

Literary & Debating

SOCIETY



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ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
INTER-HOUSE SPORTS CARNAVAL
CHAMPION



ChrySALis 2021



This year, we had the opportunity to host ChrySALis 2021, which involved over 300 participants from the J1 and J2 cohort. For this year's 3-day summit, due to the sudden heightened Covid-19 measures, our crew had to take a 180° turn from hosting it physically and shifted to fully virtual! Nonetheless, the Planning Committee involving the J2 EXCO, teachers and the Student Facilitators, (who are J1 leaders from the three leadership CCAs - Student Council, Saints For Christ and Advocate), rose up to the occasion to take on this daunting challenge. Over the past three months, we were gearing up to run a physical summit, but due to the changes, we took things online and had to conduct an online training session, as well as a dry run just a few days before the event.

Through the 3-days summit, we aspired to set the budding leaders off on their leadership journey by equipping them with practical strategies, as well providing them a safe space to share their narratives and grow in this community. The Summit consisted of various segments in which we hoped for the participants to forge

new friendships and share meaningful experiences together. Through the Team Building and the wide variety of Leadership Workshops held by both internal and external speakers, the students were able to extend their social networks and meet new people outside their circles. They also had the opportunity to gain more insights on how to be a better and effective leader through the skills taught and experiences shared with them. There was also the Envisioning Session in the participants' respective leadership domains where they were able to meet up with their community to share their feelings and visions be it for themselves, their CCAs, CGs, and so on.

The highlight of the Summit was definitely the Community Builder aspect, where we saw students coming from different backgrounds opening up and sharing their stories with one another. We found it of paramount importance that leaders are able to empathise and share their concerns with one another in a safe space, where they could express themselves freely. Through shared stories, they could relate to one another and

exchange advice. More importantly, deeper connections were established. Having had the chance to organise this Summit, we were able to meet people from different circles, as well as growing in our own journey to serve as leaders. ChrySALis 2021 provided us with a diverse range of experiences to grow, and to help others discover and develop themselves. The success of the Summit was able to come to fruition owing to the perseverance and strength of the Planning Committee, where we saw the participants enjoying themselves despite it being a virtual experience.

This year's slogan, "Discover Yourself Ignite Change" serves as a starting point to set budding leaders off on their servant leadership journey. We hope that the leaders of this batch will continue to discover themselves and be the change in their community as they continue to uplift others and grow to become servant leaders of SAJC. With that, on behalf of the J2 ChrySALis Exco, we wish them all the best and not to forget that they are not on this journey alone!

Meaning behind the ChrySAlis 2021 Butterfly



Filled portion
- represents your present knowledge and capabilities.

Loose pieces
- represent your self-discovery.

Empty portion
- represents your potential.

Some knowledge you have may not be fully reinforced yet, but through ChrySAlis 2021, you will get to pick up new skills and build your foundation as a leader.

As such, we hope you will grow and ignite change within the school and community.



Chrysalis was indeed an enlightening experience. This workshop allowed us to discover our strengths and weaknesses as leaders. After this workshop, we can confidently say that we have a better understanding of what it means to be a leader. We also had the opportunity to meet with our fellow student leaders and forge some close friendships. Thanks to Chrysalis, we were able to step out of our comfort zones by interacting with others whom we had never met.

On the first day, the Chrysalis facilitators conducted a number of fun icebreakers to get us to know each other better. This was incredibly helpful as we were rather reserved. As the workshop was fully conducted online, we were able to play around with Zoom filters and emojis - definitely one of our most memorable moments. The webinars conducted were also very insightful as we got a clearer idea of our personalities and leadership styles that were best suited for us. We also got to learn about our groupmates' leadership styles and had the opportunity to engage in deep and personal discussions about our experiences.

