

8 Apr 2021

Newsletter to Parents – The April Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to an exciting and activity-filled Term 2! This term will be a fast-paced one for both our students and staff with competitions, arts presentations and many other school events all happening in the same period of time. That being said, there is also a sense of appreciation that more school activities can resume after last year's hiatus due to the Covid situation.

Celebrating Our Students' Successes

As part of our 76th Speech Day, we had a prize-giving ceremony for our graduated student prize recipients, Friends of Xinmin and Service to Education awardees. Seeing how much they have learnt and grown in their time in Xinmin, we are incredibly proud and happy for them. In particular, I would like to specially mention the following students for their outstanding performance and contribution in the physical, aesthetics, social and leadership domains:

Award	Name of Student	Class of 2020
L.E.A.D. Award and Valedictorian	Ng Ying Hui	402
Chew Peng Leng Scholarship	Olivia Yong Kay Li	406
	Ong Kai Shun Jadric	409
Chew Peng Leng Award for Exemplary Service	Amanda Soon Qi-En	403
Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education	Koh Jin Jie Gerald	403
	Nicole Ng	404
Heng Chin Soo Award for Visual, Creative & Performing Arts	Nur Sophia Zahra Khan	401
Tung Sey Yew Award for Leadership in the Uniformed Groups	Jerald Yap Guang Cheng	402

As we caught up with our pinnacle award recipients, we could not help but noticed how all of them had immersed themselves fully in the Xinmin experience regardless of their level or their stream. They had seized the various learning opportunities available to them, be it the talent development programmes, the CCA leadership opportunities or the school service learning experiences. Throughout their secondary school journey, these students had gamely stepped out of their comfort zone to experience new things and find out more about themselves in the process. This, in turn, gave them the confidence and drive to pursue their passions and their goals, setting them in good stead for the exciting future that lies ahead. Indeed, the future belongs to those who keep an open mind on the learning opportunities awaiting to be discovered in their school experiences.

Learning for Life

As we embark on Personalised Digital Learning Programme and Blended Learning in Term 3, our students will be exposed to many new, exciting changes in their school experience. One key component in Blended Learning is the Student-Initiated Learning (SIL), where the students will get to identify an area that they want to learn more and work out a plan to towards achieving their

learning goals. We hope that these experiences will help our students develop their curiosity and dispositions for learning. In the process, they will also learn more about themselves and some might even find their passion and the motivation to work towards their long term goals.

As we continue preparing our students for their future, I would like to appeal to you to encourage your child to embrace these learning opportunities that come their way. While we may be concerned that some of these activities might take time away from revision and preparing for the examinations, we need to remember that we need to prepare our students for their future, which may be rather different from ours. Essentially, we need to prepare our students for the larger test of life, and not a life of tests!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sports CCAs' Participation in the National School Games (29 Mar to 29 Apr)

As announced on 9 Mar, 12 selected sports will resume competition in the annual National School Games. It is a great opportunity for our students to experience quality competition to support their character development through the pursuit of sporting excellence.

Appropriate safe management measures, aligned with national guidelines, will be put in place for these 12 sports. For example, up to a maximum of eight players will be allowed to interact during the games. For net barrier sports, players must stay on opposite sides of the net. In addition, up to a maximum of 50 participants will be allowed in the venue at any one time, and each school must remain in their designated area to minimise intermingling between students across schools. No spectators will be allowed. These are just some of the measures undertaken to ensure the safe participation of our students in the NSG.

Xinmin's Volleyball, Shooting and Badminton teams will be participating in this year's NSG. The schedule is given below.

CCA	Period of Competition	Teacher-in-Charge
Badminton	1 Apr to 29 Apr	Mr Lim Kok Chong
Volleyball	29 Mar to 19 Apr	Ms Low Yan Jin (Boys) Ms Joey Tay (Girls)
Shooting	12 Apr to 16 Apr	Mrs Cindy Wong

Performing Arts CCAs' Participation in Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP) (29 Mar to 21 Apr)

Our Performing Arts CCAs will be participating in the biennial Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentations in March and April. Due to the pandemic, public audiences will not be allowed at the performances. However there will be live streaming of the performances and the link is as follows: <https://www.syf.gov.sg/arts-presentation/syf-2021-ap-live-stream-schedule>.

Given the limitations with regards to group size, some of Xinmin's performing arts CCAs will be sending 2 teams for the SYF AP. We would like to invite you to view the live streams as a form of support for the students' efforts. The schedule for the respective performances is given in the table below. There will be no live performance and hence no live stream for Choir. Their SYF Arts Presentation will take the form of a compiled sound recording of individual voices.

