

# THE ASPIRANT



"THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STUDENTS, BY THE STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS"



# ***NEW SCHOOL CAMPUS***



Back to school this term is not just any other back to school! As all students of Aspiration may have already noticed, we have gotten a new school campus! The campus that I bet a lot of students have been asking for in fact (coming from a student herself), is the much-renewed campus with new and improved facilities.

Some students may reminisce about our old cosy campus, but on the bright side, our renowned campus allows us, as students, to do so much more; playing sports during lunchtime, a proper hall for assembly, open spaces for students to work, and the list truly goes on! Students can live the 'proper' school life now due to all these benefits of the new campus. Besides the new students and staff school life, let's take some time to appreciate how much better the facilities are; larger classrooms, more open areas for students to work together, and a larger and proper canteen! Speaking about the canteen, I bet we, as students, really appreciate the much more filling break time and drinks menu right?



*Zi Rong*  
*Year 10 Strength*



# ***NEW SCHOOL CAMPUS***



Based on a short Interview with Year 10 Strength's **Valerie Vera Kwak**, the new school is significantly hotter, she finds the new campus enables students to communicate better and have more interactions. When switching between classes as an upper-secondary student, students are bound to interact with the other classes in the same grade and due to this, it makes interactions much more prone and memorable! In another short interview with Year 10 Strength's **Yeoh Bo Yee (Leanne)**, she finds the school extremely spacious, combined with the renewed school facilities which also make the new campus much more pleasing to be in.



*Zi Rong*  
*Year 10 Strength*

# ***NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION***



On Thursday, 22 August 2024, Aspiration International Secondary School held a welcoming Orientation Day for new students, hosted from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The event was led by Mr. Oon, the Chairman, and Ms. Bhuvana, the MYP Coordinator. Together, they introduced the students to the school's beliefs, culture, and educational philosophy, setting the stage for a successful academic year.

As part of the orientation, students received a comprehensive overview of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and its unique features, highlighting how the program fosters both academic and personal growth. Prior to this, Ms. Vilashini, the school counselor, conducted a short and engaging ice-breaking session, helping students get to know one another and feel more comfortable in their new environment.



The day concluded with a guided school tour, allowing students to familiarize themselves with the campus and its facilities and also the IB Portal onboarding. The Orientation Day was a key step in helping the new students integrate smoothly into school life, ensuring they feel welcomed and supported.



*Ms Bhuvana  
Vice Principal*

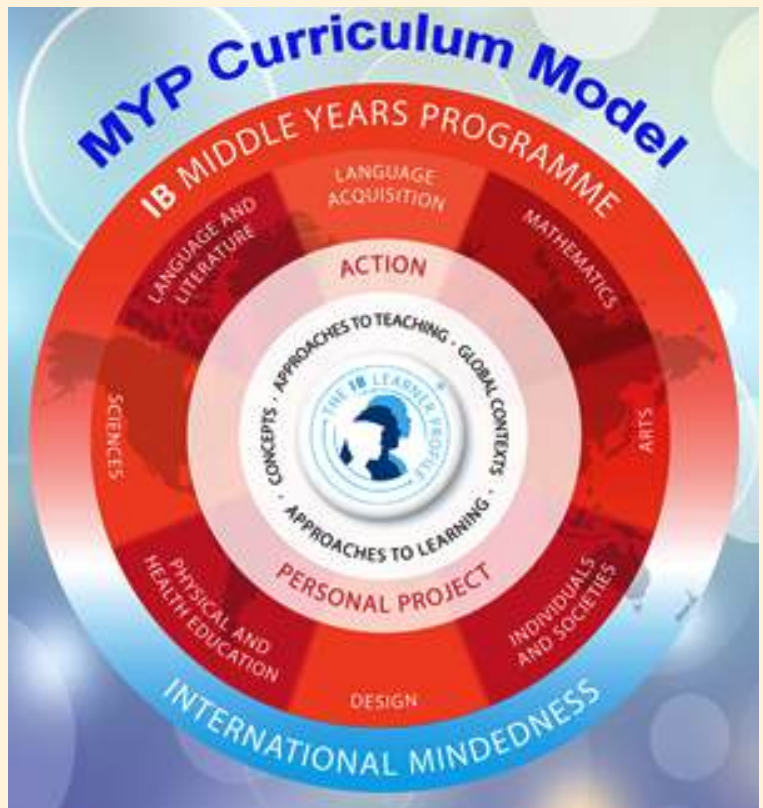
# ***MYP PARENT BRIEFING: A WELCOMING INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM***



