The Star

Top IGCSE student scores by staying calm

Sunday, 14 Jul 2024



Well done: Education Ministry (Private Education Division) deputy director Noor Akmar Jais (left) presenting the award to Jeremiah.

Focus on staying calm, answer one question at a time, and make sure you get a good night's sleep.

That was Jeremiah Jebasingam Rasiah's advice to students who will be sitting for important exams like the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), a globally recognised qualification for secondary school students.

While admitting that he is "always nervous about exams", the Stella Maris International School Damansara (SMIS) student reminded his peers that "you are braver, stronger and smarter than you seem".

The Year 11 student was honoured with the prestigious "Top in Malaysia Award" for Economics when the IGCSE results were released recently.

The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards ceremony, held at the Sime Darby Convention Centre in May, celebrated young scholars' extraordinary talent and dedication across Malaysia.

In addition to other awards presented by Cambridge Assessment International Education, “Top in Malaysia” has a special distinction – it is accorded to students who achieved the highest mark in specific subjects in the country.

Describing himself as “determined”, the avid athlete said his trust in his abilities allowed him to push beyond his perceived limitations with confidence and courage.

“Whenever I have to make a decision, I will stick by it and not have second thoughts about it,” he said.

A proponent of making a difference in the world, he said youth have the power to drive positive change for the greater good of society.

“This young man is an exemplar of what can be achieved through hard work, balance and a positive outlook.

“His story speaks of the success that is not just about achieving high marks but also about growing holistically and contributing positively to the world,” a press release from SMIS dated June 27 read.