

27 Oct 2021

NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS – The November Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian

How are you?

It has finally come to the end of the academic year! This would be the second year that our students experienced a muted school experience due to the COVID pandemic. We would very much like to reintroduce some elements of student life, like our post-examination learning journeys. However, the high number of cases recently makes it prudent for us to exercise more caution, and so we had to cancel our post-examination plans.

Taking Care of our Mental Well-being

Human beings are social beings and we long to socialise and connect with one another. However, due to the SMMs, we have had to remove this critical aspect of schooling. This, coupled with the stress of preparing for the year-end examinations, would no doubt have taken a toll on the mental well-being of both our students and staff.

Now that the examinations are behind us, it is a good time for our students to take some time to rest and recharge. Encourage your child to do something he/she likes. Pursue an interest or a hobby, or better yet, continue with their Student Initiated Learning now that they have more time on their hands!

The best part is that our students will continue to have the time and space protected for them to pursue their interests next year during their fortnightly HBL days in the form of Student Initiated Learning!

Disconnect to Connect

That being said, it would be good to also exercise a bit of self-restraint when it comes to the use of the mobile devices. With unregulated use over the holidays, it might be harder for your child to wean off it when term starts again next year. Likewise, it would be best not to let your child get too accustomed playing games or watching videos late into the night as it would make it harder for them to adjust their sleeping patterns back to normal next year.

Parents may wish to find some time to connect with your child over the holidays – *sans* devices. Spend some time disconnecting (from the digital world) and spending some time exploring the outdoors or engaging in sports or exercise with your child. Enjoy a good conversation over a meal or two with them to find out how their school experience has been, and their dreams and aspirations after secondary school.

These off-line activities are great not only in helping your child maintain their health and physical fitness, it brings about good mental health and provide opportunities for parent-child bonding.

Looking Forward to Celebrating Diversity

A very important protective factor for our students' mental well-being are their friends. Many of our students could attest to the fact that having a supportive network of friends has helped them tide over their tough times. What is better than having a supportive network of friends, is a supportive network of different friends! Having friends who may be different from us might help us better see things from different perspectives, enabling us to better overcome the challenges we face.

Thus, we are incredibly pleased that we will be implementing Full Subject-Based Banding for our Secondary One cohort next year. What is so special about this is that our Secondary One students will no longer be grouped with other students of the same stream in their form classes. Every form class will have students from all three streams. Other than some of their academic lessons, where students would get to learn together with friends who offer the subject at the same level, they would get to learn all other subjects in their form classes.

With this change, our students would get to make more friends, and also have opportunities to learn together with friends who may be different from them, thereby enriching their ability to see things from different perspectives.

Although we may not be able to introduce this degree of diversity to your child's form classes, we hope to provide different opportunities for your child to interact with peers who may be different from themselves. I hope that with such opportunities, our students may better develop their ability to understand different perspectives, thereby contributing to them growing into more empathetic young men and women.

This presents a change in the way we are doing things, and I look forward to your unwavering support. Let us work hand-in-hand as we prepare our students to contribute to a more inclusive Singapore!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Xinmin's e-Open House (22 Oct to 6 Nov)

We will be having our e-Open House from 22 Oct (Fri) to 6 Nov (Sat). A one-stop website was launched on 22 Oct to showcase various aspects of the Xinmin Experience. These include videos, images and infographics to provide rich information for prospective students and parents. Included on the site is also a 360-tour of the Xinmin campus, seeing that we will be unable to welcome physical guests again this year. The list of events include mini Zoom lessons with our teachers, a Xinmin Human Library Experience where visitors will be able to interact 'live' with the students, teachers, parents and alumni, and a QnA segment with our School Leaders and Key Personnel.

Publicity efforts will be hosted on our school's official Facebook and Instagram accounts, on <https://www.facebook.com/xinminsec/> and <https://www.instagram.com/xinminss/?hl=en>. Please pass on the information about the e-Open House by sharing or reposting our outreach efforts if you know of anyone who may be interested in the Xinmin Experience!

Last Day of School for Sec 1-3 (29 Oct)

The last day of school for Sec 1 to 3 cohorts will be on 29 Oct 2021 (Fri). Students will receive their report books on that day. Please refer to the programme below:

Last Day of School Programme on 29 Oct 2021

Time	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3
7.30 am	Flag Raising, Temperature Taking, Check TraceTogether Token and Wipe Down		

8.00 am	Farewell to Staff Reminders from Discipline Master		
8.30 am	Student Initiated Learning	Principal's Talk	Recess
9.00 am	Student Initiated Learning	Recess	Student Initiated Learning
9.30 am	Recess	Student Initiated Learning	Student Initiated Learning
10.00 am	Principal's Talk	Student Initiated Learning	Principal's Talk
10.30 am	Spring Cleaning	Spring Cleaning	Spring Cleaning
11.00 am	Form Teacher Time	Form Teacher Time	Form Teacher Time
11.40 am	Home Sweet Home		

Release of GCE N-Level Results

The N-Level results will be released tentatively between 17 and 21 Dec 2021. The actual release date will be confirmed via mainstream media and the school website. Students are reminded to settle any outstanding payment matters with the school before collecting the results.