On 26 August 2024, AISS held an important briefing for parents to introduce the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Led by the MYP Coordinator, Ms. Bhuvana, the session was designed to provide an overview of the MYP's key features and help parents understand what to expect as their children embark on this educational journey.

The briefing offered both face-to-face and virtual (via Zoom) accommodation to as many parents as possible. However, due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the parents joining via Zoom missed parts of the presentation. We understand the importance of ensuring all parents have access to this information and will arrange more sessions in the future.

We strongly encourage parents to attend future briefings in person to fully engage with the material and ask any questions they may have about the MYP.



*Ms Bhuvana  
Vice Principal*

# ***BACK TO SCHOOL***



As summer ends, the excitement at AISS begins to build for the new school year. Students, parents, and teachers prepare for the start of classes with a mix of eagerness and anticipation.

For many, returning to school marks a fresh start. Whether you're starting a new grade, joining AISS for the first time, or simply returning after a well-deserved summer break, this is the time to set new goals and embrace the learning opportunities ahead.

On the first day, the school was filled with activities. Students arrived in their new uniforms, carrying fresh school supplies. The classrooms are bright and welcoming, and teachers are ready to meet their students. This year, students can enjoy the new society. The school focuses on creating a supportive environment where students can thrive. Throughout the year, there will be regular events like parent-teacher meetings and school activities that keep the community involved. These events help everyone stay connected and support students' education.

Back to school at AISS is not just about starting a new term; it's a time to celebrate learning and being part of a caring community. With a strong emphasis on both academics and personal growth, students are set to have a successful and fulfilling year ahead.



*Josephine*  
*Year 8 Strength*

# ***YEAR 7'S FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL***



Starting high school as a freshman is both exciting and daunting. Walking into an unfamiliar building, surrounded by new faces, and adjusting to different academic workloads can feel overwhelming. For many freshmen, navigating the challenges of a new school requires resilience, adaptability, and a willingness to step out of their comfort zones. Let's explore the highs and lows of the first week with our new Year 7 students.

“My first week of school was decent. I had anxiety and embarrassment because most of the kids are dinosaurs and we are atoms. My friends and I can't even travel as far as 1 meter as the tall Year 9, 10, and 11 students are always blocking the way. Our friend group has received a new member. His name is Benjamin and he is in Year 7. The subjects that I particularly enjoy are Technology, Arts, Science, Maths, Design and Music. The biggest challenge for me since starting here is the subject Bahasa Melayu, ia sangat sukar.” -**Arjun Seelan (7A)**

“My first week of school was fun. The school was not as big as my primary school. The subject that I particularly like is 3D printing because I like to design things on the computer. The biggest challenge for me here was making new friends.” -**Thong XinQi (7S)**



“My first week of school was great. My first impression when I arrived here was that I thought the school would be strict. I was able to adapt to my new life as a secondary school student. I struggled in I&S classes, but the rest of the classes were good. The subject that I particularly enjoy is music because Mr. Andri is a fun person and is strict when he is supposed to be. I had difficulties navigating the school. Sometimes, especially finding the toilet >--<” -**Sherlyn Tan (7A)**



*Ms Adel*  
*English Teacher*

# YEAR 7'S FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL



“My first week of school was quite fun actually. My first impression when I arrived was that the seniors were scary. The first friends I made were Raeyen, E-xuan and Arya. They were friends first then Raeyen, E-xuan and I started talking. I’m trying to adapt to this new school by attempting to focus in class and follow the rules.

