

GIGABYTE

GIG International School,
Singapore, E-Newsletter

September-October 2021



From the Principal's Desk

Cambridge IGCSE at GIGIS - Gateway to the World

I've been working with the UK's GCSE since it was first introduced in the late 1980's and have seen hundreds - or possibly thousands - of students through this world-recognised programme or its international equivalent, the IGCSE.

Naturally in that time I've honed the approaches and methods that yield the optimum results which open the doors to A Level, IB or direct admission to the university foundation programmes across the globe. And this has sometimes been achieved in countries where the educational infrastructure is not as it is in Singapore: many of my ex-students from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia are now pursuing life-transforming higher education and employment opportunities in the US, UK, Canada and Australia.

Having met our students at GIGIS I know already that they are well on course to go beyond these even these stellar achievements. Why do I say this? Well, firstly, since my arrival we've been working on building our Secondary/IGCSE team for 2022 and onwards, and soon I'll be happy to introduce a new colleagues whose subject knowledge, pedagogical skills and attitudes will optimise both the learner's academic attainment but also the quality of in-class experience, enhancing the effective team we have already established in Maths and Science. Also, as a seasoned teacher-trainer myself, I'm looking forward to the Professional Development programme that we'll be running, especially now that restrictions on group assembly are easing.

But back to our learners, and another reason why I say that the prognosis for our school and its students is extremely bright is that you, as our parent body, are extremely committed to their children's progress - a vital component of any student's success.

To capitalise on this, I'll be holding a virtual conference before the end of the month on Helping Your Child to Succeed. Do look out for details as I will outline the way ahead to score straight A's in IGCSE's for all our students - and to do it by enjoying ourselves along the way as well!

To close - here are a few facts about the Cambridge IGCSE:

- Cambridge examinations, learning resources and teacher training events are recognised by the world's best universities and leading employers and have a proven reputation for being an excellent preparation for study and employment beyond higher education.
- They are part of the eight hundred year old University of Cambridge, recognised as one of the world's most well-established and renowned institutions and a leader in setting the highest academic standards.
- All qualifications such as Checkpoint, IGCSE, AS and A Level are regularly monitored to meet international requirements and therefore open doors worldwide for Cambridge learners.
- Over 10,000 schools in more than 160 countries offer Cambridge programmes and qualifications and it is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds - the Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 16 year olds, taken in over 140 countries and in more than 5,500 schools around the world.
- Cambridge International AS and A Levels are taken in more than 125 countries with more than 460,000 entries each year.
- Cambridge examinations are marked by around 9000 highly skilled examiners.
- CAIE runs more than 1100 training events a year providing thousands of teachers from across the globe with the skills and knowledge they need to help their learners succeed.



And...most universities that offer a preliminary one-year Foundation course will accept just five IGCSEs Grades A*-C as a recognised entrance requirement.

Robin Hamilton, Principal

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

We started the month of September by conducting the elections to roll out our House Systems. An option of seven themes was rolled out. The students chose Gemstones (Diamond, Emerald, Ruby and Sapphire) as the Houses.

The students were then split into these 4 houses equally, with an equal distribution of boys and girls in each house. This was followed by the nomination of students for the prestigious post of house captains and house vice-captains. These students had gone through an arduous selection to become nominees, and voting had taken place to decide the candidates. Concurrently, a competition was held to design the logos of each house during Art lessons, with students expressing their creativity and creating a vision for their respective houses. Once the design was completed, these logos were submitted to the house committee for choosing the best logos.



Results	Logo	Drawn by	Class
Diamond		Liya Maria Jossy	6A
Emerald		Favian Arun Irudayaraj Joseph	5B
Ruby		Amelia Tijo	4B
Sapphire		Saimeghana Ranam	7A

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Post the nominations for house designations; the nominees finally started their campaign to stand in the election of the captains and vice-captains. Candidates were each allotted special timings over 2 weeks to conduct their campaign. This proved to be a very novel experience. The candidates all put in their very best efforts into convincing the students to vote for them. This made them learn the much necessary leadership and public speaking skill. After this tedious yet essential process, the election took place, and students voted for their respective house captains and vice-captains. The results were collated, and the winners were announced to the students along with the completed house logos.

Results	Diamond		Emerald		Ruby		Sapphire	
	Name	Class	Name	Class	Name	Class	Name	Class
House Captains	Urja Nittin Baradia	7A	Khyati Upadhyaya	7A	Dhiyarina Saravanaram	7A	Saimeghana Ranam	7A
	Gautham Ganesh Kumar	7A	Harish Vairavan	7A	Sameer Kamble	8A	Rafay Abdul	7A
Vice House Captains	Vaishali Kale	5A	Favian Arun Irudayaraj Joseph	5B	Kashvi Pahooja	5B	Saanvi Jain	5A
	Ted Ethan	5B	Mrittika Govindaraj	5B	Aarav Mishra	6A	Karthik TS	5B

