



St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

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2 May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past months, our school has been abuzz with excitement as our students participated in the National School Games, showcasing their skills, sportsmanship, and determination. Their performance was a testament to the tenacity and resilience they have consistently demonstrated in managing the diverse demands of school life. Whether it's excelling in academics, participating in co-curricular activities, or contributing to the community, our girls have truly shown what it means to embrace challenges and strive for excellence.

On Wednesday, 24 April 2024, we held our Student Council Commendation Ceremony at St. Andrew's Cathedral. We thank the Student Councillors of the class of 2024 for their service and contributions and wish the newly appointed Student Councillors all the best as they lead and serve with courage and heart.

In May, we look forward to the upcoming 182nd Speech and Prize-giving Day on Friday, 17 May 2024, themed 'Where Hearts Flourish and Blossoms Unfold', as we celebrate the achievements of our students, graduands of 2023, and our dedicated teachers. This special event is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion that define our school community. It's a time to reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the past year and to celebrate the journey of learning and discovery that our students have embarked upon. During this event, we will not only honour academic achievements but also recognise the values of humility, resilience and tenacity that our students embody. It's a moment to celebrate how their hearts have flourished and blossomed, shaping them into confident and compassionate individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all parents/guardians for your unwavering support and partnership. Your involvement, encouragement, and collaboration have been instrumental in creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students. Together, we have witnessed their growth and development, and we look forward to continued success and achievements in the years to come.

182nd Speech and Prize-Giving Day (Friday, 17 May, 3.00pm – 7.30pm)

All students as well as the prize winners of the class of 2023 will receive their awards on **Friday, 17 May**. Parents of prize winners have also been invited to the event.

All Secondary 4 students are to attend the Speech and Prize-Giving Day from 2.45pm to 6.30pm. Secondary 1, 2, 3 and 5 students will be dismissed at 10.55am.

Health Matters

As we face rising temperatures due to urbanisation and climate change, schools, with guidelines from MOE, have existing measures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff when faced with higher temperature conditions. MOE's guidelines are aligned with NEA's Heat Stress Advisory. Please encourage your daughters/wards to stay well hydrated during hot spells.

For All Students

1. Student Engagement Day

At this mid-year juncture, it is necessary for our students to review their progress and celebrate successes while refining plans for improvement. The school will be organising a Student Engagement Day on **Thursday, 9 May**. Students will report to school by 7.30am and will be dismissed as follows:

Levels	Dismissal Time
Secondary 1 and 2	1.50pm
Secondary 3, 4, and 5	2.25pm

2. Mid-Year Parent-Teacher Meetings

The Mid-Year Parent-Teacher meetings for all students will be conducted online via Zoom on **Friday, 24 May** from 8.00am to 4.00pm.

The booking of time slots to meet the teachers of your child/ward will be made available on Parents Gateway from Saturday, 4 May to Sunday, 12 May.

The Term 2 progress reports will be distributed to the students on Thursday, 23 May.

Please note that students need not report to school on Friday, 24 May.

3. Protected Vacation Time During the June Holidays and Travel Declaration

The MOE-scheduled protected vacation time for students and staff during the June holidays is from **Saturday, 1 June to Sunday, 16 June**. Students and staff are not required to report to school during this period.

To ensure that schools continue to be a healthy and safe environment for all, parents/guardians are required to make a **travel declaration** for your child/ward if she intends to travel for the holidays.

The information will be sent to all parents/guardians via Parents Gateway (PG) in the coming weeks.

For Secondary 1 Students

4. Development of Talents to Serve (DoTS)

The DoTS Programme aims to develop passionate inquirers and critical thinkers who extend their learning through participation in varied programmes and activities. The knowledge and experiences gained through adopting an inquiry-mindset, motivated by interest and passion, will enable students to eventually make use of their knowledge in service to community or school.

Secondary 1 students may register their interest to participate in the DoTS Programme from **Thursday, 9 May to Friday, 24 May**. Details of the registration process will be published on the DoTS microsite at <http://go.gov.sg/smssdots>.

For Secondary 1 Students

5. Familiarisation Trial for Secondary 2 Subject Combination Exercise

An online familiarisation trial for the Secondary 2 Subject Combination Exercise will be conducted for all Secondary 2 students in the last week of Term 2, from **Friday, 24 May to Tuesday, 28 May**. The trial will allow students to familiarise themselves with the Subject Combination Exercise that will be held in October.

More details will be provided nearer to the commencement date.

For Graduating Students

6. Study Week for Graduating Students

To prepare for the national examinations, Secondary 4 and 5 students will be required to report to school from **Tuesday, 18 June to Friday, 21 June** for the following activities. The timetable for the study week will be issued to students on Friday, 31 May.

