

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Made in ACS(I), for His Glory!

**S**afety bollards protect pedestrians from oncoming vehicles by providing a physical barrier around the perimeter of a road.

At ACS(I), the 35 bollards that have been constructed at the Spaceframe and the Roundabout serve to do this, and more.

In 2021, Deputy Principal Mr Terence Chiew and I were talking about creating a safety barrier at the Roundabout while students wait for their parents to pick them up. Given a high traffic of cars driving through before the start of school and at dismissal time, we decided on bollards to be built around the perimeter to better guide traffic and mark boundaries.



**Close up of the 1989 medallion.**

As this conversation was going on, the Senior Administration and I were also working out plans to mark our 35th year as an Independent School. Our 136th Founder's Day was seen as an appropriate occasion to call for a double celebration.

Then the idea of a Heritage Bollard hit us.

Hence, 35 Heritage Bollards, each mounted with a medallion on top, to recollect a significant moment in ACS' history from the time ACS achieved independent status in 1988, were birthed.

**Mr. Arene Koh**  
Principal  
ACS (Independent)



Mr Jarett Kan, who documents our history, was pivotal in identifying a significant event in our school's story from 1988. He went through past publications to determine a noteworthy moment in each year that could be re-told on the medallion. Then, with the events identified, members of the school family who were connected to each event were approached to install the medallion for the year. Mdm Asmah Bte Kamani, who joined ACS in 1981, installed the medallion that marks the burial of the Millennium Time Capsule in 2000 as she was present for the event. Our canteen drinks stall lady affectionately known as "aunty" - Mdm Goh Ming Kiau, installed our 2013 medallion that commemorated our our 25th



**Right to left: Mr Samuel Sim holding the 1988 medallion; Mdm Yong Lee Har holding the 1989 medallion**

year as an Independent school. The celebration culminated in our publication of a compilation of recipes entitled "A Celebration of Food, Family and Fellowship", where she contributed a recipe on Ice Lemon Tea. The captains of Lee Seng Gee, Tan Chin Tuan and Shaw Vee Meng House



**Mdm Goh Ming Keow standing behind the 2013 bollard.**

came together to install the 2005 medallion to mark the introduction of these three new houses. The PSG Chairman, Mr Choo Choon Teck, installed the '1991 medallion' - the year our ACS(I) PSG was established.



**Mr Shaun Choo placing the 1997 medallion.**

Sealing the last two medallions on our Heritage Bollards were Chairman of the ACS Board of Governors and ACS(I) Board of Management, Mr Richard Seow, who installed the 2021 medallion that centres on ACS135, the opening of the Heritage and Alumni Centre at ACS(I) and our 11th Scout Troop's centennial. Our Guest-of-Honour, Bishop Dr Gordon Wong,

who placed the final medallion for 2022 marks the commission of these 35 Heritage Bollards to celebrate our 136th Founder's Day and ACS(I)'s 35th year as an independent school.

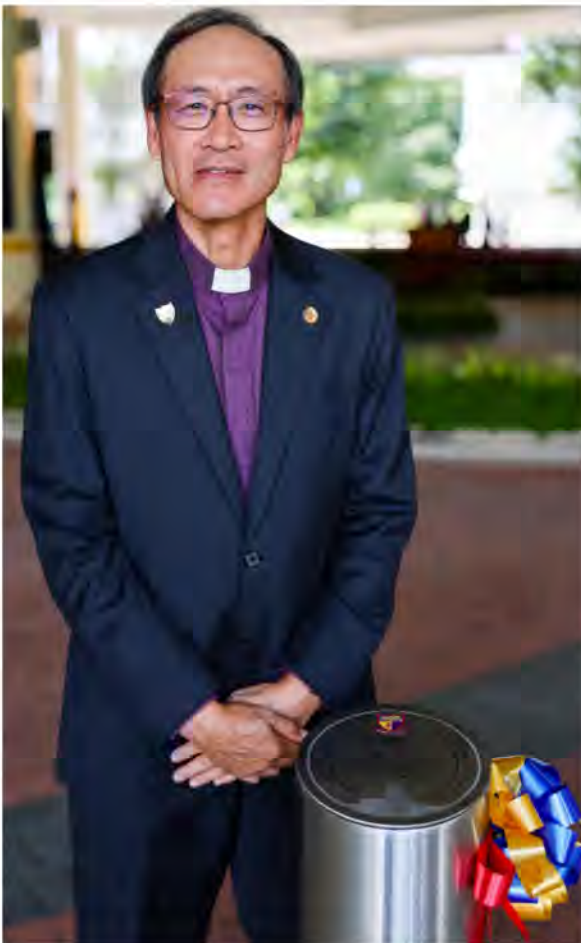


**Chairman of the ACS Board of Governors and ACS(I) Board of Management Mr Richard Seow with the 2021 bollard**

Besides working on which event to feature and who to install the medallion, the design of the bollard and of each medallion itself was also an ACS(I) endeavour. While it was an easy decision to have "ACS" that is found on our school emblem laser-engraved on the bollard, the design of the medallion was a more complex affair. We went through different proposals that were self-designed, and then shortlisted two designs and had mock-ups made for them. The decided design was unanimous. Besides our school crest in colour, a silhouette of the ACS(I) clock tower, the theme verse of the year (when there was one) and an etching of the chosen event of the year, it included an inscription of the name of the person who would install the medallion.

From the identification of the event for each year and a member of the school family who would install the medallion, to the design of bollards and the medallions, to the script for the medallion installation ceremony, and the proceedings of the Installation Ceremony of these medallions on the 35 Heritage Bollards on our 136th Founder's Day, these were all proudly "Made In ACS(I)".

But beyond the fact that these were completely done "in-house", it is in remembrance and celebration of God's love and faithfulness to ACS that these 35 Heritage Bollards are all about.



**Guest-of-Honour Bishop Dr Gordon Wong with the 2022 bollard**

As the words of "Be Thou My Vision" sung by our school choir reverberated through the Roundabout after we installed our 35th medallion, we are reminded that our ACS story, though changing over the years, have held one constant. God, our God of ages past, and our Hope for years to come, has been, and will always be our 'Vision'. As Pastor Khoo Kay Huat mentioned in his closing prayer after the Installation Ceremony of the 35 Medallions, that while we celebrate '35 years as an Independent School', we will always remain 'dependent on God'.

For it has been God who has built ACS and with it raised many unseen and unnamed members of the school family, both past and present, whose leadership, service and labour of love have steered the school through our ups and downs.

And so it must be our response, that in everything that is "Made in ACS(I)", be made for His Glory. ///

*Photos by Mr Richard Seow and the ACS(I) Photographic Society.*



**School Choir Performance at the roundabout.**