



# DUNEARN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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14 January 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians

Warm greetings for 2013!

I extend a special welcome to new members of our Dunearn Family, our Secondary Ones and their parents. To parents of our current students, the school appreciates your support and cooperation as we work as partners in guiding our students towards success. It is my firm belief that given the right guidance and encouragement, all our students are capable of achievement in the academic and co-curricular domains.

As we move into 2013, it is opportune that I share with you the following:

## 1. Academic Achievements 2012

### GCE 'N' Level Examination

53.7% of our Normal (Academic) students were eligible to be promoted to Secondary 5 Normal (Academic).

For the Normal (Academic) stream, there were 14 students who achieved at least 2 distinctions. For the Normal (Technical) stream, there were 5 students who achieved at least 1 distinction.

### GCE 'O' Level Examination

68.3% of Secondary 4 Express and 5 Normal (Academic) students are eligible for admission to 2 or 3 year courses at JC or MI.

For Sec 4 Express, there were 9 subjects that showed improvement while for Sec 5 Normal (Academic), there were 5 subjects that showed improvement.

For Sec 4 Express, 27 students achieved at least 4 distinctions while for Sec 5 Normal (Academic), 5 students achieved at least 2 distinctions.

## 2. Key Priorities for 2013

### Teaching and Learning

#### Academic Intervention Structure for Graduating Classes (S4 and S5)

The school has put in place an academic intervention structure, designed to enhance student achievement in national examinations. This comprises a 5-pronged approach:

- Academic Detention (Monday afternoons), to reinforce the habit of prompt submission of homework to support good academic progress. As a follow-up action for failure to hand in work on time, students will be referred for academic detention to complete the assigned piece of work in school.
- Re-Assessment, to ensure students think through and learn from mistakes made in class tests. Students who fail a class test may be asked to do a re-test, conducted during the time set aside for academic detention.
- Student-Teacher Academic Mentoring Programme (STAMP), to provide one-to-one monitoring of students with continued low academic achievement
- Coursework Subjects Monitoring, to keep students on task for coursework submission
- Tutorials, for academic follow up. In Semester One, these will stretch from Term 1, Week 3 to Term 2, Week 4.

#### Small Group Academic Consultation for Non-Graduating Classes (S1, S2 and S3)

In Semester One, these will stretch from Term 1, Week 3 to Term 2, Week 4.

#### Homework and Test Monitoring

There will be structured homework and test monitoring by Year Heads. Test schedules will be announced to students at least 2 weeks in advance.

#### NT Holistic Development Programme

In 2013, students in Sec 1 Normal (Technical) can look forward to a curriculum that integrates English Language and the Mother Tongue Languages so as to deepen students' understanding of language in action thereby enhancing their language competency. For the benefit of existing Sec 2 NT and 3 NT students who are doing the new syllabus, part of this integrated curriculum will be introduced to these levels as well.

#### Project Work (PW)

To prepare our students adequately for the 21st century, my teachers have designed a relevant and rigorous Project Work (PW) curriculum for the lower secondary classes. The Sec 1 PW curriculum will see the integration of Science into project work, with students investigating environmental topics like square-foot gardening. The Sec 2 PW curriculum leverages on well-recognised problem-solving models, customized to meet our students' learning needs.

#### Future Problem-Solving Program (FPSP)

Dunearn's academic talent development program has achieved excellent results in national competitions since its inception in 2010. This year, the team is collaborating with the Student Leadership Committee on a project that will have good learning value as well as high social impact.

### Internal Examination Dates

Do take note of your child's/ward's examination dates in 2013:

Internal Examination	Tentative Dates	Levels Involved
Mid-Year Examination	T2W7 & W8	Sec 1 – 3 & 4N Sec 4E/5N (Only EL & MT)
End Year Examination	T4W3 & W4	Sec 1 – 3
N Level Prelim	T3W7 & W8	Sec 4N
O Level Prelim 1	T3W1 & W2	Sec 4E/5N (Except EL & MT)
O Level Prelim 2	T3W10 & T4W1 & W2	Sec 4E/5N

### **Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)**

#### Dunearn Character Development Profiling (DCDP)

The school piloted its Dunearn Character Development Profiling (DCDP) in 2012 with Sec 1 students. The system has been fine-tuned and will be rolled out to involve every student in 2013.

DCDP is a rubrics tool that is aligned with MOE's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies (21<sup>st</sup> CC) framework, the school core values and CCE programmes and processes. It is designed to

- help students develop their character progressively from lower to upper secondary and to take ownership for it; and
- help teachers work together with students and their parents on character development and hence strengthen the teacher-student and parent-child relationships.

DCDP details can be found on page 29 to 35 of the Student Handbook.

#### School Family Education (SFE)

In 2013, relevant workshops/talks are planned for parents and students. These workshops/talks are designed according to the needs of the cohort that students belongs to.

The theme for each level is:

- Sec 1: 'How to handle the transition from primary to secondary school';
- Sec 2: 'Discovering the strengths and interest and how this affects the subject combination choice for Sec 3';
- Sec 3: 'Prioritising for success'; and
- Sec 4: 'Preparing for N or O Levels'.

More details will be made available on our school website nearer the dates. I hope you will be able to take time off to attend some of these workshops/talks.

### 3. Parents' Support Group (PSG)

I encourage you to join our Parent Support Group as your child/ward's teenage years pose new challenges and you will benefit from the encouragement and support of other parents. To find out more about the PSG, you may contact Mdm Khong Kay Lim, HOD Humanities at [khong\\_kay\\_lim@moe.edu.sg](mailto:khong_kay_lim@moe.edu.sg).

In conclusion, do note that a calendar of upcoming school events may be found at the school website at <http://www.dunearn.edu.sg/school-calendar>. I look forward to meeting many of you personally at our various functions and meetings.

Have a great 2013!

Yours sincerely

Mr Boo Hian Kok  
Principal

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#### RESPONSE SLIP

**(To be returned to Form Teacher by Wednesday 16 January 2013)**

To: Principal  
Dunearn Secondary School

I acknowledge receipt of Principal's Termly Letter dated 14 January 2013.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_