



Vision: Nurturing Empowered, Future-Ready Hougeans of Character and Purpose

Mission: Care. Lead. Inspire. Partner.

Values: GratITUDE, Respect, Empathy, Adaptability, Trustworthiness.

HS PC 2025 Issue 3

June

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We welcome your child/ward back to the new school term!

The start of a new term brings a mix of anticipation and resolve, with fresh perspectives and possibilities ahead. We trust that the holiday break has given Hougeans the rest they needed, preparing them to embrace the term's upcoming challenges with renewed energy. Our teachers remain dedicated to nurturing each student's potential and creating a supportive learning environment. We are confident that our students will reach new heights in their personal and academic journey with their families' steadfast support.

To help Hougeans get ready for the new school term, all students will participate in our "Start Right Programme" on the first week of school. This aims to help students transition back to learning in school after the mid-year holidays. Our Student Development Team will guide each level through key focus areas for the term, addressing areas such as:

- Building motivation and learning readiness
- Establishing healthy routines for overall well-being
- Developing effective time management skills
- Understanding personal agency and managing expectations
- Adapting to increasing academic demands

Following this, Character Coaches will conduct individual well-being check-ins with their students. They will lead an affirmation activity designed to help students begin anew, letting go of past concerns and focusing on future growth. Our goal is to inspire students to approach each day with curiosity and enthusiasm, building upon their existing knowledge base.

1. Celebrating Our Students' Excellence in Co-Curricular Activity (CCA)

1.1 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts presentation

We are delighted to announce our Performing Arts CCAs' outstanding achievements at the recently concluded SYF Arts Presentation 2025. Our students have demonstrated remarkable progress and achieved excellent results:

Certificate of Distinction:

- Angklung/Kulintang Ensemble
- Gamelan Ensemble
- Guzheng Ensemble
- Modern Dance

Certificate of Accomplishment:

- Symphonic Band
- Choir
- Drama

We are particularly proud to highlight that Guzheng Ensemble and Modern Dance have achieved the Certificate of Distinction, marking an improvement from their 2023 performance. The Angklung/Kulintang and Gamelan Ensembles have maintained their outstanding tradition of excellence. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all teachers, students and instructors for their unwavering dedication, perseverance, and countless hours of practice.

1.2 Uniformed Group (UG) CCA Unit Awards

We are delighted to announce our UG CCAs' achievements (for year assessed 2024):

- Boys' Brigade – JM Fraser Award for Excellence
- Girls' Brigade – Company Silver Award
- Girl Guides – Puan Noor Aishah Award (PNAA) Gold Award
- National Cadet Corps (NCC Land) – Unit Recognition Award (Distinction)
- National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) – Unit Overall Proficiency Award (Distinction)
- Red Cross Youth – Gold Excellent Unit Award

We are particularly proud to highlight that our NCC (Land) and Girl Guides have surpassed their previous year's performance, achieving the highest accolades in their respective categories – the Distinction Award and Gold Award. These outstanding accomplishments reflect our students' unwavering dedication, remarkable resilience, and consistent hard work throughout the assessment period. We extend our congratulations to all students, Volunteer Adult Leaders, and teachers for their exemplary commitment. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the parents/guardians whose steadfast support has been instrumental in these achievements.

2. **School Structures and Programmes**

2.1 Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) Stand-Down

In preparation for the End-of-Year Examination, the last CCA session for Secondary 1 to 3 students in Semester 2 will be on Tuesday, 2 September 2025. CCA sessions will resume after the End-of-Year Examination.

2.2 Blended Learning

The Term 3 Home Based Learning (HBL) days and dates are as follow:

Term 3 HBL Dates	Thursday, 3 July Tuesday, 15 July* Wednesday, 16 July* Thursday, 17 July* Monday, 28 July <i>*Due to GCE O- and N-Levels Oral Examinations</i>
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- On HBL Days, Secondary 1 to 3 students will follow the school's timetable for the day, including the Recess and Lunch periods which will serve as breaks for the students.
- Secondary 4 & 5 students will attend school as usual from Term 3 onwards with no HBL arrangements. They will need to report for their National Oral Examinations in

English Language and Mother Tongue Languages from 15 July to 17 July 2025. Students should refer to their entry proof for their specific examination dates and reporting times.

