



**HAND
IN HAND**

Journeying Together



HAND IN HAND, JOURNEYING TOGETHER

To help our students make sense of the changing economy, and the diverse education and career pathways that are available. Education and Career Guidance (ECG) is key. It equips them with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to make informed decisions at each key education stage for successful transition from school to further education or work, and hence to manage their career pathways and lifelong learning throughout their lives.

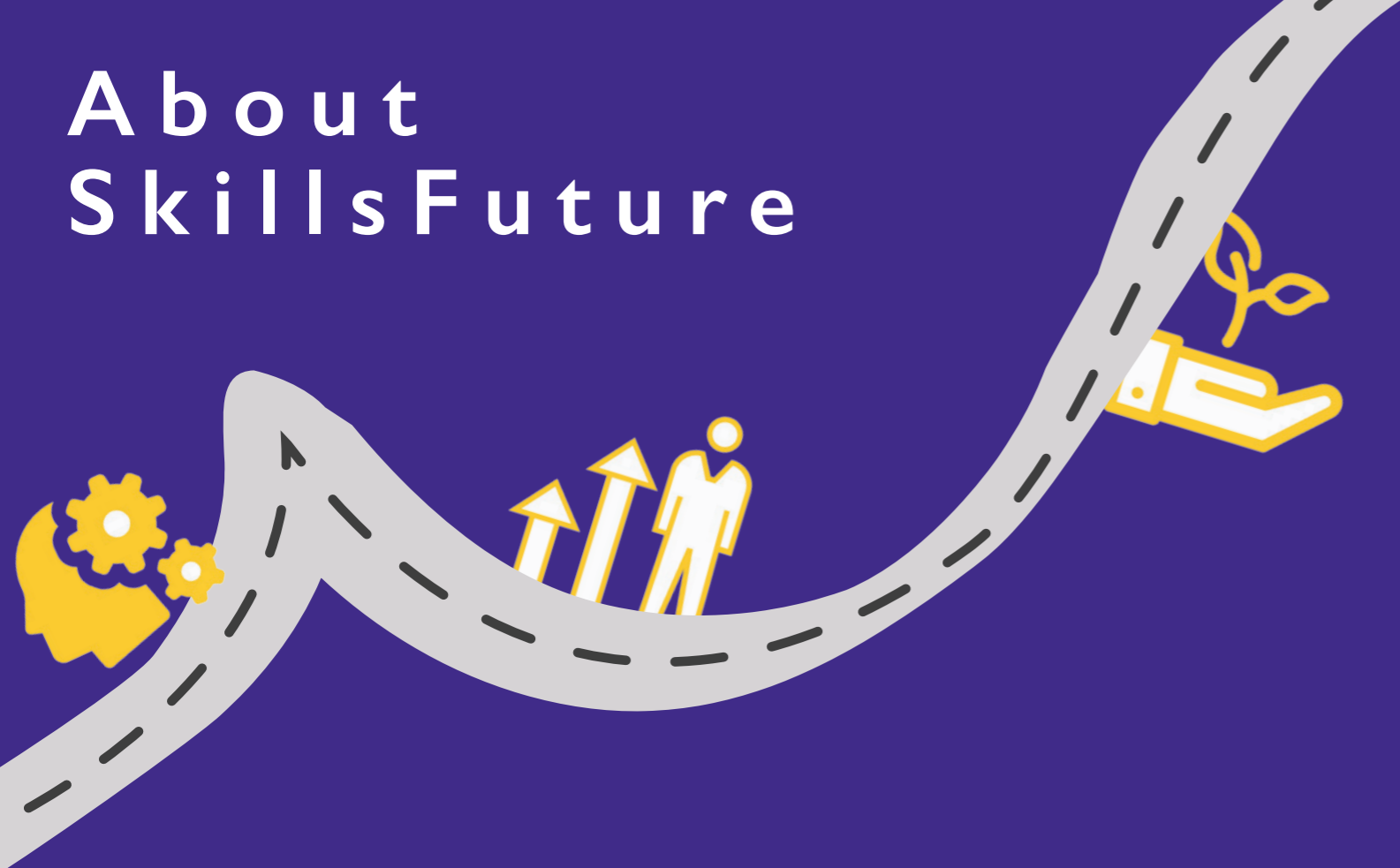
Educators, ECG Counsellors, parents, alumni, community and industry partners all play a critical role in providing a supportive ECG ecosystem to nurture and guide the education and career aspirations of our youth. The collective role they play provides meaningful experiences for our students to build social emotional competencies and qualities of proactivity, adaptability and resilience necessary for the 21st century.

Hand in Hand, Journeying Together illustrates the collective roles our stakeholders play in the robust ECG ecosystem. Read on to find out about their different contributions to the ECG journeys of our youth!

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About SkillsFuture



SkillsFuture is a national movement to provide Singaporeans with opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points. Through this movement, the skills, passion and contributions of every individual will drive Singapore's next phase of development towards an advanced economy and inclusive society.

Skills mastery is more than having the right paper qualifications and being good at what you do currently; it is a mindset of continually striving towards greater excellence through knowledge, application and experience.

Everyone is part of Singapore's SkillsFuture journey. The choices you make or guide others to make in education, jobs or careers should lead to opportunities for the maximisation of potential and mastery of skills.

