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Dear Parents/Guardians,

2021 SEC 4 and 5 TERM 3 LETTER

Greetings and welcome back to Term 3! We hope you have been able to spend time meaningfully with your child during the holidays. Full Home-Based Learning in the last 2 weeks of May, Phase 2 and 3 Heightened Alerts have been challenges that our students were able to rise up to. We are heartened to see them doing their part to keep one another safe, actively learning and being more self-directed.

In Term 3, we will continue to pace your child, using the knowledge, talents and skills acquired in semester 1 to live out the theme for term 3, 'Making a Positive Difference', undergirded by the value of Service. The theme encourages every GEM to look beyond themselves and serve the needs of family, friends and community. Students will have opportunities to help one another in their school work, provide a listening ear to others in need and offer their time and effort to serve others, creating a better community and a better Singapore for everyone.

Term 3 will be an exciting term. Our students from Sec 1 to 3 will also have their personal learning device to enhance their learning as teachers plan for a more seamless blend of learning wherever they may be - in school or at home undergoing HBL. You can read more in the term letter.

We will continue to be vigilant in keeping all GEMS safe in Term 3. Let's continue to remind one another on the importance of social responsibility:

- (i) Stay away from school when unwell and to seek medical attention immediately
- (ii) Stay away from school when household members (6 years and above) have flu-like symptoms
- (iii) Adhere to cleaning routines and personal hygiene habits like handwashing, wiping down personal spaces before and after use
- (iv) Bring the TraceTogether token and personal thermometer daily.

We look forward to seeing every GEM in the new term. Sec 3 to 5 students will return to school on Jun 28 (Mon) and lower secondary students will return on Jul 1 (Thurs). Whether students are in school physically or at home learning online, our teachers will provide students with meaningful and engaging learning experiences. We will continue to journey alongside you and your child to nurture them into passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens, grounded in Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service.

May God continue to bless all of you richly as we connect, nurture and inspire one another as a community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wee Tat Chuen
Principal

(A) TERM 3 MAIN SCHOOL EVENTS

Date	Event
Jun 28 (Mon)	GM Prayer and Praise @ 3.30 pm, Zoom Meeting
Jul 2 (Fri)	Graduation Walk for Sec 4/5 (10.45am – 2.45 pm)
Jul 4 - 5 (Sun - Mon)	Youth Day and Youth Day School Holiday
Jul 6 (Tues)	GCE O-Level MT Listening Comprehension All Sec 4 and 5 classes will be dismissed at 12.45 pm to prepare themselves and the venues for examinations. Sec 1 to 3 classes will be dismissed at 1.15 pm.
Jul 7 (Wed)	Follow Monday's Time-Table
Jul 14-16 (Wed-Fri)	Good News Week (Lower Sec)
Jul 19 (Mon)	GM HBL Day 1
Jul 20 (Tues)	Hari Raya Haji PH
Jul 21 (Wed)	Racial Harmony Day Celebrations
Jul 23 (Fri)	Special Achievement Award @GM
Jul 26 (Mon) - Aug 4 (Wed)	4N Preliminary Examinations
Aug 6 (Fri)	National Day Celebrations (Students will be dismissed by 1030h)
Aug 9-10 (Mon-Tues)	National Day PH and School Holiday
Aug 11 (Wed) - Aug 24 (Tues)	Common Test 3 (Sec 1-3)
Aug 20 (Fri) - Sep 1 (Wed) Sep 13 (Mon) - Sep 14 (Tues)	4E/5N Preliminary Examinations
Aug 26 (Thurs)	GM HBL Day 2
Aug 30 (Mon)	VIA Day
Sep 2 (Thurs)	Teachers' Day Celebrations
Sep 3 (Fri)	Teachers' Day School Holiday
Sep 4 (Sat) – Sep 12 (Sun)	Sept Break

(B) STUDENT WELFARE AND WELL-BEING

Families facing financial difficulties may refer to the following government agency website for assistance:
<https://supportgowhere.life.gov.sg/>

Alternatively, your child may approach his/her Form Teachers.

Families who need social-emotional support, parenting support, financial assistance or counselling services can refer to a Family Service Centre (FSC). You may visit this website to find the FSC nearest your house: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/dfcs/familyservice/default.aspx>

If your child needs a listening ear or emotional support, he/she may contact our full-time school counsellor, Mr Lewis Lam, at lam_ying_hao@schools.gov.sg, or look for him at the Counselling Centre located in the D&T Block.

(C) STUDENT MANAGEMENT

All students should continue to take the safe distancing measures seriously and exercise due care to protect themselves and their peers and families.

(D) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1. CCA matters

Face-to-face CCAs will resume from Term 3 Week 3, with adherence to national safe management guidelines. eCCAs will continue to be the mode of engaging our students in their CCA experiences till then. Students will be informed separately if their CCAs are proceeding with eCCAs during T3, Week 1 and 2. All remaining National School Games (NSG) for the year will be cancelled due to the need to minimise intermingling of students from different schools.

2. After-school engagement programme

There are a variety of activities offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students. Do encourage your child to participate.

Date: Monday (You can refer to the calendar in the school's website for more details)

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm

Venues: Music Room (Dance), Dance Room (Guitar), SPR403 (Cajon), Sheltered Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)

(E) Updates on National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)

1. The NDLP was launched in March 2020 to make digital learning inclusive by equipping students with the digital literacies to be future-ready. Through the NDLP, our Sec 1 to 3 students will own a Chromebook as a Personal Learning Device (PLD).

2. Procurement of PLDs: We have placed order for the Chromebooks and are currently waiting for the contractors to update us on the delivery date, which is around Jul or Aug.

3. Digital Literacy Courses: To prepare your child/ward better in learning with the PLD, the school will require your child/ward to complete a series of Digital Literacy Courses via SLS. These are self-paced modules and students should be able to complete each module within an hour.

S/N	Lesson Title	Remarks
1	Managing schedule and tasks using digital tools like Google Calendar	These modules have been assigned. Students should have completed by the end of June holidays.
2	Annotating digital files (using SLS)	
3	Annotating digital files Part2	
4	Video Conferencing Tools	These modules will be assigned during the HBL days in Term 3
5	File sharing	

6	Digital Mindmapping tools	These modules will be assigned when the students received their PLDs.
7	Word Processing (Google Docs)	
8	Spreadsheet (Google Sheets)	
9	Presentation (Google Slides)	
10	Online bulletin board	

4. Security of PLD: The school has installed new lockers outside the classrooms for students to keep their PLDs. Students should keep their PLDs in the lockers when they need to go for PE lessons, recess or lunch. They should bring their PLDs home at the end of the school day to charge. **Charging of the PLDs in school is not allowed.**

5. IT Applications for students: MOE will be rolling out a number of IT applications for secondary school students and these applications will be vital in supporting teaching and learning. The school will introduce these progressively when the PLD arrives. These include:

- a. Student iCON: Every secondary school student will be provided with access to the Google Suite set of tools, including email address. In doing so, we will be phasing out the use of the current school-based email address (ending with gmss.moe.edu.sg) by the end of 2021.
- b. Microsoft ProPlus: Every secondary school student will be able to use Microsoft Office tools that include Word, PowerPoint and Excel.
- c. Zoom: Every secondary school student will be given a Zoom free account with 40 min time limit for their video conferencing needs.

(F) GM's Home-Based Learning Days

In our efforts to nurture self-directed and independent learners who are passionate and intrinsically motivated, we have planned for 2 HBL days in Term 3 on Jul 19 (Mon) and Aug 26 (Thurs)). We will continue to use the class Time-Table on HBL days. All announcements, instructions (eg links to zoom sessions) and lesson materials will be assigned via SLS. Teachers may complement their mode of communication with students via whatsapp. To manage screen time for both students and teachers, synchronous lessons will be capped to half the curriculum time to keep it below 4 hours daily. To help our students maintain their daily routines, students will begin the day with a synchronous lesson for the 1st academic lesson of the day. Your child will be reminded nearer the dates.

(G) SCHOOL EVENTS

1. Graduation Walk

All graduating students will embark on the annual graduation walk on Jul 2 (Fri) as a cohort. In view of the Covid-19 situation and social distancing measures, the planned activities have been scaled down without compromising engagement and memory building. It will be conducted in school from 10.45 am to 2.45 pm.

2. Racial Harmony Day

This day is commemorated on Jul 21 (Wed). Activities are planned to help students reflect on our shared experiences and values that have connected us as Singaporeans over the last 200 years. More information will be released nearer the week.

3. Special Achievement Award Ceremony

This occasion will take place on Jul 23 (Fri) to affirm students who have demonstrated resilience in beating the odds to excel in curricular and co-curricular areas and are exemplary in their conduct. The time and venue of this event will be shared with the awardees closer to the date.

4. National Day Celebrations

Celebrated on Aug 6 (Fri) with an observance ceremony and meaningful activities, this year's theme focuses on how everyone in Singapore stands united to overcome challenging times together and keep Singapore safe. It is also a time to appreciate the hard work and resilience of all as we embody the Singapore spirit and are "One United People". The programme will promote how we can work together to make Singapore a better place. Students will be dismissed by 10.30am.

5. Teachers' Day Celebrations

We will celebrate Teachers' Day on Sep 2 (Thurs). Led by the Student Council, the celebrations will include performances put up by students, games and also showcases GM's Talent-time 'GEMS Got Talent'. Dismissal from school is at 10.30am.

(H) Student Leadership Development

This term, we continue to build on the competencies of the various student leaders to enhance their competencies to serve the school community.

- a. Sec 2 Student Council Training - Jul 15 (Thurs)
- b. Student Council Trainees Training - Jul 29 (Thurs)
- c. Sec 3 GEMS Leaders: This training will equip them with skills in mentoring, facilitating and planning especially the 2022 Sec 1 Orientation Camp. The training dates are Jul 29 (Thurs) and Aug 5 (Thurs).

(I) VALUES-IN-ACTION (VIA)

1. Aug 30 (Mon) is designated GM's school-wide VIA Day. It will take place from 7.45am to 9:45am, followed by normal lessons for the day. The VIA programmes are aligned to Term 3's focus of 'Making a positive difference' and will imbue in our students:

- a. the ability to plan and implement ideas that will benefit others
- b. the confidence to speak, share and champion for a cause
- c. the ability to reflect on their VIA experiences and be an empathetic and caring citizen.

2. Sec 4 VIA Programme

The theme is 'Working for the Good of Society'. In Social Studies, Sec 3 students learnt about national concerns like ageing population, people with disabilities and underprivileged children. Engagement talks with various beneficiaries are planned for the students. Each class will select and partner with an agency for their VIA project. This project continued in Sec 4 as their Capstone Project.

3. Time has been set aside for students to prepare and learn meaningfully. These sessions will take place on Thursday enrichment sessions between 2:45pm to 5pm on the following dates: Jul 1 VIA Launch, Jul 22 VIA preparation 1 and Aug 12 VIA preparation 2.

(J) EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG)

1. Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) and Direct Schools Admission (DSA)

The application period for the following EAE and DSA to post-secondary institutions are as indicated:

Exercise	Application Period	For more information
ITE EAE	May 27 - Jun 2	https://www.ite.edu.sg/admissions/full-time-courses/nitec-and-3-year-higher-nitec/early-admissions-exercise
Poly EAE	Jun 24 - Jun 30	https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg/eaeStudIns/menu.jsp?type=Introduction
DSA-JC	Varies from JC to JC. (To check website)	https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa

Students who wish to consult the ECG Counsellor, Ms Kathrine Yang, for any questions or to prepare for the above exercises can book an appointment with her through this link: <http://rebrand.ly/ecggms>

(K) CURRICULUM MATTERS

1. English Language

The graduating cohort will be taking their National Oral Examination this term on the following dates.

- a. N(A)/N(T) Level Oral Exam: Jul 12-16
- b. O-Level Oral Exam: Jul 22 - Aug 2

2. Mother Tongue Languages (MT)

- a. O-Level Exam Matters
 - (i) Jul 7 - MT B Oral Exam
 - (ii) Jul 8 - 16 Jul Oral Exam
 - (iii) Aug 13 - 17 Higher Chinese Oral Exam
 - (iv) Jul 6 - MT/MTB Listening Comprehension Exam
- b. N-Level Exam Matters
 - (i) Jul 29 - Aug 2 MT/ Basic MT Oral Exam
 - (ii) Sep 14 - MT Listening Comprehension Exam
 - (iii) Sep 13 - Basic MT Listening Comprehension Exam

3. Humanities

Sec 4 Geography students will continue with the *SGFood Secure 30/30*, part of the Humanities Department Green Programme. This is a school-wide initiative to deepen understanding, encourage a mindset change, and to enhance student-led actions on food waste reduction. Students will propose solutions through their research to address food issues. This is part of the Humanities inquiry approach where students are encouraged to be curious and to explore meaningful issues like “Are we running out of food for the future?”

(L) ASSESSMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

School-based Preliminary Examinations for Sec 4/5

Preliminary examinations for Sec 4NA/NT will be from 26 Jul - 4 Aug and for Sec 4E/5N 20 Aug - 1 Sep and 13 Sep - 14 Sep. O-Level Preliminary Science practical examinations will be on Aug 3, 11, 13 and 17.

(M) GCE O-Level and N-Level Examinations

Various GCE O-Level and N-level EL and MT Oral and Listening Comprehension examinations will be held in Term 3 and your child will be briefed by their teachers. Do encourage your child/ward to take responsibility for his/her learning and conduct during the examinations. They are expected to take note of the dates of the exams, report punctually, to read the 'Examination Rules and Regulations For School Candidates' booklet carefully and to adhere to the instructions and rules.

(N) PARENTING TALK

A parenting talk entitled "Talk About Anything- SCREEN/ed" has been planned on 21 August (Sat) from 9.00am to 11.30am. It is designed for parents to attend together with their child and conducted within the school premises.

Synopsis:

Screens have become an inevitable and critical part of our lives – we depend on it for work and our children use it for learning at school and at home. How do we help our children minimise the use of screen time while maximising the positive impact of technology? Can parents and teens have a conflict-free conversation about media use and agree on digital boundaries? Get talking about how you can be a screen-smart family and use technology for meaningful connection!

- Engage in meaningful conversations about screen time
- Create a Family Digital Agreement together
- Take home resources to use as visual reminders for the whole family

Please call the General Office or email Mr Tan Wah Kum at tan_wah_kum@schools.gov.sg if you are interested. This programme is subject to developments in COVID-19.

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