



# YISHUN SECONDARY SCHOOL

## DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMMES



*The school comes to life with the sound of music*

## Let the Music Play!

Plato said that, “*Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.*” Yishun Secondary certainly understands that as it embraces Sonic Arts as the focus of its Applied Learning Programme (ALP).

Sonic Arts in the school centres around music composition and technology. Students, through their involvement in the programme, embark on a journey of discovery from developing their interest in music through the Music Foundation Course to learning how technology can impact music making by creating their own sound and video production.

The ALP is helmed by a dedicated group of experienced educators who ensure that the programme impacts and engages students in Sonic Arts. The programme takes on a 3-tier approach where all students, at Tier 1, learn to appreciate music through platforms like the

school assembly programme, music lessons and student-led lunch time concerts at the canteen. Students who show a keen interest in developing their musical talents are provided with opportunities to deepen their passion through exposure to other aspects of music appreciation and creation like song writing, recording and video production. In Tier 3, students work towards achieving excellence in Sonic Arts through partnerships with institutes of higher learning, solo or group performances and overseas collaborations.

“ALP maximises the potential of students who have specific musical talents like composing or arranging music as well as exceptional singing abilities. As a teacher, I have witnessed students blossom beyond the music classroom into musicians who can manage a whole song production workflow on their own.”

*Ms Esther Seah, Music Co-ordinator*

## We are Proud of You

Ng Xin Le graduated from Yishun Secondary in 2012. Xin Le attributes her passion for music to the ALP in Yishun Secondary and regards it as a stepping stone to her artistic career. Xin Le is a recipient of the Sennheiser Scholarship award and has been inducted into the Director’s Roll of Honour for four semesters. She graduated from Republic Polytechnic in 2016 with a Diploma in Sonic Arts (Merit). Shortly upon graduation, she went on to further her studies at LASALLE College of the Arts, where she specialised in Arts Management.

“The music programme in Yishun Secondary intrigued me to pursue a diploma in music, leading to my enrollment in Republic Polytechnic’s Sonic Arts course. During my studies, I helped to design soundscapes for Universal Studios Singapore’s Halloween Horror Nights event and worked with social service organisations to introduce music as a form of art therapy.” Ng Xin Le who graduated from LASALLE College with a First Class Honours in Arts Management.



## Learning to Care and Paying It Forward



*Leading with Empathy, Serving with Compassion – vital learning for life*

While our ALP focuses on Sonic Arts, the Learning for Life Programme (LLP) aims to nurture students who have a heart for others while developing effective leadership in themselves, and in the process leverage arts as a means to reach out and to engage the community. Titled *Leading with Empathy and Serving with Compassion through the Arts*, the programme adopts a two-pronged approach with one aiming to develop students who are able to empathise with others and respond to the needs of the community, while the other develops leadership competencies, resulting in self-expression through the arts or co-creation of community arts.

Leadership competencies are developed at the lower secondary levels through the General Leadership programme.

Empathy and community involvement are developed through deepening students' awareness of the needs of others who make up the community and how to cater to these needs.

“The workshop that we attended taught us how to look at things from different perspectives, which further taught us how to communicate with our peers and teachers. Through these workshops, we get first-hand experience in becoming a leader by facilitating discussions, and learnt how we can be good role models to our juniors and the community, which empowers us to be leaders.”

*Lin Zipeng, Sec 3E3*

“As a teacher, I am very proud to see how our students take the initiative to identify the needs of others, propose solutions and bring these plans to fruition as they carried out the various projects.”

*Mrs Tan Yee Ching,  
teacher-in-charge of the LLP*



*Students engaging the elderly through art and craft*

### Historical Fact



Yishun Secondary School (YSS) was established in January 1986. From January to March 1986, we shared our premises with Yishun Town Secondary School. In December 1986, we had a place to call our own. The school's official opening was held in August 1988. It was opened by former Member of Parliament for Nee Soon, Dr Koh Lip Lin.

## Authentic Learning *Experiences that Engage and Excite*

In Yishun Secondary, students do not just learn. They embark on a journey of discovery where every classroom experience extends to authentic learning experiences that deepen their understanding of each subject.