CELEBRATING HINDI DAY

The 14th of September is celebrated as the Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day. On the 14th of September 1949, the constituent assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India. We at GIG truly believe in inclusion and diversity. As a part of our global curriculum, Hindi is an essential language for students at GIG. To celebrate this day, the Indian High Commission, Singapore, organized various activities. Our students recited poems and stories to commemorate this day.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

TAMIL ISAI

On the 16th of October, the Kalamanjari council hosted an hour-long workshop titled 'Tamil Isai' for our students. This workshop was hosted by Ms Soundaranayaki and Ms Uma Prakash and was supported by the Tamil Language Council, Singapore. The workshop aimed to bring awareness towards Tamil Music, Tamil Isai, various Tamil musical instruments, Tamil Scholars and Tamil Literature – Kadayelu Vallalgal. The children had great fun attending the workshop. It was a brilliant start for students interested in a holistic approach towards the cultural offering of the language. The children had a lot of questions about the language and the cultural aspect of the language.



SHOW AND TELL

As a part of the Inquiry Investigation, students at GIG International School, Grade-2, were given a show and tell activity to explore the lifestyle of Early humans. The basic needs of humans- food, clothing and shelter were the main topics of presentation. The little ones came dressed up as early humans and played their roles very well. Role-play is a learning structure that allows the students to apply content more deeply and engage in higher-order thinking immediately. It is an excellent tool for engaging students and allowing them to showcase their talent and creativity with their peers. Students are more engaged as they try to respond to the task from the perspective of their character. In addition, it helps them to see the relevance of the content for handling real-world situations. It was an enriching experience for all!



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

FOOD FROM THE HEART

With the onset of September, we saw our budding young minds take the extra mile for society. Our 4 Quadrant framework emphasizes building empathy and compassion among the leaders of tomorrow. Our students showed great zeal in making the sharing is caring kindness week a huge success. The students collected food and essential grocery items and shared them with a non-for profit, Food from the Heart. The organization works with the mission to feed the underprivileged in Singapore. We at GIG International School are proud of the students for spearheading this initiative and showcasing the true spirit of kindness.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

THE QUEENS COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION



Our students did us proud by winning at the oldest and most prestigious writing competition in the world for schools – The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition. Conducted by the Royal Society in partnership with the Cambridge University Press since 1883, it is an important way to foster the voice of the youth and develop critical skills through writing. We had 5 Gold Medalists, 9 Silver Medalists and 6 Bronze Medalists.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

SILVER



BRONZE



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

On the 5th of October, The United Nations pays homage to teachers and Educators who are like second parents. They teach, guide, and hold our hands through life's challenges. Though the children were in remote learning mode, they took it upon themselves to make the day memorable for their beloved teachers. The students made placards and wished the teachers. Some students dressed up as their favourite teacher and surprised the teachers.



IXORA AWARDS

The Singapore Green Plan 2030 is a whole nation movement to advance our national agenda on Sustainable Development. The School Green Award Program supports this by providing our young minds with a platform to learn and develop into responsible stewards of the environment. The fundamental pillars of the Green plan include – City in Nature, Energy rest, Sustainable Living, Green Economy and Resilient Future. We at GIG are proud that our students and teachers worked relentlessly, and their initiative got us the IXORA Award.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

EXPERT TALK, LISTEN UP!

We ended the month of October with a fascinating and insightful session conducted by Mr Emerson. He has worked Extensively to enhance the image of the Restroom Association (Singapore) as a one-stop restroom hub for building owners, cleaning companies and individuals. He is actively involved in revising the National Environment Agency (NEA) Code of Practices on Environmental Health (COPEH) on public toilets and launching the RAS Guide to better Public Toilet Design and Maintenance. He joined our curious young mind to give his insights on hygiene, the evolution of restroom association and answered the questions aimed at him. The children had an engaging and connecting session with the message of Health and Hygiene.



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

The word "Halloween" comes from All Hallows' Eve and means "hallowed evening." Hundreds of years ago, people dressed up as saints and went door-to-door, which is the origin of Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating. The students and teachers made sure to keep up this tradition and came dressed up in costumes! Here is a small glimpse of the Halloween Celebrations at school.

STAR STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER

Class 1A
Rohit Rudra

Class 2A
Utham Kumar

Class 2B
Gagana Harle

Class 2C
Sriyansh

Class 3A
Pahi Varun Dodia

Class 3B
Deepshika Krishnan

Class 3C
Ishaan Konjeti

Class 4A
Mohmad Faraz Ahmed

Class 4B
Arul Sherwin

Class 5A
Ayush Nagwekar

Class 5B
Ekam Singh

STAR STUDENTS

OCTOBER

Class 1A
Ritika Naik

Class 2A
Kriti Mannava

Class 2B
Jathin Varma Bandi

Class 2C
Suravi Kaval

Class 3A
Aarush Saxena

Class 3B
Eishnavi Dhiman

Class 3C
Nirek Surana

Class 4B
Prakrut Soni

Class 4A
Akshara Bodipudi

Class 5A
Vishaaka Sivakumar

Class 5B
Harshitha
Arputhanarayanan

ART FEATURE

