



YUAN CHING SECONDARY SCHOOL

耘青中学

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Parents' Connect

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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 2024.

Our school will be implementing Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB) in the new curriculum year in 2024 for our Sec 1 students, where they learn each subject at the level that best caters to their overall strengths. Organised in mixed form classes, students would have greater flexibility to study more subjects at different levels while interacting with peers of different strengths and interests. This is a new frontier for the school and the teachers have worked hard to help our Sec 1 students ease into secondary level education.

Nationally, the COVID-19 infection numbers have surged in the past weeks, and we seek parents' support to keep Yuan Ching school a safe environment for students. We remain committed to safe management measures and encourage our students to exercise both personal and social responsibility. If your child is unwell, has fever or flu-like symptoms, please ensure that he/she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage him/her to exercise social responsibility by wearing a mask. We appreciate your support and continued cooperation in collectively keeping our school safe.

To our Sec 1 parents, do join us at the physical Parents Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2024 (Sat) to find out more about the school's direction, Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB), National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP), Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) / LEAPS 2.0 and Parent Support Group (PSG). 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 you to be actively involved and 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 for programmes 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. 2023 GCE 'N' LEVEL RESULTS

We would like to congratulate the 2023 Sec 4 Normal Academic (NA) and Normal Technical (NT) students who received their GCE 'N' Level Examination results on 18 Dec 2023. 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 2023 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>SCHOOL MISSION Enriching Minds, Unleashing Potential, Impacting Lives</p>
<p>SCHOOL VISION Every Individual A Thinker, An Achiever, A Concerned Citizen</p>
<p>SCHOOL VALUES Integrity, Excellence, Compassion, Enterprise, Loyalty (IExCEL)</p>
<p>SCHOOL MOTTO 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"> ● National Education ● Sexuality Education ● Family Education ● Cyber Wellness ● Mental Health ● Education & Career Guidance 	<p><u>School-based CCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ABCD Thinking Habits of YCS ● Social Skills Booster ● Peer Support Relationships ● Value of the Month ● Guiding & Empowering students for Affiliation & Resilience to Unlock their Potential (GEAR-UP) Programme ● Assembly Programme
<p><u>Citizenship Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Education, with Learning Journeys, NE Commemorative Days, NE Ambassadors ● National Service Rededication ● International Students Programme ● Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme 	<p><u>Student Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal Leadership ● Peer Leadership ● Inspiring Leadership

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 accordingly¹. CCAs sessions for Sec 2 – 5 students will commence on 4 Jan 2024 while Sec 1 students will commence their CCAs on 15 Feb 2024. 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 Parents Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2024 (Sat) 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 4 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
12 January 2024 (Friday)	12 April 2024 (Friday)	23 July 2024 (Tuesday)
26 January 2024 (Friday)	26 April 2024 (Friday)	24 July 2024 (Wednesday)
23 February 2024 (Friday)	10 May 2024 (Friday)	25 July 2024 (Thursday)
8 March 2024 (Friday)	24 May 2024 (Friday)	

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

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

8. **UPDATING OF STUDENT INFORMATION USING THE STUDENTS DETAIL FORM (SDF) PORTAL**

MOE has rolled out the Student Details Form (SDF) to all parents/Legal Guardian (LG)/Authorised Caregiver (CG) since Jan 2023. Parents and LG are required to update their child's / ward's information for the purpose of providing educational services to your child/ward. The SDF Portal may be accessed on 2 Jan 2024 via the URL: <https://pg.moe.edu.sg/forms/sdf> using a Singpass account to submit the information of your child/ward. Parents are to complete the SDF on-line and submit via the SDF portal by 31 Jan 2024.

9. **SAFETY AWARENESS**

The safety of our staff and students 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. In the pursuit of building a safety culture among staff and students, 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

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.

With these programmes and your support, we aim to create a safe and secure environment that is conducive for learning for our students.

10. **KEY SCHOOL EVENTS IN TERM 1**

a. **REMEDIAL LESSONS STARTING FROM 8 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 8 Jan 2024. 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 (5 Jan 2024). 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.

b. **ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS ON 9 FEB**

The Ethnic Celebrations will take place on 9 Feb 2024 (Fri), to engage our students in meaningful 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 and nursing homes before and after the Chinese New Year. We hope that you will weigh in your support to this meaningful activity.

More details will be given to the students closer to the event. We wish all Chinese parents and students a Happy and Prosperous Chinese New Year in advance.

c. WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT 1 STARTING FROM 19 FEB

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) will take place from 19 Feb – 29 Feb 2024. WA1 will assess students’ academic learning progress in Term 1. Subject teachers will inform the students on the specific dates and the subjects to be tested. A collated WA 1 schedule will be posted on the school website by 19 Jan 2024. We look forward to your support in supervising your child as he/she prepares for the Weighted Assessment 1.

d. 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, Design Thinking cum Values-in-Action Workshop, Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp/Water Rafting
Sec 2	Conversational Chinese/Malay Language Programme, Education & Career Guidance Fair, Aeronautics Technology
Sec 3	Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp/Dragon Boat Quest
Sec 4/5	Education & Career Guidance Fair, Mother Tongue Intensive Programme, Social Etiquette Workshop

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

11. 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.

A full version of the 2024 e-Student Handbook can be found in our school website (<https://file.for.edu.sg/yc2024-estudent-handbook.pdf>) and all students are to download a copy for their personal use. A summary of our school rules is stated in the handbook. 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.

12. 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) or Mr Leung Yulun (email: 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>

13. 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 6.00pm 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 6.00pm. 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.

14. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

At Yuan Ching Secondary, we believe in celebrating the achievements and activities of our students. The school routinely captures photos and live or taped videos of our students during classroom lessons, CCAs, school events, including external learning journeys and feature these on our official social media channels. By studying at Yuan Ching Secondary, a student acknowledges this right of the school. These visuals are carefully selected to highlight the positive and educational experiences our students have at school or places of learning. The school does not post or permit the posting of images that may be deemed inappropriate.

Should you have concerns about the use of your child's images on our school's platforms, please reach out to our administration via the school's email ycss@moe.edu.sg and we will ensure that your preferences are respected.

15. **INFORMATION FOR SEC 1 PARENTS ONLY**

a. **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.

Parents who have not submitted the procurement request, should do so by 10 Jan 2024 using this link (<https://go.gov.sg/pdlpadmin>). Parents' letter and infographic on the NDLP can be found on the Sec 1 registration website (<https://www.yuanchingsec.moe.edu.sg/2024-intake-sec-1-registration/sec1registration/>). Programme details will be communicated to the parents during the Sec 1 Parents Engagement Session on 13 Jan 2024 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 the PDLP orientation package. 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. Your child/ward will be briefed on the details of the programmes during their orientation.

b. **SEC 1 PARENTS ENGAGEMENT SESSION CUM CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY (CCA) SHOWCASE ON 13 JAN**

The school is organising a Parents Engagement Session for the Sec 1 parents on 13 Jan 2024 (Saturday) from 9am to 10:30am in conjunction with the CCA Showcase from 10:30am to 12:30pm. During the Parents' Engagement Session, you will gain a better understanding of the school's direction, Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB), National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP), CCAs / LEAPS and Parents Support Group (PSG), as well as the key programmes lined up for Secondary 1.

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.

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.

Parents are strongly encouraged to take public transportation as there are limited parking within the school. Should the parking spaces be filled, we seek your cooperation and understanding to park your vehicles at the nearby car parks.

We wish you A HAPPY AND FULFILLING 2024!

NG SOOK KIT (MS)
Principal
2 Jan 2024

[This is a computer-generated letter which does not require a signature.]