



*Vision: Nurturing Empowered, Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose*

*Mission: Care. Lead. Inspire. Partner.*

*Values: GratITUDE, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, Trustworthiness.*

**HS PC 2026 Term 1**

**January**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Happy New Year! As we begin the new year, we are pleased to share a message from our Principal.

### **Principal's Message 2026**

At Hougang Secondary School, we believe that every child can grow into an empowered, future-ready individual with strong character and a clear sense of purpose.

We aim to be an educational institution with a big heart and bold aspirations. We are deeply committed to nurturing each Hougean to become not just a future-ready learner, but a confident leader, a resilient innovator, and a responsible community builder. Our work is guided by a simple yet powerful belief: when young people are known, valued, and challenged meaningfully, they rise.

#### **Nurturing Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose**

Our vision—Nurturing Empowered Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose—anchors everything we do. In a rapidly changing world shaped by technology, uncertainty, and new possibilities, academic excellence alone is not enough. Our students must also develop the character, values, and mindsets to navigate life with confidence and empathy.

At Hougang Secondary, character education is not an add-on. It is woven intentionally into our curriculum, co-curricular programmes, and daily interactions. Guided by our GREAT values of Gratitude, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, and Trustworthiness, we help students grow into grounded individuals who care for others, contribute meaningfully, and act with integrity.

#### **A Distinctive Focus on Leadership and STEM Innovation**

Hougang Secondary is proud to be known for our strong emphasis on community youth leadership and applied STEM education, particularly in innovation.

Through structured leadership development opportunities, students learn to lead with purpose—serving their peers, contributing to the community, and making a positive difference beyond themselves. Our leadership programmes nurture voice, responsibility, and confidence, empowering students to step forward and lead with empathy and conviction.

At the same time, our applied STEM programmes expose students across all streams to real-world problem-solving, design thinking, and emerging technologies. From foundational coding and computational thinking to hands-on innovation projects and industry-linked learning experiences, students learn to apply knowledge meaningfully—not just to excel in examinations, but to solve authentic problems and prepare for the future.

#### **Every Child Known, Every Child Growing**

As a school offering the full range of courses, we are deeply committed to a holistic and inclusive education. We recognise that students come with different strengths, starting points,

and aspirations. Here in Hougang Secondary, every child has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Our teachers care deeply about their students. They believe in high expectations coupled with strong support, and they work tirelessly to bring out the best in every learner. Beyond academic development, we place strong emphasis on student well-being, growth mindset, and positive relationships—because young people thrive when they feel safe, supported, and inspired.

### **A Strong Community with Meaningful Partnerships**

Education is a shared endeavour. We value strong partnerships with parents, alumni, community organisations, and industry partners who journey alongside us in shaping our students' growth. Together, we create rich learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom and connect learning to life.

Hougang Secondary is more than a school—it is a community where students are encouraged to discover who they are, what they value, and how they can contribute meaningfully to society.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to nurturing Hougeans who are confident in their abilities, secure in their values, and ready to face the world with courage and purpose. We will strive to be a school where every child is cared for, challenged, and empowered to go forth and shine.

We hope you had the opportunity to engage with your child/ward in many fruitful and meaningful ways over the school holidays. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the parents/guardians of our Secondary 1 students. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our HS family for the next educational journey of your child/ward.

We are kicking off the term with our annual GREAT Start Week, designed to prepare students holistically for the year ahead. Additionally, we are proud to announce that our dedicated staff have received multiple prestigious awards, recognising their outstanding contributions to education and character development.

In the following sections, we will provide more details on our upcoming programmes, important dates, and other essential information to help you and your child/ward navigate Term 1 successfully.

## **1. Celebrations**

### **1.1 Celebrating Staff Excellence**

Our teachers have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to education, receiving numerous prestigious accolades. Our staff were honoured with the MOE Service Excellence Award, MOE Innergy Award, Inspiring Teacher of English Award, Academy Award, and the Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress Award, acknowledging their exceptional nurturing approach and positive impact to our students and commitment to the school community.

These accomplishments reflect not only the individual excellence of our teachers but also our school's collective commitment to providing the highest quality education that emphasises character development.

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>
MOE Service Excellence Award (Platinum)	1
MOE Service Excellence Award (Gold)	32
MOE Service Excellence Award (Silver)	8
MOE Innergy Award	6

Inspiring Teacher of English Award	1
Academy Award for Professional Development	3
Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress Award	1

## 1.2 2025 GCE N-Level Results

We would like to congratulate the 2025 4N(A) and 4N(T) cohorts. They have done us proud by achieving commendable results at the GCE N-Level Examination. The 4N(A) cohort has attained **100%** passes for the majority of subjects this year. We are also proud of our 4N(T) students for striving to meet their academic targets. These results are testament to the school's efforts in realising the true potential of each child in HS.

## 2. **School Structures and Programmes**

### 2.1 GREAT Start Week

As we begin the new school year, we are excited to share with you our GREAT Start Week, a four-day programme designed to help Hougeans start the year and term right. Instead of starting lessons immediately, this curated set of activities aims to prepare students emotionally, psychologically, and physically for the year ahead. During this time, students will engage in class bonding activities, fostering connections with their new classmates and Character Coaches (CC). They will also be equipped with fundamental skills essential for school readiness. The School Leaders and the Year Heads will address each cohort, setting the tone and focus for the year. Additionally, we will communicate our expectations, emphasising our 5As: Attendance, Attire, Attitude, Activities, and Attention. This approach ensures that when formal lessons begin, our students are well-prepared, connected, and clear about what is expected of them. We believe this GREAT Start will lay a strong foundation for a purposeful and meaningful school year.

Great Start Week programmes will be on Friday, 2 January and Monday, 5 January to Wednesday, 7 January 2026. Normal curriculum based on students' timetable will commence on Thursday, 8 January 2026.

Secondary 3 students will be having Outdoor Adventure Camp from Monday, 5 January to Wednesday, 7 January 2026. Information regarding the Secondary 3 camp and bonding activities has been sent to all parents/guardians.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm during GREAT Start Week, with the following exceptions:

- Friday, 2 January: Secondary 3 students will be dismissed at 4:30pm
- Monday, 5 January and Tuesday, 6 January: Secondary 1 students will be dismissed at 1:00pm

### 2.2 (a) Principal-Meets-Parents (PMP) Sessions and CCA Open House for Secondary 1

The Secondary 1 PMP Session and CCA Open House for Secondary 1 students will be held in school on Saturday, 17 January 2026. Parents/guardians will receive more information via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

## 2.2 (b) Principal-Meets-Parents (PMP) Sessions for Secondary 2, 3, 4 and 5

PMP sessions for Secondary 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be conducted on Saturday, 31 January 2026. More information will be shared with parents/guardians via Parents Gateway nearer to the date. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the sessions.

## 2.3 (a) Blended Learning

Blended Learning (BL) is part of MOE's efforts to further develop our students into self-directed, passionate, and lifelong learners. As part of BL in HS, Home-Based Learning (HBL) days will be scheduled once a fortnight starting from Term 1 Week 5 for Secondary 4 and 5, and Term 1 Week 7 for Secondary 1, 2 and 3 students to complement teaching and learning in school.

Term 1 and 2 HBL days and dates are as follows:

<b>Term 1 HBL Dates</b>	2 February (Secondary 4 and 5 only), 19 February, 2 March
<b>Term 2 HBL Dates</b>	30 March, 9 April, 22 April, 7 May (Secondary 1 to 3 only), 18 May

- On HBL Days, Secondary 1 to 5 students will follow the school's timetable for the day, including the recess and lunch periods which will serve as breaks for the students.
- To engage students in different modes of learning, teachers will leverage digital platforms e.g., Student Learning Space, Google Classroom. You may refer to this link: <https://www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg/hbl-and-sil/> for the schedule and subject-specific instructions.

## 2.3 (b) Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) on HBL days

As part of the school's Blended Learning approach, HBL Days will place greater emphasis on Student-Initiated Learning (SIL). During these days, dedicated time will be set aside for students to exercise agency, explore their interests, and engage in self-directed learning. To support this, HBL Days will be intentionally less structured than a typical school day, allowing students greater autonomy in planning and managing their learning.

Through SIL, students will identify and pursue an area of personal interest. This interest-based learning enables students to explore what they enjoy, are curious about, or wish to develop further. With a strong Education and Career Guidance (ECG) focus, students will gain deeper self-awareness of their strengths, interests, and aspirations. Over time, they will curate a personal student portfolio that documents their learning journey throughout their years at Hougang Secondary School.

The student portfolio may include reflections on interest exploration, Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) experiences, leadership roles, community involvement, and key ECG learning milestones. Importantly, this portfolio can be a valuable resource in the graduating year, as students may draw on it to support their applications to Institutes of Higher Learning—such as Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, or the Institutes of Technical Education—through the Aptitude-Based Admissions (ABA) Exercise.

To ensure students are well supported in this process, structured checkpoints will be incorporated at various stages of the programme. These checkpoints will allow teachers to monitor progress, provide timely guidance, and help students refine their learning goals.

Each HBL Day will therefore include time for both curriculum learning and Student-Initiated Learning, as outlined below.

### Structure of a HBL Day

	Curriculum Coverage	Student-Initiated Learning
<b>Duration</b>	5 hours	1 hour
<b>Location</b>	Curriculum is designed for completion at home.	At home
<b>Format</b>	Asynchronous	Areas can include one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical/ Healthy Living</li> <li>• Aesthetics</li> <li>• Self-Development</li> <li>• Life skills</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement</b>	To complete all work assigned.	To ensure following through of their SIL plan in a safe learning environment.

### SIL by Levels

Level	Duration
Secondary 1	Term 1 Week 8 to Term 3 Week 2
Secondary 2	Term 1 Week 1 to Term 3 Week 2
Secondary 3	Term 1 Week 4 to Term 3 Week 3
Secondary 4	Term 1 Week 1 to Term 2 Week 1

All Secondary 1 to 5 students will start to plan their SIL with advice from their Character Coaches from Term 1 Week 2 onwards. We seek your understanding that all expenses incurred from your child/ward's choice of SIL activities will not be reimbursed by the school. Please ensure that they ask for your permission if they wish to sign up for any courses or workshops.

#### 2.4 Start of Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)

CCA sessions will be held every Tuesday and Friday, starting from 9 January 2026 for Secondary 2 to 5 students. For Secondary 1 students, they will be briefed about the CCA selection and allocation process during GREAT Start Week. More information will be shared through Parents Gateway in due course.

#### 2.5 Chinese New Year Celebration

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Monday, 16 January 2026. Please note that school dismissal timings will be adjusted on that day. More details regarding the celebration and dismissal time will be sent via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

In addition, Tuesday, 17 January 2026, and Wednesday, 18 January 2026, are designated as public holidays for Chinese New Year. There will be no school on these two days.

### **3. Student Well-Being and Pupil Management Matters**

#### **3.1 Advisory on Vaping**

E-vaporisers and Etomidate e-vaporisers pose serious harm to users and are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components.

The Government has announced that there will be stronger enforcement and stricter penalties against vaping from 1 September 2025. This includes the classification of Etomidate as a Class C drug which will allow for stronger enforcement measures, penalties and rehabilitation programmes. This will include prosecution and a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years for Etomidate abusers.

Ministry of Education (MOE) has also stipulated baseline (i.e. minimum) disciplinary measures for schools. We have briefed our students on the stronger nationwide enforcement and penalties against vaping and would like to share with you our school's approach to this important issue.

Our School-Based Disciplinary Measures:

- Our school's disciplinary measures for vaping are aligned to MOE's stipulated baselines and would include internal and external suspension, and caning (for boys). These school-based consequences are in addition to national penalties (fines) and rehabilitation programmes.
- For students caught vaping, the school will mete out the disciplinary measures, adjust the conduct grade, and take educative and rehabilitative measures.

Approach to Providing Support:

- All students caught vaping for the first time will receive mandatory counselling from our School Counsellor.
- Students who voluntarily seek help will not face disciplinary actions.
- We will engage parents/guardians directly and work together throughout any intervention.

Prevention Efforts:

- The school will continue our anti-vaping education efforts through assembly programmes, lessons, and peer support initiatives to help students understand the serious health and legal risks of vaping.

Support to Quit Vaping:

- Those who voluntarily seek help will not face any penalties nor have the offence recorded.
- However, if the individual is separately caught for vaping, penalties under the various laws will be meted out and there will be an offence record.
- If you have concerns about your child/ward or need support, please contact the school directly.

Parents/guardians have an important part to play in your child/ward's education. There are resources and relevant information that parents/guardians can access on Parent Hub. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your child/ward about vaping to prevent it from becoming a lifelong habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>.

#### **3.2 Use of iPads**

iPads may be used during curriculum time for learning purposes. During classroom lessons where iPads are not required for learning, they should be put away. Students

should follow their teachers' instructions on "screens up" and "screens down". If iPads are used inappropriately during curriculum time, disciplinary actions will be meted out accordingly. **iPads brought to school for use must be installed with MOE's Device Management Application (DMA). Any iPad found without the DMA installed will have to be promptly installed with the DMA.**

### 3.3 Use of Mobile Phones

For effective teaching and learning to take place, we need to set boundaries for our students in our mobile device policy. Mobile phones may be used only during these timings:

- Mobile phones may be used only before 7:30am and
- after the last period of curriculum time (3:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm on Wednesdays and 12:30pm on Fridays).

We would like to emphasise that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones during recess. Students are to store their phones in their personal lockers before 7:30am and to retrieve them after the last period of curriculum time (3:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm on Wednesdays and 12:30pm on Fridays). During curriculum time, mobile phones are expected to be out of sight. This includes during the change-over of lessons and while students are walking along the corridor.

Phone use is also prohibited during CCA and Structured Consultation Time.

If the mobile device policy is violated, the mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and kept under lock and key in the General Office. For the first and second offence (for the year), the phone will be confiscated up till 5:00pm on that day. For the third offence and above (for the year), the phone will be confiscated and kept under lock and key in the General Office every day at 7:30am till 5:00pm for five days.

### 3.4 Punctuality

Students who are late for school for two or more occasions are required to serve detention after school on the same day, during which, they will engage in self-study, reading and/or Corrective Work Order. All students required to serve detention must do so on the actual date of offence regardless of involvement in competitions, tuition classes, remedial sessions and CCAs. Recalcitrant students who do not respond positively to the school's intervention measures may face other disciplinary actions such as in-school/home suspension or caning (for boys).

### 3.5 Maintaining Good Behaviour at All Times

The school places great emphasis on inculcating good habits in our students, such as the prudent use of time. As such, we would like to emphasise that students are not to loiter and misbehave in the neighbourhood after school. We urge you to strongly advise your child/ward to behave appropriately at all times, especially while he/she is in school uniform.

### 3.6 Attire and Grooming

The school's grooming and attire policy is aimed at educating Hougeans to look smart and presentable at all times. Having proper attire and grooming is an outward expression of students' readiness to learn. It is also important as it signifies the pride that students have for themselves and the school. To achieve the above intent, grooming and attire checks are carried out periodically throughout the year.

If the students' grooming and attire are not appropriate, a grace period of 2 days will be given for rectification with a follow-up check. Students who fail the follow-up check will be sent home to have the grooming issue/s rectified, and parents/guardians will be informed.

Students are to wear the full school uniform with school tie on Mondays when they report to school. On days where there are PE lessons, students are required to report to school in their school shirt/blouse, Polo t-shirt, PE T-shirt or CCA T-shirt with pants/skorts. They are not allowed to report to school in PE shorts. If they wish to, students can choose to wear their PE shorts under their pants/skorts instead. They are allowed to wear PE attire only during PE lessons.

### 3.7 CCA T-shirt

Students are encouraged to wear their approved CCA T-shirts on Tuesdays and/or Fridays with school pants/skorts if they have no PE lessons. Students who have PE on that day will change into their CCA T-shirts during recess, lunch break or after 3:00pm.

Students are to wear full school uniform/school Polo-T on days with internal and national examinations.

### 3.8 Using Students' Images/ Recordings for Publications

The school will be using students' images and/or recordings for school publications. Should parents/guardians have any concerns, kindly inform the school through your child/ward's Character Coaches.

