Dear Parents/Guardians

From the Principal’s Desk

Greetings to you from all of us at PHS!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our 7 classes of new Sec 1 students to our PresHigh Family! At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you for making PresHigh your school of choice; trusting God and our school to grow and nurture your child’s/ward’s character, abilities and potential.

Update on Safe Management Measures for Covid-19

In Phase 3, schools continue to practise Safe Management Measures (SMM) such as safe distancing, staggered recesses and staggered dismissal. We have briefed our students regarding this in great detail during the first week of school. We need to continue to stay vigilant, united and be patient as not all school activities and competitions are considered safe to resume at this point. Other activities may be modified, for example, instead of conducting overnight camps, we will hold day camps with the necessary SMM in place. The safety of your child/ward remains our topmost priority and we are grateful for your understanding and support.

As a school, we will continue to tap on online platforms as far as possible especially when the number of participants is large. Instead of holding face-to-face meetings for Meet-the Parents sessions, we will upload videos to disseminate information, and at the same time, will provide a link for you to pose questions. We will also be tapping on Parent Gateway to provide you with timely updates on programmes /activities.

School Theme: “He ain’t heavy, Father, he’s my Brother”

This year, we are guided by our school theme “He ain’t heavy, Father, he’s my Brother” and the bible verse:

_We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbour for his good to build him up._ Romans 15:1 – 2

Through the school theme, we would like to inculcate in our students empathy and compassion toward supporting and helping one another. Every one has his or her unique strengths and weaknesses, and we would like to be an inclusive school where we accept and care for one another. We encourage our students to tap on each other strengths to build each other up.
**Handphone Policy**
We understand that many parents provide their children with a handphone as it is a very useful tool for communication and it also has the potential for online research and learning. Our aim is to teach the Cyber-wellness principles to our students; and to teach them to be responsible users so that they can keep themselves safe in the cyber space.

Since 2018, students will be allowed to use their handphones **only in the school canteen** after they have been dismissed from the last period lesson (timing is subject to individual’s class timetable).

During curriculum hours, students are required to lock their handphones in the lockers which the school has provided for everyone. In this way, they will not be distracted by their handphones during lessons and be attentive and engaged. At the same time, it is also for safekeeping. Similarly, students are not allowed to use their handphones during CCAs and school programmes in the afternoon. We seek to inculcate in them the value of responsibility and respect and at the same time exercise self-discipline and good self-management.

These requirements are part of our revised school rules. Students who fail to comply with these rules would have their handphones confiscated for up to a month pending on the number of times that he/she has not adhered to the regulation on the usage of handphones. We seek your understanding and support as parents would be required to collect the handphones personally from the school for repeat offenders.

**The Classroom as a Sacred Place of Learning for every Student**
As we start a new academic year, let us also work together to strengthen the culture of learning. We have shared with our students that we must be united in respecting the classroom as a sacred place where learning is taking place for every student. Simple acts such as ensuring your child/ward have adequate rest and setting meaningful boundaries for screen time on the computer and handphone will go a long way to help your child/ward stay focused and participate fully in class learning and activities. We value your partnership to reinforce this intent by encouraging your child/ward to exercise self-management and be an active agent of learning.

**School-Based Assessments**
The academic performance of students is assessed to monitor the progress of the students. This serves to provide feedback which is essential for our students’ intellectual and academic cognitive development.

School-Based Assessments include the following:
1. Weighted Assessments (WA)
2. Semestral Assessments(SA): Mid-Year Examination (MYE) & End-Of-Year Examination (EYE)

**Weighted Assessments**
A Weighted Assessment (WA) is an assessment where the score forms part of the computation of a student’s overall results in a subject for the year. Examples of Weighted Assessments may include a Class test, practical test, portfolio, performance task, etc. For coursework and portfolio assessment with multiple components, a specific component will be assigned by the teacher to be the Weighted Assessment.
There will be no more than one Weighted Assessment (WA) per subject per term, in addition to MYE and EYE where applicable. This is to enable teachers to have more time and space to explore a range of pedagogies to help students learn. Students will also have more time to learn from each other. This would lead to higher levels of student engagement and motivation to learn.

**Semester Assessments**

a) **Secondary 1 and Secondary 3 levels**

Sec 1 and Sec 3 levels are transition years, where students at Sec 1 adjust from the transition from Primary School to Secondary School, while students at Sec 3 adjust from the subjects offered at Lower Sec to greater demands from the subjects at Upper Sec. To enable Sec 1 and Sec 3 students to cope better with the increased academic demands, there will be no Mid-Year Examination for Sec 1 and Sec 3. Instead, there will be a Weighted Assessment in every term, except for Term 4 where there will be the End-Of-Year Examination held in October.

b) **Secondary 2 level**

There will be a Weighted Assessment in Term 1 and Term 3, as well as the Mid-Year Examination in May, and End-Of-Year Examination in October.

c) **Secondary 4 and Secondary 5 levels**

There will be a Weighted Assessment in Term 1, Mid-Year Examination in May, and Preliminary Examination in Term 3. The Preliminary Examination for Sec 4 Express and Sec 5 Normal (Academic) is held in August & September, while the Preliminary Examination for Sec 4 Normal is held in July & August. The results of the assessments at Sec 4 & Sec 5 are reported individually (e.g. MYE and Preliminary Examination reported as 100% each).

**Weighting of School-Based Assessments**

The school adopts the following weighting for Weighted Assessments and Semester Assessments as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighting by %</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sec 1</strong></td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>EYE = 55 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sec 2</strong></td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>MYE = 25 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>EYE = 45 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sec 3</strong></td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>EYE = 55 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sec 4 &amp; 5</strong></td>
<td>WA = 100 %</td>
<td>MYE = 100 %</td>
<td>Preliminary Exam = 100 %</td>
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</table>
For the Lower Sec Coursework subjects which are taught on a Modular system involving only one semester, (eg Sec 1 & Sec 2 D&T and FCE), the following weighting will be adopted:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Term 1 or Term 3</th>
<th>Term 2 or Term 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weighting by % for S1 &amp; S2 subjects taught by Modular system</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
<td>WA = 15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MYE or EYE = 70 %</td>
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**Formative Assessment**

Formative Assessment is carried out to provide feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning in order to improve students’ learning. Examples of Formative Assessments include class quizzes, oral questioning, homework assignments, performance tasks, group project-work, and other learning tasks for which marks or grades are not awarded to count towards the Weighted Assessments or Semestral Examinations.

Formative assessment is used to gather evidence of student learning, provide feedback to close learning gaps and create opportunities for students to act on the feedback.

In so doing, we seek to develop students who are reflective learners, and who take greater ownership of their learning process. Students would also have sufficient time and opportunity to clarify misconceptions and address their learning gaps and act on the feedback given. Hence, we urge parents to encourage your child to be serious towards all forms of class assessment, so that he/she can benefit from all the class assessments and learning activities.

**Season Parking in School**

MOE implemented parking charges in schools since August 2018. All school staff are required to pay for season parking. The season parking rates will also apply to all regular users (canteen stall operators and bookshop vendors). Hence, priority for parking lots will be allocated to staff who have paid for their season parking. Visitors seeking ad-hoc parking will be subjected to the availability of the visitors’ parking lots during the school operating hours. If you drive-in to drop off your child/ward, the official drop-off point is at the canteen.

**Attendance Taking**

The school uses MOE’s School Cockpit Attendance-Taking Application for daily attendance taking. The student attendance records is linked to MOE’s School Cockpit System. If your child/ward is not present during morning assembly in the class, the system will automatically notify you via an SMS text after 8 am. To this intent, parents/guardians are advised to update any change in their contact numbers to the form teachers.

**Parents Gateway (PG)**

Parents Gateway (PG) is a digital platform (by MOE and GovTech) to bring greater convenience to parents to perform simple administrative functions. This platform (PG App) will enable closer interactions and communications with the school to support parents in playing a larger role in their child’s education journey.

We are glad that many parents are already on board PG which is a one-stop mobile app to better support our student’s learning journey in school through improved communication.
The app will constantly upload parents with all the official letters and announcements. For parents who have not onboard PG, we encourage you to download the PG app on your mobile phone. You may go to the URL https://pg.moe.edu.sg or you can scan the QR code below:

Parents without Singpass may register through this site: https://www.singpass.gov.sg/singpass/register/instructions or scan the QR code below

If you have any queries, you may approach the HOD ICT, Mr Edmund Choo or email to him at edmund@preshigh.edu.sg for more information.

