



A Caring Community in a Challenging Learning Environment

Principal's Letter Term 1 2024

3 January 2024

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy 2024!

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

We aim to nurture the self-directed future-ready learner, in line with the recent MOE movement on *Future of Learning*. 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 as well as to 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 2024 is as follow:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Term 1: 2 January (Tue) to 8 March (Fri)	Term 3: 24 June (Mon) to 29 August (Thu)
Term 2: 18 March (Mon) to 24 May (Fri)	Term 4: 9 Sep (Mon) to 25 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
1/1	2 – 3 Jan 4 – 5 Jan	Start it Right Programme for all levels Secondary 1 Orientation Programme
1/1	6 Jan	CCA Fair and Sec 1 Parents Engagement Session
1/2	11 – 15 Jan	Release of 2023 GCE O-Levels results <i>(Exact date to be confirmed)</i>
1/5	30 Jan	Home-based Learning Day (HBL Day) <i>(Students do not need to report to school)</i>
1/6	5 – 8 Feb	Riverside Integrated Skills Experience I (RISE 1) – Sec 3 (Cohort Camp)
1/6	6 – 8 Feb	Riverside Integrated Skills Experience I (RISE 1) – Sec 1, 2, 4 & 5 Learning Activities
1/6	9 Feb	Lunar New Year Celebrations <i>(Students will be dismissed early)</i>
1/6	10 Feb	Lunar New Year holiday
1/7	11 – 12 Feb 13 Feb	Lunar New Year holiday School holiday
1/7	14 Feb	Total Defence Day
1/8	19 Feb – 23 Feb	Weighted Assessment 1
1/9	22 Feb	Home-based Learning Day (HBL Day) <i>(Students do not need to report to school)</i>
1/9	26 Feb – 1 Mar	Weighted Assessment 1

4. Weighted Assessment 2024

Assessment is a way to let students know their learning progress and to take steps to bridge their learning gaps. There will be no mid-year examinations for all levels. Year-end examinations will be conducted to consolidate the learning for the year.

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.

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The assessment weighting and distribution is given below:

Levels	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1	WA1 (15%)	WA2 (15%)	WA3 (15%)	EOY (55%)
Sec 2				
Sec 3				

For the graduating cohort, preliminary examinations will be conducted and the weightage will be 100%.

5. Home-based Learning (HBL) Day

The school has planned for Home-Based Learning (HBL) days for **all students**.

On these HBL days, students engage in curriculum work and learning outside of academic subjects. These HBL days aim to further develop students' mindsets and habits for self-directed learning.

HBL Days for Sec 1 to 5	Term 1
	30 Jan 2024 (Tue)
	22 Feb 2024 (Thu)
	Term 2
	2 Apr 2024 (Tue)
	18 Apr 2024 (Thu)
	7 May 2024 (Tue)

The timetable for the HBL day consists of the following:

A. Mode of Learning during HBL (for Sec 1 to 5)

- 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.

B. Student-Initiated Learning (For Secondary 1, 2 and 3)

A one-hour slot for students to pursue an area of learning outside of academic subjects.

- For Sec 1: Students apply digital and new media literacy skills learnt in the Learning for Life Programme (LLP) lessons to create a multimedia project.
- For Sec 2: Students plan and choose an activity based on their interests and passions in one of the curated themes – Aesthetics, Health and Fitness or Science and Technology.
- For Sec 3: As part of Values in Action (VIA), students will plan engagement activities for an area of community service.





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6. Administrative 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 lesson.

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. 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:

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



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



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

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' telephone extension and 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

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