



St. Margaret's School (Secondary)

111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

Tel: 6466-4525 Fax: 6466-6709

Website: www.stmargaretssec.moe.edu.sg E-mail: stmargaretss@moe.edu.sg

1 August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Term 3 is typically a month of many exciting events!

This year, Youth Day was celebrated together with 'Spirit Week' in the first week of July to bring out the vitality of youth and connectedness to each other and the school.

Racial Harmony Day was commemorated on 21 July with the theme of "Singapore: Our Multicultural Mosaic". School staff and students dressed in ethnic costumes in celebration of our cultural diversity and our unity. Teachers also facilitated classroom discussions where students shared stories on the traditional outfits they were wearing and about the unique traditions practised in their cultures. There was a food fiesta in the canteen and the school community enjoyed various dishes with a rich cultural heritage. The Racial Harmony Day commemoration was truly a platform where the St. Margaret's family came together to appreciate the diverse races and religions that make up our multicultural society, and which contribute to our shared sense of cohesion and harmony.

Two events to look out for this month will be the Cross Country (7 Aug) and National Day Celebrations (8 Aug). More information on events which will be in Term 3 Week 7 will also be sent to all parents via Parents Gateway.

The GCE Oral Examinations for the different subjects have begun in July and will continue into the month of August. Additionally, the Preliminary Examinations for our graduating students will commence this month. We wish the students God's confidence as they sit their examinations.

The term will culminate with Teachers' Day and as the school acknowledges the work of the teaching staff, we know the best reward for a teacher is a joyful learner. Thank you for your support and partnership in bringing out the best in our girls.

Health Matters

As the temperature continues to rise amidst climate change, please encourage your daughter/ward to stay hydrated and drink enough fluids (preferably chilled) before, during and after exercises to prevent and alleviate any heat strain.

Schools will take reference from MOE's guidelines when implementing measures to help students mitigate the heat. MOE's guidelines are aligned with the recently launched Heat Stress Advisory by the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) and the National Environment Agency (NEA).

Parents/Guardians may refer to the real-time Heat Stress Advisory on the MyENV app and weather information website (<http://www.weather.gov.sg>) for updates.

Revised Last Grade Nomenclature Across Subject Levels and Downward Grade Mapping

(a) Revised Last Grade Nomenclature Across Subject Levels

Currently, the last grade for the GCE O, N(A) and N(T) level subjects are reflected as grades 'F9' and 'U' respectively.

To recognise students' efforts in attempting the subject regardless of their achievement, the 'U' Grade in N(A) and N(T) will be replaced with Grade 6 and Grade E respectively. The last grade for the O-level will be reflected as Grade 9.

All grades, including the last grade, will be reflected in the student's result slip and examination certificate.

These changes will be applicable from the **2023** graduating cohort for their national examinations, and from 2024 for all levels.

Students will not be able to use the N(A) Grade 6 and N(T) Grade E for aggregate computation for admission to Polytechnic Foundation Programme, Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme and Secondary 5.

This is similar to the current practice for Grade U. Details can be found in Annex A.

(b) Revised Downward Grade Mapping

There will be a revised downward grade mapping for subjects taken at more demanding levels. This will provide an updated reflection of the relative curricular and assessment demands between subject levels.

The revision will be applicable from the **2023** graduating cohort. The revised downward grade mapping can be found in Annex A.

For All Students

1. School Annual Cross Country (7 August from 7.30am – 10.30am)

The school will be conducting our annual Cross Country on Monday, 7 August from 7.30am to 10.30am at Marina Barrage/Bay East Gardens.

Details about the event were given to students on Wednesday, 26 July. More information for parents will also be sent out via Parents Gateway.

2. National Day Celebration (8 August from 7.30am – 10.30am)

The school will be having our National Day Celebration on Tuesday, 8 August. As we look forward to the celebration of a nation united, rising to meet the challenges of this era, we too strive to be resilient.

The theme of the celebration, "Onward As One", calls upon Singaporeans to look forward confidently and move onward together in building our shared future as one united people. "Onward" reflects a nation that is forward looking and resilient to any challenges that lie ahead. "As One" underscores the collective ownership of Singapore's future and the importance of inclusivity and unity.

Students are encouraged to attend school in their red and/or white attire for the celebration. As the canteen will be closed on 8 August, we strongly advise students to have a proper breakfast and to along a snack for their break-time.

On 8 August, students are to report to school by 7.30am and will be dismissed at 10.30am.

Please note that Wednesday, 9 August is a public holiday and Thursday, 10 August is a school holiday.

3. Adjustment to Timetable (Odd Week Thursday Timetable will run on Odd Week Friday, 11 August)

To allow for the recovery of curriculum time due to disruption caused by school holidays and events that fall on Odd Week Thursdays (e.g. Hari Raya Haji and National Day), the school will run the Odd Week Thursday timetable on Friday, 11 August.

4. Teachers' Day Celebration (31 August from 7.30am – 11.00am)

Teachers' Day in Singapore is celebrated on the last Friday of Term 3 and the school will be celebrating with this meaningful day with our teachers on Thursday, 31 August.

Students will report to school at 7.30am and be dismissed at 11.00am.

For Secondary 1, 2, and 3 Students Only

5. Suspension of Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)

All CCAs will be suspended from Wednesday, 30 August.

CCAs will resume after the End-of-Year Examinations from Tuesday, 17 October, unless communicated earlier by CCA teachers.

For Upper Secondary Students Only

6. Preliminary Examinations

The Secondary 4 and 5 Preliminary Examinations will be held as follows:

Classes	Examination Period
S4-1 to S4-5 & S5-1	Monday, 14 August – Wednesday, 30 August
S4-6 to S4-8	Friday, 11 August – Tuesday, 22 August
S4-9	Friday, 11 August – Tuesday, 22 August

The examination timetables have been distributed to the students on Friday, 7 July.

The timetables are also available on the school website under the "Resources for Students" section.

We thank all parents/guardians for your encouragement and support to our graduating students, and in working alongside us in ensuring their well-being as they prepare for the examination.

7. Work Attachment/Job Shadowing Programme



Our school works closely with our industry partners to provide authentic learning experiences for the students through our Education and Career Guidance Programme. The Programme includes the Work Attachment/Job Shadowing Programme (WAJS) for Secondary 3 students.

This year, the Work Attachment/Job Shadowing Programme will be conducted from 6 to 24 November.

Through the programme, we aim to give our students an accurate perspective of the workplace and the career opportunities available to them. The WAJS Programme is an opportunity for our students to discover their own aptitude and talents, understand the work environment and cultivate better work habits.

Details of available vacancies, duration of each stint and the registration process of the Work Attachment/Job Shadowing stint will be shared with the students in the first week of August. Do encourage your daughters/wards to sign up for this enriching learning experience.

Parents/Guardians may refer to the following for more information.

Details of Vacancies	https://go.gov.sg/wajs2023details	
Sign-up Form (Submission deadline: Friday, 11 August)	https://go.gov.sg/wajs2023signup	

Students who are shortlisted will be required to attend an interview held on Monday, 11 September (Monday). Shortlisted students will be notified via email by end August.

Others

8. E-Waste Recycling Campaign

As part of the school's efforts in promoting sustainability, the school has issued a Bloobox to all students in Term 2 for them to bring home and to encourage recycling efforts at home.

This term, to continue to spread the message of recycling, an e-waste recycling campaign has been organized till Tuesday, 8 August. If you would like to participate in this initiative, please pass the e-waste items* to your daughter/ward on or before 8 August for her to drop them at the canteen from 7.00am – 7.25am.


*e-waste items include the following: printers, power banks, computers, laptops, mobile phones & tablets, modems, routers, set-top boxes, small TVs & desktop monitors and batteries

9. Home-School Partnership Award 2023

The Home-School Partnership Award 2023 aims to promote collaboration between teachers and parents/guardians for the betterment of our students. This award recognises a teacher who:


- Proactively engages parents on ways to develop your daughter/ward
- Is helpful, approachable, effective and a good role model for students

We would like to encourage you to nominate a teacher for this award through the online form accessible at <https://for.edu.sg/smhsp23> or via the QR code shown below.

