



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学

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Parents' Connect

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May & June Issue

1. Principal's Address

Greetings to you! The past two months have been exciting as we started Term 2 with a series of activities and programmes, including the ICT Enrichment Programmes and customised level programmes to equip our students with not only study skills but life skills as well on financial literacy, interview skills and portfolio building. The Sec 2 students developed resilience, teamwork and strong social bonds during their Outdoor Experiential and Adventure Camp while the school successfully organised the Homerun 2021 in collaboration with Taman Jurong Zone B RC Youth Chapter for a good cause. Thank you for participating and for modelling the way! On 14 Apr, our secondary one to three students received their Personal Learning Device (PLD) which will enable them to learn to curate information, collaborate with others and create multimodal products in the process. We hope to inculcate in our students self-directedness in learning with a keen awareness of cyberwellness.

2. Implementing Full Home Based Learning (FHBL)

In stepping-up of precautionary measures to safeguard the well-being of our students and staff, our school will implement Full Home Based Learning (FHBL) from Wednesday, 19 May till end of term on Friday, 28 May. Our school will remain open for students who require support as well as to assist students who may require digital devices or internet access. During FHBL, our teachers will provide the required instructions and support for our students to access a range of both online and hardcopy HBL materials using the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS) platform, so that learning continues uninterrupted. To complement our students' overall well-being, CCAs will be conducted on-line to ensure that our students' physical well-being are not neglected. We strongly urge parents to provide our students with a conducive learning environment at home. We seek your support and understanding in ensuring that your child adheres to all SMMs put in place by our school for their overall safety and well-being.

2.1 Marking Day (19 May) and Exam matters

The Mid-Year Exam Marking Day is on Wednesday, 19 May, the start of FHBL. There is no HBL planned for that day. HBL will commence from Thursday, 20 May while CCA will resume via on-line format from Term 2 Week 10. While the marked exam scripts will be returned to the students when Term 3 begins, teachers will go through the questions during FHBL when the memory of our students is still fresh. This is to better help our students focus on the learning rather than on the results.

2.2 Lesson Schedule and Routine during FHBL

The lesson schedule during FHBL will be as per the current timetable. A typical day curriculum lesson schedule and routine is as shown in the table below.

Time	Activities
7.45am - 8.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students join FTs' Live Lesson (via Zoom/Google Meet) for attendance and temperature-taking and listen out for morning announcements/programmes; ▪ Submit Morning Check-In Google Form; ▪ Students can highlight any concerns/issues to the FTs.
8.00am - 8.10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare for 1st lesson.
8.10am - 2.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend lessons and complete work assigned. ▪ Refer to ICT@YuanChing Site (https://tinyurl.com/hbl-ycss).

The routines for Full HBL are as per the routines during normal school days. Attendance and temperature taking will be recorded daily, and our students are to be in either the PE attire or school uniform when attending lessons. To inculcate life skills of time management and self-discipline, students are to check the ICT@YuanChing Site daily by 5pm, for the latest updates on work assigned for the current day and the next day as well as to prepare for the next day's lesson.

2.3 Managing Students' Well-being during FHBL

In designing and planning for FHBL, we are mindful to ensure a manageable amount of daily learning is set with sufficient time for students to complete the learning activities so as not to feel overloaded. Additionally, a mix of online and offline learning activities are utilized to ensure that students do not have an excessive amount of screen time each day (not more than 2.5 hrs per day). We will also avoid the overuse of 'live' synchronous lessons that may create pressure on the demand of devices at home. On-line PE and CCA are infused on selected days to ensure that our students' physical well-being is not neglected.

2.4 Supporting Students' Needs

Our school remains open to assist students who may need additional support during the period of FHBL. Provisions have been made to loan devices and WIFI-dongles to students who require them, to ensure that these students can continue to have uninterrupted access to learning. Additionally, students who require learning support have been identified to return to school during FHBL with strict SMMs in place. A food stall and drink stall in our canteen will remain opened to support students who are back in school during FHBL.

2.5 Safe Management Measures (SMMs) for Lessons in School during FHBL

In alignment with Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), the strengthening of SMM are put in place in schools. As a basic guiding principle, all activities / lessons are cohortised by class to minimise intermingling. The updated guidelines have been implemented on 17 May to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

SMMs	Updated Guidelines
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No group work • Strict fixed exam style seating at all times, spaced 1m apart

SMMs	Updated Guidelines
Mask Wearing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students are to wear masks, face shield may be used due to considerations of special needs or medical conditions. • Students are reminded to wear masks at all times except when eating or drinking. Students are not to eat and drink while walking and should not talk when their masks are off.
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recess will be held in class at respective fixed seating with 1m spacing. • Students may pack their own food for recess in a reusable container or they may buy back food from the canteen using their reusable container to consume in class.
PE Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students to be masked. • Max group size is 2 per group with 1-2m safe distancing between groups.
Use of TraceTogether (TT)-Safe Entry token / app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students must show their TT Tokens / apps on the phone to their teachers in class due attendance and temperature taking. • Students will not be denied entry to school should they misplace or forget to bring their TT tokens to school. • Please label the token with your child's name and remind your child to bring it to school daily. Should your child not have a TT token, he/she must have the TT-only Safe Entry app installed on the mobile phone.