## 4. **Valuing Teachers**

### 4.1 Communication with Teachers

In line with the Ministry of Education's Five-Day Work Week, parents/guardians are encouraged to respect teachers' personal time and space. Teachers can be contacted during weekdays between 7:30am and 6:00pm. They are not expected to respond to parents/students' queries during weekends or after 6:00pm on weekdays except for emergencies. We seek your understanding and support on this.

All teachers' email addresses are available on the school's website for your convenience. Parents/Guardians can also contact the General Office (Tel: 6385 1990) for further assistance.

### 4.2 To ensure you can easily reach out when needed, we'd like to provide you with the updated contact list of our Heads of Department for 2026.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
Mr Alfred Choo	HOD/ Aesthetic & Technology	6372 6660 (Ext: 660)
Ms Carmen Cheng	HOD/ Mother Tongue Languages	6372 6664 (Ext: 664)
Mr Daniel Tan	Year Head/ Secondary 3 (Covering)	6372 6668 (Ext: 653)
Mr Elangovan s/o V Muthoo	Year Head/ Secondary 4 & 5	6372 6662 (Ext: 662)
Mr Javen Gwee	HOD/ ICT & Data Management	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
Ms Jazreel Toh	Subject Head/ Science	6372 6668 (Ext: 210)
Mr Khairul Adli Bin Rahmat	School Staff Developer	6372 6665 (Ext: 665)
Mr Lee Lis King	HOD/ Physical Education & Co-Curricular Activity	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
Mdm Li Huilin	HOD/ Humanities (Covering)	6372 6668 (Ext: 208)
Mr Low Yi En	HOD/ Pupil Management	6372 6659 (Ext: 659)
Ms Tracy Huang	HOD/ Mathematics	6372 6661 (Ext: 661)



<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
Mdm S Chitradevi	HOD/ English Language & Literature	6372 6663 (Ext. 663)
Ms Serina Tan	HOD/ Character & Citizenship Education	6372 6652 (Ext. 652)

## **5. Administrative Matters**

### **5.1 School Smart Cards (For Secondary 1 Students)**

Please note that all students entering Secondary 1 in January 2026 will be issued with a new Secondary level School Smart Card (SSC). The cards will be issued to the students in due course.

While waiting for their Secondary level SSCs to be ready, Secondary 1 students can continue to use their Primary level SSCs for concessionary travel till end April 2026. Students can still purchase the Bus Concession Pass (BCP) using their Primary level SSCs but they would need to purchase the BCP for Secondary School students.

## **6. Parent Support Group (PSG)**

### **6.1 Volunteering as a Parent Support Group Member**

We continue to encourage parents of Hougang Secondary School to volunteer as PSG members. You may find out more in the 'Partners' section of the school website or email the PSG Executive Committee at [hss.psg@gmail.com](mailto:hss.psg@gmail.com).

### **6.2 School Leaders-Parent Support Group Meetings**

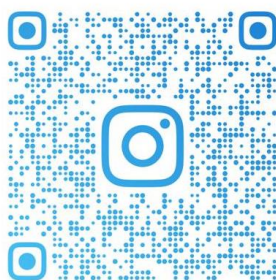
We warmly invite parents to join our School Leaders-Parent Support Group meetings, where parents can engage in meaningful dialogue with our School Leaders. These meetings are held regularly throughout the academic year to foster strong communication between the school and our parents. Parents will receive more information via Parents Gateway in due course.

## Contact of Key Personnel

Should you have queries on the matters listed in this newsletter, please contact the following Key Personnel in-charge:

Items	Key Personnel (Designation)	Telephone
2.1	Mr Elangovan s/o V Muthoo (Year Head/ Secondary 4 & 5)	6372 6662 (Ext: 662)
2.2 (a)	Mdm Martini Rahmat (Asst. Year Head/ Secondary 1)	6372 6668 (Ext: 235)
2.2 (b)	Mr Daniel Tan (Covering Year Head/ Secondary 3)	6372 6668 (Ext: 210)
2.4	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD/ PE & CCA)	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
3	Mr Low Yi En (HOD/ Pupil Management)	6372 6659 (Ext: 659)
6	Mrs Tan Wei Jing (SH/ Partnership & Outreach)	6372 6668 (Ext: 205)

**Do scan the QR code below to access our Instagram page and follow us to get regular updates on school activities!**



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