



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学



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Parents' Connect

Ref No: 01/2020

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 2020.

We have completed a year-long review and envisioning process, as we look towards fostering an inspiring environment in Yuan Ching. To support our students' holistic development, we will focus on building upon a firm foundation of positive relationships and emotions within our school community. We are designing a total curriculum that is **IExCEL** - Inclusive, **Ex**periential, **C**ontemporary, **E**-Enabled (with ICT), and with a **L**ifelong Learning focus. We seek parents' partnership, support and inputs as we embark on this journey that will help our students grow to be **C.E.O.s** - **C**onfident and **E**ngaged learners with lifelong **O**wnership of their learning.

I would like to update you on three initiatives for 2020. Our school is one of the pilot schools on the NAC-MOE Performing Arts-Based Learning (PABL). PABL, through students' watching a live performance in a professional venue, aims to deepen and contextualise understanding of music, and bring to life the musical concepts that are learnt in the classroom. As part of PABL, our Sec 2 cohort would be attending a performance, entitled 'From Hearing to Listening', by the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra on 26 May. Secondly, we have been selected under the SolarNova (Phase 3) project for the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of all our school buildings. Upon completion by June this year, we will be able to access a renewable and economical source for our electrical energy needs. Finally, our school has come on board the Positive Parenting Programme (PPP), which is an evidence-based programme that equips parents with practical strategies to build strong, healthy and positive relationships. I strongly encourage you to invest time to participate in the various PPP seminars, small-group sessions or consultations according to your needs.

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.

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/parents-gateway>.

3. 2019 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2019 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 19 Dec 2019. Our students have done the school proud!

The Sec 4NA students achieved percentage passes that are higher than that of the national average for all 11 subjects offered, and for 7 subjects, percentage distinctions were higher than that in 2018. 96.1% of our students in Sec 4 NA were promoted to Sec 5 as compared to national figure at 76.6%. Among our top Sec 4NA students, 9 students achieved 4 distinctions and 8 students achieved 5 distinctions. Of the 9 subjects offered by the Sec 4NT students, 4 subjects were above national percentage passes.

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 2019 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.

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:

<u>MOE CCE Curriculum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CCE Syllabus ● Guidance Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education & Career Guidance (ECG) ○ Sexuality Education (SEd) ○ Cyber Wellness (CW) 	<u>School-based CCE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Habits of Mind ● Social Skills Booster ● Peer Support Relationships ● Value of the Month (VOTM) ● Students' Voice ● After School Engagement 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 ● Trips for International Experience ● 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 to this, your child will be informed accordingly. For example, Scouts will have training on alternate Fridays and, from 8.00 am to 12.15 pm on Saturdays. Sec 2 – 5 students will start their CCA sessions on 7 Jan 2020, while Sec 1 students will commence their CCA sessions on 4 Feb 2020. CCA Bidding is a new approach that we have adopted this year to develop thinking skills and a greater sense of ownership in our Sec 1 students.

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 learning of a sport are conducted on selected Wednesdays in Terms 2 & 3.

7. Updates on Selected School Initiatives

a. After School Engagement (ASE) @ D'YC Resort

D'YC Resort, our ASE Centre, provides 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 2.45 to 5.45 pm and on Fridays from 2 to 5 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, CCAs or enrichment activities.

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 20 Jan 2020.

b. Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – Marine Robotics

We would like to update you on our school's ALP. Through our STEM-ALP programme, 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 2019 to bring sensors into the 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 Vehicles (ROV) used by industries in the real world.

The Sec 1 students in 2020 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.

Those who are keen to stretch their potential in this field can be selected for inter-school competitions such as the annual Shell Challenge, Underwater Robotic Challenge and Marine & Offshore Challenge organised by the 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. We are also embarking on partnerships with National University

of Singapore to develop our students in the area of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV), deepening our expertise in the area of marine robotics.

Meanwhile, we are also strengthening our ALP Tier 2 programme and enrichment where selected levels/groups will participate in STEM related workshops, projects, learning journeys, career talks, Elective Modules & Advanced Elective Modules and Work Attachment co-organised with Singapore Maritime Foundation, Polytechnics and ITE.

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

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, 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. 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, relationship 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.

8. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020

a. SEC 1 MEET-THE-PARENTS SESSION AND CCA SHOWCASE ON 4 JAN

The Sec 1 Meet-the-Parents Session was held successfully on 4 Jan (Sat), in conjunction with our annual CCA Showcase for Sec 1 students from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. 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 were heartened that parents attended the CCA showcase to support their Sec 1 students in making their choices for CCA that would enrich their school experiences.

b. SEC 2 ICT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME FROM 13 JAN

Selected Sec 2 students will be attending an ICT enrichment programme starting 13 Jan (Mon). 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 2019, 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 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.

d. ANNUAL HEALTH SCREENING FROM 17 JAN

The Wellness Assessment Centre will be conducting health screening for all students from 17 Jan to 3 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.

e. CHINGAY PARADE 2020 NATIONAL EDUCATION SHOW ON 18 JAN (SAT)

Our Sec 4 & 5 students will be watching the Chingay parade with the following objectives:

- i. to provide opportunities for students to reflect on Singapore's vibrant and multicultural society. The theme for Chingay 2020 is 'Colours in Harmony', expressed through the use of different colours to symbolise Singapore's cultural diversity and harmonious blend of different cultures;
- 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 multiculturalism and harmony in diversity as portrayed in Chingay.

f. REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING FROM 20 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 20 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.

g. ETHNIC CELEBRATION ON 24 JAN

An Ethnic Celebration Programme has been planned for 24 Jan, 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.

On 24 Jan, school will end by 10.30 am. 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 Prosperous Lunar New Year in advance.

h. WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT 1 STARTING FROM 17 FEB

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) will take place from 17 – 28 Feb. 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 2020

Registration for the 2020 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 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.

j. 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 24 Feb (Mon), and for Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students on 2 Mar (Mon). Subject teachers will give more details on the oral exams to your child.

9. CANTEEN FOOD PRICE REVISION

The school canteen prices have remained unchanged over the past 3 years, in spite of the rising cost of food ingredients. This has increased the operational burden on the canteen stall operators. The school has completed the review of canteen stall food prices, and this will see an average increase of \$0.10 - \$0.30 for each set menu, and up to a maximum of \$0.50 for premium items. The price revision will come into effect after the Lunar New Year holidays. Even with the increases, the prices are broadly comparable to canteen food prices in other schools. The school remains committed to providing a variety of healthy and nutritious food items with reasonable quantity and value-for-money for its staff and students.

10. SCHOOL RULES AND 2020 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 we 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 am in preparation for the flag raising ceremony at 7.30 am with the exception of Wednesdays, when the flag-raising ceremony begins at 8.30 am. 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.

Do also take note of the policy on the use of mobile phones in school. All mobile devices are to be switched off 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.

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 2020 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.

A summary of our school rules is also stated in the handbook. The full version can be found on our school website. 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.

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 am to 6 pm 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 at 62612489 to leave a message for the teachers to return your call during working hours when they are available. We do not require our staff to respond to calls after working hours.

However, please note that our office closes at 5.30 pm daily and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6 pm. Should you have any queries on school matters after the school operating hours, we appreciate that you call on the next working day. Alternatively, you may access our school website as we will upload key information on school programmes and updates to the 2020 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) 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 2020!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)
PRINCIPAL
10 JANUARY 2020