



# Parents' Connect

Ref No: 05/2020

October till December Issue

## 1. A Note from the Principal

Singapore's Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (Dorscon) level has been at Orange since 7 Feb and continues to remain at orange (as of 5 Oct 2020) until the global situation improves, as reported by Health Minister in Parliament, Mr Gan Kim Yong today. As such, we thank you, parents who have been steadfast in supporting your child and the school we have to modify our school programmes and activities accordingly due to the deployment of safe management measures. Nonetheless, we are heartened to see our students' enthusiastic involvement, whether in the class-level National Day and Teachers' Day celebrations, through physical or online CCAs, or individually through OpenMic virtual performances. We believe that our Yuan Ching students will continue to thrive, adopting a positive mindset and growing in resilience, and that with your continued partnership, 2020 will conclude as a memorable, fruitful year for our Yuan Ching Family!

## 2. School Programmes

### a) Learning-for-Life (LLP) Enhanced Framework

To provide a greater breadth of experiences and learning opportunities for character and life skills development, the scope of our Learning for Life Programme (LLP), 'gRowing Values through Sports and Outdoor Experiences', has been enhanced with an addition of our signature Talent Development Programme (Refer to Figure 1). These will support the 'GRIT21' student outcomes (G – Growth Mindset, R – Resilience, I – IExCEL (School Values), T – Thrive, 21 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies).

To deepen students' 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies, those with good aptitude and interest in Sports and Games who opt to participate in the Talent Development Programme will have the opportunity to engage in dialogues with practitioners from the sports industry, attend related learning journeys and experience a multi-sport exposure (Refer to Figure 2). For example, virtual dialogue sessions were conducted with athletes of various sports, sports scientists and even active volunteers in the sporting scene in Aug and Sep this year.



Figure 1



Figure 2

## b) Introducing The ABCD Thinking Habits of YCS

Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting lives  
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**The ABCD Thinking Habits of YCS**

Right discipline consists, not in external compulsion, but in the habits of mind which lead spontaneously to desirable rather than undesirable activities.  
*Bertrand Russell*

Develop in these dispositions that are skillfully and mindfully employed by characteristically intelligent, successful people when they are confronted with problems, the solutions to which are not immediately apparent.

**1 Think Positively**  
Sunny side up

**2 Alternative Solutioning**  
Wearing a different hat

See things from different points of view. See many sides of a problem creatively and develop skills for meeting challenges in education and in life.

Without minute neatness of execution, the sublime cannot exist! Grandeur of ideas is founded on precision of ideas.  
*William Blake*

**3 Be Precise**  
Closer to Target

**4 Connect the dots**  
Re-design the new normal

Sometimes we need to dive deeper to find that something we need when back at the surface again.  
TO KNOW BETTER DIVE DEEPER!

**5 Dive Deeper**  
Peeling the Onion

We have adopted Positive Education as a whole school approach at YCS in co-creating the following outcomes:

- A flourishing school with caring teachers and happy students
- Healthy students who strive for excellence
- Students who exhibit pro-social behaviours and readily give back to society

One of the strategies of Positive Education that our students have learnt and experienced is Habits of Mind (HOM). Selected HOM competencies, based on students' needs, were introduced to all students through school-wide programmes such as Value of the Month (VOTM) and Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons. In the upcoming post-exam programmes, these selected HOM competencies will also be further shared with and internalised by all our Sec 3 students through a workshop.

## c) Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)

MOE has announced that as part of the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP), students will be equipped with a personal learning device (PLD) from 2021. The aim of the programme is to prepare students to be future-ready to thrive in the future economy through engaged learning in a technology-enabled environment.

The PLD will empower students to learn both in school and at home. Every device will be installed with device management applications that will enable the school to address cyber-wellness concerns through the restriction of apps and access to sites, and limiting the amount of screen time.

The school is in the process of evaluating the PLD of choice. More information on the purchase process will be made available at a later stage.