On the second day, the Facilitators were encouraging us to step out of our comfort zones and share our various leadership experiences with others. This was a milestone as we had mustered the courage about the embarrassing and doubtful experiences we may have had as a leader. However, this activity served the purpose of helping identify our strengths and weaknesses. We also managed to learn more about body language and how we can wield it to sense a person's state of mind and act accordingly to help and guide them. It was truly an enriching experience.

Unfortunately, all this fun came to a halt on the final day where we wrapped our learning experiences by providing reflections of what we have learnt for the past two days. Furthermore, both of us were able to sit down and plan what we wanted to achieve in our leadership journey in LDS as well. We are grateful that we were given this opportunity to attend Chrysalis 2021.

Pratibha (President) and Meera (Vice-President)
LDS

44th College Day

By The 44th College Day Committee

ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE



To Serve
the Coming Days



This year's 44th College Day was held on 30 July. Due to the pandemic, College Day took the form of a webinar – our very first – so that Saints everywhere could join in virtually to commemorate the school's achievements. College Day's theme was *"To Serve the Coming Days,"* reflecting the school's commitment to servant leadership in all our endeavours.

As a lead-up to College Day, the school clocked over 44 million steps within a week to raise awareness for autism and promote the work of St Andrew's Autism Centre, a notable feat which our principal, Mr Tham Kine Thong, highlighted in his opening address. Mr Tham also underscored the various achievements of staff and students in spite of the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Valedictorian of the Class of 2020, Tham Si Hui Charis, struck a deep chord with the audience when she shared about the dedication demonstrated by the SAJC teachers and mentors who reached out to ensure the emotional well-being of Saints as they navigated their studies and co-curricular responsibilities during the pandemic year. Isaac Tan (19A06) and Tricia Teong (20A06) were also invited as special guests to share their experiences as past and present Saints, inspiring the current cohort to do their best and serve the larger community.

Other highlights of College Day included a performance by the SAJC's Guitar Ensemble as well as a Kahoot Quiz on SAJC's history and milestones. Civics classes pit themselves against each other in the classrooms where the webinar was livestreamed, and the atmosphere of enthusiasm and cheer was truly palpable!

The celebrations came to a close with staff and students enjoying an ice-cream treat from the school and Board of Governors, a fitting note to end on as we celebrate the school's successes.





CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Citizenship Education (CE) programme in 2021 serves to complement SAJJC's SLEAD curriculum with commemorative events and activities held throughout the year. The CE programme aims to encourage and foster the spirit of Saints to serve the nation, by carrying out the responsibilities of a citizen and daring to act towards securing Singapore's future.

In February 2021, as part of our Total Defence Day commemorations, SAJJC Alumni and Lieutenants Brandon Chang (16S04) and Hannah Teo (12S15) held an online engagement session to help the boys understand the necessity of National Service and inspire them to enlist with a positive mindset. They also presented insights to the career opportunities in the Singapore Armed Forces. To boost students' awareness of Digital Defence, the newest pillar of Total Defence, and to deepen knowledge of the latest developments in Cyber-Intelligence, Cyber-Security and Cyber-Wellness, SAJJC welcomed the InfoComm Media Development Authority Artificial Intelligence mobile exhibition bus. Saints learnt about Artificial Intelligence (AI) concepts through solving a series of challenges on board Singapore's first AI-themed "Escape Bus" challenge. In the process of the game, Saints were educated about the advancement of technology in Singapore, which was a fun way to do!

April 2021 marked the celebration of International Friendship Day and part of our activities involved a competition for the JC2 students to explore the international communities residing in Singapore and their significance to society. They explored 'The World in Singapore' through the research of different expatriate communities like the Japanese, Koreans and the Filipinos. Their challenge was to better understand and appreciate the culture and practices of these international communities. Saints were treated to an SG Perspectives dialogue session with Ambassador Wong Kwok Pun, where they gleaned insights into Singapore's Foreign Policy. The theme of International Friendship continued with the online hosting of the EU@your school Programme, during which Portuguese Ambassador Mário Duarte engaged our students in a virtual dialogue on the future of EU-Singapore relations. Ultimately, Saints learnt through these series of events that despite global disruptions, good international relationships remain a crucial factor for the success of Singapore.

