

30 Jun 2022

## **Newsletter to Parents – The July Edition**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

How are you? I hope your child had a good break over the June holidays and that you had some time to bond as a family. In this newsletter, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Chew Peng Leng, who passed on about three weeks ago on 8 June. Mr Chew was the 4<sup>th</sup> Principal of Xinmin Secondary School. He was Principal of the school from 1965 to 1985 – a whopping 20 years, and after his retirement in 1985, Mr Chew continued serving the school in the capacity of advisor to our School Advisory Committee till 2018.

### Leading in a Tumultuous Time

Mr Chew joined Xinmin (then known as Sin Min High School) as a senior lecturer in 1959 at the invitation of Mr Tung Sey Yew, who was then Principal of Sin Min High School. After Mr Tung's retirement at the end of 1964, Mr Chew was entrusted with the responsibility of leading the school as Principal.

As with many schools in the 1960s, Sin Min was not well equipped in terms of her facilities to cope with an increasing student enrolment. Although land for the school was secured and the blueprint of the building approved by the Ministry, there were insufficient funds to construct the school building. As such, Mr Chew worked tirelessly raising funds for the endeavour, going door to door to canvass for donations. Together with members of the community, parents, students, and staff contributed towards putting up charity movies and Teochew opera performances to raise funds to build the school.

But this was not Mr Chew's only challenge. The Ministry's announcement for all schools to transform into English medium schools (i.e., students are taught English as a first language and learn all other subjects except other languages, in English) in December 1983 had serious implications on Sin Min. You see, Sin Min was established as a Chinese school and teaching and learning. Switching to the English medium meant that all staff and students had to adapt to teaching and learning in English, and this presented staff and students with significant challenges. Consequently, students' academic results were adversely affected. Coupled with the urbanisation of Singapore and the resettlement of people from the nearby villages to the newly built housing estates, the enrolment for the school plummeted. The numbers were so low that it was insufficient to start a secondary one class in 1984.

These were the circumstances that prompted Mr Chew, alongside the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the then-school board, to approach the Ministry to convert Sin Min High School into a government school. Sin Min High School was converted into a government school on 1 April 1984. It was only after achieving this significant milestone that Mr Chew retired.

### Creating Positive Impact

Even after his retirement, Mr Chew continued to serve as advisor to the School Advisory Committee (SAC) till 2018, when he decided to step down due to health reasons. Mr Chew played an instrumental role in rallying support from the SAC and alumni for the construction of our Creative Arts Complex.

In his 20 years as Principal, and as advisor to the SAC more than 30 years after his retirement, Mr Chew had indeed done much for the school. What I thought was most significant was how Mr Chew had focused on character development and nurtured numerous students, among them include Mr Goh Tong Pak, our 6<sup>th</sup> Principal who turned the school around; Dr George Quek, founder of the BreadTalk group; and Mr Chua Kee Teang, co-founder of Mukim Fine Papers, a locally grown company, an active member of the community, and our current advisor of the SAC.

Apart from the fact that his students have gone on to create positive impact in their respective fields, what was remarkable was that they all appreciate the education given to them by the school. Many of them have such gratitude towards the school that they continue to support the school in different ways years after they graduated.

### Continuing the Legacy

Even as we celebrate Mr Chew's life and remember his contributions to Xinmin, we are working towards continuing Mr Chew's legacy through our programmes and approaches. We are continuing with Mr Chew's focus on values education and developing our students holistically through different platforms. Just like how Mr Chew's students continue to maintain a strong relationship with the school, we hope to inspire our students to similarly have a strong desire to contribute to the education of their juniors in Xinmin years after they graduate.

Just like how Mr Chew partnered the community to raise funds to build the school, we recognise the value of partnering the community in providing a positive school experience for our students. This is why we have undertaken to work closely with different community partners through our XinminCares and Xinmin Change Initiator programmes. Beyond playing a part to positively impact the beneficiaries from these community organisations, we believe that these experiences will nurture our students to be the compassionate contributors to a more inclusive and caring Singapore. With your strong partnership and support, I know we can do it!

