

From the Principal

Mr Simon Leese



an elite sportsman - but no matter how much I trained and practised, it was never going to happen.

So to all our examination candidates, I say make sure you come out of each session knowing you could not have done any better. An outcome is only disappointing, if it could have been avoided. POWIIS is pleased to have a record of excellent external examination results, but these are only meaningful when the cohort of students we have is understood; I could run an excellent bus tour of some of the highest achieving schools in England, but if I left out those who only select the most able students in the first place, we would spend a lot of time drinking coffee and having lunch. A fine school is one which gets the best out of all its students including those of 'average' talent. So we wish our students 'all the best', whatever their best may be.

We start the final term of the year with many focussed on the forthcoming external examinations. It is an important phase in a student's secondary education, and I wish each and every one the success they deserve.

Using the word 'deserve' has an undertone that some may not deserve success, with synonyms such as 'merit', 'earn' etc. Some students work enormously hard, and may not get the success of others who have a greater capacity but do not need to put in so much effort. I recently listened to an interview with the late Stephen Hawking, who described his physics course at Oxford as 'ridiculously easy'. I would have liked to be

Meanwhile we are planning for next year, and are delighted in particular with the growth of our sixth form. It now looks likely we will have at least a 35% growth next year, with new entrants yet to be assessed. But why is this important?

The main purpose of a school is education in the broadest sense, not merely gaining examination passes. After the transition from primary school, the next is from secondary to tertiary - movement into that phase of education which is a preliminary to adult life



and employment. So the secondary phase is one of physical, emotional and intellectual maturation, from child to young adult. It is a time when all learn from each other, peers, as well as those older and younger. It is an impressionable age, and sharing daily life with both accomplished and ambitious seniors, as well as perhaps some whose role modelling is less impressive, is itself a source of education. Who do I look up to? Who do I want to be like? Who has characteristics I know I don't want to acquire? There is more. An articulate and participative senior community moves the school forward; our older students are confident enough to challenge, to question, to change attitudes. School teachers and school leaders get older every year; year 13 students are always about 18 years old. 18 year olds in 2018 are not the same as those ten years ago, twenty, thirty; it is our older young people which keep the school relevant and effective. This year we have had some truly outstanding individuals, some but not all, in formal positions of leadership. We will have some next year (*continued on pg2*)

Photo Gallery - World Scholar's Cup Penang Round 2018



too, and every year, They set the tone and ambition of the school, and that is why the stability of a broad and full cross section of young adults is so important to us. Our sixth form sets the tone, and leads the way.

Interestingly, we are moving into the generation of millennium babies - five of this year's year 13 leavers were born in 2000. What extraordinary events the world has seen in the 21st century. In the year 2000, North and South Korea, for example, signed a peace accord, a momentous development which for our 18 year olds may well seem 'a lifetime' ago.

In the same year, the UK was still in the grip of 'mad cow disease' (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or BSE) and its link to a crippling neurological disease in a very small number of susceptible humans. Due to my being in the country at the same time, the New Zealand blood transfusion service flatly refused my attempted donations.

18 years on, it still hurts. ☹

POWIIS Music Events

Mr Ronald de Leon



- Year 9 Battle of the Bands Heat 1
12th June 2018
- Year 9 Battle of the Bands Heat 2
19th June 2018
- Year 9 Battle of the Bands Heat 3
26th June 2018
- Year 9 Battle of the Bands Finals
3rd July 2018
- Year 8 SATB Singing Competition
10th July 2018

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: POWIIS Auditorium ☹

World Scholar's Cup Penang Round 2018

Mr Darren Lim



As the school began its Term 2 break, our campus was buzzing with the enthusiasm and energy of more than 500 young scholars from 36 secondary schools across Malaysia and Taiwan as we hosted the fifth World Scholar's Cup Penang Round. Over two days, from 30 to 31 March, these fine young intellectuals challenged themselves in four activities, namely team writing, team debate, quiz challenge and quiz bowl, all centred on an engaging annual theme, "An Entangled World". For this year's theme, students explored the central ideas of relationships and delved into the science of friendships, history of diplomacy, black markets and globalisation. The first day of this year's round was held at POWIIS while the quiz bowl and awards ceremony were organised the next day at Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Being the host school, POWIIS kept up a respectable record in the competition, earning 22 gold medals and 40 silver medals, with 11 of our participants finishing in the Top 10% of individual scholars in both

Junior and Senior divisions, and 4 of our 7 junior teams in the Top 50 teams of that category. This is especially remarkable as more than half of our participating teams are entirely new to the programme!

