

## **SOTA RELEASES 2020 IB EXAMINATION RESULTS**

The 2020 cohort of School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) will collect their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) results at 2.00pm today.

A total of 157 students sat for the IB examinations in 2020 and SOTA achieved a 100% pass rate in both the IBDP and IBCP. SOTA's IBDP students obtained an average score of 38.7 points, with more than half of them scoring 39 points and above.

A passionate learning community, SOTA aims to groom critical thinkers who are able to make connections across disciplines and empathetic leaders who are committed to using their talents to serve the community. Through the holistic arts-anchored education, graduates from SOTA are not only equipped with knowledge of a range of subjects, but also instilled with values and skills such as creative and critical thinking and a love for learning. These are important qualities to thrive and contribute meaningfully in a complex and ever-changing world.

"This cohort undertook the last lap of their IB journey under challenging circumstances. Yet, they were undaunted, navigating the uncertainty with extraordinary adaptive skills, resilience, and most importantly, care and support for one another to achieve the results we celebrate today. This would not have been possible without the dedication of our teachers, the support from our corporate teams and the love and care by our Parent Support Group. Congratulations to our 2020 graduates! We hope our SOTA graduates will pay it forward by thoughtful stewardship of talents and skills to be the next generation of cultural leaders who will positively impact the community," said Mrs Mary Seah, Principal, SOTA.

Some students from SOTA's 2020 cohort include (in alphabetical order):

### **Izz Muhammad Bin Ahmad, IBDP (Visual Arts)**

Izz is a passionate artist who constantly strives to broaden and deepen his understanding of different mediums, experimenting with different techniques such as cyanotype printing, photography, and animation. A deep interest in physics and coding inspired Izz to initiate a Coding Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) group with like-minded peers. To challenge his programming skills, he participated in the National Olympiad of Informatics as part of his CAS involvement (2020). On the side, he created small mobile applications to practise the

app development that he learned online. He also watched online physics lectures hosted by NUS and renowned physicists. Izz cares for the community and finds opportunities to contribute meaningfully. Notably, he was a key member of the team that organised the One Hope Fundraising Concert to raise funds for at-risk youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a group of friends, Izz worked closely with the Harun Ghani Education Fund (HGEF) and tapped on their artistic skills to organise art workshops for children whose parents were incarcerated for drug offences. Izz intends to pursue his interest in science and technology at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. In the future, he endeavours to marry the arts and sciences, his two most loved subjects, and create things that are beneficial to the community and enhance people's lives.

### **Myrabeth Yeo Juann, IBDP (Dance)**

Myrabeth appreciates the emphasis on a well-rounded education at SOTA. Through subjects such as Geography, Chemistry, Dance, Literature and Theory of Knowledge, she developed a critical lens and an openness to different perspectives. She relished opportunities to bridge her interests in various subjects, for example, bridging Chemistry and Geography in her Chemistry Individual Investigation (2019-2020) on the effect of increasing salinity on water quality of river water. A versatile dancer, Myrabeth connects what she has learned in school to the real world. She volunteered at the Parkinson's Society Singapore (2019), teaching residents simple dance moves to promote movement and healthy living. She used dance to explore Tourette syndrome, a disorder which she personally struggled with. Drawing inspiration from her own experiences, this resulted in a string piece which she used for a performance at the Graduation Show (2020). A driven student with a natural ability to lead, Myrabeth was the Vice-President in the school's student leadership body, the Leadership Academy. She is interested in Chemistry as she believes it can help society become more sustainable and efficient. Ultimately, she hopes to be able to contribute meaningfully to society, regardless of the field she chooses to pursue.

### **Nur Izad Hamzah Bin Azman, IBDP (Music)**

"No matter where you are or what your background is, a small gesture can go a long way." With this belief, Izad has been actively involved in various projects to give back to the community. A talented musician, Izad performed a beatboxing piece for the Sunburst Fundraising Concert in 2018, a fundraising concert for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore (MDAS) and the SOTA Endowment Fund. During the pandemic, he was a key member of the team that organised the One Hope Fundraising Concert to raise funds for at-risk youth. Izad and his team were challenged to think out of the box to creatively present the show in a digital space. Through the concert, the team brought families together and lifted spirits through the arts during this difficult period. They also raised more than double their fundraising goal of \$5000, and the money went to providing art materials and hosting art classes for children from low-income families struggling during COVID-19. Izad is grateful for SOTA Student Financial Support (SOTA-SFS) Schemes, which helped make an arts education more accessible for him, such as providing him with a laptop to assist him in

his studies and facilitate his foray into music production. Through his SOTA experience and as a beneficiary of the Fund, Izad has big dreams to give back to the music community by setting up his own record company in Singapore in the future, with the aim to provide opportunities to those who are passionate in music but have limited platforms to express it.