### Authentic Learning Experiences while Acquiring Language Proficiency

Apart from the ordinary fare of reading and writing, Yishunites are developed into competent users of the English Language and their Mother Tongue Language through a myriad of creative approaches.

The Mother Tongue Languages department's News Production and Broadcasting Programme exposes students to the skills involved in putting together a news broadcast. The process begins with the conduct of interviews, and this moves on to storyboarding and scripting and finally to recording the broadcast. The whole process allows students the room to exercise creativity and innovation in how they present their broadcast. Students learn not only how to use the language in an authentic setting, they also learn about current affairs. The programme is carried out by the department for all 3 Mother Tongue Languages: Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

“Students are engaged throughout the process which allows them to experience the joy of learning with their friends across streams. I notice that students are more confident at oral examination after this programme.”

**Mdm Sharidah,**  
Subject Head/Malay Language

The English Language Department develops students' learning of narrative structures and writing through the Storyteller Showcase. Grammar, writing and communication skills are woven into the storytelling genre.

“Through storytelling, students are transported out of the normal classroom environment into one that allows them to explore narratives, different worlds and perspectives, and in so doing, they develop skills that are grounded in the areas of language learning.”

**Mrs Audrey Ee,** Head of Department,  
English Language and Media Literacy



### Math Made Meaningful - *M<sup>3</sup> way of Learning Mathematics*

To make learning Math a joyful experience, the department also lays emphasis on introducing play into learning. The MOE ExCEL award winning Mathematics board game ArithmetEQ™ invented by Mrs Simmi Govindani, Lead Teacher/Mathematics and Mrs Jacqueline Lee, Subject Head/Mathematics, has been commercialised under the guidance of the Ministry of Education. ArithmetEQ™ is to Math what Scrabble is to the English Language.

ArithmetEQ™ requires students to form and manipulate mathematical equations which is one of the important skills needed in Math. The department has been organising The

National ArithmetEQ™ Challenge biennially for secondary schools since 2008. A Junior ArithmetEQ™ set for primary schools was also developed a few years later, which resulted in the Math department organising the National Junior ArithmetEQ™ Challenge for Primary Schools since 2014.

“The game ArithmetEQ™ allows students to gain a stronger foundation in understanding equations, develop their numeracy skills and mental ability, thereby making it a fun and innovative approach to the learning of equations.”

**Mrs Jacqueline Lee,**  
Subject Head/Mathematics



Students engaged in a game of ArithmetEQ™

# Unravelling the Mysteries of Science through Exploration and Discovery



*Hands-on lessons are always engaging for students*

The lower secondary science programme enthruses students by developing and heightening students' curiosity about the world around them.

Ms Widayah Othman, Subject Head/Chemistry, believes strongly in showing and not just telling. She says that students learn more when they observe experiments. She feels that they begin to question and the learning becomes etched in their minds. She believes that from experiments, students get imbued in the spirit of scientific endeavour. Ms Widayah is a strong proponent of recycling and frequently, if not always, employs recycled items in her experiments. In doing this, she shows her charges how they can adopt the habit of recycling in their own lives.

## Bringing learning journeys into the classroom

It is not always possible that students have the luxury to explore different terrains and times. So why not allow technology, the key enabler of learning, to bring the exploration into the classroom?

The Humanities department explores the use of immersive technology in the teaching and learning of Geography and History. Through the use of 360° high resolution videos, learning is made more engaging as students can 'travel' to another place and explore it from a geographical and historical perspective.



“These videos transport students in an instant to the locale, giving them the visual sensory information to have better memories of the place, aiding them to have better place knowledge, right in the classroom.”

**Mrs Madeline Lim-Chen,**  
Subject Head/Geography

## Yishun Goes Global Programme

Yishun Secondary organises annual school immersion programmes with other schools in the region. From its humble beginnings of having only 2 trips, the programme sees groups of students going on overseas learning journeys to Indonesia, China, Taiwan, Thailand and Cambodia.

Students benefit tremendously from the *Yishun Goes Global Programme*. Through the programme and their visits to the countries in ASEAN and Asia, students learn to appreciate the challenges, constraints and vulnerabilities that face Singapore. They also deepen their rootedness to Singapore not only in terms of fostering a sense of identity and pride as Singaporeans, but also in appreciating the opportunities available to them.



## Smaller Class Size at Upper Secondary Level



*More meaningful interactions are made possible with the smaller class size*

At Yishun Secondary, we believe in creating a more student-centric environment to better engage our students. Classes at upper secondary levels can have as few as 25 students. Smaller class sizes have allowed for more targeted learning tasks to be created. As such, the different learning needs of the students in the class are easily identified, addressed and met, allowing for more meaningful learning to take place.

## More than Just CCAs!

### Outstanding CCAs present learning opportunities for students

Students create their fondest memories from the time spent in their CCAs. In Yishun Secondary, CCAs ensure that students not only learn the relevant skills to the CCAs, but more importantly, they imbibe values that are critical for their future.

#### Basketball and Time Management

A combination of hard work, the strong bond between players, dedicated teachers and coaches make up the formula for the success of the basketball team in Yishun Secondary. Indeed, basketball training is very demanding, nonetheless, students manage to strike a good balance between their studies and doing the school and themselves proud on the court. The key to achieving the balance would be essentially time-management; striking that perfect balance between demands of training and academic pursuits.



*Enjoying a friendly match during training*

“During training, my teacher often tells us that we are students before we are athletes, hence we need to balance spending time on the basketball court, studies and personal life. The teachers at Yishun Secondary are dedicated and they help me with consultations so that I can catch up on what I missed in class.”

**Leonardo Pang,**  
Captain/B-Boys Basketball Team

“During competition seasons, I tend to miss a lot of lessons. But I make sure that I consult my teachers and ask my friends about the lessons that were taught in an effort to keep pace with the rest of my classmates. At home, I also make sure that I set aside some time to read up on the next topic.”

**Yap Pei Xin,**  
Captain/B-Girls Basketball Team

#### Instilling Cultural Appreciation through Dance

The Malay Dance CCA in Yishun Secondary is known for their vibrant and well-choreographed performances. Hard work, dedication and passion are essential in doing well. Students learn to appreciate their culture on a deeper level as they engage in the respective dances. The music, costumes and narratives that are part of the dance, tell of a time in history or give an understanding of an important period or person while conveying emotions related to the style of dance.



*Malay Dancers strike a graceful pose*

“In Malay dance, we were able to learn about the origins of the different genres of Malay dances. We learnt about where these dances originated and how they came about. We are also able to learn the different techniques for each genre. These helped us appreciate the Malay culture and why things are done in a certain way.”

**Zahwa Nur Jannah & Nursyafawati,**  
Malay Dance

#### Perseverance and Camaraderie the NCC Way

The Yishun Secondary National Cadet Corp (NCC) Unit has been doing consistently well over the last few years. The NCC Unit sustained the Distinction Award for the Unit Recognition category for three consecutive years. Training is tough when it comes to NCC. The individual is challenged both physically and mentally during training sessions and the key to surviving these rigorous training sessions is perseverance.



“Being the Unit Sergeant Major does not mean only leading the unit but also taking care of the cadets’ welfare, discipline and growth in the NCC. NCC provides us with opportunities to go for camps like Camp Forge and Camp Steel which are held at the NCC Headquarters. Attending these camps is beneficial as they have helped me hone my leadership skills.”

**Voong Xu En,** Unit Sergeant Major

## Monday's are Marvellous while Friday's are Fabulous@YSS!

### StAR Programme

'S tudents All Rise' simply known as **StAR programme** allows students to shine like stars while learning different skills and acquiring new experiences. Offered to Secondary 1 and 2 Normal Technical students on Marvellous Monday's and Fabulous Friday's, students engage in a variety of activities like sports, toy-making, aeronautics, Bollywood dancing and cheerleading. During these sessions, apart from enjoying the experience, students learn about SEL Competencies (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship management and responsible decision-making) with the hope of instilling the right values for them to be good decision makers in life.



“I feel very happy being able to dance with my classmates. We laugh and learn together. Schooling is fun!”