Many thanks to Ms. Sylvia Michael, for her tremendous effort, perseverance and dedication in working together with me on coaching and providing encouragement for our POWIIS scholars. Special thanks as well to the school administration for their support for the program, to Mr. Justin Loke and the school management team for their efficiency in managing the administrative affairs pertaining to the organisation of the round, to Ms. Shauni Kaur for her tireless efforts delivering high quality audio and visual support as well as the maintenance team for their hard work on the room and hall arrangements, which makes this all possible. Last but not least, our sincere appreciations to Universiti Sains Malaysia for your wonderful hospitality in accommodating our second day events. ☹

Key achievements for Team POWIIS:

- 1st place Junior - Writing individual award - Jaena Velten
- 3rd place Junior - Writing - Jaena Velten, Primus Tan, Ao Tahara
- 4th place Junior - Da Vinci (high overall score without individual medals) - Lim Wei Heng
- 5th place Junior - Da Vinci - Lau Wayne Xin
- 5th place Junior - Debate - Nicholas Low, Steven Xi, Dylan Yeo
- 6th place Junior - History subject - Maegan Ang
- 6th place Junior - Writing individual award - Maegan Ang
- 9th place Senior - Debate individual award - Emir Yaran
- 9th place Junior - History subject - Dylan Yeo
- 10th place Junior - Overall Team - Nicholas Low, Dylan Yeo, Steven Xi
- 10th place Junior - Special Area subject - Dana Ng

Open Day and Year 9 parents/teacher reception Change of Date

We have cancelled the scheduled year 9 parents' reception on Wednesday 2nd May and will now combine it with our Open Day on SATURDAY 5th MAY. The normal parents' appointments with subject staff will be available from 10.00am until midday, and thereafter Heads of Departments will be available to advise on IGCSE subject options.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh participants will also be assembling at school that day, so parents will be able to make excellent use of the day.

Please also invite friends who may have interest in POWIIS to join us for our OPEN DAY, again from 10.00am till midday. ☺



Educational Visit



POWIIS welcomed 30 teaching staff from Santa Cruz Convent School Bangkok, Thailand on Tuesday as part of their study of technology integration in education. They

were given a school tour by three of our Sixth Formers and Principal Simon Leese was delighted to share some interesting insights about POWIIS with them. ☺

Squash Achievements

Rachel Poh from Year 10 has participated in back-to-back squash tournaments at National level.



Achievements:
MSSM (National Schools' Championship) Squash
Team Event (Girls under 15) - Bronze Medal
Individual Event (Girls under 15) - Quarter final

National Junior Squash Championship 2018
Girls under 15 - 9th place

Rachel is the Captain and number one player of the Penang squash team. She will be representing Penang in the upcoming SUKMA 2018 (Malaysia Games) - a bi-annual multi sports games meet for athletes 21 years old and below from 12th to 22nd September 2018.

Congratulations Rachel! ☺

Wednesday 9th May

As notified to all parents by email, the school will be closed on Wednesday 9th May, following the announcement of a public holiday for the General Election.

Scheduled external examinations must take place that day, and arrangements will be made with all the students involved. ☺

More on the use of devices

The Education Policy Review Institute (UK) has published a new report. The link takes you to the principal findings.



The key message is exactly in line with POWIIS philosophy. We need to accept the reality of digital communication and social media, and focus on education in their use. Building student resilience and personal responsibility, is a stronger focus than mere safeguarding and protection.

<https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/social-media-childrens-mental-health-review-evidence/> ☺

Urban Jungle Challenge

On behalf of Warrior Events, POWIIS would like to invite you to join us in the upcoming Urban Jungle Challenge that will be held on 24th June 2018 (Sunday) at Botanica CT, Balik Pulau.

Registration is now open.

Click on the link below to register:

<https://event.howei.com/.../urban-jungle-challenge-competitive> 



Sixth Form Notice

Miss Adele Bowden

To all parents and guardians,

We are looking to broaden and extend the Sixth Form's opportunity in the wider world outside of POWIIS and within the world of work.

If you are interested, work within an industry/business and are willing to be a part of our upcoming 'Futures Week' in June, please contact Miss Bowden: ab@powiis.edu.my. Thank you. 

Important Dates for April & May 2018

[Click here](#) for full school calendar

21st April	Outreach Program
30th April	Beginning of CIE and Edexcel Examinations
30th April	Beginning of Year 11 and 13 study leave
5th May	Open Day
5th May onwards	Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Bronze Qualifying Expedition
7th May	Year 10 Shakespeare Workshops
9th May	Election Day public holiday
11th May	Entrance Assessment Day
18th May	AIMS Heads Meeting at POWIIS
23rd May	Penang Teachmeet
24th to 27th May	POWIIS at Gurney Plaza
26th to 30th May	Half Term

Watch for future Pulse editions!