Racial Harmony Day was commemorated in the month of July, with activities lined up to appreciate the diverse ethnic and cultural threads that have become entwined to form Singapore society. The highlight for the students was to dress up in traditional ethnic costumes on 23rd of July, when they also showcased the significance of their ethnic wear in

the preceding day's lesson. The students also had SLEAD lessons in the build up to that date to discuss on contemporary issues surrounding race matters. Saints showed courage when speaking about contentious issues that society tend to shy away from. All these activities helped them realise that Singapore's rich, cultural diversity is valuable and worth preserving. Saints showed passion and eloquence in articulating their experiences and concerns related to racial diversity in Singapore.

Commemorating National Day on 6 Aug 2021, our JC2 students embarked on an online social advocacy campaign, learning to utilise videos to spread good news of kind hearted Singaporeans, who stuck their necks out during this pandemic, as part of the Giraffes Singapore movement. This campaign was organised in partnership with the Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC) and included an online video creation workshop by Nas Academy. Central Singapore CDC's Mayor Denise Phua paid the College a visit and she engaged with the students virtually in a dialogue segment. This virtual experience gave our students the opportunity to understand what it means to be a community builder and how to make a positive contribution to our Singapore society during this period of Covid-19. We hope that throughout this year, all Saints felt this strong sense of belonging to the community and learnt to be an active citizen for the future.



Saints For Christ



This year despite the restrictions brought about by the pandemic, Saints for Christ has been successfully able to bring our Saints community together under Christ. 2021 brought a year of partnering with our fellow student leaders which strengthened our college bonds. We have been very blessed to be able to serve the SA community and we hope more of our parents, staff and alumni would be able to join our community events in the future.

Principal Meets Christians

Saints For Christ made use of this opportunity to allow the new JC1 students to connect with the SAJC Christian Community. This event also encouraged the JC1 students to be active in the Christian community and contribute to the College's Christian Identity and culture. It also serves as a good platform for our Principal, Mr Tham, to meet the JC1 Christian Community and share his personal stories and experiences as a Christian in SAJC.

Easter Week

During the Easter Week, activities such as the easter egg hunt was carried out to engage the students in SAJC. Additionally, we also partnered with Chapel of the Resurrection to organise Encounter Night, of which all SAJC students were invited to sign up for. It was a wholesome night of prayers, worship and devotion.

44th Saints For Christ Inauguration

Our school leaders, Mr Tham and Mrs Whang along with Reverend David Lee and Reverend Ian Chew, were invited to witness the 44th Executive Committee receive their badges and bibles in recognition of the responsibilities that they will undertake, as they embark on their student leadership journey in the College, ready to serve the community.

Christian Mission Week

Christian Mission Week this year was based on the theme, "Love Your Neighbour", with the theme verse taken from John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." This event aims to raise awareness of the invisible problems faced by our fellow Saints, therefore advocating for us to love one another and help one another in times of trouble, building a loving community in SAJC.

Dedication Night

Dedication Night is an event where all Christians in SAJC, teachers, students, parents and staff, come together to pray for each other. We had a fulfilling time of praise, worship and prayers, seeing so many people turn up for the event was surely heart-warming and encouraging as well!



Saints **ADVOCATE**

The Saints Advocate began the year with a message of hope with project M. HomeShine, as students were once again allowed to engage in small-group service learning sessions with the elderly beneficiaries of MYMCA, after a year of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Saints Advocates visited the beneficiaries at Pipit Road, cleaning their homes, building friendships, and learning so much about life, love and the diversity of Singapore's society. These experiences also grounded the Saints Advocates' organisation and facilitation of Service Learning Convention 2021 in Term 2. The Advocates and JC2 SLEAD Activists shared the SAJC Service Learning ethos and inspired the JC1 SLEAD Activists to grow as Community Builders through meaningful projects on a college-wide level.