Any students who are feeling unwell, should seek medical attention immediately and not come to school. Students with adult household members (18 years old and above) who are unwell or having flu-like symptoms will also be required to inform their Form Teachers and remain at home for the duration of MC of the unwell household member or when the negative swab test result is out.

3. **Special Programmes during FHBL (Term 2 Week 10)**

3.1 **Mother Tongue Language Intensive Programme for Sec 4 Exp, 5NA and 4NA Out-of-Stream Students (24 to 26 May)**

The GCE 'O' Level MTL and MTL 'B' Exam will be conducted on **Monday, 31 May and Tuesday 1 Jun** respectively with strict SMMs in place. The MTL Department will be conducting the MTL Intensive Programme online from 24 to 27 May, during curriculum time.

3.2 **Sec 4N Education & Career Guidance (ECG) Fair (24 May)**

In alignment to the recommendation from SkillsFuture in helping students make well-informed education and career choices, we will be organising an online ECG Fair on 24 May. This is specially customised for our Sec 4 Normal Course students with the following objectives:

- To strengthen students' Social Emotional (SE) competencies such as self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making, in achieving their goals/aspirations in life.
- To strengthen informed decision making for students' education and career choices.

3.3 **Meet-the-Parents Session (28 May, PM)**

We would like to thank the parents who had attended the virtual Meet-the-Parents on 17 April. Please note that the information shared during the mass webinar can be found on the school website under 'Info for students and parents'.

We would also like to invite parents to meet your child's Form Teachers on **Friday, 28 May** between 12.30pm to 5.00pm via Zoom or in the form of a phone call, for a discussion on your child's holistic development and progress in Semester 1. While your child's report book would not be ready in time for the MTP due to the shift to FHBL, this conversation with the Form Teachers is nonetheless important. You will be alerted via Parents Gateway once the online registration is opened. More details on the MTP will be provided nearer the period of registration.

4. **Students Achievements**

Congratulations to the following CCAs / students for their achievement in Semester 1.

Name of CCA / individual Student	Achievements
Elina Wang (4E1)	2 nd prize in Asian Scientist Magazine National Youth Art Competition 2021
Cherise Chew (4N2)	Merit prize in Asian Scientist Magazine National Youth Art Competition 2021
Goh Kee Han (4E4)	Merit prize in Asian Scientist Magazine National Youth Art Competition 2021
Yeo Kai Xuan (3E1)	Best Delegate Award, OPSG Model United Nations (OPMUN) Competition
Kong Sum Yee (3E3)	Best Position Paper, OPSG Model United Nations (OPMUN) Competition
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation – Chinese Dance	Certificate of Distinction (Team A) Certificate of Accomplishment (Team B)
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation - Concert Band	Certificate of Accomplishment
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation - English Drama	Certificate of Accomplishment
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation – Guzheng	Certificate of Distinction
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation – Indian Dance	Certificate of Accomplishment
Singapore Youth Festival 2021 Arts Presentation – Malay Dance	Certificate of Distinction

5. **Alumni Achievements**

It is also our pleasure to announce that the following Yuan Ching Alumni have achieved academic excellence in their various fields of studies:

Name of Alumni	Achievements
Ler Yin Hao (Class of 2018)	Achieved at least 4 distinctions in 2020 GCE A-Level Examinations, Jurong Pioneer Junior College
Low Ting Hui, Ashlye (Class of 2017)	Diploma in Hotel and Hospitality Management with Merit, Republic Polytechnic
Manohar Raja Agathiyen (Class of 2017)	Diploma in Aerospace Engineering with Merit & Diploma Plus Certificate in Mathematics, Republic Polytechnic
Megan Salguet Ng Min Yee (Class of 2016)	Diploma in Consumer Behaviour and Research with Merit, Republic Polytechnic

* *Diploma with Merit is awarded to students who are in the top 10% for each graduating course cohort.*

Additionally, one of our Alumni, Wong Zhen Yang Dominic (Class of 2019) was selected for this year's Singapore Polytechnic Scholarship. The award recognises students with excellent academic achievements, outstanding leadership qualities and significant accomplishments in co-curricular activities.

Heartiest congratulations to our alumni! We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

6. Blended Learning Days and Student-Initiated Learning

In Term 3 this year, our school will implement Blended Learning Days scheduled about once a fortnight for Sec 1, Sec 2 and Sec 3, where students will stay at home to engage in their blended learning. Blended learning is a valuable component to in-person schooling. The blending of different modes of learning will enable students to benefit from a range of learning experiences, and aims to encourage our students to be more self-directed and independent in their learning. Further details of the Blended Learning Days will be communicated later through Parents Gateway (PG).

