



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

# NEWSLETTER

October / November 2020

## VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

## MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

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**At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:**

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active and Responsible citizens**

## Principal's News

Dear Parents,

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you very much for attending our parent-teacher conferences, during the last week of Term 1. We were very happy with the following high turnout:

82% of our Primary school parents,  
76% of our International Secondary to High School parents, and  
76% of our Integrated Year 6 - Year 9, met with their child's teachers.

We value the time and the effort you take to support your child and our school.



### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

At SIS@Gamuda Gardens we offer a lot of academic support for our students. Our EFL teachers support students with low level English abilities, our top academic students are tutors who offer their time during lunch times to support student learning and our teachers are always available and willing to support our students after school and during school hours. Please contact me or your child's form teacher to request any additional support for your child.

### SPORTS CARNIVAL

We ended Term 1 with sports carnivals; our students were excited, displayed great team spirit and participated eagerly in all the activities; student laughter and encouragement were heard from the field and in the multi-purpose hall. Thanks go to our very competent PE department, for arranging these events. Unfortunately, the event for the Secondary and High school was postponed to this term due to the rain, so we started term 2 on a high note with active participation and energy which was enjoyed by all our students.

The results of this wonderful carnival are as follows:

Red Dragons - 216 points  
Black Phoenix - 191 points  
Golden Lions - 182 points

We look forward to the continued competitive activities which will be held during the school year.



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*Halloween fun*



*Students enjoyed dressing up for Halloween*



*Such amazing costumes*

### **SIS READS**

SIS Reads has been another fabulous success. It is awesome to see children excited to read! The focus was on reading this week and we used different strategies each day to help ignite a strong spark of interest in reading for pleasure, curiosity or research. Our students ended the week with a "snuggle up and read" lesson, we have some fantastic pictures in the newsletter of our students participating in the "wear a message", "hats off to reading", "book exchange" and "catch me reading" events. I also want to thank the parents for the book donations, the books donated are going to a very worthy cause.

### **STEM**

Our beautiful STEM room is now complete and we have all the equipment to run UBITECH and MAKEBLOCK with our students. Our students are using iPads to follow instructions and learn how to do programming. Our students are really enjoying these STEM activities. Next Semester, we will offer STEM as a club as students will get to program our Robot.

### **DYNED**

Please encourage your children to work on their DynEd program at home, as this will help improve their English skills. Students work at their own pace and will be issued a Certificate from DynEd when they reach any stage between A1 - C2. Our High School students should achieve a C2 by the end of the school year, and this will support their enrolment to Universities as a C2 score is equivalent to a 8-9 IELTS score.

### **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Term 2 has started and is already jam-packed with activities.

Clubs started on Monday the 29th, please support your child to ensure they maintain healthy bodies and healthy minds.

Our Year 4 and Year 5 students were the first group of students to start our Outward Bound program for the year. We held an information sharing session for parents on the 30 October at 4pm. Parents of year 6-A Levels will be invited to an information sharing session in December regarding OBV which will be held in Halong Bay.

### **UNIFORM**

During Term 2 we will see the weather change and students will start to wear the Winter Uniform which includes:

Male Students	Female Students
School long grey pants	School grey skirts with grey tights Or School long grey pants
School pullover or jumper with logo	
School tracksuit pants (grey)	
School windbreaker jacket with logo	

The Winter Uniform is currently in stock and available for students to purchase from the Uniform Shop. Please support us in getting your child dressed in the correct school uniform.





*Our KIK students loved their costumes*

## HALLOWEEN

Our students enjoyed the Halloween buddy lesson where they decorated masks with their buddies. Our students loved interacting, sharing and discussing how to decorate their masks. Many of our young students wore Halloween costumes to celebrate this day and the top winners of the masks and dress competition was awarded snack vouchers and a certificate. Our KIK students really loved walking around the school receiving candy during their trick or treat time.

## SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS

A reminder our students will sit for their Semester examinations in December. Please make sure you have a copy of the TOS's and the High School staff will send out more details of what will be covered in the examinations.

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Will be held on Friday the 18th and the proceeds will go to Caritas Vietnam.

Please note: Unfortunately due to COVID, no parents or outside vendors may attend our Christmas Fair this year.

We continue to value your input, so please feel free to drop me an email or stop by my office for a quick discussion, comment or suggestion. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm Regards,  
**Lorraine Els**



*Ms.Els and Duc, our A-level student, enjoying the moment*



*Scary student who made us all shake in our boots*



*What an amazing group of students*





*Buddy classes enjoyed making and decorating masks*



*Students supported each other in their buddy classes*



*Look at our decorated Halloween masks!*

## Message from Secondary and High School Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through term 2 already! Hopefully, your children have achieved the results that you set your sights on and are happy with the start to the academic year.

The parent teacher conference was a wonderful opportunity for parents to get to know the new teachers and to put a friendly face to a name. I would like to say a big thank you to all the student translators that helped out for the evening, without your assistance and dedication things would not have gone so smoothly.



Lastly, I know some of your children are always looking for where they can improve in their academics and there is no better time to focus on those improvements than right now. Our teachers are always more than happy to help any student that need support with understanding concepts and topics. Please do not hesitate to send an email to either myself or your child's subject teaching asking for guidance on this.

If there is anything I can help with, please feel free to email me at [michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Best Regards,  
**Michael Ogden**

## Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents,

The first term of this school year came to an end. During this term, students experienced many fun and useful activities; revised the lessons they learnt and obtained new knowledge. After a two-week revision, teachers made a plan to support your children academically in Math and Literature in DOET's curriculum. Most students have made more progress than they did at the beginning of the year.



In term 2, students need to try their best in two examinations, which are Middle Semester 1 Examination (at the end of October) and Semester 1 Examination (at the end of December).

Form teachers sent reviewing packages as well as timetables of the End Semester 1 Examination to you. I hope you can spend time encouraging, caring and supporting your children to make sure they have good mental and physical health during this time.

If there is anything I can help with, please feel free to email me at [anh.nguyenthihuyen@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:anh.nguyenthihuyen@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Kind Regards,  
**Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh**





*SIS Reads week encouraged students to read books*



*Students could earn hot chocolate if they were "caught" reading*



*DEAR—Drop Everything and Read was enjoyed by all students and staff*

### Message from Head of Studies - Year 6

Dear Parents and Students,

The Grade 6s are adjusting well to the requirements of middle school. They are learning to display more independence and take more responsibility for their learning. These skills become increasingly important as students progress through their post-primary school education and are a key part of a western education. The students will continue developing these skills throughout the year. Part of this is actively seeking help when struggling with work. Please encourage your child to speak to their teacher if they tell you that they have questions about the work they've been assigned.



Thank you to all of the parents who came to meet with their child's teachers during our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. The conferences are a cornerstone of the strong working relationship between parents and teachers that is vital for a student's success. If you were unable to meet with your child's teachers, or still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the teachers. Their email addresses can be found on the bi-weekly notices. Students who did not collect their reports during the conferences were given them on the last day of Term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn).

Kind regards,  
**Brett Grant**

### Message from Head of Studies - Year 7

Dear Parents,

It brings me such joy to know that school is slowly getting back to normal again. The year 7's had a very successful first term and performed well in their academics. We have many new students who started at our Gamuda Gardens campus and it is great to see that they have transitioned well into our school.



Thank you to the parents who took the time to come and meet with the teachers during Parent-Teacher consultations. This meeting session is very important and teachers appreciate meeting you to discuss your child's progress. All teachers are happy to meet with your child during the term. Make an appointment via email if you wish to meet with them. Clubs and extra school activities like the Christmas Fair are great opportunities for our students to get involved in school life. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all the opportunities provided to them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [claudine.vanrensburg@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:claudine.vanrensburg@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn).

Best Regards,  
**Claudine van Rensburg**

**IGCSE 1 Exams (9-16 December)**

Date	Subject
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English First Language
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English Second Language
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English Literature
10 December (Thursday) (PM)	Coordinated Science
11 December (Friday) AM	ICT
11 December (Friday) PM	
14 December (Monday) AM	Global Perspectives
14 December (Monday) PM	Mathematics Core
15 December (Tuesday) AM	Business Studies
15 December (Tuesday) PM	Computer Science

**Message from Head of Studies Year 8 & 9**

Dear Parents and Students,

Term 1 is now behind us and we had a strong start of the Academic year. Parent Teacher Conferences were a great opportunity to meet up and discuss academic progress. Thank you very much for attending them.

