



Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

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Dear Parents /Guardians,

2024 TERM 1 LETTER

Happy New Year! We welcome 2024 with excitement and anticipation as we look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Geylang Methodist (GM) Schools this year. To guide us as we celebrate, let us keep in mind the 5Cs viz. Celebrate, Create, Connect, Contribute and Confident.

Celebrate: We celebrate God's faithfulness and goodness in establishing GM, building her up over the years and developing generations of GEMS* who are passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens. There are very few schools that have reached this 100-year milestone, and we would like our GEMS to be proud of their school. The school theme we have chosen specially for this year is "Celebrating God's Goodness" and the bible verse is: *For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5 (ESV)*

Create: We believe that our GEMS have been blessed with unique talents. Through our GM100 celebrations, we will provide them with platforms to showcase their creativity and encourage them to continue learning. The GM100 logo created by one of our GEMS, How Ruo Xi during her time in Sec 1 last year, will be featured on various souvenirs and collaterals. Additionally, our GEMS would also be creating various artworks on school benches, wall murals and pebble art, as part of our GM100 celebrations.



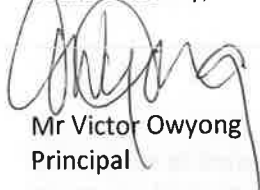
Connect: The GM family is a community that consists of members (past and present) from our staff, GEMS, parents, alumni, the Board of Management, Geylang Methodist School (Primary), Geylang Chinese Methodist Church, and Christalite Methodist Chapel. There will be events to allow the GM family to connect and do things together. These include the Centennial Thanksgiving Service, Centennial Dinner and the GM100 Family Carnival.

Contribute: Everyone can contribute and play a part. Events such as the 100 Acts of Service and the GM Family Carnival provide opportunities for our GEMS to serve the school and to bless the larger Geylang Community. During the GM Family Carnival on 2 March, our GEMS will be involved in running some stalls and our Performing Arts Groups will be performing in the Friendship Hall. We will be inviting residents from various Homes and Senior Activity Centres in the Geylang neighbourhood to our GM Family Carnival. In collaboration with GMS(P) and National Parks Board, we will also be planting 100 trees as one of our 100 Acts of Service.

Confident: As part of the GM100 celebrations, we are constructing a new facility, known as "The Living Gallery" within our school grounds. This gallery will serve as a historical narrative, showcasing the rich

heritage of our school through artefacts, videos, and displays. Once the gallery is completed and officially launched, students from both Primary and Secondary classes will have the privilege of visiting it. The hope is to deepen their understanding of our school's history and recognise how through the challenges and circumstances of every era, the school has been instrumental in providing their seniors with a good education. Every generation of GEMS can have the confidence that with God's help and with the care and nurturing of the GM family, they will be prepared to be future-ready to lead, serve and contribute.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Victor Owyong
Principal

**The acronym GEMS encapsulates our school values of Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service, and we affectionately call our students our GEMS as each one of them is so precious.*

(A) SCHOOL CALENDAR AND KEY SCHOOL EVENTS

Term 1 (1 Jan to 8 Mar)	
1 Jan (Mon)	New Year Public Holiday
4-5 Jan (Thu-Fri)	Sec 1-5 Level activities
5 Jan (Fri)	Sec 1 Meet-The-Parents session
10 Jan (Wed), 12 Jan (Fri)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
15 Jan (Mon)	Individual Photo Taking (Sec 1 & 3)
15-18 Jan (Mon-Thu)	Student Health Screening (Sec 1-2)
22-23 Jan (Mon-Tue)	HPV Vaccination (Sec 1-2)
25 Jan (Thu)	Home-Based Learning
26 Jan (Fri)	Focus Friday (General Office will close at 5 pm)
1 Feb (Thu)	Speakers Series (Sec 3)
2 Feb (Fri)	Sec 3 Parent Engagement Meeting
7 Feb (Wed)	Home-Based Learning
9 Feb (Fri)	Chinese New Year Celebrations
10 -13 Feb (Sat-Tue)	Chinese New Year Holidays
14-16 Feb (Wed-Fri)	Total Defence Week
15-22 Feb (Thu-Thu)	Common Tests (Sec 1-5)
20 Feb (Tue)	Home-Based Learning
2 Mar (Sat)	GM100 Family Carnival
4 Mar (Mon)	Home-Based Learning
8 Mar (Fri)	Sec 1 NE Virtual Learning Journey Sec 2 Learning Journey to National Museum Sec 3 ECG Career Exploration Sec 4/5 ECG Fair Eat with your family day (General Office will close at 5 pm)
School Vacation: 9 Mar (Sat) to 17 Mar (Sun)	

(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 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.
- 1.3 The school has a team of personnel in place to support all students. Students can approach these staff 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.
 - Mr Lewis Lam and Ms Lim Soo Ling (School Counsellors) support mental, social and emotional well-being
 - Ms Menaga (SEN Officer) supports students with special educational needs
 - Ms Suma Haridas (ECG Counsellor) advises on educational and career matters
 - Mr Bernard Cheong (Student Welfare Education Officer) advises on motivation and attendance issues.

2 Student Management

- 2.1 We encourage all parents/guardians to work with the school to ensure that your child abides by the School Rules found in the Student Diary 2024. Please remind your child/ward that attendance and punctuality for school/lessons/CCAs are important values. Any student who is unwell and unable to attend school is required to obtain a medical certificate from a registered doctor to validate his/her absence from school. Student should submit the medical certificate to the Form Teacher the following school day as part of responsible behaviour.
- 2.2 All handphones are to be switched off and kept in the lockers in the morning. You can call the General Office at 6746 6503 if you need to contact your child/ward for urgent matters.
- 2.3 All GEMS are expected to maintain good behaviour at all times and especially when they are in school uniform. The school focuses on nurturing good character development and habits, including using time prudently after school. Do encourage your child not to loiter outside and misbehave.

3 Safety & Security and Traffic Advisory

- 3.1 The school places great emphasis on the safety and security of students and staff. To prepare our community for emergencies, the school will conduct regular emergency preparedness drills throughout the year. In Term 1, students will be briefed and participate in an emergency training drill.
- 3.2 For parents/guardians who drive and drop off their child in school, please adhere to the instructions in Annex A and the regulations by the Traffic Police for driving within School Zones. Motorists may be fined for making unauthorised U-turns and for running red traffic lights within School Zones.
- 3.3 For the safety of our students, we encourage all parents/guardians to drop off their child within the school campus through Gate H (along Aljunied Road) which has fully sheltered walkway. 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, this activity will help students deepen bonds with their peers, and enhance their personal effectiveness, team leadership and interpersonal skills.

Date: 4 & 5 Jan (Thu & Fri)

Time: 7.15 am - 3.30 pm (4 Jan) and 7.15 am - 8.30 pm (5 Jan)

Venue: School

2 Sec 1 Parents' Dialogue Session

A dialogue session is planned with the Principal and Key Personnel, ending with the Sec 1 Level Camp finale.

Date: 5 Jan (Fri)

Time: 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Venue: Wesley Hall

Light refreshment will be provided by the PSG at 5.45 pm in the Canteen. Please be seated in the Wesley Hall by 6.20 pm.

3 Sec 1 Online Consent for Health & Dental Services

Health Promotion Board (HPB) will be conducting its annual health screening, immunization and dental services for your child.

Health Screening: 16 - 18 Jan

HPV Vaccination: 22 - 23 Jan (only for female students)

Dental Screening: 18 - 21 Mar

Your consent is needed by 14 Jan. Log into <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg>.

4 Sec 1 House Training

Organized by the House Committee, this programme will foster a strong house culture and GEMS will have many opportunities to represent their houses in sporting and non-sporting activities in their years in GM.

Day: 15 Feb (Thu)

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm

Venue: School

5 Sec 2 Level Activity

A 2-day-1-night programme is planned for Sec 2 to help:

(i) Enhance their self-motivation and self-management

(ii) Overcome challenges and develop resilience, learning from unfamiliar experiences and reflection.

(iii) Build good relationships and be active contributors.

Date: 4 & 5 Jan (Thu & Fri)

Time: 7.15 am (4 Jan) – 3.00 pm (5 Jan)

Venue: School, Sentosa

A packing list will be shared with the students at a later date. If there are dietary requirements and/or medical information, please share with the form teachers through your child on 2 Jan (Tue).

6 Sec 2 Cohort Leadership Training

Students will undergo a leadership training session on 29 Feb (Thu) from 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm in their respective classrooms to develop their leadership capabilities to prepare them for future leadership roles. This training will focus on peer leadership, influencing each other positively and encouraging the heart.

7 Sec 2 Subject Combination Briefing for Students and Parents

Information on the subject combinations offered in Sec 3 (2025), criteria for the subjects, allocation process and some pointers will be shared via PG in March for parents and students to make informed decisions.

8 Sec 2 Learning Journey to National Museum

This will take place on 8 March. The students will be divided into two groups to visit the museum at the following timing:

- Group 1: 9 am to 11 am
- Group 2: 12 pm to 2 pm

Students will report directly to the museum and be dismissed from there. They will not need to report to school. More information of the learning journey will be provided closer to the day.

9 Sec 3 Level Activity

The school will conduct a 2-day programme to lay strong foundations for Sec 3 students. The activities will help them adapt to their new classes and the demands of upper secondary years. Reflections will be a key component of their learning as they internalise the lessons learnt from the experiences. Please inform the form teachers through your child on 2 Jan (Tues) if there are special dietary requirements and/or medical information.

Date: 4 & 5 Jan (Thu & Fri)

Time: 7.15 am to 12.45 pm

Venue: School, Pasir Ris Park

10 Sec 3 GEMS Challenge

This is an extension of the Student-Initiated Learning Programme (SIL) that students went through in lower secondary. There are 9 challenges available in 2024. These will challenge their physical, cognitive and aesthetics domains and deepen their mastery in an area of interest. Students are strongly encouraged to indicate their choices (from 8 to 12 Jan) and they will be informed of the allocated challenge by 19 Jan.

11 Sec 3 Parents' Engagement Session

This is intended to provide parents with key information as they engage with the Principal and Key Personnel.

Date: 2 Feb (Fri)

Time: 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Venue: Wesley Hall

Light refreshment will be provided. Parents are requested to be seated by 6.20 pm so that the programme can begin on time. More details will be given nearer to the date.

12 Sec 4 Level Activity

'Laying Strong Foundations - Preparing for the Future' is a 2-day programme to prepare students for tertiary education and career planning. It will help them discover their identity and purpose in life and learn basic skills for interview and portfolio creation.

Date: 4 & 5 Jan (Thu & Fri)

Time: 7.15 am to 12 pm

Venue: School

13 Sec 5 Level Activity

The theme of this 2-day programme is 'Laying Strong Foundations - Preparing for the Future' to help our Sec 5 students develop greater self-motivation and good time management skills to reach their potential.

Date: 4 & 5 Jan (Thu & Fri)

Time: 7.15 am to 12 pm

Venue: School

14 Sec 4 Level Activity (Make-up Session for GEMS Leaders)

GEMS Leaders will be involved in the Sec 1 Level Camp from 4 to 5 Jan. As such, a make-up session is specially arranged for them.

Date: 1 Feb (Thu)

Time: 2.45 pm to 5.45 pm

Venue: School

(D) HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1. GM100 Family Carnival

As part of the GM100 celebrations, we will be organizing a Family Carnival on 2 Mar (Sat) from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm. Parents are welcome to this event and to support your child. Entry ticket to the Carnival is priced reasonably and can be used to redeem two sets of snacks, one drink and two games at the Carnival. More details will be shared nearer the date.

2 CCA Matters

2.1 CCA is an integral part of education and provides a platform for students to develop their character, learn values, practise social emotional competencies and other relevant skills to prepare them for future challenges. CCAs will commence from 2 Jan (Tue) for all Sec 2 to 5.

2.2 The schedule for Sec 1 is as follows:

Phase 1	CCA Fair cum Trials (compulsory) 10 Jan (Wed) 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm 12 Jan (Fri) 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm
Phase 2	CCA Try-outs from 13 - 19 Jan (Sat-Fri)
Phase 3	Online CCA option from 19 - 21 Jan (Fri-Sun)
Phase 4	CCA allocation - 26 Jan (Fri)

CCA for Sec 1 will officially begin from 29 Jan (Mon). Appeals for changes in CCAs can only be done in Term 1 Week 10 and is subject to vacancies.

3 Home-Based Learning (HBL)

Complementing physical classroom teaching, fortnightly HBL can help students learn to be more self-directed and independent. . The first session will begin on 25 Jan (Thu). Students without a computing device can submit a request to loan a Chromebook from the school via the ICT Helpline (<https://go.gov.sg/ict-helpline>).

4 After-School Engagement Programme

A variety of activities are offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students.

Date: Mondays (Starts 15 Jan. You can refer to the calendar on the school's website for details.

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm

Venues: Music Room (Dance), Dance Room (Guitar), SPR 403 (Cajon), Shelter Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)

5 Student Leadership

5.1 Class Committee Training will be conducted for Sec 1 to 5 on 18 Jan (Thu) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm. All Sec 2 to 5 will report to the Lecture Theatre and the Sec 1 will report to SPR 101. All Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Media Resource Reps will attend the training.

5.2 Class Committee Training (Sustainability) will be conducted on 15 Feb (Thu) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm. Selected students will be notified nearer the date.

5.3 Sec 1 House Training facilitation will be held on 15 Feb (Thu) from 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm. House Committee members involved will be notified nearer the date.

5.4 Student Council attends a monthly meeting to hone their leadership competencies to lead the school as they serve. More details will be shared with parents.

5.5 Training for Peer Ambassadors or Peer Support Leaders will be held as follows:

- Sec 2 and 3 Peer Ambassadors: 18 Jan, 7 Mar (2.45 pm to 4.15 pm)
- Sec 4 and 5 Peer Ambassadors: 18 Jan (2.45 pm to 4.15 pm)

6 Values in Action (VIA) Programmes

VIA programmes aim to develop students to be caring citizens. As part of the GM100 celebrations, we are embarking on 100 Acts of Service together with GMS(P), PSG, Alumni and various stakeholders. These are a series of community projects to bless the community.

All students will prepare hampers during Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations on 9 Feb (Fri). These hampers will be delivered to various beneficiaries and social agencies by teachers and members from the Alumni and PSG.

Sec 3s will continue to work with Senior Activity Centres in Geylang Town. Some activities include bringing the seniors to the CNY celebrations, GM Family Carnival on 2 Mar (Sat) or excursions to places of interest.

Date	Event	Students involved
9 Feb	CNY engagement with seniors at GMS(S)	Sec 3 VIA leaders
22 & 29 Feb	VIA Preparations	All Sec 3 classes
2 Mar	GM100 Family Carnival	Selected Sec 3 classes
5 & 6 Mar	VIA engagement at SACs	Selected Sec 3 classes

7 Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Matters

Sec 4E/5 Open House Visits

Polytechnic Open Houses will be held physically from 4 to 6 Jan (Thu to Sat). For Junior Colleges, please refer to the respective school websites for more information. A one-way transport will be

provided for students who have signed up for the following Open Houses and they will be dismissed from there.

4 Jan (Thu) 1.30 pm	5 Jan (Fri) 1.30 pm	10 Jan (Wed) 2.15 pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngee Ann Polytechnic • Temasek Polytechnic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore Polytechnic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Chinese Junior College

Sec 4/5 ECG Fair

The annual ECG fair will be held on 8 Mar (Fri). Speakers from Polytechnics, ITE, JCs and various industries will share pertinent information with our graduating cohort. Students will attend talks of their interest. Sec 4NT will visit ITE College East on the same day. More information will be shared.

Sec 3 Career Exploration

The annual career exploration day will be held on 8 Mar (Fri). Sec 3 students will go through a series of experiential activities conducted by various industrial professionals to understand more about the industries represented. More details will be shared closer to the date.

8 National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) and the PLD Initiative

NDLP was launched in 2020 to make digital learning inclusive by equipping students with digital skills to be future-ready. Every secondary school student will own a school-prescribed personal learning device (PLD) and they may use funds from their Edusave Account to pay for it. The use of the PLD for teaching and learning will:

- support the development of digital literacy in our students
- support self-directed and collaborative learning and
- enhance teaching and learning

You may refer to our school website for resources to support your child as they learn with their PLD: <https://www.geylangmethodistsec.moe.edu.sg/parents/PDLP/>

For Sec 1: The school has chosen the Chromebook (Lenovo 500e Gen 4) as the students' PLD. This will come with a 3-year insurance and warranty and cost about \$539 (w/o GST). Students can tap on their Edusave to pay for the PLD. More information on the procurement will be provided soon. For Sec 2-5 students: They are reminded to use their PLDs responsibly. A fully charged PLD should be brought to school daily so that optimal learning can take place. As the PLD is bundled with a 3-year insurance and warranty, students should report any loss/damage/defects immediately using the ICT Helpline (<https://go.gov.sg/ict-helpline>).

9 MOE's Sexuality Education

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 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 (Mon). 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 and Literature

The English Reading Programme aims to nurture a love for reading in our students. Consistent reading enhances language proficiency and empowers students to excel in subjects requiring broad content knowledge and strong language skills. Students will subscribe to educational magazines such as iThink, Inspire, iMag, and iKnowledge. These materials from established publishers complement classroom lessons by helping students expand their general knowledge, cultivate their critical thinking skills and enrich their perspectives on the world.

Secondary 1 Literature Alternative Assessment: Students will be embarking on a Literature project for their Common Test 1. The deadline for submission is Term 1 Week 5. More details will be provided by the respective subject teachers.

2 Mother Tongues (MT)

All students offering Tamil Language will have to register for their classes with Umar Pulavar Language Centre and inform Mdm Li Ping (SH MT)/Mr Neo Ping Leng (HOD MT) of their lesson timing.

Students taking a 3rd language, those posted to MSP and CSP Zonal Centres will have to refer to the respective school website for instructions on registration. Students posted to MOE Language Centres (Bishan and Newton) will also need to complete the registration via the website at moelc.moe.edu.sg. Students are expected to attend lessons regularly at these centres.

For students exempted from MT, they will report to a designated venue in school during curriculum time for self-revision.

3 Mathematics

Sec 1-3 students will have the opportunity to apply the concepts learnt in real-life applications in sustainability-related topics. This alternative assessment will count towards the marks for Common Test 1 and provide students with a platform to collaborate and harness technology in the learning of Mathematics within and beyond the classroom. For selected students, they will subscribe to an interactive IT-learning platform that complements Home-Based Learning lessons to develop greater self-directedness in them. 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 on projects related to Environmental Science and Sustainability.

5 Humanities

The Humanities Inquiry Approach is adopted for all 3 Humanities - Geography, History and Social Studies. It establishes a common understanding of how Inquiry-based learning (IBL) can take place. IBL promotes student-centred and collaborative learning as it creates opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning rather than passively receiving information. Students work in pairs/teams to support each other and this helps to develop students' critical and reasoning skills, knowledge construction and deepen learning, which are all critical skills in the 21st Century. IBL also ties in aptly with our school's vision to develop our students to become Passionate Learners, Courageous Leaders, Caring Citizens.

Alternative Assessment: As part of IBL and in developing 21st Century Competencies in students, alternative assessments will be used to gauge students' learning and mastery of concepts and skills in the following Humanities Subjects: Sec 1 Geography and History, Sec 3 Core Geography and Geography Elective. More details will be shared by the respective subject teachers and the grades obtained will constitute grades for Common Test 1 in Term 1.

In addition to the above, various investigations for the 3 subjects will also take place from Term 2 to Term 3. These details will be shared from the middle of Term 1. Grades obtained from these investigations will be used for Common Test 3 in Term 3.

Geographical Investigation for Sec 1 - Sec 3:

Level	Topic
Sec 1 G2/G3	Water: Through this inquiry process, students will understand Singapore's vulnerability due to its limited water supply and appreciate the ingenuity taken by various stakeholders (both public and private) to manage this resource in a sustainable way to improve our water security.
Sec 2 Exp/N(A)	Housing and transport: Through this inquiry process, students will better appreciate the uniqueness of the neighbourhood, the transportation system and public housing scheme, and how these are thoughtfully planned to cater to the diverse needs of the population in an inclusive and sustainable manner.
Sec 3 Exp/N(A) Elective Geography & Core Geography	Sense of Place and sustainability in our neighbourhood: Students will explore their respective neighbourhoods to determine how sustainable their area is. They will use various data collection and representation methods to test the validity of their hypothesis statement and link their research topics to the Singapore Green Plan 2030 to address sustainability.

Historical Investigation for Sec 1 and 2: Students will investigate a historical Issue, identify, compare, analyse, and explore multiple sources and perspectives to arrive at some historical interpretations.

Level	Topic
Sec 1 (G2/G3)	Experiences and contributions of early migrants in Singapore: Students will understand and appreciate the life and experiences of the early migrants, their struggles as well as their contributions which continue to impact Singapore today.
Sec 2 Exp/N(A)	Significant events in Singapore in the 1950s-1960s and how they shape they impact the political, economic and social development aspects, as well as Singapore's road to independence.

Issues Investigation for Sec 3 Social Studies: Students will embark on a project in Term 2 to investigate societal issues on Sustainability, the various approaches Singapore has undertaken to safeguard sustainability, and their impacts. They will also suggest ways in which individuals like themselves can make a difference, alongside government and non-government efforts. The investigation will help students understand better what it means to be an informed, concerned and participative citizen in a world facing resource depletion and global warming.

Sec 3 Speakers Series Programme: These are talks organised to engage speakers from various segments of society. This helps students to better understand and appreciate how the concepts and issues in the Upper Secondary Social Studies syllabus relate to real life and how they can play a part in contributing to society. The first session will be held on 1 Feb and the second session on 21 Mar.

Sec 1 National Education Learning Journey on 8 Mar: This programme is organized to engage students in an inquiry on Singapore's early history. This would help them better appreciate how Singapore was like in the past, the life and experiences of early migrants, their struggles and contributions. Acquiring knowledge of the interconnections between local, regional and global developments allows students to understand the impact of external forces on domestic developments, and how individuals can contribute to the community, nation and world. Such an appreciation encourages students to reflect on their identity, and at the same time take active roles in improving the lives of others.

6 **Food & Consumer Education (FCE), Design and Technology (D&T) and Art**

These are examinable Common Curriculum subjects at Lower Secondary. These subjects give students more opportunities to interact and learn with classmates of different strengths and interests. Teachers adopt a range of teaching approaches to meet the different learning needs and pace of their students in the class. Lessons conducted in the Food Laboratory, Design Studios and Art Rooms involve hands-on sessions where students have to abide by safety rules. Our subject teachers will brief students on these rules when they start working in these special rooms.

Sec 2 FCE: In-house culinary sessions will be conducted once a term to provide opportunities for students to discover their interest and hone their culinary skills. These hands-on sessions will enhance their competencies in food preparation and promote greater joy of learning. Due to limited space in the Food Laboratory, only 16 places are available per session. More details will be provided nearer the date.

(F) ASSESSMENT MATTERS

1 Assessment is integral to teaching and learning as it helps to monitor students' learning processes, ascertain their holistic development, and provide timely intervention and support. Besides 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.

2 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%
Sec 4/5	15%	15%	Preliminary Examinations (70%)	-	100%

3 For certain subjects like History, Geography, D&T, FCE, 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	Common Test	Semestral Assessment	Total
D&T/ Sec 1 & 2	20%	80%	100%
FCE/ Sec 1 & 2	30%	70%	100%

Students who are absent from any assessments should provide a medical certificate to their subject teachers upon return.

4 National Examination Matters

Registration for the GCE O-Level and N-Level will commence in February. Form Teachers and Subject Teachers will assist the students in the registration process. Do remind your child to be familiar with the subject codes of the subjects he/she will be sitting for.

(G) PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

1 Geylang Methodist Chinese Church (GCMC)

GMS(S) is a mission school and 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

Parents and ex-students of GMS are invited to the GM100 Centennial Dinner.

Venue: Orchard Hotel

Date: 6 Apr 2024

Price: \$150 per pax or \$1500 per table

Enquiries: 98150790/ 93664403/ 93876607 (Whatsapp)

Alumni are inviting interested participants to work with the schools on 100 Acts of Service. A presentation will be shared during the dinner to invite ex-students to take part.

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

3 Parent Support Group (PSG)

Parents are encouraged to volunteer as PSG members. To sign up, you can either scan the following QR code or email the PSG EXCO at kong_niesg@yahoo.com.sg.



These events will be organized in Term 1: PSG Tea Party (20 Jan), and Parent Talk 1 on Intentional Parenting (3 Feb). More details will be shared via Parents Gateway nearer the dates.

(H) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1 Adjustment of prices for school canteen food

In the light of rising food costs, the school has reviewed the prices of food and drinks sold in the canteen. After much careful deliberation, we seek your understanding that a small increase ranging from \$0.20 to \$0.50 will be implemented when school re-opens. The adjusted prices are within MOE's recommended price range and sustainable for our canteen vendors to continue operating. The school will ensure that students who need financial assistance will be provided with the MOE FAS school meal subsidy. If you need additional clarification, please contact our school at 67466503.

2 Parents Gateway

Parents Gateway (PG), a mobile app that runs on both Android and IOS devices, is developed by MOE GovTech specially for parents. It is our school's main online communication platform with parents. For parents who are not onboard PG, do download the PG app on your mobile phone. For further support, parents can also refer to the Frequently Asked Questions at MOE PG - website (<https://pg.moe.edu.sg/faq>) for more information.

3 Payment for Enrichment Programmes organised by School

Students who are Singapore Citizen and have authorised the use of their Edusave funds for MOE-approved fees or enrichment programmes, the co-payment amount will be deducted from the student's Edusave account. If there are insufficient funds in the Edusave account, the shortfall can be settled using GIRO if they have established a standing order for payment. Otherwise, payments need to be made via SAM station/SAM Mobile App.

For students who are non-Singapore Citizens, and students without an Edusave account, they would need to establish a GIRO Standing Order for payments. Do maintain sufficient funds in your bank account for GIRO deductions. Otherwise, payments can be made via SAM station/SAM Mobile App.

For more information and Standing Order application form, please visit the MOE website at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/edusave-account/usage-of-edusave-funds>

4 Launch of MOE eGIRO Sign Up Service

Parents can apply for payment of school and miscellaneous fees through GIRO. The same GIRO arrangement will also be extended for payment of enrichment programmes, school charges, and deduction of national examination fees, e.g. GCE Examinations, where applicable.

Parents are encouraged to sign up for eGIRO through the MOE website: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/fees/egiro>

END