

Literary & Debating SOCIETY



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Message from the

42nd Student Council President

Hi Saints!

How have you been?

We are almost at the half-way mark of the year and I for one, am feeling a whirlwind of emotions. From worry to disbelief and to paranoia, Covid-19 has undeniably been difficult for everyone. However, rather than looking at the dreariness of it all, let's be optimistic. Yes, it has been tough, but I strongly believe that we grow through what we go through.

With the implementation of Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL), many of us have had various queries in our heads. "How do we cope?", "How will 'A' levels be like this year"? We were unsure of the effectiveness of learning from home and also the quality of our social life.

However, as each day passed, I realised that FHBL turned out better than expected. Instead of falling behind my lessons, I was able to stay on top of the content taught and found time to clarify the doubts I had with my teachers online. With this new-found freedom to organise our time and prioritise our work, I was able to learn at my own pace with the help of recorded lectures and tutorials. The resources created by our teachers were aplenty and varied and it reached out to the vast majority of us with different learning styles and needs.

Indeed, HBL was not a lost cause. On hindsight, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Nevertheless, this situation has opened my eyes to the sheer hard work and determination of my teachers. Apart from being ever ready to answer any of our doubts, they were also ready to listen to our circuit breaker (CB) stories. We are thankful and appreciative for their love and support given to us during this time.

During the CB, I found time to tick off some items on my bucket list. From trying out new recipes to intentionally sitting down and enjoying meals with my family, CB granted me opportunities to connect with loved ones and myself.

If you have been following @sajcofficial on Instagram, you would have noticed our weekly Instagram story challenges. This was proudly brought to you by both the 42nd and 43rd Student Council (SC). These challenges aim to foster school spirit during this period of Covid-19. It was heartening to see both the J1 and J2 Saints actively participating in these mini Instagram challenges and staying connected with their peers.

Indeed, school spirit is not confined by a location, but is one that is rooted in every single one of us, no matter where we are! It was a great encouragement to witness my juniors step up as student leaders in terms of leading and taking charge of their new responsibilities. This made me realise how much I enjoyed my time in SC and how much I will miss it. Whether it be tirelessly planning events behind the scenes or spending time together in the Student Lounge, all these memories of the 42nd SC slowly but surely found a place in my heart. As we, the 42nd SC, finally step down from our post, we hope that the 43rd SC will bring the school to greater heights and keep the flame burning brightly ever. We believe in you J1s!

As school resumes and life slowly returns to normalcy in phases, I firmly believe that we can conquer this pandemic together as one family unbroken.

Yes, we can no longer change the past. Covid-19 is here to stay for a while but I believe it is here to teach us one thing - to love. Not just to love ourselves amidst this crisis, but to learn to love the people around us and to be grateful for the people in our community. As the year progresses, let us not lose this spirit of gratitude and support each other wholeheartedly. Together, we can rise above adversity as one! #saunited

Up and On!

Regards,

Charis

President, 42nd SC





AMIDST ALL THAT IS CHANGING AROUND YOU, HOLD ON TO WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL AND TRUE. MHN





Open House 2020

Held on 15 January, SAJC's Open House 2020 was a momentous event that was greatly anticipated by many. It saw SAJC welcoming prospective Saints and other members of the public onto campus, offering a peek into college life.

Even before the main festivities began, the campus was already bustling with activity. Eager Saints lined the hallways, preparing their respective CCA Booths to showcase their activities to the guests. Bright banners featuring the 5 houses of the college decorated the parapets. With the final checks done, the school gates were opened to welcome a large inflow of visitors. Friendly student councillors and

volunteers greeted the visitors with warmth, and guided them around the various facilities of the school, presenting an in-depth picture of college life. With booths set up all around the college, friendly students could be seen engaging the visitors in conversations and addressing their queries. Various groups of students walked around the premises, enthusiastically cheering for the school and advocating their various CCA groups.

Many visitors flocked to the Principal's talk to find out more about the school. On behalf of Mr Mark Lo, Mr Cecil Ang, our Deputy Principal presented the school's vision and future plans, while showcasing its rich history and a long list of





proud achievements. During subject talks, the visitors were encouraged to participate in Question and Answer sessions, allowing them to gain crucial insights necessary for making well-informed academic choices for their children.