*Photography and Video-Taking*

In the interests of school security, CCTV surveillance system has been installed in the school premises. Your understanding and consent that photograph(s) or video image(s) of parents/guardians and their child/ward may be captured during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCA, school camps etc.

The school may use and publish these photographs and or/video recordings in school publications, website, social media and other communication channels. We assure you that our students will always be portrayed with respect and dignity. If you have any concerns, please inform your child's form teacher(s) or Year Head.
**Key Events for Term 1 of 2021**

Next, I would like to highlight to you the upcoming events for Term 1 of 2020. Concentrate only on the early dismissals.

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<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Event/Details</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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| a    | Mother Tongue Language Fortnight
28 January - 05 February | The Mother Tongue (MTL) Department seeks to create an immersive environment for the learning of MTL. The department has organised the following programmes for our Sec 1-3 cohort from 28 January to 05 February:
• Sec 1 CL - Chinese Opera & Mask Painting Workshop (4 Feb (Thu), 1.55 -3.25pm)
• Sec 2 CL - Peranakan Culture Appreciation and Tile Painting (28 Jan (Thu), 1.55 -3.25pm)
• Sec 3 CL - Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine (29 Jan (Fri) & 5 Feb (Fri) 1.05 - 2.25pm)
• Sec 1-3 ML - Kite Making Workshop (29 Jan (Fri), 2.30 – 4.30pm)
Attendance is compulsory. |
| b    | Chinese New Year Celebration
11 February | The school will have normal lessons up to period 4 and thereafter hold a virtual celebration on Chinese New Year's Eve. Students will be dismissed at 10.30am. |
| c    | Sec 1 Subject Awareness Talk
5 March | To help parents gain a better understanding of the expectations of the various subjects, the Heads of Department will be conducting an Academic Awareness Workshop.
More information will be released to you at a later date on the registration for the session. |
| d    | Sec 2 Subject Combination Briefing & Meet-the-Parents Session (e-MTP) 5 March | This briefing serves to help our Sec 2 students make informed decisions on their subject combination at upper secondary. You will also be given an overview of the upper secondary curriculum and post-secondary Pathways. |
| e    | ICT Day
Sec 1 and Sec 2 students on 08 and 09 March
Sec 3 students on 9 March | The objective of ICT Day is to allow our students to experience home-based learning using ICT. Sec 1 to Sec 2 students will stay at home during the ICT Day and complete assignments via the Internet for the 8th and 9th of March and for Sec 3 students on 9 March only.
A schedule for ICT Day assignments will be issued to the students at a later date. We seek your support to ensure that your child/ward adheres to the schedule and complete their work on time. |
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<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Signature Programme for Sec 3 08 March (tbc)</td>
<td>The objective of the Sec 3 Signature Programme is to promote students’ bonding and resilience through sports and games. A letter will be issued to the parents/guardians at a later date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| g    | **GLOW** program for Sec 4 and 5 students 08 -09 March                        | On 8 & 9 March, Sec 4 and 5 graduating cohort will put aside their learning in the classrooms and embark on 2 days of enriching activities that will enhance personal mastery.  
PHS’s **GLOW** Programme (Goal Setting, Learning Plan, Ownership, Wellness) programme is specially designed for the participants to do a milestone check, reflect on their personal goals, design their personal learning plan and take part in activities to enhance camaraderie towards greater team work and bonding. |
| h    | Sec 3, Sec 4 and Sec 5 Meet-the-Parents Session (e-MTP) 12March               | This is an online platform for effective communication between parents and school. We will share our school’s directions and general programmes towards providing a holistic education for the senior upper secondary students as they journey towards completing their secondary education. The e-MTP video will be sent to the parents via Parent Gateway at a later date. |

**Construction of North-South Corridor (Tunnel)**  
**Between Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 and Ang Mo Kio Avenue 9**

Land Transport Authority (LTA) has awarded the contract to Lum Chang Building Contractors Pte Ltd (the contractor) who will design and construct the North-South Corridor (NSC) tunnel between Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 and Ang Mo Kio Avenue 9. The contractor will be erecting noise barrier’s footing, removal of affected boundary wall along Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6 and traffic diversion works over the next few months. Traffic flow is expected to be normal during the construction period. Rest assured that there would be no construction works during examination period.

Thank you for your support and wishing you God’s abundant blessings in 2021.

Yours sincerely

Victor Owyong  
Principal  
Email: Victor.Owyong@preshigh.edu.sg