



St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

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2 July 2024

I hope that the June holidays were a welcome time of reconnection and rejuvenation for both you and your daughter/ward as we take stock of the first half of the school year and ready ourselves for Semester Two.

Some highlights of this upcoming month include the Youth Day Celebrations and Spirit Week Programme (2-12 July), Racial Harmony Day Commemoration (18 July) as well as our Cross Country Run (19 July). Do note in particular that during Racial Harmony Day, our staff and students are encouraged to dress in ethnic costumes as we celebrate cultural diversity. For our Cross Country Run this year, we are opening the opportunity for family members and guardians to join our girls in the run. Please click on <https://go.gov.sg/smsscros24> to indicate your interest.

This semester, our graduating students will be sitting their Preliminary Examinations and some papers of the national examinations. Students are encouraged to explore the different educational pathways available to them. The Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) for Polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education, and Direct School Admission (DSA) for Junior Colleges, encourage students with various aptitudes and talents to apply to tertiary institutions before their national examinations. More information on the EAE and DSA can be obtained from the websites listed in Annex A. Students who require assistance are encouraged to approach their Form Teachers or our ECG counsellor, Ms Ang Hui Min (ang_hui_min@schools.gov.sg), for further guidance.

As always, I would like to thank you for being the pillars of stability and guidance for our students. As we remain committed to inculcating in them the importance of both striving for excellence while being committed members of their community, we appreciate the trust and support that we've received from you that enables us to help your daughter/ward to grow.

Should you require any assistance from the school, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to attend to your concerns.

Health and Safety Matters

a) Temperature Taking Exercise

There will be a temperature-taking exercise on **Wednesday, 3 July**. Students should have a working personal Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) with them in school.

b) Managing Rising Temperatures

As we face rising temperatures, 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 (<http://www.weather.gov.sg/heat-stress/>).

Please encourage your daughters/wards to stay well hydrated during hot spells.

Home-based Learning (HBL) Days 2024 in Semester 2

HBL days are a regular feature of secondary school life, providing students with opportunities to become self-directed, passionate and lifelong learners.

Please note that unlike Semester 1 where HBL days for Secondary 1 to 3 students were on even week Wednesdays, HBL in Semester 2 will be only as follows:

Term	HBL Days
Term 3	3 consecutive HBL Days will be on 23, 24 and 25 July (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). The GCE N- and O-Level English Language and Mother Tongue Languages Oral Examinations will be conducted on these days. Information on this is found in Annex B.
Term 4	Friday, 20 September is a designated HBL Day

Lessons on the HBL Days will follow the timetable and are self-paced and synchronous.

For All Students

1. Youth Day Celebrations and Spirit Week Programme

Our school's Youth Day celebrations and Spirit Week Programme will be held in Term 3 Week 2 and Week 3 respectively this year. The event aims to promote school spirit and connectedness among students. The theme for Spirit Week and Youth Day Celebrations 2024 is 'Beautiful Connections'. See Annex C for details.

2. National Examinations in July

a) GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Listening Comprehension Examination

The GCE O-Level MTL Listening Comprehension Examination will take place on **Wednesday, 3 July** from 2.00pm. To facilitate the preparation for this examination, please note the dismissal arrangement below:

Level / Students	Dismissal Time
Secondary 4 and 5	12.05pm
Secondary 3 Higher MTL students	12.05pm
Secondary 1, 2 and 3*	1.15pm

*Secondary 3 who are not offering Higher MTL

b) GCE N- and O-Level Oral Examinations

The GCE N- and O- Level Mother Tongue Languages and English Language Oral Examinations will be held from **Thursday, 4 July to Friday, 26 July**.

The respective language teachers will provide more details to your daughter/ward prior to the examinations. More information on the examination dates is found in Annex B.

3. Student Leaders' Commendation Ceremony

To recognise the contributions and achievements of our outgoing student leaders and welcome the incoming batch of student leaders, the Student Leaders' Commendation Ceremony will be held during the Assembly period on **Friday, 12 July**.

4. Racial Harmony Day Commemoration and Adjustment to Timetable

a) Racial Harmony Day Commemoration

We will be having our Racial Harmony Day commemoration during the Assembly period on **Thursday, 18 July in Term 3 Week 4**. This year's Racial Harmony Day theme, **Singapore: Our Multicultural Mosaic**, provides a platform for students to appreciate the diverse races and religions that make up our multicultural society. The Racial Harmony Day programme will offer a unique opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity through food, music and traditions. By appreciating the richness of our collective traditions, we can strengthen the social fabric of Singapore and build a more cohesive society.

Students are encouraged to attend school in ethnic attire and will be briefed on the proper dress code and decorum as well as the programme for the day prior to the event.

b) Adjustment to Timetable

In observance of the Racial Harmony Day Commemoration on Thursday 18 July and the Cross Country Run on Friday, 19 July, the school timetable will be adjusted.

