

# DAS Academy Graduation 2020

16 September



*DAS Academy*

ENABLING EXCELLENCE



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PROVIDING EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH IN THE AREA OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS  
2010 - 2020



*DAS Academy*

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ENABLING EXCELLENCE

DAS Academy is a subsidiary of the Dyslexia Association of Singapore.

# Programme

16 September 2020,  
Wednesday 9.30am

## **Academic Procession Enters**

### **Welcome and Address**

Ms June Siew  
Head of DAS Academy

### **Special Address**

Mr Lee Siang,  
Chief Executive Officer of Dyslexia Association of Singapore

### **Presentation of Awards**

Specialist Diploma in Specific Learning Differences (SpLD)

### **Valedictorian's Speech**

Specialist Diploma in Specific Learning Differences (SpLD)

### **Presentation of Awards**

Specialist Diploma in Educational Therapy (EdT)

### **Valedictorian's Speech**

Specialist Diploma in Educational Therapy (EdT)

### **Congratulatory Address by Matthew Hutt**

Head of Professional Learning and Post-Compulsory Education  
*University of South Wales*

### **Presentation of Higher Degree Award**

#### **(University of South Wales)**

Postgraduate Certificate in Special Educational Needs  
Master of Arts in Special Educational Needs

### **Valedictorian's Speech**

Master of Arts in Special Educational Needs  
*University of South Wales*

### **Academic Procession Retires**

### **Photo-Taking**





## **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS**

DAS Academy celebrates 10 good years of providing education and research in the area of special educational needs.

### **OUR MOTTO**

Enabling Excellence

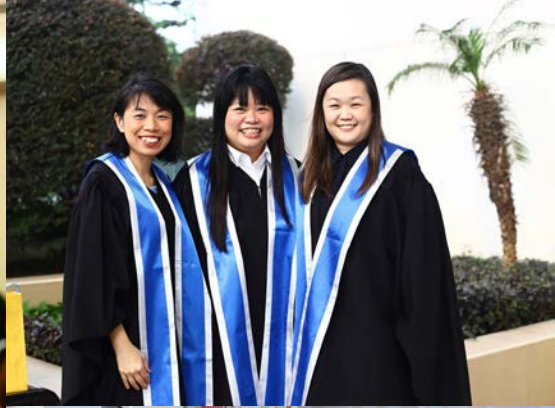
### **OUR MISSION**

To be a world-class academic institution providing education and research in the area of special educational needs.

### **OUR VISION**

To empower special education professionals and caregivers to help people with special educational needs achieve their full potential.





# Foreword

It is a very great pleasure and honour to contribute my congratulations to graduates from Class of 2020!

As an academic in the UK University system over the past 29 years, this day has always been the highlight of the year for me. Even more so for the graduates from DAS Academy, who are mature students just as I was, whose lives and future career journeys will be enhanced by their new qualifications. I remember well the excitement of parading in my gown, and particularly my scarlet PhD gown that I worked so hard to achieve, while accommodating the conflicting needs of a husband and young children with my studies.

The DAS Academy, together with their partners, the Ministry of Education, the University of South Wales and London Metropolitan University have all played their part in your success today, but it is you who have capitalised on their support in order to

achieve that success. The vision of the DAS Academy is to empower special education professionals to help people with special needs to achieve their full potential. The success of that vision should be evident from the achievement of the graduates gathered here today on this auspicious occasion. We hope that you will continue to use the skills and expertise you have gained through the DAS training throughout your career, and take the opportunities on offer for professional development to extend and advance those qualifications further.

Let me conclude by offering my congratulations once again and my thanks to the DAS Academy for all they achieve and will continue to achieve in the future. My very best wishes to you all!



**Emeritus Professor Angela Fawcett**  
Research Consultant, Dyslexia Association of Singapore



The Chancellor, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth PC FBA FRSL and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Julie Lydon OBE



# Welcome

On behalf of the University, it is with tremendous pleasure that we congratulate you, the graduates of the Class of 2020.

This hall today resonates with your accomplishments; this is your special day. This, of course, is also a great occasion for the University: it is the highlight of the academic year. You, the graduates, are the lifeblood of this great institution and we recognise that, in the end, your academic achievements are the benchmark by which we are judged.

You are, in a very real sense, ambassadors for the University of South Wales and for what it is trying to achieve. So today is as much a celebration for us as it is for you, with this ceremony as a very clear statement of significant achievement.

It is also a special day for your friends and families who have supported you in your studies, and we extend a warm welcome to them.

Their sense of pride will be shared by our staff as you cross the stage to receive your awards. During your time at the University, you will have received guidance and support from many different groups of people: lecturers, tutors, administrators, technicians.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all on your behalf.

This is a vigorous academic community of many nations and beliefs, brought together by a shared commitment to the transformation of lives through knowledge and education.

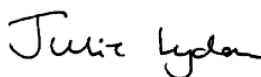
The higher education this University provides is valued tremendously by graduates and their employers, and the University's success in preparing its students for the world of work is a source of justified pride.

We trust that your time at the University of South Wales will have broadened your horizons, opened up pathways to exciting and challenging career opportunities, and imbued you with a spirit of inquiry and a desire for lifelong learning.

We now wish you good luck in your future endeavours: be bold, imaginative, and, most importantly, be an inspiration for your contemporaries by making things happen.



**Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth**  
PC FBA FRSL Chancellor



**Professor Julie Lydon OBE**  
Vice-Chancellor

# Welcome



## Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Today is a happy occasion for many of you. Today marks a significant milestone in your lives. As with all milestones, it is the journey that makes each milestone meaningful. For some of you, your journey started months ago, when you decided to embark on this program. For others, your journey started even earlier. It is not important, where your starting point was, what is more, important is that we all share a common destination and we will get there together.

Of all fields, you have chosen the special needs field. It is not the most prestigious, it is not the one that puts you in the limelight or gives you worldly recognition, it certainly is not the track for climbing the corporate ladder. Instead, it is a field that requires limitless patience, unyielding perseverance and much more hard work than your fellow teachers who teach typical children. Yet, you chose the path to work with children with unrealised potential.

And that is all because you hope to make a difference in the lives of children with learning difficulties. You have chosen to believe in them in the face of doubts, advocate for their needs and rights and actively empower them with practical self-help skills. Above all, you are committed to the cause of helping them find success in school and life. This is our common destination.

Today is also an incredibly special occasion for DAS Academy because we are celebrating our 10th anniversary! We are 10 years old! Typically, it takes 10,000 hours or 10 years to attain mastery in any craft. And us being 10 years old this year, I think we have attained a reputable level of mastery in this industry.

Nevertheless, we should not forget this old Chinese saying: 十年树木，百年树人。 It means "it takes 10 years to grow a tree, but 100 years to cultivate a man". Being 10 years old, DAS Academy is now a full-grown tree. However, we must remember it takes one hundred years to cultivate people because the message has to penetrate three generations for mindsets to change. So really, we are only at the beginning of this long journey.

You will be challenged, questioned and second-guessed along the way but you have nothing to lose. Be courageous. Be determined. Be unstoppable. Continue to learn and develop your abilities as ambassadors of people with learning difficulties. After all, the future of Singapore's developing special needs landscape is yours to shape.

**June Siew**  
Head of DAS Academy

# Celebrating 10 Years



Congratulations to All Graduates from the Faculty, Board of DAS Academy, Academic and Examination Boards!

DAS Academy Faculty



Siti Asjamiah Asmuri, Elizabeth Lim, Priscillia Shen, June Siew, Siti Mariam, Kong Yun Rui, Rebecca Shalinah

Board of Directors



Eric Lee



Kaka Singh



Cynthia Tan



Kevin Kwek



Lee Siang

Academic and Examination Board



Dr Angela Fawcett



Geetha Shantha Ram



Lois Lim



Lee Siang



Dr Shirley Egley

# PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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# GRADUATES

## SPECIALIST DIPLOMA IN SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFERENCES (SPLD)

Stephanie Chee Jok Heng  
Hayley Charlotte Livermore  
Zheng Jingwei  
Kerrie Baillie  
Yeo Suan Khoo  
Pang Meiyan  
Chua He Rong Cyrus  
Jolene Khoo Shi Hui  
Kumuthini Udayashankar  
Shyla Anne Mathews  
Ganeshini D/O Sri kanthan

Ang Lay Hoon  
Amarjit Kaur  
Hamdan Bin Alias  
Liau Kee Wei  
Magesvari Ashok Kumar  
Basu Bedashruti Mitra  
Ann Toh Wei Lin  
Smitha Paul  
Lee Soo Fern  
Sylvia Lai Swee Moi  
Pallavi Chakrabarti

## SPECIALIST DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL THERAPY (EDT)

Tan Pei Wen  
Zakiyyah Binti Masri  
Clover Tan Hwee Ting  
Chen Sirong  
Karthikeiyan S/O Sivakurunathan  
Morales, Maicahs Joseph Calalo  
Ang Tsui Lin, Amanda  
Lum Siew Yin Lydia  
Ang Pui San Evina  
Christina Chan Siow Han

Chia Ee Khim  
Darishnambigai d/o Sinniah  
Lau Yun Mei  
Rina Lim Lee Pin  
Nur Aisha bte Shaik Muhyideen  
Priscilla Regina Chan Yuling  
Samantha Tan Ruo Yu  
Tai Wei Ting Vera  
Teng Zhaoyu  
Zaidah d/o Mohamed Jaffar

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## **POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS / ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS**

Divya Jayaprahasam  
Hanis Binte Azmi  
Nur Nabilah Binte Abdul Kadir  
Vidya  
Monica C Adina  
Choo Xue Ming, Jessica  
Choo Yu Ling, Clarice  
Durgeswari d/o Mogan  
Lim Yi Qing  
Nur Diana Binte Abdul Rahman  
Kiranjit Kaur Dhillon  
Charis Chiong Zi Qi

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES**

Sim Gek Leng Steven  
Tan Shi Huey Joanne  
Tai Fei Ha  
Porayath Sathi Menon D/O Kunju Rama  
Yap Sheong Fung, Cherrie

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CPE REGISTRATION NO.: 201003689Z  
VALIDITY: 30 DECEMBER 2017 - 29 DECEMBER 2021