- To engage students in different modes of learning, teachers will leverage digital platforms e.g., Student Learning Space, Google Classroom. You may refer to this link for the schedule and subject-specific instructions:
<https://www.hougangsec.moe.edu.sg/hbl-and-sil/>

2.3 Timed Practice for Graduating Classes

We will conduct Timed Practice in Term 3 for graduating students. This aims to provide feedback on overall learning and familiarise students with national examination formats and conditions. For more details, you may refer to the letter sent via Parents Gateway on Friday, 23 May 2025.

2.4 National Day Celebration

The school will be commemorating National Day on Friday, 8 August 2025. More details will be sent via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

2.5 Teachers' Day Celebration on 4 September & Early School Dismissal on 3 September

Teachers' Day will be celebrated in school on Thursday, 4 September 2025. There will be no lessons on that day. Further details about the celebration will be shared closer to the date. As part of the preparations for Teacher's Day, all students will be dismissed at 1.30 pm on Wednesday, 3 September 2025.

3. **Examination Matters**

3.1 School Examination Dates

Examination	Level	Dates
Preliminary	Secondary 4 N(A) and N(T)	12 – 19 August
Preliminary	Secondary 4 Express/ 5N(A)	20 August – 3 September
End-of-Year	Secondary 1, 2 and 3	1 – 10 October

More details will be sent via Parents Gateway closer to the date.

3.2 National Examination Dates (for graduating students)

Please refer to the table below for the dates which the national examinations will be held. Your child/ward is expected to refer to the entry proof for details of his/her own examination. Please refer to the SEAB website for details of the national examination schedules. (<https://www.seab.gov.sg/>)

GCE O-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	14 July – 18 July
CL / ML / TL	14 July – 18 July
EL	14 July – 18 July
HCL / HML / HTL	14 July – 18 July
Foreign Languages	15 August – 19 August
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	24 September (PM)
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
CL / ML / TL	8 July (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Mid-Year)	8 July (PM)
EL	8 October (PM)
CLB / MLB / TLB (Year-End)	8 October (PM)
Practical Examination	
Higher Music / Music Performing	23 September – 26 September
Computing	8 October (AM)
Science	1 October – 14 October
Written Examination	
GCE O-Level Exam	16 October – 10 November

GCE N-Level Examination Dates

Oral Examination	
EL Syll A	14 July – 18 July (PM)
EL Syll T	14 July – 18 July (PM)
CL / ML / TL, BCL / BML / BTL	14 July – 18 July (PM)
Listening Comprehension (LC)	
EL Syll A	16 September (PM)
BCL / BML / BTL	16 September (PM)
EL Syll T	17 September (PM)
CL / ML / TL	17 September (PM)

Practical Examination	
Computer Applications	19 September (AM) 25 September (AM)
Written Examination	
GCE N-Level Exam	15 September – 23 September
	6 October – 14 October

3.3 Early Dismissal of Students for National Listening Comprehension Examination

The **GCE O-Level MT / MTB Languages Listening Comprehension Examination** will take place on **8 July 2025** in the afternoon via e-broadcast. In view of this national examination, all Secondary 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at **1.00 pm**.

The **GCE N-Level English and Mother Tongue Languages Listening Comprehension Examinations** will take place in the afternoons of 16 September and 17 September 2025 via e-broadcast. In view of this national examination, all Secondary 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at **1.00 pm**.

4. **Student Well-Being and Pupil Management Matters**

4.1 Recess and Lunch Break schedule in Term 3 & 4

We would like to share with you our school's recess and lunch break schedule, which has been thoughtfully planned to support your child/ward's well-being and optimise their learning experience.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, when students have longer school days, they are provided with two designated breaks: a recess and a lunch break. This arrangement aligns with research findings, which emphasises that regular breaks during the school day are essential for adolescents' cognitive function, social development, and physical well-being. Studies have shown that well-timed breaks help maintain students' attention spans and improve their academic performance.

