



COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOOL
Nurturing Champions of Today and Leaders of Tomorrow

21 Feb 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from Commonwealth Secondary School! We have had an eventful start to 2017.

- Sec One, Two and Four students participated in the annual Level Camps.
- Sec Three students participated in a Design Thinking workshop to prepare them for their Values-in-Action projects this year.
- Sec Five students participated in a Strengthsfinder workshop to help them better understand and apply their strengths and interests

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some key events and programmes for each level in the coming weeks.

Parent Support Group (Sec 1 Parents only)

2. In order to strengthen communication between parents, we have formed the Sec 1 PSG WhatsApp group. Only one parent of each student will be included.
3. If you do not wish to be included in the PSG WhatsApp Group, or if you wish to change the number that has been registered, please reply to our invitation SMS that will be sent to you on 3 Mar 2017 (Fri).

Maker Education Exposure Lessons (for all Sec 1 Students)

4. In Term 1, all Secondary 1 students will be going through a series of Maker Education exposure lessons for 4 weeks (1 hour per week) during curriculum time where they will participate in self-directed, hands-on learning experiences utilising a range of tools and materials to create personally meaningful objects. They will learn prototyping techniques and tools (e.g. 3D modelling software) to realise their ideas.

Subject Option Exercise Briefing (All Sec 2 students)

5. The school will be holding a compulsory briefing on the Sec Two Subject Option Exercise on 10 March 2017 from 6.45 pm to 8 pm for parents and guardians of all Sec 2 students.
6. This briefing will provide important information regarding the students' choice of academic subjects to be offered in Secondary Three. Topics to be covered include subject combinations, criteria for selection of subjects and post-secondary options. More details will be provided in a separate letter.

Design Thinking Programme (All Sec 2 Students)

7. In Term 1, all Secondary 2 students will participate in the school's Design Thinking Programme to develop them as human-centered problem-solvers. Students will work in teams to address the needs of real-world users, e.g. persons living with disabilities, or helping households adopt sustainable lifestyles. Design thinking lessons will be held once a week during curriculum time.

Lower Secondary ICT Enrichment Programme

8. All lower Secondary students will be participating in the school's ICT Enrichment Programme, in line with the emphasis in our Total Curriculum Programme on Technology-Enabled Learning.

- Sec One Google Applications and Chromebook Familiarisation Programme: All secondary one students will learn different Google Apps including Document, Presentation and Spreadsheet to prepare them for collaborative learning. In addition, students will learn how to use the Chromebook device to access online content for learning.
- Sec Two Adobe Photoshop Programme: Students will learn and explore the basics of art such as colours, line, typography, texture and composition.

Health Promoting School Canteen (HPSC) Programme (All students)

9. To inculcate healthy eating habits in our students, the school will be implementing the HPSC Programme in Feb 2017. School canteen meals will incorporate food from the four main food groups - whole grains and alternatives, meat and alternatives, vegetables and fruits. There will be reduced quantities of fat, salt and sugar. This ensures that when students consume meals at schools, they will receive the right nutrients necessary for their growing needs. Please note that the selling price of these set meals will be increased slightly due to the addition of fruits.

Policy on Communication with Teachers

10. Parents contact our teachers through a variety of channels. In addition to face-to-face meetings and email correspondence, many parents also contact our teachers via SMS or Whatsapp.

11. Teachers will endeavour to respond to parents' messages, emails and phone calls in a timely manner. However, we seek parents' understanding that with the exception of emergencies relating to the safety and well-being of students, teachers will only respond to messages within office hours, i.e. before 6pm. This also applies to communication from students.

12. We look forward to working with you closely to support your children as they grow and learn in CWSS.

Yours Sincerely,

AARON LOH
PRINCIPAL