



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学

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Parents' Connect

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January & February 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 2021.

Our students coming to school daily would have spotted newly-installed brightly-coloured wall artwork near the General Office featuring The YCSS ABCD Thinking Habits - **Think Positively**, **Alternative Solutioning**, **Be Precise**, **Connect the Dots**, and **Dive Deeper**. We have also included a specially designed **T.A.B.C.D.** bookmark with the 2021 Student Handbook. These thinking habits will be infused into our curriculum and co-curriculum, and we hope you could join in encouraging our students to practise these thinking habits daily.

I would like to update you on three MOE initiatives for 2021. Yuan Ching is in Phase 1 of the Personalised Digital Literacy Programme (PDL), and we have arranged for the procurement of the Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) for all our Sec 1-3 students by the end of this term upon receipt of your consent. Our school's chosen PLD is the Apple iPad. It will come with MOE pre-installed Device Management Application (DMA) to support cyber-wellness, and can be paid for using Edusave. The PLD will complement the implementation of the Blended Learning day once a fortnight, where selected levels of our students will engage in self-directed learning at school or from home. We will provide further details in the coming months. Thirdly, the new Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) 2021 Syllabus will be rolled out starting with Lower Secondary, with a deeper infusion of CCE into lessons, activities and key student development experiences, including Values-in-Action (VIA) projects by classes/CCAs.

Even as our nation transits into Phase 3 of Safe Re-Opening, 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 have the unwell member 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 last week. To our Sec 1 parents who have joined us at the online Meet-the-Parents webinar, I hope you have found it useful and informative. 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/info-for-students-n-parents>.

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/useful-links/for-parents>.

3. 2020 GCE 'N' AND 'O' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2020 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 17 Dec 2020, and the 2020 Sec 4 Express and NA (selected) and Sec 5 NA students who received their GCE 'O' Level Exam results on 11 Jan 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 2020 Sec 4/5 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.

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| 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:

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| <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 will start their CCA sessions on 12 Jan 2021, while Sec 1 students will commence their CCAs on 16 Feb 2021. 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.

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.

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 among students and with teachers or recreational games such as carrom, table soccer, educational board and card games and educational video games.

The centre is open 3 days a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.45 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 22 Jan 2021.

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 2021 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.

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

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 will gain a better understanding of the development and impact of Maritime industry in Singapore as they go for Learning Journeys hosted by external partners such as Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and Singapore Shipping Association (SAA).

Students also have the autonomy to decide on their own training opportunities. The school dedicates 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 annual 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. We are also embarking on partnerships with the National University of Singapore in the area of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV), deepening our expertise in the area of marine robotics.

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.

c. Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – gRowing Values Through Sports & Outdoor Experiences

We believe that sports and outdoor education provide excellent platforms for character building while inculcating in our students the value of leading active and healthy lifestyles.

To provide a greater breadth of learning opportunities for character and life skills development, the scope of our Learning for Life Programme (LLP), ‘gRowing Values through Sports and Outdoor Experiences’, also incorporates our signature Talent Development Programme (Figure 1). These will support ‘GRIT21’ student outcomes (G – Growth Mindset, R – Resilience, I – IExCEL (School Values), T – Thrive, 21 – 21st Century Competencies).

To deepen students’ 21st 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 last year.



Figure 1



Figure 2

As part of the LLP, Sec 1 students learn life skills such as water safety, water survival and swimming skills. Sec 2 students engage in water sports, such as the Dragon Boat orientation and raft-building using recycled materials. All Sec 1 & 2 students are also taught Kayaking skills such as basic rowing and rescue-in-kayaking.

Sec 3 students participate in the Dragon Boat Quest in which they learn how to better communicate, care and collaborate with one another to realise their team goals. Through such experiences, our students are able to build their physical strength and mental resilience.

Through these authentic learning experiences, students discover more about themselves and their passion - acquiring life skills such as cognitive flexibility, decision-making, relationship management and critical thinking that will help them realise their ambition and maximise their potential. Selected students from each class are identified to be class Youth Lifestyle Ambassadors, advocates for active and healthy living.

8. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

a. SEC 1 MEET-THE-PARENTS SESSION ON 9 JAN

The Sec 1 Meet-the-Parents Session was held successfully on 9 Jan (Sat) from 9.00 am to 11.00m via online webinar. We thank parents of our Sec 1 students for joining us and allowing us to share with them our school ethos, key programmes and expectations of our students. We hope to deepen this school-home partnership to bring out the best in every student.

b. SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH IN JANUARY

Our staff and students' safety is of utmost importance and we have designated the month of January as the Safety Awareness Month, to emphasise safety messages and the importance of everyone's responsibility in ensuring safety in the school. We would also like to highlight that CCTVs are in operation in and around our premises to ensure school safety and security.

c. REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING FROM 18 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 18 Jan. 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 2. 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 ICT SKILLS WORKSHOP

The school is organising ICT Skills Workshop (G-Suite Training) for all Sec 1 students from 18 to 25 Jan. 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. Sec 1 parents may refer to the letter dated 4 Jan for more details.

e. SEC 2 ICT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME FROM 1 FEB

Selected Sec 2 students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting 1 Feb (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 2020, 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 8 Feb (Mon). Sec 4E3, 4E4 and Sec 5NA students will take the examinations on 22 Feb

(Mon) and Sec 4E1 and 4E2 will take it on 1 Mar (Mon). Subject teachers will give more details on the oral exams to your child.

g. ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS ON 11 FEB

The Ethnic Celebrations will take place on 11 Feb, 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 conducting a donation drive in mid-Jan to collect food items and necessities 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 11 Feb, 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 16 FEB

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) will take place from 16 Feb – 5 Mar. 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 2021

Registration for the 2021 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations will take place from Feb – Mar 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.

9. SCHOOL RULES AND 2021 STUDENT HANDBOOK AND PLANNER

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 2021 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. The handbook also contains important information such as dates of assessments.

Do also take note of the policy on the use of mobile phones 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 on the first instance.

Regular attendance in school is critical to student learning. The 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.

10. 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).

11. 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 62612489, during the school term, from 7.30 am to 6 pm 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 5.30 pm daily for walk-in assistance, and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6 pm. 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.

12. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Photograph(s) or video image(s) of you and/or your child may be captured at school events. We may use and publish such photographs and/or video recordings in school publications, website, social media channels, and other official school communication channels. Please inform your child's form teacher via letter or email if you do not want any of your child's photograph(s)/video(s) to be used.

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2021!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)
PRINCIPAL
15 JAN 2021

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