## 3. END-OF-YEAR ACADEMIC MATTERS

### a) Marking Day (9 Oct) and Promotion Exercise (19 Oct)

We have set aside 9 Oct (Fri) for teachers to mark and 19 Oct (Mon) for teachers to finalise the progression of students to their next level of study. On the two dates mentioned, students are not required to report for school. Lessons will resume on 20 Oct (Tue) for Sec 1 to 3 students. It is important for your child to attend school as their teachers will be providing feedback on how your child has performed in the end-of-year examination.

## b) 2021 Sec 3 Subject Combination Option Exercise

Information and timeline on the 2021 Sec 3 Subject Combinations will be given to all Sec 2 students after the end of year examinations. We hope that you will go through the subject combinations with your child so as to guide him/her in his/her choice. Students are expected to exercise their options via MOnline by the stipulated deadline. A step-by-step guide will be provided to guide the students in the process of submitting their options.

### Dates of Sec 3 Subject Combination Option Exercise

Activities	Dates
Students/Parents indicate options on MOnline	16 Oct – 20 Oct (3 working days)
Release of allocation results on MOnline	2 Nov
Submission of Appeals [if applicable]	2 Nov – 4 Nov (3 working days)
Release of results of Appeals	By 13 Nov
Release of 2021 Sec 3 Classes	By 20 Nov

## c) Dismissal Time for Sec 1 to 3 Students

Our teachers will be serving as invigilators for the national GCE 'O' Level Examination which starts on 20 Oct (Mon). All Sec 1, 2 and 3 students will be dismissed by 12.35 pm daily during the period of the GCE 'O' Level Examination. As part of the Safe Management Measures, please note the staggered dismissal timings as follows:

### Dismissal Timings for 20-23 Oct

	20 Oct (Tue)	21 Oct (Wed)	22 Oct (Thu)	23 Oct (Fri)
Sec 1	12.30pm	12.35pm	12.35pm	10.35am
Sec 2	12.10pm	12.25pm	12.25pm	10.30am
Sec 3	12.20pm	12.30pm	12.30pm	10.25am

## d) Last Day of School For Sec 1 To 3 Students (23 Oct)

As our school serves as a GCE 'O' Level Examination centre, the last day of the academic year will be 23 Oct (Fri). On that day, we will release the Report Books and Textbook List for 2021. All students will be dismissed by 10.35 am (Refer to the table above). Form Teachers will meet up with the parents of selected students to give their feedback on their child's performance. We hope that you will take note of the date/time of meeting as your presence will be critical in ensuring your child is well prepared for the following year's study.

## 4. POST-EXAMINATION ACTIVITIES (16 Oct – 23 Oct)

We have a line-up of post-examination activities such as the Mother Tongue Languages & Cultural Day Camp, Humanities Day, Literary Arts Programme, PET Rocket, Math Trail, Thinking Habits Workshop, Ukulele and Percussion, aimed at enhancing bonding and providing holistic learning experiences for our students. Some of the programmes are shared here, and the details of the rest of the programmes will be given to your child after the End-of-year Examination.

### **a) ICT Baseline Standards Test (16 Oct)**

All Sec 1E and 1NA students will be taking the ICT Baseline Standards Test 2 on 16 Oct during curriculum hours. The purpose of the test is to ascertain the levels of proficiency of the students in Level 3 standard of the ICT Baseline Standards. ICT enrichment lessons will be provided in 2021 for students yet to meet the standards prescribed by MOE.

### **b) ICT Skills Workshop (Sec 1- 20 Oct, Sec 2- 22 Oct, Sec 3 - 21 Oct)**

To prepare students for the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) as well as Home-Based Learning, all Sec 1 - 3 students will attend a ICT Skills Workshop during curriculum hours. The workshop is designed to equip students with important ICT skills so that our students can be self-directed and life-long learners. The students will learn the basic G-Suite functions, such as Google Classroom, Google Docs, and Google Drive.

