



Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

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3 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

2022 SEC 1 TERM 1 LETTER

Greetings from GMS(S) or GM in short and a blessed 2022!

I am Mr Victor Owyong and I am honoured to be appointed as the principal of GMS(S) with effect from 15 December 2021.

We would like to place on record our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Mr Wee Tat Chuen for his sterling service and contributions to GMS(S) from 2016 to 2021. We congratulate him on his new appointment as the principal of Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). He will be dearly missed by both staff and students.

We welcome our returning GEMS and extend a warm welcome to our new Sec 1s. We appreciate you making GM your school of choice and we look forward to forging quality relationships with each and every one of you on this journey of learning and growth.

We are ever thankful to God for His grace and mercy, building GM from strength to strength and keeping every GEM safe in this pandemic. We are appreciative of our team of dedicated and committed staff, giving their best and upholding the values of Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service. 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'.

For 2022, we have selected the following theme and verse:

Theme: To grow in friendship, body and mind

Verse: Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man (Lk 2:52)

Adopting the thematic approach, programmes and events will be aligned to a termly theme and school value. For Term 1, the theme and school value are 'Laying strong foundations' and 'Godliness' respectively.

2022 will be an exciting year as we embark on the Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB) for our S1s. They will be in mixed form classes where they can interact with peers of different strengths and interests. With Full SBB, we are moving towards a secondary school education where students learn each subject at the level that best caters to their overall strengths, interests and learning needs. Under Full SBB, MOE will expand Subject-Based Banding (SBB) beyond the four PSLE subjects, to allow eligible students to offer Humanities subjects at a more demanding level from Secondary 2. Other subjects such as Art, Design and Technology, Food and Consumer Education, PE, CCE and Music will be offered as an accompanying set of Common Curriculum subjects at lower secondary. More information will be provided at the Principal's Engagement Session with Sec 1 parents and students.

We will continue to be vigilant and help every GEM exercise social responsibility to keep themselves and others safe. We appeal to parents and guardians to reinforce the understanding that TraceTogether (TT) Tokens must be brought to school on a daily basis to help in contact tracing. If your child does not have one, you can collect the TT tokens from any Community Centre/Club. Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who are collecting their tokens for the first time can also request for the TT token to be delivered via post. Details can be found at token.gowhere.gov.sg.

We hope to partner all parents in our journey to nurture our GEMS and realise our vision of every GEM a passionate learner, courageous leader and caring citizen.

Yours sincerely

Mr Victor Owyong
Principal

(A) SCHOOL CALENDAR AND KEY SCHOOL EVENTS

1 Key school events in Term 1

More details will be provided for some events nearer the dates.

Date	Event
Term 1 (4 Jan to 11 Mar)	
6-7 Jan (Thurs-Fri)	S1-S5 Level Activities
10 Jan (Mon)	GM Prayer and Praise (4:30pm on zoom)
10, 12, 14 Jan (Mon, Wed, Fri)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
14 Jan (Fri)	Principal's Engagement Session with Sec 1 parents and students
25 Jan (Tues)	HBL Day
31 Jan (Mon)	Chinese New Year Celebrations (Staggered dismissal after 10.30 am.)
1-2 Feb (Tues-Wed)	Chinese New Year Holidays
8 Feb (Mon)	Total Defence Day Celebrations
9 Feb (Wed)	HBL Day
14-15 Feb (Tues-Wed)	Good News Week
16 Feb (Wed) - 2 Mar (Wed)	S1-5 Common Tests
24 Feb (Thu)	HBL Day
4 Mar (Fri)	Sec 2 Subject Combination Talk ECG Parents-Teachers Meet
8-10 Mar (Tues-Thurs)	S4/5 Capstone Projects
10 Mar (Thurs)	ECG Fair for Upper Secondary students
11 Mar (Fri)	Cross-Country Run Eat With Your Family Day
School Vacation: 12 Mar (Sat) to 20 Mar (Sun)	

2 GM Prayer and Praise

This will take place via Zoom on 10 Jan (Mon) from 4:30 - 5:30pm. 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 to obtain the login details.

(B) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

1 Student Welfare

The school has a team in place to support all students:

- (i) Mr Lewis Lam and Ms Tai Yoke Yin - mental, social and emotional well-being
- (ii) Ms Menaga - learning and educational needs.
- (iii) Ms Kathrine Yang - Education and Career Guidance

Students can approach the above 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.

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

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 2022. Please remind your child/ward that punctuality for school/lessons/CCAs is important to maximise their time for learning.

All handphones are to be switched off and kept in their lockers in the morning. Handphones can only be used in the canteen, General Officer Foyer, Foyer outside level 2 Staff Room and CMS Foyer before and after curriculum time. If you need to contact your child/ward for any urgent matters, please call the General Office at 6746 6503.

As we start the academic year, let us work together to strengthen the culture of learning. Do help your child/ward have adequate rest and set meaningful boundaries for screen time on the computer and handphones. This will help your child/ward stay focused and participate fully in class learning and activities. We value your partnership to develop our GEMS into passionate learners with good self-management skills.

Staggered dismissals will be carried out to avoid crowding at the school gates, public transport stations etc to better manage safe distancing. 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

To prepare our students for unexpected emergencies, the school will plan for an emergency preparedness drill in Term 1 depending on the national posture at that time.

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. 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 this non-residential 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: 6-7 Jan (Thurs, Fri)

Time: 7.15 am - 5.00 pm

Venue: School

2 Principal's Engagement Session with Sec 1 parents and students

The school has planned an engagement session on Student Welfare, CCAs and LEAPS, and Student Management matters through pre-recorded videos. These videos will be uploaded on our school website from 5 pm, 14 Jan (Fri). You are invited to view them at your convenience.

3 Sec 1 Online Consent for Health and Dental Services

HPB conducts annual health screening, immunization and dental services for your child:

Health Screening: 17 - 21 Jan

Dental Screening: 21 - 24 Mar

HPV Vaccination: 25 - 26 Jul (only for female students)

Your consent is needed by 10 Jan (Mon). Do log into <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg>

4 Sec 1 Life Skills Enrichment

This will take place on 10 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.

5 Sec 1 ACE Programme (for selected students)

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

Day: Wednesdays (starts from 16 Feb)

Time: 1.45 pm - 3.15 pm

Venue: School

(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 (Tues) for Sec 2 to 5. The schedule for Sec 1 is as follows:

Phase 1: CCA Fair cum Trials (compulsory) – 10, 12, 14 Jan (Mon, Wed, Fri)

Phase 2: CCA Try-outs from 17 – 26 Jan

Phase 3: Online CCA option from 24 – 26 Jan

Phase 4: CCA allocation – 31 Jan (Mon)

CCA officially begins from 4 Feb (Fri)

Safe management measures will be followed strictly to ensure the safety of all students.

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

2 After-School Engagement Programmes

A range of activities are offered after school by adult volunteers who will engage our students meaningfully.

Date: Every Monday (Starts 7 Feb)

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.30 pm

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

3 Student Leadership

Class Committee Training will be conducted for Sec 2 to 5 on 17 Jan (Mon) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm in the Lecture Theatre. Sec 1 will be trained on 27 Jan (Thurs) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm in SPR 101. All Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Media Resource Representatives will attend the training.

House training will be conducted for all Sec 1 on 3 Feb (Thurs) from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm as part of their orientation programme by the House Committee Leaders.

All Sec 2 will undergo a leadership training session on 3 Mar (Thurs) from 2.15 pm to 5.15 pm in their respective classrooms to develop their leadership capabilities and prepare them for future leadership roles.

4 Values In Action (VIA) Programmes

VIA programmes aim to develop students to be caring citizens.

Sec 1 will focus on environmental issues and Sec 2 on the societal issue of aging.

Sec 3 students will learn how to “work for the good of society” using the knowledge gained from their Social Studies curriculum. They will identify a societal need and embark on an issue investigation. This will build a foundation for our students to be advocates of social change.

Sec 4 students will partner the social agency of their choice, selected at the end of Sec 3 in 2021 as their final Capstone Project. They will further hone their skills in collaborating and working with the agency to meet the needs of the community. The Capstone Project will culminate with a main event with the agency in early March.

5 National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) for students

NDLP was launched in March 2020 to make digital learning inclusive by equipping students with the digital literacies to be future-ready. Part of the NDLP programme involves getting students to own personal learning devices (PLDs) to help them to develop and strengthen these digital skills. The school will be using Chromebook as the PLD and more information on equipping our students with the PLD will be shared in due course.

6 ICT Baseline Training/Digital Literacy Lessons for Sec 1

As part of your child’s transition to secondary school, this programme is planned during Home Based Learning Days in Term 1. The online lessons will cover these topics:

- (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.

In addition, this training will also prepare the students well when they receive their personal learning devices.

7 Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS)

All students are given an account to access SLS as part of MOE’s commitment to nurture future-ready learners. 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>.

8 Home Based Learning (HBL)

The school will continue with HBL from 2022 where students learn to be more self-directed and independent. HBL day will take place once every fortnight on the even weeks. This will allow students to experience blended learning for all subjects. Student-Initiated Learning on HBL days will also provide dedicated time and space for students to explore their areas of interests by initiating learning activities on their own. HBL will not be carried out if it falls on a public holiday, school holiday or examination day. To give our students and teachers sufficient time to adapt to the new academic year, the first HBL for 2022 will be carried out in week 4. The table below shows the HBL dates for Term 1.

Week/ Day	Date	Remarks
Week 2 Mon	10 Jan	HBL will not be carried out to give our students and teachers time to adapt to the new academic year.
Week 4 Tues	25 Jan	HBL
Week 6 Wed	9 Feb	HBL
Week 8 Thurs	24 Feb	HBL

Sec 1 students without computer access can loan a Chromebook from the school.

(E) CURRICULUM MATTERS

1 English Language

The Reading Programme aims to nurture the love of reading in our students. Through regular reading, students can gain mastery of the 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 established publishers. These reading materials complement classroom lessons by expanding their 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 20 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)

Students offering Tamil Language need to register for their classes with Umar Pulavar Language Centre and inform Mdm Li Ping (SH MT) of their lesson timing. Students taking a 3rd language would need to report to their designated language centre for lessons. Students who are exempted will report to an assigned venue during curriculum time for self-revision.

3 Mathematics

To provide a platform for N(T) and selected N(A) students to hone their mathematical skills and be more self-directed, students will subscribe to an interactive IT-learning platform which will complement HBL lessons. 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. 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. Students are provided with the opportunity to work with Comcrop on projects related to Environmental Science and Sustainability. With effect from 2022, a Science research component will be incorporated to encourage curiosity and to develop science research and communication skills in the students.

5 Humanities Inquiry and National Education Learning Journeys

The Humanities Department Inquiry programme equips students with critical thinking, research and communication skills and helps 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, national and 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/pairs to investigate an authentic historical issue. Students will analyse the HI question, 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 life in Singapore in 1819 and the contribution of the immigrants to Singapore's nation building. Through 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.

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

7 Physical Education / Exercise & Sports Science

All students are reminded to follow all safety instructions, safe management measures and to put on their masks at all times except when performing strenuous exercises/activities (as advised by the PE teachers). Students are to report promptly for their PE lessons in the proper PE attire and to participate actively during the lessons.

(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 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 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.

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

As part of the school's well-being efforts, lunch and snack breaks are provided for students and 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. Snack breaks are provided for the whole school at 12pm and lunch breaks are provided for classes that have lessons that go beyond 2:15pm.

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 (GCMC)

As GMS(S) is a mission school, we work closely with our main partner 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 Registration of PayNow

With 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>

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.

3 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>

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

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