While the visitors spent most of their time on campus learning about student life at the school, there were also performances delivered by the various CCA groups, where our talented performers enjoyed the spotlight. Displaying their diverse talents, groups such as the Concert Band and Dance Society worked together to deliver a rousing show. They entertained the large audience by the canteen with upbeat music and sleek performances and it saw visitors erupting in appreciative applause.

The performances perfectly complemented the exhibition booths of the other CCA groups, reflecting the rich and diverse colours of the Saints' community. The dedication and pride of the incumbent Saints were on full display, doubtlessly a culmination of over a year in a shared SAJC journey.

Open House 2020 allowed the current cohort of Saints to showcase that college life is dynamic and productive. It was truly encouraging to see the Saints displaying their hospitality and warmth, working together to show visitors that SAJC is truly one of the best places to spend a Junior College journey, and call home, for the next 2 years.





REFLECTIONS OF AN

Orientation Group Leader (OGL)

It was merely a year ago since I last wore my secondary school uniform, glancing quizzically at the 2019 batch of OGLs. Even at seven in the morning, the OGLs were in high spirits, belting the school cheers and songs with gusto. This unity they shared seemed so foreign yet something I longed to be a part of. Soon enough, I too was like them, proud of my identity as a Saint. Yearning for an opportunity to pass on the experience of that very same pride to my juniors, I embraced the OGL mantle this year.

The theme of this year's orientation was 'Ascendia: Together We Rise'. An aptly selected name, it perfectly encapsulated the tenacity of the OGL team rising up to the challenges of Orientation 2020. Disrupted by the severe Covid-19 pandemic, the OGL team had to revamp the entire orientation programme a day prior to the event. Although many of us were disappointed and frustrated because of cancellation of activities, the Saint's unity held us together. Belting out those school songs and cheers much like our predecessors, we rallied to deliver our best for the incoming JC1s, no matter the cost.

As an OGL, I had the opportunity to meet the newly-minted J1 Saints. Arriving from a wide variety of different secondary schools, all of them had different aspirations, but yet similar excitement and anticipation for the new academic year. Despite the initial awkwardness, fear and reluctance from the JC1s, the ice eventually melted - allowing them to forge strong friendships with both their Orientation Group and respective Civics Groups. Witnessing this, I could not help but recall my days as a hopeful J1, with a sense of fulfilment swelling up in my heart.

Ascendia 2020 truly epitomised The Saint's Spirit; that of an indestructible unity, that all of us share as Saints. I am deeply privileged for having this opportunity to be a part of such a united team of OGLs, and extremely thankful for the numerous encouragements I received from the JC1s. Although Orientation 2020 may be over, the memory still remains in our hearts.

Now as the school year progresses, and as we stand faced with the adversity of a global pandemic, let us say with pride and unity, as one family unbroken, "together we rise!"

Up and on!

Vera Lim





'A' Level Results 2020

The GCE 'A' Level results for the graduating class of 2019 were released on 21 Feb 2020. This year, in light of the COVID-19 situation, there were various precautionary measures in place, however it certainly did not dampen the palpable excitement in the air as students collected their results, marking an important milestone in their education journey.

As the J3s streamed into school, lively conversations filled the air as students caught up with old friends and many were reassuring each other with words of validation and smiles.

Ler Ern (18A03) scored unexpectedly well in spite of her consistently failing the examinations leading up to the 'A' levels. She shared that despite her initial confusion with the subjects that she was undertaking, she finally came to appreciate the subjects she had taken.

She expressed her deep gratitude toward her teachers for their guidance and support in her academic journey and also shared that mentors had fueled her with the discipline and motivation to keep trying.

Ler Ern acknowledged the relentless struggles faced by her juniors and advised them to "don't give up, as the failures along the way are baby steps to academic success".

The importance of striving in the face of adversity was echoed by Rita, who certainly faced more than her fair share of struggles. During the preliminary examinations period, her grandfather fell very ill and she struggled to care

for him as well as prepare for the 'A' level examinations. Despite suffering from insomnia, she contended with it and persevered through it all. As a 90 rank pointer, Rita credited her supportive teachers who encouraged her through her adversities and also her friends who helped her keep in touch with the curriculum on the days she was absent.

The tennis team's academic representative, Julian, similarly said he "had a lot of friends who were willing to help each other out". He recalls studying together with his friends and when "you see everyone else working hard with you instead of against each other". Friends are an indispensable resource, and Julian advises to "make some close friends and have fun here at the same time while you're studying because that is what you will remember".

On the lessons she wished to impart to this year's graduating class, Rita mentioned that "(One should) work consistently and be self-disciplined. This might seem like common sense, but surprisingly, not everyone applies it in reality."

Possibly the most valuable takeaway for us juniors who had a chance to interview these seniors, is to plan ahead for our future and be consistent and diligent in our academic pursuits.

We wish the J3s all the best in their future endeavours. They leave behind exemplary standards for us to live up to. May they continue to exemplify the college values, whatever the future brings.





SAJC CONCERT BAND VISIT TO TOKYO, JAPAN

From the 26th of November to the 3rd of December 2019, the SAJC Concert Band visited Tokyo, Japan, for a cultural immersion trip. The trip was intended to develop cross-cultural skills and sensitivities through the sharing of musical experiences with the members of the Japanese school bands. The SAJC band members were extremely excited, given the reputation of the Japanese Bands who were known to be disciplined and highly skilled in their techniques and musicality.

During the trip, we were able to witness Japan's renowned band culture during the music exchanges with Tokai University Urayashu High School and Noda City North Public Middle School. The Band members thoroughly enjoyed interacting and making music with the Japanese students and were sad to leave when the exchange ended.

We were also treated to musical training by the famed Japanese Composer, Mr Keiichi Kurokawa. It was immensely educational, as we learned various unique techniques, which brought our music-making experience to greater heights. Aside from the music-related enrichment activities, we also visited various landmarks and attractions such as the Toyosu fish market, Meiji Shrine, Studio Ghibli Museum and the Ikebukuro Life Safety Center. Through these visits, the band members were able to experience Japanese culture and their way of life.

One of the highlights of the trip was our musical experience at Tokyo Disneyland, where we performed our prepared pieces – including a repertoire of Disney music. It was an exhilarating and magical adventure for us. Despite the downpour after our performance, it could not dampen our mood to fully enjoy our day at the theme park.

Overall, the trip was an exceptionally delightful and insightful for the entire SAJC Band. We bonded over the span of the trip and learnt so much about music. We are extremely thankful for the experience and look forward to apply what we have gleaned from this trip and share our love for music to everyone.

GERMANY TRIP

In November 2019, we embarked on an exciting Learning Journey to the Land of Ideas - Germany, with the aim of enriching their understanding of Mathematics and Science through real life applications, whilst immersing ourselves in the vibrant culture of Germany.

The trip to Germany covered four of the famous cities – Munich, Nuremberg, Berlin and Hamburg. Our Saints visited places such as the German Aerospace Centre, Max Planck Research Institute for Astrophysics and Extraterrestrial Physics in Munich, German Spy Museum in Berlin, and Airbus factory in Hamburg. Through these visits and interaction with personnel from the institutes, we learned about the interesting applications of Science and Mathematics in various fields. The rich culture and history of Germany were also highlighted to us through visits ranging from the Dachau Concentration Camp to the numerous Christmas markets.

The mathematical walking tour in the historic city centre of Nuremberg provided us with an eye-opening, authentic learning experience. As we were introduced to the various famous landmarks of Nuremberg, we were given lessons involving mathematical concepts such as Catenary Curves and the Golden Ratio. Geometry construction of trefoils and quatrefoils were also illustrated via the Gothic architecture in Nuremberg.

One of the key highlights of the trip for us was the invaluable school experience and weekend homestay with students from the college's twinning school, Romain-Rolland Gymnasium. Through this exchange programme, we acquired deeper insight into Germany's education system, culture and way of life.

All in all, this learning journey and homestay programme provided a great opportunity for us to learn about applications of Mathematics and Science in the real world and allowed us to develop our 21st century competencies, especially global awareness and cross-cultural skills. The essence of the trip was best captured by two of our friends who went for the trip, Nicole Ng and Ezenn Chong from 19A03, who stated: "This trip offered more than just knowledge and application skills. It provided endless opportunities to improve our personal development, such as confidence, leadership and independent thinking. It also provided us with a deeper understanding of a new culture and fond memories that will be etched forever in our hearts."





JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In mid-November last year, the college organised its annual Japan Exchange Programme, with the participation of 33 Saints. This programme consisted of two segments, the Local Hosting Programme (15-17 November 2019) and a trip to Japan (21-30 November 2019). This programme was in partnership with the college's twinning school, Omi Brotherhood Senior High School, in Omihachiman, Japan. Through these two weeks, we aimed to help Saints gain better insights into the Japanese way of living and their unique culture, as well as develop their global awareness, cross-cultural skills and sensitivities.

Our Saints kicked off the programme by welcoming students from Omi Brotherhood Senior High School. We hosted them on a three-day homestay programme, where they followed us around our sunny island to explore our iconic landmarks, and experience the Singapore way of life. This was extremely memorable as precious friendships were forged, despite language barriers and the differences in culture.

The following week, we flew over to Japan. First on our itinerary was none other than Omi Brotherhood Senior High School, where we reunited with the students there. We then got to tour their school, explore its rich history, as well as enjoy some games and also viewed a traditional arts performance. One of the activities we got to try out was Japanese calligraphy, also known as shodo. Thereafter, the students and their families hosted a three-day homestay programme. For the remaining 8 days, we travelled to different states in Japan, visiting historical landmarks, and experiencing Japanese culture. One way was through hands-on experience of making Japanese traditional crafts.

One key highlight of the trip was definitely the strong friendships we forged with the Japanese students. We managed to overcome many difficulties such as the language barrier. It was very heartening to see the friendships we forged. Another key highlight would definitely be the visiting of famous historical landmarks, such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum. It was really emotionally difficult for many of us to walk through the museum as we managed to see the devastation faced by the Japanese in World War II.

Overall, each and every Saint definitely brought home many important lessons and precious memories that we will keep in our hearts. We have learnt that no matter what we do or where we go, we must always appreciate the opportunities given to us, and we are extremely thankful for this experience.

SOJOURNING IN SEOUL

From 29th November to 7th December 2019, the College's Talent Development Programme (TDP) embarked on a nine-day Overseas Immersion Trip to South Korea. The first of its kind, the trip encompassed both the Arts and Science streams, TDP and non-TDP students. The trip gave us an opportunity to experience first-hand the prevailing socio-economic climate in the country. We also gleaned a deeper understanding of Korea's rich culture and grew to appreciate the interconnectedness of differing disciplines.

Each day we spent on our trip was bustling with activities as we were scheduled to visit museums and were treated to numerous stories of Korea's heritage and infinite lessons of their history and culture. As a form of reflection, our nights were filled with thought-provoking questions and a recollection of learning moments throughout the day.

One of the highlights of our trip was the opportunity to visit renowned attractions like the Gyeongbok Palace, Bukchon Hanok Village and Cheonggyecheon stream. We also learned the local education system by interacting with local high school students. We developed a greater appreciation of the evolution of Korean culture and history through tours to the Museum of Contemporary Korean History and the War Memorial Museum.

On the last morning before our departure, we visited the War and Women's Rights Museum. Having previously read about the atrocities that the Imperial Japanese Army committed all over Asia in Second World War, we were already painfully aware of the plight of the Korean comfort women. Nevertheless, the firsthand recounts that we managed to experience as well as the examination of the physical evidence of their atrocities, was a very sobering and reflective experience for us.

In closing, it was an honour to be able to embark on this learning journey with such bright peers and dedicated teachers. We hope our future juniors will also get to experience and create numerous magical memories on this trip just as we had.





SHANGHAI/SUZHOU TRIP

In November 2019, 23 students embarked on an overseas trip to Shanghai and Suzhou, with the main aim of developing students' global awareness, cross-cultural skills and understanding of the Chinese society.

The highlight of our Shanghai trip has to be our visit to the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall where we learned more about Shanghai's rapid rise to a metropolis. At the local NGO (Jiu Qian 久牽), we interacted with the less privileged migrant children, played games and did art and craft with them. We also understood more about the role NGOs played in the lives of these children. A cultural visit to China cannot be complete without witnessing extraordinary stunts of the acrobats, which got us on the edge of our seats. We also spent some time visiting the historically rich waterfront area in central Shanghai known as The Bund.

