

# SJIIM Weekly Update

## 27th November 2020



### Insights from our University Counsellor (Part One)

It has been a particularly busy but fruitful start to the academic year. This year we have had more early applications made to Universities than ever before. Our current Year 13 students have now submitted applications to the UK, US, Singapore and Hong Kong to meet early application deadlines.



### Year 13 Students

Some of our Year 13 early applicants have already received conditional offers and interviews from UK universities.

Our Year 13 students are applying for a wide range of courses and the first deadline this year was the September 21st deadline for Cambridge University. Our three applicants - Eugene Ong, Bryan Tan and Xuen Bei Chin - were all shortlisted to be interviewed. Eugene has applied to study Law, Bryan has applied for Natural Sciences and Xuen Bei has applied to study Engineering. To help with the preparation for the interview, the school hosted some mock interview experiences for these students. This involved a small group of our teaching staff including Mr Hollis, Ms Monika, Mr Hayes and Mr King presenting subject related problems for the students to solve and then extending the difficulty of the task as the interview progressed. The purpose of this is to test the students' ability in the subject and to get them used to explaining their thought processes in solving these problems. The students also linked with the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Malaysia and were able to have meetings with current Cambridge students to give them some advice on how to approach the upcoming interviews. You can find further details of the society on the website link below:

<https://www.oxbridgemalaysia.org/>

Our students Eugene and Xuen Bei share some of their thoughts on this process:

### Eugene Ong

One insight I gained from my application experience is that applicants need to have two things: one, self-confidence, knowing that one is good enough to apply and, second, a close-knitted support system. I spent a lot of time with Mr Hollis on my personal statement, ensuring that my ingenuity and individual ideas would be conveyed. To me, this was my chance to show the admissions tutor that I want to study at Cambridge. The content of the personal statement is important: if applicants receive an interview, the interviewer will ask about what has been included. Hence, it is also important to revise what was written in the personal statement.



One other important thing I realised I needed throughout this process is a close-knitted support system, and for me, this was my family. My family wholeheartedly supported me throughout my endeavour to get into Cambridge: Google-searching interview tips or advice that they thought might be useful for me, ensuring that I had a quiet environment to do my interviews, and most significantly, provide me with encouragement when I needed them. This might be different depending on the applicant; a support system could be friends, tutors, subject teachers, or Mr Hollis, the university counsellor. If there are two things applicants can take away from my experience, take these: know you can and support your friends!

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### **Chin Xuen Bei**

The process of writing my personal statement was incredibly challenging, I was always questioning myself, how I could differentiate myself from other applicants. I wrote about my experiences with engineering innovations in the medical field, and its ability to make a long-term impact on society's wellbeing. By the time I reached the end of my statement, I was told to end it with why I wanted to study the course, and what that meant for me. Thus, for me, a personal statement must be something that only you could say and something personal to you... after all, it is a personal statement!



My first advice for the interview is: "Don't be scared". I know, it's hard, I was scared myself, but once I talked with the professor, I could feel the tension in my whole body slowly being released. By talking about something I enjoyed, it really made me understand that this interview was just an opportunity for you to show your passion towards the course, and how you would learn and adapt to a Cambridge lifestyle. What's most important in the interview is to be yourself, to show how you process what has been given to you and how you respond to the interviewer's hints.

### **Medical and Dental Applicants**

This year three of our Year13 students have applied to study Medicine. Kevin Lee, Alithea Pentadu and Harshini Suresh have all now submitted their applications to UK medical schools. I was also delighted to support our student Jing Yuan in her application to study Dentistry in the UK. As part of this process, all of the students were required to take additional testing outside of school. The test they took is called the UCAT and it is designed to help medical and dental schools to gauge whether a candidate has the right skills to become a doctor or dentist. It does this by assessing their attitude, mental ability and professionalism. It is often considered a key entry requirement for Medical and Dentistry courses, alongside your grades, work experience and personal statement. Medicine and Dentistry courses are some of the most competitive degree courses to get onto in the United Kingdom and places are capped on each course for international students. If students are shortlisted for an interview they are invited to MMI or Panel interviews. MMI stands for Multiple Mini Interviews. This is when you're put through several short assessments - MMIs are broken down into 'stations' – or mini-interviews – that usually last 10 minutes or less. Before each one, you'll be presented with a scenario and given a bit of time to prepare an answer. You'll either be asked a question by an interviewer or have to engage in a role-play scenario with an actor whilst an interviewer watches. The process of supporting our medical students for interviews this year will be supported by Perdana University. (Perdana) will host online mock MMI interviews on the 9th December for all of this year's medical applicants. Mr Hollis has also started preparing the students for the interview and MMI process. Later in the article we will also get some tips and advice from Jing Yuan a Year 13 student who is currently in the process of preparing for a dentistry interview with the University of Birmingham in the UK.

