

ZHANG AIDI, 17

Raffles Institution (Junior College)

SOME OF HER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Prime Minister's Book Prize Recipient
- Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science
- 2nd Place at the Singapore Mathematics Olympiad (Open)
- 3rd Place at the 2010 A*STAR Talent Search

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OPEN LECTURES FEATURED LECTURER ONLY SEVENTEEN

Zhang Aidi is the youngest lecturer on board Open Lectures. But age certainly does not matter for Aidi, who at 17, is a member of the National Training Team for the International Mathematical Olympiad and the Young Artists' Programme at the NUS Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, amongst many other prestigious honours.

Aidi misses many classes due to her participation in international competitions. Thankfully, she's had the support of many caring teachers. But not all students are as fortunate.

"If students happen to miss school for a few weeks, they can choose to make use of Open Lectures to learn beforehand or catch up afterwards without troubling their teachers or hindering classroom lessons."

When we invited Aidi to join us at Open Lectures, her first response was, "I wish something like this could have happened earlier."

Aidi believes that Open Lectures is the first step to creating a differentiated learning environment, focusing on

individuals instead of force-feeding an entire population of students with a standard method, or pace, of learning. "It can shift learning into the intimate comforts of the home, where students can learn at their own pace, without the 'embarrassment' of having to ask the teacher to go slower". This empowers students to take charge of their learning.

When she's free, Aidi says she ogles at soccer players. In our interview, she repeatedly emphasizes, "Steven Gerard is the best midfielder of all time!"

"You have something to learn from everyone around you," Aidi muses - teachers, school janitors, even taxi drivers. She is committed to learning lessons from her team mates and sharing her knowledge with students all over Singapore.

Aidi dedicates herself thoroughly to her work, be it academics or music. "Love your work, and it won't be work anymore."

Aidi is a lecturer for the Mathematics and Physics programmes at Open Lectures. E-mail her at aidi.zhang@openlectures.sg