On Wednesdays (late start day) and Fridays, which are shorter school days, students have one recess break. As these days have fewer contact hours, one break is sufficient to maintain students' engagement and well-being while ensuring efficient use of curriculum time.

This break schedule has been implemented based on best practices in student wellness and educational research. We encourage parents/guardians to support this routine by ensuring your child/ward has nutritious meals to sustain them throughout the school day.

4.2 Usage of Mobile Phone

For effective teaching and learning to take place, we need to set boundaries for our students. Mobile phones may be used only during these timings:

- Mobile phones may be used only before 7.30 am and
- after the last period of curriculum time (3.00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm on Wednesdays and 12.30 pm on Fridays).

We would like to emphasise that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones during recess. Students are to store their phones in their personal lockers before 7.30 am and to retrieve it after the last period of curriculum time (3.00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm on Wednesdays and 12.30 pm on Fridays). During curriculum time, mobile phones are to always be out of sight. This includes during the change-over of lessons and while students are walking along the corridor.

Phone use is also prohibited during CCA and Structured Consultation Time.

If the mobile device policy is violated, the mobile phone will be confiscated immediately and kept under lock and key in the General Office. For the first and second offence (for the year), the phone will be confiscated up till 5.00 pm on that day. For the third offence and above (for the year), the phone will be confiscated and kept under lock and key in the General Office every day at 7.30 am till 5.00 pm for five days.

4.3 Punctuality

Students who are late for school for two or more occasions are required to serve detention after school on the same day, during which, they will engage in self-study, reading and/or Corrective Work Order. All students required to serve detention must do so on the actual date of offence regardless of involvement in competitions, tuition classes, remedial sessions and CCAs. Recalcitrant students who do not respond positively to the school's intervention measures may face other disciplinary actions such as in-school/home suspension or caning (for boys).

The following reminders were previously communicated in our past termly letters. We are reiterating these important points for your attention.

4.4 iPads

iPads may be used during curriculum time for learning purposes. During classroom lessons where iPads are not required for learning, they should be put away and not accessed. Students should follow teacher's instructions on "screens up" and "screens down". If iPads are used inappropriately during curriculum time, disciplinary actions will be meted out accordingly.

4.5 CCA T-shirt

Students are encouraged to wear their approved CCA T-shirts on Tuesdays with school pants/skorts if they have no PE lessons. Students who have PE on that day will change into their CCA T-shirts during recess, lunch break or after 3.00 pm.

Students are to wear full school uniform/school Polo-T on days with internal and national examinations.

4.6 Using Students' Images/ Recordings for Publications

The school will be using students' images and/or recordings for school publications. Should parents/guardians have any concerns, kindly inform the school through your child/ward's Character Coaches.

4.7 Maintaining Good Behaviour at All Times

The school places great emphasis on inculcating good habits in our students, such as the prudent use of time. As such, we would like to emphasise that students are not to loiter and misbehave in the neighbourhood after school. We urge you to strongly advise your child/ward to behave appropriately at all times especially while he/she is in school uniform.

4.8 Attire and Grooming

The school's grooming and attire policy is aimed at educating Hougeans to look smart and presentable at all times. Having proper attire and grooming is an outward expression of students' readiness to learn. It is also important as it signifies the pride that students

have for themselves and the school. To achieve the above intent, grooming and attire checks are carried out periodically throughout the year.

If the students' grooming and attire is not appropriate, a grace period of 2 days will be given for rectification with a follow-up check. Students who fail the follow-up check will be sent home to have the grooming issue/s rectified, and parents/guardians will be informed.

