



Parents' Connect

Ref No: 02/2018

March & April Issue

1. Principal's Address

Greetings to you! The past two months have been an enriching time for my colleagues and students. Some key highlights of Term 1 included Sec 1 Meet the Parents cum CCA Showcase, 40th Anniversary WEAVE concert, Ethnic Celebrations and our commemoration of Total Defence Day.

I would like to thank parents for your continual support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly so that he/she would be able to benefit fully from the various school experiences in Yuan Ching Secondary School. Research and our experience has shown that our students' attendance has a significant impact on their learning and holistic development. Thus I would like to seek your co-operation in ensuring that your child is in school during the academic term.

As we begin Term 2 this week, we look forward to another enriching term ahead with our students. I encourage parents to support your child's holistic development in Yuan Ching, in both their learning in the classrooms as well as their co-curricular activities and enrichment programmes. It is also important to help your child prepare well for the upcoming Mid-Year Examination this term.

2. Sec 2 Meet The Parents (MTP) Session on 23 March 2018 (Fri)

Please note the details of the MTP below.

Level	Date	Time
Sec 2	23 Mar (Fri)	6.00 p.m. – 8.45 p.m. (Express Course)
		7.05 p.m. – 9.40 p.m. (Normal Course)

Programme Outline

The MTP session will provide you with the opportunity to learn of your children's progress in school. You can discuss with their form and subject teachers on your child's learning and development so far, and to understand the gaps that should be addressed so that your child could make the required improvements. At the same time, we would be sharing our Sec 3 Subject Combinations and eligibility criteria with you so that you can support and guide your child to garner academic results that meet the relevant eligibility criteria for their preferred subject combinations. Hence I seek your support to set aside time from your schedule to attend this MTP session. A letter would be sent to you to confirm your attendance for the session and to provide details of the programme for the session.

3. CCA Conduct Grade Assessment

CCA is a key platform to nurture our students' character and support their holistic development. To strengthen our commitment to students' holistic development, the CCA Conduct Grade is included as an additional measure for holistic assessment of all students' conduct. CCA attendance has been used for the CCA Conduct Grade assessment to signal the importance of student engagement in school-organised CCA. The intent is to affirm students with good CCA attendance and participation and send a strong message to those students with poor attendance and are not actively engaged in their CCA. I seek your cooperation to ensure that your children attend their CCAs regularly and be affirmed through their holistic development and the attainment of good overall conduct grades at the end of each semester.

4. Term 2, Week 1 (19 Mar – 23 Mar) Sec 1 to 5 Customised Level Programmes

We have set aside Term 2, Week 1 to facilitate the planning and conduct of customised programmes that cater to the holistic development of our students across the respective cohort. Key programmes include Conversational Chinese and Malay Programme and Arts Education Programme for Sec 1s; an outdoor adventure camp for Sec 2 students to inculcate values, life skills and desired attitudes in our students; Mathematical Modelling for Sec 3s and ITE-offered Elective Modules (EMs) for Sec 3 & 4 NA/NT students to give them first-hand experiences of the courses that they can take up there after completing their secondary school education. As for the Sec 4E & 5N students, an Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair has been organised to enable them to make well-informed post-secondary options aligned to their career aspirations. The details of these programmes are given in the following sections and schedule below.

5. Sec 1 Conversational Chinese and Malay Programme

The school is organizing a Conversational Chinese and Malay Programme (CCM) for all Sec 1 students. The programme comprises 20 hours of lessons and is designed to give students basic grounding in functional Malay Language/Chinese Language as well as an appreciation of different cultures in Singapore. It also aims to allow our learners to operate comfortably in the region in future.

The programme will be conducted in school by qualified and experienced facilitators. The lessons are divided into two parts with the first during 19 – 23 March and the remainder in May. The schedule of the lessons has been given to the students.

6. Sec 1 Arts Education Programme

The school has arranged for a Hip Hop Dance course for all Sec 1 students as part of the Arts Education Programme. In this basic Hip Hop Dance course, students will learn the history of dance and dance as an aspect of the Arts. They will be taught basic hip hop dance steps, as well as hip hop dance choreography. The course comprises 3 sessions conducted daily from 19 Mar (Mon) to 21 Mar (Wed).

7. Sec 2 Level Camp

The school has organized a 4-day, 3-night outdoor adventure camp coupled with a post-camp reflection activity in school for our Sec 2 students. The details of the camp are as follows:

- Date:** 19 Mar (Mon) - 22 Mar (Thu) (Camp)
- Venue:** Terror Sea Scout Campsite, Sembawang
- Time:** Reporting time: 19 Mar (Mon) at 7.00 am in school
Dismissal Time: 22 Mar (Thu) at 2.00 pm from school

Through the camp, our Sec 2 students would develop resilience and teamwork through rugged outdoor living, build strong camaraderie and social bonds with their peers through challenging common experiences and develop strong teacher-student relationships with their teachers through such out-of-classroom interactions.

8. Sec 3 Express Mathematical Modelling (MM) Camp

The Sec 3 Express MM Camp, held during school hours daily on 19-21 March, is an enrichment programme that exposes students to the application of Mathematics in authentic scenarios. In the camp, students work in teams to come up with mathematical models to solve real life problems and then present their solutions to the class. The process of mathematical modelling widens and deepens students' understanding of mathematics, helps them develop important 21st century skills, and also grows them to become creative problem solvers.

