



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents

As students journey through their education at school, we hope to help them find their passion. But we first need to define what passion means.

If we ask students what they are passionate about, their answers usually refer to things they like, hobbies they enjoy doing or activities that are exciting. But passion is something deeper and stronger that goes beyond enjoying something we love or being passionate about a hobby.

The word 'passion' originated from the Latin root word 'passio' which means suffering. In Old English, the word passion was actually used to mean suffering. The key to gaining a deeper understanding of this is to know there are two different types of suffering. The first type of suffering is caused by an action that has been done to you, or by a situation which you are in. In contrast, the second type is suffering into which you have willingly chosen to put yourself in order to achieve something important.

If you simply like or enjoy doing something, it is very likely you will give up when the going gets tough or face formidable challenges. On the other hand, passion is the willingness to suffer for something you love. Having a passion for something is a drive that comes from within you that motivates you to get back up when you fail, to keep going, and to make sacrifices even when faced with great challenges and hardship.



Pick up the biography of any successful person you admire or look up to, and it is certain that part of their story involved their willingness to suffer. Of course, they love what they do, but that is partly because they are willing to suffer to do what they love.

So, what does this mean for our children in our effort as a school and as parents to help them find their passion? I believe an important part of it is to teach perseverance and resilience to our students as what we have done before under the school's Virtues Programme. We want to help our students see that the good things in life come from working hard, making sacrifices, persevering, and suffering. Another part is getting students engaged and involved in the many different areas of school life – art, drama, music, sports, leadership, and so forth. When and if we see a student starting to show passion for something, we must encourage it, support it, as well as invest in it. As a school and as parents, we should make it our responsibility to help our children find their passion, knowing that it will involve some suffering, but confident that if they find their passion, they will also find success. As Steve Jobs once said, 'People with passion can change the world.'

John Chuah
Head of School

Academic Staff

Ms Noorafiza who is teaching ICT for all levels and also the classroom teacher as well as English language teacher for Primary 5 will be starting her maternity leave on 2 November 2020.



Mr Jacques Muller will be replacing Ms Noorafiza from 2 November until 27 November 2020 as classroom teacher and English language teacher for Primary 5, in addition to teaching ICT for all levels.

Mr Jacques Muller is a native English speaker with over 5 years of international teaching experience. He holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. In addition, he has a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. Prior to his teaching career, Jacques has 10 years of working experience in the field of Information Technology.

He is looking forward to educating his students by encouraging learning out of curiosity.

Talk by Reading University



On 9 October 2020, Reading University organised a virtual talk for our IGCSE 2 students titled 'Progressing On To The Next Stage – What's Next?' which gave the students an idea of the many possible pathways and career options available to them after their graduation.

Cambridge IGCSE Examination and Singapore iPSLE Examination

Written papers for the Cambridge IGCSE November 2020 Series examination have started since 2 October 2020. There are eleven IGCSE 2 students sitting for First Language English, English as a Second Language (Speaking Endorsement), Malay Foreign Language, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Business Studies. The examination finish on 17 November 2020.

The Singapore iPSLE 2020 examination will commence on 3 November 2020 and end on 12 November 2020. Five Primary 6 students will be sitting for the examination which consists of English, Mathematics, Science and Chinese (optional).



All examinations are conducted with stringent safety measures in place within the school campus which are following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) from the Ministry of Education.

The teachers for examination classes have fully briefed the students for their respective examinations to ensure they arrive well prepared and with full confidence. We are confident that the students will do their best and wish them good luck.