**Muhammad Randy Fahrezi bin Muhammad Irwan, Sec 1T1**

### YE@H! Programme

T he YE@H! Programme takes place at the HangOutz. During this programme students learn the art of coffee making, how to play the harmonica and, the art of beading. They also tried their hands at producing essential oils for soap-making and scented candles. The HangOutz is a space created especially for our students to learn in a safe and homely environment. Each day after school, students look forward to spending time at the HangOutz with friends and teachers.

Students are engaged and very excited by these programmes which are run by Ms Hairul Bariyah Bte Maksom, Head of Department/ Educational Support, and her team of dedicated teachers. Ms Bariyah says that the programmes allow students to be committed learners who are able to contribute to the school and community. She was proud of her students for contributing to the Teachers' Day Celebration 2020 by applying what they learnt in making cups of Dalgona coffee to show gratitude to all teachers.



Students from the YE@H Programme preparing Dalgona coffee to show appreciation to teachers on Teachers' Day

“YE@H is fun and an opportunity for me to learn new things. In YE@H!, I learn how to be resilient as most of the activities we learn require a lot of focus and discipline during the activity.”

**Nur Asyura Binte Mohammad Azhari, Sec 1T1**

## Developing Student Leaders



“I have learnt that being a student leader means developing interpersonal skills and being open-minded to suggestions of others.”  
Chen Rong Sheng, Assistant Head of Operations/YSS Prefectorial Board (third from left)

At Yishun Secondary, students are given ample opportunities to acquire leadership skills and discover the potential leader in themselves. At lower secondary, all students attend level-wide leadership workshops and camps while the upper secondary students go through training to be selected in executive committees for their respective CCAs and the Prefectorial Board.

In Yishun Secondary, class committee members are also seen as part of the student leaders of the school. They are given due recognition and training to excel in their respective roles.

Student leaders work together to organise events like Teachers' Day, Youth Day, YSS Open House and Secondary One Orientation.

## Professional Development Day - Time for Teachers to Learn

Time-tabled Time set aside for teachers to learn and develop

The creation of a vibrant learning community does not exist only for students in YSS; teachers are also entitled to their special day of learning. Friday afternoons are freed from lessons and CCAs so that professional development can take place for staff. The protected time is used for staff meetings, department meetings, staff sharing sessions and, staff bonding sessions. All teachers are part of the various Professional Learning Teams in the school and work together to share and learn key areas of teaching and student learning.



“ PD aims to develop in staff new skillsets and cultivate in them a new mindset to embrace key changes and challenges in the education landscape.”

*Mr Victor Chia,  
School Staff Developer*

“ Effective mentoring is crucial for professional growth of beginning teachers because it guides them to understand better, the why, how and what of teaching, in their pursuit of professional excellence.”

*Mrs Simmi Govindani,  
Lead Teacher/Mathematics*

## A Happy Working Community

The Staff Welfare Committee organises regular staff bonding activities that range from leisure activities like baking, coffee appreciation, paper-crafting, to sporting activities like group running and badminton. These activities help to maintain a healthy and happy work-life balance for all staff and build camaraderie among the management and the staff, making the school a truly fertile ground for professional and personal growth.



*The strong camaraderie is apparent amongst staff of Yishun Secondary*



*The Admin Team sharing a hearty moment together*

## 了解我们和母语文化与义顺社区的渊源

义顺中学于1985年向她的第一批学生敞开了大门。通过对各种活动的支持，我校与义顺社区建立了紧密的联系。在这当中，母语在教育学生了解母族文化的重要性并将他们与义顺社区联系起来方面发挥了重要的作用。

在义顺中学，让学生学习母语不仅是为了让学生能够与母族文化遗产与义顺社区建立联系，也是为了让他们能够积极学习并精通自己的



农历新年又怎么能少了舞狮表演？

母语。我校的母语课程包含了广播、文化欣赏与节日庆祝会等活动，为学生提供了真实的学习体验，让他们学习诸如访谈和互动技巧等生活技能，让他们能够报导有关义顺社区的新闻，也让他们能对义顺社区与自己的文化拥有更深入的了解。这将有助于他们建立信心和语言能力。母语双周、华语和马来语会话以及节日庆祝会等活动让学生能够在我校体验到学习母语的乐趣。



