

New Initiative: Character Education

In the new academic year, we are placing a renewed emphasis on character education at Imperial International School. While academic achievement remains an important part of our students' journey, we believe that education must also help shape the kind of people they become.

Inspired by the principles of Character First Education, our aim is to make character a meaningful and visible part of everyday school life. Rather than treating character as something that is discussed only occasionally, we want our students to understand that good character is something we practise through our everyday choices and actions.

To support this, we are introducing a monthly Character Focus. At the beginning of each month, a particular character trait is introduced to the whole school during assembly. This provides our students with a common focus and an opportunity to think about what that character looks like in their own lives.

The conversation then continues throughout the month during Homeroom time, where teachers and students explore the character trait further through discussion, reflection and real-life situations. The intention is not simply for students to know the definition of a character trait, but to recognise how they can demonstrate it in the classroom, with their friends, at home and in the wider community.



"Our aim is to make character a meaningful and visible part of everyday school life."

We will ensure our students become active participants in the initiative. Each class will be given a character focus, and the students are responsible for creating a classroom environment that reflects that character. Through their displays, decorations and creative ideas, they will have the opportunity to interpret the character in their own way and make it part of their everyday surroundings.

I believe this student ownership is particularly important. Character education should not simply be something adults tell students about. When students are given the opportunity to think about, discuss and represent a character trait themselves, it becomes something they can take ownership of.

After all, character is developed through the small choices we make every day — showing respect, taking responsibility, persevering when things are difficult, being honest, showing kindness and doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

These qualities may not appear on an examination paper, but they are essential for success beyond school. This initiative is closely connected to our school vision, Excellence in Learning, Leadership for Life. We want our students to achieve academically, but we also want them to develop the character and values needed to lead themselves, work with others and contribute positively to the world around them.

As we continue through the year, I hope our Character Focus becomes more than a monthly theme on a classroom wall. I hope it becomes something our students begin to recognise in themselves and in one another. Because ultimately, education is not only about what we learn. It is also about who we become.

We also invite our parents to be part of this journey. As each month's Character Focus is introduced, we encourage families to revisit the character trait at home, talk about what it means and look for simple opportunities for their children to practise it in everyday life. When the same values are reinforced both at school and at home, character education becomes far more meaningful and lasting.



~ by Mr Tristan (Deputy Principal)

Celebrating our Heritage with Pride

SELAMAT HARI MERDEKA!



On 31 August 1957, the Federation of Malaya (now Malaysia) stood tall as an independent nation. At Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, the flag of the Federation of Malaya (now Jalur Gemilang) was raised proudly while Tunku Abdul Rahman, our first Prime Minister, declared “Merdeka!” seven times. That powerful cry echoed the hopes of millions and marked the beginning of a new chapter for our country.

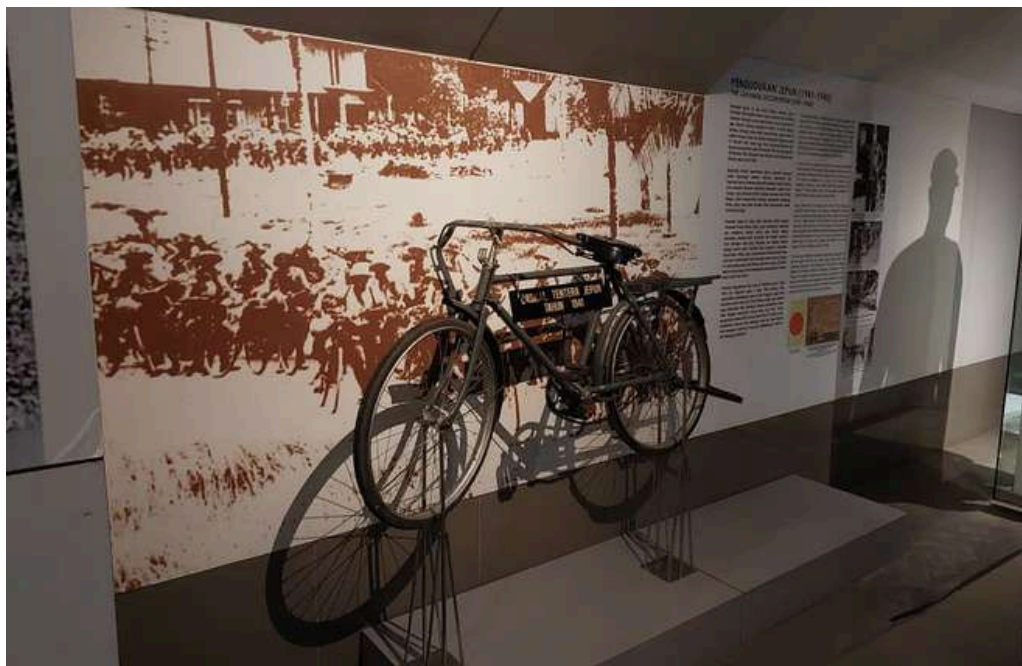
The journey to independence was shaped by centuries of colonial rule. The Portuguese first arrived in Melaka in 1511, followed by the Dutch in 1641, and later the British in the 18th century. By the mid-20th century, the people of Malaya were determined to reclaim their sovereignty. The controversial Malayan Union plan of 1946 sparked widespread resistance, uniting Malays, Chinese, and Indians in a common cause. This opposition led to the creation of the Federation of Malaya in 1948, which restored the powers of the Malay rulers and set the stage for self-governance.