We will run the **Even Week Friday** timetable on **Thursday, 18 July**. However, CCAs conducted on Thursdays will proceed as usual.

5. Cross Country Run

The school will be conducting our annual Cross Country Run on **Friday, 19 July** from 7.30am to 10.30am at the Singapore Sports Hub, OCBC Square in Kallang. Family members and guardians are invited to join our girls in the run. Please click on <https://go.gov.sg/smsscros24> to indicate your interest by Friday, 12 July.

Details about the event will be given to students on Wednesday, 10 July during morning assembly. More information for parents will also be sent out via Parents Gateway.

Others

6. PSG In-Person Parenting Talk: Raising Mentally Tough Daughters

In this engaging session, you will have the opportunity to connect with fellow parents in the Parent Support Group (PSG) and gain valuable insights into supporting your daughters' mental health. This event is designed to help you understand and foster mental toughness in your daughters, ensuring they are equipped to handle stress and adversity effectively.

Talk	Date, Time & Venue	Registration
Raising Mentally Tough Daughters	Saturday, 13 July 10.00am – 12.00pm Learning Lab @ St. Margaret's School (Secondary)	 https://for.edu.sg/smtalkjuly24

More details can be found in Annex D. Registration for the talk closes on **Wednesday, 10 July** at 5.00pm. A confirmation email will be sent to all registrants on Thursday, 11 July.

Yours in partnership,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A – Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) and Direct School Admission for Junior Colleges (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

Annex B - GCE N- and O-Level Oral Examinations

The GCE N- and O-Level Mother Tongue Languages and English Language Oral Examinations will be held from **Thursday, 4 July to Friday, 26 July**.

The schedule of the oral examinations is shown below:

Subject	Date
GCE O-Level Chinese Language	4 – 12 July
GCE O-Level Malay Language	4 – 11 July
GCE O-Level Tamil Language	4 – 11 July
GCE O-Level English Language	22 – 26 July
GCE O-Level Higher Mother Tongue Languages	23 – 26 July
GCE NA-Level Chinese Language	23 – 25 July
GCE NA-Level Malay Language	23 – 25 July
GCE NA-Level Tamil Language	23 – 24 July
GCE NA-Level English Language	22 – 26 July
GCE NT-Level Basic Chinese Language	23 – 24 July
GCE NT-Level English Language	25 – 26 July
GCE NT-Level Basic Tamil Language	23 – 25 July
GCE NT-Level Basic Malay Language	23 – 25 July

The respective language teachers will provide more information to your daughter/ward prior to the examinations.

Annex C – Overview of Youth Day Celebrations and Spirit Week Programme

Date(s)	Activities
Tuesday 2 July – Friday, 12 July	Various activity booths will be set up in the canteen that aim to promote friendship, inclusivity and school spirit.
Friday, 5 July	Youth Day Assembly Programme
Wednesday 10 July	<p>No Bag Day</p> <p>‘No Bag Day’ is a day when students can showcase their creativity by bringing their belongings in non-conventional receptacles e.g. picnic baskets or cardboard boxes. Through this initiative, we hope to raise awareness of the plight of children who go to school with their school materials in their hands. This highlights the importance of reducing waste through upcycling endeavours.</p> <p>The ‘bags’ brought should not traditionally be used as bags (e.g. plastic bags, cloth bags). However, students can still bring bags to safeguard their PLDs.</p>

Annex D – Raising Mentally Tough Daughters



Date: Saturday, 13 July

Mode: In-person

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm (Registration and serving of light refreshment will start at 9.30am)

Venue: Learning Lab (Ground Floor) at St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

Registration: Sign up for the talk at

<https://for.edu.sg/smtalkjuly24> or by scanning the QR code:



Closing Date for Registration: Wednesday, 10 July at 5.00pm

Registrants will receive a confirmation email on Thursday, 11 July. Due to limited capacity, we encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your spot.

Entry into the School: Entry into the school will be via the main gate. Parents who have signed up for the talk are required to register their attendance at the security guard post.

Parking: Parents are advised to park at the nearby HDB carparks.

Synopsis

Recent studies, including Singapore's first nationwide survey on adolescent mental health, indicate that about one in three youths aged 10 to 18 experiences symptoms of depression, anxiety, and loneliness, with more severe cases in those aged 14 to 16. Recognising this critical developmental period, this parenting talk aims to equip parents with skills to support their daughters through puberty, identify signs of mental distress, and provide timely interventions, enhancing their well-being.

About the Speaker: Ms Carol Loi

Ms Carol Loi is a certified mental toughness coach, digital literacy educator, and parenting coach with over two decades of experience in public service, including significant roles at the Ministry of Education and the Info-communication Media Development Authority. Carol is dedicated to empowering families, educators, and children to become effective leaders and influencers both online and offline.