I am looking forward to Term 2. Halloween celebrations, the Christmas Fair and sports tournaments will ensure a busy and exciting term. I wish you all the very best for the upcoming term.



Should you have any issues, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher and feel free to contact me at any point.  
[gautier.quelin@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:gautier.quelin@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Kind Regards,  
**Gautier Quelin**

**Message from Head of Studies - IGCSE**

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent-Teacher Conferences held last 12 and 13 October. It was great to see parents in school meeting their teachers to be able to discuss their child's progress.

I am pleased to see how students work hard and have improved their skills and knowledge since the beginning of the school year. Keep it up!

This year, we have a total of 12 students who sat the November 2020 Cambridge Exam Series. The exams started in October and ended on 17 November. Good luck to all the Candidates!

Also, please see below the IGCSE 1 and 2 Semester 1 Exams. The details of these exams will be sent via email.

Should you have any issues, feel free to contact me at any time at [maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn).

Kind Regards,  
**Maria Batac**



**IGCSE 2 Exams (9-16 December)**

Date	Subject
4 December (Friday) AM	ICT
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English First Language
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English Second Language
9 December (Wednesday) AM	English Literature
10 December (Thursday) AM	Coordinated Science
11 December (Friday) AM & PM	ICT
11 December (Friday) AM	History
14 December (Monday) PM	Chinese
14 December (Monday) AM	Global Perspectives
15 December (Tuesday) AM	Business Studies
16 December (Wednesday) AM	History





*Buddy Reading*



*DEAR—Students engaged in reading their favorite novels*



*Reading in strange places*

### **Message from Head of Studies - AS—A Level**

Dear Parents/Students,

Term one has been a great success even with the difficulties we still face due to Covid. I am happy to see our students engaged with their content, and I am sure those who came to the parent teacher meetings can vouch for how much our teachers care. Term 2 will be filled with a lot of content for most subjects to try and cover the majority of the syllabus by the end of Semester one. It will be highly beneficial for students to start compiling their revision notes on the topics they have covered thus far. I am also very excited to see how our students' skills grow in their respective clubs they are involved in. Many exciting matches/events to look forward to this term. I hope we all make the best of it.



Should you have any issues, feel free to contact me at any time at [westley.venter@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:westley.venter@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Regards,  
**Westley Venter**

### **Message from Head of Vietnamese Studies - KIK**

Dear Parents and students,

Time has passed by so quickly. The first day of school, the managements and all teachers were eager to welcome students to school and now it is the end of Term 1. We all have good memories of this term. All KIK students seem to grow up more, show more compassion and grow closer to their teachers.

In Term 1, we had many exciting events such as Mid Autumn Festival and Sports Day and Halloween celebration.

Term 2 has started and we hope to continue receiving your positive feedback.

Best Regards,  
**Vu Thi Thuy**







*Student academic work is displayed in the foyer*



*Our students taking part in the Reads week*



*Students could bring their old books and exchange them for other*

## Message from Student Counselor

Dear, Parents

During the fall all A-level students should be planning for their future after finishing here at SIS Gamuda Gardens. Going on to higher education would be the next step. On October 27th we had Monash University visit our campus to encourage students who complete the Cambridge A-level to apply to their institution.



All students and interested parents are welcomed to contact me for advice on university application during these challenging times. I can provide you with the latest information regarding university admissions and VISA changes. In November, we will roll out a careers program in partnership with Singapore Institute of Management from Singapore. A university education is needed more than ever in these challenging times.

Sincerely

**Michael H Hayes**

## Message from Senior Student Council

The Senior Student Council would like to thank all of the parents and students who donated to the scholarship fundraiser. We raised 48,824,000 VND, almost twice the amount we raised last year. This will fund 17 full scholarships for students from disadvantaged families. Our partner charity, Humanitarian Services for the Children of Vietnam, is currently working to assign the scholarships to families in need and will provide updated recipient profiles when the process is complete. Once we have received the updated profiles, we will share them with parents and students so you can see who we are supporting.

If you have any questions about the scholarships, please contact our staff advisor, Mr. Grant:

[brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Thank you again for all of your support,

**Senior Student Council @ Gamuda Gardens**



*Students participating in the SIS Reads week*

