



**Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)**

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4 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**2021 SEC 1 TERM 1 LETTER**

On behalf of the staff at Geylang Methodist School (Secondary), I wish everyone a blessed 2021.

We continue to be grateful to God for His grace and mercy, building GMS(S) from strength to strength through the years. We are thankful and appreciative of our team of staff who are committed, giving their best and upholding the values of Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service. In the new year ahead, we will continue to stay true to our mission: 'With God's help, to be a beacon of light by connecting, nurturing and inspiring all to make a difference', helping every GEM to grow, flourish and be rooted in the school values.

For 2021, we have selected the following theme and bible verse:

Theme: Connect. Nurture. Inspire.

Verse: We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

The school will continue to adopt the thematic approach where all programmes and events are aligned to a termly theme and school value. For Term 1, the theme and school value are 'Laying strong foundations' and 'Godliness' respectively. We hope that through the consistent and intentional effort of every member in the school community, we can realise our vision of nurturing every GEM into passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens.

As we begin the new year, we welcome our returning GEMS and the new Sec 1s. We look forward to forging quality relationships with each and every one of you on this journey of learning and growth.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wee Tat Chuen  
Principal

## (A) SCHOOL CALENDAR AND KEY SCHOOL EVENTS

1. The following are key events in Term 1. More details will be provided nearer the dates.

Date	Event
<b>Term 1 (4 Jan to 12 Mar)</b>	
4 Jan (Mon)	GM Prayer and Praise
7-8 Jan (Thurs-Fri)	S1-5 Level activities
13 Jan (Wed), 15 Jan (Fri)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
15 Jan (Fri)	Principal's Address to Sec 1 parents and students (Zoom)
16 Jan (Sat)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
25-29 Jan (Mon-Fri) 1 Feb (Mon), 3 Feb (Wed)	Student Health Screening
8 Feb (Mon)	Total Defence Day Celebrations
11 Feb (Thurs)	Chinese New Year Celebrations (Staggered dismissal after 10.30 am.)
12 Feb (Fri), 15 Feb (Mon)	Chinese New Year Holidays
16-17 Feb (Tues-Wed)	Good News Week
18 Feb (Wed) - 3 Mar (Wed)	Common Tests
5 Mar (Fri)	Sec 2 Subject Combination Talk
9 Mar (Tues)	To follow Friday's Time-Table
9-11 Mar (Tues-Thurs)	Capstone Projects
11 Mar (Thurs)	ECG Fair for Upper Secondary students
12 Mar (Fri)	Cross-Country Run at Bedok Reservoir Eat With Your Family Day
<b>School Vacation: 13 Mar (Sat) to 21 Mar (Sun)</b>	

### 2. GM Prayer and Praise

This will take place via Zoom on 4 Jan (Mon) from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm. It is a time to draw strength and grace from God and one another through prayer and fellowship. All are welcome. Those who are keen can send an email to the Parent Support Group Chair, Ms Kong, at [Kong\\_niesg@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:Kong_niesg@yahoo.com.sg) to obtain the log in details.

## (B) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

### 1 Student Welfare

- 1.1 Students are encouraged to approach their Form Teachers and/or subject teachers if they face any challenges, be it in school or at home.

- 1.2 The school has a team in place to support all students.  
Mr Lewis Lam and Ms Tai Yoke Yin - mental, social and emotional well-being  
Ms Menaga - students with learning and educational needs.  
Ms Kathrine Yang - Education and Career Guidance.  
Students can approach the various personnel for advice if they need a listening ear, eg, for stress, relationship issues with peers or family, bullying, cyber addictions in gaming, social media, time management or financial needs.
- 1.3 Students who are Singapore citizens requiring financial support can collect the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) form from the General Office. Non-Singaporean students can approach their Form Teachers to request for financial support.

## **2 Student Management**

- 2.1 We encourage all parents/guardians to work with the school to ensure that your child/ward abides by the School Rules found in the Student Diary 2021. Please remind your child/ward that punctuality for school/lessons/CCAs is important to maximise their time for learning.
- 2.2 All handphones are to be switched off and kept in their bags in the morning. If you need to contact your child/ward for any urgent matters, please call the General Office at 6746 6503.
- 2.3 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staggered dismissals will be carried out to avoid crowding at the school gates, public transport stations etc. Please be patient as you wait for your child/ward outside the school. The estimated waiting time can be up to 15 minutes.

## **3 Safety & Security**

- 3.1 To prepare our students for unexpected emergencies, the school will be conducting an emergency preparedness drill in Term 1.
- 3.2 For parents/guardians who drive, we request that you adhere to the instructions in Annex A and the regulations given by the Traffic Police for driving within School Zones. With effect from 1 Apr 2019, motorists may be fined from \$100 to \$150 for making an unauthorized U-turn and \$400 to \$500 for beating a red light within School Zones.
- 3.3 We encourage all drivers to drop off your child at Gate H, along Aljunied Road, where it is fully covered. More details can be found in Annex A.

## **(C) Level Activities in Term 1**

### **1 Sec 1 Level Camp**

The focus of the camp is on Laying Strong Foundations: Start it Right - Building on past experience and moving forward. In addition to an orientation of the school, it will help our students deepen bonds with their peers, enhance their personal effectiveness, team leadership and inter-personal skills.

Date: 7-8 Jan (Thurs, Fri)

Time: 7.15 am - 5.00 pm (7 Jan) and  
7.15 am - 9.00 pm (8 Jan)

Venue: School

**2 Principal's Address to Sec 1 parents and students**

The school has planned a zoom session for you and your child with the Principal.

Date: 15 Jan (Fri)

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.15 pm

Zoom details will be provided nearer the date.

**3 Sec 1 Online Consent for Health & Dental Services**

HPB will be conducting its annual health screening, immunization and dental services for your child.

HPV Vaccination: 18 -19 Jan (only for female students)

Health Screening: 21 Jan - 3 Feb

Dental Screening: 22 - 25 Mar

Your consent is needed by 31 Jan. Do log into <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg>.

**4 Sec 1 ICT Baseline Training**

As part of your child's transition to secondary school, this programme is planned over 3 sessions to help your child:

- (i) gather and record information independently
- (ii) examine, organise and use information and digital resources
- (iii) present and communicate information and ideas
- (iv) recognise and address cyber wellness issues

The schedule is as follows:

F12, F13, F14: 6 Jan (Wed). 18 Feb (Thurs), 25 Feb (Thurs)

F15, F16, F17: 6 Jan (Wed). 4 Mar (Thurs), 1 Apr (Thurs)

F11 will learn these during Computer Applications lessons.

**5 Sec 1 Life Skills Enrichment**

This will take place on 11 Mar (Thurs) to help students learn personal management skills to apply in academic and non-academic areas. The programme will help raise students' awareness of resilience, develop a growth mindset and positive perspective towards challenges and equip them with some tools to problem solve and be more self-directed.

**6 Sec 1 NT ACE Programme**

This programme aims to help our students start it right with the learning and practice of study skills and SEL competencies. Students will connect with significant adults who will journey with them throughout the year as they learn and grow.

Day: Thurs (starts 4 Feb)

Time: 1.15 pm - 2.15 pm, part of their curriculum time

Venue: Classroom

**(D) HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

**1 CCA Matters**

CCA is an integral part of education and is compulsory for all students. CCAs will commence from 4 Jan (Mon) for Sec 2 to 5.

The schedule for Sec 1 is as follows:

Phase 1: CCA Fair cum Trials (compulsory) – 13, 15, 16 Jan (Wed, Fri, Sat)

Phase 2: CCA Try-outs from 18-22 Jan (Mon-Fri)

Phase 3: Online CCA option (school e-portal) from 25-27 Jan (Mon-Wed)

Phase 4: CCA allocation - 1 Feb (Mon).

CCA officially begins from 2 Feb (Tues).

Appeals for changes in CCAs for Sec 1 can only be done in Term 1 Week 10 and is subject to vacancies.

