

### Interesting Information about the school:

- 1) Chung Hwa Girls' School was founded at a time when education of girls was unheard of. Inspired by Dr Sun Yat Sen's vision of creating a society where everyone is empowered to make decisions for themselves, progressive individuals like Mr Tay Peng Teng, Mr Puan Yeow Pong and other members from the Chinese community, the first Chinese medium girls' school was created at Mohamed Sultan Road in 1911. It became a turning point for girls' education in Singapore. Today, the nation has indeed come far in its meritocratic belief that opportunities for education is open to all regardless of background.



Chung Hwa Girls' School

- 2) There were no boys in Zhonghua until 1984. To ensure the school's continuity, Zhonghua welcomed boys for the first time to boost enrolment.



First intake of boys and the school was renamed Chung Hwa High School (1984)

- 3) Chung Hwa Girls' School started teacher training courses in the mid-1930s to cater to the needs of the growing enrolment in the school. The courses were only terminated in the 1950s when Singapore started the Teachers' Training College. Today, the school continues to emphasise teachers' professional development so that teachers are equipped to educate students to be future-ready.



Graduating Cadet Teachers (1948)

- 4) The school has also grown and adapted alongside the nation. During the post-war nation building years, there was demand for higher education. The school expanded to incorporate a middle school. Additionally, there was also a 3-year high school programme which was later replaced by a 2-year Pre-University system. In 1984, the school adopted English as its medium of instruction. The school's endeavours to stay relevant to the community and the nation have also been recognised by noteworthy individuals.
- In 1968, the then Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew commended the Chung Hwa girls for their tenacity, commitment and team spirit in the National Day Parade.
  - In 1969, Mr Ong Pang Boon, then Education Minister, graced the opening of an additional block for the school at the Bartley Road campus.
  - In 2003, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, then Acting Minister for Education visited the school's current premise.
  - In 2011, our current Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong graced Zhonghua's Secondary School's 100<sup>th</sup> Year anniversary as Guest-of-Honour and praised the school for its ability to evolve over time and stay relevant for the community and the nation.



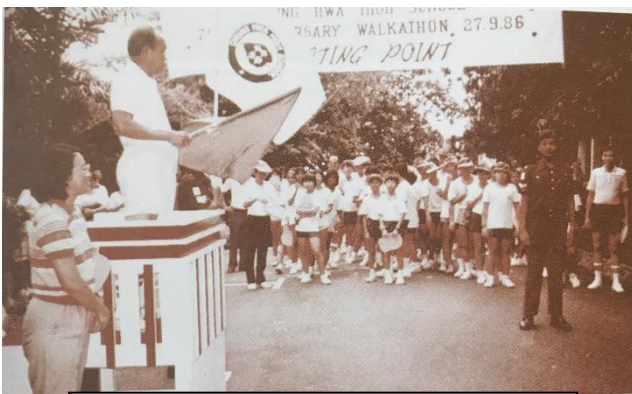


Minister Ong Pang Boon delivering his speech at the opening of an extension block of the school. (1969)



Visit by then Acting Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam. (2003)

- 5) In the history of Zhonghua, the school has moved its premises a total of 5 times! Starting from Mohamed Sultan Road, the school moved to a bigger premise at Tank Road. In 1925, the school moved to an even bigger premise at 57 Niven Road. In 1951, the secondary classes shifted to the campus at Bartley Road. In 1987, the school relocated to Serangoon Avenue 4 and finally moved to its current premise at Serangoon Avenue 3, in 1999. Zhonghua organised walkathons to commemorate its relocation in recent times!



Moving to Serangoon Avenue 4 (1986)



Moving to current premise Serangoon Avenue 3 (1999)

- 6) Mr Royston Tan, an award-winning Singaporean film-maker who is hailed as one of the most promising talents in the local film-making industry is a Zhonghua alumnus! Mr Tan spent his formative years as a student in the Normal Academic Stream in Zhonghua Secondary School. Upon graduation, he took video production classes and developed a strong interest in film-making. He set up his own film production company, 10twentyeight, in 2008.

On 4 January 2014, Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, cited renowned local film-maker Royston Tan as an example of what a "broad" education can do. He shared on his Facebook page an anecdote about how Mr Tan picked up filmmaking while he was a student at Zhonghua Secondary School, after making a video for his Art O-Level examination. He praised Mr Tan's principal, Mrs Ng-Gan Lay Choo, for embodying the "breadth" in education by recognising and embracing Mr Tan's talent in an unconventional area.

Mr Heng wrote, "(She) personally coached him and even went to school on the weekends to teach him film editing. That's how his love for film got sparked. He went on to study Visual Communications at Temasek Polytechnic, and to make thought-provoking works that have made a connection with many people."

Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/local-film-maker-royston-tan-an-example-of-broad-education-heng-swee-keat>



Royston's introduction to his 2015 film 3688 to the Secondary 3 Zhonghua Cohort. He came attired in the Zhonghua Uniform!





Royston Tan with alumni from Chung Hwa Girls' School and  
Zhonghua School Leaders. (2015)



Royston Tan's personal sharing about working in the creative industry with the Secondary 3 cohort. (2015)

- 7) A creative counterpart and close friend of Mr Royston Tan, founder and creative director of creative agency &Larry, Mr Larry Peh is also a Zhonghua alumnus! They met during their formative years at Zhonghua Secondary School, where Larry dreamed of being a graphic designer and Royston, a movie director.

The duo have collaborated on many projects including Mr Larry Peh designing the poster of Mr Tan's 2005 film 4:30. He also the art direction for Mr Tan's 881 film in 2007. In 2014, Mr Larry Peh won the President's award for design. In 2015, Mr Larry Peh was invited to Zhonghua Secondary School to be part of Zhonghua's 'Distinguished Speakers Series' to share his journey in the creative industry with students.

Source:

- 1) <https://sg.asiatatler.com/style/every-step-of-the-way-creative-poster-boys>
- 2) <https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/entertainment/daring-dreamer>







Mr Larry Peh sharing his experience in the creative industry with Zhonghua students during the school assembly (2015)



Mr Larry Peh with Zhonghua Art teachers & students (2015)