



# iota

A PUBLICATION OF ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE

**October 2018**

Page one	Cover
Page two	Citizenship Education 2018
Page three	JC1 Service Learning Day - Wider Smiles, Warmer Hearts
Page four	Migrant Workers' Week 2017 : Apathy to Empathy
Page five	Project Acknowledgement 2018
Page six	EB Awareness Week
Page seven	ChrySAIis 2018
Page eight	SSP visits Institute of Materials Research and Engineering

Page nine	TEDxYouth@SAJC
Page ten	TDP Learning Journey to MAJ Aviation
Page eleven	CASE #0027 : Internship At Supreme Court
Page twelve	Debating and Oratorical Society
Page thirteen	Saints Frisbee
Page fourteen	St Andrew's Hall : Christian Fellowship
Page fifteen	Our SAFVC Volunteers
Back page	ODAC Trip to Sikkim, India





# CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

By the Citizenship Education Committee 2018

The Citizenship Education (CE) programme in SAJC is an integral component of the Servant Leadership (SLEAD) curriculum, cultivating Saints who desire to serve the nation, learn to shoulder the responsibilities of a citizen, and dare to act towards securing our future. Here is a highlight reel of the CE programmes our Saints participated in this year!

During the Total Defence Day Commemoration in February 2018, JC2 students attended an informative talk by Mr Christopher Leow from Edible Garden City, an exciting Singaporean social enterprise which champions the grow-your-own-food movement in cities around the world. Mr Leow shared with our students EGC's philosophy and also spoke about food security in Singapore. At the end of the talk, students sampled locally grown microgreens from EGC's Citizen Farm in Jalan Penjara. Through this session, our Saints gained newfound perspective on what it means to keep Singapore safe and secure. EGC's story and the microgreens gave them a sense of what is possible on our tiny island. Meanwhile, JC1 students participated in an exciting exhibition put up by soldiers from the 8th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (8 SIR). Students interacted with the exhibits and interviewed soldiers about their National Service experience. They also had fun applying camouflage paint, handling real weapons, and climbing into an Armoured Personnel Carrier. The talk and exhibition helped Saints gain a deeper understanding of the diverse challenges facing Singapore today and the roles they can play in Total Defence.

In April 2018, as part of our International Friendship Day Commemoration, the Citizenship Education Committee and the English Department collaborated

to organise the ASEAN-Current Affairs Quiz for both JC1 and JC2 students. Students participated actively, taking on challenging questions about the social, cultural, and political realities facing ASEAN countries. The quiz also helped students see the close links between Citizenship Education and what they learn in the General Paper classroom. During subsequent SLEAD lessons, students from OSLP and Saints connect more deeply with the abstract notion of an ASEAN community. As they listened to the experiences of their peers and asked questions, many of them were able to see that College programmes such as OSLP are actually small but significant steps towards a more integrated ASEAN.

During the Racial Harmony Day Commemoration in July, we invited *Nadi Singapura* to our College for a traditional percussion performance. *Nadi* is a newly formed ensemble made up of young and dynamic musicians who believe in celebrating the beauty of traditional drums and percussions. The programme, titled 'Rentak Akbar', was truly a feast for the senses. The musicians from *Nadi Singapura* also educated our JC1 students on the cultural and historical evolution of their instruments. 'Rentak Akbar' gave students a chance to appreciate the diverse cultural threads that have become entwined to form Singapore society. It also helped them realise that our cultural diversity is valuable and worth preserving. Our JC2 students explored this idea from a different angle. The JC2s gave their take on issues related to diversity during the Forum Theatre and Dialogue which involved performances by ACT3 and an open

dialogue facilitated by Mr Farid Hamid. Our students showed courage when speaking about contentious issues that we tend to shy away from. They were passionate and eloquent in articulating their experiences and concerns related to diversity in Singapore.

In July, our JC2s took part in an SG Perspectives dialogue session with Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister, Ministry of Finance. Through the session, our Saints were able to firmly grasp the rationale behind policy decisions pertaining to youth, the arts, and education. Many students also came forward with salient questions, making for an enriching exchange. The sessions gave our Saints the opportunity to grow as Holistic Thinkers and Skilled Communicators.

