

4 February 2016

## Newsletter to Parents – The February Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are into the fifth week of Term 1 and I hope your child has settled well into the new academic year in school. In our continuous effort to provide a good learning experience for your child in XMS, we hope that parents will collaborate with the teachers so that together we can bring out the best in your child. I would like to encourage all parents to be actively involved in this important stage of your child's development. While there may be a need 'let go' on some things so that your teenager learns to be independent, you should continue to 'stay close' and connected to his/her learning.

I would like to suggest some ways that you can stay involved in your child's learning both at home and in school. At home, you may try being encouraging and supportive, helping them dream for the future, motivating them with high expectations, encouraging them to read widely and creating a conducive environment for studying. To stay involved at school, you may consider communicating with the teachers regularly, participating in school events and connecting with other parents in the school community. On this note, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the new Chairperson of our Parent Support Group (PSG), Ms Dawn Chua. Our PSG, also known as P@X (Parents at Xinmin), has been organising parenting talks and parent-child bonding activities. I strongly encourage you to sign up for the activities so that you can get to know the other parents in our community. And if you have questions or problems, another parent who knows the school well may be able to offer valuable advice. For more information on PSG activities, please refer to the monthly P@X Newsletter which will be given to every student, emails from P@X and the link on our school website ([www.xinminsec.edu.sg](http://www.xinminsec.edu.sg)): "Stakeholders" → "Information" → "P@X Calendar".

### 2015 GCE O-level and N-level results

In the recent release of the 2015 GCE O-level results, our school has continued to perform well. 91.1% of our Sec 4 Express students are eligible for admission to a Junior College and 88.2% of our Sec 5 Normal (Academic) students are eligible for the polytechnic route. Several subjects, including English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, E and A Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, English Literature, Combined Humanities, and Design and Technology, obtained percentage distinctions that were higher than the national results. Among our top students who obtained 8 A1s are students who were also outstanding leaders in their respective CCAs.

For the 2015 GCE N-level results which was released in Dec 2015, 98.6% of the Sec 4 Normal (Academic) students are eligible for promotion to Sec 5 Normal (Academic) and 43.2% of them scored an aggregate of at least 11 points for EMB3. 35.1% of them were eligible for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) or the Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme

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(DPP). The Sec 4 Normal (Technical) students did well with 100% of them qualifying for Institute of Technical Education (ITE). All subjects obtained percentage distinctions that surpassed the national results.

My heartiest congratulations go out to all those who achieved good results and to their parents/guardians and teachers who encouraged them all the way.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### 1. Chinese New Year Celebrations on 5 Feb

This year's Chinese New Year celebrations fall on 5 Feb (Fri). To kickstart the festivities is Spring It Up, our annual recycling project held in support of the Keep Singapore Clean Movement. Our staff and students collect old clothes and newspapers from the Hougang neighbourhood, and donate the proceeds to charity. This year, we will be collecting from 45 blocks of flats. Students will be dismissed at 12.30pm on 5 Feb (Fri) and there will be no extended curriculum time for CCA and supplementary classes.

In the spirit of the festivities, staff, students and P@X will also be reaching out to 51 needy families in Hougang on 3 Feb (Wed) at 1.45pm. Between 4 to 6 students per class will be selected to accompany the Form Teacher to deliver hampers containing CNY goodies and daily necessities. This is an effort in collaboration with Covenant Family Service Centre.

### 2. Total Defence Day on 15 Feb

To commemorate Total Defence Day this year, a week-long series of activities has been lined up. The commemoration on 15 Feb (Mon) will kickstart with a sharing by CCE Ambassadors and demonstrations by our uniformed groups during morning assembly, a fire drill conducted to familiarise students with the various evacuation routes in the school, a food rationing exercise followed by a total defence skit. Following which, the CCE lessons will emphasise the five pillars of total defence and reiterate the messages of vigilance and unity to our students through current affairs discussions. Our Sec 4 and 5 students will also be involved in a Community Emergency Preparedness Programme to equip them with skills and knowledge in light of the current security concerns.