The varied Service Learning experiences and advocacy research also informed the Advocates' focus on the importance of mental health, a common thread that links the Saints Advocates' projects through the year: Project Acknowledgement celebrated the role of the custodians of SAJC by showing appreciation to the unsung heroes of our community. Elderly Week brought a focus on the mental health needs of elderly living in St. John's Home and galvanised CCAs to prepare care packs to show care and concern. PositiveSAJC inspired a culture of mutual care and appreciation within the SAJC student community to reinforce the message that everyone matters.

While we continue to face challenges in managing COVID-19 as a society, 2021 has been an enriching and inspiring year of service and advocacy for the Saints Advocates.



Being a member of Saints Ultimate was one of the best decisions made as part of our SAJC journey. Saints Ultimate has always been a safe place for members to work together with our fellow friends who share the same passion and love for Frisbee. Knowing how well our seniors and grand seniors had done on the field had inspired us to continue the legacy of being in the top four positions at the Inter-JC competition.

Our coach always shared stories of his glories and achievements with other teams, motivating us to also do the same. Looking back over the past two years, there had been a number of memorable events despite the COVID-19 situation that had unfortunately restricted our trainings significantly. Nonetheless, we managed to hold our annual March bonding camp with the entire team before the 2020 Circuit Breaker and safe distancing measures came into place. We learned many things from the interactions with the seniors, and had intense yet very enjoyable sessions of throws on the field. Subsequently, although trainings were moved online for a few months, we had the chance to work on our fitness through Zoom Workout sessions and weekly runs. We gained a better sense of the sport through Zoom discussions with the team, just in time for physical training back in school.

Transitioning into 2021 gave us the opportunity to work together as everyone was involved to ensure the CCA trials were successfully carried out. We generated innovative methods of assessing our juniors by getting them to play a short Captain's ball game, so we can look into their dispositions to interact during game play and their physical capabilities concurrently. Due to Covid-19 and the Safety Management restrictions, the Inter-JC competitions did not take place. Yet despite so, an event that brought wonderful memories for the graduating batch of 2021 would be the SAU Intra-CCA games. This was the event that allowed us to finally put the skills and tactics learnt into use and in addition to that, made us have the opportunity to become tournament organisers. The J2s created the competition format for all to battle against our own CCA members. This was an experience no other batch had before! Saints Ultimate has been an incredible experience to us and not only did we improve our skills in Frisbee and forge unforgettable friendships, we have grown to be better people at the end of our SAU journey.



Saints **ULTIMATE**



J1 & J2

Service Learning

With a nation facing the challenges of a COVID-19 pandemic, there has never been a greater need for community building, nor a better time for Service Learning. Building on our experience, SAJC students and teachers worked with the Safe Management Measures to reach out to communities in need with a blend of online engagement and in-person service. Leveraging on our close partnerships with Central Community Development Council and welfare organisations, Saints shaped class projects that reached out to a variety of communities—the elderly of Lions Befrienders, the disadvantaged children supported by Nurture@CDC and the Blood Marrow Donor Programme, among others.

The challenges brought by the pandemic also spurred personal growth. Driven by desire and necessity, Saints learnt to harness new tools and facilitation skills in order to serve, designing Zoom icebreakers and filming video lesson resources. Earnest

and eager in creating positive experiences and meaningful memories, the students also expanded their social skills. Saints learnt golden oldies to sing along with the elderly, or emulated children’s show presenters to hold the attention of young children. They found ways to project their voices online to advocate meaningful causes. Along the way, the SLEAD Activists also learnt to facilitate reflection and learning, captured on the Service Learning Committee’s microsite (<https://sites.google.com/view/sajjc2slday2021>).

What Service Learning in 2021 has revealed is the commitment and zeal that our Saints have in improving the lives of others, learning the importance of being community builders especially in such extraordinary times.





LDS

Literary and Debating Society



2021 has been an eventful year for LDS, spanning numerous publications, competitions and internal events. In January, we successfully published the J1's orientation magazine for the whole JC1 cohort as well as the Semester 1 and 2 LDS magazines for the J1s and J2s.

As a CCA, we participated in many prestigious competitions, such as The Oldham Cup organised by Anglo-Chinese Junior College, 2021. After reaching the Quarter-Finals and producing a Best Speaker in 2020, SAJC returned to a reformatted Oldham Cup Competition and went toe-to-toe with top under-18 teams from across the region.

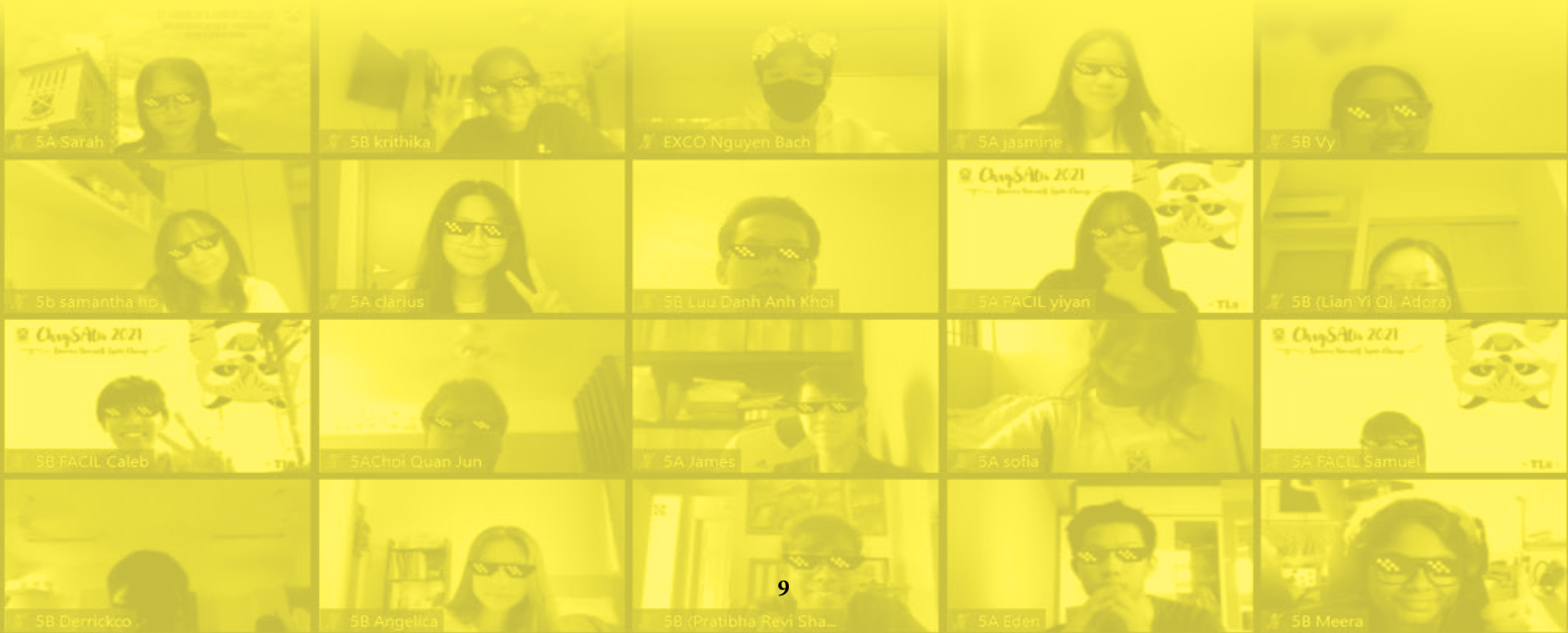
We also took part in the MOE-ACJC Intercollegiate Debate Championships 2021. SAJC sent 2 novice teams made up almost entirely of first time debaters to the National Competition organized by MIDC, where one of the two teams successfully achieved 2 preliminary round wins!

