



PRESENT PERFECT

elc

Alumni News · 2022

CONTENTS

Message from

Mrs. Chong

Alumni

Andy Chuang Yu-Hsiang

Arthur Sutton

Carmen Chow

Christie Alison Fletcher

Deanna Raezza Mohd Husni

Divya Kolakada

Eric Okuma

Gilang Bonaventura Mario Putra Setitit

Karam Puri

Mitchell Kong

Mia (Myra) Hood

Natalie Petersen

Nicholas Chim

Pascal van Luit

Rayyan Shan

Sarinah Farooq

Suraj Rikhraj

Messages from

Mr. Nicolaas van der Pas

Mrs. Kimberley van Luit

Message from



Mrs. Chong
PRINCIPAL OF SECONDARY

Covid-19 has wreaked havoc in so many lives worldwide, disrupting routines, interactions, and life as we know it. With so many changes these days, it is always reassuring to turn back to the past to reflect on people who have come into our lives and made a difference, no matter how small it may have been.

Our annual trip down memory lane via Present Perfect is always one filled with sweet memories of a particular group of students, remembering certain characters in that class or something that happened in the classroom. In this fifth issue of the alumni magazine, I am pleased to present a few young men and women who have made **elc** the school that it is today.

School life is not always about achieving the excellent grades or being top in the Year. It is about making lifelong friends, learning values which shape you, and learning about who you truly are. The alumni featured in this issue remember our school with much fondness, despite having left **elc** so many years ago. Together with the messages from a former science teacher who is now back in The Netherlands and a former **elc** parent who was also the President of the PA at one time, our magazine this year continues to be a collaboration of rich diversity which is **elc**.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as we have in putting this together.

Andy Chuang Yu-Hsiang

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2000-2011

NATIONALITY
Taiwanese

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF
YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

The red Kembara in which my mom drove me to school and the same water bottle I used for over 10 years in **elc**.

Forming a k-pop dance group in high school and performing during prom.

My buddies who played basketball with me after school.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

Being disciplined and to be respectful to others. Always follow your passion and never give up.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Mathematics. It was like puzzle solving and did not require studying or memorising.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

Warm, Passionate and Aspiring



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
University of Dundee

COURSE STUDIED
Medicine

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
Surgical Registrar in Urology

CURRENT LOCATION
Manchester, United Kingdom

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Nothing! I was happy with who I was and that got me to become the person who I am today.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

You only get to live your **elc** life once, so enjoy yourself and cherish every single moment of it.



Arthur Sutton

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2005-2015

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

I remember giving public speeches during morning assembly and having terrible stage fright. I was given the opportunity to speak about US politics and being a vegetarian. **elc** is a great place to step out of your comfort zone and participate in activities that will build your confidence. The confidence I gained from participating in various speeches and performances for the school meant that upon graduating I had a good foundation to be an effective public speaker.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

elc taught me how to maintain a high level of discipline. Prior to joining **elc**, I lacked discipline, but after some scolding from my teachers I slowly became more able to focus on tasks which I did not particularly enjoy. After leaving **elc**, I realised that it is sometimes necessary to get through the boring tasks in order to get to the exciting ones and it makes the exciting tasks every bit as worth it.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

History. I always enjoyed learning about the ways in which people in the past conducted themselves and interacted with one another, as well as the events that shape the way in which we live now.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
University of Essex, UK

COURSE STUDIED
Law

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Trainee lawyer in a legal firm last year and now studying the Barrister Training Course (Bar Course) full time at Lincolns Inn, London.

CURRENT LOCATION
London

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

There is little I would change from my time at **elc**, though I wish I was far more appreciative and grateful for the support that many of my teachers had provided. I did not realise it at the time but many of my teachers went above and beyond what was required in their job to make sure we as students were well prepared for life after school.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

My advice would be to not stress and worry too much about the little things. You are doing the best you can, take some time to be proud of your own growth. Also, while in school, use the abundance of time and energy you have to get involved in as many activities which are available, both academic and non-academic. It will lead to you having an array of experiences and being a more rounded individual which certainly helps once you leave school.

Carmen Chow

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1998-2005

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

That one time when I represented **elc** at the Trinity College Elocution contest and I forgot the last line of the speech!

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

elc will always be the place where I grew up and made some lifelong friends. It also taught me 3 key qualities that I bring forward in my day to day conduct now:

- Being respectful and keeping my manners in check
- Being punctual
- Being a team player

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

ICT & English – Just because Mrs. Chong once threw a duster at me (I most probably deserved it!) and she imprinted in our minds the one quote that I'm sure we've all carried with us throughout our lives "Life's not fair, get used to it".

