



Parents' Connect

Ref No: 03/2020

June & July Issue

1. A Note from the Principal

It has been an unusual school year for all of us! All schools went into Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) on 8 April 2020 and the mid-year holidays were brought forward to 5 May 2020, as the whole nation entered the Circuit Breaker period. We appreciate your trust in the school, the teachers, and your support during FHBL. We thank you for your understanding that both teachers and students are making adjustments to a new blended learning approach so that learning continues while we keep everybody safe. We were very heartened when you supported your child by participating in the 27-day Yuan Ching Challenge, and we felt very much encouraged when you did the morning workouts online together with your child. Our students have also surprised us in many ways. They have proven that they are self-disciplined, resilient and adaptable, with high online attendance and participation rate. Your support and encouragement, partnered with our staff's ongoing efforts, have helped forge unforgettable and meaningful learning experiences and memories even during the period of online learning.

As we enter Phase 1 of the post-Circuit Breaker period from 2 Jun 2020, we will continue to uphold Yuan Ching's safety vision as a 'A Safe School for All'. As shared in my earlier letter dated 29 May 2020, we have instituted a suite of Safe Management Measures in preparation for school reopening. These include staggered reporting, recess and dismissal timings, as well as instituting wipedown routines in all venues after use. Hygiene operations have also been stepped up, together with screening and visitor management procedures. I would like to take this opportunity to seek your continued support in safeguarding the health of our students. In line with guidelines from MOE, if an adult of your household is unwell with flu-like symptoms, please do not let your child come to school. Please inform your child's form teachers, who will be in touch with your child to support his/her continued learning.

As your child returns to school in Week 1 or 2 as scheduled, we will focus on helping your child re-acclimatise to classroom learning routines, re-connect with fellow classmates and teachers, and build resilience as they abide by the safe management measures. We appreciate that this phase of adjustment will take time, and hence we have moderated the pace of curriculum and assessment to reduce anxiety and to support your child in experiencing the joy of learning.

In this issue of Parents' Connect, we will share with you some of the key school events or activities in Semester 2. COVID-19 has led to many events being modified, postponed or cancelled. While CCAs remain suspended, selected CCAs will be rolling out e-CCA experiences, with lesson packages being designed by the coaches/instructors for online and offline learning. E-CCAs will be hosted online by the CCA teachers, and students will attend no more than a 2-hour session twice a week. While e-CCAs are optional, we appreciate your support to encourage your child's participation as part of his/her continued holistic development.

2. Weekly Remedial Routines for Semester 2

In alignment to the national posture of a phased reopening, as well as to help students gradually readjust to the rigour and pace of learning, the weekly remedial classes for the graduating cohort will only commence in week 3, and for the rest of the students, in week 5 (provided that the COVID-19 situation allows it). Due to safe management measures, remedial classes will be conducted on a needs basis and the size of the class will be kept small. The schedule will be issued for all classes at the end of Term 3 Week 2, and parents can access it via our school website under 'Information for Students and Parents'.

3. Portfolio Building and Interview Skills Workshop (For Graduating Students)

Early Admissions Exercises (EAE) for both ITE and Polytechnics have begun. The timeline is as follows:

Phase	ITE	Polytechnics
Application Phase	27 May to 3 Jun	25 Jun to 1 July
Interview	23 Jun to 24 Jul	6 Jul to 1 Sep
Offer & Acceptance Phase	24 Aug to 28 Aug	7 Sep to 10 Sep
Withdrawal Phase	31 Aug to 4 Sep	11 Sep to 16 Oct

To better prepare our graduating students for their EAE interviews, we have made special arrangements to hold a **Portfolio Building and Interview Skills Workshop** on **5 Jun 2020** and **10 Jun 2020**. Students have been informed of the details.

4. Edusave Character Award (ECHA)

The Edusave Character Award (ECHA) was introduced by MOE in 2012 to recognise students who demonstrate exemplary character and outstanding personal qualities through their behaviour and actions. This is part of the larger goal to foster an inclusive and stronger Singapore. Deserving students are those who uphold good values and character, who are active contributors towards community causes, and serve as good role models to inspire others. They may be nominated by their teachers or any staff members, peers, parents, instructors, coaches, members of school Alumni and/or any other key stakeholders who interact with them.

Nomination forms are obtainable from the school's general office or can be downloaded from the school website (<https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg>) from **17 Jun 2020 till 1 Jul 2020**. Completed forms can either be dropped into a sealed nomination box in the school's general office or emailed to ycss@moe.edu.sg. We look forward to receiving the entries from you soon. If there are any queries, please contact Mr Leung Yulun, Head of Department/Character & Citizenship Education, at 6261 2489 (ext 115).

5. Commemoration of SAF Day (1 Jul 2020)

SAF Day falls on 1 July and reminds us of the importance of a strong and capable SAF as part of our Total Defence to protect the nation's sovereignty and our way of life. Due to Safe Management Measures, we will commemorate it with a simplified rededication ceremony. Teachers who are our Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSMen) will recite the SAF pledge to reaffirm their loyalty and commitment to the defence of Singapore. The ceremony reminds us that what we have inherited from our founding generation – Singapore's peace and stability – is precious and something that our students should not take for granted. We hope that Yuan Ching students will build on this strong legacy to protect our nation, and safeguard Singapore's progress and prosperity in the future.

6. Weighted Assessment (WA) and Examinations

With the removal of Mid-Year Examinations for all levels due to the Circuit Breaker, the weighting for school-based assessments have been amended as follows:

For non-modular subjects (Sec 1-3):

Assessment	Weighted Assessment 1 (in Term 1)	Weighted Assessment 2 (in Term 3)	End-of-Year Exams (in Term 4)
Weighting	15%	20%	65%

For modular subjects (Sec 1-2):

Assessment	Weighted Assessment 1 (in Term 1)
Weighting	100%

For Sec 4-5:

Assessment	Preliminary Exams
Weighting	100%

Weighted Assessment 2 for Sec 1 to Sec 3 will be conducted from **27 Jul 2020 to 14 Aug 2020** after the one-week break. Students will be issued the assessment schedule by their respective Form and subject teachers nearer the assessment dates.

Students' attendance for weighted assessment and examinations is compulsory. Absence from any WA/Examination without a valid reason will be given a zero mark for the test missed. If your child/ward is unwell, he/she is advised not to come for the test. He/she, however, is required to see a doctor to produce a Medical Certificate on the next day that he/she is back in school. Please note that a parent's letter for absence, even if due to medical reasons, will not be accepted.

For our graduating Sec 4 and 5 classes, please refer to the dates of the GCE O- & N-Level written, Listening Comprehension and Oral Examinations shared in the Term 1 Sec 4 & 5 cohort letter. Please take note that the 1st day of examination for the GCE O-Level MTL paper starts on **18 Jun 2020**, and for the N-level course, the national Oral Exams start on **13 July 2020**. The specific date, time and venue can be found on the student's entry proof.

For your heads up, the school-based Preliminary Examination for the graduating cohort will begin on 5 Aug 2020 (N-Level) and 27 Aug 2020 (O-Level) respectively. The exam schedule will be issued to the students in Term 3 Week 3 (N-Level) and Week 5 (O-Level).

Preliminary Examination for GCE N-Level	Preliminary Examination for GCE O-Level
<u>5 Aug (Wed)</u> English Language (NA)	<u>27 Aug (Thur)</u> English Language
<u>5 Aug (Wed)</u> English Language (NT)	

7. Commemoration of Racial Harmony Day (17 Jul 2020)

Schools will commemorate Racial Harmony Day (RHD) on 17 Jul (Fri) due to the modified Term 3, and the theme for RHD 2020 is *Multicultural Singapore*. Unfortunately, due to circuit breaker measures, we were unable to bring in the MHA Mobile Exhibition as arranged. Instead, students will view RHD-related skits created by the NE Ambassadors which are captured on multi-media platforms; discuss and reflect on contemporary issues and case studies that are relevant to the theme, and reflect on how we can further strengthen our social fabric and not allow racial and religious fault-lines erode our multiculturalism and national cohesion.

8. Changes to Term 3 Programmes

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, the following programmes have been cancelled.

S/N	Programme	Levels	Original Dates
1	Advanced Elective Modules (AEMs)	Sec 3	1 to 4 Jun
2	Education Career Guidance (ECG) Fair @ Suntec City	Sec 4/5	27 & 28 Jul
3	MOE-Outward Bound School (OBS) Challenge	Sec 3	3 to 7 Aug
4	ICT Enrichment Programme	Selected Sec 1	Term 2 & 3
5	Sports Education Programme (SEP)	Sec 1/2	Term 3

We seek parents' understanding for these changes. Further updates will be provided via Parents Gateway or the school's COVID-19 announcement page at:

<https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/info-for-students-n-parents/updates-on-covid-19>

Let me close by sharing a poem which I have written, specially dedicated to all staff, students, and parents of Yuan Ching Secondary School who have journeyed with us thus far, as we start the new school term with hope and optimism:

Forging Ahead, As One

Flourishing together, is our end in mind,
Open communications make our teamwork shine,
Relationships, Optimism, Accomplishment combined,
Growth is what awaits us in line,
Endearing and Extraordinary, ONE Yuan Ching spirit defined.

Stay safe and healthy, as we continue to work closely in partnership to bring out the best in our students amidst challenging times! We will be stronger, together!

Ng Sook Kit (Ms)
Principal
2 June 2020