For further information on medical and dentistry applications please see the website below which is a useful resource.  
<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/deciding-on-medicine/>

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### Upcoming University Visits/Events

#### **The Challenges Of 2030: Climate Change & Conservation With Dr Gemma Beatty**

**30th November 2020**

8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

This is suitable for Year 11, 12 and 13 students (and equivalent) studying, or with a possible interest in studying, Wildlife Conservation, Ecology, Zoology, Vet Bioscience, Biology and Climate Change, Biology, and Plant Sciences.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NJW2Y5>

#### **Yale-Nus Alumni Session with Nicol Yong**

**1st December 2020**

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM

Come chat with SJIIM alum, Nicol Yong ('19) who is a current second-year student at Yale-NUS College and Admissions Officer Christopher Tee. This is a free form chat and questions can be submitted in advance using the registration form on the university guidance google classroom or the link below. Again this is open to Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

<https://apply.yale-nus.edu.sg/register/?id=c465ae45-ee8d-45ae-947d-a566864e7101>

#### **University of British Columbia, Canada visit to SJIIM**

**3rd December 2020**

3.15pm-4.15pm

Sven Clarke who is a Student Advisor for UBC will be making a presentation and this is an opportunity to find out more about studying in Canada. You should also come prepared with some questions about the university and the courses it can offer. You can register for this session on the link below. This is open to all students in Years 11, 12 and 13.

[https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5774608vuqRYzhr](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5774608vuqRYzhr)



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### Catholic Corner



It's the most wonderful time of year, isn't it? For hundreds of years, faithful Christians have observed the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day as a special time to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. Each week during Advent we will light our school wreath and share a prayerful video with our community.



We hope that in your busy lives, you will be able to find a quiet space and a quiet moment to enjoy some time to reflect during this special time. You may wish to reflect on the scripture and prayer below after watching the video.

Here is the first video:

[Advent Week 1: The Purple Candle of Hope.](#)

### **A prayer for the first week of Advent**

**All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### **First Sunday of Advent Reading: Hope**

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7:*

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. [...] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

**“Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.” Pope Francis**

### **Family Advent Activities**

A reminder to get involved with this year's family Advent activities. We look forward to sharing the special moments that you create as a family with the rest of the community.



We would love to see photographs of our SJIIM families doing these activities or of prayers that you will use over the Advent season. We will be posting this [SJIM celebrates Advent Padlet](#) link every week in the lead up to Christmas so please do share your photos with our school community. Remember to print off copies to use in your home [Advent Prayer calendar](#) and the [Advent Christmas calendar](#).

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### Hampers of Light - Sponsor a Hamper of Light Today!

As part of the 'Be the Light' theme at SJIIM, we are excited to announce that this year we'll be coming together as a community to bring light to local communities. As Lasallians we believe that Advent & Christmas is a time to *be* the light. Through community service, we hope that staff & families will come together, to spread peace, joy & hope this season. Amid the Covid-19 movement control order, unemployment in Malaysia has hit a 27-year high. It is estimated that 5-8% more Malaysian families will fall into poverty because of this pandemic. That's as many as 2.4 million people. As Lasallians, we strongly believe that we must overcome the barriers that the CMCO presents us with and try our best to serve those who are suffering. Unfortunately, this year our school cannot host its annual Christmas Bazaar which helped to raise funds for various service projects but with the help of a wonderful team of volunteering parents and the LYM, we can still do our part this Christmas to reach out to people in need.