CCA	Date	Day	Estimated Time of Performance	Teacher-in-Charge
MLDDS (Malay Dance)	29 Mar	Monday	1.40 pm	Ms Nor'ain Ismail
Band	31 Mar	Wednesday	3.25 pm	Mr Lee Kin Meng
Drama	5 Apr	Monday	4.10 pm	Mdm Norliza
Chinese Dance	6 Apr	Tuesday	5.20 pm	Ms Pang Hui Chin
Chinese Dance	6 Apr	Tuesday	5.30 pm	Ms Pang Hui Chin
Band	7 Apr	Wednesday	5.45 pm	Mr Lee Kin Meng
Guzheng	16 Apr	Friday	5.40 pm	Mr Zhuang Haoyang
Drama	21 Apr	Wednesday	2.00 pm	Mdm Norliza

Parents' Clarification Session on Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)

The school is implementing Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) in Term 3. Under the programme, all Sec 1 to 3 students will own a school-prescribed Personal Learning Device (PLD). This PLD will be used together with our national e-learning platform, the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS), and other educational technology to enhance our students' learning. The device will be used for learning in school and after school.

More information on the programme can be found on our school website, under Announcements. This will include information on our choice of device, the funding options, and other support structures put in place to guide our students in optimising their learning using their devices. In addition, there will be online parents' clarifications session on 7 to 9 Apr. More information has been sent to parents earlier via Parents Gateway.

CCA Stand Down for Graduating Students (17 Apr)

Most CCA activities for graduating students will cease two weeks before the start of their mid-year examinations. For most students, the last day of CCA for graduating students is 17 Apr and there will be no more CCA activities after that. However due to the scheduling of the NSG and SYF AP, some graduating students may still be involved with their CCAs after 17 April to prepare for their respective competitions. Whilst the school will try to help these students manage their commitments, we also seek parents' kind understanding and support, given the unique challenges and circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

Oral Examinations (16 Apr to 7 May)

The English and Mother Tongue Languages Oral Examinations for the following levels will take place from 16 Apr (Fri) to 7 May (Fri), as follows.

- English Language: Sec 2, 4 and 5 students

- Mother Tongue Languages: Sec 2 students, Sec 3 HMT students, Sec 4 and 5 students

Subject teachers will inform students of their individual examination dates and arrangements are made to ensure that safe-distancing measures are implemented. Classrooms will be used for the Oral Exams.

Weighted Assessment 2 (WA2) for Sec 1 to 3 Students (26 Apr to 21 May)

Weighted Assessments Two (WA2) for Sec 1 to 3 students comprises 15% of a student's overall grade. These assessments are scheduled to take place from 26 Apr (Mon) to 21 May (Fri).

Students will be informed of the schedule and it will be uploaded on the school website: Study Here → Assessment → Weighted Assessments Schedule.

Students who are absent for any assessments must submit a Medical Certificate (MC) to the subject teacher and the form teacher on the day he returns to school. Students without a valid reason for their absence for any tests will be given zero marks. In general, letters from parents excusing their children from sitting for these assessments will not be accepted unless there are valid reasons.

Mid-year Examinations for Sec 4 and 5 Students (30 Apr to 19 May)

The mid-year examinations for Sec 4 and 5 students are scheduled to start on 30 Apr (Fri) and end on 19 May (Wed). The examination schedule has been uploaded on the school website.

Students are required to report to school at the usual timing of 7.30 am (all days except Wed), and 8.30 am on Wed, if they are sitting for the first paper of the day. If students are only sitting for the second paper of the day, they must report to school at least half an hour before the start of the second paper. If no papers have been scheduled or if the papers scheduled are not applicable, students do not need to report to school for that day during the examination period.

Please note that Hari Raya Puasa (13 May) falls within the examination period and there are no papers scheduled for the following day so students should remain at home to revise and prepare for the remaining papers.

The format and list of topics that will be tested for the various subjects during the mid-year examinations can be found on our website: Study Here → Assessment → Mid-year Exam Topics.

Students will be briefed on the rules and regulations as well as the logistical aspects of the examinations. These instructions to students are also available on the school website: Study Here → Assessment → Instructions to Students.

Students who are absent for any paper of the examinations must submit a Medical Certificate (MC) to the subject teacher and the form teacher on the day he returns to school. Students without a valid reason for their absence for any paper will be given zero marks for that paper. In general, letters from parents excusing their children from sitting for the examinations will not be accepted unless there are valid reasons.

Labour Day School Holiday (3 May)

In view of Labour Day on 1 May (Sat), please note that 3 May (Mon) is a school holiday and the lessons will resume on 4 May (Tue).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tan Kuo Cheang', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal