



Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

2 Geylang East Central Singapore 389705

Tel: 6746 6503, Fax: 6747 7317

Email: gmss@moe.edu.sg

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

2021 SEC 4 and 5 TERM 1 LETTER

On behalf of the staff at Geylang Methodist School (Secondary), I wish everyone a blessed 2021.

We continue to be grateful to God for His grace and mercy, building GMS(S) from strength to strength through the years. We are thankful and appreciative of our team of staff who are committed, giving their best and upholding the values of Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service. In the new year ahead, we will continue to stay true to our mission: 'With God's help, to be a beacon of light by connecting, nurturing and inspiring all to make a difference', helping every GEM to grow, flourish and be rooted in the school values.

For 2021, we have selected the following theme and bible verse:

Theme: Connect. Nurture. Inspire.

Verse: We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

The school will continue to adopt the thematic approach where all programmes and events are aligned to a termly theme and school value. For Term 1, the theme and school value are 'Laying strong foundations' and 'Godliness' respectively. We hope that through the consistent and intentional effort of every member in the school community, we can realise our vision of nurturing every GEM into passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens.

As we begin the new year, we welcome our returning GEMS and the new Sec 1s. We look forward to forging quality relationships with each and every one of you on this journey of learning and growth.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wee Tat Chuen
Principal

(A) SCHOOL CALENDAR AND KEY SCHOOL EVENTS

1. The following are key events in Term 1. More details will be provided nearer the dates.

Date	Event
Term 1 (4 Jan to 12 Mar)	
4 Jan (Mon)	GM Prayer and Praise
7-8 Jan (Thurs-Fri)	S1-5 Level activities
13 Jan (Wed), 15 Jan (Fri)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
15 Jan (Fri)	Principal's Address to Sec 1 parents and students (Zoom)
16 Jan (Sat)	Sec 1 CCA Fair cum Trials
25-29 Jan (Mon-Fri) 1 Feb (Mon), 3 Feb (Wed)	Student Health Screening
8 Feb (Mon)	Total Defence Day Celebrations
11 Feb (Thurs)	Chinese New Year Celebrations (Staggered dismissal after 10.30 am.)
12 Feb (Fri), 15 Feb (Mon)	Chinese New Year Holidays
16-17 Feb (Tues-Wed)	Good News Week
18 Feb (Wed) - 3 Mar (Wed)	Common Tests
5 Mar (Fri)	Sec 2 Subject Combination Talk
9 Mar (Tues)	To follow Friday's Time-Table
9-11 Mar (Tues-Thurs)	Capstone Projects
11 Mar (Thurs)	ECG Fair for Upper Secondary students
12 Mar (Fri)	Cross-Country Run at Bedok Reservoir Eat With Your Family Day
School Vacation: 13 Mar (Sat) to 21 Mar (Sun)	

2. GM Prayer and Praise

This will take place via Zoom on 4 Jan (Mon) from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm. It is a time to draw strength and grace from God and one another through prayer and fellowship. All are welcome. Those who are keen can send an email to the Parent Support Group Chair, Ms Kong, at Kong_niesg@yahoo.com.sg to obtain the log in details.

(B) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

1 Student Welfare

- 1.1 Students are encouraged to approach their Form Teachers and/or subject teachers if they face any challenges, be it in school or at home.

- 1.2 The school has a team in place to support all students.
Mr Lewis Lam and Ms Tai Yoke Yin - mental, social and emotional well-being
Ms Menaga - students with learning and educational needs.
Ms Kathrine Yang - Education and Career Guidance.
Students can approach the various personnel for advice if they need a listening ear, eg, for stress, relationship issues with peers or family, bullying, cyber addictions in gaming, social media, time management or financial needs.
- 1.3 Students who are Singapore citizens requiring financial support can collect the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) form from the General Office. Non-Singaporean students can approach their Form Teachers to request for financial support.

2 Student Management

- 2.1 We encourage all parents/guardians to work with the school to ensure that your child/ward abides by the School Rules found in the Student Diary 2021. Please remind your child/ward that punctuality for school/lessons/CCAs is important to maximise their time for learning.
- 2.2 All handphones are to be switched off and kept in their bags in the morning. If you need to contact your child/ward for any urgent matters, please call the General Office at 6746 6503.
- 2.3 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staggered dismissals will be carried out to avoid crowding at the school gates, public transport stations etc. Please be patient as you wait for your child/ward outside the school. The estimated waiting time can be up to 15 minutes.

3 Safety & Security

- 3.1 To prepare our students for unexpected emergencies, the school will be conducting an emergency preparedness drill in Term 1.
- 3.2 For parents/guardians who drive, we request that you adhere to the instructions in Annex A and the regulations given by the Traffic Police for driving within School Zones. With effect from 1 Apr 2019, motorists may be fined from \$100 to \$150 for making an unauthorized U-turn and \$400 to \$500 for beating a red light within School Zones.
- 3.3 We encourage all drivers to drop off your child at Gate H, along Aljunied Road, where it is fully covered. More details can be found in Annex A.

(C) Level Activities in Term 1

1 Sec 4 Level Activity

The school will conduct a 2-day programme to prepare our students for tertiary education and career planning. The theme is 'Laying Strong Foundations - Preparing for the Future'. It aims to enable students to discover their self-identity and purpose in life and learn basic skills for interview and portfolio creation.

Date: 7 - 8 Jan (Thurs, Fri)

Time: 7.15 am to 12.45 pm

Venue: School

- 2 **Sec 4 Level Activity (Make-up Session for Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs))**
OGLs will be involved in the Sec 1 Level Camp from 7 to 8 Jan. As such, a make-up session is specially arranged for them.
Date: 4 Feb (Thurs)
Time: 2.45 pm to 5.45 pm
Venue: School
- 3 **Day Camp for Sec 4 (Class-based in view of COVID-19 safe management measures)**
Due to COVID-19, the MOE-OBS Challenge for this cohort was cancelled in 2020. To provide them with a similar experience, Sec 4 students will attend a non-residential camp from 18 - 19 Jan (Mon - Tues). Activities will include sea and land adventures to provide them with some challenges to strengthen their social and emotional skills.
- 4 **Sec 5 Level Activity**
The theme of this 2-day programme is 'Laying Strong Foundations - Preparing for the Future'. It aims to help students increase their self-motivation to succeed and have good time management skills to maximize their potential.
Date: 7 - 8 Jan (Thurs, Fri)
Time: 7.15 am to 12.45 pm
Venue: School

(D) HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

- 1 **CCA Matters**
CCA is an integral part of education and is compulsory for all students. CCAs will commence from 4 Jan (Mon) for Sec 2 to 5.
In view of COVID-19, comprehensive safe management measures will be followed strictly to ensure the safety of all students.
- 2 **After-School Engagement Programme**
These activities are offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students meaningfully.
Date: Every Monday (Starts 1 Feb)
Time: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
Venue: Music Room (Guitar), Dance Room (Dance), Shelter Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)
- 3 **Student Leadership**
Class Committee Training will be conducted for Sec 2 to 5 on 14 Jan (Thurs) from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm in the Lecture Theatre. Sec 1 will be trained on 28 Jan (Thurs) from 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm in SPR 101. All Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Media Resource Rep will attend the training.
House training will be conducted for all Sec 1 students on 21 Jan (Thurs) from 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm as part of their orientation programme.
All Sec 2 students will undergo a leadership training session on 4 Mar (Thurs) from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm in their respective classrooms to develop their leadership capabilities and prepare them for future leadership roles.
- 4 **Value-In-Action (VIA) Programmes**
VIA programmes aim to develop students to be caring citizens.
To bless the community, all students will be preparing hampers as part of the Chinese New Year Celebrations in school on 11 Feb (Mon). The hampers will be delivered to various beneficiaries and social agencies by the Class VIA representatives/volunteers and teachers after the celebrations.
The Sec 4s will continue to partner the social agency they had selected at the end of Sec 3 in 2020 in their final Capstone Project. They will further hone their collaboration skills

working with one another and with the agency to meet the needs of the community. The Capstone Project will culminate with a main event with the agency in early March.

5 ECG Matters

The various polytechnics and Junior Colleges (JCs) will be conducting their virtual Open Houses, beginning from 7 Jan (Thurs). Interested 4E/5N students can log into the school website to view the various Open Houses. This is a good opportunity to find out more about the courses and the institutions. .

Two e-talks on Early Admission Exercise (EAE) and Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) will be conducted on 8 Mar (Mon). Speakers from these institutions will address our students and answer their queries.

An ECG Fair will be held on 11 Mar (Thurs). Speakers from polytechnics, ITEs, JCs and various industries, eg, media and banking will share pertinent information. Students will choose to attend talks of their interest.

6 Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS)

As part of MOE's commitment to nurture future-ready learners, all students are given an account to access SLS. SLS is an online platform with tools and curriculum-aligned resources for all students to learn at their own pace and collaboratively. With SLS, students can take greater ownership of their learning and acquire skills and habits that prepare them for lifelong learning. Teachers will also use SLS to complement classroom teaching and learning. SLS can be accessed via <https://learning.moe.edu.sg>.

7 Home Based Learning (HBL)

The school will be conducting regular HBL from 2021 where students can be more self-directed and independent. This will take place from semester 2 to complement physical classroom teaching. Students without computer access can loan a Chromebook from the school.

8 Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) for Sec 1 to 3

The PDLP supports the strengthening of students' digital literacies which will better enable them, at different stages of their education journey, to acquire the digital skills required to navigate the digital age. The programme will equip all Sec 1 to 3 students with a personalised learning device in Semester 2. More information will be provided nearer the date of implementation.

9 MOE's Sexuality Education in GMS(S)

As part of MOE's Sexuality Education in schools, we would like to draw your attention to Annex B which provides details of the Growing Years (GY) Programme. It helps students to understand and manage their emotions and develop healthy and right relationships.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter in Annex B via Parents Gateway (PG) or return the signed Acknowledgement Form to your child's/ward's form teacher by 15 Jan (Fri). If you do not wish your child/ward to attend this programme, please submit the compulsory opt out form.

(E) CURRICULUM MATTERS

1 English Language

The English Reading Programme aims to nurture the love of reading in our students. Through regular reading, students can gain mastery of the English language and thrive in subjects that require a strong command of the language. Students will subscribe to educational magazines, such as iThink, Inspire or "I", from an established publisher. These

reading materials complement the English lessons by expanding our students' general knowledge and developing their critical thinking skills.

2 Mother Tongues (MT)

All students offering Tamil Language have to register for their classes with Umar Pulavar Language Centre and inform Mdm Liping (SH MT) of their lesson timing. For students who are taking up a 3rd language, they need to report to their designated language centre for lessons. Students who are exempted from MT will report to a designated venue during curriculum time for self-revision.

3 Mathematics

To provide a platform for NT and selected NA students to be more self-directed and engaged in learning Mathematics, students will subscribe to an interactive IT-learning platform which will complement Home-Based Learning lessons planned by the dept. More details will be provided by the respective subject teachers.

4 Science

The school's Applied Learning Programme (ALP) in Science adopts a contextualized approach for its curriculum design, exploring a common theme on Sustainability, with unique programmes for each level. It adopts a blended approach where Tier 1 ALP for all lower secondary students, is infused into the curriculum for 10 weeks. Tier 1 programme exposes students to basic science principles and the use of instrumentation in fieldwork and mini-projects. Sec 1 embarks on Urban Heat Island and Sec 2 on Urban Agriculture. These programmes are conducted by the subject teachers in the science laboratory and greenhouse, in collaboration with our industry partner, Comcrop Pte Ltd. Tier 2 ALP is targeted at Sec 3 students who are passionate in the subject and wish to pursue sustainability further. Tier 2 programmes are conducted throughout the year and students are provided with the opportunity to work with Comcrop on projects related to Environmental Science and Sustainability.

5 Humanities Inquiry and National Education Learning Journeys

The Humanities Department Inquiry programme equips our students with critical thinking, research and communication skills and help them develop global perspectives to become confident persons, active contributors and concerned citizens. Humanities inquiry is central to the students' understanding of 21st century issues such as cross-disciplinary and national/global societal issues and it seeks to instill in them a sense of curiosity and the ability to question, gather information, examine different perspectives and analyse information meaningfully to arrive at new insights and understandings. Humanities inquiry helps our students develop skills to think critically and make well-reasoned, evidence-based conclusions and decisions.

6 Design and Technology and Art

Lessons conducted in the Design Studios and Art Rooms involve hands-on sessions where students have to abide by safety rules. Teachers will brief students on these rules when they start working in these rooms.

(F) ASSESSMENT MATTERS

- 1** Assessment is integral to teaching and learning as it helps to monitor students' learning processes and ascertain their holistic development in order to provide timely intervention and support. In addition to common tests and end-of-year examinations, there are various formative assessments to monitor learning and provide feedback. These include quizzes, individual or group assignments, projects, class participation, assignment/ file checks.

- 2 In preparation for the O- and N-Level examination held at the end of the year, the assessment schedule for Sec 4 and 5 students is as follows:

All streams	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Sec 4 and 5	Common Test	Mid-Year Examinations	Preliminary Examinations

3 National Exam Matters

Registration for O-Level and N-Level will commence in Feb. Do remind your child to be familiar with the subject codes of the subjects he/she will be sitting for. Form Teachers and Subject Teachers will assist the students in the registration process.

(G) Time-table Matters, Early Dismissal from school

- 1 As part of our review in 2020, lunch breaks have been included in the time-table for students' well-being and to enhance their learning. It is intentionally structured in to give students a mental and physical break so that they do not have more than 3 hours of continuous lessons after recess.
- 2 We will continue to allow for Early Dismissal on a need-to basis. Students may be dismissed at 1.15 pm if that is the last period of the day and the teacher is away for official duty or medical leave. This will be done only during certain periods of the school term when many teachers are out of school for official duties. Homework will be assigned to these classes as per school practice and students can complete the assigned work at home instead of completing it in school. Parents will be informed via PG the same day if your child is released early that day.

(H) Partnership Matters

1 Geylang Methodist Chinese Church

As GMS(S) is a mission school, we work closely with our main partner church, Geylang Chinese Methodist Church (GCMC) to run programmes to inculcate Christian values and strengthen character in our students, eg, weekly Chapel. GCMC also provides financial support to some of our school events and to students in need.

2 Alumni

We hope to tap on the vast experiences of our Alumni to provide our students with exposure and advice. Alumni can volunteer to be speakers to motivate our students or provide education and career advice or work attachment opportunities to give our students greater clarity in certain careers. You can contact the Alumni Association Liaison Mr Neo Ping Leng at 67466503 ext 267 for more information

(I) ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

1 Admin-related matters for Finance, Students

1.1 Registration of PayNow

With the increasing digitalisation of government services, MOE would like to encourage all parents to register their children's bank account with PayNow using the children's BC/NRIC number. The activation of PayNow will facilitate the prompt disbursement of monies for the child, and avoid delays through the filling in and processing of forms or from physical visits to banks for the deposit of cheques. For a start, school will be using PayNow (BC/NRIC) as a means to disburse Edusave award monies starting from the upcoming Edusave award exercise in Dec 2020.

To register for PayNow for your children with their BC/NRIC number, you can visit the website of the Association of Banks in Singapore (links provided) for more information.

Please approach your bank if you need further assistance to register for PayNow for your children. Alternatively, if you are using your children's bank accounts with POSB/DBS or OCBC, you can fill in the online form (link provided) for MOE to help you to set up PayNow arrangements for these accounts.

More information on PayNow

<https://go.gov.sg/abspaynow>

Online form to setup PayNow

<https://go.gov.sg/paynowregister>

1.2 Payment for Enrichment Programmes organised by School

For **Singaporean** students with authorised Edusave EPSO, the co-payment amount will be deducted from your child/ward's Edusave account. If there are insufficient funds in your child's/ward's Edusave account, the shortfall can be settled using GIRO if you have established standing order for payment of Enrichment Programme. Otherwise kindly make payment via AXS station/AXS Mobile App.

For **Non-Singaporean** students and **students without Edusave EPSO** with an established GIRO Standing Order for payment of Enrichment Programme, kindly maintain sufficient fund in your bank account for GIRO deduction. Otherwise kindly make payment via AXS station/AXS Mobile App.

eNETS / Mastercard / Masterpass / PayLah!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Website: www.axs.com.sg<ul style="list-style-type: none">Select "eServices"Pay by eNETS/Mastercard/Masterpass/DBS PayLah!
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2 Parents Gateway Matters

Parents Gateway (PG), a mobile app specially designed for parents and developed by MOE and GovTech, is our school's main online communication platform with parents. For parents who are not onboard PG, we would like to invite you to download the PG app on your mobile phones and perform a simple one-time onboarding process.

For a step-by-step guide on the onboarding process, please refer to our school website <https://geylangmethodistsec.moe.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Parents-Gateway-Onboarding.pdf> or scan the QR code below.

For further support, parents can also refer to the *Frequently Asked Questions* at <https://pg.moe.edu.sg/faq> (or scan the QR code below) for more information and troubleshooting steps.



PG Onboarding Process



PG FAQs

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