This is how I feel about each subject:

Malay - It's a bit too hard for me, but Ms. Adriana is a really fun teacher! | I&S - Ms. Pushpa’s lesson overall is really fun. | Chinese - One of my favourites, it's a bit easy but advanced is too hard for me. Ms Chloe is the best! | Math - Ms. Waishu is a little strict but the lessons are fun. | L&L- I think it's my favourite. Ms Qysha is my favourite teacher and I love English! | PE - Mr Ervin is probably also my favourite PE teacher. | Science - Not really something I'd mark as "superior" but it's my second favourite topic after L&L. | Art - Top tier along with L&L! Ms. Polin is really fun to be around! | Design - I like Design. It's a creative subject but not something I'd do in my free time.

So basically, all the classes are enjoyable! My favourite moment so far is seeing my friends after not seeing them for a month. I missed them a lot and now I'm here with them 🌟 I'm hoping this school will get more popular. If this gets on the school news, Please join! This is a very underrated school. I'm sad it doesn't get enough attention and recognition.” -**Sienna Shu-Yi (7S)**



“My first day of school was great! I met my new friends during PE, we just talked and clicked. We shared the same chemistry and it was such a memorable experience. I love the teachers, they are extremely kind and understanding. I'm really happy that I met these incredible people. I am able to adapt to my new life as a secondary school student. Surprisingly, I thought that secondary education would be really hard since I came from a Chinese primary school. The classes and subjects I’m taking are pretty good, sometimes it may be hard to understand but if you ask, the teachers will tell you detail by detail, helping you understand the questions that you didn't think you could answer. The subjects and teachers I like are Ms Adel, Mr Dylan, Mr Aferin, Mr Ervin, and Ms Adriana and well basically every single teacher that is teaching me. My favourite moment is meeting my new friends at school, I'm really happy I could meet them. I wish that the school would be so much more popular and new students could join and experience this.” -**Hannah Choo (7A)**



*Ms Adel*  
*English Teacher*



# ***YEAR 7'S FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL***



“My first week of school was fun. I made new friends, complimented humans, and had nice teachers. I made new friends like E-Xuan, who likes K-pop, and I do too. That was how I met her. Another one, Raeyen, likes running and so do I. We became besties!! All three of us. I was able to make friends because I have a brother that knows TONS of people so I was pretty comfortable with people around me. Some of the subjects are boring and some aren't so I guess it's ok. I had some difficulties getting around school and I still do. Sometimes, I do need a little help. My biggest challenge is finding my way around, and accepting that I'm now in secondary school and no more in primary. My favourite pastimes are making new friends and annoying my brother! That's all, I hope you like my answers 😊” -**Arya Khalisyah (7S)**

“My first week of school was awesome! I had a mixture of shock and happiness and I knew I was going to make new friends in the big school, with the best food, and cool people. I was scared, nervous, and afraid it would be hard. I made friends by greeting them and asking if I could sit with them. My subjects so far have been quite interesting and fun. It brings me a lot of joy in my new school. I hope Aspiration will be popular one day.” -**Raeyen Ong (7S)**



“The first week of school is good for me. I thought it would be a strict school when I first got here, but it wasn't really that strict. I have made some new friends, and I have met them by talking to them and creating simple conversations. I am able to adapt to my new life as a secondary student. It was hard at first but I slowly started to adapt to everything. I enjoy learning Integrated Science because I love Science and doing experiments. I used to have difficulty finding my way around the school and no I don't need help anymore but thank you for asking. The biggest challenge was finding where my class was. My favourite moment is learning in PHE class.” -**Ng JenVern (7A)**

“My first week of school went great. ^^ I felt like it was interesting but on the second day, I felt like it was fun. I met my new friends at the library, CCA and the canteen. The subject I particularly enjoy is PE because we can play different activities and have fun. The biggest challenge for me was meeting and being friends with the popular students. Lastly, I wish to get more popular friends and get good grades.” -**Megan Ang (7S)**



*Ms Adel  
English Teacher*

# INITIATION FRIDAY



AISS's first Initiation Friday of the year happened on 30 August in the school's new hall. Initiation Friday happens during the CCA time on Friday of the first week back at school. The school uses this time to showcase all the existing CCAs and societies the school has to offer. The goal is to get students to join the CCAs and societies so that they can learn more about responsibility and the topic of the CCA they joined. Each CCA and society uses their own way of showcasing its unique perks and benefits.

