

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE LIVES ON

1 Affectionately known to many students and staff of the School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA) as the 'Tree of Knowledge' or the 'SOTA Tree', the majestic Angsana tree protrudes out of the School's stone steps and can be seen towering over the walkway. During the construction of the school eight years ago, efforts were made to keep the tree and incorporate the tree into the design of the school façade.

2 Estimated to be about 40 years old, it has battled the harsh weather and thunderstorms over the years. With the help of arborists, the School has endeavored to sustain and keep the tree.

3 In 2010, a huge branch of this tree fell off and the Singapore Civil Defence Force was called in to help the School manage the situation. In 2013, after an inspection by an arborist, it was reported that the tree showed signs of decay at its base. Over the years, the School has gone to great lengths to care for the tree. Non-invasive cables were installed in 2014 to support and hold the tree up. The School has closely monitored the tree's health and pruned it regularly to reduce the load on its trunk.

4 On 11 January this year, the arborist's report showed that condition of the tree has deteriorated and it has significant decay and a cavity at its base. For the safety of students, staff and members of public, the tree will be removed by this week.

5 The SOTA community will gather near the tree this evening, Friday 19 January at 5:30 pm to create a mural of leaf prints to commemorate the 'Tree of Knowledge'.

6 The tree will be removed on Sunday 21 January, and SOTA will preserve its memory by creating art from parts of its trunk. A new sapling will also be planted at a later date.

7 "We had hoped to keep the tree standing on our steps for as long as possible, but there is only so much we can do. While it saddens us to bid farewell to the Tree of Knowledge, we hope that its legacy lives on and a new sapling will be planted," Ms Lim Geok Cheng, SOTA Principal.



Extensive cavity with decay reported at base of trunk

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