



SERANGOON SECONDARY SCHOOL

11 Upper Serangoon View
Singapore 534237



2 July 2021

Through Principal

Mdm Tay Siok Hwa
Principal
Serangoon Secondary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

2021 Term 3 Letter – Lower Secondary

1. Welcome to Term 3 2021! We are glad to share with you that your child/ward is settling well into the new term after progressively returning to school in a careful and safe manner. In this letter, we would like to update you on:

- Key Events in Term 2
- COVID-19 Safe Management Measures (SMMs)
- School Hours
- National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)
- Regularly Scheduled Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days Under Blended Learning (BL)
- GCE O-Level and N-Level Oral and Listening Comprehension Examinations
- Checking of Mid-Year Examinations Scripts and Issuing of Semester 1 Results Slips
- Term 3 Mastery Learning Programme
- Term 3 Weighted Assessments
- Preliminary Examinations
- Learning Week 2
- School Expectations
- Caring for School Facilities
- School-Home Partnerships
- Communication Channels

Key Events in Term 2

2. **Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP)**. This year's SYF AP was reconfigured to adhere to COVID-19 SMMs. We are proud of all our students from the Performing Arts CCAs who persevered through various challenges to participate in the SYF AP, including the following groups:

- Chinese Ensemble – Certificate of Accomplishment
- Contemporary Dance – Certificate of Accomplishment
- English Drama – Certificate of Accomplishment
- Malay Dance – Certificate of Accomplishment

3. **Student Leaders' Investiture**. As part of our school's flagship Learning for Life Programme (LLP), the 54th Student Leaders' Investiture was held on 31 March with the theme "Aspire to Inspire". Prefects, CCA Leaders, Class Leaders, and Peer Support Leaders were formally invested into their leadership roles as they received their badges and pledged their commitment to lead and inspire others. Our student leaders and LLP teachers worked hard to move the event online, so that all staff and students could participate from their respective classrooms. You are invited to catch a glimpse at <https://sites.google.com/moe.edu.sg/2021studentleadersinvestiture/programme!>

4. **Term 2 Parent Webinars**. We are glad that many parents joined the two webinars conducted on 29 May (Sat):

- Sec 1 to 3 National Digital Literacy Programme and Blended Learning: We are awaiting some further information from MOE before processing the webinar recordings. In the meantime, if you have further enquiries, please use this form: <https://form.gov.sg/#!/6004f8860a4eb30011a65395>
- Sec 3 Academic Sharing on English, Mathematics, Science, and CCAs & LEAPS 2.0 System: You can view the slides, recordings, and FAQs at <https://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-n-students/upper-sec-matters/sec-3-academic-sharing-on-english-mathematics-and-science-and-ccas-n-leaps-2-0-system>

COVID-19 Safe Management Measures (SMMs)

5. We will continue to ensure that SMMs are in place to keep students and staff safe, such as:
 - Proper wearing of **surgical masks**, or cloth masks with equivalent effectiveness, at all times
 - Daily temperature-taking – students without a working oral digital thermometer are required to purchase one from the school bookshop (priced at \$5.50)
 - Regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces and disinfection of premises
 - Frequent washing of hands and wipe-down of tables after use
 - Seating with at least 1-metre spacing in the classrooms
 - Staggered recesses, with students seated by class and with at least 1-metre spacing in the canteen
6. **TraceTogether (TT) Token or App.** Students must have their TT token with them or keep the app running throughout the school day to facilitate accurate contact tracing, should the need arise. Staff and visitors must perform a SafeEntry check-in using their TT token or app to enter the school, and must have their token with them or keep the app running throughout their time in the school.
7. **Enhanced Leave of Absence and Approved Absence Policies.** As required by MOE, parents/guardians must alert your child's/ward's Form Teachers and keep your child/ward at home in the following situations. Your child/ward will continue to be supported in learning through the syllabus schedules on our school website and live Zoom lessons.
 - Students, or their household members, **unwell with flu-like symptoms** (fever, cough, runny nose, loss of smell) should seek medical attention immediately. Students can only return to school when the relevant individual's COVID-19 test result is negative.
 - Students, or their household members, are required to undergo **mandatory testing due to a COVID-19 cluster**. Students can only return to school when the relevant individual's COVID-19 test result is negative.
 - Students with **household members on Quarantine Order (QO)** can only return to school after the individual has moved out to serve the QO at Government Quarantine Facilities and tested negative for COVID-19 entry swab test.
8. **COVID-19 Vaccination Exercise for Students.** More than 90% of our school's students have enrolled in the national exercise. We thank you for your overwhelming support. For more information, you may visit <https://sites.google.com/moe.edu.sg/ssscovidmatters/home>.

School Hours

9. The arrival, dismissal, snack break, and recess/lunch timings are:

Level	Arrival	Snack Break(s)	Recess/Lunch	Dismissal on Mon – Thu	Dismissal on Fri
Sec 1	7.30 am	1.00 pm	9.00 – 9.30 am	As per class timetable https://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-n-students/class-timetables	12.20 pm on odd weeks 12.30 pm on even weeks
Sec 2	7.40 am	1.00 pm	10.00 – 10.30 am		12.30 pm on odd weeks 12.20 pm on even weeks
Sec 3	7.40 am	1.00 pm	11.00 – 11.30 am		12.30 pm on odd weeks and even weeks
Sec 4 & 5	7.30 am	9.30 am and 11.00 am	12.00 – 12.30 pm		12.20 pm on odd weeks and even weeks

10. **Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) and Learning for Life Programme (LLP).** All Sec 1 to 3 timetables have CCE/LLP during Even Week Wednesdays from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. Please refer to the detailed schedule for Term 3 in **Annex A** – students who are involved are required to attend the respective session(s) as part of the formal school curriculum, while students who are not involved will be dismissed at 1.30 pm on such days instead.
11. **Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs).** Sec 1 to 3 students will stand down from CCA after **17 September (Fri)**, to allow sufficient time to prepare for their End-of-Year Examinations.
12. **After-School Engagement (ASE) Programmes.** Please refer to the Term 3 schedule below for students involved in the respective programmes:

Programme	Schedule
Orion StaRs (for selected Sec 1 – 2 students)	In view of the prevailing SMMs, there will be a gradual resumption of face-to-face interactions for the Monday/Thursday sessions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1: Online Zoom session, 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Programme	Schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2 onwards: Face-to-face sessions in school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mondays: 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm Thursdays: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm <p>For interest-based sessions on Tuesdays, the sessions will be face-to-face in school and will commence from Week 2 onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: No session Week 2 onwards: 3.00 – 5.00 pm for sports and cooking sessions
Adventure for Life (for selected Sec 2 students)	In view of the prevailing SMMs, the weekly face-to-face group and individual sessions on Thursdays will resume in Term 3 Week 2.
Mentoring by CARE Singapore (for selected Sec 1 – 3 students)	In view of the prevailing SMMs, face-to-face sessions on Thursdays and Saturdays will resume in Term 3 Week 2.
Emotional Growth (for selected Sec 1 – 3 students)	In view of the prevailing SMMs, the sessions on Mondays will be suspended until further notice.

National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)

13. Sec 1 to 3 students who procured Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) collected the devices in school on 1 to 2 July. Parents/Guardians who have opted to collect their child's/ward's PLD are required to book an appointment with the collection centre by calling 6272 0088, to collect the device within 5 working days **from 5 to 9 July**.
14. We thank all parents/guardians of Sec 1 to 3 students for attending the Parent Webinar on 29 May (Sat) and submitting your choice of DMA option. As the feature is currently under review and testing, all student PLDs will use the school default DMA settings during this interim period. The school DMA administrator will only activate the DMA settings based on the selected DMA option submitted by the parent/guardian when the DMA feature is made available. Students will continue to be able to use their PLDs in and out of school to be engaged in learning.

