



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

Mission: Care. Lead. Inspire. Partner.

Values: GratITUDE, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, Trustworthiness.

HS PC 2025 Issue 2

March

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We welcome your child/ward back to the new school term! We hope your child/ward was able to rest and recharge during the short break.

1. Celebrations

1.1 Celebrating Staff Excellence

We are delighted to share that Mrs Rachel Chan was awarded the Certificate of Commendation for the Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress (LEAP) Award. The LEAP Award recognises exceptional teachers who have made a difference in the lives of their students.

1.2 2024 GCE O-Level Results

We would like to congratulate the 2024 Secondary 4 Express and 5 Normal (Academic) cohort. They have done us proud by achieving commendable results at the GCE O-Level Examinations. These results are testament to the efforts to realise the true potential of every Hougean in HS.

1.3 Celebrating Students' Sports Excellence in National School Games (NSG)

We are excited to share that our Sports CCAs have demonstrated good performance in the NSG, showing significant progress and achievement. Our B Division Basketball, Football and Floorball (Boys) teams have advanced to the 2nd round of the North Zone Championship. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, teamwork, and dedication. All the best, TEAM HS!

2. School Structures and Programmes

2.1 Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) Stand-Down

Our graduating students have officially stood down from CCA after Friday, 14 March 2025. We express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contributions in their respective CCAs over the past four years. However, there are some graduating students who are representing the school in the National School Games or the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation. These students will stand down from their CCA sessions once their commitments end.

2.2 Blended Learning

The Term 2 Home Based Learning (HBL) days and dates are as follow:

Term 2 HBL Dates	Wednesday, 26 March Thursday, 10 April Wednesday, 23 April Monday, 5 May Wednesday, 21 May
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- On HBL Days, Secondary 1 to 5 students will follow the school's timetable for the day, including the Recess and Lunch periods which will serve as a break for the students.
- To engage students in different modes of learning, teachers will leverage 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 Secondary 1 Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp

The Secondary 1 Outdoor Adventure Learning Camp will be held from Wednesday, 2 April 2025 to Friday, 4 April 2025. For more details, please refer to the parents' briefing slides and packing list shared via Parents Gateway (PG) on 7 March 2025.

2.4 Inspire@HS Series 1

Our Inspire Week will feature two series in Semester 1. The first series will run from Wednesday, 2 April 2025 to Friday, 4 April 2025, while the second series is scheduled from Monday, 26 May 2025 to Thursday, 29 May 2025. Parents will receive detailed information for both programmes via PG closer to the dates.

2.5 HS Student Leaders' Investiture

We will be celebrating HS Student Leaders' Investiture on Friday, 11 April 2025, from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. This event will signify the induction of new Student Councillors, Peer Support Leaders, CCA Leaders, Class Monitors and Sports Leaders. Further details will be provided closer to the event date.

2.6 HS 25th Speech Day

HS 25th Speech Day will be held on Friday, 2 May 2025. As the event falls on a CCA day, CCA sessions will not be conducted. Only the award recipients, selected students from the Performing Arts CCA, selected Student Leaders, and Secondary 4 and 5 students will be required to report to the school hall for the event at 2.50 pm.

2.7 HS Sports Carnival

HS Sports Carnival will be held on Friday, 9 May 2025. More information will be sent via PG on a later date.

2.8 Parents-Teachers Meet (PTM) for Secondary 1 to 5

PTM will take place for all students on Friday, 30 May 2025. More information will be sent via PG on a later date.

2.9 June holidays Extended Curriculum Time (ECT)

All graduating students will be required to attend lessons held during the first week of the June school holidays from Tuesday, 3 June 2025 to Friday, 6 June 2025. Students who are involved in coursework will continue to come to school till Wednesday, 11 June 2025. More information can be found on our school website on a later date.

3. Examination Matters

3.1 National Examination Dates (for graduating students)

Please refer to the table below for the dates which the national examinations will be held. Your child/ward is expected to refer to the entry proof for details of his/her own examination. Please refer to the SEAB website for details of the national examination schedules. (<https://www.seab.gov.sg/>)

GCE O-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	14 July – 18 July
CL / ML / TL	14 July – 18 July
EL	14 July – 18 July
HCL / HML / HTL	14 July – 18 July
Foreign Languages	15 August – 19 August
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	24 September (PM)
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
CL / ML / TL	8 July (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	8 July (PM)
EL	8 October (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	8 October (PM)
Practical Examination	
Higher Music / Music Performing	23 September – 26 September
Computing	8 October (AM)
Science	1 October – 14 October
Written Examination	
Mid-Year CL / ML / TL	2 June (AM)
Mid-Year CLB / MLB / TLB	2 June (AM)
GCE O-Level Exam	16 October – 10 November

GCE N-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
EL Syll A	14 July – 18 July (PM)
EL Syll T	14 July – 18 July (PM)
CL / ML / TL, BCL / BML / BTL	14 July – 18 July (PM)
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
EL Syll A	16 September (PM)
BCL / BML / BTL	16 September (PM)
EL Syll T	17 September (PM)
CL / ML / TL	17 September (PM)
Practical Examination	
Computer Applications	19 September (AM) 25 September (AM)
Written Examination	
GCE N-Level Exam	15 September – 23 September
	6 October – 14 October

4. Student Well-Being and Pupil Management Matters

4.1 Provision of Lunch Break (New)

Starting Term 2, we will be implementing an additional 30-minute lunch break for students on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, in addition to the existing recess period. This extra break has been scheduled to provide students with adequate rest and meals during these longer school days. The current timetable structure for Wednesdays and Fridays will remain unchanged.

4.2 School Dismissal (New)

Due to the introduction of the lunch break, all students will be dismissed at 3.00 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.

4.3 Provision of Snack Time (New)

Selected classes with later recess time will be given time during curriculum hours to have their snacks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, as part of our efforts to support 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.

4.4 Advisory on Vaping (Reminder)

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/guardians will be informed. Schools will report the offender to Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and 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/guardians have an important part to play in your child's/ward's education. There are resources and relevant information that parents/guardians can access on Parent Hub. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your child/ward 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>.

4.5 Punctuality (Reminder)

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).

4.6 Usage of Mobile Phone (Reminder)

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 (3.00 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 (3.00 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.

4.7 iPads (Reminder)

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.

4.8 Maintaining Good Behaviour at All Times (Reminder)

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.

4.9 Attire and Grooming (Reminder)

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/guardians 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.

4.10 CCA T-shirt (Reminder)

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 3.00 pm.

Students are to wear full school uniform/school Polo-T on days with internal and national examinations.

4.11 Using Students' Images/ Recordings for Publications (Reminder)

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.

5. Valuing Teachers and Staff

5.1 Respecting our Staff as Partners

Recently, we had a few incidences of our staff being at the receiving end of parents who shout and use abusive languages. While it is still a small proportion, we are concerned. In Hougang Secondary, our staff are committed to partner with you to grow and educate your child holistically. As partners, it is important to show mutual courtesy and respect. This helps to set a positive example for Hougeans. We are appreciative that a large majority of our parents do. We value our staff and will take firm action to protect them against unreasonable behaviour, harassment or abuse.

5.2 Communication with Teachers

In line with the Ministry of Education's Five-Day Work Week, parents/guardians 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/Guardians can also contact the General Office (tel. 6385 1990) for further assistance.

6. Parent Support Group (PSG)

6.1 Volunteering as a PSG Member

We continue to encourage parents of Hougang Secondary School to volunteer as PSG members. You may find out more in the 'Partners' section of the school website or email the PSG Executive Committee at hss.psg@gmail.com.

Contact of Key Personnel

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

2.1, 2.3, 2.7	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD / PE & CCA)	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
2.2	Mr Javen Gwee (HOD / ICT & Data Management)	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
2.4	Ms Jazreel Toh (SH / Science)	6372 6668 (Ext. 210)
2.5	Ms Uma Magheswary (SH / Student Leadership)	6372 6668 (Ext. 204)
2.6	Mdm Martini (Assistant Year Head / Secondary 4)	6372 6668 (Ext. 235)
2.8	Mr Elangovan (Year Head / Secondary 3)	6372 6662 (Ext: 662)
2.9	Mr Chow Poh Boon (HOD / Mathematics)	6372 6661 (Ext: 661)
3	Mdm S Chitradevi (HOD / English Language & Literature)	6372 6663 (Ext: 663)
4	Mdm Amalina (SH / Pupil Management)	6372 6668 (Ext. 218)
6	Mrs Tan Wei Jing (Covering SH / Partnership)	6372 6668 (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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