### 3. Cross Country on 11 Mar

The school's annual Cross Country will be held on 11 Mar (Fri) from 7.30am to 12 noon along the Buangkok Park Connector. Students are to report to Sengkang Hockey Stadium – Hockey Pitch (57, Anchorvale Road) in their PE attire by 7.30am and will be dismissed from the stadium at 12 noon if there are no delays due to the weather. Attendance is compulsory for all students. More details will be given to students closer to the event date.

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#### 4. Educational Pathways Talk for Parents on 11 Mar

As part of our effort to inform parents and students about streaming in XMS and the various post-secondary educational pathways, there will be a series of talks held on 11 Mar (Fri) at 7pm in school:

- Subject Awareness and Streaming – for parents of Sec 2(E), 2N(A) and 2N(T) students
- Junior College or Polytechnic – for parents of Sec 3(E), 4(E) and 5N(A) students
- Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) – for parents of Sec 3N(A) and 4N(A) students

More information on these talks will be given to your child by the Form Teacher. Please sign up if you are interested to attend any of the talks. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30pm before the talks begin. We strongly encourage both parents and students to attend these talks.

#### 5. 1<sup>st</sup> Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) on 23 Mar

The 1<sup>st</sup> PTM will take place on 23 Mar (Wed). Slots will be available for booking online, and you are encouraged to use this opportunity to meet your child's Form Teacher to discuss his/her progress in school. More details on the event and how to sign up for the slots will be provided in the next newsletter.

### **ACADEMIC MATTERS**

#### 1. Home-based Learning (HBL) on 16 Feb

XMS provides the opportunity for students to experience an alternative form of learning through the use of technology. The purpose of Home-based Learning (HBL) is to develop students to be self-directed and independent learners. Learning materials and assignments will be uploaded online for students to access from home. Students are not required to come to school on 16 Feb (Tue). If your child requires ICT support, he/she may use the computers available in school. A letter will be issued by Mr Lee Foo Yong (HOD ICT) to provide more information to parents.

#### 2. Term 1 Common Tests

The Term 1 Common Tests are scheduled to take place from 22 Feb (Wed) to 4 Mar (Fri). Only the first period of each day will be used for tests, and lessons and CCAs will proceed as usual after the tests in the morning. The detailed schedule is attached in this newsletter.

#### 3. Subject-specific Assessment Plans for Sec 1-3 Students

We would like to provide you with information on the assessment weightings and components for each of the assessed subjects. Please refer to the respective tables attached with this newsletter. Subjects not listed in the tables will not be assessed. However, they are nonetheless important subjects for the holistic development of your child. For Sec 4 and 5 students, the computation of the school grades will be based only on the scores obtained during the Preliminary Examinations in Term 3.

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Students are strongly discouraged from being absent during the period of assessment. The school will only accept valid reasons e.g. illness (supported by medical certificate) for absence. For reasons deemed invalid, students may be given 'zero' for the test. We seek your understanding and support on this matter.

4. Mother Tongue Language Oral Examination

Sec 3, 4 and 5 Chinese Language and Malay Language students will be having their MTL Oral Examination (Internal) on 14 and 15 Mar. More details will be furnished to the students via their MTL teachers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Updating of Students' Medical Records

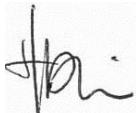
To improve the safety of students during physical activities, the school is in the process of updating students' medical records. All Sec 1 students were given the Medical Declaration Form during the Sec 1 Registration and parents were asked to return the form by 4 Jan (Mon). For Sec 2 to 5 students, any medical updates can be emailed to your child's Form Teacher by 5 Feb (Fri). You may provide supporting medical information (if any) from your child's attending doctor.

2. Insurance Coverage for all Students

All students in XMS are covered by the 2016 Students' Accident Protection Scheme (Basic Plan). For students who participate actively or represent the school in the following sports and activities – badminton, shooting, volleyball, rock climbing and ODAC, the school has purchased the Elite Plan that gives enhanced insurance coverage. The insurance plans (Basic and Elite) cover only official school activities conducted in and outside the school premises. If you find the coverage inadequate to meet your child's needs, you may consider purchasing your own insurance policy. For more information or in the event of a claim, please contact Mr Vincent Sim (Administration Manager).

We thank all parents for your continued support of the school and our programmes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarifications. We can be reached via email at [xinmin\\_ss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:xinmin_ss@moe.edu.sg) or you can call us at 6288 9382.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Ong Hong Peng  
Principal