



16 January 2019

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER SEMESTER 1 2019

Dear parents/guardians,

May the New Year bring new insights and opportunities! On behalf of the Riverside family, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our Sec One students, whom I hope have settled in well. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one with a range of programmes and activities to keep your child/ward meaningfully engaged and enriched.

At Riverside Secondary, we believe strongly in the value of working closely with parents/guardians to further develop our students' character and abilities. As a parent, you are the key navigator of your child's growth. We are pleased to share the responsibility with you and believe that when you work closely with us you will better understand your child's learning experiences in school.

1. School Terms

Given below are the school terms:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Term 1: 2 January (Wed) to 15 March (Fri)	Term 3: 1 July (Mon) to 6 Sep (Fri)
Term 2: 25 March (Mon) to 31 May (Fri)	Term 4: 16 Sep (Mon) to 25 Oct (Fri)

Your child's presence is important for him/her to fully benefit from the school programmes. Please refrain from taking your son/daughter away from school during term time. Early notice of holiday programmes for selected students will be given to facilitate your vacation plans.

2. GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations

The release of the **GCE 'N' Level results** on 17 Dec 2018 and the **GCE 'O' Level results** on 14 Jan 2019 marked the culmination of many months of effort by students and teachers alike. Our students have done well with 94% of them in the N(A) stream progressing to Sec 5NA and 100% of students in the N(T) stream progressing to ITE. 99.4% of the Sec 4 Express and 77.3% the Sec 5 N(A) will be progressing to the junior college or polytechnic in 2019.

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3. Student Organiser

All students have been issued with a student organiser, a useful source of information about the school. This organiser should be brought to school every day and homework or reminders should be recorded in it for easy reference. It will be good to familiarize yourself with the information as you partner us in bringing out the best in your child.

4. Student Safety: Traffic Reminders

Your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. Please observe the road safety precautions when dropping your child, especially from 7.00 to 7.25 am when majority of students are



making their way into school and traffic can be very heavy. The speed limit is **15km/h** within the school compound. We have noted that some parents find it difficult to make the right turn in and out of the school in the mornings. We would like to ensure a safer and smoother traffic flow. For your safety and that of other motorists and our students, we would like to seek your understanding to make only left turns in and out of the school so that traffic conditions can be

eased. Please follow directions/instructions by our security personnel and be alert to pedestrians at all times.

5. Insurance Coverage

All students are provided with basic insurance coverage for school-related activities. However, parents are strongly encouraged to take up additional insurance for their children at their own discretion.

6. School-Based Assessments 2019

In order to develop in our students' a greater joy of learning and intrinsic motivation, the assessment load has been recalibrated in 2019. **All subjects at all levels will have only one weighted assessment (WA) per term.** The students will be given more information about the WA by their respective subject teachers in due time.

In addition, Secondary 1 and Secondary 3 will not have any mid-year examinations (MYE) in 2019. These are important transition years for students in their educational journey. The removal of MYE will give them more time to acquire sufficient foundation in a new subject discipline and provide a longer runway to build their confidence before they are required to sit for a standardised examination.

With teaching and learning taking place daily, students' learning progress should be informed by more than examinations. Formative strategies which include homework, classwork and class tests will help our students check on how well they are learning, and to make adjustments to their learning over a period of time. Please work with us to monitor their progress.

The assessment weighting and distribution is given below:

Levels	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1	WA 15%	WA 15%	WA 20%	EOY 50%
Sec 2	WA 15%	MYE 20%	WA 15%	EOY 50%
Sec 3	WA 15%	WA 15%	WA 20%	EOY 50%

For the graduating cohort, mid-year and preliminary examinations will be 100% to better prepare them for the upcoming national examinations.

With these changes, your child will have more time and space to deepen learning as well as to better enjoy the process of learning and develop dispositions for lifelong learning which will be important as they navigate life in the future.

7. Communication Channels

It is important to develop and strengthen mutual understanding, respect and trust between schools and parents, to ensure the well-being of your child.

(a) Parents Gateway

Parents Gateway is a digital platform which will enable you to receive timely information on school announcements, events or other information relating to the child and the school. Please download the App if you have not done so yet.



(b) Communication with Teachers

Please maintain communication with the teachers through official school channels. Do not contact the teachers only during school operating hours: 7.30am to 5pm. Please understand the delay in response as they may be in class, at meetings or away from school. Please do not contact them via their personal mobile devices unless they have told you to do so. The teachers' telephone extension and official email contacts are available in the school website. For urgent matters, contact the General Office directly at 62699631.

8. Parenting Workshop & Parents Support Group Meeting

We would also like to invite parents to join us for a dialogue with the school leaders on Saturday 16 February, at 9am. This will be followed by a bonding session and a parenting workshop on "Hot Tips to better communicate with your teens" till 12.30pm. Please contact Mr Pang Choon Guan at pang_choon_guan@moe.edu.sg or call the school at 62699631 if you are interested and/or to find out more.

9. Key School Events in Semester 1

Some of the key events for semester 1 are given below:

Semester/Week	Date	Activity
1/1	Fri 4 - Sat 5 Jan	Sec One orientation camp and CCA Fair
1/2	Thurs 17 Jan	Visit by students from Kap Yan Directors' College, Hong Kong
1/3	Sat 26 Jan	R ³ Day (Sec 1,3,4 & 5) & Chingay Festival (Sec 2's)
1/5	Mon 4 Feb	Chinese New Year celebrations (Approximate time of student dismissal – 10.30am)
1/5	Tues 5 - Wed 6 Feb	Chinese New Year
1/6	Fri 15 Feb	Total Defence Day Commemoration
1/6	Sat 16 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dialogue with the school leaders + bonding session• Parenting Workshop: "Hot Tips to better communicate with your teens."
1/8	Fri 1 Mar	Sports Carnival
1/9 & 10	Wed 6 – Tues 12 Mar	Riverside Integrated Skills Experience (RISE)
2/3	Fri 12 Apr	Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day International Friendship Day Celebrations
2/4	Thurs 18 Apr	Riverside Run
2/4	Fri 19 Mar	Good Friday
2/6	Wed 1 May	Labour Day
2/9	Mon 20 May	Vesak Day holiday
2/10	Fri 31 May	Meet the Parents Session

Please check the Parents Gateway, school website and follow us on our Facebook page for regular updates on the school.

My staff and I are looking forward to an educationally rewarding school year with you and your child.

Thank you for your support and partnering us in the care for your child!

Warmest regards,

Shanti Devi (Mdm)
Principal
Riverside Secondary School