



**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 am absolutely delighted to have been appointed to lead Yuan Ching Secondary School as its new Principal. Over the last 2 weeks, I have had the opportunity to interact with the Parents' Support Group Committee members, School Advisory Committee members and Alumni members - who shared their positive Yuan Ching stories and experiences with me. On behalf of the school, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Chuah for her passion, enthusiasm and leadership in Yuan Ching over the last 4 years. We wish her all the best in her retirement as she begins a new journey in her life.

To the Sec 1 students who have just joined the Yuan Ching family, I hope you have enjoyed the Orientation Programme organised by the Student Council this week. I am sure you have had a wonderful experience getting to know our school and your teachers. I am confident that you will have a pleasant education journey in YCSS. Here's wishing our Yuan Ching students and parents an enriching and fulfilling year ahead.

## 2. PARENTS' CONNECT

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 can also be found in our school's website: <https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/info-for-students-n-parents>.

## 3. 2018 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2018 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 17 Dec 2018. Our students have done the school proud!

The Sec 4NA students achieved percentage passes that are higher than that of the national figures for 10 out of the 12 subjects offered, and for 8 subjects, percentage distinctions were higher than that in 2017. 84.1% of our students in Sec 4 NA were promoted to Sec 5 as compared to national figure at 76.9%. Among our top Sec 4NA students, 4 students achieved 4 distinctions, 4 students achieved 5 distinctions and 2 students achieved 6 distinctions.

Of the 9 subjects offered by the Sec 4NT students, 7 subjects were above national percentage passes, 6 subjects had percentage distinctions higher than that in 2017. Among our top Sec 4NT students, 4 students achieved 3 distinctions, 2 students achieved 4 distinctions and 1 student achieved 5 distinctions.

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 2018 Sec 4N 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.

<b>SCHOOL MISSION</b> Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting Lives	
<b>SCHOOL VISION</b>	
Every Individual A Thinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An engaged learner who               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- self-monitors and manages own learning</li> <li>- reflects on his/her thoughts, attitudes, behaviors and actions and determines the modifications needed (sound reasoning and decision making)</li> <li>- communicates and collaborates with others using a variety of ICT tools</li> <li>- locates and evaluates information effectively and efficiently using ICT tools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
An Achiever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wholesome person who               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strives and achieves academic and CCA excellence</li> <li>- acquires physical skills to exercise regularly to maintain a healthy lifestyle</li> <li>- participates and appreciates music and the arts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
A Concerned Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A concerned citizen who               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contributes actively in school/community/nation by participating actively in Values-In-Action (ViA) and Environmental Education (EE) programmes</li> <li>- empathizes through understanding, acceptance and respect and engages in appropriate behaviors with diverse socio-cultural groups</li> <li>- is aware of local and global issues and understands the implications of these issues in the context of Singapore to maintain a sense of rootedness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL VALUES (IExCEL)</b>	
<b>Integrity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is honest and sincere</li> <li>• Has moral courage to defend what is right and admit one's mistakes</li> <li>• Willing to take responsibility and is accountable</li> <li>• Is always fair and just to all (peers/teachers)</li> </ul>
<b>Excellence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks continual improvement</li> <li>• Is self-directed/has initiative</li> <li>• Has strong work ethics</li> <li>• Consistently showcases high quality work</li> </ul>
<b>Compassion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is sensitive to the needs of others</li> <li>• Shows care and concern for everyone</li> <li>• Is respectful and gracious</li> <li>• Is actively engaged in ViA and EE programmes</li> </ul>
<b>Enterprise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative and creative</li> <li>• Resolute in seeking improvement in all areas</li> </ul>

Loyalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptable and willing to embrace changes</li> <li>• Ready to experiment and unafraid of making mistakes and learning from them</li> <li>• Takes pride in and speaks well of the school</li> <li>• Conducts oneself well in public</li> <li>• Participates actively in all school programmes, including National Education (NE) and ViA programmes</li> <li>• Demonstrates allegiance to the school and Singapore (e.g. singing the school song and the national anthem and taking the national pledge with pride)</li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL MOTTO</b>	
<b>Efforts Today, Rewards Tomorrow</b> 今日耕耘, 明日长青	We guide and encourage our students to achieve success in school and beyond. Our teachers are caring and dedicated to nurturing the whole child through strong teacher-student relationships. Our school motto has served us well since the school was founded in 1978 and has spurred Yuan Ching students to strive for excellence and to contribute to the school, community and nation.