### **Phone Myat San, IBCP (Theatre)**

Phone's interest in theatre began when he was young as the stage was a platform for him to express himself freely. SOTA's education appealed to him as it incorporated the arts with academic learning, and encouraged him to examine things from different perspectives. The diversity of the SOTA community enabled him to discuss and reflect on his own experiences as a person with a heritage from Myanmar. Phone came to realise that he would like to be able to represent his heritage in some form through the arts in the future. After attending a theatre workshop for migrants organised by local theatre company The Necessary Stage, he was inspired to help foreign workers tell their stories and express themselves. Thus, his creative interests shifted from acting to directing and writing, as he hopes to take stronger ownership in creating original works and telling personal stories of the people around him. He had the opportunity to work with the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SARBICA) in 2019, where he created original theatre pieces based on the oral history of the lives of four outstanding elderly Singaporeans. That same year, he had an internship opportunity with a professional theatre company, Checkpoint Theatre. A budding theatre-maker, Phone hopes to pursue a course where creation is the main focus. He will continue to mull over the possibilities during his time in National Service.

### **Sim Hui Xian, Eunice, IBDP (Dance)**

To pursue her passion for dance, Eunice auditioned into SOTA with no formal dance training other than her experience in the Chinese Dance CCA at primary school. With no prior experience in ballet and contemporary dance, Eunice worked doubly hard. As a testimony to her grit, she was nominated as a potential candidate for a prestigious Festival Scholarship provided by the M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival 2019. She was also selected to perform in a variety of showcases and attend numerous masterclasses. Eunice enjoyed opportunities to collaborate with other art forms and had participated in interdisciplinary performances at the National Gallery of Singapore and the Esplanade. Translating her artistic skills into service for the community, she was part of Parkinson's Grooves, a project aimed to help persons with Parkinson's disease remain active through movement. She performed at the Sunburst Fundraising Concert (2018) and was part of the production team for 'Blackout', a hip-hop dance competition that offers young dancers in Singapore an opportunity to showcase and celebrate their skills. Eunice also received the MOE UPLIFT Scholarship in recognition of her achievements in 2019 and 2020. Though she was offered a place in a prestigious dance school overseas, Eunice has decided to attend a local university and is inclined towards Yale-NUS to pursue her interest in arts and humanities.

She would like to be a positive changemaker in the future.

### **Uma Gowri Ramanathan, IBDP (Visual Arts)**

SOTA's vibrant learning environment helped Uma to thrive. She deepened her love for the arts and pursued her interests in humanities and literature during her time here. Through an opportunity to participate in MOE's Creative Arts Programme in 2016, the Visual Arts student gained exposure to creative writing and explored the use of language in the arts. In 2018, Uma presented at MOE's Literature Seminar, where she examined the intersectionality between art and literature. An artist and student leader, Uma was a gallery curator, participant and designer for her cohort's Year 5 Visual Arts exhibition in 2019. She put her artistic and leadership skills to good use in service learning projects locally and beyond Singapore's shores. Such projects include a collaboration with Animal Care Research and Education Society (ACRES), a two-year long partnership with Sowing Room, a social enterprise aimed at empowering abused women, and a 10-day trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia to work with a local NGO there. Uma is interested in subjects such as sociology, anthropology, global studies and life sciences. Inspired by the many service learning opportunities at SOTA, she is keen to pursue a field which allows her to work in an organisation that is dedicated to helping people or animals in the future.

### **Woon Rae, IBDP (Film)**

Rae describes herself as 'extremely soft-spoken and unconfident' in primary school. At SOTA, she blossomed into a leader whom her peers look up to. One of her most significant leadership roles was serving as the President of the student leadership body, Leadership Academy, where she contributed to building a strong school spirit. Originally a Music student, Rae discovered a passion for film and changed her art form in Year 5. As a Film student, she took up the role of the cinematographer for the student short film "Bear", which was part of a curated list of films screened at the 2019 Jogja Asian Film Festival, Indonesia. Combining her love for Film and interest in Geography, Rae translated her learning in the classroom to service for the community. She produced a documentary investigating poverty among migrant workers in Singapore. Her exposure to the concept of sustainability in Geography, along with opportunities to develop her interest and skills in photography, also led her to win the Singapore Youth Photographer Merit Award for Sustainable Communities (2018). In 2018 and 2019, she led two 11-day overseas service learning trips to Kanchanaburi, Thailand, to teach marginalised children a variety of art forms ranging from visual arts to theatre. These trips sparked Rae's motivation to pursue sociology in university to learn more about societies and communities.

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For more information, please contact the following:

Eileen Ng (Ms)  
Manager  
Office of Corporate Communications  
School of the Arts, Singapore  
DID : 6342 5806  
HP : 9777 8323  
Email : eileen.ng@sota.edu.sg

Eunice Choe (Ms)  
Senior Executive  
Office of Corporate Communications  
School of the Arts, Singapore  
DID : 6594 8435  
HP : 9720 6261  
Email : eunice.choe@sota.edu.sg

### **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 science 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](http://www.ibo.org)