

CLASS OF 2024 CELEBRATES CULMINATION OF THEIR SOTA JOURNEY

The [release of the International Baccalaureate \(IB\) examination results by the IBO on 18 December 2024](#) marks the completion of the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) and IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) for School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) Class of 2024 graduates.

A total of 159 students sat for the IB examinations in 2024, with more than one in two IBDP students scoring 38 points and above. IBCP students also achieved excellent performances in their Career-related studies, Core and DP subjects.

Mrs Mary Seah, Principal, congratulated the cohort on completing their IB journey. "To the Class of 2024, you are trailblazers! Your full participation in school and the community, as well as your strong commitment to growth as artistic and creative learners is truly inspiring! I look forward to seeing you take your places as emerging leaders in every field beyond SOTA!"

First batch of Literary Arts graduates

The school also celebrates its first batch of Literary Arts graduates, since the introduction of Literary Arts (LA) as an IB subject in 2022. Maegan Tan Ee Ning is among one of the six students to offer LA as an IBDP subject.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to set the standard and chart the path for our juniors to follow as a pioneer batch of LA graduates. There were no model essays or set paths to follow, which meant that we were stepping into uncharted territory. We could ask questions that no one had answers to, push boundaries, and think of creative ways to tackle our assignments."

One of the highlights of her IB journey was the opportunity to curate and put together the cohort's graduation showcase *Re:define* in May 2024, under the mentorship of Ms Janet Liew, Head of the Literary Arts Faculty. "The students redefined the idea of a writing exhibition, pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a writer, to explore universal themes in a thought-provoking exhibition," said Ms Liew.

Maegan received the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Young Leader Award and plans to pursue her degree in Anthropology to understand and learn about different cultures and societies.

Integrative learning

The Class of 2024 is always on the lookout for opportunities to draw connections between different disciplines. Olivia Chua (Visual Arts, IBDP) explored her interest in environmental science by observing biomimicry and its application in the design and architecture of environmental solutions such as the ArtScience Museum and the Supertree Grove at Gardens by the Bay.

Celeste Tay (Visual Arts, IBDP) drew parallels between Visual Arts and Biology. Inspired by scientific imagery of cells under a microscope, her artworks expounded on the inner workings of the human body while imbuing it with newfound emotion.

Durva Gautam Kamdar (Film, IBDP) approached her Literature Extended Essay (EE) through the lenses of theatrical imagery and anthropology, inquiring into concepts that transcended disciplines, which enhanced the depth and scope in which she could discuss her EE topic.

Ashley Foong (Music, IBCP) drew parallels between her musical practice and physical recreation: "In both tennis and playing the violin, one has to constantly evaluate the situation (e.g. the sound you hear or where the ball is going) and adjust immediately to that evaluation based on your acquired knowledge and muscle memory. It can be mentally exhausting to do that when playing a whole concerto or a whole match, and it is important to build up mental stamina to achieve your desired results."

Please refer to Annex A for selected profiles of students from the Class of 2024.

ANNEX A

Some graduates from SOTA's 2024 cohort include (in alphabetical order):

Dharshan Mikhail Nathan, IBCP

Dharshan started acting when he was 11 when his parents enrolled him into acting class. He was eventually drawn to theatre for the freedom it offers him to express himself physically, mentally, and vocally.

Enrolling in SOTA provided Dharshan with a supportive environment to nurture his creative instincts. It offered a space where he felt accepted, allowing him to embrace his extroverted, energetic, and creative personality without feeling restrained or judged. Since then, he has already left his mark on various projects.

Among his noteworthy achievements are his participation in youth theatre programmes offered by Pandemonium and WILD RICE, where he honed his craft and talent. He is grateful for the opportunity to make his professional theatre debut in the production *Crack The Case: Mindhunter*, which earned him a nomination in *The Straits Times* Life Theatre Awards 2024 in the Best Actor category.

Dharshan aims to further his acting by enrolling in tertiary theatre training. His aspirations reflect his determination to make a contribution to the theatre industry locally and abroad.

Evan Joel de Silva, IBCP

Evan began his pursuit of music at the tender age of 8 when he picked up the ukulele. The instrument became a medium of self expression, allowing him to channel his emotions and life experiences into music. Evan enrolled in SOTA to pursue an arts-integrated education, which helped to ignite his spark for music into a blossoming flame.

