



# Parents' Connect

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August & September Issue

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## 1. A Note from the Principal

A big thank you to parents who have been very supportive and understanding towards the school as we manage the COVID-19 situation in unusual times. The school's communication approach is multi-prong: For parents who are tech-savvy, we urge you to follow the school's Facebook or Instagram account ([f](#)/[i](#)@yuanching.offical) to be updated on the school's activities; the school also pushes out messages, consent forms through the Parents Gateway (PG) for timely updates; the Parents' Connect is issued every 2 months to keep parents posted on school processes and events that will be taking place. Parents can also email or call the school during working hours if you have an enquiry or to make an appointment to speak with our teachers. The school's communication approach aims to balance the need for timely information and to avoid an information over-load. The school's website carries a link to all official news related to COVID-19 that are applicable to schools. Unless it is contextualised to the school's unique setting and carries implementation details, we will not duplicate news through Parents' Gateway.

In a snapshot, below is a quick summary of the events that we have gone through so far and what we are planning ahead. Schools nationally had gone into Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) in the period from 8 April to 4 May, and the mid-year school holidays which traditionally fall in June had been shifted forward to May this year. The school is very appreciative for the support given by parents during the Circuit Breaker periods:

- Full Home-Based Learning in the period from 8 April to 4 May: for encouraging your children to be consistent with their FHBL lessons and assigned work.
- May School Holidays from 5 May to 1 June: for helping to ensure that your children stay at home as far as possible, and adhere to social distancing measures if they are out of the house, and for encouraging your children to stay positive and adopt a positive mental attitude in overcoming challenges imposed by the COVID-19 situation.
- Phased Re-Opening in Term 3, from 2 June to 26 June: for helping to ensure that your children learn in school/HBL as school alternates on a weekly rotation basis between school and HBL for Term 3 Weeks 1 to 4 (Sec 1 – 3), and everyday in school for Sec 4/5. We also thank you for ensuring that your children continue to adhere to social distancing and safe management measures.

During FHBL, our students and staff had acquired valuable experience in learning and teaching remotely through technology. Our students had inculcated better self-management and time management skills, besides learning more about technology tools such as video-conferencing. Our teachers also had to customise and refine their pedagogies to deliver lessons both synchronously and asynchronously via digital means. Moving forward, we need to be prepared for the possibility that future learning may take the form of blended learning, with a mixture of face-to-face lessons and Home-Based Learning.

With the resumption of daily learning in school from 27 July, the school had continued with all the necessary safe management measures in place. As far as schools are concerned, this will

be the 'new normal' for now: Staggered reporting and dismissal timings for all levels to avoid congestion at the bus-stop or MRT train stations; daily visual screening at the school gates by teachers; daily temperature-taking at the start of the day, as well as a second temperature-taking for any after-school activities in the afternoon. There is increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, special rooms, toilets and all common areas. All students have been provided with hand sanitizers. Social distancing markers in the canteen and careful planning of safe management capacity for the canteen seating ensure safe distancing among students. Students are also allowed to bring their food in their own recyclable containers to eat in their classrooms during the staggered recess time.

Large group activities such as assemblies and whole school events such as talks and celebrations are now modified to be carried out at class level, until further notice. An example is the recent Student Council, CCA Leaders and Class Leaders Investiture, which was carried out in the individual classrooms. Creative ways of ensuring that such events retain their celebratory character include a pre-recorded video of the student council and CCA leaders passing on the baton from out-going leaders to the in-coming leaders. The certificates of appreciation and letters of appointment are given out to the Student Leaders by the Form Teachers in the classroom.

I appreciate your continued support and trust in the school's measures to ensure a safe learning environment for your child. Daily attendance in school is a pre-requisite for students to do well and succeed in their studies. My staff and I look forward to working with you hand in hand to maximise the learning success of your child.

## **2. 55<sup>th</sup> National Day Commemoration (7 Aug)**

This Friday, the school celebrates Singapore's 55<sup>th</sup> National Day with the pre-recorded Observance Ceremony. The singing of the National Anthem, pledge-taking and Recollections will follow. Normal lessons resume from 0845 to 1140. We will end of the commemoration with the folding of paper hearts by every student, and the school will be dismissed at the normal times for Friday.

