



Parents' Connect

Ref No: 05/2019

Sep-Dec Issue

1. PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Thank you, dear parents, for an enriching Term 3 for our staff and students! With your support, we had successfully commemorated our nation's 54th National Day, and celebrated our students' and staff achievements on our Annual School Speech and Prize Presentation Day.

We are thankful for the strong partnerships that create opportunities for our students to experience the culture of care in the school. Our PSG has dedicated a lot of effort to encourage our graduating students through the Graduating Assemblies and Evening Self Study. On 24/25 August (Sat/Sun), our student athletes partnered Grace Orchard School (GOS) to compete in Play Inclusive 2019 at OCBC Arena, a culmination of combined training opportunities in football, badminton and basketball that started since April. Through these, we saw a strong display of Yuan Ching Spirit, be it from our dedicated parents, our student athletes who achieved podium finishes with their fellow GOS teammates, or the supporters who came to cheer them on. We hope that these opportunities form memorable milestones in our students' journey towards becoming a Thinker, an Achiever, and a Concerned Citizen.

We are heartened to see our students expressing their appreciation for their teachers through the Student-Teacher Games and Teacher's Day Carnival, leading up to the class celebrations and concert on 5 September. We are also grateful to the Parent Support Group (PSG) and School Advisory Committee for taking time to celebrate with us at the Staff Appreciation Dinner held on 30 August. We hope that our students have been positively influenced by your role-modelling to show gratitude, acts of kindness, and be gracious to the people around them.. Thank you once again for your support!

2. SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

a) National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Presentation Ceremony (28 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 in a sustained manner. The NYAA Presentation Ceremony was held for students who have completed the NYAA requirements on 28 August (Wed) during morning assembly.

b) Graduation Ceremony for Sec 4 and 5 Students (3 Sep / 4 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 organise a Graduation Ceremony for 4NA and 4NT on 3 September (Tue) and 4E and 5NA on 4 October (Fri). Besides holding 2 separate ceremonies for our graduating students this year, some other new initiatives include the introduction of Graduation Certificates, the iEXCEL Awards, a Graduation Dinner that showcases students' skills in dining etiquette, and the arrangement for the national examinations to be conducted in air-conditioned classrooms.

c) iExCEL Awards (3 Sep / 4 Oct)

We introduced the new iExCEL Awards to recognise graduating students who exemplify our school values throughout his/her course of study at Yuan Ching. The award will be given to the deserving awardees during the Graduation Ceremonies.

d) NRIC Registration Exercise (4 Sep)

The NRIC registration exercise will be conducted in our school on 4 September 2019 (Wed) at 9 am, for 15-year-old Singapore citizens and permanent residents. ICA would have sent notification letters to the students at least 2 weeks before the appointment date. As there might be instances whereby some students do not receive the notification letters due to various reasons such as not updating their address with MOE, we seek your assistance to have your child notify our Administration Executive, Ms Michelle Koh, at the General Office if he or she is eligible and has not received the notification.

To ensure smooth progress of the exercise, students are required to get ready their MOE student card and Ez-link card topped up with a minimum value of \$10 (for Singapore Citizens) and \$50 (for Singapore Permanent Residents (SPR)); one recent passport-size colour photograph; and the notification letter. All eligible students are to arrive punctually for the registration, as the exercise is expected to be completed within 2 hours.

e) Teachers' Day Celebration (5 Sep)

The school will be celebrating Teachers' Day on 5 September 2019 (Thu). Students are to be attired 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.

f) Sports Education Programme (SEP) 1-Star Kayaking Course (11 - 12 Sep)

The SEP 1-Star Kayaking course for Sec 1 and 2 students who have signed up will be conducted on 11 and 12 September (Wed-Thur), from 1pm to 5pm on both days. The school is subsidising 50% of the course fee. A 1-Star Certification will be awarded to students who have successfully completed the two-day (12 hours) course. All absences must be supported by valid documents. If your child has signed up for the activities, we seek your cooperation to ensure his/her full attendance.

g) Term 3 School Vacation Supplementary Lessons (12 – 13 Sep)

Term 3 school vacation is from 7 to 15 September. During the vacation, we have supplementary lessons scheduled on 12 and 13 September (Thu-Fri). Sec 1 to 5 classes involved would have been informed by their subject teachers and have received the notification letter with the schedule. The schedule is also available on the school website. All students involved are to attend the lessons in full school uniform. There will be two canteen stalls opened during the first recess break at 10am. However, students are advised to have their breakfast before coming for the lessons.

h) Class Leaders Affirmation Ceremony and Class Committee Affirmation

The Class Leaders' Affirmation Ceremony will take place on 27 September (Fri) to recognise the efforts of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each class. Members of the Class Committee of the respective levels and streams will be affirmed during the CCE lessons on the following dates.