Dr Jezamine Lim and her husband, popular comedian Harith Iskander, were among those who felt compelled to do their part, especially after reading about vulnerable families, foreign workers and refugees going hungry and without basic necessities. The couple started The Hope Branch on March 23 2020, an initiative to quickly and effectively raise funds to assist those affected by Covid-19. As a Lasallian community we feel that it is important to engage in short-term aid projects that aim to bring hope people in the area & beyond.



This year SJIIM have partnered with the Hope Branch who will deliver 'Hampers of Light' to a variety of families from city suburbs and rural villages. The aim is to reach out to as many people as possible and we are very happy that The Hope Branch have agreed to distribute the Hampers of Light on our behalf. Parents from the PSG, Catholic Parent Group and staff members will source and create the hampers ready for distribution. There are two types of hampers that you can choose to sponsor: The Essential Food Hamper & The Personal Care Hamper.

### Payment Details

If you would like to sponsor a family and provide an Essentials or Personal Care Hamper, please use the details below. For easy verification, we would appreciate if you can include the type of hamper you would wish to sponsor on the back of the cheque or when paying by bank transfer. All hampers will include a greeting card. If you would like to personalise a message for a card, then please [click here](#) after you have made payment. **Donation deadline: 15/12/2020**

*If you have any questions or you would like further information, please email Karen Willoughby ES at [kwilloughby@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:kwilloughby@sjj-international.edu.my) or Victoria Stacey-Swale HS at [vstacey@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:vstacey@sjj-international.edu.my)*

**Hamper of Hope-  
Essential Items  
RM 80**



**Hamper of Joy-  
Self-Care Items  
RM 50**

Payments can be made via:

1. Cash at the Finance Office
2. Cheque made payable to 'Tropicana SJII Education Management Sdn. Bhd.
3. Online remittance to account 'Tropicana SJII Management Sdn. Bhd. with
  - a) OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD  
Damansara Uptown Branch, PJ  
Account No. 7071281859  
Swift Code: OCBCMYKL

**"Enter to learn, Leave to Serve"**



# Elementary Weekly Update



## International Fortnight

What an amazing fortnight we have had! Children have been working on history and geography learning goals, while learning about their focus country. Please see some examples of the exciting activities across the Elementary School.

## Virtual Parade & Friday Assembly



**Capybaras** Animal Fact File

They have 9 legs. They are from South America. They are about 50 cm tall. They are the world's largest rodent. They are mammals because they give birth to babies.

They are very social animals. They live in groups called communities. They are very friendly and have a long life span.

They can sleep underwater. They can give birth around 3 pups at one time. They are babies they already have teeth.



Year 3



Year 4



chicken croquettes

EYFS



Year 2



Year 1

**Gyeongbokgung palace**

1. It was destroyed by a fire during the Imjin War of 1592-93. Gyeongbokgung has been heralded by the world as being the most beautiful of the five palaces.

2. It is the largest of the five palaces. It was built in 1395 and is often referred to as the Northern Palace due to its location.

3. Much of the palace has remained intact over the centuries, and in particular, the Gyeonghoeru Pavilion and the pond around it.

4. When visiting the palace, you can see a traditional Korean performance.

5. Within the palace grounds, there are two museums: the National Palace Museum and the National Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Year 6



Year 5

	Mexico	Malaysia
Bulls	hamsters	sting rays
cows	lizards	turtles
parrots	Python	fish
jaguar	dogs	monitor lizards
	cats	alligators
	sharks	

# Elementary Weekly Update



## Chat Functions - Important Safety Information

We want to make parents aware of some important digital safety issues that children have brought to our attention. Many students are engaging on their devices more than ever before - and while being isolated at home, they are seeking other ways to interact and chat with their friends. We have been made aware of chat functions in different apps that you should be aware of, which will be outlined in greater detail below. However, this is not an exhaustive list and parents should be ever-vigilant about their children's device use.

**Zoom** - an out-of-meeting chat option is available if signed into the Zoom App or Web Client launch tool. To avoid children using this, we **strongly advise** parents to remain signed out of their Zoom Apps or Web Client to make the out of meeting chat function unavailable to the children when using Zoom. Children can still use Zoom to join meetings as well as all the teacher regulated in-meeting tools (using the teacher codes given) even when signed out, by just using the 'join meeting option' (see screenshot).



**Among Us / Roblox / Minecraft** - these games are widely popular among children but there are risks and age restriction recommendations to be aware of. In these games and others with chat functions, children are able to chat with other players live online and therefore are open to the risk of unregulated interaction with strangers. There are significant risks of inappropriate and offensive language being used by other users either in the in-game chat or in the usernames they use. There are often settings to control whether the games are public or private as well as ways of limiting or filtering the chat function, parents need to be aware of these. Please see the review and recommendations from Common Sense Media for further details and advice.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews/among-us>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews/minecraft>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/website-reviews/roblox>

## Virtual Sports week

Starting Monday 7th December the PE staff will be running a virtual sports week, where children will compete in activities at home to win points for their house. Points will be awarded for the house with most participants, so it is important that students attend PE sessions during the week of the 7th-10th December. Children will be shown the activities for the day in morning PE time, they can then continue practising at home throughout the day. In afternoon PE time, children will log onto a different zoom code for their house and perform the activity together for the teacher. It is important that we see unity and house spirit during virtual sports week, so we encourage children to wear their house t-shirt to PE time. A few of the activities require some equipment such as skipping rope, tennis ball, bat/racket, but of course improvise with household objects if you don't have these.

Children in EYFS up to Year 3 are encouraged to post pictures or videos of themselves practising/performing the activities on Seesaw in their PE folder! Students in Year 4-6 are required to fill in a google form posted on their google classroom each day, here they will record their scores and also attach photos or videos too.

More information and a promotional video of the activities will go out on dojo soon! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Miss Chadwick via email [gchadwick@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:gchadwick@sjj-international.edu.my).



# High School Weekly Update



## **WEEK 1 HOUSE FITNESS CHALLENGE**

Students have had this week to challenge themselves, hopefully, you have seen this video already, if not, here is the WEEK 1 HOUSE FITNESS CHALLENGE. Submit your times on the House google classrooms, students have the access! Week 2 will be out Monday!

## **WEEK 1 HOUSE FITNESS CHALLENGE**

## **Student Representative Council 2020/21**

The applications for the SRC have now closed and next week we will be sharing with students, in tutor time, the speeches that our candidates have put forward. In total, 48 students submitted applications and we are delighted to see them volunteer for a leadership role and show a willingness to serve the community. We are grateful to them for having the courage to apply and wish them the best of luck!

Voting will continue throughout the week via a Google Form and we will be in touch with students regarding the outcome in early December.

## **10% flow-through discount for Year 11 going into 12**

Good news! We would like to inform our parents that **all of our current Year 11 students are entitled to a 10% discount in their tuition fees for both Year 12 and Year 13**, should they continue with our IB Diploma Programme for the 2021/22 academic year. **This offer is also applicable to students who are currently recipients of our existing welcome packages.** We hope that this will support parents to enable their children to continue their studies with us into IBDP. We would love to have all of our Year 11 students with us next year!

For further information, you may contact:

- 1) Mrs Maureen Fitzgerald for any information with regards to the IBDP at [mfitzgerald@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:mfitzgerald@sjj-international.edu.my)
- 2) Ms Kwa Jin Nee for any information with regards to the flow-through discount at [jinneekwa@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:jinneekwa@sjj-international.edu.my)

## **Weekly Maths Competition**

This week, in the weekly Maths competition, we have had many entries from different members of staff and students ranging from Year 5 to Year 11. All students in the highschool are encouraged to enter and parents are allowed to represent the school as well. The competition page can be found at [puzzleoftheweek.com](http://puzzleoftheweek.com), where there is a new puzzle each week. Please email Mr Lawrence at [jlawrence@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:jlawrence@sjj-international.edu.my) if you have any questions regarding signing up and entering.

## **Student Led Conferences - 2nd November to 11th December**

This week, students have continued their SLC discussions with their form tutors. In these discussions, students are reflecting on their approaches to learning from across their subjects this term. These discussions will be completed next week, so that by 5 December, students will be ready to have their SLC discussions with parents at home.

A reminder of the content of the SLC reflection booklets can be found in the links below:

[Ys 7-9 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 10-11 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 12-13 SLC booklet](#)



# 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](#)



[Term 1 2020 meal charges](#)



[Catholic Corner](#)



[PSG - Welcome Note](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



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



University & Careers  
Counsellor (TBA)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)