## 5. CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) has always been at the heart of the holistic education that we deliver in Yuan Ching Secondary School. In line with the school's Vision and Strategic Thrust of nurturing 'Students of Good Character and Citizenship', systematic processes and programmes are put in place to equip students with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies, anchored on the school values of IExCEL.

### Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes (LOs) of CCE describe what we want our students to learn and attain.

- LOs 1 to 4 depict key aspects of character building that are interrelated and feature SE competencies.
- LOs 5 to 8 are guided by key tenets of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizenship and arranged according to attributes of Citizenship such as identity, culture, and active responsible engagement as a citizen.

<b>LO1</b>	Acquire self-awareness and apply self-management skills to achieve personal well-being and effectiveness
<b>LO2</b>	Act with integrity and make responsible decisions that uphold moral principles
<b>LO3</b>	Acquire social awareness and apply interpersonal skills to build and maintain positive relationships based on mutual respect
<b>LO4</b>	Be resilient and have the ability to turn challenges into opportunities
<b>LO5</b>	Take pride in our national identity, have a sense of belonging to Singapore and be committed to nation-building
<b>LO6</b>	Value Singapore's socio-cultural diversity, and promote social cohesion and harmony
<b>LO7</b>	Care for others and contribute actively to the progress of our community and nation
<b>LO8</b>	Reflect on and respond to community, national and global issues, as an informed and responsible citizen

## Key Components of CCE

The Key Components of CCE comprise CCE Curriculum, School-based CCE, Citizenship Education and Student Leadership.

Components in CCE	Key Programmes
CCE Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCE Syllabus</li><li>• Guidance Modules<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Education &amp; Career Guidance (ECG)</li><li>○ Sexuality Education (SEd)</li><li>○ Cyber Wellness (CW)</li></ul></li></ul>
School-based CCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value of the Month (VOTM)</li><li>• Students' Voice</li><li>• After School Engagement (ASE) Programme</li><li>• Assembly Programme</li></ul>
Citizenship Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Education (NE)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ NE Commemorative Days</li><li>○ NE Learning Journeys (LJs)</li><li>○ NE Ambassadors</li></ul></li><li>• International Students Programme</li><li>• Trips for International Experience (TIE)</li><li>• Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme</li></ul>
Student Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal Leadership</li><li>• Peer Leadership</li><li>• Inspiring Leadership</li></ul>

## 6. MOE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS - THE GROWING YEARS PROGRAMME

Sexuality Education (SEd) in schools is about enabling students to understand the physiological, social and emotional changes they experience as they mature, develop healthy and rewarding relationships including those with members of the opposite sex, and make wise, informed and responsible decisions on sexuality matters. SEd is premised on the importance of the family as the basic unit of society. This means encouraging healthy, heterosexual marriages and stable nuclear family units with extended family support. The teaching and learning of SEd is based on respect for the values and beliefs of the different ethnic and religious communities in Singapore on sexuality issues.

The goals of Sexuality Education are:

- To help students make wise, responsible and informed decisions through the provision of accurate, current and age-appropriate knowledge on human sexuality and the consequences of sexual activity;
- To help students know themselves and build healthy and rewarding relationships through the acquisition of social and emotional skills of self-awareness, management of their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, development of empathy for others, possession of effective communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills; and
- To help students develop a moral compass, respect for themselves and for others as sexual beings, premised on the family as the basic unit of society, through the inculcation of positive mainstream values and attitudes about sexuality.

The key messages of Sexuality Education are:

- Love and respect yourself as you love and respect others;
- Build positive relationships based on love and respect (which are the foundation for strong families);
- Make responsible decisions for yourself, your family and society; and

- (iv) Abstinence before marriage is the best protection against STIs/HIV and unintended pregnancies. Casual sex can harm and hurt you and your loved ones.

Please visit the school's Sexuality Education webpage <http://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/programmes/sexuality-education> for more information on Yuan Ching Secondary School's Sexuality Education Programme for 2019. Should you need more information about the school's Sexuality Education Programme, you may contact Mr Leung Yulun, HOD CCE.

## 7. 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 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Should there be exceptions to this, your child will be informed accordingly. For example, Scouts will have training on alternate Fridays and, from 8.00 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. on Saturdays. The Sec 2 to 5 students will start their CCA sessions on 8 Jan while the Sec 1 students will start on 29 Jan 2019.

**Student Leadership Programme** comprises 3 levels of student leadership development for different segments of student leaders in each level (personal leadership, peer leadership and inspiring leadership). It provides every student with opportunities for leadership development, supported by the 4A approach of Awareness, Actions, Assessment & review and Affirmation of leadership competencies.

**Enrichment and Lifeskills programmes** which include culture appreciation and learning of a sport are conducted on every Wednesdays in terms 2 and 3.

## 8. Updates on Key School Initiatives

### a. After School Engagement (ASE)

An ASE Centre has been set up to provide students with a regular and safe environment for interaction and relaxation after curriculum time. The activities carried out at the ASE 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 and Thursdays from 2.30 to 5.30 pm and on Fridays from 2 to 5 pm, except during examination periods. We welcome all students to the ASE Centre when they are not involved in any school programmes such as remedial lessons, CCAs or enrichment activities.

The ASE programme aims to develop our students to be:

- Confident and able to self-monitor and manage his/her learning; reflect on his/her thoughts, attitudes, behaviours and actions and exercise sound reasoning and decision making;
- Resilient and will strive for excellence in the academics and CCA; and
- Disciplined and able to understand, accept, respect and engage in appropriate behaviours with diverse socio-cultural groups.

Parents of Sec 1 students who would like your child to be involved in ASE programmes may register with your child's Form Teachers by 18 Jan 2019.

### **b. Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – Marine Robotics**

We would like to update you on our school's ALP. The name of our ALP had changed to Marine Robotics starting 2019 because we hope to widen our students' learning in the areas of Robotic Engineering and Computational Science. Our Sec 1 students who completed the basic SeaPerch module last year will start on the SensePerch module in January this year. They will learn MicroBit programming and connect their learning to the application of their SeaPerches (underwater vehicles) made in 2018 to bring sensors into water to collect and process real time data for water quality testing. This will bring our students one step closer to the research work achieved by the Remotely Operating Vehicle (ROV) used by industries in the real world.

The Sec 1 students in 2019 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 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as creative thinking, collaboration and communication and see how knowledge acquired in Science, Mathematics and Design and Technology lessons can be applied to make the vehicle work.

Those who are keen to stretch their potential in this field will also be registered for interschool competitions such as the annual Shell Challenge, Underwater Robotic Challenge and Marine & Offshore Challenge organised by Singapore Science Centre and Polytechnics respectively. In the past 3 years, our Sec 1 and 2 participants had won Gold, Silver, Bronze and Special awards in these competitions.

Meanwhile, we are also developing our ALP Tier 2 programme and enrichment in which selected levels/groups will participate in STEM related workshops, Projects, Learning Journey, Career Talks, Elective Modules & Advanced Elective Modules and Work Attachment co-organised with Singapore Maritime Foundation, Polytechnics and ITE respectively.

### **c. Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – gRowing Values through Sports & Outdoor Education**

In Yuan Ching, we believe that sports and outdoor education provide excellent platforms for character building while inculcating in our students the value of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

As part of the LLP, Secondary One students learn life skills such as water safety, water survival and swimming skills.

Our Secondary Two students engage in water sports, such as the Dragon Boat orientation and raft-building using recycled materials. Not only will they learn how to be environmentally friendly, but they can also sit on the raft that they have built! They will also be able to display their creativity and innovativeness using the materials given.

Through the LLP, our Secondary One and Two students are taught Kayaking skills such as knowledge in safety, basic rowing and rescue-in-kayaking which helps provide an enriching out-of-school experience.

Secondary Three 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. They will also feel the joy of being part of a team.

Students with the talent and aptitude for the sport can also join the Dragon Boat CCA – which has consistently achieved many awards at national competitions.

Through these authentic learning experiences, students get to discover more about themselves and their passion - acquiring life skills such as cognitive flexibility, decision-making, people management and critical thinking that will help them realise their ambition and maximise their fullest potential. Selected students from each class are identified to be the class Youth Lifestyle Ambassadors who act as the class advocates for active and healthy living. Moving forward, we will continue to develop our LLP in seeking collaborative partnerships to extend and enhance the learning experience for our students.

**d. Subject-Based Banding (SBB)**

SBB is an initiative rolled out by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to better cater to the strengths of students in different subjects in secondary schools. Starting SBB at lower secondary levels will give the students a stronger foundation in the subjects they are good at and motivate them to excel in the subjects. Our school has successfully rolled out SBB initiative at Sec 1 level in 2017. This year, our school will be rolling out the initiative at Sec 1, Sec 2 and Sec 3 levels in which students are offered subjects at a higher level based on their Eligibility Criteria.

The table below shows the eligibility criteria for Sec 1 students to take a subject at a higher level.

Course	PSLE Standard Grade	PSLE Foundation Grade	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	A*, A	–	Express Level
N(T)	A*, A	–	Express Level
	B, C	1	N(A) Level

Based on their PSLE subject grades and Eligibility Criteria, Sec 1 students posted to the Normal Academic N(A) and Normal Technical N(T) courses may be offered the following subjects at a higher level:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Mother Tongue Languages

Students have a choice to opt out of SBB if they do not wish to do the subject at a higher level. To ensure that your child/ward can cope with the overall academic demand, your child/ward should take no more than 3 subjects at a higher level.

**9. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2019**

**a. SEC ONE MEET-THE-PARENTS SESSION AND CCA SHOWCASE ON 5 JAN**

The Sec One Meet-the-Parents Session has been scheduled on 5 Jan (Sat), in conjunction with our annual CCA Showcase for Sec 1 students from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. We invite all parents of our Sec 1 students to join us for this session so that you can get to know the school management team and your child’s form teachers. It would also be a good opportunity for us to share with you our school ethos, key programmes and expectations of our students.

You are also invited to attend the CCA Showcase with your child and support them in making their choices for CCA that would enrich their school experiences. We look forward to seeing you then.

#### **b. SEC 2 ICT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME**

Selected Sec 2 students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting 9 Jan (Wed) 2019. The programme aims to empower them with essential ICT competencies for the 21st Century. Based on the results of the ICT baseline competency test conducted in October 2018, students who have not met the minimum baseline ICT standards prescribed by MOE will be required to attend. In addition, students will be exposed to the features of Google Docs and Google Spreadsheets in this programme. Details on the programme will be given to these selected students.

#### **c. SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK FROM 7 TO 11 JAN**

Our staff and students' safety is of utmost importance and we have designated 7 to 11 Jan as the Safety Awareness Week to emphasise safety messages and the importance of everyone's responsibility in ensuring safety in the school. We would also like to inform that CCTVs are in operation in and around our premises to ensure school safety and security.

#### **d. REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING 21 JAN**

We believe in timely intervention and supporting our students in closing their learning gaps. Weaker students will be identified for remedial lessons which are conducted on a weekly basis in the afternoons, starting on 21 Jan.

The Daily Routines for Semester 1 will be disseminated to all students by Term 1, Week 2. It gives, among others, the 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. You can download a copy for reference when communicating with your child on their school experiences.

#### **e. ANNUAL HEALTH SCREENING**

The Wellness Assessment Centre will be conducting health screening for all students from 25 Jan to 8 Feb. All students are scheduled by class for the health screening and have to be in their PE attire for the screening. Students' Health Booklet is not required for the screening. Students will be informed of the schedule by their form teachers.

#### **f. CHINGAY PARADE 2019 NATIONAL EDUCATION SHOW ON 26 JAN (SAT)**

Chingay is an annual street parade held in Singapore as part of the Lunar New Year celebrations. The term 'Chingay' is derived from the Chinese term zhuangyi (妆艺), meaning 'the art of masquerading', with reference to the original stages or floats depicting religious and historical scenes that were carried in procession on the shoulders of men. This national event is the largest street performance and float parade in Asia. From the main parade site to the heartlands, this street extravaganza epitomises the dynamism of Singapore's vibrant and multicultural society. Today, Chingay has become a uniquely Singaporean Lunar New Year tradition, held during the first weekend of the Lunar New Year. This yearly street parade is now a national festival, celebrated by Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians alike.



This year, our Sec 4 and 5 students will be watching the Chingay parade with the following objectives:

- i. to provide opportunities for students to reflect on our history before and after Raffles, and how we've evolved from a place with a geographically strategic location to a people with a unique Singaporean DNA as the performances commemorate Singapore Bicentennial;
- ii. to allow students to immerse in cultural performances and feel the vibrancy and spirit of this uniquely Singapore parade, as well as to appreciate the importance of multi-cultural and harmony in diversity as portrayed in Chingay;
- iii. to inculcate the values of integrating Singaporeans of different backgrounds (of different races, religions, ages and estates) and new immigrants into a closely-knit and connected community as ONE Singapore.

#### **g. ETHNIC CELEBRATION ON 4 FEB**

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on 4 Feb (Mon). An Ethnic Celebration Programme has been planned to engage our students in a range of entertaining and meaningful activities. Students will learn more about the traditions and cultural aspects of the different ethnic groups through the performances, mini-competitions and concert. The senior citizens in the Taman Jurong community will also be invited for the celebration so as to promote the spirit of sharing and imbibe in our students the values of filial piety and respect.

Students will be dismissed at 10.00 a.m. on that day for them to celebrate with their families. More details on the Ethnic Celebration Programme will be given to the students closer to the event. We wish all Chinese parents and students a Happy and Fruitful Lunar New Year in advance.

#### **h. COMMEMORATION OF TOTAL DEFENCE DAY ON 15 FEB**

Schools commemorate Total Defence Day (TDD) on 15 Feb annually to mark Singapore's fall to the Japanese in 1942. The commemoration serves to remind our students that Singapore is defensible and is worth defending, and we ourselves must defend Singapore. This year, the theme for TDD is 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong'. TDD 2019 aims to strengthen our resilience as a nation by:-

- i. reaffirming our shared attitudes, values and instincts as a nation, borne out of our collective will to continue keeping Singapore safe, secure and special; and
- ii. celebrating our common identity as Singaporeans, rooted in a strong sense of self, and committed to building a cohesive society ready to face the future together.

Our youth are encouraged to put Total Defence into action in their daily lives by reaching out to one another, forging new relationships and strengthening existing ones to keep Singapore strong and resilient because our greatest strength lies in the unity and resilience of our people. At the secondary level, TDD commemoration aims to help students understand the rationale behind Total Defence and know that Total Defence is the cornerstone of Singapore's deterrent strategy and is crucial to the continued security, survival and success of the country.

#### **i. TERM TEST 1 STARTING FROM 18 FEB**

Term Test 1 has been scheduled from 18 Feb to 1 Mar. This is a compulsory milestone assessment that will assess students' academic learning progress in Term 1. We look forward to your support in supervising your child as they revise their work during this period.

## **j. REGISTRATION FOR GCE 'N' AND 'O' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS 2019**

We will start the registration for the 2019 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations from 25 Feb - 11 Mar for all Sec 3 Higher Mother Tongue and Sec 4 and 5 students. They will be given a Registration Booklet which indicates the subject information and examination rules and regulations. 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.

## **k. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEMESTRAL ONE ORAL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY**

The English Language Oral Examinations for Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students will be conducted on 25 Feb (Mon) and on 4 Mar (Mon) for Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students.

Subject teachers will give more details on the tests/examinations to your child. We hope you will help your child to prepare well for the examinations. We would also like to emphasise the value of integrity when your child takes any tests, school and national examinations.

## **10. SCHOOL RULES AND 2019 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. There are three important school rules that I wish to highlight and emphasise at the start of the year.

The first concerns the daily flag-raising ceremony. Students must be punctual and be seated with their classes by 7.25 a.m. in preparation for the flag raising ceremony at 7.30 a.m. with the exception of Wednesdays when the flag-raising ceremony begins at 8.30 a.m. Students who are Singapore citizens must sing the National Anthem and take the pledge with their right fist placed over the heart. Non-citizen students must stand at attention during the flag-raising ceremony. The second concerns school attire. Students are to wear their prescribed school uniform and modifications to the uniform are strictly not allowed. The third rule requires all male students to be clean-shaven at all times.

Regular attendance in school is critical to student learning. The school takes a serious view of students' attendance. Kindly note that 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.

All students are given a copy of the 2019 Student Handbook and Planner which they need to bring to school every day. You may wish to check your child's handbook for important information such as homework, examination or test dates as well as use it to communicate with your child's Form Teacher on your child's progress.

Our school rules are also stated in the handbook. We hope that you and your child will take the time to be familiar with the school rules so that together, we can provide a conducive environment that supports our students' learning and holistic development.

## 11. 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, kindly email us at: [ycss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:ycss@moe.edu.sg).

We would also like to share that the PSG has collaborated with Family Matters@School to organise parenting workshops in 2019. The parenting workshops have been planned as follows:

<p><b><u>Workshop Details</u></b>  <b>Date: 26 January 2019, Sat</b>  <b>Time: 10:00 am – 12:00pm</b>  <b>Venue : Enno Lab</b></p>	<p><b><u>Transition from Primary to Secondary – The Art of Parenting</u></b> (Target audience: Sec 1 parents)</p> <p>Effective parenting of teenagers requires a deeper understanding in knowing how teenagers develop when they reach puberty and specifically how their brain development at this stage impact their behaviours. With this understanding, parents could then apply a coaching approach to develop a more collaborative way for parenting.</p>
<p><b><u>Workshop Details</u></b>  <b>Date: 13 April 2019, Sat</b>  <b>Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm</b>  <b>Venue: YCSS</b></p>	<p><b><u>4 Concurrent Sessions:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Connecting with Teens Effectively</b> (Target audience: Sec 1 parents)</li> <li>2. <b>Building Resiliency in Our Children</b> (Target audience: Sec 2 parents)</li> <li>3. <b>Raising Your Family EQ</b> (Target audience: Sec 3 parents)</li> <li>4. <b>Managing Examination Anxiety &amp; Stress</b> (Target audience: Sec 4/5 parents)</li> </ol>

Registration forms for the talks are available at the General Office. You may contact Ms Carol Neo, the school's Family Matters Coordinator, at 98478908 or email her at [carol7749neo@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:carol7749neo@yahoo.com.sg).

## 12. 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 them during the school term, from 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., on weekdays. We seek your understanding that our teachers may not be able to respond immediately to your call as they may be conducting lessons. You may contact the General Office staff at 6261 2489 to leave a message for the teachers to return your call when they are free.

However, please note that our office closes at 6 p.m. daily and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6pm. Should you have any queries on school matters after the school operating hours, we appreciate that you call the next working day. Alternatively, you may access our school website as we will upload key information on school programmes and updates to the 2019 School Calendar. We strongly encourage all to co-operate with our request.

### **13. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS**

We would also like to inform that photograph(s) or video image(s) 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.

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2019!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)  
PRINCIPAL  
4 JANUARY 2019