



# St. Margaret's Secondary School

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**4 May 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The month of April was an exciting one. The resumption of the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP) and National School Games (NSG) brought about great cheer. In spite of the many challenges that the teams encountered during rehearsals and training sessions, our students' hard work, adaptability and resilience saw them give of their best at these national competitions.

Their stellar performance, despite the strict safe management measures imposed, is a testament of how they espoused the school values of 'taking pride', 'being resilient' and 'learning continuously' to surmount obstacles in pursuit of their craft. We are particularly proud of the girls as they went all out to 'show care' to their fellow team mates and encouraged one another to give of their best in all that they did.

As announced by MOE, and with the nationwide implementation of 'Trace-Together (TT) only Safe-Entry', from Tuesday, 1 June, students are strongly encouraged to have their TT tokens with them at all times where possible in school. We seek the help of parents/guardians to remind your daughters/wards to ensure that their tokens are with them and in proper working condition.

As we approach the June holidays, we would like to remind parents/guardians that students should continue to defer overseas travel unless it is permissible under the prevailing MOH travel advisory. Returning travelers from most regions would be placed on Stay Home Notice (SHN).

## **Blended Learning and Home-Based Learning (HBL)**

At the start of 2021, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced that HBL will become a part of our schooling experience. All secondary schools will have 1 HBL day every fortnight by end 2022. Blended Learning (BL), which refers to learning experiences that encompass days when students learn in school and days when they learn at home, is becoming an important part of school life. It is part of MOE's efforts to further develop our students' ability to be self-directed, passionate and lifelong learners.

We will be piloting fortnightly HBL with the Sec 1 students in Terms 3 and 4 this year. Following the pilot, HBL will be enacted for our remaining levels in 2022.

## For All Students

### 1. Activities on Friday, 14 May

Please note the following activities have been scheduled on Friday, 14 May for the various levels:

Activity on Friday, 14 May	Levels	Remarks
Home-Based Learning Day (HBL Day)	Sec 1 and 3	The HBL Day provides opportunities for the integration of education technology in learning activities and hones our students' skills in independent learning and digital literacy.  Students would <b><i>not need to report to school</i></b> on HBL Day. All lessons on this day follow the Friday timetable and will be conducted online asynchronously.
Marking Day	Sec 2, 4 and 5	Students are not required to report to school.

### 2. Mid-Year Parent-Teacher Meetings

The Mid-Year Parent-Teacher meetings for all students will be conducted online via Zoom on Friday, 28 May from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

All students are to report to school at the normal reporting time on Friday, 28 May by 7.30am to collect their progress report/results slip. They will be dismissed at 8.30am.

The booking of time slots to meet your daughter's/ward's teachers will be made available on Parents Gateway from Tuesday, 4 May onwards.

### 3. English Language Oral Examinations

The schedule of the End-of-Year English Language Oral Examinations for the following classes is shown in the table below. Further details will be provided to the students by the English teachers prior to the oral examinations.

Classes	Dates
S1-1 to S1-6 & S2-1 to S2-6	Monday, 12 July to Thursday, 15 July, Monday, 19 July to Thursday, 22 July & Monday, 26 July to Thursday, 29 July
S1-7, S2-7 & S3-9	Monday, 26 July to Thursday, 29 July
S3-1 to S3-5	Tuesday, 14 September to Tuesday, 21 September
S3-6 to S3-8	Wednesday, 22 September to Friday, 24 September
S4-6 to S4-9	Monday, 24 May, Tuesday, 25 May & Thursday, 27 May

#### 4. Protected Vacation Time During the June Holidays

During the June holidays, the period of Saturday, 5 June to Sunday, 20 June has been scheduled by MOE as protected vacation time for students and staff. The table below lists the students who are required to attend the following school programmes that fall within this period:

Students Involved	Dates	Rationale
Graduating students offering the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Art</li><li>• Food &amp; Nutrition</li></ul>	(Week 2 of the June Holidays) Monday, 7 June – Wednesday, 9 June	To prepare for the coursework component in the National Examinations

More information will be provided to the students by their subject teachers.

#### For Sec 1 Students

5. Fortnightly HBL for Sec 1 students will commence in Term 3 and 4. To support this, the school will be moving from a weekly timetable to a bi-weekly timetable. This means that the timetable will differ on odd and even weeks in the school term. HBL Days will fall on the even Mondays according to the school calendar:

Term/Week	Date (Mondays)
Term 3, Week 4	19 July
Term 3, Week 6	2 August
Term 3, Week 8	16 August
Term 3, Week 10	30 August
Term 4, Week 2	20 September

More information about the upcoming fortnightly HBL for Sec 1 students will follow via Parents Gateway.

#### For Sec 2, 4 and 5 Students

#### 6. Checking of Mid-Year Examination Scripts

Sec 2, 4 and 5 students will be checking and receiving feedback on their examination scripts on Monday, 17 May and Tuesday, 18 May. Students will report to school by 7.30am for the morning assembly and be dismissed at the following time:

Date	Level/Class	Dismissal Time
Monday, 17 May	Sec 2	1.55pm
	Sec 4 and 5	2.25pm
Tuesday, 18 May	Sec 2	1.55pm
	S4-1 to S4-9	2.25pm
	S5-1	1.55pm

### 7. Familiarisation Trial for Sec 2 Subject Combination Exercise

An online familiarisation trial for the Sec 2 Subject Combination Exercise will be conducted for all Sec 2 students in the last week of Term 2, from Thursday, 27 May to Tuesday, 1 June.

The trial will allow students to orientate themselves with the online Learning Management System platform (ASKnLearn) which they will use in the actual subject combination exercise that will be held in October.

Your daughters/wards will be allocated time in school that week to submit their subject combination choices. Their Form Teachers will be present to provide support and guidance to them.

### 8. 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, 21 June to Friday, 25 June for the following activities as part of their Study Week.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday, 21 June – Friday, 25 June	S4-1 to S4-8 & S5-1	8.00am – 1.45pm	Timetabled lessons
Wednesday, 23 June – Friday, 25 June	S4-9		
Monday, 21 June – Friday, 25 June	S4-1 to S4-5 & S5-1	Schedule will be given out by the English Language subject teachers	English Language Graded Oral Practice

Last but not the least, do take the opportunity to spend time with your daughters/wards and encourage them to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Linda Lim  
Principal