



## SERANGOON SECONDARY SCHOOL

11 Upper Serangoon View  
Singapore 534237



4 May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### Looking Back on Semester 1, Looking Ahead to a Revised Academic Calendar and the May School Holidays

1. As we reach the end of Term 2, we are glad to share with you that Semester 1 concluded well despite the evolving COVID-19 challenges. As announced by the Ministry of Education (MOE), with the revised academic calendar, schools will make provisions for graduating cohorts as well as students who need greater support to return to school during the upcoming May school holidays. In this letter, we also provide resources on engaging your child/ward during School Holidays@Home.

#### Journeying Together as a SSS Community in Semester 1

2. The past few months have been fast-paced. Since January, our school has come together to put in place a series of precautionary measures against COVID-19 such as daily temperature taking and implementing a wipe-down routine after recess and in the classrooms. In Term 2, we ramped up efforts, including suspending CCA and other after-school programmes, staggering recesses, and staggering dismissal timings. With the national circuit breaker period, full home-based learning (HBL) commenced on 8 April.
3. Our SSS community has journeyed together during these challenging and unprecedented times:
  - Thank you, **parents and guardians**, for working closely with the school in educating your child/ward to adopt good personal hygiene practices, practise social responsibility, and observe the rules during this circuit breaker period. By providing supportive and conducive home environments, you helped your child/ward settle into full HBL.
  - We are proud that **our Serangoon StaRs** have adapted to the many changes and have risen to meet this defining moment of their generation. Our students have stepped up to take ownership of their well-being and learning, demonstrating our school's SHINE values of Self-Directedness, Harmony, Integrity, ResilieNce, and Excellence.
  - Our dedicated **teachers** have worked very hard to strengthen joyful learning in school and online. During full HBL, our teachers checked in daily with their form classes to take care of their students' well-being and worked with their colleagues to support students with greater needs. They used engaging and innovative teaching strategies and platforms to ensure meaningful learning continued. Formative assessment continued through live lessons, online quizzes, and completed assignments.
  - Our committed **administrative and operations staff** have worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in school. Cleaning and sanitization procedures in classrooms and common areas were stepped up. Administrative processes continued smoothly, such as supporting students with financial needs during this COVID-19 period.
4. Throughout this semester, there have been many heartwarming moments – teachers going the extra mile for their students inside and outside the classroom, students supporting one another in learning, and classes coming together for bonding activities. We are glad to share these fruitful moments with our students through an online end-of-term assembly and a video montage on the last day of the term today.

## Revised Academic Calendar 2020

5. On 21 April, MOE announced that the mid-year school holidays are from **5 May (Tue) to 1 June (Mon)**. The intent of this move is to provide some respite for the hard work and adjustment that all our parents/guardians, students, and staff have gone through during full HBL.
6. The revised academic calendar is as follows:

	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Full HBL	8 April (Wed)	4 May (Mon)	4 weeks
Mid-Year School Holidays	5 May (Tue)	1 June (Mon)	4 weeks
<b>Term 3 (Part 1)</b>	<b>2 June (Tue)</b>	<b>17 July (Fri)</b>	<b>7 weeks</b>
<b>Mid-Term 3 Break</b>	<b>18 July (Sat)</b>	<b>26 July (Sun)</b>	<b>1 week</b>
<b>Term 3 (Part 2)</b>	<b>27 July (Mon)</b>	<b>4 September (Fri)</b>	<b>6 weeks</b>
September School Holidays	5 September (Sat)	13 September (Sun)	1 week

7. **Term 3 will hence start on 2 June (Tue)**. MOE is assessing the situation closely, and will release more details on the format of these lessons – physical classes, partial HBL, or full HBL – at a later date depending on the national situation at that time. We will continue to maintain communications with you via Parents Gateway, the school website, and through our teachers. The updated school calendar for Semester 2 will also be shared with you in due course.
8. On 2 May, MOE announced that schools will make provisions for graduating cohorts as well as students who need greater support to return to school during the May school holidays:

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Notification to Students and Parents</b>
Throughout the May school holidays	<b><u>Students who need greater support</u></b>  Selected students will be invited to return to school for customised programmes to ease back into the routine of coming to school and prepare for Term 3.	By 8 May (Fri)
From 19 May (Tue) onwards	<b><u>Graduating cohorts</u></b>  Priority will be given to students requiring school facilities for coursework and practical sessions, and those who need additional support and remediation.	By 12 May (Tue)

Students' return to school will be in a careful and calibrated manner. Precautionary measures such as mandatory mask-wearing, temperature taking, safe distancing, and wiping down the areas used will apply.

