work with my colleagues at MCKL, who have already demonstrated their fervour in providing excellent teaching and learning experiences for the students enrolled here. It is obvious that our common goal is to progress MCKL's stand as a world-class education institution, to also help young people achieve their academic and personal goals to get a good start in their careers, as well as find ways to serve their communities. I couldn't ask for a better atmosphere as I step into the role of chief executive officer," Dr Chua proclaimed.

MCKL's mission is to nurture a community where excellence, in all its forms, is celebrated and where individuals will make extraordinary differences in the world with strong moral character and academic achievement. The institution seeks to produce quality students who will transform into respectable role models for generations to come, contributing to the advancement of their community in line with MCKL's vision of being "The Institution of Excellence for Life".

## MCKL LOOKS TO PRODUCE MORE FUTURE-PROOF GRADUATES WITH ITS NEWLY OPENED PENANG PYKETT CAMPUS IN GEORGETOWN



The long awaited MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) was officially launched by (from left to right) Angela Pok, former CEO of MCKL; Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr Tan Kee Kwong, Chairman of MCKL Board of Governors; Tuan Haji Hussain bin Abdullah, Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan, Unit Sekolah Rendah, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Pulau Pinang; and Dr Gerard Boey, Principal, MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) and Academic Dean.

★ The 130-year-old building was historically a primary school; its land was retained and redeveloped to be Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL)'s inaugural branch in Georgetown, Penang.

★ MCKL's courses are designed to be value-based within a caring and nurturing environment, utilising transformative learning and teaching practices that would help deliver excellent and quality education.

★ MCKL graduates are adaptive to the changing demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and ready as an agile talent for high impact industries.

The long awaited MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) officially launched in July 2022. Previously known as Pykett Methodist Primary School, the campus site spans across 4-acre and is known to have nurtured many generations of Penangites dating back to the days of Reverend George Frederick Pykett.

During renovation, MCKL had intentionally preserved the character and structure of the former school's history building, and its classrooms and facilities have now been upgraded to accommodate different styles of teaching — ranging from face-to-face, online, and even hybrid options where applicable.

Ms Angela Pok, former Chief Executive Officer of MCKL, touched on the importance on how education is an important vehicle for nation-building and human resource development, and the crucial need for MCKL to remain competitive in producing graduates who are adaptive to the changing demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and be ready as an agile talent for high impact industries.

"MCKL's courses are designed to be value-based within a caring and nurturing environment, utilising transformative learning and teaching practices that would help deliver excellent and quality education. Our Graduate Competency Framework ensures that our graduates are equipped with the right skills and attitude for today's business and technology industries."

"Today's launch of MCKL's inaugural branch campus represents our hope to provide greater higher education opportunities and alternative pathways for secondary school leavers, as well as adult learners in the northern region in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

"As educators, we strive for a caring and nurturing environment through transformative learning and teaching practices, along with upskilling extra-curricular activities. We look to produce quality students who will transform into respectable role models for future generations, who will in turn be active contributors in advancing the well-being of the community in line with our vision of being 'The Institution of Excellence for Life,'" she said.

After the launch ceremony, Dr Gerard Boey, Principal, MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) and Academic Dean led invited guests and media on a campus tour. The launch event was also graced by Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Tan Kee Kwong, Chairman of MCKL Board of Governors.

MCKL was first established in Kuala Lumpur in 1983. Celebrating its 39th anniversary this year, the Pykett Campus will be offering Pre-U, early childhood education, and IR 4.0 oriented programmes to Northern region students. Among the study courses available include Cambridge A Level, Australian Matriculation, and diplomas in Early Childhood Education, Information Technology, Computer Science, Digital Business and Digital Marketing.



Dr Gerard Boey, Principal, MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) led invited guests and media on a campus tour.



Press conference with Angela Pok, former CEO of MCKL; and Dr Gerard Boey, Principal, MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) and Academic Dean.

Angela Pok, former CEO shares a few words at the launch of the Penang, Pykett Campus.



## Section 2

## Teaching &amp; Learning

German Educare's latest batch of students arriving in Germany early October 2022.



## HELLO AGAIN, MCKL!

BY WONG YUE QING



**Ryan P. Abraham**  
ACCA Alumnus, MCKL

Ryan P. Abraham, an MCKL alumnus, is back on campus again, although this time, he returns not as a student, but kickstarting his career as a lecturer in the ACCA Foundation in Accountancy (ACCA FIA) programme. Ryan graduates with an Honours Degree in Applied Accounting at Oxford Brookes University, England. He credits his achievement to his mentor at MCKL who encouraged him to complete the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) programme.

Ryan's fervent interest in accounting was the driving force for him to pursue the ACCA programme at MCKL, continuing his studies from accounting principles, or Prinsip Perakaunan, when he was in Form 4. The ACCA programme worked out well for Ryan, and for anyone enrolled in this course, as it is well known for training strategic thought, technical talents, professional principles, and the ability to deliver in all areas of the field. Another incentive that helped Ryan seal the deal is the financial aid that MCKL offers, "When I arrived, I was immediately taken up not only by the pathway provided by ACCA through MCKL, but also by the scholarship opportunities."

Nonetheless, employers from all across the globe are seeking ACCA-certified financial professionals. "I think accountants have to be responsible for the information they are producing. They should continuously update themselves with the latest accounting knowledge and technical skills. Moreover, they are to be more organised individuals as there are many deadlines." Ryan shares.

Recalling his time at MCKL, Ryan reflected on his overall experience surpassing his expectations. The diversity in the educational backgrounds created a cooperative environment for Ryan to excel in his academic goals. He also expressed that it empowers them to engage with their own unique set of skills and talent. Not only does MCKL emphasis on academic performance, but also focuses on improving oneself and building social connections that are vital in life through the abundance of merry activities and clubs available.

"Not only are the students unique, the lecturers are too." The holistic atmosphere has influenced his decision to pursue a career as a lecturer. He mentioned that the lecturers are very friendly, and that most of them have similar favourable characteristics. Furthermore, the administrative staff is very approachable and friendly as they constantly ensure that the educational programmes and student campus life operate seamlessly.



# MCKL'S GRADUATE COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK ENSURES STUDENTS LIVE UP TO EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur's (MCKL) Graduate Competency Framework ensures that its graduates are equipped with the right skills and attitude for today's business and technology industries.

MCKL principal cum academic dean, Dr Gerard Boey, said digital skills — which are important not just for work but daily life, too — are part of the framework to develop the right competencies for job security.

"Furthermore, it is a holistic framework to help graduates meet the demands of the workplace which are rapidly changing as a result of the Internet of things (IoT) and disruptive innovations."

"In fact, cross-disciplinary programmes, such as financial technology, merge various disciplines that enhance traditional disciplines so that fresh graduates are able to cope better with technology, big data and the fourth industrial revolution (IR4.0)," he told Bernama recently in an online interview.

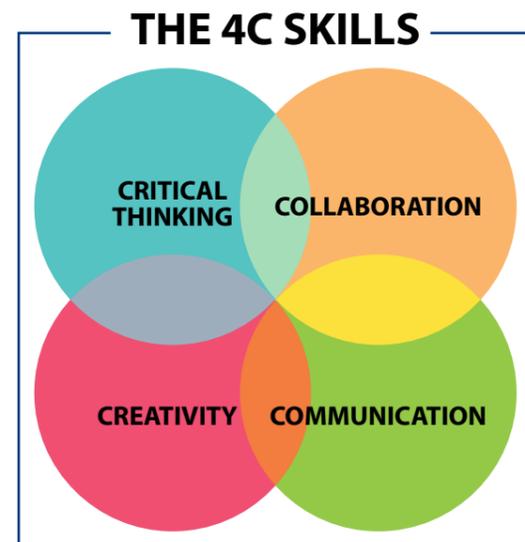
Elaborating further, Dr Gerard said that the Graduate Competency Framework encompasses three core values — knowledge, skills and attitude — which MCKL graduates must possess.