Regularly Scheduled Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days Under Blended Learning (BL)

15. As announced by MOE, Blended Learning will be a key feature of the schooling experience to further develop students' ability to be self-directed, passionate, and life-long learners. Through Blended Learning, regularly scheduled HBL Days around once a fortnight will complement teaching and learning in schools. Students' learning during HBL Days will be supported by the NDLP and their procured PLDs (see above).
16. At Serangoon Secondary, HBL Days take place fortnightly on Odd Week Tuesdays with effect from Term 3 Week 3 for Sec 1 to 3 students. Each HBL Day will consist 4 hours of curriculum coverage subjects, 1 hour of rotated elective subjects, and 1 hour of Student-Initiated Learning (SIL). There is **no HBL** on National Day school holiday on **10 August (Tue)**. Please refer to the schedule below for the HBL days and the rotated elective subjects:

2021 Sec 1 to 2 HBL Days and Elective Subject Schedule				
Term/Week	Term 3 Week 3	Term 3 Week 5	Term 3 Week 9	Term 4 Week 1
Date	13 July (Tue)	27 July (Tue)	24 August (Tue)	14 September (Tue)
1SD1	Art	FCE	CPA	Music
1SD2	Art	FCE	Music	CPA
1SD3	Geo	Hist	Lit	PE
1SD4	PE	Lit	Hist	Geo
1SD5	Lit	PE	Geo	Hist
1SD6	Hist	Geo	PE	Lit
1SD7	EL	EL	EL	EL
1SD8	PE	Hist	Geo	Lit
2H1	CPA	Music	Art	DT
2H2	Music	CPA	Art	DT
2H3	PE	Lit	Hist	Geo
2H4	Geo	Hist	Lit	PE
2H5	Hist	Lit	PE	Geo
2H6	Lit	Geo	Hist	PE
2H7	Lit	PE	Geo	Hist
2H8	Sci	Sci	Sci	Sci

Legend: AMath – Additional Mathematics, CPA – Computer Applications, DT – Design & Technology, EL – English Language, FCE – Food & Consumer Education, FN – Food & Nutrition, Lit – Literature, Math – Mathematics, MTL – Mother Tongue Languages, PE – Physical Education, POA – Principles of Accounts, Sci – Science, SS – Social Studies

17. **Student-Initiated Learning (SIL).** SIL is an opportunity for your child/ward to learn to be an independent, passionate, and life-long learner. It enables students to exercise agency, explore their interests and passions, and learn within and beyond the curriculum. It also helps students to discover their interests and plan how they should go about pursuing them.
18. Your child/ward has been assigned a planning template in the Student Learning Space (SLS) in Term 2, and would have identified and indicated his/her interest under the five themes identified for SIL. These five themes (Knowing Asia, the Arts, Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM), Entrepreneurship, and Overall Well-Being and Life Skills) are intended to encompass a broad range of activities to better appeal to the diverse learning interests and needs of all our students. Your child’s/ward’s SIL plans are submitted in the SLS, and the SIL plans will be checked to ensure that they are appropriate and safe to be conducted at home. Students have also been advised to exercise care and caution in carrying out the selected activity to stay safe.
19. Your child/ward would not be graded based on what they have learnt during SIL. This is to motivate students’ learning and avoid over-emphasis on grades, particularly in this context of harnessing their interests to nurture intrinsic motivation.
20. At the end of their SIL journey in Term 4, students will submit a reflection on their learning. We hope that you will take some time in the new school term to check in with your child/ward on his/her selected SIL activity to encourage and motivate your child/ward to do his/her best.

GCE O-Level and N-Level Oral and Listening Comprehension Examinations

21. Students taking the GCE O-Level and N-Level e-Oral and e-Listening Comprehension (e-LC) examinations have been informed of the candidate schedule by exam supervisors. They will be dismissed from lessons at **12.20 pm** and **1.00 pm** to have their lunch break before reporting for e-LC and e-Oral in school. Students who need to travel to an external venue for e-Oral will be dismissed earlier at 12.40 pm. More details on the reporting time and examination venues will be provided at a later date.

Dismissal	O-Level	NA-Level	NT-Level
e-LC 12.20 pm	MTL/MTLB: 6 July EL: 15 October	EL: 13 September MTL: 14 September	EL: 14 September BMTL: 13 September
e-Oral 12.40 pm (travelling to an external venue) 1 pm (taking exam in school)	MTLB: 7 July MTL: 8 to 16 July EL: 22 July to 2 August	EL: 12 to 16 July MTL: 29 July to 2 August	EL: 14 to 16 July BMTL: 29 July to 2 August

22. The staggered dismissal schedule for all students on **6 July (Tue)** is as follows:

Level	Dismissal Timing for 6 July (Tue)
Sec 1	12.50 pm
Sec 2	12.30 pm
Sec 3	12.40 pm
Sec 4 & 5 and Sec 3 e-LC candidates	12.20 pm

23. In view of the more infectious variants of COVID-19, all candidates and oral examiners will be required to wear **surgical masks** during the oral examinations at all times. They are not allowed to remove their mask during the reading aloud, oral presentation, and oral interaction segments of their oral examination with the oral examiners. During attendance taking, they may be asked to remove their mask for a short while to verify their identity. As facial expressions are not be taken into consideration for the assessment, candidates will not be disadvantaged by the wearing of surgical masks. Oral examiners will also take the special circumstance of mask wearing into consideration when assessing the candidates.

Checking of Mid-Year Examinations Scripts and Issuing of Semester 1 Results Slips

24. Please refer to the table below for the following dates:

	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5
Checking of Mid-Year Examinations Scripts		Term 3 Weeks 1 and 2		Term 3 Weeks 1 and 2
Issuing of Semester 1 Results Slips	16 Jul	16 Jul	16 Jul	16 Jul

Term 3 Mastery Learning Programme

25. To provide additional support for learning, MLP lessons may be conducted for students after school on the following days. Teachers will inform classes of the details of each MLP lesson at least one day in advance. We seek your co-operation that your child/ward attends MLP lessons so that he/she can be well-supported in his/her academics. Please refer to the schedule below:

Sec 1 & 2 MLP Schedule	
Day	Subject Area
Mondays	English
Thursdays	Math

26. Students are strongly encouraged to seek consultations with teachers in their subject areas, whenever they are in doubt. This will help to address learning gaps earlier in a timely manner.

Term 3 Weighted Assessments

27. Weighted assessments can take different forms for different subjects: Class Tests, Projects, Coursework, or Assignments. For **class tests**, the schedule for Term 3 for **Sec 1 and 2** can be found in the table below.

Sec 1 Class Test Schedule for Term 3						
Week	1 – 4	5	6	7	8	9 – 10
Subject(s)		Hist (Exp/NA)	EL (All)	Art (Exp/NA)	FCE (All)	
			MTL (All)	ELit (Exp/NA)	Math (All)	
			Geo (Exp/NA)		Sci (All)	
			Art (NT)			

Sec 2 Class Test Schedule for Term 3						
Week	1 – 4	5	6	7	8	9 – 10
Subject(s)		Art (All)	EL (All)	MTL (All)	Math (All)	
		DT (All)	Geo (Exp/NA)	ELit (Exp)	Sci (All)	
		Hist (Exp/NA)	ELit (NA)			

Legend: DT – Design & Technology, EL – English Language, ELit – English Literature, FCE – Food & Consumer Education, Geo – Geography, Hist – History, Math – Mathematics, MTL – Mother Tongue Languages, Sci – Science

Preliminary Examinations

28. The Preliminary Examinations (Prelim) will be conducted from **5 August to 13 September** for **Sec 4 and 5** students. The Prelim timetable will be issued to students at a later date. Please refer to pages 19 and 20 of the Student Handbook for the Test/Examinations Rules and Regulations.

