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10 Sep 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

2021 Term 4 Sec 1 Letter

We are thankful that the first 3 terms had passed by safely with God's providence and grace. We are appreciative of the partnership with parents as we rolled out new initiatives to benefit our GEMS. In Term 4, we will continue to focus on developing GEMS as passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens with emphasis on the value and theme of '*Mastery*' and '*Celebrating Success*' respectively.

This term, our graduating cohort will complete their N- or O-Level Examinations. We wish them every success and pray for God's kindness and blessings to be with them as they begin another chapter in their lives. For the Secondary 1 to 3, it is important that they continue to revise and consolidate their learning, actively seeking consultations for clarification. For the staff, we will begin our review and improvement process and continue to hone our competencies and skills to do better for the GEMS entrusted to us. Staff will continue to explore the use of technology and various applications so that teaching and learning can be more engaging and effective.

Aligned to the theme of '*Celebrating Success*', we will affirm GEMS' achievements at the Prize Presentation Ceremony on 29 Oct (Fri) and showcase their diverse talents and strengths at the Virtual Open House on 27 Nov (Sat) as they share with P6 students and parents.

N-Level Listening Comprehension will take place on 13 and 14 Sep (Mon and Tues), starting from 2.30 pm. To provide a conducive environment for our 4NA/NT students, all other students will be dismissed earlier. There will be no CCAs, remedials/consultations in the afternoons on these days. The detailed dismissal times are as follows:

13 Sep (Mon): 1.15pm Sec 1, 1.20pm Sec 2, 1.25pm Sec 3, 2pm Sec 4E5N (after prelim paper)
14 Sep (Tue): 1.15pm: Sec 3, 1.20pm: Sec 2, 1.25pm: Sec 1, 1.30pm: Sec 4E5N

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, events that are planned may be modified or cancelled pending national guidelines. We also advise parents and students to defer all travel overseas unless it is permissible under the prevailing MOH's travel advisory. We require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward only if he/she intends to travel for the year-end holidays to ensure that schools continue to be a healthy and safe environment for all. Border measures, health protocol and requirements for entry may change over time depending on the public health situation in the respective countries. Please check on these requirements by visiting the SafeTravel website at [<https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg>] and the Ministry of Health (MOH) at [<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>].

We look forward to your partnership and we wish your child a successful Term 4 ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wee Tat Chuen
Principal

(A) Key School-Wide Events

The table summarises some key events in Term 4.

Date	Event	Level	Remarks
13 Sept (Mon)	GM Prayer and Praise (5-6 pm)		Parents, alumni and students are welcomed.
13 Sep (Mon)	Sec 4E/5N Preliminary Examinations (Part 2)	Sec 4E/5N	Last day of Prelim Exam
17 Sep (Fri)	CCAs stand down	Sec 1-3	
24 Sep (Fri)	Sec 4/5 Cohort Games	Sec 4/5	Students to report to school as usual. Participation in cohort games is optional.
1 Oct (Fri) –14 Oct (Thu) 6 Oct (Wed) –14 Oct (Thu)	End-Of-Year Examinations	Sec 3 Sec 1-2	The schedule has been distributed to your child in Term 3 Week 10.
1 October (Fri)	Sec 4/5 Graduation Service	Sec 4/5	Students to report to school as usual.
4 Oct (Mon) –14 Oct (Thu)	Study Break	Sec 4E/5N	Students are encouraged to stay at home and e-consult their teachers to minimise exposure to COVID-19.
15 Oct (Fri)	Marking Day	All	Students need not report to school.
15 Oct (Fri)	CCAs can resume	Sec 1-3	Students will be informed by their CCA teachers.
25 Oct (Mon)	Moderation & Promotion Exercise	All	Students need not report to school.
29 Oct (Fri)	Prize Presentation Ceremony Parent-Teacher Meet (by appointment) Last Day of School	Sec 1 - 3	Students to report to school as usual. Staggered dismissal at 10.30am. Parent-Teacher Meet for parents who made an appointment.
27 Nov (Sat)	Virtual Open House		Students who are involved will be informed.

(B) SAFETY AND SECURITY

For parents/guardians who drive, we encourage you to drop off your child at Gate H, along Aljunied Road, where it is fully covered.

(C) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

1. GM Prayer and Praise

This will take place via Zoom on 13 Sep (Mon) from 5 to 6pm. It is a time to pray and fellowship, drawing strength and grace from God and one another. All are welcome. Zoom details will be sent out nearer the date from the respective staff and parents supporting this event. Please send an email to the school and address it to Mr Chin Khai Ying if you would like to be connected with the parent co-ordinator for this event.

2. Student Welfare

The Student Welfare Committee will be recruiting Sec 1 students as Peer Ambassadors at the start of Term 4. More information will be given to your child through the Form Teachers. Students who wish to be trained as Peer Ambassadors can notify their Form Teachers. Students who need financial assistance for essentials like food, stationery or transport are encouraged to apply through their Form Teachers.

3. Student Management

We appreciate the support from parents to encourage our GEMS to be regular and on time for school. We hope to continue to improve on this positive trend. As students are spending more time on their digital devices for learning, we encourage parents to monitor your child's screen time and usage and help them be responsible users of social media.

4. CCA Matters

CCAs will stand down from 17 Sep (Fri) to ensure students have sufficient time to prepare for the End-Of-Year Examinations. They will resume on 18 Oct (Mon). Year-end training schedules and camps will be made known to the students in due course.

5. After-School Engagement Programme

This programme ended in Term 3. There will not be any After-School Engagement Programme this Term.

6. Prize-Presentation Ceremony and Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM)

Students will receive their results slips on 29 Oct (Fri). Please acknowledge and sign on them before they are collected back by their teachers on the first day of school in 2022. PTM is upon request. You can book the slots in the response slip which will be given to your child nearer the date. The Prize Presentation Ceremony will be held on 29 Oct (Fri) to celebrate GEMS' achievements and successes. Staggered dismissal will be from 10.30am.

7. Student Leadership

To develop 'Courageous Leaders', we will continue to hone the leadership competencies and skills of our student leaders. There will be various trainings/camps during the post-examination period, beginning with the House Committee Day Camp (30 Oct), the 3-day Student Council Camp (9-11 Nov) and finally the Orientation Group Leaders Preparatory Camp (17-19 Nov) and Booster Session (29 Dec). These trainings/camps will adhere to national safe management measures. Consent forms will be issued closer to the dates.

8. Virtual Open House

GMS(S) Virtual Open House will be held on 27 Nov (Sat) from 9 to 12 noon, showcasing our curricular and co-curricular programmes. Our Principal will also be addressing prospective students and parents. More details will be published on the school's website and facebook page nearer to the date. Students involved will be informed nearer to the date.

(D) LEVEL ACTIVITIES FOR SEC 1/2/3/4 and 5

1. Sec 1 NT ACE Programme

This programme which started in February helped our students start it right with the learning and practice of study skills and SEL competencies. Students connected with significant adults who journeyed with them throughout the year as they learn and grow. As the programme had ended in Term 3, students will be dismissed after their last lesson on Thursday at 1.15 pm.

2. SHINE Programme for Sec 1 NA/NT

As part of the post-exam programme during curriculum time, these students will take part in the SHINE Programme workshops which aim to broaden students' learning experiences and meet their varied learning needs through applied learning. This taster programme aims to pique their interest and give them an idea of their interest and passion.

These workshops are subsidised by the school and the amount payable by each student is estimated at around \$30. Students who are citizens can tap on the Edusave fund while students who are Permanent Residents or hold Foreign Student's Pass will pay the amount in cash at the General Office if they have not signed up for the GIRO services yet. Information on the workshops, schedule, exact amount payable and the payment method will be made available at a later date.

3. Percussion Enrichment for Sec 1NT students

This is part of the post-examination programme and aims to help students learn how to read and play music through a series of percussion workshops. In addition to learning music, these sessions also help your child/ward learn self-discipline and teamwork. Partly subsidised by the school and the National Arts Council Fund, each student will pay an estimated balance of \$40. Students who are citizens can tap on the Edusave fund. Students who are Permanent Residents or hold Foreign Student's Pass will pay the amount in cash at the General Office if they have not signed up for the GIRO services yet. Further information on the workshops, schedule and payment method will be shared at a later date.

(E) ACADEMIC UPDATES

1. Post-Exam Remediation/Consultation for Sec 1-3

These lessons will be conducted for identified students to bridge their learning gaps and enhance their understanding before they return in 2022. The remediation lessons will be conducted from 1 Nov (Mon) to 12 Nov (Fri).

(F) ASSESSMENT MATTERS

1. End-Of-Year Examination

The schedule is as follows:

Sec 1-2 6 Oct (Wed) – 14 Oct (Thu)

Sec 3 1 Oct (Fri) – 14 Oct (Thu)

Students need not report to school on 15 Oct (Fri), Marking Day and 25 Oct (Mon), Moderation and Promotion Day.

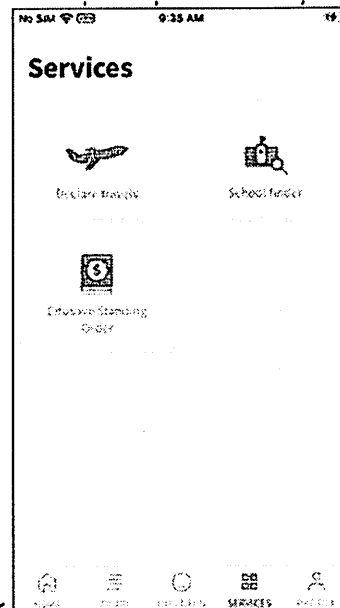
2. Mother Tongue (MT)

Lower Sec MT Oral Examinations will be conducted during the end-of-year examinations and the schedule is reflected in the examination time-table. Oral passages had been given to the students and conversational topics will be uploaded into the SLS for students to prepare and practise at home. Oral video stimulus will be shared during curriculum time with teachers' guidance and coaching.

(G) PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

1. Parents Gateway New Features

Two new services have been added to the [Services] tab in the parents mobile app: SchoolFinder and Edusave Standing Order. Parents can now have easy access to the websites.



SchoolFinder and Edusave Standing Order

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