



TANG YU ALEXANDER

Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal 2020

RISING ABOVE GRIEF

On his 16th birthday, Alexander received news about his grandmother's demise and his father's diagnosis with Stage 3 Liver Cancer. In a matter of months, Alexander lost his father to cancer. His self-employed mother became the sole breadwinner of his household that includes his sister, an uncle who has Down Syndrome and a depressed grandfather. Then, Alexander stopped taking an allowance from his mother and began relying on government bursaries for his expenses.

As he gradually stepped out of grief, he enrolled in ITE and focused on his education. Alexander did not let his loss nor his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder affect his studies. He excelled academically and even represented ITE in the WorldSkills Singapore Competition 2020, in the area of Chemical & Laboratory Technology. Daily after school, he and his sister would take turns to care for their uncle and grandfather. Yet, Alexander still made time to volunteer at community events and deliver meals to the needy. He stands out as a youth with a big heart and extraordinary grit and tenacity, traits that few his age would possess.

The Secret to Success Despite Adversity

"Hard work and perseverance are key to success. We also need to be thankful for whatever we have and serve others around us. When we serve others, we open our minds and step out of our own circumstances."

After ITE

Alexander is pursuing the Diploma in Medical Biotechnology at Temasek Polytechnic.

Top Achievements

- Alexander won second place in the Open Group category of the SG75: Our Singapore Competition, organised by the Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru CCC under the People's Association.
- He was the Champion of the ITE College East Public Speaking Competition 2019.
- Alexander received the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship 2019 and Gold Service Star Award in 2019. He was on the Director's List in 2018 and 2019, and graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0.