学生的古装扮相吸引了全场师生的目光

### Menghayati, Menghargai Warisan dan Budaya Bangsa serta Masyarakat Yishun

Sekolah Menengah Yishun mengambil kohort pertamanya pada tahun 1985. Sekolah Yishun mempunyai hubungan yang erat bersama masyarakat di Yishun menerusi penglibatan sekolah ini terhadap pelbagai kegiatan dan acara yang dianjurkan. Pada masa yang sama, Bahasa Ibunda memainkan peranan utama dalam mendidik pelajar tentang kepentingan mempelajari dan memahami budaya serta mengaitkannya dengan masyarakat Yishun.

Di Sekolah Menengah Yishun, pembelajaran Bahasa Ibunda menjadi asas bukan sahaja membuat kaitan dengan budaya warisan mereka atau masyarakat Yishun, malah membuat pelajar menjadi aktif dan pengguna bahasa cekap. Kurikulum sekolah Yishun disokong dengan program-program seperti penyiaran, penghargaan budaya serta sambutan perayaan di Singapura. Menerusi semua ini, pelajar berpeluang mengalami pembelajaran autentik serta meraih kemahiran kehidupan seperti kemahiran interaksi, temu bual dan wawancara. Mereka juga akan meraih pemahaman yang mendalam tentang warisan dan budaya Melayu serta masyarakat Yishun ketika membuat liputan tentang isu-isu dalam masyarakat. Pelajar akan menjadi lebih yakin dan cekap dalam penuturan Bahasa



Watching demonstration on dumpling making

Ibunda. Dwi Minggu Bahasa Ibunda, Program Percakapan Bahasa Cina dan Melayu serta sambutan perayaan-perayaan di Singapura memberikan peluang dan ruang untuk pelajar mengalami keseronokan dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Ibunda di Sekolah Menengah Yishun.



Malay traditional kuih Abuk-abuk making

### நம் பாரம்பரியத்தையும் ஈசுன் சமூக வேர்களையும் புரிந்து போற்றுதல்

ஈசுன் உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளி 1985ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் ஈசுன் சமூகத்தின் பல்வேறு நிகழ்ச்சிகளுக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளுக்கும் ஆதரவளித்து வருவதன் மூலம் அதனுடன் உள்ள பிணைப்பை வலுப்படுத்தியுள்ளது. அதில், மாணவர்களுக்குக் கலாச்சாரத்தின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை அறிவுறுத்துவதிலும் ஈசுன் சமூகத்துடன் அவர்களை இணைப்பதிலும் தாய்மொழி முக்கிய பங்காற்றுகிறது.

ஈசுன் உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் தாய்மொழியை ஆர்வத்துடன் கற்று சரளமாகப் பேசவும் எழுதவும் ஒலிபரப்பு நிகழ்ச்சி, இருவார தாய்மொழி நடவடிக்கைகள், விழாக் கொண்டாட்டங்கள் வழி கலாச்சாரத்தைப் போற்றுதல் போன்ற நடவடிக்கைகள் பாடத்திட்டத்துடன் இணைத்து நடத்தப்படுகின்றன. இத்தகைய நடவடிக்கைகளின்வழி மாணவர்கள் ஈசுன் சமூகத்தின் பாரம்பரியத்தையும் பண்பாட்டையும் ஆழமாக அறிந்து தரமான கற்றல் அனுபவங்களைப் பெறுகின்றனர். கருத்துப்பரிமாற்றத் திறன், நேர்காணல் திறன் போன்ற வாழ்க்கைத் திறன்களையும் வளர்த்துக் கொள்கிறார்கள். இவை மாணவர்களுக்குத் தாய்மொழியை மகிழ்வுட்டும் கற்றல் அனுபவமாக மாற்றி அவர்களது தன்னம்பிக்கையையும் மொழிப் புழக்கத்தையும் அதிகரிக்கின்றன.



மாணவர்கள் செய்திப் படம் தயாரிக்கும் ஒலிபரப்பு நிகழ்ச்சி



தாய்மொழி இருவார நடவடிக்கை தொடக்க விழா