4 Key Thrusts of SkillsFuture:

- Help individuals make well-informed choices in education, training and careers
- Develop an integrated high quality system of education and training that responds to constantly evolving needs
- Promote employer recognition and career development based on skills and mastery
- Foster a culture that supports and celebrates lifelong learning

About Education and Career Guidance (ECG)

The goals of ECG are to:

- nurture student's self-awareness, self-directedness and life skills for continuous learning and training; **(Skills)**
- enable students to explore viable education and career options through the provision of accurate and comprehensive information; **(Knowledge)**
- inculcate an appreciation for the value of all occupations and how they contribute to the well-functioning of society; **(Mindsets)** and
- equip students with skills and means to positively engage their parents and other career influencers **(Engaging the community)**.

Through ECG, students and adults will be encouraged to learn more about their interests, abilities and passions. By exploring the learning or education pathways and career opportunities available across different industries, you can take positive steps towards realising your aspirations, as well as embrace learning throughout your life.

The goals of ECG can only be achieved if different stakeholders contribute actively in supporting and guiding our students through their individual ECG journeys.

EDUCATORS

And Students Journeying Together

ECG is about equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to make informed decisions at each key education stage, for successful transition from school to further education or work. In ECG, students are guided to answer these three questions:

- Who am I?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Our educators are key to our students' ECG journeys. Besides ECG lessons and experiences, our educators are mindful of the importance of listening to their students, monitoring their responses to suggested avenues of change and reflection, and making sure that the students are confident advocates of their chosen paths.

Opening Up Young Minds To Possibilities

To get children as young as nine started on thinking about their future is no mean feat. In primary schools, students are led to learn more about themselves, their interests and preferences, through hands-on fun activities.

As an educator, Stefane recognises the importance of opening up young minds to possibilities through early learning activities. She shared that the school has designed a programme for the students to spend a day at a relative's workplace which teaches them to respect all jobs.

Stefane cited the example of a student whose father works as a despatch rider. Initially the student's father was resistant to having his daughter see him at work as he did not want his children to follow his footsteps.

After the student eventually visited her father's workplace and saw him being praised by his supervisors, she told her father, 'Every job is important.'

The father is heartened that his daughter appreciates the value of all occupations and how everyone contributes to the well-functioning of our society.



Mrs. Stefane Lee
Year Head
Meridian Primary School

“Every job is important.”



Mr. S. Thiruselvan
Head of Department,
Character and Citizenship
Education (CCE)
Hillgrove Secondary School

“An educator’s role is to help students discover their core strengths and interests.”

Taking Ownership Of My Professional Development

Encouraged by ECG’s positive effects on his students, S. Thiruselvan started an ECG Network Learning Community (NLC) for five secondary schools in the West Zone W2 Cluster.

Supported by the ECG Unit at MOE, representatives from each school read up on career development theories and discussed the best practices. They then passed that learning on to educators in their own schools. The sharing of these learnings, in turn, benefitted students as the educators had heightened awareness on the ECG-related issues faced by students. Furthermore, they were better able to design ECG experiences and conversations to meet their students’ needs. This year, the NLC focussed on classroom teaching pedagogies to deliver more engaging and purposeful ECG lessons.

‘An educator’s role is to help students discover their core strengths and interests,’ Thiru shared. Hence, it is not surprisingly that he is willing to go the extra mile to boost not only his, but also the professional competency of fellow educators.



Ms. Valerie Tan Jia Hui
Subject Head,
Higher Education and
Career Guidance
Pioneer Junior College

Stay Committed To Pursuing Your Dream

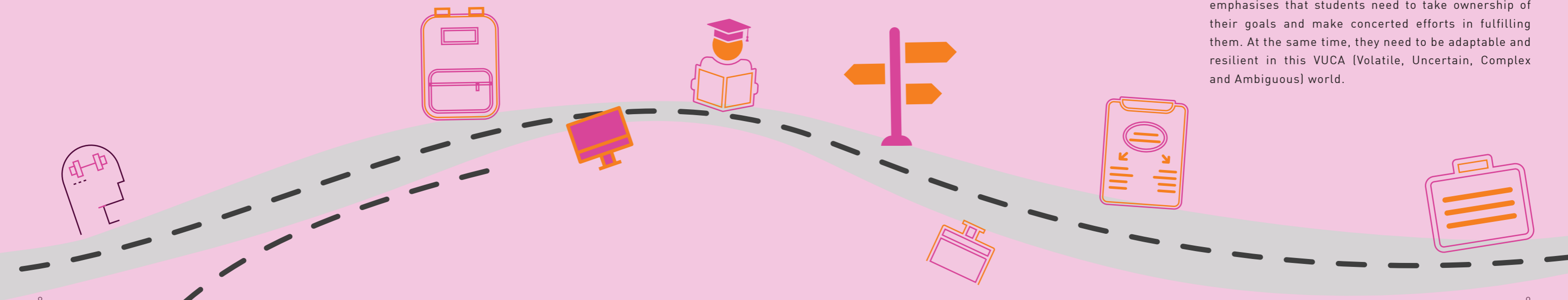
Valerie’s most memorable ECG experience concerns a JC2 student whose strong interest in nursing was developed through ECG. After attending a school talk by representatives from MOHH and going on an ECG learning journey to KK Hospital to observe healthcare professionals at work, the student explored further what the occupation entailed before applying for the MOHH Healthcare Scholarships to pursue nursing at NUS.

