

XINMINSS NEWSLETTER

Embarking on Another Fruitful School Year



Xinmin Secondary School
Leading Hearts, Leading Minds

Term 1 2024



OUR VERY OWN BTS [BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMME]

The BTS Programme enters its second consecutive year with every cohort going on different learning experiences designed based on the level themes:



Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 and 5
Discovering ourselves in Xinmin	Building our strengths in Xinmin	Harnessing our potential in Xinmin	Achieving our aspirations in Xinmin

The Sec 1 students started on their Cohort Day Camp across three days. Despite facing new challenges in an entirely new environment, they actively participated in the camp activities, building new friendships with their fellow classmates and their seniors. With adventurous activities such as dragonboating, amazing races and bouldering, the cohort camp was an exhilarating experience for all. While the orientation ended on a high note through Xinfiesta, a showcase of talent performances put by the Sec 1s and the mass dance, it would be just the beginning of an exciting journey ahead.

As the Sec 1 students immersed themselves in camp activities, the Sec 2 to 5 students engaged in diverse programmes aimed at bolstering their development in the year ahead. These initiatives encompassed insights from the alumni, personality and leadership modules, interview preparations, and external school visits. The intent was to enable students to plan for their career and educational pathways. To conclude the BTS week, the school wrapped up the activities with a CCA showcase. Senior CCA members hosted booths and interactive activities to offer Sec 1 students a glimpse into the developmental opportunities offered by CCAs.



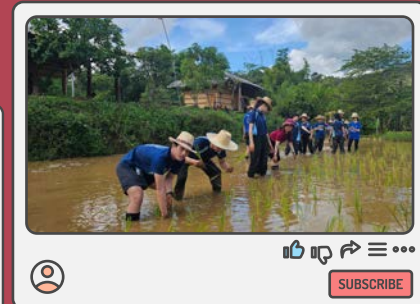
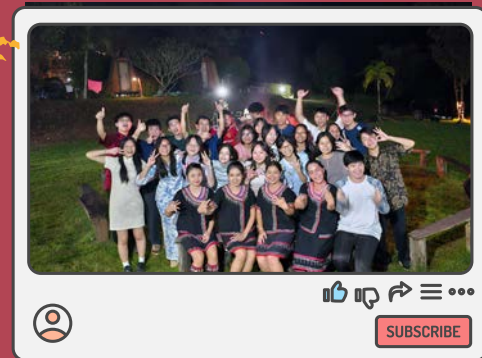
VENTURING BEYOND SINGAPORE'S SHORES

Overseas Service Learning - Chiangmai, Thailand

With the resumption of overseas travel, 23 Sec 3 students embarked on a 9-day Service Learning Trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand. The objectives were to serve the local Thai villagers while also learning more about themselves and the world around them.

Over those nine days, the students helped to build a sand trap for the villagers, taught conversational English to Thai students of various ages, and participated in cultural activities such as rice planting and basic Thai cooking.

Our students learnt a lot, particularly from the sharings by local villagers on the importance of water conservation and how the sand trap would prove to be greatly beneficial to the village during the hot summer months. Through the daily interactions with Thai locals, the students gained insights of village life and Thai hospitality.



Volleyball Boys - Taipei, Taiwan

Besides the OSL trip, our B Division Volleyball Boys (Sec 3 and 4, 2024) also had the opportunity to participate in a bicultural and sports exchange trip to Taiwan. The selection of players for the trip was not solely based on technical skills but, more importantly, on their character and dedication to the team.

One primary goal of this trip was to leverage sports as a platform for training, playing, and competing in a foreign environment. Beyond sports, spending their time in a Taiwanese school also allowed our students to form valuable bonds and gain an understanding of Taiwanese culture and student life.

To deepen our players' exposure and appreciation to diverse culture, the team also explored various places in Taiwan, including Taipei Old Town, Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines and the Confucius Temple.

The shared experiences and memories created over these 6 days and 5 nights are bound to be cherished by the players, coach, and teachers alike.



UPCOMING TRIPS 2024

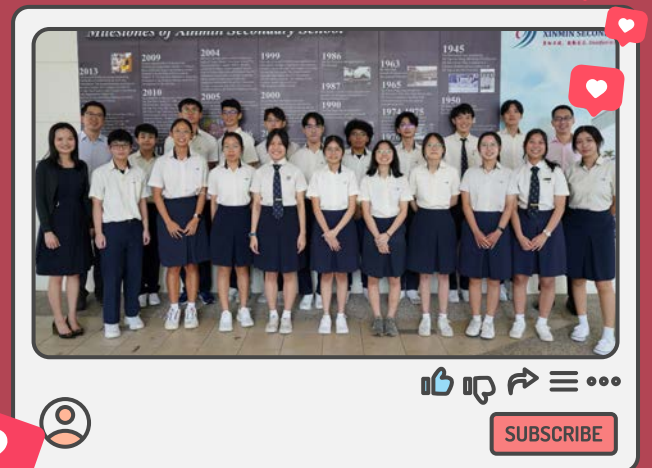
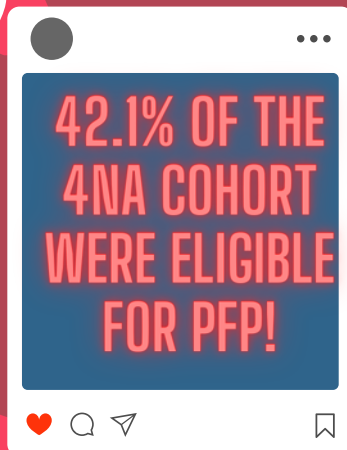
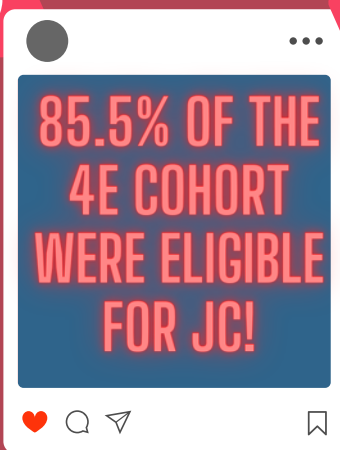
- Mar - ODAC Bogong Trip - Victoria, Australia - Sec 3 ODAC Students
- May - Humanities Trip - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - Sec 3 Students
- Jun - ODAC Kota Tinggi Trip - Kota Tinggi, Malaysia - Sec 2 ODAC Students
- Oct - XRC (Rockclimbing) Trip - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Sec 1 to 3 XRC Students
- Nov - Volleyball Bicultural & Sports Exchange Trip - Taipei, Taiwan - Sec 2 and 3 VB Girls
- Nov - Chinese Bicultural and Bilingual Immersion Trip - Shanghai/Suzhou/Hangzhou, China - Sec 3 Students
- Nov - OSL Trip - Chiang Mai, Thailand - Sec 3 Students





ACHIEVING ASPIRATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2023 for fulfilling their aspirations in their final year at Xinmin! Despite navigating through various new experiences, including regular HBL sessions and the fluctuations in COVID-19 regulations, they displayed unwavering determination in pursuing their goals. In the concluding chapter of their secondary school journey, we were heartened to see our students shifting their gears to prepare for examinations. They actively attended regular consultations, dedicated time to self-study in the library, and engaged in group-based classroom discussions after school. Celebrating their unwavering efforts, we are proud to present the following feats achieved by the Class of 2023...



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2023!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL TEACHERS AND PARENTS WHO HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS!



WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT (WA) SCHEDULE

WAs may take the form of written class tests, online assignments, projects or practical tests. To manage our students' overall assessment load, we will take care **not to schedule more than two** class tests in a day, and **not more than three class tests** in a week.

Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1 to 3	10%	15%	15%	60%
Sec 4 & 5	WA1	WA2	Prelims 100%	

SCAN HERE FOR THE WA SCHEDULE

We encourage students to consistently review their work throughout the year, striving for a deep understanding of concepts and information. It is more beneficial than relying on last-minute efforts just before exams or assessments.

#TIPS

Feeling overwhelmed by the WA schedule? Here are 3 study tips you can follow!

Scheduling + Consistency

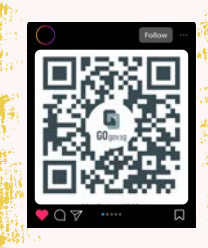
- Plan a study schedule
- Plan with details (e.g. which subject/topic)
- Plan according to what you can manage
- Follow it consistently! Make it a Habit!

Conducive Learning Environment

- Learn which study environment suits you better
- Library, Canteen, Classroom, Outdoor, own room
- Ensure the space is ready for studying!

Rest + Recover

- Rest is important! - Go to sleep at about 10pm
- And set a fixed time to wake up
- Consistent sleep cycles are helpful
- Read why sleep is important for your brain





THE WAY WE LEARN @XMS!

A.I. in the English Classroom

The activity:

Writing about
A strange-looking man in
your neighbourhood

You are going to read two descriptive
paragraphs of a peculiar-looking man in
your neighbourhood
Use the rubrics on the google doc to
score the two paragraphs.



In our neighborhood, there is a mysterious figure named Leonard who keeps to himself, creating an eerie silence that makes others uneasy. He's like a faint whisper in a crowded room, not easily noticed but strangely unsettling. The air around him carries a unique scent, like the musty pages of an old book, adding to the mystery. Leonard's solitary nature is comparable to a lone wolf, gracefully navigating our community with an uncanny quietness that both intrigues and spooks. Catching a glimpse of his dark, penetrating eyes through his messy hair leaves a lasting impression, like an ancient symbol etched into our collective memory. Leonard's footsteps echo softly in the quiet corridors, each step a haunting refrain that lingers even after he disappears into the shadows.

One way of enhancing teaching and learning effectiveness in the English classroom is leveraging educational technology, and in this case artificial intelligence (A.I.). In teaching descriptive writing to Sec 4 students, A.I. was used to generate an image corresponding to descriptive paragraphs, set in a familiar HDB estate context. Students then evaluated and scored these paragraphs, referencing specific success criteria such as rich language with sensory details. It was also used to develop success criteria for different classes as part of differentiated instruction. The integration of technology and a hands-on approach to learning writing departs from the usual note-taking. Thus, this allows students to independently grasp the nuances of effective descriptive writing while making the learning experience more engaging and interactive.

Gamification in Geography!

Tapping on the idea of collaborative learning, in Lower Sec Geography classes, groups are created and tasks are given with the purpose of scoring points. For each group task, product creation, presentations and sharing of opinions are awarded points according to the level of performance. This scoring system will be recorded till the end of Term 3. In Term 4, badges and Certificates of Performance are awarded to the groups with the highest scores. This is to encourage a collaborative culture amongst the younger Xinmin students in preparation of their Upper Secondary and Tertiary education. The Sec 1 and 2 students of 2024 will be embarking on this journey towards the end of Term 1 after groups are finalised.



2023 WINNERS!



VOICES OF XINMIN

Vice-Principal Mrs Vanessa Cheng

*'If you cannot do great things,
do small things in a great way.'*



Where are you from and what is your most memorable experience from that place?

Before joining Xinmin Secondary School, I was at Singapore International School (Hong Kong) [SISHK]. The most memorable experience I had was the opportunity to be in the pioneer team that set up the IB Diploma section of the school, which is equivalent to the Junior Colleges in Singapore. The close-knitted community in SISHK, students who were schoolmates since Preparatory Year 1 (equivalent to K1 in Singapore), diverse backgrounds of staff and students, and the positive staff culture, made my stint in SISHK a truly memorable one.

As you begin the first full year with Xinmin Secondary School, what is a goal that you have for the school?

Having been in our school for one semester (since June 2023), I am highly appreciative of the warm hospitality of all staff and students in making me feel at home at Xinmin. It is indeed a school with rich history and heritage, and a true testament of the love and hard work of generations of Xinmin staff and students. In line with our school's vision of 'Leading Hearts, Leading Minds', I hope that we can grow as a community to have more empathy and compassion for people around us, to appreciate our differences, and to foster even stronger school spirit and camaraderie.

What is one quote/belief that you live by and how would that be also applicable to our students?

Personally, a quote that I like and appreciate is 'If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way'. This quote is a timely reminder of how it is important to put your heart into everything that you do, no matter how insignificant it may seem. It is critical for us to find value, meaning and joy in our lives, stay true to our vision and put in maximum effort for quality outcomes. This power of doing small things well carries with it the idea that anything done with excellence and the right mindset can lead to results beyond our expectations.



VOICES OF XINMIN

Vice-Principal Mr Goh Kar Whee



'Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.'

Where are you from and what is your most memorable experience from that place?

I was formerly at Edgefield Secondary School, where I oversaw the CCE and Student Wellbeing Department. The most memorable aspect was the pervasive caring culture among students and staff. This nurturing environment fostered a strong sense of community and support, making my time there truly special.

As you begin the first full year with Xinmin Secondary School, what is a goal that you have for the school?

Embarking on this exciting journey with Xinmin Secondary School, my initial goal is to swiftly grasp and appreciate the school's rich history and traditions. Recognising the hard work and sacrifices of many generations of colleagues is crucial in understanding the school's current standing. I aim to instill in our students the value of 饮水思源 (remembering the source of water) and cultivate a sense of gratitude towards those in the past, present, and future.

What is one quote/belief that you live by and how would that be also applicable to our students?

A quote that I hold dear is, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." by Sir Winston Churchill. This belief is pertinent for me and my students as it encourages resilience, perseverance, and a growth mindset. Embracing challenges as opportunities for growth fosters a positive learning environment, preparing students for a lifelong journey of continuous improvement.

SOME SWEET MESSAGES FROM OUR SEC 1 STUDENTS TO THEIR CAMP FACILITATORS!



Dear Ashlyn, thank you for taking care of us and helping us to know the school better. You always looked out for us. Always reminding us what's right and what's wrong. Thank you! I am happy that you are one of my facils. Thank you for all the time you have spent for us, even risking your voice :)



Hello Elise. Thank you for talking and chatting to us when we needed to wait at any venue. I really enjoyed chatting to you and laughing tgt. I am looking forward to seeing you in the future. Hope you continue to be a happy and chatty person. Stay happy & healthy! Goodluck for Sec 2! I'm rooting for you!



Hi Jacinth! Thank you for trying your best to take care and lead class 106 of 2024! I greatly appreciate your hard work and I can't wait to see you in Xinmin as a senior, student leader and a friend. Thank you for everything! :)



Dear Benjamin, thank you for helping us get used to the school and for being such a caring person. I also want to thank you for your hardwork and determination even when we were uncooperative. I hope you get good grades, live a long life and one day get your dream job. I appreciate you organising this event for us.



Hiii Jhudiella, I just want to say a huge thank you for everything you have done including all the time and effort you took to come back to school and plan all these. Even though it was hot, tiring and humid, I really enjoyed myself, especially the dragon boating. I also want to tell you that you are really pretty, nice and amazing!



WELCOMING NEW STAFF TO THE XINMIN FAMILY!

≡ Welcome ≡

Mr Goh Kar Whee - Vice-Principal
Ms Teo Sze Ying - AYH Sec 1
Ms Rachel Lim - SH Educational Technology
Ms Sarah Teo - SH Knowledge Management
Ms Kristine Anne Koh - SH Science
Ms Heidi Tan - ST Geography
Ms Ee Ai Lin - Teacher (English Language)
Mr Muhammad Assraaff - STEM Instructor (Workshop)

SOME NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Harvinder Singh - Acting HOD Aesthetics and Applied Science
Ms Joanne Kong - Acting AYH Sec 2
Ms Lyn Song - Acting AYH Sec 4 & 5
Mr Ganesan S/O Selvarathnam - Acting SH Student Leadership

AND FAREWELLS

Mdm Wu Danping - Vice-Principal
Mr Gabriel Tay Lye Hock - HOD PE/CCA

Good Luck!

COMING UP!



Week	Programme	Date(s)	Levels
Week 6	NRIC Registration	06/02	S3
	CNY Celebrations	09/02	All
Week 7	Total Defence Day Commemoration	Week-long	All
Week 8	Class Photo-taking	Week-long	All
	MTL Festival (Series 1)	Week-long	All
	Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra Concert	20/02	All
Week 9	Start of Global Citizen Month	26/02	All
	Sec 3 Cohort Camp	29/02 to 02/03	S3
	MTL News-in-Education reading parent engagement workshops	01/03	S1 & S1 Parents & Students
	Book Buzz talk	01/03	S1, S2
	Dental Screening	Week-long	S1, S3
Week 10	PDLP Onboarding Day	07/03	S1
Mar Hols	Peer Support Leaders Day Camp	11/03	S1, S2, S3

FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR, CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN!

CALENDAR HERE!