We also entered the National University of Singapore Students' Political Association Debate Finals 2021. SAJC debaters narrowly missed qualifying for the Quarter Finals and was named a

Standby Team in the event any of the final 8 Quarterfinalists failed to turn up for the round.

LDS's individuals, too, are highly lauded and motivated. Two of our members participated in Speak Out, organised by Dunman High School, with Pratibha, our President, making it to finals. We also organised the first-ever LDS Creative Writing Competition 2021 for the whole JC1 and JC2 cohorts. We also launched the LDS Instagram Page and Blog in 2020!

This year did, however, pose its challenges. Due to COVID's resurgence, online CCA sessions had to be facilitated by the teachers and coach. As most of our CCA members were novice debaters, participating in competitions with modest and realistic expectations was necessary. Nonetheless, they walked away with immense newfound knowledge gleaned from some of the top seasoned debating talents from Singapore and abroad. We found ourselves exposed to new ideas, general knowledge, speaking styles, thought training and strategies for teamwork. We are extremely thankful for our teachers and coach for these opportunities and look forward to learning more in the year ahead.



SAJC | Malay Cultural Society

SAJC's Malay Cultural Society has been busy over the years participating in numerous competitions. Our members did us proud in representing our College. They had a fun time participating in the competitions which enhanced their learning experiences. In 2017, we came in 3rd in the Cendekia Sahibba Competition and 4th in 2019. Due to the Covid-19 situation, unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to take part in any competitions this year.



An all girls' team participated in the national Sahibba (scrabble) competition. Our Saints clinched 3rd position against RI, AJC, CJC and MI. From L-R: Suriyana, Noor Sabrina, Hadirah Iwani and Nurhannah Qistina.



In 2019, MCS sent two teams and one of the teams clinched 4th position. From L-R (Standing): Nur Insyirah, Miza Fariyah and Ifrah Humaira. From L-R (Seated): Muhd Zuhair, Adam Ahmad, Mohamad Irfan and Mu'adz.

Our Saints also did their bit for the community by partnering NLB to assist in its Reading Programme for children below 8 years old. We hosted many fun-filled activities for the children who totally enjoyed them. We brought great joy to the children as they immersed themselves in learning through hands-on fun activities. Our members did us proud in representing SAJC in partnering with NLB!



During our learning journeys, members also had a wonderful time delving into their Malay culture. They had a feel of how living in a kampong was like, making Malay desserts and handicrafts, savouring 'nasi ambeng' and learning a bit of 'silat'. Our members enjoyed themselves immersing in learning more about their culture through these learning journeys. We travelled to many interesting places where we had the opportunity to not only enjoy ourselves but also to know more about our culture.



SAJC Indian Cultural Society

By **TG Rajagopalan** (Teacher-in-Charge)



Our Indian Cultural Society has been an integral part of SAJC's CCA. Over the span of the last few years, our CCA has spent time educating Tamil students as well as other ethnic students about the beauty of Indian culture. We get students to actively participate in Tamil events and competitions for them to appreciate Tamil culture more. In conjunction with Chinese New Year Celebrations, our students showcase Indian dance to the whole school. Moreover, we gave out 'Kachang Puteh' to the entire school to educate them about some of the occupations pioneer Indians were involved in as well as showcase our heritage.

Every week on Wednesdays, we have CCA where we get students to learn more about Tamil culture. We also play traditional Indian games such as "pazhanguli", "thaayam" and "paramapadam". If there are competitions coming up, we train students during CCA. CCA is a good time for Indian students to bond and better appreciate our culture.

