



## Principal's Letter Term 1 2026

8 January 2026

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy 2026!

As we begin a new year, we look forward to fresh beginnings and an exciting school year ahead. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Secondary One parents and guardians as you join the Riverside family.

At Riverside, we are committed to the holistic development of every child and value a close partnership with parents and guardians in nurturing strong character and unlocking the potential of all our students.

### 1. School Focus

In line with the Ministry of Education's recent focus on the Future of Learning, the school aims to nurture Future-Ready Learners. To achieve this, the school focuses on building **academic excellence, strong character and life skills, and student leadership and agency**.

Riversidians are nurtured to be self-directed learners who strive for academic excellence by setting high expectations, mastering their subjects, and using feedback to improve. Through a suite of programmes, students develop strong character and essential life skills including 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies. The school also fosters leadership and agency by encouraging students to take ownership of their learning, exercise sound judgement, and reflect on their actions, empowering them to lead themselves and others.

### 2. School Term and Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days

The school term for 2026 is as follows:

Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Term 1:</b> 2 January (Fri) to 13 March (Fri)	<b>Term 3:</b> 30 June (Mon) to 3 September (Thu)
<b>Term 2:</b> 23 March (Mon) to 29 May (Fri)	<b>Term 4:</b> 14 September (Mon) to 23 October (Fri)

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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.

During the school term, the school has scheduled for certain HBL days for **all students**. These HBL days aim to further develop students' mindsets and habits for self-directed learning.

Semester 1 HBL Days for Sec 1 to 5	Term 1
	22 January 2026 (Thu)
	3 February 2026 (Tue)
	5 March 2026 (Thu)
Term 2	
	9 April 2026 (Thu)
	23 April 2026 (Thu)
	12 May 2026 (Tue)

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.

Please see Annex A for Term 1 Calendar for the key events.

### 3. Assessment of Students' Learning Progress

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 tables below.

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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 (G3)	20%	20%	60%
		Sec 2 (G2 & G3)	20%	20%	60%
	History	Sec 1 (G2)	20%	20%	60%
Semester 2	Geography	Sec 1 (G2)	20%	20%	60%
		Sec 1 (G3)	20%	20%	60%
	History	Sec 2 (G2 & G3)	20%	20%	60%

### 4. Enhanced Measures to Promote Healthier Screen Use in Students

As part of the 'Grow Well SG' initiative (launched January 2025), our school is dedicated to enhancing student well-being and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

A key change will be a revised policy on smartphone and smartwatch use during school hours. To help students develop healthier screen habits and reduce distractions, smartphones and smartwatches will not be permitted during school hours. This applies to all school activities, including lessons, recess, CCAs, and supplementary lessons.

Our One Device Policy remains in effect. Students will continue to use their assigned Personal Learning Devices (PLDs), which is the iPad for learning. If your child/ward brings a smartphone/smartwatch to school, it must be locked securely in their personal locker for the entire school day. Please ensure that they are aware of this and have their locker and lock ready.

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## 5. 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 – 10 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 either via Parents Gateway or to the Form Teachers immediately upon the students' return to school.

### 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's directions/instructions and remain 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.

## 6. 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 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 or 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. Please see Annex B for the list of the form teachers by levels and their email contacts.

## 7. Invitation to Secondary 1 CCA Fair and Parents Engagement Session

There will be a CCA Fair and Parents Engagement Session for all secondary one students and parents on Friday, **16 January 2026**.

### CCA Fair for Students (2.30pm – 4.45pm)

This CCA Fair aims to help students and parents make informed decisions. Parents may join your child in the CCA Fair from 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

### Parents Engagement Session For All Parents (3.30pm – 6.00pm)

This session aims to help parents learn about the school's programmes for the new academic year and gain useful strategies to support their child's transition to secondary school.

Details of the Parents Engagement Talk are as follows:

Time	Activity	Venue
3.30pm – 3.50pm	Principal's Address	Hall
3.50pm – 4.00pm	Full Subject-based Banding	
4.00pm – 4.10pm	Personalised Digital Learning Programme	
4.10pm – 4.20pm	CCA @ RSS	
4.20pm – 5.15pm	Parenting Talk by Invited Speaker: <i>“Supporting Our Children for Secondary Education”</i>	
5.15pm – 5.30pm	Movement Break	Hall to Form Classrooms
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Interaction with Form Teachers	Form Classrooms

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A Caring Community in a Challenging Learning Environment

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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