With encouragement from her teachers and family, the student was not deterred from pursuing her dream despite not receiving the scholarship.

“To take ownership of their goals, be adaptable and resilient.”

She is currently pursuing her first year in Nursing at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and hopes to apply for the healthcare scholarship again. Valerie is most impressed that her student has found her direction in life and is committed to pursuing her dream.

While there is a multitude of platforms to support students in their education and career planning, Valerie emphasises that students need to take ownership of their goals and make concerted efforts in fulfilling them. At the same time, they need to be adaptable and resilient in this VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world.





Everyone Has A Different Journey

Mr. Darren Quek
Lecturer,
School of Business
and Services
*Institute of Technical Education
(ITE), College East*

“Success is within everyone’s reach.”

Last year, Darren became involved with ECG at the onset of the SkillsFuture initiative. He spoke about his own multi-disciplinary working background, and how that has made him more aware of the different pathways that students could take. He was able to give students varied perspectives on the expectations and demands on working in the IT and Business (Human Resource) industries.

Darren’s rich industrial experience and knowledge allows him to play a pivotal role in assisting his students on smooth transitions from secondary to polytechnic education and from education to work. Darren is heartened that there are more pathways available for students with different talents and strengths today and believes firmly that success is within everyone’s reach.

He has advised some of his students to go on the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme, which provides opportunities for them to build on their skills and knowledge and better supports their transitions into the workforce.



Take Time To Improve Yourself, One Step At A Time

Dr. Tony Halim
Assistant Director,
Student Development
(School of Engineering)
Temasek Polytechnic

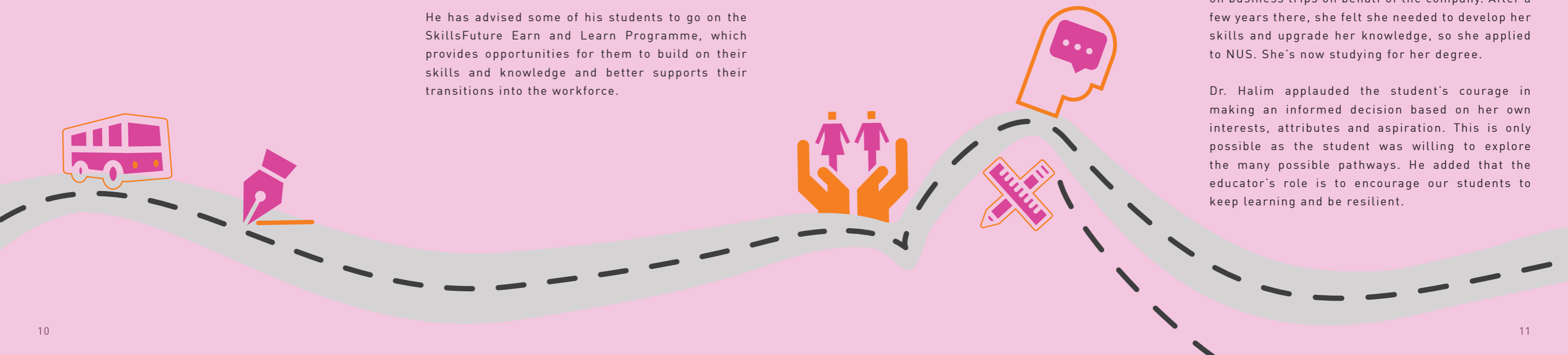
Dr. Halim has been teaching in Temasek Polytechnic since 2009 and is also involved in ECG as a Care Person. The responsibilities of a Care Person are akin to those of a form teacher in secondary school. For Dr. Halim, the most rewarding aspect of his job is providing guidance to his students, helping them to figure out their next steps when they are in a dilemma.

“The student was willing to explore the many possible pathways.”

Dr. Halim gave the example of a particular student whose grades were good enough to gain entry into a local university but the student wondered if she should work first since she had had a positive internship experience.

After much discussion with Dr. Halim, the student decided that having a few years of work experience would do her good prior to furthering her studies. She started working at the company where she had been an intern and she did well enough to be sent on business trips on behalf of the company. After a few years there, she felt she needed to develop her skills and upgrade her knowledge, so she applied to NUS. She’s now studying for her degree.

Dr. Halim applauded the student’s courage in making an informed decision based on her own interests, attributes and aspiration. This is only possible as the student was willing to explore the many possible pathways. He added that the educator’s role is to encourage our students to keep learning and be resilient.



A Journey of Self-Discovery with ECG COUNSELLORS

ECG Counsellors have been deployed to all MOE Secondary and Pre-University Schools and Post-Secondary Education Institutions (PSEI) since mid-2015. This is part of the Ministry's effort to enhance ECG efforts in schools in line with the national SkillsFuture movement. The key role of ECG Counsellors is to guide students to make considered decisions based on their interests and strengths, so that they can contribute meaningfully to society through their future professions.

Besides providing individual and group counselling to students, ECG Counsellors organise engagement platforms to raise awareness of the importance of ECG. They also conduct workshops for educators and students. They keep abreast of industry news to update educators and students about hiring trends, growth sectors and skills needed for the future. In addition, they collaborate with schools to organise activities for a holistic ECG experience. These activities enhance students' exposure to education pathways and the working world, helping them to make informed choices.



Ms. Tay Geok Lian
ECG Counsellor
East Zone Secondary Schools

“Help students discover their values, interests, personalities and strengths, and use them to contribute meaningfully to society.”

Discover Who You Are

Geok Lian has 18 years of work experience in finance prior to becoming an ECG Counsellor. The motivation for her change in career came from her desire to help others, especially the young. Being an ECG Counsellor allows her to help students discover their values, interests, personalities and strengths, and use them to contribute meaningfully to society through their future professions.

‘I had a student who loves art and painting to the extent that he could happily create as many as three art pieces within a week. When I first met him, he was feeling down and discouraged due to differences between his interests and his parents' expectations. He did not know what to do about his situation.’

With Geok Lian's guidance and support, the student went on a journey of self-discovery and began to explore the possibility of being an art therapist in future. What impressed Geok Lian most of all was that the student learnt to recognise the importance of his values, interests, personalities and strengths during this self-understanding and decision-making process.

‘Through our conversations and ECG activities, he started to recognise his strengths (patience and diligence), and his values, that is, his desire to help others.’





Navigate Pathways With Confidence

Mr. Steven Wu
ECG Counsellor
Pre-University Institutions

For Steven, ECG is about helping young people to understand themselves better, equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills and values so that they can take ownership and make informed decisions for themselves.

‘Students often talk to me about their interests and educational options. Quite a number of them know what they want to pursue, but some may be clueless,’ Steven revealed.

Steven has observed the following characteristics in confident students:

- (1) **Willingness** to seek help and support from others, to learn about themselves, to learn about their options;
- (2) **Openness** and adaptability, that is, to keep an open mind about the different options that could lead them to their goals and to be prepared to adapt along the way;
- (3) **Courage** to take the necessary steps in working towards their goals, for instance, engaging their parents in heartfelt, truthful conversations;
- (4) **Resolve and perseverance.**

Make Informed Decisions And Own Them

Sharon’s most memorable experiences have to do with guiding students to make decisions about career choices based on research on the options they are considering.

Sharon shared that many times, students have certain preconceptions about their course of study or area of interest and all an ECG Counsellor has to do is to nudge the student to do more research, in other words, to get them to arrive at a more informed position. She mentioned a student who had chosen *Higher Nitec* in Accounting because his parents wanted him to become an accountant.

‘However, he did not feel as motivated as he felt that it was not his choice. He was very much into gaming and thought that gaming was the only thing he really cared about.’

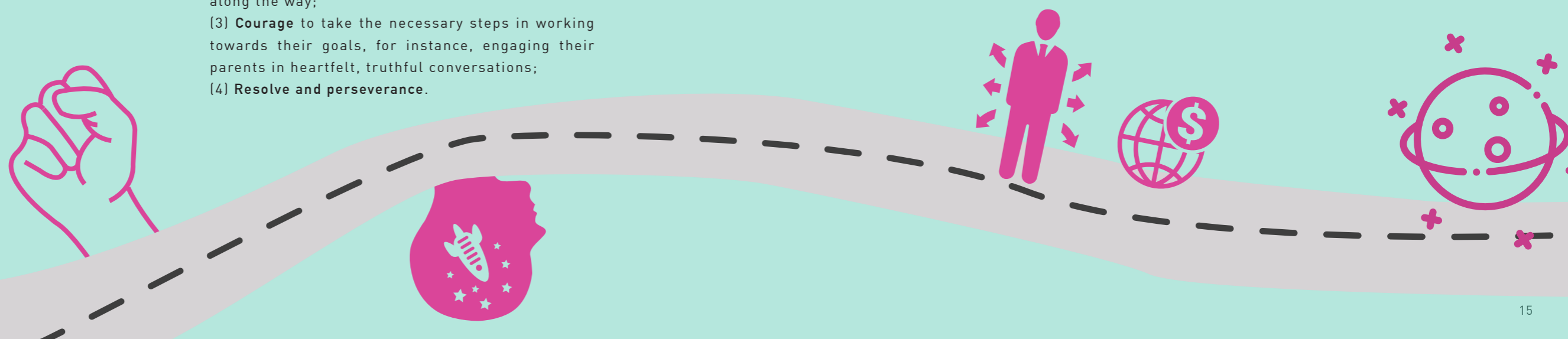
After his counselling sessions with Sharon, the student learnt to appreciate the value of his Accountancy course. After doing more in-depth research on the gaming industry, he saw that gaming was really just a hobby.

For Sharon, this experience impressed upon her the value of her work as an ECG Counsellor as she had helped directly in the student’s development of self-awareness and self-knowledge, and to stay committed to a decision made.



Ms. Sharon Xie
ECG Counsellor
Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College West

“Stay committed to a decision made.”



Keep Learning. Be Resilient.

Ambiga has counselled students who are uncertain about their career paths. She remembers in particular a student who wanted to quit after her first year because she lacked confidence and had lost interest in her course. The student was very lost. Ambiga shared that the student felt she was not able to move on because she had no strengths in the course. Students who approach the ECG Counsellor in this state will be at their lowest point.

Ambiga gets a lot of job satisfaction from helping students to examine and identify their strengths. Highlighting these aspects helps the students to build up their confidence.

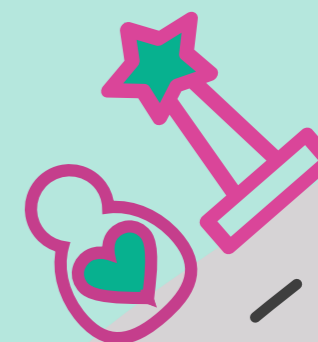
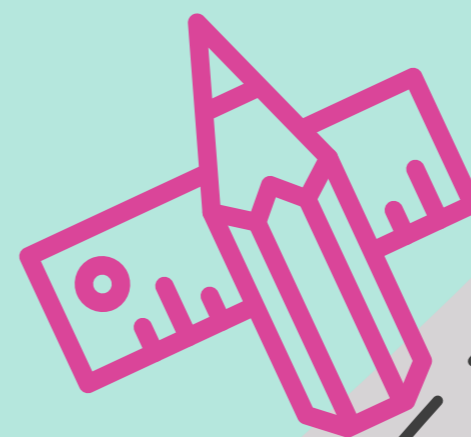
'I got her to identify her strengths and align them to the course of study she was pursuing, but ultimately she was the one who had to change her mindset of defeat and failure, and see that she was capable of surmounting her difficulties. ECG helped her to become properly aware of her strengths, which made her change her mind about leaving the poly. It would have been a pity if she had left!'

To thrive in the ever-changing contemporary work landscape, Ambiga believes that lifelong learning, resilience and adaptability are three key qualities that students need to cultivate.



Ms. Ambiga Krishnasamy
ECG Counsellor
Republic Polytechnic

“Ultimately she was the one who had to change her mindset of defeat and failure, and see that she was capable of surmounting her difficulties.”



PARENTS

Who Journey With Love

Parents play a significant role in guiding our children to discover what their unique attributes and interests are, guiding them to make informed decisions in their education and career explorations.

At key stages, parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the possible education and career options aligned with their children's interests, abilities and passion.

The more we know about what our children value, what they are interested in and what they are good at, the better we are at guiding them. The best way to find out about our children's aspirations is to communicate with them their education plans and career preferences.



Mr. Zainal Osman
 Father of Siti Sakinah
(Student in Nanyang Polytechnic)



Being My Child's Comfort And Source Of Love

Zainal's daughter, Siti Sakinah is in her final year at Nanyang Polytechnic. She has been severely visually impaired since she was born, but her parents have raised her like their other three children, giving her, their youngest, unstinting love and support.

Small acts of love can go a long way. 'We tell her there's always a future for her,' Zainal said. He works as a taxi driver while his wife runs a stall in a school canteen, but that has never stopped them from giving their children the best. Zainal shared that he has enrolled Siti in music lessons because she loves music.

“Small acts of love can go a long way.”

Within their own means, both parents aim to provide an array of experiences for their children, especially Siti. They believe that through various activities and interactions with different people, their children will discover their own interests, abilities and passion.



Being A Trusted Friend To My Child

Ms. Lilian Tng
 Mother of Joel Tan
(Student in Nanyang Junior College)

Witnessing his grandparents being stricken with stroke and cancer, **Joel** was inspired to be a doctor. However, in 2016, after his maternal grandfather and paternal grandmother both passed on, Joel was so badly affected he decided to abandon his dream of going to medical school.

Lilian remains steadfast in her love and support for her son. 'I've raised him to be independent. He has always made decisions for himself. At the same time he knows that he can always come to me for a listening ear and advice. He knows I am his friend.'

After Joel's results are released, **Lilian** will sit down with him and they will put their heads together and have a heart-to-heart talk about his next step for university.



“He can always come to me for a listening ear and advice. He knows I'm his friend.”



Mr. Leong Yeong Cherng
 Father of Lynette Leong
(Student in Republic Polytechnic)

“Our attention to our children's world is all that matters.”

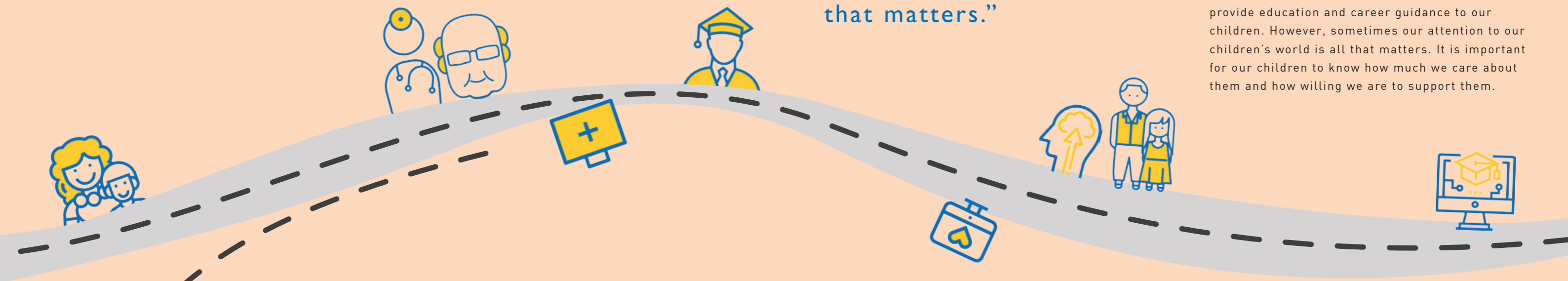
Being An Encouraging And Supportive Presence In My Child's Life

The timely support of ECG in education institutions is appreciated by parents like **Yeong Cherng**. His daughter **Lynette** graduated from ITE and is currently in the first year of her diploma in Wellness Health & Spa Management at Republic Polytechnic.

Initially, **Lynette** was not sure about her field of interest and she was advised to see the ECG Counsellor at ITE. To demonstrate his support, **Yeong Cherng** accompanied **Lynette** to most of her ECG counselling sessions and reinforced the advice provided by the ECG Counsellor.

'I am very glad that MOE has put in place ECG support and services for young people who are still unsure as to what their course of study should be. When **Lynette** was at crossroads and I was not sure how to help her, the ECG Counsellor re-affirmed her interests and suggested various courses that might be suitable for her. The counsellor also suggested how I could guide her through ECG counselling.'

It is common for parents to feel ill-equipped to provide education and career guidance to our children. However, sometimes our attention to our children's world is all that matters. It is important for our children to know how much we care about them and how willing we are to support them.





Being Attentive To My Children's Interests And Aptitude

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ng
Parents of Daniel Ng
(Student in St. Hilda's Secondary School)

“Conversations about Daniel's future course of study at university and possible career paths frequently take place around the dinner table.”

As proud parents of three children, **Benjamin** and his wife **Grace** have always been supportive of their children's interests. Their youngest son, **Daniel** has a strong interest in flying and since Secondary 1 he has been a member of the Singapore Youth Flying Club. During a Career Fair organised by Daniel's school, St. Hilda's Secondary School, the couple became aware of the ECG counselling service and Grace decided to make an appointment to meet Kate, the ECG Counsellor.

‘We thought why not go and find out what was available,’ Grace said. With the combined support from school and home providing accurate and comprehensive information, Daniel was able to explore viable education and career options. As a sign of family encouragement and support, conversations about Daniel's future course of study at university and possible career paths frequently take place around the dinner table.



Observe Our Children And Discover What Makes Them Unique

Mr. and Mrs. Mohd Rafi bin Sarip
Parents of Nur Aqidah bte Mohd Rafi
(Student in Pei Hwa Secondary School)

Being in touch with the needs of others is something **Rahayu** and her husband **Mohd Rafi** have always encouraged in their children. Rahayu shared that she encourages all her four children to make donations and to take part in charity activities. ‘Helping others to improve their lives is fulfilling work.’

Through the family's engagement in community work, Rahayu and her husband observed that their second daughter **Nur Aqidah** is empathetic and patient with others. It did not surprise them when their daughter shared her aspiration to be a social worker; she told them she planned to pursue *Nitec* in Community Care and Social Services.

As parents, the way that we observe our children as they go about their everyday interests is a reflection of our love and respect for them as individuals in their own right. Knowing our children's interests, abilities and passion will enable us to better guide them in their education and career journeys.

“Knowing our children's interests, abilities and passion will enable us to better guide them in their education and career journeys.”



Journey Through The World Of Work With ECG PARTNERS

To complement existing efforts in ECG, ECG partners such as alumni, community and industry partners collaborate with schools to bring the world of work to students and ECG practitioners. As part of the national SkillsFuture movement, there are continuous efforts to empower students to make informed education and career choices in school and beyond graduation.

The ECG partners provide up-to-date industry information through career talks, learning journeys and profession development of ECG practitioners. In today's landscape of diverse study and work options, knowledge of trends in the industry sectors can do a lot to enhance students' competency in making informed choices for their journeys in education or careers.

Tapping on the support and expertise of the wider community is pivotal to the success of ECG.



Begin A Journey Of Exploration With Us

Mr. Wong Yi Fong
Co-Founder
*The Apprenticeship
Collective (TAC)*

Together with eight friends from university, Yi Fong co-founded The Apprenticeship Collective (TAC) in 2014. They had noticed that among their own circle of friends, there were people who did not enjoy what they had studied in school, yet they chose a career in that field and ended up dreading their jobs.

'We set up TAC because we want to give students opportunities to try their hand at different jobs in a relatively low-stakes environment. We want to let them discover the types of work they enjoy, to see for themselves what they do not enjoy, and most importantly, to discover the reasons why.'

TAC is run by volunteers from a broad spectrum of working life. Currently there are over 50 volunteers who are involved as mentors and organizers. The mentors actively share their personal stories about what motivated them to pursue their careers, so that they can be role models for the students.

“We want to give students opportunities to try their hand at different jobs in a relatively low-stakes environment.”

The Apprenticeship Collective's Outreach in Schools:

- The first TAC programme piloted at Peicai Secondary School in 2014
- TAC has gone on to work closely with other schools, engaging with over 500 student participants
- Each programme lasts six weeks and features mentors from eight diverse professions
- 1st week: students go through a rotation of four different professions, a taster of what it means to be in that particular profession
- 2nd to 5th weeks: students are assigned to one particular profession to find out in-depth what being in that profession entails
- 6th and final week: parents, industry partners, teachers and friends of the students are invited to a dialogue session to help them reflect on their learning



Getting The Information Out There

Ms. Tan Hoon Wee
Principal Manager,
Manpower Planning
Department
*Building and Construction
Authority (BCA)*



Hoon Wee is a Principal Manager overseeing career promotion at the Manpower Planning Department of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). In the last ten years, she has handled university scholarship matters and ECG outreach.