In August, to commemorate National Day, our JC2s, in collaboration with Central Singapore Community Development Council, ventured out all across the island as advocates for Giraffes Singapore, a movement encouraging members of the public to do good by sticking their necks out for the common good. Our Saints showed that they were willing to step out of their comfort zones and engage with members of the public to champion the spirit of volunteerism in Singapore - a truly meaningful birthday gift to the nation. We are confident that even as their journey in SAJC comes to a close, their lifelong servant leadership adventure is just beginning. Up and On!





## JC1 SERVICE LEARNING DAY -

# Wider Smiles, Warmer Hearts

By **Berlin Chiew** (18A02), **Chai Kai Ling** (18S13) and **Lee Jiali** (18S13)



This year's JC1 Service Learning (SL) Day was organised by our College's Service Learning Committee, in partnership with the Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC), Kreta Ayer-Kim Seng Grassroots Office and supported by the 9<sup>th</sup> Saints Advocate. SL Day creates a platform for our Saints to serve and interact with the seniors meaningfully. On this day, our Saints had the opportunity to either clean the houses of the seniors in the 'Silver Homes' programme, or engage them through a fun carnival named 'Silver Friends'.

On SL Day, 8 August 2018, we were honoured to have Dr Lily Neo, Grassroots Advisor to Jalan Besar GRC and Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore CDC, with us. This year's theme being "Wider Smiles, Warmer Hearts", they encouraged our Saints to spend a meaningful morning with the seniors at Kreta Ayer.

The Saints at Silver Homes took great pride in cleaning the houses of the seniors. They did the household chores with vigour and ensured the units were spick and span. More importantly, they spent quality time with the seniors. Some of the seniors were generous in sharing their personal stories with our Saints, which definitely inspired us to know more about the seniors in our community.

Meanwhile, the Saints at Silver Friends organised a fun-filled carnival at Kim Seng Community Centre for our seniors. The carnival started off with a simple exercise whereby our seniors got warmed up for the exciting games session that followed. The carnival then proceeded with Bingo sessions and performances by a seniors group, our current Saints, and Saints alumni, Leonard Lim. The hours of rehearsal to prepare these performances definitely paid off, as the seniors were seen having a good time, with many of them clapping and even singing along with us!

After we bid farewell to our seniors, we ended SL Day with group reflections led by our SL Representatives and Unit leaders. Our Saints shared that their fulfillment came from seeing the smiles on the seniors, where both the seniors and saints valued the quality time and interaction they had. Our Saints learnt to be more empathetic towards the seniors and shared how much they can look up to them.



# MIGRANT WORKERS' WEEK 2017 :

## Apathy to Empathy

By Saints Advocate 2018

From 29 July to 4 August, the Saints acknowledged the contributions of migrant workers to Singapore in Migrant Workers' Week, which was organised by the 8th Saints Advocate and themed "Apathy to Empathy".

The Saints gained greater insight into the lives of migrant workers through a daily quiz, which was based on interesting facts about the lives of migrant workers as well as the difficulties they faced coming to Singapore. The Saints were also invited to contribute notes of appreciation to migrant workers, drawing from the insights gained from the quiz; the notes were then displayed outside the Student Lounge.

One highlight of the week was the screening of a video at Assembly. It depicted the stigma and prejudice faced by migrant workers, juxtaposed with interviews with migrant workers who expressed what they thought of those acts. The migrant workers were shown to be bewildered by the negative comments made by Singaporeans: in the words of one puzzled worker, "I don't know Singaporeans." Nevertheless, the video ended with Singaporeans thanking the migrant workers for their contribution to the country.

Finally, on 13 Aug, the Saints Advocates and volunteers visited Cassia@Penjurong Dormitory to extend the school's appreciation of the migrant workers. Organised to provide the Saints with a platform to interact with the migrant workers, the outreach event featured an English lesson, by the edtech (educational technology) social enterprise SDI Academy, in a makeshift classroom at the lobby of the dormitory. The Saints acted as facilitators during group discussions and team-building activities, whereby groups competed to build the tallest free-standing structure using only straws and paper clips while communicating only in English. Before leaving, the students handed out the notes written by the Saints, together with stress balls as tokens of appreciation.

Through these activities, the 8th Saints Advocate hopes that Saints will help change their community's attitude towards migrant workers from one of indifference to empathy.