For many weeks Ms. Frauline and the students of the student council worked hard to plan Initiation Friday and get it to run smoothly. The presenters of the CCAs and societies practised at lunchtime with Miss Frauline and worked to achieve a good presentation.

**Eli Yeoh**, a member of the student council and organising team of Initiation Friday says, "Initiation Friday was very entertaining but the student council could do better. My favourite part of the event was the MUN CCA presentation because it was very funny. I think the students will benefit from this event by learning more about CCA and will prevent students from switching CCA. I hope next time someone can take my place during this event. I think that I benefited a lot from this event. I would improve the event by making some CCAs shorter to keep the audience engaged".

**Ms. Adriana**, a teacher of the SPM Malay says, "My favourite part of the event was the performance by Mr Ali when he sang *Feeling Good* by Michael Buble. It was so entertaining. I think the SPM Malay skit could have been better but the students still did great! I think Initiation Friday is very beneficial to the students because they can be exposed to different CCAs and explore other interests. I also think I benefited from this event. I would love to partake in this event next term but I think the time management can be improved."



Clodagh  
Year 8 Affection

# MERDEKA DAY



Merdeka, celebrated on 31 August each year, is a special day in Malaysia. It marks Malaysia's independence from British rule in 1957. The word "Merdeka" means "freedom" in Malay, and it is a day dedicated to celebrating the country's journey to becoming a free and independent nation.

On 9 September 2024, AISS students witnessed a spirited performance by the school band, with lead singer Shayne, bass guitarist Zi Rong, guitarist Jared, pianist Charisse, and drummer Kai Yi. They performed "Saya Anak Malaysia" with full enthusiasm.

Subsequently, the Year 10 choir performed *Tanggal 31* with great vim and vigour. As the show unfolded, it sparked a collective sense of belonging and inspired hope for the future, leaving the crowd feeling uplifted and more connected to their shared identity.

On Merdeka Day, Malaysians unite to honour their country's history and achievements. The celebrations are filled with parades, fireworks, and various cultural events. Schools, government offices, and public spaces are often decorated with the national flag, and people wear clothes in the colours of the Malaysian flag: red, yellow, white, and blue.

Merdeka is also a time for people to unite as a nation and celebrate their shared identity. It's a chance for Malaysians to appreciate their diverse culture, history, and the progress they have made as a country. Schools and communities often hold special events, such as exhibitions and competitions, to engage young people in the history and significance of the day.



Josephine  
Year 8 Strength



# SCHOOL'S LEGO ROBOTIC TEAM



On September 7 and 8, 10 students from Aspiration International Secondary School went to the *University of Wollongong Malaysia Ultrapolis Glenmarie*, to participate in the FIRST Lego League Challenge. The participants were Dhanya (*Team Captain*), Xin Rou (*1st Assistant Team Captain and 1st Technical and Robot Challenge Player*), Chloe (*2nd Assistant Team Captain*), Branden (*Robot Mechanical Design Head*), Jian Yang (*2nd Technical and Robot Challenge Player*), Yi Jiun (*3rd Technical and Robot Challenge Player*), Bastian (*4th Technical and Robot Challenge Player*), Jeffery (*1st Presenter*), Jian Liang (*2nd Presenter and 5th Technical and Robot Challenge Player*) and Ayden (*3rd Presenter*), with Mr. Andri as coach.

The event lasted 2 days, from approximately 8 am to 5 pm. There were 85 teams in total, 140 coaches and 640 students involved. With a year to prepare, they participated in 4 categories, namely the “Robot Performance”, “Innovation Project”, “Robot Design”, and “Core Values”. It was a fun & valuable experience, seeing other team’s projects and being given the opportunity to participate in an event like this. They learnt a lot more about robotics and how to work together as a team to accomplish a long-term goal, which ultimately was the trophy they won.



