



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学

103 Yuan Ching Road, Singapore 618654. Telephone: 62612489 Fax: 62616275  
Email: [ycss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:ycss@moe.edu.sg) School Website: <http://www.yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg>



# Parents' Connect

Ref No: 01/2023

Jan & Feb Issue

## 1. WELCOME & HAPPY NEW YEAR

A warm welcome to all parents and students to the new academic year! I hope that you had a restful year-end break, and are energised as we journey together into an exciting 2023.

We have completed the Customised Validation (CV) on our school's programmes and processes evaluated by a panel of school consultants from School Excellence Branch in Nov 2022. I am pleased to update that our school has done well in this validation, with improvements in all categories, in particular our approach and programmes for Student Well-being as part of the holistic development of our students here at Yuan Ching. My staff and I are encouraged by this set of results and we remained committed in this endeavour in enhancing a psychosocial environment while creating positive student experiences in their education journey.

While our nation transits into living with COVID-19 as an endemic, we remain committed to safe management measures and seek your continued cooperation to make Yuan Ching a safe school for all. We encourage our students to be socially responsible. If your child is unwell, has fever or flu-like symptoms, do not send your child to school. Please bring your unwell child to see a doctor and keep your child's Form Teacher updated of the result.

To the Sec 1 students who have just joined the Yuan Ching family, I hope you would enjoy the Orientation Programme and the CCA Showcase organised by the Student Council and PE department during the first and second week of school respectively. To our Sec 1 parents, do join us at the physical Parents Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2023 (Fri), to find out more about the school's direction, National Digital Literacy Programme and CCAs. I am confident that your child will have a pleasant education journey in YCSS.

## 2. PARENTS' CONNECT AND PARENTS GATEWAY

The Parents' Connect is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to enhance communication with the parents of our students. It aims to provide timely information so that parents are aware of key school matters. I encourage all parents to read our Parents' Connect so that you are updated on the various school activities and you can partner us to better support your child in his/her educational experiences in Yuan Ching Secondary School. The PDF copy of Parents' Connect will be disseminated via Parents Gateway (PG), and can also be found in our school's website:

<https://yuanchingsec-moe-edu-sg/ycss/quick-links/for-parents/parents-connect>.

Our school encourages all parents to use the PG app which allows parents to interact with our school more conveniently on administrative matters, such as announcements, consent forms and travel declarations. For more details on the PG app, please access the following link:

<https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/ycss/quick-links/for-parents/parents-gateway>.

### 3. 2022 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2022 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 19 Dec 2022. Our students have done the school proud!

We thank our teachers and parents for their strong support for our graduating students. Your belief in them and their potential has enabled them to give of their best and to produce these commendable outcomes. We wish our 2022 Sec 4N cohort all the best in the next lap of their education journey.

### 4. SCHOOL MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

I would like to share with you our school's mission, vision and core values.

<p><b>SCHOOL MISSION</b> Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting Lives</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL VISION</b> Every Individual A Thinker, An Achiever, A Concerned Citizen</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL VALUES</b> Integrity, Excellence, Compassion, Enterprise, Loyalty (<b>IExCEL</b>)</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL MOTTO</b> Efforts Today, Rewards Tomorrow</p>

### 5. CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

The school's Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) Programme comprises various aspects for a holistic education, and includes the following:

<p><u>MOE CCE Curriculum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Education (NE)</li> <li>● Sexuality Education (SEd)</li> <li>● Family Education (FE)</li> <li>● Cyber Wellness (CW)</li> <li>● Mental Health (MH)</li> <li>● Education &amp; Career Guidance (ECG)</li> </ul>	<p><u>School-based CCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ABCD Thinking Habits of YCS</li> <li>● Social Skills Booster</li> <li>● Peer Support Relationships</li> <li>● Value of the Month (VOTM)</li> <li>● Guiding &amp; Empowering students for Affiliation &amp; Resilience to Unlock their Potential (GEAR-UP) Programme</li> <li>● Assembly Programme</li> </ul>
<p><u>Citizenship Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Education, with Learning Journeys, NE Commemorative Days, NE Ambassadors</li> <li>● SAF Day Rededication</li> <li>● International Students Programme</li> <li>● Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme</li> </ul>	<p><u>Student Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personal Leadership</li> <li>● Peer Leadership</li> <li>● Inspiring Leadership</li> </ul>

## 6. CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

We offer a varied Co-Curricular Programme comprising Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), Student Leadership Programme, Enrichment and Lifeskills.

CCAs provide a platform to inculcate good character and values by providing every student with opportunities to develop skills and talents. There is a wide range of CCAs to match our students' interests and strengths while providing them with meaningful and enriching experiences. Every student must take part in one CCA and their attendance at scheduled sessions is **compulsory**. CCAs are conducted from 3 pm to 6 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Should there be exceptions, your child will be informed accordingly<sup>1</sup>. CCAs sessions for Sec 2 – 5 students will commence on 5 Jan 2023 while Sec 1 students will commence their CCAs on 14 Feb 2023. To develop thinking skills and a greater sense of ownership, we use a CCA Bidding process as the approach for our Sec 1s to select their CCAs. We will be sharing more on the CCA Bidding process during the Sec One Parent Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2023 (Fri) as well as through Parents Gateway.

You may refer to the school website for a detailed schedule of the CCAs: <https://yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/ycss/quick-links/for-students/school-daily-routines>.

**Student Leadership Programme** comprises 3 levels of student leadership development for different segments of student leaders (personal leadership, peer leadership and inspiring leadership). Opportunities for leadership development are supported by the 4A approach of Awareness, Actions, Assessment & review, and Affirmation of leadership competencies.

## 7. BLENDED LEARNING DAYS

Blended Learning aims to provide students a seamless blend of different modes of learning, with the intention to nurture self-directed and independent learners.

During Blended Learning Day, students would have dedicated time and space to learn at their own pace, explore their interests and learn outside the curriculum while doing home-based learning. All students would spend about 4 hours on curriculum coverage and the Secondary 1 to 3 students would also spend 1 hour on student-initiated learning. In Yuan Ching, our student-initiated learning programme is called DIVE (Developing Interests Via Exploration). Through DIVE, it is hoped that students can develop their intrinsic motivation to actively explore their interests, and come up with a plan on how they should go about pursuing them.

The following table shows the dates for Yuan Ching's Blended Learning Days:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
20 January 2023 (Friday)	31 March 2023 (Friday)	25 July 2023 (Tuesday)
10 February 2023 (Friday)	14 April 2023 (Friday)	26 July 2023 (Wednesday)
24 February 2023 (Friday)	28 April 2023 (Friday)	27 July 2023 (Thursday)
10 March 2023 (Friday)	12 May 2023 (Friday)	
	26 May 2023 (Friday)	

<sup>1</sup> For example, Scouts will have CCA sessions on alternate Fridays and, from 8.00 am to 12.15 pm on Saturdays.

Students who require but do not have appropriate supervision at home may return to school for supervised home-based learning.

## **8. NATIONAL DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMME & SEC 1 ICT PROGRAMMES**

At MOE's Committee of Supply Debate in March 2020, MOE launched the National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) for our schools and Institutes of Higher Learning to help students strengthen their digital literacy. One of the components of the NDLP is the introduction of the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) for all secondary school students, whereby every secondary school student will own a school-prescribed Personal Learning Device (PLD). Sec 1 students will be briefed during their orientation. Programme and procurement details will be communicated to the parents during the Sec 1 Parents Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2023 and via Parents Gateway.

In preparation for the NDLP and to ensure students are equipped with the essential ICT skills, all Sec 1 students will be required to complete a self-paced student certification for Google Workspace and participate in the National Digital Explorer (NDE) 2023. These programmes will equip them with key ICT skills and knowledge for self-directed lifelong learning. It also empowers the students to learn real-world skills that enable them to think critically and be more productive learners. More details of the respective individual programmes will be provided at a later date.

## **9. DIGITALISATION OF STUDENTS DETAIL FORM (SDF)**

MOE will be rolling out the Student Details Form (SDF) to all parents/Legal Guardian (LG)/Authorised Caregiver (CG) from Tue, 3 Jan 2023. The SDF is the digitalisation of the Pupil Data Form (PDF) and the Individual Student Details Report (ISDR). With this roll-out, parents/LG do not need to need to verify details of student data via hardcopy. Parents/LG can provide both sets of data in one single session when he/she logs in to the SDF portal. An announcement to ask parents/LG/Authorised CG to verify the data in the SDF will be sent via Parents Gateway (PG) by the Communications and Engagement Group (CEG) on 11 Jan 2023 (Wed). Parents are to complete the SDF on-line and submit via the SDF portal by 31 Jan 2023 (Tue).

## **10. SAFETY AWARENESS**

Our staff and students' safety is of utmost importance and we would like to emphasise on safety and the importance of everyone's responsibility in ensuring safety in the school. For parents who are driving to drop off or pick up their children at school, do exercise patience and avoid overtaking within the narrow driveway at our school foyer. The speed limit within our school premises is 15km/h and we appreciate that this speed limit be adhered for the safety of our staff and students. For students who intend to cycle to school, parental consent is required and only LTA approved bicycles are allowed. We would also like to highlight that CCTVs are in operation in and around our premises to ensure school safety and security.

## **11. KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023**

### **a. STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 'FUEL YOUR FUTURE' (TERM 1)**

We have a line-up of student development programmes customised for each level in Term 1. A list of the key student development programmes in Term 1 is as follows:

Level	Key Student Development Programmes in Term 1
Sec 1	Orientation, Google Workspace Training, Thinking Habits Workshop, Aeronautics Technology, Design Thinking cum Values-in-Action Workshop, Cohort Camp
Sec 2	Conversational Chinese/Malay Language Programme, Sculpture Walk Learning Journey
Sec 3	Orientation and Amazing Race to Jurong Lake Gardens, Cohort Camp
Sec 4/5	Education & Career Guidance, Mother Tongue Intensive Programme, Social Etiquette Workshop

More details of these programmes will be provided via Parents Gateway nearer the dates.

**b. SEC 1 PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION CUM CCA SHOWCASE ON 13 JAN**

The school is organising a Parents' Engagement Session for the Sec 1 parents on 13 Jan 2023 (Friday) from 5pm to 7:30pm in conjunction with the CCA Showcase from 3pm to 5pm. The CCA Showcase will give you and your child a sense of the range of CCAs that our school offers, so that you can better guide your child to make informed choices based on his/her interests, strengths and talents. During the engagement session with Form Teachers and engagement talks, you will gain a better understanding of the school's direction, the National Digital Literacy Programme, Co-Curricular Activities (CCA), as well as the key programmes lined up for Secondary 1.

For more details, you may refer to the Parent's Letter sent earlier via Parents Gateway. We encourage parents of our Sec 1 students to join us, with the hope to deepen this school-home partnership to bring out the best in every student.

**c. SCHOOL SAFETY WEEK**

In the pursuit of building a safety culture among staff and students, the school will be organising a School Safety Week in Term 1 Week 2, from 9 to 13 Jan 2023. The range of programmes prepared for our students are as follows:

- I. Safety Briefing for Secondary 1 Students  
*Topics: Coming to school safely, School Traffic, Safety in Engaging Physical Activities, Lightning Alert System and School Emergency.*
- II. Road Safety Assembly Programme  
*To educate the importance of road safety and advocate road safety practices*

With these programmes, we aim to do our part in creating a safe and secure environment that is conducive for learning for our students.

**d. REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING FROM 9 JAN**

We believe in timely intervention and supporting our students in closing their learning gaps. Students will be identified for remedial lessons which are conducted on a weekly basis in the afternoons, starting on 9 Jan 2023. Parents will be informed via Parents Gateway (PG) if their child has been identified for remedial lessons.

The Daily Routines for Semester 1 will be disseminated to all students by Term 1 Week 1 Friday (6 Jan 2023). It provides details of the remedial lesson schedule, daily curriculum hours, CCA sessions and operating hours of the General Office. A copy of it will also be uploaded on the school website.

e. **CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS CUM BLENDED LEARNING ON 20 JAN**

The Chinese New Year Celebrations will take place on 20 Jan 2023 (Fri), to engage our students in a range of entertaining and meaningful activities. Students will learn more about Chinese traditions and cultural aspects through interactive games and hands-on activities.

To promote the spirit of sharing and caring for the less fortunate, we will be conducting a donation drive to collect food items and necessities which will be distributed to the elderly living in rental blocks at Taman Jurong after the Chinese New Year. We hope that you will weigh in your support to this meaningful activity.

20 Jan 2023 is not a half day as it is not Chinese New Year eve. However, the school has scheduled it as a Blended Learning Day, and students will report to school as usual and will return home for their blended learning after the Chinese New Year celebrations. More details will be given to the students closer to the event. We wish all Chinese parents and students a Happy and Prosperous Lunar New Year in advance.

f. **WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT 1 STARTING FROM 6 FEB**

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) will take place from 6 Feb – 3 Mar 2023. WA1 will assess students' academic learning progress in Term 1. We look forward to your support in supervising your child as he/she prepares for the Weighted Assessment 1.

12. **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

We believe that a positive school tone is crucial to our students' development. School rules state the school's expectations of student behaviour and conduct, both within and outside of school. It is important to start the year right by displaying exemplary conduct and cultivate good habits such as punctuality and attendance in school. All students must abide by the school rules and strive to uphold the school's good name.

All students are given a copy of the 2023 Student Handbook and Planner which they need to bring to school daily. A summary of our school rules is stated in the handbook. The full version can be found on our school website. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the school rules so that together, we can provide a conducive environment that supports our students' learning and holistic development.

Do also take note of the policy on the use of mobile phones and personal learning device (PLD) in school. Unless permission is otherwise granted by the school, all mobile devices are to be placed in silent mode and kept out of sight during curriculum time/ remedial/ CCAs and can only be used in the school canteen after these activities. Non-adherence will result in confiscation of the mobile phone (including SIM card) for one week in the first instance.

Attendance in school is one of the basic predictive factors for learning, for students to experience a holistic education that develops the mind, ethics and social skills. Regular attendance in school is critical and our school takes a serious view of students' attendance. Students who are absent from school (during curriculum time and/or for afternoon programmes or CCAs) must produce a medical certificate upon their return to school. Letters from parents will only be accepted for exceptional cases.

13. **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

All parents of our students are invited to join the Parent Support Group (PSG). A strong partnership between the school and parents is critical to our students' development. The PSG has been actively involved in our school events and has provided invaluable support to both our

staff and students. The PSG also plays an important role in facilitating and coordinating Project PAiR (PARENTS Involved in Reading) which promotes reading among parents and children. In addition, PSG organises family-oriented activities to promote parent-child bonding and to create a strong sense of identity among PSG members. If you are interested to find out more about the PSG, you may wish to contact the teacher liaison Mr Raymond Yeo (email: [yeo\\_tong\\_wei\\_raymond@moe.edu.sg](mailto:yeo_tong_wei_raymond@moe.edu.sg)) or Mr Leung Yulun (email: [leung\\_yulun@moe.edu.sg](mailto:leung_yulun@moe.edu.sg)). You may also wish to find out more about the PSG by visiting our school website using the following link: <https://go.gov.sg/ycsspsg>

#### 14. OFFICE HOURS

As part of our efforts to support you in educating your child, we welcome inquiries from parents. Should you wish to speak to the teachers, you may contact the General Office at Tel: 6261 2489, during the school term, from 7.30am to 6pm on weekdays to leave a message for the teachers to return your call during working hours when they are available. We seek your understanding that our teachers may not be able to respond immediately as they may be conducting lessons. We do not require our staff to share their personal handphone numbers with parents, and/or respond to calls/WhatsApp messages after working hours.

Please note that our office closes at 5.30pm daily for walk-in assistance, and all students and staff are to leave the school by 6pm. Should you have any queries after school operating hours, we appreciate that you call the next working day. Alternatively, you may access our school website to access the key information on school programmes and updates, or email the school your enquiry at [ycss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:ycss@moe.edu.sg).

#### 15. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

Photographs or video images of you and/or your child may be taken during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCA, VIA, school camps or school concerts. The school may use and publish such photographs or video recordings in school publications, the school's website, social media channels, and/or other official school communication channels. Should you have any concerns, please reach out to us via letter or email the school at [ycss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:ycss@moe.edu.sg).

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2023!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)  
Principal  
3 Jan 2023

(This is a computer-generated letter which does not require a signature.)