

# COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

## 2025 Start of Year Letter to Parents



Parents of our 2025 Secondary 1 cohort, welcome to the Compassvale community! Parents of our current North Stars, welcome to a new academic year. We look forward to new and continued partnerships, for us to draw out your child's strengths, and nurture them to be world-ready youths.

2025 marks 25 years of collaboration with parents, students, and the community. We are grateful you are part of this journey as we strive to bring out the best in our students. To enhance the learning environment, we have refined our school's experiences, routines, and spaces. More details are in this Letter.

We also start 2025 on a high note. Our Year Head, Mdm Edwina Cheng, has received the Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Award, recognising her as one of the best educators and affirming the quality education at CVSS.

As we start the 2025 academic year, let's work together to allow your child to **Learn** and Excel, **Grow** and Serve, **Lead** and Impact.

The School Leadership Team,  
Mr Chua Tung Kian, Mr Sukhdev Singh, Mrs Jacqueline Tang

#RealisingTheStarWithin

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## Administrative Matters

### School Terms for 2025

Semester 1	Term 1	Thu 2 Jan to Fri 14 Mar
	Term 2	Mon 24 Mar to Fri 30 May
Semester 2	Term 3	Mon 30 Jun to Fri 5 Sep
	Term 4	Mon 15 Sep to Fri 21 Nov (last day of school will be Fri 24 Oct due to GCE O-Level examinations)

### Arrival and Dismissal Times

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Arrival Time	8.45am	7.30am	7.30am	7.30am	7.30am	
Dismissal Time	2.25pm for most classes, except for students with afternoon lessons					12.40pm

### School Attendance

A school is where students learn and grow. Long periods of absences will affect learning. If your child/ward is unwell, we strongly recommend that he/she consult a doctor. Documents such as medical appointment notifications and/or medical certificates (MCs) must be submitted to your child/ward's Form Teacher **immediately** upon return.

Parent letters may be accepted under certain circumstances to explain your child/ward's absence. However, no more than 10 letters will be accepted each year. Each letter should not cover more than a day of absence. If your child/ward is not well for a longer period, it is advisable to consult a doctor. Absence from school without valid reasons will be recorded as truancy in your child/ward's official student records. This will impact his/her conduct grades, selection for school representation for competitions, as well as edusave, school and national awards.

### Mobile Devices Policy (Smartphones and Smartwatches)

We want to promote a safe digital learning environment that helps students self-regulate their digital device use. Learning takes place best in the classroom when distractions such as smartphones and smartwatches are removed.

Arising from the engagement and choices made by the student community on the last day of school in 2024, we have updated the school rules in the 2025 Student Handbook as follows:

- Smartphones and smartwatches are **not allowed** to be used during curriculum and CCA hours. This includes the changeover time for lessons. **Smartphones must be kept in students' personal lockers during lessons.**
- Smartphones may only be taken out of the lockers during recess, self-study periods and after the last lesson of the day.
- Smartphones and smartwatches are **not allowed to be used in all classrooms and all special rooms** at any time of the day (e.g. NFS kitchens, D&T workshops, design studios, art room, music room, computer labs, block D rooms, hall etc).
- Students are **not allowed to use their smartphones and/or smartwatches for gaming both inside and outside of the library**. Students may use their Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) and smartphones for schoolwork only.
- Students **caught gaming on their PLDs during lessons or at no-gaming zones** in the school (classrooms, special rooms, library) **will have an offence of defiance entered into their personal school record** from the second offence.
- Students who breach rules regarding the use of smartphones and/or smartwatches will have their devices confiscated until the end of the school day for the first two offences. Parents will be asked to retrieve the confiscated devices from school from the student's third offence.
- Students are not allowed to bring mobile speakers to school or play music loudly with their devices.
- Students should bear responsibility for the safekeeping of their devices.

### School Attire

Student will continue to **report to school every day in half-uniform** (PE T-shirt with pants for upper secondary boys/ shorts for lower secondary boys/ skirt for girls), as we continue to strike a balance between standards of grooming and the comfort and well-being of our students.

- Students may also choose to wear their full uniform.
- Other school-sanctioned tops that can be worn include school official committee tees (e.g. games day committee, orientation committee, student leadership board tees) and Secondary 1 OAL camp tees.
- Students will change into their PE attire for PE lessons, and change out thereafter.
- Students will be allowed to wear their **CCA T-shirts on their CCA days** in place of their PE top.