In 1955, the first general election was held, with Tunku Abdul Rahman’s Alliance Party winning a decisive victory. This gave him the mandate to negotiate with the British government, and by February 1956, the independence agreement was signed in London. Independence was first proclaimed in Melaka later that year, symbolising the nation’s readiness for freedom.

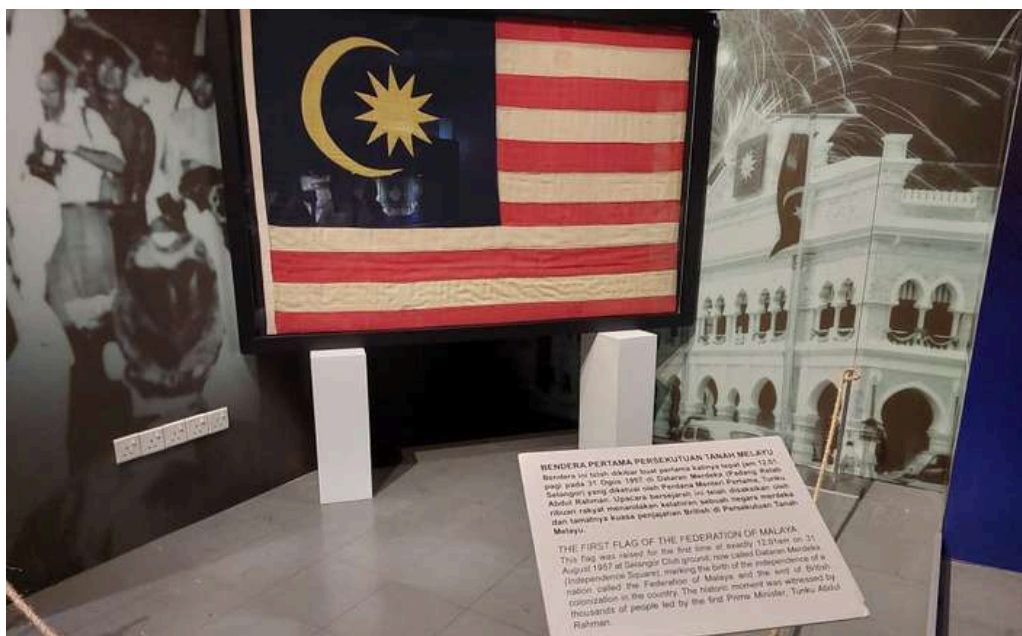


Stadium Merdeka was then constructed in record time to host the historic ceremony. On that morning in 1957, more than 20,000 people gathered to witness history unfold, as the Union Jack was lowered and the flag of the Federation of Malaya rose high. The moment was not just political—it was deeply emotional, representing unity, courage, and the sacrifices of countless Malaysians.