- 4E/ 4NA/ 5NA - 2 October (Wed)
- Sec 1 to 3 - 25 October (Fri)

3. END-OF-YEAR ACADEMIC MATTERS

a) 2019 GCE 'O' Level Preliminary Examination

Sec 4E and 5NA students sat for the first phase of the GCE 'O' Level Preliminary Examination in Term 3. The Preliminary Examination for the rest of the subjects will be conducted in Term 4, from 16 to 20 September. Your child may stay at home to revise on days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined. Lessons will resume on 23 Sep (Mon). For the detailed schedules and timings of the papers, please refer to the Preliminary Examination timetable given to your child.

b) Sec One to Three End-of-Year Examination

The End-of-Year Examination will be conducted from 30 September (Mon) to 10 October (Thu). Your keen interest in your child's preparation for the examination will motivate him/her to do well. A copy of the examination timetable was given to your child on 30 August. It will also be made available on the school website. We hope that you will monitor your child's preparation for the examination.

This examination is a critical milestone particularly for the Sec 2 students as it will impact their decisions on the options for the subjects that they would like to pursue at the upper secondary level. The Subject Combination Option Form will be given to them at the start of Term 4. We hope that you will go through the subject combinations with your child so as to guide him/her in his/her choice. The completed Option Form has to be submitted to the Form Teachers on 16 October (Tue) after the End-of-Year Examination.

All co-curricular activities will be suspended from 21 September (Sat) to 12 October (Sat) in view of the End-of-Year Examination for Sec 1 to 3 classes. Co-curricular activities will resume on 15 October (Tue).

c) Marking Day (11 Oct) and Promotion Day (21 Oct)

We have set aside 11 October (Fri) for teachers to mark and 21 October (Mon) for teachers to finalise the progression of students to their next level of study. On the two dates mentioned, students are not required to report for school. Lessons will resume on 22 October (Tue) for Sec 1 to 3 students. It is important for your child to attend school as their teachers will be going through the answer scripts.

Sec 4N students who have a GCE 'N' Level Examination paper on 11 October (Fri) are reminded to be present for the paper.

d) 2020 Sec 3 Subject Combination Option Exercise

Information and timeline on the 2020 Sec 3 Subject Combinations will be given to all Sec 2 at the start of Term 4. We hope that you will go through the subject combinations with your child so as to guide him/her in his/her choice. Students are expected to exercise their options via MConline by the stipulated deadline.

Activities	Dates
Students/Parents indicate options on MOnline	18 – 22 Oct (3 working days)
Release of allocation results on MOnline	1 Nov
Submission of Appeals	1 Nov – 5 Nov (3 working days)
Release of results of Appeals	15 Nov
Release of 2020 Sec 3 Classes	By 22 Nov

e) Dismissal Time for Sec 1 to 3 Students

Our teachers will be serving as invigilators for the GCE 'O' Level Examination which starts on 21 October (Mon). All Sec 1, 2 and 3 Exp students will be dismissed at 12pm daily during the period of the GCE 'O' Level Examination. Sec 3NT and 3NA students' dismissal time will be available at a later date.

f) Last Day Of School For Sec 1 To 3 Students

As our school is a GCE 'O' Level Examination venue, the last day of the final school term is 25 October (Fri). On that day, we will release the Report Books and Textbook List for 2019.

All students will be dismissed at 10.30 am on that day. Form Teachers will then meet up with the parents of selected students to give their feedback on their child's performance. We hope that you will take note of the date as your presence will be critical in ensuring your child is well prepared for the following year's study.

4. POST-EXAMINATION ACTIVITIES

We have a line-up of post-examination activities such as the Mother Tongue Language & Cultural Day Camp, Humanities Investigation, Dragon Boat Quest and Inter-class games, aimed at enhancing bonding and providing holistic learning experiences for our students. Some of the programmes are shared here, and the details of the rest of the programmes will be given to your child after the End-of-Year Examination.

a) Experience ITE Programme (EIP) (22 Oct)

The EIP for all Sec 3NA students is a one-day programme, scheduled on 22 October (Tue) at ITE College West (Choa Chu Kang), from 9am to 4.30pm. It is specially designed to introduce them to the benefits of an ITE education through an authentic learning environment in ITE. The students will have a chance to try out a range of fun, hands-on projects which will challenge their creativity and help them to better understand the Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on education at ITE.

b) ICT Baseline Standards Test (23 Oct)

