



TAMPINES SECONDARY SCHOOL

A CARING COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS, THINKERS AND LEADERS

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5 June 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The TPSS Circular 2020/03

As school re-opens for a modified Term 3, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you about events and programmes happening at Tampines Secondary School during this period.

1. Update on school measures due to COVID-19 situation

a. Health and safety measures at TPSS

In view of the evolving COVID-19 situation, it is important to continue with precautionary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community. As such, the following measures will be carried out:

- Daily temperature-taking with additional visual and question screening will continue to be carried out for all students and staff.
- Students and staff who are unwell, or who have household members infected with COVID-19, on Home Quarantine Order/Stay-Home Notice, or have **adult (18 years and above)** household members unwell with flu-like symptoms such as fever and cough, will be required to stay away from school. Please inform your child's/ward's Form Teacher at the soonest if this applies.
- Stringent Visitor Management will be conducted at the school access points. If you are dropping off or picking up your child/ward, please do not alight from the vehicle while waiting. If you do alight from the vehicle, we request that you proceed to the Security Post for the Visitor Management procedure.
- School will clean high-touch surfaces more frequently and disinfect the premises daily.
- Students and staff are required to wear their masks at all times apart from when they are consuming food or beverages, and during PE lessons.
- Students will practise frequent hand-washing throughout the school day and practise wipe down of tables and shared equipment after use.
- There will be fixed exam-style seating in classrooms and fixed alternate seating in the canteen.
- Recess and lunch timings will support segregation of students by level cohort.
- Intermingling across levels will be minimised through staggered dismissal timings.

b. Suspension of CCA programmes

CCA programmes continue to be suspended until further notice.

c. Cancellation of school programmes

Please note that the following programmes have also been cancelled:

- Sec 2 Adventure Camp (originally 25 to 28 August)
- Sec 3 MOE-OBS Challenge Programme 5-day Course (originally 11 to 15 August)

d. Implementation of SafeEntry

All visitors to TPSS will need to check-in and check-out using the SafeEntry application either by having their IC scanned or using their mobile device to scan a QR code. Data collected is not stored by the school equipment but uploaded to the Government servers which will only be accessed by the authorities when needed for contact tracing purposes.

2. Format of lessons in Term 3 2020

MOE has announced the following measures for returning students in Term 3 as part of the Phase 1 post circuit-breaker period.

- Graduating students will attend school from Mondays to Fridays
- Students from other cohorts will rotate weekly between Home-Based Learning (HBL) and returning to school for lessons, as follows:

Week	In-School Lessons	HBL
Week 1 (2 - 5 June)	S1, S2, S4 & 5	S3
Week 2 (8 - 12 June)	S3, S4 & 5	S1, S2
Week 3 (15 - 19 June)	S1, S2, S4 & 5	S3
Week 4 (22 - 26 June)	S3, S4 & 5	S1, S2

The school will update students and parents in due course on the mode of school operations for Week 5 and onwards in tandem with the national posture on the COVID-19 situation.

Please note that there will be a Mid-Term 3 Break from 18 July to 26 July (Week 8). Thereafter, lessons will resume for 6 weeks until 4 September when the September school holidays commence.

3. Term 3 Timetable

Please note that there is a new timetable for Semester 2. A copy of the class timetable can be found on the school website.

As a reminder, the students are expected to wear the full school uniform each day, with the exception of Tuesdays and Fridays:

Tuesdays	school polo tee or school uniform top
Fridays	school polo tee, approved school-based T-shirts or school uniform top

4. Academic Matters in Term 3

a. Conduct of national examinations

In Term 3, the Secondary 4 and 5 students will be sitting for their written MTL O-Level examinations, as well as the oral component of their Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) and English Language (EL) national examinations. All papers take place in the afternoon.

- GCE Level MTL Paper 1 & 2 (Written) - 18 June
- GCE Level MTL B Paper 1 & 2 – 19 June

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- GCE Level MTL B Oral – 7 July
- GCE Level MTL Oral – 8 to 17 July
- GCE N Level EL Oral – 13 to 17 July
- GCE Level MT & MTB Listening Comprehension – 27 July
- GCE Level Higher MTL Oral Exam – 28 July to 4 August
- GCE N Level MTL Oral Exam - 3 to 5 August
- GCE Level EL Oral – 17 to 26 August

Specific details about the conduct of the national examination and the oral examination schedule will be disseminated to students. Students are to report punctually to the exam venue on their assigned day of examination. They must be neatly attired in their full school uniform and have their personal identification document and entry proof with them to take the examination.

For the oral examinations, any students unable to make it for their scheduled examination slot due to medical reasons or otherwise should inform their subject teacher or form teacher as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for them to take the exam on a different day during the allocated exam period. Students who are on Home Quarantine Order, Stay-Home Notice, Leave of Absence or medical leave, should not report for examination. They should inform the school and stay at home. Students on Approved Absence will be allowed to sit for examination in separate rooms.

Please note also that to facilitate the conduct of the national examination papers, the dismissal times of students will be affected as follows:

<p>18 June (Week 3) GCE O Level Mother Tongue Languages Written Exam</p>	<p>All Sec 1 and 2 students to be dismissed at 12.30 pm to facilitate the conduct of the exam.</p> <p>Sec 3 students – on HBL for Week 3.</p> <p>4E/5N and 4NA OOS students sitting for the GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Languages Written Exam are excused from school the in morning and only need to report for the exam by 1.30 pm. in the afternoon.</p> <p>All 4E/5N students sitting for the GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Languages (B) Syllabus and others will not be required to attend school as well.</p>
<p>19 June (Week 3) GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Languages (B) Written Exam</p>	<p>4E/5N students sitting for the GCE O level Mother Tongue Languages (B) Syllabus Written Exam are excused from school in the morning and only need to report for the exam by 1.30 pm. in the afternoon.</p>
<p>(27 July) GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Languages Listening Comprehension Exam</p>	<p>All students to be dismissed at 1.00 pm.</p>

b. Structured school assessments

In view of the COVID-19 situation and the cancellation of Mid-Year Examination, some adjustments to school-based assessment have been made to better support students' transition back to school by

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spreading out the assessment load from semester 1 and to allow for the checking of student learning during FHBL. The revised assessment weighting for 2020 for Secondary One to Three is as follows:

Secondary One and Three:

Assessment	Term 1	Term 2		Term 3		Term 4
Original	WA 1 10%	WA 2 15 %	Mid-Year Exam NA	NA	Milestone Test 15%	End-of-Year Exam 60%
Revised	WA 1 10%	WA 2 15 %	Mid-Year Exam NA	Class Test 10%	Milestone Test 15%	End-of-Year Exam 65%

Secondary Two:

Assessment	Term 1	Term 2		Term 3		Term 4
Original	WA 1 10%	WA 2 5 %	Mid-Year Exam 25%	NA	Milestone Test 15%	End-of-Year Exam 45%
Revised	WA 1 10%	WA 2 5 %	Mid-Year Exam 25%	Class Test 10%	Milestone Test 15%	End-of-Year Exam 65%

Students will be sitting for the following school assessments in Term 3:

Class Test (Weeks 5 - 6)	<i>For Sec 1 - 3 students</i> Short tests for students to consolidate learning of key topics taught during Term 2
Milestone Test (Weeks 9 - 10)	<i>For Sec 1 – 3 students</i> Short tests to check students' understanding of topics taught during FHBL and Term 3
Preliminary Exam (Weeks 12 - 13)	<i>For Sec 4E / 5NA, 4NA, 4NT students</i> Full papers to assess students' readiness for the national examinations.

Examination periods are listed in Annex A attached to this letter. Please note that if a student has an absence that is not covered by a medical certificate, he or she will not be awarded any marks for the assessments missed.

c. Academic support programmes

The school is focused on curriculum recovery for the students, in particular the graduating students. As such, we have organised the following programmes to support students:

Extended Curriculum (from Week 1 onwards)	Extended curriculum (3 - 4pm) for graduating students for selected subjects from Mondays to Thursdays.
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Academic Support Programme (from Week 3 onwards)	Preparations for the national examinations, such as subject-based revision of challenging concepts and topics and subject consultation for graduating students.
Timed Practices	Scheduled sessions for Timed Practices will take place on Fridays to support graduating students for examination preparations. More details will be shared by respective subject teachers.
Key Personnel (KP) Mentoring	One-to-one KP mentoring continues for selected graduating students who require academic guidance and support.
Stretch and Boost Programme (from Week 5 onwards)	Targeted small group sessions with identified students to enhance their learning (Sec 1, Sec 2 and Sec 3).

If your child/ward has been selected to attend the above, please continue to support your child/ward in his/her studies by encouraging him/her to use the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification from his/her teachers during these programmes.

d. 2021 Sec 3 Subject Combination Exercise

The Secondary 2 students will be undergoing the 2021 Sec 3 Subject Combination Exercise after the End of Year Examination. This exercise provides an opportunity for students to indicate their preferred subject combinations based on academic merit as demonstrated in the overall academic performance at Secondary 2 and interest in subjects offered. All subject combinations offered will pave the way for students to pursue post-secondary courses at the various post-secondary educational institutions including Junior Colleges, Polytechnics and the Institutes of Technical Education.

Details on the 2021 Sec 3 Subject Combination Exercise will be shared with parents in due course.

Students will also be briefed on available subject combinations, the application procedure as well as the key considerations when opting for a subject combination they would like to pursue. We encourage you to have conversations with your child/ward on selecting subjects that are suitable for them based on aptitude and interests.