# PROJECT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By **Chan Jia Yu** (17S14)

**P**roject Acknowledgement (PA) is an annual advocacy project organised by Saints Advocate, which aims to encourage Saints to show their appreciation to the non-teaching staff in our College during the celebration of Teachers' Day. The theme for Project Acknowledgement was "HEROES", which stands for 'Helpful, Essential, Responsible, Outstanding, Excellent, Service'. These qualities are sought to be embodied by the non-teaching staff in the College. To kick start the project, the 8th Saints Advocate engaged social media to promote and publicise the project. This was done with the launch of weekly Instagram posts, where captioned pictures describing how the non-teaching staff contributed to our College were posted. These posts were linked to the qualities in HEROES. The Saints Advocates garnered the support of all JC1 and JC2 classes to pen thank-you notes to our non-teaching staff. These notes were

used to create message boards for each group of non-teaching staff. The finale was held in conjunction with Teachers' Day 2017 Celebrations, when the message boards were presented to these real-life heroes.

With this yearly project, the Saints Advocate hopes to create a culture where Saints show their appreciation to these staff members, on a regular, daily basis. Creation of culture is not something that can be done overnight but I found it enriching and meaningful to be involved and pioneer such changes in culture. More importantly, it was heart-warming to see friends and schoolmates taking time to interact with and appreciating these unsung heroes that have created a positive, safe and conducive learning environment for all of us, something that most of us have taken for granted for far too long. I have hence learnt that simple actions can go a long way.



# EB Awareness Week

By Saints Advocate 2018



**This is how life feels to people with EB.**



This year, Saints Advocate inaugurated a new partnership with DEBRA Singapore, a research charity set up to support sufferers of Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a painful skin condition where the sufferer's skin blister easily. Saints Advocate aim to assist DEBRA Singapore in raising awareness and clearing misconceptions about EB as well as to foster empathy and extend care towards children suffering from EB.

An awareness week was conducted from 14 to 18 May, and a booth was set up to raise awareness of children suffering from EB to our Saints population. In addition to an informative notice board, a video illustrating the pain and suffering EB children undergo daily was played. To simulate the pain and inconvenience EB sufferers go through, station games were set up with appropriately modified props that demonstrate how doing simple activities like writing and walking are excruciating for EB sufferers.

Saints who visited our booth responded positively. A heart-shaped mural, made up of cards of handwritten well-wishes, was created as a gift to give courage and hope for the EB children. It was handed over to DEBRA Singapore, on the last day of the awareness week. In return, a thank-you note was received from Dr Ritu Jain, President of DEBRA Singapore, in appreciation of the collective efforts of the Saints and it was read out during morning assembly.





# ChrySAlis 2018

By **Tan Si Min Odele** (17A02), Summit Chairperson



As mentioned by mathematician Edward Lorenz, the butterfly effect illustrates that even the smallest flutter of a butterfly's wings is capable of altering the course of a tornado. Likewise, a very small change in our community can create a significantly different outcome for society.

With this belief, the ChrySAlis EXCO organised the ChrySAlis Summit with the aim to equip and inspire a new generation of servant leaders from 31 May to 2 June 2018. The 16-strong planning committee rallied together to create a Summit "by student leaders, for student leaders" — talking the talk and walking the walk that we can make a difference around us by starting with us, however inconsequential the initial action may seem. One of my most memorable moments was hearing the impressive speeches from Summit participants at our Closing Ceremony. It was truly a humbling experience to witness a real-life transformation in seeing them through the public-speaking workshop to the stage where the audience was thrilled and inspired by speakers just like them.

Moreover, it is no easy feat to juggle copious amounts of schoolwork and the equally challenging task of bringing this Summit together. Through this experience, I have learnt what it means to be a servant leader and to become a better person not only for myself but for the community around me.

During this experience, some EXCO members also had a chance to step up as workshop facilitators in the sharing of their knowledge about the various aspects of leadership, like planning a camp and leading through conflicts. From adapting on the spot in the face of technical difficulties to working as a team, we have learnt much about leading others and ourselves.

The 5th ChrySAlis Summit has since come to a close and it has been nothing short of an honour to chair the EXCO. I am thankful to the team who have supported us during the Summit and at our outreach event, compASSIONity: from the AVA support crew who toiled with us to the team of teachers who worked tirelessly in making the Summit a reality, from the student leadership CCAs to my EXCO. I am deeply grateful and know that this would not have been possible without each and every one of them.