All Sec 1E and 1NA students will be taking the ICT Baseline Standards Test 2 on 23 October (Wed) during curriculum hours. The purpose of the test is to ascertain the levels of proficiency of the students in Level 3 standard of the ICT Baseline Standards. ICT enrichment lessons will

be provided in 2020 for students who have not met the required standards as prescribed by MOE.

c) Trips for Internationalisation Experience (TIE) (28 Oct – 2 Nov)

Our TIE programme aims to develop in our students 21st Century Competencies of global awareness and cross-cultural skills and sensitivities; expose them to Asia and the world and sensitise them to the place of Singapore in the world; as well as deepen commitment and rootedness to Singapore. In line with these objectives, we have an exciting line-up of trips for our selected Sec 3 students which will take place from 28 October to 2 November as listed below:

- Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Shanghai, China
- Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Shandong, China;
- Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Canberra, Australia; and
- Overseas Cultural Immersion & Educational Trip to Darwin, Australia.

There will be a briefing for parents of student participants prior to the trip. The details on these trips will be given to the students involved closer to the dates of the trips.

d) School Open House (23 Nov) & Outreach to Primary Schools

As part of the outreach efforts of the school, we will be having our Annual Open House cum CCA Showcase for parents of Primary 6 students on 23 November (Sat). The details on the event will be made available on our school website closer to the date. In addition, selected students will be representing the school to share about their school experiences with Primary 6 students. The Outreach Programme will take place from 29 October to 8 November.

e) Singapore Poly L.E.A.D Programme (19 – 21 Nov)

The Singapore Poly L.E.A.D (Leadership Experience and Development) Programme aims to equip Student Leaders with servant leadership know-how and skills. At the end of the programme, the students will gain skills related to problem-solving, innovation, critical thinking, etc. 15 Inspiring Leaders would be attending the 3 day non-residential programme from 19 to 21 November (Tue to Thur).

f) Student Council Training Camp & Preparation for 2020 Sec 1 Orientation (17 – 18 Dec)

The Student Council will be organising an overnight training camp from 17 to 18 December (Tue to Wed). The camp is a key training programme for the leadership development of Student Councillors. It is also a platform for the Student Council to prepare for the upcoming 2020 Sec 1 Orientation Programme. All Student Councillors are expected to participate in the training camp.

5. 2019 NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Term 4 is a critical period for our graduating classes as the GCE Examinations are fast approaching. You can access the GCE 'O' & 'NA / NT' Level Examination Timetables from the Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB) website using the following link:

- **GCE 'O' Examination Timetable**
<https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-o-level>
- **GCE 'N(A)' Examination Timetable**
[https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n\(a\)-level](https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(a)-level)

- **GCE 'N(T)' Examination Timetable**

[https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n\(t\)-level](https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(t)-level)

We would like to highlight that the GCE 'N' Level Written, Listening Comprehension and Practical Examinations will be held from 16 to 25 September, and continued from 7 to 18 October.

We would also like to highlight the start dates of the GCE 'O' Level Examination for your attention.

GCE 'O' Level Mother Tongue 'B' Oral Examination - 23 September

GCE 'O' Level Written and Practical Examinations – 3, 7, 10 & 15 October

Lessons will resume from 24 September to 4 October for all Sec 4 NA students and from 26 September to 4 October for all Sec 4 NT students. We hope that you would take note of the dates of the examination and support your child in his/her preparation. Your child may stay at home to revise on the days that he/she does not offer the subjects examined.

The Sec 4N students are not required to report to school after the completion of the GCE 'N' Level Examination on 18 October. However, we would like to inform you that the tentative date for the release of the GCE 'N' Level results is mid-December 2019.

6. ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR GRADUATING CLASSES

a) Evening Self-Study

On certain weekdays, from 26 August (Mon) to 1 October (Tue), excluding public holidays, the classrooms (C1-01 to 03, B1-19), the Forum and the Canteen will be opened from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, for students who need a conducive environment for self-study. Parents of graduating students should have already received a notification letter indicating the schedules of these sessions.

Teachers, on a voluntary basis, will be present to render their assistance. Students are advised to have their dinner before coming for the evening self-study. Students attending the evening self-study should be attired in either full school uniform or half uniform (PE or CCA T-shirt and school skirt/pants) and put on proper footwear (school shoes). To enable students to concentrate fully on their self-study, the use of handphone is not permitted during the self-study. Students who need to use their handphones to contact their parents can do so in the school canteen.

b) Home Study

To allow time for focused revision, home study for Sec 4E and 5NA students will start from 07 October (Mon). Subject teachers may arrange for small group consultation sessions for those who need help in preparing for the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

7. STUDENT SAFETY & WELL-BEING

a) Haze Management During Examinations

In the event that the forecasted air quality reaches 'Very Unhealthy' or 'Hazardous' levels, the national examinations can either continue or be rescheduled. We will keep our students informed should this happen.

