

XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

Own Our Growth



@xinminss

Xinmin Secondary School
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds



Semester 2 2026



On 23 April, Xinmin Secondary School came together for our 81st Speech Day, celebrating the achievements, talents and growth of our students. We were especially honoured to welcome back one of our own — Mr Song Yihang, an alumnus from the Class of 2013 and an accomplished legal professional who is currently a Senior Associate at Drew & Napier LLC.

The day was filled with celebration as students were recognised for their accomplishments in academics, co-curricular activities and leadership. Our Choir and Chinese Dance also added vibrancy to the occasion with their lively performances.

Speech Day was also a special homecoming for our alumni, who returned to reconnect with their alma mater, teachers and friends. The L.E.A.D. Award was presented to Timothy Lim Sheuan Horng, who reflected on his journey in Xinmin and encouraged students to embrace challenges and take ownership of their growth.

It was a meaningful celebration of growth, community, and success, bringing the Xinmin family together to honour our students and celebrate their journeys. As we look ahead, we hope our students will continue to grow with purpose and make a positive impact wherever they go.



Special Award Winners

L.E.A.D AWARD and Valedictorian

Chew Peng Leng Scholarship

Chew Peng Leng Scholarship

Chew Peng Leng Award for Exemplary Service

Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education (Male)

Yap Fun Hong Award for Sports and Outdoor Education (Female)

Heng Chin Soo Award for Visual, Creative and Performing Arts

Tung Sey Yew Award for Leadership in the Uniformed Groups



- TIMOTHY LIM SHEUAN HORNG (402)
- YAW WEI JIAN, ALBERT (408)
- YAW WEI JIE, ALFRED (408)
- RACHAEL TAN XUAN EN (403)
- TAN SHU DE (402)
- SIM WEI XUAN, JAMIE (402)
- NING HIN SUAN (402)
- SOH SI NING SHANNON (401)



During a Secondary 3 Science lesson, students explored the preparation of salts through an inquiry-based approach. Drawing on their prior knowledge of acid-base reactions, they wrote balanced chemical equations, including ionic equations and state symbols, to identify the reactions involved in salt preparation. They then used these equations to predict whether visible chemical reactions, such as the formation of a precipitate or the release of gas, would occur when different chemicals were mixed.

Students tested their predictions using microscale techniques, such as well plates and droppers, which allowed them to conduct experiments safely while making careful observations of solubility patterns, precipitation and effervescence. By comparing their predictions with experimental results, they developed a deeper understanding of the solubility rules of common salts. They also applied their knowledge and observations to determine suitable methods of obtaining the salts formed, strengthening both their scientific reasoning and practical laboratory skills.

"It was incredibly rewarding to watch my students actively co-constructing knowledge during today's inquiry-based lesson. By leveraging microscale experiments, students were able to explore, question, and discover key concepts firsthand. The streamlined instructions and minimal resource footprint kept transitions quick and setup simple, allowing engagement and curiosity to remain high throughout the activity!" - Ms Ophelia Kee

English Language - Meaning Making

In Secondary 2 English lessons, our students explored strategies for making sense of unfamiliar words as they read various texts. They built on their knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to unlock the meanings of new vocabulary and deepen their understanding of texts.

Students were encouraged to take ownership of their learning by actively constructing meaning, as opposed to receiving definitions directly. Students inferred the meanings of unfamiliar words using affixes and then tested their interpretations by determining whether they made sense within the context of the sentence.

To reinforce these skills, the lesson incorporated a game of Jeopardy, which provided an engaging platform for students to apply their learning. Through this interactive activity, students were challenged not only to recall the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes, but also to explain how affixes modify the meanings of root words in different contexts. The game format encouraged active participation, collaborative discussion and thoughtful reasoning, making students' thinking processes visible.



"I was struck by how quickly the students embraced the challenge, with many immediately going for the Level 500 questions. Their willingness to take risks and test their understanding of unfamiliar words made the Jeopardy format particularly effective in creating an energetic and engaging learning experience. It also provided them with opportunities to apply their knowledge of prefixes and suffixes in context." - Mr Zest Tan



LEADING THE WAY

HUMANITIES TRIP

Our Secondary 3 Humanities students embarked on an enriching learning journey to Vietnam, gaining first-hand insights into the country's history, culture, geography and development.

In Hanoi, students explored significant landmarks such as the Temple of Literature, Imperial Citadel of Thang Long and Hoa Lo Prison Relic, while experiencing local culture through a traditional water puppet show and visits to the Old Quarter and night market. In Ninh Binh, they discovered the region's distinctive karst landscapes through a boat ride and hike, while a cooking lesson and farm stay offered a glimpse into local food traditions and rural life.

The trip also provided opportunities to understand Singapore's connections with Vietnam through visits to the Singapore Embassy in Hanoi and Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park (VSIP) Bac Ninh. The journey concluded with a school immersion, where students interacted with local students and participated in lessons.

Through these experiences, our students broadened their perspectives and developed a deeper appreciation of Vietnam's heritage, people and its close ties with Singapore.



ODAC TRIP

Our Outdoor Adventure Club (ODAC) members embarked on an exciting outdoor adventure to Gunung Belukut, Malaysia, where they challenged themselves through hiking, camping and outdoor living.

The journey began with students setting up camp and preparing for their hike up Gunung Belukut. As they navigated the trails and tackled the physical demands of the hike, they developed resilience, perseverance and teamwork. At the campsite, students also put their outdoor skills into practice through field cooking, equipment maintenance and camp routines.

Beyond the physical challenges, the experience encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones, support one another and take greater responsibility for themselves and their team. Through this immersive experience in the outdoors, our ODAC members returned with strengthened bonds, greater confidence and memorable experiences to share.



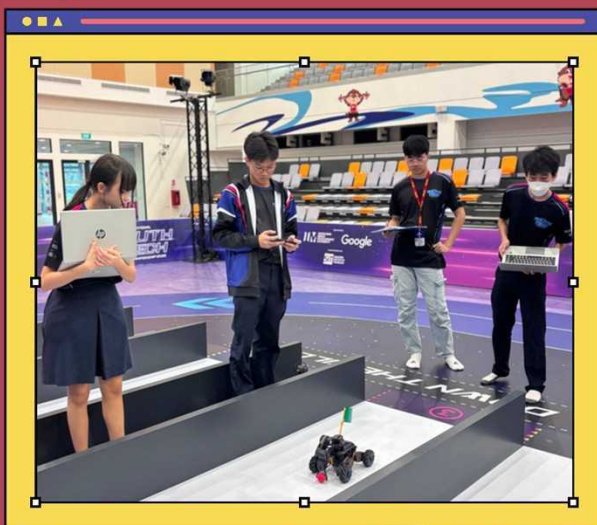
NATIONAL YOUTH TECH CHALLENGE

SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

The National Youth Tech Championship (NYTC) 2026 is a national competition that challenges students to apply robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and programming skills to solve real-world problems. This year's challenge involved AI-powered robots navigating an obstacle course using image recognition, positioning algorithms, and colour recognition.

After 42 hours of intensive training, our Media Club team qualified for the Grand Finals from among the 66 participating schools. They achieved an impressive 5th-place finish, reflecting their resilience, innovation, teamwork, and commitment to excellence. The competition also provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their STEM knowledge and develop future-ready skills.

"Being the captain of this year's NYTC team was exciting and challenging for me. I had to juggle schoolwork, manage the team and the competition, and adapt to a new environment while living in RI Boarding. The competition was indeed fun and rewarding. I was able to learn more about robotics, coding, and strategic thinking, and at the same time bond with my teammates and forge new friendships with participants from other schools. While we hoped to go further in the competition, I am proud of the team for achieving 4th runner-up and NYTC 2026 is an event I certainly will not forget." - Dario Koh (301)



XMS MORNING READING PROGRAMME

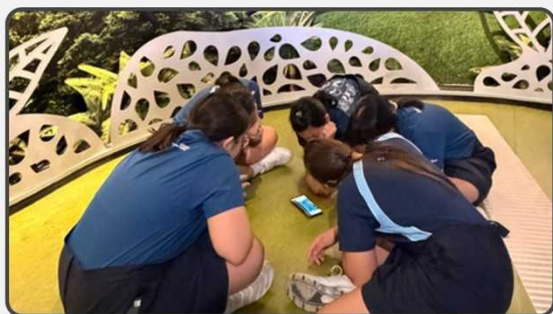
TRANSLATED FROM AN ARTICLE BY MS XUAN XUAN

This year, our school has strengthened its commitment to developing the joy of reading through a school-wide initiative promoting sustained and meaningful engagement with books. Every Thursday and Friday, students and staff participate in 15 minutes of silent reading, fostering a focused and distraction-free environment. The school also provides curated reading materials and alternates between English and Mother Tongue reading periods to encourage a more balanced language development. Beyond the classroom, students also take part in reading challenges featuring activities like book reviews. In doing so, our school seeks to nurture a vibrant reading culture and help students to develop a lifelong love for reading.





SECONDARY 1 GEOGRAPHY LEARNING JOURNEY



SUBSCRIBE

As part of their Geography learning journey, our Secondary 1 students visited Marina Barrage to deepen their understanding of sustainability and appreciate Singapore's efforts in managing resources responsibly. The experience provided them with valuable opportunities to connect concepts learnt in the classroom with real-world applications.

The learning journey began with an upcycling activity, where students transformed old T-shirts into coasters by cutting, braiding and coiling strips of fabric. Through this hands-on task, students explored how materials can be repurposed instead of discarded, reinforcing the importance of reducing waste and adopting sustainable practices in daily life.



Students also learnt about the role of Marina Barrage in Singapore's water management system. Through interactive discussions and demonstrations, they discovered how excess water is managed during periods of heavy rainfall and gained insights into the infrastructure that supports Singapore's water sustainability efforts.

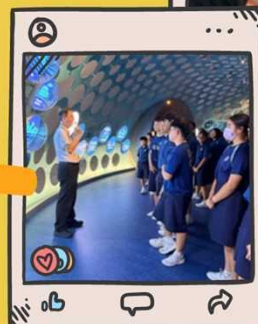
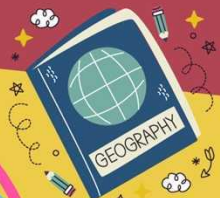


SUBSCRIBE

The visit continued at the Sustainable Singapore Gallery, where students explored exhibits on Singapore's water story, waste management and energy use. Through interactive displays, quizzes and discussions, they examined how sustainability is woven into various aspects of Singapore's development and considered the role individuals can play in creating a more sustainable future.

Beyond enriching their geographical knowledge, the experience also fostered collaboration, curiosity and a greater sense of responsibility towards the environment.

"We played fun quizzes organised by the trainers and passionately discussed our answers with our friends. Overall, I loved the trip to Marina Barrage because I gained new knowledge and got to bond with my classmates through this experience."
- Sofia Humaira (104)





NATIONAL DAY



The school celebrated National Day with a vibrant programme centred on this year's theme, "Majulah Singapura, Go Beyond!" The theme captures the Singapore Spirit of moving forward and challenges us to do better for Singapore, and to care for one another and the wider community.

Beyond the celebrations, students took part in meaningful learning experiences. Secondary 1, 2, 4, and 5 students explored the values in the National Pledge during their CCE lessons, reflecting on how these values are expressed through everyday actions and how they can contribute to a united, resilient and caring Singapore. Secondary 3 students took part in the NRIC Presentation Ceremony, reflecting on citizenship, belonging and their responsibilities as young Singaporeans.



Planned and coordinated by the Secondary 2 and 3 Citizenship Education (CE) Ambassadors, with support from members of the Drama Club, the hall segment opened with a special entrance by the CE Ambassador mascot. Students were then treated to an entertaining skit on the evolution of Singapore's hawker culture, followed by lively games and a mass sing-along that brought everyone together in the National Day spirit.



Through these activities, students gained a deeper understanding of how they can play their part in shaping Singapore's future. Together, we look forward to going beyond and building a stronger Singapore for generations to come.





ALL STAFF DAY



All Staff Day was a meaningful celebration of the people who make up the Xinmin family. The school day began with heartwarming class celebrations, where students took the lead in showing their appreciation for their form teachers. They transformed their classrooms with balloons, streamers and drawings to celebrate their teachers. Some even put in the extra effort to blindfold their teachers to prepare a surprise for them.

The celebrations were filled with laughter and thoughtful gestures. Students organised games that tested how well they knew their teachers, screened appreciation videos, and prepared an assortment of snacks, drinks and homemade bakes to share. Many students also took the opportunity to seek out their subject teachers to personally present them with gifts and words of thanks.

The celebrations continued in the hall with a lively programme of student performances, including singing and dancing, dedicated to our staff. A special video montage also highlighted the many individuals who contribute to the Xinmin community, from teachers and administrative staff to our canteen vendors, cleaners and security officers. Fun and interactive segments, including song and word challenges as well as mystery teacher photos and voice recordings, brought plenty of laughter to the hall.

The day then continued with an All Staff Day lunch at the Reflections Theatre, themed "Around the World". Staff members came dressed as people from different countries and communities, adding colour and excitement to the celebration. Over a delicious spread, colleagues bonded over a Kahoot quiz that tested how well they knew one another, before putting their creativity and teamwork to the test in a building challenge using satay sticks and marshmallows.

With a lucky draw adding to the excitement, the celebration ended on a high note with a whole-staff photograph — a fitting way to capture the shared memories of a day dedicated to celebrating the people who make Xinmin a vibrant and caring community.



VOICES OF XINMIN - OUR STAFF & STUDENT



MR MOHAMED QABEER SULAIMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE

What is one moment or memory from your time in Xinmin that has stayed with you, and why?

My first day in Xinmin remains one of my most memorable moments. The warm welcome I received from my colleagues made me feel at home and, most importantly, like I was already part of the Xinmin family.

What is one lesson that you have learnt from being a part of our school?

The challenges we face at work become much more manageable when we have supportive and wonderful colleagues by our side. Working together and supporting one another makes a big difference.

As you look ahead, what is one hope you have for the Xinmin community?

I hope we will continue to have more fun and less stressful moments together, while creating a positive and enjoyable environment for everyone in the Xinmin family.



TAN YI TING, GWEN (202)
STUDENT LEADER

What does "owning your growth" mean to you as a student leader?

Owning my growth as a student leader means I am responsible for my own actions and knowing the right time to step up in any kind of situation.

What is one area you hope to grow in through your leadership journey?

In this leadership journey, I wish to hone my leadership skills and step out of my comfort zone to serve the school!

How do you hope to help your fellow Xinmin friends grow alongside you?

I hope that I can be a pillar of support for my friends and classmates, helping them when they require assistance. I also hope that the activities that the Student Council holds during recess or events like All Staff Day and Gala Night can help my fellow Xinmin friends to learn about appreciation and also relax during their leisure time through our activities!



VOICES OF THE YOUTH

WRITTEN BY OUR VERY OWN
XINMIN STUDENTS

Beyond Trials: My CCA Experience

BY EUGENIA D ALENA - 104



Stepping into a new school environment can be a whirlwind of nerves and excitement, especially when it comes to finding your place in the vibrant world of Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs). During our trials earlier this year, I had the chance to explore Shooting, Badminton, and Choir, and the experience was nothing short of uplifting. What stood out the most was not the activities themselves, but the incredible culture of support. From the moment I stepped onto the court or into the music room, the teachers were remarkably kind and friendly, making sure everyone felt at ease regardless of their skill level.

The seniors truly led by example, showing us that 'Xinmin spirit' through their patience and encouragement. Whether I was adjusting my aim, perfecting a serve, or finding the right note, they were more than happy to cheer us on and share tips. These trials were more than just a test of ability; they were a warm introduction to a community that celebrates growth. It is clear that in our school, you do not just find a hobby—you find a family that wants to see you thrive!

A Sweet Memory

BY EMMA LOY EN MIN - 206

One school experience that I will remember fondly is our recent Class Bonding Day. It was a simple day, but it reminded me of how much I enjoy being a part of my class. We took a bus to Gardens by the Bay and the ride was filled with chatter and laughter. When we arrived, we wanted to take a photo with the large iconic tree in the middle but out of the blue, it started raining. We clutched our bags tightly and dragged our friends into the shelter with us. Luckily, it stopped not too long after, so games could continue as planned. We even sat together and ate McDonald's! It was nice listening to my classmates talk and laugh while enjoying a meal together.

Afterwards, we took part in an Amazing Race with different games, including a real-life version of Granny. Watching everyone work together and have fun made the day feel special. It was meaningful because our form teacher was going on maternity leave soon after. It felt like a nice opportunity to spend time together before she left us for a while. Looking back, I am grateful for this experience. It brought our class closer together and gave us sweet memories that I will cherish for a long time.





HEARTFELT MESSAGES TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS <3

#good
vibes
only!

To all graduating students, I believe that you will make it far in life. Do you remember the words in the Student's Creed? "I am unique and worthy." It is a compass to success in life. If you ever find yourself in a ditch, just know that you can dig yourself out! - Ng Yu Heng, 106 



Dear graduating students, good luck for your national exams. You have been revising and trying your best with all your sweat and tears since Secondary 1 until this moment. In your 4-5 years of journey, you have made new friends and memories, and welcomed new students to our school! I wish you good luck. Believe in yourself and try your best for your national exams and the rest of your journey! - Ang Ming Hong, Tyler, 201 

To all the Sec 4s and 5s, your efforts have not gone unseen. Every late night, every practice paper, every moment you chose to keep going — it all counts! Your hard work will not go to waste. Trust in the effort you have put in, believe in yourselves, and give it your best for the upcoming N/O Levels. You have come this far, and we are all rooting for you! All the best, Sec 4s and 5s! You have got this! :) - Joraine  308

Dear Graduates,

You are seniors whom I look up to and admire greatly. I know this year is a very important year for all of you because it determines your future. It will not be easy, but just know that everything will pass eventually! After each study session, remember to take a break in order to keep going. Most importantly, I hope you never give up on anything and go chase your dreams! - Jie Hui, 304 



COMING UP!



TERM 4

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 1	CCA Stand-down	14/09	All Levels
	GCE N-Level Written Exams (Part 1)	14/09 - 24/09	Sec 4NA & NT
	MTL EOY Oral Exams	14/09 - 22/09	Sec 3
	GCE N-Level EL LC/ GCE N(T)-Level MTL LC	15/09	Sec 4NA & NT
Week 2	GCE O-Level MTL(B) Oral Exams	23/09	Sec 4 & 5
	End-of-Year Exams	24/09 - 08/10	Sec 3
	Graduation Ceremony	25/09	Sec 4 & 5
Week 3	End-of-Year Exams	28/09 - 08/10	Sec 1, 2 & 3
	GCE O-Level Science Practical Exams	30/09 - 08/10	Sec 4 & 5
Week 4	GCE N-Level Written Exams (Part 2)	05/10 - 13/10	Sec 4NA & NT
	Marking Day (No School)	09/10	All Levels
Week 5	Exam Script Checking Days	12/10 - 15/10	Sec 1, 2 & 3
	Resumption of CCA	12/10	All Levels
	GCE O-Level English & MTL(B) LC	15/10	Sec 4 & 5
	XCUBE 2	16/10 - 23/10	Sec 1, 2 & 3
Week 6	GCE O-Level Written Exams	19/10 - 10/11	Sec 4 & 5
	Sec 3 Job Shadowing	19/10 - 21/10	Sec 3
	Results Processing Days (No School except for Sec 3 Job Shadowing)	20/10 - 21/10	All Levels
	Sec 3 Guidance Programme	22/10 - 23/10	Selected Sec 3 students

COMING UP!



TERM 4

Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 6	Parent Teacher Meeting	22/10 - 30/10	Selected students
	Volleyball Bicultural & Sports Exchange Trip	23/10 - 28/10	Selected students
	Open House Training/Rehearsal	26/10, 11/11	Selected students
	Floorball Sports Exchange Trip	26/10 - 29/10	Selected students
Week 7	Sec 3 Structured Intervention Programme	26/10 - 30/10	Selected Sec 3 students
Week 8	GCE O-Level MTL/HMTL Exam	03/11	Sec 3, 4 & 5
	Rock Climbing Trip	03/11 - 07/11	Selected students
Week 9	Deepavali Holiday	08/11 - 09/11	All Levels
	MTL Bicultural Overseas Trip to Indonesia	09/11 - 12/11	Selected students
	MTL Bicultural Overseas Trip to China	10/11 - 18/11	Selected students
	Overseas Service Learning	10/11 - 19/11	Selected students
	Gala Night	13/11	Sec 4 & 5
	Open House	14/11	Selected students
Week 10	Leadership Adventure Camp	16/11 - 18/11	Selected students
	School Vacation (Protected vacation time for staff and students from 23/11 - 13/12)	21/11 - 31/12	All Levels

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR, CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN!

CALENDAR HERE!