For more information on post-secondary options for your child/ward, we encourage you to refer to the following link: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary>. We also encourage you and your child/ward to e-mail your queries about post-secondary options to Ms Catherine Ng, our Education & Career Guidance Counsellor at Ng_Hui_Fong_Catherine@schools.gov.sg. You may also arrange for an appointment with Ms Ng if you and your child/ward wish to arrange for a meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Students' Year-End Declarations for Travel

In view of the coming year-end school holiday, we would like to remind our parents to continue to defer their overseas travel unless it is permissible under the prevailing MOH travel advisory. To ensure a healthy and safe school environment, please declare your child/ward's travel plans for the year-end holidays by 29 Oct 2021 (Fri) via Parents Gateway (PG). If you do not have access to PG, you may wish to obtain a hardcopy travel declaration form at our General Office. Those who are not travelling need **not** submit a travel declaration.

Purchase of School Books and Uniforms (for students who will be in Sec 2 - 5 in 2022)

As part of the school's safe management measures, we strongly encourage all parents to go online to purchase their child/ward's school books and school uniforms through our appointed vendors from 29 Oct 2021 (Fri) onwards. You may refer to our school website for more information on online orders for school books and uniforms.

Please note that booking of appointment slot will be required for all purchases and collections of uniforms and textbooks unless you have requested for a home delivery. This is to adhere to the Safe Management Measures (SMM) for the safety and well-being of our staff and students. We seek your understanding that parents who did not book a slot might be turned away.

Please contact the General Office at 6288 9382 if you require further assistance.

Advisory for the Year-End School Holiday

As the academic year draws to a close, we would like to highlight a few things that you may want to keep a lookout for.

In line with MOE's Safe Management Measures, face-to-face CCA sessions will not resume after the End-of-Year examinations until further notice. Other external activities such as external CCAs and learning journeys remain suspended too. Parents may direct CCA-related questions to their child's CCA teachers, Mr Gabriel Tay (HOD/PE&CCA) at tay_lye_hock_gabriel@schools.gov.sg, or Mrs Ho Yen Peng (SH/PE&CCA) at lim_yen_peng@schools.gov.sg.

For students who are returning to school during the year-end school holiday for official school programmes, they are required to check-in using the TT token or the TT App at the guard post.

Generally, the holidays allow students to have more free time than they usually do during the school term. While it is good for them to de-stress and pursue other interests, unfortunately, it is also a time when some students may engage in pursuits that are not beneficial to them. We would like to share a few observations that may help you in ensuring your child/ward's well-being during the school holidays.

Going out

If your child is going out on their own, please remind them that it would be best not to socialise with people that they do not know well even if they are 'a friend of a friend'. Furthermore, if they are out with friends and they encounter other groups of youth who they feel are behaving badly, it is best to leave the area so as to avoid confrontations. Please also remind your child/ward to adhere to the prevailing COVID-19 safe distancing measures.

Easy Money Scams

Part-time work does carry some element of risk as students may interact with other youth or even older work colleagues and pick up bad habits like smoking and vaping. There are many advertisements available online on various social media platforms advertising money-making schemes that promise lucrative earnings and/or easy loans. Some students have fallen victim to these so please get your child to discuss with you before they make any decisions to work part-time.

Online Sales

Buying online is also very common these days and students have sometimes fallen victim to scams as they tend to want to buy trendy items at low prices. Please do not let your child make online purchases without discussing with you first.

First Day of School in 2022

School will reopen on 4 Jan 2022 (Tue) for the new academic year, with 3 Jan (Mon) being a school holiday.



President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth Award in Education (OYEA) 2022

Every year, two national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore to recognise their professional excellence. They are the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA).

The **President's Award for Teachers (PAT)** gives national recognition to the critical role teachers play in moulding the future of our nation. These teachers prepare students for life, as well as model commitment to continuous learning and enterprise. They inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Nomination for PAT 2022 is **now open** and will **close on 25 Jan 2022**.

The **Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA)** seeks to recognise excellent young teachers for their youthful idealism, energy, enthusiasm and active involvement in the development of youths. Educators who are 35 years and younger are eligible for the award. For OYEA 2022, it is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1987. Nomination for OYEA 2022 is **now open** and will **close on 12 Jan 2022**.

We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) for any deserving teacher(s) whom you know by accessing the URLs or scanning the QR codes below.

PAT 2022	OYEA 2022
<p>go.gov.sg/pat2022</p> 	<p>go.gov.sg/oyea2022</p> 

For queries and/or feedback about the awards, please send them to MOE_AST_PAT@moe.gov.sg (PAT 2022) or MOE_AST_OYEA@moe.gov.sg (OYEA 2022). Thank you for your support in recognising the good work of our teachers!

As this is the last newsletter for the year, we would like to wish all parents and students a safe, healthy and enjoyable year-end holiday. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the entire community for the support given to our teachers and students. To receive timely updates on the new school year, please check our school website regularly. Please have the latest version of the Parent Gateway (PG) app installed on your mobile device, with the notification function enabled. If you need further clarifications, please reach us at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or at 6288 9382.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal