



COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOOL

www.commonwealthsec.moe.edu.sg



Nurturing creativity through unstructured play

MAKER EDUCATION AND DESIGN THINKING:

Playing Seriously

Imagine seeing your self-made remote-controlled aeroplane take off to the skies or repairing your own skateboard. At Commonwealth Secondary, this is not “mere” play but the foundation at the heart of nurturing creativity.

To start, teachers equip new students with “making skills”. From 3D printers to laser cutters to micro-controllers, our well-resourced Makerspace allows students to then explore and experiment in areas they are keen on. As students immerse themselves in making, they learn valuable skills and mindsets such as resourcefulness and resilience, learning not just to fail and push on to success, but also ways of thinking around a problem.

Our students also get to put on a designer’s hat through our in-house Design Thinking curriculum where they learn to be human-centric problem solvers. In these classes, they



Space for students to imagine and create



Learning 3D printing from our maker coach

get to work in teams to identify complex problems, understand the needs of those around them, and follow up with prototyping and testing their innovative solutions.

In the process of observing, identifying and solving these problems, students learn empathy, collaborative skills and the value of radical ideas.

“ We had no idea how to build [a remote controlled plane]. We’ve never done anything similar before. It took me more than a year and three failed prototypes before my plane finally took off. ”

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A COMMUNITY SPACE WHERE STUDENTS READ, LEARN AND DISCOVER THE WORLD:

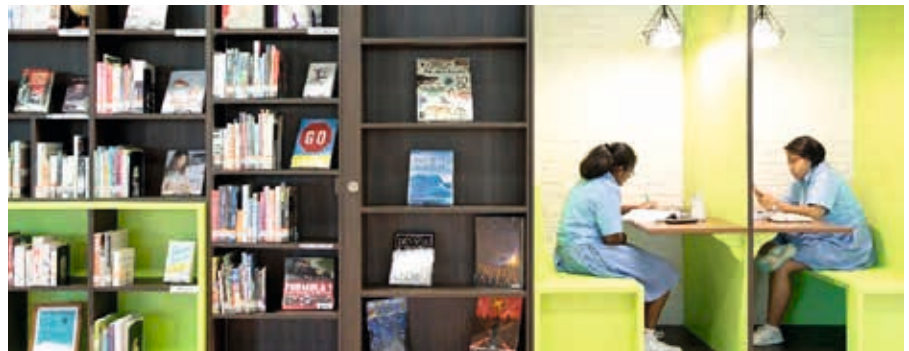
A Space for You, Me and Us.

Step into our library and you will have a tough choice. Will you snuggle up on a couch in the Living Room with a book, escape into one of The Nooks to mull over your school work or enter the 100 Acres Wood with your friends for another quiet project discussion?

With the aims of rejuvenating the library and strengthening the reading culture in the school, the Library Committee adopted the school's design protocol, Design Thinking, which places the users' needs at the forefront, to reimagine what the library could and should look like. The committee conducted rounds of interviews, observation, rigorous ideation and testing with the students. The end result was a library designed for everyone, serving different needs.



12 Grimmauld Place - a great hangout for collaborative work



Enjoying a quiet moment at the nooks

Apart from being a diverse resource repository with an extensive collection of fiction and non-fiction books, the library also aims to be a community space for students to learn and discover.

Students can sign up for one of our hands-on workshops to pick up a new skill or check out an interesting book for deeper reading. You could also turn up for your favourite teacher's book sharing during recess time or be dazzled by the authors we invite for our Meet-the-Author sessions held termly.

Besides serving as a place for students to discover their interests, our library is also a

space which encourages them to express their interests and seek out others with common interests such as via mini performances or exhibitions by fellow students.

The library is a space for you, me and us to read, learn and discover.

P.S: Did you know our four study rooms are named in honour of famous book characters? Come by the 100 Acres Wood, 12 Grimmauld Place, 221B Baker Street or 890 Fifth Avenue and absorb the atmosphere of your favourite books!

SERVANT LEADERSHIP:

Taking Flight by Uplifting Others

Do you remember that beautiful song "The Wind Beneath My Wings"? This pop song praises those who "uplift" others — an ethos close to the hearts of Commonwealth students.

As servant leaders, our student leaders learn to be other-centred leaders who regard the development of others as a core part of their work.

Empathy is key to achieving this as our student leaders learn to understand the needs and challenges of their peers, and thus realise their aspirations to be trustworthy stewards who carry out their duties with integrity. This creates a rich and vibrant school community, for every single student serves to leave a positive impact on the lives of others.

This vision is realised through a range of leadership opportunities within the Student Council. For example, students who are naturally confident and energetic often serve the school as House Leaders or in the Student Union. They rally the school community to come together through their enthusiastic leadership during school events and inter-house competitions.

On the other hand, those who might be more comfortable in smaller group situations excel as Peer Support Leaders or Prefects. The Peer Support Leaders serve as the first point of contact for new students. The Prefects help to maintain the discipline and welfare of the students through the restorative approach to behaviour management.

The end result is a group of student leaders with diverse strengths and talents working together to serve the school.

We recognise that leadership is not a matter of power and authority. With confidence and compassion, our student leaders are well-positioned to make the world a better place.



Listen with empathy



Supporting others in reaching greater heights

EXPLORING PASSION, SHOWCASING TALENT:

Our Stage for Students to Shine

An artist without an audience can never see beyond the horizon and soar to greater heights. At Commonwealth, we provide a safe environment for students to share the products of their imagination and experimentation.

Building on interests, students are given the space to explore their passion in the arts be it sculpture, drawing, photography, film or the performing arts. We understand that creativity cannot happen overnight. Hence, we aim to nurture the creative flair in each student through the creative spiral process.

The very first step into the realms of creativity is appreciation for the arts. Students are exposed to aesthetic performances such as musicals, plays and recitals where they gain valuable insights and knowledge about the different forms of arts.

Thereafter, when the students are ready to imagine possibilities, they are then given many platforms to showcase their creations and experiment with alternatives before they reflect on their experiences. Through this spiral process, students learn to develop their own ideas, test boundaries, get input from

others, and generate new ideas based on their experiences.

All these take place in a highly supportive environment with informal teacher mentoring, formalised training and even professional coaching, giving students the confidence to step up to the world stage and share their creativity!



Arts Elective Programme

EMPOWERED TO BE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES:

When Nature Calls, CWSS Responds

When our students are able to appreciate and make connections with the natural world, advocacy and activism emerge as a natural outflow of this love for nature.

To foster the love for nature, Commonwealth Secondary has created many eco-habitats for students to experience authentic out-of-classroom learning experiences through their encounters with the rich biodiversity.

Our students take their Geography lessons out of the classroom and have a first-hand



Our Eco-habitats offer learning beyond the confines of the classroom



Enjoying the rich biodiversity of our Wetlands



Engage in environmental investigative work

opportunity to study our school's Rainforest up-close. They are encouraged to ask questions based on their observations of the structure of the rainforest, the characteristics of the plant life and the ways in which the plants have adapted themselves to the tropical climate.

Our students also participate in the Fern-O-Rama activity to learn about the sampling technique. In the process, the students learn to appreciate biodiversity and engage in collaborative investigation of the fern species in our school's Rainforest.

At the Wetland, our Biology students take measurement of the size of the Golden Apple Snails and analyse the data to study genetic variations.

In our Environmental Education Programme, students are engaged in identifying complex challenges, understanding the needs of those around them, and working in teams to prototype and test innovative solutions to improve the environment. Join us to make a difference!

TIMEKEEPING, OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:

Commonwealth, a noBELL School

Bells were used since the Industrial Age as shepherds to move people to their next task. The time has come for us to progress beyond being just followers. Since 2015, CWSS did away with the school bell to enable students to build their own “sixth sense” of time telling. In its place, we use GPS synchronised clocks to show us when lessons start and end. This instills a sense of responsibility in our students as they develop important self-management skills. In some cases, students have even become timekeepers for teachers during lessons!



With a sense of responsibility and the timekeeper, having no bell is not an issue

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

See See A(pply)

Sec 1 students can try out different CCAs for a month before they finally make a choice. A student is going to spend his or her entire secondary school life in a CCA so it is only right that he or she makes an informed decision before making a commitment. This also means more motivated students during CCA. Most importantly, this provides a more immersive experience for our students and allows them to explore their passions!



Finding Nemo

CWSS, A SCHOOL WITH RICH BIODIVERSITY:

A Safe Haven for Wildlife

Imagine finding Nemo, Dory and more every day in school!

The eco-habitats we created in our school are excellent environments to attract a range of visitors: reptiles, birds, amphibians and mammals. To date, monitor lizards, pink-necked green pigeons, Asian toads and plantain squirrels have visited us for food and shelter. Some of these animals have also

chosen to become the permanent residents of the school.

Since 2015, we have successfully documented four instances of monitor lizards basking under the sun at ‘The Stream’ in our school. Monitor lizards are shy creatures that would avoid humans but their presence can help keep the frog and rodent populations in check.

AT A GLANCE

Address

698 West Coast Road,
Singapore 608784

Phone Number

6560 6866

School Website

www.commonwealthsec.moe.edu.sg

School Vision

A community of passionate learners who spark imagination, illuminate frontiers and inspire change for a better world.

How to get there

Nearest MRT Stations

Jurong East, Clementi

Bus Services

30, 78, 143, 143M, 176, 201

Distinctive Programmes

Design Thinking, Maker Education,
Environmental Education

Subjects Offered

Additional Mathematics, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, Computer Applications, Computing, Design and Technology, Exercise and Sports Science, Elements of Business Skills, English, Food and Nutrition, Food Studies, Geography, Humanities (Social Studies, Geography), Humanities (Social Studies, History), Higher Chinese, Higher Malay, Higher Tamil, Literature in English, Literature in Chinese, Malay, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Principles of Accounts, Science (Chemistry, Biology), Science (Physics, Chemistry), Tamil

CCAs

Physical Sports:

Sports: Badminton, Basketball (Boys), Dragon Boat (Boys), Cross Country, Netball, Soccer (Boys)

Uniformed Groups:

Girl Guides, NCC(Land), NPCC, Scouts, Red Cross

Visual and Performing Arts:

Band, Choir, Chinese Dance, Malay Dance, Indian Dance, English Drama, Urban Nature (Percussion Band)

Clubs and Societies:

Art Club, Bits and Atoms, Culinary Club, Eco Club, New Media