In view of COVID-19, comprehensive safe management measures will be followed strictly to ensure the safety of all students.

## **2 After-School Engagement Programme**

These activities are offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students meaningfully.

Date: Every Monday (Starts 1 Feb)

Time: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Venue: Music Room (Guitar), Dance Room (Dance), Shelter Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)

## **3 Student Leadership**

Class Committee Training will be conducted for Sec 2 to 5 on 14 Jan (Thurs) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm in the Lecture Theatre. Sec 1 will be trained on 28 Jan (Thurs) from 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm in SPR 101. All Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Media Resource Rep will attend the training.

House training will be conducted for all Sec 1 students on 21 Jan (Thurs) from 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm as part of their orientation programme.

All Sec 2 students will undergo a leadership training session on 4 Mar (Thurs) from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm in their respective classrooms to develop their leadership capabilities and prepare them for future leadership roles.

## **4 Value-In-Action (VIA) Programmes**

VIA programmes aim to develop students to be caring citizens.

To bless the community, all students will be preparing hampers as part of the Chinese New Year Celebrations in school on 11 Feb (Mon). The hampers will be delivered to various beneficiaries and social agencies by the Class VIA representatives/volunteers and teachers after the celebrations.

## **5 Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS)**

As part of MOE's commitment to nurture future-ready learners, all students are given an account to access SLS. SLS is an online platform with tools and curriculum-aligned resources for all students to learn at their own pace and collaboratively. With SLS, students can take greater ownership of their learning and acquire skills and habits that prepare them for lifelong learning. Teachers will also use SLS to complement classroom teaching and learning. SLS can be accessed via <https://learning.moe.edu.sg>.

## **6 Home Based Learning (HBL)**

The school will be conducting regular HBL from 2021 where students can be more self-directed and independent. This will take place from semester 2 to complement physical classroom teaching. Students without computer access can loan a Chromebook from the school.

## **7 Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDL) for Sec 1 to 3**

The PDL supports the strengthening of students' digital literacies which will better enable them, at different stages of their education journey, to acquire the digital skills required to navigate the digital age. The programme will equip all Sec 1 to 3 students with a personalised learning device in Semester 2. More information will be provided nearer the date of implementation.

## **8 MOE's Sexuality Education in GMS(S)**

As part of MOE's Sexuality Education in schools, we would like to draw your attention to Annex B which provides details of the Growing Years (GY) Programme. It helps students to understand and manage their emotions and develop healthy and right relationships.

*Please acknowledge receipt of this letter in Annex B via Parents Gateway (PG) or return the signed Acknowledgement Form to your child's/ward's form teacher by 15 Jan (Fri). If you do not wish your child/ward to attend this programme, please submit the compulsory opt out form.*

## **(E) CURRICULUM MATTERS**

### **1 English Language**

The English Reading Programme aims to nurture the love of reading in our students. Through regular reading, students can gain mastery of the English language and thrive in subjects that require a strong command of the language. Students will subscribe to educational magazines, such as iThink, Inspire or "I", from an established publisher. These reading materials complement the English lessons by expanding our students' general knowledge and developing their critical thinking skills.

Lower Secondary students will also select a book of their preference from a specially curated list of 15 popular titles in the Buy-a-Book Programme. More details of the Buy-a-Book Programme will be given to your child in a separate letter.

### **2 Mother Tongues (MT)**

All students offering Tamil Language have to register for their classes with Umar Pulavar Language Centre and inform Mdm Liping (SH MT) of their lesson timing. For students who are taking up a 3rd language, they need to report to their designated language centre for lessons. Students who are exempted from MT will report to a designated venue during curriculum time for self-revision.

### **3 Mathematics**

To provide a platform for NT and selected NA students to be more self-directed and engaged in learning Mathematics, students will subscribe to an interactive IT-learning platform which will complement Home-Based Learning lessons planned by the dept. More details will be provided by the respective subject teachers.

### **4 Science**

The school's Applied Learning Programme (ALP) in Science adopts a contextualized approach for its curriculum design, exploring a common theme on Sustainability, with unique programmes for each level. It adopts a blended approach where Tier 1 ALP for all lower secondary students, is infused into the curriculum for 10 weeks. Tier 1 programme exposes students to basic science principles and the use of instrumentation in fieldwork and mini-projects. Sec 1 embarks on Urban Heat Island and Sec 2 on Urban Agriculture. These programmes are conducted by the subject teachers in the science laboratory and greenhouse, in collaboration with our industry partner, Comcrop Pte Ltd. Tier 2 ALP is targeted at Sec 3 students who are passionate in the subject and wish to pursue sustainability further. Tier 2 programmes are conducted throughout the year and students are provided with the opportunity to work with Comcrop on projects related to Environmental Science and Sustainability.

### **5 Humanities Inquiry and National Education Learning Journeys**

The Humanities Department Inquiry programme equips our students with critical thinking, research and communication skills and help them develop global perspectives to become confident persons, active contributors and concerned citizens. Humanities inquiry is central to the students' understanding of 21st century issues such as cross-disciplinary and national/global societal issues and it seeks to instill in them a sense of curiosity and the ability to question, gather information, examine different perspectives and analyse information meaningfully to arrive at new insights and understandings. Humanities inquiry helps our students develop skills to think critically and make well-reasoned, evidence-based conclusions and decisions.

### **Sec 1 Geographical Investigation (GI)**

GI is a form of geographical inquiry where students investigate a geographical issue and demonstrate their learning by completing an end-product on 'Water Resources' through a five-stage GI process. Singapore is vulnerable to water shortage as it does not have large water stores such as lakes and rivers where water can be stored and drawn from readily. Therefore, it is important for our students to understand this vulnerability and appreciate the ingenuity taken by various stakeholders (both public and private) in sustainably managing this resource and improving water security in Singapore.

### **Sec 1 Historical Investigation (HI)**

HI is a form of historical inquiry where students work in groups to investigate an authentic historical issue. Students will analyse the HI question and plan their research by gathering and selecting sources; examining the selected sources; constructing and consolidating individual responses and group's conclusion. The topic for Sec 1 relates to Singapore life in Singapore 1819 and the contribution of the immigrants to Singapore's nation building. Though the process of historical inquiry, students will develop an appreciation of Singapore's experiences and be able to make connections between the past and present.

### **Sec 1 National Education (NE) Learning Journeys and Fieldtrips**

Students are required to participate in one field trip a year. In 2021, the school has scheduled HI fieldtrips and NE Learning Journeys for lower secondary students to encourage them to engage in critical inquiry on Singapore's early history and the contribution of immigrants. The narratives from the visits also aim to instill pride in Singapore's achievements and nurture a sense of belonging to Singapore. These will take place on 11 Mar (Thurs).

## **6 Design and Technology and Art**

Lessons conducted in the Design Studios and Art Rooms involve hands-on sessions where students have to abide by safety rules. Teachers will brief students on these rules when they start working in these rooms.

## **(F) ASSESSMENT MATTERS**

- 1 Assessment is integral to teaching and learning as it helps to monitor students' learning processes and ascertain their holistic development in order to provide timely intervention and support. In addition to common tests and end-of-year examinations, there are various formative assessments to monitor learning and provide feedback. These include quizzes, individual or group assignments, projects, class participation, assignment/ file checks. For common tests and examinations, the school adopts the following weighting:

All streams	Term 1 Common Test	Term 2 Common Test	Term 3 Common Test	Term 4 End-of-Year Examination	Total
Sec 1	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%
Sec 2	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%
Sec 3	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%

- 2 For certain subjects like History, Geography, Design and Technology, Food and Consumer Education, Exercise and Sports Science and Art, work done in projects and coursework may replace common tests. The weighting for lower secondary D&T and FCE differs from other subjects as they are taught on a semestral basis. Please see below:

Subject/ Level	Term 1 Common Test	Term 2 Common Test	Term 2 Project	Term 3 Common Test	Term 4 Common Test	Term 4 Project	Total
D&T/ Sec 1	20%	--	80%	--	--	--	100%
D&T/ Sec 2	--	--	--	20%	--	80%	100%
FCE/ Sec 1	--	--	--	20%	20%	60%	100%
FCE/ Sec 2	20%	20%	60%	--	--	--	100%

**(G) Time-table Matters, Early Dismissal from school**

- 1 As part of our review in 2020, lunch breaks have been included in the time-table for students' well-being and to enhance their learning. It is intentionally structured in to give students a mental and physical break so that they do not have more than 3 hours of continuous lessons after recess.
  
