

XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

New Beginnings, Enduring Values



Xinmin Secondary School
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds

Term 1 2025



XMS80 & BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME [BTS]



As the new school year begins, we are thrilled to highlight our recent BTS, which aligns with the launch of SG60 and Xinmin Secondary School's 80th anniversary celebrations.

On Day 1, we kicked off the festivities with a vibrant opening ceremony. Students and alumni united to create unique badges that reflected their hopes for both Singapore and Xinmin, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among the students as they embarked on their educational journey this year.

Day 2 featured a lively CCA carnival, buzzing with energy as students showcased their co-curricular activities. This event allowed new students to explore various CCAs, promoting personal interests while celebrating the diverse talents within our school community.

On subsequent days, we organized enriching camps and workshops. For Secondary 1, a 3-day camp included Bouldering, Hougang Heritage Trail, and Dragon Boating, all aimed at fostering camaraderie and self-discovery, culminating in a heartwarming campfire for parents and students. Secondary 2 students engaged in an amazing race at Sentosa, honing their teamwork and problem-solving skills alongside career guidance sessions.

Meanwhile, Secondary 3 students engaged in exciting activities like cycling and ziplining at Sarimbun Camp to develop their leadership abilities. Lastly, Secondary 4 and 5 students focused on future aspirations, attending workshops on the JC education pathway and on personal statements and interviews, complemented by visits to Polytechnic Open Houses. These experiences have energized our students and laid the groundwork for personal growth as we celebrate 80 years of Xinmin.



STEPPING OUT, REACHING BEYOND

Overseas Service Learning - Chiang Mai, Thailand: Building Bonds Beyond Borders

Over the school break, several of our Secondary 3 students ventured to Chiang Mai, Thailand, on a Service Learning Trip to contribute to rural communities and gain a deeper understanding of diverse cultures. During their time there, they built a well alongside villagers, repaired part of a kindergarten building, and taught English, Math and Art to local children.

The experience challenged students to adapt, especially when faced with language barriers, and to develop teamwork and creativity. Immersed in local traditions, they participated in a cooking class, learnt about unique cultural practices and explored the surrounding environment. Daily reflections deepened their understanding of leadership, service, and their personal values.

The trip left students with lasting memories and invaluable life lessons, from bonding over simple games to experiencing the warmth of Thai hospitality.



Rockclimbing - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Climbing New Heights

In November, a group of students embarked on a climbing trip to Gua Damai, Malaysia, to experience the thrill of climbing on natural rock—a rare opportunity as it is not available in Singapore. Over the course of the trip, students tackled challenging routes at the Batu Caves, some reaching heights of up to 25 metres.

For many, this was their first time climbing outdoors. While the lack of man-made grips made the experience daunting, the students embraced their fears with resilience and determination. One student aptly shared, "If you don't embrace your fears and step out of your comfort zone, you will never learn anything new."

Beyond climbing, the team strengthened their bonds through nightly reflections and discussions on values, teamwork, and future plans for 2025. This memorable adventure was not just about conquering physical heights but also overcoming personal limitations and growing as a team.



UPCOMING TRIPS 2025

Mar: ODAC Bogong Trip - Victoria, Australia

May: Humanities trip - Hanoi, Vietnam

Jun: GB Trip - Bangkok, Thailand

Jun: ODAC Belumut Trip - Kluang, Malaysia

Nov: BB Trip - Hong Kong

Nov: Chinese Bicultural and Bilingual Immersion Trip - Shanghai, China

Nov: Overseas Service Learning - Chiang Mai, Thailand

Nov (tentative): Volleyball Bicultural & Sports Exchange Trip - Taipei, Taiwan





SOARING TO SUCCESS!

A huge round of applause to the Class of 2024 for reaching an important milestone in their secondary school journey at Xinmin! Throughout the year, they have faced challenges head-on and remained focused on their goals, consistently showing resilience, perseverance, and an unwavering drive to succeed. In their final year, the Class of 2024 embraced every opportunity to prepare for their examinations. Whether it was through attending consultations, engaging in peer discussions, or dedicating hours to self-study, their determination was evident at every step. We are proud to celebrate their hard work and dedication, which have resulted in outstanding achievements. They showcase the collective efforts of our students, teachers, and families in this journey of excellence.



90% OF THE 4E
COHORT WERE
ELIGIBLE FOR
JC & MI!

2 IN 5 OF THE
4NA COHORT
WERE ELIGIBLE
FOR PFP!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2024!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL TEACHERS AND PARENTS WHO
HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS!



WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT (WA) SCHEDULE

WAs may take the form of written class tests, online assignments, projects or practical tests. To manage our students' overall assessment load, we will take care **not to schedule more than two** class tests in a day, and **not more than three class tests** in a week.

Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1 to 3	10%	15%	15%	60%
Sec 4 & 5	WA1	WA2	Prelims 100%	

We encourage students to consistently review their work throughout the year, striving for a deep understanding of concepts and information. It is more beneficial than relying on last-minute effort just before exams or assessments.

#TIPS

Feeling overwhelmed by the WA schedule? Here are 3 study tips you can follow!

Scheduling + Consistency

- Plan a study schedule
- Plan with details (e.g. which subject/topic)
- Plan according to what you can manage
- Follow it consistently! Make it a Habit!



Smart study techniques

- Test yourself on key concepts without looking at your notes
- Use visual aids such as diagrams/ mind maps / flashcard
- Practice to familiarise yourself with the exam format



Rest + Recover

- Get enough sleep for memory consolidation
- Take regular breaks - try the Pomodoro technique
- Eat a balanced diet



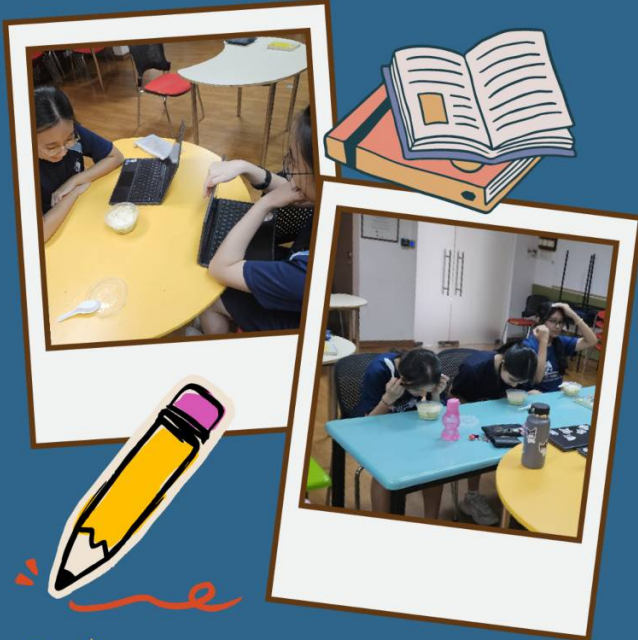


THE WAY WE LEARN @XMS!

Tactile Learning in Literature

In the Pure Literature classroom, engaging lessons that connect abstract ideas to tangible experiences help students deepen their understanding of poetry. In 2024, a lesson on Zioedy Wong's evocative poem *Like a Bean, Like a Flower* brought the imagery to life with a hands-on activity. Students were given a bowl of bean curd to explore its qualities, such as its softness and fragility, which the poet parallels to an image of a mother.

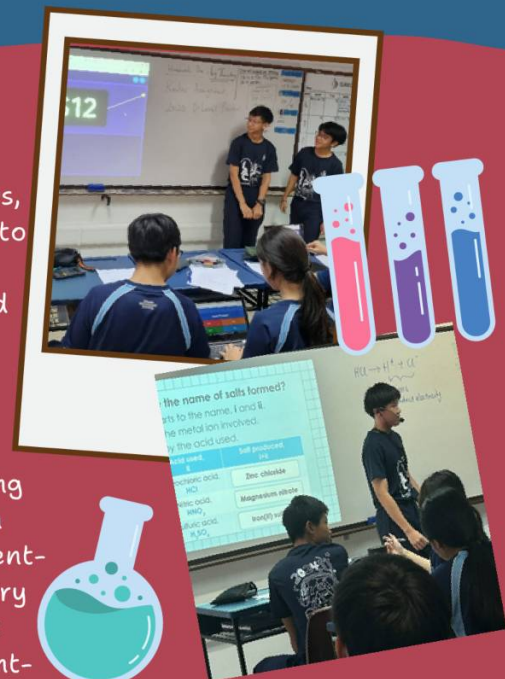
This sensory activity helped students analyse the poem's use of extended metaphor and figurative language to convey key traits of a character and the poet's message. By combining literary analysis with tactile learning, the lesson made the exploration of complex ideas more relatable and memorable for the students.



Student-led Chemistry lessons

In the Secondary 3 Chemistry classes, students took on the role of teachers, creating an engaging learning environment. This innovative method aimed to deepen their understanding of complex topics while fostering self-directed learning and creativity. Each group was assigned a specific topic, developed teaching materials and consulted with their teachers to enhance their knowledge and resources. The result was a series of dynamic lessons that showcased student creativity and comprehension.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive; students reported that teaching their peers reinforced their understanding and improved their presentation skills. Their classmates appreciated the fresh perspectives brought by student-led instruction. This approach not only enhanced comprehension of chemistry concepts but also encouraged collaboration and critical thinking. Overall, it was a memorable experience that demonstrated the effectiveness of student-led education, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.





