

SOTA RELEASES 2019 IB EXAMINATION RESULTS

The 2019 cohort of School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) will collect their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) results at 2.30pm today.

A total of 143 students sat for the IB examinations in 2019 and SOTA achieved a 100% pass rate in both the IBDP and IBCP. SOTA's IBDP students obtained an average score of 38.5 points, with one in two scoring 39 points and above.

Through a vibrant learning environment, SOTA provides a safe space for students to explore, experiment, and to develop their artistic potential and vision. The holistic curriculum anchored on values connects the classroom to the real world, and guide students to use their knowledge and passion to make a positive impact on society, and in the process, developing them as cultural leaders of tomorrow.

"Over the past six years, we are proud to see our 2019 graduates grow to be confident, caring, critical thinkers. Many of them have also leveraged their artistic skills and creativity to embark on various meaningful initiatives during their time at SOTA. We celebrate the 2019 cohort's achievements today, and encourage them to continue to tap on their creativity and artistic talents to be positive change-makers and cultural leaders of the future," said Mrs Mary Seah, Principal, SOTA.

Some students from SOTA's 2019 cohort include:

Dawn Lim, IBDP (Theatre)

Through the arts-anchored curriculum at SOTA, Dawn became more aware of what theatre can do as a tool and catalyst for positive change in the community. Passionate about volunteering and helping the elderly, Dawn joined Youth Corps Singapore as an ambassador, and initiated Project Happy Club, this is an on-going project that encourages active ageing among elderly. Dawn explored using her theatre skills when interacting with the elderly, such theatre warm-up games, mirror exercises, and movement activities that encourage bonding among the participants and memory recall. To Dawn, volunteering is a two-way exchange with mutual giving and receiving between both volunteers and the beneficiaries. With this empathetic mindset, Dawn hopes to pursue her studies in Psychology and Art Therapy, so that she can apply what she learnt to help the elderly better.

Natasha Michella da Costa, IBCP (Music)

Natasha's love for music began from a tender age. She started singing when she was four years old and dreamt of being a singer ever since. She is thankful that the school supports students' interests in the arts and provides opportunities to develop their potential. Natasha constantly strives for artistic excellence. Some of her most memorable achievements include participating in the 23rd Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský International Vocal Competition in Trnava, Slovakia (2019), performing with the Orchestra of the Music Makers (OMM) as a winner of the SOTA Concerto Competition (2019), and singing at the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Para Games held in Singapore (2015), among many others. The passionate Voice major believes in giving back as much as she has received. Natasha hopes to share her knowledge and experience through teaching and music pedagogy, so that Singapore may continue to bloom in music and the arts.

Claire Wong, IBDP (Film)

While studying Visual Arts at SOTA, learning about three-dimensional (3D) and media works sparked Claire's love for images and colour. This led her to discover her potential for filmmaking, eventually switching art forms from Visual Arts to Film in her fifth year. Inspired by the opportunities to work on film sets, engagement with professionals in the industry, and even attendance at the Golden Horse Film Festival in Taiwan (2018) on the Arts Excellence Programme (AEP), Claire is motivated to use her experience to empower other aspiring filmmakers. An empathetic, people-centred, and passionate leader, Claire was amongst the group that initiated [FRAMEWORKS](#) with her friends. This nation-wide student-run film festival provides young filmmakers with a platform to showcase and screen their works. There were almost 20 submissions in the 2019 edition. Claire believes that the SOTA education has equipped her with skills that are applicable to various fields, is excited to explore different industries and the multitude of possibilities.

Tan Qiao Lin, IBDP (Dance)

Qiao Lin kindled her love for dance when she joined the Chinese Dance Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) in Primary 5. Coming to SOTA provided opportunities for her to explore different dance forms and dance techniques. In addition to Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Qiao Lin continued to learn about Chinese Dance, Bharatanatyam, Japanese traditional dance, Filipino dance and even Jota, a dance from the Aragon region in Spain, through masterclasses at SOTA. This exposure to various dance types increased Qiao Lin's interest in learning what dance means to different people groups and cultures and moulds her into a culturally sensitive dancer. Constantly encouraged to explore interdisciplinary connections, she marries her interest in dance and history through research on dance history. Apart from continuing to pursue dance, she hopes to spread her love for dance history and theory in the future through teaching and research into dance history in Singapore.