While in Suzhou, we visited multiple historical and cultural sites and created many fond memories during our exchange programme with Soochow University Experimental School. Here, we learned the art of Chinese Calligraphy, attended lessons with the Chinese students, and had fun as we engaged in a series of cultural exchange activities with them. The Chinese education system that we were exposed to helped us to reflect about our own. We had an unforgettable and meaningful time and are thankful to all the teachers and school leaders for making this trip possible for us.



Work Shadowing Programme 2019

During the December holidays in 2019, nearly 50 JC1 students spent a week participating in the work-shadowing programme. Work-shadowing is an annual programme that allows students the opportunity to learn from a mentor for a week in various industries such as healthcare, law and marketing. We interviewed some students to find out what their experience was like.

“What was a regular day like?”

We would report at 9 am. Then we would have a lesson about marketing in the meeting room for about two to three hours. Then we would go for lunch and after that, we would get a short assignment to test our understanding. We were also tasked to do profiles for Zalora and Starbucks.

Peiyu, 19S02 (Marketing)

I met my other group members at 8.30am. Then we would report to the ward and look for the head nurse. We observed what the nurse did and at 10.30am we would have a break for lunch. We would return at 11am. We would assist the nurses by serving food to the patients via the Automated Guided Vehicle. From 11.30 am to 1 pm, we would also observe minor surgeries. We were dismissed at 1pm. It indeed was a good experience for me and my colleagues.

Justin, 19S17 (Healthcare)

“What did you find interesting/unexpected about your work shadowing experience?”

At first, I thought that the marketing industry would be boring, where its days would be filled with mundane work. However, I was surprised to find out how lively the working environment was. There were gaming areas such as table tennis and board games. Moreover free snacks were also provided to the employees and us to rejuvenate ourselves from the workload. Before this working shadowing experience, I had very little experience in this area of work. However, after this experience, I realised how much creativity and innovation were put into creating an advertisement. It's really an insightful experience.

Peiyu, 19S02 (Marketing)

I was very surprised with how much technology has integrated into the medical sector. The use of the Automated Gadget Vehicle (AGV), portable working stations and the use of monitors to analyse the condition of patients was an eye-opener. They would use the AGV to help nurses to serve food to the patients, which reduces the burden of nurses to carry trays to the patients. Moreover, the portable working stations also allowed for faster prescription of medicine to patients. I had a wonderful experience.

Justin, 19S17 (Healthcare)



FEATURED ENTRY

A singular tin of canned sardine rolled on its side
Seeking out its former pride
But there were none
A remnant of a warzone

Outside the grocery store where only panic has grown
Lies a hospital with an apocalypse of its own
The resounding alarm of a flatline echoes across the rooms
A constant presence amidst the gloom
400 refugees seek out their care
Only for cramped up hallways to meet their glare

And as the numbers rapidly climb
The citizens swiftly turn to crime
Clawing at each other for specs of bones
Their malice a remnant of a warzone

Ashamed; Alienated; Alone.

But fret not! For that's only a tale
The power of our community will prevail
In unity do we find love and hope
A source of strength to help us cope

Healthcare workers rush to respond
Their yellow gowns their new uniform
These untiring soldiers work on the double
To save the lives beneath inflated bubbles

Police officers rush to trace
The contacts of whom the infected have faced
Sieving through footages and documents endlessly
They still press on resiliently

Cleaners push on, mops in hand
To disinfect all exposed land
Security guards wield temperature guns
To safeguard the health of our nation's daughters and sons

And we citizens have a crucial role to play
To keep the coronavirus away
Soaps, sanitizers and good hygiene
Our weapons of choice to keep ourselves clean
See a doctor and stay home if you feel unwell
Don't turn public spaces into a spawn of hell
Mass gatherings should be avoided at all cost
To prevent more lives from being lost

And as caring compatriots of our nation
Let's make protecting others our mission
Save some supplies for families around you
For there are others who need toilet paper too

Towers of Maggi noodle packets built on unfounded fears
Will be wasted if uneaten in the coming years
So please be compassionate and buy what you need
Don't let your irrational fears turn into greed

In times of crisis let's put our hearts together
And make solidarity our greatest treasure
With trust in each other will we be one
And our battle against covid-19 will soon be won

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