



UNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

VISION:
A SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS AND STAFF HAVE THE PASSION TO LEARN, THE DRIVE TO EXCEL AND THE COMMITMENT TO SERVE.

MISSION:
TO EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY.

VALUES:
RESPECT. COMPASSION. COMMITMENT. INTEGRITY. PERSEVERANCE

COMMUNITY PARENTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 1

4 January 2016

**From the Desk of the Principal
Mdm Aini Maarof**

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Happy New Year and greetings to one and all! On behalf of my team at Unity Secondary School, let me begin by extending a warm welcome to our 2016 Secondary 1 cohort.

It is a great honour for me to take on the principal-ship of Unity Secondary School. I joined Unity Secondary School on 15 December 2015 and am delighted to be part of the Unity family. My colleagues and I are committed to developing the school into a place where both staff and students have the Passion to Learn, Drive to Excel and Commitment to Serve. Under the leadership of Mr Chan Ying Yin, the school grew from strength to strength and made significant achievements in developing our students holistically. Mr Chan is now the principal of Chung Cheng High School (Main). We wish him great success in leading the school to greater heights.

I have been in the education service since 1982. I was first Head of Department of Science at Mei Chin Secondary School. Following that, I was appointed as Vice-Principal of Bukit Batok Secondary School and Chua Chu Kang Secondary School from 1995 to 2001. I have since served as Principal in Woodsville Secondary School, First Toa Payoh Secondary School and Tanglin Secondary School. I hope these experiences will help me in guiding and enriching the learning and development of teachers and students of Unity Secondary School.

I firmly believe that character building is critical in developing our students holistically. A good character anchored in the right values will grow our students' capacity. These values will develop their commitment to do their best as students and individuals in society, lead lives of purpose and achieve future success.

Successful character building begins with inculcating values not just in school, but at home as well. It is most effective when there is a strong home-school partnership. The school has been able to run very successful character development programmes in the past thanks to the strong support we receive from parents.

To maintain the good progress previous school leaders have made at Unity, my team and I look forward to receiving your continued support as partners on this journey of developing our students to their fullest potential.

Thank you.

Strategic Thrust 1: Grow As a Team with Passion and Professionalism

Our staff is committed to grow as a team with passion and professionalism

1.1 Staff Appointment and Staff Movement

Our Strategic Thrust 1, Grow as a Team with Passion and Professionalism, guides us in our journey towards building a strong staff with a passion to learn and drive to excel. Staff appointment and renewal is an important process in the school to ensure our staff is given the opportunities to grow and contribute to their best ability.

The school is pleased to announce the following staff appointments with effect from 1 Jan 2016:

Mr Scott Chew	– HOD Pupil Guidance and Discipline
Mr Adrian Ng	– Acting Head of Department / English Language
Mr Daniel Teo	– Subject Head / English Language

The school would like to thank the following staff who have left Unity for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavours:

Mr Chan Ying Yin (Principal)
Mrs Priscillia Lee (Head of Department / English Language)
Ms Ang Hui Ling (English Language Department)
Mr See-Thou Yew Cheong (Administration Manager)

The school would like to welcome the following new staff:

Mdm Aini Maarof - Principal
Mdm Palanisamy Sulochana Devi (Science Department)
Mdm Sharon Gan (Science Department)
Mrs Fiona Chua (Science Department)
Mdm Phua Chia Ghee (Mother Tongue Languages Department)
Mdm Zhou Yongping (Mother Tongue Languages Department)
Mr Abdul Rahman B Ali (Mother Tongue Languages Department)
Ms Soh Chor Shan (English Language Department)
Ms Kavitha Muralidharan (Mathematics Department)
Ms Lo'loo Shafeeqa (Laboratory Technician)

1.2 Professional Learning Day

As part of the school's effort to support the professional development and continual learning of our staff, we have dedicated an afternoon on 10 March 2016 as our Professional Learning Day to allow our staff to engage in profession development activities. As such, there will be no remedial lessons and CCA for the students on that day.

Strategic Thrust 2: Teach for Understanding, Teach for Achievement

Our teachers teach for understanding and help all students to achieve academically

2.1 GCE 'N' Level Results

Our Strategic Thrust 2, Teach for Understanding, Teach for Achievement, espouses our commitment to build a strong academic foundation for our students for their further academic pursuit. It also sets the expectation for our students to strive for their best in achieving academic excellence. We are proud to share the joy of our 2015 Sec 4NA and Sec 4NT students who have performed well in the GCE 'N' Level Examination. **100% of our Sec 4NA students and 89.2% of our Sec 4NT students have attained three 'N' level passes.** We share the pride and joy of the following students for their outstanding performance.

Sec 4NA students who have achieved an EMB3 aggregate of 11 points or less:

Ong Swee Woei	4N2	Garcia Ellaine Viel Cemente	4N3
Abbas Zefri Bin Mohd Shah	4N2	Anisah Etika Bte Mohd Sani	4N2
Tan Zi Yu	4N3	Madhuumetaa d/o Selvakumar	4N3
Ivy Yap Ting Ting	4N3	Lim Yu Ting	4N3
Yeo Sin Yi	4N2	Neo Yan Ming	4N2

Sec 4NT students who achieved 3 or more distinctions:

Chu Pei Yi	4T1
Tong Siew Khim	4T1
Wong Kah Kong	4T1

2.2 GCE'O' Level Results Release

The results of the 2015 GCE 'O' Level Examinations will be released in mid-January. We are looking forward to share the pride and joy of our 2015 Sec 4E and Sec 5NA students.

Strategic Thrust 3: Every Student a Leader

We believe every student can be a leader and we are committed to develop all students into leaders

3.1 Character and Leadership Development (CLD)

Our Strategic Thrust 3, Every Student a Leader, states our belief that every student can be a leader and we are committed to develop all students into a leader of self and others. In this regard, the school has adopted a two-phased approach of ensuring that every student is able to *lead self and serve others*, and then to *actualize self and inspire others*. This approach is anchored on the 5 school values: respect, integrity, compassion, commitment and perseverance, and underpinned by the three principles of engaged leadership learning: *Heads, Hearts and Hands* (3H). The knowledge on values and leadership skills gained through both the formal and informal curricula, as well as opportunities that we provide our students through experiential learning, form the platforms through which character and leadership learning can be actualised.

Specific Level Outcomes which encompass aspects of social and emotional competencies, the school values and school motto, have been drawn out for each level. These Level Outcomes aim to equip and empower our students with relevant 21st Century Competencies to better prepare them for the future and to contribute back to society.

- Sec 1: *A Unitian with self-awareness and self-management skills and the ability to lead self with respect and integrity.*
- Sec 2: *A Unitian with social awareness and relationship management skills and one who shows respect and compassion to serve others.*
- Sec 3: *A Unitian with the ability to make responsible and informed decisions regarding national issues, and one who demonstrates commitment and perseverance to actualise self.*
- Sec 4 & 5: *A Unitian with the ability to respond to global issues and one who perseveres and inspires others as a leader.*

The CLD programme in the school includes the explicit teaching of values and life skills through the 4-period Character and Leadership Education (CLE) lessons in a week as well as the various experiential learning platforms provided for the character and development of the students in the areas of Value-in-Action (VIA) programme, National Education (NE), Aesthetic Programme (AEP), Cultural Education Programme (CEP), Environment Education Programme (EEP), Education and Career Guidance (ECG) and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA).

- National Education Programme

National Education is taught as part of CLE lessons and infused in Instructional Programmes where appropriate. The school also commemorates the 4 core NE events, and provides lesson packages for the students to emphasise the significance of the NE events.