- 2 We will continue to allow for Early Dismissal on a need-to basis. Students may be dismissed at 1.15 pm if that is the last period of the day and the teacher is away for official duty or medical leave. This will be done only during certain periods of the school term when many teachers are out of school for official duties. Homework will be assigned to these classes as per school practice and students can complete the assigned work at home instead of completing it in school. Parents will be informed via PG the same day if your child is released early that day.

**(H) Partnership Matters**

**1 Geylang Methodist Chinese Church**

As GMS(S) is a mission school, we work closely with our main partner church, Geylang Chinese Methodist Church (GCMC) to run programmes to inculcate Christian values and strengthen character in our students, eg, weekly Chapel. GCMC also provides financial support to some of our school events and to students in need.

**2 Alumni**

We hope to tap on the vast experiences of our Alumni to provide our students with exposure and advice. Alumni can volunteer to be speakers to motivate our students or provide education and career advice or work attachment opportunities to give our students greater clarity in certain careers. You can contact the Alumni Association Liaison Mr Neo Ping Leng at 67466503 ext 267 for more information

**(I) ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION**

**1 Admin-related matters for Finance, Students**

**1.1 Registration of PayNow**

With the increasing digitalisation of government services, MOE would like to encourage all parents to register their children's bank account with PayNow using the children's BC/NRIC number. The activation of PayNow will facilitate the prompt disbursement of monies for the child, and avoid delays through the filling in and processing of forms or from physical visits to banks for the deposit of cheques. For a start, school will be using PayNow



(BC/NRIC) as a means to disburse Edusave award monies starting from the upcoming Edusave award exercise in Dec 2020.

To register for PayNow for your children with their BC/NRIC number, you can visit the website of the Association of Banks in Singapore (links provided) for more information. Please approach your bank if you need further assistance to register for PayNow for your children. Alternatively, if you are using your children's bank accounts with POSB/DBS or OCBC, you can fill in the online form (link provided) for MOE to help you to set up PayNow arrangements for these accounts.

More information on PayNow  
<https://go.gov.sg/abspaynow>

Online form to setup PayNow  
<https://go.gov.sg/paynowregister>

## 1.2 Payment for Enrichment Programmes organised by School

For **Singaporean** students with authorised Edusave EPSO, the co-payment amount will be deducted from your child/ward's Edusave account. If there are insufficient funds in your child's/ward's Edusave account, the shortfall can be settled using GIRO if you have established standing order for payment of Enrichment Programme. Otherwise kindly make payment via AXS station/AXS Mobile App.

For **Non-Singaporean** students and **students without Edusave EPSO** with an established GIRO Standing Order for payment of Enrichment Programme, kindly maintain sufficient fund in your bank account for GIRO deduction. Otherwise kindly make payment via AXS station/AXS Mobile App.

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## 2 Parents Gateway Matters

Parents Gateway (PG), a mobile app specially designed for parents and developed by MOE and GovTech, is our school's main online communication platform with parents. For parents who are not onboard PG, we would like to invite you to download the PG app on your mobile phones and perform a simple one-time onboarding process.

For a step-by-step guide on the onboarding process, please refer to our school website <https://geylangmethodistsec.moe.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Parents-Gateway-Onboarding.pdf> or scan the QR code below.

For further support, parents can also refer to the *Frequently Asked Questions* at <https://pg.moe.edu.sg/faq> (or scan the QR code below) for more information and troubleshooting steps.



PG Onboarding Process



PG FAQs