## **5. 2020 NATIONAL GCE 'O' & 'NA/NT' EXAMINATIONS**

Term 4 is a critical period for our graduating classes as the GCE Examinations are fast approaching. You can access the GCE 'O' & 'NA / NT' Level Examination Timetables from the Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB) website using the following links:

### Websites of National Examination Timetables

GCE 'O' Examination	<a href="https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-o-level">https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-o-level</a>
GCE 'N(A)' Examination	<a href="https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(a)-level">https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(a)-level</a>
GCE 'N(T)' Examination	<a href="https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(t)-level">https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(t)-level</a>

We hope that you would take note of the dates of the exams and support your child in his/her preparation. We would like to highlight that the second window of GCE 'N' Level Exams will continue from 5 to 15 Oct, while the GCE 'O' Level Exams Written papers commence on 19 Oct.

To allow time for focused revision, home study for Sec 4E and 5NA students will start from 5 Oct (Mon). Subject teachers may arrange for small group consultation sessions for those who need help in preparing for the GCE 'O' Level Exams during the first week of the home study. Students attending consultation sessions should be attired in either full school uniform or half uniform (PE or CCA T-shirt and school skirt/pants) and put on school shoes or track shoes. During the second week of home study (12 - 16 Oct), please encourage your child to study at home. Subject Teachers may conduct consultations remotely via online platforms if necessary. Your child may stay at home to revise on the days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined.

The Sec 4N students are not required to report to school after the completion of the GCE 'N' Level Exams on 19 Oct. The tentative date for the release of the GCE 'N' Level results is 17-21 Dec 2020. The actual date and time will be confirmed in December and announced through the media. Students are to report to school in full school uniform to collect their results. Proper attire and grooming is expected.

## 6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### a) School Holiday Activities (16 Nov - 31 Dec)

Our teachers will be planning CCA activities to provide your child with richer learning experiences. More details together with the necessary consent forms will be issued to the students and put up on the School Website nearer the Term 4 school vacation to notify you of your child's participation. If your child is coming for these activities, please remind your child to come in school uniform and to sign in their attendance at the foyer.

### b) School Holiday Operations

In view of ongoing visitor management measures, please make an appointment or call the General Office for the confirmed operating hours where an in-person visit is necessary. The school canteen will be closed during the school holidays. However, selected stalls will continue operations to meet the needs of students taking the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

### c) MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (MOE-FAS)

Students who are currently on the MOE-FAS scheme will need to reapply if they would like to continue with the scheme in 2021, and a Parents' Gateway notification will be sent once the application window is open. If you need more details regarding the application process, please contact the General Office at 6261 2489 during office hours for assistance.

## 7. PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG)

We are glad that the PSG partners the school closely in supporting our students' learning. If you would like to take part in PSG activities, please email Mr Leung Yulun, HOD Character and Citizenship Education (email: [leung\\_yulun@moe.edu.sg](mailto:leung_yulun@moe.edu.sg)) or Mr Raymond Yeo, HOD Mother Tongue Languages (email: [yeo\\_tong\\_wei\\_raymond@moe.edu.sg](mailto:yeo_tong_wei_raymond@moe.edu.sg)).

## 8. CLOSING NOTE

As we close the year, please look out for our inaugural issue of 'Our Canvas', where you can catch a glimpse of our students' works and how we have thrived as a school amidst the Covid-19 situation. We hope that you can spend some quality time with your child and engage him/her in meaningful activities during the vacation, while reinforcing the values and rich learning experiences that we have been providing for your child.

It will also be a time for you to psychologically prepare your child for the new academic year in 2021. To ensure that we collectively create a conducive learning environment, we hope that you could reiterate the importance of respecting and meeting school expectations, found in the Student Handbook or school website so that he/she has an idea of what is expected of him/her, pertaining to school discipline and decorum. We look forward to welcoming your child to school next year on 4 Jan 2021 (Mon).

Have a good December break ahead!



Ng Sook Kit (Ms)  
Principal  
5 Oct 2020