### Communication Channels with Parents

Home-school partnership is critical for the success of your child. To facilitate communications, we have provided email addresses of all form teachers and key personnel in [Annex A: Staff Contact List](#). Parents may also contact teachers through the general office during school hours. However, teachers may not be able to respond immediately or may only be able to respond on the next working day. We would like to emphasise that a trusting and respectful relationship between schools and parents includes respecting teachers' time and space. Hence teachers are not expected to respond to parents'/students' queries during weekends except for emergencies. Teachers are also not expected to provide their personal phone numbers to parents. We will be regularly communicating with parents via Parents Gateway.

We have also planned level touchpoints to share more information about programmes and support for your child:

<b>Sec 1 Parents Engagement</b>	Fri 10 Jan, 4.00-6.00pm (via MS Teams)
<b>Sec 2 Parents Engagement on Subject Combination</b>	Fri 30 May, 5.00-6.00pm (via MS Teams)
<b>Sec 3 Parents Engagement</b>	Fri 7 Mar, 4.00-6.00pm (via MS Teams)
<b>Sec 4 Parents Engagement</b>	Fri 14 Mar, 4.00-6.00pm (via MS Teams)

You will also have the opportunity to discuss the progress of your child/ward with the form/co-form teachers at the semester Parent-Teacher Conferences. Details on the various touchpoints will be given nearer the date.

<b>Semester 1 Parent-Teacher Conference</b>	Fri 30 May (Details will be provided nearer the date)
<b>Semester 2 Parent-Teacher Conference</b>	Fri 24 Oct (Details will be provided nearer the date)

## Refreshed Spaces

We have refreshed some locations in our school to provide a more conducive environment and positive school learning experience. Here are some of the refreshed spaces, that will support our North Stars as they **Learn, Grow and Lead.**

### Heritage Gallery @ School Foyer



### Refreshed Study Spaces

### More Counselling Rooms @ Pastoral Hub



### More Teaching and Learning Spaces

#### New Seminar Room Block



#### North Star Room



## Back to School: STAR 1 Programme

Our signature STAR programme has been planned to welcome our students back to school. A range of varied and authentic experiences will support students as they develop character, socio-emotional and 21st century competencies. Each level has a specific theme, objectives and learning outcome:

- Sec 1: Ready for Discovery (Start Right)
- Sec 2: Ready for Responsibility (Choose Wisely)
- Sec 3: Ready for Community (Step Up)
- Sec 4/5: Ready for the World (Emerge Stronger)

The series of activities at the start of the school year will also help ease our students back into school and start the year on the right footing. Form Teachers will also check in on their well-being, and set expectations and routines for ownership of their learning and growth for the year. Through the programme, we desire for students to build positive student-student and teacher-student relationships, which will support them through the year.

More details on the level programmes have been sent via Parents' Gateway.



*Photos from 2024 STAR 1 programme*

## 2025 Sec 1 Cohort: Orientation Programme, CCA Open House and Parents Engagement Session

Our 2025 Sec 1 students will be inducted into school through an exciting **orientation programme**, fully led by our student leaders. They will learn about the school, the teachers and importantly, make new friends and discover more about themselves.

We will also be holding a **CCA Open House** for students on Fri, 10 Jan from 2 to 4 pm to help them find out more about the different CCAs we offer.

A **Parents Engagement Session** will be held online on Fri, 10 Jan from 4 to 5.30 pm. We will share more about understanding and supporting your child's transition to secondary school and some other important matters with you. Parents will also have a chance to hear from their child's form teachers. More information will be disseminated via Parents' Gateway nearer the date.

## **Safe and Responsible use of Personal Learning Device (PLD)**

All Sec 2 to 5 students have already been issued with a Personal Learning Device (PLD), which are used for teaching and learning. Our school's Digital and Media Literacy curriculum also equips our students with digital literacy and technological skills.

**It is the students' responsibility to take good care of and use their PLDs appropriately.** Your child/ward's PLD is installed with a Device Management Application (DMA) which allows the school to determine settings to control usage of the PLDs and screen time. This helps provide a safer digital learning environment for our students' learning.

Parents/guardians play an active role as partners to help your child/ward navigate the digital environment. MOE and our school will continue to share more digital parenting tips through our communication channels.



## **Assessment Matters**

Assessments are important for teachers to provide meaningful feedback to students to close learning gaps. We have scheduled termly Weighted Assessments (WAs) for students to obtain feedback, act on them and close learning gaps. Teachers also monitor and provide feedback on students progress throughout the year through various classroom strategies and assignments.

The scheduling of WA for different subjects will be spread across the term as far as possible. It is the responsibility of each student to check and ensure they are apprised of the assessment schedule. This is part of being a self-directed learner. The weighting and schedules of our school-based assessment and examinations are found on our school Assessment microsite:

**<https://for.edu.sg/assessments>**

More details on our school's assessments and examination rules and regulations may be found in our 2025 Student Companion.

## **Welcome to the CVSS Family**

We welcome the following staff to our CVSS family:

Mdm Liz Sriyanty Binte Jamaludin – History

Mr Chia Poh Cheng – Mathematics

Ms Ng Xiang Ming - Chemistry, English

Ms Bhavani – ECG Counsellor

Ms Divashini – School Counsellor

Ms Wang Xiaoya – Chinese Language

Ms Liu Yuan - Chinese Language



# School Calendar of Major Events and Home-based Learning (HBL) Days

(Accurate as of Dec 2024. Subjected to changes)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Major School Programmes, Events and HBL Days</b>
<b>TERM 1</b>	0-1	2-7 Jan	Thu-Tue	Sec 1 Orientation Sec 2-5 STAR 1
	1	8 Jan	Wed	Launch of 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	1	10 Jan	Fri	Sec 1 Parents' Engagement (Online) CCA Open House
	4	28 Jan	Tue	Chinese New Year Celebration (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
	7	17 Feb	Mon	Sec 1-5 HBL Day
	9	4 Mar	Tue	Sec 1-5 HBL Day
	9	7 Mar	Fri	Sec 3 Parents Engagement (Online)
	10	14 Mar	Fri	Sec 4 Parents Engagement (Online) Last day of CCA for Sec 4/5* <i>*Subject to individual CCA needs</i>
<b>TERM 2</b>	3	9 Apr	Wed	Sec 1-5 HBL Day
	5	24 Apr	Thu	Sec 1-5 HBL Day
	6	30 Apr	Wed	Student Leaders' Investiture
		2 May	Fri	Sec 4-5 Annual Awards Day
	7	5-9 May	Mon-Fri	Sec 3 OBS (Batch 1)
	7	8 May	Thu	Sec 1-3 HBL Day Sec 4 MTL/MTLB Preliminary Examinations
	8	13-16 May	Tue-Fri	Sec 3 OBS (Batch 2)
	9	23 May	Fri	Sec 1-5 Annual Race
	10	26-28 May	Mon-Wed	Sec 1 Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp
		26-29 May	Mon-Thu	Sec 2-5 STAR 2
		30 May	Fri	Sec 1-5 Parent-Teacher Conference Sec 2 Parents Engagement on Subject Combination (Online)

On HBL days, students need not report to school (unless otherwise stated).

Instructions for students on HBL Days will be provided later.

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<b>TERM 3</b>	2	7 Jul	Mon	<i>School Holiday for Youth Day</i>
	3	15-17 Jul	Tue-Thu	Sec 1-3 HBL Days
	5	1 Aug	Fri	Sec 1-3 HBL Day
	5-6	29 Jul- 7 Aug	Tue-Thu	Sec 4 N-Level Preliminary Examinations
	6	8 Aug	Fri	National Day Celebrations (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
	7	11 Aug	Mon	<i>School Holiday for National Day</i>
	7-9	13-25 Aug	Wed-Mon	Sec 4/5 O-Level Preliminary Examinations
	8	19 Aug	Tue	Sec 1-3 HBL Day
	10	4 Sep	Thu	Teachers' Day Celebration (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
		5 Sep	Fri	<i>School Holiday for Teachers' Day</i>
<b>TERM 4</b>	1	16 Sep	Tue	Sec 1-3 HBL Day
	1-4	15 Sep- 10 Oct	Mon-Fri	Sec 1-3 CCA Stand Down (CCA resumes on 13 Oct)
	2	24 Sep	Wed	Sec 4/5 Graduation Day (Last day of school for Sec 4/5)
	2-4	25 Sep – 7 Oct	Thu-Tue	Sec 1-3 End-of-Year Examinations
	4	8 Oct	Wed	Marking Day (Students need not report to school)
	5	15 Oct	Wed	Results Management Day (Students need not report to school)
	5-6	14-23 Oct	Tue-Thu	Sec 1-3 STAR 3 (Last Day of School on 23 Oct, Thu)
	6	24 Oct	Fri	Sec 1-3 Parent Teacher Conference
	10	22 Nov	Sat	Open House for P6 pupils / parents