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 Weekly
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DISCOURSE

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- **Insightful** Educational Visit to McMillan Woods YGL
- **World** Mental Health Day 2024
- **SACEI** Biology Fieldwork at Gurney Beach
- **Empowering** Young Designers: SMK Convent Butterworth Hosts Graphic Design Course
- **Creating** Joy Through Art: Volunteering at Penang Shine Like Star Association

DISTED College marks a decade of providing exceptional language testing services with the launch of its newly upgraded PTE Test Centre.

Celebrating a Decade of Excellence
DISTED College's 10th Anniversary as a PTE Test Centre



It is with great pride that we celebrate DISTED College's 10th anniversary as a Pearson Test of English (PTE) Test Centre. This collaboration with Pearson has been instrumental in aligning our mission with global standards in education and language proficiency. As we all know, mastering the English language opens doors to countless opportunities, from higher education to career advancement in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our partnership with Pearson provides students and professionals a reliable, internationally recognised platform to demonstrate their English language skills. This is not just about passing an exam but about giving individuals the tools, they need to succeed in today's global landscape. Whether a student aiming for higher education abroad or a professional seeking to enhance their employability, the PTE offers a pathway to achieving those goals.

Furthermore, Pearson's commitment to innovation and excellence resonates with our own values at DISTED College. This collaboration has allowed us to continually enhance our testing facilities, as evidenced by the unveiling of our newly renovated PTE Test Centre. Together, we are significantly impacting the lives of individuals, providing them with opportunities to grow and succeed.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Pearson for their unwavering support and partnership, and to each and every individual who has contributed to this remarkable journey. Your dedication has been instrumental in our success.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

Remarks



from the

President

Cover Story

Celebrating a Decade of Excellence: DISTED College's 10th Anniversary as a PTE Test Centre



Pearson | PTE



DISTED President with Mr. Tan Dencoln and Ms. Cheah Su Ming of Pearson Test of English

DISTED College is proud to announce the celebration of its 10th year as a Pearson Test of English (PTE) Test Centre and the official launch of the newly renovated DISTED College PTE Test Centre on 1 October 2024.

This significant milestone reflects a decade of dedication to language proficiency testing and a continued commitment to providing opportunities for students and professionals. Since the inception of the PTE Test Centre in 2014, DISTED College has expanded its services, growing from just four seating arrangements to now offering six, with exams available four days a week to meet increasing demand.

With Pearson's support and the relentless efforts of its team, DISTED College has successfully established itself as a key centre for English language assessment in Penang and the Northern Region. This year alone, the centre has administered approximately 440 exams, highlighting the trust placed by individuals seeking to advance their academic and career prospects.

The newly renovated PTE Test Centre symbolises DISTED's commitment to growth and excellence, ensuring students and professionals have greater access to essential assessments. DISTED College aims to continue empowering individuals to reach their full potential through language proficiency and education.

Insightful Educational Visit to McMillan Woods YGL

On 12 September 2024, Diploma in Accounting (DIA) students from DISTED College visited the audit firm McMillan Woods YGL, accompanied by two lecturers. The visit aimed to provide students with firsthand exposure to the auditing profession and its work environment. Ms. Low, the audit partner, shared valuable insights into the firm's operations, emphasising the importance of personality and work attitude in recruitment, alongside qualifications like ACCA. Students found the experience highly informative, gaining a better understanding of the day-to-day responsibilities of auditors and the expectations of the industry. Feedback from students highlighted the professionalism of the firm and the valuable lessons learned about client interactions, internal processes, and the use of technology. This positive experience reinforced the importance of such field trips in preparing students for their future careers in accounting and auditing. DISTED College plans to organise more visits to enhance students' practical knowledge and career readiness. The students found the visit highly informative and shared their feedback:



Calvin Chan Chi Kin (DIA24001): "A positive attitude is valued even more than just an ACCA qualification, which will be very useful for my future career."

Koshilya Riicaa (DIA24002): "The professionalism and enthusiasm of the staff made the visit both productive and informative."

Kierthika A/P Krishnan: "This visit provided valuable insights into real-world expectations and the qualities employers value."

World Mental Health Day 2024

As we celebrate World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2024, with the theme "Mental Health at Work," it's crucial to recognise its relevance for students and staff at DISTED College in Penang. The pressures of internships, part-time jobs, and academic demands can significantly impact students' mental well-being, leading to stress and anxiety. A supportive environment is vital for helping them build resilience. Fostering a positive workplace culture is essential for the college's employers and staff. Creating safe, inclusive spaces free from stigma and discrimination is vital. Resources like mental health workshops and counselling services must be prioritised to support students and employees.

By collaborating, DISTED College can develop a healthier, more supportive atmosphere that prepares students for the future while ensuring staff feel valued. Let's act today for a brighter, healthier tomorrow. Wishing everyone at DISTED College a fulfilling and mentally healthy World Mental Health Day 2024!



Syahirah Farwin
Lecturer & Counsellor,
School of Psychology



SACEi Biology Fieldwork at Gurney Beach

On September 8, 2024, a group of seven, including DISTED lecturer Dr. Kam Yew Chee, embarked on a SACEi Biology field trip to Gurney Beach and the beach behind Wawasan Open University (WOU) in Penang. The objective was to collect clams from both beaches to detect microplastics, tiny plastic particles that are invisible to the naked eye but are increasingly found in marine ecosystems. These particles pose a significant environmental risk as marine organisms unknowingly ingest them, leading to their accumulation in the food chain and potentially affecting human health through seafood consumption. Students shared their experiences, noting the shallow waters during low tide that made clam collection easier but fishing more challenging. Despite this, the field trip was educational and enjoyable. The hands-on experience helped students understand the impact of human activities on marine life and the growing problem of microplastic contamination in the ecosystem. Positive feedback from the students included:

Vengala Krishnaa Matchakali a/p Mathavan: "It was an interesting and fun activity, and I would like to participate again in the future, especially with friends."

Ooi Zhuo-Kun: "Despite the low tide making fishing difficult, the experience was engaging and educational."

Vengala Krishnaa Matchakali
Student of SACEi

Empowering Young Designers: SMK Convent Butterworth Hosts Graphic Design Course



SMK Convent Butterworth recently hosted an eight-week graphic design course organised by Penang Maths Platform (PMP) and led by a lecturer from DISTED College, Zaki Zakaria. The programme aimed to nurture young talents by providing a solid foundation in design principles and effective visual communication. Students engaged in hands-on learning, applying their skills through the creation of a poster and video using Canva, a popular design tool. The course also included a competitive element, with two standout groups selected to advance to the next round and compete in a grand finale. This selection highlighted the students' creativity and hard

work, reflecting the effectiveness of the instruction they received. Overall, the class proved to be a valuable experience, introducing participants to the world of graphic design while offering a platform for growth and competition. The support from PMP and expert guidance helped lay the groundwork for these young designers to explore future opportunities in the creative industry.

Zaki bin Zakaria
Lecturer, School of Computing and Engineering

Creating Joy Through Art: Volunteering at Penang Shine Like Star Association



On 20 June 2024, students from MPU3412P Khidmat Masyarakat dan Ko-Kurikulum engaged in a fundraising and volunteer project at Penang Shine Like Stars Association. The visit involved handcraft activities with the Baobeis, children from the center, and was organised by DISTED College's Bachelor of Psychology students in collaboration with Penang Shine Like Stars volunteers. The event included a birthday celebration for children born between April and June, followed by a brain gym session and creative painting activities. The children's joy in showcasing their artwork was a touching highlight, emphasising the positive impact of creativity and companionship. The team aimed to raise RM 500 but exceeded their goal, collecting RM 928. This experience reinforced their commitment to supporting the Special Needs Center, leaving the volunteers with a deep sense of fulfillment and determination to continue making a difference in the lives of these special children.

Teh Ying Xin
Student of Bachelor of Psychology

DISTED Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd

Company Registration Number : 199701020079 (435576-U)
MOHE Approval Number: DK187(P)

340, Macalister Road,
10350, George Town, Penang

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Our team:

Editor: Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair; Assistant Editor: Dr. Lum Li Sean; Lead Contributors: Seethai Subramaniam (Computing & Engineering); Geong Chooi Peng (Pre-University Studies); Dr. Lum Li Sean (Business & Accounting); Kaitlyn Khoo Rui Ern & Sea Yun Xuan & Tan Jia Huey (Student Affairs News); Design & Layout: Tay Hooi Khoon; Distribution: Felecia Ng Lay Hong & Grace Tan Suet Yee