- Sec 4NA and 4NT: 5 August, and from 11 to 19 August
- Sec 4Exp and 5NA: 20 August to 1 September, and 13 September

Learning Week 2

29. A myriad of activities will be planned for our students' holistic development in Learning Week 2. We seek to enable our students to make connections between classroom learning and out-of-classroom learning; develop their character, social and emotional competencies, and skills; and deepen their sense of belonging to the school.

30. Learning Week 2 will take place in the **last week of Term 4**, subject to the prevailing SMMs. More details will be provided at a later date.

School Expectations

31. Students coming in after 7.30 am (for Sec 1, 4, and 5) or after 7.40 am (for Sec 2 and 3) are late for school and will be required to serve detention. We encourage students to arrive in school at least five minutes before the respective reporting time. This will help them frame their mind and prepare themselves to learn for the rest of the day.
32. With face masks mandatory due to COVID-19, students can wear the **half school uniform** (PE shirt with pants/skirt) on all days. Members of Uniformed Groups (UGs) can also wear their UG pants/skirts with their boots/shoes on Wednesdays and/or Fridays.
33. The **proper** wearing of face masks is paramount. Students must wear their face masks properly, covering their nose, mouth, and chin at all times. They are only allowed to remove their masks during meal times and PE lessons. After their meals or PE lessons, they must immediately wear back their masks. Consequences will be given to students who do not wear their masks despite reminders and warnings, and these consequences include detention and suspension from school.
34. As a school, we strive to inculcate appropriate and responsible device usage in our students. Unless allowed by teachers for learning purposes during lessons, handphone usage is restricted to before 7.25 am and after dismissal. Handphones are not allowed during recess, so that students can focus on taking meals or interacting with peers. Parents/Guardians can contact the General Office at 6385 1589 if you need to contact your child/ward urgently.

Caring for School Facilities

35. We seek to create a conducive learning environment for students through on-going refurbishment of school facilities. As end-users, students have a significant part to play in caring for school facilities. If any student acts irresponsibly and causes willful damage to school property, he/she will be required to pay the cost incurred to repair or replace the damaged facility. We seek your understanding and support in this matter.

School-Home Partnerships

36. The school works with the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) to offer the Triple P Parenting Program to all parents. Parents who have signed up for the second run of the seminar are reminded that sessions will be conducted on **3, 10, and 17 July** from **11.00 am to 12.30 pm**. The link to the Zoom Webinars would have been sent to you upon successful registration. Please note that full attendance for the three webinars is required.
37. For more information on the Triple P Parenting programmes, please email mwfsfnorth@mws.sg.

Communication Channels

38. Teachers can be contacted at **6385 1589** during **weekdays** between **7.30 am and 6.00 pm**. Alternatively, you may reach our staff by sending an email to serangoon_ss@moe.edu.sg.
39. You may also wish to visit our school website (www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg) for updates and key information on our school programmes.
40. We thank you for your continued support of the school and our programmes. If you require any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the following personnel at 6385 1589:
 - Mdm Low Siew Ping, Year Head (Lower Sec)
 - Ms Lee Zhi Li, Assistant Year Head (Sec 2)
 - Mr Kwek Cher Wei Dennis, Assistant Year Head (Sec 1) (Covering)
41. Our school philosophy is that ***Together, we empower every Serangoon StaR to SHINE, for the growth of self and the good of others.*** We look forward to your continued partnership in your child's/ward's educational journey!