## National Assessment: O-Level and N-Level Examinations 2020

9. With the revised academic calendar, Mother Tongue Language (MTL) examinations have been rescheduled as follows:

<b>Subject Examined</b>	<b>Original Date</b>	<b>Rescheduled Date</b>
O-Level MTL Written Papers 1 & 2	1 June 2020, 8am	18 June 2020, 2pm
O-Level MTL B Written Papers 1 & 2	2 June 2020, 8am	19 June 2020, 2:30pm
O-Level MTL and MTL B Listening Comprehension	21 July 2020	27 July 2020

10. In view of the extended circuit breaker period and the impact on curriculum time, common last topics for content-based subjects will be removed from this year's national examinations. The common last topics is a set of topics identified by MOE that would be taught last by all schools towards the end of the academic year. This removal will further allay students' concerns and anxiety about catching up with the curriculum. Teachers will communicate examinable topics directly to their graduating students.

## **School-Based Assessment: Removal of Term 2 Weighted Assessments and Mid-Year Examinations**

11. With full HBL in Term 2, we have removed Term 2 Weighted Assessments for Secondary 1 and 3 students and the Mid-Year Examination for Secondary 2, 4, and 5 students, as guided by MOE. We are reviewing assessment weightings for the rest of this year, and in view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, we will share more details at the start of Term 3.

### **May 2020 School Holidays**

12. The national circuit breaker is still in place during the May school holidays. Hence, students must continue to observe the rules and remain at home as far as possible, except for essential reasons such as visiting a doctor or if they are returning to school. Students **must not** meet up with their friends in person and visit one another's homes.

13. The Ministry of Health's advisory to all Singaporean citizens and residents to defer all overseas travel is still in place. Should you have any exceptional travel plans for your child/ward, please inform our school by calling 6385 1589 before the travel and note that the following will apply:

- The requirement to apply for and obtain an entrance permit from MOE or Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) prior to returning to Singapore if they are International Students or non-SC/PR parents;
- 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) issued upon their return to Singapore;
- 14-day Leave of Absence (LOA) for students staying in the same household with someone on SHN; and
- Unsubsidised healthcare if they are diagnosed with COVID-19 upon their return.

14. With School Holidays@Home, we urge parents to emphasise the importance of your child/ward practising safe and responsible use of computing devices. The following resources on engaging your child/ward during the May school holidays are useful:

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Link</b>
MOE's Holiday Care Pack for students	<a href="http://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/others/announcements/may-school-holidays-care-pack">http://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/others/announcements/may-school-holidays-care-pack</a>
MOE's Parent Kit (disseminated on 27 April)	<a href="https://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/others/announcements/parent-kit-part-3-stay-home-stay-safe-stay-curious">https://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/others/announcements/parent-kit-part-3-stay-home-stay-safe-stay-curious</a>
Media Literacy Council's resources on managing screen time	<a href="https://www.betterinternet.sg/Resources/Resources-Listing?topic=screen+time&amp;persona=everyone">https://www.betterinternet.sg/Resources/Resources-Listing?topic=screen+time&amp;persona=everyone</a>
MOE's cyber wellness resources for parents	<a href="https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents">https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents</a>

### **Parent Engagement**

15. We value our partnership with you. During full HBL, our teachers and staff have been providing timely and ongoing feedback to parents/guardians on their child's/ward's well-being and learning. With the revised academic calendar and MOE's protected time for teachers to rest and recharge, we will contact selected parents/guardians via phone call or email on their child's/ward's progress between 21 May (Thu) and 1 June (Mon). All students will receive their Holistic Development Profile for Semester 1 in mid-June.

16. Thank you for your continued support for our school. We wish you and your child/ward a safe and fruitful May school holidays ahead, filled with quality time through conversations and home-based activities!

Yours sincerely,



Mdm Tay Siok Hwa  
Principal