



*Vision: Nurturing Empowered, Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose*

*Mission: Care. Lead. Inspire. Partner. (CLIP)*

*Values: Gratitude, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, Trustworthiness.*

**HS PC 2025 Issue 1**

**January**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Happy New Year! As we begin the new year, we are pleased to share a message from our Principal.

### **Principal's Message 2025**

A warm welcome to Hougang Secondary School! As we embark on a new year, I am filled with hope and excitement for the journey that lies ahead. To our new Secondary 1 students joining the family, a very warm welcome! You are beginning an exciting chapter of your life, and we are here to support you every step of the way. At Hougang Secondary School, you are valued and appreciated, and we believe in your worth and potential. Let this be a place where you discover your strengths, cultivate a growth mindset, and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. Together, we will nurture your abilities and help you realise your aspirations, as we have been doing for the past 25 years.

This year marks the launch of our new Applied Learning Programme (ALP) in STEM, titled "**HS Innovates, For Life!**". The ALP is designed to equip our students with the 21st-century competencies essential for success in a rapidly changing world. Through engaging hands-on projects and activities, we will explore challenges brought about by urbanisation and real-world issues, empowering our students with innovative, adaptive thinking, design thinking skills, and technological literacy. These experiences aim to inspire a spirit of curiosity and problem-solving, preparing our students to thrive in a dynamic global landscape.

I am heartened and grateful for the achievements and progress of Hougang Secondary School in 2024. Our students achieved the best results yet in the national examinations, a testament to their hard work, resilience, and the dedication of our educators. We remain committed to strengthening teaching and learning experiences to help every Hougean realise their fullest potential. This commitment reflects our belief that every student can achieve excellence with the right support and opportunities.

In 2025, we celebrate a significant milestone: Hougang Secondary School's 25th Anniversary. The celebration, centred on the value of gratitude, invites us to reflect on our journey and celebrate the people who have made this school a place of inspiration and growth. As part of this celebration, we look forward to reconnecting with our alumni and honouring the legacy of educators who laid the strong foundation. We will come together to cherish our past, celebrate the present, and look forward to an even brighter future.

As we journey through this milestone year, we remain steadfast in our vision of **Nurturing Empowered, Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose**. Our school values—**Gratitude, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, and Trustworthiness**—will continue to guide us as we strive for excellence in all that we do.

2025 will continue to be a year of hope, growth, and achievement for every member of our Hougang Secondary family!

We hope you had the opportunity to engage with your child/ward in many fruitful and meaningful ways over the school holidays. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the parents of our Secondary 1 students. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our HS family for the next educational journey of your child/ward.

We're kicking off the term with our annual GREAT Start Week, designed to prepare students holistically for the year ahead. Additionally, as Hougang Secondary School celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, we're proud to announce that our dedicated staff have received multiple prestigious awards, recognising their outstanding contributions to education and character development.

In the following sections, we'll provide more details on our upcoming programmes, important dates, and other essential information to help you and your child navigate Term 1 successfully.

## 1. Celebrations

### 1.1 Celebrating Staff Excellence

Our teachers have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to education, receiving numerous prestigious accolades. Our staff were honoured with the MOE Service Excellence Award, Caring Teachers Award, MOE Outstanding Innovator Award, President's Award for Teachers (Finalist), and Academy Award, acknowledging their exceptional nurturing approach and positive impact to our students and commitment to the school community.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to have our Lead Teacher (Character and Citizenship Education) being appointed as Master Teacher (CCE). These accomplishments reflect not only the individual excellence of our teachers but also our school's collective commitment to providing the highest quality education that emphasises character development.

Awards	Number of Recipients
MOE Service Excellence Award (Platinum)	1
MOE Service Excellence Award (Gold)	18
MOE Service Excellence Award (Silver)	16
Caring Teachers Award	5
MOE Outstanding Innovator Award	3
President's Award for Teachers (Finalist)	1
Academy Award for Professional Development	1

### 1.2 2024 GCE N-Level Results

We would like to congratulate the 2024 4N(A) and 4N(T) cohorts. They have done us proud by achieving commendable results at the GCE N-Level Examinations. The 4N(A) cohort has attained 100% passes for the majority of subjects this year. We are also proud of our 4N(T) students for striving to meet their academic targets. These results are testament to the efforts to realise the true potential of each child in HS.

## 2. School Structures and Programmes

### 2.1 GREAT Start Week

As we begin the new school year, we are excited to share with you our GREAT Start Week, a three-day programme designed to help Hougeans start the year and term right. Instead of starting lessons immediately, this curated set of activities aims to prepare students emotionally, psychologically, and physically for the year ahead. During these days, students will engage in class bonding activities, fostering

connections with their new classmates and Character Coaches (CC). They will also be equipped with fundamental skills essential for school readiness. The School Leaders and the Year Heads will address each cohort, setting the tone and focus for the year. Additionally, we will communicate our expectations, emphasising our 5As: Attendance, Attire, Attitude, Activities, and Attention. This approach ensures that when formal lessons begin, our students are well-prepared, connected, and clear about what's expected of them. We believe this GREAT Start will lay a strong foundation for a purposeful and meaningful school year.

For Secondary 1, 2 and 4 & 5, Great Start Week programmes will be on 2, 3 and 6 January 2025. Normal curriculum based on students' timetable will commence on 7 January 2025.

For Secondary 3, Great Start Week programmes will be from 2 to 3 January 2025. Normal curriculum based on students' timetable will commence after their Secondary 3 Camp on 9 January 2025. PG messages for the Secondary 3 Camp and bonding activities for the Great Start Week has been sent to all parents.

Please take note that the dismissal time for the GREAT Start Week (2 January – 6 January 2025) is at 12.30 pm (except on 6 January 2025, Secondary 1 will be dismissed at 1.00 pm). More information on the Great Start Week can be found on the school's website.

2.2(a) Principal-Meets-Parents (PMP) Sessions and CCA Open House for Secondary 1

The Secondary 1 PMP Session and CCA Open House for Secondary 1 students will be held on Saturday, 18 January 2025. Due to space constraints, we kindly request that only one parent per Secondary 1 student attend these sessions.

2.2(b) Principal-Meets-Parents (PMP) Sessions for Secondary 2, 3 and 4 & 5

PMP sessions for Secondary 2, 3 and 4 & 5s will be held on these dates and will be conducted face-to-face in school:

<b>Levels</b>	<b>Day &amp; Date</b>
Secondary 2	Friday, 28 February 2025
Secondary 3	Friday, 14 February 2025
Secondary 4 & 5	Friday, 7 February 2025

Information on the above sessions will be sent via Parents Gateway. Parents will be able to indicate their attendance by submitting their reply by the deadline. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the session.

2.3(a) Blended Learning

Blended Learning (BL) is part of MOE's efforts to further develop our students' ability to be self-directed, passionate, and lifelong learners. As part of BL in HS, Home-Based Learning (HBL) days will be scheduled once a fortnight starting from Term 1 Week 5 for Secondary 4 and 5, and Term 1 Week 7 for Secondary 1, 2 and 3 students to complement teaching and learning in school.

Term 1 and 2 HBL days and dates are as follow:

<b>Term 1 HBL Dates</b>	3 February (Secondary 4 & 5 only), 20 February, 3 March,
<b>Term 2 HBL Dates</b>	26 March, 10 April, 23 April, 5 May, 21 May

- On HBL Days, Secondary 1 to 5 students will follow the school's timetable for the day, including the Recess period which will serve as a break for the students.
- To engage students in different modes of learning, teachers will leverage on digital platforms e.g., Student Learning Space, Google Classroom. You may refer to this link: <https://www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg/quick-links/HBL-SIL/hbl-sil/> for the schedule and subject-specific instructions.

### 2.3(b) Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) on HBL days

As part of Blended Learning, there will also be an emphasis on student-initiated learning. Dedicated time will be provided to allow students to exercise agency and explore their interests. Hence, HBL Days will be less structured compared to a typical school day to allow for self-directed learning. It will comprise time for both curriculum coverage and student-initiated learning as shown below.

#### Structure of a HBL Day

	<b>Curriculum Coverage</b>	<b>Student-Initiated Learning</b>
<b>Duration</b>	5 hours	1 hour
<b>Location</b>	Curriculum is designed for completion at home.	At home
<b>Format</b>	Asynchronous	Areas can include one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical/ Healthy Living</li> <li>• Aesthetics</li> <li>• Self-Development</li> <li>• Life skills etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement</b>	To complete all work given.	To ensure following through of their SIL plan in a safe learning environment.

#### SIL by Levels

<b>Level</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Secondary 1, 2 and 3	Term 1 Week 6 to Term 3 Week 10
Secondary 4 and 5	Term 1 Week 4 to Term 2 Week 9

All Secondary 1 to 5 students will start to plan their SIL with advice from their Character Coaches from Term 1 Week 2 onwards. A notification via Parents Gateway will be sent in Term 1 Week 5 for your consent of your child's/ward's SIL plan so that they can start to work on realising their SIL plan.

We seek your understanding that all expenses incurred from your child's/ward's choice of SIL activities will not be reimbursed by the school. Please ensure that they ask for your permission if they wish to sign up for any courses or workshops.

## 2.4 Start of CCA

CCA sessions will be held on every Tuesday and Friday, starting from 3 January 2025 for Secondary 2 to 5 students. For Secondary 1 students, they will be briefed about the CCA selection and allocation process during GREAT Start Week. More information will be shared through Parents Gateway in due course.

## 2.5 Chinese New Year Celebration

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Tuesday, 28 January 2025. Please note that school dismissal timings will be adjusted on that day. A separate PG with further details regarding the celebration and dismissal time will be sent out closer to the date.

In addition, Wednesday, 29 January 2025, and Thursday, 30 January 2025, are designated as public holidays for Chinese New Year. There will be no school on these two days.

## 3. **Student Well-being and Pupil Management Matters**

### 3.1 Advisory on Vaping

E-vaporisers are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components. Any person convicted of such offences is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to six months or both for the first offence, and a fine of up to \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for the second or subsequent offence. All prohibited tobacco items will be seized and confiscated.

MOE takes a firm stand against vaping. Vaping is categorised as a serious offence. When students are caught using or in possession of e-vaporisers, the prohibited product will be confiscated, and their parents will be informed. Schools will report the offender to Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and also manage vaping-related offences through existing disciplinary frameworks. These include taking school-based disciplinary actions, such as suspension or caning (for boys). Students caught vaping will also be placed on cessation support programmes where counsellors will guide them through their cessation journey to effect long-term behavioural change.

Parents have an important part to play in your children's education. There are resources and relevant information that parents can access on Parent Hub. Parents are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your children about vaping to prevent it from becoming a life-long habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>.

### 3.2 Punctuality

We constantly seek to inculcate sound values in our students and being punctual for school is one such value. Students who are late for school for two or more occasions are required to serve detention after school on the same day, during which, they will engage in self-study, reading and/or Corrective Work Order. All students required to serve detention must do so on the actual date of offence regardless of involvement in competitions, tuition classes, remedial sessions and CCAs. Recalcitrant offenders who do not respond positively to the school's intervention measures may face other disciplinary actions such as in-school/home suspension or caning (for boys).

### 3.3 School Dismissal

All students will be dismissed at 2.40 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, students will be dismissed at 2.30 pm and on Fridays at 12.30 pm. School dismissal time will be adjusted during Inspire@HS weeks. Information on Inspire@HS including dismissal timing, will be sent via PG closer to the date.

### 3.4 Usage of Mobile Phone

For effective teaching and learning to take place, we need to set boundaries for our students. Mobile phones may be used only during these timings:

- Mobile phones may be used only before 7.30 am and
- after the last period of curriculum time (2.40 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm on Wednesdays and 12.30 pm on Fridays).

We would like to emphasise that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones during recess. Students are to store their phones in their personal lockers before 7.30 am and to retrieve it after the last period of curriculum time (2.40 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm on Wednesdays and 12.30 pm on Fridays). During curriculum time, mobile phones are to always be out of sight. This includes during the change-over of lessons and while students are walking along the corridor.

Phone use is also prohibited during CCA and Structured Consultation Time.

If the mobile device policy is violated, the mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and kept under lock and key in the General Office. For the first and second offence (for the year), the phone will be confiscated up till 5.00 pm on that day. For the third offence and above (for the year), confiscated handphones will be returned only after 5 school days.

### 3.5 iPads

iPads may be used during curriculum time for learning purposes. During classroom lessons where iPads are not required for learning, they should be put away and not accessed. Students should follow teacher's instructions on "screens up" and "screens down". If iPads are used inappropriately during curriculum time, disciplinary actions will be meted out accordingly.

### 3.6 Maintaining good behaviour at all times

The school places great emphasis on inculcating good habits in our students, such as the prudent use of time. As such, we would like to emphasise that students are not to loiter and misbehave in the neighbourhood after school. We urge you to strongly advise your child/ward to behave appropriately at all times especially while he/she is in school uniform.

### 3.7 Attire and Grooming

The school's grooming and attire policy is aimed at educating Hougeans to look smart and presentable at all times. Having proper attire and grooming is an outward expression of students' readiness to learn. It is also important as it signifies the pride that students have for themselves and the school. To achieve the above intent, grooming and attire checks are carried out periodically throughout the year.

If the students' grooming and attire is not appropriate, a grace period of 2 days will be given for rectification with a follow-up check. Students who fail the follow-up check will be sent home to have the grooming issue/s rectified and parents will be informed.

Students are to wear the full school uniform with school tie on Mondays when they report to school. On days where there are PE lessons, students are required to report to school in their school shirt/blouse, Polo t-shirt, PE T-shirt or CCA T-shirt with

pants/skorts (not allowed to report to school in PE shorts). If they wish to, students can choose to wear their PE shorts under their pants/skorts instead. They are allowed to wear PE attire only during PE lessons.

### 3.8 CCA T-shirt

Students are encouraged to wear their approved CCA T-shirts on Tuesdays with school pants/skorts if they have no PE lessons. Students who have PE on that day will change into their CCA T-shirts during snack break, recess or after 2.40 pm.

### 3.9 Snack Break

There will be a 10-minute snack break on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 9.00 to 9.10 am to enhance students' well-being. Students may bring light and healthy snacks from home to consume in class during the break. Some examples of such snacks are sandwiches, muffins, fruits such as apples and bananas and energy bars. As a whole-school effort, the students will take ownership in ensuring good hygiene practices to keep their classrooms clean and conducive for learning.

### 3.10 Using Students' Images/ Recordings for Publications

HS will be using students' images and/or recordings for school publications. Should parents/guardians have any concerns, kindly inform the school through your child's/ward's Character Coaches.

## 4. **Communication with Teachers**

- 4.1 In line with the Ministry of Education's Five-Day Work Week, parents are encouraged to respect teachers' personal time and space. Teachers can be contacted during weekdays between 7.30 am and 6.00 pm. They are not expected to respond to parents'/ students' queries during weekends or after 6.00 pm on weekdays except for emergencies. We seek your understanding and support on this.

All teachers' email addresses are available on the school's website for parents' convenience. Parents can also contact the General Office (tel. 6385 1990) for further assistance.

- 4.2 To ensure you can easily reach out when needed, we'd like to provide you with the updated contact list of our Heads of Department for 2025.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>
Mr Alfred Choo	HOD / Aesthetic & Technology	6372 6660 (Ext: 660)
Mr Andy Koh Min Chit	HOD / Humanities	6372 6657 (Ext: 657)
Ms Cheng Sze Mei Carmen	HOD / Mother Tongue Languages	6372 6664 (Ext: 664)
Mr Chow Poh Boon	HOD / Mathematics	6372 6661 (Ext: 661)
Mr Elangovan s/o V Muthoo	Year Head / Secondary 3	6372 6662 (Ext:662)
Mr Javen Gwee	HOD / ICT & Data Management	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
Mr Khairul Adli Bin Rahmat	HOD / School Staff Developer	6372 6665 (Ext: 665)
Mr Lee Lis King	HOD / Physical Education & Co- Curricular Activity	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
Mrs Lee Yu Zhen	HOD / Science	6372 6654 (Ext: 654)
Mdm Lim Choon Ling	Year Head / Secondary 1	6372 6653 (Ext: 653)
Mr Low Yi En	HOD / Pupil Management	6372 6668 (Ext: 668)

Name	Designation	Contact Number
Mdm S Chitradevi	HOD / English Language & Literature	6372 6663 (Ext: 663)

## 5. Administrative Matters

### 5.1 School Smart Cards (For Secondary 1 Students)

Please note that all students entering Secondary 1 in January 2025 will be issued with a new Secondary level School Smart Cards (SSC). The cards will be issued to the students in due course.

While waiting for their Secondary level SSCs to be ready, Secondary 1 students can continue to use their Primary level SSCs for concessionary travel till end April 2025. Students can still purchase the Bus Concession Pass (BCP) using their Primary level SSCs but they would need to purchase the BCP for Secondary School students.

## 6. Parent Support Group (Updates)

### 6.1 Joining the PSG as a Member

Parents of Hougang Secondary School are welcomed to join the Parents Support Group. You may find out more on the website <https://hsspsg.blogspot.com/> or email the PSG EXCO at [hss.psg@gmail.com](mailto:hss.psg@gmail.com).

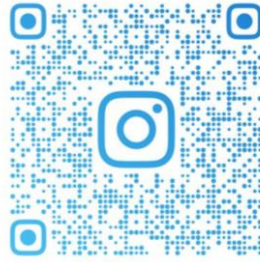
## Contact of Key Personnel

Should you have queries on the matters listed in this Parents Connect, please contact the following Key Personnel in-charge:

2.1, 2.2	Mdm Lim Choon Ling (YH / Sec 1) [Great Start Week and PMP]	6372 6653 (Ext: 653)
2.2	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD / PE & CCA) [CCA Open House]	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
2.3(a), 8	Mr Javen Gwee (HOD / ICT & Data Management)	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
2.3(b)	Mdm Lim Choon Ling (YH / Sec 1)	6372 6653 (Ext: 653)
2.4	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD / PE & CCA)	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
2.5	Ms Cheng Sze Mei Carmen (HOD / MTL)	6372 6664 (Ext: 664)
3	Mr Loh Yi En (HOD / Pupil Management)	6372 6659 (Ext. 659)
5	Mdm Jolin Chang (Administration Manager)	6372 6646 (Ext. 646)
6	Mrs Tan Wei Jing (Covering SH Outreach & Partnership)	6372 6237 (Ext: 237)



**Do scan the QR code below to access our Instagram page and follow us to get regular updates on school activities!**



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