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Dear Parents/Guardians,

2021 SEC 1 TERM 3 LETTER

Greetings and welcome back to Term 3! We hope you have been able to spend time meaningfully with your child during the holidays. Full Home-Based Learning in the last 2 weeks of May, Phase 2 and 3 Heightened Alerts have been challenges that our students were able to rise up to. We are heartened to see them doing their part to keep one another safe, actively learning and being more self-directed.

In Term 3, we will continue to pace your child, using the knowledge, talents and skills acquired in semester 1 to live out the theme for term 3, 'Making a Positive Difference', undergirded by the value of Service. The theme encourages every GEM to look beyond themselves and serve the needs of family, friends and community. Students will have opportunities to help one another in their school work, provide a listening ear to others in need and offer their time and effort to serve others, creating a better community and a better Singapore for everyone.

Term 3 will be an exciting term. Our students from Sec 1 to 3 will also have their personal learning device to enhance their learning as teachers plan for a more seamless blend of learning wherever they may be - in school or at home undergoing HBL. You can read more in the term letter.

We will continue to be vigilant in keeping all GEMS safe in Term 3. Let's continue to remind one another on the importance of social responsibility:

- (i) Stay away from school when unwell and to seek medical attention immediately
- (ii) Stay away from school when household members (6 years and above) have flu-like symptoms
- (iii) Adhere to cleaning routines and personal hygiene habits like handwashing, wiping down personal spaces before and after use
- (iv) Bring the TraceTogether token and personal thermometer daily.

We look forward to seeing every GEM in the new term. Sec 3 to 5 students will return to school on Jun 28 (Mon) and lower secondary students will return on Jul 1 (Thurs). Whether students are in school physically or at home learning online, our teachers will provide students with meaningful and engaging learning experiences. We will continue to journey alongside you and your child to nurture them into passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens, grounded in Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service.

May God continue to bless all of you richly as we connect, nurture and inspire one another as a community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wee Tat Chuen
Principal

(A) TERM 3 MAIN SCHOOL EVENTS

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| Jun 28 (Mon) | GM Prayer and Praise @ 3.30 pm, Zoom Meeting |
| Jul 2 (Fri) | Graduation Walk for Sec 4/5 (10.45am – 2.45 pm) |
| Jul 4 - 5 (Sun - Mon) | Youth Day and Youth Day School Holiday |
| Jul 6 (Tues) | GCE O-Level MT Listening Comprehension All Sec 4 and 5 classes will be dismissed at 12.45 pm to prepare themselves and the venues for examinations. Sec 1 to 3 classes will be dismissed at 1.15 pm. |
| Jul 7 (Wed) | Follow Monday's Time-Table |
| Jul 14-16 (Wed-Fri) | Good News Week (Lower Sec) |
| Jul 19 (Mon) | GM HBL Day 1 |
| Jul 20 (Tues) | Hari Raya Haji PH |
| Jul 21 (Wed) | Racial Harmony Day Celebrations |
| Jul 23 (Fri) | Special Achievement Award @GM |
| Jul 26 (Mon) - Aug 4 (Wed) | 4N Preliminary Examinations |
| Aug 6 (Fri) | National Day Celebrations (Students will be dismissed by 1030h) |
| Aug 9-10 (Mon-Tues) | National Day PH and School Holiday |
| Aug 11 (Wed) - Aug 24 (Tues) | Common Test 3 (Sec 1-3) |
| Aug 20 (Fri) - Sep 1 (Wed) Sep 13 (Mon) - Sep 14 (Tues) | 4E/5N Preliminary Examinations |
| Aug 26 (Thurs) | GM HBL Day 2 |
| Aug 30 (Mon) | VIA Day |
| Sep 2 (Thurs) | Teachers' Day Celebrations |
| Sep 3 (Fri) | Teachers' Day School Holiday |
| Sep 4 (Sat) – Sep 12 (Sun) | Sept Break |

(B) STUDENT WELFARE AND WELL-BEING

Families facing financial difficulties may refer to the following government agency website for assistance:

<https://supportgowhere.life.gov.sg/>

Alternatively, your child may approach his/her Form Teachers.

Families who need social-emotional support, parenting support, financial assistance or counselling services can refer to a Family Service Centre (FSC). You may visit this website to find the FSC nearest your house: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/dfcs/familyservice/default.aspx>

If your child needs a listening ear or emotional support, he/she may contact our full-time school counsellor, Mr Lewis Lam, at lam_ying_hao@schools.gov.sg, or look for him at the Counselling Centre located in the D&T Block.