Nomination Period	Online Form
Tuesday, 1 August - Monday, 21 August	 https://for.edu.sg/smhsp23

10. Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) Talks for Parents by MSF

Triple P aims to support parents in their parenting journey and to improve their relationship with their children. Our school has partnered with MSF and Lakeside Family Services to conduct a series of Triple P talks for parents:

Seminar	Date	Time	Registration
Seminar 1: Raising Responsible Teenagers	Saturday, 12 August	9.30am to 11.00am	 https://for.edu.sg/smtp23
Seminar 2: Raising Competent Teenagers	Saturday, 19 August		
Seminar 3: Getting Teenagers Connected	Saturday, 26 August		

The talks will be conducted online and parents can register your interest via the link or QR code shown above before Monday, 7 August, 5.00pm. Further details on the talks are found in Annex B.

Yours in partnership,

Ms Linda Lim
Principal

Annex A

Revised Last Grade Nomenclature Across Subject Levels and Downward Grade Mapping

(a) Revised Last Grade Nomenclature Across Subject Levels

Current Policy	Revised Policy, from the 2023 Graduating Cohort																												
<p>The last grades in N(A) and N(T) Level examinations are currently 'Ungraded', i.e. Grade U.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">N(A) Level</th> <th style="text-align: center;">N(T) Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">A</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">B</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">C</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">D</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">U</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">U</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	N(A) Level	N(T) Level	1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	U	U		<p>Grade U in N(A) and N(T) Level examinations will be replaced with Grade 6 and Grade E respectively. This takes a student-centric approach in recognizing students' efforts, consistent with the treatment of last grade for O-Level Grade 9.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">N(A) Level</th> <th style="text-align: center;">N(T) Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">A</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">B</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">C</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">D</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">E*</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6*</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	N(A) Level	N(T) Level	1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	E*	6*	
N(A) Level	N(T) Level																												
1	A																												
2	B																												
3	C																												
4	D																												
5	U																												
U																													
N(A) Level	N(T) Level																												
1	A																												
2	B																												
3	C																												
4	D																												
5	E*																												
6*																													

(b) Revised Downward Grade Mapping

Existing	
O-Level	N(A) Level
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7-E8	3
9	4
	5

Revised	
O-Level	N(A) Level
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5
	6 (U*)

Existing	
N(A)-Level	N(T) Level
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	D
U	U

Revised	
N(A) Level	N(T) Level
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6 (U*)	D
	E(U*)

Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) Talks for Parents by MSF

SEMINAR SERIES ON ZOOM

Positive Parenting Programme

Having trouble managing common behavioural issues? Wondering how you can communicate, support and understand your teenager better?

St. Margaret's School (Secondary), in partnership with Lakeside Family Services, brings you the Triple P - Positive Parenting Programme. These seminars teach the principles of positive parenting and are packed with simple ideas to help make raising your teens easier, enjoyable, and rewarding. Join us to find out more!

HELD ON ZOOM. Register now.

For more information, contact Daniel Lim at daniel.lim@lakeside.org.sg

Tap/click on the link or scan the QR code to register. <https://for.edu.sg/smtp23>

SEMINAR 1	SEMINAR 2	SEMINAR 3
RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS	RAISING COMPETENT TEENAGERS	GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED
12 AUG 2023 SAT 9:30-11:00 AM	19 AUG 2023 SAT 9:30-11:00 AM	26 AUG 2023 SAT 9:30-11:00 AM

Brought to you by:

Triple P Certified Speaker



Caroline David
Counsellor, Family life Educator, Trainer

Ms Caroline David is a Counsellor and Trainer with a Masters in Guidance and Counselling from James Cook University, a Postgraduate Diploma from Institute of Systems Science (NUS) and a Bachelor of Science degree from NUS. She has 12 years of counselling experience having worked with children of different ages as well as parents. Through therapy, she has helped alleviate students' mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and self-harm. Caroline is also involved in the rehabilitation programmes for inmates in the Singapore Prison System (SPS).

Tap/click on the link or scan the QR code to register.

<https://for.edu.sg/smtp23>



HELD ON ZOOM. Register now.

SEMINAR 1
RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS
12 AUG 2023
SAT 9:30-11:00 AM

SEMINAR 2
RAISING COMPETENT TEENAGERS
19 AUG 2023
SAT 9:30-11:00 AM

SEMINAR 3
GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED
26 AUG 2023
SAT 9:30-11:00 AM

Brought to you by:

