

HS Parents Connect

Address: 2 Hougang Street 93 Singapore 534256

Telephone: 63851990

Fax: 63852015

Website: www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg



HS/2013/064

1 July 2013

Principal's Greetings

Finishing the year well

“HOPE – Hang on and Persevere Expectantly”

A warm greeting from Hougang Secondary School. The coming semester looks to be a challenging one on many fronts. Firstly, we are gearing up to prepare our students for the crucial Year-End examinations that will have tremendous impact on their lives. To add to this, the environmental crisis that we are facing will certainly prove to be an unnecessary distraction to our yearly preparations. Nevertheless, I am confident that the school is adequately prepared to weather the storm during this difficult period. Our students' safety and health will always take precedence in everything we do. Even as the teachers are revising the syllabus with their students, they will remain vigilant and observe the general well-being of students.

As I reflect on the current situation, I draw hope and encouragement from the thought that our students have been especially well prepared to face this challenging time through the school's emphasis on Gratitude, Respect and Compassion as its school values. These values firmly entrenched in the hearts of our students will help to build that much needed quality of resilience. They will understand that difficulty is part and parcel of life and hardships can be overcome together. To me, this is the important lesson behind the haze – to persevere expectantly with hope in our hearts that things will get better. It is this positive mindset that will serve our students well in the future. It gives them the competitive edge in an uncertain world and the internal fortitude to succeed in the face of adversity.

In conclusion, I am expecting that during this hectic period just before the final year exams, students will be under a lot of stress. The school will provide them with all the support they need. Our school counselling team will be providing social and emotional support for students before, during and after the examinations. Do help us to monitor your child at home and keep them focused on their studies. We will work hand-in-hand towards a brighter future.

Thank you.

Mr Ng Tiong Nam
Principal
Hougang Secondary School

SECURITY IN THE SCHOOL

The school would like to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff by administering school gate closure at 6.15pm and implementing the visitors' policy, like we did in Semester 1.

A) School Closing Time

This will also help to minimise disruption to users of the school premise after school operating hours (e.g. CDAC, PSG).

At 6pm

- All school activities (including CCAs) end
- School long bell is sounded

At 6.15pm

- School gates close
- All staff and students, with exception of HOD on-duty, should have left the school premises
- HOD on-duty and OSO on-duty complete a final check to ensure school is indeed vacated

At 6.30pm

- HOD on-duty and OSO on-duty leave school

At 7pm of Mon, Wed and Fri

- School gates re-open for CDAC coordinator to take over for running of tuitions which start at 7.30pm

In case of heavy rain at 6pm, the school gates will remain opened. This is to allow parents/spouses of staff to drive in to pick up students/staff at the foyer outside the General Office. Students/staff who are stranded are to wait at the foyer area. The school gates will be closed when the rain lightens/stops.

Please also note that after school dismissal, pupils are allowed to leave the school using the side and/or back gates (which will be open from 2.30pm – 3pm), but pupils will not be allowed to enter the school premises again (one-way only).

B) Visitors' Policy

Visitors are limited to visit only during school office hours, i.e. from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

All visitors to register and exchange their photo IDs (e.g. NRIC, driving license) for serialized HS Visitor Pass at security guard post. This lanyard Pass should be worn at all times.

Visitors with HS Visitor Pass and School Alumni Pass (HS alumni serving in CCAs for 2013) should wear the lanyard Pass visibly at all times during the visit/CCA.

Visitors who display poor conduct or behavior should not be allowed access or be asked to leave the school premises.

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR FOR 2013 (updated dates)
Secondary 1-3 pupils

Event	Level	Term/Week	Date
Release of Term 3 Progress Report to Parents	Sec 1-3	T3 W10	5 Sep
Semestral Assessment 2 (SA2)	Sec 1-3	T4 W2-4	27 Sep, 2 Oct, 7 – 11 Oct
Release of Overall results during Parent-Teacher Meet	Sec 1-3	T4 W6	22 Oct

Secondary 4/5N

Event	Level	Term/Wk	Date
4E/5N Preliminary Exam 1 for other subjects	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W1	1 – 5 Jul
GCE 'O' Level Mother Tongue Oral Examination	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W1-3	5 – 19 Jul
GCE 'N' Level EL Oral Examination	Sec 4N/NT	T3 W2-3	9 – 17 Jul
GCE 'O' Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examination **	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W4	23 Jul
Release of 4E/5N Preliminary Exam 1 results during Parent Teacher Meet	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W4	26 Jul
GCE 'N' Level Mother-Tongue Oral Examination	Sec 4N/NT	T3 W4-6	29 Jul – 6 Aug
4N/4NT Preliminary Exam 2	Sec 4N/NT	T3 W6 T3 W8	5 – 6 Aug 19 – 23 Aug
GCE 'O' Level EL Oral Examination	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W7-9	15 – 29 Aug
4E/5N Preliminary Exam 2	Sec 4E/5N	T3 W9 & 10, T4 W1	30 Aug, 2 – 4, 16 – 20 Sep
GCE 'N' Level Written Examinations	Sec 4N/NT	T4 W1 T4 W4-5	16 – 18 Sep 7 – 18 Oct
GCE 'O' Level Written Examinations	Sec 4E/5N	T4 W6-10	21 Oct – 15 Nov

Please ensure that your child/ward is in school during these important assessment periods.

** The students will be dismissed at 12.30pm and there will also be no CCA and other activities on 23 Jul to facilitate the conduct of the 'O' Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examination.

NEW CCA REMARKS IN STUDENT'S REPORT BOOK

As holistic education is an important part of our students' development in HS and in our effort to reflect our students' commitment within CCAs, both CCA attendance and remarks will be included in your child's report book from Semester 2 onwards. Please ensure your child attends CCA regularly and if he/she is absent from any session, a medical certificate is to be given to the teacher-in-charge.

Sample of CCA remarks to appear in student's report book based on attendance

% Attendance	Remarks
90 – 100	(Pupil's name) has excellent CCA attendance. Well done!
80 – 89	(Pupil's name) has very good CCA attendance. Keep it up.
75 – 80	(Pupil's name) has good CCA attendance. Keep it up.
65 – 74	(Pupil's name) needs to improve his/her CCA attendance.
50 – 64	(Pupil's name) has weak CCA attendance. He/She needs to attend every CCA session.
< 50	(Pupil's name) has poor CCA attendance. He/she needs to attend every CCA session.

HOUGEANS MAKE A DIFFERENCE BEYOND SINGAPORE

A record 81% of Secondary Three students embarked on Overseas Service Learning Trips to Cambodia (3A2 and 3NT) and Vietnam (the rest of Sec 3 classes) after the Mid Year Examination.

Both classes 3E3 and 3E2 embarked on a trip to Tra Vinh, Vietnam on 28th May to 2nd June 2013. Accompanying us were Vice-principal Mrs Yoong Jin Ing, Mr Liang Hong Poh, Mr Chen Shoujie, Colin and Miss Nurul Hakin. For many of us, this marked our first flight overseas, without our parents. Through this trip, we learnt much about each other and the students in Vietnam.



This trip allowed us to see how fortunate we were, to be granted access to quality education, and to have our daily needs met. Besides, while teaching the local primary school students, we were surprised as to how much they have taught us as well. They taught us the value of happiness, how we can perhaps communicate with each other in a more positive and graceful manner. Their enthusiasm for learning, evidently from their upright seating positions and total attention on us, made us more determined to teach the students

wholeheartedly. From them, we saw how they truly embodied our school's core values, Gratitude (being appreciative of the chance to learn), Respect (respect their teachers, us) and Compassion (empathise with us that we are unable to teach them as well as we desire due to the language barrier). ***Can we do any less when we are back home?***

I would like to thank my parents for their support to go on this enriching trip, my fellow classmates who travelled with me, as well as the teachers for always keeping in mind our safety and learning.

-Aaron Lim (3E3)



Spending a week abroad in Vietnam for Overseas Service Learning has taught me much. The trip Vietnam has deepened my understanding of the plight that people living in poverty suffer and left me yearning to return to do more to help them.

Most of the children we interacted with were a fun and lively bunch. Seeing the children smile and laugh was a heartening experience. Despite being poor and unable to afford much, the children never complained about their hardships, a stark contrast to what we pampered city children are like. Seeing the squalid conditions that these children have to carve out a living in with has made me realize that I should appreciate my country and family more and not take what I have for granted.



During our visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels and the War Remnants Museum, I learned more about Vietnam's dark past in the Vietnam War which made me more grateful for the safety people in Singapore enjoy. The graphic depictions of the atrocities that the Americans committed during the war sickened me but also allowed me to appreciate the struggles of the Vietnamese people back then.

Most importantly, this trip has also allowed me to learn the true value of friendship. Some of my classmates helped me overcome the challenges I encountered during those six days in Vietnam. Without their support and motivation, the trip would certainly have been a much less fulfilling one.

- Justin Moey Jie En (3E2)



TERM 3 HS CALENDAR 2013

~ July 2013 ~						
	1 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 1	2 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 1	3 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 1 UNSW competition (PM)	4 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 1 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM TEMPERATURE TAKING EX	5 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 1 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM	6
7	8 YOUTH DAY HOLIDAY	9 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	10 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	11 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	12 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	13
14	15 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	16 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	17 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	18 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM	19 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM RACIAL HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS	20
21	22	23 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL MT & MT(B) LC	24 Sec 3E EL enrichment (PM)	25 Sec 3E EL enrichment (PM) Sec 2E/NA/NT Internal EL Oral Exam	26 ISSUE 4E/5N RESULT SLIPS SEC 4E & 5N PTM	27
28	29 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	30 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM	31 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	Notes:		

TERM 3 HS CALENDAR 2013

~ August 2013 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM	2 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	3 SEC 2E LIT LJ
4	5 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	6 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT ORAL EXAM	7 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS	8 HARI RAYA PUASA	9 NATIONAL DAY	10
11	12 SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT) NIGHT STUDY	13 SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT)	14 SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT) NIGHT STUDY	15 SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT) 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	16 SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT) 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	17
18	19 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT) NIGHT STUDY	20 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM SEC 1-3 MT ORAL (EXCEPT NT)	21 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	22 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	23 4N/4T PRELIM EXAM 2 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	24
25	26 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	27 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	28 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM NIGHT STUDY	29 4E/5N GCE O LEVEL EL ORAL EXAM	30 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 NIGHT STUDY	31
~ September 2013 ~						
1	2 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 NIGHT STUDY	3 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2	4 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 NIGHT STUDY	5 TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS DAY	6 TEACHERS' DAY	7