9. Elective Module (EMs)

EMs serve to broaden the learning experiences of Normal Course students and to provide for their varied learning needs through applied learning with the following foci:

- Extend and build on the learning objectives of existing subjects through applied learning;
- Introduce students to a course of study in post-secondary educational institutes; and
- Expose students to possible career paths

Date:

- 19-22 March (Mon-Thu, T2 W1)

Target Audience:

- Sec 3NA/NT students
- Sec 4NA/NT students

The EMs offered for the respective levels/courses are given in the following table. Your child will choose an EM based on his/her interest and ability.

Level	Course	EMs Offered	Venue
Sec 3	NA NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun with Electronics • Residential Electricity • Creating a Computer Game • Social Media Content Development 	ITE College Central ITE College East ITE College Central ITE College Central
Sec 4	NA NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3D Design Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Applied Food Science 	School

10. Education & Career Guidance (ECG) Fair for Sec 4 Express & 5 NA Students

In alignment to the recommendation from SkillsFuture to help students make well-informed education and career choices, we will be organising an ECG Fair, customized for our Sec 4E/5NA students. Details of the ECG Fair are as follows:

Dates:

- 19 & 20 March (Mon-Tue, Term 2 Week 1)

Target Audience:

- Sec 4E/5NA students

Objectives:

- Strengthen Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies of the students, in particular self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making, in achieving their goals/aspirations in life; and
- Support the students to make informed education and career choices

Activities:

- Motivation talk and sharing of study skills by Year Heads, Heads of Department and Senior Teacher
- Sharing of experiences and good practices by Alumni
- ECG counselling/Circle Time, facilitated by form teachers
- Concurrent session of talks by Polytechnic lecturers from the different field, based on the students' interest
- Concurrent talks by professionals from the different industries

11. Singapore Student Learning Space

The Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS) is an online learning platform, developed by the Ministry of Education, that contains curriculum-aligned resources and learning tools. With the SLS, students will be able to learn better through the use of technology anytime, anywhere and at their own pace.

The SLS will be introduced in our school this year. All students would be receiving their username and login password by 23 March. SLS can be accessed from <https://learning.moe.edu.sg>. To facilitate logging into the SLS, we have uploaded helpful reference documents on our school website at <http://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg>. You may access these directly from the main page for reference.

12. Commemoration of International Friendship Day on 6 April 2018 (Fri)

This year, the theme for International Friendship Day (IFD) is Celebrating the ASEAN Community. It emphasizes the point that Singapore who has taken on the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018, has been working with our ASEAN neighbours for peace and collaboration in the region and will continue to do so. As we are part of this transnational community, we need to develop our cross-cultural skills and relate to one another respectfully and effectively. We need to remain open to international flow of trade, ideas and talent which is critical to ASEAN's growth as a region, and Singapore's continued success as a nation.

IFD commemoration aims to develop a global outlook in students that enables them to relate well with people of different cultures, both within Singapore and in the world, by:

- allowing students to examine how communities in Southeast Asia are connected through cultural, economic and geographical ties. This will help them to learn the value of maintaining good relations with our neighbours in the region;
- helping students gain a deeper appreciation of regional cooperation and also recognize how an active foreign policy has enabled us to maintain our international space and good relations with neighbouring countries;
- sensitizing students to the geo-political realities inherent to Singapore; and
- helping students understand how the integration of new immigrants and foreigners working and living in Singapore into our society will contribute towards a gracious and cohesive society, and Singapore's continued progress as a nation.

Customised lesson packages and related enrichment programmes have been developed and planned to enable our students to attain the abovementioned outcomes.

13. National Physical Fitness Assessment (NAPFA) for Sec 2 and Sec 4 & 5 Students

The PE Department would be conducting the NAPFA assessment for Sec 2 and Sec 4 & 5 students on the following dates and times:

Sec 2 students	Date: 9 April (Mon) Time: 2.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Sec 4 & 5 students	Date: 10 April (Tue) Time: 2.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Your support is sought to encourage and motivate your children to prepare for the assessment through regular physical exercise and conditioning over the following weeks.

14. 40th Annual Track & Field Championship on 13 April 2018 (Fri)

The details of the school's Annual Track & Field Championship are as follows:

Date: 13 Apr (Fri)
Venue: Jurong Junior College
Time: 7.20 am – 12.30 pm.

Leading up to the Finals on 13 Apr, 2 Heats will be conducted as qualifying rounds and finals for some events on 29 Mar (Thu) and 5 Apr (Thu). All the Heats will be conducted at Jurong Junior College from 3 pm to 5.30 pm. You are cordially invited to attend the Finals on 13 Apr. A separate invitation would be given to you through your child to indicate your attendance and whether you would be participating in the event as a parent if you are attending.

15. Suspension of CCA for Sec 4 & 5 Students on 21 April 2018

I would like to inform you that CCA for Sec 4 & 5 students will officially end on 21 April (Sat) so that they can channel their time and energy to their academic learning and to prepare themselves well for the National Examinations.

16. 2018 Mid-Year Examinations (MYE)

For the upcoming Mid-Year Examinations, the English Language Examination and Mother Tongue (MT) Examination would be held on 25 Apr (Wed) and 26 Apr (Thu) respectively. The examinations for the other subjects would be from 3 May (Fri) to 11 May (Fri). Students would be issued the detailed Examination time-table for their level/course closer to the start of the Examinations.

Chuah-Koh Eng Ngoh (Mrs)
Principal
19 Mar 2018