Evan has contributed his musical talents to numerous school events and programmes, performing in SOTA's fundraising series *Sunburst 2020* (held in partnership with the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore), and recently in the school's IBCP 10th Anniversary celebration, as well as at events such as the Singapore Night Festival. These opportunities have provided him with valuable industry experience. "Being a pop musician, these projects helped me to understand what goes on in the preparation, vetting of songs, setting up of equipment and logistics for a live pop band show. This kind of exposure is effective in preparing me for the music industry," he said.

To pave the way for a career in music, Evan consistently sought out opportunities to work with established music companies and record labels. He has also collaborated with

numerous artistes, playing the guitar in recordings for artistes such as Syazsmooth, Tengy, Regina Song and more.

Evan intends to further his studies at the Berklee College of Music. He is interested in pursuing a degree in the fields of Music Performance, Music Composition/Production, or Music Business. Evan hopes to immerse himself within the USA's vibrant music industry, eventually pursuing a career as an instrumentalist.

Leandre Huang Guang Qi, IBDP

Leandre's love for storytelling was ignited during her primary school years when she discovered the joys of writing. Crafting narratives and creating characters allowed her to channel her imagination and express herself creatively. This passion deepened when she enrolled at SOTA under the Literary Arts programme, where she honed her skills in creative writing. Leandre transitioned to SOTA's Film programme in Year 5, where she embraced a new multi-faceted medium for storytelling.

Her passion for storytelling extended beyond the classroom into meaningful community outreach initiatives such as teaching creative writing to children, and collaborating with the National Library Board on a storytelling programme to nurture the creativity and imagination of young learners.

Partnering with the S.E.A. Aquarium, Leandre collaborated with a fellow film student to create videos to educate the visitors on marine biodiversity. This initiative not only allowed her to apply her filmmaking expertise but also combined her interest in marine biology with advocacy for marine conservation.

As an active member of the school's student council (Leadership Academy, LeAD), Leandre led several school-wide initiatives, such as SouNDProof — where students celebrate National Day on the SOTA rooftop. She also led and rallied her cohort to organise the school's inaugural Sports Fiesta. Leandre was able to inspire and mentor her peers and juniors while ensuring that the projects she led were impactful and meaningful. Her leadership and academic excellence were further recognised when she was nominated for the prestigious 2024/2025 Harvard Prize Book Award, an accolade awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding achievement, character, and leadership potential.

Leandre plans to pursue a degree in English Literature. She hopes to devote her time to the holistic development of young people, inspired by the educational experience she received in SOTA.

Lisa Kei Yamada, IBDP

For Lisa, the arts have pivoted from a pastime, to an ambition and a passion. Lisa received training in ballet and Chinese dance from a young age and entered SOTA with dreams of becoming the principal ballerina in a professional ballet company.

During her time in SOTA, she demonstrated her talent and excellence in dance. She received the Arts Module Award for Classical Ballet and was offered the Arts Plus elective module and Arts Excellence Programme (AEP) in dance, which gave her various opportunities to take part in dance showcases and competitions.

Lisa also explored her potential in other areas such as leadership and presentation skills, and discovered mooting. She received the "Best Individual Advocate Award" in the Singapore Introductory Mooting Programme 2023. She found the process of preparing for a moot court similar to the preparation she does before a dance performance.

"My body is my method of self-expression in dance, while in mooting, my words are my tools to express myself and deliver my points across. The realisation that the many skills I developed in dance would be transferable to whatever careers I choose is refreshing to me. This is a reminder of the strengths I have and the unique arts background that I have come with"

Lisa intends to pursue a degree in Law. She hopes to be a litigation lawyer one day.

Luis Matthew Tan, IBDP

Throughout his time in SOTA, Luis has come to understand that all fields are inextricably linked. His interest in both Visual Arts and Mathematics is evident from his artworks which frequently feature geometric patterns.

During his participation in the 2023 International Math Modelling Competition, he worked with his groupmates on a project to calculate the monetary value of a parcel of land, drawing from the disciplines of Geography, Economics, and Mathematics.

Luis was also involved in the school's Arts Excellence Programme (AEP) trip to Tokyo, where they learned new art-making processes and techniques. Through the trip, he managed to bond with like-minded individuals over their shared interests towards visual arts, reinforcing the idea that arts is not insular, but hugely influenced by people and communities.

He intends to further his studies in Economics or Actuarial Science, while keeping in touch with his artistic side to develop a local Singapore arts identity.

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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.