



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学

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Parents' Connect

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Jan & Feb Issue

1. WELCOME & HAPPY NEW YEAR

A warm welcome to all parents and students to the new academic year! I hope that you had a restful year-end break, and are energised as we journey together into an exciting 2022.

I would like to update you on three initiatives for 2022. Yuan Ching is participating in the national study on sleep health to understand the factors affecting sleep patterns of our adolescents so that we could better structure support for our students as sleep is found to be essential for student's health and well-being. Additionally, we are a pilot school working with MOE on the Early Intervention Programme for Excessive Gaming, designed to help students who are struggling with excessive gaming through a series of intervention programme. Thirdly, in alignment with MOE's approach for Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB) in 2023, towards one secondary education with many subject bands without the need for labels, we have renamed our classes using our school's values IExCEL (Integrity, Excellence, Compassion, Enterprise and Loyalty) and the values in MOE's 21st Core Competencies (Respect, Resilience, Harmony).

Even as our nation transits into living with COVID-19 as an endemic, we remain committed to safe management measures, and seek your continued cooperation to make Yuan Ching a safe school for all. If your child or an adult household member has fever or flu-like symptoms, your child should not report to school. Please bring your unwell child to see a doctor and keep your child's Form Teacher updated of the result.

To the Sec 1 students who have just joined the Yuan Ching family, I hope you have enjoyed the Orientation Programme and the CCA Showcase organised by the Student Council and PE/CCA department during the first week of school. To our Sec 1 parents, do join us at the online Meet-the-Parents webinar on 8 Jan 2022 (Sat), to find out more about the school's direction and key programmes. I am confident that your child will have a pleasant education journey in YCSS.

2. PARENTS' CONNECT AND PARENTS GATEWAY

The Parents' Connect is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to enhance communication with the parents of our students. It aims to provide timely information so that parents are aware of key school matters. I encourage all parents to read our Parents' Connect so that you are updated on the various school activities and you can partner us to better support your child in his/her educational experiences in Yuan Ching Secondary School. The PDF copy of Parents' Connect will be disseminated via Parents Gateway (PG), and can also be found in our school's website: <https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/ycss/quick-links/for-parents/parents-connect>.

Our school encourages all parents to use the PG app which allows parents to interact with our school more conveniently on administrative matters, such as announcements, consent forms and travel declarations. For more details on the PG app, please access the following link: <https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/ycss/quick-links/for-parents/parents-gateway>.

3. 2021 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2021 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 17 Dec 2021. Our students have done the school proud!

We thank our teachers and parents for their strong support for our graduating students. Your belief in them and their potential has enabled them to give of their best and to produce these commendable outcomes. We wish our 2021 Sec 4N cohort all the best in the next lap of their education journey.

4. SCHOOL MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

I would like to share with you our school's mission, vision and core values.

SCHOOL MISSION Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting Lives
SCHOOL VISION Every Individual A Thinker, An Achiever, A Concerned Citizen
SCHOOL VALUES Integrity, Excellence, Compassion, Enterprise, Loyalty (IExCEL)
SCHOOL MOTTO Efforts Today, Rewards Tomorrow

5. CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

The school's Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) Programme comprises various aspects for a holistic education, and includes the following:

<u>MOE CCE Curriculum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Education (NE)• Sexuality Education (SEd)• Family Education (FE)• Cyber Wellness (CW)• Mental Health (MH)• Education & Career Guidance (ECG)	<u>School-based CCE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ABCD Thinking Habits of YCS• Social Skills Booster• Peer Support Relationships• Value of the Month (VOTM)• Guiding & Empowering students for Affiliation & Resilience to Unlock their Potential (GEAR-UP) Programme• Assembly Programme
<u>Citizenship Education</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Education, with Learning Journeys, NE Commemorative Days, NE Ambassadors• International Students Programme• Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme	<u>Student Leadership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Leadership• Peer Leadership• Inspiring Leadership

6. CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

We offer a varied Co-Curricular Programme comprising Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), Student Leadership Programme, Enrichment and Lifeskills.

