

SOTA RELEASES 2021 IB EXAMINATION RESULTS

The 2021 cohort of School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) collected their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) results at 12.00pm today.

A total of 156 students sat for the IB examinations in 2021 and SOTA achieved a 100% pass rate in both the IBDP and IBCP for the tenth consecutive year. SOTA's IBDP students obtained an average score of 41.1 points, with more than one in two scoring 42 points and above.

"The class of 2021's IB journey was especially challenging. However, they displayed remarkable resilience and togetherness, overcoming the uncertainties posed by the pandemic to achieve the outstanding results we celebrate today. Over the last six years, we are proud to see them grow from wide-eyed thirteen-year-olds to caring, confident, and mature young adults. As we celebrate the 2021 cohort's achievements, we hope that our graduates will harness their skills and talents to become cultural leaders of tomorrow and positively impact the community," said Mrs Mary Seah, Principal, SOTA.

Here are some students from the 2021's cohort and their thoughts in navigating their final year in SOTA amidst the pandemic (in alphabetical order):

Andrea Cheah, Visual Arts, IBDP

To Andrea, art is not created in a vacuum – rather, it serves as a medium to bridge the artist with his/her environment and relationships. Seeing art as a means for effective communication, she emerged the winner of the logo design collaboration between SOTA and the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) for the '[Break The Silence](#)' Campaign (2021). Through SOTA, she had the opportunity to develop what was originally a hobby into something she can bring into the world and use for the greater good. Andrea hopes to pursue a tertiary education which will explore the use of creativity and the arts to support the emotional wellbeing of people, especially youths.

"I feel our cohort, in comparison to those before and after us, were not the worst hit by the pandemic. We were fortunate enough to have had overseas trips, a graduating art exhibition, and could resume face to face learning before our final examinations - for that, I am very grateful. Our school did what was necessary in the circumstances we were in, so to me, the least I can do is be happy for what we still had."

Arif Arman Khan s/o Akhter Ali Khan, Theatre, IBDP

Since a young age, Arif has been fascinated with the simple performances of everyday life. When his primary school teacher first introduced him to SOTA, he knew instantly that SOTA was the school for him. Besides theatre, SOTA also sparked in him an interest in social issues through the interconnected curriculum and many meaningful discussions he had with his teachers and classmates. During his Year 5 Collaborative Performance, he and his classmates staged a play about the tumultuous journeys and lives of immigrants, and in Language and Literature lessons, he had the opportunity to further explore the same topic. The kindness and patience he experienced in SOTA has inspired him to want to help society in any way that he could, no matter how minute. He hopes to study psychology and help people navigate their struggles in healthy ways.

"This pandemic has undeniably changed the way Art is created and shared. As the experience of Theatre differs a lot between real-life and online, it was a new challenge for us to convey the meaning of our work in ways which would meld the physical and virtual experiences together."

Cher Zhi Xian Timothy, Music, IBCP

Timothy has always believed in putting others before himself and values the importance of giving back to society. His experiences in SOTA taught him the importance of using the arts as a tool to touch and impact the lives of others. In 2020, he initiated a programme for Children's Wishing Well where he and his peers taught less privileged children music theory and the basics of playing the keyboard and cajon. In 2021, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, he leveraged on the power of technology to continue with his Global Perspectives (GPS) project where he taught music to students in Thailand via online platforms. After completing his National Service, he hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Music Degree in Viola performance in an overseas conservatoire and return to Singapore to perform with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra as an orchestral musician.

"The HBL experience made me realise that the music industry is gradually moving towards digitalisation and it is important for me to develop my cyber skills both as a student and an artist. Lessons, performances and masterclasses can now be conducted online and it is crucial for me to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to leverage on the digital shift in the music industry."

Jovaan Tan, Dance, IBDP

At age seven, Jovaan began dancing when he accompanied a friend in enrolling in a hip-hop dance course. Over a decade later, he has grown to love dance and the joy of expressing himself through the artform. SOTA's integrated arts and academic education allowed him to explore a variety of subjects while still pursuing his passion for dance. Besides dance, he also developed a strong interest in physics and literature. Beyond the classroom, Jovaan also actively engaged in community service. He choreographed and performed for the One Hope SOTA Fundraising Concert (2020) which raised funds for at-risk children and youth in need

during the pandemic. He hopes to pursue a career in hip hop dance and also study linguistics in a local university, following the completion of his National Service commitments.

"It felt like we had all the work of a Year 6 student, but without the fun experiences that Year 6 students typically get from all the events that were sadly hindered by COVID-19. But I think our cohort had it easier than the one in the year before, as they had to spend their last year at SOTA amidst a period where everyone was trying to find their footing. Our cohort had already experienced life amidst a pandemic, and we have all adapted to overcome the hurdles and found ways to continue to do what we love."

Lee Su Min, Music, IBDP

Su Min has loved playing the piano from a young age, and took up the harp as a second instrument under SOTA's second instrument programme in 2017. It became her primary instrument in 2019. Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, Su Min believed in seizing any opportunities that arise, she collaborated with her peers in SOTA from music, film and visual arts and released her first music album, ['Stepping Stones'](#) in July 2021. After thoroughly enjoying learning both the academics and the arts in SOTA, she hopes to pursue a double degree in the Bachelor of Commerce and the Bachelor of Music (specialising in Composition and Music Technology). She hopes to also work with various artists on interdisciplinary artistic projects, to create fresh art and to further develop Singapore's arts scene.

"Due to the travel restrictions put in place in 2020, we were unable to travel overseas for our overseas service learning project. We adapted and used technology to continue the service project without physically being present. We produced videos and tapped on our artistic skills to incorporate some arts activities into the videos, to make them more interactive and engaging."

Tasneem Mustapha, Film, IBDP

Coming from "a family of storytellers", writing was not merely a platform for Tasneem to express herself, but it also allowed her to better understand herself. She sees the arts as a medium for positive social change. Utilising her way with words, she wrote about universal themes that uncover the experiences of marginalised communities. She founded and led the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) programme SARAKAT - a portmanteau of "Masyarakat" and "Samugam", the Malay and Tamil words for "community". By crafting lessons for students from her alma mater, Telok Kurau Primary School, Tasneem sought to foster greater awareness of complex issues like identity markers and privilege for today's youth. She hopes to study political science and international relations and eventually work for non-profit organisations or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"A virtual environment made it extremely difficult for me to pay attention without getting fatigued. But I was motivated to do well in my final year. I was kinder to myself and really

gave myself enough space to ask questions, make mistakes, and to absorb what I learnt properly."

Val Chong Rui Xuan, Music, IBCP

Val has been surrounded by music from a young age; her mother was a piano teacher and her sister was a classical voice student in SOTA. Following in her sister's footsteps, she enrolled in SOTA to further her interest in singing and pursue her dream of becoming a professional singer. In SOTA, Val began to appreciate the beauty of interdisciplinary arts and how different artists can collaborate to create unique works of art. When she was in Year 5, she worked with Theatre and Film students for the Belle Epoque documentary project and that allowed her to think out of the box and come up with new projects and ideas. Val aspires to become a professional classical singer and she will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Music. She hopes to eventually impart her skills to future aspiring local musicians, and do her part in developing a more vibrant Singapore arts scene.

"As many of my voice lessons last year were conducted virtually, I was worried that my performance level was not good enough, but I pushed on and did everything to the best of my ability. Without moral support from my friends, it would have been really hard for me to get through this arduous period as well. "

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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 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.