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# TEMASEK PRESS

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## Braver, Stronger, Smarter

BY CARRIE TAN SUI YI (4E/18)

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To welcome the proud parents to this year's College Day, the string ensemble put up a grand show as they performed in the auditorium. Rows and rows of seats were filled by parents, eagerly awaiting the prize presentation. Following that, our Principal, Mrs Low, started the event with a rousing speech, congratulating students on the myriad of accomplishments stretching from academics to sports, highlighting the holistic development of TJCians.



To begin the prestigious event, the commendable results of last year's A levels were shared with distinctive achievements such as the Top Performing MEP Centre and, of course, the amazing UAS scores. Following this, Mrs Low also emphasized the importance of a well-rounded education in Temasek with overseas experiential learning experiences to countries such as Brunei and Vietnam. Over the course of this year and last, other notable attainments would include academic and sports success from 6 gold awards in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay to the B Division Boys championship for the ActiveSG Basketball Development League.

From individual PDP awards, such as the IP and JC distinctions for dance and choir, to the collaborative spirit presented during Go Green Day, it is evident that Temasek Junior College has gone from strength to strength over the years. Of course, the support from both teachers and parents must be acknowledged accordingly for their continuous and unwavering support, by offering consultations and buying pizza for the night study students. In addition, the college rejuvenation project was shared with the parents, with the temporary shift to the old Tampines Junior College site in 2020.





For this year's Guest of Honour, we are elated to have Dr Bernard Thong Yu Hor, a distinguished alumnus of Temasek Junior College, grace us with his presence. Not only is he the chairman of the College Advisory Committee, he is also the Divisional chairman and Senior Consultant of Tan Tock Seng hospital. Through his rich experiences working in the medical field, he shared invaluable information with the key message of being adaptable and changing with the times.

With the rapid digitalization of our generation, even hospitals are adjusting by introducing Skype consultations and chatbots, greatly benefitting patients as much needed help can be provided even outside of standard work hours. While fear of replacement by robots or other technologies may run prevalent among many, it is evident that it is possible to pair up with technology instead. Such a complement would better enhance experiences of both doctors and patients, facilitating ease of access and convenience.

Furthermore, Dr Thong shared his individual experiences in Temasek as a JC student in 1984. From inculcating crucial morals and values to building lifelong friendships, it was clear that our school holds a special place in his heart. Sentimentally, he was wearing the school tie from 1984 and even gifted several memorable items to Mrs Low, received by our 43<sup>rd</sup> Students' Council President, Koh Cheng How, such as his prom tickets from 1986.

After the inspiring speeches by our Principal and Guest of Honour, the prize ceremony commenced as both IP and JC students were rewarded for their hard work and accompanying

successes on multiple fronts. Award recipients ranged from those top in specific subjects to those awarded with the ACE awards, which showed acknowledgement for both procuring excellent results and displaying leadership, highlighting the holistic development approach of the school. Wong Shu Ning, a graduate from the first batch of IP students, was the valedictorian of her cohort and gave a speech on her 6 wonderful years in Temasek. With the patient and attentive nurturing of teachers and friends alike, she has done extremely well and is a worthy role model to all students. A fitting quote from her would be “Temasek Excellence, nothing less”, something that she feels can be achieved by all TJCians.

To wrap up, the JC choir, having achieved distinction in this year’s Singapore Youth Festival (SYF), sang their hearts out, presenting their choice piece for SYF and singing the college anthem. United by our experiences in our beloved school, students, teachers and alumni alike all stood up and sang together proudly.

In an interview with Tan Wan Gee, a JC2 student with an impressive list of accolades, she stated that she found Dr Thong and Shu Ning’s speech very inspirational and good motivation for the following years. Additionally, she was honoured to attend college day, a day to praise and acknowledge students for their success accordingly.

Jamie Lim, an IP4 student who obtained the History 2 subject award, ACE award and was on the Dean’s list, mentioned that College Day was an excellent opportunity to showcase the achievements of TJCians and added that it was heartening to see how far TJC has progressed over the years.

Ms Goh Wee Suan, a teacher who has taught for 10 years, also agreed that it was important and meaningful to celebrate all cohorts of students who have done well. From her many years of teaching, she reminisced about the students she has taught over the years. Heart-warmingly, she also said that 10 years is actually a short time to see the different batches of students grow up and develop. She added that all the batches have changed a lot over time and it is special to be a part of that journey.