

SJIIM Weekly Update

25th September 2020



How Music and the Arts enrich our curriculum and lives

By Mr. Dale Stacey
Head of Music



During the last 6 months, the world has experienced vast changes. One of the aspects which have been consistent during this time has been the prominence of the Arts as a manner of mental stimulation, a time to develop new skills, developing community ties and a method of coping with the struggles of isolation. From learning new instruments to sharing virtual choirs and concerts, from taking up painting to using artistic skills to interpret the new world, from watching live theatre productions to creating pieces about our current struggles; the Arts have found their way into many lives across the globe, some for the first time. For many, the Arts have often been seen as something frivolous and elitist. Today, they have become accessible, approachable and personal to all. As we look to the future, and the 'new norm', now is one of the most interesting and accessible times to allow the Arts to enrich our lives.

But why the Arts? They not only offer the opportunity to bring entertainment, pass time and offer us the freedom of expression we most likely afford to them, but they also offer much more on a subconscious level. Throughout school life, students will need to develop their sense of reasoning, problem-solving, physical dexterity, and emotional and social understanding to navigate the everyday aspects of school life, from the academic to the social. In America, The National Association of Colleges and Employers identified three key soft-skills which employers valued above all: effective communication, effective collaboration and problem-solving. All these skills are key as artists, and allow us to flourish as human beings in society. Through Music, Art and Drama, these skills are established and honed.

Arriving at the school in September, I was delighted to see the virtues and values which I see as a Music teacher everyday being mirrored in the ethos of the school. In my previous roles as Head of Performing Arts, I have had the pleasure in witnessing the transformation that Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts can have on young people, both academically and ethically. Working with institutions such as the Princes Teaching Institute and Arts Council England, I have had the opportunity to develop strategies and other professionals in a manner that encourages other teachers to develop these attributes in young people. As a founding SLICE member (Subject Leader in Cultural Education), I have had the opportunity to work with established cultural partners, such as the Halle Orchestra at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, and the impact that working with high-quality external groups can bring to a school setting. Having conducted action research on these areas, including a project with the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool into how immersion in Drama can develop confidence and resilience in KS2 students, I have seen first hand the power which the Arts can give to our students. This research was used by the office of the British government in writing the 2016 cultural White paper.

The philosopher St Thomas Aquinas also states that imagination and creativity are at the heart of moral life. In more recent studies, it was found that those engaging with the Arts would inherit a breadth of character virtues more easily due to the character requirements needed by those engaging in them. Intellectual, Civic, Moral and Performance virtues can be seen in the hard-working artist. Creativity, courage, working interdependently yet co-operating with others, and displaying confidence and resilience are all aspects which artists both need to instil within themselves and develop through their work. Aristotle states, "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance." He understood that the Arts offer the artist a way to interact and interpret their surroundings and themselves, and as art consumers, we are able to view emotion, environment and human experience through their lens. It has become commonplace to identify particularly visual Art as a means to become absorbed in one's work through a sense of meditation and stress-relief. Music, as both performer and listener, allows us to transcend our immediate time and place and evoke underlying memories and emotions.

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In Music, these aspects have helped to develop the ethos I bring to the department, across both Elementary and High School, of 'Quality, Opportunity, Inclusivity'. Quality must always be aspired to by both teachers and students, inside the classroom and through CCAs and private tuition lessons. Students should be given the widest breadth of opportunities so that they can find that which speaks to them most. This can be seen in the various types of instruments taught throughout the school, in particular our Year 7 Concert Band Programme, the school productions or our CCA offers. These offers and opportunities should also be inclusive, including all manner of students and for all ability levels, beginner to elite. This is also seen through the study of diverse topics from Baroque pieces of the 17th Century through to modern Pop music, and the exploration of traditional orchestra instruments as well as digital ones. The Art department also encourages this approach through the ethos of 'Explore, Communicate, Innovate and Create', which exemplifies the character values we wish to develop. The Arts allow students to explore their world and themselves, and communicate their analysis and understanding through creativity. Similarly, Drama seeks to explore the 'classics' of Theatre, whilst also dealing with contemporary practitioners and topics. Skills are developed on a personal level through Monologues, whilst communication skills are developed through group work. Students must look at the context of Music, Drama and Art to truly understand how they have been created, to synthesize the styles and characteristics, and at their highest level use them as a form of self-expression to create their own works. Indeed, it is also important to note that connections between subjects, such as English or History, are also important in developing knowledge and context of the work done in lessons. All curriculum is designed to develop the skills from an early age to respond to both IGCSE and IBDP requirements, at an age relative level, whilst also developing character virtues and reflective students to help them grow as young people into our model citizens of the future. Above all, we strive to instil in our students a life-long appreciation of the Arts.

As Malaysian entrepreneur Anabelle Co-Martinent stated about re-starting her passion for Art, "the lockdown allowed everybody to finally find time to do something they've always wanted to do – and I've already put off my artwork for a decade!". We hope that we offer each child the opportunity to find an art form which speaks to them and the time to explore it during their time in school.



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Catholic Corner



Our first Mass of the school year will take place on Tuesday 29th Sept in the auditorium. This Mass is being offered to students in Year 3 and above. We hope in the future to have Masses on a monthly basis and to be able to invite our school community to join with us. We have also begun plans to start our Catholic CCA after half term break. This will operate similarly to last year. The CCA will take place every Friday and students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be invited to attend. Mrs. Willoughby will be sending a separate Google sign up document for registration purposes.

Prayer of the week

“God grant me the serenity

To accept the things I cannot change;

Courage to change the things I can;

And wisdom to know the difference between the two.”

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OPEN DAY - 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

SJIIM will be hosting an Open Day on 27th September 2020, 10.30am - 2.45pm. Prospective parents who are looking for a quality international school are encouraged to come for this event. There will be a chance to speak to our Head of School and Teachers besides the opportunity to attend our Taster Classes.

Kindly help us to spread the word should you have any friends who would be keen to attend and discover how we are truly special as a Lasallian international school.

To RSVP, please contact Ms. Yani at enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my or call 03 86053605. Thank you.

OPEN DAY ITINERARY		
INFORMATION SESSIONS	10.30 AM	2.00 PM
SCHOOL TOURS	11.15 AM	2.45 PM

In accordance with RMCO standard operating procedures and guidelines, places will be limited and a prior reservation will be required to attend this event. To RSVP, kindly write to enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my or call us directly at +603 86053605.

St. Joseph's Institution International School Malaysia
Tropicana PJ Campus
No. 1, Jalan PJJ 2/12, 67410 Puchong Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Email: enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my

www.sjj-international.edu.my

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Please see below message from our Bookshop Partner:

TEK BOOKMART

ANNUAL STOCK TAKE 2020

Dear Valued Customers,

Our annual stock take will be from 22nd October 2020 to 25th October 2020.

During this period, the website will not be accessible. Customers may place their orders by 21st October 2020 before 12pm to ensure deliveries to be received as usual. Orders placed on 21st October 2020 after 12pm will be delivered on 26th October 2020 onwards. However, please expect a slight delay in deliveries. Urgent requests will not be catered.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused and your cooperation will be appreciated.

Best Regards,
Team TEK Bookmart

Elementary School Update



2020 Parent Coffee Morning Series

We would like to continue the positive momentum that was started last year before MCO in our parent coffee morning sessions. While we would rather meet in person, and help encourage our parents to meet and further develop that feeling of community, for the time being, coffee mornings will need to be hosted via Zoom. We feel gathering together, even in the virtual format, will be worthwhile.

Our first session will be entitled, 'Meet the Team' and it will be a chance for the new ES leadership team to introduce themselves to parents in an informal environment, including a chance for parents to go into smaller breakout rooms to connect with school leaders and other parents. The meeting will be limited to 60 participants, to allow for discussion, if interest is greater we will run the session again.

Date: Friday 2nd October

Time: 10:00 am

Please sign up to attend the session by emailing Ms Mei in the ES office at cchandra@sji-international.edu.my by next Wednesday 30th September. Ms Mei will then share the Zoom code with you for the meeting.

Reminder

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on 10th October. This will be conducted virtually, via Meet The Teacher, as last term. Further information and will follow.

Parent Information Sessions (Zoom)

We would like to thank Ms Jade, Ms Lynn and Ms Windley for hosting parent information sessions via zoom this week. Thank you parents for your attendance and we look forward to seeing you at future information sessions. There will be an IPC information session and a Phonics information session in the upcoming weeks.

Drop Off Time

Please encourage children to have their masks on and their belongings together so they are ready for drop off. We want to expedite this process for you as much as we possibly can. Please also encourage others who bring your children to school to do the same.

Spotlight on Year 1:



Practising tricky words



Sharing their
'Marvellous Me' boxes



Creating posters about
their learning

Elementary School Update



Anti-bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week will take place from 28th September- October 2nd. Our theme for the week is simply to be kind. In our classes will be addressing the issue of bullying and, of course, anti-bullying, through various activities throughout the week. Alongside this we will be thinking about our classmates, helping and supporting each other, being a good friend, teamwork and other things that help to promote our school's anti-bullying ethos. On Wednesday 30th we are inviting all our students and staff in the elementary to show unity against bullying by dressing in blue.

Just Be Blue and Wear Blue Day-Wednesday 30th Sept

<https://youtu.be/xHxCUpPWtmq>

Can you guess what next week's virtue is?

This virtue is all about honouring people and caring about their rights. If you show this virtue you will show courtesy in how you treat one another, the way we speak, and the way we treat other people's belongings. When we show this virtue we give people the dignity they deserve.

If you use this virtue you will say...

- I speak courteously to everyone
- I take special care of the belongings of others
- I am receptive to the wisdom of elders
- I honour the rules of your family, school and nation
- I expect respect for your body and your rights
- I treat others with dignity

BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK
28 SEPT - 2 OCT 2020

**COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED IN BLUE ON UNITY DAY
WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Let's work together to beat the bully blues this year! Wear and share blue on Unity Day to show that we are together against bullying; and united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

Make it BLUE and make it end!

ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

High School Update

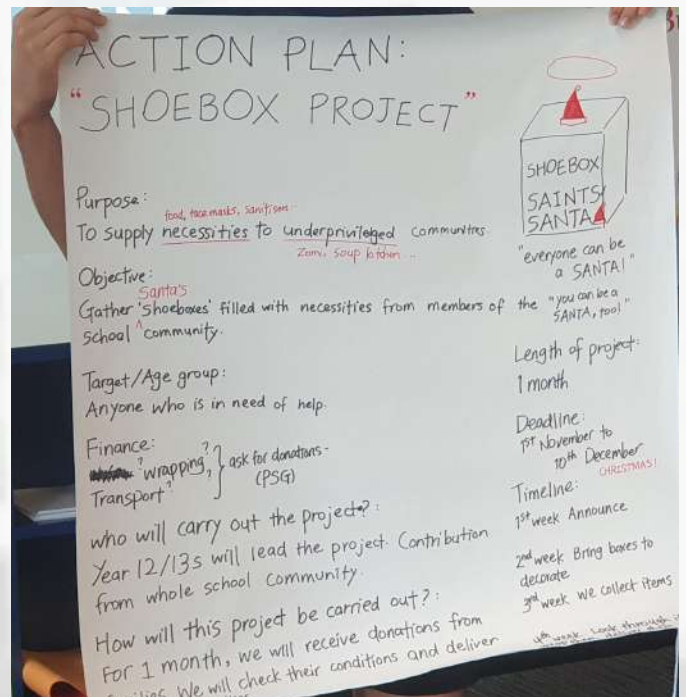


Lasallian Formation Camp - Year 12

On the weekend of 18 to 20 September, all students in Year 12 participated in a Lasallian Formation Camp, led by four facilitators from the Lasallian Centre in Ipoh. The weekend started with an engaging and informative presentation by Brother Michael Broughton on the story of our Founder, St. John Baptist de la Salle, and the core Lasallian values of Faith, Community and Service. We were very fortunate to have Brother Michael's input via Zoom who is currently not in Malaysia.

On Saturday, the students took part in a variety of activities to explore their own personality type, followed by a problem solving group activity in order to become more effective in working in groups on service and community projects. The latter activity culminated in building a structure designed to protect an egg when dropped from a height through a chute. Much enjoyment was had by all, and only one egg was broken in the process!

On Sunday, the students were fortunate to listen to a panel discussion with four young Lasallians, who have studied in Lasallian schools, including our own alumnus Dhiirsyha Vinesh and our current Year 13 student Harshini Suresh, about their journey of development as Lasallians. The day culminated in work in groups to plan for four different service projects, which will have a positive impact on the school community and/or those less fortunate. They were supported in this work by four of our current Year 13 students: Emily Ng, Anjeli Alvarez, Harshini Suresh and Natasha Tan. We are excited to see the development of our Year 12 students as they progress through the next two years, and all of the contributions that they will be able to make to the school community, and to the world beyond the school!



High School Update



Pick-up for Year 9 and Year 10 on Rainy Days

Please note that when it rains after school, there will be alternative pick up points for Year 9 and Year 10 students. Year 9 students will wait for parents or drivers to collect them on the far side of the area in front of school (nearer to the field) and under the bridge. Year 10 students will wait in the foyer area on rainy days.

Year 7 Concert Band Instrumental Program

All Year 7 students received their instrument this week in lessons. There are a number of students who have been unable to take their instruments home as the parental consent form has not been completed. If this can be done this weekend students will be able to take instruments home next week. Also a reminder that students need to buy the 'Essential Elements' books from the Bookshop or Library. We look forward to this exciting learning journey for our Year 7 students!

Lunchtimes in Music - Students have been requesting time to work on their Music classwork during lunchtimes. This will now be available at lunch times, by prior arrangement with Mr Stacey and Mr Hague.

Exercise Books in the High School

Starting from Monday, high school students should be able to leave their exercise book with their teacher. This is to allow teachers to annotate work that they view as needing written feedback. This may be particularly applicable in subjects such as Humanities and English, where students produce longer pieces of work. Verbal feedback is still occurring, though it may not be evidenced in student work as before because of the limitations of the SOP. Teachers will mark the books in school and will not take student books home; this is to limit the movement of exercise books from home to school. Homework will be set on Google Classroom.

SPARK Magazine: A Year 13 CAS Project

Well done to Jing Yuan, Xuen Bei, Alvin, Anjeli, Alithea and Tiffany from Year 13 for putting together the outstanding first edition of '[SPARK](#)' magazine. Our students, along with collaborating with over 30 writers from around the world, have produced this outstanding piece of work which looks at a variety of topics relating to fields such as biomedical engineering, biology, computer science and chemical engineering. You can also follow the [SPARK Youtube Channel](#). This week's latest video looks at Black Holes.



High School Update



Character and Wellbeing Programme

This week, students in the High School started the Character and Wellbeing Programme. Each Wednesday, students spend thirty minutes with a specialist teacher looking at issues relating to character education or wellbeing. The topics covered by students are Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Relationships, Learn to Learn, Global Understanding and Virtues and Practical Wisdom.

Our Year 7 students started their unit by exploring Healthy Minds - a topic about emotional wellbeing and mental health. The focus of the session was on developing the emotional vocabulary to talk about our feelings. In future sessions, we will look at unhelpful ways of thinking and helpful ways of thinking. The aim of this particular area of the programme is to build resilience and healthy coping mechanisms as students move through the school.

Teacher Training - Assessment and Virtues at SJIIM

All teachers in the High School took part in a training session this week focused on the links between assessment at SJIIM and the school ethos. Discussion centred on how our assessment practices can help to develop the “building blocks of character” that are at the heart of our character education programme in the school, both for teachers and for students. One of the key ideas discussed was how important ideas like growth mindset and metacognition are in this regard to help our students to see assessment as a way to grow and learn, to feel confident to make mistakes as a part of the learning process, and to understand their own learning goals and needs.

How might Assessment for Learning support the development of different types of virtues for both teachers and students?

Flourishing Individuals and Society			
Practical Wisdom is the ultimate virtue that all moral judgement depends upon. Knowing how to act well, requires us to <i>perceive</i> the situation, to have the <i>appropriate</i> wisdom to <i>reason</i> about it, to <i>deliberate</i> about what was appropriate in these circumstances and to act. Practical Wisdom requires both <i>empathy</i> and <i>rational self-control</i> . It requires us to <i>know</i> well to do otherwise well.			
Civic Virtues Character traits necessary to engage responsibly and effectively in the common good. Virtues: civility, generosity, attentiveness, service, selflessness	Moral Virtues Character traits that enable us to act well in situations that require an ethical response. Virtues: compassion, courage, gratitude, humility, honesty, integrity, respect	Prudential Virtues Character traits that help us to make the best use of our reason in making the rational, long-term good. Virtues: caution, deliberation, discretion, moderation	Intellectual Virtues Character traits necessary to acquire and use knowledge well. Virtues: curiosity, honesty, intellectual humility, intellectual courage, open-mindedness

0:38

Useful Links



[ES Student Absence Form](#)
[HS Student Absence Form](#)



[HS Parent Calendar 2020/21](#)
[ES Parent calendar 2020/21](#)



[Whole School Teaching Staff Email 2020/21](#)



[Sept 2020 Menu](#)
[October Menu](#)
[Term 1 2020 meal charges](#)



University & Careers
Counsellor (TBA)



[PSG - Welcome Note](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



[Epurple \(Top up credit\)](#)
[Tapestry \(For ES\)](#)
[Parent portal \(For ES\)](#)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)