



St. Margaret's Secondary School

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1 February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are well into Term One of the new academic year and I hope your daughter/ward is enjoying her learning experiences thus far.

The resurgence of COVID-19 cases in some countries and the number of cases locally, albeit small, continues to be of concern. Let us continue to stay vigilant, observe high levels of personal hygiene and adhere to the Safe Management Measures. We seek your help in working with your daughter/ward to ensure that the school remains a safe place to come together to learn.

I am delighted to report that despite the changed circumstances last year, our 2020 Secondary Four Express and Secondary Five cohort achieved excellent results in their GCE O-level examinations. These achievements have been made possible through your support of your daughters/wards, the hard work of our staff and the commitment of the girls. We wish our graduates the very best as they progress to their next stage of education.

In February, we will also be celebrating the Lunar New Year. This year, we remind ourselves of the importance of keeping our hopes high and continue to lift our spirits for "Spring Will Come"! May you and your families enjoy a healthy and fruitful year ahead.

Results of the 2020 GCE O-Level Examinations

We congratulate our 2020 graduating cohort for achieving stellar results in the GCE O-Level Examinations. 95% of our Secondary 4 Express students qualified for admission to the Junior Colleges/Millennia Institute and 98.1% of them qualified for Polytechnic courses.

Our Secondary 5 Normal (Academic) students also did well with 33.4% of them qualifying for admission to the Junior Colleges/Millennia Institute and 76.7% of them qualifying for Polytechnic courses.

For All Students

1. Home-Based Learning Day

On Wednesday, 3 February, the school will be conducting a Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day. The HBL Day provides opportunities for integration of education technology in learning activities and hones our students' skills in independent learning and digital literacy.

Students would not need to report to school on HBL Day. All lessons on this day follow the Wednesday timetable and will be conducted online, synchronously or asynchronously.

2. Lunar New Year Celebrations

The school will be celebrating the Lunar New Year on Thursday, 11 February. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Spring Will Come". It serves as a reminder for all to stay positive even in the midst of the pandemic. Students will be given further information and instructions nearing the date.

Students will report to school as usual by 7.30am for the flag-raising ceremony and will be dismissed at 10.30am.

3. Commemoration of Total Defence Day

The theme of Total Defence Day 2021 is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong", with a focus on the sixth pillar of Total Defence, Digital Defence.

The current pandemic has forced our nation to embrace a new normal; one where much of our social interactions are replaced with online meetings.

From virtual birthday celebrations to home-based learning, our students are spending more time online than before. By understanding what it means to be safe, be kind and be smart, we aim to show students that their individual efforts can contribute to the defence of our country.

This year, we will be commemorating Total Defence Day on Friday, 19 February.

4. School Facilities for Student Well-being

To promote the well-being of our students, the school has the following facilities that they can make use of:

Facility	Opening Hours	Location
<u>Drop Inn</u> Students may drop in and chat with our befriender, Auntie Thelma.	Tuesdays and Wednesdays (9.00am – 4.00pm)	Classroom Block (B04-12)
<u>Drop Inn Too</u> Students may have a chat with our school counsellor, Ms Cynthia Kong. They may also send a request to speak to the school counsellor via https://go.gov.sg/SMSSCareLink .	Mondays – Fridays during recess	Classroom Block (B02-13)
<u>Educational and Career Guidance (ECG) Lounge</u> Students may drop in for ECG consultations. They may also email their queries or make prior arrangements to meet the ECG counsellor via email at chin_chee_lin_irene@schools.gov.sg .	Mondays (8.00am – 4.30pm)	Library (Level 3)
<u>The Lighthouse</u> Students may unwind with board games and card games during their recess and lunch. Safe Management Measures will be put in place for all students who visit The Lighthouse.	Tuesdays and Thursdays (9.00am – 11.15am & 1.30pm – 3.30pm) Wednesdays (10.00am – 12.20pm & 1.30pm – 3.30pm) Fridays (9.00am – 11.15am & 2.30pm – 4.00pm)	Canteen

5. Use of Reusable Containers by Canteen Food Vendors

Students are reminded to bring their personal food containers for food takeaways to minimize the use of single-use plastics. **Reusable** containers can be purchased from the stall vendors at \$2 per container.

6. Closure of School Gates at the End of the Day

This is a reminder that the school gates will close at 7.00pm.

As all CCAs will end by 6.00pm and the teachers/coaches in-charge had been reminded to keep to the agreed dismissal timing(s). We appreciate it if parents/guardians could pick their daughters/wards up before 7.00pm.

For Graduating Students

7. Education and Career Guidance Fair

The Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair provides our graduating students with the opportunity to explore education and career pathways.

Through the sharing by our partners from various institutes of higher learning and industries, the ECG Fair allows our students to gain awareness of the skills, knowledge and attitudes that allow one to contribute and thrive in the various industries, so as to make informed decisions of the courses to apply for after the national examinations.

The industries featured during the ECG Fair have been carefully curated to provide the students with good perspectives of the work involved as well as the skill sets and mindsets needed to thrive in this volatile landscape.


The ECG Fair comprises six virtual sharing sessions conducted in school as listed in the schedule below. Students have already signed up for the sessions they would like to attend. Please check with your daughters/wards on the sessions that they have signed up for.

Date	Industries
Tuesday, 2 February	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation + Creative Industries (Media)
Thursday, 4 February	Early Childhood Care and Education
Friday, 5 February	Healthcare
Monday, 8 February	Biopharmaceuticals + Manufacturing
Tuesday, 9 February	Finance & Business
Wednesday, 10 February	Legal

Others

8. Talk for Parents

There will be an online talk organised for parents/guardians on Saturday, 20 February:

Talk	Date & Time	Registration
Cyber Wellness – What Parents Need to Know	Saturday, 20 February 2.00pm – 4.00pm	 https://go.gov.sg/smssporentstalk

Registration for the talk closes on Tuesday, 16 February. The link to access the talk will be sent via email to all registrants on Wednesday, 17 February.

More details can be found on the flyer in Annex A. Should you need more information on the talk, please contact Mrs Susan Tan, our school events coordinator, at susanhong38@gmail.com.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A

Talk for Parents Cyber Wellness – What Parents Need to Know

Date: Saturday, 20 February

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

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



Registration closes on Tuesday, 16 February. Registrants will receive the details to access the talk via email on Wednesday, 17 February.

Synopsis

The current pandemic speeds up the pace of digitization around the world. Methods of communication and doing business changed globally. Learning has also been greatly impacted as most of our courses today are delivered online. Ensuring the safety of our children when they are engaged in online activities have become a great concern to many.

Facilitated by Family Life Educator, Mr Alvin Lee, parents will learn tips on what they can do to better manage screen time, security and online activities of their children. The 2-hour interactive session will include a presentation, Q&A, group work, a group presentation and quizzes.

The outline of the session is as follows:

1. Introduction to New Cyber Wellness
2. Getting to Know Online Activities of Our Children
3. Internet Security and Predators
4. Cyberbullying and Its Impact
5. Q&A and Quizzes



About the Speaker

Mr Alvin Lee has been a Family Life Educator for 12 years. He holds a degree and postgraduate degree in counselling. He is an approved speaker by the Ministry of Social and Family Services and has been delivering talks in schools in Singapore and overseas.

Mr Lee is also a Certified Professional Facilitator, conferred by two US facilitation organizations, namely International Association of Facilitators and International Institute of Facilitation. He is also an active member of the Australian Counsellors Association.