# SSP visits Institute of Materials Research and Engineering

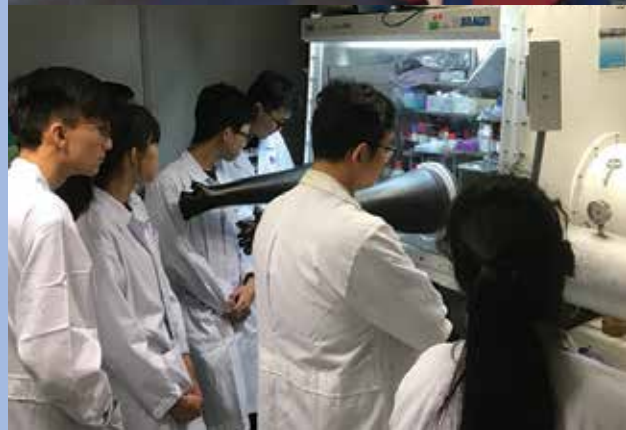
By Chong Qiao Ning, Timothy Lim Jin Wei and Nicholas Tan Zhe En (all from 17S04)

On 10 and 11 July 2018, a group of eight JC2 students from the Science Scholars Programme visited the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering at A\*STAR to learn more about electrochemical cells and how smartphone batteries are manufactured. We also had the chance to explore the assembly of actual button cells.

On the first day, we had hands-on activities, and were taught how to produce a simple button cell. We discovered that such tiny cells actually consist of many components. The button cell is actually a much miniaturised version of the electrolytic cell, where all its components, such as the electrodes and electrolyte, are squeezed into a tiny casing. We were also exposed to how electrochemical reactions occur and learnt new chemical terms, such as 'NCA' (which stands for the material this type of battery is made of: lithium nickel cobalt aluminium oxide). This widened our knowledge and reinforced the concept of electrochemistry, a concept that we have just encountered and learnt in H2 Chemistry. We gained greater insights into the field of research when we understood that researchers actually spend more time in front of their screens planning for experiments than in executing them.

On the second day, we completed the assembly of the electrolytic cell. During this process, we handled sophisticated equipment, such as the glove box (not the version found in cars). Subsequently, we stored and tested the completed batteries on a shelf with thousands of connection ports known as the battery cycler. Lastly, we ended off our visit by learning more about the career and scholarship opportunities in A\*STAR. Through the frank sharing by our host researcher, Dr Derrick Fam, we familiarised ourselves with the dexterity and perseverance that one needs in order to become a good researcher.

All in all, we were able to relate our knowledge acquired from the Chemistry syllabus to better understand real-world applications, as well as to engage in the exciting experiences scientists have at work. In addition, we also had a chance to don lab coats for the first time. We were thrilled to have learnt so much behind the everyday devices that we use. It was indeed an enriching experience and it has helped us to develop our perspective of the field of science.







# TEDxYouth@SAJC

This year's TEDxYouth@SAJC was themed 'Making Lives, Waking Hearts', and was held on 28 May in the Cultural Centre. Staff and students, welcoming the change of intellectual pace at the end of an exhausting Term 2, shuffled in and took their seats expectantly.

Similar to TED talks, TEDx aims to raise awareness on societal issues by holding short talks; unlike TED though, TEDx is independently organised by local groups. The audience was not to be disappointed: many passionate speakers had come this year. One such speaker was Qiqing Goh, a National University of Singapore law undergraduate, who strongly believes that, "once the necessary changes have been made, you are on the path to success." She fought through family circumstances marked by disputes, debts and departures, to devote herself to her aspirations, even working part time. She overcame the confusion and other bad habits that she bravely admitted she had, stopped wallowing in self-pity, and worked steadfastly towards her aspirations. Qiqing reminded us that it does not matter where you come from, and that time stops for no one, thus it is critical for one to use challenges to build themselves up and to be disciplined.

Our current students had no less profound messages of their own. Bebin Joseph introduced his insightful take on servant leadership and how to make a change and light a spark in the world. He actively took part in social causes, such as to stop slash-and-burn farming in Riau, Indonesia, and to help disadvantaged girls in Mumbai to learn English. Bebin sought to inspire people to revolutionise their thinking, from merely showing sympathy to taking concrete action.