The school has put in place measures to support our students. Besides visual checks on their well-being, we have provided all classrooms with air purifiers. Parents of students with pre-

existing respiratory and heart conditions are reminded to ensure that your child brings his/her medication (eg inhalers) to school.

b) School Holiday Travel Plans

You may have plans to travel overseas with your child during the year-end school vacation. We request that you provide details of the travel plans either online through the Parents Gateway (PG) app. Alternatively, if you have no access to PG app, please submit your child's travel declaration via the online form available in the school website (<https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/info-for-students-n-parents/online-travel-declaration>).

Steps to submit travel plans through Parents Gateway app:

1. Download and install the latest version of PG app.
2. Go to [SERVICES > DECLARE TRAVELS] to make your declaration.

If you have more than 1 child, and the declarations details are the same, please select all of them and make only 1 declaration, even if they are in different schools.

You can also make a 'NOT TRAVELLING' declaration if necessary. Only 1 parent is required to declare.

For the latest global disease situations, you may also refer to the WHO website at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/index.html>.

c) School Security

If your child is coming for school activities during the school vacation, please remind your child to come in school uniform and to sign in their attendance at the foyer. Students attending consultation sessions and/or the evening self-study should also be attired in either full school uniform or half uniform (PE or CCA T-shirt and school skirt/pants) and put on proper footwear (school shoes or track shoes). This is to facilitate implementation of measures to maintain safety and security of students in the school.

8. UPDATES ON PARENTS GATEWAY (PG) APP

With effect from Term 4, the school will gradually start to issue consent forms via the PG app. Parents are encouraged to give their consent via the app. New features are available from 20 August 2019 on the PG app. The PG app will be automatically updated on your devices if you have enabled the auto-update feature. Otherwise, you could also update your app through Apple App Store or Google Play Store to enjoy these features.

New Features include:

- Email Notification - Parents can now have the option to turn on email notifications. This feature will trigger an alert when there is a new message sent by Parents Gateway.
- App Update Notification - When a new version of the Parents Gateway app is released, you would receive an alert to update your current app to enjoy the latest version. Please note that this update feature would only be available to you after you have upgraded your mobile version of Parents Gateway to v3.1.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) School Canteen

The school canteen will be closed during the school vacation. However, selected stalls will continue operations to meet the needs of students taking the GCE 'O' Level Examination.

b) MOE Financial Assistance Scheme

Students who need MOE financial assistance for 2020 may collect the application form from the General Office at the start of Term 4. Those who are currently on the scheme will need to reapply if they would like to continue with the scheme. If you need more details regarding the application process, please contact our Administration Manager, Ms Gina Ang, at 6261 2489 or gina_ang@schools.gov.sg

c) Closure of General Office on 6 Sep (4.30pm), 22 Nov and 25 Nov (full day)

The General Office will be closing at 4.30pm on 6 September to observe My Family Weekend, and closed on 22 November and 25 November for the Staff Retreat and Learning Journey. Please check our school website for the confirmed operating hours before heading to the school.

d) Term 4 School Vacation

The Term 4 school vacation is from 16 November to 31 December. Our teachers will also be planning some CCA activities to provide your child with richer learning experiences. More details will be given to the students and put up on the School Website nearer the Term 4 school vacation. Consent forms will be issued to parents before the end of Term 4 to notify you of your child's participation.

9. PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG)

We would also like to share that the PSG partners the school closely in supporting our students' learning. If you would like to take part in PSG activities, please email Mr Leung Yulun, HOD Character and Citizenship Education (email: leung_yulun@moe.edu.sg) and / or Mdm Azlinah, HOD Humanities (email: azlinah_abas@moe.edu.sg).

10. CLOSING NOTE

We hope that you will be able to spend some quality time with your child and engage him/her in meaningful activities during the vacation. It will also be a time for you to psychologically prepare your child for the new academic year in 2020. We are confident that you will support and reinforce the values and rich learning experiences that we have been providing for your child.

To ensure that we collectively create a conducive learning environment, we hope that you could reiterate the importance of respecting and meeting school expectations when your child returns to school next year on 2 January 2020 (Thu). In this respect, you may refer to the Student Handbook or the school website www.yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg with your child so that he/she has an idea of what is expected of him/her, pertaining to school discipline and decorum.



NG SOOK KIT (MS)
PRINCIPAL
2 September 2019