CCAs provide a platform to inculcate good character and values by providing every student with opportunities to develop skills and talents. There is a wide range of CCAs to match our students' interests and strengths and provide them with meaningful and enriching experiences. Every student must take part in one CCA and their attendance at scheduled sessions is **compulsory**. CCAs are conducted from 3 pm to 6 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Should there be exceptions, your child will be informed accordingly¹. Sec 2 – 5 students have started their CCA sessions on 4 Jan 2022, while Sec 1 students will commence their CCAs on 8 Feb 2022. To develop thinking skills and a greater sense of ownership, we use a CCA Bidding process as the approach for our Sec 1s to select their CCAs. We will be sharing more on the CCA Bidding process through Parents Gateway by 15 Jan 2022.

Student Leadership Programme comprises 3 levels of student leadership development for different segments of student leaders (personal leadership, peer leadership and inspiring leadership). Opportunities for leadership development are supported by the 4A approach of Awareness, Actions, Assessment & review and Affirmation of leadership competencies.

Enrichment and Lifeskills programmes which include learning of a sport are conducted on selected Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Terms 2 & 3 (depending on the latest SMM).

7. **UPDATES ON SELECTED SCHOOL INITIATIVES**

a. **GEAR-UP @ D'YC Resort**

D'YC Resort, our GEAR-UP Centre, provides students with a regular and safe environment for interaction and relaxation after curriculum time. The activities carried out at the GEAR-UP Centre include interaction between students and teachers through recreational games such as carrom, table soccer, card games, board games and educational video games.

The centre is open 3 days a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.45pm to 5.45 pm, except during examination periods. We welcome all students to the D'YC Resort when they are not involved in any school programmes such as remedial lessons or CCAs.

Parents of Sec 1 students who would like your child to be involved in GEAR-UP programmes may register with your child's Form Teachers by 21 Jan 2022.

b. **Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – Marine Robotics**

Through our STEM-ALP programme, we hope to widen our students' learning in the areas of Robotic Engineering and Computational Science. Our Sec 2s who completed the basic SeaPerch module last year will start on MicroBit programming and embark on projects that incorporate sensors and technology into various transport devices. This will bring our students one step closer to the research work achieved by the Remotely Operating Vehicles (ROV) used by industries in the real world.

The Sec 1 students in 2022 will start their basic SeaPerch module in Semester 2. They will work in groups to build underwater vehicles to overcome designated challenges. In the process, they will enhance their 21st century skills such as creative thinking, collaboration and communication and discover how knowledge acquired in Science, Mathematics and Design and Technology lessons can be applied to construct a workable vehicle.

As part of the Talent Development Programme in ALP, students who are keen to stretch their potential in this field will embark on a Talent Development Roadmap, charting the journey to deepen their understanding of advanced topics in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Students have the autonomy to decide on their own training opportunities. The school had set up *Tech Alley*, a tinkering corner for the students to carry out self-exploration of coding and other STEM-related projects. They will be challenged to excel by participating in various inter-school competitions such as the Shell Challenge organised by the Singapore Science Centre, and Marine & Offshore Challenge organised by Polytechnics. In the past few years, our Sec 1 and 2 participants had won various awards in these competitions.

¹ For example, Scouts will have CCA sessions on alternate Fridays and, from 8.00 am to 12.15 pm on Saturdays.

To reinforce their learning through these experiences, students will document their products, learning points and reflections in an online e-portfolio. Opportunities will also be provided for the students to share their learnings at school level.

8. SAFETY AWARENESS

Our staff and students' safety is of utmost importance and we would like to emphasise safety messages and the importance of everyone's responsibility in ensuring safety in the school. For parents who are driving to drop off or pick up their children at school, do exercise patience and avoid overtaking within the narrow driveway in our school foyer. The speed limit within our school premises is 15km/h and we appreciate that this speed limit be adhered for the safety of our staff and students. For students who intend to cycle to school, parental consent is required and only LTA approved bicycles are allowed. We would also like to highlight that CCTVs are in operation in and around our premises to ensure school safety and security.

9. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022

a. SEC 1 MEET-THE-PARENTS SESSION ON 8 JAN

The Sec 1 Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Session will be held on 8 Jan 2022 (Sat) from 9.00am to 12.00pm via online webinar. Do kindly register for the webinar via the following link by 6 Jan 2022 (Thu) <https://go.gov.sg/2022-sec-1-mtp-registration>. You may also refer to the message sent earlier via Parent Gateway on Sec 1 MTP for more details. We encourage parents of our Sec 1 students to join us and allow us to share our school ethos, key programmes and expectations of our students, with the hope to deepen this school-home partnership to bring out the best in every student.

b. SCHOOL SAFETY WEEK

In the pursuit of building a safety culture among staff and students and ensuring that students can maximise their learning potential within a safe and secure environment, the school will be organising a School Safety Week in Term 1 Week 2, from 10 to 14 Jan 2022. The range of programmes prepared for our students are as follows:

- I. Safety Briefing for Secondary 1 Students
Topics: Coming to school safely, School Traffic, Safety in Engaging Physical Activities, Lightning Alert System, School Emergency and SMM.
- II. Fire Safety Presentation by Miss Jasmine & NCDCC Cadets
Learn the P.A.S.S method to operate the Fire Extinguisher: P - Pull, A - Aim, S - Squeeze, S - Sweep
- III. Safety Quiz for Staff
To arouse and foster the Safety Awareness of Yuan Ching Staff and develop a safety culture among them
- IV. Emergency Exercise Sharing on Security Incident
To bring awareness and equip all members of Yuan Ching Secondary School with basic knowledge in response to security threats and emergencies
- V. Road Safety Assembly Programme
To educate the importance of road safety and advocate road safety practices

With these programmes prepared for our staff and students, we all aim to do our part to keep each other safe in a conducive learning environment.

c. **REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING FROM 10 JAN**

We believe in timely intervention and supporting our students in closing their learning gaps. Students will be identified for remedial lessons which are conducted on a weekly basis in the afternoons, starting on 10 Jan 2022. Parents will be informed via Parents Gateway (PG) if their child has been identified for remedial lessons.

The Daily Routines for Semester 1 will be disseminated to all students by Term 1 Week 1 Friday (7 Jan 2022). It provides details of the remedial lesson schedule, daily curriculum hours, CCA sessions and operating hours of the General Office. A copy of it will also be uploaded on the school website.

d. **SEC 1 G-SUITE WORKSHOP**

The school is organising a G-Suite Workshop for all Sec 1 students. The workshop will prepare our Sec 1 students for the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDL), as well as equip them with important ICT skills for self-directed and life-long learning. They will also familiarise themselves with the common ICT tools used in the school. All Sec 1 students are expected to attend.

Schedule for the individual classes as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Classes
10 Jan (Mon)	3 - 5 pm	Lab 1	1 Enterprise
		Lab 2	1 Resilience
		Lab 3	1 Compassion
17 Jan (Mon)		Lab 1	1 Loyalty
		Lab 2	1 Respect
18 Jan (Tue)		Lab 2	1 Integrity
		Lab 3	1 Excellence

e. **SEC 2 ICT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME FROM 7 FEB**

Selected Sec 2 students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting 7 Feb 2022 (Mon). The programme aims to empower them with essential ICT competencies. In addition, students will be exposed to the features of Google Docs and Google Spreadsheets. Students who have not met the minimum baseline ICT standards prescribed by MOE, based on results of the ICT baseline competency test conducted in October 2021, will be required to attend. Details on the programme will be given to these selected students.

f. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEMESTRAL ONE ORAL EXAMINATIONS IN FEB & MAR**

The English Language Oral Examinations for Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students will be conducted on 7 Feb 2022 (Mon). Sec 4 Compassion, 4 Enterprise and Sec 5 Harmony students will sit for the examinations on 21 Feb 2022 (Mon) while Sec 4 Integrity and 4 Excellence will take it on 28 Feb 2022 (Mon). Subject teachers will give more details on the oral exams to your child.

g. ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS ON 31 JAN

The Ethnic Celebrations will take place on 31 Jan 2022 (Mon), to engage our students in a range of entertaining and meaningful activities. Students will learn more about traditions and cultural aspects of different ethnic groups through interactive games and hands-on activities.

In the run up to the final celebration, to promote the spirit of sharing and caring for the less fortunate, we will be organising a range of activities for our students to make meaningful handicrafts and bake cookies which will be distributed to elderly in the rental blocks before the Chinese New Year. We hope that you will show your support for this meaningful activity.

