



DUNEARN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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8 January 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

Warm greetings for the New Year, 2014!

To parents of our Secondary Ones, I welcome you and your children to Dunearn Secondary School. To parents of our current students, the school appreciates your support as we continue to collaborate and partner to guide our students towards success. It is my firm belief that given the right guidance and encouragement, all our students are capable of achieving in the academic and co-curricular domains.

This year we will be focussing on refining the academic results while growing the students in character and leadership. We believe that with the foundation of strong values, discipline and leadership (of self and of others), their attainments in the academic areas will come forth more readily.

As we move into 2014 with revitalized vigour, it is timely that I share with you the following:

1. Academic Achievements 2013

GCE 'N' Level Examination

The result was released on 19 Dec 2013. 58.97% of our Normal (Academic) students were eligible to be promoted to Secondary 5 Normal (Academic). Five Normal (Academic) students performed exceptionally well and were eligible for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP).

For the Normal (Academic) stream, there were 5 students who achieved at least 4 distinctions. For the Normal (Technical) stream, there were 2 students who achieved 2 distinctions.

2. Key Priorities for 2014

Teaching and Learning

Academic Intervention Structure for Graduating Classes (S4 and S5)

The school has put in place an academic intervention structures, designed to enhance student achievement in national examinations. These include the following:

- 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;

- 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
- Small group consultations 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.

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 PW curriculum for Normal (Technical) will see the integration of academic subjects like Science, Geography and Languages, with students investigating environmental topics like Square-foot Gardening (Sec 1NT) and Ecology Tourism (Sec 2NT). The Secondary One PW curriculum is a modular structure where students are exposed to internationally well-recognized thinking skills model “Future Problem Solving” (FPS). The Secondary Two PW curriculum leverages on this FPS model where students get to work on case studies to apply these thinking skills.

Academic Talent Development Programme

Dunearn’s academic talent development programme has achieved excellent results in national competitions. Besides the Future Problem Solving Programme for the Lower Secondary cohort, the various academic departments have introduced subject-specific talent development programme so as to stretch students across subjects. These programmes include Lower Secondary Emerald Programme (English Department), Lower Secondary Mathematics Competition Training (Mathematics Department), Science Ambassador Programme (Science Department) and Mother Tongue Languages Enhanced Drama Programme (Mother Tongue Language Department).

Internal Examination Dates

Do take note of your child’s/ward’s examination dates in 2014:

Internal Examination	Level/Stream	Date
Mid-year Exam	All levels	30 Apr to 19 May
N Level Preliminary Exam	Sec 4NA/NT	12 - 21 Aug
O Level Preliminary Exam (part 1)	Sec 4E/5N	1 - 3 Sep
O Level Preliminary Exam (part 2)	Sec 4E/5N	15 - 24 Sep
End-of-year Exam	Sec 1-3	29 Sep – 10 Oct

Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)

Dunearn Character Development Profiling (DCDP)

In the area of holistic development of our students, which takes into account not just academic areas but also the development of the 21st century competencies, Dunearn continues to refine and use the Dunearn Character Development Profiling (DCDP).

DCDP is a rubrics tool that is aligned with MOE's 21st Century Competencies (21st 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;
- help teachers work together with students and their parents on character development and hence strengthen the teacher-student and parent-child relationships; and
- provide parents with information on their children's personal qualities and dispositions.

DCDP details can be found on page 29 to 36 of the Student Handbook.

FamilyMatters@School

Since April 2012, Dunearn Secondary School has been partnering with Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to run FamilyMatters@School.

FamilyMatters@School equips parents with skills to nurture positive family relationships through workshops/talks/activities. MSF works closely with Dunearn Secondary and Dunearn Parent Support Group (PSG) so that all parents can have easy access to family life education programmes that empower them with the resources, knowledge and skills to strengthen the bonds with their children and build a strong and happy family.

The following workshops/talks are planned and fully sponsored for parents. They are approved by MSF and designed according to the needs of the cohort your children belong to.

Please contact our Family Matters (FM) Coordinator, Mdm Lee Mooi Hoon at 97676997 for registration/ enquiries.

Day /Date	Title of Talk	Target audience
Fri evening, 17 Jan (during Sec 1 Meet the Parents Session)	Transition to Secondary Life	Sec 1 parents
Sat morning, 18 Jan	Concurrent (Mum/Dad-Child) events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HeART Connection for Mum & Daughter• Dad & Son Connect thru' GAMES of Yesteryears	All parents (Limited vacancies)
Fri evening, 24 Jan (during Sec 3 Meet the Parents Session)	The Art & Science of Parenting in the Internet Age - Cyber Wellness for Teenagers	Sec 3 parents
Fri evening, 7 Feb (during Sec 4/5 Meet the Parents Session)	Motivating Your Child to Excel	Sec 4/5 parents
Fri evening, 14 Feb	Women are Always Right, Men are Never Wrong	All parents

Fri, 21 February (during Sec 2 Meet the Parents Session)	Nurturing Your Child's Wellness in School Exams	Sec 2 parents
Sat morning, 15 Mar	Teaching My Child/Teen about Managing Relationship	All parents

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.

4. Road Safety

Attached to this letter is a road safety letter that was jointly composed by TP, LTA and MOE for distribution to parents.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, I encourage you to visit the school website (<http://www.dunearnsec.moe.edu.sg/>) for regular updates and more information about the school. I look forward to meeting many of you personally at our various functions and meetings.

Have a great 2014!

Yours sincerely

Mr Boo Hian Kok
Principal



8 Jan 2014

Dear Parents/Guardian,

ROAD SAFETY OF STUDENTS

We would like to seek your cooperation to work with the school in ensuring the safety of students coming to and leaving school. This is especially important as young children may not have the skills required to use roads properly and do not always fully appreciate the dangers presented. Their small physique also makes them less visible to motorists.

This letter reiterates the road safety policies of the school:

- a. Reduce vehicle speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
- b. Cooperate with traffic marshals to ensure overall safety and smooth traffic flow.
- c. Let your child alight only at the designated drop-off point.
- d. Be advised not to violate traffic rules by driving recklessly or making illegal maneuvers such as turning into the school from the outer lane(s) of the road.
- e. Do not horn indiscriminately.
- f. Help your child alight from the car as quickly as possible.
- g. Reinforce correct road safety behavior such as using the pedestrian crossing, and avoiding jaywalking or using a handphone while crossing.
- h. Remind your children to practice the kerb drill before crossing - "look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand high up and cross the road briskly".
- i. If your child must cycle to school, ensure that he knows safe cycling rules and is a competent cyclist.

For the safety of everyone, enforcement action will be taken against motorists who violate traffic rules.

We thank all parents and guardians who have been the role models for our children.

On Behalf of SPF and LTA

Mr Boo Hian Kok
Principal

RESPONSE SLIP

(To be returned to Form Teacher by Friday 10 January 2014)

To: Principal
Dunearn Secondary School

I acknowledge receipt of Principal's Termly Letter dated 8 January 2014.

Name of Student: _____ Class: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____