*Dhanya Anoushka*  
*Year 10 Strength*

# ***MUN CONFERENCE AT TAYLOR'S LAKESIDE***



Alyssa Mya  
Malik Feisal

Cody Teoh Ping  
Wei

Dylan Lim Jingyao

Valerie Vera Kwah

From September 6 to 8, the members of the AISSMUN club attended a Model United Nations conference held at Taylor's Lakeside Campus, regarded as one of the most popular hosts of MUN conferences in KL.

In a Model UN conference, attendees act as representatives of a country and throughout the council, they are referred to as delegates of their respective nations (for example: The Delegate of The People's Republic of China). Delegates are to discuss and work out a resolution for a given agenda typically involving worldwide issues, such as political, economic, and environmental concerns.

For this conference, we were a part of the Historical Crisis Committee (or just HCC), in which we were "transported back in time" while a historical event was taking place. Our role was to come up with a different resolution to the issue than the one in real life. For this council, we were to resolve the conflict of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). As delegates of our respective nations, our objective was to navigate through the crisis by resolving it as peacefully as possible, avoiding any and all conflicts that may arise such as a nuclear disaster.

The council consisted of two sides: the Western Bloc (NATO) and the Eastern Bloc (the WARSAW pact and two non-aligned countries) with both parties having opposing ideas. The attendees were completely absorbed as both parties struggled to agree on a resolution to the conflict. The coordinators had secretly manipulated our statements to the other parties to make the councils more entertaining and kick in our critical thinking skills.

Despite the challenges faced, we made significant progress in achieving the objective of the council.



*Valerie Kwah*  
*Year 10 Strength*



*Cody Teoh*  
*Year 10 Affection*



*Dylan Lim*  
*Year 10 Affection*

# ***MUN CONFERENCE AT TAYLORS LAKESIDE***



“We as the members of the AISSMUN club undoubtedly enjoyed this enlightening experience. Being able to participate in a conference with friends was very enjoyable, but being able to meet new friends outside school was even more exciting. Not to say that the council itself wasn’t fun though, it was a thrilling experience because of the unpredictability seeing we were not following any script or whatsoever.” - **Cody Teoh (10A)**

“This MUN experience was both refreshing and enlightening. I must say that this council was very different to what we expected and that it was a lesson to learn from. TLMUN was such a fun experience. I think one of the best parts of MUN is that you’re thrown into a debate with one of the most complex characters possible- the views and ideologies of an entire country. Because of how multifaceted it is and its relation to other countries, the experience becomes more challenging and fun than, say, a simple debate topic. This council was also different from other MUN experiences in that we could change the course of actions and thus had more of a stake in the actual situation. Instead of being a debate, it was more like a simulation of the real experience. Although we all made many mistakes, the most important thing is that we learned and grew as MUN-ers and open-minded individuals. Although MUN can be intimidating at first, it’s important to note that everybody (for the most part) is just there to have a good time and that the environment is largely one of helpful improvement and camaraderie.” - **Dylan Lim (10A)**



*Valerie Kwah*  
*Year 10 Strength*



*Cody Teoh*  
*Year 10 Affection*



*Dylan Lim*  
*Year 10 Affection*

# MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL



The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Mooncake Festival or Lantern Festival, is one of the most significant celebrations across East and Southeast Asia. In 2024, it falls on September 17, which corresponds to the 15th day of the 8th month in the Chinese lunar calendar. This festival is a time for people to express gratitude, engage in moon gazing, and offer prayers for good fortune and prosperity.

One of the hallmark traditions of the Mid-Autumn Festival is the gifting and sharing of mooncakes with family, friends, and acquaintances, symbolizing completeness and reunion. The act of sharing and eating round mooncakes with loved ones during the festival week represents the completeness and unity of family bonds. Pomelos are also a popular fruit often given as gifts, as their name in Mandarin sounds like the word for "blessing" for children. This makes them a symbol of blessings for children and future generations.



Furthermore, since the Mid-Autumn Festival is also called the Lantern Festival, people light lanterns for various symbolic and cultural reasons, such as representing hope, light, and guidance. Lanterns are believed to illuminate the path towards a bright future and offer guidance through life's challenges, while also warding off darkness and evil. Additionally, lighting lanterns brings families together to share in the warmth of togetherness. It's also said that the higher a lantern rises, the more fortune and wealth it will bring.



These traditions and activities make the Mid-Autumn Festival a time for family bonding, reflection, and the celebration of unity and prosperity.

The Chinese Society in AISS provided some insights into the Mid-Autumn Festival, highlighting a few common traditional dishes and their cultural significance. They also adorned the school with vibrant, eye-catching lanterns, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere that resonated with everyone.



*Elwyna*  
*Year 11 Affection*

# MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL - MANDARIN TRANSLATION



中秋节，又称为月饼节或元宵节，是东亚和东南亚最重要的节日之一。今年的中秋节日是在**9月17日**，即农历八月十五日。这个节日是人们表达感恩、赏月、祈求好运和繁荣的日子。

中秋节的标志性传统之一是与家人，亲戚和朋友赠送和分享月饼，象征着圆满和团聚。柚子也是人们经常赠送的水果，因为柚子在普通话中发音与“福”字相似，因此柚子成为祝福子孙后代的象征。



除此之外，由于中秋节也称为元宵节，人们会点亮灯笼因有各种象征意义和文化意义，例如代表着希望、光明和指引。人们也相信灯笼能照亮通往光明未来的道路，指引人们克服生活中的困难，同时还能抵御黑暗和邪恶。点亮灯笼也能让家人团聚在一起，分享团聚的温暖。据说，灯笼升得越高，带来的好运和财富就越多。



这些传统和活动使中秋节成为家人团聚、反思和庆祝团结与繁荣的时刻。

在**AISS**，华文学会对中秋节提供了一些见解，强调了一些常见的传统菜肴及其文化意义。他们也在校园里挂起了色彩鲜艳、引人注目的灯笼，营造出一种喜庆欢乐的氛围。



Chloe Ooi  
Year 10 Affection



# MSSD RUNNING & JAVELIN



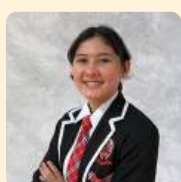
MSSD in Malaysia refers to Majlis Sukan Sekolah-Sekolah Daerah, which translates to the District School Sports Council, an organisation that promotes sports and physical activities among schools at the district level. The MSSD hosts many sports competitions including swimming, badminton, basketball and many more. Many schools all over the country get to participate in these sporting events. Our school recently participated in the MSSD running and javelin.

MSSD was held from September 2 to 6 in Stadium Mini Permaisuri. Mia Tan represented Aspiration for the girl's U18 category. Ayden Lee Dhong Yuk and Ethan Lim Kai Ze represented the boys U15. Girls U15 was represented by Alexandria Cheah, Carmen Choo Jia Wen, How Yen Tsia Lauren and Kong Yve. Representing boys U12 was Ezra Zariff bin Abdul Muizz and girls under 12 was Ong Raeyen.

“This was my first time representing the school in an athletics competition and my overall experience was not bad. I participated in three events which were the 1500m, 3000m, and 4x100m. Although I am not satisfied with my performance, I think the MSSD week in general was enjoyable and memorable. Others who came to represent had a fun time too by supporting, cheering, and participating!” - **Alexandria Cheah (10S)**

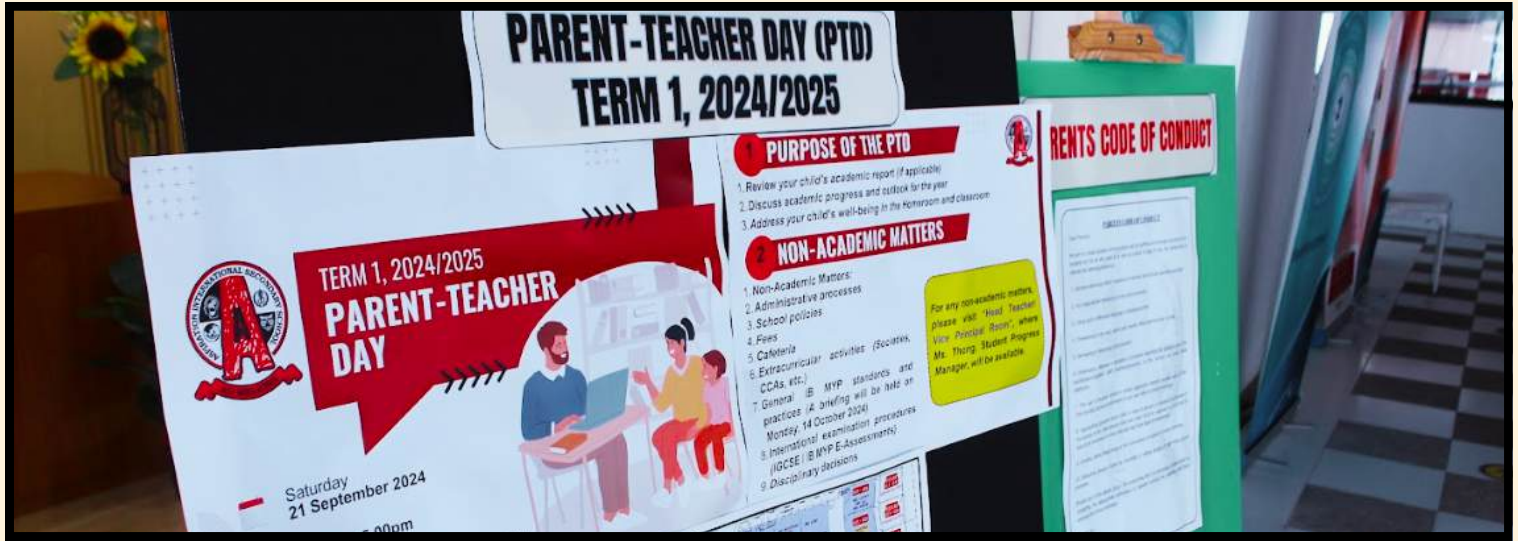


**Mr Ervin**, the teacher in charge of MSSD running and javelin says, “I personally feel like it was a great exposure for my students as this is the first MSSD track and field for most of them. This is to show the performance level of some student-athletes in the schools in Bangsar district. When I see my students giving their best at their events, I hope this helps to increase their motivation to participate in more competitions. I believe through competing in this MSSD, I want my students to know that there is a huge room for improvement and this will encourage them to take track and field more seriously and train harder for future competitions including next year's MSSD. I would definitely participate in this event again. Previously, I took part in this MSSD as an athlete, and now I am seeing this competition from the perspective of a coach and a teacher. Next time I will prepare my students for next year's MSSD with more structured training. I will look into strength and conditioning as well and not just running as training.”



*Clodagh  
Year 8 Affection*

# PARENT TEACHER DAY



At AISS, Parent-Teacher Day (PTD) is a highly anticipated event that strengthens the connection between families and educators. Held each term, this day allows parents to have meaningful conversations with teachers about their child's academic progress and personal development.

The school is filled with activities, featuring individual meetings, and informative presentations. Teachers provide detailed reports on each student's achievements and areas for improvement, while parents share their observations from home. This collaborative exchange helps everyone understand how best to support the student's growth. During this time, refreshments were provided for the staff and family to indulge in as they had detailed discussions for students' performances.



PTD also highlights the school's commitment to a team approach in education. By working together, teachers and parents can create a supportive environment that encourages students to reach their full potential. This event is a key part of the school's efforts to foster a strong community and ensure every student's success.



*Josephine*  
*Year 8 Strength*





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