5. Key School Events

Do follow us on social media to get a look at the events commemorated and enriching activities carried out for the students in Term 3.

a. Student Leaders' Investiture

To recognise students who have taken up leadership positions in the school, there will be two separate Student Leaders' Investiture ceremonies for the upper secondary and lower secondary cohorts on 12 June and 16 June respectively. Other than the Secondary 3 Student Councillors, House Leaders, Sports Leader, CCA Leaders, Peer Support Leaders and Class Leaders who will be invested, the new 2020 Student Council Executive Committee will also be sworn into office.

b. The PaSSion Arts Festival

From 14 – 17 July, students will have the opportunity to explore the different ways in which the arts help us understand the world and our experiences – from using 'Life Stripes' that visually represent data about our habits during the Circuit Breaker to popular music selected and shared by students to

inspire and encourage one another. 'Tampines Got Talent' will also be back to provide students a platform to express their creativity and talent.

c. National Day

The school will hold a National Day Celebration on 7 August. Students are encouraged to wear a red top to celebrate the occasion. More details will be given closer to the event date.

d. Teachers' Day

There will be a modified curriculum to celebrate the occasion on 4 September. Further details will be given closer to the event date.

6. School Communication

The school continues to use Parents Gateway mobile app as one of the means of communicating with parents. It is recommended that you enable push notifications on this app to receive timely updates about school events.

If you wish to contact the school for general inquiries, you may call the school at 67835423 or email at tpss@moe.edu.sg. If you wish to inquire specifically about your child's/ward's progress in school, a list of our teacher's email addresses can be found on the school website here under the parents' portal - <https://tampinessec.moe.edu.sg/portals/parents-portal/teachers-email-addresses>.

Please note that, except in emergency situations, staff may not respond to communication initiated after official working hours (7.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.) until the next working day.

In conclusion

Annex A contains a list of the key school events for Term 3. You may also refer to our school website (<http://www.tampinessec.moe.edu.sg>) that is updated regularly to provide you with timely information.

We appreciate your efforts to keep updated on school programmes and will continue to work closely with you to achieve the best for our Tampinesians.

Yours faithfully

Mr Shane Kwok
Principal

no signature required for this e-letter

Key School Events in Term 3, 2020

Date	Event	Involvement
18 June	GCE O-Level MTL Written Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students Other students will be dismissed at 12.30 pm to facilitate conduct of exam.
19 June	GCE O-Level MTL B Written Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students
22 - 25 June	MTL Oral Exam (Exp and NA)	Sec 4E, 4N and 5N students
26 June	MTL Oral Exam (NT)	Sec 4T students
29 June - 10 July	Class Test Period	Sec 1 to 3 students
29 June - 2 July	EL Oral Exam (Exp and NA)	Sec 4E, 4N and 5N students
3 July	EL Oral Exam (NT)	Sec 4T students
6 July	Youth Day School Holiday	School closed for the day
7 July	GCE O-Level MTL B Oral Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students
8 - 17 July	GCE O-Level MTL Oral Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students
13 - 17 July	GCE N Level EL Oral Exam	Sec 4 NA and NT students
14 - 17 July	The PaSSion Arts Festival	All students
18 July - 26 July	Mid Term 3 Break	Students need not come to school unless they have supplementary lessons.
27 July	GCE O-Level MTL / MTL B Listening Comprehension Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students Other students will be dismissed at 1 pm to facilitate conduct of exam.
28 July - 4 Aug	GCE O-Level Higher MTL Oral Exam	Sec 4 / 5 students taking Higher Mother Tongue Languages will be dismissed at 1.30 pm.
28 - 30 July	4NA / NT Preliminary Exam (Part 1)	Sec 4N / NT students

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28 July - 4 August	Milestone Tests (Lower Sec)	Sec 1 - 2 students
28 July - 6 August	Milestone Tests (Upper Sec)	Sec 3 students
31 July	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday	School closed for the day
3 - 6 August	N Level MTL / MTL B Oral Exam	Sec 4 NA and NT students
7 August	National Day School Celebrations	Modified curriculum for the day
10 August	National Day Public Holiday	School closed for the day
11 - 13 August	4NA / NT Preliminary Exam (Part 2)	Sec 4N / NT students
17 – 26 August	GCE O-Level EL Oral Exam	Sec 4E / 5N students
25 August - 2 September	Student Health Check	Sec 1 - 3 students
25 August - 2 September	4E / 5N Preliminary Exam (Part 1. Part 2 commences after Sept School Break)	Sec 4E / 5N students
3 September	Teachers' Day Celebrations	Modified curriculum for the day
4 September	Teachers' Day	School closed for the day
5 - 13 September	Term 3 School Break	Students need not come to school unless they have supplementary lessons.