Another impressive speaker was Jin Yanlin who taught us about empathy and perseverance from the perspective of a struggling immigrant. She was initially insecure about herself as she relied on external validation to gain her identity. But her so-called friends grew distant and mocked her, making her isolated and discouraged, and she also faced expectations as a scholar to excel in her studies. The experience cut deep, but then Yanlin decided to get up and to pursue her passions fiercely. She studied English thoroughly, and immersed herself in art. Her art pieces became acclaimed, and she became much happier. Her closing words of advice were for us to keep going and to push ourselves, as challenges would keep coming, and to love ourselves and to pursue our dreams. Finally, we should not seek to please others but to make ourselves happy instead.

This article can give but a fleeting sense of the afternoon programme as there were many other speakers, including two prolific TED Talk speakers Tim Urban and Simone Giertz whose previous talks were shown on screen. All these speakers, live and pre-recorded, spoke passionately about their causes and challenged us from their refreshing and thought-provoking perspectives. In the end we were glad to have had the chance to experience what we did that day.

By Alfred Soares (18A07)





# TDP Learning Journey to MAJ Aviation

By Kara Kang (17A03)



On 8 May 2018, a small group of aviation enthusiasts from the Talent Development Programme (TDP) embarked on a learning journey to MAJ Aviation Pte Ltd, located at Seletar Airport. MAJ Aviation is a company responsible for a range of aviation-related services, from specialised engineering support to strategic aviation consulting. They have established themselves as a leader in premier aviation support and engineering services in the South-East Asia region, and we were all excited to find out more about the industry through such a notable organisation.

When we arrived at MAJ Aviation's state-of-the-art General Aviation Centre, we were introduced to the ebbs and flows involved in the career as an Aerospace Engineer. One engineer shared with us the journey that she took to fulfil her passion. Her testimony was extremely inspiring and informative, as the industry is still very much skewed towards males. She also mentioned how precise and meticulous she had to be with everything in her job, for instance, the tightening of every screw and bolt has to be calibrated according to the

specifications for the individual model of aircraft.

After her sharing, we were brought up the roof of their building to have a birds' eye view of the small airport and its facilities. Given the limited capacity and number of runways there were in Seletar Airport, the Air Traffic Control tower was a lot shorter and smaller than the iconic one we are used to seeing at Changi Airport. We also saw the external facade of the brand new \$50 million passenger terminal, which is slated to be open to the public before the end of this year. It would be a significant improvement over the current slightly dilapidated and cramped one, as our guide pointed out. Although the afternoon sun was blistering, no one seemed bothered by the heat as we were simply engrossed by the insights and sharing by the engineer.

Nearing the end of our tour, an outreach officer from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore gave a presentation on Changi Airport, continually voted the world's best airport by international aviation bodies. She shared on the beginnings of Changi Airport and the decades of rejuvenation the airport

has undergone to achieve its global status today. She further shared the numerous job opening that running an international airport such as Changi Airport would create. We were thoroughly impressed with the meticulous effort that goes behind the scene to ensure that our airport runs efficiently without hiccups. Despite having over 60 million passengers in and out of Changi Airport annually, the airport never seems congested and this is because of the engineering and organisation of the airport to ensure smooth flow of human traffic.

The entire tour opened my eyes to the hard work and forethought that goes into establishing a successful aviation industry. This learning journey has indeed piqued my interest in this ever-dynamic and evolving industry, with its diverse variety of jobs to offer.





## CASE #0027 :

# INTERNSHIP AT SUPREME COURT

By **Carina Lim** (17A04)

Unlike others who were attached to law firms for their Work Attachment, mine was at the Supreme Court. When one thinks about court proceedings, images of lawyers having a heated debate and TV-style courtroom drama would come to mind. However, my own experience was very different.

I was given the opportunity not only to tour the Supreme Court, but also enjoyed exclusive access to restricted areas. For the tour, we entered court rooms, chambers used for discovery (a pre-trial procedure) and the Assistant Registrar's Office. Each day in the Supreme Court I attended trials and hearings, and I was even given the opportunity to sit in for a discovery. I sat in a variety of trials, from corporate to criminal cases. In one of the corporate cases, the tenant and owner of the building were unable to come to a settlement over rent and building design. It struck me that legal cases required years before they could come to closure, as the process of discovery was a very long one due to all the fact-finding that had to be done. At the end of some of the trials, the judges would invite the student-interns forward to answer any questions we had. In addition, some lawyers also spoke to us and shared more on their firms and practices.