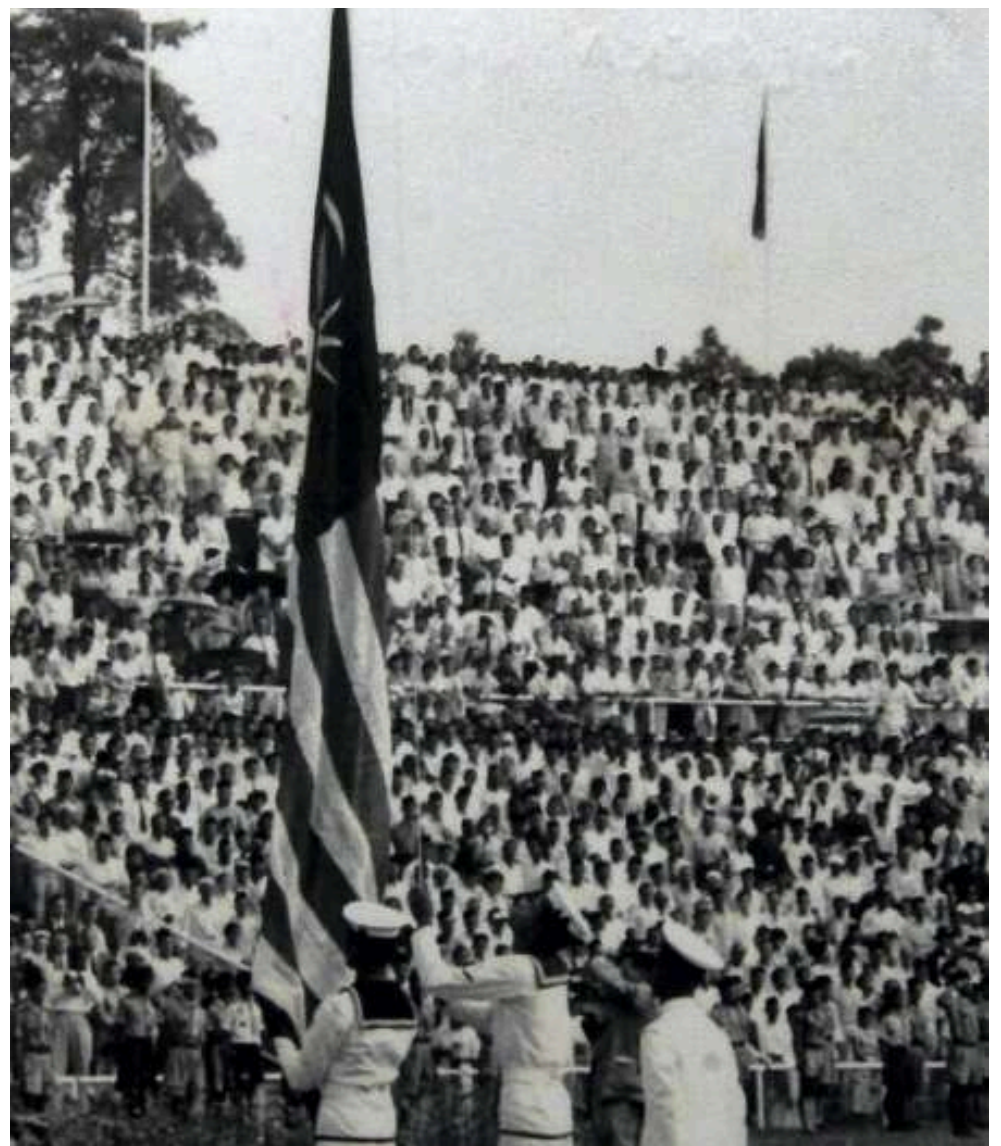
Since then, Merdeka Day has been celebrated annually with parades, cultural performances, and military displays, reminding us of the strength of our diversity and the enduring spirit of independence. It is a day that honours the past while inspiring future generations to uphold the values of freedom and unity.



Bicycle used by the Japanese soldiers during the Japanese Occupation



The First Flag of The Federation of Malaya



The national flag was raised to the accompaniment of the Negaraku anthem.