Students are to wear the full school uniform with school tie on Mondays when they report to school. On days where there are PE lessons, students are required to report to school in their school shirt/blouse, Polo t-shirt, PE T-shirt or CCA T-shirt with pants/skorts (not allowed to report to school in PE shorts). If they wish to, students can choose to wear their PE shorts under their pants/skorts instead. They are allowed to wear PE attire only during PE lessons.

4.9 Advisory on Vaping

E-vaporisers are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components. Any person convicted of such offences is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to six months or both for the first offence, and a fine of up to \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for the second or subsequent offence. All prohibited tobacco items will be seized and confiscated.

MOE takes a firm stand against vaping. Vaping is categorised as a serious offence. When students are caught using or in possession of e-vaporisers, the prohibited product will be confiscated, and their parents/guardians will be informed. Schools will report the offender to Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and manage vaping-related offences through existing disciplinary frameworks. These include taking school-based disciplinary actions, such as suspension or caning (for boys). Students caught vaping will also be placed on cessation support programmes where counsellors will guide them through their cessation journey to effect long-term behavioural change.

Parents/guardians have an important part to play in your child/ward's education. There are resources and relevant information that parents/guardians can access on Parent Hub. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your child/ward about vaping to prevent it from becoming a life-long habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>.

5. Valuing Teachers and Staff

5.1 Respecting our Staff as Partners – Thank you Parents/Guardians

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to parents/guardians for your continued support and understanding. Following our previous communication regarding staff-parent interactions, we are pleased to share that there have been no further incidents of inappropriate behaviour towards our staff members.

Your positive response demonstrates the strong partnership we share in nurturing our students. The respectful and constructive dialogue maintained between parents/guardians and staff creates an exemplary environment for our students to learn the values of respect and empathy. We deeply value the professional commitment of our staff and the supportive engagement from our parent community. This collaborative spirit enables us to focus on what matters most – providing the best possible educational experience for your child/ward.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in maintaining a positive school environment. We look forward to working together with you in the journey ahead.

5.2 Communication with Teachers

In line with the Ministry of Education's Five-Day Work Week, parents/guardians are encouraged to respect teachers' personal time and space. Teachers can be contacted during weekdays between 7.30 am and 6.00 pm. They are not expected to respond to parents'/students' queries during weekends or after 6.00 pm on weekdays except for emergencies. We seek your understanding and support on this.

All teachers' email addresses are available on the school's website for parents' convenience. Parents/Guardians can also contact the General Office (Tel: 6385 1990) for further assistance.

6. **Parent Support Group (PSG)**

6.1 Volunteering as a Parent Support Group Member

We continue to encourage parents of Hougang Secondary School to volunteer as PSG members. You may find out more in the 'Partners' section of the school website or email the PSG Executive Committee at hss.psg@gmail.com.

6.2 School Leaders-Parent Support Group Meetings

We warmly invite parents to join our School Leaders-Parent Support Group meetings, where parents can engage in meaningful dialogue with our School Leaders. The upcoming meetings will be held in school on:

- Saturday, 2 August 2025, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and
- Saturday, 8 November 2025, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

We welcome all interested parents to register at hss.psg@gmail.com at least two weeks before each meeting date. We look forward to your participation.

Contact of Key Personnel

Should you have queries on the matters listed in this newsletter, please contact the following Key Personnel in-charge:

2.1	Mr Lee Lis King (HOD / PE & CCA)	6372 6658 (Ext: 658)
2.2	Mr Javen Gwee (HOD / ICT & Data Management)	6372 6655 (Ext: 655)
2.3, 3.2, 3.3	Mdm S Chitradevi (HOD / English Language & Literature)	6372 6663 (Ext: 663)
3.1	Ms Cheng Sze Mei Carmen (HOD / Mother Tongue Language)	6372 6664 (Ext: 664)
4	Mr Low Yi En (HOD / Pupil Management)	6372 6652 (Ext: 652)
6	Mrs Tan Wei Jing (SH / Partnership & Outreach)	6372 6237 (Ext: 237)

Do scan the QR code below to access our Instagram page and follow us to get regular updates on school activities!