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

Familiar, nostalgic, homey



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Help University, University of West of Scotland

COURSE STUDIED

BA in Marketing Comms (Hons), MBA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'm currently a Marketing Director at SCOR Group where I support global markets with Insurtech solutions. It's been a learning curve moving from digital marketing for FMCG brands to the reinsurance space, but I love the fast-paced high energy that comes with it.

CURRENT LOCATION

Work takes me out of the country for close to 200 days in a year, but when I'm not travelling you can find me back at home in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia!

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Probably spend more time soaking in every moment instead of wanting to grow up so fast.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Take more photos and videos of your time there, it flies by way too quickly!

Christie Alison Fletcher

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2001-2014

NATIONALITY
British

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

- The biology trip in 2013.
- Having my painting printed on a large poster at the entrance of the school.
- 25th anniversary gala dinner fashion show

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

I learnt that confidence is very important (as I wasn't the most confident person while at school).

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

ICT - I have always enjoyed ICT and was able to grasp the content easily.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

Motivating, Humbling, Inspiring



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of Winchester, UK

COURSE STUDIED

Psychology (Undergraduate),
Forensic Psychology (Masters)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Assistant Psychologist in a forensic mental health hospital.

CURRENT LOCATION

England

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I probably would be more organised and more focused in my education. I would also try to be more confident.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Your time at school will have more impact on your future than you think.



Deanna Raezza Mohd Husni

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2008-2013

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

A lot of my happiest memories from **elc** are from school trips - the most memorable being the FOBISSEA music festival in Beijing. I loved being able to meet people from other schools, performing for them and eventually coming together to put on a massive performance.

Performing Arts Days and the preparations for them were also very memorable. Performing Arts Day had just been introduced at the time when I was in Year 10, and it was so exciting for a lot of us as we got the chance to perform with our friends and against other Houses (I love a bit of friendly competition). Staying back after school to rehearse every week was always a lot of fun, and eventually seeing an idea come to life on stage was very rewarding!

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

Not to worry about the trivial things. Every mistake you make is part of the overall learning experience, and dwelling on the little things will only take your eyes off your main goals.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Maths - Although it was definitely challenging at times, I loved the satisfaction of problem solving and once you understand a concept, it can become weirdly addictive!

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Grateful, nostalgic and homely



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of Kent, UK
University of Glasgow, UK

COURSE STUDIED

BSc in Biomedical Science
MSc in Cancer Sciences

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I am currently working as a Medical Lab Scientist in a molecular oncology lab where I analyse patient samples that have been biopsied or surgically removed, and test them for genetic mutations to enable the appropriate targeted therapy to be administered.

CURRENT LOCATION

Kuala Lumpur

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I don't think I would do anything differently besides appreciate my time at school more! In particular, I wish I had appreciated being able to see my best friends every day.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

These are some of the best years of your life, so be present and make the most of every opportunity that is thrown at you. Hold on to the friends you make at school because if you are lucky enough, they will be your friends for life!



Divya Kolakada

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2002-2011

NATIONALITY
Indian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

I think I was generally a good student at **elc** but there was this one time in the 6th grade that I fell asleep in class. The subject was history, taught by Mr. Colin, a very popular teacher at the time. History was one of my favourite subjects, and I really liked Mr. Colin, so I'm not really sure why I fell asleep. But instead of yelling at me, Mr. Colin reduced the volume of his voice and switched off the lights to create an ambience that would be better for my sleep (or so I would like to think). I woke up almost as soon as the lights were switched off and was completely mortified after I realized what had happened. I don't think I've ever fallen asleep in class again.

I spent so much of my life at **elc**, so there are a lot of memories and it's hard to choose a few. Time spent with friends for example, whether it was just hanging out during breaks or homeroom periods is something I will always cherish. Interact days, sports days, musicals, and other programmes put up by the students and the school were always memorable.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

In my time at **elc**, I participated in many extra-curricular activities including being a part of and then eventually the President of the Interact Club, as well as being a Prefect and eventually Head Prefect. These opportunities taught me a lot about how to compose and conduct myself during interviews and public speaking.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
Rollins College, USA

COURSE STUDIED
Chemistry

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Finishing up my PhD in Molecular Biology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

CURRENT LOCATION
Colorado, USA

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I would try to put more effort into the subjects at which I believed I wasn't good. Getting bad grades in subjects is disheartening but it is also grounds for personal growth. I wish I had more effectively utilised those opportunities, at that age.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

I am not really a believer of "finding your passion". I think there is wisdom in those words but they can also be misleading. Most of us have no idea what we are passionate about and can subsequently come to believe that our passion or calling will just drop into our lap one day. While some people will be lucky enough to have that, for most people that's not how life will work. Additionally, given our diverse interests, most people may not even have just one true calling.

I think the focus needs to be shifted from finding one's calling to being 100% involved in the opportunities around you. With involvement comes depth and only with depth can true passion blossom.

Eric Okuma

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1999-2003

NATIONALITY
American

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

So many memories! The annual sports days - I still miss them today. Going to an orphanage with some classmates and seeing how happy the kids were to see us.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

Looking back, I really appreciated the fact that we wore uniforms and could not carry and wear branded backpacks and shoes. This allowed us to view and interact with our peers solely based on personality without the influence of materialism and status.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Art and Design Technology - These classes helped me explore my creative side (which I would argue has helped me be successful in my career). I also discovered what "being in flow" was through these classes

PE - Super fun and brought a necessary balance & break to just sitting in class all day

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

- Nostalgic
- Appreciative
- Grateful



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of California, Berkeley

COURSE STUDIED

Mechanical Engineering

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Product Management at Adobe.

CURRENT LOCATION

San Francisco Bay Area

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I would've explored more subjects that piqued my curiosity and interest.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

· Try to enjoy yourself and have fun. Life isn't only about studying and getting good grades. It's also about discovering who you are, finding what makes you happy, making meaningful connections, and appreciating the present.

· Be kind, understanding, and respectful of others

· Be humble and always be learning

· Evaluate which subjects get you really excited and curious to learn more (and ask yourself why).

· Prioritize good habits and work ethic above all

· Don't be afraid of making mistakes and failing - they give you data points to learn from. Be afraid of not trying

Silang Bonaventura Mario Putra Setitit

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1997-2002

NATIONALITY
Indonesian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

Being the troublemaker that I was, there are plenty of stories to share around the campfire. However, the most memorable story for me was the first day I enrolled in **elc**. This might sound cliché, but at that time I only knew 3 words in English. Yes, No, and another which is a universally well-known swear word. I had not had any lessons in English prior to **elc**. Before **elc** my relationship with the English Language was close to none, but somehow with unfathomable patience and care, the teachers of **elc** managed to teach me English.

Looking back at my time in **elc**, I know it was a constant battle between the teachers and me. Sometimes it was a light skirmish while at other times it got pretty ugly, but there were times of perfect synergy. If the teachers hadn't gone as hard as they did in teaching me, I wouldn't have been able to express or articulate myself in another language.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

I will always remember what Mrs. Chin (Physics teacher) told me before I graduated from **elc**. "There's time to play, and there's time to work, but never mix the two".

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Art - the subject that took the blinders off for my creativity.

English, the language that opened the world to me.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

Excellent, Loyal, and Committed.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

LimKokWing University, Malaysia.
Curtin University, Australia.

COURSE STUDIED

Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communication.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

A pilot - I fly planes for a living. Again, the skinny kid that didn't know English spends his time piloting aircrafts where the ridiculously huge amount of manuals and the many accents of the radio telecommunications people are all in English.

CURRENT LOCATION

Jakarta, Indonesia

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Absolutely nothing. Hypothetically, If I meet the young me, and tell him about all of his future accomplishments, he won't believe me anyway. I won't even try to talk sense into the young me. Just ask the teachers, they would probably say the same thing. I was a rebel without a clue, and probably did not even know then what a rebel was. That's how clueless I was. Then again, that's the journey I took to get here; to be the person that I am today, and I'm not going to change any of it.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Have the courage to venture into the unknown, to a place where most would not dare to go. Challenge yourself in a new environment, face the fear, and the uncertainty, but never sway from your personal goal. Be in mind that you are not doing it for others, but for yourself. Proving to yourself that you are able to achieve the unachievable is worth more than anything in this world.

Karam Puri

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2009-2011

NATIONALITY
Indian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

I remember Mr. Nicolaas our IGCSE Physics teacher teaching us basic dynamics of free-falling objects. He jumped on top of the table with a basketball in one hand and a ping pong ball in the other and asked us if he dropped both from the same height at the same time which would hit the ground first; the class entered a heated discussion and we were all surprised with the answer!

Throughout my time in **elc** a fond memory I have is the cafeteria! I loved Chicken Chop Wednesdays, butter chicken with bean sprout on Thursdays and Dominos pepperoni pizza on Fridays! till this day.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Year 9 Science Class - Mr. Patterson has a unique teaching style which involves leaving the end of his sentences to be completed by the students. Initially I found it quirky but once I got used to it, there was something oddly satisfying about the whole class understanding the concepts and completing the sentences in unison.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

How I feel about **elc** is based on the people with whom I interacted. Whether it was with faculty or students they were: non-discriminatory, sincere and humble.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Monash University Malaysia
University of Toronto

COURSE STUDIED

Monash: Bachelors in Chemical Engineering
UofT: Master in Industrial Engineering

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Data Scientist for PepsiCo Foods Canada

CURRENT LOCATION

Toronto, Canada

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I would be less afraid to participate in class, try new things and ultimately to be unafraid of making mistakes. I made many poor judgments during my time in **elc**; I was disciplined many times by Ms. Sheela and other teachers. Now I realise that those “reprimands” were not out of anger but rather out of love for the students. We will all make mistakes throughout our lives but it’s important to get the big ones out of the way when you’re young!

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

The most important thing to take away from School is how to think critically, how to work in teams and how to manage your time. When I was in **elc**, I never imagined I would be creating machine learning models to help marketing teams understand the consumer and use historical data to predict the future but that’s my current job. What I know for sure is, my models wouldn’t be any good if I hadn’t learned how to think, how to question every assumption and how to apply my knowledge into practice in the real world.

Mitchell Kong

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2006-2010

NATIONALITY
Canadian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

My fondest memories of being at **elc** were being a part of FOBISSEA (now FOBISIA), and being able to travel with a team at such a young age. I still remember the excitement of being 13 years old and at the airport leaving for Thailand with friends.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

It was definitely a culture shock coming from the Canadian school system. I was surprised by the way roll call was done in the morning, and everything felt very regimented, including having to wear a uniform to school. Being at **elc** taught me discipline from a young age, and that discipline has carried on with me till this day.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

PE, because who doesn't like getting a sweat on with your friends!

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Memorable, Fun, Challenging



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of British Columbia, Canada

COURSE STUDIED

Kinesiology

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Career Firefighter

CURRENT LOCATION

Coquitlam, BC

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I wouldn't have done anything differently... other than maybe take home a few more medals from the FOBISSEA games :)

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Enjoy your time at **elc**. Push your comfort zone, take the jump and pursue what makes you happy. Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable (I remember public speaking as a Prefect terrified me, but doing it every morning helped me overcome that fear).



Mia (Myra) Hood

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1993-2004

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

I remember when Disney Buzz would come visit our school - I made friends with the producers so I could skip a class or two every time they visited. Jokes aside, it helped with confidence and public speaking.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

I think it was good that we got to pick subjects in Year 10 to focus on. The subjects you choose will shape what you learn and help you, depending on what career path you may end up on.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Design Technology - we got to learn about design and did more hands-on, practical projects like designing a playground. We had to research, do surveys, carry out field interviews and then make a prototype /small model. It was a great mix of creativity and planning.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Challenging, competitive and unique



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
RMIT University, Australia

COURSE STUDIED
Bachelor of Advertising

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I am a freelancer - I run my own business, doing marketing and branding for numerous clients in Melbourne. I am also a content creator on Instagram and Tik Tok. My work life balance is 25% work and 75% play!

CURRENT LOCATION
Melbourne, Australia

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

I would have never dropped Art! A lot of parents don't see art as a way to make money, but really, times have changed. We should promote and encourage creativity.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Pick your subjects in line with what you want to do later in life, not your parents' version. Your dream job may not exist now - so get skills and knowledge in what you are passionate about.



Natalie Petersen

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2009-2014

NATIONALITY
New Zealander

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Literature was my favourite subject (not just because Mrs Chong is reading this), but because I loved reading, and remembering Julius Caesar quotes still comes in handy to this day when doing miscellaneous newspaper quizzes!



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of Auckland, New Zealand

COURSE STUDIED

Law and Commerce

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I am a lawyer at a corporate law firm in Auckland, New Zealand

CURRENT LOCATION

Auckland, New Zealand

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Nothing.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Pull up your ankle socks to avoid being told off every morning!



Nicholas Chim

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2006-2011

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

Representing **elc** at FOBISIA Games, living with friends and a random family during the homestay programme, complaining about school.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

The ones that stood out the most to me was to be honest, accept responsibility and learn from your mistakes. I'd rather be defined by the lessons I've learnt from my mistakes rather than my actual mistakes. I'm sure I have my permanent record lying around here somewhere in **elc**...