"At MCKL, we train our students to be adept at transferring skills they've learnt across different domains and disciplines, instead of sticking to just one, while being a

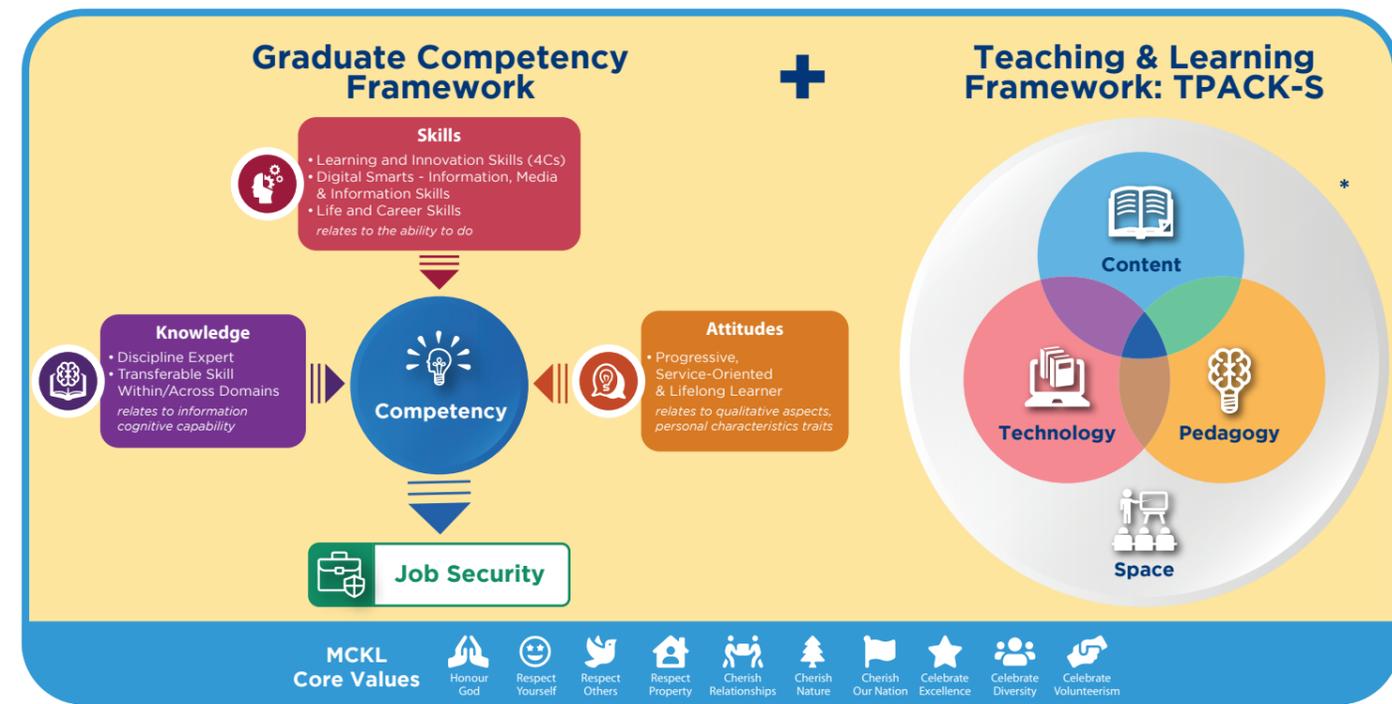
digitally smart individual who is competent at information gathering, media usage and technology."

"But most importantly, through the framework, we instil a lifelong learning attitude which is an important trait in coping with disruption which has become common due to the increase in knowledge from collaborations which transcend borders, research and discoveries," he explained.

Dr Gerard added that the 4C skills — critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication — are also



The 4C Skills are part of the MCKL Graduate Competency Framework.



\*Adapted from Punya Mishra and Matthew J. Koehler's 2006, TPACK Framework & Dori & Belcher, 2005, TEAL — Technology Enabled Active Learning Graduate Competency Framework and Teaching & Learning Framework: TPACK-S are undergirded by the MCKL Core Values, without which all efforts come to naught. The Graduate Competency Framework addresses what every MCKL student is expected to possess by graduation. The Teaching & Learning Framework guides the future direction of our T&L best practices.

part of the framework, even though they are basic skills that should have been learnt from young.

He said that most secondary school leavers do not have adequate skills perhaps due to a lack of training as most of them are focused on getting good examination results.

"We train our students to face the world. The 4Cs are very important although they are very basic. Students have a hard time articulating themselves in interviews, but it's never too late to develop those skills," he added.

To reinforce the framework's objective, MCKL recently collaborated with Fave Group and Deakin University in Australia among others, to ensure its students live up to the requirements of the working world.

Also in the online interview session were Deakin University Australia, Faculty of Business and Law International and Partnerships Associate Dean, Prof Colin Higgins, and Fave Group co-founder, Yeoh Chen Chow, who hoped their collaboration with MCKL would pave the way for graduates to enter the workforce with a global mindset.

"MCKL attracted Deakin University Australia to this partnership because of their commitment to lifelong learning values which they instil in their students through the framework.

"Their idea of developing a holistic professional is the reason we are proud to partner with them. We can complement each other with that philosophy of developing the future workforce, professionals and citizens," said Prof Colin.

Yeoh said: "As a MCKL industry advisor, we learn what students are going through and subsequently build that synergy and flow of information in line with the framework.

"This is to ensure that what they are learning stays relevant to employment requirements."

Both said that students who possess a global mindset are an asset to the job market and that it is critical to function as a human being today, according to Prof Colin, while Yeoh believes they must also understand the local environment.

**We train our students to face the world.**

# MCKL STUDENTS GAIN ADMISSION INTO TOP CHOICE UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY



Studying abroad is a widely accepted and popular course of action for students as part of their tertiary education experience. The long-standing trend is also beneficial to companies, as more and more set their sights for a stake in the global platform. A recent study by the British Council called Culture at Work found that employers are under intense pressure to look for graduates that have both technical and soft skills like critical thinking, problem solving, communication, time management, necessary in an international workforce. These are key skills that studying overseas can help develop, and refine, in the time that students are away from home.

Globalisation and partnerships between nations with the same desires in providing world-class education have made it increasingly accessible for students to enrol in colleges or universities to pursue their undergraduate and/or postgraduate degrees, with plenty of options available for diverse financial backgrounds. Seeing that some countries have been in the higher education industry longer than others, it is no surprise that

North America and Europe are seen as offering the best opportunities for education. The 2022 Best Countries for Education rankings by U.S. News revealed the Top 3 countries to study is in United States, United Kingdom, and Germany. One of the many reasons Germany appeared close to the top of the list is their access to free high quality education, excellent teaching, and research amongst public universities.

Although private universities are available in Germany for specialised programmes with a small tuition fee, over 200 higher education institutions are public, dominating the country's education system and, again, free to its own, EU, and international students. However, to qualify entry into a university in Germany, students must fulfil the language requirement when they send in their application. To increase their chances of being accepted into a German university, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur's (MCKL) Cambridge A Level (German pathway) incorporates the German language course as part of their curriculum for students to learn the language, alongside their chosen subjects.

