



St. Margaret's Secondary School

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240
Website: www.stmargaretssec.moe.edu.sg

Tel: 6466 4525 Fax: 6466 6709
Email: stmargaretss@moe.edu.sg

Let our Light Shine!

24 June 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcome our girls back to school to an exciting second half of 2022.

As part of our school 180th Anniversary celebrations, we have launched #LetItShine180, a 180-day calendar to espouse the school motto of Charity, Patience and Devotion. In the first two weeks of Term 3, the activities will be held under the banner of the Spirit Fortnight with activities to celebrate the energy and potential of youths. These aim to give the students opportunities to exhibit devotion to the school, and charity to our community and environment. Aptly held in conjunction with Youth Day, we celebrate the verve of the young!

We are also happy to share that our sports CCAs put on a commendable performance in Term 2 for the National School Games (NSG) and in Term 3, as our other teams participate in the NSG competitions, we wish them all the very best.

Additionally, two key events to look forward to this term will be the commemoration of Racial Harmony Day and the celebration of the 180th Speech and Prize-Giving Day on Friday, 22 July 2022. We welcome the class of 2021 back to school for the event, to acknowledge their holistic development in their years with the St. Margaret's family.

This term, our graduating classes will be sitting their Preliminary Examinations and some of their papers in the GCE 'N' and 'O' level examinations. The Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) which provides a pathway for our graduating students to apply for and receive conditional offers based on their aptitude and interests for admission to ITE and the polytechnics is also ongoing. The Direct School Admission (DSA), which commences in July, encourages students with various talents to apply for entry into junior colleges before the GCE 'O' level examinations. As our students sit their papers and work on their DSA and EAE applications, auditions and interviews, do continue to encourage the girls and give them your fullest support.

We seek your continued partnership in attending to the social and emotional well-being of your child/ward. Please reach out to the school, the form teacher(s) and/or subject teacher(s) should you need any support in this area.

Updated Safe Management Measures (SMMs) and Temperature-Taking Exercise

(a) Updated Safe Management Measures (SMMs)

As announced in the MTF press release on Friday, 10 June (<https://go.gov.sg/revsmm>), our local COVID-19 situation has been stable over the past month since the removal of the relevant SMMs.

180
YEARS OF
Charity • Patience • Devotion

In alignment to prevailing national SMMs, our current school SMMs will remain unchanged as follows:

(i) Wearing of Masks

The school compound remains a mask-on environment. As such, students are required to wear their masks at all times except when:

- participating in specific mask-off activities (e.g. music, sports and performing arts CCAs)
- eating and drinking

(ii) Practising Good Personal Hygiene

Please work with your daughter/ward in adherence to the spirit and intent of practising good personal hygiene, and to wash her hands frequently with soap and water.

(iii) Practising Social Responsibility and Seeking Medical Attention When Unwell

Students who are unwell should stay at home and seek medical attention.

If a student has a household member who is confirmed to be a COVID-19 case, she should exercise social responsibility and take the necessary precautions under Protocol 3 (i.e. test herself to be negative in a self-administered Antigen Rapid Test (ART) during the 5-day self-monitoring period before leaving her home).

She can attend school if self-tested negative on the ART daily and is well during their self-monitoring.

Do refer to <https://www.covid.gov.sg> for the latest MOH 1-2-3 Protocols.

(b) Temperature-taking Exercise

There will be a temperature-taking exercise on **Wednesday, 29 June**. Students should have a working Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) with them at all times

For All Students

1. Spirit Fortnight - 27 June to 8 July

As stated in paragraph 1 on the first page, Spirit Fortnight will take place from Monday, 27 June to Friday, 8 July.

The highlights of the event include the following activities:

(i) Amazing Race - 27 and 28 June

Students will participate in games and activities that are related to the school values and motto during the Amazing Race.

Date	Levels
Monday, 27 June	Sec 3, 4 and 5
Tuesday, 28 June	Sec 1 and 2

Students will report to school by 7.30am in their **PE attire and CCA skirt**. Activities to be conducted will be related to our school values and motto.

(ii) Book Donation Drive - 29 June to 8 July

The Student Council is organising a book donation drive in line with our Youth Day theme "Authors of our Future", to encourage the St. Margaret's family to give back to the community for a more sustainable future. The beneficiary of the books will be

Dignity Mama, a social enterprise which employs young adults with special needs. The books will be resold.

Students are encouraged to bring pre-loved books that are suitable for children aged 4 to 6.

(iii) Workout Day – 1 July

In conjunction with our Youth Day celebrations, we will be having our first-ever Workout Day on Friday, 1 July to remind our students of the importance of staying active. Students must come to school in their school uniform and change into their workout outfits before the **afternoon** assembly. Thus, students could be in their workout outfits throughout curriculum time and leave school in their workout outfits for this special day.

More details will be given to the students on the dress code for the day.

(iv) No Bag Day – 8 July

No Bag Day is a day when students can showcase their creativity by bringing their belongings in non-conventional receptacles e.g. picnic baskets or cardboard boxes. Through this initiative, we hope to raise awareness of the plight of children from who go to school with their school materials in their hands. This highlights the importance of reducing waste through upcycling endeavours.

The "bags" brought should not traditionally be used as bags (e.g. plastic bags, cloth bags). However, students can still bring bags to safeguard their PLDs.

2. GCE O-Level Listening Comprehension Examination – Tuesday, 5 July

The GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examination will take place on Tuesday, 5 July from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. To facilitate the preparation for this examination, all students will be dismissed at 12.50pm.

3. Student Leaders' Commendation Ceremony – Friday, 8 July

To recognise the contributions and achievements of our Student Leaders, the Student Leaders' Commendation Ceremony will be held on Friday, 8 July during the assembly period.

4. Running of Odd Week Monday Timetable – Odd Week Thursday, 14 July

To allow for the recovery of curriculum time due to disruption caused by school holidays and events that fall on odd weeks, the school **will run the Odd Week Monday timetable on Thursday, 14 July instead.**

5. Racial Harmony Day and 180th Speech and Prize-Giving Day – Friday, 22 July

We will be having our Racial Harmony Day Commemoration followed by our 180th Speech and Prize-Giving Day on Friday, 22 July.

(i) Racial Harmony Day Commemoration (7.30am – 10.15am)

This year's Racial Harmony Day theme is "Our Multicultural Mosaic". While we have the space to express our own identity as part of Singapore society, we also connect with others to depict the unique cultural diversity that characterises Singapore life.

The overall picture of our cultural diversity may change with time as our society evolves, like all societies do, but the hues will continue to complement one another because of our long-shared history and heritage. This is Singapore's bespoke approach towards multiculturalism and social cohesion, where the experiences of every individual matter and add to our diversity.

During the commemoration, students will learn more about other cultures and traditions. They will also collaborate harmoniously with one another and strengthen friendships with peers of a different race.

Attire

Students are encouraged to attend school in ethnic costumes and will be briefed on the proper dress code and decorum as well as programme for the day prior to the event.

Reporting and Dismissal Time

All students will report to school as usual at 7.30am. Sec 1 to 3 students will be dismissed at 10.15am before our Speech and Prize-Giving Day commences at 10.30am.

(ii) 180th Speech and Prize-Giving Day (10.30am – 12.45pm)

The theme for our 180th Speech & Prize-Giving Day is '*Let Our Light Shine – A Celebration of Tenacity*' and will be held on two days.


Our current Sec 5 students and the 2021 batch of graduands who are prize winners will receive their awards on Friday, 22 July. Recipients who are currently in Sec 1 to 4 classes will receive their awards on Monday, 8 August.

All Sec 4 and 5 students will be required to attend the Speech and Prize-Giving Day which will be held from 10.30am to 12.45pm.

Others

Talk for Parents

There will be an online talk organised for parents/guardians on Saturday, 23 July:

Talk	Date & Time	Registration
Enhancing Mental Wellness Among Our Youths	Saturday, 23 July 2.00pm – 3.00pm	 https://go.gov.sg/smtalk22

More details can be found on the flyer in Annex A.

Registration for the talk closes on Tuesday, 19 July at 5.00pm. The link to access the talk will be sent via email to all registrants on Thursday, 21 July.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A

Talk for Parents Enhancing Mental Wellness Among Our Youths

Date: Saturday, 23 July

Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

Registration: Sign up for the talk at
<https://go.gov.sg/smtalk22>
or by scanning the QR code below:



Registration for the talk closes on
Tuesday, 19 July at 5.00pm.
Registrants will receive the details to access the talk via email on
Thursday, 21 July.

Synopsis

In this age and society, there is a tendency to label young people in our midst as the “strawberry generation”, or as “entitled”, “rude”, “disrespectful”, “lazy”, and other negative labels.

Understanding them is a challenge, and this lack of understanding can cause us to give up on them instead of helping them in ways that are receptive to them. Rather than passing judgement too quickly, is there a possibility that maybe they are simply lost or wounded souls crying out for help and connection? Perhaps, we don’t have a good understanding of them and lack the skills to help them.

Communicating with youths has its own unique set of challenges and often, parents have to play the roles of listener, mentor, and guide; regardless of whether they are trained in these aspects or not.

This workshop aims to equip parents with the foundational knowledge of understanding youths’ potential mental health issues, and the necessary skills to engage them in a supportive and meaningful way.

About the Speaker

Ms Agnes Lee is an Assistant Senior Counsellor with REACH Community Services and has a Masters of Counselling degree and graduate certificate in Education Studies from Monash University, Melbourne. She is a clinical member and registered counsellor under the Singapore Association of Counselling (SAC) and has a strong passion in helping individuals discover their deeper meaning and purpose in life, through collaborative exploration of each person’s strengths, values and resources around them. She uses an integrative approach that draws on different therapeutic approaches to best fit her client’s needs, with specialization in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).