## **SCHOOL EVENTS**

### Homecoming (2 Jul)

The annual Homecoming Day will be held on 2 Jul (Sat) from 8.30 am to 1 pm.

Our Homecoming Day is an important event for alumni to return home for a reunion with their juniors and beloved teachers! The theme of this year's Homecoming Day is "A School by the Community, A School for the Community". We would like to take this opportunity to remind the Xinmin family of our school heritage and to show our gratitude to the community. Besides many fun games facilitated by our students, there will be many local food businesses who will be setting up food booths during the carnival (#Supportlocalsg). We have also invited social enterprises such as Singapore Association for the Visually Handicapped to set up merchandise booths to promote their good cause.

Parents/Guardians who are keen to join us at the carnival are most welcomed to do so. Please book your e-ticket via: <https://tinyurl.com/XMSHomecoming2022>. Please note that due to the type of activities conducted, we will need to implement Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures for the carnival and only guests who are fully vaccinated are allowed to join the event.

### Youth Day School Holiday (4 Jul)

4 Jul (Mon) will be a school holiday to celebrate Youth Day. Lessons will resume on 5 Jul.

### Leadership Handover Ceremony (5 Jul)

The Leadership Handover Ceremony aims to recognise the exemplary contributions made by our outgoing Sec 4 Leaders and welcome our incoming Sec 3 Leaders. At this ceremony held during Form Teacher Time, we celebrate the progress and journey of our Sec 4 Leaders who have put in tremendous amount of time and effort to lead their juniors in the Student Council and various CCA groups. The ceremony also signifies the moment where the incoming Sec 3 Leaders take on the responsibility to lead, in their roles as part of the Student Council Executive Committee or as CCA Leaders.

### Coding@Xinmin for Sec 2 students (from 5 Jul)

This year, our Sec 2 cohort will embark on the Code for Fun Programme (CFF) under IMDA. This is a 10-hour curriculum that further extends the computational thinking concepts that students had learnt during Coding@Xinmin in Sec 1.

Through the use of microcontrollers, our students will exercise their creativity through designing prototypes and in tinkering contraptions that applies to the real-world context. Code for Fun Programme are structured as a 2-hour block fortnightly.

Upon completion of Code for Fun Programme, the students will carry on with their fortnightly, 1 hour Coding@Xinmin lessons to further extend their coding knowledge in Python.

### Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday (11 Jul)

Hari Raya Haji falls on 10 Jul (Sun) and the following Monday, 11 Jul, is a public holiday.

### Structured Intervention Programme (12 Jul to 31 Aug)

We would like to inform you that the Structured Intervention Programme (SIP) for the Sec 4 and 5 students will run from 12 Jul (Tue) to 31 Aug (Wed) to support students who did not perform satisfactorily. Identified students will be informed by Term 3 Week 2. Letters to parents will also be issued through Parents' Gateway. The Study Club (a self-directed revision platform launched in Term 2) will continue to provide students with a conducive environment and helpful resources by the teachers.

We seek your support and assistance in ensuring that your child/ward attends the Structured Intervention Programme faithfully if he/she has been identified. Any request for exemption from the programme will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The schedule is as follows:

Level	Period of Structured Intervention Programme	
4N4T	T3W3 Mon to T3W4 Fri	T3W7 Mon to T3W10 Wed
4E5N	T3W3 Mon to T3W8 Wed	

#### **ODD WEEK**

Day	Sec 401 – 405 Mon – Thu: 4 pm – 6.30 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm	Sec 501 Mon – Thu: 4 pm – 6.30 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm	Sec 406 – 408 Mon – Thu: 3 pm – 6 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Monday	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo
Tuesday	E Math	E Math	E Math

Wednesday	A Math POA Drama	A Math	A Math POA Drama
Thursday	Pure HY/Geo		
Friday	Sciences	Sciences	Sciences