## **3. Resumption of CCAs/E-CCAs (11 Aug)**

All CCAs will resume from 11 Aug except for Infocomm Club (from 18 Aug). Guzheng Ensemble will have one special session for Sec 1 members on 25 Aug, and will resume after the end-of-year exams. CCAs will be conducted in a blended approach, with a combination of both online and physical activities.

## **4. National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Presentation Ceremony (21 Aug)**

NYAA is a platform for youths in pursuit of developing their Personal Leadership. It guides and motivates youths to develop themselves and contribute actively to the community. The NYAA Presentation Ceremony will be held for students who have completed the NYAA requirements on 21 August (Fri) by their respective form teachers in their classes.

## **5. Graduation Ceremony for Secondary 4 and 5 Students (2 Sep / 2 Oct)**

To spur our graduating students forward and motivate them to do their best in their future endeavours, the school, in collaboration with the Parent Support Group (PSG), will be organising a Graduation Ceremony for 4NA/4NT on 2 September (Wed) and 4E/5NA on 2 October (Fri). The ceremony will be held in their respective classrooms. The IExCEL Awards to recognise graduating students who exemplify our school values, will also be given to the deserving awardees from every course of study at Sec 4 & 5, during the Graduation Ceremony.

**6. Term 4 Academic Calendar for Secondary 4 N(A) and N(T) Students**

The Secondary 4NA and 4NT students will be taking their GCE N-Level Examinations over two periods as shown in the table below.

	Events	4N(A)	4N(T)
1	GCE N-Level Examinations	14 - 21 September	14 - 23 September
2	Normal lessons in school	22 – 30 September	24 - 30 September
3	GCE N-Level Examinations	5 - 15 October	5 - 14 October

**7. Teachers’ Day Celebration (3 Sep)**

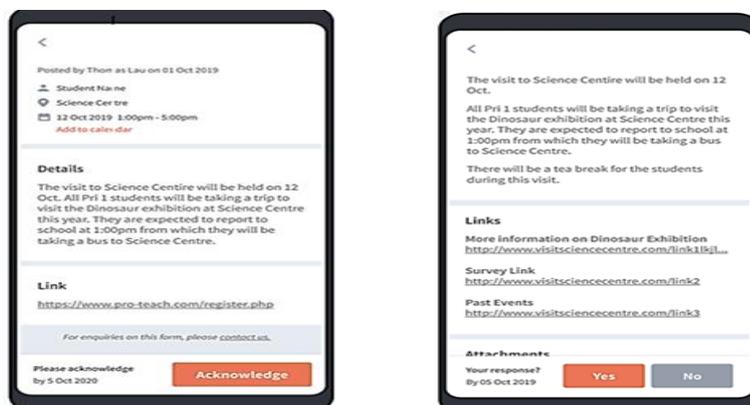
Teachers’ Day will fall on 4 Sep (Fri) this year. The school will be celebrating Teachers’ Day on 3 September 2020 (Thu). Students can come in half-uniform with class T-shirt or PE T-shirt, and will be dismissed at 10.30 am on that day. We would like to remind all parents that, in general, public servants are not allowed to accept gifts offered to them on account of their official position or official work. Hence, while we appreciate the good intent of you and your child, we appeal to you to exercise prudence in showing your appreciation to our teachers. In addition to your child’s expression of appreciation, we encourage parents to pen words of affirmation for our teachers and administrative staff, as your support goes a long way to encourage them to lead, care and inspire your child to excellence.

**8. Class Leaders’ Affirmation Ceremony and Class Committee Affirmation (25 Sep)**

Members of the Class Committee, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be affirmed on 25 September (Fri) for their efforts in serving the class, and for their leadership.

**9. Enhancements to Parents Gateway**

Some new enhanced features of the newest version of Parents Gateway include the introduction of the ‘Acknowledge’ button in Forms. In the mobile app, parents will receive either one of the two types of responses, depending on which option the staff uses: ‘Yes/No’ or ‘Acknowledge’. Parents who have yet to upgrade to the new mobile app version (from 29 July onwards) will not be able to see this new ‘Acknowledge’ button. As such, it is imperative for parents to update their mobile app of Parents Gateway to the latest version. For more details, please access the following link: <https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/parents-gateway>



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Principal  
5 Aug 2020