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

English classes felt collaborative with a lot of discussions. There was a wonderfully inclusive atmosphere during class, which gave me the confidence to speak out even when I was wrong (which was most of the time).

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Diverse, friendly, familiar



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of British Columbia, Canada

COURSE STUDIED

Computer Science

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

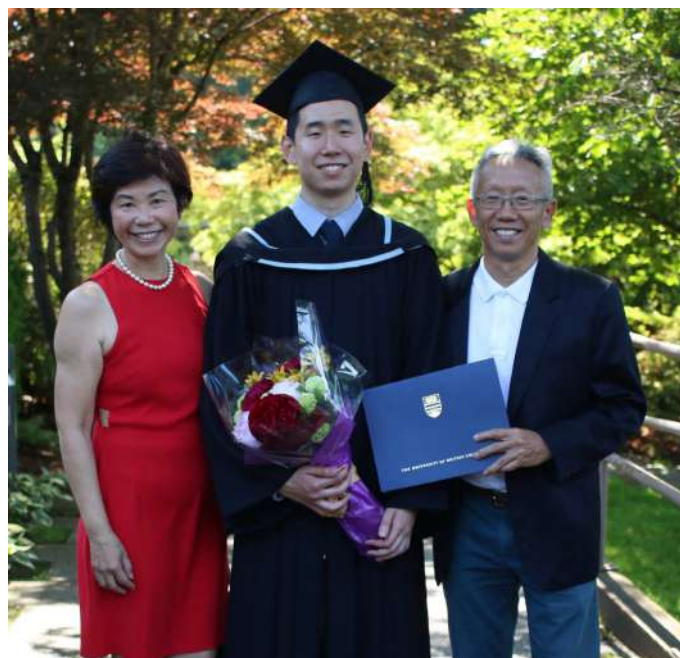
Software Engineer

CURRENT LOCATION

I'd have been more open and friendly earlier to my fellow classmates and eventual friends. I spent many of my first breaks at **elc** reading books alone!

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Try your best to enjoy the process of learning. Your future career may not be related to the subjects you do at school, but the tools you'll gain will always be relevant.



Pascal van Luit

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2008-2013

NATIONALITY
Dutch and British

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

Most definitely sports tournaments, such as Sports Day and competitions against other schools; in particular winning the football tournament at LFKL. Also, I have good memories of Language Day and IU Day. I think most of my fondest memories are of the things that we did outside of the 'normal' classroom!

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

Striving for the best results. I remember **elc** being very driven to get the best results for us and nothing less, and teachers were very able to help us achieve said results. I find this learned mindset to be very valuable as it helps to focus energy on to things in which I want to excel.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Hard to choose between Accounting, Maths and PE. Accounting and Maths were taught by some of my favourite teachers – they really knew how to crack a joke in between doing a simultaneous equation or drawing a balance sheet; much appreciated! PE was great because of the freedom and support that was given in creating the portfolio required for IGCSE PE.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Ambitious, challenging and proud



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Amsterdam University College and Utrecht University

COURSE STUDIED

Cognition and Statistics

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Data Scientist at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CURRENT LOCATION

Amsterdam

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Without a shadow of a doubt: learn Mandarin properly.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Know that you can learn anything you put your mind to. Some may learn quicker than others, but in the end everyone just fakes it till they make it.



Rayyan Shan

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1997-2008

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

I spent a large chunk of my life in **elc**, so it's possible to connect almost anything today to **elc** in one way or another.

Not everything went according to plan, which taught me all about managing expectations. Those experiences and the guidance from teachers and peers taught me that what it boils down to is how you react.

In both my workplace and social/private life I make it a point to communicate and set expectations for when things inevitably don't go well. I've become courageous to know when to accept failure. I did not do well in Add Maths, and after a painful struggle, my teacher at **elc** convinced me to throw in the towel or risk jeopardising my success in other subjects.

Despite all my achievements that brought me to where I am today, inaccuracies in both planning and execution are inevitable - those memories in **elc** have ingrained in me the habit to be agile and adaptable; to course correct and steer toward a win.

I also took many lessons from my peers at **elc**. Human communication was not one of my strengths, but I learned how important it is to understand and handle the feelings of others. Those connections I forged, thanks to our time in **elc**, are precious and important to me even until today.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Sunway University College, and then Monash University Malaysia (with some exchange trip to the Aussie campus)

COURSE STUDIED

Australia Matriculation in Sunway, into a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology at Monash

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Software Engineer at Autodesk, writing code for some of the top manufacturing software and applications.

