



Vision: Nurturing Empowered, Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose

Mission: Care. Lead. Inspire. Partner.

Values: GratITUDE, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, Trustworthiness.

HS PC 2026 Issue 4

13 September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We welcome your child/ward back to the new school term! We hope you and your family have had a restful break to recharge and spend quality time together.

As we begin the final term, we are all mindful that this period includes important examinations. We seek your help to keep a close eye on your child's/ward's well-being during this time, ensuring he/she maintains a healthy balance between study and rest. Let's work together in partnership to ensure your child/ward receives adequate sleep and feels mentally and emotionally prepared for the busy period ahead. Should you have any concerns about your child's/ward's well-being or if he/she needs additional support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our school counsellor is available to meet with students who may benefit from extra guidance during this period.

Here are the key programmes and activities to note for Term 4.

1. School Structures and Programmes

1.1 No Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days in Term 4

There will be no HBL days in Term 4. All Secondary 1, 2, 3 and 4 students will attend school on all school days.

1.2 Study Break for Secondary 4

In preparation for the national examinations, study break for Secondary 4N(A) and 4N(T) students will commence on Monday, 28 September 2026.

For Secondary 4E5N students, their study break will commence on Monday, 5 October 2026.

1.3 Marking Days for Secondary 1 to 3

Marking Days for Secondary 1 to 3 will be on Tuesday, 6 October 2026 and Wednesday, 7 October 2026. Secondary 1 to 3 students need not report to school on these two days.

1.4 Inspire@HS Series 3

Inspire@HS for Secondary 1 to 3 students will take place over four days, from Monday, 19 October 2026 to Thursday, 22 October 2026. Please look out for more information via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

1.5 Parents-Teachers Meet (PTM) for Secondary 1 to 3

The end-of-year PTM will take place on Friday, 23 October 2026. Please look out for more information via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

- 1.6 2027 Subject Combination Exercise for Secondary 2
2027 Subject combination Exercise for Secondary 2 students will take place from Monday, 19 October 2026 to Monday, 26 October 2026, noon. Please look out for more information via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

- 1.7 Resumption of CCA for Secondary 1 to 3
To allow students sufficient time to prepare for their upcoming End-of-Year Examinations, all CCAs have stood down since Tuesday, 1 September 2026. CCAs will resume after the examinations, on Friday, 9 October 2026.

Selected CCAs may have training sessions, camps, or preparations for the upcoming School Open House during the school holidays. Please refer to the respective CCA teachers' notifications, which will be shared via Parents Gateway.

- 1.8 October Holidays Extended Curriculum Time
Secondary 3 students will attend Extended Curriculum Time on Monday, 26 October 2026 and Tuesday, 27 October 2026. The sessions will reinforce key concepts and complete the remaining syllabus, helping students identify their strengths and areas for improvement following the End-of-Year Examination. The detailed schedule and arrangements have been shared with parents/guardians via Parents Gateway in Term 3.

- 1.9 2027 Secondary 3 Camp
The Secondary 3 Camp next year will be held from Wednesday, 6 January 2027 to Friday, 8 January 2027 during the GREAT Start Week. The camp aims to deepen class spirit and camaraderie amongst students and with their Character Coaches. We will conduct a briefing to the Secondary 2 students in October 2026 to prepare them for the camp. Parents/guardians will receive more information via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

2. Examination Matters

- 2.1 School Examination Dates

Examination	Level	Dates
End-of-Year	Secondary 1, 2 and 3	24 September – 5 October

- 2.2 National Examination Dates (for graduating students)

Please refer to the table below for the dates of the national examinations. Your child/ward is expected to refer to their individual entry proof for details of his/her own examination. Please refer to the SEAB website for details of the national examination schedules. (<https://www.seab.gov.sg/>)

GCE O-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	13 July – 17 July
CL / ML / TL	13 July – 17 July

EL	13 July – 17 July
HCL / HML / HTL	13 July – 17 July
Foreign Languages	22 July – 4 August
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	23 September (PM)
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
CL / ML / TL	7 July (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	7 July (PM)
EL	15 October (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	15 October (PM)
Practical Examination	
Higher Music / Music Performing	22 September – 25 September
Computing	7 October
Science	30 September – 13 October
Written Examination	
Mid-Year CL / ML / TL	2 June (AM)
Mid-Year CLB / MLB / TLB	2 June (AM)
GCE O-Level Exam	19 October – 10 November

GCE N-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
EL Syll A	13 July – 17 July (PM)
EL Syll T	13 July – 17 July (PM)
CL / ML / TL / BCL / BML / BTL	13 July – 17 July
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
EL Syll A	15 September (PM)
BCL / BML / BTL	15 September (PM)
EL Syll T	16 September (PM)
CL / ML / TL	16 September (PM)
Practical Examination	
Computer Applications	18 September (AM)

	24 September (AM)
Written Examination	
GCE N-Level Exam	14 September – 22 September
	5 October – 13 October

- 2.3 Early Dismissal of Students for National Listening Comprehension Examination
The **GCE N-Level English and Mother Tongue Languages Listening Comprehension Examinations** will take place in the afternoons of 15 September and 16 September 2026 via e-broadcast. In view of this national examination, all Secondary 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm.

The **GCE O-Level English and Mother Tongue Basic Languages Listening Comprehension Examinations** will take place in the afternoon of 15 October 2026 via e-broadcast. In view of this national examination, all Secondary 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm.

3. Student Well-Being and Pupil Management Matters

3.1 Advisory on Vaping

E-vaporisers and etomidate e-vaporisers pose serious harm to users and are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components.

The Government had announced that there would be stronger enforcement and stricter penalties against vaping from 1 September 2025. This includes the classification of Etomidate as a Class C drug which will allow for stronger enforcement measures, penalties and rehabilitation programmes. This will include prosecution and a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years for etomidate abusers.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has also stipulated baseline (i.e. minimum) disciplinary measures for schools. We would like to share with you our school's approach to this important issue.

Our School-Based Disciplinary Measures:

- Our school's disciplinary measures for vaping are aligned to MOE's stipulated baselines and would include internal and external suspension, and caning (for boys). These school-based consequences are in addition to national penalties (fines) and rehabilitation programmes.
- For students caught vaping, the school will mete out the disciplinary measures, adjust the conduct grade, and take educative and rehabilitative measures.

Approach to Providing Support:

- All students caught vaping for the first time will receive mandatory counselling from our School Counsellor.
- Students who voluntarily seek help will not face disciplinary actions.
- We will engage parents/guardians directly and work together throughout any intervention.

Prevention Efforts:

- The school will continue our anti-vaping education efforts through assembly programmes, lessons, and peer support initiatives to help students understand the serious health and legal risks of vaping.

Support to Quit Vaping:

- Those who voluntarily seek help will not face any penalties nor have the offence recorded.
- However, if the individual is separately caught for vaping, penalties under the various laws will be meted out and there will be an offence record.
- If you have concerns about your child/ward or need support, please contact the school directly.

How to Talk to Your Child About Vaping

While the school plays its part in addressing vaping, parents and guardians are equally important in guiding your child. Having open and honest conversations at home can make a real difference. Here are three simple approaches to help you get started:

- **Be Casual:** You can bring up the topic casually, such as if you and your child see vaping content on social media, a vape report on the news, or someone vaping.
- **Be Curious:** Ask your child what they know or think about vaping. You might be surprised by how much they already know. Thank them for sharing their thoughts and foster an open dialogue.
- **Be Candid:** Then, share your own feelings about vaping in a simple and open way. For example, you could say, "When I see people vaping, I worry about their health. Vaping has a lot of health risks and it's not worth it. I want to help you figure out what to do if someone offers you a vape."

Parents/guardians are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your child/ward about vaping to prevent it from becoming a lifelong habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>. Additional resources from Families for Life can also be found at <https://file.go.gov.sg/parents-guide-vaping.pdf>

3.2 Addressing Hurtful Behaviour

The Ministry of Education conducted Focused Group Discussions with students from Primary and Secondary Schools, and Junior Colleges regarding parents' support in addressing hurtful behaviour. Across the board, students articulated the role that they would like parents to play, and these are some of the major themes that came across for parents to consider.

- "We see you as our **trusted adult** - someone we can turn to for **emotional support and advice**."
- "We want you to **partner** our teachers, working together with them to tackle bullying effectively."
- "We value your **guidance**, but we'd like you to **step in directly only when things get really serious**."
- "We need **space to handle everyday conflicts ourselves** - it helps us build problem-solving skills."

What can parents do when their child encounters a bullying incident?

➤ If your child is bullied

Remain calm to assess the situation and provide emotional support to your child.

Have a conversation with them using **C.H.E.E.R.** as a guide to understand what they are experiencing.

- **C**alm them down. Speak in a gentle tone.

- **H**ear them out. Lend them a listening ear.
- **E**mpathise with and acknowledge their feelings.
- **E**ncourage them to seek help.
- **R**eassure them that you will always be there to support them and listen to their problems.

➤ If your child is the bully

Remain calm and try to find out more from them. You can:

- **Ask questions** to understand what happened.
- Let them know that bullying is unacceptable. **Encourage them to apologise sincerely and make amends** to repair relationships.
- **Monitor** their online activities (if relevant), for e.g., their social media posts.
- Reach out for **extra support from school**.

If your child is a bystander

- It is important for them to feel **safe** and **supported**. You can guide your child to take on **upstanding behaviours** and **look out for friends in need**.
- Ask your child whether they want you to **listen**, to **help with more ideas about what to do** or **help them to report the incident**.
- Remind your child **not to like, share, record or repost** the message or media if the act is surfaced online.
- Let your child know that **it is okay if they don't feel safe or confident to stand up to bullying**. Brainstorm with them on **ways they can support the victim**, for e.g., go with another friend to report to the teacher.

3.3 Use of iPads (Reminder)

iPads may be used during curriculum time for learning purposes. During classroom lessons where iPads are not required for learning, they should be put away. Students should follow their teachers' instructions on "screens up" and "screens down". If iPads are used inappropriately during curriculum time, disciplinary actions will be meted out accordingly. **iPads brought to school for use must be installed with MOE's Device Management Application (DMA). Any PLDs found without the DMA installed will have to be promptly installed with the DMA. Students are reminded to refer to the Student Handbook (Pages 14 to 18) on the acceptable use of EdTech resources and responsibilities in using the Personal Learning Devices.**

3.4 Use of Mobile Phones (Reminder)

For effective teaching and learning to take place, we need to set boundaries for our students in our mobile device policy. Mobile phones may be used only during these timings:

- Before 7:30am
- After the last period of curriculum time (3:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm on Wednesdays and 12:30pm on Fridays)

We would like to emphasise that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones during recess. Students are to store their phones in their personal lockers before 7:30am and to retrieve them after the last period of curriculum time (3:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm on Wednesdays and 12:30pm on Fridays). During curriculum time, mobile phones are expected to be out of sight. This includes during the change-over of lessons and while students are walking along the corridor.

Phone use is also prohibited during CCA and Structured Consultation Time.

If the mobile device policy is violated, the mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and kept under lock and key in the General Office. For the first and second offence (for the year), the phone will be confiscated up till 5:00pm on that day. For the third offence and above (for the year), the phone will be confiscated and kept under lock and key in the General Office every day from 7:30am till 5:00pm for five days.

3.5 Punctuality (Reminder)

Students who are late to school on two or more occasions are required to serve detention after school on the same day, during which they will engage in self-study, reading and/or Corrective Work Order. All students required to serve detention must do so on the actual date of offence regardless of involvement in competitions, tuition classes, remedial sessions or CCAs. Recalcitrant students who do not respond positively to the school's intervention measures may face other disciplinary actions such as in-school/home suspension or caning (for boys).

3.6 Maintaining Good Behaviour at All Times (Reminder)

The school places great emphasis on inculcating good habits in our students, such as the prudent use of time. As such, we would like to emphasise that students are not to loiter and misbehave in the neighbourhood after school. We urge you to strongly advise your child/ward to behave appropriately at all times, especially while he/she is in school uniform.

3.7 Attire and Grooming (Reminder)

The school's grooming and attire policy is aimed at educating Hougeans to look smart and presentable at all times. Having proper attire and grooming is an outward expression of students' readiness to learn. It is also important as it signifies the pride that students have for themselves and the school. To achieve the above intent, grooming and attire checks are carried out periodically throughout the year.

If the students' grooming and attire are not appropriate, a grace period of 2 days will be given for rectification with a follow-up check. Students who fail the follow-up check will be sent home to have the grooming issue(s) rectified, and parents/guardians will be informed.

Students are to wear the full school uniform with school tie on Mondays when they report to school. On days where there are PE lessons, students are required to report to school in their school shirt/blouse, Polo t-shirt, PE T-shirt or CCA T-shirt with pants/skorts. They are not allowed to report to school in PE shorts. If they wish to, students can choose to wear their PE shorts under their pants/skorts instead. They are allowed to wear PE attire only during PE lessons.

3.8 Using Students' Images/ Recordings for Publications (Reminder)

The school will be using students' images and/or recordings for school publicity. Should parents/guardians have any concerns, kindly inform the school through your child/ward's Character Coaches.

4. Valuing Teachers and Staff

4.1 Communication with Teachers

In line with the Ministry of Education's Five-Day Work Week, parents/guardians are encouraged to respect teachers' personal time and space. Teachers can be contacted during weekdays between 7:30am and 6:00pm. They are not expected to respond to parents/students' queries during weekends or after 6:00pm on weekdays except for emergencies. We seek your understanding and support on this.

All teachers' email addresses are available on the school's website for your convenience. Parents/Guardians can also contact the General Office (Tel: 6385 1990) for further assistance.

5. Parent Support Group (PSG)

5.1 Volunteering as a Parent Support Group Member

We continue to encourage parents of Hougang Secondary School to volunteer as PSG members. You may find out more in the 'Partners' section of the school website or email the PSG Executive Committee at hss.psg@gmail.com.

5.2 School Leaders-Parent Support Group Meeting

We warmly invite parents to join our School Leaders-Parent Support Group meetings, where parents can engage in meaningful dialogue with our School Leaders. The upcoming meeting will be held in school on:

- Saturday, 7 November 2026, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

We welcome all interested parents to register at hss.psg@gmail.com at least two weeks before the meeting date. We look forward to your participation.

Contact of Key Personnel

Should you have queries on the matters listed in this newsletter, please contact the following Key Personnel in-charge:

1.1	Mr Javen Gwee (HOD / ICT & Data Management)	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
1.2, 1.5	Mr Elangovan (YH / Secondary 4)	6372 6662 (Ext: 662)
1.6	Ms Tracy Huang (HOD / Mathematics)	6372 6661 (Ext: 661)
1.7, 1.9	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD / PE & CCA)	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
1.8	Mdm Li Huilin (HOD / Humanities)	6372 6657 (Ext: 657)
1.3, 2.2, 2.3	Mdm S Chitradevi (HOD / English Language & Literature)	6372 6663 (Ext: 663)
2.1	Ms Cheng Sze Mei Carmen (HOD / Mother Tongue Language)	6372 6664 (Ext: 664)
2	Mr Low Yi En (HOD / Pupil Management)	6372 6659 (Ext: 659)
4	Mrs Tan Wei Jing (SH / Partnership & Outreach)	6372 6668 (Ext: 297)

Do scan the QR code below to access our Instagram page and follow us to get regular updates on school activities!



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