A mother with two adult children, she shared that her interest in ECG began with a personal experience back in 2011 when her daughter completed her GCE 'A' Level examinations and expressed interest in pursuing a career in accountancy.

Hoon Wee was stumped as her work forte is in architecture and engineering and she knows next to nothing about accountancy. She then realised that many parents were probably in the same shoes as her. That got her thinking about doing something in her field.

This experience spurred Hoon Wee to start the BCA-Industry Job Shadowing Programme, designed to help students make informed decisions about a career in the built environment (BE) sector.

'It is about getting the information out there.' For her, the most satisfying aspect of her job occurs whenever she sees sparks in the students' eyes. 'You know you have nailed it, that they have found their interest.'

“You know you have nailed it, that they have found their interest.”

BCA's ECG-Related Initiatives:

1. BCA-Industry Job Shadowing Programme
 - Duration of two and a half weeks in January every year
 - Part I: Introducing students to the six main professions in the BE sector: architecture, civil and structural engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, quantity surveying, project management, and facility management
 - Part 2: Internship with firms in the sector
2. Learning Journey at the BCA Academy in 2015
 - Attended by close to a hundred ECG counsellors and Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) educators.
3. Workshops at ECG Fair for Secondary 2 students



NCS Group's ECG-Related Initiatives:

1. Internship Programme
 - Duration of six months
 - Pilot first intake had 50 interns
2. Earn & Learn Programme
 - targetted at interns who are keen on pursuing further studies.

“The internship places students in the shoes of their work mentors.”

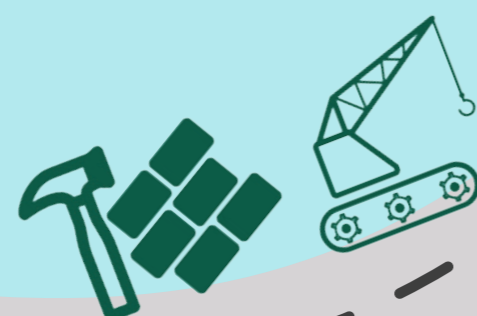
Providing Quality On-The-Job Training For Better Careers

Mr. Chun Kwong Chee
Director, Business
Operations and Strategy,
Enterprise Data and
Managed Services (EDMS)
NCS Group Pte Ltd

Kwong Chee shared that their internship programme with ITE College East started in 2015. It was a simple idea to begin with. He shared that the company needed interns for the SEA GAMES Project. As this was the first working experience for many students, a training consultant was engaged to teach them necessary soft skills and understand the job scopes in high performance teams.

The pilot programme was a success and the internship programme continues to run to this day with growing numbers in each year's intake. The company has also recruited employees through the programme.

An internship experience exposes students to the authentic expectations of careers and the demands of working life by placing them in the shoes of their work mentors. The students can develop good work attitudes and essential work skills. The internship experience is thus beneficial in helping students make a smoother transition from school life to working life.





Inspiring And Discovering New Talents

Mr. Ian Gregory
Co-founder and Creative Director
Witching Hour Studios

“There is more than one golden path to success in life.”

Witching Hour Studios’ School Outreach:

- Interactive sessions with either Q and A or activities like getting students to make a card game
- Sharing of resources such as YouTube videos and reference materials in libraries
- Sharing information on the games industry to correct poor public perception, exploring subjects like game addiction and the moral responsibilities of game developers

‘I go in and talk about the wonders we do to make games!’ Ian shared. ‘I show the students how it is a collaborative process with inputs from people across very different fields – design, art, programming, business. Everyone has come together to put something of value out into the world.’

As Vice-President of the local game developer’s association (IGDAISG), Ian often interacts with the Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA). They know that he is interested in education and outreach, so they introduced him to the ECG Unit in MOE.

What keeps Ian going back is his belief that students need to know that there is more than one golden path to success in life, and there are all kinds of possibilities waiting for them to pick from in the future. He is also motivated by the hope that he can inspire the students to see the games sector as a career avenue. He wants the students to know that the gaming industry has exponential growth and he hopes they can be part of it in future.

Mentors And Mentees As Fellow Travellers On Learning Journeys

Mr. Lim Fang Chien
Director, Human Resources
Barclays

“The by-product of mentoring is not the mentee but the mentor.”

Barclays’ ECG-Related Programme:

- IMN was started in December 2015
- Mentors work closely with the students providing career and industry advice, work shadowing, office visits, training in CV writing and interview skills as well as psychometric assessments

To date, more than 50 employees of Barclays in different business areas – Human Resources, Finance, Operations, Audit, Corporate Real Estate, Technology and Legal – have mentored close to 200 students of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Engaged mentees and their mentors have given very strong feedback and endorsement on the Industry Mentor Network (IMN) initiative. One of the success indicators for Barclays is that a vast number of mentees are still in touch with their mentors even after they have left Ngee Ann.

Fang Chien, Director of Human Resources at Barclays, drummed up support for the programme from his colleagues. He shared:

‘The greatest value my Barclays colleagues and I have derived from the IMN is the development and honing of their skills in coaching, mentoring and at times counselling. Indeed, the by-product of mentoring is not the mentee but the mentor.’



Reflections On Their Journeys: Voices From The ALUMNI

Helping Others At Similar Crossroads

Huiqi, currently pursuing her BA in Human Resources at Singapore University of Social Sciences, remembers benefitting from a talk about the JP Morgan Apprenticeship Programme she had attended whilst she was studying at Singapore Polytechnic.

'I was not sure if I should apply for the apprenticeship programme and defer my entrance to the university. Hearing what my seniors who had been selected for it in the programme's inaugural year had to say, I was struck by how much they had enjoyed and learnt from their experience. Conversing with them allayed my worries, so I decided to apply for a place.'



Ms. Fwu Huiqi
Alumnus,
Singapore Polytechnic

The individuals who return to their previous institutions to give talks and advice are motivated by a simple desire – to help their juniors who may be facing the difficulties that they themselves had faced in the recent past.

The information provided by alumni may very well answer some of the questions in the minds of the listening students.





Mr. Jimmy Chua
Alumnus,
Anderson Junior College

Great And Good Things Can Happen When You Follow Your Heart

Jimmy has also gone back to his alma mater Anderson Junior College to mentor students and give talks about his unconventional career journey. He has followed his heart in all his career decisions, forging pathways with interesting twists and turns.

After his undergraduate degree at SMU, Jimmy did his Masters on a MOE research scholarship, followed by a PhD in Finance at SMU in 2012. However, with his growing passion in being an entrepreneur, Jimmy subsequently changed to another PhD programme at the University of Glasgow specialising in Entrepreneurship.

‘Today, I am part of several businesses under the brands “TEAPRESSO”, “OKI-MACHI” and “GAME ONE” having operations in Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand.’

Jimmy hopes that through his talks and mentoring, the students at Anderson will gain something from his experience as an entrepreneur and author, and develop trust and confidence in their hearts to realise their dreams.

“Develop trust and confidence in their hearts to realise their dreams.”



Spreading The Word About Support From ECG

Mr. Shanger Pannerchelvam
Alumnus,
Institute of Technical Education
(ITE), College Central

Alumni can raise awareness about the channels of support that have been put in place to help young people with their career and further education decision-making. Shanger graduated from Institute of Technical Education (ITE) earlier this year and is now doing a diploma in Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design at Nanyang Polytechnic.

‘I have a lot of friends and many of them do not know about ECG or what the Counsellor could do to help us.’

Shanger credits the ECG Counsellor at ITE, Miss Joey, for his success at being admitted into his desired course at the polytechnic. For this reason, he returns to ITE frequently to share his experience and journey with his juniors.

John Tan and Darren Ng are alumni of Ping Yi Secondary School who have returned to their alma mater to give talks.

Letting My Juniors Know The Importance Of Setting A Goal

Mr. John Tan
Alumnus,
Ping Yi Secondary School

John, a Year 2 student in Integrated Facility Management at Temasek Polytechnic, was invited by one of his teachers to share his journey with his juniors who needed some encouragement and motivation for their post-secondary options.

When John went back to Ping Yi Secondary School to talk to his juniors, John told them to set a goal. For him, it was to pass English, his weakest subject. He wanted his juniors to know that it is possible to overcome learning difficulties through determination and hard work.



“It is possible to overcome learning difficulties through determination and hard work.”



Mr. Darren Ng
Alumnus,
Ping Yi Secondary School

“I just feel I need to give back.”

Giving Back Is My Way Of Saying “Thank You” To My School

Darren comes from a Mandarin-speaking family and has struggled for a long time to gain proficiency in English.

Two years have passed since Darren got into his dream course in Temasek Polytechnic, yet when he was interviewed about his old school, his voice grew thick with emotion.

He was indebted, he said, to his teachers and his former Principal, Madam Shanti who gave motivational talks to the whole school every morning. The talks were called ‘Values for Breakfast’ and they gave him a lot of encouragement. Today Darren goes back and gives talks to his juniors as an expression of his gratitude.

Going back to share his learning journey with his juniors is the most natural thing in the world to Darren. ‘I just feel I need to give back.’



Conclusion

Finding Meaning In Journeying Together



If there is one lesson that can be drawn from the stories shared in this publication, it is that there is purpose and meaning in every journey, and guiding others find theirs. Everyone can play a significant role in helping others discover their direction. ECG is as much about the self-awareness and determination of individuals to pursue their aspirations as it is about the coming together of communities to nurture and support the growth of our youth – the future of our nation.

There is purpose and meaning in journeying together.

ECG Resources



**Journeying with Our Children,
Achieving their Aspirations**
www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/ecg-parent-guide
A Guide for Parents in ECG, titled, *Journeying with Our Children, Achieving their Aspiration* is a publication intended to support parents with tips and advice on ECG, and considerations at key education stages to guide their children.



The Next Step Forward
www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/next-step-forward
This e-book illustrates how 42 individuals go through diverse education and career pathways. There are many options that cater to the students' needs to help them succeed in their selected paths.



What's Next
www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/whats-next
This is an interactive resource to scaffold the decision-making process for GCE 'N', 'O' and 'A' Levels students at key education stages.



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