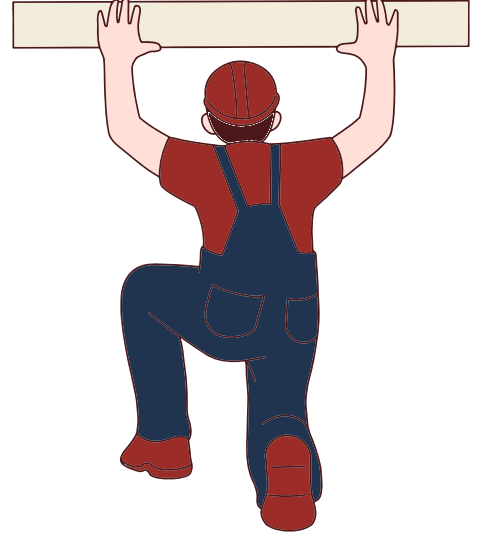
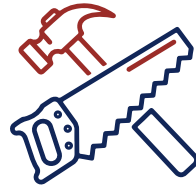
Photo by Raja Jaafar Ali / Relevant.com.my

Fun Facts

- Independence was first proclaimed in Melaka in 1956 before the big event in KL.
- Stadium Merdeka was built in just six months for the independence ceremony.
- Over 20,000 people witnessed the first Merdeka celebration in 1957.
- A 101-gun salute was fired to mark the official birth of the nation.
- Thousands of people participated in the celebrations, making the event a huge national gathering rather than simply a formal government ceremony.
- The five petals of the Bunga Raya (hibiscus) are linked to the five principles of the Rukun Negara.
- The annual Merdeka parade showcases Malaysia's rich cultural diversity, military strength, and national pride.

~ by Ms Karen

Campus Makeovers over the Break



A fresh look for a fresh start! A huge thank you to our **dedicated staff and student volunteer painters for transforming our learning spaces over the break.**

While the hallways have been quiet over the year-end break, the campus has been buzzing with activity behind the scenes. We have been hard at work making improvements to ensure our students return to an even better learning environment. First off, a massive thank you to our incredible staff and student volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and dedicated their break to giving the school a vibrant new look with fresh coats of paint.

That is just the beginning. As our Key Stage 1 students move to Level 2 for the new academic year, they will be greeted by a brand-new, fully equipped sick bay designed to provide prompt and comfortable medical care right on their floor. Meanwhile, upper school life is getting an upgrade too, with the opening of our new computer lab on Level 5. Secondary students will also notice some exciting classroom re-alignments and a move into the West Wing as we optimize our spaces for the new academic year.