Before I went for my internship, I had one seemingly flippant question in mind: how do judges teleport? I have never seen a judge or heard of a judge take the same lift as the members of public. I got my answer in my attachment at the Supreme Court – there is a judges' lift. They have their own exclusive lifts that would bring them right outside the courtrooms. Interesting, isn't it?

The highlight of my attachment in the Supreme Court would be the exclusive opportunity to sit in for a Court of Appeal session. The session I attended started with a proposition for a new framework of punishment for the offence. After the framework was brought up, the defence counsel and prosecutors then brought up their arguments and substantiated their appeal. It was highly intriguing as I watched the lawyers in action and it

made me reflect on the importance of rights and protecting the vulnerable.

Through this experience, I learnt not only about Singapore's legal system but also saw how it played out in reality. Even though I had occasional struggles in understanding the legal details due to not attending the prior hearings, and experienced nearly as much difficulty getting around in my court shoes, I am extremely thankful to have been posted to the Supreme Court and even more inspired to pursue my dreams in the field of criminal law. I would also like to encourage others to take on internships, as they offer useful insight into these careers and exposure to the realities of life. They may not provide complete information on what to expect in the workplace in the future, but they do provide an understanding of what the industry requires and the compatibility of the career to the career-seeker. I am gratified to have found that the answers to the questions I had on the legal industry were much to my satisfaction. With that, the case of Carina's work attachment at the Supreme Court is now closed.



**CASE #0027**





# Debating and Oratorical Society

By **Carina Lim** (17A04) and **Darius Lee** (17S21)



n 10 February this year, the Debating and Oratorical Society sent two teams to participate in the National University of Singapore Political Association Debate Series (NUSPA). As part of the organiser's mission to raise local political awareness among youth and promote a debating culture among pre-tertiary institutions, the various motions of each round centred on Singapore-related issues and policies.

For the prepared round, both teams prepared for the motion of "This House would abolish Singapore's system of ethnic quotas for housing". The best speakers for both debates in this round (in which we competed against NUS High School and Anglo Chinese International) went to our members: Ho Jun Hao and Darius Lee. One of our teams also emerged as the winning House against NUS High School in its debate.

Following the prepared round were the two impromptu rounds whereby teams were only given an hour to prepare for the motion. In the first impromptu round, teams were presented with the motion "This House would not prioritise geographical location in allocation of places for the Primary School Registration Exercise". In the second impromptu round, teams were then made to debate the motion "This House regrets Singapore's introduction of the ethnically reserved Presidential elections"

This year in particular, our teams have gleaned much from the insights on some key national policies of Singapore. NUSPA has been a fulfilling experience and our teams are motivated and inspired to push ourselves harder for our future competitions.





# Ultimate Frisbee

By Faith Felice Chiam (17A05)



The 14th Inter-Junior College Ultimate Championships held on 2 - 3 June was a significant event for Saints Ultimate. We are proud to have clinched the overall 3rd placing, as well as 2nd placing for the 'Spirit' Award, but behind the triumphant celebrations and tears of joy was a journey of overcoming hardship and challenges.

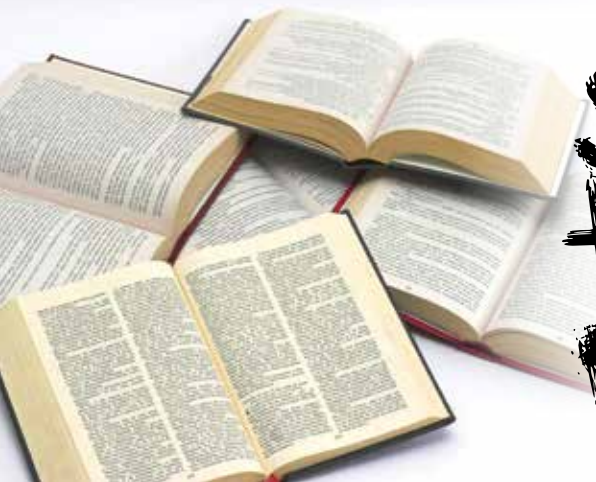
The team started off with a shaky start and a podium placing at sport season's end seemed impossible. Together, the team laboured through the emotional troughs and peaks of losses and wins, coping with the constant slew of injuries. Every trial we overcame moulded us into better players, out of which we emerged a stronger team with grit, tenacity and better sportsmanship.