We also get our students to participate in a variety of Tamil competitions. For example, this year, 3 of our students went for "Naanum Oru Padipali" poetry writing workshop and one of our students managed to clinch first place in the Poem Writing

Competition! Another student of ours participated in the AAA University Alumni Association Inter-JC Competition, where she had to write an essay on Tamil and Technology. For the past few years, we have been consecutively getting 1st or 2nd prize for this competition. A team from our CCA also participated in an Inter-JC Tamil Debate competition. We managed to clinch a significant position and one student won the Best Speaker Award.

We also get our students to participate in Tamil events such as:

- YJC Tamil Language Festival
- 31st Pre-University Seminar
- Tamil language festival organized by Singapore Tamil Language Council

For the past few years, we have been conducting "SAJC Tamil Cultural Quiz" where we create questions about Tamil culture and have all of the Tamil students participate in it. However, this year, challenges like Covid-19 prevented us from conducting the quiz face-to-face. We adapted and overcame this by conducting it online on Zoom. Around 25 questions were asked on Kahoot and top 3 students won attractive prizes. All other students were given consolation prizes for their effort.





FEATURED ENTRY

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS AT THE A LEVELS

By **Luke Ang** (Class of 2017)



Hi everyone, my name is Luke Ang from the class of 2017. Currently, I am a year 2 undergraduate at the National University of Singapore studying a double major of Economics and Psychology. When I was in JC, my subject combination included H2 History, Mathematics, Economics and H1 Physics.

The A Levels can be and were for me one of the hardest and most stressful periods of my school life. Competition is tough and there is immense pressure to know the content and answer questions accurately. Despite the challenges, you can do well. This short article is based on my personal experiences preparing for the A Levels. I hope that it will provide insightful tips that would help you as they have helped me.

The first thing which helped me was to be organised. I found it extremely useful that I consolidated my notes and worksheets. Having two years' worth of notes, worksheets and print-outs in one place and arranged by topic, saved me time while also giving me a better overview of the topics I had to cover. Besides arranging my hard copy material, I also consolidated all the tips I had learned into a notebook. Examples of these included approaches to a particular type of Math question, or key phrases to be used when explaining economic concepts. This helped as I had a collection of easily accessible tips and tricks, making my revision more effective. With everything I needed neatly arranged at my fingertips, I could focus my time on going from chapter to chapter, building my knowledge towards the A Levels.

On top of that, I was organised with my time. I made a chart of all the topics I had to cover for each subject, and allocated 2-hour study blocks to each topic. Study blocks were an estimate of how much time I had to put into that topic and was dependent on my comfort level with them. For example,

Differentiation (the Math topic which I struggled with) was allocated 5 study blocks, meaning I felt that I had to put a total of 10 hours of work into that topic. During study blocks I did timed practices, revised my notes or did essay outlines. This was helpful for me as I could keep track of my progress and have an understanding of the topics that I had to cover.

Secondly, I tried to be as focused as possible when I studied. This was such that I optimised the time I actually spent doing work. I put myself in the best environment to study by choosing a clean and quiet location and studied with people whom I would not end up getting distracted with. I did not like to travel as I stayed far away from school, and I found that every time I studied with my friends I would just end up talking to them. The solution that I found best for myself was to stay at home and study alone. There are not many days left to the A Levels. Do what's best for yourself to optimise your study time.

Lastly, I tried to study smart. This meant that before I went into an exam, I prepared myself in such a way that I had remembered the methods to solve questions and my explanations were all correct. For example, I worked on perfecting my "economic analysis" by taking explanations from answer keys and tweaking them until my tutors said that they were right. Whenever I did an economics paper afterward, I would use the same explanation and could be confident that this prepared answer would get me the full marks. I tried to do this as much as possible with my other subjects, perfecting answers and finding out trends to answer questions, such that I was always as prepared as I could be.

These are just some tactics I employed to put myself in the best position to take the A Levels. I hope they will help you as they helped me. No matter how far in front or behind you may think you are, keep giving your best effort. Up and On!

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