



Principal's Letter Term 1 2025

3 January 2025

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy 2025!

As we celebrate a new year, it marks new beginnings and an exciting school year ahead. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Secondary One parents and guardians for joining our big Riverside Family.

At Riverside, we believe in the holistic development of every child and in working in close partnership with you to develop the character and grow the potential of all our students.

1. School Focus

In line with the recent MOE movement on *Future of Learning*, the school aims to nurture the *Future-Ready Learner*. The school places emphasis on academic rigour and expects high standards. At upper secondary, we offer a wide range of subject combinations to cater to students' diverse talents and broaden the educational pathways. We also have put in place a robust character and citizenship education programme, student leadership curriculum and digital literacy programme, which systematically develop the students' 21st century competencies.

2. School Term

The school term for 2025 is as follow:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Term 1: 2 January (Thu) to 14 March (Fri)	Term 3: 30 June (Mon) to 4 September (Thu)
Term 2: 24 March (Mon) to 30 May (Fri)	Term 4: 15 September (Mon) to 24 October (Fri)

Your child/ward's presence is important for him/her to fully benefit from the school programmes. Please refrain from taking your child/ward away from school during term time. Do understand that such absences may be classified as truancy. Early notice of any holiday programme for selected students will be given to facilitate your vacation plans.

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3. Key School Events in Term 1

Term/Week	Date	Activity
1/0	2 – 3 Jan	Start it Right Programme for all levels
1/1	6 – 7 Jan	Secondary 1 Orientation Programme
1/2	10 Jan	Release of 2024 GCE O-Levels results
1/2	17 Jan	CCA Fair and Sec 1 Parents' Engagement Session (<i>face-to-face in school</i>)
1/4	28 Jan	Lunar New Year Celebrations (<i>Students will be dismissed early</i>)
1/4	29 – 30 Jan	Lunar New Year holiday
1/5	7 Feb	Home-based Learning Day (HBL Day) (<i>Students do not need to report to school</i>)
1/6	14 Feb	Commemoration of Total Defence Day
1/7	18 Feb	Home-based Learning Day (HBL Day) (<i>Students do not need to report to school</i>)
1/7	20 Feb	Sec 3 – 5 Parents Engagement Session (<i>online</i>)
1/8 – 1/9	24 Feb – 7 Mar	Weighted Assessment 1

4. Weighted Assessments and Examinations

Assessment is a way to let students know their learning progress and to take steps to bridge their learning gaps. Students check their understanding and get feedback from teachers through various formative assessment strategies. These include homework, classwork, assignments, and weighted assessment. Please work with us to monitor your child/ward's progress and provide encouragement.

The assessment weighting and distribution of WA and examinations is given below:

Levels	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1*	WA1 (10%)	WA2 (15%)	WA3 (15%)	EOY (60%)
Sec 2*				
Sec 3				
Sec 4&5	WA1 (50% of Sem 1)	WA2 (50% of Sem 1)	Preliminary Examination (100% of Sem 2)	N.A.

* Design & Technology (D&T), Food and Consumer Education (FCE), History and Geography are taught by Semester. The weighting of assessments for these subjects are shown in the table on the next page.

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A. Lower Secondary D&T and FCE

For D&T and FCE, students in each class will be divided into two groups, with one group taking D&T and the other group taking FCE for 15 weeks. A switch over in subjects taken by each group will happen in Term 2 Week 6.

Subject	Duration of Lesson		Sum of Weighted Assessments	End-of-Semester Assessment
D&T	Group 1	Term 1 Week 1 – Term 2 Week 6	25%	75%
	Group 2	Term 2 Week 7 – End of Term 4	25%	75%
FCE	Group 1	Term 1 Week 1 – Term 2 Week 6	30%	70%
	Group 2	Term 2 Week 7 – End of Term 4	30%	70%

B. Lower Secondary Geography and History

Lower secondary Geography and History will be taught by semester. Students take one of these two subjects per semester.

Duration of Lesson	Subject	Level	Weighted Assessment	Geographical Investigation/ Historical Investigation	End-of-Semester Assessment
Semester 1	Geography	Sec 1	20%	20%	60%
	History	Sec 2	20%	20%	60%
Semester 2	History	Sec 1	20%	20%	60%
	Geography	Sec 2	20%	20%	60%

5. Home-based Learning (HBL) Day

The school has planned for Home-Based Learning (HBL) days for **all students**. These HBL days aim to further develop students' mindsets and habits for self-directed learning.

HBL Days for Sec 1 to 5	Term 1
	7 February 2025 (Fri)
	18 February 2025 (Tue)
	Term 2
	25 March 2025 (Tue)
	10 April 2025 (Thu)
	24 April 2025 (Thu)
	6 May 2025 (Tue)

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The mode of learning during HBL will be as follows:

- Students will log in to a Google Meet check-in session with their Form Teachers at 7.30 am.
- Lessons will follow the timetable for the day.
- Learning activities can be ICT or non-ICT based.
- There will not be any face-to-face online sessions, unless otherwise instructed.
- The respective Subject Teachers will provide specific instructions for students closer to the HBL Days.

6. Other School Matters

A. Reporting Time

Your child/ward is expected to be present and ready in school by 7.25am as daily morning assembly begins at 7.30am sharp.

B. School Attire

Your child/ward is to wear the prescribed school uniform and modification to the uniform is not allowed. He/She expected to be in full uniform with black shoes and socks on. He/She can wear half-uniform (school PE T-shirt with pants/shorts/skirt) on days when they have PE lessons and to change back to full uniform after the PE lessons. (See Pages 7 – 9 in the Students' Handbook)

C. Student Absence

If your child/ward is unable to attend school, please contact the General Office at 62699631 by 7.15am. The medical certificate needs to be submitted upon return to school. If a DigiMC is issued by the doctor, please email it to the form teacher, whose contact details are available in the school website.

D. Use of Mobile Devices

The school has an existing One Device Policy. Each student is equipped with a Personal Learning Device (PLD) for lessons and this will be the device for use in school.

If your child/ward brings his/her handphone (HP), he/she is expected to lock it up in the locker during school hours. Each student is allocated a personal locker and a lock. HP can only be used in the canteen area.

Keeping the HP away aims to:

- **Minimise Distractions to Enhance Learning**

HP can often distract students with social media, games, and messaging. Keeping it away fosters better focus and supports more effective learning.

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- **Promote Face-to-Face Interactions**

Keeping the HP away encourages face-to-face interactions, fostering the development of interpersonal skills, effective communication, and meaningful relationships.

- **Promote Student Well-being**

Limiting screen time helps improve mental and physical well-being by encouraging more active and restful habits.

E. Student Safety and Insurance

Your child/ward's safety is of utmost importance to us. Please observe road safety precautions when dropping your child/ward, especially from 7.00 to 7.20am 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. Please follow our security personnel directions/instructions and be alert to pedestrians at all times.

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.

7. Communication Channels

There are various ways you can reach us and to get timely information on school programmes.

A. Parents Gateway and School Official Social Media Channels

We will use Parents Gateway (PG) to provide timely information on school announcements, events or other information relating to your child/ward or school.

In addition, do follow us on the following social media channels to keep abreast of the school activities and to view the creative video productions of Riversidians:



<https://www.facebook.com/RiversideSS/>



<https://www.instagram.com/riversidesecondaryschool/>



<https://youtube.com/@riversidesecondaryschool>

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B. Communication with Teachers

Please maintain communication with the teachers through official school channels. Do not contact the teachers **only** during school operating hours: **7.30 am to 5.00 pm**. 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. Teachers are also not expected to respond to parents and students queries on weekends/holidays except for emergencies. The teachers' official email contacts are available in the school website. For any urgent matters, you may contact the General Office directly at 62699631. (Annex : Please see the list of the form teachers by levels and their email contacts.)

My staff and I are looking forward to an educationally rewarding academic year with you and your child/ward. We appreciate your support and partnership.

Yours sincerely

Miss Tham Yoke Chun
Principal

