



# St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

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**26 June 2023**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the second semester of 2023.

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for being our key partners as we work towards the school's commitment for all students to #BeWell, #BeConnected and #BeALight. Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership with us. Your trust in St. Margaret's and the dedication you have shown in the growth, education, and well-being of your daughters/wards have been instrumental in creating a community of learners growing and glowing for God.

Some highlights of this semester include Youth Day (3 July) and Racial Harmony Day (21 July). The school will be celebrating 'Spirit Week' which coincides with Youth Day. We will also be celebrating our cultural diversity and unity on Racial Harmony Day. On 7 July, students and staff are invited to come to school in bright House colours to celebrate the vibrancy of youth. On 21 July, our staff and students are encouraged to be dressed in ethnic costumes for the day.

This semester, our graduating classes will be sitting their Preliminary Examinations and some of the GCE 'N' and 'O' level examinations. The Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) which provides a pathway for our graduating students to apply for and receive conditional offers based on their aptitude and interests for admission to ITE and the polytechnics is also ongoing. The Direct School Admission (DSA), which commences in late June, encourages students with various talents to apply for entry into junior colleges before the GCE 'O' level examinations. The assessments, as well as the EAE and DSA applications, auditions and interviews will be important experiences for many and the school will support and prepare our girls for this and also to enjoy the experiences afforded by these.

The well-being of your daughter/ward sits at the centre of all we do. Please reach out to the school, the form teacher(s) and/or subject teacher(s) should you need any support in any way.

## For All Students

### 1. Health Matters

#### (a) Practising Good Personal Hygiene and Exercising Social Responsibility

Students who have acute respiratory infection (ARI) symptoms such as cough, runny nose, fever, or sore throat should consult a doctor. Continue to encourage your daughters/wards to practise good personal hygiene and exercise social responsibility.

**(b) Temperature Taking Exercise – Wednesday, 5 July**

There will be a temperature-taking exercise on Wednesday, 5 July.

Secondary 1 to 3 students will be at home for their Home-Based Learning. They will be provided with more information at a later date on the recording of their temperatures. The exercise will be conducted in school for the Secondary 4 and 5 students who will be in school that day.

Students should have a working Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) with them.

**2. Commendation Ceremonies**

**(a) Student Council Commendation Ceremony – Friday, 30 June**

The Student Council Commendation Ceremony recognises the contributions of our 2022/2023 batch of Student Councillors and formally welcomes the 2023/2024 batch of Student Councillors as they officially take on their leadership roles.

This year, the Student Council Commendation Ceremony will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Friday, 30 June. The ceremony will be held in the afternoon from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. All Student Councillors, Tier 3 leader representatives, and Secondary 1 to 3 Class Chairpersons will be required to attend the event.

**(b) Student Leaders' Commendation Ceremony – Friday, 14 July**

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, 14 July.

**3. GCE O-Level Listening Comprehension Examination – Tuesday, 4 July**

The GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examination will take place on Tuesday, 4 July from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. To facilitate the preparation for this examination, all students will be dismissed at 1.00 pm.

**4. Spirit Week – Term 3 Week 2**

Our school's Spirit Week and Youth Day celebrations will be held in Term 3 Week 2 this year. The event aims to promote school spirit and connectedness among students. The theme for Spirit Week and Youth Day Celebrations 2023 is 'Breaking Barriers'.

This theme is inspired by the forthcoming United Nations' International Youth Day on Saturday, 12 August and its aim to promote intergenerational solidarity, we hope to encourage and empower our students to go beyond their comfort zone, reach out to those around them and build bonds with people from different generations.

Students can look forward to a series of activities in school during the week. The event will culminate in an assembly programme on Friday, 7 July.

[NOTE] Attire on Friday, 7 July

As part of the Youth Day celebrations on Friday, 7 July, students are encouraged to come to school in their House colours. They are encouraged to wear a top/t-shirt of their House colour together with their CCA skirt. More details will be given to students prior to the event.

## 5. Racial Harmony Day – Friday, 21 July

We will be having our Racial Harmony Day commemoration during the Assembly period on Friday, 21 July.

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, and which contribute to our shared sense of cohesion and harmony.


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

## Others

### 6. Talk for Parents

The parenting journey is an enriching one, but there can be challenges along the way. Many parents find themselves facing resistance and rebellion with their teens. Many teens too, are struggling to communicate with their parents and trying to seek their understanding. They can become temperamental, and many parents struggle to connect with them.

To support parents in their communication with their daughters, there will be an online talk organised on Saturday, 15 July:

Talk	Date & Time	Registration
Communicating with our Teenage Daughters	Saturday, 15 July 2.00pm – 3.00pm	 <a href="https://go.gov.sg/smtalk2023">https://go.gov.sg/smtalk2023</a>

More details can be found on the flyer in Annex A. Registration for the talk closes on Wednesday, 12 July at 5.00pm. The link to access the talk will be sent via email to all registrants on Thursday, 13 July.

### 7. Estate Matters

MOE will be installing solar panels on the roof of the Indoor Sports Hall. The works have started and are expected to last for at least 4 months. Efforts have been made to minimize disruption to student activities and the national examinations.

We ask parents/guardians who are driving into the school to exercise care as there will be occasions when cranes and work vehicles are near the vicinity of the main gates.

Yours in partnership,

Ms Linda Lim  
Principal

## **Annex A - Talk for Parents: Communicating with our Teenage Daughters**

**Date:** Saturday, 15 July

**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, 12 July at 5.00pm.  
Registrants will receive the details  
to access the talk via email on  
Thursday, 13 July.



### **Synopsis**

Many parents find themselves facing resistance and rebellion with their teens. Many teens too are struggling to communicate with their parents and trying to seek their understanding. They too can become temperamental, and many parents struggle to connect with them. Yet, deep inside these teens, they long for acceptance, approval, affirmation and love from their parents. The good news is that we can all learn and find ways to connect with our teens that are meaningful for them and for us!

The following topics will be covered:

- understanding teens today, their lifestyles, their behaviour, values, the demands on them, the influence of media and the challenges involved in parenting teens
- exploring the emotional needs of teens
- how to handle triggers in parent-teen relationships and the unmet expectations
- finding ways to bond through meaningful activities
- discovering ways they can connect with their teens by active listening, validating and asking questions that invite teens to open up to them
- identifying common mistakes that obstruct meaningful connection with their teens
- finding ways to meet the emotional needs of teens

### **About the Speaker: Ms Harjit Kaur**

-Masters in Counselling (Monash University)

-Bachelor of Psychological Science (James Cook University)

-Accredited Triple P Practitioner (University of Queensland)

-Accredited Signposts Practitioner (Parenting Research Centre, Australia)

Ms Harjit Kaur holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Counselling awarded by Monash University. She has been a Trainer in schools for the last 20 years and is currently a Senior Trainer with Morning Star Community Services. Ms Harjit has been happily married for 24 years and is a mother of two children aged 18 years and 20 years. She is passionate about family wellness and is a strong advocate of quality family life.