

24th January 2012Re: The **E_XTRA CLASS : THE SECOND GENERATION** Program

To: Parents of Mstr/MissStudent of Grade

Enclosed: Information about the **E_XTRA CLASS : THE SECOND GENERATION** Program

In the Academic year 2011, Sarasas Ektra has provided two special programs: (1) the Global Assessment Certificate™ or GAC(Dual Certificate) for students who will proceed to G.1, and(2) the **E_XTRA CLASS : THE SECOND GENERATION** Program for students who will proceed to G.2 and G.7. The approximate ratio of English to Thai in both programs are 70 : 30, while the ratio for regular programs is approximately 50 : 50.

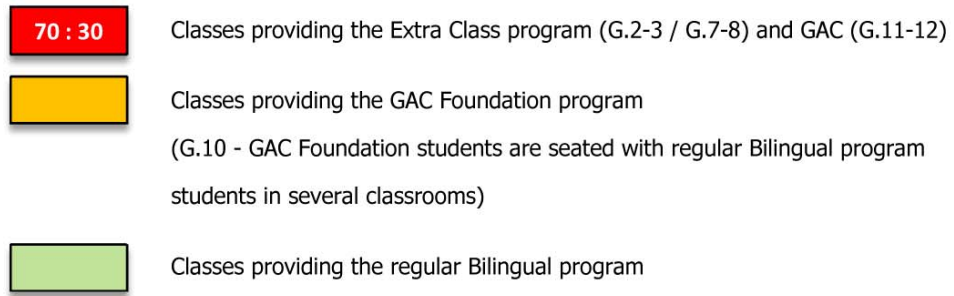
The latest development is that our first generation of GAC students (in senior Secondary levels) are about to graduate from G.12 and have achieved high scores in their IELTS¹, that is achieving not lower than level 6. (The highest score achieved by our students is level 7.5.) GAC graduates have an advantage when applying for admission to a number of post-secondary institutions, two of which are Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT) at Thammasat University and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), the GAC Pathway Universities² in Thailand. Other institutes include Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Srinakharinwirot University, Mae FahLuang University (an Ektra student has been admitted into the Faculty of Medicine).

On the other hand, students' performance in the **E_XTRA CLASS PROGRAM** (Primary and Junior Secondary) has been highly satisfactory in the past 2 years. Not only have the Extra Class students developed their English skills, but their academic results are also at a good level. Unlike other subjects that can be mastered over a period of time, English skills must be practiced regularly and continuously. Students may learn grammatical structures, but will not be able to use English well without practice. Students with high English competence will be able to access knowledge in every field that is provided in English.

¹ IELTS (International English Language Testing System): Students in the GAC program are required to undertake IELTS preparation. The required IELTS level students must attain when applying for an Undergraduate program overseas is usually not lower than level 6. (Graduate programs must attain not lower than 6.5).

² Pathway Universities are universities to which students are able to submit their GAC academic results and IELTS levels for direct admission. Admission exams in several subjects may be omitted. And some faculties overseas allow credits to be transferred. In Thailand, students who have graduated from a GAC program with intense English content and who attain the required IELTS level may not have to take English subjects. (For more information and the list of universities, please visit www.ektra.ac.th or www.acteducationsolutions.com)

**Graph indicating the classes with a ratio of 70:30 (English and Thai)
in the 2011 Academic Year.**



Level / No. of Classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G.2	70 : 30	70 : 30	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.3	70 : 30	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.4	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.5	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.6	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.7	70 : 30	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.8	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.9	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.10	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
G.11	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
G.12	70 : 30	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

This graph shows that programs with an English to Thai ratio of 70:30 are expanding continuously at every level until G.12. The first generation is proceeding to G.4 and G.9 in 2012 and the second generation is proceeding to G.3 and G.8. These students will have attained the required level of English competence to take the GAC Foundation² program in G.10 and the GAC program in G. 11 - 12 instead of the regular program.

² GAC Foundation is the English program that prepares students at intermediate-level English for entry into the GAC program. Students who pass the GAC Foundation program can enter the GAC program without having to take an admission exam.

There have been an increasing number of parents interested in enrolling their children into the EXTRA CLASS program since the Academic year 2010 onwards. Many have requested for School to provide more opportunities for students in regular programs as well. Therefore, School has planned to increase the number of EXTRA CLASSES in G.2 and G.7 in the following Academic year.

Attached with this letter is information on the EXTRA CLASS program. An introduction on the EXTRA CLASS program is arranged by the Academic Affairs in case of inquiries regarding the program. It will be hosted at the Seminar room, Primary Campus on 28th - 31st January 2012 at 0800 - 1100hrs. (excluding Sunday 29th January).

We are grateful for placing your trust and giving us the opportunity to educate your children.

Respectfully Yours,

(Mr.Pisut Yongkamol)

Director of Sarasas Ektra School

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Response Letter: Ref. SES2554/

Re: TheEXTRA CLASS : THE SECOND GENERATION Program

For returnto the Class teacher by 26th January 2012

I (Mr./Mrs./Ms.).....parent of (Mstr./Miss).....Grade..6/.....

Intend to listen to more academic options by attending the “EXtra Class: the Second Generation” Program

Introduction

1) on Saturday 28th January 2012at 0800 – 1100 hrs.person(s)

2) on Monday 30th January 2012at 0800 – 1100 hrs.person(s)

2) on Tuesday 31st January 2012at 0800 – 1100 hrs.person(s)

Other intentions and/or suggestions

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Signed.....(Parent)

Remarks: Due to School’s limited area, each family is allowed 2 members to participate in the activity. Should there be any round with exceeding number of participants, School will contact parents beforehand individually to rearrange parents to attend other rounds.

EXTRA CLASS: THE SECOND GENERATION PROGRAM

YOU MAKE THE CHOICE, WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Objectives and Principles

Since ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) established the ASEAN Economic Community and launched the ASEAN Charter on December 15, 2008 to transform the association into an International Organization, the Thai Government has recognized the importance of contributing to the establishment of the ASEAN Community, especially in the education sector. This is to promote stability in Economics, Politics and Socio-Cultural aspects between member countries for a stronger ASEAN in the future.

The establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 1992, proposed by former Thai Prime Minister H.E. Anand Panyarachun has caused significant changes to ASEAN. That is, under the free-trade area agreement, there will be free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labor and freer flow of capital within the region by 2015. Furthermore, the proportion of Foreign (ASEAN) Equity Participation in the Services Sector will increase to 70%. This includes in the education sector, which is one of the essential foundations for an integrated development in ASEAN.

The ASEAN Charter states that English will be used as the communicative language in the ASEAN Community. This emphasizes the importance of English in Thailand, which will play the role as host to investors and labor with different nationalities, religions who will have free movement in the region.

As the first school providing classes with English as the instructional language (Bilingual : Thai – English) in Thailand, Sarasas Ektra School has been developing courses in order to prepare Thai students for the next step once the country enters the ASEAN Community. The school has integrated the GAC curriculum from ACT Education Solutions Limited (Australia) with our existing curriculum and provides the GLOBAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE dual qualification course. The GAC certificate is accepted in more than 100 universities around the world and it commences in Grade 11 in the academic year 2010. At present, the GAC Pathway Universities in Thailand are Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT) at Thammasat University. Finally, the launch of the **EXTRA CLASS: THE SECOND GENERATION PROGRAM** in Primary and Junior Secondary levels aims to enhance student's English competence in order to provide them more alternatives and prepare them for the changes in the future and gain abilities appreciated in the world.

Program Propose

1. To develop students' proficiency in using English for further education and communication.
2. To prepare students for the changes of the free trade agreement in ASEAN (AFTA).
3. To enhance students' opportunity in higher education at International Institutes.
4. To develop Sarasas Ektra School to international education standards.

Academic Curriculum

The curriculum will be a bilingual system (Thai and English) with the ratio of classes in English and Thai for each class according to the information below:

1. Primary Level (Grades 2 – 6)

There will be additional English classes to enhance the students' competence in using English for academic purposes and communication. The ratio of English to Thai lessons for the Extra Class Program will be according to the table below.

	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Extra Class Program	70 : 30	70 : 30	70 : 30	70 : 30	70 : 30
Regular Class	60 : 40	50 : 50	50 : 50	50 : 50	50 : 50

Remarks:

- 1) The ratios in the table are the % of classes in English: Thai compared to 100%.
- 2) Subjects in English that are taught by foreign teachers and use English as the instructional language are English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Phonics, P.E. and Chinese / Japanese.

2. Secondary Level (Grades 7 – 12)

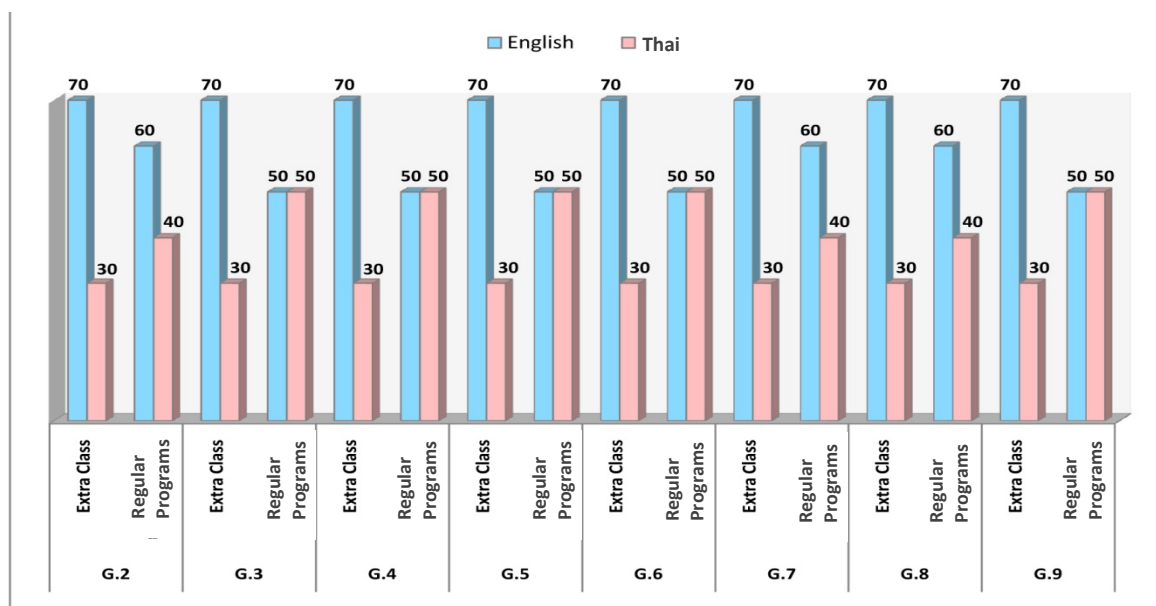
There will be additional English classes and Thai teachers will be “bridging” and providing appropriate lessons for student revision. In Grade 9, there will be extra classes in the first semester to prepare students for their strand selection: Science-Maths, English-Maths, English-Language or English-Music.

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10 - 12
Extra Class Program	70 : 30	70 : 30	70 : 30	Extra Class students can choose to attend either GAC or Extra Class Program. All Programs can choose their field as normal, that is Science-Maths, English-Maths, English-Language or English-Music. The ratio of English to Thai content is 70 : 30.
Regular Class	60 : 40	60 : 40	50 : 50	

Remarks:

- 1) The ratios in the table are the % of classes in English: Thai compared to 100%.
- 2) Subjects in English that are taught by foreign teachers and use English as the instructional language are English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and P.E.
- 3) English classes for the Extra Class Program and regular course will be taught according to the Ministry of Education program. However, the GAC Program is a Global Assessment Certificate and has an internationally recognized curriculum and syllabus. Details of the GAC Program can be found at the school website: www.ektra.ac.th

Comparison of Content Ratio between Extra Class and Regular Programs



Class Arrangements in the Extra Class: The Second Generation Program

All Extra Class students in G.2 have the opportunity to develop their competence equally; therefore, there will not be any special arrangements. However, Extra Class students in G.7 are required to take a competence exam and they will be arranged into classes according to their exam results.

Tuition Fee for the Extra Class: The Second Generation Program

There will be a 10,000 baht fee for students attending the Extra Class: The Second Generation Program in addition to the regular tuition fee for Primary level and 12,500 baht for Junior Secondary level.

Epilogue

As our saying goes: “You make the choice, we make the differences”, so we would like to inform parents that Sarasas Ektra is determined to create a number of alternatives for you and your children. Each alternative aims for a better future. Starting these extra classes for students in both levels (G2 and G7) will equip students with the educational foundations required for the International curriculum or GAC. Sarasas Ektra is the first school in Thailand to offer the GAC program and this is the foundation year as well. Once students have graduated from this Program, they can submit their academic records to more than 100 well-known international universities that accept the GAC. Furthermore, students are able to apply to well-known universities in Thailand as well. This is because GAC has sought cooperation with Thai universities, or they can use their IELTS to apply as well since the GAC includes IELTS testing in the final semester of Grade 12.