Dates	Classes	Time	Activity
Tuesday, 18 June – Friday, 21 June	4 Temperance, 4 Gentleness, 4 Faithfulness, 4 Goodness, 4 Kindness, 4 Peace, 4 Patience, 4 Joy, 5 Devotion	8.00am – 1.50pm	Timetabled lessons
Wednesday, 19 June – Friday, 21 June	4 Love		

7. Preparing Students for EAE and DSA-JC

(a) Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)

The Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) is an aptitude-based admissions exercise that allows Secondary 4 and 5 students to apply for and receive conditional offers to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) or the Polytechnics prior to receiving their final grades at the N or O-Level examinations. Details of the EAE can be found on the following websites:

Type of EAE	Link
ITE EAE	https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae
Polytechnic EAE	https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae

(b) Direct School Admission for Junior Colleges (DSA-JC)

Direct School Admission for junior colleges (DSA-JC) allows O-Level students to apply to a DSA school before taking the GCE O-Level examinations. Students can apply based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas. They can apply directly to **individual schools** by checking their **respective websites** for details on the application period, procedures, and selection criteria. The DSA-JC website is as follows:

Type of EAE	Link
JC- DSA	https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa

(c) Preparatory Sessions

Preparatory sessions are organised by the school's Education and Career Guidance team to prepare students who are keen on applying for the EAE or DSA-JC. In April, students received email instructions on how to sign up for these training sessions, aimed at supporting their preparation for the EAE or DSA-JC application. Details on the dates of the training sessions can be found in Annex A.

Others

8. General Repairs and Repainting (GRNR)

Please be informed that the school is undergoing general painting works which will last for 2 to 4 months, subjected to weather conditions. There may be scaffolding and work vehicles in the school premise during this period. Parents/Guardians are advised to exercise caution when driving into school. Students have been reminded to observe personal safety at all times.

9. E-waste Campaign


As part of the school's efforts to promote sustainability, the school will be organising an e-waste campaign. Items considered as e-waste are printers, power banks, computers, laptops, mobile phones, tablets, modems, routers, set-top boxes, small TVs, desktop monitors, batteries. There will be two collection periods:

Mid-Year Collection	T2W9 – T2W10: Wednesday, 15 May to Thursday, 23 May
End-of-Year Collection	T4W6 – T4W9: Monday, 14 October to Friday, 8 November

Parents/guardians can pass the e-waste items to their child/ward who will be duly informed details of where to place these items.

10. Talk for Parents – Protecting our Daughters in the Cyberworld (conducted via Zoom)

There will be an online talk organised for parents/guardians on Saturday, 18 May and it will explore practical ways that parents can protect their child/ward in the cyberworld.

Talk	Date & Time	Registration
Protecting our Daughters in the Cyberworld	Saturday, 18 May 10.00am – 11.15am	 https://for.edu.sg/smtalkmay24

More details can be found on the flyer in Annex B. Registration for the talk closes on Wednesday, 15 May at 5.00pm. The link to access the talk will be sent via email to all registrants on Thursday, 16 May.

Last but not the least, do take the opportunity to spend time with your child/ward and encourage them to use their time meaningfully during the forthcoming holidays.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A

EAE/DSA JC Preparatory Sessions by the School

Title of Training Session	Date/Time Training Session					
ITE EAE Write-up and Portfolio Workshop	Completed in April					
Portfolio Building for EAE Workshop	Completed in April					
ITE EAE – Mentorship by Teachers & ECG Counsellor	April – May					
Student-Learning Space (SLS Asynchronous Lesson) “Preparing for the EAE” (ITE/ Poly)	Apr – June					
Student-Learning Space (SLS Asynchronous Lesson) “ITE EAE / Poly EAE Portfolio Building – Workshop”	Apr – June					
ITE EAE Interview Training by ECG Counsellor	Monday, 20 May 3.00pm – 4.15pm					
Poly EAE Personal Write-up Workshop – Consultation	Wednesday, 30 May 11.45am - 1.15pm					
Barclays Poly EAE/ DSA JC Interview Training	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="881 995 1179 1058">Workshop</th> <th data-bbox="1179 995 1482 1058">Mock Interview</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 1058 1179 1220">Thursday, 30 May 10.00am - 11.30am</td> <td data-bbox="1179 1058 1482 1220">Friday, 21 June 1.45pm – 5.00pm (Each student will be allocated 30 min)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Workshop	Mock Interview	Thursday, 30 May 10.00am - 11.30am	Friday, 21 June 1.45pm – 5.00pm (Each student will be allocated 30 min)
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Students are required to attend BOTH parts of this training.						

Annex B

Talk for Parents: Protecting our Daughters in the Cyberworld

Date: Saturday, 18 May

Time: 10.00am – 11.15am

Mode: Online via Zoom

Registration: Sign up for the talk at
<https://for.edu.sg/smtalkmay24>
or by scanning the QR code below:



Registration for the talk closes on
Wednesday, 15 May at 5.00pm.

Registrants will receive the details to access the talk via email on
Thursday, 16 May.



Synopsis

Growing up with technology, our teens are recognised as digital natives. They are exposed to all sorts of influences - cultural, social, political; positive and negative. Thus, it is more important than ever for parents to be aware of the risks posed using the Internet unsupervised and the values that shape our daughters' minds in the online world.

In this talk, we will explore practical ways that parents can protect their daughters in the cyberworld:

- Common risks of the Cyberworld – cyberbullying, excessive screentime/device addiction, risky content and contact
- Practical ways to help our teens navigate the risks

About the Speaker: Ms Agnes Lee (Assistant Senior Counsellor)

- Master of Counselling, Monash University, Melbourne
- Graduate Certificate of Education Studies, Monash University, Melbourne
- Clinical Member and Registered Counsellor under Singapore Association of Counselling SAC

Agnes Lee is an Assistant Senior Counsellor from REACH Community Services. She has a strong passion in helping individuals discover their deeper meaning and purpose in life, through collaborative exploration of each person's strengths, values and resources around them. She uses an integrative approach that draws on different therapeutic approaches to best fit each client's needs, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Satir Therapy and Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT).