

# HS Parents Connect

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HS/2013/085

16 September 2013

## Principal's Message

Warmest greetings from Hougang Secondary. Although this has been another eventful year in the chronicles of Hougang Secondary, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the school's progress these past few years. While the journey has not been smooth throughout, it has been meaningful and rewarding nonetheless.

In the past 5 years, Hougang Secondary has managed to develop a positive trend for academic excellence. We are proud to be a value-added school which means that we have managed to add academic value to the students who joined us since 2009. As a result of this, we cannot be contented with our instructional programmes and continually strive for improvement.

While our academic results are improving, I am also happy to report that we have a vibrant and excellent culture brewing in our Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). We have attained 3 Certificates of Distinction and 4 Certificates of Accomplishments in the recent Singapore Youth Festival. Our Uniformed Groups are no less successful with 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze Awards. To add to these, Judo and Wushu have continued their impressive achievements at the national level too. It is never an easy feat to be successful on two fronts; academic and CCA. Nevertheless, for Hougang Secondary this is a result of our push towards holistic education.

The third dimension in Hougang Secondary's vision of holistic education is Character Development. This is why one of the school's key targets is to be a Centre of Excellence for Character and Citizenship Education (CCE). We are steadily progressing towards achieving this target with a positive 5 year trend for Overall Quality of School Experience survey taken by our students bi-annually and achieving the Character Development Award and National Education Award. We will be applying for the niche status in CCE by the end of the year.

I would like to emphasise that for the school to keep progressing on many fronts, we must have strong partnership with parents and community. We are like two chopsticks; one cannot function without the other. As such, we must strengthen our partnership with you in order to ensure our students get the best education possible.

Thank you.

Mr Ng Tiong Nam  
Principal  
Hougang Secondary School

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO HS FIRST 'PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TEACHERS' WINNER!**

HS is very proud to receive its first PAT winner! Congratulations to **Mrs Lai Yee Tyng!** Mrs Lai is our Head of Department for Mathematics. As a passionate Mathematics educator, she strongly believes that a good Mathematics programme will help students in developing their problem solving skills. With this strong conviction, Mrs Lai's vision for her department is "Every Hougean, a Problem Solver" and is committed to delivering a Mathematics programme that develops logical thinking, reasoning abilities and problem solving skills. She advocates the use of different modes of assessment such as performance tasks and journal writing in her Mathematics lessons and has also led her team of Mathematics teachers in developing lesson packages that inculcate self-directed and collaborative learning.

Mrs Lai believes that every student can learn. With this strong belief, she seeks to maximise the potential of all her students. Many of her students who are weak in Mathematics have shown progress under her tireless coaching and guidance. She was even nominated by one of her ex-students as her 'teacher hero' in a 'My Teacher, My Hero' event organised by the Singapore Polytechnic. Mrs Lai also stretches students with a strong aptitude in Mathematics through developing the Hougang Secondary Mathematics Talent Programme.

In the area of professional development, Mrs Lai demonstrates commitment to continuous learning. She actively participates in curriculum innovation projects in order to sharpen her pedagogical skills in delivering quality Mathematics lessons. She applied the ideas learnt at the Singapore-United Kingdom Teacher Exchange Programme in her classroom practice and shared her learning experiences with her department teachers and at various school and cluster platforms. She is also an effective mentor who has motivated her peers to progress along the teaching and leadership tracks.



Third from the right: HS PAT winner Mrs Lai Yee Tyng

## **END-OF-YEAR EXAMS**

### **Secondary 1-3 pupils**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Term/Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>
Semestral Assessment 2 (SA2)	Sec 1-3	T4 W2-4	27 Sept 2 Oct 7 – 11 Oct
Marking Day (Pupils need not report to school for lessons)	Sec 1-3	T4 W5	14 Oct
Promotion Day (Pupils need not report to school for lessons)	Sec 1-3	T4 W5	18 Oct
Release of Overall results during Parent-Teacher Meet	Sec 1-3	T4 W6	22 Oct

### **Secondary 4/5N**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Term/Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>
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. Details have been given to all students and do take note of the examination dates and time of the papers. Your child/ward may be dismissed earlier or later, depending on the number of papers each day.

### **CCA TO STOP FOR END-OF-YEAR EXAMS**

All CCA will temporarily stop from Term 4 week 1 to allow students to revise and prepare for the end-of-year exams. CCA will resume on Monday, 14 October 2013.

### **SAFETY & SECURITY IN THE SCHOOL: Safety is EVERYONE's Responsibility**

The school will continue to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff by administering school gate closure at 6.15pm and implementing the Visitors' Policy as detailed at the Security Guard Post.

Please note that after school dismissal, pupils are allowed to leave the school using the back gates, but will not be allowed to enter the school premises again (one-way only).

### **ROAD SAFETY IN THE SCHOOL: Safety BEGINS with Me**

For the safety of your child/ward, we hope that you would abide by the following:

- a) Reduce your vehicle speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
- b) Alight passenger only at the designated drop-off point.
- c) Reinforce correct road safety behaviour such as using the pedestrian traffic light crossing.
- d) No jay walking or using a handphone while crossing the road.
- e) If your child/ward cycles to school, ensure he/she knows the safe cycling rules and is a competent cyclist. Safety helmet is advised.

**EXTENSION CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL FOR ALL SEC 4 & 5 PUPILS**

The concessionary travel for all Sec 4 (Express and Normal Technical) & Sec 5 students who are taking the GCE "O" Level examinations in 2013 and all Sec 4 (Normal Academic) proceeding to Sec 5 in 2014 will expire on 31 Dec 2013.

Hence, please advise your child/ward to activate the extension of their School Smart Card (SSC) (including students who pay their fare through GIRO or Auto Credit Card), at any Transit Link (TL) Ticket Office, Concession Card Replacement Office (CCRO), Passenger Service Centre (PSC), Add Value Machine (AVM) or the General Ticketing Machine (GTM) by 14 Oct 2013.

Sec 4 (Express and Normal Technical) & Sec 5 can extend their concessionary travel till 31 Jan 2014. Sec. 4 (Normal Academic) students can extend their concession travel till 31 Dec 2014.

If your child/ward encounters any problem extending the concession validity, please call TL-Hotline at 1800-2255 663 for assistance. TL's Operating hours are from 8am - 6pm daily and they are closed on Public Holidays.

## TERM 4 HS CALENDAR 2013

~ September 2013 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 4T GCE N LEVEL EL LC GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>17</b> 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 4N/4T GCE N LEVEL MT LC GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>18</b> 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>19</b> 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 1E/NA/NT Int EL Oral Exam	<b>20</b> 4E/5N PRELIM EXAM 2 4T GCE N LEVEL CPA PRACT EXAM	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL MT(B) END ORAL EXAM S1-3 SA2 (EL PAPERS ONLY)	<b>28</b>
~ October 2013 ~						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> S1-2, 3T1 SA2 (MT PAPERS ONLY) S3E and 3N SA2 (MT and SS)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> SEC 1 - 3 SA 2 EXAMS GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>8</b> SEC 1 - 3 SA 2 EXAMS GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>9</b> SEC 1 - 3 SA 2 EXAMS GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>10</b> SEC 1 - 3 SA 2 EXAMS GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>11</b> SEC 1 - 3 SA 2 EXAMS GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T) LAST DAY FOR 4E5N	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> MARKING DAY (SEC 1-3)  GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>15</b> <b>HARI RAYA HAJI</b>	<b>16</b> SEC 1 - 3 CHECKING SCRIPTS 1  GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>17</b> SEC 1 - 3 CHECKING SCRIPTS 2  GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T) 4E/5N O LEVEL SCIENCE PRACT	<b>18</b> PROMOTION DAY (SEC 1-3) GRADUATION DAY (HS 13 <sup>TH</sup> ANN)  GCE N LEVEL EXAM (4N & 4T)	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  POST EXAM ACTIVITIES	<b>22 LAST DAY OF SCH</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  POST EXAM ACTIVITIES PARENT-TEACHER MEET (S1 to S3)	<b>23</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING	<b>24</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING	<b>25</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING P6 SEC SCH XPERIENCE	<b>29</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING P6 SEC SCH XPERIENCE	<b>30</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM S2 RELEASE SUB COMB. 3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING P6 SEC SCH XPERIENCE	<b>31</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING P6 SEC SCH XPERIENCE	Notes:	

## TERM 4 HS CALENDAR 2013

~ November 2013 ~

~ November 2013 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  3E & 3N ECT/MASTERY LEARNING P6 SEC SCH XPERIENCE	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAY	<b>5</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>6</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>7</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>8</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>12</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>13</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  HUMANITIES SEC 3 LEARNING JOURNEY	<b>14</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM  HUMANITIES SEC 3 LEARNING JOURNEY	<b>15</b> 4E/5N O LEVEL WRITTEN EXAM	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> PROM NIGHT	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>