One of the many reasons Germany appeared close to the top of the list is their **access to free high quality education, excellent teaching, and research amongst public universities.**



17 STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL (GERMAN PATHWAY) PROGRAMME AND ARE STUDYING IN THEIR UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE FOR FREE



"I have always wanted to study in Germany, so I did a quick Internet search and found a German pathway programme in MCKL. It was also the first time I knew about MCKL as an institution," said Chin Wen Hann, a student in the Cambridge A Level (German Pathway) programme at MCKL. "After some research, I kept hearing a lot of positive reviews about MCKL from my friends, such as students' high academic performance and lecturers' quality lecturing. Therefore, I chose to study in MCKL."

MCKL is one of the earliest tertiary institutions in Malaysia to offer the A Level programme as an education pathway for school leavers to further their studies globally. Wen Hann's classmate, Tan Xin Yu said, "It was the best option for me at the time as it can take me to Germany in a shorter amount of time compared to other pathways and options. I had zero prior knowledge regarding the German language before I enrolled into MCKL. I really like the German language, although it's quite challenging, but my teachers and classmates helped me power through it."

Chai Chun Xuan shared the same sentiment as his friends but added that he could take German classes whilst taking other subjects like mathematics, chemistry, and physics. "Through this pathway, I saved a lot of time as I could immediately attend the B1 German classes after completing my Cambridge A Level at MCKL. Studying German for me is very difficult and I need to spend quite a lot of time every day memorising the vocabulary and practising pronunciation, but it helped to know that enduring this helped enable us to fulfil the requirement to enter a German university."

The Cambridge A Level (German Pathway) programme is in partnership with German Educare, assisting students in qualification check, university applications and placements, advance German language lessons, visa applications and more. Wenn Hann and Xin Yu were accepted into their top choice university, the University of Bonn, Cologne, Germany, pursuing their degree in economics. Chai Chun Xuan is now studying chemical engineering when he was accepted into the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.



## Where are they now?

MCKL CAL  
German Pathway

in collaboration with  
**Ge** GERMAN EDUCARE™



**Chai Chun Xuan**  
Cambridge A Level  
(German Pathway), MCKL  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
Chemical Engineering



**Chin Wen Hann**  
Cambridge A Level  
(German Pathway), MCKL  
University of Bonn  
Economics



**Tan Xin Yu**  
Cambridge A Level  
(German Pathway), MCKL  
University of Bonn  
Economics

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR A-LISTERS

Cambridge Assessment  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

## CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL GCE A LEVEL EXAMINATION JUNE 2022

### BISHOP DENIS C DUTTON AWARD 2022

Best Performance, GCE A-Level Examination June 2022  
**NATHANIEL INN TSIN QIAN**

### OVERALL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Pure Science: **ALEESHA ONG YEAN LI**  
Pure Arts: **LIP JUN TING**  
Combination Science & Arts: **NATHANIEL INN TSIN QIAN**

**4A\*** ALEESHA ONG YEAN LI  
ANANYA SAI AVVARI  
ANNIE LIM WEI-SHYUEN  
BRANDON WEE YONG JING  
BRIAN TAY JIAN SHEN  
CHANG EE TENG  
CHIN SHEN FUNG  
ELLYSE YING-EN KU  
ETHAN KOR ZHI-DE  
GOH JINGHANN  
HUANG NUO YAN  
IAN CHEAH YI CHEN  
KEITH LOW DE EN  
KHAW KHAI YUAN  
LIM JIA JENG  
LIONG JIN M'NG  
LIP JUN TING  
LOH XI-AAN  
MICHELLE TAN YAO EARN  
NATHANIEL INN TSIN QIAN  
NICHOLAS LAU ZHI XUAN  
NIKHAIL SINGH VIRIK  
PHANG QIAN YU  
POK WIN KEE  
SEAN ERIC SOON CHERN ANN  
STEPHANIE YONG JING YI  
TAN ZI YI  
TAYANAA LOGENTHIRAN  
TEH HAN CHON  
UPHRAJ SINGH SIDHU A/L AVTAR SINGH  
WONG SOONG EN

**3A\* 1A** ASHLEY CHEE SZE XUAN  
ASHVINI SE-LIN PREM  
AYUSHMAAN BHATTACHARJI  
CHEOK JING HEN  
CHERYL LEE XIN ROU  
CHOONG ZHENG XUAN  
CHU BOE VANN  
DAVID OOI WEI KEN  
GOH TEIK BENG  
KAMELAH BINTI MOHD HASYIM  
LIM ZI CHENG  
LIM ZI SHENG  
MAHADEVAN MERVYN A/L MOHANA KUMAR  
PHANG QIAN NING  
SEOW JAXINE  
SIOW TERNG JUEN  
TAN CHLOE  
WILLIE WONG WEI LUN  
YAP CHEONG SHENG

**2A\* 2A** LEE JIAN HAW  
TAN CHEN MUN  
VANYA SHANIL KUMAR

**1A\* 3A** NIKEISHA ARIARETNAM  
OOI SHU WEI  
TEE MIN  
TEH KAI YI  
WONG XIN YI  
YEK LIANG BING

**4A** JUSTINE LEE JIEXIN  
ONG EE WEN  
VISAKHA LOO SZE MIN

**3A\*** AARON LEE JIA CHEN  
ALYSHA KURUPARAN  
ASHTON HII WEI KANG  
BRYAN SOO LI WEI  
DUNCAN CARSON NGIAW  
GRETCHEN TAN YIXIN  
HENG KAI XUAN  
JOANNA YIP SEEN WEI  
LEE ZI-WEN  
NICOLE MELISSA CHONG  
NIGEL SEAH JUN YANG  
ONG XIN YI  
SHUNSUKE TAN HEI  
WONG YI SHENG  
YONG CHENG JIN  
YOUSUF SARFRAZ  
ZHANG EU

**2A\* 1A** ADRIAN TAN JIAN SHENG  
CHEE ZHE YONG  
CHIRENJIV SINGH NIJAR  
CHONG WAH JOEN  
LOO JEE XIAN  
NG MIN CHERN ERIC  
SOON RUI HEK  
TAN ZHI CHING  
TEH DENG HAN  
ZENN TAY DEN MIN

**1A\* 2A** ASHLEY CHEAH KAR MUN  
CHENG WEI SHENG  
GABRIEL SEOW PIN LOK  
JEYDON LEONG CHUN MING  
KWON O HYUCK  
LAI IAN YIE  
LIM JIA WEN  
LIM YAN  
LOO HUI SHI  
NG TING HUI  
NICOLE THIA  
RAYNA GANESARAJAH  
ROSHAN DEEPAK NEOH GHARPURAY  
TAN JIA JUN  
TEJA LILLY BELLE RUIDAVET

**3A** ADRIAN LEW TZE XIAN  
JASON ONG JIA SHEN  
JEREMY LEE CHEIK XIAN  
KHONG HUA JUN  
LAU YE SHIAN  
LIM TIAN YANG  
ONG KANG XIN SAMSON  
WOON CHIAO YEE

### PROVEN BY EXCELLENCE

Top Subjects with  
at least 63% students scoring A & A\*  
in June 2022 Exam Series



**112** Outstanding Scholars in  
June 2022 Exam Series

**137** Outstanding Cambridge  
Learner Awards since 2013

**100%** average pass rate  
in 9 consecutive years

**51%** score 3As & above in  
the last three years

# THE MOON'S LIGHT CAN ONLY BE HIDDEN, NEVER EXTINGUISHED

BY TIFFANY CHIU



**Luna Freyja**  
Cambridge A Level Alumna,  
MCKL

College is said to be the best years of your life, however, when exam season looms, it is no secret that students face extreme pressures and stressful changes in a short period of time. A student's schedule is often filled with classes, homework, extra-curricular activities, and relationships, often leaving mental health in the backburner. While some of us have the privilege to consider our mental health as an afterthought, others do not have such an advantage. In Malaysia, mental health is not a tale told among aunties in supermarkets anymore, where according to the National Health and Morbidity survey (NHMS) 2017, 1 in 5 suffer from depression and 2 in 5 from anxiety, whereas 1 in 10 suffer from exam stress. It's something we can no longer ignore. For 24-year-old alumna, Luna Freyja, shares her own inspirational story in overcoming hurdles and challenges of her mental health journey whilst studying Cambridge A Level at MCKL.

Luna's journey in MCKL began in 2017 where she studied English Literature, Law and Psychology as part of her Cambridge A Level programme. In pursuit of her passion in literature however, she fought many battles; one of them an unseen battle with herself. Since she was 13 years old, Luna struggled with mental health issues that eventually led to the diagnoses of ADHD, anorexia nervosa and borderline personality disorder (BPD). Following her AS exams, her condition worsened, having to defer and take the year off, solely to focus on treatment. In the end, she registered as a private candidate in 2020, restarting her A Level journey over again. Unfortunately, Luna's social circle grew smaller. She expressed that "having mental illness can really isolate you despite your best efforts". Still, a few cherished friends and lecturers stayed by her side till today like Mr Howard, her University Placement counsellor who accommodated her university application needs from compiling personalised feedback to registering for Oxford entrance exams.

**Our struggles**  
may prelude the road ahead  
being a smooth or easy one,  
yet it may just to be  
**our advantage**  
in the long run.

METHODIST COLLEGE KUALA LUMPUR  
Peritas Pincit Omnia

MCKL  
THE CAL A-LISTERS

**CONGRATULATIONS**

OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS  
November 2021 Examination Series

Cambridge Assessment International Education  
Cambridge International School

**HIGH ACHIEVEMENT**  
A Level Literature in English

**LUNA FREYJA BINTI AHMAD NAZIR**  
SMK USJ 4 Alumna  
Cambridge A Level, MCKL Alumna



Above: Luna achieved High Achievement for Cambridge A Level Literature in English.  
Below: A group photo of Luna (third from right, second row) and her classmates and lecturer during a class trip.

Looking back, Luna found it impossible to break her perfectionistic habit due to the rigorous workload that A Level brought to the table and was fearful of falling behind her peers. Ironically, she noticed that her grades improved when her attitude towards failure changed. All unrealistic expectations were pushed aside but not her drive to do the best within her capabilities for all exam papers. As fruits of her labour, she received conditional offers from Edinburgh, Durham, and St. Andrews universities. Luna is currently enrolled at the University of Edinburgh, UK pursuing a degree in English Literature and Classics. An exciting journey awaits her presence.

To students who are facing similar mental health struggles, 'it often really is darkest before the dawn'. In the midst of a struggle, it may seem to be beyond one's capacity to count one's blessings and see from a positive perspective. Yet, Luna urges you to 'have love and faith in what you do.' As she said, 'Our struggles may prelude the road ahead being a smooth or easy one, yet it may just be to our advantage in the long run.' So, seek help when you need it, no problem is too big or too small, and always have faith you'll come out at the other end of the tunnel — like Luna did!

# CARE FOR GRANDMOTHER INSPIRES PASSION TO PURSUE COURSE IN SOCIAL WORK

BY MOK YEN QIN



Malaysia is recognised as one of the developing countries in Southeast Asia rapidly progressing towards an ageing nation, with longer life expectancies due to the advancements in medicines and medical facilities. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has estimated that the population of older persons in Malaysia aged 60 years and above in 2030 will double to 5.8 million, compared to 2.3 million in the year 2020<sup>1</sup>. As we reach 2040, Malaysia will have almost equal distribution between the younger (18.6%) and older population (14.5%)<sup>2</sup>, that is at least three senior citizens for every 20 Malaysians.

There is no denying that the demand for professionally trained caregivers catering for elderly needs and care is now critical in Malaysia. Ginie Lai Shing Yee, currently enrolled in Diploma in Social Work (DSW) at MCKL shared how she developed necessary skills and understanding as a student of DSW when she started taking care of her beloved grandma. DSW is a course that complies with the National Competency Standards for Social Work Practice (2010), aiming to develop crucial psychosocial skills, ethical values and conduct, to help acquire in-depth knowledge of human behaviour within the context of family, community and society.

Caring for others is **equally important** to caring for yourself.

## Ginnie's tips for caregiving:

- ◆ *Interact and listen to them actively*
- ◆ *Treat their complaints seriously*
- ◆ *Seek professional consultation immediately for early intervention*

Since 2008, Ginnie's grandma constantly expressed that she struggled to walk as her legs had no strength. Still, it didn't cross anyone's mind to bring her for a full-body check-up during her early grievances. Throughout the year, she was unhappy and lacked energy until her condition worsened on a particular day, where she fell twice, paralysing half her body as a result. A full-body check-up revealed that 60% of her brain was filled with water; a diagnosis known as hydrocephalus. Heartbroken seeing her grandma suffering from the side effects during her recovery process, Ginnie decided to assume responsibility in being the primary caregiver for her grandma. She would accompany her grandma when she came home from work, just like how grandma did when she was younger, and had come home from school. They spent time together gossiping after giving grandma her warm bath, singing, and even doing rehabilitation exercises to get some mobility back.

At first, Ginnie struggled a lot, as none of her family members had the knowledge to care for her grandma when she became half-paralysed quite suddenly. According to Ginnie, elderly care is a booming industry in Malaysia, as there are a lot of elderly and retirement homes established in recent years to provide elderly health care. However, people tend to seek professional nursing or caregiving services when they can no longer handle the patient's situation on their own.

Ginnie advises to those who are considering taking up caregiving for their elderly parents or grandparents to interact and listen to them actively, treat their complaints seriously, especially the ones about sickness, and to seek professional consultation immediately for early intervention. During her classes, Ginnie found that theories

and skills such as, interpersonal communication skills, case work practice, and psychology studies were helpful in her caregiving journey. She also shared that through this, she learned that caring, sharing, companionship, listening and understanding are important values when caring for her grandma or the elderly. Ginnie added, "Elderly care not only provides shelter and daily necessities, but I also hope that all of us spend more quality time with the above values with our family, especially with their parents and grandparents to ensure that they too enjoy their golden years with joy!"

Caring for others with any forms of disability is indeed a noble act of love; one that should be admired as it requires a lot of strength, courage, and perseverance. But it can be overwhelming undertaking responsibilities for another

**The population of elder persons in Malaysia aged 60 years and above in 2030 will double to 5.8 million.**

person's health, on top of looking over one's own needs. Most of the time, the need for elderly care happens suddenly, where caregivers may be insufficiently prepared, and support from other family members will be crucial, much like Ginnie's case. Pressure, stress, and a mountain of mixed emotions can influence our mental and physical wellbeing. Ginnie had to manage multiple responsibilities and roles including that of a student and a caregiver and without adequate self-care, caregivers could jeopardise their own wellbeing, including that of their loved ones. Caring for others is equally important to caring for yourself, because good self-care is the foundation for a flourishing mental health. But remember, self-care is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation.



**References**  
<sup>1</sup> Muhammad, B. R. (2022, July 19). Senior citizens deserve better healthcare. The Edge Markets. <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/senior-citizens-deserve-better-healthcare>.  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Statistics, Malaysia (2017, August). Ageing. Population and Demographics, 1 – 2. [https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6\\_Newsletter/Ageing.pdf](https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/uploads/files/6_Newsletter/Ageing.pdf).

# TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH TODAY!

## PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES (NHMS, 2019)



**424,000 CHILDREN** were found to have mental health issues in Malaysia

What contributes to their mental health problem?

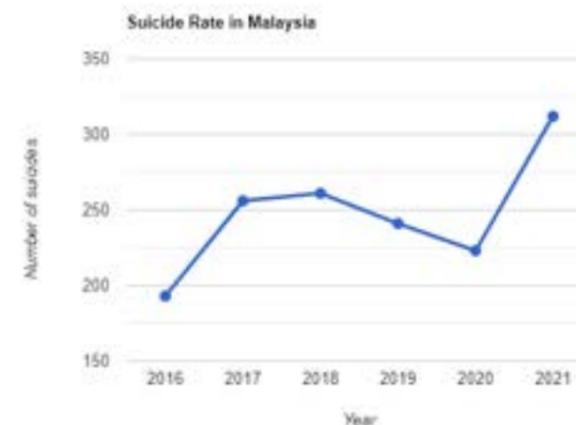


That's about **HALF A MILLION** people

## SUICIDE RATE IN MALAYSIA (LEW ET AL. 2022)

**5 DEATHS A DAY**

In 2019, suicide rate was 5.8 per 100,000 population — about 1,841 suicide deaths out of 31.9 million of people — 5 deaths a day.



**Suicide attempts reported by PDRM increased by 61.7%**

**References**  
<sup>1</sup> American Psychiatric Association. (2018). Warning signs of mental illness. American Psychiatric Association. <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/warning-signs-of-mental-illness>  
<sup>2</sup> Institute for Public Health 2020. National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019: Non-communicable diseases, healthcare demand, and health literacy — Key Findings. Ministry of Health Malaysia, 2019.  
<sup>3</sup> Lew, B., Kolves, K., Lester, D., Chen, W. S., Nurashikin, I., Raihan, N., K., Mustapha, F., Chan, C., M., H., Norhayati, I., Siau, C., S., & Chan, L., F. (2022). Looking into recent suicide rates and trends in Malaysia: A comparative analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 1-11.

## Primary Warning Signs of Mental Health Issues

According to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-V), there are four primary symptoms that warrant immediate medical attention as these are considered life threatening (American Psychological Association, 2015). These four symptoms are:

- ✓ Intention to hurt self or others
- ✓ Hallucination
- ✓ Delusions
- ✓ Suicidal Ideation and intention

*Please seek immediate medical attention to the nearest emergency department*

## Secondary Warning Signs of Mental Health Issues

According to the American Psychiatric Association (2018), early signs and symptoms of mental illness are as follows. Experiencing a few of these symptoms (not one) below may not indicate a mental health condition. However, if you experience several of these symptoms and impairment in daily functioning, it is pertinent for the individual to seek help:

- ✓ Dramatic change in sleep and appetite
- ✓ Rapid or dramatic changes of mood
- ✓ Social withdrawal or isolation from others
- ✓ Drop in functioning due to loss of motivation and difficulty performing tasks
- ✓ Increased sensitivity, making it difficult to cope with stress and daily problems
- ✓ Apathy or loss of desire to participate in any activity
- ✓ Feelings of disconnection of self and others
- ✓ Problems in thinking, concentration, and memory
- ✓ Nervousness such as excessive fears and guilt
- ✓ Unusual behavior

*If your daily functioning is affected, please seek help*

Section 3

# Service Learning: The Power to Inspire

Tree Planting Workshop by students from ADTP (Renee Faun Kar Yee) and DSW (Jesmand Gan Sheng Hao) in collaboration with Free Tree Society.



## MCKL SERVICE LEARNING IN ACTION

MCKL students have spent 2022 serving the community through the MCKL Service Learning projects

- 1,7. *Inter-cultural Booth* — Promote the tradition of the three main cultures in Malaysia
- 2. *Project Icarus* — Fundraising event for children with cancer
- 3,4,6. *AUSM2208 Students in Pykett Campus, Penang* — Raised funds for the School of the Mentally Retarded Children by selling plants in recycled materials.
- 5. *Project RootTech* by CAL2201 students — Fundraised for four underprivileged students in Buku Jalanan Chow Kit to be certified in ICDL Modules offered in MCKL.
- 8. *Tree Planting Workshop* by ADTP & DSW Students — Planted native plants around MCKL to promote awareness of local plants.
- 9. *Tree Planting Workshop* by ADTP & DSW Students — Free Tree Society representative shared their knowledge of planting and caring for native plants with the students.



# MCKL Service Learning

in 2022

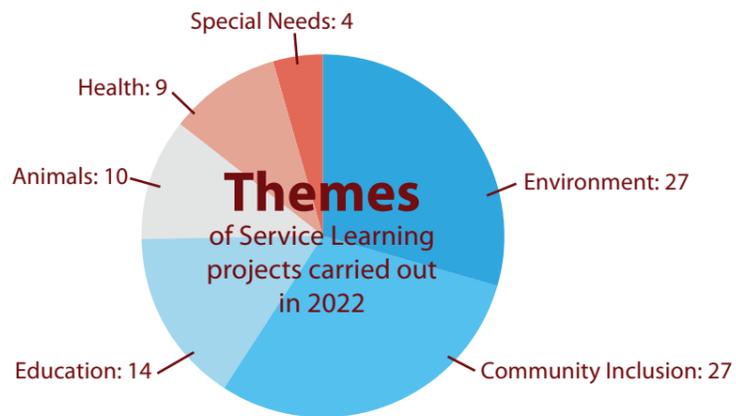
## ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING

Service Learning is an educational approach where a student learns theories in the classroom and at the same time volunteers with an agency — usually a non-profit or social service group — and engages in reflection activities to deepen their understanding of what is being taught.

## A Glimpse of MCKL Service Learning

# 91

Total Service Learning projects carried out in 2022



**MOST**  
UNIQUE PROJECT  
2022

**Buku Jalanan Chow Kit**  
Conducting digital literacy education to the underprivileged children



### DID you know...

MCKL Service Learning projects correspond to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals? Here's our top 5 themes!



**More than RM70,000**

Total funds raised in 2022 by MCKL students for their respective NGOs

Template by Ching Shyun

## Section 4

# MCKL Graduation Stories



# MCKL ALUMNAE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT LIFELONG LEARNING AFTER GRADUATION



MCKL graduates are all smiles receiving their respective certificates at the graduation and awards ceremony at the DUMC Dream Centre Auditorium in August 2022

MCKL bids adieu to a cohort of more than 350 graduates at the DUMC Dream Centre Auditorium, in August 2022. The graduation and awards ceremony were held for seven programmes, namely, Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Diploma in Social Work, ACCA, ACCA Foundation in Accountancy, Cambridge A Level, Australian Matriculation students and the Cambridge International Certificate in Teaching & Learning enrolled in MCKL.

The event was graced by Dato' Dr Tan Kee Kwong, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Lim Kah Cheng, Private Education Director of Methodist Council of Education (MCOE), Dr Gerard Boey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Principal MCKL College (Penang, Pykett Campus) cum Academic Dean, followed by a guest speaker, Associate Professor Dr Low Siow Yong from University of Southampton Malaysia.

Angelica Louise Loo Swee Lin, a graduate from the Diploma in Early Childhood Education was Class of 2022's Valedictorian. "Receiving this title was very humbling, never in a million years did I expect to be chosen as a Valedictorian," said Angelica. "It is a pretty big shoes to fill, as I've admired the past valedictorians and all their achievements, at some point during my college life. Being chosen was an honour, a privilege that I wish to make the most out of."

On top of graduands' academic well-deserved certificate, the ceremony also recognised students' accomplishments

in other arenas while studying at MCKL. This year, Hillary Teoh Poh Kim Fullante received the Datuk Dr Chiam Heng Keng Award 2022, as the best performing student in the Diploma in Early Childhood Education; Elliot Tan Ming Wei bagged the Tan Sri Dato' Dr Tan Chee Khoo Award 2022 for Diploma in Social Work and Nathaniel Inn Tsin Qian was awarded the Bishop Denis C Dutton Scholar 2022 (Outstanding Achiever Award) for best performance in his Cambridge A Level examination.

Hillary was the president of the Diploma in Early Childhood Education student union in 2020 to 2021, after impressing the former committee during her interview; as well as the vice-president of the Student Representative Council, all



A proud family celebrating their recent graduate at MCKL's graduation and awards ceremony at the DUMC Dream Centre Auditorium in August 2022



From left to right: Valedictorian, Angelica Louise Loo, received a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Elliot Tan graduates with the Diploma in Social Work, continuing to work in Malaysian CARE. Nathaniel Inn leaves MCKL with Cambridge A Level certificate and seven other awards and recognition. Hillary Teoh Poh Kim Fullante, receives a Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

while managing her own diploma studies. Her effort paid off during graduation, where upon receiving the award, Hillary was initially in disbelief, however, when she managed to collect her thoughts, said, "At the moment of receiving the award, I felt as though I did something worthwhile and that I am a lot more capable than I'm led to believe. I think the award has become a tangible reminder that I can do a lot more than what my mind tells me."

Wanting to expand his professional development at Malaysian CARE, Elliot Tan enrolled in the Diploma in Social Work which proved to be fruitful, upon receiving his recognition on graduation day. "I was happy to receive the Tan Sri Dato' Dr Tan Chee Khoo Award 2022. It's a reminder that my dedication and patience is seen and rewarded. As a part-time student also working full-time, I'm thankful that my employer provided me with ample time off to finish my assignments when needed. Nevertheless, learning to set boundaries with my time was necessary to finish well," he said.

The final accolade, the Bishop Denis C Dutton Scholar 2022 (Outstanding Achiever Award) was granted to Nathaniel Inn, for his exceptional performance in the final Cambridge A Level examination. Throughout his studies at MCKL, Nathaniel was no stranger to being academically recognised with four other awards, on top of his own scholarship, the Excellence Award Scholarship, awarded to exemplary students. "I believe in concentrating on the journey rather than the end goal. After implementing this method to prepare for a few rounds of exams, I realised that it helped me to enjoy the learning process and kept me excited to learn. It also taught me to not be too discouraged with disappointing results in practice papers but to search for how I could improve. I had taken a different approach to this round of exams compared to the IGCSE examinations

which were more result orientated and so, was quite relieved that it had turned out well.

In his closing speech, Dr Gerard Boey impressed upon the August 2022 graduates that obtaining good academic qualifications and achievements are not the only valuation of success. "Life's successes are a broad concept and often goes beyond formal education," he began. "During your time at MCKL, I hope you had several opportunities to experience our DNA in service learning and character formation. These are important qualities to possess, at the age that you are now, in a time of self-discovery, where it may be beneficial to notice other things in life that are equally important and help you identify your strengths and nurture them as a way forward."

Dr Gerard's parting words to the audience was his hope that graduates of MCKL will continue to learn unlearn and relearn in order to maintain their value in their professional and personal life, and also remain fulfilled in the career and life path they have chosen at any point in their lifetime.



A group of young men pose proudly with their formal certificates at MCKL's graduation and awards ceremony at the DUMC Dream Centre Auditorium in August 2022

# FROM MCKL, TO CAMBRIDGE, TO HARVARD

EMILY HO MEI LI'S JOURNEY IN PURSUING LAW AT MCKL BROUGHT HER TO UK'S CAMBRIDGE AND IVY LEAGUE HARVARD TO QUENCH HER CURIOSITY IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

**Emily Ho Mei Li**  
Cambridge A Level  
Alumna, MCKL

**Wherever you find yourself,  
open your eyes and ears  
and learn.**

Malaysia has long been lauded for its success and development as a multiracial and multireligious country since its independence in 1957. The backbone of this unity among its citizens is the Federal Constitution, which has bound us for the last 65 years. With proper tolerance and acceptance of each other, we have lived in peace, stability, and harmony.

These qualities that exist in Malaysia are what piqued Emily Ho Mei Li's curiosity in pursuing law after leaving high school and joining MCKL's Cambridge A Level programme. "I was interested in how people with different, often cross-cutting, interests can live together peacefully as a society. In Malaysia, particularly, I was fascinated by how, despite social divisions, people can somehow inhabit the same spaces in relatively peaceful conditions. Whilst effective laws are not the only reason for our remarkable social cohesion, the laws do play a significant role. I have learnt since then, through further study and reflection, that law isn't just about keeping people out of each other's way."

Like Emily said, studying the current way of life required some reflection of our history and the spirit behind the Federal Constitution, "Law can also play a role to actively bridge divisions and create social cohesion — through its institutional structures and embodied commitments to certain social values — in a way that makes determined legal study and development a key part of nation-building in Malaysia," she continued.

Her keen interest in constitutional law then segued into another key area, international trade law. "A reason why I love both these areas is that they distinctly bring out the relationship between law and politics, economics, and history. Constitutional law crosses over into politics and history, and international trade law crosses over into economics and international relations. These intersections remind me that the law does not operate in a vacuum. Good laws should always be informed by other important considerations: political circumstances, economic welfare, historical social divisions," Emily revealed.

Emily was accepted into the University of Cambridge, UK to pursue her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Law in 2017, a three-year programme focused on English law, which is similar to Malaysian law, with opportunities to study civil (Roman) law, EU law and international law. Enrolled students can also study theoretical and social aspects of law, like legal philosophy or parts of criminology. However, after receiving her degree, Emily set her sights on Harvard to continue her post-graduate.

"I wanted a broader appreciation of law. The Harvard Masters' was an international programme, and 97% of the students were international students. Many of the programmes were of global appeal, such as international trade law, comparative constitutional law, and international arbitration. So, I knew that when I declined to do a Masters in British law, I was choosing instead a wider programme

that will help me to understand the underpinnings and the variance in laws around the world, which will inform my understanding of Malaysian law better than yet another year of British legal study," Emily shared.

Since receiving her qualifications from Cambridge and Harvard, Emily is back home in Malaysia, undertaking a 'pupillage' in a KL law firm. "This is a 9-month period for me to learn the ropes in Malaysian legal practice, after which I will officially be called to the Bar as an Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya," Emily concluded.

Law remains a popular course of study among Malaysians, however the profession is still fighting stigma that some topics are boring, which Emily may agree to in part, but, "It

**Good laws should always be informed  
by other important considerations:  
political circumstances,  
economic welfare,  
historical social divisions.**

depends on your particular interests – but you can always find interesting things in it by thinking about 'why' laws are the way they are. Laws don't fall from the sky. God has made human beings in his image, with a heart and sensitivity to justice. How that heart gets imprinted into the laws we write, is always an interesting question to ask," she said.

More of her advice included, "Look at the world around you and ponder how law is affecting your life and the lives of others. Why do you feel safe or unsafe walking around in public at night? Why do you trust that food at supermarkets is safe and edible? Why do you have to accept Terms & Conditions in online forms? If you find these things interesting, then pick up a book about law and try to read it, even if you only understand half of it. Wherever you find yourself, open your eyes and ears and learn from your experiences and from the people around you."

# MCKL ALUMNUS ELECTS PRESIDENT IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT US UNIVERSITY



**Benedict Sun  
Cheng Kidd**  
ADTP Alumnus, MCKL

BY ASHLEY ZHOU

Knowing this, his campaign approach was to fully employ his status as a new student by gaining support from those like him, and tirelessly held a month-long meet and greet to achieve the same level of popularity as his opponent. His campaign underscored the importance of facilitating a closer campus community and his passion for change was infectious, juxtaposing his opponent, who presented a safer, less ambitious campaign. Through creative thinking and drawing from various political science theories and insights, his campaign compelled his peers, resulting in his triumphant election as student-body president.

When asked how he had felt, he described himself as, “indefinitely overjoyed and truly honoured” but “immensely burned by the idea that there [were] so many people believing and rooting for [him] back in Malaysia.”

Benedict followed his sister’s footsteps in joining MCKL to pursue his tertiary education. His parents hoped he would be able to study overseas, and he felt the ADTP programme provided the ideal pathway to achieve this. He also accredited the programme for preparing him for his further studies, “ADTP helped me further my studies by giving me the skillsets to think outside the box and igniting my curiosity for more knowledge.” Ultimately, the memories of the college that resonated most strongly with him involved the people, staff, and faculty members that “really made MCKL exceptional”.

In addition to his teachers, Benedict expressed his appreciation to his parents for their continuous belief and support for him and with this, aims to continue to better himself and find happiness with a dedication to pursue his passions.

He encourages those interested in joining the student government to persevere, not be afraid of making mistakes, and have fun, despite any setbacks. Additionally, he cautions those looking to study overseas: “I would say, don’t expect the grass to be greener on the other side. At the end of the day, the grass is only greener if you nurture the grass.”

Benedict Sun Cheng Kidd, currently studying political science and global and international studies at Western Michigan University (WMU) in the United States, was elected President for their student government body for 2022 to 2023. Benedict joined WMU after completing the first phase of his degree at the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) at MCKL. After two notable years at MCKL, Benedict chose WMU because he believes that the University offers the best learning environment and abundance of opportunities.

Benedict, fuelled by desire to be an agent of change, joined the student government by running against the established Vice President for the Presidential position. “There were many challenges throughout the campaigning process,” he admitted, especially as an international transfer student who did not have the advantages his opponent had.

# PAPER PLANE SOARS TO A NEW GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

BY TEE KAI YANG



**Julian Chee**  
ADTP Alumnus, MCKL

Julian Chee Yie Jian, a former student in the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP) at MCKL and a fresh graduate in aerospace engineering from Wichita State University, sailed through a new record in the Guinness World Record for his paper plane as the farthest flight of a paper aircraft. He and his two team members set a new record of a whopping 77.134 metres, breaking its previous record of 69.14 metres.

Julian’s feat was long in the making, going all the way back to his childhood, where playing with paper planes was a favourite past time. His desire in wanting to break and set new records was certainly a major part of his drive in constructing his paper plane designs. However, his main obstacle was the lack of resources to test out his designs. Luckily enough, his two friends from South Korea, Kim Kyu Tae and Shin Moo Joon grew fond of Julian’s design ideas, forming a team to work together to break the world record.

Julian always had a keen interest in aerospace engineering, which resulted in his decision to apply to the ADTP and head to Wichita State University with its reputable aerospace engineering programme to finish his degree.

Before the long flight to the United States, Julian felt preparing himself for student life in the US was necessary and an American Degree Transfer Program would help in his transition. He learned more about the programme at MCKL through his high school classmate around the end of his senior year. The pushing factor was due to its affordability, accessibility, and educational competency which had essentially ticked all three of those factors in his personal requirements of an outstanding educational institution. Julian also appreciated its straightforward path to America and he viewed it as an ideal country for him to pursue his ambition as an aerospace engineer in an unrivaled environment for students to apply what they’ve learnt.

When asked about breaking the world record, Julian said that he felt great, knowing his contribution made it into the books, forever recording his feat. However, it was through the execution of the project in a quick fashion from the group that was more rewarding to him.

Currently, Julian is pursuing new designs and flying more capable planes and rockets, as well as educating college teams who are interested in competing in aerospace competition, but have no experience in the field. As Julian specialises in aerospace engineering, his advice for future STEM majors is to stay competitive and to not shortchange your college career by avoiding hard classes.

It goes without saying that Julian expressed his gratitude toward his family for granting him the freedom and opportunity to pursue his passion, which paid handsomely, when his name was recorded in the book of the Guinness World Records.

# MCKL Alumni

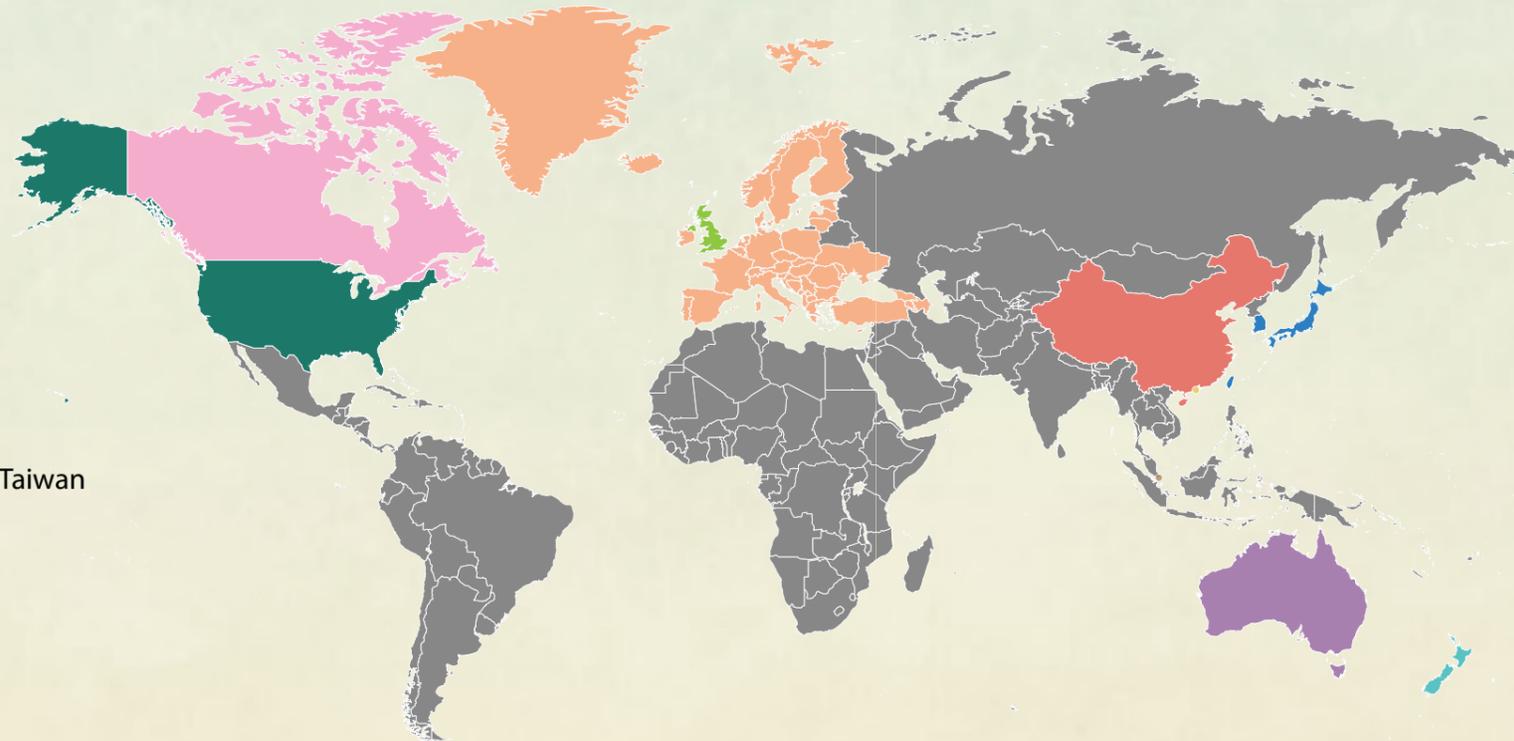
## gaining university admissions worldwide



