



DUNEARN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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9 January 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year!

I extend a warm welcome to new members of our Dunearn family, our Secondary 1's and their parents. To parents of our current students, the school looks forward to our continued partnership as we guide and support our students through another year of learning and growth.

It is timely that we take stock of what has been accomplished in 2014. Our students have performed well in a range of domains that bring about holistic learning and develop good character. Our GCE 'N' and 'O' level examination results have shown improvement over the previous year, with several subjects achieving value-added results. Our students have benefitted from overseas learning journeys to Malaysia, Batam, Cambodia, Vietnam and Australia. We initiated our Learning for Life Programme (LLP) in Student Leadership Development. During our External Validation 2014, our school showed great improvement and achieved the Best Practice Award for Staff Well-Being and Development.

As we move into 2015, the school continues to maintain a focus on further improving its value-added academic results. At the same time, my staff and I will reinforce our emphasis on the importance of students' holistic development. We want our students to appreciate that success should not be narrowly defined and that there is much more to education than grades alone. As a school, we continually seek to strike a balance between academic and non-academic (CCA and out-of-school) programmes. Finally, we hope to strengthen pride in the school and strengthen our partnerships with parents and the community.

2. Key Priorities for 2015

Teaching and Learning

Academic Intervention and Consultation (Semester One)

For Secondary 4 and 5 classes, the school has put in place an academic intervention structure, designed to enhance student achievement in national examinations. These include the following:

- 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;
- 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; and

- Student-Teacher Academic Mentoring Programme (STAMP), to provide one-to-one monitoring of students with continued low academic achievement.

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 our Lower Secondary students. The school's PW curriculum seeks to develop thinking skills.

In 2015, the school will also initiate its Applied Learning Programme (ALP), beginning with its Secondary 1 cohort. The school's ALP will provide opportunities for our students to develop the skills and dispositions associated with scientific literacy so that students will develop an interest in pursuing higher levels of study in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as appropriate to their interests and abilities. More details will be made available in due course.

Academic Talent Development

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 Ambassadors 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 2015:

Internal Examination	Level/Stream	Date
Mid-Year Exam	All levels	5 May - 18 May
'N' Level Prelim Exam	Sec 4NA/NT	11 August - 20 August
'O' Level Prelim Exam (Part 1)	Sec 4E/5N	28 August - 2 September
'O' Level Prelim Exam (Part 2)	Sec 4E/5N	14 September - 22 September
End-of-Year Exam	Sec 1-3	30 September – 12 October

Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)

Dunearn Character Development Profile (DCDP)

In the area of holistic development of our students, which takes into account not just academic areas but also the development of values, social and emotional learning (SEL) skills and 21st century competencies (21CC), Dunearn continues to refine and use the Dunearn Character Development Profile (DCDP).

DCDP is a rubrics tool that is aligned with MOE's 21CC 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 32 to 39 of the Student Handbook.

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 Ms Doris Choong, LH Character and Citizenship Education at doris_choong_wen_ping@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.

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 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Boo Hian Kok
Principal



9 Jan 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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 behaviour 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 16 January 2015)

To: Principal
Dunearn Secondary School

I acknowledge receipt of Principal's Termly Letter dated 9 January 2015.

Name of Student: _____ Class: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____