VOICES OF XINMIN

Vice-Principal Mdm Komathi

*Success is not Final,
Failure is not Fatal;
it is the Courage to Continue
that Counts*



Where are you from and what is your most memorable experience from that place?

I come from Cedar Girls' Secondary School, with prior experience at Evergreen Secondary and Woodlands Ring Secondary. My most cherished accomplishment has been empowering students to become more confident and contributing individuals. I spearheaded the creation of several programmes to develop students' executive functioning skills and boost their confidence. Among these, "Mindblown" @ Woodlands Ring Secondary, holds a special place in my heart. This four-year programme, a collaboration with Care Corner Singapore, embedded executive functioning skills into the curriculum. The recently graduated first cohort has shown remarkable growth, filling us with immense pride in their achievements.

As you begin the first full year with Xinmin Secondary School, what is a goal that you have for the school?


As I shared during my introduction, my goal is to see all of you realise your potential and leverage your strengths, to become contributing and confident individuals in your chosen areas. Always remember to be resilient and learn from your challenges, for you are merely refining your path to success in navigating the challenges.




HEARTFELT WELL-WISHES FROM OUR STUDENTS TO THEIR SCHOOLMATES!





#good
vibes
only!


To all my new Sec 1 juniors, 2025 is a significant year celebrating Xinmin's 80th anniversary. So, the seniors are truly thankful to see you all get enrolled in our school on this very special year! As the Sec 4s and I step down, we can feel you stepping in with unlimited potential to serve our school! Remember our principal's story about the ancient Olympics and carry on our legacy of excellence in secondary school. Godspeed! 



Let's continue to stay resilient and united as we face the challenges ahead. Together, as one Xinmin family, let us overcome every hurdle and push through stronger than ever. Let's support and inspire one another to reach greater heights this year! 

Greetings sec 1s, Welcome to Xinmin! It's a great place to learn and grow, and I hope yall can make many friends here, and enjoy your secondary school experience here. Remember to persevere during challenges and never give up :) 

To the Secondary 1s: Welcome to Xinmin Secondary School! I hope you guys have a wonderful time here and have many good friends and memories! To my other schoolmates: I hope you guys are having a wonderful day and for my fellow Secondary 3s I hope you guys have already made some new friends in your new classes. 



WELCOMING NEW STAFF TO THE XINMIN FAMILY!

WELCOME

Mdm Komathi Kesavan - Vice-Principal
Ms Estella Chin - HOD Science
Ms Bernadine Lim - HOD Humanities
Mr Benjamin Low - AYH Sec 4 & 5
Ms Una Hsu - AYH Sec 3
Mr Noah Zhang - AYH Sec 1
Mr Koh Tat Siang - ST Physics
Mr Tok Hong Da - Teacher (Mathematics)
Ms Lai Min Lee - Teacher (Chinese Language)
Ms Peck Pei Yi Francesca - Teacher (Music)
Ms Joyce Gan - Senior Student Welfare Officer

SOME NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Harvinder Singh - HOD Aesthetics and Applied Science
Ms Tiffany Lim - YH Upper Sec
Ms Liew Ziyi - SH Aesthetics and Applied Science
Ms Heidi Tan - SH Humanities
Mr Kevin Lu - SH CCE
Mr Ganesan Selvarathnam - Acting SH Student
Management



AND FAREWELLS

Mrs Vanessa Cheng - Vice-Principal
Mr Lim Boon Ping - HOD Science
Mdm Latifah Abdul Latiff - HOD Humanities
Ms Ng Lee Hua - YH Lower Sec
Mrs Susan Ng - SH Partnerships
Ms Low Yan Jin - SH Student Well-Being
Ms Sophia Ang - SH MTL
Mr Lin Shunyi - Teacher (Science)
Mr Thiruselvan - Teacher (Geography)
Mr Lim Kok Chong - Teacher (Chinese Language)
Dr Ong Chiew Inn - Teacher (FCE)
Ms Izyan Ayuni - Teacher (FCE)

**best of
LUCK**

COMING UP!



Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 4	CNY Celebrations in school	28/01	All
	CNY Public Holidays	29/01 - 30/01	All
	HBL	31/01	All
Week 5 to Week 9	Weighted Assessments	Week-long	All
Week 6	Total Defence Day Commemoration	10/02 - 14/02	All
	HBL	10/02	All
Week 8	HBL	25/02	All
Week 10	Class photo-taking	10/03	All
	HBL	13/03	All
Mar Hols	NRIC registration	19/03	S3
	Peer Support Leaders Day Camp	20/03	S1, S2

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR,
CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN!

[CALENDAR HERE!](#)