The most rewarding aspect of our Ultimate journey was undeniably the bonds within the team. The friendships forged from getting through the gruelling trainings together made the trainings far more bearable - enjoyable, even. We will always remember this exhortation from James our coach, with regards our team work: "Look at these faces – these guys are who you're fighting for."

Just as a man is no island, neither is a player without a team. We would like to thank those who supported us and gave us strength throughout our journey; our coaches James and Joleen, our teachers-in-charge, Mr Wong Chee Wai, Mr Benjamin Thong and Mr Zachary Tan, families and friends. Thank you all for standing by us through our toughest times and celebrating our successes with us; our success would not have been possible without you.







# St Andrew's Hall Christian Fellowship

By Pastor Ian Chew

**T**he SA Hall Christian Fellowship (CF) was birthed on 7 July 2017 one evening, when a small number of Christian students led by the Christian Resident Mentors met in the Music Room. Since then, by God's grace, we have not stopped meeting and more than fifty Secondary and Junior College students from different nationalities and denominations have joined us for our fellowship meetings! It has been a time and place where we can unwind, sing, share and pray for each other after a busy and hectic week. We even have occasional services where we meet in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit where encouraging and relevant sermons are preached too. During these times, we even had our alumni SA Hall residents join us!

"Really thank God for the CF! It's been such a privilege to be able to come together, share, pray and encourage each other! I always feel so blessed every time I attend the fellowship because of the close friendships we enjoy."

**Pastor Ian Chew**

"When faced with the rigour and intensity of the JC life, CF never fails to provide the much-needed pillar of support!"

**Samuel, CJC, J2**

"This CF is one of the reasons why I look forward to the end of each week. It has really been a place where I can be with God and with a community who journeys together with me in this walk of faith."

**Anastasia, SJI, Year 5**



"Every week I always look forward to Friday because of CF. I am always excited to hear the Gospel shared by my friends and Pastor Ian; and to gather with my brothers and sisters in Christ. CF has been a platform where I can be introspective and to thank God for everything that has happened throughout the week. I really thank God for this CF and it will definitely be one of my best memories in SA Hall."

**Alicia, SJI, Year 6**

"Really grateful for this community in SA Hall, especially Pastor Ian!! CF is truly a safe place where we can truly share our thoughts and feelings openly. I always look forward to the time of worship, prayer, fellowship... and of course, the great food!!"

**Isaac, SAJC, J1**



SERVING BEYOND SAJC:

# Our SAFVC Volunteers

By the Citizenship Education Committee 2018

Earlier this year, three of our Saints from the batch of 2016, Julieana Bte Suhaimi, Ling Shu Ling (both from 16S02) and Christine Chiam Ying Hui (16S14), completed Basic Training (BT) with the Singapore Armed Forces Volunteers Corps (SAFVC). The SAFVC was launched in October 2014 to allow women, new citizens, and first-generation Permanent Residents the opportunity to volunteer for national defence. It promotes deeper understanding and ownership of national defence, and strengthens support for National Service (NS). As SAFVC Volunteers (SVs), Christine, Julieana, and Shu Ling underwent progressive training, preparing them mentally and physically to serve alongside our Full-time National Servicemen (NSFs), NSmen and Regulars in roles that support SAF operations and training. We caught up with them to find out more about their SAFVC experience!

## Why did you choose to volunteer with SAFVC?

**Shu Ling:** I've been interested in the Singapore Army from a young age. When the team from the SAFVC came to SAJC for a talk last year, I felt intrigued and motivated to sign up. I decided to give it a try because I wanted to get a first-hand experience of a soldier's life.

## What was your most memorable experience during training?

**Julieana:** It was the encouragement I received from my fellow SVs whenever the training got tough. It spurred me on to complete my course and graduate with the 02/18 batch of SAFVC Trainees. I am truly grateful for my officers and sergeants who helped me along my journey.

**Christine:** It was during the field camp in Pulau Tekong. After the sun went down at 7.30 pm, it was pitch black and all you had was your flashlight and the moonlight. I remember sleeping out in the open under the sky and the moon was so bright that I had to cover my face with my jockey cap to sleep. It was a completely new experience for me.

## What would you say to a current Saint who is thinking of volunteering?

**Julieana:** I'd highly recommend joining the SAFVC. It gives you an opportunity to serve the nation, and the short yet rigorous training opens your eyes to what our NSFs, NSmen and Regulars do to keep us safe. They are the reason we can sleep soundly at home. While we are struggling to do well for our exams, they are on patrol to look out for any potential threats that could put our safety on the line. It's not the easiest way to give back to the nation, but if you are even a little bit interested, I say why not?

**Christine:** If you volunteer, you will be able to experience something unique. You can find out how you perform under pressure and what your limits are. It'll definitely give you a better understanding and appreciation of what people in the SAF do. You'll also be able to make many friends and workout buddies!

**Shu Ling:** Joining the SAFVC has not only allowed me to volunteer as an SV, I was able to understand better what every Singaporean son goes through in their two years of NS. I've definitely developed a greater appreciation for the SAF and our soldiers. The training has been an eye-opening experience and I am really glad I signed up. For anyone who's interested in becoming an SV, I'd highly encourage you to follow your heart and sign up. This is definitely a golden opportunity for you to meet people from all walks of life who share the same interests as you. You will not feel alone in this journey. Having gone through the progressive training with my section mates, I've forged strong friendships that will last a lifetime.



Christine Chiam Ying Hui (16S14)



Julieana Bte Suhaimi (16S02)



Ling Shu Ling (16S02)



To find out more about SAFVC, visit: <https://www.mindef.gov.sg/oms/safvc/join-us.html>



# ODAC Trip to Sikkim, India

By Timothy Ting (18A07)



The 20 of us exited the plane in Kolkata aware that, in a few days' time, we were to embark on possibly the toughest journey of our lives. We would be trekking 4200m above sea level to the Himalayan Range, and majestic Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world. Before that adventure would commence, we first visited the Mother Teresa Home the morning after our arrival. We then split up, the girls volunteered work at the children's home while the boys helped out at the home for the handicapped.

During our time in Kolkata's congested streets, it was sobering to see the extremely rudimentary facilities that people had to use on a daily basis, and how the children, especially, could still find joy in what they had, compared to us affluent Singaporeans who would actually lack nothing yet take for granted. Later that evening, we took a short domestic flight to Bagdogra.

The next day, we travelled to Yuksom, which would be our base before starting the trek. The town was quiet with a small monastery and some local cafés, but its laidback, tranquil lifestyle was a huge draw. Its warm showers would be the last that we would have for some time.

After a hearty breakfast, we finally set off. However the initial light mood soon dissolved into a haze of endless ascents, burning thighs and ragged breaths, as we trekked up and down small mountains. After a gruelling seven hours, we reached our campsite at

Tshoka. The day's journeying would prove to be the first of many such challenges to our physical and mental strength.

The next day promised to be easier with an easier gradient and less ascending. However, the final push proved a huge challenge: up a steep rock face with few handholds – a slip could send one falling hundreds of metres down the valley below. It was a test of nerve and mettle, but went fortunately without incident. The campsite at Dzongri presented a majestic 360 degree vista of mountain ranges, and made the effort to reach the plateau worthwhile.

Before dawn the next day, the majority of us went for a short trek to the viewpoint where the sunrise over the peaks of the Himalayan range was simply ethereal. Later on, we descended back to Tshoka in high spirits, reaching in the early afternoon. We spent the rest of the day playing cards and bonding, a session which all of us enjoyed thoroughly as our friendships were deepened and our hearts joyful knowing that we conquered the trek.

On the fifth day we finally arrived back in Yuksom. I vividly remember running down the final hundred metres to the hotel with the last boost of energy I could summon, bounding up the staircase while hefting my gear with the promise of a hot, cleansing shower propelling me. Given half a chance, I would go on this trip again without hesitation, as through these five days, I have made friendships enough for a lifetime.



**IOTA TEACHER ADVISORS:** Ms Caroline Sin, Mr Derrick Tan, Ms Jessica Yim

**IOTA bids farewell to EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017/2018 and welcomes EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018/2019:**  
Suryani Lee, Alfred Soares, Le Quoc Huy, Roselyn Tay, Kimberly Yeo, Jerrell Yeoh, Miguel Ng, Anastasia Chiam

**IOTA PUBLICATIONS THANKS THE SAJC PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**