After months of applying for university, many of our alumni have continued to universities local and abroad. Some of them even gained prestigious scholarships. Here at MCKL University Placement and Alumni Department (UPAD), we would like to wish everyone have a great studies ahead and always keep your eyes peeled for great opportunities!

### Top Study Abroad Countries

selected by MCKL Alumni 2022



- Australia
- Canada
- China
- Europe
- Hong Kong
- Japan/Korea/Taiwan
- New Zealand
- UK
- US
- Singapore

### Top Overseas Universities

attended by MCKL Alumni 2022

Imperial College London



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



**NUS**  
National University of Singapore



香港大學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Top 3 Factors

students should consider about their university application



**Cost**  
Tuition & Living



**External Experiences**  
Out of the University



**Future Plans**  
Internships & Job Opportunities

### Average Number

of alumni successfully gained admission



**100**  
Universities abroad

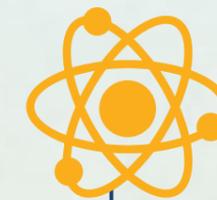


**10**  
Malaysian public universities



**Top 3 Scholarships**  
obtained by MCKL Alumni 2022

- ASEAN Scholarship, SG
- Sarawak Energy Berhad Undergraduate Scholarship, MY
- University of Hong Kong Full-tuition Scholarship, HK



**Top 3 Degrees**  
picked by our sciences students

- Computer Science/Data Science
- Engineering
- Health Sciences (Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science)



**Top 3 Degrees**  
picked by our humanities students

- Law
- Accounting
- Economics



**Unusual Degrees**  
picked by our students

- English Literature & Classics
- English with Shakespeare
- Veterinary Biosciences
- Biomedical Science & Chinese Medicine
- Psychology & Language Sciences

Template by Ching Shyun



## Section 5

# Up and About on Campus

The Annual Christmas Rally in  
KL Campus, attended by the  
faithful many



## MCKL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RALLY REFLECTS ON THE TRUE MEANING OF JOY

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) Ethos Committee and MCKL Christian Fellowship kicked off December's celebrations with the annual Christmas Rally, seeing 150 students and staff attend to reflect and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Gracing the event was Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia, Reverend Dr T. Jeyakumar, who was accompanied by Dr Chua Ping Yong, Chief Executive Officer, and Reverend Herbert D. John, Chaplain at MCKL.

In welcoming the guests, a student group led the audience with three songs, Noël Noël, Joy to the World and O Come All Ye Faithful. Reverend Jeyakumar took to the stage to give a sermon reflecting the Gospel of Luke, "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people,'" Luke 2:10. Reverend Jeyakumar then explored the true meaning of the word 'joy' versus 'happiness', where the key differentiation is that while happiness is highly dependable on external circumstances or events, joy is a state of being. It is an inward condition of the heart, a gift from God, and a richer and deeper experience than happiness.

The word 'joy' is used 20 times in the Gospel of Luke, where Reverend Jeyakumar concluded that it is when one comes to know God, it is inevitable that they will acquire a sense of hope to receive peace, pardon, prosperity of the soul, and in turn, have joy. All this relates to what the angels said to the shepherds. Joy is for all to relish if you only answer His call.

Following the event, the MCKL Christian Fellowship provided lunch, releasing the room into a wave of excitement and celebration.

**But the angel said to them,  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you  
good news that will cause  
great joy  
for all the people."  
- Luke 2:10 (NIV)**



Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaysia gives a sermon to a crowd of 150 people reflecting on the true meaning of Joy



Top & below: The room was abuzz with excitement and celebration for MCKL's Christmas Rally



# MCKL EXCELLENCE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP 2023

**LIMITED  
AVAILABILITY  
APPLY TODAY**

**100%  
Scholarship\***

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June-August 2023 Intake: **1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023**

**Open for Application. Enquire Now**

*\*Terms & Conditions apply.*



It has been truly a privilege to work and lead this college from September 2019 to 2022. After my three years here, I have made the difficult decision to retire from my profession as I have come to a point in my life where I would like to spend more time with my family and look after my health. At the same time, I will continue with my personal goals by venturing into something that I am passionate about which is very meaningful to me.

Since Day 1 of being in MCKL, I have constantly been amazed by the commitment, dedication and resilience displayed by all staff of MCKL. Despite the many challenges that we had faced during the pandemic period, we managed to pull through those difficulties and display the progress and growth of this institution by bringing it to greater heights. I offer my utmost sincere gratitude to all of you, the staff of MCKL, that we live our vision statement "The Institution of Excellence for Life" in everything that we do, for ourselves and our students. I believe that each of us have such an important role to play; to have the ability to impact many while also making a difference in our students' journey.

To the students of MCKL, it has been a pleasure to see all of you grow. I am proud of the discipline and commitment that you have shown, resulting in record-breaking results that broaden the spectrum and strengthen the branding of MCKL in the industry. For those who have just commenced

their education journey with us, all the best to you and you are definitely in safe hands here at MCKL. Kudos to all of you.

A big thank you to all the Board Members for your continuous support especially in the areas of spiritual engagement, leadership, and strategic thinking. These experiences will be of great value to me. I am blessed to work alongside you while establishing MCKL into the prestigious institution that it is today.

Also, my appreciation to all university & industry partners and agencies, that have been giving your incredible support and services to us. Your advice was invaluable, and it was amazing to see everything come together.

With a heavy heart, I am therefore here to inform you that you will no longer see me in MCKL as its Chief Executive Officer from August 2022 onwards. All these years, with all of you, have helped me make beautiful memories that I will cherish, and I will remember all your efforts in making this college a great institution for all levels.

Even though I am writing this with the heaviest heart, do know that this is definitely not goodbye as I am sure that we will meet again someday.

I wish you all the best at this college, and God Bless.

**I am blessed** to work alongside you while establishing MCKL into the prestigious institution that it is today

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE  
CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT  
TO BEGIN.

**BEGINNING**  
MAKES THE CONDITIONS  
**PERFECT.**

— ALAN COHEN