Yours sincerely,

Low SP

Mdm Low Siew Ping
Year Head (Lower Sec)

CCE/LLP Period Schedule for 2021 Term 3

Dates/ Mode	CCE/LLP Period	Students Involved
7 Jul Online	Class Chair and Vice-Chairpersons NE Briefing	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Class Chair and Vice-Chairpersons
	CW Ambassadors Training	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Cyber Wellness Ambassadors
21 Jul F2F	PSL Training 04	Sec 1 – Sec 3 PSLs
	Prefectorial Board Meeting 08	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Prefects
	CW Ambassadors Training	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Cyber Wellness Ambassadors
4 Aug F2F	Class Committee & PSL Meeting with FTs	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Class Committee and PSLs
18 Aug F2F	CCA Leaders Meeting with CCA Teachers	Sec 1 – Sec 3 CCA Leaders
1 Sep F2F	PSL Training 05	Sec 1 – Sec 3 PSLs
	Prefectorial Board Meeting 09	Sec 1 – Sec 3 Prefects

Serangoon Secondary School – 2021 Terms 3 and 4 School Events, Programmes, and Holidays

Term 3						
Date (tentative)	Event	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5	Parents/ Guardians
5 Jul	Youth Day (School Holiday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6 Jul	O-Level MTL/MTLB e-LC				✓*	
7 – 16 Jul	O-Level MTL/MTLB e-Oral				✓*	
9 Jul	Careers Day			✓	✓	
12 – 16 Jul	N-Level EL e-Oral				✓*	
13 Jul	Home-Based Learning Day for Sec 1 – 3	✓	✓	✓		
20 Jul	Hari Raya Haji (Public Holiday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21 Jul	Racial Harmony Day	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22 Jul – 2 Aug	O-Level EL e-Oral				✓*	
27 Jul	Home-Based Learning Day for Sec 1 – 3	✓	✓	✓		
29 Jul – 2 Aug	N-Level MTL/BMTL e-Oral				✓*	
5, 11 – 19 Aug	N-Level Preliminary Examinations				✓*	
6 Aug	National Day Celebrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9 – 10 Aug	National Day (Public & School Holiday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20 Aug – 1 Sep, 13 Sep	O-Level Preliminary Examinations				✓*	
24 Aug	Home-Based Learning Day for Sec 1 – 3	✓	✓	✓		
2 Sep	Teachers' Day Celebrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3 Sep	Teachers' Day (School Holiday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4 – 12 Sep	September Term Break (Students may have CCA and/or Mastery Learning Programme classes on 6 – 7 Sep)	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Term 4						
Date (tentative)	Event	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5	Parents/ Guardians
20 Aug – 1 Sep, 13 Sep	O-Level Preliminary Examinations				✓*	
13 Sep	NA-Level EL e-LC and NT-Level BMTL e-LC				✓*	
14 Sep	NA-Level MTL e-LC and NT-Level EL e-LC				✓*	
14 Sep	Home-Based Learning Day for Sec 1 – 3	✓	✓	✓		
15 – 23 Sep & 11 – 14 Oct	N-Level Practical & Written Examinations				✓*	
30 Sep & 6 – 15 Oct	End-of-Year Examinations	✓	✓	✓		
11 Oct – 16 Nov	O-Level Practical & Written Examinations				✓*	
15 Oct	O-Level EL e-LC				✓*	
18 Oct	Marking Day	✓	✓	✓		
25 Oct	Promotion Day	✓	✓	✓		
27 – 29 Oct	Learning Week 2	✓	✓	✓		
29 Oct	Parent Engagement Session; Last day of school for Sec 1 – 3	✓	✓	✓		✓
30 Oct – 31 Dec	Year-End School Holidays 20 Nov – 12 Dec: Protected time; no activities. (Students may have CCA and/or Mastery Learning Programme classes on other days)	✓	✓	✓		
1 – 10 Nov	Sec 3 Bridging Programme			✓		
4 Nov	Deepavali (Public Holiday)	✓	✓	✓	✓	

*For selected students only

Note: The above dates are subjected to changes in view of the COVID-19 situation.