

Principal's Dialogue with Sec 1 Parents 2020

21 September 2020, 5:30 pm

Q & A Session - Notes

Academic Matters		
	Questions	Responses
1.	Will there be any changes in classes based on academic performance?	No, students will remain in the same class from Sec 1 to Sec 2 unless there is a change in the stream of study.
2.	My child always claims that there is no homework and uses the phone for long hours. I advised him to read one chapter a day and I do not think it is sufficient. Are there any extra lesson in school? Can we request from the school for daily/weekly tuition? We do not want to wait till result is out.	Giving too much homework is not necessarily a good thing.  For lower secondary levels, consultation will begin in mid-Term 2 or Term 3. Subject teachers will be in touch with specific students who require consultation. Students may also approach teachers if they need help.
3.	Will there be remedial lessons after school? How often does the teachers communicate with the parents?	Parents will be informed if the child is consistently not doing well after intervention by the subject teachers.
4.	Will my child still have opportunity to be promoted to Sec 3NA if he/she is promoted to Sec 2NT in 2021?	If your child is in 2NT in 2021 and meets the criteria to be promoted to a more demanding stream, the child will go to Sec 2NA in 2022 and then 3NA in 2023. This is to give the child more time to adapt to the rigour of the NA syllabus.
5.	Will the Weighted Assessment (WA) format still remain the same in 2021?	There will be a revision to the duration of WA for 2021.  More details will be released in Dec 2020.
6.	Is there a need to bring worksheets from start of year which are filed in, to school?	Students are not required to bring everything to school daily. They are only required to bring only the relevant materials. Students may check with subject teachers.  We also encourage parents to guide their child in organising and packing their bags.
7.	Can students only bring worksheets which are recent 2 months? Students' bags are heavy due to those worksheets/files, especially on days with many subjects.	

<b>Academic Matters</b>		
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
8.	What is the criteria in getting to Pure Science class in Sec 3?	Student in Pure Science class will generally take EL and MTL, 2 Sciences, 2 Maths and 2 Humanities.
9.	Will my child qualify for a Pure Science class if he fails humanities in Sec 2, but does well in Math and Science, and average for English and MTL?	<p>Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to display the ability to cope with the demands for all subjects.</p> <p>Student must be proficient in Maths and Science to get into the Pure Science class.</p> <p>Most importantly, we encourage parents to discuss with their child. Alternatively, your child can also approach our education and career guidance (ECG) coordinator for a discussion.</p>
10.	What happens if my child did not pass some subjects in Sec 2 Express? Will he/she be channeled into the NA stream?	<p>Students need to meet the promotion criteria to Sec 3E (pass in English and pass in overall percentage of all subjects combined) before being considered for posting.</p> <p>Student may be laterally transferred to a less demanding stream if he/she fails to meet the promotion criteria.</p>

<b>Student Development</b>		
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1.	Will there be a Meet-the-Parents session via zoom to provide update of our child's progress?	<p>In term 3, we had e-PTM with parents where the form teachers have touched base with most parents. Teachers will inform parents if there are any concerns with regards to the child.</p> <p>Parents are welcome to email the school if they have any concerns regarding their child/ward's performance in class.</p> <p>We look forward to meeting all parents face to face next year if the situation allows. Usually, the school organises breakfast meeting with the Principal and parents at the start of the year. Due to Covid, it was suspended this year.</p>

<b>Student Development</b>		
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
2.	Do we need to buy a laptop for our child?	<p>Students will not be required to spend long hours on the laptop for school research.</p> <p>As for the personal digital learning device initiated by the Ministry, every child will buy a digital device. More details will be given at a later date.</p>
3.	<p>Would you consider allowing students to wear PE attire to school every day?</p> <p>Students are already feeling uncomfortable wearing masks to school daily.</p>	<p>The school is looking into allowing students to wear PE attire or CCA t-shirt daily due to the current situation.</p> <p>Currently, students are required to wear full uniform on Monday and Tuesday. They may wear half uniform (school t-shirt with school shorts/skirt) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.</p>
4.	What is the Sec 1 Leadership Programme about?	It is conducted after EOY exam for all Sec 1 students. The theme is "Leader of Self". Students will undergo a 3-day programme from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.
5.	Does the Sec 1 leadership programme involves all students or only selected students?	The Secondary 1 leadership training aims to equip students with fundamental values and skills required for self-development and allow students to understand that self-development is the foundation for leadership development.
6.	Will there be any Internationalisation Experience Trip for Sec 1?	<p>There will be no overseas trips in 2020. It has been suspended till the COVID situation improves.</p> <p>The school is currently looking at having online exchange with foreign twinning schools.</p>
7.	Besides the academic aspect, are there any plans or programmes to motivate students and build good character, value, moral etc?	<p>The best way to build character is through CCA involvement, leadership programme, CCE lessons and serving the community through Values-in-Actions (VIA) activities.</p> <p>We hope parents will continue to support the school in the child's holistic development by ensuring their participation.</p>

HBL/ Blended learning		
	Questions	Responses
1.	How will the blended learning be different from home based learning? I hope that the lessons will be more interactive instead of doing just homework.	<p>Blended learning will differ from HBL. There will be 2 approaches.</p> <p>It could be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a continuation of the curriculum, or</li> <li>(ii) a stand-alone module which is also part of the syllabus.</li> </ul> <p>The school aims to strike a balance between synchronous and asynchronous learning as we are mindful of the student's screen time.</p> <p>It will be 9 days of school day + 1 day of HBL. The day of HBL has yet to be confirmed. More details will be shared at a later date.</p>
2.	From the slides, it was mentioned that the last day of school is on 23 Oct, will there be any HBL after 23 Oct?	There will not be any HBL after 23 October. Some holiday homework will be assigned to students and it will be uploaded onto the school website.

CCA Matters		
	Questions	Responses
1.	Will there be any weekend activities like extra classes or CCA?	Our CCAs are only conducted on weekdays. There are usually no activities conducted on weekends. Parents will be notified via information letter if the students are required to attend CCA related activities on weekends.  There are no extra classes conducted on weekends.
2.	Will there be any CCA training during year-end holidays? I hope the school will have CCA training during school holidays.	CCA will resume after EOY exam on 12 October. There will be CCA during the Nov/Dec school holidays especially for the Performing Arts and Sports CCA as they will be preparing for SYF and National School Games respectively. The training schedule for respective CCAs will be available on the school website before school closes, and letter will be issued to parents to inform you of the training schedule.
3.	Can we remove CCA on Friday and shift it to other days of the week? It is a short day on Friday and yet my son have to wait in the school till 3pm for CCA to start.	The school currently offers 20 CCAs and we will have to conduct our CCAs on all days as we have limited venues. Students can use their time meaningfully by revising their work or spend the time bonding with their peers while waiting for CCA to begin.
4.	There is 2 hour wait time between last lesson and CCA at times.	We do not allow students to leave school during the break for lunch as we do not want their safety to be compromised. We seek parents' understanding in this and enforcing it to your child.

Administrative matters
<p>End-of-Year Exam schedule can be found at:  <a href="https://yishunsec.moe.edu.sg/students/announcement-for-students/">https://yishunsec.moe.edu.sg/students/announcement-for-students/</a></p> <p>You may email the school if you have any further queries:            Email: <a href="mailto:yishun_ss@moe.edu.sg">yishun_ss@moe.edu.sg</a></p>