



B7 Evans Road eateries here to stay

B2 Her decision to study at ACS (I) pays off

ACS (I) scores record in IB exam

School produces 37 out of the 41 perfect scorers in Singapore

By STACEY CHIA

ANGLO-CHINESE School (Independent) has outdone itself again, by producing a majority of the perfect scorers here in the recent International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma examination.

Out of the 41 perfect scorers in Singapore, 37 came from the Dover Road school, which announced the results yesterday.

St Joseph's Institution International has one perfect scorer.

The others are believed to be from the School of the Arts (Sota), whose first batch of 80 candidates took the exam in November last year.

The three schools are among 19 here offering IB, which is more broad-based than the A levels.

Worldwide, there were 176 perfect scorers last year in the exam set by the Swiss-based International Baccalaureate Organisation.

A perfect score is 45 based on results in six subjects, such as literature and mathematics, and other core requirements like the extended essay. A student needs 24 points to pass and get the IB diploma, while 36 and above is considered excellent by educators.

ACS (I), which had 468 students sitting the exam, has consistently produced the bulk of perfect scorers from Singapore.

In 2011, out of the 185 perfect



Top students of ACS (I) on stage at the school's auditorium yesterday. The school has consistently produced the bulk of perfect scorers from Singapore. ST PHOTO: NEO XIAOBIN

scorers worldwide, 29 came from the school.

A spokesman said the latest results are the best the school has ever had since the first cohort attempted the exam in 2007.

The average score at ACS (I) has also improved over the years. It was 41.65 last year, compared with 41.35 in 2011 and 40.88 in 2010.

In 2012, 84.6 per cent of its students scored 40 points and above, compared to 78.2 per cent in 2011.

Said school principal Winston Hodge who announced the results yesterday: "The outstanding set of results is testimony to the rig-

our and quality of the IB diploma programme offered by ACS (I)."

Among its 37 top scorers are nine students who are in the Ministry of Education's Humanities Scholarship Programme. The scholarship is offered to encourage students to study the humanities at the pre-university level.

Mr Bradley Roberts, principal of SJI International, said it notched up its best results from the 2012 class.

The average score of the 137 students was 36.2 points. Some 25 per cent of its students got 40 points and above, compared with 20 per cent in 2011.

Over at Hwa Chong International School, 98 per cent of its 35 students passed and its top performer scored 42 points.

Other schools, such as Sota, will be revealing their overall grades today.

Educators point to several reasons for ACS (I)'s success.

Mr Chiam Kok Chong, co-founder of Learningsparks Education Services which provides tuition for students taking the IB diploma, said the school takes in a higher calibre of students, namely those who do very well in the PSLE and O levels.

He added that over the years,

the teachers have also gained more experience with the curriculum.

Programme director of Mind-Lab Tuition Centre, Mr Matthew Lee, said the IB, which is more commonly offered in international schools, has been successfully taken a step further by ACS (I).

"They have the best of both. A rigorous academic structure borrowed from the MOE as well as the dynamic learning style of the IB learner," he noted.

Meanwhile, Singapore has topped the Asia-Pacific region in the IB diploma programme for the third year running.

Almost all the 1,370 candidates here - 97.9 per cent - passed. They scored 36.5 points on average last year, compared to the global average of 30.01.

Results were released to students online yesterday.

The IB diploma programme requires students to take six subjects and Theory of Knowledge, a course that combines philosophy, religion and logical reasoning.

It is also a must to take a second language, write a 4,000-word essay and take part in a community service project.

staceyc@sph.com.sg

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