CURRENT LOCATION

Singapore

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc**, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Nothing. Both the victories and regrets - there's plenty I can think of that would be nice to change, but everything shaped me into who I am today so I would rather not mess with the past and look to what I can do to improve the future, instead.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Try as many things as possible. You need to figure yourself out, what works for you and what does not. Exposure will help you understand what kind of a person you want to be. There's plenty of time for self-discovery but having this head start won't hurt.



Sarinah Farooq

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
1998-2007

NATIONALITY
British

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF
YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

Many - none of which wouldn't be edited out.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT
SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

I moved to the UK after I graduated from **elc**, and it made me realise how lucky I was to have attended an international school and have made friends from such a wide variety of backgrounds. In such surroundings, we grow up knowing that no matter our minor differences, we are all equal and can all get along. You'd be surprised by how many people there are that do not have this outlook.

I'm also still late to everything, so I guess that stuck!

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

English, but History was a close second. I had great teachers in both of those subjects!

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?
Nostalgic.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of Sheffield, UK

COURSE STUDIED

Masters in Planning

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Town Planner

CURRENT LOCATION

Chester, UK

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT
WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Probably try harder to hand in my work on
time...probably.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Being a good person is more important than getting
good grades.



Suraj Rikhranj

WHILE AT **elc**

STUDIED AT **elc** FROM
2009-2012

NATIONALITY
Malaysian

ANY MEMORABLE STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME AT **elc**?

Definitely getting started playing rugby, a passion that has taken me across countries and never left.

DID **elc** GIVE YOU ANY VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT SHAPED THE WAY YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF TODAY?

elc taught me to take pride in myself and carry myself confidently, both professionally and personally.

FAVOURITE SUBJECT, AND WHY?

Physics; it taught me to think logically and to apply foundational skills to solve more complex problems.

3 ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **elc**?

Nostalgic, warm, and pride.



LIFE AFTER **elc**

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Cass Business School, University of London

COURSE STUDIED

MSc in International Business with Multinational Finance

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Management & Strategy Consultant

CURRENT LOCATION

Singapore

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND RETURN TO **elc** WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Not a thing, for better or for worse, my choices have made me the person I am today.

ANY ADVICE TO THE CURRENT **elc** STUDENTS?

Trust yourselves. You're more capable than you think and have more potential than you know.



Message from

elc brings wonderful memories to me. I still recall quite well my interview in April 2009 at **elc** Sungai Buloh. Mrs. Kaloo was asking me questions while Mrs. Raghu was observing at her side. Three months later, I started as a Science and Physics teacher for Years 8, 10 and 11.

I had taught in Holland for more than 30 years, but teaching at **elc** was quite challenging and also very much rewarding. The students especially were amazing, very respectful towards their teachers, disciplined and hardworking. I recall being impressed by how they showed their creativity on Science Day in the “Drop the egg” challenge where an egg had to be dropped from a height and to survive that drop uncrushed. In addition, on Language Day, the students demonstrated their literacy skills in sketches and poems in The Great Gatsby. Homeroom Assemblies were also other highlights; students revealed their non-academic talents, which were many. On Sports Day the four Houses competed intensely to win the Sports Day Trophy.

elc provided students with the skills to be successful in their future endeavours. Quite a few of them I still follow via Facebook or LinkedIn. It keeps me connected to this special period in my life.



*Mr. Nicolaas
van der Pas*

FORMER SCIENCE/PHYSICS TEACHER

Message from

Wow, 12 years have just flown by... and as a former **elc** parent (2008 -2020), I look back with wonderful and poignant memories.

I appreciate the old-fashioned traditional values of the entire **elc** crew, which in turn complemented our own family values. As said in the African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child", I really feel that the **elc** community interacts with the students to encourage them to grow in a safe and healthy environment. This was certainly the case with our children, Pascal and Gabriella, who left with a solid foundation for their further journeys.

The Parents' Association allowed me to have an active role at **elc**. I was a member for more than a decade (President from 2018 -2020), and I found it to be challenging sometimes, but also very rewarding. We organised both fun and educational activities for parents and students: from educational coffee mornings, camping trips in Janda Baik, to first aid courses for school and then of course there was Jinnyboy, a great success with the students and teachers alike. You see, learning doesn't only take place through activities in the classroom, but also through activities outside of the classroom because knowledge is always there for the taking.



*Mrs. Kimberley
van Luit*

FORMER **elc** PARENT