NE Core Events	Date	Commemoration
Total Defence Day	15 February	Term 1 Week 7
International Friendship Day	8 April	Term 2 Week 3
Racial Harmony Day	21 July	Term 3 Week 4
National Day	9 August	Term 3 Week 7

NE learning journeys which are aligned to the focus of each level are also planned for the students. These learning journeys include the 'Gems of Katong' trail for the Secondary One, the Kranji heritages for the Secondary Two and the Singapore Discovery Centre for the Secondary Three students.

- Values-in-Action (VIA) Programme

As part of our Character and Leadership Development programme, students will be involved in a series of Values-in-Action (VIA) programmes. The purpose of the VIA activities is to instill in students a sense of compassion for the less fortunate, encourage volunteerism amongst them, as well as to provide opportunities for the students to put the values that they have learnt into actions while they lead themselves and serve others.

This year, the Lower Secondary Cohort will be rendering support to both the Unitians under financial assistance and the Children's Charities Association (CCA), whilst the Secondary Three cohort would be initiating class VIA activities pertaining to national issues (such as reaching out to the ageing population or maintaining racial harmony). The Secondary Four and Five students will be involved in Service Learning Projects in conjunction with International Friendship Day to raise awareness on global issues.

The following are the VIA activities that our students will be involved in for 2016:

Level	Activity	Period
Secondary 1	Newspaper and old clothes collection to help raise funds	Terms 1 & 2
Secondary 2	Fun Fair to help raise funds	Terms 1 – 4
Secondary 3	Class-Initiated VIA	Terms 1 – 3
Secondary 4 & 5	Service Learning Projects in Conjunction with International Friendship Day	Terms 1 & 2
All	Service Learning Projects in Conjunction with International Friendship Day	Terms 1 & 2

Besides the above activities, students are also given opportunities to be engaged in student-initiated VIA activities as well as VIA activities organised by their CCAs. An information form will be issued to you nearer the date of the activities to keep you informed of your child's involvement in the respective structured VIA programmes.

We would like to thank the parents who have participated in the activities that have taken place in 2015 and would like to extend our invitation to all parents to join us for the VIA programmes in 2016. Please contact our VIA coordinator, Miss Wong Siew Leng for further information.

3.2 Presentation of School Badge

Since 2013, all Sec 1 Unitians have been presented with the school badge, bearing the new school crest, after the orientation programme. For 2016, all Sec 1 Unitians will be receiving the school badge at the Sec 1 Initiation Night on Friday, 08 January 2016 as part of inducting them during the Orientation Week.

The wearing of the school badge identifies the student as a member of the Unity Community who takes pride in being a leader and who pledges to be guided by the school motto and the school values in actualizing the school vision of having the Passion to Learn, Commitment to Serve and Drive to Excel.



Strategic Thrust 4: High Care, High Discipline, High Pride

Through high level of care from the school, our students exude strong discipline and pride

4.1 Discipline

Our Strategic Thrust 4, High Care, High Discipline, High Pride, guides us in ensuring student well-being through high level of care and discipline in the school, so that all students carry themselves with high level of self-discipline and personal pride. In this regard, the school emphasises much on decorum which is an important indicator of students' self-discipline and personal pride.

We believe in working closely with parents to monitor the students' decorum. The Discipline Committee has issued a Notification Letter to all parents to keep you informed of the Schedule of Decorum Checks. Please acknowledge receipt of this information by signing on the **Reply Form** and returning it to your child's form teacher by **Wednesday, 06 January 2016**. The Discipline Committee has scheduled two Decorum Checks in Term 1 (**Tuesday, 12 January and Tuesday, 26 January**). Reminders will be given to students one week before the official checks. Parents will also be notified via SMS before the checks.

Strategic Thrust 5: Strong organizational capabilities, Effective administration

We develop strong organisational capabilities and effective administration to support students' development

5.1 Mass Collection of Payment for Enrichment Programmes and Other Items / Materials

To provide greater convenience for parents and students, the school will be conducting a mass collection exercise on Tuesday, 26 January 2016 for payment of students' enrichment programmes and lesson materials for the school year. Further details would be furnished nearer the date.

5.2 Insurance Coverage for Students

As part of the students' well-being and pastoral care, the school has purchased an insurance policy to insure students against accidents. The policy provides 24-hour worldwide accident coverage related to all school activities and/or CCAs both in and out of school. A summary of the policy coverage and benefits as well as the claims procedure can be found in the enclosed brochure.

5.3 Health Matters

In relation to the school's continued efforts in safeguarding the well-being of students and staff, it is important for all of us to uphold a high degree of personal and social responsibility. These include:

- Maintaining a high standard of personal hygiene, including washing one's hands with diligence
- Student who feels unwell should not come to school and should see a doctor

The school will also be issuing the **Student Medical Record Form** to students on the first day of school to collect and update information on the medical conditions of each and every student in the school. We would appreciate if parents could complete the form and return it to the school by **Wednesday, 06 January 2016**.

5.4 Road Safety

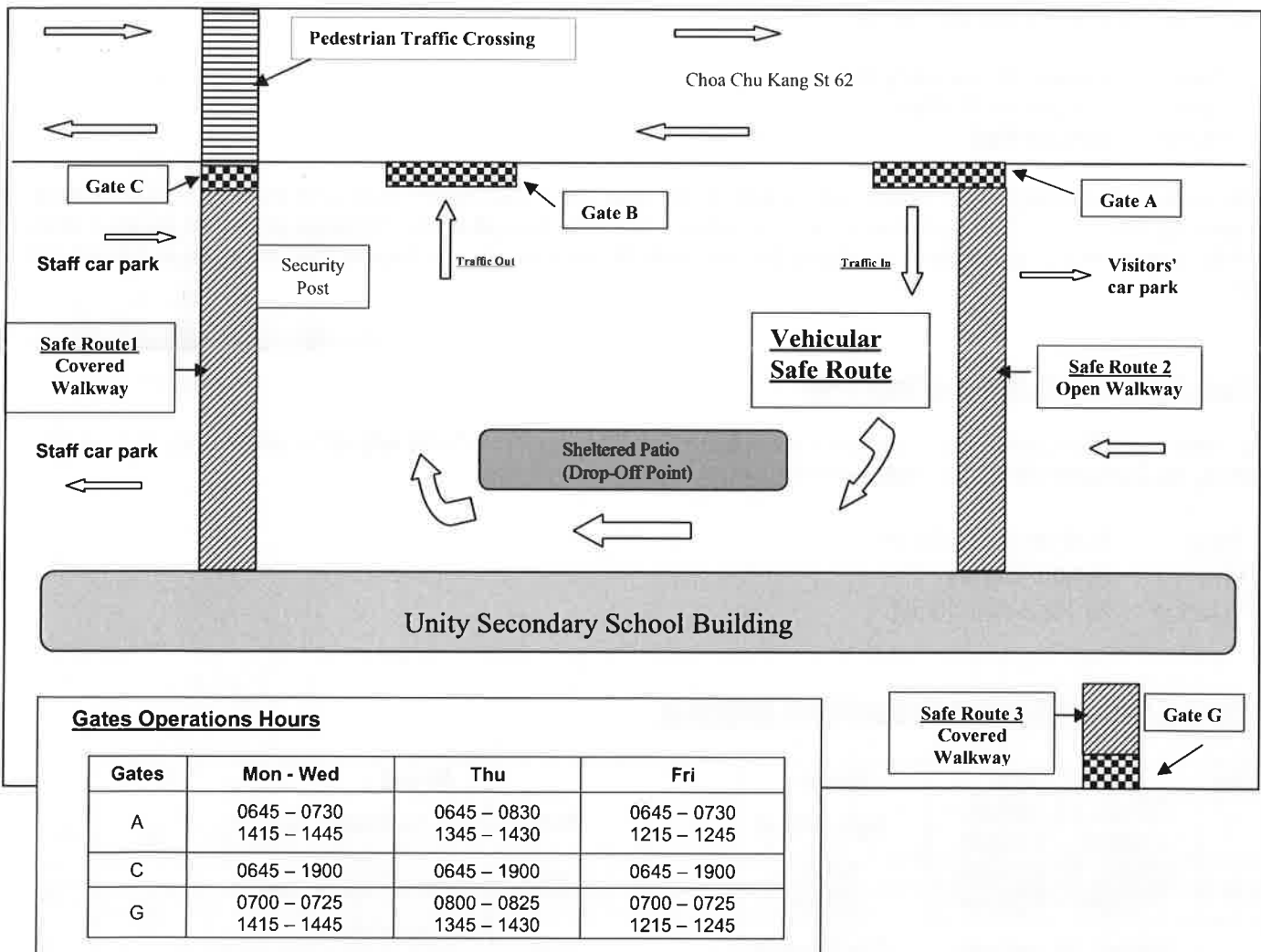
We would like to seek parents' support in working with the school to ensure the safety of students when coming to and leaving the school premises. This is especially important as young children may not have the awareness and skills required to use the roads properly and safely.

Please refer to **ANNEX A** for the letter reiterating the road safety policies of the school, jointly crafted by the school, Singapore Police Force and Land Transport Authority.

Also, we would appreciate if you could adhere to the following:

- Students are to Use only **Safe Route 1, 2 and 3** to enter the school compound.
- Parents are to Strictly follow **Vehicular Safe Route** to drop off your child
- Keep to the 15 kmph speed limit while driving into the school compound.
- Obey directional signs and follow lane markings that have been set up.
- Students are to alight at the designated drop off point (in front of foyer) and not anywhere else.
- Lorry with 2500 kg ULW will not be permitted to drop off students in the school compound.

Safe Routes to enter Unity Secondary School



Strategic Thrust 6: Strength with Partnership, Synergy with Parents

We build synergy with parents and strength with partnerships to support students' learning and growth

6.1 Student Handbook 2016

Our Strategic Thrust 6 on Synergistic Partnership – Strength with Partnerships, Synergy with Parents, undergirds our efforts towards garnering active parent, contributive supplier, enriching community and supportive alumni partnerships.

The Student Handbook communicates key school information such as the directions of the school, the school rules and procedures, as well as our efforts in providing academic learning, leadership learning, and pastoral care and discipline for our students.

We strongly encourage you to go through the Student Handbook together with your child to have a better understanding of your child's learning journey in the school.

6.2 Sec 1 Initiation Night Cum Parents' Briefing

We would like to invite parents of Sec One students to attend the Sec 1 Initiation Night cum Parents' Briefing. Details of the programme are as follows:

Date: **Friday, 08 January 2016**
Time: **7.00pm to 10.00pm**
Venue: **School Hall**

The Sec One Initiation Night is a significant milestone for your child. During the Sec One Initiation Night, we will be witnessing the School Badge Presentation Ceremony and the Campfire performance prepared by your child. Your child is required (compulsory) to attend the Initiation Night and please ensure that they are in full school uniform.

6.3 Family Matters @ School Workshop

Family Matters @ School will be organising a workshop on Helping Your Child Adjust to Secondary School on **Saturday, 16 January 2016**. The details of the workshop are as follows:

Time : 9.00 am to 12.00 pm
Venue : School Library
Speaker: Mr Nicholas Choo

6.4 Term 1 Parents Support Group (PSG) Activities

No	Date / Time	Venue	Event
1	Friday, 15 January 7.00pm – 9.00pm	School Hall	PSG Games & Sports Session
2	Friday, 22 January 7.00pm – 9.00pm	School Library	PSG Welcome Tea Session
3	Friday, 29 January 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Conference Room	PSG Meeting 1 - 1 st Quarter PSG-School Meeting - Election of 2016 PSG EXCO
4	Friday, 19 February 7.00pm – 9.00pm	School Hall	PSG Games & Sports Session

Calendar of Events for Term 1

The following calendar of events aims to provide parents an overview of the schedule for the events and programmes planned in Term 1. It is accurate at time of printing. Should there be any changes, the school will inform parents through your child.

Date	Event	Level
04 – 07 January	Sec 1 Orientation	Sec 1
07 January	Temperature Taking Exercise	All levels
	Uniform and Bearing Check	All levels
	Polytechnic Open House	Sec 4 & 5
08 January	CCA Open House	Sec 1
	Sec 1 Parents Briefing	
	Sec 1 Initiation Night	
11 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E1
12 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E2
12 January	Decorum Check	All levels
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
13 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E3
14 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1E4
15 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1T1
16 January	Family Matters@School: Managing Transition to Sec School	Sec One Parents
18 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N1
19 January	LMS Portal Training	Sec 1N2
	Photo Taking (Individual)	Sec 1 & Staff
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
21 January	Live @ Lunch	All Levels
25 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
26 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
	Tourism Fieldwork	Sec 4E & 4N
	Decorum Check	All levels
	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
27 January	English Language Learning Journey	Sec 3
	Tourism Fieldwork	Sec 4E & 4N
28 January	Tourism Fieldwork	Sec 4E & 4N
01 February	Sec 1 Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
02 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2
	Class Council Appointment Ceremony	All levels
	Sec One Art Learning Journey	Sec 1
04 February	Class Council Induction	All levels
05 February	Chinese New Year Celebration	All levels
10 February	Media Literacy Workshop	Sec 1
15 February	Total Defence Day	All levels
16 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
17 February	Photo Taking (Group)	All levels
23 February	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2
24 February	Live @ Lunch	All levels
25 February	Class Council Training	Class Council Members
29 February – 11 March	Mother Tongue Fortnight	All levels
29 February – 04 March	Healthy Lifestyle Week	All levels
03 March	Rhapsody IV Rehearsal 1	Performers
04 March	English Language Communication Workshop	Sec 3E & 3NA

07 March	History Learning Journey	Sec 2
	Tourism Fieldwork	Sec 4E & 4N
08 March	B.R.i.D.G.Es Mentoring Programme	Sec 2N
	Unity Council Appoinment & Appreciation Ceremony	All levels
	MTL Fortnight Week Station Games	Sec 1 & Selected Sec 3 MTL students
09 March	History Learning Journey	Sec 2
10 March	Rhapsody IV Rehearsal 2	Performers
11 March	Annual Unity Run	All levels
12 March	Geography Fieldwork	Sec 3 Geography Students



Land Transport Authority

04 January 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

ROAD SAFETY OF STUDENTS

We would like to seek your cooperation to work with the school in ensuring the safety of students coming to and leaving school. This is especially important as young children may not have the skills required to use roads properly and do not always fully appreciate the dangers presented. Their small physique also makes them less visible to motorists.

This letter reiterates the road safety policies of the school:

- a. Reduce vehicle speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
- b. Cooperate with traffic marshals to ensure overall safety and smooth traffic flow.
- c. Let your child alight only at the designated drop-off point.
- d. Be advised not to violate traffic rules by driving recklessly or making illegal maneuvers such as turning into the school from the outer lane(s) of the road.
- e. Do not sound the horn indiscriminately.
- f. Help your child alight from the car on the side nearest to the kerb as quickly as possible.
- g. Reinforce correct road safety behavior such as using pedestrian crossings, and avoiding jaywalking or using a handphone while crossing.
- h. Remind your children to practise the kerb drill before crossing - "look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand high up and cross the road briskly".
- i. If your child must cycle to school, ensure that he knows safe cycling rules and is a competent cyclist.

For the safety of everyone, enforcement action will be taken against motorists who violate traffic rules.

We thank all parents and guardians who have been the role models for our children.

On Behalf of SPF and LTA,


Mdm Aini Maarof
Principal