In addition, Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) will commence in Term 3 for our Sec 1, Sec 2 and Sec 3 students. SIL is a dedicated time of 1 hour during Blended Learning Day for students to explore their interests, both within and beyond the curriculum. It is an opportunity for students to become independent, intrinsically-motivated and life-long learners.

These SIL activities can be fully student-initiated, where students identify and pursue an interest of their own, or be facilitated by the school, where we will offer curated learning activities for our students to explore. For example, students may read up on a new subject outside the curriculum, pick up a new skill such as playing a musical instrument, learn a foreign language, or try hands-on activities such as learning a cookery skill or engaging in arts & crafts. SIL activities should be carried out at home, unless the student has indicated to his teachers that he would like to use school facilities to explore the SIL activity.

As parents are our key partners in your child's learning, we would like to encourage you to ask your child to share about his/her SIL activity. We will also inform our students to seek parental consent on their SIL activity, to ensure that they engage in safe and meaningful activities for their SIL. Our teachers will also be providing guidance and encouragement to their students for embarking on their SIL activities.

Blended Learning and Student-Initiated Learning will help inculcate a spirit of life-long learning. We look forward to partnering with you to help monitor and encourage your child to

benefit from greater student self-directed and independent learning through the Blended Learning Days

7. June Holidays Travel Advisory and Travel Declarations

MOH has advised Singapore residents to defer all travels overseas, unless it is permissible under the prevailing MOH travel advisory.

To ensure schools continue to be a healthy and safe environment for all, we require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward only if he/she **intends to travel** for the June holidays. **NIL return is not required.**

To make your travel declaration, go to [SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS]. Please declare your child/ward's travel plan(s), indicating both the country and city of travel, and any city of transit, by **21 May 2021 (Friday)**. Only one parent is required to declare.

8. June Holiday Programmes and Holiday Assignments

To help students to close their learning gaps, there will be bridging programmes for Sec 1 Subject-Based-Banding (SBB) students from 31 May to 3 June, as well as remedial lessons for selected Sec 1-5 students on 1 and 2 June. Some CCAs will have their CCA e-sessions between 31 May to 2 June and 21 to 25 June. Students involved in bridging programmes, remedial classes or CCA will be notified by their teachers. In alignment with the strengthened SMM, all the holiday programmes will be conducted online with strict accordance to the strengthened SMM. The school will provide parents and students with more updates in time to come.

A copy of holiday assignments will be given to the students. We seek parents' support to encourage your child to plan his/her time well so that he/she can have a well-deserved break and meaningful holiday.

8.1 Inspiring Leaders Programme

The Inspiring Leaders Programme is an in-house programme specially designed to develop our Inspiring Leaders of Yuan Ching. The Inspiring Leaders consists of the CCA Leaders, Student Council Executive Committee, as well as the Secondary Three Student Councillors. The Inspiring Leaders Training will be held virtually on 2 June 2021. The aim of this session is to equip our Inspiring Leaders with leadership skills needed for their leadership roles in their respective CCA and in Student Council. This would enable them to contribute actively to the school and the community. This would be the first of three follow-up sessions to provide developmental feedback for the Inspiring Leaders.

8.2 Leadership Training Camp @ Yuhua

The Leadership Training Camp (LTC) @ Yuhua is co-organised by Yuhua Community Club and Jurong Pioneer Junior College. The LTC will be conducted on 4 June 2021 facilitated by student leaders from Jurong Pioneer Junior College via zoom. The students can look forward to participating remotely in the experiential activities that are infused with learning points on leadership competencies. Selected Secondary 2 student councillors will be taking part in the LTC.

8.3 Confidence Challenge Camp and Swimming Programme - Changes

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation and tightening of SMMs, the following programmes have been postponed:

S/N	Programme	Levels	Original Dates
1	Non-residential Confidence Challenge Camp	Sec 3	31 May to 2 Jun
2	Customized swimming programme for selected non-swimmer	Sec 1	21 to 25 Jun

We seek parents' understanding for these changes. Further updates will be provided via Parents Gateway.

9. Revised School Reporting Time from Term 3

When we began the new school year, we continued with last year's practice of two staggered arrival timings across the levels as part of safe management. We will continue with this current practice but we have decided to adjust our reporting time to start earlier at 7.30am, which was our pre-Covid reporting time. In doing so, we can recover some curriculum time that was scheduled in the first period of the day and this arrangement can better support Blended Learning which will start in Term 3. Safe management measures, staggered reporting and dismissal of students will continue to be implemented. The reporting and dismissal times of the respective levels are shown in the table below.

	Revised Reporting Time	
Day	Sec 1 & 3	Sec 2, 4 & 5
Mon	7.40 am	7.30 am
Tue	7.40 am	7.30 am
Wed	8.40 am	8.30 am
Thu	7.30 am	7.40 am
Fri	7.30 am	7.40 am

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

Together We Thrive!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)
PRINCIPAL
18 May 2021

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