(C) STUDENT MANAGEMENT

All students should continue to take the safe distancing measures seriously and exercise due care to protect themselves and their peers and families.

(D) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1. CCA matters

Face-to-face CCAs will resume from Term 3 Week 3, with adherence to national safe management guidelines. eCCAs will continue to be the mode of engaging our students in their CCA experiences till then. Students will be informed separately if their CCAs are proceeding with eCCAs during T3, Week 1 and 2. All remaining National School Games (NSG) for the year will be cancelled due to the need to minimise intermingling of students from different schools.

2. After-school engagement programme

There are a variety of activities offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students. Do encourage your child to participate.

Date: Monday (You can refer to the calendar in the school's website for more details)

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm

Venues: Music Room (Dance), Dance Room (Guitar), SPR403 (Cajon), Sheltered Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)

(E) Updates on National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)

1. The NDLP was launched in March 2020 to make digital learning inclusive by equipping students with the digital literacies to be future-ready. Through the NDLP, our Sec 1 to 3 students will own a Chromebook as a Personal Learning Device (PLD).

2. Procurement of PLDs: We have placed order for the Chromebooks and are currently waiting for the contractors to update us on the delivery date, which is around Jul or Aug.

3. Digital Literacy Courses: To prepare your child/ward better in learning with the PLD, the school will require your child/ward to complete a series of Digital Literacy Courses via SLS. These are self-paced modules and students should be able to complete each module within an hour.

| S/N | Lesson Title | Remarks |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Managing schedule and tasks using digital tools like Google Calendar | These modules have been assigned. Students should have completed by the end of June holidays. |
| 2 | Annotating digital files (using SLS) | |

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 3 | Annotating digital files Part2 | |
| 4 | Video Conferencing Tools | These modules will be assigned during the HBL days in Term 3 |
| 5 | File sharing | |
| 6 | Digital Mindmapping tools | |
| 7 | Word Processing (Google Docs) | These modules will be assigned when the students received their PLDs. |
| 8 | Spreadsheet (Google Sheets) | |
| 9 | Presentation (Google Slides) | |
| 10 | Online bulletin board | |

4. Security of PLD: The school has installed new lockers outside the classrooms for students to keep their PLDs. Students should keep their PLDs in the lockers when they need to go for PE lessons, recess or lunch. They should bring their PLDs home at the end of the school day to charge. **Charging of the PLDs in school is not allowed.**

5. IT Applications for students: MOE will be rolling out a number of IT applications for secondary school students and these applications will be vital in supporting teaching and learning. The school will introduce these progressively when the PLD arrives. These include:

- a. Student iCON: Every secondary school student will be provided with access to the Google Suite set of tools, including email address. In doing so, we will be phasing out the use of the current school-based email address (ending with gmss.moe.edu.sg) by the end of 2021.
- b. Microsoft ProPlus: Every secondary school student will be able to use Microsoft Office tools that include Word, PowerPoint and Excel.
- c. Zoom: Every secondary school student will be given a Zoom free account with 40 min time limit for their video conferencing needs.

(F) GM's Home-Based Learning Days

In our efforts to nurture self-directed and independent learners who are passionate and intrinsically motivated, we have planned for 2 HBL days in Term 3 on Jul 19 (Mon) and Aug 26 (Thurs)). We will continue to use the class Time-Table on HBL days. All announcements, instructions (eg links to zoom sessions) and lesson materials will be assigned via SLS. Teachers may complement their mode of communication with students via whatsapp. To manage screen time for both students and teachers, synchronous lessons will be capped to half the curriculum time to keep it below 4 hours daily. To help our students maintain their daily routines, students will begin the day with a synchronous lesson for the 1st academic lesson of the day. Your child will be reminded nearer the dates.

(G) SCHOOL EVENTS

1. Racial Harmony Day

This day is commemorated on Jul 21 (Wed). Activities are planned to help students reflect on our shared experiences and values that have connected us as Singaporeans over the last 200 years. More information will be released nearer the week.

2. Special Achievement Award Ceremony

This occasion will take place on Jul 23 (Fri) to affirm students who have demonstrated resilience in beating the odds to excel in curricular and co-curricular areas and are exemplary in their conduct. The time and venue of this event will be shared with the awardees closer to the date.

3. National Day Celebrations

Celebrated on Aug 6 (Fri) with an observance ceremony and meaningful activities, this year's theme focuses on how everyone in Singapore stands united to overcome challenging times together and keep Singapore safe. It is also a time to appreciate the hard work and resilience of all as we embody the Singapore spirit and are "One United People". The programme will promote how we can work together to make Singapore a better place. Students will be dismissed by 10.30am.

4. Teachers' Day Celebrations

We will celebrate Teachers' Day on Sep 2 (Thurs). Led by the Student Council, the celebrations will include performances put up by students, games and also showcases GM's Talent-time 'GEMS Got Talent'. Dismissal from school is at 10.30am.

(H) LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Sec 1 N(T) ACE Programme

This is a programme to help our students start it right with the learning and practice of various life skills and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies.

Date: Thurs (Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 12, 19)

Time: 1.15 pm - 2.15 pm, within curriculum time

Venue: Classroom

(I) Student Leadership Development

This term, we continue to build on the competencies of the various student leaders to enhance their competencies to serve the school community.

- a. Sec 2 Student Council Training - Jul 15 (Thurs)
- b. Student Council Trainees Training - Jul 29 (Thurs)
- c. Sec 3 GEMS Leaders: This training will equip them with skills in mentoring, facilitating and planning especially the 2022 Sec 1 Orientation Camp. The training dates are Jul 29 (Thurs) and Aug 5 (Thurs).

(J) VALUES-IN-ACTION (VIA)

1. Aug 30 (Mon) is designated GM's school-wide VIA Day. It will take place from 7.45am to 9:45am, followed by normal lessons for the day. The VIA programmes are aligned to Term 3's focus of 'Making a positive difference' and will imbue in our students:

- a. the ability to plan and implement ideas that will benefit others
- b. the confidence to speak, share and champion for a cause
- c. the ability to reflect on their VIA experiences and be an empathetic and caring citizen.

2. Sec 1 VIA Programme

Focusing on the theme of "Environmental Awareness", all Sec 1 classes will embark on a project on marine conservation and Singapore's marine biodiversity. GM partners with Young Nautilus Singapore where students will get to learn about marine life in Singapore waters and how they can play a part in marine conservation.

3. Time has been set aside for students to prepare and learn meaningfully. These sessions will take place on Thursday enrichment sessions between 2:45pm to 5pm on the following dates: Jul 1 VIA Launch, Jul 22 VIA preparation 1 and Aug 12 VIA preparation 2.

(K) ASSESSMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

1. School-based Academic Assessment for Sec 1-3

Common Test 3 for Secondary 1 to 3 will be held from Aug 11 to Aug 24. The topics and schedule for the Common Test will be given at a later date.

In accordance with MOE's guidelines, the assessment weightings for Sec 1-3 (all streams) are as follow:

| Common Test 1 | Common Test 2 | Common Test 3 | End-of-Year Exam | Total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------|
| 15% | 15% | 15% | 55% | 100% |

2. Weightings for Modular Subjects at Lower Sec

a. Design & Technology

| | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|-------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sec 1 | Common Test (20%) | Coursework (80%) | | |
| Sec 2 | | | Common Test (20%) | Coursework (80%) |

b. Food & Consumer Education

| | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sec 1 | | | Common Test (20%) | Common Test (20%) Coursework (60%) |
| Sec 2 | Common Test (20%) | Common Test (20%) Coursework (60%) | | |

(L) PARENTING TALK

A parenting talk entitled "Talk About Anything- SCREEN/ed" has been planned on 21 August (Sat) from 9.00am to 11.30am. It is designed for parents to attend together with their child and conducted within the school premises.

Synopsis:

Screens have become an inevitable and critical part of our lives – we depend on it for work and our children use it for learning at school and at home. How do we help our children minimise the use of screen time while maximising the positive impact of technology? Can parents and teens have a conflict-free conversation about media use and agree on digital boundaries? Get talking about how you can be a screen-smart family and use technology for meaningful connection!

- Engage in meaningful conversations about screen time
- Create a Family Digital Agreement together
- Take home resources to use as visual reminders for the whole family

Please call the General Office or email Mr Tan Wah Kum at tan_wah_kum@schools.gov.sg if you are interested. This programme is subject to developments in COVID-19.

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