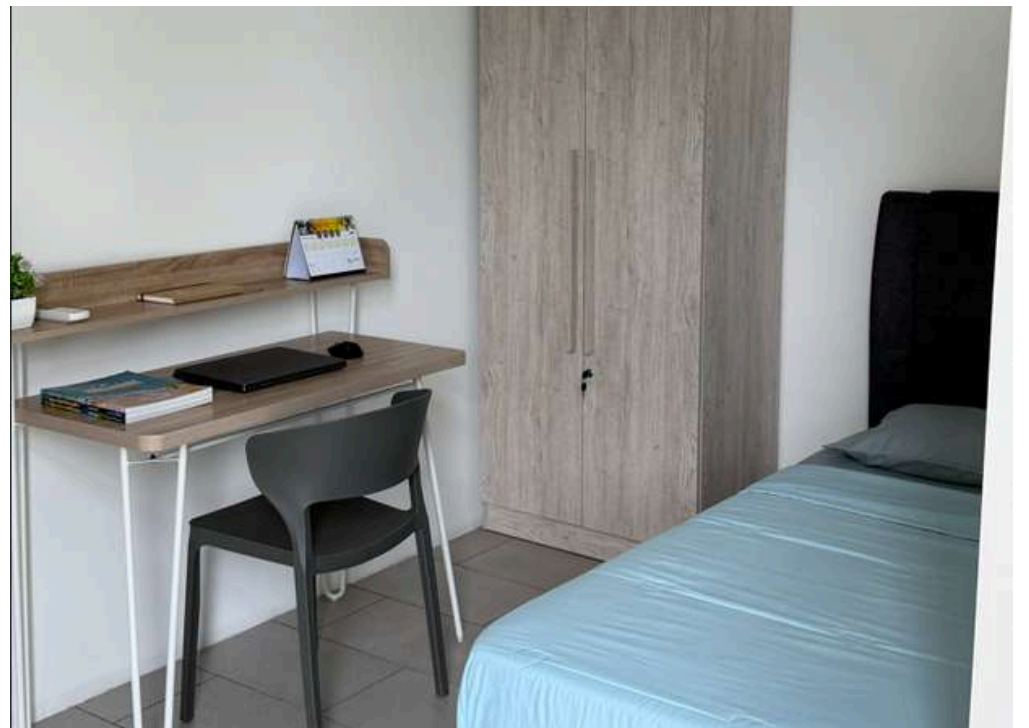
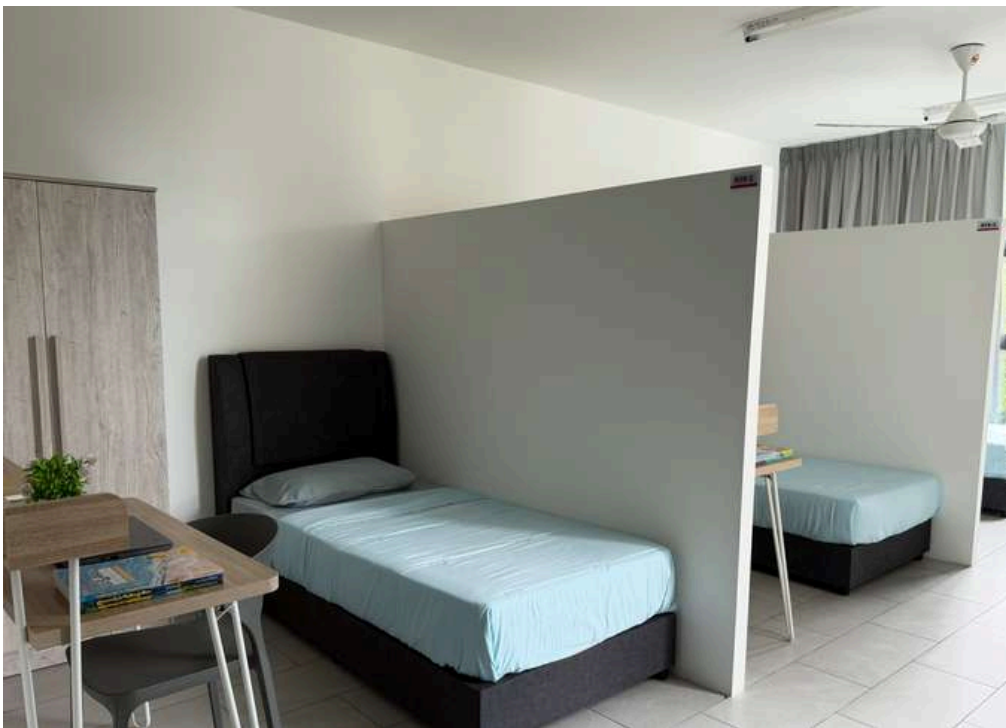
We don't want to give away all the surprises, so we will leave the rest for you to discover on your first day back. Get ready for an amazing year ahead!

~ by Ms Jerrica

Home Away from Home: Inside our Boarding Community



THE BOARDERS' COMMON AREA



THE BOARDERS' ROOM

Life at our boarding house continues to evolve as we work behind the scenes on facility improvements and upgrades, aiming to provide a comfortable environment for our boarders to relax, study, and thrive.

After all, what's more exciting than living, learning, and growing alongside a community you already get along with so well right here at school?

Whether it is utilizing the common spaces or exploring the new amenities tailored for our students, our boarding community offers a steady home-away-from-home experience. For more details on the latest updates and boarding, please feel free to reach out to us at 05-237 5188.

What's New in Our Leadership Team



Shawn Shim Tet Chon
Principal



Tristan Brendon Tann
Deputy Principal & Head of Languages



Faye Chin Chi Hoong
Operations Manager &
Head of Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)



Mogantheren R. Bhaskaran
Head of Science & Mathematics



Sarah Banu Binti Abdullah
Head of Early Years & Key Stage 1



Azira Binti Azman
Head of Art & Humanities



Bavani A/P Nandakumal
Head of Pastoral Care



Norfazilatun Binti Mohd Zin
Head of Examinations



Lawrence Peh Eng Chuang
Resources Coordinator

"Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is progress. Working together is success." ~ Hendry Ford