On 31 Jan 2022, school will end by 10.30 am. More details will be given to the students closer to the event. We wish all Chinese parents and students a Happy and Prosperous Lunar New Year in advance.

h. WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT 1 STARTING FROM 14 FEB

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) will take place from 14 Feb – 4 Mar 2022. WA1 will assess students' academic learning progress in Term 1. We look forward to your support in supervising your child as he/she prepares for the Weighted Assessment 1.

i. REGISTRATION FOR GCE 'N' AND 'O' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS 2022

Registration for the 2022 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations will take place from Feb – Mar 2022 for all Sec 4 and 5 students and Sec 3 Higher Mother Tongue students. They will be given a confirmation slip which indicates the subject information and examination dates. Students are to check that they have registered for the correct subjects. Tentatively, the collection/deduction of the examination fees will take place in the months of March and April. Singapore Permanent Residents and International Students are reminded to make prompt payments for the examination fees in order to sit for the examinations.

10. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT, RULES AND REGULATIONS

We believe that a positive school tone is crucial to our students' development. School rules state the school's expectations of student behaviour and conduct, both within and outside the school. It is important to start the year right by displaying exemplary conduct and cultivate good habits such as punctuality and attendance in school. All students must abide by the school rules and strive to uphold the school's good name.

All students are given a copy of the 2022 Student Handbook and Planner which they need to bring to school daily. A summary of our school rules is stated in the handbook. The full version can be found on our school website. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the school rules so that together, we can provide a conducive environment that supports our students' learning and holistic development.

Do also take note of the policy on the use of mobile phones and personal learning device (PLD) in school. Unless permission is otherwise granted by the school, all mobile devices are to be placed in silent mode and kept out of sight during curriculum time/ remedial/ CCAs and can only be used in the school canteen after these activities. Non-adherence will result in confiscation of the mobile phone (including SIM card) for one week in the first instance.

Attendance in school is one of the basic predictive factors for learning, for students to experience a holistic education that develops the mind, ethics and social skills. Regular attendance in school is critical and our school takes a serious view of students' attendance. Students who are absent from school (during curriculum time and/or for afternoon programmes or CCAs) must produce a medical certificate upon their return to school. Letters from parents will only be accepted for exceptional cases.

11. PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

All parents of our students are invited to join the Parent Support Group (PSG). A strong partnership between the school and parents is critical to our students' development. The PSG has been actively involved in our school events and has provided invaluable support to both our staff and students. The PSG also plays an important role in facilitating and coordinating Project PAiR (PArEnts Involved in Reading) which promotes reading among parents and children. In addition, PSG organises family-oriented activities to promote parent-child bonding and to create a strong sense of identity among PSG members. If you are interested to find out more about the PSG, you may wish to contact the teacher liaison Mr Raymond Yeo (email: yeo_tong_wei_raymond@moe.edu.sg) or Mr Leung Yulun (email: leung_yulun@moe.edu.sg).

12. OFFICE HOURS

As part of our efforts to support you in educating your child, we welcome inquiries from parents. Should you wish to speak to the teachers, you may contact the General Office at Tel: 6261 2489, during the school term, from 7.30am to 6pm on weekdays to leave a message for the teachers to return your call during working hours when they are available. We seek your understanding that our teachers may not be able to respond immediately as they may be conducting lessons. We do not require our staff to share their personal handphone numbers with parents, and/or respond to calls/WhatsApp messages after working hours.

Please note that our office closes at 5.30pm daily for walk-in assistance, and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6pm. Should you have any queries after school operating hours, we appreciate that you call on the next working day. Alternatively, you may access our school website to access the key information on school programmes and updates, or complete the online enquiry form.

13. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Photographs or video images of you and/or your child may be taken during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCA, VIA, school camps, or school concerts. The school may use and publish such photographs or video recordings in school publications, the school's website, social media channels, and/or other official school communication channels. Should you have any concerns, please reach out to us via letter or email (ycss@moe.edu.sg).

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2022!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)
PRINCIPAL
5 JAN 2022

(This is a computer-generated letter which does not require a signature.)