

29 December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that you and your family have had a wonderful year-end holiday and are looking forward to 2024.

We welcome our students to another fruitful year of learning in their development to become curious learners, compassionate contributors and confident leaders who are ready to embrace the challenges of today and the future.

This letter outlines the key areas to note as we get ready to start the new school year.

Start of School Matters

(a) First Week of School for 2024 (2 January 2024 to 5 January 2024)

The new 2024 school year will begin on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

To support our students in starting the new school year well, we have designed a Back-to-School Programme in the first week with different activities for each cohort.

Morning assembly continues to be at 7.30am every school day (except Thursdays). To enable students to frame their minds and prepare themselves to learn in the day ahead, from 2024, students should be at the respective morning assembly venues by 7.25am. On the first day of school, all students will be at the Parade Square for morning assembly.

Start and End Times for the First Week of School

	Tue 2 Jan	Wed 3 Jan	Thu 4 Jan	Fri 5 Jan
Secondary 1	7.30am to 6pm	7.30am to 6pm	7.30am (due to cohort camp) to 6pm	7.30am to 12.40pm
Secondary 2	7.30am to 12.20pm	7.30am to 12.20pm	8.30am to 12.40pm	
Secondary 3			8.30am to 12.20pm	
Secondary 4 & 5				

Attire for the First Week of School

	Tue 2 Jan	Wed 3 Jan	Thu 4 Jan	Fri 5 Jan
Secondary 1	Half school uniform (PE t-shirt and school pants/skirt) and bring along PE shorts			
Secondary 2	Full school uniform			CCA t-shirt
Secondary 3				and school
Secondary 4 & 5				pants/skirt

All students should adhere to the school's attire and grooming guidelines (<https://go.gov.sg/xmsattiregrooming>).

If your child/ward has fever and/or flu-like symptoms, please consult a doctor. Your child/ward should refrain from being in school until he/she has fully recovered. Please contact the school via email at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or call 6288 9382 if your child/ward is unwell and unable to be in school.

(b) School's Academic Calendar

The school's academic calendar is accessible via <https://go.gov.sg/xmscalendar>. This is also available on our website under the 'Resources for Students and Parents' section. It is regularly updated with the latest schedule of school events and programmes.

(c) Timetable

The school timetable can be accessed via our school website under the 'Resources for Students and Parents' section from Thursday 4 January 2024, with lessons starting from Monday 8 January 2024 (Term 1 Week 2). Alternatively, the timetables for the respective classes can be accessed via <https://go.gov.sg/xmstimetable>. Students and parents/guardians are advised to check the timetables for planning of their schedules.

(d) Thursday Schedule

As many CCAs have training sessions on Wednesdays, our school designates Thursdays as late start days. Hence, from Term 1 Week 2, morning assembly will be at 8.30am for all students on Thursdays, with students expected to be at their form class room by 8.25am. On all other school days, morning assembly will be at 7.30am.

Please note that our fortnightly Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days in Semester 1 are on odd week Thursdays **for all levels** (except 4 January where students are in school for the Back-to-School Programme).

Upcoming events

(a) Parent Engagement Sessions

The Parent Engagement Sessions enable the school and parents/guardians to connect and be updated on pertinent matters about the cohort. The sessions will be held on the dates shown below. We hope that parents/guardians will set aside time to join us for these sessions to understand more about the learning experiences planned for our students for this year.

For parents of Secondary 2 to 5 students, there will be a subsequent message for each cohort via Parents Gateway (PG) closer to the date with more details about registration and for parents to share their questions/feedback prior to the session. For parents of Secondary 1 students, thank you for registering through the e-form on our Secondary 1 Posting microsite!

Level	Date	Time
Secondary 1	Friday 5 January 2024	6.30pm to 9pm
Secondary 4 & 5	Friday 19 January 2024	
Secondary 2	Friday 26 January 2024	
Secondary 3	Friday 2 February 2024	

(b) First Temperature-Taking Exercise of 2024

To maintain preparedness for temperature-taking and to educate students on taking personal responsibility for their own health, schools conduct temperature-taking exercises twice a year. The first temperature-taking exercise of 2024 will be on Wednesday 10 January 2024. Please ensure that your child/ward brings a working thermometer that day.

Staff Recognition

President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth Award in Education (OYEA) 2024

Every year, two categories of national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore to recognise their professional excellence. They are the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA).

The **President's Award for Teachers (PAT)** gives national recognition to experienced teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify deep passion for teaching, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds.

The **Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA)** gives national recognition to young teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify youthful idealism, energy and enthusiasm, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Educators who are 35 years and younger are eligible for the award. Hence, OYEA 2024 is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1989.

Nominations for PAT 2024 and OYEA 2024 are now open and will close on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

In support of MOE's sustainability and digital efforts, nominations for both awards can be submitted online (<https://go.gov.sg/pat2024> and <https://go.gov.sg/oyea2024>). We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) by accessing the URLs. Thank you for your support in recognising the good work of our teachers!

Thank you for a strong and close partnership in your child's education journey. We wish everyone an enriching and fulfilling year of learning and growth in 2024!

Yours in education,



Mr Tan Soon Hui
Principal