#### **EVEN WEEK**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Sec 401 – 405</b> Mon – Thu: 4 pm – 6.30 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm	<b>Sec 501</b> Mon – Thu: 4 pm – 6.30 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm	<b>Sec 406 – 408</b> Mon – Thu: 4 pm – 6.30 pm Fri: 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Monday	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo	Social Studies Elective HY/Geo
Tuesday	E Math	E Math	E Math
Wednesday	A Math POA Drama	A Math	A Math POA Drama
Thursday	Pure HY/Geo		
Friday	Sciences	Sciences	Sciences

#### Racial Harmony Day Commemoration (18 Jul to 22 Jul)

Racial Harmony Day (RHD) falls on 21 Jul every year. Students will commemorate RHD in Term 3 Week 4 (i.e. 18 Jul to 22 Jul). RHD serves to remind our students that social division that was experienced in the racial riots of 1964 cost us dearly and that race and religion are potential fault lines in our diverse society. This year's Racial Harmony Day theme, Singapore: Our Multicultural Mosaic, reflects how each community, while having the space to express its own identity as part of Singapore society, also intertwines with others to depict the unique cultural diversity that characterises life in Singapore. During CCE lessons, students will have in-depth discussions on the theme and teachers will reiterate the importance of maintaining social cohesion and racial harmony in Singapore.

#### Cross-Country Day (5 Aug)

After a 2-year hiatus, Xinmin will be organizing our annual cross-country on 5 Aug (Fri) at Sengkang Riverside Park. The objective of the event is to give our students the chance to showcase their running abilities via the competitive category and for the rest of the student body to enjoy the outdoors offered by the park in the non-competitive category. It is also an opportunity for students to bond together as a class, be it through the competitive category where they compete to be the inter-class champion or by simply having a good time with their classmates as they go through the non-competitive route. The competitive category will be a 3.8 km run and the non-competitive category will be 2.4 km. Students will report to Sengkang hockey pitch and will be dismissed directly from there after the event. More details will be shared closer to the date of the event.

#### **ASSESSMENT MATTERS**

## National Oral Examinations

The national oral examination periods are as follows:

- GCE "O" Level Mother Tongue Language: 6 Jul to 18 Jul
- GCE "N" Level English Language: 12 Jul to 18 Jul
- GCE "O" Level English Language: 21 Jul to 1 Aug
- GCE "N" Level Mother Tongue Language: 3 Aug to 8 Aug
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Students taking their examination will be dismissed at 1 pm and need to report at the respective examination venues by 1.45 pm. They should not leave the school during their lunch break and need to be attired in full school uniform. The following items must be brought along:

- NRIC / Student Pass
- Entry Proof

The oral examinations will commence at 2.30 pm sharp and the quarantine period will be up to 3 pm. Students who are unable to sit for the examination need to inform their subject teacher in advance and be able to provide the supporting documentation for valid absence.

## Weighted Assessments 3 (WA3) for Sec 1 – 3 (25 Jul to 26 Aug)

WA3 for the various subjects will be paced out over a 5-week period from 25 Jul to 26 Aug for Sec 1 to 3 students. Students will be informed of the schedule, and you may access the information on the school website through [Resources>Parents>Timetables>Weighted Assessment Schedule](#).

## Preliminary and End-of-Year Examinations (25 Jul to 14 Oct)

The dates for our internal examinations are as follows:

- N-level Preliminary Examination: 25 Jul to 4 Aug
- O-level Preliminary Science Practical Examination: 11 Aug to 18 Aug
- O-level Preliminary written examinations: 19 Aug to 31 Aug
- Sec 1 to 3 End-of-Year examinations: 4 Oct to 14 Oct

For 4NA/NT students who are taking the Express syllabus papers from 19 Aug to 31 Aug:

1. For the 1<sup>st</sup> paper: They need to return to their classes after sitting for the paper
2. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> paper: They need to attend classes in the morning and report to the examination venue 20 minutes before the start of the paper.

All internal examination schedules will be made available on the school website.

Your partner in education,



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang  
Principal