Farrah Adystyaning Dewanti, IBDP (Music)

After an Overseas Service Learning (OSL) trip to Baray, Cambodia (2017), where she served underprivileged communities, Farrah's worldview was greatly expanded and prompted her to 'think globally, act locally'. The passionate Music student was motivated to make a difference in our local communities that might be facing socio-economic challenges. In 2019, Farrah started to volunteer with New Hope Community Services to work with children from displaced families. She taught them music through the Music Mentorship Programme (MMP). This year, Farrah shared her love for music by teaching them to play pop songs on the ukulele and eventually the children put up a performance for a fundraising event. Inspired by her service learning experiences, Farrah hopes to integrate healthcare, music, and service by exploring medicine and music therapy in the future.

Sarah Binte Noorhimli, IBDP (Visual Arts)

Encouraged to experiment and explore at SOTA, Sarah appreciates the opportunities to discover her identity as an artist in the making. In addition to honing her artistic skills, Sarah took on the challenge of being a curator for two exhibitions. Guided by art mentors at SOTA, many of whom are practising artists themselves, she gained great insight into the thought processes of being an artist and curator, as well as the many possibilities in curating an exhibition. Apart from being a curator, Sarah's strong leadership skills are demonstrated in her appointment as team captain of SOTA's Tchoukball team for two consecutive years (2016 and 2017). Her passion for Tchoukball stems from the camaraderie and values learnt through the team sport. A responsible, people-centred leader, she led SOTA's Tchoukball community of over 60 members as President in 2018. In the future, Sarah hopes to pursue Fine Arts, and to keep creating meaningful art.

As the third child in the family to attend SOTA, Sarah's mother Mdm Faridah Ahmad shares, "SOTA has provided my daughter, Sarah, with many opportunities to flourish - not only in the academic aspects but more importantly as an individual... These life skills will put her in good stead as she moves on to take her place in the world. I am confident of this as I see two of my daughters who have graduated from SOTA, Safiah and Maryam, blossoming into confident and articulate individuals."

Vandana Venkataraman, IBDP (Theatre)

Vandana is a perceptive student, motivated to expand her knowledge of current affairs by drawing connections between her classwork and global and social issues. Through various learning opportunities, she has gained greater global awareness and deeper understanding of the relationship between arts and culture. For example, attending a Beijing Opera performance during an overseas learning trip to Taiwan helped bridge her theatrical training with Humanities knowledge. At SOTA, Vandana pursued her interests in public speaking and debating through leadership roles in programmes such as the Model United Nations. She attended conferences and analysed key international issues such as the security dilemma and radicalism. Poised and articulate, Vandana won best speaker awards during her participation

in these conferences. With an appreciation for diplomacy and foreign affairs, and recognising her role as an artist, Vandana is inspired to use art as a tool to build connections with different communities and contribute to Singapore's cultural growth. She intends to pursue International Relations and Political Science, and eventually become an international aid worker. She aspires to work with international organisations to target issues surrounding inequality and sustainability within Southeast Asia and to contribute research into scholarship surrounding Asian culture and the arts.

Christian Liu, IBDP (Music)

Christian is passionate about music composition as it tests both his creative and analytical prowess. In 2017, Christian was selected to compose a piece for the Malay Manuscript Exhibition. A person with a wide range of interests, his fascination with Mathematics, coupled with his love of video games, motivated him to independently pick up programming, through which he taught himself how to modify video games. While in SOTA, Christian is encouraged to analyse the information he consumes, as well as integrate ideas across disciplines. For example, a Literature and Performance assessment in 2018 saw him transforming a local short story into a play, and in the process, he found himself critically examining issues such as cultural tolerance.

Christian is considering pursuing either Computer Science or Music – or even both – and hopes to use his time while serving National Service to synthesise his plans.

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About School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme, for youths aged 13-18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to nurture creative citizens for the future, SOTA aims to identify and groom artistic and creative learners who positively impact Singapore and the world, through a vibrant learning environment that is anchored in the arts.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

About the IB Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students, aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The programme is presented as six academic areas with a central, three-component core. It encourages the concurrent study of a broad range of academic areas. Diploma Programme students study two modern languages (or a modern language and a classical language), a humanities or social science subject, an experimental science, mathematics and either one of the creative arts or another science or social sciences subject.

About the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme

The IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) is an innovative education framework for students aged 16 to 19 incorporating the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme specifically tailored for students who wish to engage in career-related learning.

IBCP students engage with a challenging programme of study that genuinely interests them while gaining transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement. They are well prepared to succeed at institutions of higher learning.

For more information on IB, please visit www.ibo.org