



21 March 2022

# Principal's Letter to Parents

## Term 2, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back. I trust you and your family found time to bond and rest during the March school holidays. This morning, we welcomed our PL-Lites back to a term filled with customised activities and encouraged them to "Go M.A.D. – *Make A Difference!*"

In the recent MOE Committee of Supply Debate 2022, MOE stressed our continued efforts to support the lifelong learning for all with the theme "Learn for Life: Confidence for a New Tomorrow". In this regard, we hope to nurture more "Confident Singaporeans" in a more "Competitive Singapore" and a more "Cohesive Society".

We cannot achieve this national goal without your trust and support. We look forward to your prayers and partnership to nurture the necessary positive attitude, belief and confidence in our PL-Lites, that they must and can "Go M.A.D. – *Make A Difference!*"

### 1. MOE Committee of Supply (COS) 2022

a. Below are some key initiatives that will have more direct impact on our PL-Lites.

<b>1. Expanding Pathways &amp; Opportunities Across a Life Course</b>
A. More flexible and accessible education pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Progressive implementation of Full Subject-Based Banding</li><li>• Expand Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) intake</li><li>• Increase Direct School admission (DSA-JC)</li></ul>
<b>2. Nurturing Confident, Resilient Learners</b>
A. Building Future-Ready Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove mid-year examinations for all levels by 2023</li><li>• Implement refreshed Character &amp; Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum</li></ul>
B. Supporting Students with Different Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for mental well-being</li><li>• Support for students with higher needs (e.g. expand UPLIFT efforts)</li><li>• Support for students with special educational needs (SEN)</li></ul>
<b>3. Shifting Mindsets through Strong Partnerships</b>
A. Parents as partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting parents with resources and tips</li></ul>
B. Partnering the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthening partnerships with community groups through Youth Mental Well-being Network to support students' mental well-being, and UPLIFT to support disadvantaged students</li></ul>

b. For “MOE Committee of Supply Debate 2022: Announcements Overview”, see <https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/moe-committee-of-supply-debate-2022-announcements-overview>

## 2. Overview of Post- Secondary Education Institutes (PSEIs) and Aptitude-Based Admissions into PSEIs

- a. The post-secondary educational landscape has progressed significantly over the last few years. There are a variety of PSEIs available for secondary school graduates. You can learn about the different types of PSEIs you can choose from, and how you can apply for them here: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview>
- b. The following are upcoming aptitude-based admissions exercises that allow students to apply for and receive conditional offers for admissions to JC/polytechnics/ITE prior to receiving their final national examination grades. The PSEIs will have flexibility to select and admit students based on their aptitudes and interests, apart from academic grades.
  - Direct School Admission (DSA)-JC  
Please check the individual school websites for the application period and procedures as they can vary from school to school  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa>)
  - Early Admissions Exercise (EAE)-Polytechnics  
Application starts 23 – 29 Jun 2022  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae>)
  - EAE-ITE  
Application starts 26 May – 1 Jun 2022  
(<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae>)

## 3. Assessments in Term 2

- a. Minister Chan Chun Sing shared at the recent MOE COS Debate 2022 on “how our [assessments] can be less stressful”:



How can our exams be less stressful for our students?

Much depends on our perspectives on 4 questions - why we test, how we test, when we test and what do we do with the test results?

Exams can be less stressful if we help our children understand:

- ◆ Exams are about learning their own strengths and weakness, surpassing themselves rather than surpassing others.
- ◆ We are focused on solving tomorrow's problems with tomorrow's solutions, and not regurgitating yesterday's solutions for yesterday's problems.
- ◆ Our education system is underpinned by continuous meritocracy — no single exam/ test will determine one's future.
- ◆ We must understand our own strengths and interests, and choose a path suited for ourselves rather than chase paths deemed more popular by the standards of others.

Let us help our children to embrace and overcome challenges, and seize the diverse opportunities in life. We cannot shield them from all stress but we can certainly equip them with the right mindsets and skillsets to face the future with confidence.

- b. A letter with the detailed Common Test (Sec 1 to 3) / Examination (Sec 4/5) schedule will be issued to parents by Week 3, Term 2 latest. The assessments will commence by Week 6, Term 2. The assessment outcomes will help the school determine appropriate intervention and improvement plans and strategies for our girls.
- c. Our PL-Lites should strive to nurture a positive learning attitude and revision routine for the upcoming assessments (for e.g. note-taking and time management skills they

have picked up in their PL21 lessons). Please work with us to encourage our girls to work towards giving their best in the upcoming weeks leading to the assessments so that the school's follow-up interventions can be more targeted to help them achieve their potential and goals. Our teachers will also be at hand to give consultations to those who need extra help.

#### 4. Updates in Safe Management Measures (SMMs)

- a. Singapore's streamlined COVID-19 SMMs came into effect on Tuesday, 15 March 2022. Most SMMs in schools remain similar. However, with the easing of SMMs, the school is planning to introduce Level(s) Assembly (maximum of two levels) in Term 2. Format and approaches taken in CCA trainings and for the upcoming National School Games could also take a different form.

Please refer to my "Term 1 Thanksgiving Principal's Letter to Parents" dated 11 March 2022 for highlights of key school events in Term 2. Sec 1 and Sec 3 PL-Lites can look forward to their upcoming Cohort Camp and MOE-OBS Challenge respectively, while we hope to inspire our Sec 4/5 girls through our annual ECG Conference Keynote Speaker Ms Ho Ren Yung, Vice-President of Banyan Tree Group in May 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to also invite parents/guardians to

- *PrayingParents@PL* on Monday mornings via Zoom; please email [irene\\_angullia@moe.edu.sg](mailto:irene_angullia@moe.edu.sg) for details; and/or
- *Fathers@School* every third Wednesday of the month, morning, with the latest to be held this Wednesday, 23 Mar at 8a.m.; see invitation blast sent out via PG during the March holidays.

If anything good came out of the COVID-related disruptions, it is that schools, teachers and parents had the opportunity to appreciate more fully the importance of a strong home-school partnership built on trust. In order for our young to continue to learn and grow, albeit limited due to the various safe management measures and restrictions, schools and parents had to trust that both parties were doing our best amidst many challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the easing of SMMs, I look forward to your growing trust and partnership as we care for your daughter/ward to our best ability.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Amy Ng  
Principal