

JURONGVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

10 March 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

Bringing Term 1 to a Close

- 1. In the blink of an eye, 10 weeks have passed, and we have concluded the first school term of 2023. I hope your child/ward have enjoyed school the last 10 weeks, especially with the resumption of many school activities put on hold or modified due to the pandemic in the last three years.
- 2. In the last weeks, the school saw several significant events and celebrated various achievements of our students. We welcomed our first batch of students on Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB). These students are in mixed form classes instead of being put into a traditionally "Express", "Normal (Academic)" or "Normal (Technical)" class. They attend Character and Citizenship Education, PE, Music, Design & Technology, Food & Consumer Education as well as Art classes together.

From what I observed, they have made good friends and have adapted well. There were some initial kinks that we had to iron out but I'm thankful that my colleagues have been very proactive in making sure that their needs are met. FSBB is part of our national effort in increasing porosity in our educational system and facilitating social mixing. Social mixing is especially important for our youth as they need to be able to communicate and work with peers from an increasing myriad of cultures and backgrounds.

- 3. In terms of academic achievements, the class of 2022 did well in both the GCE 'O' and GCE 'N' Level examinations. I wish them well as they continue their education.
 - a. Students who sat for the 2022 **GCE** '**N(T)**' **Levels** had 100% passes in English, Basic Chinese, Basic Malay, Basic Tamil, and Design & Technology.
 - b. Students who sat for the 2022 **GCE 'N(A)' Levels** had 100% passes in Art, Design & Technology, English, Nutrition and Food Sciences, Chinese Language, Malay Language and Tamil Language.
 - c. Students who sat for the 2022 GCE 'O' Levels had 100% passes in Additional Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Electronics, Higher Chinese, Malay Language and Nutrition & Food Sciences.
- 4. Our sports teams have also done us proud in the 2023 National School Games. I would like to commend our 'B' Division Girls Badminton Team who qualified for the second round of the games for the very first time. This feat is made even more incredible as they did so without access to a coach for some time. It was extremely heartening for me to witness how the girls supported each other through very tough matches and opponents. They finished the second round with a hard-fought win over a highly seeded opponent. I'm sure that the girls will take the lessons learned this year to achieve greater heights in next year's National School Games.



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- 5. Our performing arts groups are also ramping up their preparations for the Singapore Youth Festival scheduled for Terms 2 and 3. I would like to extend my gratitude especially to the parents/guardians with children/wards in Chinese Orchestra, Band and Batucada for supporting your children/wards in their rehearsals and performances scheduled on the weekend. Your support goes a long way in nurturing their lifelong discovery and love for music.
- 6. Our National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) cadets also displayed a spirit of service by reaching out both to the community in Yuhua as well as their peers to raise awareness of the SGSecure efforts and the prevention of online scams. Their continued service and excellence have earned them a Distinction in the NPCC Unit Overall Proficiency Award 2022. Their partnership with the community also earned the school the "Community Partnership Award (Organisation Category)", awarded by the Singapore Police Force's Clementi Division.
- 7. Our students' achievement in and out of the classroom is a testament to our school's motto, "Beyond Self". I hope you will continue to support your child in their pursuits in both the academic and non-academic areas.

Looking Ahead to Term 2

- 8. Term 2 is traditionally the "busiest" term of the year with the peak of the National School Games and Singapore Youth Festival Art presentation. Our graduating students will also be preparing for their mid-year Mother Tongue written examinations. I assure you that your child's wellbeing is our top priority. Our Year Heads are in constant communication with the Class Mentors in their levels to monitor student well-being. We have a support structure in place for students who may start to feel a little worn out. Please let your child's/ward's class mentor know If you do have concerns stemming from what you notice at home.
- 9. Your child/ward may have informed you that the school has become a little "stricter" in terms of our expectation of attendance, both in School and CCA, as well as homework completion. This is deliberate as our observations from past cohorts have revealed that good regular attendance and consistent effort in school would place them in the best position to choose their post-secondary route. CCA attendance is also crucial in ensuring your child/ward get a well-rounded education. Naturally, our high expectation of your child/ward will be matched by our commitment to a high level of support.

Partnership with Parents

- 10. Jurongville Secondary School has consistently been a school of choice for parents who send their children to us. This year, 95% of our Secondary One applicants chose us as their top choice. Many parents who spoke to me said that they were impressed by the confidence of our students who they interacted with during our Open House. I hope that this confidence and partnership continues to flourish and positively impacts our students.
- 11. I had a very enjoyable breakfast meeting with the EXCO of the Parent Support Group (PSG) in February. The members expressed the desire for PSG activities to be ramped up. I am supportive of this sentiment. A good and thriving school-home partnership is pivotal in



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ensuring a relevant educational experience for our students. I'd like to encourage you to sign up to join the PSG via this <u>link</u>.

- 12. If you can open positions for short internships for students during the school holidays, please contact Ms Karmila Binte Asari via karmila_asari@schools.gov.sg. We believe that these experiences are valuable to our students as they prepare for active and responsible citizenry.
- 13. As part of our efforts to increase the accessibility of our programmes, I am happy to inform you that we will be opening Direct School Admissions in the areas of Chinese Orchestra, Modern Dance and English Drama Club for the 2024 Secondary One cohort. I would appreciate if you could share this information with your friends and family who may have children considering us as a choice for Secondary School this year.
- 14. I would like to encourage you to follow us on <u>Instagram</u>, @jurongvilleofficial_new, where you can get updates about the latest happenings in and around school.
- 15. I hope that both you and your child/ward can catch a breather during the March break. I look forward to welcoming your child/ward back when term restarts.

Yours Sincerely,

Philibert Leow Principal