



St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

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2 May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the last two months, the full complement of the school academic and co-curricular programmes, the National School Games and the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation, have offered our students a very rich school experience! We are grateful for the tenacity and resilience the girls have demonstrated in managing the different demands of each aspect of school life.

On Friday, 19 May 2023, we will hold our 181st Speech and Prize-giving Day and the theme is 'The Journey and Beyond'. It will be an occasion to celebrate the culmination of the students and our colleagues' work during the preceding year. While we acknowledge the achievements of our students, we would like to, more importantly, celebrate what they have learnt along the journey and how they will apply their learning to grow in character beyond their education at St. Margaret's. The graduands of 2022 will join us as we look back on the efforts of individuals and teams who have blessed and been blessed through being at St. Margaret's.

The school will be using a new timetable from weeks 7 to 10 and it has been launched from Tuesday, 2 May. Especially targeted to support the graduating cohort of students, the new timetable maximises the time freed up due to the removal of Mid-Year Examinations and focuses on assessment for learning (AfL) and skill development, providing greater opportunities for our graduating students to reflect on how they learn and think, and to assess their work.

As we respond to our students' needs and aspirations during the year, we thank you for reaching out to us and working alongside us.

Travel Declaration for June Holidays

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. Please look out for the PG message.

181st Speech and Prize-Giving Day (Friday, 19 May, 2.45pm – 6.30pm)

All students as well as the 2022 batch of graduands who are prize winners will receive their awards on Friday, 19 May. Parents of prize winners have also been invited to the event.

All students from S4-1 to S4-9 will be required to attend the Speech and Prize-Giving Day from 2.45pm to 6.30pm.

For All Students

1. Mid-Year Parent-Teacher Meetings

The Mid-Year Parent-Teacher meetings for all students will be conducted online via Zoom on Friday, 26 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 Wednesday, 10 May to Tuesday, 16 May.

The Term 2 progress reports will be distributed to the students on Thursday, 25 May.

Note that students need not report to school on Friday, 26 May.

2. Protected Vacation Time During the June Holidays

The MOE-scheduled protected vacation time for students and staff during the June holidays is from **Saturday, 3 June to Sunday, 18 June**. Students and staff are not required to report to school during this period.

For Secondary 1 Students

3. Development of Talents to Serve (DoTS)

The DoTS Programme aims to develop passionate inquirers and critical thinkers who extend their learning through taking part in a variety of 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 Friday, 12 May to Friday, 26 May. Details of the registration process will be published on the DoTS microsite at <http://go.gov.sg/smssdots>.

For Secondary 2 Students

4. 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, 26 May to Tuesday, 30 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 Secondary 3 Students

5. NRIC Biometrics Enrolment

The NRIC Biometrics Enrolment for 15-year-old students will be held in school on Thursday, 11 May. All students involved in the enrolment will receive a notification letter through their parents/guardians from ICA to complete the online NRIC registration as specified in the letter before the day of the biometrics enrolment in school.

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 Monday, 19 June to Friday, 23 June for the following activities. Note that the timetable will be issued to students on Wednesday, 31 May.

Dates	Classes	Time	Activity
Monday, 19 June – Friday, 23 June	S4-1 to S4-8 & S5-1	8.00am – 1.45pm	Timetabled lessons
Wednesday, 21 June – Friday, 23 June	S4-9		

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 polytechnics prior to receiving their final grades at the N or O-Level examinations.

Details of the timeline and application can be found in Annex A.

(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 where the application period, procedures and selection criteria vary.

Application details of the DSA-JC can be found in Annex A.

(c) Preparatory Sessions


Preparatory sessions will be organized by the school to prepare students who are keen on applying for the EAE or DSA-JC. Do encourage your daughter(s) to attend the training sessions in preparation for the application. should they be keen to apply for EAE or DSA-JC.

Details on the dates of the training sessions and application process can be found in Annex A.

Others

8. Talk for Parents

There will be an online talk organised for parents/guardians on Saturday, 13 May:

Talk	Date & Time	Registration
Supporting our Daughters in their Mental Well-being; Managing Stress and Emotions	Saturday, 13 May 2.00pm – 3.00pm	 https://go.gov.sg/smtalk2023

More details can be found on the flyer in Annex B

Registration for the talk closes on Wednesday, 10 May at 5.00pm. The link to access the talk will be sent via email to all registrants on Thursday, 11 May.

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


Yours faithfully,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A



Timeline and Application Details of the ITE EAE

ITE EAE 2023 Timeline (For N & O-Level students)	
Application Period	Wednesday, 24 May to Tuesday, 30 May
Interview Period	Tuesday, 20 Jun to Thursday, 27 Jul
Offer and Acceptance Period	Monday, 21 Aug to Friday, 25 Aug
Withdrawal Period	Monday, 28 Aug to Friday, 1 Sep (Fri)


<https://go.gov.sg/smiteapp>

Application Details of Poly EAE and DSA-JC

Students may refer to the Poly EAE and DSA-JC application details which will be posted on the respective websites in due course as shown below:

Admission Exercise	Links
Poly EAE	<div style="text-align: center;"> https://go.gov.sg/smeaepoly</div>
DSA-JC	<div style="text-align: center;"> https://go.gov.sg/smdsa</div>

EAE/DSA Preparatory Sessions by the School

Title of Training Session	Date/Time Training Session
ITE EAE – Mentorship by Teachers & ECG Counsellor	April – May
Student-Learning Space (SLS Asynchronous Lesson) “Preparing for the EAE” (ITE/ Poly)	May – June
Student-Learning Space (SLS Asynchronous Lesson) “ITE EAE / Poly EAE Portfolio Building – Workshop”	May – June
ITE EAE Interview Training by ECG Counsellor	Monday, 22 May 3.00pm – 4.15pm
Poly EAE Personal Write-up Workshop – Consultation	Students to sign up for a 15-min slot on Thursday, 1 June via go.gov.sg/smssecg
Barclays Poly EAE/ DSA Interview Training	May – June: Details will be announced at a later date

Annex B

Talk for Parents: Supporting our Daughters in their Mental Well-being - Managing their Stress and Emotions

Date: Saturday, 13 May

Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

Registration: Sign up for the talk at
<https://go.gov.sg/smtalk2023>
or by scanning the QR code below:



Registration for the talk closes on
Wednesday, 10 May at 5.00pm.
Registrants will receive the details to access the talk via email on
Thursday, 11 May.

Synopsis

As parents, it is essential to support our teenage girls as they navigate the challenges of adolescence. With academic pressures, social media influence, and changing hormones, it is no surprise that many teens struggle with managing their stress and emotions.

In this talk, the common stressors that teenage girls face and offer practical strategies for parents to better support their daughters will be explored. The topics that will be covered are as follows:

- Understanding the psychosocial changes during adolescence
- Identifying stress responses and emotional triggers
- Understand how maladaptive coping can lead to mental health concerns
- Promoting healthy habits and practical ways in supporting our teens

About the Speaker: Ms Joy Leong

- Master of Counselling (Advanced), Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
- Diploma in Counselling Psychology, College of Allied Educators
- Clinical Member and Registered Counsellor under Singapore Association for Counselling (SAC)

A firm believer that the way we think, feel and behave is strongly related to our childhood and upbringing which inevitably affects the way we interact, thus our relationships, Joy is passionate about working with individuals and couples who believes in enhancing relationships with themselves and with others, for more satisfying and fulfilling happy lives. Joy is also especially keen on working with youths, young adults and families.