



Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)

2 Geylang East Central Singapore 389705

Tel: 6746 6503 Fax: 6747 7317

Email: gmss@moe.edu.sg

21 June 2024

2024 TERM 3 LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the first semester, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of our school or GM100 with our students through exciting programmes such as the GM Family Carnival and the Centennial Thanksgiving Service. We also involved all classes to contribute to the painting of our GM100 Wall Mural. Through these programmes, we wanted to instill in our students a deep sense of pride and a strong sense of belonging to GM. At the end of Term 2, each student was presented with "Seeds of Light", a graphic novel as a gift for GM100. We hope that students will learn about the history of our school and feel proud of our school through this fun approach of reading "Seeds of Light".

At this year's Committee of Supply debate, the Ministry of Education (MOE) shared that it will strengthen our emphasis on 21st Century Competencies (21CC) to help our students cultivate future-ready competencies that will better enable them to achieve their aspirations and contribute back to society.

In line with this, MOE will enhance the Edusave Award for Achievement, Good Leadership and Service (EAGLES) to include a new 21CC domain, to recognise students' exemplary demonstration of competencies such as (i) Critical, Adaptive and Inventive Thinking, (ii) Civic, Global and Cross-Cultural Literacy, as well as (iii) Communication, Collaboration and Information Skills, in both curricular and co-curricular settings.

In GMS(S), the E21CC skill that we are focusing on for this award is Communication Skills. Communication Skills is one of the skills that we develop in our students through our Learning for Life Programme (LLP) in the area of Community and Youth Leadership. This is an important part of realizing our vision to develop students to be "Passionate Learners, Courageous Leaders, Caring Citizens". The teaching of skills in our LLP are guided by Kouzes and Posner's Model in Transformational Leadership which provides a breadth of practices to develop student leaders - challenging the process, inspiring a shared vision, enabling others to act, modeling the way, and encouraging the heart (Kouzes & Posner, 1995, 2002). Later in the term, we will be communicating to students, staff and parents on how they can nominate students for this award.

We wish all our students and their families a very blessed and fruitful Term 3!

Yours sincerely,
Mr Victor Qwyong
Principal

(A) TERM 3 MAIN SCHOOL EVENTS

Date	Event
Jun 25, Tue	S3 NRIC Registration
Jun 28, Fri	Sec 4/5 Grad Venture
Jul 1, Mon	Youth Day School Holiday
Jul 3, Wed	Temperature-Taking Exercise (All students are expected to have a working oral digital thermometer with them.)
Jul 3, Wed	GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examinations Sec 4&5 and Sec 3 HMT students sitting for the examination will be dismissed at 12.15pm for lunch and reporting to Wesley Hall at 1.30pm. (Students not sitting for the examination will be dismissed at 1.15pm to ensure a more conducive environment for examination.)
Jul 5, Fri	HBL Day
Jul 15-19, Mon-Fri Jul 21, Sun	Racial Harmony Day Week Racial Harmony Day
Jul 16, Tue	Emergency Evacuation to an External Holding Area
Jul 17, Wed	HBL Day
Jul 20, Sat	NE Show for Sec 3 students
Jul 21, Sun	GMS(S) at GCMC Service
Jul 23-25, Tue-Thu	HBL Days (National Examination Full Day Orals)
Aug 1-7, Thu-Wed	Common Tests (Sec 1-3)
Aug 1-21, Thu-Wed	Sec 4&5 Preliminary Examinations
Aug 8, Thu	National Day Celebrations Students will be dismissed by 10.30 am
Aug 9-10, Fri-Sat	National Day Public Holiday and School Holiday
Aug 13, Tue	HBL Day except for students involved in the Prelim Examination
Aug 23, Fri	Methodist Get-Together
Aug 26, Mon	HBL Day
Aug 29, Thu	Teachers' Day Celebrations Students will be dismissed by 10.30 am
Aug 30, Fri	Teachers' Day School Holiday

Sep 2-6, Mon-Fri	Sec 3 MOE OBS Challenge
Sep 9-11, Mon-Wed (Term 4 Week 1)	Sec 1 Outdoor Adventure Camp (Zoom briefing for parents would be on 16 Aug, Fri at 7.30pm. Details for Zoom will be sent through PG nearer the date.)
School Vacation: 31 Aug (Sat) to 8 Sep (Sun)	

(B) STUDENT WELFARE, WELL-BEING AND SAFETY

Families needing financial support may refer to the following government agency website for assistance: <https://supportgowhere.life.gov.sg/>. Alternatively, your child may approach his/her Form Teachers. Students who are Singapore citizens who wish to apply for MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) can obtain a copy of the application form from the General Office. Families who need social-emotional support, parenting, financial or counselling services can refer to a Family Service Centre (FSC). You may visit this website to find the FSC nearest your home: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/our-services/directories#familytab>. If your child needs a listening ear or emotional support, he/she may contact our full-time school counsellors (Mr Lewis Lam, at lam_ying_hao@schools.gov.sg, or Ms Lim Soo Ling at lim_soo_ling@schools.gov.sg). They are located at the Counselling Centre in the D&T Block.

Temperature-Taking Exercise on 3 Jul, Wed

There will be a temperature-taking exercise for the whole school after assembly on 3 Jul, Wed. Students are expected to have a working oral digital thermometer with them for this exercise.

Emergency Drill - Evacuation to External Holding Area on 16 Jul, Tue

This will be conducted on 16 Jul, Tue at 7.45 am to better prepare our students and staff to respond quickly in the event that we need to evacuate from the school premises. Students will move to an external holding area (Geylang Chinese Methodist Church) which is within walking distance from the school. The exercise is expected to take not more than 2 hours. After the evacuation exercise, students will return to school to continue lessons for the day.

(C) STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Vaping at any age, and underaged smoking are illegal. All e-cigarettes, cigarettes and other types of vaporisers are harmful and can adversely affect health and families. Youths who are caught using or possessing such products will be reported to the Health Sciences Authority and disciplinary actions will be taken.

(D) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1 CCA matters/Unstructured Play

CCAs will resume from Term 3 Week 1 for all Sec 1 to 3 students. Attendance in CCA is compulsory. Failure to achieve 75% attendance per year will result in a poor LEAPS 2.0 attainment. Students will not be allowed to change their CCA in Semester 2.

To encourage unstructured play during recesses, students are encouraged to bring their own equipment, practise safe play and be responsible for one another's well-being. Students are also to observe punctuality for lessons and return all equipment after play.

2 After-school engagement (ASE) programme

A variety of activities are offered after school to engage our students. Do encourage your child to participate.

Date: Mondays (Refer to the calendar in the school's website for details.)

Time: 2.45 pm - 4.15 pm

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

3 National Education (NE) Show (20 Jul)

This year's NDP NE Show on 20 July, Sat is open to Sec 3 students as the cohort missed out on the show in 2020 due to safe distancing measures. For parents who had registered their child for the show earlier will receive their ticket in term 3. Students are required to bring along the ticket and student card for admission.

4 Values In Action (VIA)

Sec 1 will be involved in a VIA programme that focuses on the environment and sustainability. They will learn about how they can protect the environment and make informed choices and contribute towards a more sustainable Singapore. The programme will end with a beach cleaning activity at East Coast Park. The schedule for the sessions is as follows:

Session	Date	Time	Venue
1	27 June	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm	School
2	11 July		School
3	1 August		East Coast Park

(E) Updates on National Digital Literacy Programme

To prepare your child better in learning with the Personalised Learning Device (PLD), all Sec 1 students will be assigned a series of self-paced digital literacy modules via SLS in Semester 2 during HBL days. They had also been enrolled in the National Digital Explorer 2024 programme and would have completed the first module on Word Processing by the start of Term 3. They have until 18 Oct Fri to complete the second module on Spreadsheet computing.

Parents are requested to work with the school to remind their child on the following:

- Lockers had been installed outside every class and students can keep their PLDs in the lockers securely when the PLDs are not in use
- PLDs should be brought home at the end of every school day so that they can be fully charged for lessons the following day
- Students who have issues with their ICT accounts or PLDs can refer to page 20 and 21 of the Student Handbook for support.

(F) SCHOOL EVENTS

1 Racial Harmony Day Celebrations (RHD)

To commemorate RHD, activities are planned to help students reflect on our shared experiences and values in a multi-racial and multi-religious society like Singapore. The celebrations will take place during the Racial Harmony Week from 15-19 Jul.

2 NRIC Registration for 15-year-old students (25 Jun)

This will be conducted in school on 25 Jun for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents. All 15-year-old students involved in this registration should receive a notification from ICA. As shared in an earlier letter to you, parents are reminded to complete the online registration (go.gov.sg/icreg) at least 3 days before the registration appointment in school on 25 Jun.

You are required to:

- Indicate your child's particulars
- Upload your child's photograph and supporting documents (where applicable)
- Make payment for the application (\$10 for citizens / \$50 for permanent residents)

3 National Day Celebrations (8 Aug)

This will be celebrated 8 Aug with an observance ceremony and meaningful activities. The theme of this year ***"Together, As One United People"*** highlights the collective strength of our people and underscores the importance of every citizen rallying to share our future and uplift those around us. The theme also encapsulates the essence of our Nation's success and resilience. While the road ahead may be uncertain, our strength lies within our diversity. It reflects the spirit of inclusivity, community and trust that has enabled us to overcome and flourish in the last 59 years.

4 Teachers' Day Celebrations (29 Aug)

We will celebrate Teachers' Day on 29 Aug. Led by the Student Council, the celebrations will include performances and games put up by students, CCA groups and also showcases GM's Talent-time 'GEMS Got Talent'. The theme for this year is *Guiding Lights*. The Teachers' Day rehearsal will be held on 22 Aug and student leaders involved would be notified at a later date.

(G) LEVEL ACTIVITIES

1 3D-2N Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp for Sec 1 (Term 4 Week 1)

As part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan, all students will get to participate in three cohort camps during their school years. Our Sec 1 students will be participating in a 3-day, 2-night residential Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp which aims to develop well-rounded individuals through enriching and authentic experiences outside the classroom. It will help students build resilience, ruggedness, responsibility and essential 21st century competencies for sustainable active and healthy living. As a key Student Development Experience, this camp allows students to apply the skills and knowledge gained in Outdoor Education and CCE lessons, significantly contributing to their holistic development. These experiences foster confidence, teamwork and an appreciation for diversity.

Camp Details

Dates: 9-11 Sep, Mon-Wed

Campsite: MOE Jalan Bahtera Adventure Centre (69 Jalan Bahtera, Singapore 719920)

Reporting Time: 7.15 am in GMS(S)

Dismissal Time: 2 pm in GMS(S)

A briefing for parents would be conducted via Zoom on 16 Aug, Fri at 7.30pm. More details will be sent through PG nearer the date.

2 Sec 1 ACE Programme (for selected students)

This program helps our students learn self-regulation skills and find the motivation to strive for success in their studies and enjoy a positive school experience.

Date: Tuesdays (25 Jun; 2, 9, 16, and 30 Jul; 6 and 20 Aug)

Time: 1.45 pm - 3.15 pm

Venue: Classroom

3 Sec 2 GEMS@Work

To provide Education and Career Guidance (ECG) learning experiences beyond the classroom, students are highly encouraged to observe their parents or relatives at their workplace on one of the HBL days. Please refer to the announcement on PG for more details.

4 Sec 2 ACE Programme (for selected students)

This programme develops in our students the ability to reflect and lead through healthy living, service learning and sustainable living.

Date: Tuesdays (25 Jun; 2, 9, 16 and 30 Jul; 20 and 27 Aug)

Time: 1.45 pm - 3.15 pm

Venue: Classroom

5 5D-4N MOE-OBS Challenge Programme for Sec 3

As part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan, the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme seeks to develop ruggedness, resilience, and builds cohesion amongst youths. It is an experiential programme to learn how to face challenges positively and make good decisions through self-directed learning.

Date: 2-6 Sep, Mon-Fri

Reporting time: 7.15 am in GMS(S)

Dismissal time: estimated 2.00 pm in GMS(S)

All Sec 3 students will have their September school holidays in Term 4 Week 1 from 9-13 Sep, Mon-Fri. Students are advised to rest at home and to return to school on 16 Sep, Mon.

6 Sec 3 GEMS Challenge

GEMS Challenge training sessions will continue to be on selected Thursday afternoons. Most Challenges had been completed while the rest will complete in Term 3. Specific training dates and other details will be shared with your child by his/her teachers.

7 Sec 4 & 5 Grad Venture

All graduating students will embark on the annual graduation walk on 28 Jun, Fri as a cohort. This year's activities will include Dragon boating and a dinner to create shared memories with their peers and teachers. The activity will be from 12.30 pm to 7 pm and students would be dismissed from school.

(H) Student Leadership Development

Student Leadership Development continues to be a key focus of GM, helping our student leaders build relevant competencies to better serve the school community.

- a. Student Council Training – 4 Jul, Thu
- b. Sec 3 GEMS Leaders Training – 15 Aug, Thu and 29 Aug, Thu to enhance skills in mentoring, facilitation and planning especially for the 2025 Sec 1 Orientation Camp.

(I) EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG)

Students who wish to consult the ECG Advisor, Ms Suma, for any questions or to prepare for their ITE/Poly EAE or DSA-JC interviews can book an appointment with her through this link: <https://www.geylangmethodistsec.moe.edu.sg/students/ecg/>. She is available only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Graduating students are encouraged to visit the ECG Google Classroom for updates on admission exercises and other ECG-related information.

(J) CURRICULUM MATTERS

1 Mother Tongue Languages (MT)

- a. O-Level Exam Matters
 - (i) MT B Oral Exam: 23-25 Jul
 - (ii) MT Oral Exam: 4-12 Jul
 - (iii) Higher Chinese Oral Exam: 23-26 Jul
 - (iv) MT/MTB Listening Comprehension Exam: 3 Jul
- b. N-Level Exam Matters
 - (i) MT/ Basic MT Oral Exam: 23-25 Jul
 - (ii) MT Listening Comprehension Exam: 12 Sep
 - (iii) Basic MT Listening Comprehension Exam: 10 Sep

(K) ASSESSMENT MATTERS

1. School-based Academic Assessment for Sec 1-3

Common Test 3 for Sec 1 - 3 will be held from 1 Aug to 7 Aug. The topics and schedule for the Common Test will be given later. In accordance with MOE's guidelines, the assessment weightings are as follow for all streams

Common Test 1	Common Test 2	Common Test 3	End-of-Year Exam	Total
15%	15%	15%	55%	100%

2. Weightings for Modular Subjects at Lower Sec

Subject/ Level	Common Test	Semestral Assessment	Total
D&T/ Sec 1 & 2	20%	80%	100%
FCE/ Sec 1 & 2	20%	80%	100%

3 School-based Preliminary Examinations for Sec 4 & 5

Preliminary Examinations will be from 1 - 21 Aug. O-Level Preliminary Science practicals will be on 2, 6, 14 and 16 Aug. The time-table will be shared with students in Term 3 Week 1. Students should not be absent for any paper without a valid medical certificate.

4 Sec 3 N(A)/ N(T) English Language Oral Examination (Internal)

The EL oral exam would be held on 2 Jul, Tue from 2.15 pm to 6 pm, for students taking 3N(A)/ 3N(T) OSS and 3N(T) EL.

All students are reminded to:

- a. Report punctually.
- b. Be in school uniform and have a proper haircut.
- c. Observe all examination procedures, rules and regulations.
- d. Students who are absent due to illnesses must submit a medical certificate upon return to school.

5 GCE O-Level and N-Level National Examinations

5.1 Oral Examinations (Streamlined Oral Exam Period 22-26 Jul)

Beginning from 2024, the streamlined oral examinations held in the week of 22-26 July will be conducted at another school. Please ensure that your child check his/ her entry proof for the date and session as well as the exam venue for his/ her oral exam. Your child should ensure sufficient travelling time to the exam centre.

5.2 Do encourage your child/ward to take responsibility for his/her learning and conduct during the national examinations. They are expected to take note of the dates of the examination. On the day of the examination, they are to bring their Entry Proof and ID with photo identification and to report punctually as well as to adhere to all rules and regulations.

Click on the link for the '2024 Examination Rules and Regulations For School Candidates'.

https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/exam-rules-and-regulations/2024-gce-no-exams-rules_regulations_finalf7bad7fd-27ad-4b48-a1e8-b91f3e4bb81f.pdf

(L) PARENTING TALKS

Two parenting talks to be conducted by Focus on the Family are scheduled:

Talk 1: 13 Jul, Sat from 9 - 11 am

Raising Screenwise Kids

Synopsis:

New technology and social media have exposed our children to information and interactions never imagined possible. While exciting, it can also pose dangers. Plug into the cyberworld to help your child develop digital savvy in media discernment, online safety, data privacy and digital etiquette.

By the end of the talk, parents will:

- understand the impact of various forms of media and how it affects children's perceptions, attitudes and behaviour,
- know how to set boundaries for your unique child, and
- use practical skills to engage with their children and leverage on media and technology.

Talk 2: 20 Jul, Sat 9 - 11 am

Raising Resilient Kids.

Building B.O.U.N.C.E. for the bumps in life

Synopsis:

We live in an increasingly fast pace and competitive society often describe as a VUCA (volatile, Uncertain Complex and Ambiguous) world, where the pressure to succeed, academically and perform can leave our children feeling panic-stricken and overwhelmed. More and younger children are seeking help at the Institute of Mental Health due to anxiety, depression and other

mental health issues. As parents, we desire to protect our children from undue distress and help them manage their stress and emotions well.

Come and discover how you can help your child build resilience through the inevitable bumps in life:

- understanding child and youth stressors,
- the gift of failure,
- building psychological resilience, and
- putting the B.O.U.N.C.E. in kids' life

For more information or clarification, pl email Mr Michael Koh at koh_kim_hua_michael@schools.gov.sg.

(M) ALUMNI MATTERS

GMS Alumni would be organising a Homecoming Day in Term 3 2024 for all ex-students and ex-teachers.

Date: 20 Jul, Sat

Venue: GMS(P)

Time: 11.30 am -2.45 pm

For more details, please whatsapp [Pauline@93876607](https://wa.me/93876607) or [Sylvia@98269875](https://wa.me/98269875)

END